

YATRA: Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity

A Move-Ment Towards a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

YATRA (Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity) 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 Indo-Asian religions and languages) is intended to reflect the idea of a pilgrimage of justice and peace. It is an intensive training course to equip young Christians from Asia between the ages of 20 to 35 to build up communities of harmony and hope from an interreligious perspective.

Objectives: YATRA brings together young Christians in Asia 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 is aimed at promoting harmony and mutual flourishing in their home contexts and with their sending church.

YATRA 2019

Partners:

YATRA 2019 will be a joint collaboration between the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the Council for World Mission (CWM). 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:

The residential period of YATRA 2019 will take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea at the Global Institute of Theology of Yonsei University.

Dates:

Online learning from 19 August to 14 September 2019

Residential phase is from 18-29 September (arrivals all day 18 September, departures all day 29 September)

Deadline for applications: 15 April 2019

The Theme:

YATRA 2019 will explore the theme “Stewards of Hope, Seekers of Harmony”. It will offer an opportunity to rethink in a creative and critical manner what it means to bear an account of the hope that is within us, as we seek to love God and live harmoniously with our neighbours in a multi religious world.

The Structure of the Programme:

The YATRA programme will include four weeks of intensive online learning followed by two weeks of residential learning for those who have successfully completed their online training. The residential training will include workshops, bible studies, academic lectures, study of recent ecumenical and interreligious documents, contextual analysis, exposure visits and the cross-cultural experience of living together and learning from each other.

Eligibility:

YATRA 2019 is open to young Christians from Asia aged between 20-35 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.



Costs:

All applicants are requested to make a personal contribution of a minimum of 100 USD. - towards these costs. This amount is payable in cash on the first day of the programme.

The church/organization that is recommending and endorsing the applicant must pay an endorsement fee of 150 USD. - (for accepted participants only) which is used to cover part of the tuition fees.

The cost for tuition, full board and lodging, exposure visits and local transport during the course, as well as medical insurance, is 700.-USD per participant. In order to enable wide participation, all three collaborating partners have subsidized the costs of the course.

All travel costs including local and international air tickets to the Republic of Korea, visa costs and en-route costs are the responsibility of the applicant. Churches/organizations that recommend and endorse an application are invited to make efforts to sponsor travel costs including air tickets.

Some scholarships are available to subsidize course costs and international airfares. A scholarship request must be made at the moment of application and will be decided upon after application screening; all decisions on scholarship requests depend on the availability of funds.

The application consists of 3 compulsory parts and 1 optional scholarship request:

- Personal Application 001
- Essay 002
- Church Endorsement and Financial Pledge 003 (to be completed by church)
- Applicant's Scholarship Request 004

Only complete applications will be considered.

Deadline for applications: April 15, 2019

Email applications to youth@wcc-coe.org

Link to Application form