



ATESEA and Forum of Asian Theological Librarians (ForATL) organize the Conference for Theological Librarians

The ATESEA, in partnership with the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians (ForATL), conducted a Conference for Theological Librarians with the theme "Innovation and Transformation in Asian Theological Libraries." This consultation-workshop was held on May 21-25, 2018 at Jakarta Theological Seminary, Jakarta, Indonesia. More than fifty (50) librarians participated in the said event. The invited international guest speakers spoke on their respective expertise in their field of discipline.

Dr. Kelly Campbell of American Theological Library Association (ATLA), USA emphasized the role of a librarian which is paralleled to a Quilter. A "quilter" provides shelter for safety, constructs the block to connect, and makes pattern to trace history. Likewise, a librarian has to build a good foundation in library management to be ready to face the future and move to progress accordingly.

Mr. Aditya Nugraha of Petra Christian University, Indonesia discussed "Library Research." He raised some issues in scholarly communication such as the different practices in publication, plagiarism, copyright and the different manifestations of scholarly works. He also emphasized that academic librarians are partners of the researchers as the former contribute through peer-review.

Ms. Florbella Bongalos, a certified archivist, lectured on "Establishing University, Church and Seminary Archives and Record Management." She expressed that the tasks are big, and need proper planning with considerations on finance and management.

Ms. Siong Ng of Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association (ANZTLA) talked about "Theological Library Management in Asia" and identified challenges that librarians face in this era of

IN THIS ISSUE

From the ED	2
BOT Meeting	3
Colloquium	4
Senate Meeting	5
GETI 2018	6
CPE-Community based	7
Indigenization of Music and Liturgy	8
Upcoming events	9

Words from the Executive Director

Calling for More Christian Education Experts



Dr. Limuel Equina

Is there a scarcity of Christian Education experts in Asia?

This question reverberates my observation during the Teachers' Academy for Christian Education (CE) that ATESEA conducted last year. The participants who attended the Academy were dominated by women lecturers. However, only a

few of them have doctoral degrees.

Is it because most CE Asian women have limited time to do further studies due to family related concerns like taking care of their children or the elderly? "I cannot sacrifice these mundane duties to my family in favor of my professional advancement," says one teacher.

Is the scarcity of Christian Education experts due to the conventional assumption that the discipline is equated with designing curriculum for the church's educational programs like Sunday School, the task which is usually reserved for women? Or, is it because of the assumed understanding that the main emphasis of preparing seminary students for ministerial leadership is to provide them with strong foundations in biblical and theological studies, history of Christianity and religions, preaching and counselling, but less in CE? As a consequence, the area in Christian Education gets low priority for faculty development.

During the Academy, the participants recognized the lack of experts in CE. They strongly recommended that special attention be given to the faculty development program for CE. Hence, in consensus, they also requested for a regular continuing education for CE lecturers to level up their professional competencies.

In response to this shortage of CE experts, ATESEA will provide scholarship assistance to students who will pursue the Doctor of Theology degree with specialization in CE this year. This will give CE lecturers the possibility to do

further studies in Asia. Moreover, a continuing education for CE teachers through workshops is being planned to address this exigency.

The offering of the CE specialization has been conceived not simply because of the need for more faculty. But more essential than just the inadequate number of CE experts is the desired solid philosophical, methodological and curricular substance of the doctoral program to make it sustainable and contextually feasible.

Through its ATU Center of Research (CORE), ATESEA has designed the CE doctoral curriculum as a product of a shared effort of Asian CE experts. This program is offered at Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines and will be augmented by the CE faculty from other schools within and outside Asia.

Moreover, this newly crafted CE doctoral program is interdisciplinary and integrative. It de-emphasizes a compartmentalized understanding of CE as a discipline, which is limiting, by engaging the expertise of faculty members from the School of Graduate Studies of Silliman University to enrich the program and cultivate scholarship.

Under this platform, the CE doctoral degree program will carry a broad reach of academic, contextual and inter-contextual framework, which defines ATESEA's core values. It is therefore envisioned that the CE programs will produce Asian CE lecturers who can help enhance the dynamics of teaching in theological schools and improve the competencies of lecturers. This goal is grounded in the observation that the quality of teaching of the lecturers is among the prominent indicators why the students love their schools and perform well in the practice of their ministries. Can we, then, say that there is a strong relationship between the quality of faculty instruction, the quality of institution and student performance?

Indeed, it cannot be denied that there is an evident need of more CE experts to help strengthen the relationship and ministries between the academy and the church. The doctoral degree program and continuing education for CE, which ATESEA initiates in cooperation with its member schools and partners, hopes to provide that impetus.

ATESEA Board brainstorms on new programs



Top row (left to right): Dr. Tan Kim Huat (Chairperson), Dr. Limuel Equina (Executive Director), Rev. Maria Regina Adolfini Pada (Member), Dr. Menghun Goh (Member), Dr. Simon Chow (Vice Chairperson), Dr. Wati Longchar (Guest), and Dr. Joas Adiprasetya (Treasurer). Front row (left to right) Ms. Anietessie Palmes (ATESEA Staff), Dr. Jeaneth Faller (Secretary), Dr. Chananporn Jaisaodee (Associate Treasurer), Dr. Judy Berinai (Member), Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling (Member), and Dr. HS Wilson (FTESEA Executive Director).

The ATESEA Board met on March 26-28, 2018 at UCCP Shalom Center, Manila, Philippines. The members discussed the new challenges in making ATESEA programs relevant to the current needs of its member schools in pursuit of quality theological education.

Dr. Limuel Equina, the Executive Director, highlighted the major programs and engagements of ATESEA from the period August 2017 until March 2018.

Dr. HS Wilson, Executive Director of Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia (FTESEA), was also present during the meeting. He conveyed the foundation's new template and guidelines for requesting grants beginning 2019.

The Board acted on the recommendations of the Accreditation team who went for a special visit to Taiwan Theological College and Seminary (TTCS)/ Taiwan Graduate School of Theology (TGST) and Yu-Shan Theological College

and Seminary (YTCS). They also approved recommendation of the ATU Senate to offer the Doctor of Theology major in Christian Education. The program will be based at the Divinity School, Silliman University in Dumaguete City, Philippines.

With the management of the Asia Journal of Theology under ATESEA since October 2017, the Board is looking forward to exploring possibilities in maximizing the full potential of the journal in making it as a tool in promoting quality theological education in Asia.

The next Board meeting was set on December 12-14, 2018 at Trinity Theological College, Singapore in time for the school's 70th Anniversary celebration.



Doctoral students meet for a colloquium



learning.” Each participant was given time to present his/her paper for critique. The sharing of ideas was a moment to empower each other. After reflecting on the reviews, the students were encouraged to rethink and reorganize their paper based on new perspectives. The dialogues inspired them to embrace a holistic approach to the subject

The ATU Doctoral Colloquium was held on July 2 to 5, 2018 at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. Thirteen (13) participants coming from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Myanmar engaged in the scholarly activities. The following were invited as mentors and facilitators:

- Dr. Christina Ong from The Divinity School, Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong with specialization in History of Christianity in China, Women and Gender Studies;
- Dr. Sung-Hyun Kim from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong with specialization in Systematic Theology; and
- Dr. Leo K-H Li from The Divinity School Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong with specialization in Biblical Studies.

One facilitator stressed, “Mutual learning is theological

matter considering that the South East Asia context is a pluralistic society, and that theology is related to other fields of study. Furthermore, the importance of contextualization was also underscored in their research. In one of the morning reflections, one of the participants commented, “Theology is useful when it is sensitive to the social issues and tries to give any contribution that can enlighten and encourage change for the best of our society. ...Through research efforts, it will obtain relevant data and information that will be analyzed to build constructive and contextual theological thinking. Thus, the result is a theology based on research data that address the needs of the context.”

The participants treasured the new friendships formed and fresh insights gained during the discussions. They recognized this scholarly exercise as valuable for doctoral students in their research paper writing.

Nant Ai Shu earns Doctor of Theology degree

Dr. Nant Ai Shu was conferred the degree Doctor of Theology at Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) on March 10, 2018. Dr. Chananporn Jaisaodee, Associate Treasurer of the ATESEA Board of Trustees, represented Dr. Limuel Equina, Dean of ATESEA Theological Union (ATU), on the said occasion. Dr. Nant Ai Shu wrote on the topic, “The Impact of Christian Liberation Theology and the Praxis of Engaged Buddhism in Myanmar Context.” She is currently a lecturer at Pwo Kayin Theological Seminary, Myanmar.



From left to right: Dr. Chananporn Jaisaodee (ATESEA Associate Treasurer), Dr. Nant Ai Shu, and Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling (President of Myanmar Institute of Theology)

Senate members deliberate on the new shape of ATU



The ATESEA Theological Union (ATU) Senate members met on June 27 to 28, 2018 at Shalom Center, Manila, Philippines. The Senate reviewed and approved the curriculum for Doctor of Theology in Christian Education submitted by the Task Force designated for this program. They also deliberated on how to promote and expand the Christian Education through colloquium seminars which will be conducted in one of the Centers of Research (CORE). The Senate recommended that the Divinity School of Chung Chi College be the CORE

for these forms of professional enrichment in collaboration with other ATESEA member schools.

Moreover, the Senate explored the possibility to expand the areas of focus of the CORE other than Christian Education. As recommended by the ATESEA Board, the area on Inter-religious Studies has been considered and will be reviewed in the next meeting of the Senate including the guidelines in implementing these initiatives.

The members of the ATU Senate who were present during the meeting were Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling (Myanmar Institute of Theology), Dr. Jeaneth Faller (Silliman University Divinity School), Dr. Kung Lap Yan (The Divinity School of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong), Dr. Lim Teck Peng (Trinity Theological College), Dr. Agustinus Setiawidi (Jakarta Theological Seminary), and Dr. Limuel Equina (ATU Dean).

ATESEA-FTESEA leaders visit Cipanas Theological Seminary



Dr. Martin Elvis (fourth from R-L), Dr. HS Wilson (fifth from R-L), Dr. Limuel Equina (sixth from R-L), together with other faculty of Cipanas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Limuel Equina (ATESEA Executive Director), and Dr. HS Wilson (FTESEA Executive Director) visited Cipanas Theological Seminary, Indonesia on May 21, 2018. They met with the Rector Rev. Dr. Martin Elvis, and other seminary leaders and discussed updates on programs of the school and how ATESEA and FTESEA could accompany them in their development efforts.

Visiting the Wounds of Africa



by Mr. Joshua Zonita

Photo by Albin Hillert

Like architecture, the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute or GETI 2018 held at Arusha, Tanzania, Africa last March 5-13, 2018 designed social and ecumenical spaces for emerging theologians and Christian leaders from various theological institutions and organizations in several continents of the world. The theme: "Translating the Word, Transforming the World," captured the main focus of GETI 2018. This theme was expounded in broader contexts by GETI facilitators and invited speakers who shared their insights, research work, and experiences in their respective disciplines. Moreover, this program by the Ecumenical Theological Education/World Council of Churches in partnership with theological institutions, member churches, and regional associations of theological education, was "a shot across" the bound—global impact in missional work and theological education.

Discussing ecumenism in the global struggles, the participants realized the importance of dialogue and critical engagement. Such engagement includes rethinking, re-imagining, reorienting, and relocating the theological discourses and missional projects whenever it is needed in any context. Responding to this, Dr. John Samuel Mbiti, the grandfather of African theology, in his talk during the plenary, tackled the Western attack on the traditional ways of African people. Dr. Mbiti's critique on what he called "book theology" written by theologians is fitted only to the elite. He implied that the "oral theology" of Africans is much needed especially to the congregational level. "Oral theology," says Dr. Mbiti, is a spontaneous theology of the masses." It sets a

theological compass and shows faithfulness to the scripture." At the practical level, Dr. Mbiti encouraged us by citing the African proverb, "If you want to go quickly; travel alone. If you want to go farther, travel together." Coming together to collaborate is a call to all theological institutions and churches in the world.

Other topics in GETI resonated some of the critical issues in the context of my country. (1) The need to translate the scripture as often used as instrument of oppression and the role of the church in transforming the world are the defining agenda of ecumenical movement. (2) Framing ecumenism in

African context, Rev. Dr. Liz Vibila Vuadi in her lecture Signpost of the Contemporary Ecumenical Movement: How the Gospel Shapes the Fellowship of Churches' Public Witness and Diakonia stated some points: i) Gospel must speak to the human need in the context; ii) Church unity for the transformation of the world. She also instructed the participants to embrace the transformative journey by discovering the new relationship of justice and peace and visit the wounds of the people. The wound of African people is too deep. Accordingly, about six million people in Congo are bleeding for smart phones—social inequality. Rev. Liz addressed the responsibility of the church to the poor and resist the economic, political, and ecological evils. Thus, "visiting the wounds and translating the word—practical, require evolution of mind-sets and attitudes."

Reflecting on the African outcry—visiting the wounds, I started to identify its parallel to the experiences of the indigenous or Lumad and Maranao people in Marawi City as well as the Filipino migrant workers in foreign countries. Also, I learned to identify the deep wounds of millions of Syrians who escaped from their country to seek asylum and a better life in other countries. The logic and methods of dehumanization maximized by imperialism, terrorism, ethnic cleansing, transnationalizing capitalism, and political blunders are the challenges for churches and theological institutions. Such dehumanizing phenomenon is entirely disempowering but this is not an excuse not to proclaim the 'sayability' and 'practicality' of theology. The breathe of God embodied by Lazarus in his resurrection and the Samaritan Woman's encounter with Jesus remain a life-giving experience to those

...continued on page 9

Aglipay Central Theological Seminary (ACTS) hosts Clinical Pastoral Education – Community and Ecumenical based (CPE-CEb)



The Clinical Pastoral Education – Community and Ecumenical based (CPE-CEb) approach was hosted by Aglipay Central Theological Seminary (ACTS) in Urdaneta City, Philippines from August to October 2017. It was participated by three member seminaries of the Association for Theological Education in Southeast Asia (ATESEA) namely: St. Andrew's Theological Seminary (SATS), Ecumenical Theological Seminary (ETS) and ACTS. The participants of this program include 28 seminarians from ACTS and ETS, and 3 priests from the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) for the Basic Course, 13 seminarians from ACTS and SATS, IFI priests and United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) pastors for the Advanced Course, 4 IFI priests and UCCP pastors under the Supervisor-In-Training level.

Clinical Pastoral Education–Community and Ecumenical based (CPE-CEb) is one of the many practical approaches in the formation of ordained persons as men and women pastors and priests. It makes use of the clinical method of

learning with prior consideration to the needs of the local people in the community to be ministered, helped and responded. It means that besides the bed side (hospital) ministry that the traditional CPE is offering, this approach explores the vast and exciting study and ministry in the community and ecumenical settings where people who are suffering are located and suffering. It focuses on institutions present in the geographical community of people such as jail, orphanage, rehabilitation center, school, hospital/clinic, industrial factory, sectoral organizations of peasants, urban poor, laborers, youth, minorities and senior citizens. It is believed that theological education is relevant in emphasizing an interdisciplinary method with firm social engagement that makes the CPE-CEb approach acceptable and embraced by the partner seminaries and churches.

The CPE-CEb is blessed with facilitators coming from the UCCP, IFI and with the assistance from the Bukal Life Center of the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Baguio City. It is receiving firm support from the bishops of the IFI, UCCP and ECP making this program not just a venue to accumulate knowledge and skills but an expression of the visible unity of the Church. The CPE-CEb is generously funded by the Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA) for three years (2017-2019).



*Report by Aglipay Central Theological Seminary,
Philippines*

Silliman University conducts Training in Indigenization of Music and Liturgy



Independente (IFI). The following lecturers provided initial inputs:

1. Dr. Fernando Anno (Indigenization of Worship in the Reformed Tradition);
2. Dr. Jeaneth Harris-Faller (The Role of Christian Education in the Indigenization of Worship);
3. Dr. Lope B. Robin (Indigenous Theology and its Relation to Liturgy); and
4. Mr. Joy T. Nilo (The Art of Composing Liturgical Music).

Twelve (12) participants from different liturgical traditions actively

Silliman University Divinity School (SUDS) conducted a Training on Indigenization of Music and Liturgy on May 24 – 27, 2018. This seminar-workshop was aimed to ignite the fire in understanding indigenization – its impact and extent in the worship life and celebrations of the reformed traditions and non-liturgical churches.

We invited nine (9) faculty from the member schools of ATESEA and have extended the same invitation to the students and graduates of SUDS Liturgy and Music program. One participant is an active member of the liturgy and music committee of the Iglesia Filipina

contributed to the group activities. Five (5) from Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio City, two from Central Philippine University in Iloilo City, one (1) from Aglipay Central Theological School I Pangasinan, one (1) from IFI Liturgy and Music Committee and three (3) from UCCP-SUDS.

The participants expressed positive feedbacks about the activities. And with that, the SUDS is keen on pursuing another seminar-workshop to train not only the faculty in the area of worship and music but also the pastors in the local parishes as well.

Report by Silliman University Divinity School, Philippines

ATESEA ED presents paper at Regensburg University

ATESEA Executive Director, Dr. Limuel Equina, was invited to present a paper at Summer School Program of the Institute of Protestant Theology University of Regensburg, Germany on July 16-22, 2018. His paper was entitled, "Turning Strangers to Friends?: Migration, Estrangement and Hospitality." The program was participated in by the alumni of the Institute who came from different countries in Asia, USA, Australia, and Europe. It was organized by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans Schwarz, Full Professor of Systematic Theology, Regensburg University in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service.



Dr. Limuel Equina (third, first row, R-L), Prof. Dr. Hans Schwarz (sixth, first row, R-L), Dr. Pilgrim Lo of Lutheran Theological Seminary (second, third row, L-R).

Upcoming Events

2018 Teachers' Academy focuses on Christian Ethics

The Annual ATESEA Teachers' Academy this year invites lecturers who are teaching the courses in the area of Christian Ethics. This will be held at the Bangkok Christian Guest House in Thailand on October 22-26, 2018.

Twenty (20) faculty members teaching courses in Christian Ethics are expected to participate.

The invited guest lecturers are as follows:

1. Dr. Miguel de la Torre, Professor of Social Ethics and Latin Studies at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, USA.
2. Dr. Greg Pawilen, Associate Professor, Department of Human and Family Development Studies at the College of Human Ecology, University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Conference for Women

ATESEA will hold a Conference for Women on November 27-29, 2018 at the Bangkok Christian Guest House in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference will bring together Asian women educators and women in ministry to:

1. share their stories and experiences so they will be refreshed and re-energized;
 2. articulate and share their theological reflections on various issues they have encountered in their ministries;
 3. gather data and other information about women and leadership in theological education and women doing theology/practical ministry so ATESEA can strengthen further its thrusts on women in theological education; and
 4. explore partnership and collaboration efforts;
- Twenty (20) women theological leaders are expected to attend.

Accreditation Visit in Indonesia

Sixteen (16) ATESEA member schools in Indonesia are scheduled for a comprehensive evaluation of the degree programs on September 9-15, 2018. Twenty-six (26) accreditors will be involved in this accreditation program. This year is the beginning of a five-year cycle of accreditation visits among member schools.

Accreditation is a service of the Association to its member schools with the following aims:

1. to ensure that standards of quality theological education programs of schools in the region are maintained; and
2. to encourage the schools to continue improving their degree programs.

... from page 6

GETI 2018

who thirst for it. Theology then must always attempt to bring out the hope and the new possibilities of life in Jesus. Theology is expected to make sense—useful in the life of the people. To this, correct understanding of culture leads to correct theology. Then correct theology is imperative in doing the church's mission and evangelism to the world that has gone wrong.

Finally, the GETI experience has reshaped my theological and missiological approaches now and then. I went back to my country realizing the big task I am bound to contribute as far as ecumenism is concerned.

... from page 1

Theological Librarians

digital form: 1) Digitization of the resources; 2) Mentoring librarians; 3) Library Marketing/promotions; 4) Research; 5) Managing Repository Institution/Archiving; 6) Best practices in library environment; 7) Collections Development from print-to-e-book; 8) Consortium – maximizing network and mobilization; 9) Databases; and 10) Migration of Data.

In general, the forum was an avenue for constructive collaboration, innovation, and source of valuable information from the reports of different partners and agencies of theological schools.

*Based on the report of Ma. Maishel N. Lumaban, RL
Asian Theological Seminary, Philippines*



Henry Luce III Library
Central Philippine University
Jaro, Iloilo City, 5000 Philippines



+63 (033) 320-39-47



atesea.info@gmail.com



www.atesea.net



Like us on facebook