

CROSSROADS

ACUCA NEWSLETTER

THE TALE OF 3 ACUCA LEADERS

Dr. Betty Cernol-McCann, SU president and ACUCA president; Dr. Carmen Valdes, President of Assumption College; and Dr. Henry Feriadi, Rector of Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana led the discussions on transformational leadership during the ACUCA Management Conference.

SMS SCHOLARS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

Chrisantia Theresia Manorek and Stephani Kurniawan Wiadji both of Sanata Dharma University who are recipients of the Student Mobility Scholarships of ACUCA share their experiences...

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FACULTY MOBILITY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR THE FIRST TIME

With generous support from the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, ACUCA implements the mobility scholarships for faculty from member institutions.

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ACUCA SMS SCHOLARS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE



THE TALE OF 3 ACUCA LEADERS



ACUCA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AT SILLIMAN



ACUCA President
Dr. Betty McCann



DR. WAI CHING OF THE UNITED BOARD - KEYNOTE SPEAKER OF THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

SILLIMAN HOSTS ACUCA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

BY SILLIMAN OIP

Silliman University (SU) hosted the 2019 Management Conference of the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (ACUCA) with representatives of member universities from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines attending, last Nov. 6-8, 2019.

"Leaders of higher education at all levels must ourselves act as change-makers...Part of the problems to change is us...The world is changing, our students are changing, the [ways] they learn are changing," said Dr. Wai Ching Angela Wong, vice president for programs of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, who delivered the keynote address during the conference's opening program.



Participants do a Speed Networking Activity

Wong said that higher education and educational leadership must be "reinvented" and "revolutionized" to meet the challenges of higher education.

"Look at what our students need today. The college education that would be enough to send us to a good career path is no longer there in many countries. The students who graduated have to struggle very hard to find a way to relate to the society, to relate to the profession. A lot of existing careers would not exist [in the future]," she said.



Reinventing the current model of education into an "empowering model" said Wong, would mean encouraging inter-disciplinarity and interactivity; integrating industry-focused and immersive learning; and transitioning to project-based learning. Wong said educators should consider developing industry-specific skills and leadership qualities among students that can be applied in addressing issues of sustainable development and for them to be able to thrive in an "unpredictable, fast-transforming world" as members of society.

EMPOWERING MODEL

"Reinventing the current model of education into an empowering model would mean encouraging inter-disciplinarity and interactivity; integrating industry-focused and immersive learning."

Dr. Wai Ching Angela Wong,
Vice President, UBCHEA



Creating Partnerships

Connecting curricular and co-curricular activities and encouraging students to take on individual projects, said Wong, are examples of how educators can engage students in solving unscripted, real world problems.

The conference also included a panel discussion on “Transformational Leadership, Environmental Sustainability and Creating Cultures of Peace,” with panelists Dr. Betty Cernol-McCann, SU president and ACUCA president; Dr. Carmen Valdes, Assumption College president; and Dr. Henry Feriadi, Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana rector. “We need to reexamine our values and institutional practices, our teaching methods and curricula...The one and done model of higher education should give way to an integrative approach that is responsive to the needs of the times,” said McCann.

“Embracing our ecological awareness requires more than accumulating information or advance some policies, however important these may be. A change of heart...is what is required of us, because if we simply have those theories and principles right up there at the cognitive level and not translated into the level of the heart or the emotion, then there may not likely be passion and enthusiasm among those charged with the responsibility to do something about God’s creation,” she said.

Meanwhile, Valdes talked about “feminine leadership” as a transformative kind of leadership characterized by empathy, which allows educational leaders to put students first.

“[Empathy] is the language of Generation Z, and if you don’t talk their language, you lose them. You can’t educate them without empathy...[The feminine spirit is about] understanding at depth, with multi-perspectives,” she said.

Feriadi, whose talk focused on creating cultures of peace in universities in a time of technological changes, highlighted the importance of education in the formation of values and virtues.

“We are given the golden opportunity to educate and transform young people...and the way we prepare our young generation is through education... [One of] the ways to educate young people, in our campus, is through service-learning,” he said.



Dr. Jenny Lind Elmaco, Secretary General of ACUCA moderates the Panel Discussion

Dr. Jenny Lind Elmaco, Strategic Partnerships Office director and ACUCA general secretary, was one of the panel moderators. Dr. Earl Jude Paul L. Cleope, vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Elizabeth Susan Vista-Suarez, College of Performing and Visual Arts dean, also attended the conference as panelists.

The conference was designed to create a deeper awareness of the participants’ leadership impact; support them in refining their personal leadership styles; and strengthen their emotional intelligence and ability to connect and acquire the skills that will enable them to bring out the best in others.

Since 1976, ACUCA has brought together Christian educational leaders for the development of Christian education in Asia and beyond. The ACUCA currently has 64 member institutions in nine countries.



ACUCA FACULTY MOBILITY SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDED FOR THE FIRST TIME

With generous funding from the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, ACUCA awarded for the first time Faculty Mobility Scholarships. Loosely modeled after the existing ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme (SMS) program, the ACUCA FMS is intended to promote and facilitate the exchange/placement of faculty among ACUCA member institutions. It aims to foster a better understanding of Asian communities and cultures among ACUCA faculty, and to increase academic and professional interactions among ACUCA institutions for the benefit of both the faculty and students. Under the scheme, member institutions would organize visits of faculty from their home schools to other schools (or vice versa) for periods from at least one week up to one month during which time the visiting faculty member would have opportunities to share their academic expertise through lectures and/or workshops and/or research cooperation. They would also be assisted to interact with administrators, faculty, and students from the host school to enhance their understanding of that school's Christian identity and mission as well as academic strengths. The scheme would include financial assistance for travel and a living expense subsidy from ACUCA. Host schools would provide housing at no cost for the guest faculty member. Funding is available to eight (8) institutions, i.e., one for each country where ACUCA institutions are present. Exceptions can be made based on demand and/or funding availability. The following faculty are the scholarship holders for the first cohort: Cheng-Chiou, Lawrence Chuan-Cheng, Ren-Jang Wu, Yung-Shen Yen and Jane Anette Belarmino.

Chrisantia Theresia Manorek and Stephani Kurniawan Wiadji both of Sanata Dharma University shared their wonderful and interesting experiences as recipients of the ACUCA student mobility scholarships (SMS):

Stephani chose to study in the English Department at Providence University where she took 3 subjects: Literary Criticism, Chinese Language, and Cultural Learning. Besides studying, she also took part in the Service Learning Program from Culture Learning Class. She also helped the local students have an interview about cross-culture. She shared a presentation at her host University about her home University and its international programs. She was also involved in cultural workshops.

Chrisantia, on the other hand, chose Kwansei Gakuin University and took courses in Japanese Business and Global Governance which was related to her major, Economics.

She shared that the experience was helped her build her self-confidence, to be more open to others and be kind, to understand other cultures and respect other people's opinions, and learn to not be afraid to speak her mind.



Chrisantia and her new friends enjoy nature



Stephani with her classmates



Panel Discussion 1: Internationalization Strategies and Exponential Technologies in Whole Person Education
In the increasingly interconnected world, higher education institutions strive to be innovative, competitive and global. As part of their internationalization agenda, HEIs have been promoting harmonization of its academic structures, improving quality assurance and increasing regional mobility and collaboration. This discussion tackles the future knowledge via the internationalization of HEIs and also their contribution to local communities. The belief is that HEIs play important roles in contributing to society while enhancing functions of formal knowledge even within the changes in the academic, political and social environments.

Moderator: Dr. Sr. Anne Therese Falkenstein, Providence University, Taiwan

Panelists:

Dr. Mangadar Situmorang, Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia

Dr. Agustina Dwi Retno Nurcahyanti, Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia

Dr. Earl Jude Paul Cleope, Silliman University, Philippines



Panel discussion 2: Local Traditions and Global Trends: Finding Harmony within the Intersections of Music and Culture

HEIs have a very important role in preserving Christian culture and also in enriching cultural innovation and cultural dialogue in the Asian region. HEIs are uniquely positioned to provide a nurturing space for the technical and the humanistic as well as popular and academic culture. In this discussion, Christian institutions as preserver, transmitter, synthesizer, and innovator of cultures are discussed.

Moderator: Dr. Agustinus Rustanta, Tarakanita School of Communication and Secretarial Studies, Indonesia

Panelist:

Dr. Neil Samuel Rupidara. Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana, Indonesia

Dr. Jakub Rajcani, Nanzan University, Japan

Dr. Elizabeth Susan Vista - Suarez, Silliman University, Philippines



Thank you!

FOR YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
IN THE ACUCA MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE



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