

Spark of Change!



The new is here!
Fondacio Asia after the Congress

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New Beginnings

By Jason Chan

The little Fondacio Asia community helmed by Charles Bertille and the Coordination team for the last 12 years had proven to be the catalyst for the new orientations that emerged from the International Congress of Fondacio with the purpose of “Building a more Humane and Just World”. It was the first time in 45 years that Fondacio mobilized itself to have an international event in Asia. The Congress was rich with immersion experience with the poor, social-spiritual dialogues and blessed by the encounter with the Asian soil.

A surprising force, to the delight of Congress delegates, was the presence of the youth leaders of Fondacio Asia, mainly alumni of IFFAsia, leading the way in exemplary service with confident smiles. Much of the foundation laid is due to the pioneering work and sacrifices of Charles who spearheaded the task of building a new generation of young leaders in Asia. Words are not enough to thank and acknowledge the contribution of this missionary family.

Today, a new leadership team emerged, as Annie Yap, Roger Barelli and Alice Tan took responsibility as the Fondacio Asia Regional Team. Annie and Alice are both part of the new council of Fondacio, while Roger is the Coordinator for Fondacio Myanmar. One of their first mandate was to call for *Fondacio Asia Leaders' Meeting 2018* that was held on Nov. 27-29, 2018 followed by the *Cycle of Formation* on Dec. 3-8, 2018

The Cycle which began in November 2014, has been gathering young project leaders and team members, as well as potential talents coming from different countries to provide competency enhancing trainings and build together the vision of Fondacio Asia.

It was encouraging and reassuring to see how each project and persons have grown and developed through the Cycle. Thanks also to Francois Prouteau, the new president of Fondacio for being present during the Leaders' Meeting as a sign of communion

and encouragement to the young team of leaders.

The Cycle with the given theme of “*Holistic and Innovative Leadership for Building A More Humane and Just World*” focused on leadership formation, developing innovative and creative social projects, improving Youth Livelihood and Development Centers (YLDCs) across Asia, build co-responsibility and accountability for the missions and communities in Asia including reviewing and improving the Fondacio Asia 5 Year Plan.

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Francois attending Fondacio Asia's Leaders' Meeting



Participants of the Cycle of Formation

Participants comprising of Fondacio members, missionaries and leaders coming from Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, France and UK experienced the spirit of Unity in Diversity.

Special thanks to coach/mentors Yvonne & Patrick Hereng, Maddy Edwards who helped in facilitating the sessions with Roger, Annie and Alice.

A significant experience was the two-day Innovation Challenge where participants looked at possible social business ventures which could help sustain in some small way, the missions of Fondacio Asia. This exercise brought about a change of mindsets from over-reliance on donor support. It led the project members to become more engaged in fundraising and take deeper ownership of the projects entrusted to them.



Cycle participants working on the personas

A communications workshop on creating personas was also conducted to contribute information to Fondacio International's work on developing its new communications through improving the different websites and social media presence of Fondacio across the globe.

Louis Faure, from Gawad Kalinga (GK) Enchanted Farm, shared his and GK's story which served as an inspiration and source of learning for Fondacio Asia especially with the evident coherence of GK's and Fondacio's values and vision.

The final day was dedicated to a time of integration which happens to fall on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Participants took moments of silence to ponder on their "yes". Indeed, this whole journey is an invitation for us to also say, as Mary did, "May it be done to me according to your Word".

To sum up, Fondacio Asia could take pride that all projects and missions are aligned with the new orientations of Fondacio and the ultimate goal to build a more humane and just world.

Innovative Social Projects

by Adelle Lim

In October, Fondacio Malaysia took part in a bazaar organized by the Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival. Together with Naw Julia of YLDC Myanmar, the team introduced products made by the students and interns of YLDC Myanmar and YLDC Philippines.

During the recent Cycle, the Social Enterprise team also pioneered Fondacio Asia's first Innovation Challenge exercise. All the participants were placed in six teams – Solar products, Corporate Training, Church formation, Sustainable Fashion, Upcycling, and Mushroom Farming – to co-create and develop sustainable, viable solutions to building a more humane and just world.

One of the results of the Challenge is the collaboration of YLDC Myanmar and YLDC Malaysia to produce 50 dresses, which will be sold in France under the Sustainable Fashion banner.



Dresses for Sustainable Fashion



YLDCs Across Asia: Together, We Make a Difference

The Youth Livelihood and Development Center or YLDC is now present in 5 locations in Asia. All of which are established in response to the needs in each country and to our hopes for the youth. But not without collaborators and mission partners.



YLDC Myanmar by Raymond Brang Aung

On Nov 10, 2018, YLDC Yangon held their graduation ceremony and send-off mass in the premises of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar (CBCM). This program is done in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Yangon and the National Catholic Youth Commission (NCYC) of Myanmar.

The 25 graduates hailed from 13 dioceses in Myanmar, received their Certificate of Completion. The 9-month program is comprised of two parts, Life Skills and Youth Leadership.

YLDC's partners and resource persons were also awarded certificates of

appreciation. Some of them expressed their joy in having a hand in forming these young leaders whilst Fr. Joseph L Kaw Htoo, NCYC director, gave words of encouragement to inspire the graduates to become useful persons for their families, neighbors, church and society. It was a very beautiful celebration and everyone was grateful to see the fruits of the formation of the youth leaders in Myanmar.

(Note: Last Dec 22, YLDC Myitkyina also graduated 17 students)

YLDC Malaysia by Adelle Lim

Despite the challenges faced by YLDC Malaysia and their refugee students, YLDC Malaysia continues to reach out to migrants and marginalized young adults by constantly responding to their needs on the ground. The program would not have been possible without the support of an incredible group of young professional volunteers who have generously given their time and energy to continue building the modules and students.

YLDC Malaysia has also added a new module to meet the needs of a constantly evolving world: *Media Literacy and Advocacy*. This module aims to help the students have a deeper understanding of the role media plays in their lives and enable them to examine their use of social media while teaching them basic content creation.



Fr. Hubert blessing YLDC Fairview Center

YLDC Philippines

by Jason Chan

YLDC Philippines' partnership with Brgy. West Fairview's LGU (local government unit) is growing stronger and stronger. Having the same thrust for youth education, the Brgy. continues to show

their support by entrusting their newly renovated building to be used for the purposes of YLDC programs for out of school youth as well as trainings for career enhancement. On Dec. 9, 2018 Fr. Hubert, from RVA Karen Service blessed the two-story space for the mission of YLDC Fairview. Despite the challenge it faces with financial constraints, this simple yet meaningful event is a sign that God will provide everything needed for His mission.

Earlier this year, the team also conducted a feasibility study to learn how to improve the program as well as to see new potential locations where YLDC may also be needed. The team conducted a survey and met the communities in Fairview, Bagong Silang and East Libis in Baesa. True enough, there are still a lot of communities who need programs for marginalized youth like YLDC. During the Cycle of Formation, the team committed to study the possibility of setting up a 2nd YLDC in Bagong Silang by 2021.

YLDC is a project for, with and by the youth as can be seen in the commitment of the Youth Core Team of Fondacio Philippines (Rod, Rose & Jason) in managing this program.

Vocation Encounter: Going on the ground

by Jason Chan



Danu, IFFA alumnus, facilitating a session during the Vocation Encounter in Dili, East Timor

“Make a choice to take a chance or your life will never change.” This was the inspiration of the youth sessions (called Vocation Encounter: Choice, Chance, Change) that the Institute of Formation Fondacio Asia (IFFAsia), conducted in different Asian countries.

Inspired by the recent Synod on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment, IFFAsia committed their resources, from July to December of 2018, to:

1. *propose a path of growth & discernment for the young*
2. *support local churches by calling and preparing workers for ministry*
3. *strengthen IFFAsia’s local networks and partnerships for mission*

IFFAsia staff and alumni were sent out to 5 countries to conduct Vocation Encounter sessions with different parishes and dioceses.

Many youth expressed that it inspired them to dare to dream and take chances and to look at their life choices and how they make them. They also looked at the changes they need to make today to come closer to their calling—that is to be holy, to become saints.

This Vocation Encounter has also blessed IFFAsia abundantly. It has affirmed the relevance and importance of IFFAsia’s formation and emphasized the great need for participatory and holistic youth formation. The teams who went on the ground were also received very warmly by the bishops, priests, and youth they encountered. In the depths of it, the gem of this experience is the friendships made and the shared vision to empower the youth.

The IFFAsia team thanks the Board for pushing them to go out to the peripheries and commits to do this Vocation Encounter yearly! (find our videos on Youtube: “Vocation Encounter”)

Vocation Encounter Locations:

East Timor

-Diocese of Dili

Indonesia

-Diocese of Atambua

-Archdiocese of Kupang

Malaysia

-Church of the Divine Mercy, Shah Alam

Myanmar

-Diocese of Taungyi

-Diocese of Phekon

-Archdiocese of Yangon

Philippines

-Diocese of Legazpi, Albay

-Diocese of Masbate

-Diocese of Sorsogon

-Our lady of Mt. Carmel, Cagayan de Oro

IFFAsia Preparatory Program

by Rose Ann Gaza

IFFAsia’s Formation Program has been very significant to many churches in Asia. The diversity of the young people coming from various countries and backgrounds has always been an asset in the formative experience. However, one of the challenges faced is that a number of incoming participants are lacking in English language skills, basic catechesis and prayer, critical thinking and social awareness. In response to this, IFFAsia decided to conduct a four months preparatory program (Sept to Dec) in the Philippines for 15 participants before the start of their Formation Year in January 2019.

As they journeyed together, they also underwent the formative processes such as: living together, having community prayers and Mass, working in service teams, integration sessions and having one-on-one accompaniments. Seeing the importance and success of this preparatory program both for the team and for the participants, the formation team aims to continue this for the next batches.



IFFAsia Batch 12’s Caroling service as part of their catechesis subject

IFFAsia Alumni DAP completion

by Jason Chan

The DAP or Development Action Plan is like the thesis for IFFAsia students, their final requirement to complete the program. Difficult as it may seem, due to the tedious work it requires on top of their already busy schedule, it is actually a blessing in disguise. Especially with the 3-year partnership with Xavier University Ateneo de Cagayan, IFFAsia was able to offer a master's degree for qualified IFFAsia students.

The five alumni who successfully defended their DAP this year will graduate next year, making a total of 11 IFFAsia students receiving a degree on Master of Arts in Sociology with special concentration in Development Leadership.

This November, 9 other alumni (coming from three different batches) under the certificate program also finished presenting their DAP. It was inspiring to witness the impact of their projects and how they have been formed through this journey. On the other hand, hearing the challenges and struggles they face in their missions affirmed the importance of accompanying these alumni.

After the two days of DAP presentations, the alumni had a retreat where they expressed their appreciation to Fondacio for being a community who supports and journeys with them. In their gratitude, they voiced their desire to have an Alumni coordinator (or alumni body) whom they can always connect to in times when they need support, and in moments of celebration and success.



IFFAsia alumna Jell with her thesis Adviser Elizabeth (Board Member of IFFAsia)



IFFAsia Prepares and equips the young for leadership, and helps them grow in their unique vocations, through nurturing their path of human & Christian formation.

It opens an alternative career or life path with the young, helps them engage with the peripheries, to be in the mission to serve through the local church, and civil society.

ENROLL NOW!

For enrollment assistance and scholarship enquiries please contact:

iffasia@gmail.com

Next Batch starts on

January 8, 2019



Praying over a participant

Behold, I make all things new

by Jason Chan

Journey Towards a New Life is the title of the 3-day retreat that Fondacio Philippines conducted last October 26-28, 2018 in Fondacio Asia premises.

Not only did it bless the participants but it has also blessed the Fondacio Philippines Community and members. With the presence and support of the former members of Fondacio, it was like a reunion and a remembering of their beginnings. At the same time, more and more, the young members of the community are taking their place in facilitating the retreat (such as giving some of the animations and doing the play). Thanks also to stalwart members like Becky & Bong Garces, with Maricar Ocdol and Baby Ramirez who remained to continue mentoring the young ones.

(See our video on Youtube "Fondacio Philippines-Weekend A 2018")

At the invitation of Tweet and Alden, Fondacio Philippines conducted a youth camp entitled *Ignite* from June 22-24, 2018 for the BEC Youth leaders of Vincent Ferrer Chapel, in Davao. The objective was to bring their youth together, and build their bonds with each other and revive their youth ministry. During the camp, a V4C (Vacation for a Cause) project was also implemented together with the camp participants where toiletries and home needs



Team building during the camp

are given to 20 lolos and lolas (elderly) who are living in that island. But more than these material things, is the presence and prayers that each of the youth shared with them. (See our video on Youtube "Ignite: a Spark of Change")

A message from Fondacio Asia’s former Regional Coordinator

No one achieves anything alone. It is always the work of the Lord’s hands, and the team. *“This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes...”* (Mark 12:11, Psalm 118:23).

From two countries, today Fondacio in Asia serves more than fifteen. Hundreds have encountered the Lord and set-out on their life path. More than 200 young lay are committed in their dioceses and civil society. Young leaders have arisen where there once was barren void. The community has turned towards the peripheries and the poor. This is the blessing.

The call to serve is our existential path, it is our life vocation. The young laity of our generation had set out on a radical following of Christ – we are the fruits of the charismatic renewal. I thank the older ones who had journeyed and worked together then. As Pope Francis says, “A life “without” – without risks and full of fears, that protects itself, is not a Christian life. It is a life without fruitfulness.”

The motivation is the love of the Lord and His peoples of Asia! Particularly the young and poor.

The renewal of the Church and society re-

quires the awakening and empowerment of the laity. With Beatrice we had made choices to remain in Asia, forgoing scholarships and career opportunities in Europe.

To the new regional team and all the young ones, “continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it”(2 Tim 3:14); “guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit”(2 Tim 1:14); and “excel in this generous act of giving” (2 Cor 8:7).

These weeks’ Church reading prepares us to exult in the promise of God fulfilled: “He lifts up the lowly from the dust, from the dung heap He raises the poor.”(1 Sam 2, Lk 1: 46-55).

Wishing you the joy, hope and love of Christmas.

Charles & Beatrice



Former Regional Coordinator Charles with his wife Beatrice

We wish you

a Blessed Christmas and

a Hope filled New Year!



Christians for the world



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