



## ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHERS OF INDIA

(Reg. Soc. No. 384/89, Eluru, A.P.)  
Website: <http://www.acpiindia.com>

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**Dr. Saju Chackalackal, cmi**

Greetings of love to all the ACPI members and well-wishers!

We are happy to present a short report of the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Conference of the Association of Christian Philosophers of India (ACPI), held at the **Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth** (Kerala) on 10 – 13 October 2011. It discussed the question: **"History and Historizing: Philosophical Reflections,"** and there were seventy participants, engaged in teaching and/or doing research in philosophy.

His Lodship **Most Rev. Dr. Varghese Chackalackal**, Bishop of Kannur, **inaugurated** the ACPI Conference and **delivered the key-note address**. Very Rev. Dr. Thomas Anikuzhikkattil, Rector of the Seminary, welcomed the gathering; Dr. George Panthanmackel, msfs (President of ACPI) delivered the presidential address, and Dr. Johnson Puthenpurackal, ofmcap (Secretary of ACPI) presented the report of the past year. Bishop Chackalackal also **released the 12th ACPI book: *Tradition and Innovation: Philosophy of Rootedness and Openness***, edited by Dr. Saju Chackalackal, cmi. At the inaugural function **Very Rev. Dr. Thomas Anikuzhikkattil** officially **launched the Website of the ACPI: <http://www.acpiindia.com>**

During the four-days conference the following **papers were presented** and discussed: "Philosophy of History" (*Ashley Miranda, sdb*), "History as Science or Art" (*Gerard Pushparaj*), "Narrative theory and Historizing" (*Keith D'Souza, sj*), "Myth, History and Reality" (*Victor Ferrao*), "History as the Story of Victors: A Postmodern Reading" (*Johnson Puthenpurackal, ofmcap*), "Construction and Deconstruction of History" (*Nishant Alphonse*), "Religious/Salvific Understanding of History" (*Selva Raj*), "Subaltern Historizing" (*John Peter Vallabadoss, ofmcap*), "Historical and A-Historicals: A Postmodern Look" (*Sekar Sebastin*), "Histories of the Universe: Scientific Perspective" (*Mathew Chandrankunnel cmi*), "Historizing: Christian (Protestant) Understanding" (*James Daniel Chellappa*), "Historizing: Islamic Understanding" (*Jose Pennaparambil*), "Historizing: Hindu Understanding" (*Dolreich Pereira*), "Secular Historiography of India" (*George Panthanmackel, msfs*), "Historizing of the Tribals" (*Mathias Toppo*), "Archaic vis-à-vis Historical: Two Worldviews" (*Nelson Falcao, sdb*), "The Issue of Historizing: A Madhyamika Critique" (*Kurian Alunkal, ocd*), "History: Creation by Media" (*Francis Arackal, op*), and "Roots of Indian Civilization: Historico-Philosophical Analysis" (*Andrew Anbarasu, omi*). The edited book will contain a few more papers which could not be presented at the Conference.

In view of giving better organizational stability and clarity to the ACPI, the following **decisions were made** at the General Body Meeting.

1. For a person to become a member of the Association, s/he needs (a) to be competent in Philosophy through one's academic degrees (a minimum of Master's Degree), publications, professional teaching etc., (b) to make a request by filling in 'the application form' (c) to be presented by a member, (d) to pay the membership fee, (e) and to be accepted by the Executive Committee after a year of probation.
2. One ceases to be a member, if one does not attend the annual meetings consecutively for five years without any prior notice to the president/secretary, and if one does not pay the annual subscription fee, including the arrears for the years when one was absent.
3. Before effecting the termination of membership, governing body (President/Secretary) could give a prior notice of termination to the member concerned and seek explanation.
4. After a formal termination, if a person wants to be member again, s/he has to go through the whole process once again.
5. Only those who have been members of the Association for a minimum of three years can be elected to the Executive Committee, and for one to be elected President, Secretary or Treasurer, one should have been the member for a minimum of five years.
6. Those who have attended the meeting this year (2011) are eligible to be considered as members without an additional year of probation, provided they have fulfilled other requirements.
7. These rules will come into effect from the next ACPI meeting (2012), before which the Executive Committee has to make a list of the existing members of the ACPI together with the date of admission, based on their attendance, participation and cooperation in the past.

Since some of these decisions amount to a 'revision' of certain points in our already existing statutes, the ACPI Secretary will legally notify the changes to the Registrar of the Societies in Eluru.

The participants were informed that, as per the decision of last year, the ACPI Initiated Seminar in Memory of Raimon Panikkar was held in fifteen centres on different themes. In order to include as many papers as possible in the edited book, the publishing of the *Panikkar-Volume* is postponed by a few months.

The host of this year's ACPI Conference—**Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth**—deserves a word of special thanks. Under the guidance of the **Rector**, Very Rev. Dr. Thomas Anikuzhikkattil, and the leadership of the **local secretary**, Dr. Thomas Padiyath, with the unsparing cooperation and support of the **Staff** and the **students**, the Conference was hosted with remarkable efficiency and bounteous generosity. This ecologically blessed Seminary was given an ecological furnishing in view of the ACPI Seminar. All the participants carry fond memories of their comfortable stay at Kunnoth, the tastefully prepared meals, the love and care they experienced, the aesthetically presented Cultural Programme by the staff and students of **Vimal Jyothi Engineering College** (Chemperi), etc. The ACPI stands indebted to the Rector, the Staff and the students of *Good Shepherd Major Seminary*, Kunnoth, and in a very special way, to Rev. Dr. Thomas Padiyath for the commitment and determination with which he planned and organized the Seminar.

**For Your Information:**

Fr. John Peter Vallabadoss, the Treasurer, has kindly agreed to be the **Web-Manager** of our ACPI Website, and to do the necessary things regarding the sale of the **ACPI Books** that are available with us. Please contact him for anything with regard to the Website and the ACPI Books.

The General Body of the ACPI unanimously supported the proposal made by Dr. George Panthanmackel, msfs (President of the ACPI), to bring out a **Festschrift** in honour of **Dr. Johnson Puthenpurackal, ofmcap** on the theme, **Authentic Existence in Contemporary Western Philosophy**. The response from the prospective contributors has been very positive.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar of the ACPI will be held at **Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune** on **26 – 29 October 2012** on the theme **“Identity, Difference and Conflict: Postcolonial Critique.”** The local Secretary is Dr. James Ponnaiah, the Dean of Philosophy at JDV. Since the theme of the next conference is relatively unfamiliar to some of the participants, a team consisting of **Keith D’Souza, James Ponnaiah and Mathew Alapattumedayil**, will prepare a **write-up** on the theme and circulate it among the writers of papers.

Next year’s ACPI meeting is going to be a great event because of the importance of Pune (a well-known academic centre which is the *Alma Mater* for many of the ACPI members) and the novelty of the theme to be discussed. You will be informed of the details later.

Thanking you for your cooperation to keep the ACPI alive and growing,

and Requesting your continued cooperation to take the ACPI to greater heights,

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Johnson Puthenpurackal, OFMCap  
(Secretary of the ACPI)

Dr. George Panthanmackel, msfs  
(President of the ACPI)

