

ONLINE SEMINAR



Inspired By Our Faiths and  
Spiritualities to Move  
Forward with Climate Action

HOSTED BY  
ASIA-PACIFIC WOMEN OF FAITH  
NETWORK

**Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

**2:00pm - 4:45pm (UTC+9)**

# APWoFN Climate Greeting Message to all Participants

Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN) expresses deep gratitude to the participants in our seminar, "Inspired by Our Faiths and Spiritualities to Move Forward with Climate Action."

As Women of Faith from the Asia Pacific region, we are increasingly aware of the severe threat that escalating climate change poses to our families, communities, and countries. Our concept is to share ideas, hopes, and practical proposals to enable us to make beneficial contributions aligned with our faiths.

The global climate change crisis is upon us, with solutions requiring urgent changes to human behavior. The World Food Program currently estimates 345 million people face acute food insecurity across 82 countries, driven by conflict, climate, and COVID. Over 100 people were killed in the Philippines by a recent typhoon, while Australia is experiencing record-breaking droughts and fires, followed by extreme rainfall and flooding. Extreme monsoon rains and melting glaciers flooded one-third of Pakistan's land area in August due to global warming, and three months later, much land is still underwater, like a large lake. Over 33 million people were affected, with 300,000 people reportedly being infected with malaria and many people forced to live on water polluted by drowned livestock and contaminants. The cost of this climate damage is estimated at over USD\$ 40 billion.

Climate change is now directly linked to human rights issues. COP27 discussed the need for wealthy polluting nations to pay for the loss and damage caused to mainly poorer countries worst affected by global warming. Nevertheless, the gap between advanced and developing countries continues to grow.

The issue of climate change is taking its toll on those who are in the most vulnerable situations. About 30.7 million people worldwide are forced to migrate due to this problem. Climate change is considered a human rights issue that endangers life. "Climate change" and "human rights" seem to be two different standpoints, but they are closely related.

We must focus on human rights and climate change actions that help vulnerable people. Our genuine commitment will be challenged after the closing of the COP.

As human rights issues and climate change are connected, so is the power of faith to help solve climate change issues. According to the UN environment program, faith is engaged with states and non-state actors in a concerted effort to promote ethical and moral motivations to change climate change behavior at all levels.

Research has been conducted to determine how religion (faith) relates to climate change. According to the Columbia Climate School Climate, Earth and Society's State of the Planet,

"As a marker of identity that transcends national borders, religion influences many environmentally relevant behaviors. Thus, understanding its role is key to tackling environmental challenges that are fundamentally transnational."

***How Religion Influences Our Relationship With the Environment (Vegard Skirbekk, Alexander De Sherbinin, and Susana Adamo, October 15, 2020)***

We must pay close attention to how the growing importance of religion will be reflected in climate policy and the future evolution of the climate system. As religious leaders, it will be essential to take the initiative to identify ways to effectively convey climate change issues and risks within our faith traditions and to encourage interreligious and religious-non-religious cooperation in addressing future global environmental challenges.

We hope this seminar strengthens bonds of familiarity, trust, and active engagement between diverse faith leaders, religious and secular policymakers, and experts on climate change.

Finally, we hope it will inspire us to consider what we can do today for climate change issues.

The power of acknowledging that we are part of the problem is that it means we can be part of the solution.

## Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN)

Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN) is the regional network of multireligious women leaders of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace (ACRP). Its members consist of different religious faiths and traditions in the countries and other territories in Asia and the South Pacific. The APWoFN brings together the commitment of women's leaders to advance common actions towards peace.

The APWoFN operates the ACRP's vision and mission to advance common action among the world's religious communities for peace. The APWoFN functions in convening women's forums and other programs when deemed appropriate and designed to promote the aims of the ACRP among women.

Over the years, APWoFN has been actively engaged in awareness-raising and grassroots-level activities to prevent human trafficking. Together with the ACRP National Chapter, APWoFN has held conferences with experts, professionals, and religious leaders, and we have actively engaged in online shelter visits, listening to victims' stories, and interacting with shelter staff on how we can eradicate the victims and support most vulnerable people from religious perspectives.

These activities have been recognized as model cases, and the anti-human trafficking activities by APWoFN have become widely acknowledged by Religions for Peace chapters.

However, there are many urgent issues in Asia, and human trafficking, peacebuilding, and climate change are pressing issues to be resolved. In Asia, human trafficking is widely raging, regional peace and security are unstable, and the climate crisis hits our life directly now. As APWoFN members have already committed to these challenges in their countries, we have set three issues as main pillars from 2022. We are committed to raising awareness and taking concrete action on these global issues.

## Asian Conference of Religions for Peace (ACRP)

Asian Conference of Religions for Peace (ACRP)/Religions for Peace Asia (ACRP) is the world's largest regional body of religiously inspired people working for peace and interreligious harmony. Based on the tenets of truth, justice, and human dignity, its members are active in their home countries, in the Asia-Pacific region, and across the world. Founded in 1976, it operates in tandem with the international body, Religions for Peace International.

ACRP advances common action among religious communities in Asia and the Pacific for peace. Multi-religious cooperation for peace is the hallmark of ACRP. This cooperation includes but also goes beyond dialogue and bears fruit in common concrete action. Through ACRP, diverse religious communities discern "deeply held and widely shared" moral concerns (such as transforming violent conflict, and bringing about just and harmonious societies) advancing sustainable development goals, caring for the earth, promoting nuclear and conventional disarmament, protecting human rights, and promoting the equal dignity of all forms of life.

ACRP translates these shared moral concerns into concrete multi-religious action. ACRP encompasses the Asian-Pacific region, stretching from the countries of the Middle East and South Asia up to Central Asia across to East Asia and South-East Asia and down to the countries of the South Pacific.

Within these boundaries are contained many of the greatest cultural, linguistic and spiritual heritages that celebrate the diversity of humanity and contained over half of the world's population, including seven of the twelve most populous nations led by China and India.

## Asian Conference of Religions for Peace with 22 National Chapters and Network

Australia / Bangladesh / Cambodia / China / Democratic People's Republic of Korea / East Timor / India / Indonesia / Iraq / Japan / Kyrgyzstan / Malaysia / Mongolia / Myanmar / Nepal / New Zealand / Pakistan / Philippines / Republic of Korea / Singapore / Sri Lanka / Thailand

Asia & the Pacific Interfaith Youth Network / Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network

## 14:00-14:06 Opening Ceremony

### Opening MC: Dr. Yin Yin Maw

The Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Myanmar;  
MCC Gender policy committee member,  
The member of the Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network

### Opening Prayer: Mrs. Pooja Manandhar

The Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Nepal;  
The member of the Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network

### Welcome Words: Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara

The Secretary-General of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace;  
The Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Japan

### Opening Remarks: Rev. A. Elga Joan Sarapung

The Chair of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network;  
Director of the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue in Indonesia (INTERFIDEI),  
Coordinator of Indonesia Interfaith Network

## 14:09-14:24 Pre-Session

Report on Pakistan Flood and Climate Change by Religions for Peace Pakistan  
~Inspired by Our Faiths and Spiritualities to Move Forward with Climate Action~

### Moderator: Dr. Yin Yin Maw

The Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Myanmar;  
MCC Gender policy committee member,  
The member of the Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network

### Speaker: Ms. Huma Ikramullah

The Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Pakistan;  
Environmental lawyer and Peace Worker,  
The member of the Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network,  
Associate Secretary-General of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace

### Q&A Session

### Wrap-Up by Moderator

## 14:24-15:25 Session 1

Achievements and Challenges of COP27

### Moderator: Mrs. Philippa Rowland

The Chair of Religions for Peace Australia

### Keynote Speaker: Rev. James Shri Bhagwan (Video Presentation)

The General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches

**Response speakers: Dr. Lilian Sison**

The president of Religions for Peace Philippines;  
The former chair of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network

**Dr. Deepali Bhanot**

Co-President of Religions for Peace Asia;  
The member of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network

**Ms. Christina Lee**

A member of the Focolare Movement;  
A member of the Committee for Promoting Christian Unity and  
Interreligious Dialogue of Catholic Bishops Conference of Korea

**Dr. Ira Desiawanti Mangililo**

A Lecturer of Hebrew Scripture at Artha Wacana Christian  
University, Kupang-East Nusa Tenggara

**Dialogue Session**

**Wrap-Up by Moderator**

15:23-15:33 Break

15:33-16:33 Session 2

Case Studies of Activities on Climate Change Issues  
~Inspired by Our Faiths and Spiritualities to Move Forward with Climate Action~

**Moderator: Ms. Haidi Bullo Flores Fajardo**

Deputy Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Philippines;  
The member of Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network

**Speakers: Dr. Jacqueline B. Mallari (Video Presentation)**

Chairperson, Religions for Peace-Philippines Youth Committee;  
Deputy Team Leader, Religions for Peace Youth Media Team

**Prof. Lin Manhong**

The member of China Committee on Religion and Peace;  
The member of Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network

**Mr. Takashi Hashimoto**

Deputy Director of Peacebuilding Department of Religions for Peace Japan

**Mrs. Philippa Rowland**

The Chair of Religions for Peace Australia

**Breakout Discussion**

GroupDiscussion1 (China)

GroupDiscussion2 (Japan)

GroupDiscussion3 (Australia)

(Groups are automatically assigned.)

**Discussion Sharing from each group + Wrap Up by Moderator**

# Speakers/Moderators

## {Rev. James Shri Bhagwan}

*Session 1 Keynote Speaker/ Interfaith Prayer*



Rev. James Shri Bhagwan is currently the General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, which is comprised of 33 Churches and 10 National Councils of Churches across 19 Pacific Island states and territories. He is an ordained minister of the Methodist Church in Fiji and is involved in social justice issues and ocean health. He holds a Bachelor of Divinity in Ecumenical Studies (Hons.) from the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji and a Master of Theology in Christian Social Ethics from the Methodist Theological University in Seoul, South Korea. Rev Bhagwan is married to Maelin Pickering and is father to Francisco and Antonia.

## {Ms. Huma Ikramullah}

*Pre-Session Speaker*



Ms. Huma Ikramullah is currently working as a Legal Advisor and Senior Manager of the Quality Management System at Nabiqasim Industries Pvt Ltd. She is a certified Lead Auditor of ISO 9001:2015. Master Trainer on Environmental Law, Climate Change, and Legislative Drafting. Also, Peace Workers. She has done her LL.M in 2001 with a thesis in Environmental Law. She has experience working with international donors like USAID, ADB, US Embassy, ILO, and IUCN, etc., and training and networking with parliamentarians, judiciary, government officials, and civil society organizations. She is the Secretary General of Religions for Peace Pakistan and an Executive Member of the Asian Conference on Religions and Peace, working on Gender issues, sustainable development, a just and harmonious society, and conflict issues. She was elected Chairperson of Communication of APIYN in 2014.

## {Dr. Lilian Sison}

*Session 1 Speaker*



Dr. Lilian Sison is an academic who has served as the Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. She is currently the Director of International Relations and Programs of UST.

She is also a Professor of Environmental Chemistry. In her advocacy work on Inter-religious Dialogue, she has been involved in humanitarian work advocating on women issues, the protection of children, and the protection of the environment.

She has been the chair of APWoFN for 10 years, and her strong leadership has led to the expansion of peace initiatives by women religious leaders. She is now serving as the President of of Religions for Peace Philippines and immediate past member of the World Council of Religions for Peace. She is the co-founder of UNIHARMONY PARTNERS Manila.

**{Dr. Deepali Bhanot}***Session 1 Speaker*

Dr. Deepali Bhanot is a former Professor in the Department of Sanskrit at the Janaki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi. She has taught for more than forty years at both the Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels at the University of Delhi. She has been teaching papers related to Vedas, Upanishads, Sanskrit literature, and Indian Culture. She also has a keen interest in Indian Art and Culture and the Sanskrit Shilpa Shastras. Her areas of specialization are the Vedas, Upanishads, and Hinduism. She has been actively engaged in interfaith activities for nearly four decades. She joined ACRP as a Youth volunteer for ACRP II Assembly in 1981.

She has served ACRP as the Coordinator of the Youth Wing and later as the Coordinator of the Women's Committee. She has participated in all the ACRP Assemblies since 1981 and has been associated with the Religions for Peace for the past four decades. Dr. Deepali Bhanot has also served ACRP as an Associate Secretary General for the last two terms.

**{Ms. Christina Lee}***Session 1 Speaker*

Ms. Christina Lee is a member of the Committee for Promoting Christian Unity and Interreligious Dialogue, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea. She is in charge of Dialogue with Contemporary Culture of the Focolare Movement in South Korea.

She has been in charge of the interreligious dialogue as director at the International Headquarters of the Focolare Movement in Rome.

**{Dr. Ira Desiawanti Mangililo}***Session 1 Speaker*

Dr. Ira Desiawanti Mangililo is a Lecturer of Hebrew Scripture at Artha Wacana Christian University, Kupang – East Nusa Tenggara. In addition to teaching, she is also the Head of the Postgraduate Theological Study program. Her areas of concentration are biblical studies, postcolonial feminism, and ecological studies. Her publications bridge scholarship for Biblical study both in the academy and the church.

The most recent book that she co-edited is Contextual Christian Ecotheology Spirituality (Spiritualitas Ekoteologi Kristen Kontekstual). She has written several documents/articles for the Synod of the Evangelical Church of Timor as well, including Theological Script of GMIT Women, the Theological-ecclesiological Foundation of the Grand Design of Human Resources of GMIT's Employees, and Theological Analysis for the theme and sub-theme of the 34th GMIT Synod Meeting in 2019.

Her articles range from an academic contribution on the women's roles in ancient Israel, "When Rahab and Indonesian Christian Women Meet in the Third Space," in the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, to an accessible article on Sophia: Journal of Indonesian Women's Theology, "Lamenting Language as a Theology of Women in the Time of the Covid-19 Pandemic," 2021. She is a pastor at the Evangelical Church of Timor and has worked closely with the community to improve food security through the economic empowerment of the congregation. She also works with her congregation for environmental conservation.

**{Dr. Jacqueline B. Mallari}***Session 2 Speaker*

Dr. Jacqueline Mallari finished her undergraduate studies at University Santo Tomas with a bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2017 and became a registered psychometrician in 2018. She recently finished her doctor of medicine degree from the same University under the Faculty of Medicine and Suregery. She became a member of Religions for Peace Philippines in 2016 and helped organize 2 APIYN peace camps held in the Philippines (2016 and 2019). She now serves as the chairperson of RfP Philippines Youth Committee.

Dr. Mallari underwent media training with the Deutsche Welle Akademie in Bonn Germany in preparation for the Religion for Peace World Assembly and became part of the RfP Youth Media Team where she currently serves as the deputy team leader.

She licensed physician and passed Physician Licensure Examination in October 2022.

**{Rev. Lin Manhong}***Session 2 Speaker*

Rev. Lin, Manhong is current Associate General Secretary of China Christian Council, Professor of Christian Ethics and Academic Dean of Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, China and a member of the Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network.

From September 2003 to May 2007, Rev. Lin Manhong studied at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, USA and graduated with a Ph.D. on Christian Ethics; From September 1999 to May 2002, she studied at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX, USA, and graduated with an M. A. Degree; from September 1997 to December 1997, she studied at the Graduate School of Bossey Ecumenical Institute, Geneva, Switzerland, and completed the program with a certificate on Ecumenical Studies.

From 1992 to 2003, Rev. Lin Manhong acted as the Secretary and Assistant to director of overseas relations, CCC&TSPM; Since 2007 she has worked as the Lecturer, Associate professor and professor of Christian Ethics, Academic Dean, Nanjing Union Theological Seminary and since 2013 she has been Associate General Secretary of China Christian Council.

Some of Rev. Lin Manhong's publications: "A Modern Chinese Journey of Inculturation." *International Review of Mission* Vol. 87 No. 344 (1998); "Peace, Justice and People's Security: A Chinese Perspective." *Chinese Theological Review*: 17 (2003); "On Two Ethical Themes of Zhuangzi." *Chinese Theological Review*: (Summer, 2007); *Ethical Reorientation for Christianity in China: The Individual, Community and Society.* (Hongkong: Christian Study Centre on Chinese Religion & Culture), 2010.



**{Mr. Takashi Hashimoto}***Session 2 Speaker*

Mr. Takashi Hashimoto graduated from the Faculty of Science and Engineering, Sophia University in Japan, in 2003. The same year, he worked as a computer programmer at Japan Business Systems Inc. In 2007, he entered Gakurin Seminary, Rissho Kosei-kai.

After studying for two years, he accomplished two Master of Arts degrees, respectively, Study of Religion and South East Asian Study at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

In 2012, he started work in Religions for Peace Japan to advance the mission of multi-religious cooperation for peace with youth and senior leaders. Mainly, he has focused on dealing with Climate Change issues since 2016.

He served as Co-Moderator of Religions for Peace Asia and Pacific Interfaith Youth Network (APIYN) from the 8th ACRP in 2014 to the 9th ACRP in 2021. He has served as Deputy Director of the Peacebuilding Department in Religions for Peace Japan since 2019. He has also studied Religious Studies in Doctoral Programs at the University of Tsukuba since 2020, focusing on Artificial Intelligence and Religion.

**{Mrs. Philippa Rowland}***Session 2 Speaker/Session 1 Moderator*

Mrs. Philippa Rowland is current President of the Multifaith Association of South Australia, and the Chair of Religions for Peace Australia. Trained as an agricultural scientist, she worked for the Australian Federal Government on sustainable farming and national environmental management plans for biodiversity, pesticides, heavy metals and ozone-depleting substances.

Since 2003 she has worked on community solutions to climate change, primarily the transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Philippa works with the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change as a founding member of the Greenfaith International Network, Sounding the Alarm on Climate and promoting a global Living the Change initiative, designed to encourage collective adoption of sustainable choices in food, transport and energy.

## {Ms. Haidi Bullo Flores Fajardo}

*Session 2 Moderator*



Ms. Haidi F. Fajardo is the communication director for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Philippines for the last ten years and the editor of Church Newsroom Philippines. She manages the Church's social media channels and helps build relationships with opinion leaders and friends of other faiths.

Before Church's employment, she was a practicing architect, instructor of design and history at the University of San Carlos, and managing editor for the architecture magazine. She served for two terms as president of the United Architects of the Philippines-Datu Lapulapu Chapter. Currently, she sits as the deputy secretary-general of Religions for Peace Philippines and is a member of the Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWFN).

She co-founded the Parents' REACH Foundation 22 years ago which operates a school for children with autism. She is a mother to 3 children and wife to a patient hubby who has let her get away with her antics for the last 27 years of marriage.

## {Dr. Yin Yin Maw}

*MCC/Pre Session Moderator*



Dr. Yin Yin Maw is the Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Myanmar. She was the former president of the Myanmar Council of Churches. She is now MCC Gender policy committee member

She was a member of the Steering Committee and Chairperson of the Women's Organization Network in Myanmar. She is a trainer on women empowerment such as leadership and development, Gender and gender-based Violence, CEDAW training, project Cycle management, Mobilizing the community for forming self-help groups, and Child Protection training.

## {Mrs. Pooja Manandhar}

*Interfaith Prayer*



Mrs. Pooja Manandhar joined RfP in 2006 as a youth member. She has attended numerous conferences organized by RfP. She had been away from the activities of RfP Nepal after her marriage but returned in 2015 after the earthquake in Nepal. Since then, she has been involved in numerous activities organized jointly with RfP International and ACRP.

She has been involved in numerous report writings and working in the field for RfP Nepal. She was appointed as a Secretary-General of RfP Nepal due to the void created by the past Secretary-General who served out his term and role.

She is sincere in her work for RfP Nepal and she has strong pride in working in an organization that has such a huge interfaith network that deals with helping and supporting people in need.

## {Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara}

*Welcome Words*



After graduating in 1998 from Gakurin Seminary in Tokyo, Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara received ordination as a Dharma Teacher in Rissho Kosei-Kai, a major Japanese Buddhist denomination. He received a master's degree in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford in 1998.

He started to work for Religions for Peace Japan in 2005. He supported hosting the 8th World Assembly of Religions for Peace in Kyoto in 2006, and co-led the ARMS DOWN! Campaign for disarmament and MDGs in 2010, as coordinator of the International Youth Committee for Religions for Peace.

During the Great East Japan Earthquakes, he served as Disaster Reconstruction Coordinator. Rev. Dr. Shinohara received a master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Tohoku in 2014, and a Ph.D. in Human Security Studies from the University of Tokyo in 2021.

## {Rev. A. Elga Joan Sarapung}

*Opening Remarks*



Rev. A. Elga Joan Sarapung serves as the Chair of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network, and Director of the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue in Indonesia (INTERFIDEI), Coordinator of the Indonesia Interfaith Network. She took an Ecumenical Study on "Gospel and Culture" at Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, Switzerland (1986-1987). In 1990/1991 she took a Master's Degree at the Theological Faculty University of Groningen, The Netherlands, (Ecumenical study and Missiology).

Since 1997, she has been being a facilitator in various pieces of training "Managing and Means Diversity in Indonesia, and also serving as a resource person in various forums on the issue: "Diversity in Religion and Ethnicity", "Religions for Peace", "Human Rights (especially on FoRB issue)", "Democracy", "Peace Education", etc., local, national and international.

She became an "expert" in the Partnership program of the Churches in Indonesia and Protestant Churches in the Netherlands, specifically for Interfaith working group (2010-2014) and "expert" in the interfaith working group of Mission 21 for partnership program among Protestant Churches in Indonesia and in Switzerland. (2006-present).

## {Ms. Naoko Kawada}

*Closing Remarks*



Ms. Kawada served as the Secretary-General of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network and Vice-President of the Women's Committee, Religions for Peace Japan Ms. Kawada became Muslim in 1997 and has joined RfP Japan since 2006.

She has actively engaged with RfP Japan's activities such as Nuclear Abolition Advocacy, and Peace Education, and served as Secretary General of RfP Japan Women's Committee (2014-2020). She has organized a study group called "Al Amana" for Japanese Female Muslims in Osaka and Kobe since 2000.