

UDOMSARN



SAA 2018

Fake News Versus Media for Peace

August 12-18, 2018 at Saint Gabriel Foundation of Thailand



SIGNIS Asia Assembly opening Ceremony

August 12-18, 2018 Catholic Social Communications of Thailand welcome the Catholic communicators from SIGNIS Asia as hosts of the SIGNIS Asia Assembly 2018, at Saint Gabriel Foundation of Bangkok Thailand on the theme: "Fake News ver-

“sus Media for Peace” by well known and competent speakers on Catholic media communication such as Dr.Chainarong Montienvichienchai, and a professor from Assumption University and priests who work in area of media communication etc. In this assembly we were discussing on the ways and means to support the right and correct information especially on the social media. These would help us in terms of creativity and of providing a censor or screening before publishing without bias and propaganda which will cause the negative results and misunderstanding in our society.

On August 13, 2018 Inaugural Mass by His Excellency Bishop Joseph Prathan Sridarunsil, Chairman of the Commission for Social Communication, with co-celebrants Bishop James Romen of Bangladesh and Fr. Joseph Anucha Chaiyadej, SIGNIS Asia President. After the inaugural mass there were dance presentations from the students of the Assumption Convent School to welcome the delegates from SIGNIS Asia. Thai dances delighted the participants and guests 14 countries, 48 participants composed of Bishop, 28 priests, 5 nuns and 14 lay including resource persons who come with expertise and experiences, the places to visit are famous in Asia and in the world, the Thai welcome style and the cultural night are good and joyful motifs will be experienced here by the SIGNIS Asia Assembly participants.

Bishop Prathan in his opening address welcome the participants for the Signis Asia Assembly 2018 and led them to the





theme: Fake News versus Media for Peace. He said, that while the present platforms of social media are fast, easy and powerful tools for disseminating news and information these are also easy tools to eliminate fake news. It is our challenge he said, as Catholic communicators to be heralds of truth and constantly strive to be agents of truth in words and deeds.

In a video presentation, Ms. Helen Osman, President of SIGNIS World, encourages the SAA delegates and participants in the words of Pope Francis to embrace everything that promotes goodness and confront that which tends to isolate, divide and destroy.

Fr. Anucha Chaiyadej SIGNIS President reported that Thailand is honored as host country of the SAA 2018 and happy to welcome some 50 participants and guests representing 14 countries who come and share experiences as Catholic communicators on the theme of the assembly. He cited that the logo of the 2018 assembly represented by the three people symbolize the three regions of Asia who will work together to building peace in our love of duty in the field of social communications media.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Chainarong Montienvichienchai and Dr. Ratchada Montienvichienchai dealt more in detail the phenomenon of fake news that we encounter everyday in the various platforms of media. Fake news target individual persons, institutions and high profile persons in society and even in the Church. To prevent the spread of fake news a fact



check of sources and data information would be of help. Questions and answers to the issue were tackled and shared experiences were shared at the assembly.

The keynote presentation was followed by the presentations on the topics: Fake News in Digital Media by Fr. Anthony Le Duc, Media Education and Fake News by Dr. Magimai Pragasam and, Journalism and Fake News. These topics were shared by the experiences in their respective areas of concern in the media as professors and practitioner.

The speakers attested to the fact that fake news is a constant challenge for us in today's media context. As Catholic communicators what is our response?.

Another beautiful memory for everyone and it will be the moment to learn together to creating peace using the blessings and gifts God has given us through social communications media which will take place in the group discussions to draw out practical activities.

Aside from the meeting, on Wednesday August 15, the assembly participants go on a trip to see and to observe the media activities of Channel 3 and True Vision. This is in conjunction with the theme of their organized event here in Bangkok Thailand, and in like manner to allow the group to see for themselves the station's efficiency of presenting accurate and correct news and various information, including its TV station's top media advancements and good management. After the visit in the TV station and communication companies, we joined together with Thai Catholic community in Bangkok to celebrate the Mass on the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Assumption Cathedral.



Channel 3



True Vision

Celebration of the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Assumption Cathedral





Impressions

“With deep gratitude and joy, I’d like to thank SIGNIS Asia organizing committee for inviting me in this assembly. The subject, “Fake News versus Media for Peace” is a very relevant issue in this modern times where so many are using the modern communications tools. Fake news can destroy our family, society, church and world. It is a destructive tools to destroy our personal life.

This seminar is enlightening all participants to become aware of fake news and encouraging us to take step to protect the use of fake news. This seminar is helping us to know what is fake news and the effect of fake news. May God bless us to do good for all humanity.”

*+ Bishop James Romen Boiragi
Bangladesh*

“The Keynote Presentation ‘Fake News vs Media for Peace’ by Dr. Chainarong Montheienvichienchai brought us through the history of SIGNIS to inspire us that media should be used for peace and new evangelisation. The publication of misinformation and deliberate making up of stories is nothing new, as emphasised as well in the sessions that followed. The other presenters also brought forth similarities in reminding us that “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants or shoes on”, a quote attributed to Winston Churchill.

Dr. Magi emphasised the need for the young to be equipped with media education and critical thinking skills to help make a change in society’s behaviour for the future. We also need to come up with creative techniques to sow seeds of peace with professionalism and in faith. To shift from being passive viewers to active participants, we need to become role models to others and to be transparent in our doings. Tae Pakawat noted that people need to be engaged and touched by the content that we create. We need to remind ourselves to witness the truth and connect with others, and not be afraid to speak up and break down blocks and barriers.

Dr. Theethavat gave us an insight into how the past can help us understand the future, using the definitions of propaganda and how it relates to society’s beliefs. Using the concept of the 3S’s – system (technology), society and self, we can continue to fight and prevent fake news. Ms Apinya’s sharing on the challenges of the young in the digital media age provided us with the push to dialogue and accompany the young on their journey to lead a purposeful and meaningful life. The presenters provided us with many good examples, case studies and information throughout the sessions. The Q&A sessions after each presentation were also helpful in highlighting the needs and concerns of communicators in the church of Asia today.”

Adeline James, Malaysia

SIGNIS Asia Assembly 2018 is a very special one for me!

“We are very much privileged with opportunity to experience Thai hospitality, Thai smiles about all Thai people.

The theme of the Assembly is very much in line with the needs of the time and the mind of the Church.

The resource persons were very efficient. Their inputs are so clear and complete that they give us very good knowledge of Fake News and how to handle it efficiently.

Visit to the Media Centers was another impressive and learning experience of how the secular media functions with efficiency and effectively.

We are very fortunate to be able to participate at the celebration of Solemnity of the Assumption at the Cathedral. We had the opportunity to get in touch with the life of the Catholic Church of Thailand. The piety and religiosity of the faithful is very impressive.

Cultural presentation gave us very joyful atmosphere. It was a good break from the 2 previous working days. It also gives the beautiful richness of the Thai Culture.

Last not the least is the members of the Signis Asia. It is great privilege to meet and learn from one another.

Indeed it was a great gathering and thanks to each participants and thanks to Thailand who has hosted very efficiently.”

*Fr. Mariano Soe Naing, SDB
Myanmar*

“As one of the participants of the SIGNIS ASIA ASSEMBLY 2018, I was very impressed with many things. One example is the relevance of the issues discussed in every topic which I find very useful for the mission and evangelization. I could see the readiness from all speakers who are all well-prepared in their respective topics.

The intensity and uniqueness of all participants were some of the things I also find very impressive. In spite of their ethnic diversity, languages and age, they are well cooperative in sharing their information and ideas. I found the atmosphere of friendship and togetherness. I believe that good things will happen after this meeting.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Anucha Chaiyadej and the staff of Thai Catholic Media who organized this SIGNIS ASIA ASSEMBLY 2018 to benefit the development of the media communications at all levels.”

Sr. Wirinthip Inyaem, Thailand

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Lights and Shadows: presenting the 350th year anniversary of “the Vicariate of Siam”



Thai Boxing



Thai Dance (Ram Thai)



SAA participants and all cultural performers



Workshop