

Thailand National Report

Submitted to RfP/ACRP Executive Committee Meeting in Seoul
28 April -1 May, 2016

Since the last 8th ACRP Assembly held in Incheon, South Korea in 2014, Thai Chapter has done a wider scope of engaging in interreligious activities for peace and harmony in the country and worldwide.

Thailand is one among the founder members of WCRP and ACRP. At present, the Thai population can be categorized by religions as follows:

Buddhists	• • • • •	• 54.5 million (87.2 %)
Muslims	• • • • •	• 7.5 million (12 %)
Christians	• • • • •	• 0.45 million (0.72 %)
Others (Hindus, Confucians, Sikhs, etc.)	• • • • •	• 0.05 million (0.08 %)

According to the constitution, the Thai people, irrespective of their origins, sexes or religions, shall enjoy equal protection. The human dignity, right, liberty and equality of the people shall be protected.

During the year 2015 until April, our activities are summarized as:

1. Collaboration of RfP Thailand and ACRP Chapter

From last year, we have strengthened our relationship in working together between ACRP and RfP Thailand according to the strategic plan of WfP International. Recently, we had a meeting for drafting the Manual for Rules and Regulations of WfP Thailand. In the manual contains structure, duties of committee members, linkage of activities with other organizations, etc.

At present, Mahidol University's Research Center for Peace runs as the site of RfP Thailand. The Inter - Religions Council for peace – Thailand has established with objectives to promote peace and harmony in conflict areas of the country and present in the southern part of Thailand.

2. Collaboration with International and national religious organizations

ACRP Chapter works closely with the World Fellowship of Buddhists and The Buddhist Association of Thailand under Royal Patronage. Those two organizations are very active in promoting and engaging in peace activities and humanitarian services:

- ✧ Donation and humanitarian services in Nepal for the earthquake recently
- ✧ Course for Meditation Practices
- ✧ Abhidhamma & Sutra Teaching
- ✧ Seminars & Meetings of interfaith dialogues

3. ACRP Thailand's collaboration and participation with government sector

Department of Religious Affair, Ministry of Culture, has organized the gathering prays of the Interreligious Council of Thailand's Five Predominant Religions (Buddhism, Islam, Hindu, Brahmin, and Sikh) in performing various religious activities as following:

- Seminar on how to provide religious teaching in communities of different religions”
- Praying and Chanting to honor the special occasion of the 70th anniversary of King's accession to the throne on 9 June 2016, and the celebration on the 7th cycle of the Queen's Birthday on 12 August 2016.
- Organizing Interfaith Youth Camp in communities. The objective is to train youth participants from different religions to be together in harmony by learning and exchange ideas among themselves.

4. EC Member attended the Forth World Buddhist Forum in Lingshan, Wuxi, China during 24-25 October, 2015.

Theme of the Assembly is “Common Aspiration, Common Action, Embracing Exchanges and Mutual Learning” The Buddhist leaders from all over the world have exchanged and contributed their experiences from their own practices and traditions.

5. The EC Members had attended The 27th General Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists held at Baoji, China. During 14-19 October, 2014.

It is the big gathering of Buddhist leaders from all over the world.

6. Professor Kirti Bunchua our former ACRP President and EC Member still regularly teaches on peace education and philosophy in universities.

He is a key figure for peace promotion in our organization.

Many projects and activities of religions for peace will be continued and expanded more, especially in ASEAN countries. ACRP/ RfP Thailand will cooperate in working together for peace according to the ACRP Strategic Plan in future.