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77th ICM, Catalonia (6th-10th Dec 2017)

It's the time again for all SCI branches aka big family to meet for an important annual meeting to discuss, to brainstorm, to propose, and also to vote on matters concerning the whole movement. This year, 26 branches attended including SCI Malaysia, unfortunately few branches from Asia could not make it due to visa issues.

On the 6th, pre-ICM Asia Platform Meeting took place in a room named Bihar. Bihar, India is where the first workcamp/international voluntary project in Asia took place, after a devastating massive earthquake. In APM, asian delegates discussed various topics ranging from branches updates/activities, budget, how to strengthen regional exchanges and plan of action for 2018. In the same evening, there was a newcomer's session and welcome session for all participants.

ICM officially started on the 7th, and SCI Catalunya has invited an activist from NOVACT, Jodi Palao to share on the topic Nonviolent Action and Resistance. Participants were inspired by the long history of nonviolent civil movement in Catalonia. Pierre Ceresole Awards was yet again making an appearance in this year ICM, with the introduction of branches submissions.

ICM was also live-streamed and can be watched online at real time! a fantastic effort by the organizing team. Many interesting evening workshops were arranged to create platform for discussions, peer learning, and networking among branches. Some of the workshops were on Volunteer Retention, 2020 plan, State of the World peace and SCI response, brand new Strategic Plan, VEF system, Peace Messengers, workshop on SCI International Finances and Financial Solidarity to name a few. Some of the workshops were conducted in an engaging and interactive manner, making it interesting, fun and stimulate critical thinking of the participants.

A wonderful party concluded the ICM and simply the perfect way to unwind and for fellowship. SCI Catalunya has been working hard to organize the 77th ICM, with a team of amazing local volunteers, technical and logistics support, SCI infamous energizers and had always been so helpful and thoughtful, making all of us feel like home, and welcomed into the family. A big thank you!

A post-ICM study camp took place from 11th to 15th, with the focus on non-violent action movement, theatre of the oppressed workshop and more activities to get to know what is SCI Catalunya is doing locally and abroad. Looking forward for the next ICM to be hosted in Asia by SCI India., Welcome to India!