

## Guiding Your Children into Blessed Marriage

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The Asia region held a two-day Parent Matching Convocation (PMC) September 10 and 11 at the FFWPU-Philippines Headquarters building. Ninety-five participants attended from Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. Blessed Family Department directors from Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Filipino members living in Japan were also present during the whole event.

### Progress is needed

The two-day event provided a foothold for further development in the Asia region in the area of Parents' Matching Convocations because it was the first time for most of the delegates to attend an assembly of this type. For many of the parents, learning about the matching itself and realizing the importance of their role as blessed parents in preparing their children for the matching and blessing was illuminating. On the first day, Dr. Julius Malicdem, the national leader, welcomed the parents with a warm message. The parents had the opportunity to gain clear knowledge of the preparations needed to become involved in the process in terms of spiritual practices and practical matters from Mrs. Ursula McLackland, special envoy and director of the Blessed Family Department for Asia, who spoke about the parent matching and blessing qualifications in the first lecture.



### Parents are vital

Dr. Chung Sik Yong, president of the Asia region, followed this with a powerful lecture, instilling into the parents' hearts the seriousness of their roles before, during, and after the matching. Shortly after that, Mrs. McLackland introduced and discussed the details of the parent matching process.

## Real life stories

Mrs. Yie Sun Vergara, a blessed second-generation member who attended the Blessing Ceremony in Korea last February testified to her experience, as did a senior couple from Thailand, Mr. Solot and his wife. They had found a wife for their son at the last Asian Parent Matching Convocation.



## Taking those first steps

After the lectures and testimonies, the excitement grew as the parents of matching candidates one by one introduced their child's profiles onstage using PowerPoint presentations. Then the parents had the opportunity to network with the other parents as well as search for potential matches through the display of profiles from other regions for the remainder of the first day and on the morning of the second day. During this time, parents also had the chance to clarify question and learn about the use of the bcmatching website. Dr. Yong also made himself available to advise parents personally on their options and potential matches for their children, which greatly encouraged them. The morning devotion led by Dr. Yong each day provided a rich spiritual atmosphere and foundation to look at the matching process from the wider perspective of God's providence. The holding of the Asia Parents Matching Convocation in the Philippines was truly timely as a growing number of blessed parents in the Asian Region are seriously preparing to match their children.



## Assessment afterward

Following the PMC, the Asian Blessed Family Department leaders and Matching Advisors met over the next two days to evaluate and improve the PMC as well standardize qualifications and required documents for the Matching and Blessing throughout the region. Mrs. Mc- Lackland shared the guidelines and discussions during the recent International Blessed Family Department Directors meeting

in Korea with the Asian Blessed Family Department directors. By holding the PMC and Blessed Family Department leaders meeting twice a year, we will be able to cooperate closely and help each other provide better care for and guide our blessed couples and their children.

### **Testimonies**

"I can feel God's heart.... Everyone was happy and eager (the parents). In the original Garden of Eden, this was supposed to be God's plan. I lament that God could not feel it at that time but we, blessed families, were able to feel this joy and excitement as we reach this point." "As I was preparing two of my sons' profiles, I realized that this was supposed to be Mother Mary's role, which she was not able to fulfill.... I am very grateful that I could raise these children of God and True Parents on their behalf to continue God's lineage. I realize that there are so many things to prepare. I thank Dr. Yong, Mrs. Ursula, and the staff for preparing this kind of event."