

10th WCC Assembly to Focus on Justice and Peace

BUSAN (October 6, 2011) -- The 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) will take place in Busan, Republic of Korea, from October 30 – November 8, 2013 under the theme “*God of life, lead us to justice and peace.*”

The 25-member assembly planning committee, which includes WCC Central Committee members and ecumenical partner representatives, met on September 26-October 2 at the venue for the 2013 Assembly venue – the Busan Exhibition and Conference Centre (BEXCO).



At this meeting the committee offered basic direction for the development of the assembly’s spiritual life, program, business and the partnership needed to strengthen preparations over the next two years.

The Rev. Robert Welsh, ecumenical officer of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and General Secretary of the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, was named to the planning committee to represent the hopes of the Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions in developing this assembly as a gathering of the whole ecumenical movement.

The committee met with leaders and members of local churches and had the opportunity to attend an early morning prayer service at a local congregation. During the meeting, the committee affirmed that the Assembly should be prepared in “the spirit of *madang*,” a Korean concept that affirms the traditional Korean “courtyard” connecting different parts of a house: a space for discussion, deliberation, celebration and fellowship; a traditional centre of family and community life.

Reflecting on this second meeting of the Assembly Planning Committee, Welsh stated, “Exciting plans are taking shape for the next Assembly of the WCC in offering a unique space for all Christians, churches and ecumenical partners to witness to our oneness in Christ as we seek to respond together to God’s gift of unity and reconciliation. The context of Korea, as a divided nation, provides an immediate and contextual challenge to the theme of the Assembly which identifies the calling to all Christians to be agents of life, peace and justice for all peoples and in all places.”

The committee will meet again in July 2012 to finalize its proposals to the WCC Central Committee which meets in August 2012.

Read also: **2013 Assembly theme: “God of life, lead us to justice and peace”** (WCC press release of February 22, 2011) at <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1724/2013-assembly-theme-g.html>.