

**YATRA 2017 (*Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity*)****Jakarta, Indonesia****Online preparation course: 12 June – 7 July 2017****Followed by residential course: 8–22 July 2017****Applicant Guidelines**

Ecumenical Continuing Formation Seminars provide a safe space for the analysis and discernment of cutting-edge issues of concern for the ecumenical movement and offer expertise and experience to accompany this discernment process. Seminars are designed to sharpen awareness of the ecumenical implications of societal and ecclesial changes for churches. They encourage engaging in dialogue and cooperation, envisioning possible action, including with people of other faiths in response to the call to join the pilgrimage of justice and peace. Note that all seminars and courses are taught in English.

*YATRA (Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity) is an annual training course, conducted by the Inter-Religious Dialogue and Cooperation programme of the World Council of Churches as part of the Ecumenical Continuing Formation Seminars. It consists of a 4-week online preparation programme and a 2-week residential course. It will enable Christian leaders, between 20-35 years, from Asian churches to contribute towards the building up of just, harmonious and peaceable communities by equipping them for ministries of justice and peace from an interfaith perspective.*

We thank you for your interest in applying for an ecumenical continuing formation seminar. The following guidelines are designed to ensure that your application is received in the best possible way. Please follow the instructions below:

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you read and follow the instructions in these guidelines.**

- The **deadline** for receiving complete applications (including all supporting documents) is **1 March 2017**. Please apply well in advance of the closing date. All selected candidates will be informed if their application has been successful by e-mail not later than 13 March 2017.
- Please **type or write clearly** on the application form. The details you give in your application form will be used for the administration of your application, and potentially as the basis of your participant record. If the form is incorrectly completed your application may be delayed, and may not be processed.
- Your **surname/family name is used to identify and match all materials** sent with your application and for dealing with enquiries. Please use only the full name given in your passport and identity documents. We are aware of the fact that some of you may not yet have a passport. In that case, please provide us with another official identity document. However, please plan to get a passport as quickly as possible so that, if you are accepted as a participant, you will be able to make arrangements for your international travel and visa arrangements (except for Indonesian citizens living in Indonesia).
- You are expected to have **sufficient working knowledge of English** since it will be the language of the course. We may get in touch with you via Skype to evaluate if your command of English is sufficient to participate successfully in the course.
- The following **criteria** will be used when selecting participants: a) motivation of the candidate to participate in the course (based on written essay); b) clear recommendation from the Church / Ecumenical Organisation / Theological Institution of the candidate demonstrating the usefulness of the programme for the candidate's local context; c) the need to create a balanced group of



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participants in terms of geography, gender and confessional / denominational background. In some cases, a Skype interview may be used to support the selection process.

- Applicants must have the **support of their local/national church or their organization**. This support is expressed through the endorsement form issued by the church/organization, and by a financial pledge.
- All candidates and recommending bodies must complete the **Church Endorsement and Finance Form (Forms 004 & 005)** and return them together with the completed application form and supporting materials mentioned below. **Candidates are expected to contribute a minimum amount of USD 50** – (this is separate from the church/organization’s contribution)
- The **church/organization supporting the application is expected to pay an endorsement fee** of USD 50.- to the YATRA programme. This amount can be transferred to WCC accounts (given below) or paid in cash to the organizers at the beginning of the course. This financial contribution cannot be used to cover expenses like visa, local transport, meals en route, etc.

### Supporting materials

**All applicants are required to submit electronically the following documents with their application form (in English).**

- Completed **Application Form (Form 002) including**
  - \* One (1) passport-size **photograph** (attached to the application form)
  - \* One (1) copy of the bio-data pages of your **passport or identity card**
  - \* a list of **two other persons**, not related to you, to give a **reference**
- an **essay** in English of not more than 500 words, explaining
  - a) Why you want to participate in the course? b) How you consider the theme of this year’s YATRA course “Passionately Christian and Compassionately Interreligious” to be relevant to your context and experience? And, c) What you hope to gain from the experience? (**Form 003**)
- The **Church Endorsement and Finance form** completed by the sending church/organisation (**Form 004**)
- The **Applicant’s Personal Financial Contribution Form** completed by the applicant (**Form 005**)

**Please save all forms electronically in the following way:**

**FAMILYNAME\_Application form YATRA 2017.docx;**

**FAMILYNAME\_Passport.pdf;**

**etc.**

**The deadline for receiving the complete application and supporting documents is 1 March 2017.**

**NOTE: It is preferred that you email your application along with scanned copies of all the supporting materials. Applications should be sent electronically to**

[Marietta.Ruhland@wcc-coe.org](mailto:Marietta.Ruhland@wcc-coe.org)

It is the participant’s responsibility to ensure that the application forms reach before the deadline. **Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.**