



ICDM Newsletter

"Learning community that serves the deprived with love and professionalism"

www.icdm-alumni.org

International Community of Diaconic Management

In This Issue

- Annual Alumni Conference
- Africa Regional Meeting
- Asia Regional Meeting
- German Regional Meeting
- New members
- Obituary
- Reflections

ICDM Newsletter



Tio Sihombing
(Chief Editor)



Corinna Lee
(Co-Editor)



David Sihite
(Layouter)

Greetings from Board



Dear sisters and brothers,
Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

It is our hope and prayer that you are all in good condition amidst of this difficult time. Since 2020 we particularly experience many struggles concerning the impact of Covid 19. Throughout the globus, we all face this crisis. During our previous ICDM Alumni conference on 9–10 November 2020 we have shared with each other particularly about our work and ministries. We are thankful and impressed to know that we continue to commit to do the diaconia work. Regardless this challenging situation.

It is enriching to know that although we are struggling with the same challenges – currently with the threat of Covid-19, yet we have and can have different approaches to solve them. It shows how “unique” every organization is.

ICDM is a platform to learn from each other and to encouraged one another. It is a community where we reflect on the question: what should we do next as the diaconic managers? Do we bring impact to our church, community, and country? Therefore, we commit to build platform of communication, such as regional meetings and website.

In 2021 we want to start our Newsletter, which to be shared among ICDM in April, June, and September. Through it we share news, testimonies, reflections, and prayer requests.

In this first Newsletter you will find short summaries of the ICDM virtual conference 2020, Africa, Asia, and German-Regional Meeting, some updates from ICDM-members, and a short reflection to end this letter. Hopefully through this Newsletter, we will maintain and develop our communication platform, which at the end contribute to strengthen our organization as the big family of International Community of Diaconic Management (ICDM). Enjoy reading and looking forward for your news or stories!

On behalf of all ICDM Board members,

Debora Suparni
Chairperson

Annual Alumni Conference

Due to Corona threat the sixth ICDM annual Alumni Conference 2020 could not be held in the Philippines, as it was planned. Thanks to the technology, we could meet virtually. While waiting that we could great and discuss with each other personally, it was encouraging to virtually see the same smiles and burning passion for diaconia.

The topic of virtual Annual Conference on 10—11 November 2020 was Poverty Reduction in terms of covid -19. 34 members participated on the first day, and 26 members on the second day.

On the first day three of ICDM members representing Asia, Africa, and Europe shared present situations of their respective countries in this Corona pandemic: **Rev. Agustinus Purba** (Indonesia), **Rev. Parfait Ekoume** (Cameroon), and **Mirjam Michalski** (Germany). Moreover, they presented the work of their organization regarding the poverty reduction amid Covid-19 threat. **Rev. Javason Mrema** (Tanzania) in his response to these presentations also shared present situations of his country and diaconia actions of his church to reduce poverty related to Corona treat.



Also, on this first conference day **Prof. Martin Büscher** presented current development of Institut für Diakoniewissenschaft und DiakonieManagement (IDM). **Rev. Matthias Börner** shared what the International Diaconia of United Evangelical Mission (UEM) currently busy with.

On the second day of the conference, Africa-, Asia-, and German Regional Meeting were held. Reports of each Regional Meetings were then presented to the plenary. Besides this, members evaluated the action plans which were decided during the Alumni Conference November 2019 in Rwanda.

One important result of the virtual Annual Conference 2020 is the election of Board Members. Due to online election, some adjustments of the procedures were taken. 2021 ICDM Board is composed by:



- **Debora Suparni (K2)**
Chairperson / Asia Region.



- **Faraja Mwakapeje (K3)**
Vice Chairperson / Africa Region.



- **Corinna Lee (GM)** Vice
Chairperson / German
Region.



- **Yusuf Tarigan (K3)**
Financial Officer.

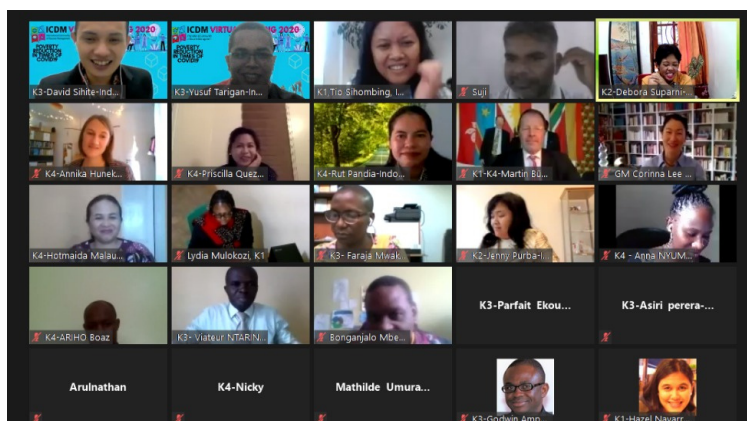
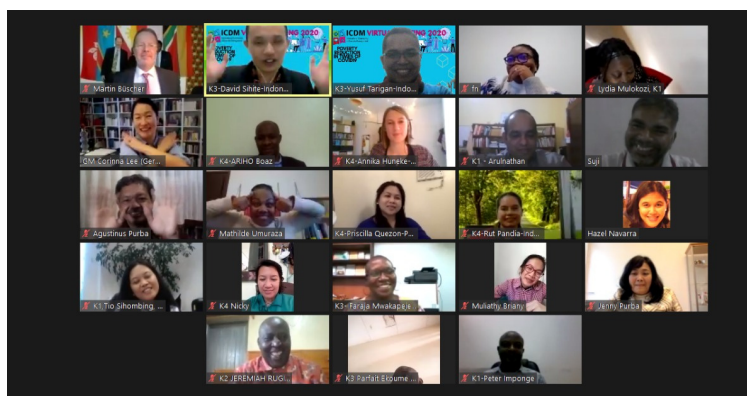
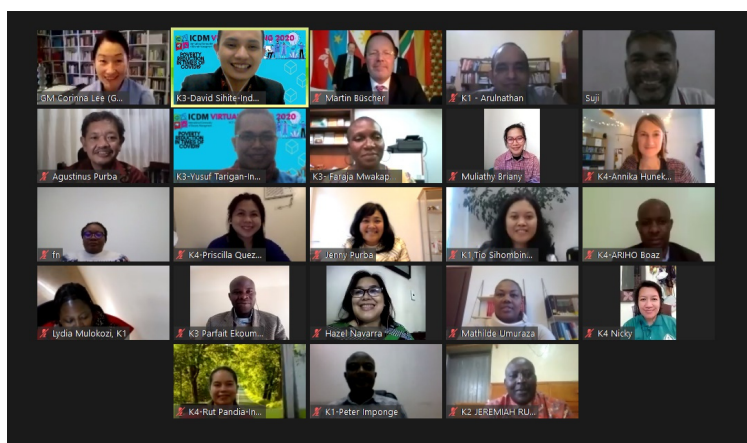


- **David Sihite (K3)** Public
Relation Officer.



- **Claudette Williams (K3)**
Secretary.

During the previous Alumni Conference ICDM-Board has expressed the need to have support of a ICDM-member as an interface between board and the UEM / IDM. **Felicité Ngnitendem (K2)** will therefore support ICDM-Board to coordinate with these both organizations.



Africa Regional Meeting

The ICDM Africa Region offered two possible times for the virtual meeting: first on 1st of March 2021 and second on 6th of March 2021. This gave possibility for its members to select the appropriate time for them to attend it.

These meetings have underlined the importance of Regional Meeting of ICDM. It helps its members to discuss contextual challenges and strategize together how to handle them. Therefore, it should be done regularly and whenever seemed necessary.

Following are some news from our Alumni in Region Africa:

In Rwanda, due to Corona threat, a few churches are open and very few people can congregate. Furthermore, people are not allowed to travel from one district to another, huge meetings are not allowed, businesses close early and some of them like bars are not allowed to operate. People are advised to keep social distance, wear face masks and wash hands regularly.

Many people in **South Africa** have died on Covid-19. Many families have been affected economically due to losing jobs. Preventive measures are emphasized across the whole country.



In Tanzania, citizens are not allowed to publicly declare that there is Covid-19 in the country, though several people have been infected and some have died on it. Very few People put on face masks in public and who ever put is on looks odd. But not at the office of one of our ICDM member! There, the workers put on face masks especially when they leave their own offices even to visit someone else's office or meeting others.

Thanks to God that our sister **Lydia Mulokozi** and her husband as well as some of her colleagues have recovered from the virus. It has been observed that COVID-19 is likely not to end soon. Therefore, one of the participants encourage to adapt our work and ministry to the situation. Otherwise, the effects may be more adverse. **Rev. Godwin Ampony** shared, reacting to the Corona threat, the International Master of Arts in Diaconic Management (IMADM) K5 will be partially reorganized. The students will have only three flights / trips instead of five. Two out of five sessions will be done virtually.

Most participants mentioned that their respective countries have started importing vaccines and have hope that the situation may improve when people have started being vaccinated.

PROMOTION OF ICDM:

On the Meeting of Africa Region, the participants also discussed how to promote ICDM to the communities. Participants strongly agreed that this can be done by the extent to which we stand with people at time of need and hardship. This may be done through social, moral, and economic support. One further recommendation is to write letters and being represented where possible. Nevertheless, the manifest in the professional diaconic ministry as alumni who have been empowered/well trained including with international exposure and network is an important way to promote the ICDM.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Optimizing the function of ICDM Regional Meeting: setting a specific topic of discussion and appropriate time planning.
- Convening ICDM regional meetings to share regional issues whenever necessary and convenient.
- Strengthening advocacy for public support to people who are adversely affected by COVID-19 especially those that lost jobs and have gone hungry.
- Promoting ICDM through solidarity with people in need/ facing hardships by representation, support and writing letters.
- ICMD members from the same Church or from the same country or within the same neighborhood to meet regularly to share ideas and plan together on how to work together to advance the diaconic ministry basing on their contextual challenges.



Asia Regional Meeting

The Meeting of Regional Asia was held virtually on 27th of February 2021.

Congratulation to the new elected Deputy Chairperson of Asia Region: **Kenneth Ku from Hongkong!**

How to sustain, strengthen, and increase the impact of ICDM, was also discussed during ICDM Asia Region. Following are the action plans decided during this meeting:

- Maximizing the use of website as a platform to share the ICDM standpoint. ICDM website could/should serve as a platform where its members share their writings publicly. It can be a text to share about work experiences, articles, writings or video of the local context and best practices. Important is also to share some meditation or short reflection.
- Organizing and holding Webinar regularly to provide chance for people to hear and interact with ICDM. Proposed topics are: Health, Human Rights, Disasters, Climate Change, Vaccination, Strong leadership in time of pandemic, Economy Security and Sustainability in times of Covid-19.
- Come up with ICDM Hymn so that we will have a common song when we gather.



INDONESIAN ALUMNI IN THEIR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

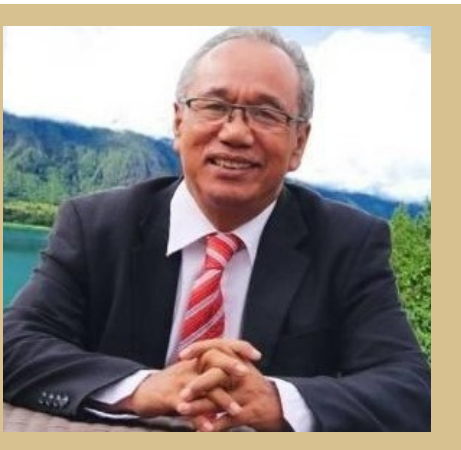


Since last November 2020 **Hotmaida Malau (K4)** has been assigned by GKPS in Service Department of the GKPS particularly at the

Community Based Rehabilitation (RBM). RBM assists and serves persons with disabilities. Hotmaida shared that during the Covid-19 pandemic many programs cannot be implemented due to large-scale social restrictions imposed in the regions. Many people with disabilities were disbenefited by Corona threat so that RBM provided charitable assistance in the form of providing basic needs such as foodstuffs. In addition to that, it provides productive revolving funds to assist and empower persons with disabilities to maintain and develop businesses through farming, raising livestock and home-industries.



Difa Kopi (Dipa-Coffee) has been started by RBM-GKPS to provide space for people with disabilities to work and integrate with non-disabled people. It means that the employees working at Difa Kopi are persons with disabilities. It is open to the public so that the employees can interact with non-disabled people. The profits generate by Difa Kopi are used to improve RBM services.



Rev. Rein Justin (K2) was elected as Superintendent of the church District Samosir of HKBP for 2020 - 2024. This church has 31 church-districts.

Samosir-District lays along the Toba Lake—a volcanic lake with 87 km long and 27 km wide. The Indonesian President Joko Widodo stated in 2019 that this area is one of the “super priority” tourist destinations in Indonesia. Relate to this, one of the working agendas of Rev. Rein Justin is to set up strategic plans emphasizes on three aspects: spirituality, economic sustainability, and environment safety.



As has been shared, **David Sihite (K3)** was ordained on 29th of November 2020 as a Pastor of Gereja Protestan di Indonesia bagian Barat/ GPIB (Protestant Church in Western Indonesia). As one of the supporting churches of Sekolah Tinggi Filsafat Teologi Jakarta / STT, GPIB has assigned Rev. David to be a lecture at this oldest theological seminary in Indonesia.



German Regional Meeting

Two important topics were discussed during the Meeting of ICDM German Region: **The Attractiveness of IMDM** and **the future of ICDM**.

Firstly, the Attractiveness of IMDM: it is important to convince students from Germany to study the International Master of Diaconic Management. Therefore, strategic actions must be implemented, for example to communicate the advantages of this study program to stakeholders. Social companies need to be convinced that their employees and the social companies themselves will benefit from this study program.

Relate to this, the ICDM-German Region wishes that ICDM will/can get some information from UEM especially the results of the evaluation of IMDM alumni. The evaluation through questionnaires prepared by UEM focused on three questions: what the benefits of IMDM study program for individual alumna are, what are the benefits for the organization where the alumni are working, what challenges and difficulties faced by the alumni.



Furthermore, to be able to support IMADM, the ICDM-German Region wishes to have more information about the future-plans of IDM and their future orientation.

Secondly, "How does the future of ICDM look like?"—this question has become more relevant, especially that the positive increase of quantity of ICDM, yet finding sponsors to fund ICDM Annual Conference is at the same more difficult. Equally important is to reflect on our ethical attitude toward the sustainability of our environment. It relates to the travel (especially flight) activities that cause the high spend of CO₂.

The German Regional Meeting encourages that ICDM set some guidelines for its meetings including why and when are physical meeting should be done. Beside these, it is necessary to think how can ICDM make use of the technology and how can hybrid forms of doing meeting or conference help us in the future to be responsible with resources.

As a prototype about how ICDM can work in the future, we can learn from the discussion platform about the project in Herford. This zoom meeting (discussion) was initiated by Prof. Martin Büscher and already done twice: in December 2020 and February 2021. In this zoom meeting IDM, ICDM and Diakonie-Herford discuss first about the success factors of “CORONA 2020 and Food Supply” a project done by Diakonia-Herford. Then to reflect and exchange on how we can benefit from each other’s expertise and experiences. Based on this experience the idea to find forms of project discussions via zoom as helpful form of learning together and to promote social innovation across our different contexts. This social innovation can occur, and all alumni can benefit.

IDEAS AND PROPOSALS FROM GERMAN REGION:

- Project presentation from a context: One ICDM alumna presents a specific project or program of her/his organization (or projects from outside the network),
- Project consulting: what do we observe? what are the questions? what are our ideas for the project?
- Project discussion: is it transferrable to other contexts? why yes? why not? what are the challenges? what are the benefits? what can we learn from it for our own work?

New members



Warm welcome to twelve new members of ICDM!

Eleven of them are alumni from IMADM Course 4 (in German: “Kurs-4”) and **Muliathy Briany** (Indonesia) graduated 2020 from the German Master of Diaconic Management at IDM.

Following are the names of our new fellow ICDM-members and their thesis titels:

Muliathy Briany (Indonesia)
Diversity Management und interkulturelle Kompetenz-Bildung für Personalentwicklung in Kindergärten Grundlagen, Spannungsfelder und Gestaltungsoptionen von einem christlichen privaten Kindergarten Springfield in Cibubur- West Java, Indonesien



Boaz Ariho (Rwanda):
Financial sustainability of Church diaconic institutions in a competitive social service market: An empirical study of management systems in schools under Anglican Church of Rwanda-Kigeme Diocese using the St. Gallen Management Model.



Annika Huneke (Germany):
Diversity in the migration society: A critical analysis of structures, concepts and practices for the development of strategies towards inclusive protestant youth work in EKvW.



Anna Lucas Nyumba (Tanzania):
"Sustainability of elderly life in the midst of social-economic changes: A management-based assessment of old-age care in Kisarawe district in Tanzania."



Hotmaida Malau (Indonesia):
"Empowerment towards inclusive communities for persons with disabilities: Cultural contexts and diaconic strategies for Community-based-Rehabilitation (RBM) program of GKPS in Indonesia."



Priscilla Geizi Pascua Quezon (Philippine):
Church-based reintegration service for returning Filipino migrants: An exploration of possibilities, conflicts, and cooperation.



Bonganjalo-Bonga Mbenenge (South Africa):
"Community, Inclusivity, Participation: Ubuntu Economics in contrast to Neo-Liberalism in South Africa."



Nicky Widyaningrum (Indonesia):
"Justice for LGBT: An empirical analysis of the role of GKJW in advocacy for inclusive community."



Mirjam Michalski (Germany):
"Herausforderungen und Chancen religiöser Vielfalt. Theoretische Analyse und strategische Ansätze religiöser Diversity Managements am Beispiel der Diakonie." Wuppertal



Yusni Rut Pandia (Indonesia)



Jesuretnam Richard Jothysoroban (Sri Lanka)



Amani Nteboya (Tanzania):
"Corporate governance in Faith Based Organizations (FBO): A case of North Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania."



Johnny Elley (DR Congo)



Obituary

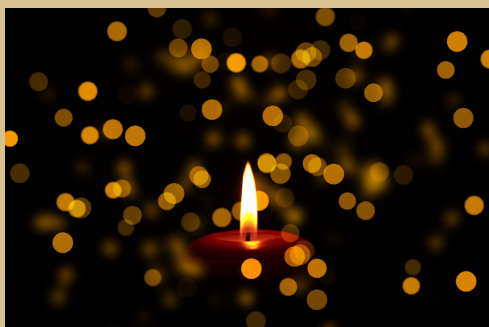
ICDM grieve together with our fellow members who have lost some friends, church members and relatives. Few to mention are the **General Secretary** and **two more Pastors** of the Church of Rev. Javason Mrema, Tanzania. This country has also lost its late **President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli** on 17 March 2021 in Daressalam.

We mourn of the loss of our brother **Hugo Lolakaa** on 3rd January 2021. He was a colleague of ICDM-member Peter Imponge (K1, Kongo) and good friends of K2. He belongs to the memories of many of ICDM-members.

We also mourn of the loss of one of ICDM-members – our brother **Rev. Agustinus Purba**, who has rested in Christ on 19th of November 2020. He left a lot of good memories and inspirations to us. These will remain as part of us.

Their souls rest in peace!

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” (Hebrew 13:7)



Reflections

With warmest regards to all of us, let us remain to connect to each other through a short reflections prepared by **Rev. David Sihite**:

"GIVE US TODAY : ENOUGH COURAGE!"

Maybe we rarely ask for courage. Oftentimes we just ask for strength. Now, it seems that courage is what we really need, because we feel a variety of fears that are increasingly rampant. Hopefully, we will not allow ourselves to be mastered by fears.



As Nelson Mandela said: the brave is not the one who is not afraid, but the one who faces it in spite of fear.

We need to remember, when Jesus prayed in the garden, alone and even filled with great fear (Luke 22: 42-44). He still faced it, whatever was going to happen, and he firmly said :“... yet not my will, but yours be done!”

May our lives always be fulfilled with courage. Yes, the courage to live this life properly and responsibly. Courage to complete what we are assigned to do. Courage to continue to hope in God. And courage to rebuke those who do not adhere to health protocols, for example. Amen.