



YATRA: Young Adults Training for Religious Amity

Youth Interreligious Engagement, Advocating Human Dignity

YATRA is a highly successful interreligious training programme launched by the World Council of Churches (WCC) in 2014 following the 10th General Assembly of the WCC held in Busan, Republic of Korea. The choice of name for this programme – YATRA – (which is a common term for pilgrimage in many contexts and languages) is intended to reflect the idea of a pilgrimage of justice and peace. This intensive training programme seeks to equip young Christians between the ages of 20 and 35 to be actively engaged in interfaith ministries of justice and peace in their own contexts. From its former abbreviation “Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity”, YATRA is expanding its program to the global ecumenical movement, and will become “Young Adults Training for Religious Amity” from 2020, allowing young people from other regions, not limited to Asia, to participate.

Objectives

YATRA brings together young Christians between 20-35 years from churches, ecumenical organizations and national councils as co-pilgrims, equipping them to:

- Analyse the complex intersections between religion and politics in contemporary contexts.
- Build up a peer-network of young enablers - who can sustain and strengthen each other (through mutual encouragement, challenge and the sharing of resources) in interfaith engagement for justice and peace.
- Conceive and create practical models of inter-religious collaboration by offering participants opportunities for orientation and exposure to inter-religious projects.
- Discover new possibilities for living and witnessing in a multi-religious world by learning from the rich theological and spiritual resources offered by different religious traditions.
- Engage with important theological questions that often serve as a stumbling block for interreligious dialogue.
- Follow-up this learning experience with practical application that aims at promoting harmony and mutual flourishing in their home contexts and with their sending church.
- Globally and ecumenically participate in fostering interreligious engagement
- Harness the skills and knowledge of young people on Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation for relationship-building in different levels

YATRA 2022

Partners:

YATRA 2022 will be a joint collaboration between Youth Engagement of WCC, Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation of WCC, Christian Conference of Asia, Church of Christ in Thailand, and ACT Alliance;

It will be a cross programmatic venture of the WCC's programme on Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, and the programme on Youth Engagement in the Ecumenical Movement.

The Venue:

Online Learning: October 1-7, 2022

Residential Learning, October 23-31, 2022, Thailand

Application

It requires participants to submit application to attend YATRA 2022. However, the application will be selected according to following considerations: 1. Gender balance; 2. Continent balance; and 3. Church confession balance, to allow it to have composition of participants coming from various background and gender balance. Here are important dates for the application:

- Public Announcement on website of WCC: September 1, 2022
- Deadline for applications: September 20, 2022
- Announcement of outcome selection: September 26, 2022

Theme

The Yatra 2022 will explore the theme "Youth Interreligious Engagement, Advocating Human Dignity"

The Structure of the Programme:

It will deliver intensive online learning followed by one week of residential learning for those who have successfully completed their online training. The residential training will include Bible Studies, academic lectures, exposure visits, and the cross-cultural experience of living together and learning from each other.

Eligibility:

The YATRA 2022 is open to young Christians between 20 and 35 years. Applicants should have completed at least a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent, and must be positioned to influence their churches and ecumenical organisations to be actively engaged in interreligious work. Applicants are requested to have a recommendation and endorsement from their church or organization. Balanced representation in terms of region, denomination and gender will be ensured in the selection process.

The application consists of the following parts:

- Top page for application, to be filled and signed by applicant
- Personal Application (Part 1)
- Essay (Part 2)
- Church Endorsement and Financial Pledge (Part 3, to be completed by church)
- Tuition fees and Scholarship request (Part 4, to be completed by applicant)

Only complete applications that have reached us by the deadline of 25/09/2022, will be considered. We cannot follow up on incomplete applications.

Email applications to youth@wcc-coe.org or irdc@wcc-coe.org with “YATRA” and your family name in the subject line of email.