

Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network

Report on Hong Kong Creation Care Conference

30 September – 1 October, 2019

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After a year long planning effort, the Conference commenced at the main campus of China Graduate School of Theology (CGST) on Sept 30th with two keynote sessions (by Dr. Jonathan Moo), and an "Action Arena" with info stands in between. The keynote addresses were followed by two responses each, by four different local theologians and pastors respectively. The sessions were delivered in English and interpreted simultaneously into Cantonese via mobile app (a rather ingenious and inexpensive approach, definitely something to learn). The conference continued to the following day (Oct 1st) with six workshops and concluded with a joint worship service. There was no accommodation or meal service provided at the conference, as originally planned, keeping everything rather simple.

In the original planning, there would be a number of outdoor excursions visiting various sites in the territory as examples and demonstration of actual works. Given the civil unrest in the recent months, with an expected escalating intensity and severity with public event(s) on the second day (Oct 1st, also the PRC's National Day), the organizing team decided a month ago to cut the excursion part (hopefully for a run in an undetermined future date when the situation calmed down / resolved), and moved the afternoon workshops and worship to the morning.

Everything completed as planned, uneventfully.

Despite the troublesome situation and social unrest in general, the conference was unexpectedly well attended. Almost 200 attended each of the two keynote sessions on the first day and 120 participated in the workshops on the next. Of course, the initial planning objective looked for up to 300 in attendance. But this actual turnout was considered "excellent" as many other local and international conferences were forced to cancel, as reported.

During the Q&A times of both keynote sessions, the participants were very enthusiastic. Many theological and practical questions were directed to both Jonathan and the four responding speakers. Since the topics of creation care and the Gospel have many echoes and implications to, though not directly related to, the current circumstance in HK in its roots (land dispute, conservation vs development, governance structure and injustice, etc), the participants had been very engaging.

In my own assessment, it's a very good start for greater awareness in a more comprehensive fashion, even though it took place at a rather troublesome time. God has mercy!

Toward the end of the conference, a member of the organizing team, a theologian from CGST, told me that they would like to continue this movement in HK, with similar conferences to be planned likely for the next while, perhaps once every year or at least every two years. They are very courageous and vision-filled indeed.