



Idy E. BARBERAN, YCW Philippines
International Treasurer

I joined the movement when I was 14. The only thing I was aware that the movement was about singing, nothing more, and nothing less. I can say that I began in the PCYCW (Philippines Coordination of Young Christian Workers) just knowing simple things about myself, because the only reason I wanted to join the movement was just to sing in the choir.

I was very different from how I am now. I didn't even know how to communicate with people. I was afraid to express my opinions and I didn't even care about the people around me. I was a shy person. My father kept on telling me to sleep early to take a rest because I got sick easily.

But when I joined the movement I gained lots of friends and became very outgoing. I started asking about things I didn't understand around me. I became curious. I became confident in dealing with people.

This is the time I became very active in inviting young people like me to be part of the movement. The YCW helped me become strong in facing difficulties little did I know the group was not only about singing. Along the way, being part of the group helped me to learn a lot of things in life. I received formation and trainings which helped me understand and know more about the movement.

After taking different responsibilities step by step, I was given the responsibility of National president of PCYCW where I experienced bigger and higher difficulties that I can really say helped me a lot to become a responsible and better person at the service of others.

That time I had the responsibility for training young people who were new to the movement, being a volunteer leader, and here I am now in the International team.

I am very thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to serve all YCW movements and I pray that the Lord will give me strength and courage to do my mission for all the YCW around the world.



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The ICYCW is a non-profit International Youth Organisation for the evangelisation and education of young people of world of work recognised by the Holy See through the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life as a private international association of the faithful.



2016-2017 Edition

Editorial

The International Coordination of the YCW was created to be at the service of the National YCW Movements all over the world. The main objective of the Coordination is to help existing movements to grow and develop by remaining faithful to the fundamental objectives of the YCW and its founder.

Since its beginning the ICYCW has focused on many different themes to address the needs and development of young people in the world of work.

Young leaders around the world have worked hard to strengthen the national movements and create solidarity guided by the founding Principles while recognising the history, events and achievements since the foundation of the ICYCW.

This edition of the CIJOC-ICYCW online newsletter brings to you the joys, fruits and experiences of the mission of the ICYCW as was shared during the 9th International Congress of the ICYCW. The congress was held on 19 August - 1 September 2016 in Seoul, South Korea under the theme of "Work is the Way- Giving young people Hope and Responsibility for their future". The brief review of the past four years (2012-2016) and testimonies on the outcome of the Congress acknowledges the challenges that young workers still face in today's world, recognizes the successes of the transformative actions and reaffirms our commitment and mission as change agents and dealers of hope in the lives of young workers around the world.

Pope Francis in Laudato Si' emphasises that the human person needs to be at the centre of life. We wish to build a society which respects the personal growth and human development of young people and doesn't consider young people as "cogs in a machine".

WE ARE THE CHURCH promoting FRATERNITY, SOLIDARITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND HOPE.

Lastly, with this newsletter, it will be an opportunity to meet the new members of the ICYCW international secretariat as well as bid goodbye and best wishes to the former members. Happy Reading!



The ICYCW embarked on an ambitious plan which laid down the priorities for 2012-2016. The plan was put into effect through the joint effort of the national movements, commissions, and the international secretariat. Despite various hurdles along the way, the coordination lived its mission around the world which is summarized as follows;

Administration

The premises of the headquarters of the ICYCW was provided by the Diocese of Rome. All activities of the ICYCW were coordinated from these headquarters which also provided residence for the secretariat members. The secretariat maintained its contacts and relations with the Diocese of Rome as well as with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (formerly Pontifical Council for the Laity) under which the ICYCW is recognized.

Coordination of the ICYCW

From 2012-2016, the ICYCW carried out a rigorous execution of different programs of training and exchanges at national, continental and international levels. The trainings covered different themes generated from the situations and realities of the young workers.

Chaplaincy development was emphasized as an important component in the formation programs and leadership development of the young leaders. Chaplaincy training for both clergy and lay adults was incorporated in the formation programs for the young people. Visits were also done to seminaries in Rome to introduce the movement to the priests, seminarians, and brothers with the aim of forming them for possible future roles as chaplains when they go back to their countries.

The ICYCW through its leaders, carried out representation work, bringing the voice of the young workers to different platforms in the national, continental and international levels. The work was done mainly with Vatican, Bishops' conferences, International Labor Organization, Catholic inspired organizations, Catholic Action Movements, and other governmental, non-governmental, faith based, and civil society organizations and institutions.

This aided in creating awareness about the life, work and hopes of the young people to the different platforms of discussions as well as create and reinforce networks for collaboration with the ICYCW.

Finance remained a challenge in realizing the planned actions but the national movements, commissions and secretariat worked together to identify means of fund raising and ways of ensuring financial sustainability.

The secretariat engaged the services of a financial consultant to provide expertise in areas of financial management and planning.

The national movements and collaborators in the coordination worked jointly to support the establishment of the YCW movement in countries where it not exist.

The fruits of which were realized in the participation of the new movements during the 9th International Congress of 2016.

The ICYCW used different means of communication to reach out to its members, partner organizations and the general public at large.

Through the secretariat, means were identified to facilitate efficient and timely flow of information.

Organization of the coordination

The ICYCW facilitated the implementation of its plans through the different components of its structure. An elaborate strategic plan was developed in 2014 and it guided the functioning of the different components of ICYCW.

The structure was composed of the following components; the national movements, international council, international secretariat, international commissions, regional commissions, strategy development component, and collaborators.



Berhanu Sinamo DEBOCH, YCW Ethiopia
International President

My first contact in the YCW movement traces back to when I was 20 years old growing up in the local parish church where I was called for formation in the YCW movement in 2008. In the event I received awareness creation training and formation on the movement's mission and objectives from the parish priest/YCW Chaplain.

At the end of the training, the YCW was established with a committee of seven members and I was elected as chairperson of the Movement. Starting from there, I participated in various YCW trainings at Vicariate as well as at National level which enabled me to take up the mission of the movement. I and others were in this way equipped in leadership and committed to develop tomorrow's young generation in word and deed following Christ's leadership style in a spirit of service.

All this voluntary pastoral service that I was engaged in came via the power of Jesus Christ because in Him all things are possible harmonizing my personal and social life with all the responsibilities of leadership. It is my conviction from childhood that I should serve the Church with all my power, skills and thought with full passion and commitment trusting in HIM. My childhood mission was realised through involvement in YCW with dedication and commitment. I witnessed good results from the presence of the Movement in many parish Churches and saw the mobilization of young people in church activities and voluntary service of others at grass roots level.

The vision and mission of YCW for me is living the life of Christ among young people, for young people and with young people in serving, educating and representing them through engagement in the life of the Church and Society with truth and love.

I joined the movement in 2010 when I was 19. I started as an initiation member. I was not official member before I start the Review of Life. However, the members of movement, they always invite me to the events and activities. From that I could feel welcoming and fellowship with others.

I also met international chaplain and international president who were visiting YCW Korea during that time. This meeting helped me to understand the international dimension of YCW and make me dream to be a part of the international member of ICYCW.

After all this, I finally started the Review of life. I took different responsibilities as a team leader, national secretary and coordinator of the hosting movement of the 9th International Congress of ICYCW step by step. This various experience in movement makes me grow up in many different aspects. So I truly appreciate what YCW gives me so far.

YCW makes me realize my own dignity and give me the knowledge to judge what is right and just according to the Gospel. I could accept my mission because of the vision and mission of YCW. This gives me strong conviction and aspiration. However, the mission of YCW cannot be carried out by my own. This mission can be done with national movements, chaplains and collaborators. Therefore I am looking forward to collaborate with all of them for the future. I can say that this mission is not easy. It is challenged and sometimes gives me fear. However I am not afraid because GOD will make a way and I am with so many people who love YCW.



Subin Noella SONG, YCW Korea
General Secretary

The YCW helped me to grow as a young person, as a leader in life. The mission of the ICYCW is to ensure an international solidarity among young workers of different countries.



Amélie Peyrard, YCW France
International President 2012-2016

The ICYCW exists thank to the desire of individual National Movements to come together to create a work of collaboration in the evangelization of young people and to take action on the international problems of young workers.

It has been a great discovery for me because I really wanted to understand the reality of young people worldwide, not by reading the newspaper but by listening to real testimonies of life.

I was very glad to be able to meet and work with different leaders in different parts of the world. This, surely, is the way to build a better future for young workers. The joy I experienced working with the national leaders helped me to overcome the difficulties of the mission and to realize how I was serving the Coordination. I would like to thank you very much for this opportunity and for entrusting me with this mission.

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest.” (Luke 10. 2)
Indeed the world is big and the International Secretariat is only a few young people taken from YCW Movements around the world. However, the energy and the strength experienced in the ICYCW is a strong sign that with hope and faith we can do a lot. Labor, mission and faith build better conditions of work and a better world. It is by good work that we can achieve small steps and great things. But this work should be done with spirit and with trust.

After 4 years mission in the ICYCW, it is my duty now to continue to serve but in a different manner. My mission now is to be a light to other young people by being available to accompany them and support them in taking on their role as leaders. I want to thank all of you, protagonists of the ICYCW, who make a difference in this world.



Monicah Wanjiru, YCW Kenya
General Secretary 2012-2016

My encounter with the YCW was by chance after having been called to participate in a training in Nairobi, Kenya which I almost turned down but my curiosity would not allow me. That was in 2004. What I found in the one week of training was the same thing I discovered when I encountered ICYCW.

It was a wonderful realization to discover that the same spirit, values, principles and greater mission I encountered in a small YCW group in Nairobi, had an international dimension and existed around the world.

Having come to the end of my mandate at the international secretariat of the ICYCW, I look back with nostalgia, a big smile on my lips, and gratitude in my heart. You gave me an opportunity to offer what I had for the service of young workers. It is a mission that gave me the chance to put my Christian faith into practice, a chance to illuminate the good practices in our movement, a chance to promote exchanges and learning opportunities, a chance to be not just a leader but to be a dealer of hope, and a chance to open up avenues of joy, smiles and a belief of a better tomorrow.

You believed and trusted that together we could make this world a better place, and through our joint efforts, we endeavored to make a difference and bring transformation. And for that, I thank you. Thank you for giving me the chance to serve you. Thank you for the commitment and passion for our mission. Thank you for the moments we worked together. Thank you for the memories that will remain with us.

“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few” [Luke 10:2]. Our mission is indeed great. Let us not tire from living our purpose through service to mankind. There is no better way to serve God than to do so by serving mankind. Let’s keep the fire of our mission alive and present in the lives of all the young people around us.



The 9th International Congress of ICYCW was held in Seoul, South Korea from 19th Aug-1st of September. There were around 90 participants from 29 countries including delegates from each countries, chaplains, International Secretariat members, Commission members and Korean Volunteers.

It was delivered the YCW methodology training, theme seminar, exchange programme with other organization, Korean culture experience, inspection of ICYCW structure and election of new International Secretariat members.

During these two weeks we were able to know the situation of the YCW in each country; share the reality of work and especially the difficulty of access to work for young people around the world; and to reaffirm ourselves in our shared task as a movement of evangelization of the world of work.

Under the theme "Work is the way, Giving young people Hope and Responsibility for their future" we carry out a Review of Life, the own method of the YCW characterized by the stages of SEE, JUDGE and ACT.

When SEE reality, we contemplate the stories of many young people who suffer the consequences of the unfair world of work in which we live, which causes precarious working conditions in all countries of the world, and which especially attacks young people.

In the stage of the JUDGMENT, in the light of the Gospel, of the Social Doctrine of the Church, of the Laudato Si', etc., we reaffirm ourselves in thinking that the person has dignity as a children of God, and that therefore he must be in the center of society, of the economy and of politics.

We believe that a more just, supportive and fraternal world is possible, from love, equity, respect for what is different and respect for creation.

Starting from the reality that we observe, the YCW reaffirms us in our mission to ACT as a movement, from our young, worker and Christian vocation.

YOUNG

Knowing what is the reality we live, we want to raise our voice because no one knows what we live. The world is constantly changing, and young people must be protagonists, we have to make our voices heard and fight for our dreams.

CHRISTIANS

We are convinced the dignity of the person as a children of God. We believe that it is an opportunity to transmit this conviction to other people: each young person has dignity and this must be respected.

In addition, we know that we are collaborators with God's creation. This calls us to the mission of transforming society, fighting against injustices and wars. As well as transforming our Church.

We want to do it from: love, inspired by the love of Jesus; the hope; and communion, union, fraternity and solidarity among peoples.

WORKERS

We assume our mission as a movement which we firmly believe that giving hope to young workers, inspired by our faith.

We are called to meet the young people of the world of work; not only those who work, but also those who are looking for a job, or are studying to access the world of work.

We want to do it in community, moved by our faith, with determination, and through Action. We are convinced that a set of small actions will change the world.



Participation in this International Congress has been a great experience, full of small and big things to thank. It has been a learning experience, knowing the way of working of other YCW movements. When we celebrate the Eucharist in Korea with people from so many places, we get to know our difference but understand that we share the same faith.



Estibaliz, YCW Spain

In short, it has been a few days of sharing, of living, of dreaming ... of strengthening ties with other movements of the YCW with which we share our task ... with the aim of better responding to this task, which is still important in order to respond to the youth that suffers so much today because of an unjust system of work.

I want to make a special thanks to the Diocese of Zaragoza, which made our participation economically possible; as well as the International Fund of the HOAC, which has financially supported the organization of the International Congress.



It was the first time to participate in an international meeting! At first it was a little complicated. I wondered how others would behave! But as soon as I arrived, I was very touched with the welcome by Korean members.



Ronny, YCW Cameroon

I discovered the mission of YCW. I met young people who were very open and very kind. During these two weeks we spent a moment of joy, a good atmosphere with discussions based on the improvement of the living conditions of the young people. We discovered how each national movements work. It was a very great experience for me. Because I learned to live better in community. I realized that the YCW living together is really possible because delegates came from all over the world. But we were like one and the same person; my relationship map has grown so much.

On a spiritual level, the Review of Life once again helped me to be able to question myself all the time; and it accompanies me in my environment . Thanks to what I learned in Korea, I believe that I can contribute myself to YCW effectively to revitalize my movement at the national level. The YCW is truly a school of life. Since I return, I have already managed to create a group which I never imagined one day! And I do not intend to stop by the grace of God.



Jung-eun, YCW Korea

This was s a continuation of difficulties from the beginning. There was no even one part that could roughly went from the start to the end. It would not have been possible without the efforts of many people. Thank you to all of you once again.

It was a great blessing and a meaningful place for YCW members all over the world as well. Young people from all over the world gathered together to share their lives and cultures and explore the future. We have completed SEE and JUDGE with this. Now we have to go for the ACTION!

I wish to all of you to being an YCW leader who can change your life and the world of work as well based on what we have learned during the International Congress.



Kristelle, YCW Maurice

ICYCW was a wonderful experience to share our realities and dreams. I really liked the speakers. They believe in us to have a better world for hard-working and dignity..

We all have a mission. I hope that our dreams realize.

Young people must have their place in society with faith. We will reach our goal. I will do it in my country. I also like the social evening. I am very amused and laugh. YCW Korea has done a good job with us. It is a beautiful country. I appreciate all the people who contributed to the ICYCW.

It has been a great experience and Kudos to YCW Korea for been an excellent and wonderful host – right from logistics, day outing, food, other requirements they have been GREAT! Shout out to all the YCW Korea Volunteers for their selfless service and dedication.

The sessions – Plenary and ROL groups as well as with experts were really useful and fantastic and big thanks again to the Translators who gave their skills and talent for our good. Kudos to them.

Lastly the Int. Secretariat and all of us, the participants from different regions, nations, continents, who added their own flavour and personal touch to this Congress experience bringing with them their stories of the movements, personal life stories, experiences and sharing. I cherish the support that I received from the Int.Secretariat and each one of the participants – although in another country miles away I never felt alone for a single minute!

I pray and hope for the BEST to the ICYCW and I ask your prayers for our movement here in INDIA that we grow and flourish and that we take ownership and become a vibrant place for Young Christian Workers to thrive and grow into citizens taking responsibility and engineering change in our movement.



Rosetta, YCW India



The young people are very dynamic overall. They like their movement and are all ready to commit to its blossoming and expansion in their countries and in the world. They are also aware of the difficulties that plague the labor market around the world, and find it difficult to access despite their level of education.

The young people also showed an awareness that they should not remain in the wait-and-see attitude, but create and take initiatives to sensitize the structures, the organizations, the Church and the States so that their situation does not remain not as such. Finally, they expressed a real need for training and reorganization of finances which remains a big challenge for them.

As a companion, we experienced a fraternal atmosphere and a good collaboration especially during our sharing every day at the end of the work and in the sharing of our experiences as companion of young people of our regions. Our presence is not only reassures, but encourages young people to go further in their quest to improve and access the best living and working conditions.

It is a beautiful experience that I lived during this council. To meet others who are not from my region, continent, who have another culture is a wealth. It is an extraordinary experience the simple act of dialogue, wanting to join the other in his language to talk to him, share the same room with respect. I recognize the other always has something to teach me or bring me is to be in a welcoming and open attitude and it has allowed me to grow in my relationship maturity.



Fr.Simon, Chaplain of West Africa