

General Policy for 2017

Distinguished religious leaders, your eminencies, excellencies, dear friends. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts on this very honorable and important occasion.

It is a great honor for me to have been appointed Secretary General of Asian Conference on Religion for Peace and would humbly like to accept this very important responsibility for the betterment and peaceful coexistence of all peoples in the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. I would truly appreciate the generous support and guidance of all of you, distinguished religious leaders, so that I may fulfil my mission as ACRP Sec Gen.

As we all are fully aware, the mission of ACRP is to promote interreligious harmony and collaboration as well as global and regional cohesion in the pursuit of peace, justice and human dignity, and to uphold and develop the religious heritage of the Asia-Pacific Region in accordance with our religious values and spirituality.

Today, we are facing many issues with direct violence, such as conflict and terrorism, as well as structural violence, including poverty, environmental degradation, discrimination, income disparity, which are caused primarily by misunderstanding and distrust among peoples and nations.

Then, how can we human beings overcome these misunderstandings and distrust? I believe, as one of the members of the *RfP* family, we have deep faith in interreligious dialogue, cooperation, and open-minded and respectful exchange with people of different faiths, ethnicities, languages, cultures and ideologies, which all play a crucial first and foremost step in overcoming misunderstandings and distrust.

Without mutual trust and understanding between peoples, political dialogue, economic or cultural cooperation and interaction, and so forth, might end up being superficial and non-substantive. Mutual trust and understanding is the critical role and responsibility of people of faith and the religions of the world. We have faith in

the oneness of being a child of God, Buddha, or whatever we call the ultimate source of all forms of life. I believe that when we stand upon this faith and philosophy, we human beings can nurture and foster mutual trust and understanding. This is the light and hope of interreligious dialogue and cooperation, which can guide humankind toward building peaceful societies in a true sense.

ACRP's mission exists in this realm. We have different faiths, but we see a common vision and we share a common mission. Namely, it is the pursuit of happiness and peace for all based upon justice and respect for the equality of human dignity, which every human being deserves.

My personal vision as Sec Gen of ACRP is to energize our important interreligious movement towards fulfilling its mission in realizing peaceful and coexistent societies in this region, based upon justice and the equal dignity of all human beings. This no doubt requires mutual trust and understanding, which will eventually replace distrust and misunderstanding. In this context, I believe, our movement, ACRP, will contribute to strengthening social, regional and global cohesion through open-minded dialogue and actions, which are the foundation of ACRP.

Please allow me to take a moment to reflect on the founding spirit of ACRP. The first ACRP conference was held in Singapore in 1976. During the conference, ACRP leaders heard the breaking news that refugees were drifting off the coast of Singapore without food and drinks. ACRP decided to take immediate action to rescue them. This determined and brave action paved the way for neighboring countries to open their doors to refugees.

Yes, ACRP started its dialogue with distinctly concrete action. Dialogue without action may easily become just talk. The founding spirit of ACRP is exemplified by the motto of "Different Faiths for Common Action, in realizing Peace and Justice for ALL". Let us always bear in minds the founding spirit of our movement, ACRP. Action requires wisdom, courage as well as social capital, such as human and financial resources. If we are to follow the founding spirit, treasured by the pioneers of ACRP, we should also sincerely pursue securing such resources.

I think ACRP will take a significant step towards becoming an action

oriented organization by putting into practice the commitments and promises we ourselves made, which were expressed in the Incheon Assembly Declaration and “Strategic Action Plan” adopted at the Bandung EC meeting. These include commitments to the protection of the rights of women and children, as well as a tree planting project, and more.

My vision of ACRP is the following. “Open-minded and sincere dialogue; an Action oriented movement for people in need in the world”.

My conception of the mission of ACRP is “Contribution toward the realization of peaceful, just and equal societies for all, without exception.”

My belief in fulfilling ACRP’s mission and realizing the vision of ACRP is based on love and compassion for all beings, regardless of the many distinctions and boundaries between us.

Dear distinguished religious leaders, your eminencies, excellencies and dear friends, gathered here at the Executive Committee in Beijing, generously hosted by CCRP, please help and guide us at the secretariat so that together, we may advance the sacred way of ACRP that lies ahead of us, a path that leads to a more brilliant society and world.

It is with my sincerest appreciation for giving me this chance to work together with all of you toward a common end, I say:

Peace in the Dharma

Nobuhiro Nemoto
Secretary-General
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