

## **Introduction of the Congress by Bishop Bosco Lin, President of ECMI**

Your Beatitude,  
Your Excellencies, Most Reverend Bishops  
Reverend Fathers, Sisters, Delegates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Congress on Migration,  
Family and Mission

The migration phenomenon has challenged the world and made the world smaller everyday. In Asia Pacific Region, migration is one of the big issues that challenges humanity and awakens the people of goodwill in their responsibility towards one another. Taiwan, as a receiving country in South Asia, has more than 500,000 migrant workers and new immigrants who are helping shape Taiwan's economy but it has also its own policy and traditional practices on migration that sometimes build contempt and degrade human dignity in exchange for profits. Taiwan is also a destination of thousands of seafarers every year bringing goods from other continents and archipelagos. Catholic Migration also helps shape the local Church through sharing of faith and cultural traditions.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Congress on Migration, Family, and Mission will give us a holistic information on the phenomenon of migration in Asia Pacific Region and the world in relation to family and works of mission.

This Congress is also an initiative to advance the cause of the Holy Father, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as being drawn in his encyclical letter "Caritas in Veritate" and being affirmed by Pope Francis in his message for the World's Day of Migrants and Refugees about the importance of proper coordination and collaboration of the Catholic Churches in the region which have a number of emigrants and immigrants. In Asia Pacific region, labor migration is the main focus where migrant workers are oftentimes the victims of injustice, family disintegration, human trafficking, etc. On the issue of welcoming the people of the sea, the campaign should be broaden that will include the local people, government agencies, civic organizations and encourage them to take part in the promotion of acknowledging the sacrifices of the people of the sea and their protection. To broaden the welfare assistance to those who are displaced internally through natural disasters, wars, and ethnic-religious-cultural-political conflict in the region.

Specifically, the goals of this congress are to establish a close collaboration of all pastoral agents doing the pastoral care of welcome to all migrants and itinerant people in Asia Pacific Region and to draw cohesive pastoral approaches between the sending and the receiving countries.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the theme of this congress: "MIGRATION and FAMILY IN THE WORK OF MISSION TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD."

In the name of the Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference, I, Bishop Bosco Lin, the President of the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant

People, declares the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS ON MIGRATION, FAMILY,  
AND MISSION, OPEN.