



Columban
Missionaries



ECCLESIAL SYNODALITY

IN THE SHARED MISSION OF OCEANIA AND ASIA

September 29, 2021 • Register: bit.ly/EcclesialSynodality

9AM Rome • 1PM Bangladesh • 3PM Manila • 7PM Suva • 8PM Apia

SPEAKERS



Cardinal Mario Grech
Secretary General of the
Synod of Bishops



Cardinal Charles Maung Bo
President, Federation of
Asian Bishops' Conferences



Archbishop Peter Loy Chong
President, Federation of
Catholic Bishops'
Conferences in Oceania



BACK GROUND AND RATIONALE

The cry of the Earth and cry of the poor are most deeply felt in the peripheral communities of Asia and Oceania. Small Island States are experiencing sea-level rise, sea-bed mining, and extreme weather events. Similarly in Asia, climate events impact vulnerable communities that continue to see destruction in the forests, coastal areas, and the greater biodiversity that sustain all our lives. Communities struggle to adapt. Global efforts need to address these problems at the core.

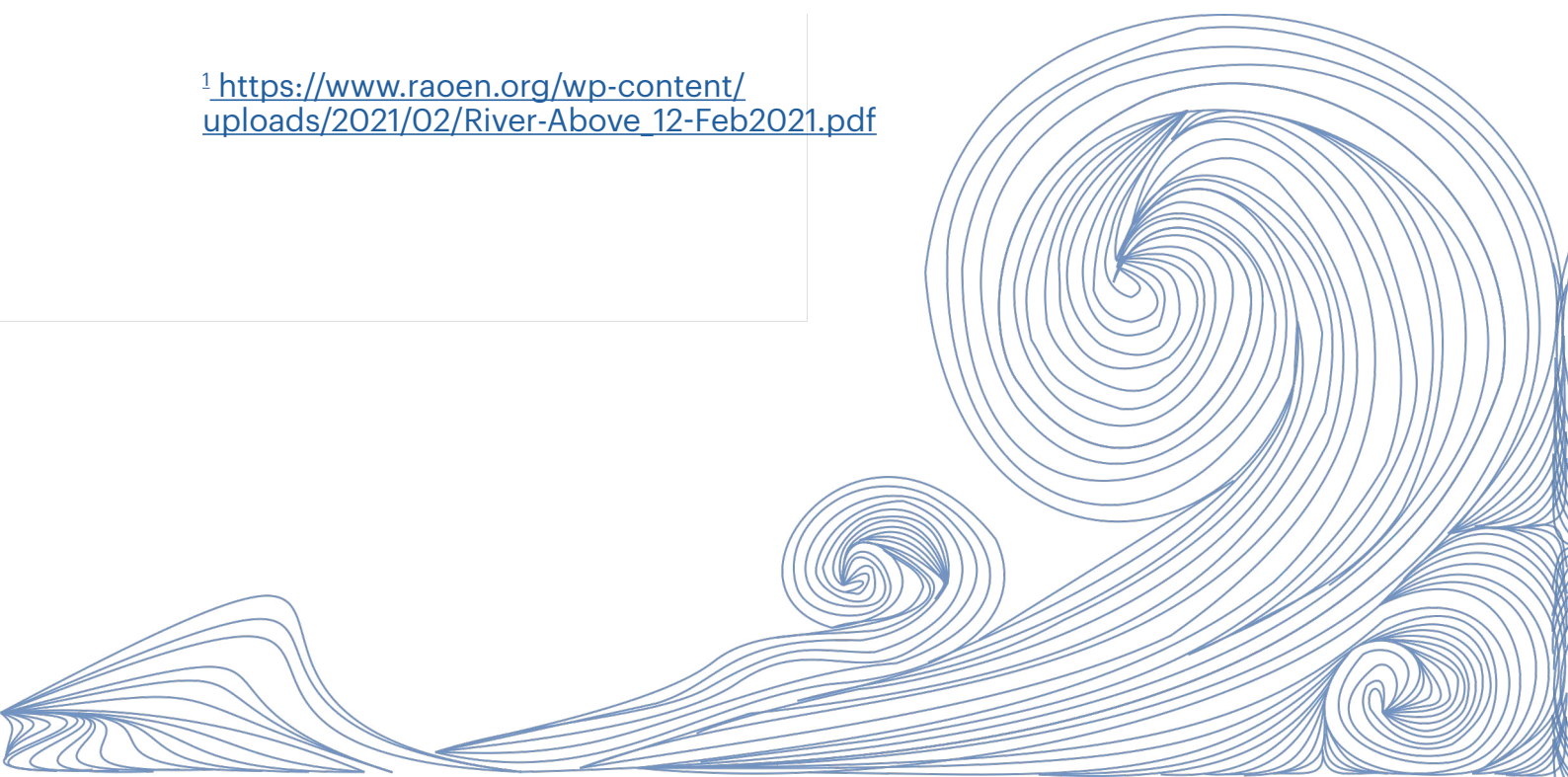
These concerns are interconnected by way of the “river above” – “the Pacific Ocean is the life, the river of Asia feeding all rivers, seasons and lives. The surface area and ocean currents absorb energy and generate thermals and other air flows, forming the weather patterns and events while sustaining their movement westward. This flow is life-giving and life-taking, especially as the climate is changing and resources are being exhausted.”¹ Addressing these concerns will only be possible if Oceania and Asia act together.

Seeking to renew our vision and commitment towards a Church that listens and dialogues, this virtual event aims to listen to the voices of Synodality for Oceania and Asia. Pope Francis emphasizes the value of Synodality as key for the Church in the Future. In the document Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church, the value of inclusion of ecumenical movements was highlighted, stating, “it is important to acknowledge with joy that, in our time, ecumenical dialogue has come to recognize Synodality as something that reveals the nature of the Church, something essential to its unity in the variety of its manifestations.” (116)

Synodality literally means “walking together”, referring to “involvement and participation of the whole People of God in the life and mission of the Church” (SLMC 7). Moving forward, RAOEN needs to understand the value of connecting with other people of faith in uplifting the calls for change from local communities.

RAOEN in collaboration with FABC, FCBCO, Global Alliance of Ecclesial Network, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Caritas aims to create a space for synodality through this dialogue between local voices and Church and ecumenical leaders. The hope is to strengthen collaborations and commitments amongst these groups grounded on the common desire to care for the oceans and forests.

¹ https://www.raoen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/River-Above_12-Feb2021.pdf



PROGRAM

Topic	Speaker/s
Prayer	Michel Roy
Welcome Address	Pedro Walpole SJ
Session 1: Synodality – New Ways of Being Church	Cardinal Mario Grech Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops
Open Forum	
Session 2: Listening to Peoples and Spirits of Oceania and Asia	Sanjeeb Drong General Secretary Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Ursula Rakova Executive Director, Tulele Peisa
Open Forum	
Session 3: Urgent Call for Care of the Ocean and Forests	Cardinal Charles Maung Bo Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) Archbishop Peter Loy Chong President, Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO)
Working Session 4: How do we strengthen Church and Creation interconnectedness across the Biome of Oceania Asia (River Above)?	TBD
Closing Remarks	

KEY READINGS

- [Synodality in the life and mission of the church](#)
- [Pope: Synodality must be based on reality, not fashionable ideas](#)
- [Cardinal Czerny: Synodality is a fundamental trait of ecclesial identity](#)

