

Guwahati Salesian to head Asian Bishops' Office of Social Communication



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Guwahati: A Salesian who headed national media offices in New Delhi will now be in charge of the media office of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) in Manila from 22nd March 2019.

Media trainer Fr. (Dr.) George Plathottam has been appointed Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Social Communications (OSC) in Manila, the Philippines. The FABC-OSC is responsible for the Radio Veritas Asia (RVA), the only continental Catholic Radio service broadcasting in 22 languages of Asia for the last 50 years.

The RVA Golden Jubilee celebrations are scheduled for 11-12 April 2019.

The FABC Central Committee meeting in Rome on 25 February 2019 appointed 62 year old Dr Plathottam as Executive Secretary of the FABC OSC for a period of 4 years.

“We extend to you a warm welcome into the FABC family and thank you for your acceptance of this important FABC position,” wrote FABC President Salesian Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon, Myanmar.

Dr. Plathottam, was Rector and Principal of Don Bosco Tura in Meghalaya and Director of Don Bosco Academy Tura - a centre for Civil Service preparatory training and career guidance prior to his recent appointment.

A member of the Salesians of Don Bosco of Guwahati province, Dr Plathottam has three masters degrees in Theology, Sociology, and Journalism & Mass Communications and doctoral degree on Mass Communication from North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

Earlier, he was the director of the Mass Media Department in St Anthony's College, Shillong, and president of Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) and South Asian Catholic Press Association, and editor of South Asia Religious News.

Dr. Plathottam who has spent some four decades in Northeast India, especially in Guwahati, Shillong and Tura has worked as national secretary for communications at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India from 2008 to 2015 and Director of national media training and research institute, NISCORT from 2012 to 2015.

Dr Plathottam is on several academic and consultative boards related to media. One of the founding members of 25 year old BOSCOM India (Don Bosco Communications) Dr Plathottam is founder of the Salesian news agency which is now the official news agency of the Salesians in South Asia under the name Bosco Information Service (BIS).

In 1992, he won The North -South Friendship Prize from Union of Catholic International Press and the Government of Germany.

CM Paul

Former HoD, Dept of Mass Communications at Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati, C.M. Paul was editor of The Herald weekly in Kolkata and director of Don Bosco International News Agency (ANS) based in Rome. He did MA in Journalism & Mass Communication from FORDHAM University, New York.

BY CM PAUL

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