

LWF REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA (ROAS)

INTRODUCTION

The LWF Regional Office (ROAS) is an extension of the LWF in Asia. It comes under the direct administration of the DMD Asia Secretary in the implementation of all programs and activities for the region. ROAS relates to member churches and institutions in Asia to strengthen cooperation and to enhance communion between them and the LWF through programs and projects, visitation and information sharing/exchange via communication networks. In March 2006, ROAS moved from Bangkok, Thailand to Singapore. It is now located in the headquarters of the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS).

This year, ROAS worked with the Asia Desk and the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Regional Expression in Asia (ACCREA) in coordinating and participating in several events including the LUCIA workshop, the Mekong Mission Partners Consultation, the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF), and the ACTEAS/ACCREA annual meeting, Dialogue in Life. The Regional Coordinator also participated in the ALCINET African communication workshop in Tanzania.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMS

The Launch of the LWF Asia Interactive Website at www.asia-lutheran.org

The LWF Asia website was upgraded and launched in February 2006. This was in response to the needs of the communion, and to better utilize today's technologies to enhance communication and communion through more speedy and effective sharing of news and information. The website is fully interactive, database-driven and community-based with decentralized updating. The communion can also engage in discussion forums and exchange files and documents through the site, which is drawing visitors from Asia and other regions. Statistics show that since the launch in February 2006 through the end of the year, the site received 399,355 hits (more than 1,000 per day) and an average of 2,000 visitors a month, with 113,935 pages read (9,500 per month).

LUCIA (Lutheran Communication in Asia)

Bangkok, March 7-10

A communication workshop was organized by LUCIA on the use of web sites and digital media, in order to share the Good News. It was a relevant and useful workshop where participants were updated with the latest information technology on the construction of interactive websites and the effective use of digital photography for church ministry and outreach.

3rd Mekong Mission Partners' Consultation

May 10-12

Since 2000, LWF member churches and mission agencies from 16 countries in both the North and South have joined efforts in their mission to the Mekong countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam). Long and short-term scholarships have been granted and



3rd Mekong Mission Consultation, Bangkok, Thailand



Keeping up-to-day with information technology (IT) for church ministry

many projects and trainings have been conducted according to the needs prioritized by the churches in the Mekong region. Thirty-six participants from member churches and mission agencies, including partners from the Mekong countries, met during the consultation and deliberated on matters under the theme “Joint Action in Mission in a Complex and Diverse Region”. It was a fruitful meeting with more joint plans and activities being endorsed for further actions in the coming years.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In the past year, member churches in Asia continue to meet many challenges both in church and society but through it all we are encouraged to see them growing and being strengthened in their role and function as light and salt of the world.



Sally Lim
LWF Regional Expression Coordinator for Asia