



Newsletter – July 2023

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WORLD MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN WORKERS XIV GENERAL CONGRESS

From 24th to 31st March 2023, 75 delegates representing Movements affiliated to World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW), from 25 countries across four continents, met in Lourdes (France), on its XIV General Congress. Under the slogan “Social justice for an economy of life”, the delegates shared their views on the workers’ lives in their countries and regions. Using the method See-Judge-Act, the delegates analyzed the causes of the various situations in each region and decided on the actions to be taken for both global and local Movements separately.

The committee present for the international WMCW conference ascertained that the main cause of the dehumanising situations which affected workers in most parts of the world is commonly: the unbridled pursuit of profit by the few. This race for money is not only devastating for humans, but also it is destroying the environment and depredating Mother Earth.

The migrant situation across the globe also was discussed in detail, especially the cases affecting the youth. Without a clear future in some countries, many young adults are forced to leave for other horizons facing uncertainty and sometimes risks to their own wellbeing. A case that was highlighted recently was when 40 Guatemalan migrants died in tragic fire in Juarez City, Chihuahua, Mexico. These migrants failed to escape from a ‘temporary shelter’ when the fire broke out due to a lack of safety measures at the shelter.

The admirable work of women was also highlighted. Women in many parts of the world were seen to use their entrepreneurial spirit and initiative to generate independent employment for those in need and those searching for better living conditions in their country.

The General Congress was held from 29th to 31 March with 27 Movements represented. During the general congress the activity report of the general secretariat from 2017 to 2023 was approved as well as the financial report from 2017 to 2022. The representatives that were present for the election also voted in the new committee for WMCW inclusive of the International Chaplain, Co-Chairman, Co-Chairwoman, General Secretary, Treasurer as well as the International Council members.

Clarence Somasundram who attended the General Congress meeting on behalf of CFSM, Singapore, felt a strong sense of solidarity amongst the delegates in their drive and dedication to raise awareness for working men and women and their strive for better living conditions and a society without exclusions. “It was a good meeting of like-minded people who embodied the values of Christianity in building an apostolate in the labour world”

The committee concluded with the encouragement and support for all men and women, driven by their faiths in risen Christ, to continue their struggle for greater justice, equality, and fraternity. A special prayer and petition were offered for youth all over the world to keep fighting for a more just world and to build for them a brighter future.



WMCW delegation in front of the Our Lady of Lourdes Basilica



Team from Asia attending WMCW conference



WMCW delegation participating in sharing sessions