



DAY 3 | MAIN ASSEMBLY

"It's an amazing phenomena that people haven't given up and people are increasingly coming out to express their apology to the suffering people."

Rev. Kyoichi Sugino, Deputy Secretary General of Religions for Peace

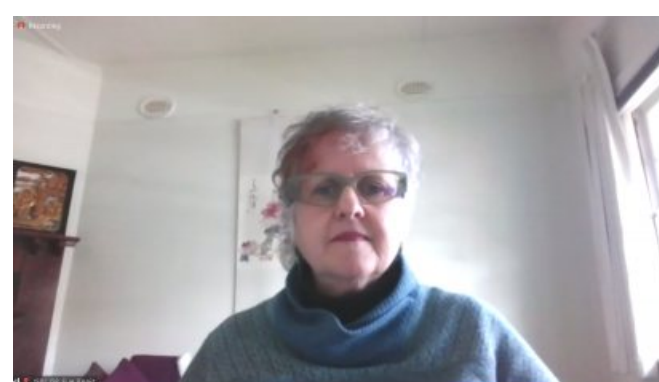
Commission Meetings: ACRP Common Action goals

Tokyo Japan, The third day of the Assembly is devoted to commission meetings and business meetings. Based on the theme "Asian Religious Communities in Action: Moving towards an Inclusive, Healthy, Prosperous, Peaceful Asia," the 9th General Assembly is directed towards mobilizing religious communities, diverse and different as they are across Asia, to action and more action to make Asia more at peace and more inclusive and to be physically and spiritually healthy.

There are five commission meetings that respond and discuss the assembly's four sub-themes which are Education for Peace and Human Dignity, Human Rights and Well-being for the Vulnerable, Reconciliation for Social Cohesion and Harmony, and Development and the Environment in Diversifying Societies.

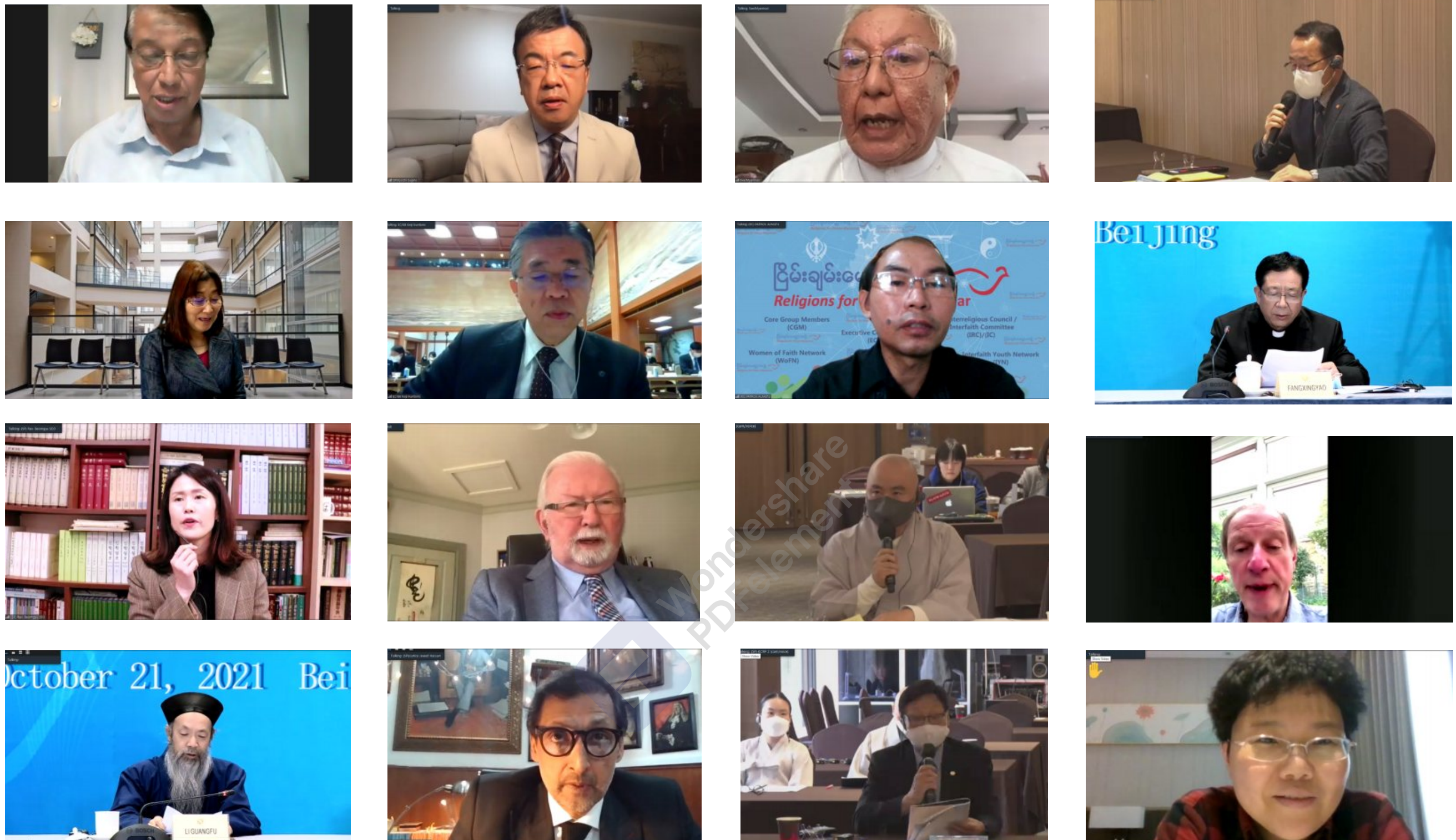
The first Commission meeting focused on *Education for Peace and Human Dignity* with **Rev. Sang Won Hwang** (KCRP) as the moderator, and **Swami Atmapriyananda**, Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, as the main speaker. The resource persons were **Dr. Sue Ennis**, Secretary of Religions for Peace Australia, and **Dr. Loreta Castro**, Director of Peace Education Center, Miriam College, Philippines.

The participants of this session lament the fact that peace is becoming elusive because of the many conflicts happening in Asia. It was also observed that there is lack of access to peace education and resources, lack of participation of women and youth as peacemakers, the unregulated use of social media. The crumbling social structure of the family and the government spending on arms and nuclear weapons are considered as key issues of peace education. Based on these observations, among the recommendations of this commission to ACRP is to promote a peace education at home, school, and government; regulate social media for the promotion of peace, and production of peace materials to capacitate peacemakers and the increase involvement of the women and youth in peacemaking.





The second commission meeting deals with *Human Rights and Well-being for the Vulnerable* with **Rev. Dr. Nobuhiro Nemoto**, *RfP Secretary General*, as moderator and **Archbishop Antonio Ledesma**, *Archbishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines*, as main speaker, and **Rev. Elga Sarapung** of *RfP Indonesia* and **Mr. Onimaru Masaya**, *Founder of Terra Renaissance, a Japanese NGO*, as resource speakers.



Based on their consensus, the participants in this commission called on ACRP to exert all its efforts in ensuring that everyone has access to basic rights to food, education, and peaceful living. This means that ACRP will advance an inclusive social and economic development model in Asia. Furthermore, ACRP is encouraged to continue its efforts of combating human trafficking, child labor and child soldiers.

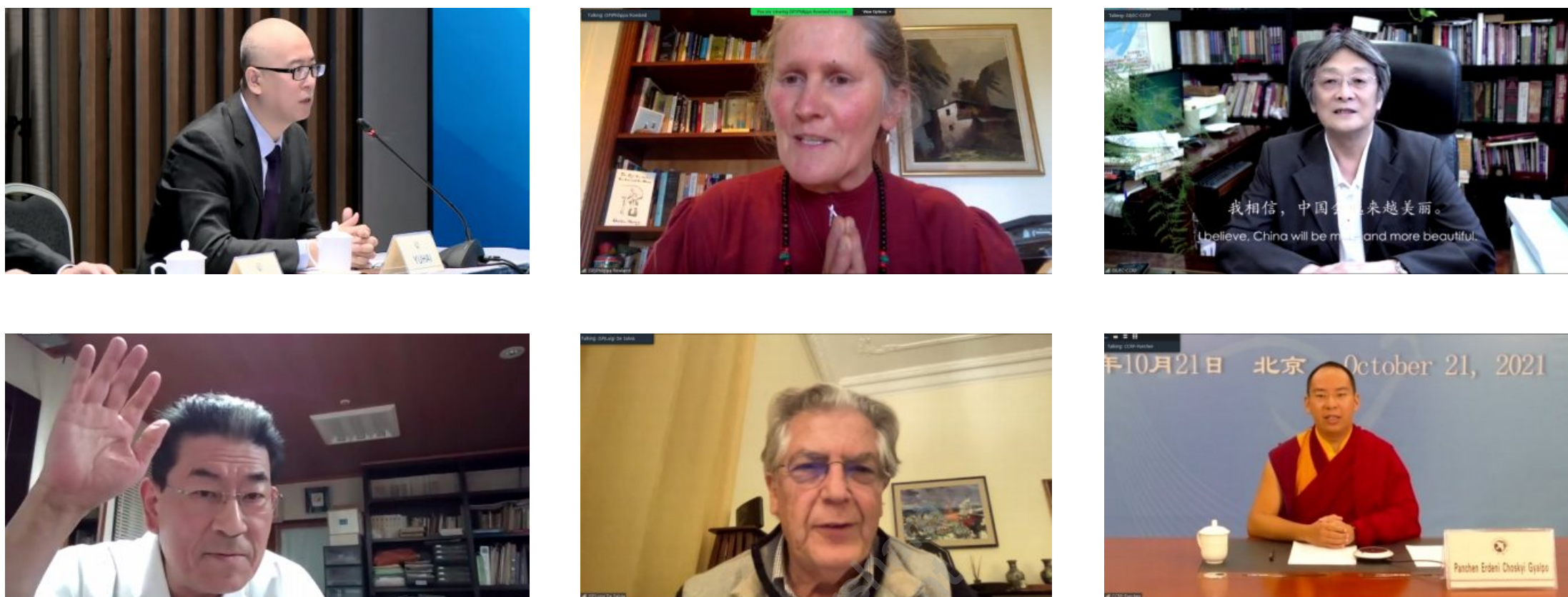
There are two meetings conducted under Commission 3 focusing on “*Reconciliation for Social Cohesion and Harmony: Challenges for an Inclusive, Healthy, Prosperous, Peaceful Asia.*” The first session deals with the issue of the Rakhine State of Myanmar with **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Din Syamsuddin**, *RfP Indonesia*, as moderator, **Al Haj U Aye Lwin**, *Co-founder of RfP Myanmar*, as the main speaker, and **Rev. Kyoichi Sugino**, *Deputy secretary general of RfP International*, and **Prof. Keiko Tosa**, *professor of Tokyo University Foreign Studies*, as resource speakers.

The Commission discussed the political and social crisis in Myanmar, and the worsening situation in the Rakhine state, which is made more complicated by the pandemic. The meeting highlighted the need for a stronger collaboration between and among *RfP Myanmar*, *ACRP* and *RfP International*, in collaboration with other international bodies such as the United Nations to effectively address this looming problem. The Commission calls on ACRP to continue its efforts for the inter-religious dialogue, giving full trust to the wisdom of Myanmar religious communities, and external humanitarian assistance such as ACRP flagship projects.



The Second Session for Commission 3 focused on “Peace and Reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula” with **Ven. Sungjin, KCRP**, as moderator, **Fr. Kang Peter Juseok** Secretary General of the Commission for the Reconciliation of the Korean People of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea, as the main speaker, and **Prof. Kathy Matsui** of RfP Japan, **Rev. Seo Beomkyu** of KCRP, **Mr. Oh Byungdoo** of KCRP, **Mr. Chang Guga** of KCRP, and **Mr. Yoon Senggil** of KCRP as resource speakers.

The main concern of this commission is how to bring peace in the Korean Peninsula and the importance of peace education. The highlight of the discussion is the need to promote a well-structured peace education in Korea. They have also recommended the following top 3 common actions: 1). Reflect on what we have done as religious people for bringing peace; 2). Engage in dialogue, not demonizing a counterpart, in this case the North Korea; and 3). Develop peace education for young generation.



The fourth commission is focused on *Development and the Environment in Diversifying Societies: Challenges for an Inclusive, Healthy, Prosperous, Peaceful Asia*” with **Mr. Deng Zonglian**, Executive Vice President of CCRP, as the moderator, **Dr. Azza Karam**, Secretary General of RfP for the opening remarks, and **Dr. Yuhai**, Director and Senior Research Fellow of the Environmental Strategy Division of Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, as the main speaker, with the following as resource persons: **Justice Jawad Hassan**, Judge of Lahore High Court and Founding Member & Secretary, Pakistan Environmental Law Association, **Ms. Philippa Rowland**, President of Multi faith Association of South Australia, and, **Panchen Lama Erdeni Choskyi Gyalpo**, member of CCRP, Vice President of Buddhist Association of China.

With the climate change at the core of the discussion, the participants in the Commission agrees that the state of environment is already in an alarming emergency condition. It is for this reason that religious leaders are urge to take a more active role in pursuing high impact programs of greening the environment. CCRP was also appreciated and commended for taking the leadership in the ACRP family to take the lead in protecting the environment. CCRP has renewed its commitment to lead ACRP in its program for a sustainable development of the environment.

