



## CIJOC ICYCW ON LINE

## N.2 2011

### “DIGNITY, ADD YOUR NAME !”

A European YCW leaders' meeting (REM) took place from 22 to 24 July in Rimini, Italy. This meeting was in line with the European Campaign 'DIGNITY', which the YCW movements in Europe put into action on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010. The REM was an important event for the YCW. It provided a space where YCW leaders could express the **European and International dimension** of our Movement.

At a time of economic difficulty in Europe, and also in the YCW, the ability to organise an event such as the REM was a sign of real communion. The preparation and organisation were not without difficulties, but thanks the contributions and help of the young leaders, we managed to take it forward and enjoy it.

**Young people between 16 and 30 years of age, from 7 different countries,** took part in the REM. The principal theme of this meeting was DIGNITY, linked to the reflection which we had carried out since the start of the European Campaign on DIGNITY. There were 4 different workshops.



- **Dignity & Work**, organised by the YCW of Italy
- **Dignity & Consumerism and Debts**, led by the YCW of Spain and the YCW of Portugal
- **Dignity & Responsibility**, prepared by the YCW of Malta
- **Dignity & Making Choices**, organised by the YCW of France

The REM ended with a major rally through the streets of Rimini and a celebration of thanksgiving. We established 15

action plans or requests in areas such as work, education, public health, freedom and housing, and the economy and consumerism. The REM was emotional and fun, an occasion of meeting and exchange of life experiences. It was also a time to reflect together on the reality of young people in Europe and for the YCW leaders in Europe to get to know one another and to live alongside one another during a period of formation, celebration, and demands. The Campaign DIGNITY will come to an end in winter 2012. The REM was to help us prepare the ACT stage of the Campaign. We were free to look at our reality from the place of the poor with INDIGNATION and with a fighting yet hopeful attitude. Our belief is that it is fundamental to move to ACTION and COMMITMENT. Born out of indignation our response is: to demand new horizons for our young people, to eradicate disdain towards the weakest and to overcome the culture of everyone for himself.

Finally, we want to offer solutions which will lead us towards a scenario of DIGNITY for ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, for 'A young worker is worth more than all the gold in the world, because they are sons and daughters of God.'

By Saúl Pérez Martínez,  
President of the YCW Spain



# MISSION of the ICYCW

Work done with the International Secretariat  
(May–December 2011)

- India (CYCW), training for leaders on “3 Truths and See-Judge-Act”
- Philippines (PCYCW), training for chaplains on the “Role of chaplain”
- Korea, training for leaders on “Actions and Action Campaign of the YCW”
- Benin, training for leaders on “Young and spirituality”
- Ivory Coast, training for leaders on the “Review of Life”
- Dubai, training for leaders and chaplains on “Role of chaplain”



*Leaders and chaplains of YCW Dubai at training session*

- Seminar in West Africa on “How to provide accompaniment at the service of reconciliation, justice and peace for the Development of Young Workers in the YCW?” hosted by the YCW Togo

## Representation

- Participation in the International Labour Conference of the ILO focusing on the theme of “Decent work for Domestic Workers”
- Co-organising a Seminar with other Catholic inspired NGOs in the context of the ILO Conference on the theme of “Strengthening the capacities and social protection of Domestic Workers”
- Participation in the MMTC’s Seminar on “Life and working conditions of migrant workers” in West and Central Africa region
- Panel sharing at the IYCS World Council on global youth reality today “Diverse links between study and work”
- Participation in the Way of Cross (Via Crucis) at the 2011 Madrid World Youth Day
- Participation in the Conference organised by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization on “New Evangelizers for the New Evangelization”
- Participation in the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Geneva

## Training & Exchange

- Exchange between YCW Rwanda and YCW Burundi on “Role of the YCW in the building of peace” hosted by the YCW Rwanda
- Trilateral Exchange on “Young People’s Participation in Society” between YCW Spain, Portugal and Italy hosted by the YCW Spain
- European Leaders’ Meeting (REM) on “Dignity” hosted by YCW Italy
- European chaplains and lay companions Meeting (IEA) hosted by YCW Italy
- Asia Exchange and Training on “Creating awareness, Taking responsibility and Organising action” hosted by the Philippine Coordination of YCW (PCYCW)
- Training and exchange for the YCW leaders in East Africa on “Accountability, Action and Active participation of Young People in the Church and Society” hosted by the YCW Kenya



*Trilateral Exchange*

- Meeting with the President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity
- Meeting with the Secretariat of State
- Meeting with Mons. Christian Kratz (auxiliar bishop of Strasbourg) of COMECE
- Meeting with Mons. Aldo Giordano, the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Council of Europe



*ICYCW Europe Commission with Mons. Aldo Giordano*



# TESTIMONY I

## TRAINING ON THE METHOD OF THE YCW

By Nagyong Gwag (Michaela), YCW Korea

In September this year I was given a precious opportunity to attend the ICYCW Asia Leaders' Meeting of training and exchange held in Butuan-City, Philippines.

As a part of the preparation, Korea YCW studied the situation of life of young people in our country in order to bring to the meeting young people's concerns, worries and hopes to share with other YCWs in Asia. This included reflection on: Internet addiction, extremely expensive tuition at the University and obligatory military service for young men.



At the Asia Meeting I also heard from the other delegations about the life of young people in India, Philippines, Cambodia and Sri-Lanka. It was very interesting to realise that we all have common concerns like the critical youth unemployment, lack of conditions to have good free time, changes in human and family relationships and Internet addiction, and that all of us nurture hopes and desires to change some situations for the better.



The training on the method of the YCW included 'See-Judge-Act' and the 'Action Campaign'. We reviewed the challenges our local groups face in doing the 'Review of Life' and made plans to improve. We also tried to finalise a concrete action that each YCW movement can try to organise for their country. This was a very great moment to feel solidarity through making a commitment in front of friends who walk the same path as I do.

I realised that the most important thing which made me feel proud of being a YCW leader is that we have a simple, practical and excellent method, See-Judge-Act, which enables young people not only to analyse and discuss about the situation, but also to be committed to an action made in the light of Gospel and to really transform society as well as our own personal life, with our own hands! All the time of training, a question that YCW members always have, 'What would Jesus do?' was filled in my head. I now wish to share this experience with the other members of my movement.

As for me and my movement now, I am practising little by little recording the daily events on the YCW leaders' notebook which I realised it is important. Last 3 years my movement's priority was still to strengthen the local groups having the regular and proper 'Review of Life'. But as we made plan at the Asia meeting, we are preparing a survey on 'young people's addiction problems' as a part of a practice for the future Action Campaign which will be organised next year.

I would like to ask a lot of support and prayers to Korea YCW to have good continuity of this work and I also send my best wishes to all the members of the YCW all over the world.



## TESTIMONY 2

### THE YCW MEMBERS OF BURUNDI AND RWANDA ENGAGE IN A PEACE PROJECT IN THE REGION OF THE GREAT LAKES

By Ildephonse Nyandwi,  
National President of YCW Burundi



#### 1. Young People and the Socio-political situation in Rwanda and Burundi

- We, young people of Rwanda and Burundi as YCW's actively take part in seeking and maintaining peace, unity and reconciliation through games and work together.
- There are initiatives in exchanging information and study visits among groups/associations of young people in the different regions.
- Young people are represented and take part in the decision making bodies/structures: in the presidential office, in parliament, at local level: in districts, sectors, cells in Rwanda but in Burundi young people are less represented in state structures.
- Young people in Burundi find themselves manipulated by politicians because young people make up the majority of the total population (15-35 yrs: more than 40%).

#### 2. The Economic and Employment Situation of Young People

- Young Rwandans and especially young Burundians are faced with a major challenge of insufficient knowledge, resources and skills in the creation of income generating activities.
- After the genocide young people studied a lot but could not find work due to lack of work experience. Unemployment rose significantly in Burundi after the war.

- There is a low level of trade skills on the job market in the region.

#### 3. EFFECTS/IMPACT on young people

- We young people feel like soldiers, despite our inadequate means, in our actions to keep the peace after the tragic time of the Genocide in Rwanda and the war which still continues in Burundi.
- Young people participate actively in the development of the country because they are represented in the decision making bodies (= ownership of government programmes) and in Burundi participate in community works;
- We experience loss of cultural values but gain solidarity and dedication through our actions as YCW's despite inadequate means;
- There is stability and security given the serious events that occurred in Rwanda. On the other hand the socio-economic problems which young Rwandans and Burundians face can slow the process of development and the expected results are not realised.

The situation of young people described here, challenges us all, and the YCW of Burundi and Rwanda are keen to play their part in building peace counting on the international solidarity of all young people and of our partners.



## TESTIMONY 3 THE IMPACT AND ADVANTAGES OF WORKING WITH THE OTHER NGOS TOWARDS THE ILO

The ICYCW is the organisation recognised by the Holy See which represents the Young Christian Workers at the International Labour Organization (ILO). With NGO status the ICYCW takes part in the International Labour Conference (ILC) organised every year by the ILO. In its 100th Session of the ILC in June 2011 the theme of 'Decent Work for Domestic Workers' was put in as 6th on the agenda from which arose the issue of the adoption of a Convention following a recommendation which would enable the recognition of the status of 'Worker' for Domestic workers.



This sixth theme of the ILC was a good experience for the ICYCW because of an initiative to promote and co-organise a consultation meeting with other NGOs of Catholic inspiration on the theme of

"Strengthening the capacities and social protection of Domestic Workers". Our aim was to build a campaign for the ratification of this Convention of the ILO on "Decent work for Domestic Workers by the member states of the ILO".

The impact and advantages of this experience of the ICYCW networking were as follows:

✓ **Taking its place and speaking at the Conference has increased the visibility of the ICYCW:** the ICYCW as an International Organisation of Young Christian Workers took its place at the heart of the forum of Catholic NGO's and contributed to the reflection on the social protection of vulnerable young workers through the excellent work and report of the Senegal YCW regarding domestic employees.

✓ **It has underlined the progress of the ICYCW** in its mission to represent young workers in International Organisations by lobbying in favour of improving their conditions of life and work.

✓ **It has strengthened links with national Movements around a specific theme** through gathering from them the facts about Domestic Work and especially with the YCW of Senegal who was invited to share its experience of training domestic workers in Dakar.

✓ **It was a way to take up the challenge of presence and participation** in the reflection on specific themes linked to the life of workers at international level.

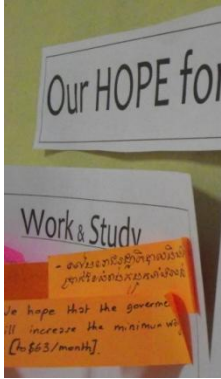
✓ **It had a positive effect on the YCW and the young female domestic workers in Senegal:** the points of satisfaction and motivation for Celestine DIOUF, representative of the YCW of Senegal in this seminar, are the affirmation of the actions of the YCW of Senegal in relation to domestic workers at international level, the discovery of the realities of Domestic Workers of other countries, the contacts made with other Organisations for the defence of the rights of Domestic workers and of trade union leaders. She has returned enriched by this experience which has renewed her commitment to work for the ratification of the Convention of the ILO for Decent Work for domestic workers in Senegal.

Along with this impact and these advantages linked to this experience of networking what remains to be done is just as important as what has already been done which is putting into practice strategies for the approval of this Convention of the ILO by governments of each country so that a law can be passed for the protection of Domestic workers. This means that the ICYCW has to keep up its work.

**By Jules Adanchédé Hounkponu,  
General Secretary of the ICYCW**

# Young people and the YCW

It is well known that the conditions of work of the workers in the clothing industry are very difficult. Too often their dignity as sons and daughters of God is flouted. Even if the industry still employs 370,000 workers in Cambodia (14,000,000 inhabitants) the price to pay is high. It is young women who are put by preference in front of the sewing machines because they are a malleable workforce. Paid holidays are almost non-existent. Maternity leave does not exist at all and the number of failed births among the garment workers is of grave appalling.



"We hope that the government will increase the minimum wage."

The wages are extremely low. The minimum guaranteed is equivalent to 47 euro a month. Extra hours beyond the legal maximum are sometimes a daily occurrence. Forced labour is a practice that exists also. It is not unusual to see workers working several weeks on the run without a single day of rest. In the end the repercussions on the health of the workers are severe because of malnutrition, bad living conditions, promiscuity, absence of medical insurance (but that is coming) the chemical products used for the textiles, lack of ventilation in the factories etc.

Since the year 2000 onwards the YCW in Cambodia, with its scant resources, has tried to be the carrier of Hope among the worker population. Little by little Review of life groups are being established. Freedom of expression is limited and young Catholic workers are very few in numbers. However they are supported by the other Asian YCW's.

Sothea and Youri who took part in the ICYCW Asia leaders' training in September

2011 are presently leaders who are concerned for the others. From another angle,

Salat, who experienced the ICYCW Asia meeting in Seoul in 2006 is also there to encourage the emerging new groups.

As the Bishop of Phnom Penh during the first 'Workers' Festival' organised by the Committee for Working Life: The main thing is to help them discover their Dignity and inestimable value, so often denied, of each and every life: 'a young worker is worth more than all the gold in the world.'



By Yann Defond,  
ICYCW Collaborator  
for YCW Cambodia



The YCW Ecuador has been working on an **action campaign** at national level entitled: *"Please do not exploit me: we are equals, we have rights."*

This action campaign means that young people are going out to **meet other young people** to share their feelings and see the reality rather than just looking at cold statistics which do not tell us much about the life of the people or of their needs and feelings.

Today, action has enabled us to see from our angle the injustices of which young people continue to be the victims, the limitations, the desires for the miracle for which each young person longs in order to live with dignity.

The Movement is presently to be found in the cities of Esmeraldas, Guayaquil, Santa Elena and Quito. We have a new **coordinating team** made up of young people from Quito, Guayaquil, Santa Elena and Esmeraldas who are going to take responsibility to bring new life to

the Movement. Here we share with you the experiences of two young people from the coordinating team.

*I am 19 years old and the last three have been the best yet since I got involved in the YCW. The vivid experiences of each meeting have been incredible and are ones that will last a lifetime. The friends I have made and are making are the best. Thanks to the Movement I can say that I am in contact with God and that I have been able to cope with the social field.*  
**(DANIEL ACOSTA, Coordinator, Guayaquil)**

*For me being in the YCW has been one of the experiences which has enabled me to know and accept myself and above all to grow personally. Furthermore it has opened the doors to getting to know better the reality of the world of young people and the challenges we face in daily life. I have learnt to recognise the true*

*God of life in people.* **(LOURDES LÓPEZ, Coordinator, Quito)**



We are convinced that the YCW makes sense. It gives space to those who have no voice and, starting from small things, creates the process of transformation through the Gospel message needed by our world, by, for and with young people, guided by Jesus of Nazareth who was from a poor working family.

By Elena León,  
President of YCW Ecuador



## Goodbye Fr JosepMaria !

It is the moment to thank God for His help in this service into which He pushed me and also for giving me the chance to meet so many people, young people and chaplains, who believe that the YCW is a precious means which the Church has for the evangelisation and education of young workers all over the world.

In particular I give thanks for the young people with whom I have worked in the International Secretariat during these years. They have been an undeserved gift. For me each one of them has borne witness to faithfulness to God's call, to perseverance in a commitment undertaken and to the love of God and young workers. I also want to thank all young leaders and national chaplains who have shared with me their experiences. Your experiences always encouraged me to continue my mission.

My best wishes to each National Movement and to its young leaders and chaplains. I ask God *whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine (Eph 3,20)* to bless the action of the YCW all over the world.

From **Fr Josep Maria Romaguera Bach**

## Welcome Fr Sebastian !

Hello everyone!

*But the LORD said to me, you must go to all to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid..., for I am with you. (Jr 1, 7-8)*

For my first contact with you, I have chosen the support of these Holy Scriptures because they inspire in me a perfect trust in God's sustenance and love.

I am sure that you will join me in thanking my predecessor for his Ecclesiastical assistance to the young people in the international secretariat and in asking our Good Lord to bless and render fruitful his new mission in his home diocese.

As for me, I remain united and open to the training afforded me by the current team's experience. I would like to ask you all to be with me throughout my mandate also, like the Lord our God promised to the prophet Jeremiah, so that together we may produce good fruits for the Lord's vineyard.

It is with joy and with God that I follow Joseph Cardijn's path to sustain, form and bring to young leaders the teachings and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. From **Fr. Sebastian Alabi**



New team with Card. Rylko of the PCL

## Finance of the Coordination

One year more is going to be ended and the ICYCW keeps working hard on its activities around the world. This was possible mainly thanks to all your moral and above all your **financial** support through the subscription, contributions and donations. Thank you very much for supporting our mission in the name of all the young workers!

Since the beginning of this year our main priority has been the preparation of our **8th International Congress to be held in England in August 2012**. Many YCW leaders from across the world will come to the UK to take part in this International Leadership Programme. As you may imagine the cost of this international event is very high, and the main costs are Transport (60.900€), Accommodation (39.816€) and Translation (28.724€). The Secretariat and the hosting movement are working very hard to cover all the expenditures but we need ALL your help and support to make this Congress accessible to all the young people participating. Please find out in the bottom of the page the details if you want to help for this important formation event!

At the same time the ICYCW needs to keep its financial stability and our target for administration costs is 75.000€ until next March 2013, in order to have enough for next year's events. Our strategic plan includes all possible income from external sources (projects, donations, collaborations) but also through **Subscription of the member movements of the ICYCW**. For YCW subscription is an **educational tool** that allows young people to engage completely in the movement and to ensure good decision-making autonomy. The subscription of all ICYCW's members goes to cover the Secretariat's work of the Coordination but also the development of YCW where it no longer exists or never has. The continuity of the payment is very important. We remind you to respect the deadline (1<sup>st</sup> May 2012) and pay your annual subscription fee in the first part of the year.

To support the YCW and ICYCW activities and administration work, please give your help through donations or Human resources, contacts, collaborations, etc. Thank you very much for your good intentions and future support!

### Bank Details

- Account Holder: **C.I.Gi.O.C Coordinamento Internazionale della Gioventu Operaia Cristiana**
- Account Number (IBAN): **IT42A0504803200000000001315**
- SWIFT Code: **BLOPIT22**
- Name of the bank: **UBI Banca Popolare Commercio&Industria**
- Address of the bank: **2039, Sede Roma, Vittorio Emanuele, Italy**

# ICYCW 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress

## “Class of 2012: Building a School for Life”

25 August – 5 September 2012  
Alton Castle, Staffordshire, England

The YCW movement is present in 58 countries all over the world. All national movements share an international mission, which is coordinated through the International Coordination of the YCW (ICYCW). Next year will see the International Congress of the ICYCW being held in England in August 2012, the same month as the Olympic and Paralympics Games!

At a time when athletes from around the world will gather in the UK to celebrate the Olympic values of friendship, respect, and excellence, the ICYCW will gather young people from more than 50 countries to live out those values and grow together in solidarity, mutual understanding and a commitment to change their world.

The Congress is based on a training programme to build an international leadership. The two-week programme will consist of an in-depth exchange of experience, painting a global view of the real situation of young people, and promoting worldwide solidarity. It also includes:

- ✓ formation on the methods of the YCW,
- ✓ a sharing of the different realities of young people's life: work, family, leisure time and social environment
- ✓ leisure moments that promote the building of relationships and friendships within cultural diversity;
- ✓ taking part in an example of a democratic decision making system'

The Congress will have a direct effect on the life of each national YCW movement, who between them work with over 250,000 young people a year. We will be enriched with new ideas and methods to use to change difficult aspects of life and ready to recommit to the objectives of YCW and transform the world.

As Stéphane from France underlined from his experience in the last Congress: *“whether we are young people from Benin, France or Korea, we have a common aspiration: to be involved and to act to take the world in our hands. We do not want society to forget us.”*

**We're seeking your support for the 8<sup>th</sup> ICYCW International Congress!**



*Some of the participants at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress*



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

Via dei Barbieri, 22 – 00186 Roma, Italia

Tel/Fax: (0039) 06 6865259 E-mail: [cijoc.icycw@gmail.com](mailto:cijoc.icycw@gmail.com) Website: [www.icycw.org](http://www.icycw.org)

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.