

ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR EAST ASIA CONFERENCE



Synthesis Statement

14th East Asia Conference – Common Integration Program

**“Integrated Friars as Agents of Hope for Renewed Humanity
and Restored Environment in the Context of Asia”**

Province of San Pedro Bautista-Philippines

St. Gregory the Great Friary

69 San Pedro Bautista St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, Philippines

August 1-29, 2025

We, the 33 participants of the East Asia Conference – Common Integration Program, representing the Province of San Pedro Bautista-Philippines (5 friars), Province of San Antonio de Padua-Philippines (3 friars), Province of St. Francis of Assisi-Vietnam (22 friars), Province of Holy Korean Martyrs-South Korea (1 friar), and Foundation of St. Francis of Assisi-Papua New Guinea (2 friars), unite in reflecting on the rich experiences and transformative learnings gained during this impactful gathering.

The East Asia Conference – Common Integration Program (EAC-CIP) deepened our connections across diverse cultural backgrounds and enriched our spiritual lives. The month-long program featured meaningful encounters in workshops, liturgical celebrations, communal prayers, cultural presentations, and fraternal exchanges.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the host, Province of San Pedro Bautista-Philippines and the organizing committee, whose dedication and planning ensured that every aspect of the program was executed adequately. Their efforts allowed us to immerse ourselves in the experience without distraction. Additionally, we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of all participating entities, the leadership of the East Asia Conference, and the wider Franciscan Order, whose collective guidance and support were key to the program’s success.

Reflection on the General theme:

Celebrating the 8th centenary of the Canticle of Creatures, we, the friars of the 14th EAC-CIP come together to reconnect and integrate with our common home. In a world afflicted by divisions, wars, and rapid climate change we come together as a fraternity bearing the zeal of mission to become beacons of hope as pilgrims in Asia. We are called together as one family coming from different cultures, languages, and backgrounds to celebrate unity in diversity. We bring and share our own stories and listen to the others.

Insights on Whole Program:

We realize that we are an international fraternity and we grow and improve in our shared bonding. In our goal to communicate and fraternalize well we bridge this gap by using the English language as we discover how Franciscans lived out their charism in each entity. The experiences of the fraternal love and care of the brothers even though we are different and exposed to new environments like in the immersion program, pilgrimage, and excursion are deeply cherished. We learn to communicate beyond words even though we do not fully understand, the language of fraternal love sustains and enriches us in our encounters.

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Suggestions and Recommendations:

The 14th EAC-CIP participants recommend that each Franciscan entity of the East Asia Conference take turns hosting the Common Integration Program. Likewise, we suggest inviting both clerical and lay friars as resource speakers from the different entities in East Asia. Furthermore, we suggest that some topics include the vocation to lay brotherhood, to assist in discernment before the profession of solemn vows.

Conclusion:

Thus, we hope and pray that the Common Integration Program would continue as an opportunity for the brothers who are preparing for their solemn vows to discover the beauty of our Franciscan identity, deepening our spiritual lives and strengthening our fraternal bonds.

Prepared and signed by OFM Entity Representatives:

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