

Malaysia shares resources and experiences beyond borders!

Sr. Regina Htoo, Province Leader of East Asia and Sr. Eunan from Myanmar were the first to arrive. They visited Rose Virginie Good Shepherd Centre, Ipoh where they viewed the micro enterprise project. They also learnt about the rights based approaches in running the Centre. The staff at the Centre shared their different roles, experiences, joys and challenges and their experiences of partnership for mission. They also met the unaccompanied refugee minors from Myanmar who were sheltered at the Centre.

JUSTICE AND PEACE, RESTRUCTURING, PARTNERSHIP FOR MISSION

Sr. Yohanita and Anastasia from Indonesia joined Sr. Regina and Eunan for the sessions that followed. Theresa Symons and team from Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd (PKGS) met together with them. The sisters expressed their desire to know about:

- incorporation of justice and peace elements into the ministries
- restructure of ministries to include partnership for mission

The PKGS team shared their own experiences of restructuring and the challenges faced in the initial years when partnership for mission and lay leadership was introduced. It was highlighted that the full support from the province leadership team was important to ensure the success of partnership for mission, as there was initial resistance from sisters and lay persons.

It was also shared that Malaysia reviewed its employment practices and wages as a start to inclusion of justice and peace in the ministries. Capacity building into rights based approaches was emphasised. It took Good Shepherd Malaysia some years before justice and peace elements were integrated into the ministries – a learning process that is still currently evolving and improving.

On restructuring of ministries Theresa shared the importance of identifying and defining the problem, its causes and impact before embarking on a strategy plan or activities. The morning was spent listing the existing ministries in Indonesia and Myanmar and doing the Problem Tree analysis based on the problem "structures for mission which are no longer relevant." Together, as a team, the primary and secondary causes

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and the impact were identified. The Solution Tree was then formed by reversing the negative statements into positive ones. The sisters prioritised the causes in order of importance for them to share with the sisters in their sector / province back home. The group then had an overview of the Program Logic based on their activity plans.



1
Theresa with the sisters

2
Visit to the Child Care Centre of the Myanmar community

3
Sr. Regina and Eunan meeting the Myanmar Catholic group

ROLE OF JUSTICE PEACE CONTACT PERSON

Gloria helped Sr. Eunan and Anastasia take up their new role as JP contact person of their sector / province. She started by sharing the story of how she and Sr. Susan visited Good Shepherd Australia in 2005 to learn from them. She related that she did not know what to do or how to begin but the enthusiasm to give it a try led her on. Challenges were plenty but it was all worthwhile as Good Shepherd Malaysia is much sought after now. The support of the province leadership team was crucial every step of the way.

After that introduction, the sessions with Gloria focussed on:

- 1** Good Communication skills with
 - Communities and agencies in sector/ province
 - International GSIJP Offices
 - APJP Network

As a hands-on activity, the sisters responded to the 'Beijing Platform for Action featured girls' survey. They also sent in a Justice Peace report for 2014. They communicated with the sisters in their respective countries for information.

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- 2 Networking with NGOs locally and internationally.
- 3 Familiarising and browsing through Good Shepherd websites and other links for justice peace and related information.
- 4 Position papers.
Together we briefly went through the printed copies as well as the power points available at the website.
As a learning activity, the sisters worked on a power point on human trafficking that was relevant to their own country. This could be used for their own group /community back home.
- 5 UPR, CEDAW, CRC, TIP report, UDHR, International Days (World Day of Social Justice, the '16 Days'...) The Charter for Good Shepherd Employment Practice were briefly discussed.

OTHERS

The lay mission partners and sisters gathered to welcome the four visiting sisters. The evening began with the 'First International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking' and this was followed by fellowship and dinner.

The sisters had opportunities to meet up with migrant workers and refugees from their respective countries. They heard for themselves their struggles and challenges living in a foreign land, away from home.

Much has been said and done during the week with us. It is our hope that they go home energized and motivated to work with greater commitment for mission. It was our pleasure to have them.

SHARINGS

"Sr. Yohanita and I are grateful for this precious opportunity to experience the mission in the Province of Singapore-Malaysia. You have generously shared your wisdom, knowledge and experiences. You have given us a new insight and inspiration to continue our mission in the light of Justice Peace and Good Shepherd Spirituality."

Sr. Anastasia

"I was encouraged by your sharing, passion and drive for Justice Peace. I have become more alive and enthusiastic, and more willing to go further in regards Justice Peace. I thank God for allowing me to experience the different ministries which our mission partners in Singapore-Malaysia are doing effectively. The mutual understanding of roles, responsibilities and values between lay and sisters gave me a clear picture of what partnership for mission is all about."

Sr. Eunan

This report is contributed by Theresa and Gloria