

Activity Report by Secretary General RfP Asia
(Oct. 2017 – May. 2018)

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION

PROJECT IN NEPAL

Immediately after the devastating earthquake struck Nepal in April 2015, *Religions for Peace* (RfP) Nepal, RfP International and RfP Asia (ACRP), began their joint called, “Supporting Earthquake Survivors and Advancing Social Cohesion through Multi-religious Cooperation,”, which provided emergency assistance as well as care and support to the diverse religious and ethnic communities in need.

Before the termination of this project, RfP International, RfP Nepal and RfP Asia Secretariat held a zoom meeting on Nov. 2017 and decided to continue this project through the end of 2018.

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ACTIVITY AT SAPTARI IN BIRATNAGAR, NEPAL

On February 18, 2018, the representatives of RfP International, ACRP and RfP Nepal visited Satipari District, which was located approximately 300 kilometers west to Kathmandu. In summer of 2017, sever floods and landslides hit the eastern part of Nepal. This area was one of the most devastated areas in the country.

Responding to this natural calamity, RfP International, ACRP and RfP Nepal as a team constructed 18 houses in the Mainakaderi village in this district, where 300 families live. Out of 300 families, a half of them lost their houses. The RfP team joined a symbolic gathering of over 200 villagers, who welcomed the RfP representatives. In this program, a couple of municipal representatives also participated as well. Some of the villagers showed sign boards, which read: “WE R FLOOD VICTIMS” and “WE NEED



HOME”.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEES, CARRIED OUT BY RELIGIONS FOR PEACE

Responding to an urgent appeal released both by Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General of Religions for Peace (RfP) International and Rev. Nobuhiro Nemoto, Secretary General of Asian Conference of Religions for Peace (Religions for Peace Asia), RfP International, ACRP and RfP Bangladesh sent a team represented by these three groups to a refugee camp called the Baluhhali Camp-2 at Cox’s Bazar Bangladesh on January 20, 2018.

The team arrived at the camp with three 4-ton trucks to deliver 12 tons of rice. Without sufficient monetary means to acquire food and basic supplies, regular support is necessary. The connections that multi-religious volunteers from RfP Bangladesh made with the Rohingya refugees at the refugee camp began fostering trust between the religious and cultural communities.



PROTECTION OF CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING

PROJECT IN BANGLADESH

Being cooperated with RfP Bangladesh, the Secretariat in Tokyo conducted a ground work for embarking upon a project tentatively named, “Children First in South Asia: A Case Study of Protection of Children’s Rights and Advancing Their Well-being in Bangladesh”. In this project, RfP Bangladesh with the assistance of Tokyo Secretariat planned to hold village meetings in various places.

Due to the outbreak of ROHINGYA issue, the implementation of this project is being suspended for the time being.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACRP'S ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The Executive Committee meeting, which was held at Beijing China in May 2017, adopted a proposal prepared by the Secretariat in Tokyo. This proposal, referred as “Proposed Remedial Strategies for RfP Asia’s Advancement...” offers specific schemes, which will assist ACRP in becoming an action-oriented organization.

In line with this initiative, ACRP is now in the process of revising its Constitution and Bylaws so that ACRP can contribute to peace and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific through concrete action programs and projects, in addition to the ongoing dialogue activities.

TWO INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO STRENGTHEN RfP BANGLADESH

Both on January 16 at Dhaka and on January 17 at Cox’s Bazar, an ACRP representative participated in two informal consultations with some leaders of RfP Bangladesh. The main objective of these consultations were to discuss the ways and means to strengthen RfP Bangladesh were discussed.

Since 2017 onwards, local RfP committees such as RfP Chittagong, RfP Cox’s Bazar, RfP Bandaban, RfP Rangamati and RfP Khagrachori were inaugurated. This is a positive development. These two consultations were so timely and meaningful that the leaders of RfP Bangladesh came to a common ground on how to coordinate these local committees and how to strengthen RfP Bangladesh as a whole.



PREPARATION FOR THE ASSEMBLY IN 2020

The members of the Executive Committee, who met at Beijing China in May 2017, decided that the next Assembly be convened at Tokyo Japan in October 2020. In order to accelerate the Assembly preparation, the Assembly Preparatory Committee (APC) was

formed. So far, the APC met 3 times through ZOOM for the preparation for the next Assembly. Through the in-depth discussion among APC members, concrete program for Next Tokyo Assembly in 2020 has been formulated.

On top of the APC meetings, the secretariat in Tokyo held five preparatory meetings with the host committee of RfP Japan.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

APIYN GRANTS

APIYN launched “Grant for Interfaith Youth Activity” in November 2016. The two objectives are (1) To strengthen and activate National Interfaith Youth Network; (2) To improve communication between Youth Network and national chapters. The grants are administered by APIYN and supported by Asia/ACRP. Amount of grant is US \$ 1,000 in maximum and up to two grants per year will be awarded in the Asian Youth Camp.

OUR EARTH, OUR RESPONSIBILITY CAMPAIGN

APIYN launched “*Our Earth, Our Responsibility*” Campaign in Youth Camp in Manila. APIYN also proposed International Youth Committee in Global Interfaith Youth Network. The IYC has made decision that the campaign should be widen internationally. This campaign “*Our Earth, Our Responsibility: Multi-Religious Youth Action on Climate Change*” calls on youth from diverse religions to unite and work together to protect the earth. From 2017, youth collect individual pledge in all over the world.

On 12th - 15th Dec. 2017, APIYN Youth Camp was held at Jakarta of Indonesia. Senior Advisor and a staff member attended the camp. They initiated a new program of fostering new youth leadership in ACRP.

DIALOGUE AND INTERACITON PROGRAM WITH RfP INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAPTERS OF RfP ASIA

SG participated in the following joint missions with RfP International.
Oct.18th-19th RfP International EC in Rome, Nov. 23rd-29th RfP Indonesia.

SG visited RfP Pakistan from Oct. 7th till 8th, as well as from 5th till 8th Feb.2018, and visited KCRP from Mar.21st till 24th. SG will join RfP international High level mission to Myanmar from May 21st till 26th.



ACRP EC MEETING IN BENGALURU, INDIA

ACRP EC meeting was held at Bengaluru in India from April 16th till 19th, and 40 EC members including observers from 11 countries attended.

The main theme of EC meeting was the 9th General Assembly of ACRP in Tokyo, Japan to be held in 2020 and the discussion on the mid and long term strategic action plan which aims at growing ACRP to action oriented organization based upon inter-religious dialogue.

We discussed how to secure human and financial resources in order to implement concrete actions and activities in the various issues we are facing with in such fields as violence, human trafficking, child labor, lack of education, climate change and refugee issue etc.

EC has also decided to change ACRP's 4 standing commissions to ad hoc based working commissions for addressing to the various issues in a timely and concrete way.

