

# asian missions advance

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Summer 2023 | Volume 29 | Issue 3

ISSN 2765-0936

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Quarterly Bulletin of the Asia Missions Association *published by*  
the East-West Center for Missions Research & Development

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## ASIA MISSIONS ASSOCIATION 14th Convention and 50th Anniversary Celebration

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The Asia Missions Association is now 50 years old and it was celebrated in Jakarta, Indonesia, in the 14th AMA Convention. It was an assembly of missionaries, servant-leaders, partners and friends from all over Asia and beyond. Held from May 22 to 26, 2023 at the GBI Mawar Saron Church in Jakarta which hosted the AMA Convention with true and warm Indonesian hospitality. We are thankful to our brothers and sisters from GBI Mawar Saron Church under the pastorship of Rev. Yohannes Nahuway. The theme for the AMA 14th Convention was Missions in the Post Pandemic Era: Challenges and Opportunities in the New Normal World. The Lord for 50 years have strengthened the chains that bind the AMA members and its partners.

The 14th AMA Convention brought 120 delegates from S. Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Taiwan, Cambodia, Laos, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Canada and the United States together with around 140 participants from Indonesia. For the four-day convention, all of these participants shared, listened, and learned from each other from the plenary to small groups, there was a non-stop exchange of prayers, ideas, concepts, and programs that forge partnerships and collaborations to reach the mission fields and present the Gospel, make disciples and teach the Word of God effectively. The pandemic indeed gave us time for the much-needed respite to observe and evaluate what we have been doing in missions. And the post-pandemic time allowed us to go forward and look with a keen eye at the challenges and the opportunities that the pandemic made available for us.

During the plenary sessions, the speakers shared with the delegates eye opening realizations of what can be done best for the ministry and the locals. The morning Exegesis by Dr. Prabhu Singh Vedhamanickan discussed about the many sufferings

we face as Christian believers and mission leaders. The Plenary Session speakers like Dr. Chansamone Saiyasak (Asian Learning Mode and Style in the context of Asian Learning ), Dr. H. Daniel Kim (ministry among people with disabilities), Dr. Daniel J. Kim (theater and arts ministry), Dr. Jay Matenga (Toward Framing a New Era of Missions), Dr. Nelson Jennings (Encouragement and Lessons from Asian Christian Witnesses), Dr. Alex Smith (Things that do not Change in Christian Missions ) and Rev. Ken Choe ( going back to basics among churches) shared

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and discussed the many challenges and opportunities we are facing now after the pandemic. There is so much to do and we know by the Holy Spirit we can accomplish much. The National Reports presented by our delegates from Bhutan, Maldives, Laos, Vietnam, Kazakhstan and Mongolia truly revealed that the work of the Lord is amazing! No man, government or laws can stop the Holy Spirit to mobilize the saints in planting churches and reaching the lost. The reports from Global Links, (WEA, Missio Nexus, Lausanne Movement, SEANet, Frontier Ventures and COMIBAM) informed us of the many re-directions in strategies, and new trends in missions and churches in the post-pandemic world. In the afternoon, everyone enjoyed the Workshops which had a friendlier atmosphere that created time to interact with one another and learn from the facilitators how to involve more effectively in the missionfields with churches and people in need. The evening sessions were nights of the Pentecostal celebrations that shared true and meaningful testimonies of God's greatness and goodness to those who believe. Rev. Yohannes Nahuway truly prepared a feast for our spirits to celebrate and rejoice! The delegates and participants huddled together in prayers, in conversations and in meetings even if the convention's daily schedule was so tight. And in these times many hearts were placed

together to pursue the one effective way to serve the Master better.

This 14th AMA Convention created a much more intimate mood for delegates to bond and fellowship in unity. This is what the post pandemic did to us: to be closer as brothers and sisters in the faith, to love and to serve Him together. In the closing program, the AMA 14th Convention Declaration was read. And delegates and participants agreed to do these things for the glory of God and for the furtherance of the Gospel to the end of the earth!



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## DECLARATION OF THE 14TH JAKARTA TRIENNIAL CONVENTION OF ASIA MISSIONS ASSOCIATION

May 26, 2023

We at the Asia Missions Association 14th Convention reached a consensus on the essence of mission on our 50th anniversary and identified new challenges and opportunities for the church and mission in the changing contexts.

1. We reaffirm that mission was initiated and is being realized by the cooperative activity of the triune God. Therefore, mission is all Christian churches' responsibility for the expansion of the kingdom of God by participation in God's mission, relying on the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, collaborating in partnerships among the bodies of Christ in Asia and beyond, and equipping national churches to be engaged in missions.
2. We acknowledge that there are challenges as follows:
  - a. A decline in physical presence
  - b. A decrease in financial capacity and mission funding
  - c. The sustained persecution against the Christian faith
  - d. Uncertainty of future mission engagement
  - e. Social disconnectedness and loneliness
  - f. Missions in a digitalized world
  - g. Increasing anxiety, depression, and psychological distress about the future.

3. We recognize the following as opportunities:

- a. We observe churches and missions that have innovated their approaches as they respond to the needs of the people in their contexts and have increased their participation.
- b. We witness the vivid growth and self-reliance of Christian churches and missions in Asia in the absence of outside financial support.
- c. Through organic and digital means, Christian churches and missions connect, come alongside, support, and advocate for our persecuted Asian fellow believers.
- d. We perceive uncertainty as opportunities open to develop agility in our mission strategies and outreaches.
- e. We recognize the importance of interpersonal relationships where the people who are socially disconnected and lonely are brought into a setting where they are ministered to and received healing and restoration.
- f. We see diverse ministry plausibility in digitized platforms, enabling us to access across generations and borders, beyond restrictions.
- g. We realize the need to increase in different types of ministry that provide counseling to people with anxiety, depression, and psychological distress.
- h. We value Christian churches and missions in solidarity engaged in local communities.

4. We, in recognition of the challenges and opportunities, resolve the following:

- a. We resolve to hold fast the belief in Jesus Christ as the unshakable unique anchor in times of uncertainty, proclaiming the gospel of salvation in the contexts and situations where we are, and committing to the expansion of the kingdom of God and the fulfillment of the will of God on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10; 28:19-20).
- b. We resolve to be innovative and agile in building up effective mission strategies, creating digital platforms, and strengthening global networks beyond the boundaries of Asia.
- c. We resolve to collaborate among Christian churches and missions by meeting the felt-needs in society, remembering the poor, the marginalized, and vulnerable groups of people, and come alongside and advocate for our persecuted Asian fellow believers (Lk 4:6-20).
- d. We resolve to equip all Asian churches to participate in cross-cultural missions by continuous education, missionary training, the provision of ministry opportunities abroad, and to establish missionary churches. (Gal. 2:7-8).
- e. We resolve to encourage local Christian churches to be self-reliant in ministries and to continue engaging in local communities.
- f. We resolve to give support to developing ministries to people in social disconnection and loneliness, and depression, recognizing the necessity of relationships.

We, therefore, declare that as God's missionary people we are called to live out and proclaim the Gospel of salvation to fulfill the Kingdom of God through the guidance of the triune God.

**Amen.**