

REPORT OF THE SOUTH ASIA REGION

Rev. S.S. Majaw

Introduction

Member churches of the WCRC under these four countries—India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh—fall under the WCRC South Asia Region. These countries are facing many problems and challenges, socially, politically, economically, culturally and spiritually. As churches under this region we are striving to fulfill our mission mandate and people's aspirations. The churches need to be pro-active, alive and constantly aware of their environment to be able to address the various issues arising from time to time.

As mentioned in last year's report, we would like to state the same that the relationship of the two countries, India and Pakistan, are not healthy at this date. Hence, it is difficult for members from Pakistan to come to India to participate in any programmes organized by the WCRC South Asia Region and vice versa.

The South Asia annual meeting was held on 26 October 2015 at Dhaka, Bangladesh. Hence the report is as follows:

Opening Devotion

The opening devotion was led by Rev. Dr. Albert Sundaraj Walters, principal, St. Andrew's Theological College, Church of Bangladesh, on the topic "stewardship" along with questions for general discussion by the members present. The discussion was thought provoking which enabled members to realize the urgent need to come forward in order to address the issue of ecological destruction by member churches in the South Asia region.

The members present were as follows:

- Bishop Paul Sarkar, Church of Bangladesh
- Rev. S.S. Majaw, Presbyterian Church in India
- Rev. David T. Lhouvum, Presbyterian Church of India
- Rev. B. Sangthanga, Presbyterian Church of India
- Rev. D. Jangkholam, Presbyterian Church of India
- Rev. S. Christopher Vijayan, Church of South India
- Ms. Hanabalahun Kharbuki, Presbyterian Church of India
- Mr. Michael A. Roy, Church of Bangladesh
- Mr. John Torun Mondal, Evangelical Churches Association, Manipur
- Mr. Pradip Bansrior, Church of North India
- Pro. Pastor Vanlal Jubileethang Hrangchal, Presbyterian Church of India

By-laws of WCRC SARC

After a thorough discussion it was resolved to circulate the draft by-laws of the council to all member churches for discussion and at the same time to submit feedback to the secretary by the end of March 2016 for necessary consideration in the next meeting.

Resolution of the Meeting

It was resolved to send a copy of the minutes of the WCRC SARC meetings to all the representatives attending the meeting for necessary follow up with their own member churches.

Membership Contributions

Since the council does not have any funds, it was felt necessary to raise funds from among the member churches as an “annual contribution.” After a threadbare discussion, it was resolved as follows:

- i. That equal membership contributions shall be fixed to all the member churches
- ii. That each member church shall contribute 250 USD annually
- iii. That this contribution shall begin from the year 2016
- iv. That the amount shall be paid on or before 31 December every year

Nomination of the Office Bearers of WCRC SARC

The matter was discussed thoroughly. After a prolonged discussion it was resolved unanimously to extend the existing office bearers up to the end of 2017 as to enable the present leadership to stabilize the body as a council.

Office Bearers

President:	Rev. Dr. Sadananda, general secretary, Church of South India
Vice president:	Rev. Prubal Dutta, Church of North India
Secretary:	Rev. S.S. Majaw, Presbyterian Church of India
Treasurer:	Rev. A.Z. Beirona, Congregational Church of India (Maraland)

Participation of the General Secretaries

The meeting expressed concern about the inability of the general secretaries of member churches to attend the council. After discussion, it was resolved that in the WCRC SARC meeting the general secretary or the concerned person of the member churches should participate and if he/she could not participate he/she should delegate one responsible person for the same.

Future Programme

A two day programme for the WCRC SARC meeting was proposed and after a prolonged discussion it was resolved to hold the same in 2016 at Sri Lanka under the topic “economic and ecological destruction in the context of South Asia and globally.” Rev. S.S. Majaw, WCRC SARC secretary, is entrusted to do the necessary write-up for the programme.

Operational Funds

It was resolved to make a request to the WCRC global office for providing operational funds to all the regional councils available.

Member Churches

The following are the current member churches of the South Asia region:

- INDIA:
- (a) Church of South India (CSI), Chennai
 - (b) Church of North India (CNI), Delhi
 - (c) Presbyterian Church of India (PCI), Shillong
 - (d) Congregational Church of India (Maraland)
 - (e) Reformed Presbyterian Church North East India (RPC-NEI)
- PAKISTAN:
- (a) Presbyterian Church of Pakistan
 - (b) Church of Pakistan
- BANGLADESH:
- (a) Church of Bangladesh
 - (b) Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church in Bangladesh
- SRI LANKA:
- (a) Christian Reformed Church in Sri Lanka
 - (b) Presbytery of Lanka