



ACUCA NEWS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN ASIA

*"Committed to the mission of Christian higher education of uniting all people
in the community of service and fellowship."*

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Chung Chi College, CUHK
Hong Kong Baptist University
Lingnan University

INDIA

Christ University
Lady Doak College

INDONESIA

Parahyangan Catholic University
Petra Christian University
Satya Wacana Christian University
Maranatha Christian University
Duta Wacana Christian University
Soegijapranata Catholic University
Universitas Pelita Harapan
Krida Wacana Christian University
Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta
Sanata Dharma University
University of HKBP Nommensen

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Nanzan University
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Central Philippine University
De La Salle University
De La Salle University-Dasmariñas
Philippine Christian University
Silliman University
Trinity University of Asia
Filamer Christian University
Miriam College
St. Paul University

TAIWAN

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Soochow University
Tunghai University
Chung Yuan Christian University
Providence University
St. John's University
Chang Jung Christian University
Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages
Aletheia University

THAILAND

Asia-Pacific International University
Payap University
Assumption University
Christian University of Thailand

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2014 ACUCA Biennial Conference & 20th General Assembly at Fu Jen

The 2014 ACUCA Biennial Conference & 20th General Assembly took place at Fu Jen Catholic University on October 24-27, 2014. The event marked the efforts of Fu Jen to serve as the Secretariat of ACUCA over the past two years. The theme of the conference was "Values Education: A Vital Constituent for Successful Education in the 21st Century." The assembly aimed to remind every member of ACUCA to be more aware of its important mission and educational values. The Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (ACUCA) has a unique mandate to coordinate the community of Christian institutes of higher education in Asia and provide service for both its members and their local societies. About a hundred participants from universities and colleges attended the Biennial Conference. Two keynote speeches, three parallel sessions and various presentations were the centerpiece of the conference.

At Session I in the Keynote Speech, Professor Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., President of Loyola University Chicago and Secretary for Higher Education for the Society of Jesus, spoke on "Listening to Today's Youth: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of a Christian University." The president strongly urged the audience to encourage students to "bring five hungers to their university experience." He stressed that "these hungers will be identified as follows: a hunger for a moral compass, a hunger for integrated knowledge, a hunger for civic engagement, a hunger for a global paradigm, and a hunger for an adult spirituality." Professor Michael J. Garanzini emphasized that since "youths are seeking a roadmap for the future," a better comprehensive philosophy of life to nourish young minds with a fair and just vision of society and globe is necessary. He also remarked that social psychologists have noticed a rapid change of "attitude and values from self-interest to a broader social concern for the welfare of others in recent years." Professor Michael J. Garanzini emphasized that "a Christian education" can smoothly meet the needs of young minds. At the end of Session I, he raised further questions, "What values, then, should guide our pedagogy? What are the characteristics that should distinguish our universities from others?"

At Parallel Session II, Professor Andrew Wright, Professor of Religious and Theological Education in the Centre for Theology at King's College London, concentrated on the explanation for three indispensable dimensions of "Values Education," termed as ethical, spiritual, and character education. His topic was "Beyond the Fact-Value Divide: The Prophetic and Transformation Vocation of Christian Universities." In addition to the task of producing technical scientific knowledge and vocation-oriented training, he added that "critics argue" modern universities should pay equal attention to the domain of arts and humanities. Professor Andrew Wright said that universities which "accept the critique" strive to keep a balance between knowledge-based and values-based education with a "compensatory strategy." He argued, however, that the strategy these universities embrace is not so ideal because it allows a fact-value divide to remain firmly in place." Professor Andrew Wright noted that a Christian university confronts the "far more radical task of challenging the ontological and epistemic assumptions," when it truly fulfills its mission.

Dr. Myrna F. Ramos, Vice Chancellor for Mission, External Affairs and Advancement at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Dr. Henry Feriadi, Vice Rector at Duta Wacana Christian University, and Dr. Peter Yao-Tang Lin, Director of the General Education Center at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, spoke at the Parallel Sessions on Values Education after the keynote speech on October 25. The Parallel Sessions focused on the discussion of ethical, character and spiritual education.

Dr. Myrna F. Ramos explained details of the vision of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, the Lasallian Education, and stressed that the university founder St. John Baptist de La Salle took care for the "integral development of youth." His philosophy of education aimed to address "both the human and Christian needs of the artisans' children" in the sixteenth century. Dr. Ramos concluded by emphasizing "the Lasallian education forms its basis on God's love" and aspires to make education accessible to all, especially the underprivileged.

At Session II, Dr. Henry Feriadi urged universities nowadays to pay more attention to the cultivation of the "heart and mind" of every individual in addition to a concentration on knowledge delivery. He said that character education "should go beyond campus" rather than be limited by distance. The Vice Rector concluded his speech with an appeal that academics leave the ivory tower and come close to local communities.

At the end of parallel sessions, Dr. Peter Yao-Tang Lin went deeper into the topic of "spiritual education." He said that educators in Christian universities should help students "pursue spiritual development." Furthermore, Dr. Lin encouraged the participants to develop effective strategies to promote the integration of Christian values into curriculum, pedagogy, extra-curriculum activities and liturgies. By doing so, he believed that these efforts will fruitfully enrich the life of students in church schools with the concepts of "spiritual development" and "religious faith."

The twentieth General Assembly not only marked the end of Fu Jen Catholic University's service as the Secretariat of ACUCA, but highlighted another milestone of the association as well. Under the leadership of Dr. Robertus Wahjudi Triweko, Parahyangan Catholic University will take over the torch and continue to lead the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia into a new stage of intensive exchange and sustainable development.



Fu Jen Community Accomplishes the 5th Cycling Tour around Taiwan

Members of the Fu Jen community accomplished the "5th Cycling Tour around Taiwan" on August 13, 2014. The annual activity came to a perfect end and cyclists arrived at the Fu Jen campus regardless of poor weather. The activity lasted 10 days. Both a welcome party and a blessing ceremony were held soon after their arrival.

The Cycling Tour around Taiwan began in 2010. One of its missions was to raise charity funds for underprivileged communities and promising student athletes. Staff members said that they managed to raise NT\$660,000 this year, thanks to the support of alumni, and especially thanks to the helping hand of faithful friends of Fu Jen. In 2011, exchange students from the academic alliance in China joined the march of Fu Jen to travel around Taiwan. "I will pray for your safe return and good health. Take care, and enjoy your tour," Professor Ying-Chou Wang, who serves as the Dean of the Office of Student Affairs, said at the prayer ceremony on August 3, 2014.

During the tour, faculty members of Fu Jen led cyclists to visit alumni, local churches and sponsors in order to express their appreciation for accommodation and constant assistance. Yen-Ni Wu, a former representative on the National Team, attended the opening ceremony at Fu Jen and offered her prayers for the participants. Fu-An Lee, who won the decathlon gold medal at the Asian Athletics Championships twice, prepared a banquet for the students when the team arrived in Kaohsiung on August 7, 2014. The leading cyclist held the banner "God Bless Taiwan and Kaohsiung," because it was the sincere hope of FJCU to express its care and love for those who survived the gas explosions in Kaohsiung, and for victims of the current aviation accidents around the world. A

special thing to note, the Chair of Giant Manufacturing Company Jing-Biao Liu, a strong sponsor of the Cycling Tour from the beginning, prepared a special banquet for the participants. In addition, the chair generously led a personal tour for the Fu Jen cyclists at the Headquarters of Giant Company.

Professor Ying-Chou Wang spoke of details in the design of the team uniform. "The triple circle on our t-shirt marks the history of Fu Jen and its prospects. Fu Jen will hold the National Intercollegiate Athletic Games 2015, the second time in 30 years," said Professor Wang. He added that the university teams are faithful to tough workouts in the hope of earning 30 more gold medals at the Games 2015 to celebrate Fu Jen's historic moment. Professor Wang expressed his appreciation for the courage of the student athletes and offered his best wishes on their personal goals.

At the end of the closing ceremony on August 13, university authorities prepared a welcome party to celebrate the achievement of the students. A participant said that he always dreamed of the romance of a grand tour, and really appreciated the assistance of FJCU.



Wen-Hua Volunteer Group Serves Those in Need

The Wen-Hua Volunteer Group in the College of Liberal Arts works in cooperation with Hua-Ming High School in the Philippines. Faculty and staff members of the college lead volunteers to visit Hua-Ming High School in Bacolod City and teach Chinese lessons for local students every summer. Continuous efforts to introduce Taiwanese culture and its rich civilization to Filipino students aim at achieving the following goals of the Wen-Hua Volunteer Group:

1. Promote Chinese Heritage in Overseas Chinese Communities

In a Chinese publication, staff members at Wen-Hua Volunteer Group said that they hope to cultivate a sense of cultural heritage and tradition for their students who are the children of Filipino-Chinese emigrants. As a result, Chinese schools become their most popular choice in the Philippines, while hard-working students in these communities desire a more professional mentoring from Taiwan. In the spirit of Catholic teaching, the Wen-Hua Volunteer Group has willingly undertaken this mission and strives to meet the needs of their Filipino friends.

2. Facilitate Overseas Chinese Language Learning

The Wen-Hua Volunteer Group provides language classes and intensive tutoring for students at Hua-Ming High School. Volunteers help local high school students to continue further language study and step by step guide them to practice Chinese. At the same time, tutors introduce Taiwanese culture to these students. The Wen-Hua Volunteer Group encourages Filipino-Chinese students to study advanced Chinese at Fu Jen.

3. Grant Accesses of Cultural Exchange

One of the missions of the Wen-Hua Volunteer Group is to guide students at Hua-Ming High School and enhance their insight. Fu Jen authorities believe that tutors' participation in these overseas programs will enable them to acquire a better understanding of the Philippines and the lifestyle of the country. The Wen-Hua Volunteer Group urges its volunteer-tutors to leave contact information with their friends, teachers and students in the Philippines.

4. Offer inter-school interaction and cooperation

Student-volunteers in the Wen-Hua Volunteer Group periodically undertake a visit to the University of St. La Salle-Bacolod, one of Fu Jen's academic partners. The Wen-Hua Volunteer Group aspires to strengthen relations between FJCU and its alliance with increased contact with international students.

The Youth Development Administration (YDA) in the Ministry of Education acknowledged the service work of the Wen-Hua Volunteer

Group and conferred its Awards for Volunteer Service and Innovation (服務創新獎) on December 10, 2013. Staff members of the Volunteer Group told a Chinese publication that they will continue to offer quality service for those in need.

The College of Liberal Arts constantly coordinates social welfare projects with the Fu Jen Service-Learning Center and encourages its students to join service-learning teams. Volunteer teams mostly consist of Fu Jen students, while the university authorities continue to invite important higher institutions in New Taipei City to support service-learning projects.

Four volunteer-teams, Wenfu (文輔), Wenhua (文華), Wenai (文愛) and Wenshan (文善) hope to lead participants in the College of Liberal Arts to offer love and care for minorities. The targeted audience can be categorized into four groups: foreign laborers, immigrant brides, indigenous people, and pupils in remote villages. Every team is in charge of one specific project for a disadvantaged group.

In addition to the above-mentioned Tutoring-for-Indigenous-Pupils project, staff members of the volunteer groups provide inter-cultural counseling for foreign workers in Taiwan, and offer special Chinese-teaching courses for foreign brides and their children. In a Chinese publication, college teachers recently emphasized that they want to spread the spirit and love of Catholicism to every corner in Taiwan. Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Professor Shih-Ming Ko told the publication that one of the educational missions of the College is to inspire young students with a liberal arts education which will not only help them determine their next steps of life, but also nourish their spiritual life.



Hong Kong Baptist University named Supreme Inclusive Organisation

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) was presented the Supreme Inclusive Organisation Award by the Labour and Welfare Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR on 6 September 2014 in recognition of the University's efforts in promoting the employment of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Andy Lee, Vice-President (Administration) and Secretary of the University, said, "HKBU is committed to the pursuit of equal opportunities and seeks to nurture a culture of diversity, inclusiveness and mutual respect. The University will continue to implement relevant policies and measures, and encourage members of the University community to join hands in building an inclusive university."

In support of the Hong Kong Government's rehabilitation policy, which seeks to enable persons with disabilities to participate in society in full and enjoy equal opportunities, and in alignment with the University's community engagement strategy, HKBU has participated in the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme as an "Employer Organisation" since its introduction in September 2013 to help promote the employment of persons with disabilities and implement related measures for such employment.

In the past year, HKBU, the only local higher education institution on the award list, has introduced and implemented a variety of measures to promote and enhance the employment of persons with disabilities. These measures include:

- placing recruitment advertisements in the Labour Department;
- publishing periodically in corporate publications the number of employees with disabilities and measures or indicators pertaining to the employment of them;
- providing a barrier-free working environment and assistive devices to facilitate their work performance, making appropriate adjustments to the work process according to their special needs;
- providing on-the-job training;
- launching mentorship schemes or similar measures to impart knowledge and skills to them, or assigning mentors to help new recruits acquire job skills, adapt to the working environment and build rapport with their colleagues;
- using products or services provided by rehabilitation social enterprises and workshops;

- setting up simulated workplaces in collaboration with non-governmental organisations to provide induction training;
- setting aside shops or stalls for social enterprises or self-employed persons with disabilities to run business or sell their products;
- creating new jobs or posts with due consideration of the work abilities of the disabled thereby enhancing their employment opportunities; and
- participating in publicity and public education activities for the open employment of disabled persons.

Organised by the Labour and Welfare Bureau in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities, the Scheme aims to encourage employers from all trades and sectors in Hong Kong to provide more employment opportunities for the disabled, thereby unleashing their potential, enabling their self-reliance, fostering social integration and building a caring and supportive society.



HKBU's commitment to green living and environmental protection wins widespread acknowledgement

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) has pioneered many green initiatives including BU Greenies (BUGs), the first green voluntary team among Hong Kong tertiary education institutions. Environment-conscious, HKBU strives to develop itself into a green university and promote a green lifestyle to the community. In recognition of its dedication, HKBU was awarded the 2011 Silver Award of the Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence.

One successful community outreach programme is the annual Green and Organic Health Run organised by the HKBU Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC). The latest event held on 23 November 2014 at the newly operational Kai Tak Cruise Terminal attracted 4,000 participants. With a theme of "experiencing local agriculture", the activity encouraged participation through running as well as planting organic vegetables. At the venue, there was a carnival with activities suitable for the whole family, including demonstrations of organic farming and cooking organic food. Participants were also encouraged to bring potted organic vegetables home in order to spread organic farming in the city.

Promoting organic farming to the local community has been one of the major green initiatives of HKBU over the past few years. Early in October 2011, HKORC launched the scheme "Amway Organic Farming at Primary Schools in 18 Districts" to encourage organic living and promote a green environment among youngsters. Now in its fourth year, the scheme continues to encourage students and teachers to actively participate in organic farming and nature conservation through providing funding support for construction of organic farms in local primary schools. In addition, various talks and workshops as well as volunteer activities have been arranged to teach primary students the techniques of organic farming.

The scheme continues to grow in popularity. Over the years, more than 30,000 participants have joined. Not only can the young farmers

enjoy the results of their work with their family members, their efforts contribute to energy conservation and carbon emission reduction, and help build a culture of environmental protection in the young generation.

Apart from encouraging green living in the territory, the University spearheads the drive for industries to become more environmentally friendly. Last December, the University staged an international conference to promote harmless eco-aquaculture practices in the Pearl River Delta, including Hong Kong. Organised by the Department of Biology, the International Conference on Eco-aquaculture and Public Health brought over 100 local and overseas experts together to discuss issues associated with aquaculture and the utilisation of innovative technologies in encouraging harmless practices.

Sponsored by the Croucher Foundation and supported by the State Oceanic Administration of Mainland China, the conference featured presentations on topics that included China's approach to marine eco-aquaculture, research on mercury in the aquatic food webs, treatment of wastewater using phytoremediation, and impacts and risks of aquatic products on human health.



Young students reap rewards of organic farming through "Amway Organic Farming at Primary Schools in 18 Districts"

Dr. Goodall Unveils ECO-Center at Chang Jung Christian University

After her visits to the Er-Ren River two years ago, Dr. Jane Goodall is praising CJCUC on its efforts on the conservation of the river on her latest visit. On November 5, 2014, Dr. Goodall came to see Er-Ren River on her latest visit to Taiwan and on November 6, 2014, met with Chairman Yang Szu-Hai and President Lee Yung-Lung for the unveiling of "International Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots ECO-Center." Dr. Goodall believes that education is the root of change and that young people are the ones to promote environmental conservation. Dr. Lee expressed that the establishment of an international eco-education center can promote environmental education of the school and of the community and encourages students to participate in conservation endeavors.

Many students and faculty arrived early to meet Dr. Goodall. She greeted everyone with chimpanzee language at the beginning of her speech. She repeatedly asked everyone why humans, being the smartest animal, would destroy the environment. She called on everyone not to give up hope, especially young people. Each person can contribute a great deal to conservation with his or her daily actions.

Dr. Goodall's itinerary to southern Taiwan is organized by Professor Horng Ching-Yi of River Restoration Center, CJCUC. Professor Horng said that International Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots ECO-Center is an education center promoted by the Jane Goodall Institute. There are currently 22 chapters of the Jane Goodall Institute worldwide to promote conservation, including environmental education with roots and shoots as its principle. The subjects of the Roots and Shoots project

include students from kindergarten to university because the institute believes that the future of the world is in the hands of the younger generations. Over 130 countries have established the Roots and Shoots chapters, with over 12,000 worldwide. There are almost 800 in Taiwan.

President Lee Yung-Lung said that the participation of the Roots and Shoots program and the establishment of the ECO-Center will enable CJCUC to become a base of environmental education. This will allow more international exchanges to take place as well as heighten the awareness of the environment by students and surrounding residents. Dr. Lee said that students of CJCUC will not shirk away from their responsibilities locally and internationally.



CJCUC Volunteers in Northern Thailand

On June 25, 2014, the first team of volunteers, led by Professor Su Wen-Pin of the Department of Social Works and Professor Chen Tsai-Ti of the Department of Translation and Interpretation Studies, departed for Da Tong Junior High School in the northern Thai province of Chiang Rai. This is the first corps of CJCUC volunteers working overseas. The goals of their month long volunteer project are to promote international exchanges, to broaden horizon, to demonstrate the results of service education of CJCUC, to improve relationship with overseas Chinese schools, and to strengthen bilateral ties.

The CJCUC volunteer project to Thailand is partly funded by grants from Youth Development Administration of the Ministry of Education. There are two terms of the volunteer service to Da Tong. Each term lasts for a month, making CJCUC the university with the longest serving period at Da Tong. Professor Su Wen-Pin, the project manager, believes that service work should not be transient. Rather, it should be accumulative and continuous. Therefore, there is an overlap of the two terms this summer to ensure that the work carried out by the first team is successfully completed by the second team.

The nature of the service work at Da Tong consists of teaching Chinese, English and computer skills to the students at Da Tong. Professor Chen also conducted English teacher training workshop. Professor Su hoped that the students from both schools could learn and understand each other's culture and lives and grow. Therefore, all participants must take part in the planning of their teaching plans and service details. The aim is for students to learn about the spirit and meaning of teamwork.

For freshmen Chu Ting-Yi and Lee Po-Han of the Department of Social Work and Lee Chao-Yeh of the Department of Fine Arts, this volunteer trip is their first trip abroad. Chu Ting-Yi and Lee Po-Han said that their parents were first opposed to them joining the project because the location is very remote and the stay is too long. Furthermore, there were also reports of outbreaks of violence in Thailand few months earlier. They were worried about the students' safety. However, the duo managed to convince their parents. On the other hand, Lee Chao-Yeh said that her parents were supportive of her decision to explore the world outside Taiwan.

In addition to teaching the elementary students language, the volunteers also showed the students some of their skills or new trends. For example, Lee Po-Han noticed that the students like to watch K-Pop videos on YouTube, so he showed them how to download the videos onto their smartphones to watch any time they wish. Chu Ting-Yi said that because she

had learned calligraphy, she also taught calligraphy in addition to Chinese. Lee Chao-Yeh said that she had talked about art in her class, so some students asked her to teach them sketching.

The students are all very happy to have the opportunity to learn in Thailand. Lee Po-Han felt that he experienced many different things, such as being a teacher, and adapting to local life style. He is grateful for all the assistance the school has provided to make it easier to adjust to life there more easily. Lee also has a new found appreciation for being a teacher. The students in Thailand were quite different from those in Taiwan. He now knows that teaching is not as easy as it appears. In addition to teaching, Lee also enjoys the exchanges he had with volunteers from other schools.

The month long service in Thailand has been invaluable for Chu Ting-Yi. As this is the first time being abroad for Chu, she thought every day is a new and exciting experience. She had not realized what a great life she has until she returned to Taiwan, where everything is available within easy reach. She also experienced different cultures and customs and saw first hand the difficulties people face in remote areas.

In taking part in the project, Lee Chao-Yeh truly understood what Chimamanda Adichie meant by "the danger of a single story." Before she departed for Chiang Rai, Lee had a certain image about northern Thailand. She thought what she read on the internet about that region was true and formed a stereotype. She realized her ignorance and needed help in so many different aspects of life there. She was grateful that the people there were kind enough to allow her into their world and give her assistance and warmth.

Professor Su says that only by actually participating in the project can one truly understand the value one gets out of volunteer work. The principal of Da Tong is very satisfied with the work of CJCUC students. Therefore, more plans are expected for volunteers to go to Da Tong during the winter vacation.



Chung Yuan Christian University, Taiwan

Student Learning and Counseling Center

Chung Yuan Christian University recently unveiled its newest multifunctional learning facility, the "Student Learning and Counseling Center (SLCC)" on November 6, 2014. The building boasts a bright and comfortable learning and consulting environment, comparable to Google headquarters in its interior space design. The building is to be used as a venue for self-study, group discussion, performing arts, career counseling, tutoring and other diversified learning purposes. School students, faculty, and staff will all be able to enjoy this new facility free of charge. The SLCC can be called the first of its kind in Taiwan, where students can

captivate and embrace the persistent passion in their studies and can pursue their education in an enhanced learning environment while at the same time developing a sustainable standard.



Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

Ateneo School of Government holds Innovation for Inclusive Development Conference

The Universities and Councils Network on Innovation for Inclusive Development in Southeast Asia (UNIID-SEA) organized the 2014 Southeast Asia Conference in Innovation for Inclusive Development in Jakarta, Indonesia on November 5-6, 2014. The theme of the conference was "Making Innovation by All, For All Happen in the ASEAN Region."

The UNIID-SEA is a project undertaken by the Ateneo School of Government with assistance from the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

The conference was co-organized by UNIID-SEA with the Dewan Riset Nasional and Institut Pertanian Bogor in Indonesia. It featured the work of the UNIID-SEA as a network of universities and research councils in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam over the past three years.

The winners of the UNIID-SEA IID Fellows program were also presented in the two-day conference. The program, launched in April 2014, sought to discover, support and promote existing innovative or innovation oriented teaching and learning packages developed by individuals associated with universities, research institutes, private enterprises, non-governmental organizations, people's organizations, and local communities.

The Fellows Program winners were presented in four parallel sessions: (1) Pedagogical Innovations and Training Courses on Inclusive Innovation; (2) Environment, Food Security, and Climate Change; (3) Livelihood, Gender, and Peace; and (4) Water, Sanitation and Health.

The session on Pedagogical Innovations was chaired by Dr. Nguyen LuuBao Doan, Director, International Relations, Hoa Sen University. The panelists and their winning teaching and learning packages were: Gerson Abesamis, Philippine Science High School (Grassroots Innovation for Educators); Muhammad Ibnur Rashad bin Zainal Abidin, Ground Up Initiative, Singapore (Grounded Leadership for Inclusive Innovation and Development); Hui Min Low, Universiti Sains Malaysia (Teacher Training Module: Enhancing Language Communication for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Schools); Neil Oliver T. Dr. Penullar, De La Salle University - Manila (Learning To Serve, Serving to Learn: A Capacity-Building Program for Higher Education Faculty Members, Curriculum Developers and Extension Officers); and Viengdavong Luangsinhitheth, State University of Malang, Indonesia (Promotion of Woman Adult Literacy in the Remote Areas of Lao PDR).

The session on Environment, Food Security, and Climate Change was chaired by Dr. Aji Hermawan, Institut Pertanian Bogor. The panelists were Ma. Larissa Lelu Gata, University of the Philippines - Los Banos

(Community-based Adaptive Strategies to Climate Change); Milton Norman Medina, University of Mindanao, Philippines (Basic Biodiversity Research Sampling Protocols for Local Communities); Mynabel Pomarin, Anthropology Watch, Philippines (Enhancing the Documentation of Indigenous Conservation Practices through Participatory Mapping); Nilar Maung, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Myanmar (Agricultural Plant Pests Production); Tai Xu Hong, Ground Up Initiative, Singapore (Co-Creating a Hi-Tech Urban Farm); and Tan Huei Ming, Ground Up Initiative, Singapore (Co-Creating a 21st Century Village).

The session on Livelihood, Gender, and Peace was chaired by Dr. Leland Dela Cruz, Director, Office of Social Concern and Involvement, Ateneo de Manila University. The panelists were Hendri Yulius Wijaya, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy- National University of Singapore (Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Diversity Innovative Community Engagement); Nik Meriam Nik Sulaiman, University of Malaya, Malaysia (Transformation of Batik Industries Towards Sustainability Through Inclusive Partnership of Stakeholders); Stephanie Cuevas, Rags2Riches, Philippines (Basic Elements of a Sustainable Community Enterprise); Arlene L. Cosape, Ateneo de Davao University, Philippines (Badjao Registry Integration Development and Growth Through Entrepreneurship (BRIDGE) Program); and Glorypearl Dy, Switotwins, Inc., Philippines (Digital Storytelling and Peacebuilding).

The session on Water, Sanitation and Health was by Dr. Joseph Thomas, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India. The panelists were Anna Mae Dela Cruz, Mercado General Hospital, Inc., Philippines (Public Health by Design: Training Undergraduate and Medical School Students on Innovative and Inclusive Methods of Keeping the Public Healthy); Chea Eliyan, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Water Supply and Sanitation Technology: Impacts and Solutions); Rafael D. Guerrero III, University of the Philippines- Los Banos (Household Recycling of Solid Organic Waste and "Gray Water" by Urban/Rural Families for Sanitation, Water Conservation and Food Production); and Ly Quoc Dang, Can Tho University, Vietnam (Water and Sanitation: Basic Concepts and Practice in the Mekong Delta).



From left to right, photos from Photo from UNIID-SEA Facebook

Pic. 1. UNIID-SEA organizes the 2014 Southeast Asia Conference in Innovation for Exclusive Development in Jakarta, Indonesia

Pic. 2. Winners of the 2014 UNIID-SEA Fellows program

Pic. 3. Group shot of 2014 SEA Conference participants

First in the Country! The Only One in the Country!

The School of Big Data Management of Soochow University will begin recruiting in the 2015

Good news! First in the country, and the only one in the country!!!

Soochow University will add a new member to the family.

The School of Big Data Management, the sixth college of the university, has been approved by the Ministry of Education and will start recruiting new students in the 2015 academic year.

"Every ten years, a few books appear that can change your way of looking at things." This is a line taken from the review on Big Data, a book on business technology, by a professor from the Law School of Harvard University. It marked the beginning of a new era that is ruled by data. With the popularity of the internet and the trendy development of cloud computing, acquiring and analyzing Big Data brings us new ideas and subverts the understanding and operating patterns of many fields. For example, electronic business, social networking, public administration, health and medicine, as well as education and learning are among those that have been deeply affected. The concept, as developed from Data Mining, focuses not on the improvement of analytical skills, but on the information contained in a great quantity of data and how it offers new ways of interpreting all kinds of phenomena and forecasting abilities.

In 2010, McKinsey & Company identified the ten technologies that will lead future business development trends, including acquiring and analyzing Big Data, the public value of cloud computing, and the multi-faceted participation, interaction, and service of business. With the integration and application of these technologies together with mobile communication networking, data produced by business will grow exponentially, as traditional filing techniques become bottle-necked. On the dawn of the era of big data, Big Data analysis is necessary and

essential and the number of data scientists will see a sharp increase in response to the trend. In fact, the Harvard Business Review named it one of the most promising jobs of the 21st century.

Grasping the trend and looking into the future, Soochow University has established the School of Big Data Management under the coordination of various departments. The objectives of the school are to provide professional training in the field of Big Data to meet the demands of the business community and to serve as a training base for those in the field of big data throughout the country.

As the first school devoted exclusively to Big Data, the School of Big Data Management will begin recruiting up to 90 students for its undergraduate program and 20 students for its practical-oriented Master's program for the coming 2015 academic year.



Antidiscrimination and a passion for equality: learning how to be forgiving

2014 New Balance Ultra Marathon at Soochow University—Run for Nelson Mandela

Pre-race press conference ends on a high note

Soochow University hosted the 14th "International running around the O' clock Ultra-marathon at Soochow" on December 5, 2014 in the spirit of "pursuing perseverance and challenging one's limits." This year's race is further distinguished by events entitled "Anti-discrimination and love for Equality" in the memory of Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela one year after his passing. Many people participated in the memorial concert, a commemorative forum, the Mandela book fair, film festival, and leaders' exhibition, as well as the 2014 Soochow Ultra Marathon—Run for Mandela. Soochow President Professor Pan Wei-Ta led a team of 67 celebrities, alumni, and faculty members who are not professional runners to experience a tryout run for 67 minutes and invited 67 teams, totaling 670 runners, to do a 5-hour relay run. These events lasted 24 hours to symbolize Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's 67 years of efforts in the fight for human rights and to rekindle the interest of the participants in cultivating an unceasing spirit of perseverance and an everlasting passion for equality.

A pre-race press conference was called at Soochow main campus where many distinguished guests participated in order to commemorate Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's lifelong dedication to the fight for human rights and his contributions. The event also marked the opening of the 2014 Ultra-Marathon race. Among the distinguished guests were Former Ambassador of the Republic of China to the Republic of South Africa, I-Cheng Loh; Steven Wang; Ti Fu; Chin-Ray Liu; MOFA Department of West Asian and African Affairs Deputy Director, Alexandre Cheng; Representative of the Liaison Office of South Africa in Taiwan, Musawenkosi Aphane, and Deputy Representative Che B. Smith.

Percussion music cheering the participants marked the opening of the press conference. The performers were from the music department of the university, and the names of the 42 runners from ten different countries were sung out as they were invited to walk on the red carpet. This was a sure way to make them feel the cheers and salutations. University President Professor Pan Wei-Ta expressed that something renowned was added this

year—a race in honor of Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. In 1993 he was invited to give a lecture to express his ideals and values for human rights and was given an honorary doctorate degree in law. We hope that these series of memorial events could awaken the students in emulating the many spirits of Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela: forgiving, passion, perseverance, and tolerance, and that more people will be aware of the efforts and values that we have strived to promote in our teaching.

Mr. Musawenkosi Aphane, Representative of the South African Liaison Office in Taipei, expressed that he still remembered how Dr. Mandela looked at the inauguration ceremony and how he supported Taiwan's thriving democracy. He was thrilled to see many old friends and wished the success of the upcoming race.

The press conference was opened by Mr. Musawenkosi Aphane, President Pan Wei-Ta, and Deputy Director Alexandre Cheng, and several distinguished guests were present at the opening and the unveiling of the commemorative plaque in memory of Dr. Mandela. Group photos were taken with contestants and the guests, and all were invited to show up on the next day (December 6) to witness the 2014 Ultra Marathon at Soochow.



Photo taken with the distinguished guests (from left to right): Deputy Representative of the South African Liaison Office in Taipei, Che B. Smith, John Mawei from South Africa, Madam Matodzi Julia Aphane, Musawenkosi Aphane, Representative of the South African Liaison Office in Taipei, and President Pan Wei-Ta

Another Certified Gold Medal Race for the 2014 New Balance Ultra Marathon at Soochow Japanese Runner Retains Title and Breaks Asian Record

This has been the 14th year since 1999 that Soochow University has hosted the Ultra Marathon at its campus. In the 2012 Ultra Marathon, six athletes qualified for the international race, making the Soochow event the only one in Taiwan and the second in the world to be awarded the "gold medal certification". This year's race gathered the best athletes from around the world. It was blessed with very good weather and was awarded the gold medal certification for a second time.

Top honors were garnered by Japanese athlete Hara, Yoshikazu (285.366 km), Italian runner Cudin, Ivan (255.499 km), German athlete Reus, Florian (253.899 km), Sekiya, Royichi (241.099 km) and Kudo, Mami (222.431 km). Mr. Liu Yi-Cheun, Director of the physical education office, expressed that the record has yet to be confirmed through an application to be submitted by the Chinese Taipei Association of Ultrarunners to the International Ultramarathon Federation.

In the man's race, last year's champion, Hara, Yoshikazu, indicated before the race that his goal was to break the Asian record set by Sekiya, Royichi in 2007 (274.88 km). Six hours into the race, Hara, Yoshikazu started to take the lead and went on to win the championship with a record-breaking 285.366 km surpassing the 284,070 km record set by Greek athlete in 2002.

In the women's division, Kudo, Mami won the championship as expected although she wasn't able to break her own individual record of 255.303 km set in 2011, but her distance of 222.431 km. was enough to help obtain the gold-medal certification.

After finishing second place at 266.702 last year, Italian athlete Cudin, Ivan's goal this year was to take the first spot. However, although he failed to surpass his own record set in 2011, his 255.499 personal best this year was enough to secure second place for him.

Two-time European champion and Sparta Race winner this year, German runner Reus, Florian joined the contest for

the first time this year and took the third place with a distance of 253.899 km.

An all time winner and ultra popular runner for the Soochow race, Sekiya, Ryoichi has participated in the race for 12 times. He was totally exhausted at the last stage of the race, dropped to the ground and felt asleep but he woke up within 2 minutes and strove to the finish line. His perseverance spirits have touched many people who were at the race to cheer him up. Though he didn't break his personal Asian best set in 2007, the distance of 241.099 km was very impressive.

The Ultra Marathon at Soochow is an extreme challenge to one's physical limitations. A total of 7 out of 42 contenders dropped out from the race due to sudden decrease of body temperature but there were 1700 relay runners during the 24-hour event cheering up for the athletes and experiencing a run with the Ultra Marathon contestants.



This year's champion- Hara, Yoshik



Female champion-Kudo, Mami

Faculty and Students at Soochow University clean up surroundings to clear up minds Learning to be humble by bending one's knees in labor Toilet-cleaning, a learning experience

To promote one of the university's mottos, "Cultivating one's inner uprightness through the emulation of the ancient and modern saints", Soochow University teamed up with Golden Friends Corporation and Pxmart Company Ltd. in organizing toilet-cleaning activities as a learning experience for the university's faculty and student body on December 27, 2014. Under the guidance of Taiwan Souji Association, the Office of Students Affairs headed the activities as a way for faculty and students alike to practice this spirit and to improve one's moral character and temperament through dreary chores.

Soochow University President Professor Pan Wei-Ta believes that such an activity enables a person to interact with the world by being humble and to experience the meaning of life by bending down one's knees in labor. Prof. Pan intends to continue promoting this activity as a way to teach the students the spirit of humility.

Honorary chair of the Soochow Alumni and President of Golden Friends Corporation, 85-year-old Mr. Tang Song-Chang expressed that cleaning toilets can be a way to clearing one's mind. As one calms down for a moment to take a fresh perspective on the seemingly trivial and dreary chores such as cleaning toilet, one's mind is then ready to release the stresses and mundane concerns in daily life. Taiwan Souji Association Secretary General Lee Chia-Chung indicated that this might sound trivial but it can be achieved by every individual; the power of collective individuality can further free one from loneliness and helplessness. This is what "cleaning together, clearing together" has tried to achieve: freeing one's mind from mundane concerns through mundane chores.

A total of 126 people participated in the two-hour activity, which commenced at 9:30 am, including faculty and students at Soochow University and employees at Golden Friends Corporation and Pxmart Company Ltd. Many participants praised at the effects of how detailed and

painstaking physical work such as paying attention to brushing and cleaning something in a confined space can benefit one's mind and deepen our perspective on humility. Participating members took a bow at the spotless toilets at the end to show their appreciation of this valuable lesson.

What we have learned from this activity further echoes an ancient Chinese saying, "Commit no evil because of its trivialness; ignore no kindness because of its anonymity." A simple idea as trivial as cleaning a toilet can become as powerful as the flow of a river when we realize that it helps us initiate an act/idea that benefits not only one's own mind but also helps out many others who can act/think likewise.



Faculty members leads students to clean toilet. From left to right: Honorary chair of the Soochow Alumni and President of Golden Friends Corporation, Mr. Tang Song-Chang, President Pan Wei-Ta, and Professor Hsieh Cheng-Yu, Dean of the School of Social Sciences.

Payap University, Thailand

ACUCA article on the Arts and Culture Festival

Early Friday morning, October 31, 2014, a steady stream of buses loaded with students and their gorgeous dancing costumes and traditional Thai musical instruments made their way in to the Payap University campus in the northern city of Chiang Mai, Thailand. By the end of the day 2,400 students and staff from 82 universities all over Thailand had gathered for the 15th Thai Universities Arts and Culture Festival, which continued through Sunday, November 2, and ended off campus at a local resort mall—bringing the beauty and pageantry of dance and music of hundreds of dedicated students to the people of Chiang Mai.

Payap University had hosted the first ever Arts and Culture event over 15 years ago, and we were honored to host again this year. Universities in Thailand have four primary purposes: teach, do research, serve society with academic knowledge, and preserve and nurture traditional culture. As the world becomes globalized it becomes more important to encourage appreciation of traditional dance and arts in the youth of today. This festival provides an opportunity for students to learn and perform treasured Thai dance and music. Some schools also showed innovations and blendings of traditional dance with international expressions.

This year we encouraged participants to arrive early so they could have plenty of time for rehearsal. In addition to the performances by each school, each region of Thailand—north, south, northeast, and south—has a network of schools that had worked together to create a joint opening and closing performance. They were able to practice together and prepare for the gala opening and closing events. The costumes were stunning and the skill level of the students most impressive.

It took the cooperation of all our faculties joining forces with our tiny Arts and Culture Preservation and Nurture team (two staff) and our Student Development office to pull-off this three-day extravaganza. We also had the creative support of our Christian Communications Institute (CCI), an outreach ministry of Payap University founded almost 40 years ago that uses traditional Thai dance and drama to share the good news of God's love in schools and churches all over Thailand. CCI's director, Mr. Suchinda Chaiyagunsarakron, is an artistic genius. He helped design and choreograph the grand opening event performed by Payap University, which included the theme of God's beautiful creation and a dancer on stilts! The opening ceremony also included a dance of blessing acknowledging God's presence and goodness among us. In these gentle ways Payap University shares our Christian foundation with the higher education community of Thailand, and furthers ACUCA's commitment to "the mission of Christian higher education of uniting all people in the community of service and fellowship."

After the closing ceremony at Promenada Resort Mall, enjoyed by unsuspecting shoppers treated to a wonderful surprise of superb Thai cultural performances, students and staff returned to their buses, and some began their journeys home that very night.



Editor's Notes

- This is the last issue to be published by Fu Jen Catholic University. For the next issue, Parahyangan Catholic University will be in charge. Parahyangan Catholic University is honored to serve as the ACUCA Secretariat for 2015 to 2016. For contacts, you can address your e-mails to acuca@unpar.ac.id.
- Four issues of the newsletter "ACUCA News" are published each year. For the next issue, please send articles together with print quality photos by e-mail to the ACUCA Secretariat (acuca@unpar.ac.id) no later than **March 25, 2015**.

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