

## YCW Continental Cultural Immersion and Climate Justice Action

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***"We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it." – Laudato Si'***

YCW leaders, Sisilina Saukuru from Adelaide and Sean Gehrig from Parramatta Dioceses, participated in the YCW's Continental Cultural Immersion program in Indonesia from 25 to 30 September. YCW leaders from Egypt, Ghana, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and India also participated in the program.



Community exchange programs are a long tradition of YCW for foster learning, cultural understanding, and knowledge sharing among different groups of young people. The program enabled participants coming from different movements of the YCW to experience and engage with the local community, particularly the groups of YCW in Indonesia.

The delegates stayed in Ciheulangtongoh Village to gain an understanding about the local way of life, traditions, and social dynamics of the host communities. YCW leaders visited young workers at their places of work such as coffee plantations, livestock production, food processing, and handicraft houses.

## Climate Justice Action



The program included a seminar organized by the YCW on the relationship between social protection and climate justice. The discussions highlighted that climate change disproportionately affects marginalized communities and worsens the already existing inequalities.

The environmental impacts on textile and garment manufacturing processes are highly localized to communities surrounding these factories who are significantly impacted in terms of health, quality of life, and livelihoods.

Basma Mickael, the International President of IYCW, emphasizes the importance of the Paris Agreement as a critical step in the global fight against climate change. *“Asia is the least responsible for global carbon emissions but is facing the highest risks from climate change. We need to develop our international solidarity and cooperation to not leave people with nothing.”*

## International Solidarity in Action



To put faith and beliefs into action, YCW leaders participated in a tree planting action to revegetate forest areas surrounding the village where they stayed. Each tree was sign posted with the flag from each country as a sign of the YCW's international solidarity.

The exchange program was a huge success for bridging cultural differences, fostering social solidarity, and contributing to local development. YCW-Indonesia remains committed to continue enriching its communities and engaging with other YCW movements.

(end)



*YCW Leaders: Aya (Philippines), Sisilina (Australia), Jho (Philippines) and Linda (Ghana)*

