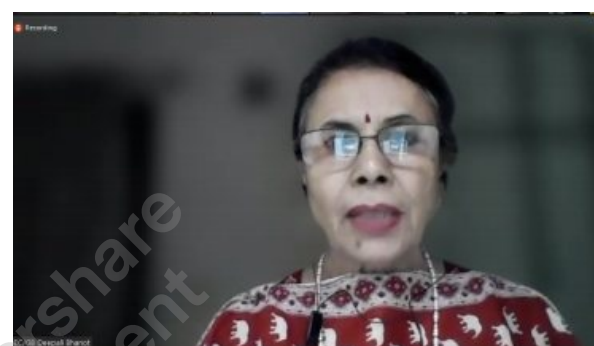




DAY 4 | MAIN ASSEMBLY

Let's Journey Together and Take Action: Conclusion of the ACRP 9th Assembly



Tokyo, Japan. **Arigato-in-action** is the resounding motto of *Religions for Peace Asia (ACRP)* at the conclusion of its 9th General Assembly. ACRP, as the largest multi-religious organization in Asia, is “committed to advocate transformation for our Asia into a more inclusive, healthy, prosperous and peaceful abode for all the peoples in Asia. We are also convinced that we must commit more to the implementation of a variety of programs/projects: *actions, not only words,*” according to its 9th Assembly Declaration.

With a new fervor and deeper commitment guided by the cultures and spiritualities of Asia, the Assembly unanimously elected new leadership to realize the goals and recommendations of ACRP 9th General Assembly. **Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara**, *RfP Japan*, was elected as the new Secretary General. The moderator is **Prof. Desmond Cahill**, *RfP Australia* and Deputy Moderator **Mr. Deng Zongliang** of *CCRP*. The honorary presidents are **The Most Rev. Nichiko Niwano**, *RfP Japan*, and **Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin** of *RfP Indonesia*. The elected Co-Presidents are the following: **Dr. Deepali Bhanot**, *RfP India*; **Dr. Ahmad Suaedy**, *RfP Indonesia*; **The Most Ven. Gijun Sugitani**, *RfP Japan*; **The Most Ven. Wonhaeng**, *KCRP* and **Rev. A. Elga J. Sarapung** as an ex-officio member by virtue of her being the *Chair of the APWoFN*.

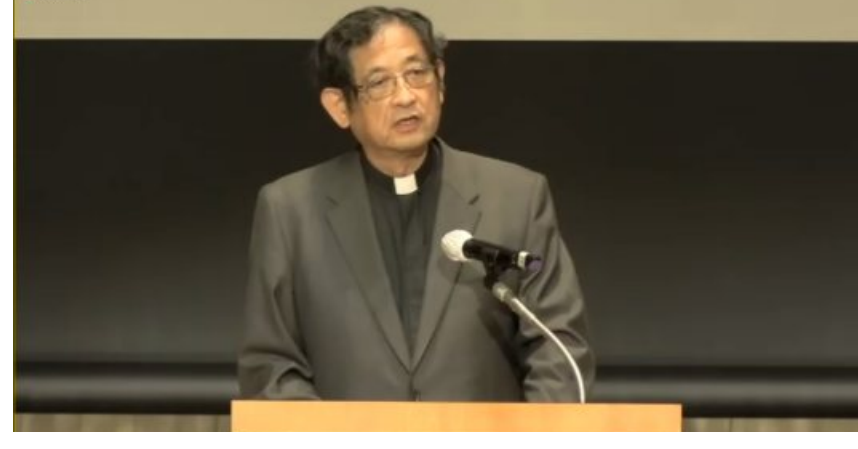
ACRP has made tremendous advances through its flagship projects in the past five years. Even during the pandemic, ACRP continued to perform its mandate of serving and advocating peace especially to the marginalized sectors of society. **Rev. Dr. Nobuhiro Nemoto**, the *former ACRP Secretary General*, with profound expression of gratitude, said, “I am happy, really happy of serving the ACRP family.” The following are the descriptions of the experiences of the out-going Co-Presidents of ACRP.

Under his leadership as a member of the Co-Presidents, **Ven. Li Guangfu** of *CCRP* characterizes ACRP as the avenue of “collaboration optimizing inclusiveness and solidarity for the various religious traditions in Asia to contribute to peace and harmony.” Having served ACRP since its inception, **Hadja Lourdes Mastura** of *RfP Philippines* would describe her tenure as “one long happy learning experience.”



Asian Conference of Religions for Peace Religions for Peace

Asian Conference of Religions for Peace 9th General Assembly Tokyo



For **Dr. Lilian Sison** describing her more than 10 years as the *Chair of APWoFN*, “it was a joyful professional experience working with colleagues and friends in ACRP,” she said. Perhaps, the sterling description came from **Mr. N. Vasudevan** of *RfP India* when he expressed his experience in ACRP leadership as a “priceless experience of life and service.” It is precise with this sense of gratitude and ever-willingness to serve Asia through ACRP that **The Most Rev. Nichiko Niwano**, *RfP Japan President*, has emphasized the dedication of the leaders and that, in his own words, “I look forward to your great success.”

Rev. Masamichi Kamiya, *Senior Advisor of ACRP* reported the shared the vision of ACRP arising from the Assembly that will define its mission for the next five years. The action plan items are as follows: 1) Promoting Flagship Projects; 2) Building Effective Partnership; 3) Advancing Gender Equality; 4) Promoting Inter-religious Education; 5) Engaging in IRC Development; and 6) Advancing Fundraising.

In his acceptance speech, **Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara**, *the newly elected ACRP Secretary General* remembered the lessons of war in the modern era. He reminded himself and the assembly that his leadership will be influenced by the virtues of repentance and atonement in bringing peace and social harmony in Asia. He said that all the chapters and religious leaders should work together to make ACRP an intense source of hope by doing concrete actions. In conclusion, he reiterated his commitment that “no one is left behind.” And ask everyone “Let us go ACRP on a wonderful journey and take action together.”

The ACRP 9th Assembly was successfully hosted by *Religions for Peace Japan*. **The Most Rev. Makoto Uematsu**, *Chairperson of RfP Japan*, expressed to everyone his “heartfelt gratitude for the successful completion of the 6-day Assembly program.”

