

## A P V C (ASIA-PACIFIC VISITORS CONFERENCE)

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APVC is a Conference of Visitors of the Asia-Pacific Region, representing at present the CM provinces of Australia, China, India North, India South, Indonesia and the Philippines.

This conference is organized with the objectives:

1. to carry the spirit and charism of St. Vincent de Paul into the evangelizing of peoples and cultures of the Asia-Pacific Region
2. to foster interior renewal and on-going formation for the mission in our region
3. to search for common lines of formation and action
4. to foster inter-provincial cooperation
5. to exchange vocation and pastoral experiences
6. to foster meetings between provinces
7. to create an Asia-Pacific community conscience

As a line of action flowing from these objectives, APVC is organizing and conducting the following activities

1. Asia-Pacific Regional Formators' Seminar on Formation, known as APRF (*the Asia-Pacific Regional Formators*)
2. The Commission for Charism and Culture (CCC)
3. Supporting Solomon Island mission with personnel
4. The Vincentian Center for Asia-Pacific (VCAP)

### **1. APRF (the Asia-Pacific Regional Formators)**

The Asia-Pacific Regional Formators (*APRF*) was founded in 1994 and its very first meeting was held in Manila in 1995. The purpose of organizing the Asia-Pacific Regional Formators meeting was to provide a common forum for the formators of Asia-Pacific Region to come together and be enriched by the sharing of others. The formators of Asia-Pacific Region are having regular meetings every 18 months since 1995. An average of 25-30 formators participate in the meeting. It has become a support system for the

formation personnel in the region in their ministry of formation. A greater advantage is the bonding of the group as we work intensely together. It is one that powerfully transcends cultural boundaries. Preparation is underway for the next meeting of APRF and CCC which is going to be in Australia in the month of September 2010.

*Places where the meetings were held and topics discussed*

1. *Manila, Philippines (January 31 - February 14, 1995): What does it mean to be Vincentians today*
2. *Prigen, Indonesia (April 14-24, 1997): Growing sense of being Asian and Vincentian*
3. *Gopalpur-on-sea, India (2000): Contextualized Vincentian formation*
4. *Nausori, Fiji-Australia (July 9-22, 2001): The goal of formation is the Integrated Vincentian Missionary*
5. *Tainan, Taiwan (February 9-19, 2003): Asian-Pacific Faces of Vincentian Formation*
6. *Tagaytay, Philippines (August 25 - September, 2004): Servant-leadership formation*
7. *Mysore, Southern India (February 13-25, 2006): Vincentian formation for mission*
8. *Prigen, Indonesia (July 2-15, 2007): on political charity and Vincentian formation*
9. *Gopalpur-on-sea (February 2009): Interreligious dialog and Vincentian formation*
10. *Sydney, September 2010: on Human formation – next appointment*

## **2. The Commission for Charism and Culture (CCC)**

In 2003 the CCC (The Commission for Charism and Culture) started to have meetings facilitated by Fr. Hugh O'Donnell, the Executive Secretary of APVC, at Taipei. This commission provides a forum for confreres to engage in and develop theological, philosophical reflection with the priorities and emphases arising from our Vincentian mission and spirit, in an Asia-Pacific context and in ways sensitive to Asian and Pacific concerns. It is meant to stimulate research and reflection on Vincentian charism in an Asia-Pacific perspective and promote the growth of Vincentian literature in the region. This commission meets every 18 months and committed to publish a book every 18 months containing the theological and philosophical reflection of the confreres in the region. Since 2006 APRF and CCC meetings are conducted together.

### **3. Supporting Solomon Island mission with personnel**

The mission in Solomon Island consists of:

1. Holy Name of Mary Seminary
2. Good Shepherd Parish
3. Nazareth Apostolic Center
4. Formation of CM candidates

APVC supports Solomon Island mission with personnel. In the year 2007 APVC has signed an agreement with the General Curia to this effect. However the Solomon Island Mission remains open to confreres from other Provinces who, by applying to the Superior General, volunteer their services.

### **4. The Vincentian Center for Asia-Pacific (VCAP)**

At the APVC meeting held in Manila in 2000, the CM Provincial Visitors agreed to establish a Vincentian Center for Asia-Pacific Region. Because of its central location and the availability of materials, the Philippines was chosen to be the site for the Center. The center offers courses on Vincentian matters, plans formation programs for the members of the Vincentian Family. However APVC is rethinking about the continuation of it as a project of APVC.

### **5. Strength**

1. APVC does a good job in the formation of the formators, Asia-Pacific Formators' meeting is very effective in this direction.
2. Provinces assist each other in the formation of candidates, China sending the candidates to Philippines and South India sending the seminarians to North Indian Seminary for training.
3. There is a willingness in this region to support the common project. Commitment made by the provinces in this region to help the mission in Solomon Islands is an example.
4. There is a good level of communication between the provinces. Visitors in this region are having regular meetings every year for evaluation and planning.