

Global Jesuit network gathers to empower community-led change

In July 2025, Jesuit Mission Australia hosted a six-day workshop in Bali with 47 committed participants – Jesuits and lay collaborators from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Laos, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Indonesia, Taiwan, Spain, the Philippines and Australia.

The focus was Asset Based Community-led Development (ABCD) – a strengths-based approach that empowers communities to lead their own transformation using the assets they already possess.

As part of Jesuit Mission’s commitment to offering programs that strengthen the skills, knowledge and practice of its international Jesuit partners, the workshop fostered a dynamic space where participants could explore a development approach grounded in subsidiarity

As a result, communities will benefit by being placed at the centre of their own development – with solutions shaped by their own voices, traditions and aspirations. Rather than being passive recipients of aid, they become active agents of change, building on what they already know and have.

“It required a shift in our thinking,” said Kath Rosic, Jesuit Mission’s Director of International Programs. “We moved from assessing what communities lack to identifying and nurturing what they already have – their gifts, talents, networks, stories and traditions.”

The sessions focused on appreciative inquiry, asset mapping and participatory processes. Participants are eager to translate the tools into local languages and apply them across ministries.

What unfolded was more than a workshop – it was a vibrant expression of Ignatian companionship in action.

Each day included prayer, music, reflection and shared meals, reinforcing that development is as much about relationships as it is about outcomes.

As one participant reflected, “Firstly, I want to implement this in my own life; then in my family and the communities where I work.” Others expressed a renewed sense of mission and intention to apply ABCD in planning and evaluation.

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Caption: Each day included prayer, music, reflection and shared meals.



Supporting Links:



About Jesuit Mission

Jesuit Mission works in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable. Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.