

Review of the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation & Celebration – From Edinburgh to Tokyo  
(Advantages & Limitations of Tokyo 2010 Congress – May 11-15, 2010)  
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## **Introduction**

The Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation, held May 11-15, 2010 in Tokyo, Japan was a celebration of the past and, at the same time, an embracing of the future.

The planning, execution, and so far the follow-up for the Global Mission Consultation & Celebration - From Edinburgh to Tokyo have taken place under the leadership of a Planning Committee of 13 individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and geographic locations. It has also been a partnership of regional mission networks, including, the Asia Missions Association (AMA - 1975), the Global Network of Mission Structures (GNMS – founded in 2005 in Amsterdam), CrossGlobal Link (Canada, USA, Mexico, and some Caribbean nations, formerly IFMA founded in 1917), and the Third World Missions Association (TWMA - 1986)

What was the genesis of the Tokyo meetings? Any presentation or discussion of the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation must be held in the context of two factors: (1) a historical perspective including the precedence of worldwide gatherings in 1910 and 1980, both held in Edinburgh, Scotland (UK); and, (2) the role, influence, and vision of Dr. Ralph Winter.

We'll start with a discussion of Dr. Winter's role. A 2010 global consultation and the vision of a global gathering of mission leadership focused on the Unfinished Task were much on his heart, especially in the last years of his life. Before his death on May 20, 2009, Dr. Winter spoke and wrote extensively for many years about the need for a global-level association of mission agencies and the organizing of a 2010 meeting following the format of the Edinburgh meeting at the 100th anniversary in 2010. He did not live to see the fulfillment of this vision, but the vision is going forward.

Dr. Winter's vision for 2010 was a gathering that would follow the format of the 1910 meeting, specifically in reference to the following details:

1. The delegates – leaders sent by mission agencies/structures
2. Global Representation from around the world
3. Focusing on the frontiers of missions

In addition to these historical guidelines was a heart that the consultation be attended, planned, and managed by a majority of non-western missionaries and mission leaders.

Dr. Winter's May-June 2003 Mission Frontiers Editorial marked a renewed call for a global-level conference and a global mission structure. The next year, he led an effort to gather mission leaders to consider these "problems" when he wrote and circulated "The Third Call". This resulted in the April 2005 gathering in Amsterdam of 28 mission leaders from around the world. Out of that gathering, the Global Network of Mission Structures (GNMS) was formed with a challenge to champion a 2010 meeting in the pattern of 1910.

The next steps toward a 2010 meeting occurred in late 2006, in Ephesus, Turkey, at an Asia Missions Association meeting where Dr. Winter presented the vision for a 2010 meeting in the pattern of and in celebration of Edinburgh 1910. At the Third World Mission Association (TWMA) meeting in London that followed in May, 2007, additional individuals and organizations were invited, mostly at the personal initiative of Dr. Winter. At this gathering, a commitment was made and a planning committee was established for the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation to be held on May 11-15, 2010.

Dr. Winter was closely involved in the planning of Tokyo 2010, and he participated in each planning committee meeting and the ongoing conference plans up until his death. This included a trip to Tokyo where on October 26-27, 2008; he met with Japanese church leaders and the preliminary Tokyo 2010 Host Committee. The Tokyo visit was his last overseas trip.

So what is the historical precedence of the 1910 and to a lesser degree the 1980 meetings?

## Edinburgh 1910 – World Missionary Conference

In June 1910, through the extensive labors of John R. Mott and for the first time in history, mission leaders and missionaries came together to consider how best to finish the global task of missions. No one was invited on an individual basis. The only people attending were delegates chosen by legitimate mission agencies, most of which were from Europe and North America. John Mott had been stirred by the significance of mission leaders getting together by themselves to discuss the task before them.

Great things came out of that conference. A continuation committee was formed. The International Review of Missions and the International Missionary Council (which served effectively for forty years) derived from that committee. The 1910 conference, after the hiatus of the 1st World War, generated a concrete basis for global level coordination of mission strategies, namely the International Missionary Council, which worked effectively for forty years but eventually transitioned into a council of overseas church councils, with little mission vision.

In 1910, although a handful of non-Western agencies existed, they were accidentally overlooked. The Mott leadership team failed even to conceive of the possibility of what we now call Two-thirds World mission agencies!

Edinburgh 1910 had four characteristics that made it unique in Western mission history: 1) Its organizers brought together mission leaders as representatives of all the major evangelical sending agencies and nations of the world; 2) They focused on the frontiers of the Great Commission; 3) They sought to fill in the gaps of inter-mission field coordination; 4) They continued to cooperate following the meeting on the national, regional and global levels to reach the remaining unengaged peoples.

## Edinburgh 1980 – The World Consultation on Frontier Missions

Another global meeting was held in 1980, once again at Edinburgh. This gathering was intentionally similar to the 1910 meeting, with a total of 270 delegates representing 194 mission agencies. This gathering was the largest number of mission agencies represented ever on the world level and the largest number of third world agencies ever meeting on a world level. Notably almost one-third (57) of all agencies were now from the Third World. At Edinburgh 1980 the slogan adopted was "*A Church for Every People By the Year 2000.*" In 1980, an ongoing global-level association of mission agencies was proposed, but it was not effectively led. The designated leader dropped out without telling anyone as a result of his agency requiring him to do so. No ongoing structure survived.

	<b>Edinburgh 1910</b>	<b>Edinburgh 1980</b>	<b>Tokyo 2010</b>
<b>Location</b>	Edinburgh, Scotland	Edinburgh, Scotland	Tokyo, Japan
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Run by Western Denominational Agencies	Included non-denominational agencies, mostly Western	Primarily non-western
<b>Focus</b>	Evangelization	Church Planting	Making Disciples
<b># of Delegates</b>	1200	270	967
<b>Non-Western %</b>	< 1%	33%	75%
<b># of Countries</b>	15 approximately	35	73
<b># of Mission Agencies</b>	162	194	404 (approximate)
<b>Non Western Agencies</b>	0%	33%	?
<b>Follow-Up Committee</b>	Yes	No, not continued	Yes, in beginning stages

### *Historical Context Thoughts*

What we see in the history of the 1910, 1980, and 2010 global gatherings is a journey of movements which have taken us ever closer to the heart of the unfinished task—from "*evangelizing the whole world,*" [1910] to "*a church for every people,*" [1980] to the theme of Tokyo 2010 "*making disciples of all peoples.*" All three are necessary! All three are biblical! And the result of it all should be the fulfillment of our Lord's Great Commission.

## **Attributes, Advantages and Outcomes of Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation**

### ***Sponsorship, Management and Leadership***

Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation was hosted by the Japanese Church and sponsored jointly by the Asia Mission Association (AMA), and CrossGlobal Link, the Global Network of Mission Structures (GNMS), and the Third World Mission Association (TWMA). TWMA accepted the primary responsibility to manage the conference under the guidance of a conference planning committee comprised of individuals from several different associations and agencies. The Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation was organized and led predominately by non-Western leaders, another significant historical milestone.

The goal of non-Western leadership was certainly met, with CrossGlobal Link the only Western primary sponsor. The Japanese church did an outstanding job. All efforts were hindered by a lack of lead time in the planning process, as it wasn't until mid-2009 that the planning committee began making specific efforts toward the conference planning. The Japan church was also focused until the fall of 2009 on their 150<sup>th</sup> year celebration of missions in Japan, which greatly hindered both the logistical and fund raising lead time. As a result, there were some gaps both in logistics and planning. Pre-conference consultation and networking, one of the early goals of the planners, was just not possible. There was also limited time and success in mobilizing regional networks and associations, another early goal.

### ***Delegate Selection and Agency Representation***

A total of 967 Delegates representing 73 countries attended the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation May 11-14, 2010 in Tokyo, Japan. They were joined by another 927 Observers from Japan and served by approximately 550 Japanese volunteers. Using a definition of 'Non-Western' as any place other than the USA, Canada, Western Europe, New Zealand and Australia, the non-Western representation ranges from 66% to 75%. One disappointment in the delegate registration was limited participation from the Chinese and European spheres.

As noted, Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation delegates were predominately non-western, a significant historical marker. In the pattern of 1910, the original intent was that mission structures and mission associations, primarily mission agencies rather than churches, send delegates based upon the mission structure size. There were no invited delegates. All participants were to be selected and delegated primarily by mission associations and mission agencies and then approved by Tokyo 2010 regional administrators as delegates. Delegates were to come prepared to discuss matters of field concern. In actuality, most delegates were mission leaders and innovators, many from small missions and most with a wealth of missions experience. The desire was mission structures who are focused upon cross-cultural outreach beyond frontiers (not the outreach of missions and churches into societies within which there are already churches).

While the Global Mission Consultation & Celebration featured evening sessions of local "celebrations" open to anyone from local churches in Japan, during the day it was a very serious "consultation" that dealt in depth with subjects of frontier mission strategy and global coordination. Gathered at Tokyo 2010 were representatives of the major mission sending countries, mission associations and agencies (large and small), mission minded churches and other individuals with a focus and heart to reach the final frontiers of the Great Commission.

While he would have been delighted with most of the outcomes of Tokyo 2010, Dr. Winter may have been somewhat disappointed in the selection and makeup of delegates. The world has changed, particularly with much interdependence among agencies and across borders. How would or could an organization like YWAM, for example, formally determine and send delegates. YWAM was certainly represented, as were at least most of the largest agencies, but it's much more difficult to say that most of the delegates were "decision makers" or "generals" as was Dr. Winter's vision. From the beginning, the non-western leadership on the planning committee took a much more unstructured and broader stance regarding delegate criteria than was the case in both 1910 and 1980. The door was opened to churches involved in missions and other interested institutions and individuals. The delegate approval process was delegated to regional offices and regional representatives who had both (1) varying understanding and interest in strict delegate selection and (2) varying networks that they primarily recruited from. Some regions were more demanding than others; however, non-serious applicants were not accepted for the most part.

The Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation was planned to be an important opportunity for mission organizations from around the world to learn from one another. Was this successful? Yes, but to what degree serious consultation took place can be debated.

The perspective of one Asian leader is helpful. He wrote that top leaders from most of the largest mission associations were indeed represented at Tokyo 2010, and they have agreed to begin meeting together regularly. In addition to these leaders, many international mission directors and regional field leaders were also present. A good number of these gathered together for the Global Coordination Task Force at Tokyo 2010, which looked at how to better tackle the issue of the unengaged and under-engaged, unreached peoples at the regional level.

I would also propose that much of the learning from one another was on an individual basis and among and between small mission structures and churches rather than the larger agency to agency perspective of some of the planners.

Did significant strategies emerge to facilitate inter-mission cooperation at every level—nationally, regionally, and globally as desired? It is too early to evaluate this outcome. Much was shared and the groundwork laid for future cooperation. We do believe that out of this significant strategies will emerge.

### ***“Closure” Focus***

The Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation promoted a target of “closure”. The way in which the task of “closure” is examined has changed considerably since 1910, but remains a primary focus, as represented by the phrase “All People” in the vision statement.

The keynote address, by Dr. Paul Eshleman, on the first day was titled “State of the Unfinished Task”, and discussed reaching the remaining 3,500 people groups that are still unengaged. Dr. Eshleman and his teammates from Finish the Task and Campus Crusade, along with others focused on the unfinished task, led the daily “Casting Vision” track with workshops titled: (1) Engaging All Peoples, (2) World Evangelization, (3) Scripture for Every People, (4) Reaching Oral Learners, and (5) Church Planting Movements. As part of the presentations, a “Tokyo 2010 Commitments” form was circulated asking for delegate commitments to engage 632 unreached people groups each with a population over 50,000 within the next 3 years. During the conference 171 commitments were received.

### ***Vision Statement – “Making Disciples Of All Peoples In Our Generation”***

As we talk about “closure” and “finishing the task”, it is appropriate and necessary that we take a closer look at the fruit of all this effort. Are we succeeding in fulfilling the mandate Jesus gave us to “disciple all peoples”? Why is the Christianity of certain areas of the world being described as a “mile-wide and an inch deep”?

What kind of Christianity are we seeking to establish around the world? Is it the kind laid down by the Master himself, who took twelve young men, and said, “Come, follow me”? Or the kind laid down by the Apostle Paul, who said to the church in Philippi, “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice” (Php. 4:9). And again to the Church in Corinth, “I urge you to imitate me” (1 Cor. 4:16). A new believer’s worldview must be changed; his lifestyle adjusted to increasingly conform to the image of Christ; and his ethical conduct increasingly marked by integrity. When transformation is apparent in these areas, that believer in turn is in a position to teach others also and thus duplicate the process.

With this in mind, the decision was made to step back and look at this important issue, while at the same time keeping the frontier mission focus of its predecessor consultations. The vision and watchword of the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation focused not only on the breadth of the unfinished task—represented by all peoples—but also on the depth of that task—making disciples. The Great Commission is not just about getting people to come forward at an evangelistic meeting, and not just about forming local assemblies of believers, but about discipling entire nations with the gospel of the Kingdom, teaching them to obey everything Christ has commanded from Genesis to Revelation. It is the opportunity to teach a large group of people what it means to follow Jesus. Thus while Tokyo 2010 maintained the “closure” focus of Edinburgh 1910 and 1980, it also focused on an equally important dimension of the Great Commission—the purpose of our going, which is to teach all peoples to obey everything Jesus commanded.

There are three processes in making disciples. There’s the going out (“go”)—that’s the initial reaching others aspect. There’s the bringing in (“baptizing”), which is initiation of new converts as they identify with the Church through their baptism. Then there’s the changing over (“teaching them to observe everything I’ve commanded you”) or the altering of lives through transformational teaching. Jesus made it very clear that making disciples is an integral part in what we do in world evangelization.

Can this be done in our generation? The results are up to God. But this is our hope and prayer—that everyone alive at any given time might have the opportunity to say yes to Jesus and be discipled in a culturally relevant fellowship of believers.

### ***Tokyo 2010 Declaration***

In response to the call and vision of “Making Disciples of All Peoples In Our Generation”, the Tokyo Declaration was adopted in Tokyo and as a common pledge of Tokyo 2010 Delegates by the signature of representatives of 34 regional associations and networks. The declaration makes it abundantly clear that the Great Commission is fundamentally about transformation at every level – from the individual, to the family, to the society as a whole. That is a significant step in bring this vision to the mission world, but one that is only a first step of a long-distance run. Tokyo 2010 was a refreshing confirmation that the non-Western church is prepared to do just that, and they want to do it together with believers in the West.

The Declaration pledge section statement reads as follows:

#### **Our Pledge**

Therefore, as representatives of this generation’s global mission community, we pledge to obey the Great Commission. We covenant together to use all that God has entrusted to us in this obedience. We will seek to know where people are unreached, overlooked, ignored, or forgotten. We will pray for the Holy Spirit to give strength and guidance as we join with others in changing that neglect, to love and make disciples in the way of the Cross.

We confess that we have not always valued each other or each other’s work. We repent of those wrongs and will endeavor to bring an end to competition where it exists, and reconcile where there is hurt, misunderstanding and mistrust. Furthermore, we will endeavor to recognize that each part of the Body has its very own purpose, whether risking their very lives to show God’s passion for the salvation of others, or supporting those who lead us forward, or caring for those who quietly support, or fervently pray that His will be done throughout the whole earth. We will respect all mission-engaging individuals and groups as special vessels for God’s glory, each endowed with abilities that extend His Kingdom in multiple ways.

Finally, we recognize that finishing the task will demand effective cooperative efforts of the entire global body of believers. To facilitate cooperation and on-going coordination between mission structures worldwide, we agree to the necessity of a global network of mission structures. With this in mind, we leave Tokyo pledging cooperation with one another, and all others of like faith, with the singular goal of “making disciples of every people in our generation.”

Was the vision of Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation – Making Disciples of All Peoples in Our Generation -- effectively communicated? In many ways Tokyo 2010 did pick up where Edinburgh 1910 left off. There indeed was a clear emphasis on both the penetrating of peoples for the first time, plus the move from simple evangelism to discipleship. That is an important step forward in mission strategy. The follow-up of this commitment is the task before us all.

### ***Philosophy and Purpose - Plenary and Workshop Focus***

Based upon a desire to bring new information to the missionaries of the world on what remains to be done in the unfinished task of world evangelism, the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation was organized into four major areas:

1. Celebration – reviewing what God has done in missions since 1910.
2. Casting Vision – can we cast a unified vision for the future?
3. New Models – new opportunities, new models, and new strategies.
4. Coordination – promoting greater interdependence.

A 5<sup>th</sup> goal was to bless the Japanese church and people. This was seen through afternoon and evening sessions targeting the local church, as well as opportunities for Japanese pastors and missionaries to attend the full consultation.

The first track, Celebration, was a time of reflection on what has happened in the last one hundred years of fulfilling the Great Commission -- a time of thanksgiving and praise to God for the great work that He has done. Presentations focused on what God is presently doing through mission movements around the world and what we can learn from one

another in this regard, led by regional leaders from the (1) Middle East, (2) Japan, (3) US & Canada, (4) Latin America, (5) East Asia, (6) Africa, (7) SE Asia, and (8) South Asia.

The second track, Casting Vision, looked forward to what remains to be done to fully engage all the peoples of the world with the gospel. Special emphasis was given to those 3,000 least-reached peoples currently with little or no missionary presence. Delegates were challenged to consider their contribution toward seeing the entire world fully engaged with disciple-making teams.

The third track, New Models, investigated how disciple-making movements are impacting major spheres and religious blocs, such as Muslims and Hindus, the urbanized and the nomadic, restricted access contexts, the illiterate, etc. What is God using today to bring the gospel to some of the least-reached areas of the world—many of which are unreached due to the difficulty of deploying long-term missionary efforts? Are there new models for missionary sending which are bearing fruit? What are the new models for training and equipping tomorrow's missionary force, and more?

Importantly, the fourth track of Coordination looked at how we can work together to finish the task, listening and learning from one another. How do we keep the conversation going and develop cooperative plans to move forward with the collective message He gives us? How can we make sure that every people group is properly engaged by disciple-making teams over the next decade? How can we help strengthen mission movements which are just developing around the world? Is it possible to cooperate for both joint planning and action, for the kind of goal setting for each agency which is not developed by the agency itself but by the consensus of the group? This is happening in some local and regional settings. Why not work together in a similar way at the global level?

The idea behind these workshops and task-forces was and is to look in depth at four inter-related dimensions of the Great Commission:

- 1) From where have we come?
- 2) What remains to be done?
- 3) What is presently working (and what is not)?
- 4) How can we join together to take the gospel from where it is to where it needs to go?

#### **IV. Other Outcomes:**

##### ***Europe “Come Over and Help Us” Plea***

There was at least one unexpected outcome. “Come over and help us!” pleaded Stefan Gustavsson, leader of the Swedish Evangelical Alliance, to the delegates at the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation in the most powerfully moving moment of the conference. Echoing the call of the man in Paul's Macedonian vision almost 2000 years ago, in his plenary address Gustavsson portrayed the stark reality of Europe today, where the vast majority of the population is turning to secularism, atheism and agnosticism. What followed was perhaps the most moving response during the entire consultation, as Dr. Yong Cho came to the podium with tears in his eyes and as the entire assembly began to cry out to God for the peoples of Europe. In a remarkable turn, all the Two Thirds World Christians cried out on behalf of their brothers and sisters in Europe. In particular, two Koreans and two Africans (representing two of the strongest centers of Christianity) led the prayers. The Holy Spirit was moving in perhaps the most authentic and unforgettable part of the whole conference.

The significance of this moment, from an historical perspective, was immediately obvious. In the last 100 years since Edinburgh 1910, while the Church exploded in Africa, Asia and Latin America, one of the greatest tragedies in the history of Christianity also took place in Europe. There was a deep sense of the gratitude, obligation and loss felt by the non-Western mission leaders who were at this very meeting because of the efforts of European church and mission leaders a century ago. How is it that a Church that weathered so many storms for centuries could be at risk of virtually disappearing in the next 50 years? “Not on our watch!” was the response at Tokyo 2010.

##### ***Last Mile Calling – Networking Tool***

One of the strategy tools announced at Tokyo 2010 was the Last Mile Calling, a ministry, fully secure, on-line networking platform to enable members of the global missions community to stay connected, irrespective of where they are located.

Last Mile Calling is about building bridges among the missions community. Last Mile Calling works for and on behalf of global mission's community, whether they are mission agencies, churches, individuals -- anyone and everyone who

is committed to the Great Commission. The platform was introduced in Tokyo, but prematurely. Since that time significant development has gone into an enhanced platform that is still anticipated to provide valuable services to the missions community.

### ***Progress toward a global network of mission organizations***

Another desire of Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation was to facilitate real field-partnerships that will engage the unreached peoples of the world in the most effective way possible and to see progress toward a truly global network of mission organizations networking together to fully engage all the peoples of the world in a systematic way. That chapter again has yet to be written, although initial efforts have been in progress for the last year. The Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation planning committee on September 1, 2010 met together and initiated the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Network – Making Disciples of All Peoples In Our Generation. The intent is to invite Tokyo 2010 Declaration Signers and others to be part of an ongoing global effort, per the original vision. The start-up has been slow as leadership issues have been under prayerful consideration. The Global Network of Mission Structures, one of the Tokyo 2010 sponsoring organizations, may take a significant role in this effort.

### **Wrap-up – Looking Forward**

As expressed by Dr. Yong Cho, Tokyo 2010 GMC Coordinator and GNMS Executive Director, “Might we for the first time in history develop a global strategy with wide inter-mission cooperation to finish the task? Can we work together to recruit, train and place 100,000 additional missionaries among the least-reached peoples in the next ten years? What’s it going to take? What things do we need to change? What structures need to be overhauled? Are new wineskins required?”

Is it fair to claim that the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation could be regarded as the symbolic end of one era and the beginning of another? In many ways, large and small, Tokyo 2010 was a wake-up call that times are changing — and faster than many may have expected. A seismic shift has been taking place in non-Western missionary sending over the last decade — a shift that is changing the global Church and global mission movement. The role of the Korean church and mission structures in the global mission movement was especially apparent, as well as other Asian and African leadership. Korea especially seems prepared to lead the way forward.

The most encouraging element about Tokyo 2010 is the vision for the future expressed by the leadership that planned and carried out the meeting. There is a commitment to fostering the ongoing global and regional cooperation and networking that is essential if we are to reach the unreached peoples. Can we accomplish Dr. Winter’s vision, and that of many others, this time? Will Tokyo 2010 be remembered as a significant historical gathering? That story is yet to be told and depends upon the responses of delegates and the follow-up efforts and global cooperation that are needed.

Let’s set aside the promotion of our own kingdoms and work together to build His Kingdom in all the peoples of the earth.