

## OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

### Jules Adanchede HOUNKPONOU General Secretary 2008-2012

Together, let's thank our Lord!

For 4 years I served to meet your needs as leaders and the needs of your National Movements. Not everything was rosy but let me emphasize what touched me the most.

Every time when I felt exhausted, it's you that I drew my motivation from and the encouragement to continue the mission.

When I run out of ideas, your initiatives inspired me and gave me hope that young people are able to change what prevents them from living with dignity.

With you, especially with those I had the chance to personally meet, I learnt to listen and to transmit a message of hope because your stories and life experiences deeply touched me as they are rich and full of life

With you I discovered the richness of cultural diversity and the belief that our commitment to the Christian faith leads us to think and act together without borders for equal justice in the world.

This wonderful international experience allowed me also to discover my vocation as

citizen and the belief that the future belongs to the young people. I invite you to give thanks to the Lord with me, for allowing me to live this experience with you.

Regarding the new team, I wish them a very successful mandate and I invite you to support them through a good collaboration to bring the project of the YCW to more young people in the world! It is with joy that I return to my country to continue with the mission of following Christ! Thank you for everything!



### Seraphina Hyo Jung PARK International President 2008-2012

Since my work at the International Secretariat ended, I am going back to Korea to continue my life there.

My new life will always be at the service of the poor and I will continue loving young people and serving the mission of the YCW to educate, serve and represent young workers, as an adult companion of course.

Thank you very much for all the support, encouragement, prayers and help you gave me and the ICYCW

International Secretariat.

It has been really great working with you and sharing the friendship and the vision of YCW.

I would like to ask you to constantly support the new International Secretariat, especially the new President Miss Amélie PEYRARD who is going to coordinate the work of the Secretariat and represent

the young workers around the world.

I wish you all the best and good health.



## VISION OF JOSEPH CARDIJN

The Y.C.W. is precisely this: a movement of young workers who, in and by and with young workers, in and by all the acts of their daily lives, form each other, support each other, help each other, love each other, and together prepare themselves for their future.

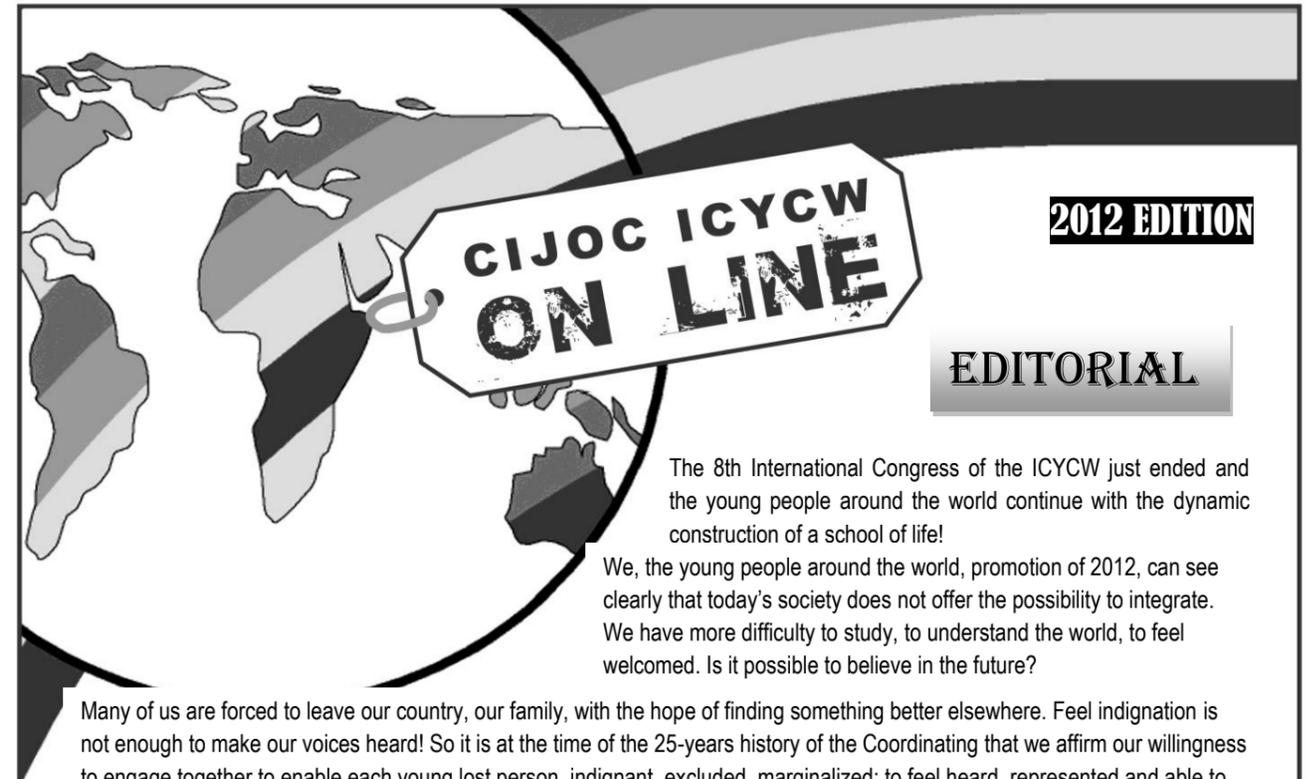


### International Coordination of the Young Christian Workers (ICYCW)

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The ICYCW is a non-profit International Youth Organisation for the evangelisation and education of young people of the world of work recognised by the Holy See through the Pontifical Council for the Laity as a private international association of the faithful. It is as an organisation of the Church focused specifically on young people entering or experiencing the world of work/unemployment who are often oppressed, voiceless and at risk.



The 8th International Congress of the ICYCW just ended and the young people around the world continue with the dynamic construction of a school of life!

We, the young people around the world, promotion of 2012, can see clearly that today's society does not offer the possibility to integrate. We have more difficulty to study, to understand the world, to feel welcomed. Is it possible to believe in the future?

Many of us are forced to leave our country, our family, with the hope of finding something better elsewhere. Feel indignation is not enough to make our voices heard! So it is at the time of the 25-years history of the Coordinating that we affirm our willingness to engage together to enable each young lost person, indignant, excluded, marginalized; to feel heard, represented and able to stand facing a world we want better!

Across continents the leaders live the ICYCW, the movement is in their hands! Whether in Latin America, in Asia, the Middle East, Africa or Europe, the leaders are actors of an International Solidarity through their exchanges, sharing and willingness to learn with others! Each day, the YCW is challenged to "serve, represent and educate" the young people in the search of dignity!

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2012

"Representing, Educating and Serving the young people!" Three key words to give rhythm to an International Congress.

Our leadership program included various moments in our training methodology (To See, to Judge, to Act).

As a starting point, we have seen the reality of young people around the world, identifying and sharing the profiles of young workers provided by our participants. The conclusion is that, across all continents, young people are victims of unemployment, immigration, poor living conditions, housing, unemployment and higher education costs. All these difficulties affect their dignity and hope in the future.

Following this, three presentations by experts allowed us to analyze the values that enable young people to live in dignity.

The delegates emphasized the chance to have an outside view of the YCW, with experts and other NGOs who are also fighting to defend the dignity of youth and workers.

To close a good training, our participants have engaged themselves to raise actions in each country and in each difficulty faced. The YCW is a school for life to become a Christian leader and engaged in society. Through the three workshops, YCW have designed and built concrete actions to improve the lives of young workers.

Each step of the training was marked by the vision of our founder, Joseph CARDIJN. By the vision he had regarding the young workers and his will to make them live the movement in all its dimensions, has allowed us to keep faithful to the mission of the YCW today.

At the same time, the chaplains and adult companions were present in the Congress to support the young leaders in this experience and they also received specific training. This helped to build links between the adults and create a strategic plan for the development of chaplaincy in the world.

This experience was also enriched by the moments of exchange with young volunteers from the "Impact groups" of the YCW England and Wales. They welcomed the participants and guests with great joy and careful attention and moments of sharing life stories.

Through its intensive activities, the 8th International Congress finally put ahead the leaders of the "Class 2012", young Christian workers who demand the world to be a better place to value their dreams and take action towards the building of God's Kingdom on earth.



Some of the participants at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress

**COORDINATION OF WORK IN THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

Following the election of the two new members into the International Secretariat of the ICYCW, changes were made in the responsibilities of coordination work.

This was done to ensure continuity of the good work that had been done by the outgoing team in the development and extension of the movement. The responsibilities were shared out as follows;

IS Member	Coordination
Amelie Peyrard <i>International President</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate movements in Central Africa, Europe, and Indian Ocean Islands</li> <li>• Coordinate Representation work</li> </ul>
Monicah Wanjiru <i>General Secretary</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate movements in East Africa, Middle East, and Asia</li> <li>• Coordinate publications</li> </ul>
Anamaria Puscasu <i>International Treasurer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate movements in West Africa and Latin America-Caribbean</li> <li>• Coordinate Finance</li> </ul>
Fr. Sebastien Alibi <i>International Chaplain</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate chaplaincy in all regions</li> <li>• Accompany the members of the International Secretariat</li> </ul>

**ICYCW FUTURE PLAN 2012-2016**

One of the outcomes of the 2012 International Congress held in Alton, United Kingdom, was the development of a future plan by the YCW National Movements.

The plan focused on strengthening international solidarity and communication between National Movements; improve representation of the movement at local, continental, and international levels.

Additionally, the plan promotes the active participation of the young people in the movements which in turn would enhance the development and extension of YCW.

The YCW National Movements will continue to play a key role in the implementation and realization of the functioning of the regional structures.

**WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT WITH VATICAN**

As part of the representation work with the church, the International Secretariat of the ICYCW held meetings with;

- Vatican's Secretariat of State,
- Pontifical Council for the Laity,
- Pontifical Council for the Laity – Youth Section,
- Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace,
- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, and the
- Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization.



Meeting with Mgr Delgado, the Under Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity

The main areas of address were to introduce the new IS team, report on the outcome of the 2012 International Congress held in Alton United Kingdom, report on the different activities undertaken by the National Movements and share the program of activities.

The ICYCW was privileged to have good working relations with the above mentioned and the meetings aided in identifying new areas of collaborations, in addition to the existing ones. The realities facing young people and the commitment of YCW movements towards improving international solidarity, communication, representation at all levels, chaplaincy, and formation were shared.

We received a lot of support and encouragement from these meetings and the discussions widened ICYCW's scope of networks with organizations whose collaboration with the ICYCW, would promote the development and extension of the YCW.

"I discovered that I am not alone, I belong to an international coordination and we had a continental view of the training materials available for our movements, including exchange of experience regarding fundraising. Awareness of the importance of finances. Rich formations to give back to the chaplains." **Yann Defond (chaplain Cambodia)**

"I was so disappointed about how the UK Embassy in Nairobi treated our applications."

**Faith Kulabako (YCW Uganda)**

"I discovered that..despite the different social and cultural contexts, the youth problems related to school and work, are the same in each country. Secondly, it was important to know the different projects that are being carried out in the other YCW movements around the world. This experience allowed me to be even more aware of the importance of being part of a co-ordination, the importance of facing, forming and praying together for our young workers and students, the importance of sustaining different projects that we carry out in each country"

**Fabiana D. (YCW Italy)**

"I would work back in my country to:

- Organize an annual festival for the young workers
- Organize an annual 2-day seminar in the province for all YCWs
- Launch an annual action campaign regarding a theme that concerns young Cambodians like me."

**Sokha (YCW Cambodia)**

"Though the delegate of YCW Benin had provided all the documents demanded by the Embassy in Ikédja, Nigeria, his VISA was rejected despite all difficulties he met in his travels to Nigeria." **Hounhou François (YCW Benin)**

"There are several inspirational ideas I got from the meeting, the first and most importantly of all was the sharing of young peoples experiences and challenges in our countries, that in a nutshell I found that we all face the same scenarios though in different circumstances. This experience and its diversity clearly explored my mind on how we are connected and the reason for the ICYCW existence. I now know through the ICYCW the young christian worker being the member, he/she is not isolated BUT connected in the village of hope and faith." **Robert Rweyemamu (YCW Tanzania)**

"My impression of the International Congress was very positive and enriching. I had a great time, met many people and learned a lot. I found that although there are different YCW in the world, there is something that unites us all. Every YCW has its own way of building the Kingdom of God, we share the same mission and spirituality and I feel great. Through the exchanges I learned others YCW are different from my country and gave me new ideas when starting the YCW project in Spain. I learned a lot in the International Congress and realized that more than ever; the YCW is a school for life." **Laura Alcaide (YCW Spain)**

"Through this event I discovered the human value of people around the world and realized how it is to feel, share and live the experiences of others, through knowing their stories. I want to be a leader committed to action and towards other people's values." **Viviana Lopez (Ecuador)**

The YCW TOGO severely regret what has happened regarding the International Congress, since the national team had been renewed and it was an opportunity for the new leaders to be trained and in turn share the experience with others in the National movement. The YCW Togo made several trips in this whole process; To Benin at the Apostolic Nuncio to have its recommendation, after this to a town, Atakpamé 176km from the city of Lomé, to the Bishop NICODEME Barrigah for the same cause and finally in Accra (Ghana) for the submission of applications to the embassy. All this without positive result and YCW Togo could not be represented. **Sylvestre Laba (JOC Toao)**

"Because the VISAs arrived very late, Sokha missed the most important week, the first week of training, and lost the chance to receive an excellent training." **Yann Defond(chaplain Cambodia)**