**YATRA: Young Adults Training for Religious Amity**

**A Move-Ment Towards a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace**

YATRA is a highly successful interreligious training programme launched by the World Council of Churches (WCC) in 2014 following the 10th General Assembly of the WCC held in Busan, Republic of Korea. The choice of name for this programme – YATRA – (which is a common term for pilgrimage in many contexts and languages) is intended to reflect the idea of a pilgrimage of justice and peace. This intensive training programme seeks to equip young Christians between the ages of 20 and 35 to be actively engaged in interfaith ministries of justice and peace in their own contexts. From its former abbreviation “Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity”, YATRA is expanding its program to the global ecumenical movement, and will become “Young Adults Training for Religious Amity” from 2020, allowing young people from other regions, not limited to Asia, to participate.

**Objectives:** YATRA brings together young Christians between 20-35 years from churches, ecumenical organizations and national councils as co-pilgrims, equipping them to:

* **A**nalyse the complex intersections between religion and politics in contemporary contexts.
* **B**uild up a peer-network of young enablers - who can sustain and strengthen each other (through mutual encouragement, challenge and the sharing of resources) in interfaith engagement for justice and peace.
* **C**onceive and create practical models of inter-religious collaboration by offering participants opportunities for orientation and exposure to inter-religious projects.
* **D**iscover new possibilities for living and witnessing in a multi-religious world by learning from the rich theological and spiritual resources offered by different religious traditions.
* **E**ngage with important theological questions that often serve as a stumbling block for interreligious dialogue.
* **F**ollow-up this learning experience with practical application that aims at promoting harmony and mutual flourishing in their home contexts and with their sending church.
* **G**lobally and ecumenically participate in fostering interreligious engagement.

**YATRA 2020**

**Partners:**

YATRA 2020 will be a joint collaboration between the World Council of Churches, Pacific Council of Churches (PCC), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) the Council for World Mission (CWM), and the World Methodist Council (WMC).

It will be a cross programmatic venture of the WCC’s programme on Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, and the programme on Youth Engagement in the Ecumenical Movement.

**The Venue:**

The residential period ofYATRA 2020 will take place in Fiji.

**Dates:**

Deadline for applications: 15 February 2020

Announcement of outcome of selection: by 1 March 2020

Online learning from 20 April to 12 May 2020

Residential phase from 15-27 May 2020 (arrivals all day 15 May, departures all day 27 May)

**The Theme:**

YATRA 2020 will explore the theme “Young People in the Frontline of Transformation”. It will offer an opportunity to rethink in a creative and critical manner what it means to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God” and alongside our neighbours of other faiths.

**The Structure of the Programme:**

The YATRA programme will include four weeks of intensive online learning followed by two weeks of residential learning for those who have successfully completed their online training. The residential training will include workshops, bible studies, academic lectures, study of recent ecumenical and interreligious documents, contextual analysis, exposure visits and the cross-cultural experience of living together and learning from each other.

**Eligibility:**

YATRA 2020 is open to young Christians between 20 and 35 years. Applicants should have completed at least a Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent, and must be positioned to influence their churches and ecumenical organisations to be actively engaged in interreligious work. Applicants are requested to have a recommendation and endorsement from their church or organization. Balanced representation in terms of region, denomination and gender will be ensured in the selection process.

The application consists of the following parts:

* Top page for application, to be filled and signed by applicant
* Personal Application (Part 1)
* Essay (Part 2)
* Church Endorsement and Financial Pledge (Part 3, to be completed by church)
* Tuition fees and Scholarship request (Part 4, to be completed by applicant)

***Only complete applications that have reached us by the deadline of 15 February 2020, will be considered. We cannot follow up on incomplete applications. All applicants will be informed by 1 March on the outcome of the selection process.***

**Email applications to** **youth@wcc-coe.org** **with “YATRA” and your family name in the subject line of email.**

**Link to Application form**