



WSCF Asia Pacific Women Doing Theology Workshop:

14 - 22 November 2009, Jakarta, Indonesia

WSCF Program Report

Being an ASCM representative on a WSCF program is a great opportunity. However, it brings with it the responsibility of reporting back to the movement. This form is designed as a guide and a catalyst for your report. You may fill in the form as is, or you can use it as a starting point for a report written in your own style. Either way, make sure a copy gets sent to the National Coordinator, and an article gets to the JG Editor.

Name: Katherine Rainger

1. Briefly outline the nature of your trip, the purpose of the program and your feelings about it now. Include:

the highlights of your trip

whether it met your expectations

difficulties you faced

reference to key decisions made, reports written, policies developed

ideas for future programs

Attending the WDT workshop was a fantastic experience. 22 delegates from 13 different countries in the Asia Pacific region gathered to discuss the need for, and application of "critical feminist liberation theology." (CFLT). We each came with our own stories which we shared and analysed using the CFLT methodology we were shown. We also analysed structures in society and passages of scripture using the same guiding questions.

Highlights included meeting the other delegates, our exposure day where we heard first hand accounts from migrant workers and the actual sessions where we discussed and applied the analytical tools we were learning.

I did not have clear expectations before attending the workshop, however I enjoyed it so much due to the friendship with the other delegates and the depth of what we were learning about.

The difficulties I faced were minor. My flight changed on route but that got sorted out fairly quickly. At times communicating in English with the other delegates was difficult.

The workshop delegates will be working on a guidebook for SCM's to use to ensure that CFLT is accessible and incorporated into SCM theological practice.

2. How has your attending the program changed your perspective on:

Australia

your own life

the Movement

My perspective on Australia has changed on a few different levels. I am reminded how small Australia's population is, especially in relation to the physical size of our country. On a deeper level I was also reminded of the wealth, and thus power which Australia has in relation to some of the other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

I was humbled by some of the Indonesian delegates expressing their shame at being Indonesian when faced with stories about migrant workers and the violent actions of the Indonesian military in places like Timor Leste. It made me think about Australia's history and the ongoing injustices, which many Indigenous Australians face and the attitude I and other Australians have when faced with these stories from our own country.

My perspective on my own life has changed as I've realized the opportunities that I have and the gift that friendship with people from diverse places can be. I have been motivated by some of the stories of delegates who are achieving a lot with little resources to use my time and energy to be more proactive in working for justice.

I had had very little to do with SCM before the workshop but I came away from the workshop feeling motivated by SCM's commitment to promoting human rights.

3. What do you think ASCM can learn from your experience with respect to:

briefing and debriefing of future participants

our own programs and activities

policies or decisions to be implemented

Even though mobile phones can be distracting I would encourage all participants to take a mobile phone with international roaming. When my flight changed and I arrived in the domestic terminal not the international terminal, I was thankful that I had my phone and that I could get in touch with the hosts.

I really appreciated the egalitarian way in which the workshop was run. We all took turns to be the moderator, lead worship and run activities. I would encourage that for all ASCM programs.

4. What have you already/are you now able to offer the ASCM in:

your home state

other branches, states, and National projects

other bodies (e.g., churches, ecumenical bodies, social justice groups)

If required I can run a workshop on how to apply Critical feminist liberation theology to scripture passages, either at an ASCM event or for a church group. I plan to run a workshop in consultation with the ACT ASCM and my church in the very near future.

5. Any other information about your experience you would like to share with the Movement.

Thank you for the amazing opportunity. It was great to hear the stories of the activism that is happening through SCM's in other places.