



# Enhancing Women's Participation in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in Asia

HOSTED BY  
ASIA-PACIFIC WOMEN OF FAITH  
NETWORK

Thursday, March 9th, 2023

2:00pm - 4:30pm (UTC+9)



# APWoFN Greeting Message to all Participants

Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN) expresses deep gratitude to you for participating in our seminar, "Enhancing Women's Participation in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in Asia."

Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network has had three main projects since 2022: Anti-Human Trafficking, Climate Change, and Peacebuilding and Reconciliation. We have already conducted projects on Anti-Human Trafficking and Climate Change. As the last project of this fiscal year, we hold today this seminar on Peacebuilding and Reconciliation.

In peacebuilding, women were often described as protectors and victims.

Gender equality has also been emphasized as a fundamental human right, with women gaining equal rights with men. In recent years, however, this perspective has been changing significantly.

Resolution 1325, "Women, Peace, and Security," adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000, states;

By promoting "the equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels," Resolution 1325 addressed women as important actors in peace negotiations and peacebuilding, rather than as victims of war and armed conflict, as was previously the case. This was a major shift in direction from the previous trend of women's empowerment and feminism.

As stated above, after more than two decades since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000, many constructive changes have been brought to women's participation in peacebuilding and Reconciliation in different parts of the world.

However, in Asia, women are still underrepresented in the official peacebuilding and reconciliation processes despite their strong and active roles at the grassroots and community levels in the civil society sector.

We must strengthen our peacebuilding and reconciliation actions by ensuring that we listen to women's voices and address the issues they raise.

For holding the seminar, we set the following goals.

This webinar is a learning platform for peacebuilders from Asia and beyond to

- 1) learn about the current situation of women's participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation processes in South and Southeast Asia;
- 2) identify challenges and proper strategies for the promotion of women's participation in peacebuilding;
- 3) understand how Faith-based organizations/networks can play constructive roles in enhancing women's participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation;
- 4) develop relationships and get to know one another for future collaboration

Finally, we hope it will inspire us to consider what we can do today for peacebuilding and reconciliation for women.

The power of acknowledging that we are part of the problem enables us to know that 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, also known as 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



# Program

## 14:00-14:20 Opening Ceremony

### Opening MC: **Ms. Yasuko Miyoshi**

Director, General Coordination Department of Religions for Peace Japan  
Ph.D. Candidate, Sophia University

### Opening Prayer: (Buddhist) **Ms. Khim Natymon**

Member of the Youth Wing, Cambodian Inter-Religious Council

### (Islam) **Prof. (Rtd.) Rashida Khanam Ph.D.**

President Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN), RfP Bangladesh.

### (Christianity) **Dr. Yin Yin Maw**

Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Myanmar

### (Hindu) **Ms. Pooja Manadhar**

Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Nepal

### Welcome Words: **Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara (Video Message)**

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

### Introduction: **Dr. Suphatmet Yunyasit**

Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network  
Lecturer, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand

## 14:20-15:20 Panel Discussion

The State of Women's Participation in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in Asia and  
Strategies in promoting women's roles in peacebuilding and reconciliation

### Moderator: **Dr. Suphatmet Yunyasit**

Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network  
Lecturer, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand

### Speaker: **Dr. Arifah Rahmawati**

Indonesian Representative in ASEAN Women Peace Registry (AWPR)

### **Prof. Kathy R. Matsui, Ph.D.**

A member of Task Force for Reconciliation and Education of Religions for Peace Japan;  
Professor of Seisen University

### **Ms. Ruangkhao Chanchai**

ASEAN Governance and WPS Lead, UN Women Indonesia Country Office

### Q&A Session



15:20-15:25 Break

15:25-15:45 Breakout Session by 4 Regions

Women's Participation in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Challenges and Best Practice

<Breakout Room>

<Facilitator>

◆ Room 1: East Asia

**Sr. Son, Chung-Myung (Cecilia)**

A member of the KCRP Women's Committee;  
Committee for Promoting Christian Unity & Interreligious  
Dialogue of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea.

◆ Room 2: South Asia

**Ms. Huma Ikramullah**

Associate Secretary-General of Religions for Peace;  
Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Pakistan

◆ Room 3: Southeast Asia

**Dr. Pablito Baybado, Jr**

Associate Secretary-General of Religions for Peace;  
Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Philippines

◆ Room 4: Pacific

**Dr. Susan Ennis**

Associate Secretary-General of Religions for Peace;  
Secretary of Religions for Peace Australia

15:45-16:05 Sharing the Outcome

**Moderator: Dr. Pablito Baybado, Jr**

Associate Secretary-General of Religions for Peace;  
Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Philippines

16:05-16:25 Plan for Common Action

**Moderator: 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

16:25-16:30 Closing Ceremoney

**Closing Remarks: Ms. Naoko Kawada**

Secretary-General of Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network

~Fin.~



## {Dr. Arifah Rahmawati}

*Panelist*



Dr. Arifah Rahmawati is a senior researcher at the Center for Security and Peace Studies of Gadjah Mada University of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. She is also member of ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) and member of Economic Board of 'Aisyiyah, an Islamic non-governmental organization in Indonesia dedicated to female empowerment and charitable work.

Dr. Arifah Rahmawati's main research interest is on gender, conflict and peacebuilding. Arifah holds PhD on Policy Studies from the Post-graduate school of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) Yogyakarta Indonesia. Her dissertation title is "Gender Contestation on the Reintegration of the Acehese female ex-combatants".

## {Prof. Kathy R. Matsui, Ph.D.}

*Panelist*



Professor Kathy R. Matsui, Ph.D. in Leadership Studies, is a professor at the Department of Global Citizenship Studies, Seisen University (Tokyo, Japan), and teaches courses on conflict resolution and peace-related subjects.

She works with peace researchers and educators locally and internationally. She is also active in inter-religious dialogues as a member of the Women's Executive Committee, Reconciliation and Education Task Force, and Peace Research Institute of RfP Japan.

As a peace educator, she recently focuses her activities on peace education activities for Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute (NARPI), held annually for participants from Northeast Asia. Presently, she is a research member of the Asian Pacific Center of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) Research Project (2021+2023), promoting peace education in Northeast Asia, and a committee member of the Center of Nonkilling Security Education Research Committee.

## {Ms. Ruangkhao Chanchai}

*Panelist*



Ms. Ruangkhao Chanchai has dedicated her attention to the politics and societies in Southeast Asia and their connection with one another. She is a strong advocate for nationalowned and locally-driven development solutions that empower people and inspire positive change.

Over the past decade, she has worked to support the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its Member States to promote human rights and gender equality. More specifically, she is currently leading the regional programme, 'Empowering women for sustainable peace: preventing violence and promoting social cohesion in ASEAN. Previously, she also managed the Peace Building Fund (PBF) projects, focusing on women's political participation in peace processes in Myanmar and the Philippines (2014-2015).

Prior to joining UN Women, she worked for UNDP Regional Hub in Bangkok.



## {Sr. Son, Chung-Myung (Cecilia)}

*East Asia Group Facilitator*



Sr. Son, Chung-Myung (Cecilia) belongs to 'Sisters of Jesus Good Shepherd' Doctor in Theology from Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome (specialized in Ecumenism)

She is also a member of Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue of Catholic Bishop's Conference of Korea Member of Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and of Women's Commission of KCRP Responsible sister of Catholic International Parish of Seoul Archdiocese in Korea.

## {Ms. Huma Ikramullah}

*South Asia Group Facilitator*



Ms. Huma Ikramullah is Associate Secretary General Religions for Peace Asia and Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Pakistan is an expert on Democracy, Governance, the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Parliamentary Strengthening, Master Trainer on Legislative Drafting, Climate Change/Environmental law, Adult learning ,Media Trainer, Advocate High Court , Lead Auditor, Faculty Member Sindh Judicial Academy and her work experience spans over 20 years of working with international donors and Government Organizations like GIZ, USAID, ADB, US Embassy, ILO, IUCN, Sindh Judicial Academy, NIPA, Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Affairs with experience of imparting training to Parliamentarians, Judges, Government officials, Civil society organizations, lawyers, law students, academia and corporate sector. Receipt of Recipient of STAR GIRL AWARD and GIRL CHILD AWARD and Award from the Chief Justice of Pakistan and all Judges of High Court in Judicial Academies Summit. Apart from this have received numerous awards for public speaking and oratory. Organized many conferences, seminars, focus group discussions and training events. Also participated as a Speaker, Moderator, Facilitator and Master of Ceremony in International, national and local conferences and presented papers on various topics.

Author of the book "Citizens Guide and Obligations in Environmental Law" published by WWF.

Co -Author of "Six Manuals on Legislative Drafting" for all the Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan.

Working now as Provincial Lead for European Union Mustekham Parlmaan Project implemented by GIZ. President Elect of Rotary Club of Lawyers 2023-24 District 3271.Core Founder Member of Pak US Alumni Network because of her selection in International Visitors Program. Vice President of Happy Home School Alumni.

## {Dr. Pablito Baybado, Jr}

*Southeast Asia Facilitator*



Dr. Pablito A.Baybado, Jr is a lecturere at the Institute of Religions, Program Lead for the Graduate School Technology program, and researcher at the Center for Technology, Religious Students and Ethics of the University of Santo Tomas.

He is Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Philippines, and the Associate Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Aisa, and the Coordinator of the Uni Harmony Partners manila.



## {Dr. Susan Ennis}

*Pacific Group Facilitator*



For more than 40 years Susan Ennis has coordinated/taught English to newly arrived adult refugees/immigrants in Australia. She has also been involved in both a voluntary/paid capacity with the settlement of these groups and asylum seekers. In addition, she has taught English as a Second Language in Turkey, PRC, Cambodia and worked in Israel.

In 2012 she obtained her PhD and later Palgrave published her book on Religion, Spirituality and the Refugee Experience based on her PhD. The motivation for her research and book were her long-held interest in religious/spiritual matters, her observations on the need for more understanding of refugees' religious and/or spiritual experiences and how this practically affects settlement and social cohesion.

For the past nine years she has been the Secretary of Religions for Peace (RfP) Victoria or Australia and has assisted Professor Desmond Cahill in forming RfP Australia as a national network. Again, with the assistance of Professor Cahill she published a 2018 audit of Multifaith Activity across Australia. Since the mid 1990s Sue has been an active member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia.

## {Dr. Suphatmet Yunyasit}

*Organizer/Moderator*



Dr. Suphatmet Yunyasit serves as the Co-Chair of Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network, Secretary General of Religions for Peace Interreligious Council of Thailand, Human Rights and Peace Studies, Faculty, Mahidol University, Thailand.

Dr. Suphatmet Yunyasit is a lecturer in the field of conflict and peace studies, at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP), Mahidol University, Thailand. She is also currently serving as Co-Chair of Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network, and Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Interreligious Council of Thailand. She has, since 2012, organized and facilitated intra and interreligious dialogues designed for conflict transformation and relationship building between conflict parties in Thailand's three southernmost provinces. Her current project focuses on the participation and roles of the Buddhists of the South in conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

Her research interest and expertise include conflict transformation in Thailand and Southeast Asian contexts, inter-ethnic/religious and majority-minority interaction in a multicultural society, freedom of religion or belief (FoRB), and cultural right of minority groups. She is the author of *The Siamese of Malaysia: Linkage of Two Lands*.

## {Rev. A. Elga Joan Sarapung}

*Organizer/Session Moderator*



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. Khim Natymon}

*Representative of Buddhist Prayer*



Ms. Khim Natymon is a lecturer at Pannasastra University of Cambodia, and also a leader of Youth Wings at Cambodian Inter-religious councils.

She serve as a content creators that share positive mindset, self-development and promote education for children.

## {Prof. (Rtd.) Rashida Khanam Ph.D.}

*Representative of Muslim Prayer*



Prof. (Rtd.) Rashida Khanam Ph.D. is a retired professor of the Department of Political Science, University of Chittagong, and a chair of the women commitee of Religions for Peace Bangladesh. An author of books about women, politics, and culture, she has also served as Direcotr of the Center for NonKilling and Development (CNKD),, and affiliate of the Center for Global NonKilling (CGNK), University of Chittagong, Vice-Chairperson of Pora Kekha, a scocila organization, and General Seceraty of the Fhrubo Parishad, the only Music Ezamination Board (Prove) in Bangladesh.

She has been published many books for a long time; "Women and Politics in Bangladesh et al. Shah Amanat & Printing, Chittagong, Bangladesh." (1996), "Nonkilling as You are not There, NKARC Letter." (2015), "Covid-19 and Nonkilling Message to the World! NKARC Letter." (2020) etc.

Since 2020, she has been a member, Executive Council, Center for Global Nonkilling India (CGNKI), Vopal, India.

From 2022, she became president Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN), RfP Bangladesh.

## {Dr. Yin Yin Maw}

*Representative of Christian Prayer*



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}

*Representative of Hindu 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.

## {Ms. Yauko Miyoshi}

*Organizer/ Master of Ceremony*



Ms. Miyoshi joined Religions for Peace Japan Secretariat in 2009 and has been in charge of the Women's Committee, Peace Education, and various national/international inter-religious programs. She was appointed as Director of the General Coordination Department in 2020 and is responsible for the organization's management and governance as well as coordination of inter-faith activities in Religions for Peace Japan.

Ms. Miyoshi received B. Ed from Tokyo Gakugei University (2005), an M.A. in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Birmingham (2012), and M.A. in Death and Life Studies from Sophia University (2021). She graduated from Gakurin Buddhist Seminary affiliated with Rissho Kosei-kai, a Lay Buddhist organization (2008), and has an ordained Dharma Teacher. She is currently a Ph.D. Candidate of the Graduate School of Applied Religious Studies at Sophia University in Tokyo.

## {Ms. Naoko Kawada}

*Organizer/ 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.

## {Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara}

*Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Asia*



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.



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