



# **WCC Eco-School 2019 (Asia)**

on

## **Water, Food and Climate Justice**

### **4-17 November 2019**

**Chiang Mai, Thailand**  
**Hosted by Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)**

### **Convening organizations:**



**WCC Economic and Ecological  
Justice Programme**

**WCC Youth and Ecumenical  
Engagement Programme**

**WCC Health and Healing Programme**

*This program is made possible through grant support from: InFaith Community  
Foundation, through ELCA*

*\*The WCC-EWN and the WCC-EAA are ecumenical initiatives of the World Council of  
Churches*

## WCC Eco-School on Water, Food and Climate Justice 2019

### Introduction

Today more than 2 billion people do not have access to safely-managed drinking water and over 4.4 billion people do not have safely-managed sanitation. 795 million people – or one in nine people – go to bed on an empty stomach and nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation -related diarrheal diseases every day. Climate change aggravates water and food insecurity. In the current scenario, two-thirds of the world's population could be living in areas of high water stress by 2030 and global agricultural production could decline by as much as 25% by 2050.<sup>2</sup>

The nexus between water, food and climate change is deep, and directly impacts the sustenance and survival of communities, especially the socio-economically vulnerable. It is well known that climate change affects the availability of water and food security. At the same time agriculture the exploitation of water and land resources, and unbridled consumerist lifestyles contribute to climate change. Industrial farming and factory animal farms; unbridled commercial fishing; deforestation; destructive land and sea mining, all contribute to the degradation of the environment and brings about water shortages, threatens food sovereignty and endangers biodiversity. Food security and nutrition are directly linked to the availability of fresh water, as 70% of it is used for agriculture. Industrial agriculture of water intensive products in water stressed countries to export to richer countries is a major cause of high water footprints of those countries and making them all the more vulnerable. Therefore, issues of water, food and climate change have to be addressed in a holistic manner and within a framework of justice.

### The Eco-School

In response to the above challenges the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) in collaboration with various WCC programmes including the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), Economic and Ecological Justice programme, Youth Engagement in the ecumenical movement and Health and Healing programme is organising the third edition of the Eco-School for up to 30 young people from Asia to discuss the nexus between Water, Food and Climate Justice. The WCC Eco-School will be hosted by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) who are also a co-organiser of the event, along with other external partners including the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) Asia Pacific region. The programme was made possible through the financial contributions from the above organisations, particularly through a grant support from InFaith Community Foundation through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Currently, young people, under 30 years old, make up 50.5% of the world's population.<sup>3</sup> They along with the children, will be facing the brunt of the impacts of climate change in the days to come. Today's young people are at risk of being worse off than the previous generations, in terms of quality of life and access to basic human rights. We have witnessed young people taking leadership in drawing the attention of world leaders to respond to the urgency of climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> UN Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) 2017 report on "Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene", <https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/documents/reports/2018-01/JMP-2017-report-final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unwater.org/water-facts/scarcity/>

<sup>3</sup> Youth Progress Index 2017 (<https://bit.ly/2DqKV5n>)

Therefore, it is important to invest in young people in building their capacities on ecological issues. WCC Eco School on water, food, and climate justice go on to show its commitment towards young people.

In an ecumenical setting, participants will have the opportunity to study the local, regional, and international manifestations and causes of the water crisis and food insecurity as affected by climate change. They will examine the situation and challenges from a perspective of faith and ethics, and search together for possible ecumenical responses to these challenges. By the end of the Eco School participants are expected to be equipped with the tools to enable them to become eco-advocates for a more sustainable and just earth. To this end, they are expected to draw action plans that may be implemented in their communities.

The details of the Eco-School on Water, Food and Climate Change are given below:

<b>Dates:</b>	- 04-17 November 2019
<b>Venue:</b>	- Christian Conference of Asia, Chiang Mai, Thailand
<b>Eligibility:</b>	- Asian nationals, 18-30 years old * Affiliated with WCC member churches /ecumenical organizations * Preferably holding at least, a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent. <i>However, the degree is not mandatory to qualify.</i> * Basic knowledge in <b>English</b> preferred – as it is the working language of WCC Eco-School * <b>Registration fees</b> : US\$ 100.- (mandatory)

### **Aims & Objectives/ outcomes**

The Eco-School aims to motivate and prepare young people to contribute to the work of the churches at the regional and local level on issues related to water, food, nutrition, health and climate change towards a sustainable future.

#### **Objectives:**

- o Convey a basic understanding of the water crisis, food security, health and climate change and their root causes
- o To explore the nexus between water, food and climate change with a justice and rights perspective
- o To sustain regional capacity building of our churches on ecological issues, particularly on the nexus of the above issues through this annual regional Eco-school
- o Strengthen commitment to work in church and ecumenical context on these issues
- o Capacitate participants to initiate follow-up activities in their home communities

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

- o Participants have a basic understanding of the water crisis, food security and climate change and its causes.
- o Participants are aware and equipped with theological and ethical considerations relevant to the issues of environmental protection, poverty eradication,
- o The participants become eco-advocates to work towards making this earth more sustainable and just.
- o Participants have expressed their commitment and developed concrete ideas to further pursue the issue upon returning home.

- Churches represented by these participants are made aware of water and sanitation, food security and climate change related issues and that these issues may be prioritized in the churches' discourses.

## Course Methodology

The course of the Eco-School would include:

- Lectures and workshops
- Theological and contextual bible studies
- Creative liturgy and worship
- Exposure visits for a live-in-experience
- Sharing of local and regional experiences
- Cultural and artistic activities
- Physical exercise and meditation
- Learning Journal and Eco-School Newsletter
- Assessment and plan of action

## Facilitators

The WCC Eco-School will be facilitated by the following facilitators:

- Mr Dinesh Suna, Coordinator of WCC's Ecumenical Water Network
- Dr Manoj Kurian, Coordinator WCC's EAA
- Ms. Athena Peralta, Programme Executive, WCC-Economic and Ecological Justice
- Ms Joy Eva Bohol, Programme Executive, WCC Youth and Ecumenical Engagements
- Dr Rey Ty, Programme Coordinator, Building Peace, Christian Conference of Asia
- Ms Sunita Suna, Regional Secretary, WSCF-Asia Pacific Region
- Mr Marcelo Leites, Regional Secretary, WSCF, Latin America region

## Application Process:

If you are interested in participating/ nominating someone, please download the **brochure, application form and the guidelines of WCC Eco-School on Water, Food and Climate Justice 2019** from the WCC website: <https://www.oikoumene.org> or request for an application to [eco.school@wcc-coe.org](mailto:eco.school@wcc-coe.org). Read the application form carefully, complete it clearly and fully in English, type if possible and send it to the address mentioned in the form **before 15 July 2019**

## Timeline

13.06.2019	: Announcement / Call for applications
15.07.2019	: Deadline for applications
16-31.07.2019	: Screening process
01.08.2019	: <b>Notification of chosen participants</b>

## Cost of Participation

**Registration fees** :US\$ 100.- (Mandatory for every participants)

Your church or sending organization is requested to take care of your participation expenses. If it cannot do so, full scholarships is available for few participants. Please enclose a separate letter requesting scholarships to cover your international travel, food and accommodation in a twin sharing basis during the Eco-School.

Please also forward this call for applications to others you think might be interested.

**For further information please contact:** [eco.school@wcc-coe.org](mailto:eco.school@wcc-coe.org)