

# Asia Pacific Coordination Group - 2019 Report



The new AP CG team from left to right:

Yeon Yuk Jeong (South Korea), Tony Amar (New Zealand), Yofrina Octika Gultom (Indonesia), Nigel Heywood (Australia), Vuth Kim (Cambodia) and Siddharth Singh (India)

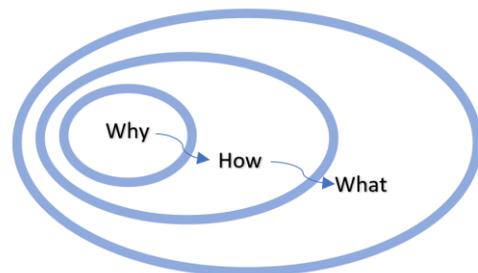
## Overview

The newly elected Asia Pacific Coordination Group (APCG) met for the first time in Shenzhen, China from 20 – 22 September 2019. The time together was one of fellowship, searching, visioning and planning together. A part of each day was set aside for spiritual searching and sharing together, followed by looking at what some of the current realities and needs are for our IofC teams. Alongside this, we began visioning for where our work needs to grow in order to meet bigger regional needs.

Our core question: What is the one thing that APCG can work towards in the next 4-5 years that will make a difference for IofC work and the Asia/Pacific Region?

## Vision

APCG's role has been to specifically look at links between teams and fostering better communications and support around regional projects together. We felt that we need to examine the 'why' of our work. Our discussions were based on TEDx speaker Simon Sinek's talk ['Start with Why'](#).



What began to emerge was the need to strengthen the spiritual core as the 'why' of our IofC network. The idea was not that this could be done as one small team giving strong demanding leadership, but as a team searching with others across the region in dialogue, contemplation, retreats, and focused action to help draw us together across our internal divisions and reach out to meet bigger needs within the region.

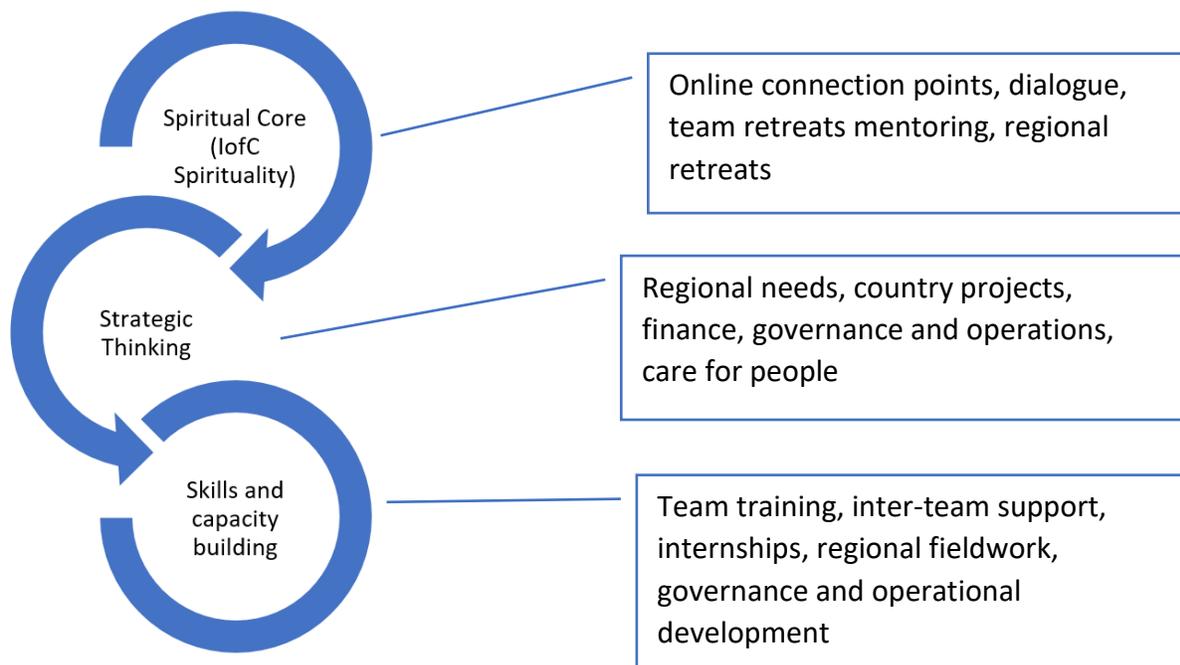
## Questions from our searching

- Are we still a network of practitioners? Do we still have a common philosophy and set of practices that drive the way we live and work together across the region?
- Who is our network now?
- How can we strengthen our regional fellowship?
- Do we feel that Initiatives of Change has something vitally relevant in helping meet the needs of the region?
- Is it possible to have a dialogue about the needs that are emerging across different countries in the region?

## Model for IofC Teamwork

As part of the search around the deeper 'why' of our work Siddharth Singh related some of his thinking from his work with IofC India. He noticed that in their team gatherings they mashed a lot of things together trying to make all things happen at once. The result was that both fellowship and organization were left languishing and those carrying the work were unsupported. Siddharth began to think about what essential elements need to be covered for an IofC team to work well, he came up with three: (1) IofC Spirituality, (2) Strategic Direction, and (3) Skills and Capacity Development. In our APCG conversations it was added that perhaps there was a fourth element in Governance and Structure (critical to many IofC team's current struggles) but felt that this slotted in under strategic direction.

In the Indian IofC team, this led to the development of more retreats around specific team needs, for example they had a communications retreat. That retreat did not have to involve everyone in IofC India but was still able to have a spiritual focus as part of the time together while they planned, meeting both fellowship and organizational needs. We began to think this might be a good framework for us to dialogue across the region about how our teams work, how we can support each other, and where we can work together – **this is an invitation to come with us on a journey!**



## APCG Roles and Portfolios

Patrick Santa Maria has finished up his role with APCG at the end of 2019. Thank you for your commitment and prayers Patrick, we look forward to staying connected with you through initiatives in the region. We are also sad to report that Elise Collins has stepped down from the APCG due to her work commitments with IofC Australia. We wish Elise all the best with her work and still hope to see her at some of the regional events that will be taking place. At this stage the APCG is still considering whether we co-opt a new member to fill the role.

Portfolios and roles of current APCG	
Secretary	Tony Amar
Finance	<i>Role to be filled</i>
Communications	Yofrina Octika Gultom
APCG coordinator and fundraising	Yeon Yuk Jeong
Program Coordination	Siddharth Singh, Nigel Heywood, and Vuth Kim

## Regional Teams

Discussing our teams across the region we are acutely aware of the different structures and ways of working, some teams are well established, some are loose networks, others are small group of friends. Here is our current list of teams categorized within IofC's organizational structure.

<b>Registered IA*</b> <b>members</b>	Australia, Japan, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia
<b>Registered within country</b>	Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines, Solomon Is, Sri Lanka
<b>Not IA member</b>	Vietnam, Timor Leste
<b>Individuals</b>	Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, China (HK), Singapore, Fiji, Samoa, PNG, Bangladesh

\*International Association: pays fee to IofC International

In discussion we began to think about additional categories that we might look at with the capacity and ability of different teams to: host a team; run a program; operate an office; build a network; join an outside program; develop a focus/specialty (for example: training, family work, education, peacebuilding, farming, business); raise (financial) resources; or, create partnerships.

Some thoughts around team and/or network development:

- Which countries could become mentors and/or supporters of other country's development?
- Who are the engaged individuals or groups that want to run with IofC but are feeling a lack of support/ fellowship/ confidence/ resources?

### Akasha - Malaysia

In previous Asia Pacific Regional Gatherings there has been some tension around the work of Akasha and its role alongside IofC's work in the region. This has caused heartache and unresolved issues on both sides. APCG and the Akasha board (along with some of their key team members) were able to meet together in China and have some direct and honest conversations, not without some tears and apologies amongst colleagues who had not addressed the issue for some time. The outcome of which is an understanding between the International Council, APCG and Akasha to establish a new working partnership together within the region. Our IofC teams and Akasha have a lot to offer each other and we look forward to developing and supporting projects together – look in the APCG calendar for events that you may want to be a part of.

### APCG Communications

Yofrina is our new communications person. One of our internal projects is to establish a clear path for communication within the region. If you want to let teams within the region know about an event or a project, please let the APCG know and we will send it out through the network in our communications and post it on our Facebook.

The current APCG communication channels are:

- Facebook:
  - [Group] <https://www.facebook.com/groups/166149513441420/>
  - [Page] <https://www.facebook.com/iofc.aprg/>
- Regional email list [currently in the process of being updated]

If you want to be in contact with the APCG team, please write to this email address:

[apcg@iofc.org](mailto:apcg@iofc.org)

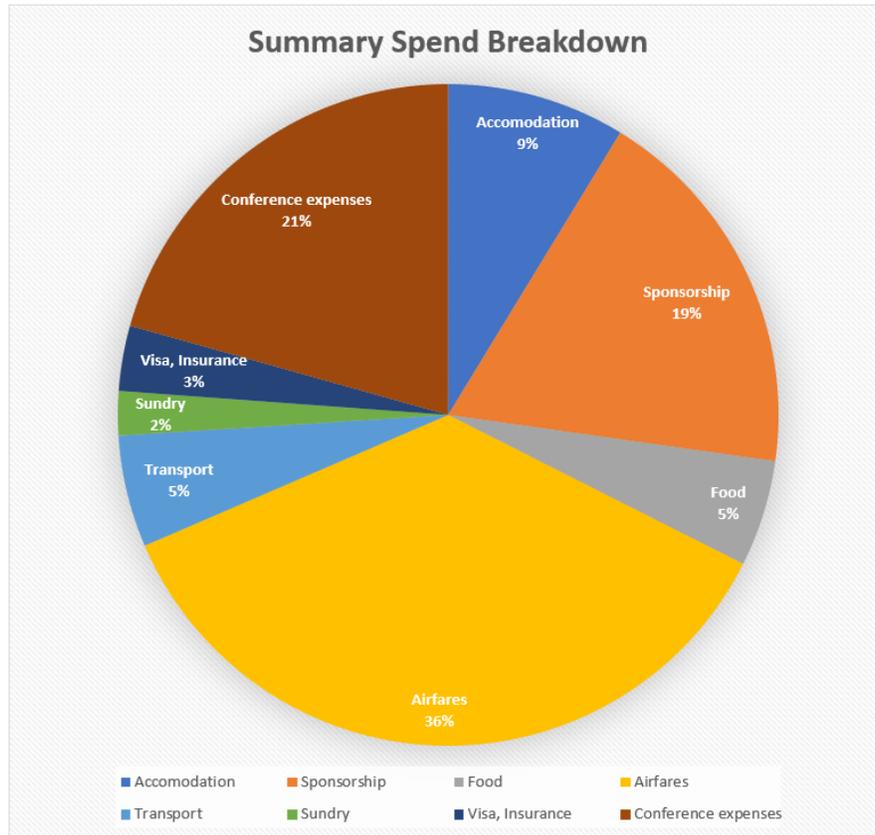
### MOU with IofC International

We have been asked to work out a Memorandum of Understanding with the IofC International Council (IC). This agreement is to establish a formal relationship between the IC and APCG. This will provide clear lines of accountability and transparency as well as helping to define the roles and responsibility of each party. The MOU was signed at Asia Plateau in 11 February 2020.

View the MOU between IC and APCG here: <https://bit.ly/32VstwZ>

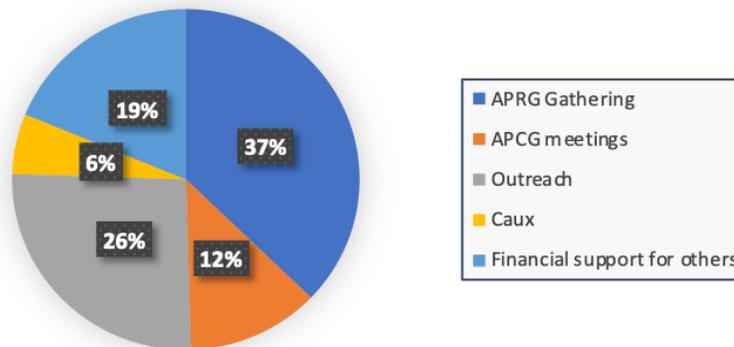
## APCG Finance for 2019

APRG is financed via the Silvia Zuber fund. The annual contribution is \$32,500 Swiss Francs per year. We use the funds for a variety of proposes. And our spend for 2019 is described below:



This is a breakdown for 2019 based on some general spending categories. Conference costs and airfares are our largest expenditure.

## Summary by Task



Per task, the Asia Pacific Regional Gathering is the largest percentage spend as the most important part of the functions of APCG. With outreach as the second largest amount of money used.

## Regional IofC Calendar 2020

Date	Event	Host	Contact
1-6 February	International Council & APCG members in regional visit	Sri Lanka	apcg@iofc.org
14-23 February	International Council & APCG members in regional visit	Malaysia/ Indonesia	apcg@iofc.org
(Postponed to) September/October	Mekong Youth Exchange Program	Cambodia/APCG	mekong@iofc.org
8-15 August *	Asia Pacific Youth Conference	Taiwan	apyc@iofc.org
November	Japan International Forum	Japan	apcg@iofc.org
December	Life Matters Workshop	Malaysia	apcg@iofc.org
14-16 August	Life Matters Workshop (Sydney)	Australia	nigel.heywood@iofc.org

\*APYC committee will decide whether APYC can be hosted this year at the end of May. In the meantime, stay safe and keep washing your hands.

Note: Caux conferences and the International Life-work Conference (Akasha) have been postponed for this year due to the COVID-19 virus. An announcement for when the conference will be held will take place in 2021.

If you have any questions or would like to add an event to the calendar for the region then please let us know at [apcg@iofc.org](mailto:apcg@iofc.org)