



Asian Conference of Religions for Peace

10th Governance Assembly 2026

Concept Note



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Asian Conference of *Religions for Peace* (ACRP), also known as *Religions for Peace Asia* 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.

22 countries
throughout the Asia-
Pacific region

Governance Assembly Aspirations

Let us ponder what an assembly of Asian Conference of Religions for Peace/ACRP (also known as Religions for Peace Asia) held in almost every five years offers to the constituencies of ACRP.

It is evident in examining the outcomes of the past nine Assemblies that an ACRP assembly gives its participants and constituencies a sense of familyhood and togetherness, and offers them an opportunity to embrace the past practices of the Movement, develop forward looking actions and activities and refine, if necessary, the existing vision and missions of ACRP in tandem with a changing Asia-Pacific and international context. An ACRP assembly makes them dedicated/devoted enough to act for and recommit to peace through their pragmatic actions.

The year 2026 will mark the 50th anniversary of the First Assembly of ACRP, which was held at Singapore in 1976. In celebrating the epoch-making event, ACRP's 10th Governance Assembly will be convened at Singapore in 2026. ACRP will return to the cosmopolitan country, the birthplace of the Movement again, to celebrate its past 50-year history and be determined to move forward for the future.

In retrospect, ACRP has fruitfully held the nine General Assemblies almost every five years and also convened the Executive Committee meeting year by year without any irregularity. This historical continuity deserves self-esteem. A knack that enabled ACRP, which is now composed of 22 national chapters, to be engaged in ceaseless efforts for peace in Asia-Pacific region is the endeavors of ACRP national chapters for stabilizing the organizational finance. In this context, the outstanding contribution of CCRP, KCRP and RfP Japan is being fully noted in the ACRP history.

The committed members of ACRP have never lost sight of their responsibilities to carry out specific actions and activities for peace and the well-being of people in Asia-Pacific region. Of great significance is the ACRP's engagement in peace-building efforts for the rapprochement in Afghanistan, the Korean Peninsula, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, etc.

In addition to the peacebuilding, ACRP has been engaging in humanitarian activities such as the alleviation of poverty, the protection of human rights/human dignity, the protection of the environment and the promotion of peace education, etc. ACRP's engagement in and commitment to these activities have culminated for instance in the working partnership with UNICEF through the project named Faith and Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities Initiative (FPCC).

Asia, the birthplace of world major religions and the continent where over a half of the world population inhabit, is a region where such human natures as tolerance, forgiveness and interdependence are deeply rooted in people's mind. It is therefore imperative for ACRP to demonstrate such "Asian spiritualities" in the next Governance Assembly in responding to challenges and problems that our region faces. The Asian spiritualities may be an important ingredient for reconciliation between so called adversaries in a complex world.

We envisage that the commemorative 10th Governance Assembly enables us to work for and contribute effectively to a better Asia and the Pacific and the world. The Flagship Projects, which were adopted for the first time at the Tokyo Assembly in 2021, continue to be the centerpiece to make ACRP an further action-driven Organization. The protection of human rights/human dignity, anti-umantrafficking, peacebuilding and reconciliation, the protection of the environment, which are the key elements of the Flagship Projects, will remain to be on the top agenda of ACRP. And youth leadership development and the empowerment of women are much alike.

Women and the youth are the pivotal players so that ACRP can implement useful programs/projects, which benefit our region in the next phase after the 10th Governance Assembly.

In view of the diversified ways of human activities and the spread of modern technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), ACRP ought to be equipped to effectively respond to the contemporary regional environments.

Honoring the dedication and the accomplishment of the forerunners of the Movement during the past 50 years, we are so convinced that the next Governance Assembly become a platform where the members of ACRP, particularly youth and women leaders of ACRP, are fully committed and where the people of Asia and the Pacific recognize *raison d'être* of ACRP to make our region a peaceful and prosperous region.

The new page of ACRP history in the next 50 years will begin at the Tenth Governance Assembly.

Governance Assembly Objectives

1. To strengthen the ACRP's organizational structure further and undertake a variety of actions for peace and well-being of the people in the Asia-Pacific region with the sense of urgency. ACRP ought to be equipped in laying an appropriate foundation for the future generations in Asia and the Pacific.
2. To embrace ACRP's past practices and honor the accomplishments done by the past leaders of the Movement and to develop, if necessary, the existing vision and missions of ACRP applicable to the next 50 years in accordance with a changing Asia-Pacific and international context such as the rapid spread of SNS and AI technology.
3. To promote the resilience and adaptability of the people in Asia-Pacific and ensure the equity of all lives' dignity in our region with the determination that Asian spiritualities and our sincere prayers are put into pragmatic actions.

Governance Assembly Venue

The RELC International Hotel

30 Orange Grove Road 258352, Singapore <https://www.relc.hk.com.sg>

The hotel is the same venue where the first ACRP Assembly was held in 1976, fifty years ago when ACRP was founded.

Governance Assembly Main Theme and Sub-Themes

Shaping Asia for Peace through Bold and Innovative Action

Sub-themes related Commission,

Commission 1 on Bold and Innovative Action for Community, Ecology and Technology

Commission 2 on Bold and Innovative Action for Peace, Dignity and Community Cohesion

Commission 3 on Bold and Innovative Action for Empowerment and Interfaith Development

Categories and Number of Participants

Total: 300

Official Delegates, Honorary
Presidents, Fraternal delegates and
Special Guests, Observers and aides,
Speakers and resource persons from
overseas



Daily Schedule of Main Assembly and Pre-Assemblies

Monday, Nov. 23rd

Youth and Women's Pre-Assemblies and other meetings *if needed*

Tuesday, Nov. 24th

Opening Ceremony, 1st Plenary Session on business, the 1st Commission Sessions, 1st Committee Meetings and other meetings *if needed*

Wednesday, Nov. 25th

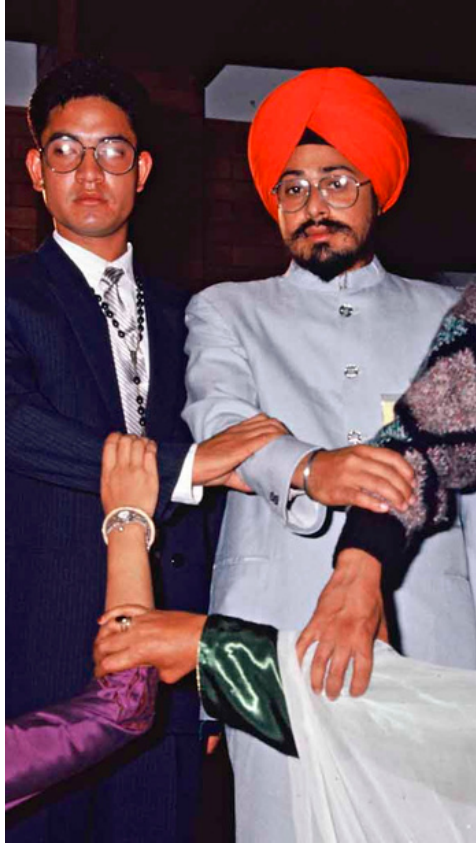
2nd Plenary Session for the feedback of Commissions Sessions, 2nd Commission Sessions 3rd Plenary Session for the feedback of Commissions Sessions, followed by business session (*Interim Reports*), 50th Anniversary Program, 2nd Committee Meetings and other meetings *if needed*

Thursday, Nov. 26th

4th (FINAL) Plenary Session on business, Closing Ceremony and the EC meeting by the newly elected members and sub-regional meetings

Previous ACRP Assemblies





Leadership of ACRP

Honorary President

The Most Rev. Nichiko Niwano (Japan, Buddhist)

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Sirajuddin Syamsuddin (Republic of Indonesia, Muslim)

Dr. Sung Gon Kim (Republic of Korea, Won-Buddhist)

Co-Presidents

Dr. Deepali Bhanot (India, Hindus)

Dr. Ahmad Suaedy (Republic of Indonesia, Muslim)

The Most Ven. Gijun Sugitani (Japan, Buddhist)

Rev. Jong Su Choe (Republic of Korea)

Rev. A. Elga Sarapung (Republic of Indonesia, Protestant)

Moderator

Prof. Desmond Cahill. O.A.M. (Australia, Roman Catholic)

Deputy Moderator

Mr. Zhang Maoyu (People's Republic of China)

Secretary-General

Rev. Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara (Japan, Buddhist)

Treasurer

Rev. Taesung Kim (South Korea, Won-Buddhist)

