

**Ecumenical School on
Governance, Economics and Management for an Economy of Life (GEM School)
18-29 August 2025, Seoul, South Korea (TBC)**

Invitation to Apply

To bolster the voice of the churches on the imperative of transforming the global economy amidst rising inequality and climate breakdown, a group of 20 current and future leaders representing the churches will have the opportunity to attend the Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management for an Economy of Life (GEM School) in Seoul, South Korea (TBC) from 18-29 August 2025.

Currently churches' ethical, moral, and theological perspectives have minimal influence on global financial and economic policies and ways of thinking. GEM school addresses this gap by building economic literacy within churches through intergenerational exchange and intersectional learning, equipping participants with the tools and languages to bridge theology and economics and to effectively advocate for a global financial and economic system that meets people's needs and responds to the climate emergency.

Co-organized by the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist Council, and the Council for World Mission as part of the ecumenical [New International Financial and Economic Architecture \(NIFEA\) initiative](#), GEM School responds to recommendations outlined in the ["Sao Paulo Statement: International Financial transformation for an Economy of Life"](#) and in the document ["Economy of Life for All Now: An Ecumenical Action Plan for a New International Financial and Economic Architecture,"](#) which identified as a priority the development of competencies in economics within churches.

Learning objectives

The [10-day programme and curriculum](#) addresses the following objectives:

- Identify theological starting points for economic justice (i.e. why and how theology and ethics are intertwined with economics)
- Provide a basic understanding of mainstream economic thinking
- Identify, relativize and contextualize methodologies and normative fundamentals of economics
- Widen the horizon of economics by introducing ecological, feminist and other alternative approaches
- Develop the interdisciplinary structure and ethical implications of combining theological dimensions with economics
- Lay out the political and strategic implications for churches and their advocacy for an Economy of Life

Nomination criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- MA or BA preferably in theology, economics/finance/business management or any social science; or demonstration of competence in the aforementioned fields by engagement in issues of socio-economic and ecological justice through, for example, programmes or processes connected to sponsoring and other partner organizations
- Five years of leadership experience (waived for youth until the age of 30)
- Sound insights into practices of public policy and passion for justice (assessed through an essay)
- Endorsement from a church or ecumenical organization

Among candidates who meet the aforementioned criteria, participants will be selected with a view to achieving regional, gender and denominational balance.

Application

Apply by 01 March 2025 through this [link](#).

Selected participants will be informed by 30 March 2025.

Selected participants are granted full scholarship, including flights, accommodation and full board. A contribution of 100 US dollars is expected from each participant.

Further inquiries may be directed to Athena.Peralta@wcc-coe.org, Philip.Peacock@wrc.eu, Isaiah.Toroitich@lutheranworld.org, Rosemarie.Wenner@emk.de, or Daimon.Mkandawire@cwmission.org.