Jesus Christ, Teacher of the Nations

The figure of the Wise Elder, Guru and Teacher, is deeply rooted in the Scriptures and in Asian cultures and religions. Hence VAISCOM, committed to the formation of pastoral ministers in social communication, is dedicated to Christ, the Good Master and Teacher of the Nations.
The Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC) through its Office of Social Communication (OSC) has established this Institute in the Golden Jubilee Year of FABC (1970-2020) with the primary aim of making the pastoral personnel in Asia competent in Social Communication. Revolution in Information Communication Technology (ICT) poses a great challenge to the Church and to the various pastoral ministries of the Church in Asia. FABC-OSC, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wants to respond to this challenge.

VAISCOM plans to develop leadership and management competence to pastoral personnel and undertake research on communication to enhance their ministry. VAISCOM is under the ownership, patronage and direction of the FABC and its operations and functioning are entrusted to the FABC-OSC. Like RVA, another major undertaking of the FABC, the legal body for VAISCOM in the Philippines is PREIC. The Institute also houses the Secretariat of the FABC Office for Social Communication (FABC-OSC). VAISCOM works in close collaboration with Radio Veritas Asia (RVA).

VISION

VAISCOM strives to develop communication competence among the Church leaders in Asia so as to enable them to serve the Church and Society with apostolic fervour, pastoral dynamism and communion in the spirit of the Church’s vision of social communication.

MISSION

VAISCOM’s mission is:

- to develop a deeper understanding of the ever growing and changing communication scenario globally, with special focus on Asia
- to enable Church leaders acquire the necessary dispositions, aptitudes, competence and skills for effective ministry
- to promote research in social communication
- to network and to collaborate with other institutes and individuals.
VAISCOM strives to realize this Vision and Mission through:

I. Formation and Training

The Institute will offer formation and training to:

- create awareness on digital media reality in the world and train Church personnel to understand the need to adopt them in their pastoral ministry
- offer orientation programs in social communication for pastoral ministry; skills for public relations and crisis management; administration and governance of media activities in local churches, dioceses and Episcopal Conferences
- offer short-term and long-term residential courses so as to make pastoral personnel understand the potential of media and integrate them in their ministry
- help to develop competence in the use of digital technology in their ministry
- to respond with practical and timely pastoral responses in social communication
- form and train personnel to lead communication offices of the Episcopal Conferences, national and regional centers of communication, directors of diocesan communication offices and other media ministries
- foster study and reflection in the area of Social Communication with particular emphasis on the three-fold thrust areas of FABC: dialogue with religions, cultures and the poor
- support Radio Veritas Asia for its training needs and identify areas of development.

II. Research

- undertake research and follow the latest developments in media
- follow trends and issues in Social Communication in Asia and propose pastoral responses and action plan
- offer consultation and facilitate the development of pastoral plan for communication in Episcopal Conferences or regions in Asia
- establish scholarships and endowment funds and other forms of support from within Asia and outside for study, research, training and seminars
- promote the mission and vision of FABC-OSC
- bring out publications and develop resources on Social Communication.

III. Collaboration and Networking

- promote collaboration with Catholic/Christian Universities and academic faculties in Asia for research, and awarding academic certification and diplomas and media studies leading to MA, PhD
- network with secular media organizations on areas of common interest
- liaison with the Vatican Secretariat of Communication, other FABC Offices, Signis and Catholic Press organizations
- render pastoral care to media professionals and help them to be more ethical, socially committed and responsible
- collaborate with FABC-OSC to carry out the functions of the Asian Communication Network-ACN - a network of Catholic communication faculties and professionals in universities and colleges.
FABC
The Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC) is a voluntary association of Episcopal Conferences in Asia, established with the approval of the Holy See. Its purpose is to foster among its members solidarity and co-responsibility for the welfare of the Church and Society in Asia. The decisions of the Federation are carried out in a spirit of collegial responsibility.

FABC OSC
Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences Office of Social Communications (FABC-OSC), is the official organ of the Church in Asia. It aims to bring a Christian dimension to all communication activities at the service of the Gospel. FABC-OSC was commissioned to promote and oversee RVA since its inception in 1970 and through VAISCOM it will strive to animate, train and provide various forms of support to RVA and the national and regional Conferences/Councils of the Bishops through their respective communication offices.

PREIC
The Philippine Radio Educational and Information Center, Inc. (PREIC), is a non-profit, non-stock corporation, established in Manila by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Philippines (CBCP) to serve as the legal body for Radio Veritas Asia (RVA). PREIC is the legal body for the two FABC projects: RVA and VAISCOM to represent them in Philippines.

RVA
Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) established in 1969 functioned as a Short Wave radio till June 2018. In response to the technological revolution RVA migrated to online digital service. Today RVA serves the people of Asia and Asians across the world through 22 language services. RVA and VAISCOM are sister-concerns of the FABC, entrusted to the FABC OSC for administration, policy and governance. Both RVA and VAISCOM are located in the same premises in Quezon City, Manila.

The Church needs to explore ways of thoroughly integrating social communication into her pastoral planning and activity, so that by their effective use the Gospel’s power can reach out still further to individuals and entire peoples, and influence Asian cultures with the values of the Kingdom. (Ecclesia in Asia, 48.)

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