



**FABC**  
**OSC**

# Communication INFO

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## FABC-OSC

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishops' Meet

#### “Spirituality of New Evangelization: the Communication Dimension”

*Diocesan Pastoral Center, Coloane, Macau*

*November 17-22, 2014*

### FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

*The FABC-Office of Social Communication held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishops' Meet on November 17-22, 2014 at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Macau. The meeting was attended by 32 participants, including 9 bishops, national secretaries of social communication and delegates from 10 Asian countries. The resource persons were Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil SDB, Fr. Franz Josef Eilers SVD, Consultant, FABC Office of Social Communication, Thaddeus Jones from the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Vatican City, Rome.*

*The participants enjoyed the warmth and hospitality of the Catholic Church in Macau through the persons of Bishop Jose Lai Hung Seng of Macau, the priests, religious and lay faithful. The venue of the meeting not only provided an ideal setting for fruitful discussion and interaction but also helped the participants in some measure to understand the challenges faced by the Church in China and its neighboring regions.*

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The FABC-OSC 2014 chose for its deliberation and reflection the theme: **Spirituality of New Evangelization: the Communication Dimension**. The choice of the theme was prompted by the message of the 10<sup>th</sup> FABC Plenary Assembly held in Vietnam in December 2012, which emphasized the importance of renewed evangelizers for new evangelization in Asia.

Aware that Christian communication finds its “source and model in the central mystery of the eternal communion between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who live a single divine life” (*Communio et Progressio* 8), our deliberations were guided by moments of personal and community prayer, celebration of the Eucharist and sharing of the Word of God. We believe that “the Holy Spirit is the principle agent of mission” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* 75, *Redemptoris Missio* 21) as well as the one who provides direction for Christian communication. The meeting enabled us to deepen our understanding of the close relationship between social communication spirituality and the mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ in the diverse situations of Asia. Listening to the members from various Asian countries on the rich and varied way the churches are engaged in social communication has been an enriching experience for each of the participants.

In response to the call of the universal Church and the Asian Bishops for New Evangelization, we acknowledge the relevance of our reflection on the spiritual dimension of our communication ministry. As persons entrusted with the responsibility of guiding and leading social communication in the church in Asian countries, we recognize the importance of deepening our understanding of social communication. At the same time together with the Bishops, Clergy, Religious and Faithful in Asia, we acknowledge our primary identity in the Church as a “community of faith called by the Lord to a mission of evangelization in the world” (Message of Xth FABC Plenary Assembly Statement). We affirm the close and intimate relation between social communication and our primary identity as communities and individuals entrusted with the mission of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all, particularly to our brothers and sisters in Asia. In order to make our communication more credible, effective and rooted in the Gospel, the Bishops' Meet 2014 proposes the following orientations and recommendations.

## Orientations

1. We underline the important and indispensable place of social communication for new evangelization.
2. We emphasize the importance of the person of the Christian communicator as one who is deeply rooted in Christ and imbued with a passion for proclaiming the Good News.
3. Christian communication should be meaningful and relevant in different cultural contexts of Asia. Christian communicators should not be excessively conditioned by one's own culture.
4. Christian communicators should strive to become agents of reconciliation and peace, persons who build bridges through dialogue and promote understanding.
5. They should search for ways to heal hurts, including historic wounds, and fight falsehood and eschew prejudice.
6. We recognize and affirm the importance which Asian people attach to religion, religious symbols and values. We affirm the need to respect them.
7. We acknowledge the importance of indigenous media in our communication plans and strategies.
8. The rapid technological changes and expansion which has impacted social communication in Asia calls for a renewed strategy and approach on the part of Christian communicators.

## Recommendations

1. The participants of FABC-OSC Bishops' Meet 2014 reiterate the importance of the recommendations of the Bishops' Meet 2013 and propose that more serious efforts be made to implement them in the specific contexts of the Episcopal conferences.
2. The meeting gave particular emphasis on the essential need for a personal encounter with Christ as the starting point for our ministry in social communication. It is important to choose and appoint as communication leaders persons who are deeply rooted in Christ and imbued with a passion for New Evangelization.
3. Communication leaders in the Church should be adequately formed to possess attitudes and dispositions necessary for faithfully carrying out the mission entrusted to them, over and above their communication skills.
4. Considering the importance of communication as relationship, good neighborliness, pastoral charity, compassion and sensitivity, efforts must be made to deepen these values, particularly in all those entrusted with the task of leading and guiding communication in the Church.
5. We recommend creation of a dedicated digital platform or communication system to consolidate communication program, activities among the FABC countries with a view to share communication resources, expertise and information on current activities.
6. We recommend the use of the best technical open source or easy –to-use commercial platforms for simple multimedia sharing.
7. We recommend that efforts be made to enhance our communication ministry with the Pontifical Council for Social Communication ([www.pccs.va](http://www.pccs.va)) so that our initiatives and efforts be shared globally. We can also do this by collaborating with the Council's online Catholic directory ([www.intermirifica.net](http://www.intermirifica.net)) as a reliable source for contact details of all our communication offices and their activities.
8. Greater efforts should be made to promote research in social communication in the Church and society within countries and at the Asian level. FABC OSC could provide coordination and support to promote and strengthen efforts of various centers and institutions engaged in the area of research. It could also support individuals desirous of doing relevant research in communication.
9. We propose that efforts be made to find ways to situate social communication within the diverse pastoral ministries of the particular Episcopal conferences so as to give greater visibility to the Church. This would further provide recognition and add value and greater efficacy to the Church's communication ministry.
10. We recommend that the Episcopal conferences make better and more fruitful use of the existing communication centers in various Asian countries which offer formation and training in social communication with a view to enhance the formation of pastoral personnel.



“...the mystery of Incarnation constitutes the climax of God's giving, His divine self-communication...” – Pope John Paul II, *Dominum et Vivificantem* 50

*Wishing you the blessings and joys of Christmas! – FABC-OSC*