

Soft Launch

***ASIAN
SCHOOL OF WISDOM
(ASW)***

30 July 2021

Chiang Mai, Thailand

The graphic features a central white diamond shape with a thin white border. This diamond is set against a background of overlapping geometric shapes in shades of blue, yellow, and grey. The text is centered within the white diamond.

ASW
WORKING
CHARTER

Building a Wisdom-based Society

WORKING CHARTER

ASIAN SCHOOL OF WISDOM

The Context

- The Asian School of Wisdom (ASW) emerges from the over four decades of work and learnings of DISAC-Chiang Mai and the Research and Training Centre for Religio-Cultural Communities (RTRC)

Our Inspiration

Three sources

- Drawn from the knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt from direct engagement with poor and marginalised communities among hilltribes and lowland peoples in Northern Thailand, and the community or “Organic Intellectuals”
- Catholic Social Teaching (1891-2016), the Aggiornamento-Resourcement of Vatican II (1965), the papal teachings up till Querida Amazonia, the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) and the Jesuit Commons (Jesuit Worldwide Learning), the MEP (Mission Etrangeres de Paris) and the Betharam Fathers (1931s to 1970s).
- Secular and inter-faith movements in Asia towards building an alternative Asia that brings to the centre stage of social development (a) the wisdom of Asia, (b) a socio-culturally spirituality-empowered inclusivity and (iii) indigenous peoples’ religio-cultural traditions of other marginalized and vulnerable communities in Asia.

WORKING CHARTER...contd.

Our Vision

- *“ASW envisions shaping youthful and people-centered learning communities that live in authentic dialogue-based partnership and active harmony with themselves, with the marginal farming and indigenous communities, and with Mother Earth and all of Creation.”*

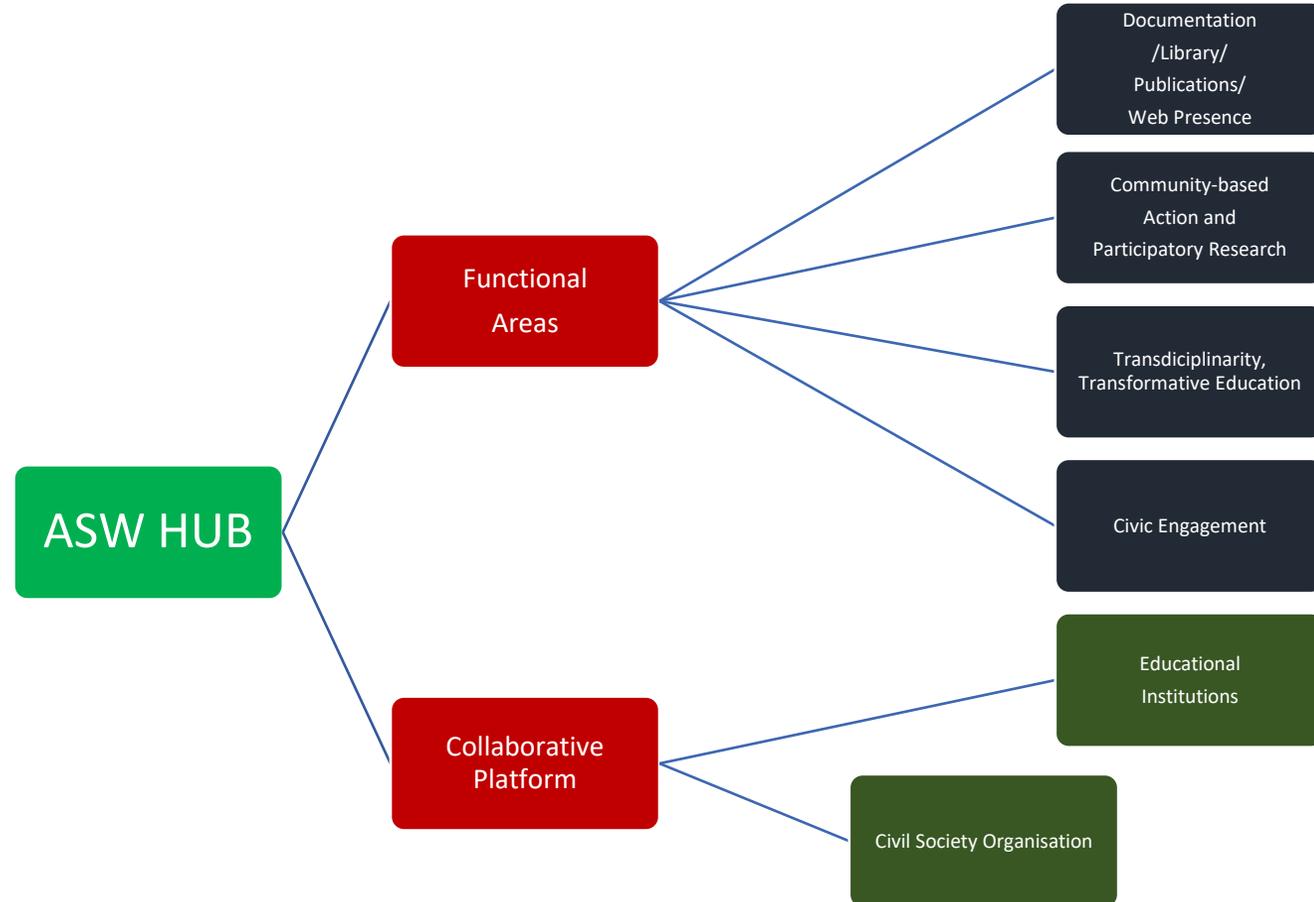
Our Mission

- ASW aims to build learning and action ecologies around its unique religio-cultural methodology. The aim of this is to promote the holistic transformation of young Asian learners, within or outside formal educational institutions, into organic or public intellectuals (OIs or PIs) who are agents in an era of change for the world through mobilizing their own communities. These communities will engage with the power and promise of Asian wisdom in the service of the global commons, or public goods, in the effort to build an equitable, just and sustainable Asia. Through its partners and associates, ASW will reach out to the young of the marginalized and vulnerable communities for the creation of a hope-filled future. It will be an effort to establish a just and green world filled with intergenerational love, faith, hope, justice and peace.

Our Goal

- ASW will promote the primacy of the wisdom of the Asian indigenous peoples through their religio-cultural traditions of sacred sustainability and the practices of sustainable livelihood. ASW will offer the wisdom of the indigenous people for global social and ecological problems.

ASW – A MULTI-UNIVERSITY REGIONAL HUB



ASW – EDUCATION GOALS

(a) Religio-Cultural Immersions

- A systematic approach to religio-cultural immersion to sensitize learners to the religio-cultural wisdom of the local and indigenous communities. In its curriculum, ASW will offer content on the mystical and sacred traditions as well as inter-generational practices that constitute the embodied/lived local knowledges of the land, soil, seasons, seeds, irrigation, barks of trees, leaves and roots of herbal plants, animals, chickens, buffaloes, goats, pigs, the Creators, spirits, rituals, chants, dances and songs.

(b) Inter-Disciplinary, Trans-disciplinary and Transformative Learning: Theory, Method and Practice

- (i) Inter-disciplinarity, trans-disciplinarity and transformative learning approaches and methods
- (ii) ASW will expose learners to critical theories and methodologies from the mainstream sciences (natural and social), humanities, compassion studies and the arts.
- (iii) Faith/Inter-faith based civic or public engagement.

(c) Sacred and Social Teachings of Religions and the Asian Humanist Traditions

- ASW will offer structured learning opportunities to the sacred and social teachings of indigenous religions, cosmic religions, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Shintoism, Zen, Sikhism and Sufism. It will explore the Asian mystical traditions. It will also explore Asian humanist traditions and inter-faith initiatives. All these explorations will be in relation to compassion, mercy and harmonious living between the Divine, humans, natural world, Mother Earth and the Cosmos.

(d) Alternative Development Worldviews / Paradigms

- Offer learning opportunities through trainings and academic courses that take a critical look at mainstream models of development and discuss alternative development worldviews and paradigms that have emerged – especially in the Global South – that have challenged these mainstream models and approaches. In this context, key topics related to human rights, equity, inclusion, social protection and people-centered development will be addressed.

PROPOSED TRAINING/ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ASW-XLC COLLABORATION

1. Ancestral Wisdom of Sacred Sustainability
2. Shamanic Spirituality for Sustainable Livelihoods
3. Laudato Si and Critical Earth Sociology
4. Localising, Re-Imagining and Going Beyond the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
5. Social Response to Covid-19, the Pandemic and Public Health
6. Critical Issues in De-colonizing Development
7. Childhoods, Child Rights and Globalization
8. Femininity, Indigeneity and the Voice of the Future
9. Conscience and Compassion Studies