

8 May 2015

**Interfaith Consultation on “Religious Life and Public Space in Asia”
Call for papers for junior academics from Lutheran churches in Asia**

The Lutheran World Federation’s Department for Theology and Public Witness in cooperation with the Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre in Hong Kong and Areopagos Foundation organize a consultation on “Religious Life and Public Space in Asia” at Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre, Hong Kong on 3–7 September 2015.

This event provides the opportunity for 10 junior participants (to the age of 30 years approx.) from Lutheran churches in Asia with strong academic interest and skills to join and contribute to the consultation.

The organizing institutions are interested in exploring together in which ways religious communities contribute to creating public space in Asian societies. Public space is a significant concept in plural societies for negotiating questions of justice and peace. The manifold communities and individuals in society are shaped by a diversity of religious and value commitments. Each of the religious traditions and worldviews aims at contributing to the well-being of people. One of the important questions today is how they can engage with one another and jointly contribute to justice and peace in society.

At the consultation, senior and junior scholars will together:

- study concepts of public space / shared space in society from the perspectives of different religious traditions (Christian, Buddhist, Daoist, Confucian, Muslim etc.)
- analyze practices of engaging in public space from diverse religious communities
- explore the distinction and relationship between the spiritual and the political spheres in society, as well as the private and the public spheres
- understand the role and significance of interreligious engagement for creating public space
- give space for inter-generational conversation on engaging in public space



Short papers can be presented in the following thematic areas:

- Lutheran theology and interreligious relations
- Relations between religious communities, the state and society
- Transformations in gender relations
- Practices of working for justice (political engagement and/ or resistance)
- Practices of building solidarity between religious communities

To be sent by email to: simone.sinn@lutheranworld.org at the latest by 1 June 2015, with the following information attached:

1. Personal information:

Name, address, date and place of birth, nationality, current occupation and short biographical information (including engagement in church and society)

2. Your motivation and contribution:

a) Please describe briefly why you would like to participate in the consultation on “Religious Life and Public Space in Asia”. How will this contribute to your future work and engagement? What are your three main intentions for participating in the consultation? (max. 1000 characters including spaces).

b) What experience with regard to interreligious relations, theology and public space do you bring from your context to this consultation? (max. 1000 characters including spaces).

c) Please propose a topic for a short, academic paper that you would present in a panel presentation (description max. 1000 characters including spaces).

Successful applicants will be informed by 9 June 2015. We look forward to your application!



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