



invitation for support

Your support is important to us. We are committed to the work of education and ecumenical formation – but money is in short supply.

Your gift can change the lives of people all over the world and we ask you to join us in our endeavours!

For more information about donating to the WCC Scholarships Programme please contact:

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WCC Scholarships Programme web link:

English: <http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/education/scholarships-e.html>

French: <http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/education/scholarships-f.html>

Spanish: <http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/education/scholarships-s.html>

... thankful for the journey travelled together



World Council of Churches Scholarships Programme



An opportunity to empower the churches ...

introduction

'In today's world, people like you and I are searching for a fullness of life – not only for ourselves, but for all those that make up the communities in which we live. Each of us has dreams and visions for a future that calls us to fulfill our potential. The churches that we cooperate with – whether we work in a professional or voluntary capacity – need our skills, talents and expertise.

The WCC Scholarships Programme began as a response to this need. Over the years, it has heeded the call of the churches for assistance in leadership development, ecumenical exchange and capacity building. As the needs have changed, so too has the Programme, extending its global outreach to respond to the ecumenical and regional diversity of its member churches and church-related organizations.



**WCC General Secretary,
Revd Dr Sam Kobia**

The Scholarships Programme is committed to the challenges of ecumenical education, by contributing to the exchange of ideas, cultural experiences and formation opportunities within the ecumenical movement. We have forged strong partnerships with our member churches and church-related organizations and are always seeking new ways to improve our work. The continued support and guidance of our donors has been crucial in fulfilling our objectives and we are thankful for the journey traveled together.

I am confident that the Programme will continue to grow from strength to strength and am committed to ensuring that we make use of all opportunities to empower the churches and their members to realize their visions and dreams for the future.'

'Thank you very much for making my dreams come true. Since completing my basic training fourteen years ago, I have been unable to further my studies because of lack of funds. Thanks to the WCC I now have an additional qualification – a great step ahead – which I believe will strengthen my performance in my organization.'

**Ibrahim Abani - WCC Scholar
Tropical Institute of Community Health and
Development, Kenya**



background

The ecumenical movement today is a unique global network of institutions working towards a common aim. The network includes Church World Communions, Regional Ecumenical Organizations, Church Agencies and the World Council of Churches.

The WCC Scholarships Programme is a dynamic way for the churches to give support to the ecumenical movement and its educational ministry. Since its establishment in 1945, the Programme has been a constant feature of the ecumenical work of the WCC. Over the years it has expanded and developed key priorities and policies in response to the changing needs of the member churches.

The Programme's core competencies lie in its capacity to serve as:

- A provider of opportunities for ecumenical formation and exchange
- A means for cross cultural exchange and exploration
- An information resource in graduate education
- A link between partners and networks in the ecumenical movement



goals

'I see my studies within the Cambridge Theological Federation as a continuation of my ecumenical formation. I'm pleased to be working in a multi-cultural and inter-denominational environment and this experience will strengthen my work when I return to my Church in Romania. My WCC Scholarship has enabled me to have a better knowledge of the Orthodox world which in itself is a complex inter-cultural reality.'

Today, the WCC Scholarships Programme supports the educational ministry of the churches and the global ecumenical movement. Its specific goals are:

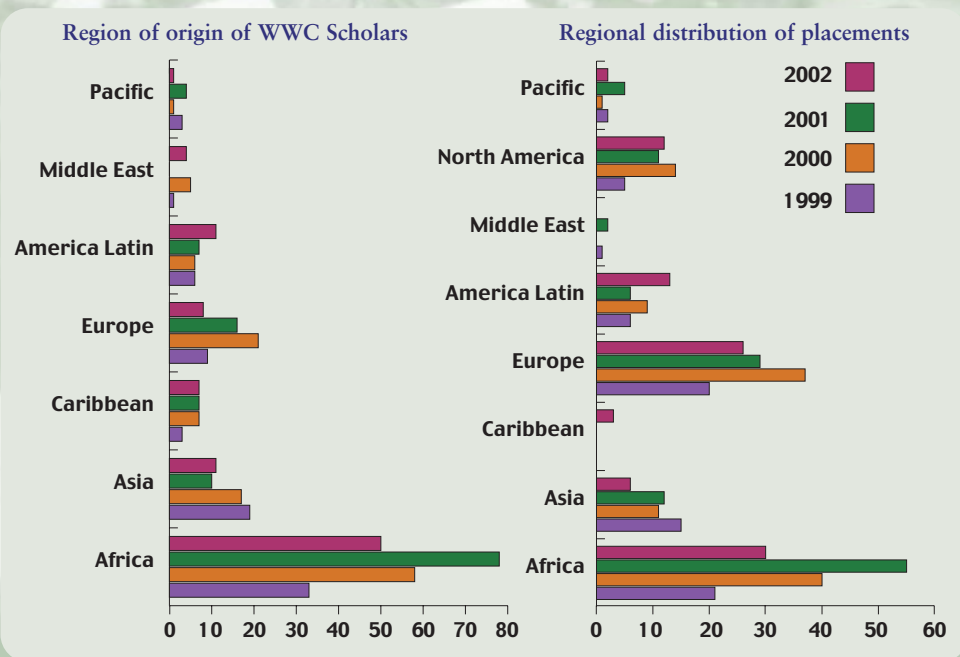
- To support appropriate human resource development in the churches and church-related organizations through granting scholarships to individuals and groups equitably across regions, cultures and traditions, with particular concern for equal opportunities for women;
- To ensure targeted education or training to individuals or groups – with maximum opportunity for ecumenical learning – in order to increase the human resource capacity of the churches and church-related organizations for the benefit of the community;
- To support the churches and church-related organizations to assess their human resource development needs and to establish processes of personnel planning.

developments: geographical

In its early years, the WCC Scholarships Programme focused on providing training for pastors from industrialized countries in Europe. Since then, the target area has gradually widened to include all WCC member churches around the world. Indeed, one of the strengths of the Programme today is its capacity to respond to the wide regional diversity of its member churches and church-related organizations.

In recent years, the Programme has favoured intra-regional opportunities for ecumenical formation in the South. The majority of students who were awarded scholarships during the period 1999-2002 came from the Africa region and undertook their studies in the same region, as indicated in the graphs below.

A significant number of ecumenical leaders from all over the world, recipients of WCC Scholarships, have credited their ecumenical formation to their study experience provided by the Scholarship



developments: thematic

THEMATIC SUMMARY 2001–2002

	2001		2002	
	Number of scholars	%	Number of scholars	%
Theological study	35	28.69	18	19.57
Non-theological study	87	71.31	74	80.43
Total	122	100	92	100

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY 2001–2002

	2001		2002	
	Number of scholars	%	Number of scholars	%
Agronomy	8	6.56	3	3.26
Business Administration	5	4.1	1	1.09
Community Development	22	18.03	17	18.48
Computer studies	1	0.82	1	1.09
Education	7	5.74	5	5.43
Environment	-	-	1	1.09
Gender	7	5.74	5	5.43
Health	7	5.74	14	15.22
Human Resources	9	7.38	8	8.7
Inter religious dialogue	2	1.64	1	1.09
Language studies	4	3.28	4	4.35
Law	9	7.38	8	8.7
Media	6	4.92	2	2.17
Music	1	0.82	-	-
Theology	34	27.87	17	18.48
Other	-	-	5	5.43
Total	122	100	92	100

During the first years of the Programme, Scholarships were granted for theological training and ecumenical exchange for pastors. From the 1950s onwards, the Programme extended its thematic focus to include non-theological training and formation for the lay and ordained, whilst theological training continued to receive the majority of Scholarship awards.

In recent years, however, the thematic emphasis of the Programme has gradually shifted. Currently, the majority of scholarships are awarded for non-theological studies, as the table (see top left) indicates. One of the continuing challenges for the Programme today is to find ways of addressing this growing imbalance.

The Programme has continued to award scholarships covering a wide range of thematic areas, mostly involving some specialization. Examples of the variety of subjects covered by the Scholarships Programme during the period 2001-2002 are indicated see left.

Thematic areas of priority for the period 2004-2006

For the period 2004-2006 the Programme has identified four thematic areas of priority for study and training:

- **Interfaith Relations**

WCC member churches and church-related organizations require assistance in establishing and strengthening relations with neighbours of other religions, engaging in dialogue with them on issues of common concern and initiating co-operative work across the religious divide, particularly in the area of reconciliation and peace-making. Contacts and relationships of trust and friendship between people of different religions need to be steadily encouraged by promoting dialogue in times of peace so that religion is not used as a weapon in times of conflict.

- **Globalization**

Economic justice and environmental concerns have long been part of the ecumenical agenda. Currently, the concentration of power is on the increase, in a global system which supports the accumulation of wealth among a small minority. The rise of absolute and relative poverty is acutely affecting women, young people and those with disabilities in particular. The churches have identified a need for further development in their capacity to critique, clarify and provide pertinent analysis of the current system.

- **Overcoming Violence**

The WCC initiative, affirmed by the Harare Assembly in 1998, to proclaim a 'Decade to Overcome Violence' (DOV), 2001-2010, was taken in response to the churches' reading of the 'signs of the times', inspired by a vision of reconciliation and peace. Violence continues to dominate the media and affects our lives on both a domestic and an international level. Overcoming violence is a concern at the forefront of government agenda and private institutions as well as of the churches.

- **HIV/AIDS**

The ecumenical movement has been raising awareness of the HIV/AIDS issue since the onset of the epidemic. This epidemic has robbed families of loved ones and decimated communities throughout the world, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa where 'HIV/AIDS is a plague of genocidal proportions. No other calamity since the slave trade has depopulated Africa like AIDS.' (Revd Dr Sam Kobia, WCC General Secretary, former WCC Director and Special Representative, Focus on Africa). AIDS is a global threat which demands a global response.





In line with these four priorities, the WCC Scholarships Programme is committed to developing the human resource capacity of the churches and church-related organizations by providing scholarships to individuals and groups seeking to:

- engage in dialogue and cooperative work across the religious divide;
- address issues of economic and environmental concern and promote sustainable communities;
- further initiatives in peace building, reconciliation and conflict transformation;
- raise awareness of HIV/AIDS issues and work towards care and prevention.

developments: individual and group training

Individual and group training

Alongside offering scholarships for graduate study to individual candidates, the Programme now grants awards for group training. This is an exciting new development which has proved most successful, as it offers an opportunity for the group-members to provide a multiplier effect for formation and education in their church and community.

Approximately 30% of the Programme budget is currently spent on group training:

Expenditure	2001 %	2002 %
Group training	29.43	33.17
Individual study	70.57	66.83
Total	100	100

'It is a pleasure for me to express my sincere thanks for this award, which is going to have a long lasting impact on my future career and my target community in the Cameroon.'

**Nzene Sylvester Enongene – WCC Scholar
Asian Rural Institute, Japan**

developments: target group and gender equality

Target group and gender equality

Scholarships are now offered to men and women, lay and ordained, normally under the age of forty-five, whose further education and training are required for the future service of their church. The WCC Scholarships Programme is able to support financially over one hundred scholars each year for study and training.

	2001 Number	%	2002 Number	%
Number of scholarships accepted	118	65.92	92	57.14
Number of extensions accepted	4	2.23	-	-
Subtotal	122	68.16	92	57.14
All others reviewed	57	31.84	69	42.86
Overall total	179	100	161	100



gender analysis

Special concern is given to ensuring that women are encouraged to apply and are offered equal opportunities. The gender breakdown for scholarships awarded to individual candidates in the period 1999-2002, as outlined below, reflects an equal percentage of scholarships awarded to women.

	Women			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of female scholars	37	55	44	44
%	52.11	50.46	41.9	56.41
	Men			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of male scholars	34	54	61	34
%	47.89	49.54	58.1	43.59



As from 2003, gender statistics for group training are analysed in a separate category.



Moreover, the expenditure breakdown for the period 1999-2002 indicates that women are benefiting from an increasing percentage of the Programme budget:

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Expenditure	%	%	%	%
Female scholars	50.4	52.3	54.5	60
Male scholars	49.6	47.7	45.5	40
Total	100	100	100	100

developments: creative partnerships



The WCC Scholarships Programme has developed strong partnerships with theological seminaries and learning institutions throughout the regions – some of which have offered free places for WCC scholars. The Union Theological College in New York, USA, for example, offers one free place annually for one WCC scholar.

Another form of partnership is the offer of ecumenical hospitality from study institutions in joint partnership with the WCC. A theological seminary in Latin America, for example, may offer free board and lodging to a student, whilst the WCC Scholarships Programme provides the tuition fees and travel costs of the study programme.

Creative partnerships such as these encourage opportunities for cultural exchange and ecumenical formation that is appreciated by both WCC scholars and the partner institutions.

outcomes: personal stories



Individual study - Japan

Grace Kandarkai (Liberia)

Grace Kandarkai (Liberia) was offered a WCC Scholarship in 2002 to enable her to attend the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) study programme in Japan.

Grace works as a community supervisor for 'Concerned Christian Community', an organization involved in rural development in a country that is slowly rebuilding itself after years of civil strife. She applied to join the ARI programme to help her people and community rebuild their shattered self-respect and human dignity.

'I remember I arrived in Japan on the 11th May 2002. I could not adjust to the new environment: I missed my family, friends, customs, and so many other things in Liberia. This was one of the biggest culture shocks for me.'

'Before coming to the Asian Rural Institute I knew so little about farming! I had never heard of organic technology – the skillful processing of organic materials (animal manure, rice husk, etc.) to produce local fertilizers to enrich the soil – and knew nothing of the dangers of chemical fertilizers and the importance of organic farming for the food-chain.

My old ways of thinking, before I came to know about farming, needed to be totally reformed. I used to think that chemical fertilizers were the only answer for good and healthy crops. I had not considered the advantages – economic and health – of using local materials.

When I return home to Liberia, I will take steps towards establishing the first centre for organic farming in Liberia. I will also aim to empower 600 women and girls in six districts in South-eastern Liberia. My focus will be to find ways of improving their living conditions and sanitation, and to help to train them in creating income-generating activities.'



outcomes: personal stories

Group training - Colombia

Communication and Conflict Resolution: an ecumenical school for peace

An ecumenical group (including Roman Catholic, Anglican, Mennonite, Presbyterian and Evangelical Lutheran participants), took part in a group training workshop in Colombia on conflict resolution and peace building, thanks to a WCC scholarship awarded in 2003.

'La Nohora is a poverty stricken settlement in Villavicencio (122 km South-east of Bogota) of five hundred displaced families who have fled from various regions in Colombia to escape the cross fire in the longstanding war between guerrillas and paramilitaries.'

Fabio Alonso Meza Ramirez (Executive Coordinator of the group training) relates their experiences:

'It is not easy to speak of alternative ways of conflict resolution with people who have suffered the hardships of war. However, to convey the perspective of Christian hope of living in community, was a mission which we could not refuse.



The educational process, which we have shared with our brothers and sisters from four other churches, continues to enrich us as persons. It has been a considerable personal challenge to work with people from different regions of the country who are in such a desperate situation and as needful of affection as they are of basic requirements. In a practical way and using the experience and wisdom of the displaced families themselves, we have together built up an understanding of conflict resolution which can become an engine for change and development in the family and society. Examining the causes and consequences of violence on the level of the family and community has enabled us to learn much from these people.

Representatives from government institutions, including the Ministry of Justice and the Interior, visited our seminars. We also requested to involve in the extension work the Peace Adviser for the region. He visited La Nohora with us to learn at first hand of the difficulties experienced by the displaced families. This visit, considered a positive one by the participants, played a key part in building contact with the local authorities, which are prone to contemptuous consideration of the displaced families as illegal squatters.

Thanks to this opportunity to share with people who most need it, and thanks also to their interest in the possibilities of the training programme to strengthen development in their community, we feel committed to continue working for citizen empowerment. For this reason we express our gratitude to our brothers and sisters in the World Council of Churches for their support of our efforts.'

