



# the jesuits in asia pacific 2017

a faith that does justice





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# Rowing into the deep

**G**eneral Congregation 36 (GC 36) dominated Jesuit life during 2016. The theme, “Row into the deep”, was derived from a message of Pope Francis to the Society of Jesus in 2014, echoing Jesus’ call to his disciples to “put out into the deep”. In the Congregation logo, the IHS represents the Society’s boat in the Church; the waves are the troubled seas of our times into which Jesuits are invited to row with faith.

The election at GC 36 of Fr Arturo Sosa, a Venezuelan, as 31st Jesuit Superior General was a sea change for the Jesuits in Asia Pacific, since he replaces Fr Adolfo Nicolás who is very familiar with Asian ways having lived in Asia most of his life.

In discerning and navigating the deep Asia Pacific waters, we know we are not alone; many share our concern for the Gospel of Jesus and hear the voices of the poor and excluded. The Congregation calls us to collaborate and network among ourselves and with many others, and the structures we have been putting in place facilitate this. The Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific functions as layers of networks, linking Jesuits, institutions and many friends and collaborators across many countries. As we move forward, we continue to avail of contemporary means of communication that offer new ways to mobilise human and material resources beyond borders in support of mission.

The Congregation noted that despite the shrinking number of Jesuits worldwide – a trend reflected in Asia Pacific – the apostolic vitality of the Society is, remarkably, growing. A principal reason is the many deeply committed colleagues who share the same mission and are ready to “row into the deep” together with the Jesuits.

Vitality is evident in the many educational initiatives. In Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines, new educational

institutions, such as Xavier Jesuit School in Cambodia, join an impressive network of established Jesuit and partner schools. Constantly through the year, we mount formation programmes for teachers, administrators and students to imbibe and practise Ignatian principles in pedagogy, prayer or leadership. Critical support is given to many networks of local schools, especially in the rural communities, such as in Battambang Prefecture in Cambodia.

Vitality and promise are also evident in the preparation of Jesuit and lay leaders. Some, even before completing the workshops, are assigned to new responsibilities.

The ministry among young people in particular is marked by energy, joy, depth. Through the Ignatian “Magis” methodology, selected young adults engage in meaningful encounters with, for example, farmers, villagers, homeless persons, people of other faiths. This is followed by reflection together, prayer and confirmation of changes desired in their lives. Strong friendships grow from this and networks of mutual support are built from the friendships formed in these encounters.

There is a long Jesuit tradition of seeking to understand China, and we continue in this tradition, respecting the giant’s history and millennia of deep culture. The Jesuit way, while defending the right of people to live the Gospel, is to dialogue with other cultures and religions. In Asia Pacific, we know all too well what it means to be a minority religion in a country.

The winds and tides may not always be favourable, but our mission and hence our direction is clear, and we thank the many friends who row together in faith with the Jesuits in Asia Pacific.

**FR MARK RAPER SJ**

President, Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific



# 2016 at a glance

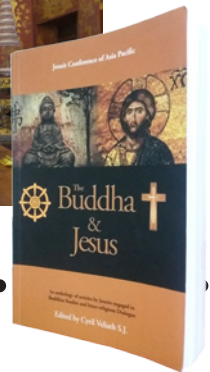
**4 FEB**

Opening of Instituto São João de Brito, the Jesuit teacher education institute in Timor-Leste



**4-6 MAR**

The workshop in Buddhist-Christian Dialogue in Bodhgaya focuses on ecology and faith. *The Buddha and Jesus*, the first book published by the Jesuit Conference on Buddhist-Christian dialogue, is formally released

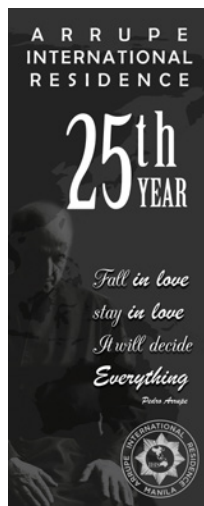


**FEB**

**MAR**

**6 FEB**

Arrupe International Residence in the Philippines concludes its Silver Jubilee Celebration with a pastoral day



**4 MAR-3 DEC**

The East Asian Pastoral Institute in the Philippines marks 50 years of providing programmes for renewal and aggiornamento in the spirit of Vatican II

## 6-10 JUN

The first JCAP Reconciling with Creation Reflection workshop is held in Bendum in the Philippines



## 24 JUL

A Magis Asia Pacific gathering is held during World Youth Day in Poland



JUN

JUL

## 14 JUN

*Ignacio de Loyola*, the first full-length film produced by Jesuit Communications Foundation in the Philippines, previews at the Vatican





**8-10 AUG**

The three-day meeting titled *A Call to Dialogue on the Sustainability of Life in the ASEAN Context* is the largest collaboration in the Jesuit Conference in recent years involving nine sectors – Dialogue with Buddhism, Dialogue with Islam, Indigenous Ministry, Social Apostolate, Migration, Reconciliation with Creation, Higher Education, Basic Education and Formation



**AUG**

**SEP**



**10-11 SEP**

The Loyola School of Theology and Loyola House of Studies close their Golden Jubilee celebration with a prayer concert led by Philippine Jesuit music ministry group Himig Heswita, a mass celebrated by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle and a dinner reception

## 2 OCT-12 NOV

General Congregation 36 in Rome



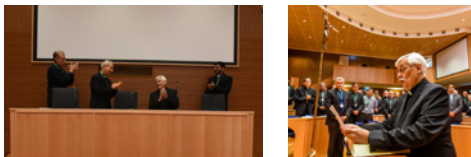
**3 OCT**

Fr Adolfo Nicolás resigns as Superior General



**14 OCT**

Fr Arturo Sosa Abascal is elected as the 31st Superior General



**OCT**

**3 DEC**

The Jesuits in Hong Kong celebrate the 90th anniversary of the arrival of the first Jesuits on the island



**NOV**

**DEC**

**24 OCT**

Pope Francis visits GC 36



**19-28 DEC**

The Scholastics and Brothers Circle workshop held in South Korea focuses on migration



**2016**  
at a glance





# Forming Ignatian leaders

for mission

**A**re leaders born or made? This question has long been debated by experts around the world. Some claim that some people are natural leaders while others insist that becoming a leader is a process. Whichever the case, it cannot be denied that there are no perfect leaders and that, whether you are a born leader or had to learn how to lead, there is always room to become better at leading. This is the premise that grounds the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific's Leadership Development Programme (LDP) launched in December 2015.

"More and more we need more capable leaders in the provinces and regions in Asia Pacific, Jesuit and lay, men and women, who can effectively respond to the different needs of Jesuit apostolic ministry,"

said JCAP President Fr Mark Raper SJ. "We need leaders who are grounded in Ignatian spirituality, but they also need to have management skills to be able to plan strategically the way forward for their ministry or apostolic work and to guide their team in communal discernment."

The programme focuses on three main areas for leadership development: mission development, operational competencies, and managing change and continuous learning. These are covered in four modules, each building on the previous module and conducted over the course of 18 months.

"At the centre of the programme is the focus on clarity of the mission, understanding the context of the specific ministry, spiritual growth and self-mastery," explained Dr Edna Franco, Executive



Director of Ateneo de Manila University's Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD), which runs the programme in consultation with Fr Norris Seenivasan SJ, JCAP Delegate for Formation.

Embedded in all the modules are opportunities for individual reflection on how the new competencies the participants acquire may be applied in the context of their mission and the mission of the Society. The modules also encourage deep interaction among the participants as they engage in small group discussions through "learning circles".

Most of the almost 40 participants are young Jesuit priests but there are also a few laywomen. They began their learning journey in the Philippines at the end of 2015. The first module's focus on context in leadership had the participants reflecting on their leadership in the context of their current ministry. In 2016, they went to Thailand for the second module during which they learned about management as a process, covering areas such as creating the core team, setting directions and enabling execution, relationship building and conflict management. Later that year, they gathered in Indonesia for the third module that was designed to increase their understanding of their leadership style, managing human resources and financial management. The last module will be held in South Korea in May. It will be an orientation to leading and managing change, and the creation of a culture of continuous learning and renewal.

It has been a true learning journey for the participants. For example, many of the Jesuits did not know that embedded in the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus is a human resource document. Ignatius was indeed a man far ahead of his time. His emphasis on *cura personalis* is reflected in contemporary HR management practices. Fr Michael Tong-uk Ku SJ from Korea remarked, "I used to think that *cura personalis* simply meant personal care and good relationships. Now I am aware that it is about how to develop the human being."

Jesuits and collaborators in leadership positions are called to do more than address the tangible aspects of leadership – the ability to work in teams, manage conflict and communicate. They are called to instil





the enduring principles of Ignatian Spirituality in their ministries, to lead people along the path of finding God in all things rather than being guided by short-term goals. As Fr Alvin Ng of the Malaysia-Singapore Region put it, “For the Christian, leadership is about defining and refining one’s call to be a good shepherd, fully aware of one’s imperfections but courageously striving and struggling in the footsteps of the Saviour in leading His flock onwards.”

However, they all acknowledged that communicating Ignatian Spirituality in their contexts is challenging.

As Fr Gregory Jacobs from Australia shared, “In thinking with the Church and working with the Church, the struggle is how to articulate our vision, mission and values to find out where we want to go.” Filipino Fr Joseph Emmanuel Liwanag asked, “What is our purpose in sharing Ignatian Spirituality? How do we navigate through these difficulties and differences in context when it comes to sharing Ignatian Spirituality?” Fr Sidelizio Pereira of Timor-Leste posed the questions: “Do we work as a Jesuit or a social worker? How are we to contribute as Jesuits in our local church?” Questions like these highlight the uniqueness of the Jesuit mission.

The inclusion of laypeople has enriched the programme for the Jesuit participants as they listen to their collaborators in mission.

One of these is Bernie Aton from Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan in the Philippines. She shared, “What struck my heart most is the quote from Pope Francis – ‘When the Lord gives a mission, He always has us enter into a process, a process of purification, a process of discernment, a process of obedience, a process of prayer.’”

## I used to think...

I used to think that my present ministry is full of challenges and impossible demands. Now I know that others have higher demands and that I must have the humility to handle mine.

- FR ALVIN NG, MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE

I used to think being a leader is not hard, but later I realised it is not easy and it centres on discernment.

- SAM SOKHA OF JESUIT SERVICE  
CAMBODIA

I used to think that being a leader just means having the skills, but it’s not only the skills but also your way of life.

- FR DOMINIC VU DUY CUONG, VIETNAM

I used to think only a few people have the same commitment as I, now I realise that there are many people who are ready to serve in the mission.

- FR JULIUS LAGAOR, INDONESIA





# A path to magis

## for young people

In 2014, the major superiors of the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific decided that the youth had to be a priority for the Jesuit Conference. They saw a clear need to accompany young people in the way of St Ignatius, which is marked by *cura personalis* (personal care), discernment and *magis* (more).

Based on the recommendations of a working group of major superiors, a JCAP Youth Ministry core team was formed. The three members – Fr John Nugroho SJ (Indonesia), Fr Choe Song-yong SJ (Korea) and Teresa Wang (Taiwan) – were tasked with setting up the ministry.

The team presented a five-year plan with the goal of helping young people to become integrated, stronger and confident in discerning God’s will in their lives, and to become future servant-leaders who will care for creation, serve with joy and work

collaboratively with others to effect change for the poor and marginalised.

“The JCAP Youth Ministry aims to holistically respond to their human, cultural, social and spiritual needs towards a joyful integration of their lives with God and with others,” said Fr Nugroho.

Their proposal was to establish a magis formation programme across the Jesuit Conference to introduce young people to Ignatian Spirituality and train them to set up magis formation programmes in their own countries.

The team went from plan to action quickly. In less than six months they pulled together a Magis Asia Pacific gathering. From December 26, 2015 to January 3, 2016, more than 70 young adults and Jesuit animators from Cambodia, Myanmar, Taiwan, Macau, China, Korea, Thailand and Timor-Leste gathered in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.





The programme was patterned on the magis formation programme the Jesuits in Indonesia have been running for youth since 2008.

The participants learned about Ignatian Spirituality and practised the Examen. They were taught how to recruit, manage and accompany their fellow youth in magis formation back home. They were sent on an Ignatian Experiment, choosing between a socio-cultural immersion and a pilgrimage. Those who went on the pilgrimage learnt what it means to rely fully on God's providence and came to realise that it is the journey and not the destination that is important. Those who chose the immersion were moved by the simplicity and hospitality of the local people.

Ji In Jung, a participant from Korea, shared, "I could find God through villagers and I can learn traditional things. It was my first experience of homestay, learning culture, learning language and meeting local people closely. Actually we were strangers but villagers welcomed us and enjoyed our visiting. It moved and touched me."

A second Magis Asia Pacific gathering was organised with JCAP participants in Magis-World Youth Day 2016 in Poland in July. Many of the more than 200 young people from countries within the Jesuit Conference participated in the one-day event held at the Ignatianum University in Krakow. The gathering sought to foster a sense of belonging to one Asia Pacific youth family and promote the JCAP Youth Ministry programmes especially to

those who had not been able to join the programme in Indonesia.

Fr Nugroho reports that the programme is already bearing fruit. The gatherings have helped to solidify magis formation in countries where a programme is already in place, such as Cambodia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea and Myanmar, and the Philippines, Singapore and Timor-Leste have been inspired to organise magis formation programmes based on their needs, situation and contexts.

The next Magis Asia Pacific gathering will coincide with the 7th Asian Youth Day to be held in Yogyakarta from July 30 to August 6, 2017. "This is a great opportunity to gather again as Magis Asia Pacific and for each country to share their magis development stories and learn from one another," said Fr Nugroho.

Between now and then, the core team has to address many challenges, such as limited human and financial resources. Catholics are a minority in most of Asia Pacific and often scattered far





from one another geographically even in the same country. There is also a limited number of Jesuits to accompany the youth. Another challenge, raised by Magis Cambodia, is how to develop a programme that will appeal equally to young people who are more action-oriented and those who seek to engage in deep reflection.

The biggest challenge, however, is one that has often been heard before: how to keep young people committed.

“Young people today are very busy with other stuff. They are not good with commitments,” said Teresa Wang. “Some young people are involved in many different Catholic youth communities, but they don’t seem to belong to any of them.”

Yet it is also in being caught up with the day-to-day minutiae that drives young people to search for greater meaning in life. As Fr Choe shared, Korean youth are preoccupied with many things but still thirst for something more. “They want to be refreshed,” he said. “I think the Magis meeting was a good time for prayer and sharing about spirituality,

and could help them feel recharged and refreshed in their everyday busy lives.”

Fr John Kim SJ of Magis Cambodia stressed the importance of ensuring that the programme content intersects with the experience of young people. “We feel and think that they have needs,” he said. “It is necessary that we meet them where they are.”

It is our hope that for many young people, the Magis Asia Pacific programme will be an opportunity for them to find and fulfil a yearning for the magis in their lives. The seeds we have sown have already begun to take root. As Jariya Suwanthong from Thailand said, “The Magis programme helps me to see the purpose of my life more clearly and helps me to find ways to achieve my life goal.”

And as Geny Anggara Pramana Jati from Indonesia shared, “The benefit of joining Magis is the confirmation that life is not only flowing. It has meaning and it has purpose. Life is a gift, but to be alive is a choice.”

In the footsteps of

# Matteo Ricci

Four centuries after Matteo Ricci arrived in China, Jesuits continue in the way he forged for engaging with the country. Where Ricci shared his expertise in mathematics, cosmology and astronomy, and brought to the Emperor's court Western clocks, musical, mathematical and astronomical instruments and cosmological, geographical and architectural works with maps and diagrams, today's Jesuits share their knowledge of philosophy, ethics and history in a university or research setting.

These days they have been considering what opportunities there are in the Intellectual Apostolate in Greater China in light of Fr General Adolfo Nicolás' letter of May 2014 to all Jesuits in which he invited the Society to a renewal of the Intellectual Apostolate, particularly in the field of research.

Currently the Chinese Province's Intellectual Apostolate covers Taiwan, Macau and China.

At Fu Jen Catholic University in New Taipei City, there is only one Jesuit among the full-time tenured professors and in a few years, he will retire. Other Jesuits teach part-time and engage in campus ministry at the university including in its new hospital. A mission office in the university coordinates apostolic initiatives for students. Service learning and various exposure programmes in Cambodia and elsewhere help students link their studies with social commitment. Professional ethics courses have also been incorporated across the disciplines. In addition, the university has a Bachelor's Programme in Catholic Studies and publishes the English-language *Lumen: A Journal of Catholic Studies*.

Adjacent to the university is the Fu Jen Faculty of Theology of St Robert Bellarmine, sponsored



台北利氏學社  
Taipei Ricci Institute



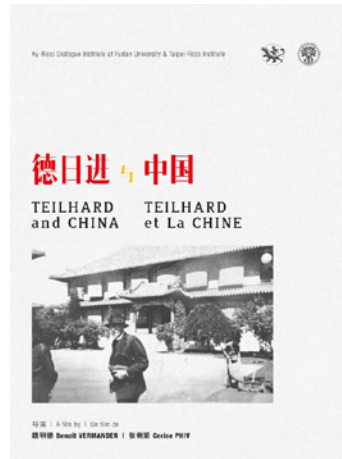
The Beijing Center  
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輔仁聖博敏神學院  
FU JEN FACULTY OF THEOLOGY OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINI







聖座教育部華語神學院

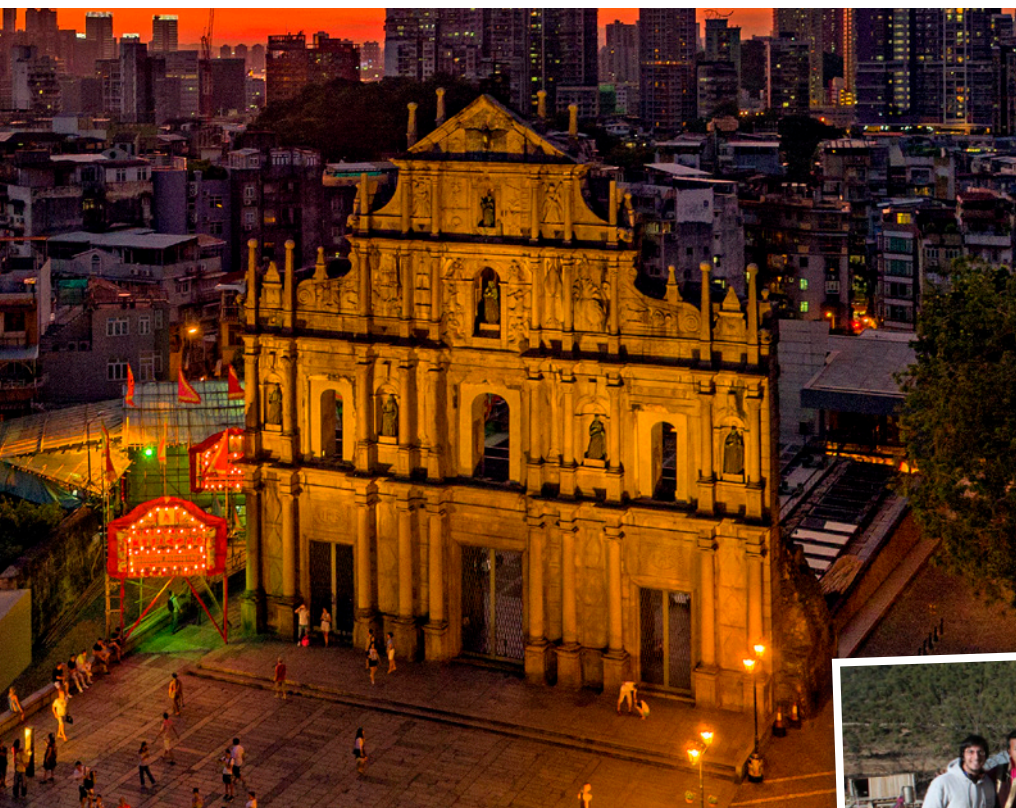


by the Society of Jesus. It is authorised by the Congregation for Catholic Education to confer baccalaureate, licentiate and doctoral degrees in theology and religious sciences. It is the only ecclesiastical faculty in the world offering such studies in Chinese. Thus the mission of theological research, education and formation for ministry reaches out to the entire Chinese-speaking Church. The students include seminarians, sisters, priests and laypeople from Taiwan, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and beyond. Fu Jen Catholic University and Fu Jen Faculty of Theology of St Robert Bellarmine have a cooperative agreement and some professors, both Jesuit and lay, offer courses at both institutions.

The Ricci institutes in Taipei and Macau maintain a balance between research of the history of missionaries in China and current issues of applied ethics. Last year a protocol was put in place between the Macau Ricci Institute and the University of Saint Joseph in Macau for common cooperation on conferences and the soon to be launched journal of the Macau Ricci Institute. The new journal will focus on comparative spirituality, moral leadership and social innovation.

A distance education centre of the University of Saint Joseph is about to be set up. It will be linked to the Center of Distance Education of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. The content of these courses has focused so far on Responsible Entrepreneurship. The “Massive Open Online Courses” are an efficient way to reach out to many people who otherwise will have no access to higher education.





The Ruins of St Paul and the tombs of the martyrs against the backdrop of modern-day Macau. Photo by Mr Chan Hin Lo (陳顯耀先生)



English teaching is always in high demand as is the teaching of other languages. Some companions have made inroads in China as professors in universities in Guangzhou, Chongqing, Beijing and Shanghai. Some are ordinary professors of Philosophy and Social Sciences and members of a university faculty; others are guest professors in areas such as Philosophy, Engineering Ethics, Business Ethics and Sinology. Within Fudan University's Faculty of Philosophy, there is the Xu-Ricci Center.

There is also The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies that continues to offer an excellent study abroad programme for students coming from outside China, mostly from the United States. The centre also has a research department and an excellent library of books in English on China.

Finally, there is a growing cooperation between Kuangchi Program Service, the Jesuit video production centre in Taiwan, and some researchers that has resulted in remarkable docudramas on Jesuits such as Giuseppe Castiglione and Johann Adam Schall von Bell.

So what is the way forward? How can we continue our efforts in this field in the face of present realities, as Fr Nicolás asked? Jesuits and lay collaborators in the Intellectual Apostolate in the Chinese Province gathered in Taiwan on February 7 to consider these questions. We conducted an analysis of the Strengths-Weakness-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) of the different types of Intellectual Apostolate and, in the light of Fr Nicolás' letter, explored opportunities for improving cooperation in the various areas of research and higher education. We came up with a list of recommendations which has been submitted to the Provincial for his consideration and approval.

**FR STEPHAN ROTHLIN SJ**

Province Coordinator of the Working Group on Higher Education and Research of the Chinese Province



# Daring to dream of a brighter future



Computer skills training programme for youth

On November 1, 2016, Kang Han began her secondary education in Xavier Jesuit School in Cambodia. The 12-year-old girl is a scholarship student and one of the 34 students in the new school's first Grade 7 class.

Xavier Jesuit School is located in Phnom Bak village outside Sisophon in the remote Banteay Meanchey Province. Han comes from an extremely poor family in a deprived village near the Thai border. The Jesuit Service Cambodia (JSC) Metta Karuna programme had helped her complete primary school in her village. Without a scholarship she would not have been able to continue her education to secondary level.

In the first month, her classes were held in a classroom in the Community Learning Centre building that is the first component of the Xavier

Jesuit School Project. This building is where educational programmes are held for the children and youth of the surrounding villages and schools particularly those who are in danger of dropping out of school or who have already dropped out. At the start of the second month, Han and her classmates moved to the newly constructed primary school classrooms towards the rear of the campus. These classrooms will be used to house the secondary school (and the primary school) for the next two years.

Han lives with the six other girls in the scholarship programme in a small rented house not far from the school with one of the teachers, Ms Or Savin, who is also now their guardian.

At the end of the second month, Han experienced her first crisis. Her mother had fallen sick at home and wanted Han to return to take care of the children

of her older brothers and sisters who are all away working in Thailand.

Many children in our kindergarten and primary school are taken care of by their grandparents or aunts and uncles. In Cambodia, globalisation has enabled freer travel and higher salaries abroad but it has had a tough impact on traditional family life. Han was only able to remain in the school because of a rapid intervention by Hom Vicheka, the JSC Coordinator of the Metta Karuna programmes, and Phon Sonai, Programme Manager of the Xavier Jesuit School Project, to provide extra support to her mother in this time of crisis.

Life is hard at the bottom of the social ladder in Cambodia. So Han and her fellow scholarship students can expect to face other crises as they pursue their secondary studies.

The commune and village chiefs have already expressed their appreciation of the Xavier Jesuit School education programmes by bringing their grandchildren to the kindergarten each morning. Lucia Wong, a lay missionary from Hong Kong, has spent the last three years training the primary and kindergarten teachers so that they can now teach effectively on their own. Their transformation from passive and retiring country girls to joyful and confident modern teachers witnesses to the power of Ignatian pedagogy humanly and culturally applied. Fr Quyen Vu SJ, Vice-Director of the education project, has pointed out that the pedagogy in Cambodia relies on rote learning which does not encourage critical thinking or imaginative thought or action.

Many JCAP experts from outside Cambodia have offered helpful advice to the School Leadership Team as the project evolves. The five key words guiding the architectural evolution of the project are Happy Learning Community, Khmer Village, Safe, Silence and Nature. The revised master plan incorporates these key words into the layout, allowing a silent natural space and sacred circle of trees as the heart of the project, and allowing each school building to open out onto views of the river and countryside.







1. It's written in the stars. The Korean Astronomy Association donated four telescopes to the school
2. Grade 2 class at Dey Lo
3. The Community Learning Centre
4. At home. The Grade 7 students enter their new classrooms



The Teacher Resource Centre will be the fourth component to be developed after the Community Learning Centre, Primary and Secondary Schools. The Primary School project includes our small school in a second campus in the adjacent poor village of Dey Lo where the children have already reached Grade 2 of primary school after two years of kindergarten. These children will cross over from Dey Lo to attend Grade 3 in the new primary school classrooms in the large campus in Phnom Bak next year.

The initial phases of the project, which include the Community Learning Centre, the Primary School and the multi-purpose hall, have been funded by generous donors in Korea, Japan, Singapore, Germany and many other places. The next phases will include the construction of the Middle and High Schools .

The school motto is “Dare to Dream of a Brighter Future”. Thirty years ago, an old Jesuit priest had advised Fr Ashley Evans SJ, Director of the project, to “dream the impossible dream”. A peaceful, just and democratic Cambodia is still a dream but it is a lot closer now than 30 years ago. Xavier Jesuit School is part of the dream!

**FR ASHLEY EVANS SJ**  
 Director, Xavier Jesuit School Project

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