



ATESEA

Association for Theological Education in South East Asia

JANUARY 2015 Volume 1, Issue 1

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Words from the Executive Director:

“CULTIVATING THE CULTURE OF ASSESSMENT”



The year 2015 has come with rays of optimism for ATESEA. We thank the Lord for the sustained educational opportunities initiated by the Association to build up the strengths and address the limitations of its participating schools.

ATESEA is grateful to its institutional partners, the full support of the member schools, and the wholehearted commitment of the members of the Board of Trustees in helping the Association achieve its goals in the past year. Without the concerted efforts of all these major players in theological education, coupled with the spirit of cooperation and dedication, ATESEA could not have undertaken the relevant programs to its constituencies. It is our hope that the programs reported in this issue, and those that are upcoming are not only instructive but also helpful in enriching the educational aims of the schools.

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ATESEA

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From L-R: Dr. Limuel Equina (Executive Director); Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian (Chairperson); Dr. H.S. Wilson (Executive Director, FTESEA); Dr. Joyce Abugan (Secretary); Dr. Simon Chow (Vice Chairperson); Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling (Member); Dr. Kapi Mingsheng Ching (Member); Dr. Ezra Kok (Treasurer); Dr. Srisoontorn Chuleepran (Member); Dr. Karolina Augustien Kaunang (Member); Dr. Joas Adiprasetya (Member)

Board acts on reports and recommendations

The ATESEA Board of Trustees met on September 3 to 6, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand to discuss the results of accreditation visit and other relevant issues.

The Board:

1. Reviewed and acted on the reports and recommendations submitted by the accreditation teams that conducted the comprehensive evaluation of the two member schools in Singapore and 16 member schools in the Philippines;
2. Received and reviewed the reports submitted by the FTESEA-ATESEA teams that visited the 12 Centers of Theological Excellence. The purpose of the visit was to discuss with the representatives and board members of the centers on how FTESEA and ATESEA could help strengthen the doctoral program in each center;
3. Decided to look for a part-time Associate Dean of the ATESEA Theological Union to assist the Executive Director in supervising the doctoral program under the ATESEA Theological Union;
4. Approved the hiring of Mrs. Anietessie Palmes as part-time staff to assist the Executive Director in the day to day operation of the office for programs such as accreditation and conferences, including the maintenance of the ATESEA website;
5. Decided that the membership of the schools that were not able to pay their annual dues will be listed as "inactive members" and will not be invited to the General Assembly unless they pay their outstanding membership dues, which will be backdated; and,
6. Accepted the report on remaining programs for 2014 and upcoming programs for 2015.

(continued from page 1)

As the challenges created by the 'crisis' we faced before are now behind us, we are moving forward with more intensity and focused on meeting the varied concerns of the member schools. Thus, the question, "What is a good theological school?" has always been at the back of the minds of school heads, academic deans and teachers when

"Assessment helps the organization determine how well it is achieving its goals and suggests effective steps for improvement."

they meet in any of the ATESEA initiated conference. The question becomes even more evident and raises more concern when the institutional and degree programs of the schools are subjects of assessment. The reason being that assessment focuses on quality, not only in instruction but also in student learning.

All educational institutions want to be great while thinking of preserving their own unique historical character fashioned by their significant beginnings. Yet, the goal for relevance capped with robust degree

"Only when they are aligned with the vision/mission and goals of the school, can the school claim to be good."

programs that gain public respect remains the fundamental interests of any school. This desired goal does not come in handy. It requires a tremendous amount of strategic work, collaboration and unified purpose. As such, an assessment process should not be viewed with disdain but should be welcomed with a spirit of openness for learning and enhancement of the educational standard. Barbara E. Walvoord in her *Assessment Clear and Simple* writes, "Assessment helps the

organization determine how well it is achieving its goals and suggests effective steps for improvement."

While the goal of assessment is improvement, it also seeks for outcomes that are demonstrable. One of the common tests of a good theological school is the acceptability of the graduates and their competence to exercise the kind of expertise they were formed for. Certainly, a good seminary is also a reflection of having good professors whose teaching and research outputs are anchored in the school's vision. In short, the school's standing in society is determined by how the institution exercises its fiduciary responsibilities to its stakeholders and designs its academic platform. Only when they are aligned with the vision/mission and goals of the schools, can the school claim to be good.

ATESEA in its own humble way has been

"...ATESEA prepares the schools to become more engaged with the ever changing contexts of Asia."

providing its member schools with opportunities for learning, sharing and networking to become respectable schools in Asia. In cooperation with its partners, ATESEA prepares the schools to become more engaged with the ever changing contexts of Asia.

With the emerging challenges of higher education, the Association hopes that the schools consider making the process of assessment as part of their culture in working for and sustaining excellence.



*Dr. Limuel Equina
Executive Director*

Thumbs up for seminar



Participants of the Annual Teachers' Academy at Duta Wacana Christian University

"Clear, relevant and useful," were the impressions of the majority of the twenty-eight (28) participants to the Annual Teachers' Academy, held on June 16-20, 2014 at the Faculty of Theology, Duta Wacana Christian University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Attended by 16 member schools from Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines, the annual academy aims that the participants 1) be updated on some contemporary issues in biblical studies, teaching

"...the Academy should be two weeks."

tools and methodologies, and 2) discover strategies for classroom assessment and student learning. The invited lecturers were:

1. *Dr. Benny Liew, New Testament Professor at College of Holy Cross in Massachusetts, USA*
Dr. Liew presented the following papers, "Postcolonial Biblical Criticism: Sense and Sensibilities," "Biblical Reception: A Comparative Case Study." He also led the workshop on the topic, "Metaphors for and Practices of Teaching the Bible."
2. *Rev. Dr. Joas Adiprasetya, President of Jakarta Theological Seminary and lecturer in Systematic Theology*
He led the lecture workshop on using technology as an essential pedagogical tool.

3. *Dr. Tabita Kartika Christiani, lecturer at the Faculty of Theology of Duta Wacana Christian University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia*
She led the lecture-workshop on how to develop relevant curricula / syllabi for theological courses including strategies for classroom assessment.

Some of the action plans cited by the participants were as follows: 1) Intentionally include post-colonial issues in seminary subjects; 2) Revise their teaching methods and syllabi in conjunction with the lectures offered; and 3) Echo these information/inputs to their co-faculty members. Some suggested that, in the future, the Academy should be two weeks.



Group discussion on teaching approaches

Ruiz leads assessment workshop



Dr. Lester Ruiz and the participants of the Assessment Workshop

Dr. Lester Edwin Ruiz, Director of Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation Association of Theological Schools Commission on Accrediting conducted the ATESEA Workshop on Assessment on July 16-17, 2014 at the Bangkok Christian Guest House in Bangkok, Thailand.

This two-day Workshop on Assessment was intended for the schools in Thailand, Malaysia and selected schools from Myanmar. Fourteen (14) participants joined the workshop.

The goals of the Assessment Workshops were:

- 1) To provide participants with an overview of Student Learning and Degree Program Assessment
- 2) To provide basic tools for doing assessment
- 3) To explore how assessment can help serve the school's mission and goals; and,
- 4) To begin to develop strategies for doing assessment sustainably in the institution.

Dr. Ruiz expounded on "Assessment in the Service of Institutional Vitality and Educational Effectiveness." He stated that assessment is not an activity to scare off the academic deans.

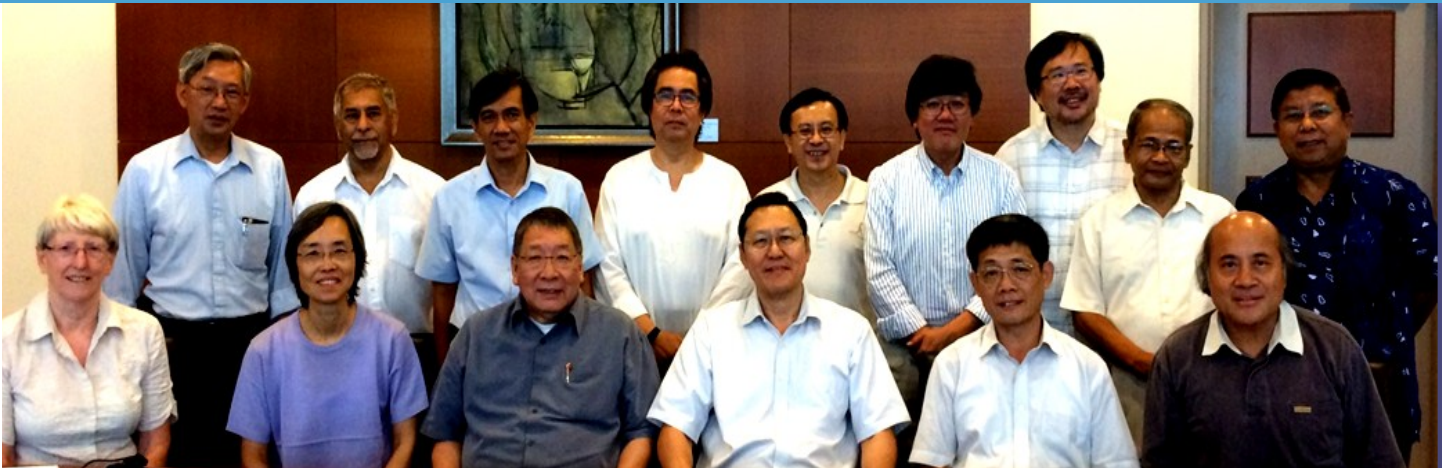
Rather it is a process that helps schools know how they can better achieve their mission. He emphasized the purpose of the school's reason for existence as the first among the ATS's standard of accreditation. He stressed that from ATS's understanding, the purpose of "assessment is not about compliance but

"assessment... a process that helps schools know how they can better achieve their mission"

about a common commitment to continuous improvement in our educational practices and our institutional missions."

The degree program mirrors the distinctiveness of the school. This requires a 'curriculum map.' The purpose of which is to "determine where the curriculum might be too strong in certain outcomes and not strong enough in supporting other outcomes." In assessing the success of the degree program outcomes, Dr. Ruiz recommended that one should look at the graduating cohort as a whole and not every individual student.

FTESEA-ATESEA Teams visit 12 CTEs



From L-R:(first row): Dr J. Dorcas Gordon, Dr. Kwok Pui Lan, Canon Peter Ng, Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian, Dr. Simon Chow, and Dr. Kapi Ching. From L-R (second row) Dr. Jeffrey Kuan, Dr. H.S. Wilson, Dr. Limuel Equina, Dr. Lester Edwin Ruiz, Dr. Tan Kim Huat, Dr. Sze-kar Wan, Dr. Kung Lap Yan, Dr. Noriel Capulong, and Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling.

FTESEA and ATESEA jointly organized a visit to the twelve (12) Centers for Theological Excellence (CTE) to review the doctoral program of ATU hosted by the centers. Six representatives from ATESEA and six from FTESEA forming six two-person teams were assigned two centers to visit from July 7-11, 2014.

During the visit, the teams obtained information regarding each school's institutional and educational resources sufficient to develop a clear picture of the schools as ATU Centers for Excellence. On the whole, the teams were able to establish a more collegial relationships with the members of the different centers. The visit also provided an opportunity for ATESEA and FTESEA to become more familiar with the nature of the collaborative work between the two institutions.

Prior to the actual visits to the centers, the teams met at Trinity Theological College (TTC), Singapore, in the afternoon of July 6 for the orientation. The teams were welcomed by Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian, Principal, TTC, and Chairperson, ATESEA Board of Trustees and Dr. Kwok Pui Lan, Vice Chairperson, FTESEA Board of Trustees. Both affirmed the value of partnership of FTESEA and ATESEA in improving the quality of the graduate theological education in Asia, including the development of Asian scholars.

Dr. Ruiz led the discussion on the guides for the

visit for the centers, while Dr. Limuel Equina shared about the doctoral program of ATESEA Theological Union (ATU) and its purpose and requirements for the doctoral study. After the visit, the teams returned to TTC to discuss the reports and recommendations to the respective boards of FTESEA and ATESEA. The members of the teams were as follows:

ATESEA Representatives:

1. Dr. Noriel Capulong, Head of Biblical Studies Dept., Divinity School, Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines
2. Dr. Simon Chow, President, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong
3. Dr. Kapi Ching, Vice President, Yu-Shan Theological College and Seminary, Taiwan
4. Dr. Tan Kim Huat, Academic Dean and Chen Su Lan Professor of New Testament, Trinity Theological Seminary, Singapore
5. Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling, President, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Seminary Hill, Insein, Singapore
6. Dr. Kung Lap Yan, Professor of Christian Ethics, Director of the Centre for Quality-Life Education Coordinator of the MTheol and DTheol Program, Divinity School of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

FTESEA Representatives:

1. Rev. Dr J. Dorcas Gordon, Principal, and Associate Professor of Biblical Interpretation

FTESEA invites ATESEA ED to consultation in Illinois



First row from left: Dr. John Yieh, Dr. H.S. Wilson, Dr. Kwok Pui Lan, Dr. Boyung Lee, Dr. Limuel Equina, and Dr. Nantawan Lewis
Back row from left: Dr. Sang Ai Yang, Dr. Damayanthi Niles, Dr. Anne Joh, Dr. Swee Hong Lim, Dr. Sze Kar Wan, and Dr. Lester Ruiz

The Executive Director was requested by the Foundation for Theological Education in South East to attend the consultation meeting with the selected Asian North American Theological Educators on April 11-12, 2014. The consultation was held at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

At the consultation, Dr. Equina presented the current initiatives of ATESEA such as accreditation, Teachers' Academy, conferences for heads of schools, assessment workshops, and some upcoming events for the year. He also talked about the ATESEA Theological Union (ATU), its history and current undertakings including the Methodology Seminars which ATU conducts biennially. After the presentation, the discussions focused on the possible partnerships

between the Association of Asian North American Theological Educators and ATESEA. Among them include: 1) Co-teaching/Team teaching. This will however depend on the kind of platform, or IT requirements. 2) On-line Teaching. This will also depend on the readiness of the students and the faculty and the technical challenges. 3) Graduate programs with required courses that could be taught by varied professors. Multiple-sections can be taught through lecture series by scholars. 4) Teaching short-time (modular) / Mentorship (doctoral) students which is ongoing, but on a limited basis.

It was agreed that the formalization of the above possibilities for future partnerships be discussed further after the FTESEA-ATESEA Team visit to the ATESEA 12 Centers for Theological Excellence in July 2014. The result of the visit will be shared with the AANATE members.

FTESEA-ATESEA Team Visit *(continued from page 4)*

- and Preaching, Knox College, Toronto School of Theology University of Toronto
2. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan, President and Professor of Hebrew Bible, Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, California
3. Dr. Kwok Pui Lan, Professor of Christian Theology and Spirituality, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts
4. Dr. Lester Edwin Ruiz, Director, Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation, and Secretary of the Board of Commissioners, The Association of Theological Schools, The Commission on Accrediting, Pittsburgh, PA
5. Dr. Sze-kar Wan, Professor of New Testament, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, USA
6. Dr. H.S. Wilson, Executive Director, Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia, USA

12 enjoy ATESEA scholarship for MLIS



Dr. Melda Estember during her class with the ATESEA scholars for MLIS

Twelve (12) students are currently enrolled in the Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS) with specialization in Theological Librarianship at Central Philippine University (CPU) College of Education Graduate Programs, Iloilo City, Philippines.

The purpose of the program is to prepare students for professional leadership in the management and operation of theological

libraries. The program also provides students with advanced knowledge and skills in organizing, retrieving, consolidating and disseminating all types of relevant information in theological libraries.

Aside from its faculty lecturers, CPU also invited one professional librarian from the Philippine Theological Librarians Association this semester. The ATESEA scholarship covers tuition and fees, with the inclusion of health insurance and visa renewal fee, and 50% of the students' food and lodging.

Finance committee reviews proposals for FTESEA grants

On July 14, 2014, the ATESEA and FTESEA representatives met at Trinity Theological College, Singapore and discussed the project proposals submitted by the schools to ATESEA for the 2015 FTESEA Grant.

ATESEA was represented by the Chair, Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian; the Vice Chair, Dr. Simon Chow; the Secretary, Dr. Joyce Abugan; the Treasurer, Dr. Ezra Kok and the Executive Director, Dr. Limuel Equina. FTESEA was represented by its Chair, Canon Peter Ng, and the Executive Director, Dr. H.S. Wilson.

IBT renews ties with ATESEA



ATESEA and FTESEA team with IBT leaders

ATESEA and FTESEA team visited the Institute of Bible and Theology (IBT) in Ho Chi Minh City on September 6-9, 2014 to re-establish links. IBT has been a member of ATESEA since 1971. The connection between the two was temporarily cut-off due to changes in the leadership in the last 4 four years. Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian, the ATESEA Chair, Dr. HS Wilson, the Executive Director of FTESEA and Dr. Limuel Equina exchanged updates with the IBT leaders on the institutions' challenges, on-going programs and plans. Some areas for possible cooperation in building up the school's academic programs, faculty and library resources were discussed.



IBT leaders hand over token of appreciation to Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian, the ATESEA Chair



ATESEA and FTESEA team with WTC leaders

The team also met with the leaders of the Wesley Theological College in the same city. Like IBT, the Methodist Church is recognized by the government and the Wesley Theological School is in the process of working for its recognition as well. Some possible partnerships in the area of curriculum and faculty development were explored. The leaders of the school expressed their intention to relate with ATESEA family.

Conniry: “Balance your life”; Casimiro: “Explore online”



Dr. Charles J. Conniry, Jr.



Dr. Leni Casimino

Dr. Charles J. Conniry, Jr. and Dr. Leni Casimino lectured in the Conference for Academic Deans held on November 5-8, 2014 at Bangkok Christian Guest House, Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr. Charles J. Conniry, Jr. is the Vice President and Dean, George Fox Evangelical Seminary/ College of Christian Studies. He shared from his own experiences the complexities and the challenging roles academic deans have to face. As he discussed the topic on “How to increase vocational joy while managing stress of polyrhythmic life”, he raised the question of the need of balance. He then further explained that

“Dean ... servant, leader, scholar, mentor, administrator and visionary.”

“leadership as spiritual discernment is the engagement of well-intentioned dispositions and practices by which individuals and gathered communities of Christ-followers attempt to attend to, perceive, and obey their Supreme Leader in the context of present circumstances.”

Dr. Leni Casimino is the Director of Online Learning, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies. She discussed “Exploring Online Learning: Prospects and Challenges” wherein she presented a) the influence of technology in theological education, its strength and weaknesses; b) a case study of how the seminary of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies delivers classes online; c) how to start classes online. Her presentation verified the necessity and feasibility of online learning as a tool in theological education.

Three academic deans from the member schools were also invited as panelists on the topic, “Opportunities and Challenges to Academic Excellence.” They were Dr. Eh Tar Gay, Academic - Dean, Myanmar Institute of Theology; Dr. Teresita dela Cruz, Dean, College of Theology-Southern Christian College; and Dr. Yusak Soleiman - Academic Dean, Jakarta Theological Seminary. They shared their views and

“online learning.. a tool in theological education.”

experiences in leading the academic programs of their respective seminaries including the challenges of leveling up the standards of excellence. They also identified time management as one of their struggles due to overwhelming administrative responsibilities on top of their teaching assignments.

Twenty-nine (29) participants from 8 countries attended the conference - Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand. The academic deans were encouraged to review the mission, and vision of their school, and were reminded of the need to balance the different roles they have to take on, that is being a servant, leader, scholar, mentor,



Participants discuss pros and cons of online learning.

administrator and visionary. The seminar also stimulated the deans to explore online learning, develop a faculty development plan, review their curriculum, and extend linkages with other seminaries in ATESEA.

VP Cheng urges heads: “Dream big”



Mr. Ricky Cheng

Mr. Ricky Cheng, Vice President for Development, United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia led the lecture-workshop on “Fund Raising Strategies” in the conference for heads of schools held on November 27-30, 2014 at Jakarta Theological Seminary, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr. Cheng made a parallel comparison of building a great institution to building a dream house. According to him, any school which aspires to be a great institution must begin to dream big, to decide to cease being good, and to start walking to the pathway to greatness. With this, he urged the participants to revisit their vision and mission statements in order for them to know where they are going. But dreaming is not enough. He said “Going from good to great requires a strategic plan.” And just like building a structure, a school needs finances to implement such plan. Yet, tuition fees alone do not suffice the monetary needs of the school. With this, he presented the need of a fund raising program. Mr. Cheng defined fund raising as “advancing the institution quickly to the direction of the strategic plan.” He went on to discuss the principles and the types of donors fund raising. A group discussion ensued after the lecture wherein the participants shared experiences in fund raising (the joys, challenges and overcoming obstacles).

The conference also included a panel discussion on the topic, “Leadership as a Calling and the Principal’s Role in Building the Financial Resources

of the School”. The invited panelists were Rev. Chan Chong Hiok, President, East Asia School of Theology, Singapore; Rev. Dr. Joas Adiprasetya, President, Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia; and Dr. Cristina Manabat, President, Harris Memorial College, Philippines. The panelists shared their views on fund raising based on the nature of the school’s programs and system of governance of each of their institutions. All of them emphasized the importance of establishing good relationship with stakeholders and maintaining the integrity of the school’s leadership in any fund raising enterprise.

Thirty (30) heads of schools participated in the said event. They shared their views on how ATESEA can assist them in fund raising such as: “support faculty development for leadership especially in fund-raising skills and competency” and “introduce deserving seminaries to



School heads share fund raising experiences.

foundations which specializes in giving to schools.”

One of the participants, Rev. Chan Chong Hiok, commented, “Ricky Cheng from United Board made his mark through a marvelous job bringing down the subject and practice of Fund Development into its essence and helping conferees grasp the science and art of Development. I believe he gave his best and spoke with full authority from his vast experience and successes in the practice. I personally benefited from the seminar taking home several

AANATE links with ATESEA

The Association of Asian / North American Theological Educators (AANATE) invited Dr. Limuel Equina to its conference on October 3-5, 2014 held at Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey. Organized in 2011, AANATE "seeks to develop and promote Asian/North American scholarship and leadership in theological education, in collaboration with Asian counterparts."



AANATE conference participants

The conference was attended by 42 Asian American scholars and Asian guests with the theme, "Embodying Our Voices." Issues discussed revolved within the area of "The Future of Asian/North Americans Theological Education." Among the major concerns the Asian Americans face are the question of identity and role they play in theological education in the US, and promotion and tenure. A topic on Asian women leadership was likewise discussed based on the wisdom literature.

Representatives from China and India shared the current challenges of theological education in their

countries in terms of faculty scarcity, limited academic freedom as well as the problem of defining the curriculum in the light of the complex context entrenched in the culture. Dr. Equina was the respondent to the presentation of the Asian representatives. The conference provided the participants a mutual opportunity to know more about their respective concerns and the possible partnership. The areas of collaborations such as co-teaching, and serving as external readers were explored during the workshop.

2 schools in Singapore for accreditation visit; 16 more in the Philippines

A special accreditation visit was conducted in two member schools in Singapore: East Asia School of Theology (March 31- April 2); and the Baptist Theological Seminary (April 3-5). The ATESEA Accreditation team members were: Dr. Muriel Montenegro, The Divinity School, Silliman University, Dr. Simon Chan, Trinity Theological College and Dr. Tobias Brandner, The Divinity School, Chung Chi College.

ATESEA conducted simultaneous visits to the sixteen (16) member schools in the Philippines on June 28- July 4, 2014. ATESEA organized 8 teams to visit the schools. The following schools were visited by the accreditation teams: 1) Aglipay Central Theological Seminary (ACTS) ; 2) Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS) ; 3) Maranatha Bible College (MBC) ; 4) Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary (PBTS) ; 5) Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) ; 6) Adventist International Institute of Advance Studies (AIIAS) ; 7) Southern Christian College (SCC) ; 8) Manila Theological College (MTC) ; 9) Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) ; 10) Asian Theological Seminary (ATS) ; 11) Silliman University Divinity School (SUDS); 12) Alliance Graduate School (AGS) ; 13) Central Philippine University (CPU) ; 14) St. Andrew's Theological Seminary (SATS) ; 15) International Graduate School of Leadership (IGSL); 16) Asian Seminary of Christian Ministries (ASCM).

ATESEA and NJUTS reps visit 6 schools



The team in one of the school visits

FTESEA invited Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian and Dr. Limuel Equina representing ATESEA, and Dr. Chen Yilu and Dr. Lin Manhong Executive Vice President and Academic Dean of Nanjing Union Theological Seminary (NJUTS), respectively, to visit six schools in the Chicago area.

Dr. H.S. Wilson, the Executive Director of FTESEA and Dr. Lester Ruiz, member of the FTESEA Board organized the schedule of visit on October 7-9, 2014 to the following schools: McCormick

Theological Seminary, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Garrett Theological Evangelical Seminary and Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE).

The objectives of the visit were: a) to meet with the presidents, faculty members and students of the seminaries; and, b) gather information from conversations with the schools' representatives on the current directions of the seminaries in the US, their educational offerings and creative ways of dealing with the new landscape of the religious milieu in the West.

Conversely, the ATESEA and the NJUTS representatives shared what they have been doing in their respective areas of work such as accreditation, faculty development, conferences for heads of schools among others. They talked about the broad range of opportunities to develop young leaders who will serve the growing number of Christians and churches amidst the political and religious challenges in every country in Asia. Overall, the sharing between the international guests and the seminaries were instructive and encouraging for future collaborative engagements

FTESEA sets up new model for grant-giving

FTESEA has introduced the new model for giving grants to individual seminaries beginning 2015. It was presented by the FTESEA Program Committee during its meeting with the ATESEA and NJUTS representatives on October 10, 2014 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America national office in Chicago. The new model of FTESEA grants to schools will be based on the following criteria:

1. Academic projects that are envisaged to have an impact on the academic development of seminaries, and faculty within the area/country. This means that priority will be given to projects of seminaries that come up with new and creative ways of faculty and academic development in collaboration with seminaries and/or other graduate level institutions in the area.

2. The outcome of the projects should benefit not only the participating seminaries but also other member seminaries of ATESEA in the area/region.
3. The project may cover a period of two to three years. The seminaries that receive support for a project will not be eligible for new grant for the next three years.

After the meeting with the program committee, the representatives gave some updates on their focused programs accomplished for 2014 during the Board meeting of FTESEA on October 11.

In line with the new guidelines on the FTESEA grants, member schools are invited to send their project proposals for 2016 to the ATESEA Executive Director at equina.atesea@gmail.com on or before May 30, 2015.

Congratulations



Rev. Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian for having been elected General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Singapore for a two-year term. Dr. Ngoei is currently the Principal of Trinity Theological College, Singapore and Chairperson of the ATESEA Board of Trustees.



Rev. Dr. Ezra Kok for having been appointed part-time Associate Dean of the ATESEA Theological Union beginning April 1, 2015 until December 2017. Dr. Kok is the present Principal of Seminari Theoloji Malaysia whose position will end in March 2015. He is the incumbent Treasurer of ATESEA.

2015 at a Glance

Conference for Principals and Local Academic Coordinators of the 12 Centers for Theological Excellence

Date: May 26-29, 2015

Venue: Bangkok Christian Guest House, Bangkok, Thailand

Methodology Seminar for ATU Doctoral Students

Date: June 28-July 11, 2015

Venue: Lutheran Theological Seminary
50 To Fung Shan Road
Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong

2015 Teachers' Academy

Date: August 9-14, 2015

Target group: 30 Faculty who handle courses in Pastoral Studies

Venue: Sabah Theological Seminary
26 Jalan Pinggir, Off Jalan
Istana Kota Kinabalu, Sabah,
Malaysia

Accreditation Visit in Myanmar

November 27 – December 5, 2015

Asia Journal of Theology Welcomes Academic Researches

ATESEA encourages the faculty of all member schools to send their academic researches through the Asia Journal of Theology (AJT) for publication.

AJT is a biannual joint publication of ATESEA and the Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College, India. It aims to promote Asian scholarship and thinking through the publication of Asian theologians.

To level up the quality of the articles, the AJT Editorial board will adopt a blind peer-review system in the upcoming issues. The ATESEA Board of Trustees has appointed Dr. Joas Adiprasetya and Dr. E. Gerrit Singgih as the ATESEA's representatives to the AJT Editorial Board.

All articles should be submitted directly to them through their email address:

Dr. E Gerrit Singgih: pdtgerrit@yahoo.com

Dr. Joas Adiprasetya: jadiprasetya@gmail.com



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