



**ASIA-OCEANIA LEADERS MEETING
SINGAPORE, 2018**



09 March, 2018

Dear Marists of Champagnat,

This year our Asia-Oceania Leaders Meeting was held at Champagnat House, Singapore on 7-8 March 2018. The participants were , Br. Jean-Marie Batick, Br. Peter Carroll, Br. Juan Castro, Br. David McDonald, , Br. Mervyn Perera and Br. Robert Teoh.

During our two-day meeting the following topics and possible areas of collaboration were discussed:

1. The **Marist Asia Strategic Plan**, which was developed at the end of 2017, was shared with all participants.
2. **Lay Partnership** was one of the key areas that was discussed. The Oceania Region has agreed to send Dan Dungey and another representative to attend the Asia Lay Commission meeting in Singapore on 9-12 April, 2018.
3. **Financial Collaboration** is another aspect that we will need to address together in the years ahead. Thus the Oceania Finance Network will invite the Bursars of the Asia Region to attend their meeting in August this year.
4. **Formation** is an area in which the two regions have a strong history of collaboration. During this meeting we discussed how the existing initial formation centres, particularly the 3 existing Novitiates, can work together to provide the best intercultural and international formation for our future Brothers. The results of the recent MAPAC survey were also presented for discussion. Each AU's Council will reflect on and discuss the Survey results and the purpose of MAPAC, and then send their responses to Br Jean-Marie, the Chair of MAPAC Board prior to MAPAC Executive Board meeting on May.
5. The two regions are also working separately on building up **Marist Education Networks** in the respective regions. They are in different stage of development. Closer interaction and exchange between the two regions is envisaged and encouraged. Our hope is that those who oversee our school networks will eventually develop an Asia-Pacific network. Br. Ador and Dr. Frank Malloy will be asked to start this conversation.
6. We see the value of **mutual recognition** among the universities in the regions, and thus we would like to explore the feasibility for Catholic Universities in Australia (ACU), Melanesia (DWU) and The Philippines (Marist ones) being able to recognise one another's qualifications.
7. We considered the benefits of short term **volunteering and exchange** between the AUs as an important way to strengthen our communities and ministries in the regions according to the needs. AU's leader will discuss and encourage their members in this respect.
8. There was a discussion about the **quality of community life** and the need for an ongoing desire to deepen our **relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other**. We resolved to continue this conversation in the hope of identifying new strategies that will be helpful to brothers in community.
9. The Marist District of Asia and District of Melanesia presented their some possibilities for **New Presence/Ministry**.

10. Through the initiative of the Australia Province **ACU Scholarships** (two per year) are now available for the young Brothers in Asia-Pacific. Two Brothers are scheduled to commence their studies mid-2018. AU Leaders will consider candidates for 2019 and commence the planning process.

Prayer sessions were held during the meeting. The leaders also shared the ups and downs in their lives as leaders for their respective AUs. The mutual support and the brotherhood that we shared made this meeting meaningful and significant. We hope that the fruits of this meeting will enhance our Marist life in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Blessings.

Br. Robert Teoh, fms (for the Leaders)



Brothers Mervyn Pereira (Province of South Asia), Juan Castro (Marist District of Asia), Jean Marie Batick (District of Melanesia), David McDonald (District of the Pacific), Robert Teo (Province of East Asia), and Peter Carroll (Province of Australia).