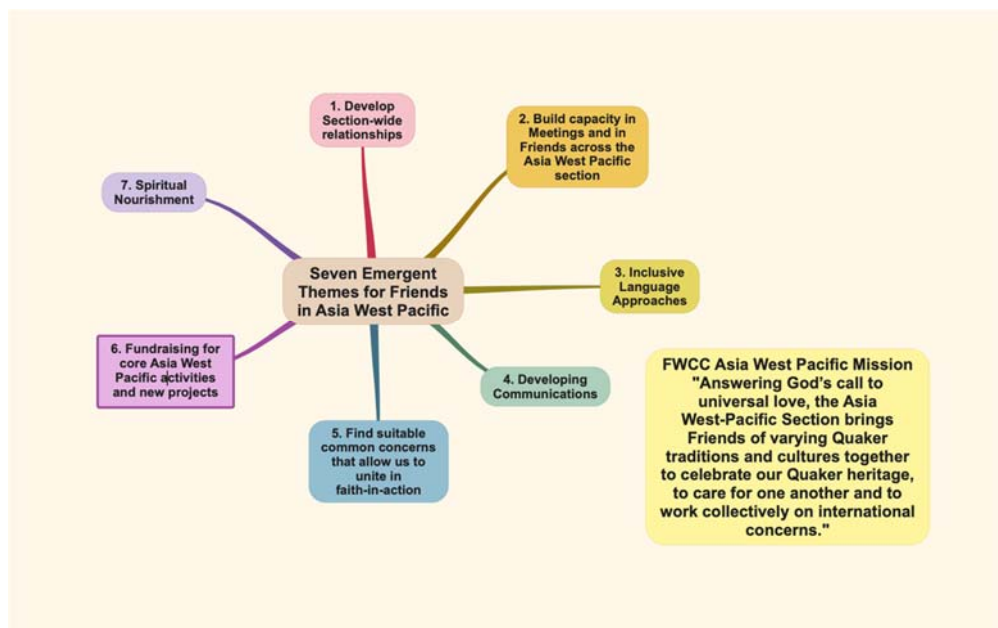


Seven Areas for Development for Friends in Asia West Pacific



The sort of questions that could arise from Areas of Development 1-7:

- 1. Develop Section-wide relationships** Let's set up conversations about how best this might be done (More meetings for worship online? webinars? Active Hope /Climate Action groups? South Asia Interest Groups? School networks? Travelling in the Ministry? Over time could we facilitate/help generate an Asia West Pacific set of Advices & Queries?
- 2. Build capacity in Meetings and in Friends** How can we encourage life in the Spirit, grow in Quaker learning: webinars, internet access, committee skills. Travelling in the ministry?
- 3. Inclusive language approaches** How can we ensure that Friends in Asia West Pacific who don't read in English can still access useful Quaker texts in translation? How can we ensure our webinars and gatherings are accessible to those whose first language is not English? Will AWP Global North Friends be interested in taking up cultural challenges eg Asian/Indigenous language learning clubs?
- 4. Develop communications** How can we create a steady stream of reasonable-quality video communications, and podcasts, and embed them appropriately in our emails, on social media, and in a website that attracts regular traffic? How can we build "action learning" into our processes?
- 5. What faith-in-action Quaker concerns could unite Friends across Asia West Pacific?**
 - a.** Climate emergency? eg Third Pole issues covering 16 countries; Air and water quality in cities? Food security in rural and metropolitan areas? Threatened species? Bird migration?
 - b.** Indigenous issues?
 - c.** Peace, militarism and the arms trade?
 - d.** Linking Quaker United Nations Office with multilateral concerns (eg World Trade Organisation environmental standards on plastic pollution) with local meetings
 - e.** Young Friends Volunteer Programs/Internships organised around the concerns listed above, partnering with workshop opportunities offered by Friends Peace Teams Asia West Pacific training, Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute training, Mindanao Peacebuilding Training, ecumenical or interfaith peace, justice or environment conferences...
- 6. Fundraise for Core activities and special projects** How do we coordinate fundraising between different Quaker agencies, including our own? See separate paper
- 7. Spiritual nourishment** How can we put Quaker insights into the heart of everything we do?

Areas for development 1:

Develop Section-wide relationships

The first theme is the **value of continuing to develop Section-wide relationships, including**

a. **Quaker affiliated groups** such as:

- i. the Friends Peace Team Asia West Pacific
- ii. Quaker schools
- iii. meetings
- iv. isolated Friends
- v. interest groups within Friends, such as Young Friends, Earthcare or South Asia Interest Group out of Britain Yearly Meeting, Climate Action Emerging Network, action against the arms trade
- vi. Developing a loving, realistic strategy that helps us **connect with non-affiliated Friends churches and meetings** in Asia West Pacific
- vii. **Quaker educational institutions** (adult education and schools) serving Friends globally or just within our Section
- viii. Finding ways to **strengthen our work with national FWCC committees** in Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and elsewhere will also build our capacity and reach
- ix. **Quaker aid, peace and development groups** active in Asia West Pacific



b. **other peace churches**, and interfaith opportunities such as Religions for Peace Asia

c. other similarly **aligned peace, development and environment groups** working on building capacity and resilience in communities, such as think tanks, peace & conflict teaching groups (such as North-east Regional Peacebuilding Institute, Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute, and Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies [Cambodia])

These relationships are strengthened through practicing active awareness, care, concern, appreciation, curiosity, service and mutual support. This is part of the networking brief of FWCC.

Areas for development 2

Build Capacity in Meetings and in Friends across the Asia West Pacific Section



(a) This includes making available essential information about Quaker spiritual insights and processes, in local languages.

a. One part of this will be finding ways to [increase translation of key Quaker texts](#) - Korea is keen! - and [facilitating faithful translations of Quaker terms](#) into local Friends' languages

b. Potentially we could develop over the next several years an Asia-West Pacific wide [Advices & Queries](#)

(b) offering [express and experiential learning](#) about Quaker ways through partnering with Quaker education agencies (eg Woodbrooke, Pendle Hill, The Settlement, Silver Wattle) and webinars (such as the March one about aid, peace and development involving five Quaker agencies; or attending third party trainings (eg NARPI, MPI, or others). This learning should be express, to limit the misunderstandings that can occur in translation; and experiential in order to keep our living connection with the Spirit and Quaker ways

(c) [building IT/technical capacity](#), for yearly meetings to access long distance video communications with viable internet speeds, and with training to support Friends getting to know the equipment and software.

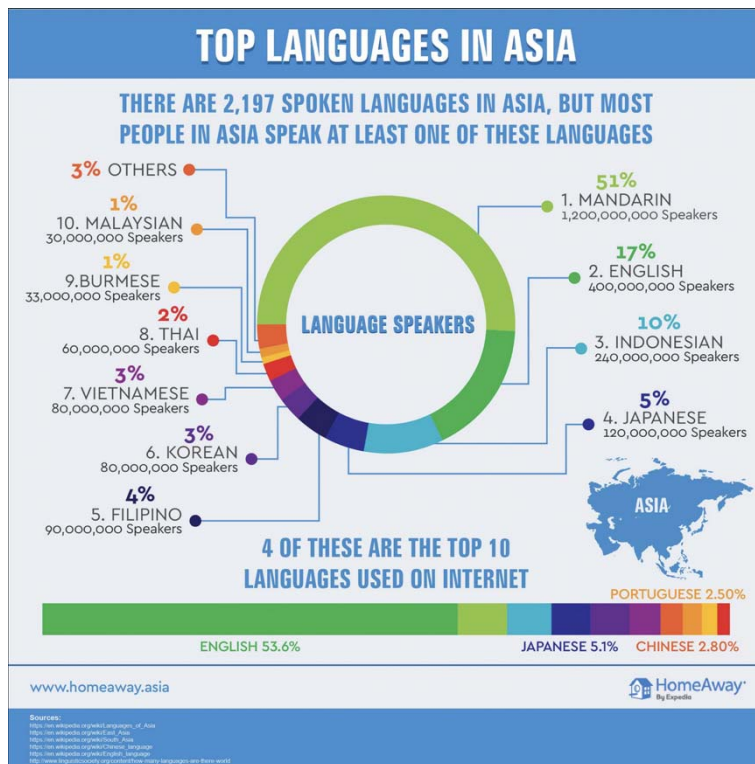
(d) [building our own Committee's capacity](#) is also important. This may include slightly increasing the numbers of Friends on the committee, to reflect geographic and cultural diversity; following on from a decision at the Hong Kong section meeting a couple of years ago, it also means developing "portfolio" responsibilities for Committee members, which we are currently exploring. It has also led us to more consciously employ Meeting for Worship for Business methods in how we meet and record decisions.

(e) [Work with interfaith groups](#) with common concerns eg Religions for Peace Asia

(f) Encourage engagement with Section groups [for seasoned Friends whom have served on the Section Committee](#) over the years, and so have built up friendships, relationships, knowledge and insights that other Friends may wish to draw from.

(g) Consider how we can address particular parts of the Section, which will have their own separate concerns and challenges - Western Pacific comes to mind

Inclusive Language Approaches



In the last 25 years or so, English has seemed to have become the Asian *lingua franca*. That is to the principal advantage of Friends in countries like Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

However for Friends for whom English is their second, third or fourth language, a basic competence in English may still lead some to hesitate or not participate in Section life as richly as they might. We need to find out. For those who only know English, these hesitations may go undetected. It may be because of

less visible, perceived, or actual impediments to confident communications. Attending to inclusive language approaches is therefore a matter of equality, as well as community, and integrity:

- (a) I believe we have some valuable things to learn from the way **Friends Peace Teams and Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute** are pioneering more inclusive language approaches.
- (b) I have also been exploring the capacities of software like **Whova to enable hybrid meetings/conferences** to include language translation via smartphones, and zoom itself offers some live translation.
- (c) **Translating useful Quaker texts** is another worthy priority, along with encouraging the facilitation of a process to translate Quaker terms/glossaries into local language. Perhaps funding can be found for this facilitation.
- (d) The Section Committee has recognised the value of **the Secretary becoming familiar with at least one Asian language to A1 level (in my case, Japanese), and another Asian language in terms of a 40-50 basic phrases** (this is likely to be Hindi for me for a visit to India in 2023). Asia West Pacific Section has generously funded 32 lessons with the Kanazawa based Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange– these are now completed. I will continue consolidating my basic A1 competencies, to hopefully allow myself exchanges. Neither my Japanese or my intent to learn some introductory Hindi will give me fluency, but it shares in the language effort. I thank the Committee for its support.
- (e) **Friends Language clubs**, where Friends get together to learn an Indigenous or Asia West Pacific language over six months

Areas for development 4

Develop Communications

Priorities include:

- (a) the Secretary's "Weekly Round"
- (b) the two-monthly Secretary's Newsletter, "The Asia West Pacific Circle" and
- (c) finding ways to revamp the website and
- (d) given the feedback from our survey with readers – communicate through a youtube channel also.
 - If we are to reach Friends across the Section, and especially Young Friends (and those whom might actually be Quakers without knowing it!), videos are the medium of choice for communication. They are visual, but they also allow subtitles, which helps overcome problems of accents even if those subtitles are only in English. Marvellous, except videos require exponential effort, and covid has made matters worse, and yet in some ways, more reachable, as people have grown used to upskilling in these technologies. For all the time it takes to set-up interviews, meet basic technical requirements (especially audio and lighting), editing (many hours and hours), I believe this could be as important to creating a common celebration of our being Friends in the Section as any section meeting, and will reach far more people.

(e) **Webinars** In keeping with the brief to network among Quaker agencies, a webinar was held on 26 March 2022 including speakers from American Friends Service Committee, Friends Peace Team Asia West Pacific, Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa New Zealand, Quaker Service Australia, and Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO),

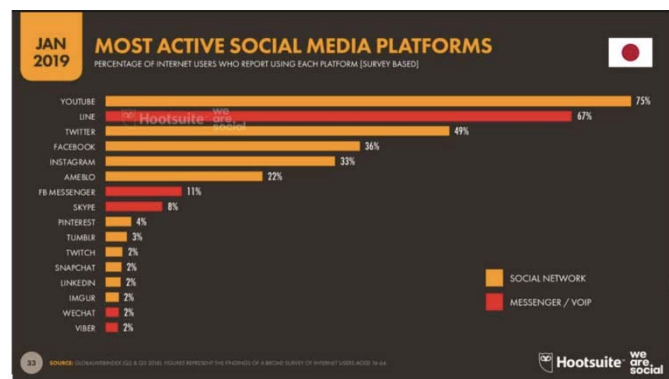
(f) **Podcasts** the new QUNO director has invited me make a few podcasts about current QUNO work. The first one will be recorded on 5 May. Editing will be subject to time constraints.

(g) We have a **Section Committee gathering** planned for this year – most likely it will be based in zoom

(h) There is also a need to **better explain and distinguish the separate FWCC entities** that are active including:

- a. National committees in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australian meetings
- b. FWCC Asia West Pacific Section, currently registered as an incorporated association in South Australia
- c. FWCC World Office
- d. Central Executive Committee, the trust overseeing the FWCC World Office

In terms of communicating beyond Friends, there are occasions when I find it easier to call FWCC AWPS, "Quakers in Asia West Pacific" for purposes of clarity.



Country	Population (social penetration)	Top social platforms (penetration)				Next most popular messaging apps
China	1,379 (47%)	24%	21%	16%	5%	
India	1,319 (10%)	13%	12%	11%	10%	
Indonesia	259 (30%)	19%	15%	14%	13%	
Japan	126 (42%)	25%	17%	15%	9%	
Philippines	101 (47%)	26%	23%	16%	14%	
Vietnam	94 (37%)	29%	25%	25%	15%	
Thailand	68 (56%)	32%	29%	28%	11%	
South Korea	50 (76%)	41%	27%	17%	12%	

Areas for development 5

Find Suitable Common Concerns that allow us to unite in faith-in-action

This accepts that Section is a mosaic of different cultures (including expat cultures) with different national settings in terms of human rights, freedom of expression, experience in social change, and capacity for action. Examples could arise through finding specific ways to



(a) **support diplomatic work by QUNO** and relevant campaigns being developed by other Friends' agencies. This could be on environmental issues (such as climate justice) or peace (disarmament or reducing tensions) – or researching the underrepresented dimension of corporate influence over nation states (state capture) and the power of corporations to assist in multilateral goals (such as SDGs). We could be working with QUNO and other agencies to provide them Section-specific examples that dovetail with their own programs focus. This might be longer term, and enable us to think about fundraising research or project positions from Asian foundations.

(b) **Identify potential Section-wide concerns** (for example, Third Pole, air quality, climate education for young people, loneliness, food security, an aspect of disaster preparedness linked to the Quaker testimonies, the arms trade, nuclearisation), appropriate to circumstances, but woven together to be part of a larger Asia West Pacific story. Early days, but there are possibilities through initiatives from an individual in India and Aotearoa New Zealand for us to generate interest groups that meet. There is also the potential of linking more strongly with Britain Yearly Meeting's South Asia Interest Group.

(c) **Identify a smooth and predictable process for managing emergencies within our Section fellowship**

Areas for development 6

Fundraise for Core Asia West Pacific Activities and New Projects



Success in these five themes will help strengthen and merge into a sixth theme, which is **fundraising**. This fundraising should be integrated to help support the fledgling Asia West Pacific Section (the least resourced of all Sections), FWCC World Office, QUNO, and other campaigns that might emerge through our efforts, as well as events and/or disasters that arise. We will need to find ways to help support Friends' generosity in times of hardship, through a streamlined emergency response process, working with existing agencies wherever possible, as well as encourage Friends to maintain that generosity for longer term efforts. *A separate paper on fundraising is being developed*

Areas for development 7

Spiritual Nourishment



is at the heart of all we do, because it connects us to our common source, replenishes us and the world at large. This theme involves the Section finding ways to connect via Meetings for Worship online, and in a next-phase covid world, in person; to explore ways to deepen our faith and practice.

It involves finding our gratitude for those Friends who give service to the Spirit now, but also those who have come before – including those missionaries who have gone to Asian countries and succeeded in finding people who were Friends but hadn't known it already, starting meetings and schools that are their legacy today.

Essentially, the theme of spiritual nourishment informs, connects with and is fed by all the other themes too!



Overarching FWCC Mission

These seven areas for developments, as I have sensed or perceived them, seem well aligned with our FWCC Mission, which is expressed on our website thus:

Answering God's call to universal love, the Asia West-Pacific Section brings Friends of varying Quaker traditions and cultures together to celebrate our Quaker heritage, to care for one another and to work collectively on international concerns.

In Friendship,

Adrian Glamorgan 22 January 2022 / 25 March 2022 / 1 May 2022

