



Connections

International Presentation Association



Elsa Muttathu, PBVM
NGO Representative

Last year IPA applied for and received a grant from the Conrad Hilton Foundation. Our grant is titled **IPA Engagement in TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**. Its purpose is capacity building that recognized the significance of our local IPA ministries in co- visioning, co-learning and co-creating the future we want using the Sustainable Development Goals. The grant is being implemented in Africa, India, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand. The project aims at building the capacity of IPA members and their collaborators to develop inclusive participatory processes with the communities they serve and to speak and act in partnership for global justice. Below are descriptions of how each of our IPA countries are working to implement the vision and purpose of our grant.

January 7-12, 2017 Sister Dulcine Crasta, Project Manager, organized a two week training on the SDGs at the Claretian Retreat Centre, Manila, Philippines for the coordinators of the Conrad Hilton Foundation grant. Eighteen participants studied the processes and dynamics of forming a project team, of developing indicators in the light of SDGs, and of planning country specific project activities.



Dulcine Crasta, UFS



Mystery of Oneness

Thailand

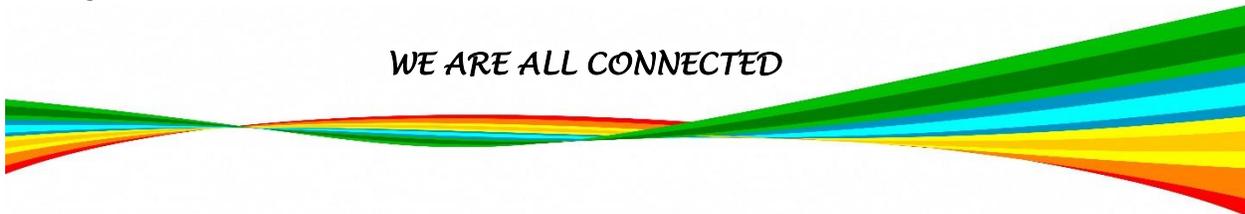
Thailand is a country at the centre of the Indochinese peninsula in Southeast Asia. With a total area of approximately 198,000 sq. mi, Thailand is the world's 50th largest country. It is the 20th most populous country in the world, with around 66 million people. In 1999 five Presentation sisters from India, Pakistan and Philippines arrived in Thailand. At present the sisters are engaged in ministry to migrant Indigenous peoples and especially to the tribal children at the mission centre. The sisters also offer outreach programmes in the villages of Fang diocese.



Chitra Verges, PBVM

The Conrad Hilton Grant is facilitating the sisters to focus on Sustainable Development **Goal 5: gender equality and Goal 13: climate action** by offering training with young girls and women from 15 villages on human trafficking. After the training for the young girls, they hope to have the similar training in every village by the girls who attended the training. The sisters in the schools are also planning on doing training on care of Earth.

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India



Srs Libania Fernandes, Asha Jacob,
Pushpa Lalitha (North India)

India is a vast South Asian country with history reaching back 5 millennia. By the 2nd millennium, the oldest scriptures associated with Hinduism began to be composed. Social stratification, based on caste, emerged in the first millennium BCE; and Buddhism and Jainism arose. In the medieval era, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam arrived, and Sikhism emerged, all adding to the region's diverse culture. In the mid-19th century, the subcontinent came under British crown rule followed by a nationalist movement in the late 19th century that used nonviolent resistance to obtain independence in 1947 and

became the most populous democracy in the world. In 2015, the Indian economy was the world's seventh largest. The first Presentation mission in India began in 1842 when four pioneering sisters came from Ireland to Madras (Chennai). The mission spread to many other states in the Indian sub-continent including Rawalpindi (which was later to become part of Pakistan). In 2015 the India Unit divided into India North Unit and India South India.



The Conrad Hilton Grant will facilitate the sisters in India to implement two national trainings on vision building and strategic thinking for 25 persons from each province, followed by cluster level trainings. These trainings and advocacy work will focus on the Sustainable Development **Goal 6: clean water and sanitation, Goal 4: quality education, and Goal 13: climate action**. Trained community leaders will organise issue based awareness programs for women, children, youth, staff and parents. Public advocacy events will be organised at the rural local governments (Panchayats & Blocks).

*Srs Divya Femandes, Lilly Orathel,
Flora Mary Aruldoss, Nifa Viegas
(South India)*



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Africa

The Republic of Zambia has a population of 14.2 million. For most of the colonial period, Zambia was governed by administrations appointed from United Kingdom. The Republic of Zimbabwe has 16.2 million people. Once the bread basket of the region, since 2000 Zimbabwe has struggled to feed its own people due to severe droughts and the effects of a land reform programme. Presentation sisters first began their mission in Africa in 1949 with the arrival of four sisters from India to Zimbabwe. Sisters arrived in Zambia from England in 1970. The Africa Unit was formed in 2013 when sisters ministering in Zambia and Zimbabwe came together to form one group.

The Conrad Hilton Grant will facilitate the sisters in the Africa Unit to focus on environmental protection. They will put in place some indicators to measure the change for the rights of water, sanitation and energy (**Goal 6: clean water and sanitation and Goal 7: affordable and clean energy**). These will have a direct effect on women and children and Indigenous people which are two of the IPA focus areas.



*Srs Mbololowa Illinanga, Lynette
Rodrigues, Ms. Naume Pasipamire, Sr
Judith Habasune*

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Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Srs Farzana Bashir, Shazia Lal, Rozie Younas

Pakistan is unique among Muslim countries in that it is the only country to have been created in the name of Islam. Pakistan was created in 1947 as an independent homeland for South Asian Muslims and adopted a constitution in 1956, becoming an Islamic republic. An ethnic civil war in 1971 resulted in the secession of East Pakistan as the new country of Bangladesh. In 1973 Pakistan adopted a new constitution that stipulated that all laws were to conform to the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Quran and Sunnah. Pakistan has the sixth-largest standing armed forces in the world, is a nuclear power, has a semi-industrialized economy, and is the sixth most populous country with a population exceeding 197 million people. It is ranked among

the emerging and growth-leading economies of the world, and is backed by one of the world's largest and fastest-growing middle classes. The first Presentation sisters arrived in Rawalpindi (which is now in Pakistan) in 1895 from Madras (Chennai) in India. The Sisters opened a school which initially served the children of British and Irish soldiers living there. More schools were later established from there. The sisters are engaged in formal and informal education, medical care, health work and pastoral work. Their schools now cater for pupils of all religions, Christian, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs.

The Conrad Hilton Grant will facilitate the Presentation sisters in Pakistan to focus on the implementation of Sustainable Development **Goal 3: Good health and well-being, Goal 4: Quality education, Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation, and Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions**. The sisters will organize five regional meetings and a national training which will focus on girls' education, gender equality, and environmental issues. Community leaders will organize awareness campaigns in each area with women, men, youth, children, parents, teachers, collaborative institutions and organizations

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Philippines



Srs Helen Lenehan, Aquila Sy, Julia Tabafa

The **Philippines** is a Southeast Asian country in the Western Pacific comprises more than 7,000 islands. The Philippines' location on the Pacific Ring of Fire and close to the equator makes the Philippines prone to earthquakes and typhoons, but also endows it with abundant natural resources and some of the world's greatest biodiversity. As of 2013, approximately 10 million additional Filipinos lived overseas, comprising one of the world's largest diaspora. The Philippines became part of the Spanish Empire for more than 300 years. As the 19th century gave way to the 20th, there followed in quick succession

the Philippine Revolution, followed by the bloody Philippine–American War of conquest by US military force. After World War II the Philippines was recognized as an independent nation. The first Irish Presentation sisters arrived in 1960 from Kilkenny to Negros Island and assumed the responsibilities of administrating a school and then added a third level college. The sisters established a community on the island of Cebu in 1981. Today the sisters continue in their ministry in schools with attention to environmental education as well as work with the indigenous peoples on a variety of issues, especially land rights, education and health rights.

The Conrad Hilton Grant will facilitate the Presentation sisters in the Philippines to focus on the implementation of Sustainable Development **Goal 4: quality education**. Quality education ensures that girls and boys complete inclusive, equitable and quality education that promotes life-long learning opportunities. Fundamental to this education is mastering the concept, techniques, and practices of systemic change. Vital to systemic change is prioritizing the need to be involved in the public advocacy, especially protecting the right to vote.

