

A young boy wearing a cap and a t-shirt is leading a brown horse carrying a large load of white sacks on a muddy path. The horse is walking through a shallow, muddy stream. The background shows lush green trees and a simple wooden structure with a thatched roof.

# Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific Reconciliation with Creation Strategy for 2015-2019

*Enhancing engagement among Jesuit people towards a renewed commitment to human and environmental integrity*

## SUMMARY: What is this document about?

This brochure is a presentation of the Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific on a strategy to deepen our Reconciliation with Creation, within the Conference. We continue in coordination with the Global Ignatian Advocacy Network and other conferences worldwide to heal a broken world. It identifies the primary work themes on ecology where enhancements can already be made and some other areas where capability needs to be developed.

## BACKGROUND: The Call

Reconciliation with Creation emerged within the Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific (JCAP) while developing programs emphasizing our dependence on the environment, vulnerability of the poor and need to care for all life. This was identified in 2008 during the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus and highlighted by the document from Fr. General of *Healing a Broken World* as a need for all Jesuit ministries to engage in. The Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN) focuses on five themes: (1) right to education, (2) peace and human rights, (3) migration, (4) governance of natural and mineral resources, and (5) ecology.

GIAN Ecology desk promotes environmental awareness, information, and engagement by highlighting water as a central and unifying concern that identifies people and what societies can do to recognize planetary boundaries.<sup>1</sup> JCAP in collaboration with the Jesuit European Social Center launched EcoJesuit<sup>2</sup> as an online platform for the communication of concerns about and responses to some of the major ecological challenges. It opens up avenues for Jesuit people in science and ecology, education, pastoral and other apostolic communities to share their outlooks and reflections to help deepen the process of reconciling with creation.

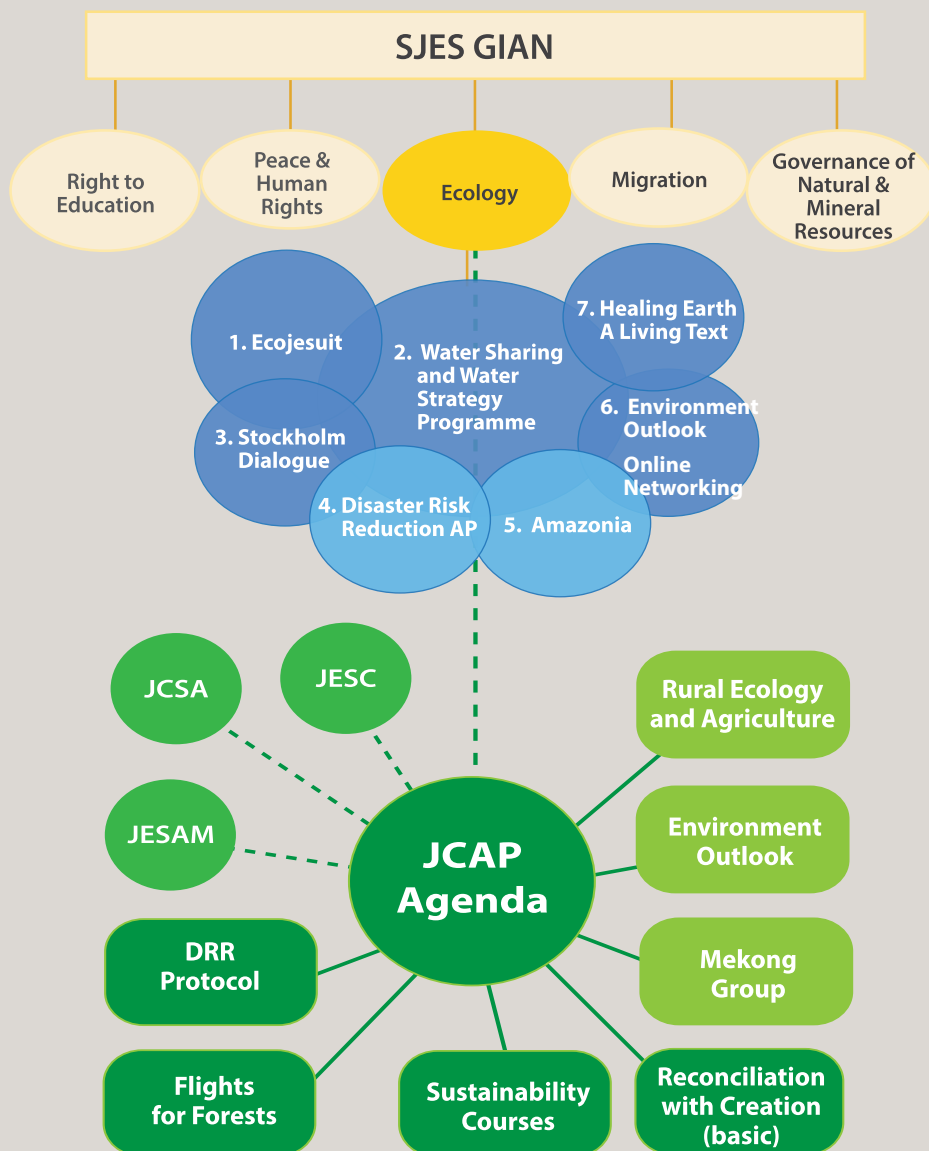
Pope Francis calls for each community to “meet the needs of the poorest” and strive for a future where “nobody is devoid of the necessary.” He emphasizes “human ecology and environmental ecology go hand in hand... [it is] for all of us to take seriously the commitment to respect and cherish creation, being attentive to every person, to counter the culture of waste and disposal, and to promote a culture of solidarity and of encounter.”

## RATIONALE: Toward a Coordinated Jesuit Response

Rapid economic growth in Asia is welcome but it overshadows the ongoing conflicts in the region that revolve around issues on climate change, sustainable energy, mining, food security, water security, Indigenous People’s rights, economic inclusion, and disaster resilience.

It is now all the more crucial to sustain local social economies in the process of healing a broken world. This demands deliberate attempts at simplifying lifestyles as well as deepening the peace we desire with land, water and neighbor. It also requires the capability to analyze changing contexts and to be responsive to these signs of the times. The work cannot be done in isolation in small pockets; “serving Christ’s mission today means paying special attention to its global context” (GC35, 1:20).

Reconciliation with Creation is the process through which the recommendations of *Healing a Broken World* are pursued. Not only will collaboration be potentially effective, it will be necessary in the work among Jesuit provinces and conferences to coordinate a Jesuit response. Included in the effort are action groups like the Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources, Jesuit Networking and Xavier Network, Global Catholic Climate Movement. We begin our “ecological conversion” by following the guidelines in the document entitled “Our Environmental Way of Proceeding: Moving Our Ecology Strategy and Action Plan” (JCAP 2011).



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ecojesuit.com/humanitys-challenge-to-work-within-the-safe-operating-space-of-planetary-and-landscape-boundaries/6768/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ecojesuit.com/>

## STRATEGY FOR 2015-2019

We begin, as contemplatives in action, by drawing on our strengths from a perspective of gratitude for the communities that sustain us, the structures that allow us to continually grow, and the grace to share this growth. We need to think ecologically from a humble faith perspective about the care for creation. This affects, as it should, our daily lives and prayer, it gives us context for reflection and discernment leading to engagement and collaboration.

The process calls Jesuits to consider the role of ecology and healing (1) community life, (2) formation and leadership, and (3) collaboration in mission. This involves a reinterpretation of Jesuit lifestyle and the philosophy of *buen vivir* (the good life). Housekeeping in Jesuit institutions, households, and communities, need to be reviewed in terms of the allocation of resources (that is to say, where does the budget go and why?) and whether these expenditures are in line with energy-efficient technologies, for example. Recognize that the transformation potential comes from the younger generation; either we solicit ideas and action from scholastics who are already driving a process. The

formation of scholastics is crucial in the movement towards Reconciliation with Creation. Jesuit institutional and household management that involves scholastics help develop the appropriate attitude for the mission, and then prepare them for studies and facilitate their engagement in community, which in turn allow them contribute more significantly to different ministries. Along with scholastic formation, we need to find new ways to reinvigorate the youth ministry in light of changing worldviews and values.

We have so far developed a Jesuit Disaster Response Coordination Protocol that helps guide Jesuit people identify the phases of a disaster and when and possibly how to engage in the specific social and environmental contexts they find themselves in. This is only a small part of the transformative learning that lies ahead. As a complementary effort, sustainability courses are being developed for campus management on one level and business management on another.

Such courses as these are essential now to the core of Jesuit formation. It allows us to struggle with others in the process of social change and increased accountability.

GOAL 1	STRATEGY
Initialize Reconciliation with Creation as an opportunity for Jesuit people in Asia Pacific to make a commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start with gratitude and collaboration with others</li> <li>RWC core team and Fr/Mr/Mrs Greens in each Province are established</li> <li>Develop system to monitor/report Flights for Forests rainforestation/ carbon offset and values.</li> <li>Develop a method to review house/community budget, lifestyle, waste and resource use audits</li> <li>Develop basic strategy for engaging with reconciliation with creation</li> </ul>
GOAL 2	STRATEGY
Develop opportunities for capability building of scholastics and lay engagement in a transformative program. Both academic courses and community engagement with presentations and group discussions and seminars not simply inputs and tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RWC-Practical Engagement programs offered               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability Coordinator training course</li> <li>Human Development &amp; Resource Management – a field course</li> <li>Leadership and sustainable management: an Ignatian field course</li> <li>Disaster Risk Reduction</li> <li>Doing contextual theology</li> </ol> </li> <li>Accompany other working groups in the conference: China (Casa Ricci), Timor Leste (Dare Center), Myanmar (MRI), Micronesia (Marshall Islands), Papua</li> </ul>
GOAL 3	STRATEGY
Sustain the coordination and communication with and through GIAN and the opportunities for partnerships within the conference and other peer groups and among other conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecojesuit, Environmental Outlook, Ecostream</li> <li>Stockholm Agenda, Values and Science</li> <li>Link agenda with South Asia and other Conferences on Water and Values</li> <li>Integrate ecology, values and ethics in basic education curriculum; Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>Develop resource materials development (environment outlook, fact sheets, brochures, videos, etc.), news, online networking</li> </ul>
GOAL 4	STRATEGY
Enhance the capacity of Jesuit people and structures to respond to disaster by using tools and resources from Reconciliation with Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build community development capacity on resource management and research in disaster-risk resilience</li> </ul>

## POSSIBLE ENGAGEMENTS on RECONCILIATION WITH CREATION

In redesigning the strategy of Reconciliation with Creation (RWC) we are broadening our networking and engagement with other institutions in the Conference. Many are striving to establish an ecological community where some programs – management and administration – are responding to the Jesuit ecology and mission.

Below are some suggested engagements, tick off and let us know where you think you would like to participate or can contribute or help facilitate/ implement in your work areas.

	ACTIVITY	TIMING
1	Facilitate a deepening discussion with colleagues and partners on Healing a Broken and our present ecological and lifestyle context	1-2 hours
2	Facilitate a reflection workshop with colleagues and partners on reconciling with creation	1-2 days
3	Organise an experiential engagement/workshop with scholastics on reconciling with creation with deepening analysis on changing contexts	5-7 days, including field travel
4	Invite RWC coordinator to give talk to your house/institute/community on reconciling with creation. If seen important, RWC coordinator can also include a further focus on topics of: signs of the times, planetary boundaries, disaster risk reduction and management/protocol	2 to 3 hours and possibly an afternoon for 3 topics
5	Facilitate an initial audit in one of your community/institution/house for electricity and water savings, while reviewing waste management and purchasing options. Needs identification of key people and development of capability	General intro 3 sessions
6	Invite RWC coordinator to participate in a site assessment on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) protocol and community participation	1 week
7	Invite colleagues or partners to introductory course on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM)	2 weeks
8	Invite colleagues or partners to join sustainability course on human development and natural resource management	3 days
9	Join or recommend people for trainings to give/run Reconciliation with Creation workshops	5 days
10	Contribute to Flights for Forests programme and organise schedule with Finance unit	Minister report every 6 months
11	Suggest a site or community who can benefit from Flights for Forests programme	Local capability and accompaniment
12	Assist in the development of resource materials/manuals for the suggested engagements	Workshop can be designed
	Others...	

## JESUIT NETWORK

Reconciliation with Creation is managed through JCAP's social apostolate core team.

Benny Jualiwan SJ,  
Julie Edwards  
Christina Kheng  
Fernando Azpiroz SJ  
Gabby Lamug-Nañawa SJ  
Pedro Walpole SJ

Here is a list of other potential resource persons. If your name is not on the list and you are interested in becoming part of the support group, please write us and let us know.

Jennie Hickey  
Sue Martin  
Tony Pabayo SJ  
Jaime Hofileña  
Rudy Ang  
Jojo Fung SJ  
Aria Prabantara SJ  
EJ Gerilla SJ  
Nay Myo Htet (Phocho) SJ  
Jun-G Bargayo SJ  
Vincent Lim SJ  
Dominique Tyl SJ  
Mitsunobu Ichiro SJ  
Kim Chong-dae SJ  
Mun-su Park SJ  
Greg Seotomo SJ  
Thomas Benz SJ  
Mark Lopez SJ  
Mike Lai  
Ando Isomu SJ  
Teresa Tao  
Albino Gonclaves SJ  
Julio Sousa SJ  
Tarsisius Sarkim  
Dexter Lo  
Tony Basilio SJ  
Bros Flores SJ  
Peter Pichet Saengthien SJ....

**Staff Support (Environmental Science for Social Change) who provide strategic and logistical support include the following people:**

*Iris Legal, Sylvia Miclat, Cherie Domer, Mariel de Jesus, Freida Tabuena, Maning Sambale, Cesar Aguinaldo, Rowena Soriaga, Cherrydyn Miguel*

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Mark Raper SJ

# 2014 ECOLOGY INITIATIVES IN ASIA PACIFIC

<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JCAP Education Colloquium led by Fr. Chris Gleeson was focused on Reconciliation with Creation.</li> <li>• JCAP Basic Education through Jennie Hickey supporting the development of Sustainability Coordinators Course.</li> <li>• Jesuit Social Services-Australia involvement with GIAN-Ecology and GIAN-GNMR</li> <li>• Jesuit Social Services-Australia facilitating BAMBOO network. A community open to all who seek to live a life of deep connection with others and all creation, grounded in the mystery that underpins our lives. Seeking to be 'contemplatives in action' we affirm life, love and justice through our commitment to the following foundational principles:</li> <li>• Flights for Forests – In 2011, the Province has expressed interest to support FFF (Riverview school and Jesuit Social Services-Australia)</li> </ul>
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	<p>Environment initiatives led by Fr. Gabby Lamug-Nañawa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesuit Service has published 10 story books for children</li> <li>• on environment: trees, garbage, plastic bag, clean water</li> <li>• Planting in Stung Sen Core Area and in Prey Lang</li> <li>• Jesuit Carbon Offsetting program</li> <li>• Mekong River learning tours: Don Sahong, Laos, Mekong Delta, Vietnam</li> </ul>
<b>CHINA</b>	<p>Casa Ricci Social Services incorporating Natural Resource Management in their training programs with youth and credit union cooperatives. Continue to partner with Jesuit institutes like ESSC in broadening their engagement on community development and resource management.</p>
<b>INDONESIA</b>	<p>Province giving priority to green practices and lifestyle check – in Jesuit communities, institutes and schools and deepening commitment to Reconciliation with Creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newmont Case: returning mining “shares”</li> <li>• Commitment to reorganising the governance structure of the Province where Commissions will be streamlined and grouped under just four commissions led by full-time delegates: Church and Society, Formation, Spirituality, and Finances</li> <li>• Providing scholarships and technical skills workshops (vocational course) for the disadvantaged youth</li> <li>• Providing emergency service during earthquakes, Mt. Merapi eruption etc.</li> <li>• Disaster services: building back houses and livelihood</li> <li>• Incorporating Ecology in scholastics Formation</li> <li>• Inviting RWC Coordinator in different occasions to share experiences and reflections on Healing a Broken World and Reconciliation with Creation, and how we may deepen the engagement.</li> <li>• HBW was translated to Bahasa for deepening engagement.</li> </ul>
<b>JAPAN</b>	<p>Church and Social Service Center-Japan collaborated in organising Social Seminar Program on Healing a Broken World with focus on Ecology: Renewable energy and Nuclear power plant problems. This event was open to all who are open and willing to have conversations on Reconciliation with Creation. Prior to this, the Province has translated HBW into their own language for deepening discussions with Jesuit community, institutes and partners.</p>

<b>KOREA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sogang University hosted International Jesuit Association of Business Schools conference on “Mobilizing Worldwide Jesuit Network: Collaboration for Sustainability”</li> <li>• Collaboration with Japan Province: on the issue of the Anti Nuclear Power Plant Movement and Peace issue etc.</li> <li>• Co-venor Gangjeong Peace Conference and Peace Festival (Jesuit Research Center for Advocacy and Solidarity and Jeju Diocese Special Committee for an Island of Peace)</li> </ul>
<b>MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE</b>	<p><i>Fr. Albert Tan SJ of St. Francis Xavier (SFX) Parish, Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia expressed interest to have an Environmental Reflection Workshop with Parish youth/ministry on: Integrating spirituality, ecology, sustainability, and ethics to Parish (Youth/Ministry) Formation.</i></p>
<b>MYANMAR</b>	<p>Development of Myanmar Rehabilitation Initiative (MRI) as part of disaster risk reduction and management response of the Province. MRI has been involved in rescues, relief and rehabilitation of the victims; provided education, health, livelihood programs and credit support to farmers.</p>
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<p>Province goals and priorities strongly aligned with JCAP agenda on Migration and Ecology with emphasis on collaboration with other apostolates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing issues on poverty</li> <li>• Mindanao agenda</li> <li>• Environment (DRR), Philippine Province DRR Protocol</li> </ul> <p>House management and lifestyle check – Green campus (schools/universities) management</p>
<b>THAILAND</b>	<p><i>Fr. Maharsono Probho SJ previously expressed interest on having an Environmental Reflection Workshop with youth on: Integrating spirituality, ecology, sustainability, and ethics to Youth Formation Catholic Student Center, Bangkok-Thailand</i></p>
<b>TIMOR LESTE</b>	<p>Beginning of Jesuit Social Service-Timor Leste focused on scoping resources and concerns – talking and listening to people about their needs and concerns and assessing their potential abilities/opportunities. Worked with RWC Coordinator and ESSC (Eric Bruno-intern) on assessing the land and communities’ needs, concerns and opportunities: shortage of clean water, lack of proper sanitation, unemployment, food security—malnutrition, domestic violence and deforestation. DARE focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agricultural development</li> <li>• credit cooperative</li> <li>• water and sanitation</li> <li>• unemployment</li> <li>• health service</li> </ul> <p>Sending scholastics for a Summer course/program on Natural Resource Management (Mindanao, Philippines)</p>
<b>VIETNAM</b>	<p>Lay collaborations in Jesuit social ministry are building / flowering in some local communities.</p> <p><i>Inviting RWC Coordinator to give reflection workshop on ecology with scholastics. Need to set possible dates with Fr. Rector Vincent Pham Van Mam.</i></p>