



Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2021
‘God’s Assurance of Healing and Restoration’

The Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI) is a month-long ecumenical formation training programme organised by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) to train young prospective Asian church and ecumenical leaders.

The theme of the AEI-2021 will be within the framework of the concepts and principles of wider ecumenism with a specific thematic focus on ‘God’s Assurance of Healing and Restoration’.

The month-long online training’s main focus will be the formation and development of the talents of future Asian ecumenists and church leaders, and strengthen their biblical and theological foundations on specific themes as well as their ecumenical formation through the month long training. The training will offer opportunity for the participants to imbue them with the spirit of ecumenism, and sharpen their insights and perspectives on stewardship for God’s creation.

The contents of the training course are designed to build the capacities of the participants by enabling them to learn about wider ecumenism so that they will be able to effectively and contextually respond to the current emerging concerns in Asia. The experiences gained from various stages of the academic sessions during four weeks of AEI-2021 will equip the participants with greater clarity and commitment to ecumenism, as well as widen the horizons of their vision for the oikoumene.

AEI-2021 will have two components: the first will focus on ecumenical leadership formation of prospective ecumenists and Asian ecumenical leaders while deepening the participants’ knowledge of ecumenism and the ecumenical movement grounded in biblical and theological bases, in the contexts of emerging Asian socio-economic and geopolitical realities. The second component will focus on the attainment of deep insights on the specific thematic thrust, ‘God’s Assurance of Healing and Restoration’.

A team of prominent and internationally recognised ecumenical theological educators as well as professional leadership development trainers will comprise the faculty members of the AEI-2021. Considering the recent situation when international travel is restricted, the AEI-2021 will be conducted through a virtual platform.

The Theme

‘God’s Assurance of Healing and Restoration’.

God is the God who initiates, accompanies and sustains healing and restoration. Looking back at the story of Creation in the Old Testament when mankind committed a sin, God came seeking for them (Gen.3:9). God’s act is showing that He is offering and enabling healing and restoration of the broken relationship between mankind and Himself. Jesus’ story in the New Testament also echoes the same indication that He initiated healing – when Jesus met a man with multitude of disabilities (blind, lame, and paralyzed, John 5: 4-9) and a man blind from birth (John 9: 1-7).

God is also known as *Jehovah Rapha* – the Lord who heals (Exo.15:26). This declaration was first found when the Israelites could not drink water thus they named it '*Marah*' – meaning, 'bitter'. Just then Moses threw a wood into the water following God's instruction and God 'healed' the water so the Israelites were able to drink from it. God 'healed' the bitter water; He purified the contaminated and impure conditions. *Jehovah Rapha* has the power to heal physically (2 Kings 5:10, Isa.38:15-16; Ps. 41:3; Ps. 107:19-20; Matt. 14:14), emotionally (Ps.34:18), mentally (Dan.4:34), and spiritually (Ps.103:2-3, Jer.3:22; 1 Peter 2:24; Isa.53:5). Healing also comes through the Holy Spirit working through believers' spiritual gifts (Acts 3:1-13a).

Restoration is an ongoing process that occurs throughout our lifetime and this is God's promise to the whole of humanity. Restoration is closely related to healing – some forms of change, loss, deprivation, and even injustice had incurred which have to be healed – and justice. Restoration is about redeploying wounded society into constructive service.

For the last one and half year the world has been battling against COVID-19 and its multiplex impacts along with the existence of the long-standing issues. Human life is changed, thus new challenges emerge in every aspect of life. In this challenging time also in facing uncertain future, God is again giving us His assurance of healing and restoration – to purify the spoiled drives and impulses, to heal the broken horizontal relationships, and to restore the dignity of the creation.

Objectives

The objectives of AEI-2021 are:

- to enable a select group of young prospective ecumenical leaders in Asia to learn about ecumenism and develop a wider ecumenical vision in the emerging contexts; and,
- to equip potential church leaders to perceive the emerging realities and issues in Asia with biblical theological undergirding, and to effectively and contextually respond to the emerging concerns in Asia with a wider ecumenical perspective.

Who can apply?

- Young people between the age of 25-35 years; pastors, graduates, or postgraduates in theology, social sciences, church workers, or lay members from CCA member churches, councils, and related organisations with basic theological backgrounds, who are recommended by the leadership of the sponsoring body;
- Those who are fully committed to attending the AEI-2021 on a full-time basis (please refer to the AEI-2021 Schedule in the section below); and,
- Those who are interested in leadership development and ecumenical formation, especially in widening their ecumenical perspectives.

AEI-2021 Schedule

The AEI-2021 will be held from 18 October to 19 November 2021. Lecture sessions will be conducted normally every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, while group activities (discussions, presentations) will be conducted every Tuesday and Thursday through Zoom platform. Therefore, selected participants are expected to make the necessary arrangements to access and secure their own stable internet connection and devices (laptop/desktop computer/tablet/smartphone, etc.) throughout the deliberations of the AEI-2021.

Application and Selection process

Those who are interested to apply must send the following documents together:

1. The duly filled application form for AEI-2021 (which can be downloaded from the CCA website – www.cca.org.hk, or, through Google form <https://bit.ly/AEI2021-application>).
2. A Curriculum Vitae with details on academic qualifications, personal details, and work experiences, if any.
3. Letter of recommendation/ endorsement from the applicant's member church/ council/ ecumenical organisation/ institution.
4. A 2"x2" photograph (scanned digital copy)

The completed AEI-2021 applications must be sent along with scanned copies of all supporting documents to cca.aei@cca.org.hk. In case email correspondence is not possible, applicants are advised to fax the application form and other documents to +66-53-247-303.

The deadline for receiving the complete application form with all supporting documents is **15 September 2021**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Selections will be based on competence, gender, and confessional balances, sub-regional representations, and the applicant's ability to effectively communicate in English.