



Pan-Asia Conference

HIGHLIGHTS REPORT



Recently 168 Christian leaders from across Asia and the world gathered in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for the Increase Association conference 'Empowering Churches, Equipping Disciples'. They shared a vision for "churches equipping all Christ's followers in their contexts, so that many millions are disciplined and empowered for mission, ministry and leadership."

Asia today is seeing unprecedented Christian growth, with several million new followers of Christ each year and many thousands of new churches. From Egypt to Indonesia and most countries in between, indigenous movements are responding to the need to make disciples and equip local leaders. They are linked through the Increase Association and comprised most of the conference participants, along with some visitors from Africa, the Americas, Europe and Australasia.

Through these Asian movements, more than 100,000 believers are being equipped through intentional discipleship groups every week.

EQUIPPING

Warm Support from ATA

Dr Theresa Roco Lua, General Secretary of the Asia Theological Association, expressed her warm support for church-based theological education complementing residential education.

EMPOWERING

God Is At Work

"God is at work and He is using simple ordinary people like us for His work. This is amazing thing for me."
Participant from Mongolia

DEMONSTRATING

The Body Of Christ

"We come from nearly forty countries across the world, we are a demonstration of the body of Christ."
Rev Dr Tim Green,
General Secretary of the
Increase Association.

Increase Committee Update

An Asian Committee has responsibility for the direction and coordination of Increase. At the Conference Mr Zafar Ismail and Rev Dr Stephen Cho were thanked for their service as they stood down.

The members elected Mr Jiries Habash and Dr Lyn Pearson to join Ms Anneta Vysotskaya, Rev Dr Qaiser Julius and Mr Tanka Subedi on the committee. The committee co-opted Rev Dr Tim Green and Rev Dr Graham Aylett, and elected Ms Anneta Vysotskaya as Chair.

www.increaseassociation.org



The Increase Committee members, clockwise from top left Graham, Tanka, Qaiser, Tim, Jiries, Anneta, and Lyn.

DISCIPLING THE DIASPORA

Asian peoples are on the move as never before. Recognizing this important trend, one aim of the 2017 Increase Conference was “to help church-based training organizations work together to disciple Asian believers in diaspora”.

Conference participants discussed, refined and declared their commitment to work together for this in the coming five years. Many participants were from the former Soviet countries, so the statement is in both English and Russian.

Seeing that God is building his church in a new and exciting way through these diaspora communities, the Conference declared that members share a common vision for training resources to be made available across Asia and beyond to equip all Christian believers to grow in Christ and serve him actively in their local churches and communities.

They commit to work together over the next five years to:

- Actively support and encourage those with a vision to empower churches in discipling diaspora believers in Asia and beyond.
- Make discipleship and leadership resources available to those who wish to use them for group learning in local churches.
- Partner with like-minded churches, organizations and networks in Asia and beyond to enable discipleship, ministry and mission training to take place among and through diaspora believers.

“Asian peoples are on the move as never before”

www.increaseassociation.org/about/news-events

WHAT IS TEE?

TEE means ‘Theological Education by Extension’ but is more easily understood as ‘Tools to Equip and Empower’. TEE works through local learning groups led by trained volunteer facilitators. These groups equip 100,000 Asian believers each year to grow in Christ and serve him actively.



STORIES WORTH SHARING

Members of the Conference shared powerful stories of where God is at work through TEE, across Asia and the globe. Some brief examples are given in this report.

Increase Association will be sharing these stories on the website, on Facebook, and directly with supporters.

NEW COURSES FOR NEW CONTEXTS

EMPOWERING

Alysa and Katarina* are in a context of persecution in Central Asia. Yet instead of focusing on persecution they actively work to equip believers in discipleship. They are from different countries in Central Asia, but work within similar cultures. They have joined the course writers who prepare new TEE materials, they write together, and have a team around them that supports them with prayer as well as proofreading and other practical matters.

When they looked at their local context, one matter specifically grabbed their attention “There are so many young people in the churches! Almost every one of these is a ‘first generation believer’; they are the first in their families to follow Jesus. They have no parents or other relatives to teach them the ways of the Lord. They have no examples of what it means to lead a Christian life”.

Both Alysa and Katarina get many questions from young people about Christian behaviour and lifestyle, so they believed a course on pre-marital relationships would be very helpful. The course fits well within the wider aim of discipleship and lifelong learning. This course offers a first step towards growing healthy, Christian families. This course is not meant to stand alone, the two writers see it as a first step to a series on topics as family life, marital relationships and so on.

It is their desire that the course will be translated into many languages, and that more people will write courses specifically for Central Asia. They would be very thankful if you remember them in your prayers. They ask you to pray for their protection and to stay strong in the Lord.

Alysa and Katarina are helped in their work by members of the Increase Equippers team. These Equippers assist the development of Core Members and emerging organizations by visiting countries, running training, mentoring leaders and sharing fruitful practice. They also assist the wider work of Increase in connecting with other relevant organizations and initiatives. They played a prominent role at the Conference.



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ABOUT INCREASE

The Increase Association, also known as "Increase", connects and strengthens TEE and other church-based training movements across Asia and beyond.

Its members work in partnership to achieve more together for God's kingdom than each could achieve alone.

Increase also interacts with Christian educators beyond its own membership for mutual sharing of resources, good practice and innovation.

Find Us:

W: increaseassociation.org

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F: www.facebook.com/increaseassociation

SUPPORTING CHURCH LEADERS

EQUIPPING

TEE not only strengthens the knowledge and faith of believers, it can also equip and encourage church leaders.

Many church leaders in Asia are themselves first generation believers. They have maturity in church planting, but value the support and experience of others for matters such as staying true to biblical teaching and practices, especially when it is very different from local custom and tradition.

A student Pastor in one rural province of the Philippines joined the Abundant Life foundation course. Soon after the first lesson he preached, and had such a positive response from his congregation. He is so happy that the material brings change to Church Leaders too.

PRAISE FOR

- THE GROWTH OF GOD'S CHURCH IN ASIA

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- MORE PEOPLE TO BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS
- INDIGENOUS MOVEMENTS HELPING GROWING CHURCHES
- THOSE LEADING DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS WEEK BY WEEK
- ALL THOSE WRITING NEW COURSES
- INCREASE AS IT CONNECTS AND STRENGTHENS THESE MOVEMENTS

*Names have been changed to protect the identity of those in sensitive situations