

## **Dear Students, Animators, Chaplains and Friends,**

Love and Peace!

With much joy and gratitude, I would like to inform you that I have finished my mandate in Asian Team and will be back to my country on the first week of November. It is sad to say good bye to you after three years we have been working together, but for every Asian Team member, it is also a great joy to reach this stage of the mandate.

No words can express my graceful heart to God who is always watching me and guide me in every decision I've made.

My sincerely gratitude to all the YCS national movements namely Philippines, Malaysia, Nepal, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and the youth commissions of Handan - China, Laos and Myanmar for your trust in me and collaboration with me during the past 3 years to bring a change in the environment we are living in! I always believe in the power of the students and young people. They are talented, creative, zeal, energetic but also very demanding and vulnerable. The chaplains and animators play a vital role to maximize students' power to be the agent of change in society and to be God's witnesses in all circumstances. Thus, we need to give students enough space and guidelines.

Different feelings came across to me during my three-year-mandate with much tear of both joyful and sad experiences. There was the time I felt disappointed, discouraged, hurt or wanted to give up my mission when I met someone who did not give enough commitment to their work, who do not support or trust in young people, who prioritized their benefits rather than the benefits of others. However, I also met so many people who gave me so much inspiration and courage to do my work, to speak out the truth, to design activities, programs to meet the need of the students and national movements and to bring myself closer to God. Above all, I am aware that it is a part of the mission and a part of growing. I always cherish every memory and the friendship I have had with all the people I have met. Every of them, even in the negative situations, has given me a lesson to learn, a new idea or even a new vision of life. Many times, I was deeply touched when I witnessed by my eyes the suffering of the people due to poverty, conflicts, studying pressure or broken family ...and by the personal sharing of many students about their daily struggles. This is always sad to see but at the same time, it is an opportunity for YCS to do something. I believe that each of us are called and given opportunities to do something special in our life. I was blessed to have this opportunity and to do the best to fulfill my part. There were always struggles in me to fulfill it, to discover God's will in every circumstance. It always took me a lot of time to understand what God really wants me to do but on the way to discover His will, I was always aware that "You have to do your best first, do whatever you can, God will take care the other parts." I'm glad when my part in Asian team is ending and others will continue it. I do hope the new team will live their best for the call and I want to wish them all the best.

My special thank to those movements I visited or worked with during organizing programs/ events. Thank you very much for your hearty welcome and accompaniment. I hope my encounters have created a positive change in your respective movement.

I would like to thank my national movement - TSC/YCS Vietnam for believing in my capability to nominate me to the Asian team and for supporting me and understanding my position in the past 3 years to never have any extra requests from me personally.

I also thank my beloved ones in Vietnam, especially my family members who silently journey with me through their continuous daily prayers, especially before every trip I made and every program we organized.

Dealing with different people around the world with different culture in the past 3 years helped me to grow a lot. I learnt to adjust myself with them, to accept situation and to accept the people as they are. The most important thing I learnt from the team work and team life is "you have to change yourself first before you ask someone to change himself/herself" and "do not be afraid to stand for the truth even you have to pay a high cost for it". I would like to thank Bonny-my team mate and Fr. Chrispin-our chaplain for accepting our differences to fulfill our mission. We were able to do a lot of things together despite of so many challenges. I also thank Jemilene (Jem) -our office admin staff for her friendship, and generous contribution to the Asian coordination. I believe our mandate is ending but our friendship will continue.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude also goes to the development agencies and funding partners who continuously trust in our capability to make a difference and give us the support. With your support, young people around the world, particularly in Asia have been empowered to understand their potentials to challenge the world and challenge themselves to make a change in the society today. Many good leaders in society and in the Church are from YCS and youth movements. I believe that YCS can continue to bring greater involvement of individuals and groups in the Asian society and church.

I will also not forget to mention the names of former International Team (IT) members: Molly, Manoj and Fr. Mike for journeying with us by different ways from far and near distance at the beginning of our mandate, especially Fr. Mike who spent his time to help us in our first team retreat. I also thank the present IT members from Paris (Loucille, Edward, Fr. Paul) for the support and advices and other regional coordinators from Europe, Middle East, Latin America, Africa, Australian YCS for their solidarity and friendship.

With this sharing, I also want to convey my gratitude to the former Asian team members (lay members and chaplains) who are always willing to lend us a hand whenever we organize programs/ activities. I have developed a beautiful friendship with many of them including those I have met several times and those I have never met. Thank you so much for your support! I also thank Meenuka and Hawnan - the previous Asian Team for discovering my potential and encouraging me to join Asian team.

It was also my honor and happiness to represent IYCS in FABC (Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences) , COYA (Catholic Organizations for Youth in Asia) and other networks. I would like to thank Ms. Joy, Bishop Tirona and Fr. Degz of FABC-Youth Desk, all other FABC-officers, and all friends of COYA network, especially Alice from Fondacio Asia and Marie from Filmcap for their beautiful friendship, support and collaboration in the past 3 years.

My appreciation also goes to EASY NET coordinator, core team members and other partner movements. It was my honor to know you and to work with you.

20-Avocado-house is a great part of my beautiful memories in Philippines with kind neighbors and cheerful house mates. Under this roof, we shared our daily life with IMCS AP. It is a community of young leaders where we learnt to share our personal and movement life together and sometimes challenge each other to play a better role in our office or in the society. I cherish all the memories we had together and strongly believe that this house will be the destination of many more potential servant leaders around Asia. My thank and love to each member of 20 - Avocado family.

Three years serving in IYCS as the Asian Coordinator, for me, has been the most beautiful experience of being a young person: I experienced the beautiful friendship and kindness of different people I've met around the world; I learnt to come up with the process of making a decision; I had full time to think and work for the movement without being disturbed by any other commitments; I had opportunity to maximize my energy, creativity, skills in running the Asian coordination and gained many other self study skills that no school can ever teach me. For most of the Asian Team members, this is also a life change experience. I still remember the image of myself three years ago, just like many other young people: ambitious, dreamed big, thought big and tried hard to upgrade myself in education and other aspects of life to meet the expectation of my family and of myself with one dream: success in my career, a well paid job with good position in the society. That was why it took me so long to make a decision to join Asian Team. Now my vision has changed. A good job, for me, now, is a job that benefits many people, especially those have fewer options in life, a job where God's will, peace and justice prevailed. Today, I dare to say that "I want to make a difference, not just money" and I would like to influence my friends and students to think the same.

I am confidently entering a new stage of life as I am carrying with me all what I have learnt in the past three years and all the memories I've had with you all as a part of my belongings. Once again, I thank all of you, whose names I have mentioned and whose names I did not mention. At the same time, as a human being, I also carry in me a lot of weaknesses, I ask for your forgiveness if during our encounters, I have done something which made you misunderstand, feel hurt or disappointed. I believe whatever happens, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and we have been trying hard in different ways to make a Heaven on this Earth.

I am ending my mandate in Asian coordination but my love for the movement will never end. I will be always lending a hand in my capability when the movement needs me. The YCS spirituality will be always a part of my next journey in life.

Please continue to pray for me, especially for my new stage of life! May God always guide us in every step we take in our life and may we continue to extend the call to more young people.

With much love and gratitude,

**Mary Ngo Thi Thu Ha**  
**IYCS Asian Coordinator 2006-2009**  
[ha.thu.ngo@gmail.com](mailto:ha.thu.ngo@gmail.com)