

ACTIVITIES OF APBC REGIONAL BODIES / COMMISSIONS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Note is to highlight only the social activities and development works undertaken by the some of the APBC Regional Bodies / Commissions in Andhra Pradesh. It does not attempt to give their detailed report. Every Regional Body / Commission has a Bishop-Chairman and a Secretary. Each of them have their specific objectives and functions to fulfill in the over all integral development of the target groups which are mainly the marginalized Dalits, Tribals and Backward Classes. Among them special attention is focused on the children, youth and women. This Note presents a list of the objectives of the Regional Bodies / Commissions and mentions the activities undertaken by them during the course of last *three years* to fulfill some of their objectives.

1. A.P. JYOTIRMAI SOCEITY (APJS)

- **Objectives:**
 - Building basic communities to make them self-supporting.
 - Conducting capacity-building workshops for the 13 coordinators, 260 animators and leaders of the communities.
 - Promoting self-reliance by encouraging the pooling of community fund.
 - Encouraging the members to assist each other in their difficulties.

- **Programmes:**
 - *Annual Training programmes* at the zonal level for the animators
 - *Review meetings* of the coordinators and animators.
 - *Capacity building* and leadership skills to the leaders at the diocesan level.
 - *Creation of community fund* by many groups in the villages.
 - *Members help each other* in times of sickness, community celebrations, natural calamities, etc.
 - *Publication of Velugu quarterly* to disseminate information and news.
 - *Primary Education Scholarships*: MISSIO Munich and Kinder Missionswerk together granted Rs 42,48,879/- which was distributed equally to 13 dioceses to cater to the poor children.
 - *Higher Education Scholarships*: DKA and KFB Austria granted Rs 23,06,000/- which was distributed to 572 college students for the academic year 2010-11.

2. AMRUTHAVANI COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

- **Objectives**

- Empowering the marginalized people with knowledge and skills in all forms of communications.
 - Making communications play an active role in all aspects of the pastoral and social work.
 - To inspire and motivate individuals and communities to promote effective human communications through workshops, seminars and other training programmes.
 - To empower media consumers, especially the youth to be appreciative, critical and discriminative users of mass media.
 - To identify, train and promote young talents for Communications work and for the mainstream media.
 - To dialogue with the media professionals and participate in deliberations on issues related to communications.
 - To train personnel for creative interaction and participation in media.
 - To coordinate the activities of the various media organizations for better networking and launching of new initiatives.
 - To assist the other Commissions of the APBC by providing communications assistance through consultancy, training and programme production.
- **Seminars on Communications Media / Meetings:**
 - Media Awareness programmes for youth were conducted in districts.
 - Seminar for Formaters was conducted on 29.9.2010.
 - Telugu Bible Diary and Christmas CD are released every year to mark the World Communications Day.
 - Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) Telugu Board meeting was held on 9.7.2010.
 - Annual listeners' meeting of RVA Telugu service was organized on 10.7. 2010, while zonal meetings of the RVA listeners were organized in 2009.
 - Annual General Body meeting of Amruthavani was conducted on 9.7.2010.
 - Newly designed website: www.amruthavani.org was launched by during the national meeting of CBCI Office for Communications in 2010.
- **Television Programmes:**
 - A programme is telecast on *Subhavaartha* TV channel every Sunday.
 - Special programmes are telecasted on Christmas, Good Friday and Easter.
- **Radio Programmes:**
 - Regular programmes are broadcasted by RVA consisting of news, plays, songs, etc. every morning and evening.

- Special programme on the occasion of the International Year of the Youth, and on Marriage and Family Counseling are also aired.
- **Audio Production:**
 - Amruthavani provides technical assistance and expertise to the social activists to produce audio cassettes on social themes.
 - An Audio CD is produced by Amruthavani on the eve of Christmas every year.
- **Literature:**
 - Resource materials for World Communications Sunday and Dalit Liberation Sunday are printed and circulated.
 - 6,000 Telugu Bible Diaries are published and distributed.
 - *Bharathamithram*, a fortnightly Telugu magazine, is being published, of which 5000 copies are circulated.
 - Some books are published in Telugu every year mainly to cater to youth.
 - Seminar for the Catholic writers was held on Jan. 18, 2010 during which the regular contributors to *Bharathamithram* were honored.

3. A. P. SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (APSSS)

- **Objectives:**
 - Animating the marginalized people through awareness programmes.
 - Organizing community based organizations / groups (*sangams*) starting from the village to the State level.
 - Conducting training programmes on the subjects of Livelihood, Community Health, Environmental Protection, Panchayati Raj, etc.
 - Taking up action programmes on Gender Justice and Human Rights.
 - Campaigning through cultural performances and folk arts.
 - Promoting saving schemes and self-employment projects
 - Encouraging the CBOs to obtain the benefits of government schemes.
- **Organization of People:**
 - *Jana Nirmanam* (People's Organisation) is being done in 13 dioceses consisting of 15 districts, 104 Mandals and 2729 villages.
 - *Total membership* - 2,26,137
 - *Number of Sangams (women groups):* 18,781
 - *Central Staff Members:* 15
 - *Field Staff Members:* 65

- **Economic benefits:**

- *Total savings* by the members: Rs 60,64,18,132/-
- *Estimated value* of the income generating programmes: Rs 174,82,63,857/-
- *Value of resources* obtained from the Panchayati Raj: Rs 51,36,14,226/-
- *Amount donated* by the members for solidarity /service activities: Rs 19,03,797/-
- *Amount contributed* by the members to the APSSS Corpus Fund: Rs 4,25,000/-
- *One day salary donated by APSSS staff to the flood victims*: Rs 11, 300/-

- **Developmental activities:**

- Number of villages implementing the environmental protection programme: 1284
- Number of saplings planted: 1,81,545
- Number of villages using the herbal medicine: 983
- Number of Villages that solved the women issues: 1000

- **Training Programmes:**

- *Training programmes conducted at various levels*: 1412
- *APSSS gave training* to the staff of Caritas Bangladesh and other organisations and commissions.
- *APSSS also took part* in the training programmes offered by others.
- *Women's Day Celebrations by the Sangams*: 520
- *Rallies held by the People Organizations*: 65
- *Books published*: 15
- *Posters printed*: 13
- *Audio Cassettes produced*: 16
- *Awareness song books published*: 16
- *News Bulletin (Manchi Maata) copies distributed*: 24, 000

4. ANDHRA PRADESH SOCIAL SERVICE FORUM (APSSF)

- **Objectives:**

- APSSF is a forum of Diocesan Social Service Societies (DSSS) in the region.
- To coordinate the efforts and activities of DSSS.
- To initiate common development programmes based on the common issues affecting the State.
- To conduct regional workshops and capacity building programmes.

- **Coordination of On-going Programmes:**

- Annual meetings of the A.P. Social Service Forum in which the representatives of Caritas India and CRS also participate.
 - Coordination meetings of Caritas supported Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) programme, which is going on in 450 villages of 7 dioceses, were facilitated.
 - Review meetings of the Facilitating Agricultural Regeneration Measures (FARM) programme supported by Caritas India in 8 dioceses of our region, were held regularly.
 - Programme to improve the livelihood condition and nutritional security of marginalized sections and small farmers in the districts of Telengana and Rayalaseema regions in partnership with APFRO.
 - Promoting smokeless *chulas* (ovens) for cooking to save fire wood and avoid pollution in partnership with Shell company.
- **Capacity-Building Programmes:**
 - Workshop on Gender policy facilitated by Caritas India was held on June 08-09, 2009 at Eluru for the partners of the CBDP.
 - Training of Trainers (TOT) on Gender was organized for them in Sept. 2009, at HASSS.
 - Training programme on Documentation and Report Writing was organized on Jan. 11-12, 2010 at Pastoral Training Centre, Nambur.
 - Workshop on Proposal Writing for projects on Disabled Welfare on Oct. 08, 2010, at Secunderabad.
 - Workshop on Minority Welfare schemes on August 08, 2010 at Kurnool.
 - Training Programme on Proposal Development on March 22-24, 2011 at Secunderabad.
- **Response to Floods & Shelter Programme:**
 - During the floods in A.P. caused by cyclonic storms of *Lila* and *Jal*, the Forum Director visited the affected areas of the districts and arranged immediate relief through the DSSS of the respective dioceses.
 - Meetings on flood relief and rehabilitation were arranged with the donor agencies such as Caritas India, CRS, Manos Unidas, Swiss Caritas, Misereor and Missio who visited the State.
 - The evaluation meeting of the diocesan directors of the flood affected districts was held at GDSSS, Guntur, in the presence of Bp Gali Bali, the President of APBC, and Bp M.D. Prakasam, the Chairman of the Forum.
 - Forum is taking up the construction of 1833 houses in the flood affected dioceses with the collaboration of Government of A.P. and the support of Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI) in 4 dioceses.
 - CRS granted Rs 1.50 Crore to Kurnool diocese for flood relief and Caritas India came forward to support the dioceses of Vijayawada and Guntur.

- Disaster management programme ERST is going on in many districts in collaboration with Caritas India.
- **Obtaining the Government Schemes:**
 - State and district level workshops for transferring knowledge of the Government welfare schemes available in various departments.
 - Publication of a book “Reach Out” on Government welfare schemes
 - Pre-metric and Post-metric scholarships for students for the Central and State Governments.
 - Funds for the construction and repairs of schools and hospital buildings and for equipments for the same.
 - Aids and appliances for 12 Schools of the Disabled
- **A.P. Regional Perspective Plan:**
 - It was prepared in the meeting held on March 05-06, 2010, facilitated by Fr Louis Prakash SJ, Director of ISI, Bangalore, and CRS officials and was approved by the Andhra Pradesh Bishops’ Council (APBC) on March 04, 2011.
- **Guidelines for the DSSS:**
 - The A. P. Social Service Forum (APSSF) prepared guidelines for proper functioning of the Diocesan Social Service Societies (DSSS) after consultations with DSSS and other organizations concerned which was approved by the APBC in March 2011.
- **Publishing of the Annual Bulletin:**
 - The Annual Bulletin of the A.P. Social Forum titled “Reach Out” contains the reports of its various programmes and the information on the welfare schemes of the Government.

5. COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Campaigns for Human Rights:**
 - In collaboration with the CBCI Commission for Justice, Peace and Development, the Right to Food (RTF) campaign is taken up in some dioceses of the region.
 - The Commission is networking with other organizations for campaigning for Right to Information (RTI).
 - Anti-trafficking campaign called *Suraksha* in dioceses in partnership with CRS; workshop for its assessment on Sept. 14, 2010.
 - Observing special days like Street Children Day, Archbishop Romero Day.

- Promoting the Campaign against Corruption
- **Prison Ministry:**
 - Commission coordinates *the Prison Ministry India (PMI)* in the region.
 - All the Dioceses in A.P. have cells and units for Prison Ministry
 - Meetings of the PMI state and diocesan coordinators are held regularly.
 - At the diocesan level volunteers meetings are held to animate the ministry.
 - The volunteers regularly visit the prisons and the families of the prisoners.
 - PMI-AP units are engaged in the release and rehabilitation of prisoners.
 - They conduct counseling sessions, prayer services and moral instructions.
 - Legal aid and advice is made available to the prisoners.
 - The children of the prisoners are given educational and financial support.
 - Cultural programmes are staged in prisons on special occasions.
 - Prison Ministry Sunday material was circulated to the dioceses.
 - Publishing the news bulletin of regional unit of the Prison Ministry

6. COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION

- **Objectives:**
 - To build a New Society, to make another India possible, in collaboration with all people of goodwill and their institutions and organizations.
 - To work unitedly with the marginalized to build up a better future and to regain their dignity and self-worth.
 - To focus in our educational institutions on value formation, non-formal education, literacy, skill development as well as conscientization and other forms of people's empowerment.
 - To make the citizens to become literate, skilled and competent, socially aware and spiritually motivated, and fully involved in the building of a developed and just society.
 - To highlight the right of all children, especially the marginalized, to an education of relevance and quality.
- **Meetings and Seminars:**
 - *General Body Meeting of the Association of the Catholic Educational Institutions in A.P. (ACEIAP)* was held on April 14, 2009, at Jeevan Jyothi, Secunderabad, during which election for the Executive Body took place. Again it was convoked on August 08, 2010 at St John's Seminary, Hyderabad, during which legal issues relating to educational institutions were discussed.
 - *Diocesan Seminars on educational leadership* were conducted to the heads of the educational institutions in Warangal diocese on August 09, 2009 again on Aug. 19,

2010, in Kurnool diocese on July, 29, 2010, in Guntur on July 30, 2010 for Jesuits, and on Feb. 12, 2011 for Salesians.

- *Regional Seminar on Managing Educational Institutions* was organized on March 06-07, 2010 at St John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad, in which about 200 heads of schools and colleges participated from the dioceses.
 - *Regional Seminar on legal insights for effective administration* was organized on Aug. 07-08, 2010 at Hyderabad in which 220 priests and nuns involved in education benefitted.
 - *National seminar on the Educational Rights of Minorities* was held on Nov. 10-11, 2009 at ISI, Delhi, in which the Regional Secretaries participated
 - *National Seminar on Catholic Education Policy* was conducted by the CBCI Office for Education at Don Bosco Provincialate, Hyderabad, on August 27-29, 2010, in which the Regional Secretaries took part.
- **Other activities and efforts:**
 - Website *www.aceiap.org* was launched and the data collected from the institutions being uploaded in to the website.
 - Suggestions to revise the Education Policy of the State Government were submitted to the Commissioner of School Education after the consultation by an expert group held on Sept. 20, 2009.
 - A case was filed in the High Court and the stay on payment of ESI was obtained for 9 schools.
 - Representation was made to the Government of A.P. on the issue of property tax.
 - Mutual transfers of the aided teachers are now permitted by the Government due to lobbying by the Commission.
 - Court cases filled on the cancellation of sanctioned posts and ban on filling-up of the vacant posts by the Government of A.P.
 - Subscriptions were collected from most of the education institutions.

7. COMMISSION FOR HEALTH

- **Objectives:**
 - To provide humanizing care considering the dignity of the person and the needs of society.
 - To ensure promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care to all, particularly to the poor and the marginalized through their empowerment.
 - To engage in social mobilization of the community by creating awareness on rights, duties and responsibilities related to health issues.
- **Programmes:**

- *Various organizations* like CBCI Office for Health, Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), Catholic Health Association of A.P. (CHAAP), Sister Doctors Forum of India (SDFI), Catholic Nurses Guild of India (CNGI), their diocesan units, and the Diocesan Social Services Societies promote health work in the region.
- *Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)*, whose head office is situated at Secunderabad in the State capital of A.P., conducted its Annual General Body meeting here on Oct. 22-23, 2010.
- *Health Week / Health Sunday* is being observed for which the CBCI Office for Health distributes the necessary material to the dioceses.
- *World Day of the Sick* (Feb. 11) is being observed in the parishes and institutions in the region.
- *CBCI Coalition for AIDS and Related Diseases (CBCI-CARD)* and CHAI are assisting the religious congregation and diocesan social service societies to set up HIV/AIDS Care and Support Centers in collaboration with the Government agencies in the districts.
- *Community Health Programme and health awareness* on safe-drinking water, prevention of HIV/AIDS, TB and other diseases, hygiene and sanitation, and natural and herbal medicine, are being promoted in the region by Church-related social service agencies, Hospitals and Health Centers.

8. COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

- **Objectives:**

- Work towards the uplift of the tribal, Dalit and disadvantaged women, including their education and job opportunities.
- Take concerted efforts to address the needs of migrants and domestic workers, and keep fighting against the trafficking of women and children.
- Support women in their process of political leadership for Panchayat, Legislative Assembly and Parliament.
- Join hands with the Central and State governments, civil society organizations, and other religious groups to safeguard the rights of women irrespective of caste, creed, and vocation.
- To inspire, motivate, coordinate and monitor the process and results of execution of the CBCI gender policy.
- Incorporate the gender perspective in all the Commissions and foster networking to further the goal of a gender-just Church and society;
- Prepare audio- visual material as an effective tool for gender sensitisation.
- To demand at least 35% (moving towards an ideal of 50%) representation of women as office-bearers and members in the ecclesial and civil bodies.

- **Programmes:**

- *The CBCI Statement on Women Empowerment* and gender policy was published in Telugu and distributed to the dioceses and parishes.
- *CBCI Education policy for girl-child* is slowly getting implemented in the dioceses.
- *Self-Help women groups* have become aware of their rights; they discuss women's problems in their periodical meetings and deal with them.
- *Loans at low interest rates* and revolving funds for income-generating activities are provided to them.
- *To minimize child marriages and child labour* some dioceses and religious congregations have introduced bridge schools and non-formal trainings.
- *To create job opportunities and self-employment for women*, courses in computer applications, manufacturing of cotton materials and electrical goods, tailoring, fashion technology, etc. are arranged.
- *International Women's Day* is being celebrated by many women associations, self-help groups, social service societies, etc.
- *Growth of HIV/AIDS and women trafficking* in the State is being tackled in collaboration with the Government agencies and other organizations.
- *Lot of information* is being disseminated from the Women Commission to the dioceses.
- *National Training Programme* was conducted by the CBCI Office for Women at New Delhi in which the Regional Secretary participated.

9. COMMISSION FOR LAITY

- **Objectives**

- The main objective of the Commission for Laity is to promote the participation of the Lay people and empowers them to take up leadership roles in the Church and the Society at large.
- To design, develop and conduct formation programs with the laity and for the laity.
 - To identify lay leaders both women and men in diverse fields of involvement for encouraging them to do social service
 - To render assistance in establishing, animating, inspiring and motivating effective structures at the diocesan and regional levels.
- To motivate the formation of diocesan teams as well as in conducting seminars and training programme for the members of these diocesan teams.
- To foster networking among associations, movements and communities of faith for their effective presence in the parishes, diocese, regions and at the national level.

- **Programmes**

- *Training for Trainers for the Diocesan team* of resource persons
- *Consultative council for Laity Commission* consisting of the lay representative of the dioceses and the leaders of people's organizations to be formed.
- *Meetings of the Diocesan Directors* to be held every six months.
- *Formation of association of catholic professionals* in the dioceses and at the regional level to involve them in the social service.
- *To foster networking* of laity associations, people's movements, voluntary organizations and civil society groups.
- *To promote lay leaders in politics* by encouraging them and forming them based on the Social Teaching of the Church.

10. COMMISSION FOR YOUTH

- **Objectives:**

- To organize un-organized youth and to co-ordinate the youth activities and to function as a nodal agency between various youth movements.
- To promote, form and encourage Youth Movements and organizations at the Village, District, Parish, Diocese, and State levels.
- To make youth effective agents of integral transformation in the Indian multi-religious context regardless of caste, creed or colour.
- To create awareness among the public and to conscientise the community at large about the need, importance and relevance of the youth initiatives.
- To organize and conduct formation programmes, symposia, seminars conventions for the all round development of youth irrespective of caste, creed, religion and colour.
- To assist, organize and train young people in finding the sustainable employment by organizing career orientation, career guidance & counseling, skill building and life skills training.
- To involve the youth and to ensure their co-operation for purposes of promoting Communal Harmony and Peace, and Social Development.
- To establish friendship, goodwill and co-operation of the youth of the all faiths in order to enhance mutual sharing by fostering unity and solidarity.

- **Regular Programmes of the Commission:**

- Starting parish units of Catholic Youth Movement (AP-CYM/ICYM) – about 250 parish youth groups are active now.
- Initiating the formation of units of Young Christian Students / Young Students Movement (YCS/YSM) in the schools – about 600 students' cells are active in the schools at present.

- Conducting YCS/YSM Animators and Leaders Programmes
 - Life Orientation Programmes for youth
 - Capacity building and leadership training programmes for the leaders
 - Formation of the diocesan youth councils in all the diocese.
- **Regional Events:**
 - *VII Regional Youth Convention* was held at Nellore from May 1-4, 2009 with 935 youth participating from 12 dioceses.
 - *Regional Youth Awards:* On May 03, 2009, 23 Youth from 12 dioceses were given Regional Youth Awards, and 2 were given National Youth Awards.
 - *New Regional Youth Council for APCYM* was formed on January 28, 2010 and on the next day the new Regional Executive Committee (Rexco) was elected.
 - *International Year of Youth (IYY 2010-11)* was inaugurated on June 26, 2010 with a get-together in Nellore and a Regional Youth Pilgrimage on June 27-30, 2010, in which 133 youth from all the dioceses participated.
 - *Regional Seminar for Youth Directors and Youth Coordinators* of the dioceses and religious congregations was held at St John's Seminary, Hyderabad, on July 03-04, 2010.
 - *Training Programme for the Diocesan Core Groups* was held on December 03-05, 2010 at St John's Seminary, Hyderabad, which included a blood donation camp.
 - *Regional Cultural Meet* was organized at Vijayawada on Jan. 21-22, 2011 in which talented youth groups from the diocese competed in various performing arts.
 - *Regional YCS/YSM Annual Meet* was held on Jan. 29-30, 2011 at Vijayawada in which about 160 members represented their diocesan units.
 - *Regional Youth Council meetings* were held on July 31-Aug. 01, 2010 in Hyderabad and on Jan. 22, 2011 at Vijayawada.
 - **Participation in National Events:**
 - *CBCI Meeting on Youth:* In 29th CBCI General Body Meeting on "Youth for Peace and Harmony" held at Guwahati two youth represented the region.
 - *National Youth Convention* took place at Shillong on Oct. 10-17, 2010 in which about 150 participated from all the dioceses of the region and two of them were honored with National Youth Awards.
 - *Jago Yuvabharat*, a nation wide bus pilgrimage, passed through the State during which awareness programmes were organized in some dioceses.
 - *XV National Council of YCS/YSM* was held at Mangalore on May 14-22, 2010 in which about 20 from the region represented.
 - *National Youth Council meetings* held at Shillong on July 23-26, 2010 and in Nagpur on Feb. 04-07, 2011 had representation from the region.
 - **Participation in International Events:**

- *MIJARC Training Programme* was held in Bengaluru on Dec. 18, 2010 to Jan. 03, 2011 in which four youth from the region participated.
- *V Asian Youth Day*: Some youth participated in the Fifth Asian Youth Day conducted in Philippines in 2010.
- *Taize Youth Pilgrimage*: Every year some youth from the region take part in the international youth pilgrimages of Taize community.
- *World Youth Parliament* was held in New York in which along with the Regional Youth Director, two others took part from the region.

11. COMMISSION FOR LABOUR

- **Objectives:**

- Empowerment of Domestic Workers through participation in their struggle for justice.
- Work against discrimination and for equality and rights of migrant workers and promoting safe migration and prevent forced migration.
- Promotion of Child Rights and assistance to mainstream education through bridge school
- Crisis interventions with legal and medical aid for inclusion and reintegration
- Preventing trafficking of women and children and stopping forced labour of women and children
- Promoting of Trade Union among for effective labour rights bargaining
- Networking at local, national and international levels

- **Regular Programmes:**

- *Setting up diocesan and state level coordination* and implementation of labour rights and carrying out decisions the Commission to coordinate the work of labour.
- *Establishing diocesan level commission* for labour to assist to identify workers, register them under the welfare board, assist those in difficulty, and help in realising labour rights to all workers.
- *Implementation of minimum wages* for Domestic Workers prescribed by the Labour department of the Government in all the Church-related institutions.
- *Celebration of Workers Day* on the 1st of May in all the parishes.
- *Workers India Federation (WIF)*: The CBCI Office for Labour is promoting the WIF activities in the dioceses.

- **Regional, National & International Meetings:**

- *Regional Animators Training Programme* was held for 40 animators of the domestic workers at Jeevan Jyothi, Hyderabad, on August 05-06, 2010.
 - *Lobbying with the Government* and the National Advisory Council is going on to include domestic workers in the Protection of Women at Work Place Bill 2010, on Minimum Wages Act 1948 and on other human rights.
 - *National Workshop*: Chairman and Secretary participated in it at Jeevan Jyothi, Hyderabad, on Oct. 1-2, 2009.
 - *National Animators Meeting* was held at St Ann's Generalate, Secunderabad, on Feb. 09-11, 2011 in which 130 animators from 21 states participated.
 - *The ILO Convention on Domestic Labour*: NDWM-AP Coordinator participated in the preparation of its questionnaire, survey and attended the Convention held in June 2010.
 - *WSM-MFI workshop* was held in Dec. 2010 at Trivandrum on Domestic Work and Migrant Work in which the Regional Secretary took part. She also attended the *Migration Forum Asia* workshop held at Manila on August 25-27, 2010 and *WSM workshop* in Jogjakarta on November 01-03, 2010.
- **National Domestic Workers Movement - A.P. (NDWM-AP):**
 - Andhra Pradesh has about 12 lakh domestic workers of which about 5 to six lakh live in the capital city alone.
 - NDWM-AP is registered in the State as *the A.P. State Domestic Workers Union*.
 - It has 50,000 members, 100 leaders and 2,000 registered workers.
 - NDWM-AP movement began in 1998 and has extended its activities to 9 districts, namely, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari, Khammam, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool.
 - It has established offices in these districts and liaison with the District Labour Departments.
 - Regular meetings and trainings are conducted to empower the workers.
 - Children out of school are admitted to bridge schools run by NDWM-AP.
 - NDWM-AP's goal of regularizing the domestic work and obtaining recognition, dignity and justice for the workers is being realized.
 - From 1998 onwards the formation of the groups of domestic workers and the capacity building of their leaders is undertaken regularly.
 - In 2002, domestic workers in Andhra Pradesh were included into the schedule of unorganized workers in the state.
 - In 2007, final notification on the minimum wage for the domestic workers in the State was notified in the form of a GO No. 119.
 - In 2008, Social Security Bill was announced by the Central Government which also caters to the domestic workers.
 - In 2011, campaign taken up for creating a State Welfare Board for domestic workers with welfare fund and social security measures.
 - NDWM is working on a draft Bill and the national policy on the domestic workers as requested by the Union Ministry of Labour.

- *NDWM celebrated its Silver Jubilee* at the district, state and national levels. On March 06, 2010 at the state level celebrations held in Hyderabad about 1500 domestic workers, state ministers and government officials participated.

12. COMMISSION FOR SC, ST & BC

- **Objectives:**

- To empower Dalits, Adivasis/Tribals, to organize and to build inclusive communities.
- To lobby and to do advocacy with the policy makers for empowering Dalits, Adivasis/Tribals, Dalit Christians and Tribal Christians.
- The specific task would be to get equal rights for the Dalit Christians and to protect the rights of the Tribal Christians.
- To coordinate, to inspire and to animate the diocesan commissions.
- To network with other Churches, NGOs and peoples' movements.

- **Programmes:**

- *The immediate concern* of the Commission for the Scheduled Castes, Schedules Tribes and Backward Classes (SC, ST & BC) is to continue the struggle for the Constitutional Rights of the Christians of Scheduled Caste origin denied by the Presidential Order 1950.
- *A delegation of Christian leaders* was led by the late Chief Minister Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Archbishop M. Joji to the Central Ministers in New Delhi on June 19-20, 2009.
- *A huge protest demonstration, dharna*, was held on Nov. 16, 2009 in New Delhi in which 250 people from A.P. participated.
- Lobbying in Delhi along with a Muslim activist thrice for 10 days each.
- *National Council of Dalit Christians (NCDC)* held a conference in Hyderabad leaders to plan strategies.
- *Organized a joint seminar* for Christians and Muslim to work together.
- *Participation in a research project* being conducted by the Society for African and Asian Studies about Dalit Christians and Dalit Women on the topic "Cast out of Development".
- *United Front for Dalit Christian Rights (UFDCR)* held a meeting in Hyderabad on March 01, 2010, in which about 35 people took part.
- *Participation in the National Seminar* in Delhi on March 6-7, 2010 on the recommendations of Justice Ranganath Misra Commission.
- *Participation in the huge Rally* of about 20,000 Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians at New Delhi on March 15, 2010.
- *Observed Black Day* on August 10, 2010 in front of the office of District Collectors to mark the day on which Presidential Order 1950 was passed that excluded the Dalit Christians. was passed in 1950

- *Joining with the National Confederation of Dalit Organizations (NACDOR) which* presented a Memorandum to the Prime Minister on Dec. 05, 2010 after the Rally held at Delhi.
- *Continuous lobbying in Delhi* by meeting Prime Minister, Sonia Gandhi, Central Minister, Members of Parliament, Politicians, et al.

CONCLUSION

As it can be gauged from this Note, the Regional Bodies of the APBC and some of its Regional Commissions like Education and Youth are well established with their offices, personnel and programmes. However, a few Commissions are rather new and began to function systematically from 2008 after they were given office space in the APBC Center. There is a need to monitor and coordinate the functioning and activities of Regional Bodies and Commissions. The Andhra Pradesh Bishops' Council (APBC) has entrusted this task to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of APBC. "*The Directives and Guidelines for the Regional Bodies / Commissions*" has been formulated and approved by the APBC for their effective functioning and coordination. Another task to be completed is strengthening the Regional Commissions by establishing their diocesan unit in the form of a Diocesan Commission with a Diocesan Secretary and a resource team of trainers. The teams of resource persons and trainers, the animators and coordinators, and the volunteers and leaders of the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) of the Regional Commissions need to be equipped with relevant knowledge in their sphere of activity and with capacity building skills. To undertake these functions, the APBC needs a regional animation and training center. Undoubtedly, much remains to be done to empower the Marginalized to gain fullness of life and liberty, human rights and equality, and peace with justice.
