

ASC 2003 Orientation Document

ORIENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS (IYCS) ASIA FOR 2003-2006

Introduction:

In the spirit of the YCS, we 61 delegates* from 14 Asian countries representing members, animators and chaplains of the YCS movement, invitees and observers took part in the 9th Asian Session & Council, held at We-Train International House, Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 May – 2 June 2003. We actively participated in the process of discovering the realities of Asia and of our Movement based on our See-Judge-Act (Review of Life) methodology. From the new challenges that arose from our discussions on the ASC 2003 theme: “With Faith & Heart, We Call All Students to Build a Culture of Peace & Love,” we are able to find meaningful Orientations for the coming three years.

See:

We, the participants, recall our past and become aware of what is happening presently in real life. And we realize that our understanding of life depends to a great extent on reflecting on our own experiences and on our exposure to new experiences. With the sharing of group reports of our exposure, our country realities and YCS activities, we get a clearer picture of life and of the basic life skills (behind See-Judge-Act methodology) needed by students to use our imaginations for creativity to “have life and have it to the full” (Jn 10:10).

Globalization:

Through the exposure observation, group discussion, sharing and deeper analysis, we recognize that we cannot escape from the impact of globalization in Asia where there is incredible speed of rapid change, tremendous exposure to new experiences, greater opportunities for self-development, much more mobility and erosion of authority. However, a great deal of uncertainty awaits us; hence the challenge to young people is to be responsible in making self-controlled choices.

Education:

We realize in the study session through social analysis and the sharing of our reflection that students are dissatisfied with the present educational system due to lack of creativity in school life (focuses on memorizing and examinations), there is competition so strong that the students have to spend more time on academic studies than learning other basic life skills (listening, speaking, asking questions etc.). Also, the high cost of education favors only those who can afford it, while many cannot even enjoy the basic education which is the right for all. So, we became aware that it is time to think analytically about an alternative education which can inculcate the values like peace and love.

We begin to see that material life, nature and distribution of resources are not according to God’s plan of creation. Thus, it is significant to look deeper and discover personal and interpersonal world in particular situations. At this stage, we move to consider the meaning of life and the values and the spiritual life of the people.

Judge:

We come to know through deep reflection from our chaplains, animators and also from our own

reflection and sharing on how Jesus accompanies us in our lives. From the sharing of our experiences of God, we understand and learn to value our spirituality which must be nourished by being alone, silent and praying in our daily lives.

We are enlightened by the spiritual values and teachings of all religions and convinced about the importance of reading the Scriptures and meditation. As Christians, we are encouraged to value the Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments as a way of getting close to God, knowing and understanding the mind, heart and spirit of Jesus.

While we respect what other people believe and learn from their cultures and our YCS Spirituality reflected on our Asian Creed, we believe that:

- the Father's creation is for all and we respect all people as being equal in dignity.
- Jesus is our model of a 'life' especially for the poor and the marginalized.
- the Holy Spirit inspires, strengthens and encourages us to denounce bad news and announce good news.

Act:

With the clearer understanding of our YCS spirituality, we move towards evaluation of our experiences in the past three years. As young Christian students, we are determined to build a culture of peace and love hence, we prioritize the following challenges to make plans of actions at the Asian level:

- 1) Greater awareness of YCS realities
- 2) Formation of animators, chaplains and student leaders
- 3) Integration of ASC 2003 Orientation in the formation programs
- 4) Strengthening the national and international coordination towards unity
- 5) Mobilize sufficient human and financial resources

And so, with full understanding of faith in our hearts, we call all youth and students to make a difference and together build a culture of peace and love in Asia and in the world.

** (YCS Bangladesh, YCS/YSM India, YCS Sri Lanka, YCS Nepal, YCS Pakistan, YCS Thailand, YCS Singapore, YCS Vietnam, SCA Philippines, YCS Indonesia, YCS Taiwan, YCS Hong Kong, CYA Korea, YCS Taiwan, Laos Youth Group, IYCS Asian Team, IYCS International Coordinator, Pan-African Coordinator, EASYNet Coordinator)*