



OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (OHD)

Climate Change Desk (CCD)

Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences: FABC

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

OHD FAREWELL MESSAGE

I leave the Office of Human Development (OHD) and Climate Change Desk (CCD) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) with some nostalgic feelings. I took charge as Executive Secretary at a time when the Church was actively getting involved in Climate Change issues. Climate Change Desk (CCD) tried to make the Asian Church aware of the problem of Global Warming. We voiced our opinion during COP 21 and COP 24 through joint Statements signed by the Presidents of the Continental Episcopal Conferences.

We felt the need to look at the future and so we had a Strategic Planning meeting last year. The Executive Committee members and other invitees present agreed to the following as the OHD's priorities and plans in the next three years: a) Environment and Ecology, b) Migrants and Refugees, and c) Building up Civil Societies and 'Indigenous peoples' as cross-cutting priority.

On the 1st of January 2019, I gave up my office as Executive Secretary of OHD as I was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bombay in 2017. I welcome Fr Joseph Gonsalves who has been appointed as the new Executive Secretary. He currently heads the Archdiocesan Office for Environment, Mumbai, and the Mumbai Unit of Prison Ministry India. He is also a Professor at St Pius College (diocesan seminary), Mumbai.

My association with FABC will continue for some time more as I have been appointed Secretary of the forthcoming Asian Conference. The year 2020 will be the 50th anniversary of the birth of FABC. To mark this occasion, the FABC intends to gather in a general conference to commemorate, celebrate and to chart the direction for the years to come.

I thank all the Bishops, Priests, Religious and laity who have helped me during these past years. I also wish to thank in a special way the Editorial Board, Ms Deepika Singh – Coordinator of OHD and Ms Juliet Maben - Secretary/Accountant of OHD.

Wishing you all a meaningful Easter.

Bishop Allwyn D'Silva
OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (OHD)
/ Climate Change Desk (CCD)

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MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE 104TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2018



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AN INTERNATIONAL AWARD

FOR BEST STRATEGY IN SOCIAL ACTION
THE VATICAN CAMPAIGN ON MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



Migrants and Refugees Message: The Church has celebrated the World Day of Migrants and Refugees each year since 1914 this is an occasion for the Church and people of faith to reflect upon the role migration has played in our tradition, express concern for migrants, refugees, and people on the move, and build awareness about the challenges and opportunities migration presents. For 2018, Pope Francis had written about welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees.

A Vatican campaign on migrants and refugees has become an internationally-recognized best practice in promoting positive change in society through social advertising. The twelfth edition of the International Social Advertising Festival or Public festival presented the award. The prize “Best Strategy in Social Action” was granted to the video made by the Migrant & Refugees Section of the Holy See’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and produced by the agency La Machi Communication for Good Causes.

The event took place on 15 June at the Fernando Rojas Theatre of the Círculo de BellasArtes in Madrid, with the participation of agencies and advertisers from all over the world. The 3½-minute piece has Pope Francis explaining

the 4 active verbs on which he urges governments, organizations and citizens to base their engagement with the problematic of human mobility: to Welcome, to Protect, to Promote, and to Integrate. The video was shown for the first time in December 2017 at the ‘stock-taking’ session for the U.N. Global Compact on Migrants (Puerto Vallarta, Mexico), and in the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges for the Global Compact for Refugees at the Palais des Nations (Geneva). It has also been presented at U.N. headquarters in New York and in many places worldwide.

During the award ceremony, Fr. Michael Czerny, SJ, Under-Secretary of the M&R Section, stated: “The Holy Father gives the Christian and indeed civilized response to the pressing needs of vulnerable people on the move, and the video makes the urgent appeal real in images, movement, and music. We are happy to help this touching and indeed motivating message reach millions of concerned people everywhere.”

The video is available in nearly 30 languages. (<https://migrants-refugees.va/2018-migrants-refugees-message>)

Source: <https://zenit.org/articles/the-vatican-campaign-on-migrants-and-refugees>



NATIONS ARE BUILT BY MIGRANTS, POPE SAYS

CAROL GLATZ, OCT 30, 2018, CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



Countries do not develop by themselves; they are built by migrants, Pope Francis said. And migrants often choose to travel to a new land in a group, like those currently traveling through Central America and heading to the border between the U.S. and Mexico, he added, in off-the-cuff remarks to a group of Scalabrinian Missionaries. The missionaries, who were in Rome for their general chapter meeting, minister to migrants, refugees and displaced persons. The pope thanked them for the work they do, noting the biblical mandate for “welcoming the stranger” and the importance of knowing how to do that act of charity well. “It is true that today there is a surge in being closed to the stranger and there are also many situations of trafficking of foreign people; the foreigner is exploited,” he said.

The pope said, in his experience, his home country of Argentina “is a cocktail of waves of migration.” Recalling how many migrants were well received where his father worked after the Second World War, “Argentina has experience in welcoming because there was work and there was also a need.” “Because migrants build a country, just like they built Europe. Because Europe was not born just like that. Europe was made by many waves of migrants over the centuries,” he said.

The importance of community, he told the religious institute, can be seen in how often migrants make their journey together as a group, like “the caravan that is going from Honduras to the United States.” “Sometimes (a migrant) has to go alone, but it is normal to stick together, because we feel stronger” that way during the journey “and that is where the community is,” he said.

The pope urged the religious to feel and work like a community, just like the migrants they help. Even though, for example, a soccer player is free to act on his or her own, this possibility does not exist for members of a religious order because in religious life, “free agents fail.” “Feel like migrants, yes, feel like migrants in need, migrants before the Lord,” knocking on his door in prayer, like migrants knock on the door of receiving countries, and live like “migrants among yourselves,” sticking together in community life, he said.

<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2018/10/30/nations-are-built-by-migrants-pope-says>

POPE SHIFTS WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO SEPTEMBER

20 November 2018

Pope Francis has shifted the Catholic Church's annual World Day of Migrants and Refugees from January to September, the Holy See spokesman, Greg Burke said in a statement on Tuesday. "At the request of various Bishops' Conferences, the Holy Father has moved the World Day of Migrants and Refugees to the last Sunday of September," the statement read. "Thus, the next World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the 105th, will be celebrated on Sunday 29 September 2019." "As usual, the text of the Holy Father's Message will be released some months before the World Day," Burke added.

Origins

The origins of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees can be traced to 1914, a few months before the outbreak of World War I. Touched by the drama of millions of Italians who had migrated abroad since the beginning of the 20th century, Pope Pius X called on all Christians to pray for migrants.

A few months later, his successor Pope Benedict XV instituted the Day of the Migrant to support spiritually and economically the pastoral work for Italian emigrants. In 1952, Migrant Day took on a broader and more international connotation and the

particular Churches were called upon to choose a date to celebrate the day during the liturgical year.

St. John Paul II was the first pontiff who, since 1985, has issued a message each year drawing attention to some of the specific realities and difficulties of people on the move, calling the Church to action. In 2004, the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People extended the day to refugees calling it the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. At the behest of St. John Paul II, since 2005, the World Day of Migrants and Refugees has been celebrated by the Universal Church on the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany.

On the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, January 14, 2018, Pope Francis announced the change in the date of celebration which will be the last Sunday of September.

Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-11/pope-francis-world-day-migrants-refugees-september-press-office.html>

Kindly also note: United Nations (UN) Celebrates International Migrants Day 18 December.

For details please visit: <http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/messages.shtm>

SUMMARY OF POPE'S MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY 2018 OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

16th September 2018

Pope Francis stressed the need to create a welcoming environment for migrants and refugees stating that "Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age." The Holy Father calls us to express our solidarity with migrants and refugees at every stage of the "migratory experience — from departure, through journey, to arrival and return."

Acknowledging the enormity of this responsibility to journey with migrants and refugees, the Pope encourages all who are called to respond "with generosity, promptness, wisdom and foresight, each according to their own abilities." Pope Francis proposes an action-oriented initiative and provides a template for our shared response on four related fronts: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate.

In each of these areas, there are practical suggestions for close collaboration with state institutions and other agencies, as well as for individuals. Firstly, in welcoming migrants and refugees, Pope Francis

emphasizes that personal safety must be a priority over national security. He calls on states to provide safe and legal pathways to migration, with access to basic services and encourages the involvement of private and community sponsorship programs to support government initiatives.

Secondly, in protecting migrants and refugees, he focuses on defending their rights and dignity, independent of their legal status. This protection, the Pope suggests, must begin at the start of the journey in the country of origin through to the country of destination. He expresses concern for the protection of underage migrants who are legally provided for under the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and warns against any form of detention of children relating to their migration status. The Holy Father believes that children should be guaranteed access to health, education and the right to nationality.

Thirdly, Pope Francis further calls for the empowerment of migrants and refugees to achieve their potential as human beings. In promoting them, we must recognize and value the abilities and gifts that they bring. Of



particular importance is the freedom of religious belief and practice. He calls for a determined effort to promote social and professional inclusion of migrants and refugees, with access to employment being a key factor.

Finally, Pope Francis highlights integrating migrants and refugees as the key to shaping societies and cultures that create opportunities for intercultural enrichment. He invites all of us “to use every occasion to share this message with all political and social actors involved

(or who seek to be involved)(in the process which will lead to the approval of the two Global Compacts” that states have committed themselves to draft and approve before the end of 2018.)

Source: <http://www.heraldmalaysia.com/news/summary-of-popes-message-for-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/44232/1>

ADOPTION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MIGRANTS & REFUGEES SECTION |
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT | PIAZZA VATICAN CITY

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RESPONDING TO REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS: TWENTY ACTION POINTS FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACTS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MIGRANTS & REFUGEES SECTION |
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT | PIAZZA VATICAN CITY

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GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

(UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES)
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATED AND AGREED OUTCOME

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FOR BEST STRATEGY IN SOCIAL ACTION THE VATICAN CAMPAIGN ON MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



“Migration is a powerful driver of economic growth, dynamism and understanding. It allows millions of people to seek new opportunities, benefiting communities of origin and destination alike.”

– UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual’s will to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Today, globalization, together with advances in communications and transportation, has greatly increased the number of people who have the desire and the capacity to move to other places.

This new era has created challenges and opportunities for societies throughout the world. It also has served to underscore the clear linkage between migration and development, as well as the opportunities it provides for co-development, that is, the concerted improvement of economic and social conditions at both origin and destination.

Migration draws increasing attention in the world nowadays. Mixed with elements of unforeseeability, emergency, and complexity, the challenges and difficulties of international migration require enhanced cooperation and collective action among countries and regions. The United Nations is actively playing a catalyst role in this area, with the aim of creating more dialogues and interactions within countries and regions, as well as propelling experience exchange and collaboration opportunities.

On September 19, 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of commitments during its first ever summit on large movements of refugees and migrants to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. These commitments are known as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (NY Declaration). The NY Declaration reaffirms the importance of the international protection regime and represents a commitment by Member States to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move. It paves the way for the adoption of two new global compacts in 2018: the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

2018 Theme: Migration with Dignity: In 2018, close to 3,400 migrants and refugees already lost their lives worldwide. Therefore “Migration with Dignity” was the theme adopted by UN for the 2018’s International Migrants Day. Treating every migrant with dignity is one of fundamental requirements we face before anything else we attempt on migration. Migration is the great issue of our era, and a force for dignity because it allows people to choose to save themselves, letting them choose participation over isolation. We must dignify those choices by paying them respect, and we respect them by treating those who make such choices with dignity.

Sources: <http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/index.shtml>

The Intergovernmental Conference on Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration took place in Marrakech, Morocco on the 10th and 11th of December, 2018.

World over there are about 258 million migrants living outside their country of birth. This figure is expected to grow for a number of reasons including population growth, increasing connectivity, trade, rising inequality, demographic imbalances and climate change. Migration provides immense opportunity and benefits – for the migrants, host communities and communities of origin. However, when poorly regulated it can create significant challenges. These challenges include overwhelming social infrastructures with the unexpected arrival of large numbers of people and the deaths of migrants undertaking dangerous journeys.

In September 2016 the General Assembly decided, through the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The process to develop this global compact started in April 2017. The



pages in this section detail 18 months of consultation and negotiation, and provide the relevant documentation for each of the events. On 13 July 2018 UN Member States finalized the text for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Text available in all official languages). The Intergovernmental Conference

to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was held in 2018, December in Marrakech, Morocco.

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION



The global compact for migration is the first; inter governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

The Global Compact for Migration is the first-ever UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions. The global compact is non-legally binding. It is grounded in values of state sovereignty, responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination, and human rights, and recognizes that a cooperative approach is needed to optimize the overall benefits of migration, while addressing its risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

The global compact comprises 23 objectives for better managing migration at local, national, regional and global levels. The compact:

1. Aims to mitigate the adverse drivers and structural factors that hinder people from building and maintaining sustainable livelihoods in their countries of origin;
2. Intends to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities migrants face at different stages of migration by respecting, protecting and fulfilling their human rights and providing them with care and assistance;

3. Seeks to address the legitimate concerns of states and communities, while recognizing that societies are undergoing demographic, economic, social and environmental changes at different scales that may have implications for and result from migration;

4. Strives to create conducive conditions that enable all migrants to enrich our societies through their human, economic and social capacities, and thus facilitate their contributions to sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The list of the 23 objectives can be found in paragraph 16 of the Global Compact for Migration. To download the full PDF copy of the Global Compact for Migration kindly visit the below given site: <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>

For Refugees Legal and protection policy research series, article 31 of the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees, protection-policy-and-legal-advice etc. Kindly visit www.unhcr.org



PAST UPDATES / EVENTS

1. Laudato Si' In Continuum. The Asian Outreach: Handbook on Laudato Si' for Grass root Workers

Concept: Though Laudato Si', the encyclical of Pope Francis on saving our common home – Earth, has made a deep impact on peoples' lives, however it has not yet permeated to the grassroots. Hence, the Climate Change Desk / Office of Human Development of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (CCD/OHD – FABC) developed a Handbook for Grass root Workers that will be disseminated throughout Asia. This handbook – Laudato Si' In Continuum. The Asian Outreach - will aid trainers in spreading awareness about the environment and climate change, and take the message of Laudato Si' to the grassroots.

Content Development: Six resource persons attended a workshop held on the 10th and 11th of April 2018 at Mumbai and decided on the topics and format. Sessions would be conducted using the 'See-Reflect-Act-Celebrate' methodology. Topics identified were: 1. Introduction to the kit; 2. Earth; 3. Reclaiming our roots; 4. Water; 5. Carbon footprint; 6. Air; 7. Environment, Family, Social Media; 8. Food; 9. Livelihood; 10. Social Economy; 11. Stealing from the next generation-sustainable development; 12. Ecosystem Services; 13. Collating quotations from all faiths.

A team of seven people subsequently worked on material for the handbook. On 15th June 2018 and 22nd August 2018 Content review meetings were held reviewing the seven sessions for the handbook. It was agreed that a pen drive containing supplementary material such as pictures, films, PowerPoint presentations, etc. would be included with the handbook so as to facilitate understanding of the content and its adaptation to different regional situations.

Six resource persons met on 22nd August 2018 at Mumbai, and resolved that the handbook's content was adequate. The pilot testing of the handbook was completed with a two-day residential workshop in September 2018. The target participants were those who wished to be part of parish green teams formed in the various parishes for the Greening of the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Pilot Testing Pilot testing of the draft handbook took place at a workshop held on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2018 in Mumbai. Fifty-four participants

from twenty-one parishes/organisations throughout the Archdiocese of Bombay attended and gave their feedback. Incorporating Feedback and Peer Review Feedback received during the pilot testing, and further suggestions gathered through peer review (three experts) were consequently incorporated into the handbook. As of January 2019, the handbook is in the final editing stages. The handbook will be translated and adapted throughout Asia. This process will be coordinated by the CCD/OHD – FABC.

2. SEMINAR IN BANGLADESH 11-17 February 2019

A Seminar on "MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, THE DISPLACED & HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY OPTIONS IN THE ASIAN CONTEXT" was held at Beach Way Hotel, Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh from 11-17 February 2019.

The seminar invitees comprised of: a) The Asian Episcopal Commissions for justice, peace & development, b) Migration Desks and c) The Asia Pacific Justice & Peace Workers Network (APJPW). Hence total number of 48 delegates from India, Hong Kong, China, Italy, Vatican, Malaysia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, and Bangladesh attended the Seminar. The participants from these 12 countries comprised of a Cardinal, Apostolic Nuncio of Bangladesh (only last day) Archbishop, 6 Bishops, 7 Priests, 4 Sisters, 13 Lay Faithful women & 17 Lay Faithful men.

A week-long event began with an opening prayer by Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Bombay & Exc. Secretary OHD: FABC. He was welcomed along with the other seminar participants by the Local host, Most Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario: Bishop of Rajshahi & President, Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, Bangladesh.

Global migration crisis and the call of His Holiness Pope Francis to care for migrants are the main inspiration for planning this seminar which were discussed in the "FABC: OHD strategic planning meeting 2018." Bishop Allwyn said that Bangladesh (Cox bazaar) was the most suitable choice of venue for the seminar most appropriate considering the challenge to deal with the Rohingya refugee crisis.





(picture indicates the opening session of the seminar from right Most Rev. Bishop Gervas, Bishop Allwyn D'Silva & Ms Deepika Singh)

After the participants introduced themselves a team from Caritas Bangladesh namely Mr. Jyoti Gomes & Mr. James Gomes Regional Directors briefly shared the outline of the exposure program which was held the following day. They informed everyone that the camp site was sheltering about 1 million Rohingya Refugees who fled from

Rakhine during a brutal military crackdown in late August 2017 of whom 700,000 have arrived since 25 August 2017 and another 300,000 who came in after similar waves of violence in the past. Which means that more Rohingyas now live in Bangladesh than in their homeland.



(a map indicating the migratory map and an aerial view of the refugee campsite)

(Given below are the 6 theme wise exposure teams at camp site)



The Seminar participants who were divided into 6 groups were both shocked and amazed at their exposure visit in Kutupalong camp in Ukhiya, they were informed that a Sea of refugees were sheltered in 30 camps across the area. However their exposure was limited only to camp 4 which is managed by Caritas Bangladesh. The camp sites are managed mainly with financial support from different Global Funding Agencies like Caritas, CRS, UNCHR, Oxfam, World Vision and many more.

The seminar dealt with two main themes Migrants, Refugees, the displaced and human Trafficking & the Renewable Energy options in the Asian context.

Fr Fabio Baggio the Undersecretary of Migration and Refugee section of the Dicastery of Integral Human Development of Vatican Rome with MsNaoko Maruyama, Regional Coordinator for South East Asia mainly helped the participants to understand the process of formulation and scope of engaging with “20 Pastoral Action Points” & “20 Action Points For The Global Compacts”.

His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario CSC President of Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Bangladesh CBCB, Archbishop of Dhaka addressed the seminar participants and shared the anxieties and sorrows of the Church in Bangladesh when the influx of refugees from Myanmar arrived



in Bangladesh in August 2017. His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario also expressed his grief and anxiety over not finding sustainable solutions to the refugee crisis globally. Post which, Mr. Francis Atul Sarker the Executive Director, Caritas Bangladesh shared the historical perspectives of the Rohingya Crisis from the beginning.

Bishop Allwyn D’Silvathen briefly shared the commitment of FABC in context to climate change and Renewable Energy in Asia. Dr. Himangshu Ranjan Ghosh Ph D, Lecturer, and Institution of Energy Dhaka University, Bangladesh then led the participants to understand the global debate of Climate Change in the Paris Agreement and Renewable Energy Options in the Asian Context. The panel sharing by Dr Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change & Development (ICCCAD), Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh and Ms. Christin Mothsche, Project Coordinator for the Rohingya response program in Bangladesh was particularly enriching as they focused on Success stories /good practices from organizational level to grass root levels.

His Eminence, George Kocherry, Apostolic Nuncio of Bangladesh, celebrated the concluding

Eucharist with “The Message and Blessings of His Holiness Pope Francis “and briefly shared the memories of Pope Francis visit to Bangladesh which was very touching. The seminar Participants were deeply touched to hear that The Pope met 16 Rohingyas and was deeply moved by their sufferings, for which the Pope later asked their forgiveness. His Excellency Nuncio also shared that “After meeting the 16 Rohingya refugees, Pope Francis was in deep grief and did not speak to anyone. That night the Pope also did not eat anything”. In his address to the refugees from Myanmar the Pope also said that “the presence of God today is also called Rohingya”.

The country reports on both the themes helped participants to familiarize with other country situations. Bishop Allwyn D’Silva briefed the participants on the forth coming Asian conference in November 2020. Finally the seminar participants decided to write a “Solidarity Message” which is printed in the bulletin. The participants also suggested having a country wise data, solidarity networks on Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking. They requested FABC to circulate the Solidarity Message and also to actively participate in the conference of 2020.

Below given is the participant’s group photo of the seminar held from 11-17 February 2019 at Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh.





OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (OHD) Climate Change Desk (CCD)

Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences: FABC

Message of Solidarity

We, representatives of the Catholic Church from 11 countries in Asia, have gathered in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, from 11 to 17 February 2019 to reflect on "Migrants, Refugees, the Displaced and Human Trafficking and Renewable Energy Options in the Asian Context," organized by the Office of Human Development (OHD) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) in collaboration with the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) and the Asia-Pacific Justice and Peace Workers Network (APJPWN). We gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of the government of Bangladesh for allowing us to hold this seminar at Cox's Bazar.

During the seminar, we had the opportunity to visit the displaced Rohingya hosted in Kutupalong, Ukha, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In spiritual unity with Pope Francis, who on 1 December 2017 met 16 representatives of the Rohingya community, we, too, were deeply moved by their stories and recalled what he said: *"Let us not close our hearts, or look the other way. The presence of God, today, is also called Rohingya."*

From this visit, we recognized the welcoming attitude of the people and the government of Bangladesh who opened their doors and hearts to the Rohingya. We appreciate their cooperation with many people of good will in responding to the immediate needs of the displaced Rohingya. We also commend the generous and professional assistance being provided to the displaced Rohingya by the Catholic Church in Bangladesh through Caritas with the support of the global Caritas family, together with other faith-based organizations, UN agencies and NGOs.

We realise the constraints and hindrances of the temporary accommodation provided to the displaced Rohingya, as well as the challenges posed to the authorities in responding promptly and effectively to the humanitarian needs given the massive scale of the influx of people. We are particularly concerned about the vulnerability of many women and children and understand the numerous difficulties of the host communities.

We share the vision of the international community on the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*: "Migration has been part of the human experience throughout history, and we recognize that it is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world, and that these positive impacts can be optimized by improving migration governance" (No. 8). We reiterate the need for closer coordination and effective response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration and are reminded by the 4 verbs that Pope Francis encourages us with: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate as "the efforts of all actors, among which, you may be assured will always be the Church." (Pope Francis, *Address to Participants in the International Forum on Migration and Peace*, 21 February 2017).

Therefore, we encourage the world community to extend their solidarity to find an acceptable and adaptable solution to the countries concerned and thus to promote the integral human development of all.

In solidarity,

Bishop Allwyn D'Silva
Executive Secretary
Office of Human Development and Climate Change Desk
Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences
17 February 2019
Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Bangladesh



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. FABC-OHD together with the Archdiocesan Office for Environment, Mumbai and the CCBI Commission for Ecology will organise a workshop for training catechists from South Asia to use the Handbook of Laudato Si' prepared by the OHD. This workshop will be conducted on April 24-25, 2019 at Mumbai, India.

2. Seminar on "Awakening Climate Change Concern in Seminaries: for Bishops and Seminary Formators of Priests in Asia" will be jointly conducted by the OHD and FABC's Office of Clergy from November 18-22, 2019 at the Salesian Centre of Spirituality, Thailand.

FEEDBACK ON OHD BULLETIN

- Received, thank you. Very informative, very edifying. This is a great contribution to our becoming more aware of our responsibilities.
- Peewee Lazatin <plazatinsdb@gmail.com>
- Greetings from Tokyo, Thank you so much for working on the Bulletin of the OHD. This is a professional quality and very much informative. Thank you so much.
- + Isao Kikuchi, SVD, Archbishop of Tokyo
- Thank you very much for sending the bulletin and it's really good.
- Fr. Camillus Fernando, Executive secretary O E



EDITOR

Fr Joseph Gonsalves

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