

### From Crisis to Hope: Insights from the Hayuma Gathering on Ecology, Economy, and Governance

Manila, Philippines | January 14-16, 2026



Hayuma: Mending the Broken – A Synodal Gathering for Ecology, Economy, and Governance brought together ecological defenders, Church leaders, labor groups, and civil society organizations in Manila to respond to the deeply interconnected crises facing the Philippines today. Rooted in the synodal vision of Pope Francis, the gathering emphasized listening, collective discernment, and shared action as pathways toward renewal and justice. Participants confronted “tolerated evils” such as environmental destruction, economic exclusion, and elite-driven governance—realities that have become normalized yet continue to burden workers, rural communities, and the poor.

Guided by the framework of integral ecology and the Church's identity as a Church of the Poor, discussions highlighted how unjust economic systems, weak governance, and ecological degradation reinforce one another. The Young Christian Workers (YCW) contributed perspectives grounded in the lived realities of young workers through the SEE–JUDGE–ACT method, strengthening the call for organized, collective action rather than charity alone. The gathering concluded with a shared commitment to defend life, pursue people-centered economic policies, and deepen participatory governance—affirming that faith, when lived authentically, must move communities to transform what has been broken into spaces of justice, hope, and solidarity.

### National Coordination Meeting of YCW Indonesia Towards the International Council 2026

Zoom-Indonesia | January 17, 2026



The National Team of YCW Indonesia was held Zoom Meeting on 17 January 2026 and attended by the national board, collaborators, and a representative from the IYCW ASPAC Coordinator. The meeting focused on preparations for the International Council, the selection of candidates for the international team, and the 2026 national work plan. It also addressed the condition of base groups, plans for visits, follow-up on the Social Solidarity Economy in Ciheulang, and the planned Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) action in Cibiru (Bandung). Key outcomes included both technical and political preparations, such as preparing delegates, arranging travel documents,

selecting candidates, and scheduling regular meetings to support the overall preparation for the International Council. The meeting also emphasized strengthening engagement with base groups through regular visits and accompaniment. In terms of the financial strategy to send delegates to the International Council 2026, several measures were agreed upon, including developing a detailed budget plan, conducting fundraising through proposals and donations, optimizing internal contributions, and organizing creative fundraising initiatives. In addition, a National Work Plan Meeting is scheduled for April 2026. As a closing note, the national team highlighted the importance of working seriously and consistently, considering the limited time remaining before the International Council in October 2026 in the Philippines.

# Preparing Together : Asia-Pacific Movements Unite for the Upcoming International Council

Zoom- Asia Pacific | January 19-23, 2026



Members of the Finance Commission of the International Young Christian Workers (IYCW), Brian (ASPAC) and Leizyl (International Secretariat), convened a simultaneous online meeting with national movements across the Asia-Pacific region to review preparations for the upcoming International Council in the Philippines. The meeting served as a platform to assess each movement's readiness, particularly in the financial aspect, and to strengthen coordination and shared responsibility in the lead-up to the global gathering.

The session also included a formation on finance, underscoring the importance of national financial contributions in sustaining local initiatives and international activities of the movement. Emphasis was placed on financial education, transparency, and responsible management as key elements in advancing the mission of the IYCW and empowering young people in the base groups. Participants reaffirmed that strong financial stewardship is essential to building a sustainable and action-oriented movement committed to transforming the realities of young workers.



## Shaping the Future Together : YCW Australia's National Strategic Planning Gathering

Sydney, Australia | January 31, 2026



The Young Christian Workers (YCW) gathered in Sydney for their National Strategic Planning, hosted by the National Executive and attended by young people from across Australia. Participants included representatives from the YCW National Office, emerging leaders, YCS, and the YCW Board, alongside former members who continue to support the movement. The gathering created a rich space for sharing lived experiences and insights shaped by diverse local communities.

Through open and honest dialogue, participants reflected on national feedback and worked collectively to set priorities for the year ahead, grounded in the real needs of young people. Beyond strategic discussions, the weekend also strengthened relationships through shared meals, friendly activities, and moments of joy. The gathering reaffirmed the central role of young people in leading and sustaining grassroots movements and honored the continued commitment of volunteers who serve YCW with faith, generosity, and dedication.

# YCW Philippines Strengthens Collaboration in Developing Its 2027–2031 Program

Quezon City, Philippines | February 1–2, 2026

The Young Christian Workers (YCW) Philippines participated in a two-day seminar on program development organized by We Solidarity Movement (WSM–Belgium), together with its partner organizations in the Philippines. The activity brought together national labor and workers' organizations, including the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW), Kilusang Mayo Uno–International (KMU-International), and the Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Manggagawang Impormal sa Pilipinas (PATAMABA), to collectively discuss their respective five-year programs for 2027–2031.



The seminar served as a venue for sharing organizational directions, priorities, and strategies, with a strong emphasis on building synergy and collaboration among the four national organizations. Through workshops and discussions, participants explored common challenges faced by workers across sectors and identified areas where joint campaigns, coordinated actions, and mutual support could strengthen the overall impact of their work in advancing workers' rights and social justice.

For the Philippine YCW, the upcoming five-year program will focus on three main campaign pillars: labor rights, social protection, and vocational education. , insecurity, and exclusion in the world of work. These priorities aim to respond to the concrete realities faced by young workers today, particularly young women workers, young fishermen, contractual and factory workers, unemployed youth, young mothers, and working students. Through this program direction, YCW Philippines reaffirmed its commitment to organizing and empowering young workers to collectively address exploitation

## Digital Marketing Training Boosts Local Entrepreneurship in Mercedes

Mercedes, Camarines Norte | February 6, 2026



A seminar on Social Media Marketing, focusing on creating and selling products through Shopee and Facebook, was successfully held at the Barangay 5 Municipal Hall in Mercedes, Camarines Norte. Organized by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Mercedes in partnership with DTI–Mercedes and Negosyo Center–Mercedes, the activity aimed to enhance the digital marketing skills of local groups and associations to support online entrepreneurship and livelihood development. Various organizations took part in the seminar, including five members of YCW–MYFA (Mercedes Young Fisherfolks Association) led by their president, Ronnie R. Cereno.

Participants were introduced to practical steps in setting up online stores and effective selling strategies. MYFA members expressed their appreciation for the training, noting that the learnings will help improve product management, expand market reach, and strengthen their association's livelihood initiatives.

# JOC Japan Osaka Strengthens Community and Solidarity through Regular Gatherings

Osaka, Japan | February 7, 2026



The Young Christian Workers (YCW) Japan – Osaka Region held a weeknight gathering in February, bringing members together for fellowship and collective reflection. Participants who arrived early prepared a shared meal, creating a warm space for community building. During the regular meeting, members exchanged views on the national conference and listened to updates from the exchange with JOC Philippines, strengthening international solidarity among young workers. Responding to the expressed needs of young workers, Osaka JOC, announced that starting next month gatherings will be held twice a month to provide more consistent space for sharing, reflection, and action. The upcoming meetings are scheduled for March 14 and March 28 at 7:00 PM. Looking ahead, the group also shared plans for spring activities, including a field trip to Nara on April 25, continuing the tradition of fellowship and formation through collective experiences.

## Freedom of Association and Labor Rights : A Collective Step Toward Social Justice

Manila, Philippines | February 17, 2026



A comprehensive orientation on Basic Labor Rights and the Principles of Freedom of Association was successfully conducted from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the office of the Federation of Free Workers along Taft Avenue in Malate, Manila. The activity gathered union officers and members from three industrial packaging factories organized by the Young Christian Workers Philippines, workers from Lazada, Legal Management interns, FFW staff, and members of the YCW National Team Secretariat. The diverse participation created a vibrant space for dialogue, shared learning, and strengthened solidarity among workers from various sectors.

Key discussions focused on Freedom of Association, basic labor rights, and the five core labor standards based on the principles of the International Labour Organization, as well as the current situation of labor rights in the Philippines. Paralegals, trainers, and organizers from FFW provided practical guidance on defending workers' rights and building strong, democratic, and independent unions. An open forum allowed participants to share workplace challenges and organizational concerns, making the exchange dynamic and grounded in real experiences. By the end of the session, workers expressed renewed confidence and commitment to collective action, affirming that continuous education, organizing, and unity remain essential in advancing dignity and social justice in the workplace.

# Strengthening Unity and Action: Young Workers' Formation in Valenzuela

Valenzuela, Philippines | February 22, 2026



Young workers from base groups in Malanday, Vista Verde, and the Contractual Group gathered at Villa Ana Takeda Resort in Valenzuela City for a whole-day formation activity aimed at strengthening unity, reflection, and commitment within the movement. The activity featured a Basic Orientation Course (BOC) facilitated by Jolbert Byron Rodenas, which deepened participants' understanding of the identity and mission of Young Christian Workers Philippines. A participatory "Tree of Life" workshop became one of the highlights of the gathering, enabling members to reflect on their dreams and workplace realities, identify concrete issues, and lay the groundwork for collective analysis and future action planning in their respective groups.

The event also served as an orientation for the upcoming International Council in October, with Valenzuela identified as one of the exchange areas. John Brian Geronimo shared key preparations, including fundraising efforts and cultural presentations for the public opening, encouraging active participation from all members. The program formally opened with inspiring remarks from Christine, President of YCW Philippines, who reported on the recent National Council, introduced the newly elected National Team, and highlighted ongoing organizing efforts in two industrial packaging companies in Caloocan. The activity concluded in a joyful and participative atmosphere, marked by renewed commitment, strengthened solidarity, and collective hope among the young workers of Valenzuela.

## The Spirit of EDSA Endures: Filipinos Continue the Struggle for Justice

40th EDSA Anniversary | February 25, 2026



The Philippines marked the 40th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution on February 25, 2026, commemorating the historic moment when millions of Filipinos united to overthrow the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. Four decades ago, church groups, workers, and civil society organizations stood together in a peaceful uprising that restored democracy. This year, various mass movements returned to EDSA to honor the legacy of People Power, including the Young Christian Workers (YCW) Philippines, who joined the mobilization to remember the sacrifices of the past and highlight the continuing relevance of collective action.

During the commemoration, YCW Philippines brought forward pressing issues affecting ordinary Filipinos today, particularly widespread corruption in government projects such as flood control initiatives. The group pointed out concerns over "ghost projects," mismanagement, and substandard infrastructure despite billions of pesos in allocated budgets, which continue to burden communities. While 40 years have passed since the historic uprising, participants stressed that the struggle for justice persists as long as corruption and inequality remain embedded in the system, with only a few benefiting. The event served as a reminder that the spirit of People Power lives on, urging Filipinos to continue the fight for accountability, genuine development, and social transformation.

# Asia-Pacific Catholic Movements Call for Collective Action on Justice and Sustainability

## Zoom Encounter | February 27, 2026

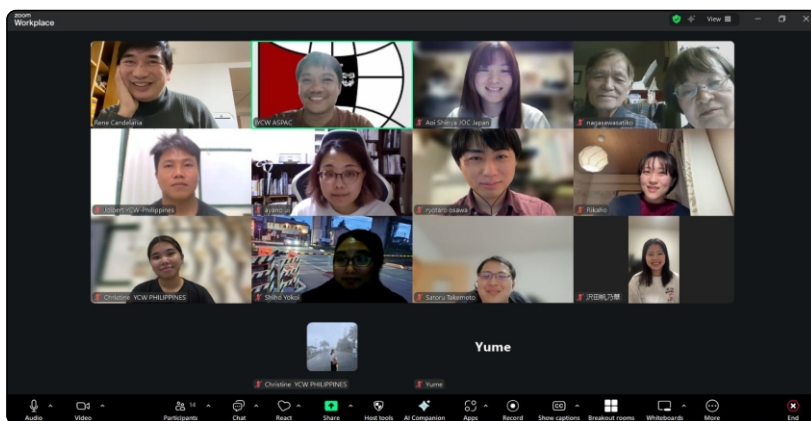


Catholic movements across the Asia-Pacific region—including the International Young Christian Workers (IYCW), International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS), International Young Catholic Students (IYCS), and Pax Romana—organized an online forum and dialogue on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Catholic Social Teaching in light of Dilexit Te. The gathering responded to growing social inequalities, environmental crises, and rapid technological change, calling Catholic movements and civil society to renew their commitment to justice, solidarity, and love for the poor. The keynote address by Jojo Fung, S.J., professor at the Loyola School of Theology, offered a profound reflection on Dilexit Te, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Leo XIV, highlighting its relevance to sustainable development and the Church's mission of promoting human dignity and integral development.

Centered on Christ's message, "I have loved you," the reflection emphasized that love must lead to concrete action—especially in confronting unjust structures that perpetuate poverty. The discussion echoed the teachings of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* and *Christus Vivit*, affirming that the cries of the poor and the earth are interconnected and that young people are key agents of transformation. Participants underscored the role of Catholic organizations and civil society in engaging global frameworks such as the SDGs, particularly the call for strong partnerships to achieve justice and sustainability. The forum concluded with a renewed call for collaboration among governments, faith communities, and grassroots movements in building a more just and compassionate world.

## Young Workers in Action : Strengthening International Solidarity Between JOC Japan and YCW Philippines

Zoom Encounter | March 1, 2026



Young workers from JOC Japan and YCW Philippines met online to prepare for an international exchange of realities and actions scheduled this May 2026 in Iloilo City. More than a logistical meeting, the gathering reaffirmed their shared commitment to the Young Christian Workers' See–Judge–Act method and to strengthening solidarity between young workers in Japan and the Philippines. JOC Japan presented key insights from their recent National Youth Meeting, highlighting issues such as precarious work, social isolation, and organizing challenges, while expressing strong anticipation to

witness firsthand the realities of Filipino young workers. In response, YCW Philippines outlined the objectives of the Iloilo exchange program, which will focus on immersion with base groups and direct engagement with grassroots organizing. Both movements emphasized that the exchange is not merely cultural, but a concrete act of international solidarity rooted in common struggles for dignity, just wages, and secure work. The program aims to deepen understanding of how globalization shapes workers' realities while inspiring collective action and leadership development. As preparations continue, both organizations look forward to a meaningful encounter that will strengthen collaboration and renew their shared mission of empowering young workers as protagonists of social change.

# Empowering Women: Collective Action for Equality and Protection

Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila | March 8, 2026



Various women's and labor groups gathered at Liwasang Bonifacio on March 8, 2026, to commemorate International Women's Day, highlighting the continuing struggle for women's rights and equality. Among those present were the Young Christian Workers (YCW) Philippines, alongside the Alliance of Health Workers and other women's organizations. The gathering emphasized the vital role of women in the family, workplaces, and society, while honoring their contributions and ongoing fight for dignity and recognition.

Participants raised concerns over the persistent challenges faced by many women today, particularly young women and women workers who continue to experience discrimination and harassment. YCW Philippines called for an end to gender discrimination and pushed for equal opportunities in education and employment. The event served not only as a commemoration but also as a collective call to action, urging society to uphold women's rights and ensure safe, fair, and inclusive environments for all.

## Voices of Women Rising: YCW KGF (India) Celebrates Womens Day and Orientation Program

Kolar Gold Fields, India | March 8, 2026



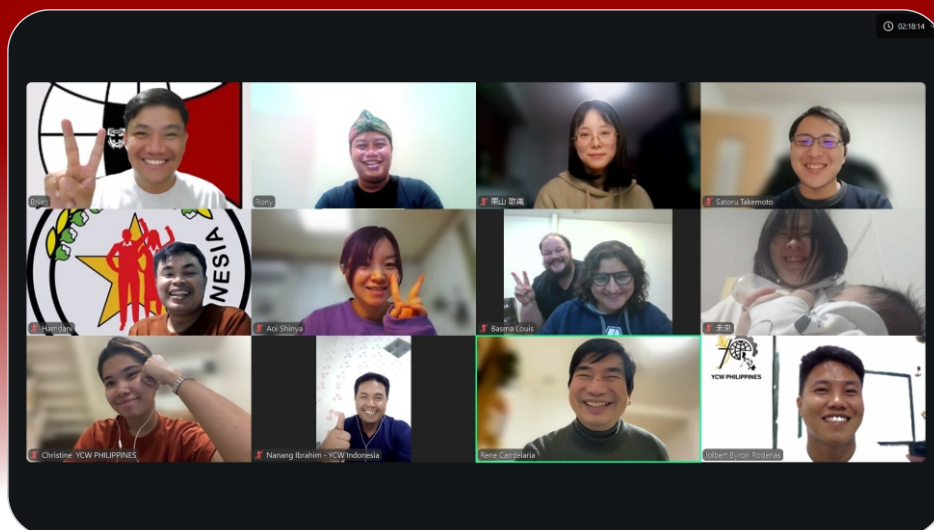
YCW KGF successfully organized a Women's Day celebration combined with a one-day orientation program for new members. The event marked an important opportunity to strengthen unity while introducing the organization's values and mission to participants. Through this initiative, new members gained a clearer understanding of YCW's role and commitment to empowering young people, especially women.

During the session, several key topics were discussed, focusing on the realities and challenges faced by women in today's world. The discussions not only broadened perspectives but also encouraged awareness and active participation among attendees. Special emphasis was placed on understanding and advocating for women's rights, as well as recognizing the real-life situations women encounter daily. The interactive atmosphere highlighted the strong enthusiasm of members in sharing their experiences and insights.

The success of the program was also supported by the contributions of key individuals. Prashanth Raj and Prem Kumar from the National Extension Team provided valuable guidance and support throughout the event. Additionally, the presence of Sr. Hema as the chief guest brought inspiration and deeper meaning to the program, making it both informative and motivating for all participants.

# Building Collective Strategies: Asia-Pacific Youth Leaders Prepare for the International Council

## Zoom Encounter | March 16, 2026



Leaders from national youth movements across the Asia-Pacific region convened in a virtual meeting on March 16, 2026, to begin preparations for the upcoming International Council to be held in the Philippines. The online encounter focused on making the realities of young people more visible, both within local communities and on the global stage. Participants emphasized the need to amplify youth voices through diverse platforms and creative initiatives, ensuring that their concerns and demands are not only heard but translated into concrete action.

The meeting was marked by a strong spirit of solidarity, as leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to empowering young people across the region. Recognizing that the challenges faced by youth are interconnected beyond national borders, participants agreed on the importance of developing collective strategies to address these issues effectively. As preparations continue, leaders committed to holding a second session next month, which will focus on identifying concrete actions that national movements in the Asia-Pacific can implement in the lead-up to the International Council.

## Rising Energy Prices Trigger Civil Action and Line Man Riders' Demands in Thailand

Thailand | March 23, 2026



On March 23, 2026, a coalition of 10 civil society organizations held a peaceful protest at the Government Complaint Center, Government House, at 11:00 AM local time, drawing attention to the rising cost of energy and its impact on the public. In their statement, they argued that high oil prices are driven by overlapping tax structures and urged the government to remove excise taxes and reduce refinery costs to lower fuel prices by up to 11 baht per liter. They also called for fixing LPG prices for households, reducing electricity costs, and controlling the prices of essential goods.

Amid this broader context of rising energy costs, on April 8, 2026, Note Phunsit Ngamrit, a member of YCW Thailand, together with the Workers' Union Thailand, submitted an official letter to the Line Man platform at the One Bangkok building, highlighting how increasing fuel prices have directly affected drivers and delivery riders. In the letter, the union outlined key demands to ease riders' operational burdens, including raising the base delivery fare from 28 baht to 35 baht nationwide and providing fuel support either through a subsidy of 2 baht per kilometer or free fuel coupons of 2 liters per day for those completing 30 orders daily. The union stressed that continued fuel price increases have significantly reduced riders' net income and called for immediate action from the company, which has yet to issue an official response.

# Youth Engagement Grows as Sri Lanka YCW Prepares for National Council

Sri Lanka | April, 2026



Young people from base groups in Sri Lanka have been meeting regularly through ROLWA sessions as part of their preparation for the upcoming National Council in April. These sessions provide an important space for discussion, sharing experiences, and organizing collective steps toward the major event. Beyond preparation, the meetings also help strengthen a sense of unity among participants.

During the sessions, the young participants demonstrate strong energy and motivation. They are eager to connect with others in their respective base groups, exchange ideas, and learn from one another's experiences. This dynamic not only enriches their understanding but also reinforces teamwork and solidarity among the youth.

Participants see the enthusiasm shown in these meetings as a positive sign for the future of their movement. With the National Council approaching, the ongoing ROLWA sessions are helping young people feel more prepared, confident, and united to take part in important decision-making processes that will shape their future activities.

## ABOUT IYCW-ASPAC INFO

**The IYCW-ASPAC INFO** is a quarterly publication that brings to life the vibrant spirit of the Young Christian Workers across Asia and the Pacific. It serves as a platform to highlight the stories, struggles, and victories of our national movements, united by a common mission to uphold the dignity and rights of young workers.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to all national movements for their continued collaboration and for actively sharing updates, activities, and actions that reflect the lived realities of young workers in their countries. Your contributions are the heartbeat of this publication, helping us build solidarity and deepen awareness across the region.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our institutional supporters and funding partners who walk with us in this journey of faith and action. Special thanks to **WSM-Belgium**, **DKA-Austria**, and **SAM-AISBL** for your steadfast commitment to the cause of justice for young workers.

If you wish to support the mission of IYCW-ASPAC and empower national movements in their ongoing work, you may send your contribution through the following account:

**Bank Name** : BDO UNIBANK (Peso Savings Account)  
**Account Name** : International Young Christian Workers Asia Pacific Inc.  
**Account Number** : 002630127717  
**Bank Address** : 263 Paco-A. Linao Street, Paco, Manila, Philippines  
**SWIFT Code** : BNORPHMMXXX

Together, let us continue to be the voice and hope of young workers.  
Your support makes a difference!