



ACUCA NEWS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN ASIA
*"Committed to the mission of Christian higher education of uniting all men
in the community of service and fellowship."*

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ACUCA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

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Chung Chi College, CUHK
Hong Kong Baptist University
Lingnan University

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Parahyangan Catholic University
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Universitas Kristen Indonesia
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Duta Wacana Christian University
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PHILIPPINES

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Tunghai University
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Providence University
St. John's University
Chang Jung Christian University
Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages

THAILAND

Mission College
Payap University
Assumption University
Christian University of Thailand

Greetings from the President



You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (Matthew, 5:14-15)

Looking back over the 2006 - 2008 ACUCA administration, Father Nebres, Dr. Angeles and all of the team at Ateneo De Manila made great strides forward in their day to day work with ACUCA, and in the promotion of ACUCA's mission. It is an honor and a privilege to be appointed the new President of ACUCA, with an enhanced sense of responsibility in the face of new challenges. As we at Keimyung University take the helm of the Secretariat, we embark upon our tenure in a time of acute global instability; as the daily news testifies in reference to the global financial crisis, we are in uncharted waters now.

In a time of financial challenges, we look with hope to the Christian message of love. This message of love can serve as a new currency, a new source of wealth. When meaning and coherence break down in a fragmented postmodern context, the work of ACUCA must be to strive to preserve and strengthen our Christian identity. We must ensure that the message is not diluted in an often confusing multicultural, multi-religious society. ACUCA must stand as a beacon to light the way, nurturing our greatest asset, the youth of today who are the leaders of tomorrow. The Christian values that are at the core of ACUCA's message aid us in the process of nurturing these future leaders who will practice

the Christian values of tolerance, charity and love in their daily lives and into their careers.

The theme of the upcoming management conference in Taiwan this October is "Service Learning". This conference will be an opportunity for all of us to discuss the ways that we can practice our message, in our universities, in the community and within a wider international context. Enabling our students to serve gives them an opportunity to manifest their faith in a productive manner. Service strengthens the ties within the community, and ensures that our interconnectedness serves to bind us and not destroy us. ACUCA is essentially a network for collaboration, which is crucial in the face of increasing institutional competitiveness. We need to underline the fact that we are all part of the process, utilizing our individual talents in the service of the wider community.

Although present conditions are difficult, I remain hopeful about our future prospects. We will do our utmost to facilitate and strengthen the ties between our members, enhancing the collaborative nature of ACUCA. With the active support of all of the member institutions we can realize our Christian Mission, bringing the light of love to the world.

SYNN Iihi

President, ACUCA (2009-2010)

The ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme

The ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme (SMS) affords a perfect opportunity for our students to expand their horizons, experience another culture and partake in the collaborative spirit of ACUCA. We urge member institutions to actively encourage their students to take part in this scheme. Our website www.acuca.net is the first step in finding out about our fellow members; it is also an invaluable resource for collaboration on such matters as SMS.

To understand the benefits that the Student Mobility Scheme can give to your students, it is helpful to have a look back at some of the recent experiences of SMS exchange students during Ateneo De Manila's ACUCA Presidency.

The experience of our students has been overwhelmingly positive, and we feel that taking the plunge and taking part with student exchange within ACUCA yields surprising benefits. Here are some testimonials of students who participated in the Student Mobility Scheme.

Wu, Tsung-han of Soochow University in Taiwan spent the spring 2008 semester at the Christian University of Thailand. Tsung-han was able to have a rewarding experience and brings a unique quality to his university life, a dynamic that is missing in students who pursue a more conventional path.

Lots of Taiwanese students like to exchange to Western countries, such as the United States of America, United Kingdom, or France, to name but a few. But I have a different idea from them. Because I want to devote myself to the travel industry, I have to get experience from an Asian instead of an American or European country. That's why I chose Thailand.



In Thailand, the school provided lots of activities and field trips for students; they wanted their students to learn from the process, not only from lectures. That is an extremely big difference between Thailand and Taiwan

Shih Chia-hui, also a native of Taiwan and student at Tunghai University, chose to study at Jeonju University in Korea.

Chiah-hui was able to experience life in Korea without the aid of the Korean language. For some students the experience can provide much needed hands on experience in their field, and the opportunity to understand the workings of global business. Dewi, a student at the University of Atma Jaya in Indonesia, had a specific interest in business

The first night, my roommate and I talked to each other in simple English; we shared the reason why we came here to study Korean. We chatted more and more. Although there were still some communication obstacles between us, our smiling face always got rid of the embarrassment..... Every time when I went abroad, I felt myself just a small part of the world. Because the world is like a big book, there are always many things I have to learn.



I mentioned before in my application form "the reason why I'm interested to study abroad was because I think this exchange would guide me to become a more meaningful person and I really get it..... In Contemporary Issues of Finance, Business and Economics subject I learned some issues of Taiwan's business for example about Taiwan Semi Conductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC) which is well known as a chip maker for leading American manufacturers like Dell Computer and HP and current issues in world's economy.

Cha Ga Young (Florencha), a student at Keimyung University, spent a semester at Ateneo De Manila University in the Philippines.

Ga Young encountered a number of initial obstacles, but was to overcome them and have a truly rewarding experience, thanks to the help of the Ateneo Student Exchange Council.

Everything was a challenge for me in the Philippines. I had to speak, listen, read and write in English, clean my own room and wash my own clothes, For a few weeks I felt isolated, but this feeling was not to last long.

Through the ASEC (Ateneo Student Exchange Council) general assembly, I met a lot of exchange students from various countries and I became friends with them.

Every exchange student has a one on one Filipino buddy from ASEC. My buddy was an exchange student who stayed in Korea. She could share a lot of Korean memories with me.

ASEC also had plenty of programs for us. They celebrated exchange student's birthday, brought us to nice sightseeing places such as Tagaytay, La Union and Sagada. They explained information sincerely about these places. After sightseeing, we tried traditional Filipino dishes altogether. I could understand Filipino culture much easier.

These three students are a small sample of the success of our SMS program, and their testimonials offer a glimpse

of the tangible benefits that are given to students and by extension to all ACUCA members.



News from the Members

Silliman University Mobilizes Filipino Youth to Monitor Transparency in Gov't Procurement

Exercising youth citizenship was the goal of the youth project that Silliman University in Dumaguete City, Philippines conducted from July 2008 to January 2009.

With the Philippines perceived as one of the most corrupt countries in Asia, Silliman took up the challenge of training in-school youth in online procurement in nine areas across the country and developing an "alternative packaging" concept to encourage the out-of-school youth in five areas to speak up and engage their local leaders.

The project, "Operationalizing and Popularizing the World Development Report: Exercising Citizenship in Monitoring Transparency in Local Government Procurement," supported Silliman's advocacy of youth empowerment and responded to the challenge for academic institutions to act as conscience builders and social agents of change.

In-school youth participants underwent hands-on training in the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS). PhilGEPS aims to achieve transparency in government procurement by making available online procurement transaction data of local government units, from posting of bids to announcement of bids.

Out-of-school youth participants, on the other hand, had sessions in singing, dancing and painting. These art forms were utilized in expressing their insights gathered during the focus group discussions on their role in the development process, their ability to influence decisions of their local leaders, and factors that deter their social involvement. The

alternative packaging presentations of their outputs were attended by some LGU representatives and were aimed at initiating the dialogue process between them and their local leaders.

The project, which ran on a grant from the Civil Society Fund of The World Bank in Washington, produced comics and a video flash animation version of the comics that both call for youth involvement and demystify the procurement process in English and two local dialects: Tagalog and Bisaya.

Outputs, including a feature story about the project, can be downloaded from the World Bank global site, www.worldbank.org, or by visiting the Knowledge for Development Center site on the World Bank Philippines site, www.worldbank.org/ph.

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY AT ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAIPEI

On Monday January 5, 2009, a Ground-Breaking Ceremony was held at St. John's University to launch the construction work for a new set of university buildings.



These will replace 5 separate buildings that were built as part of the original quadrangle that formed St. John's University when it was first opened forty years ago. The architects have designed a magnificent set of 5-story high buildings around the original quadrangle, incorporating traditional Chinese design with modern technology.

As well as the new buildings, the construction project also plans for the removal of the outside surrounding wall of the campus, allowing for easier access and creating a more attractive appearance to those passing by. We want people to gain the impression that the university is welcoming and approachable, willing to cooperate and be involved with the world around it, rather than isolated behind impenetrable walls.

The accompanying photos show the Ground-Breaking Ceremony, presided over by the Chaplain, Rev Dr. Lennon Y. R. Chang. The Bishop of Taiwan, the Rt. Rev. David J. H. Lai gave the sermon and blessing, and was accompanied by the Board of Trustees, Dr. Chen Jean-Lien, President of St. John's University, and honorable guests. The rain did not dampen our spirits and we trust that God will bless this building project!



News from the Secretariat

The Secretariat has moved into a dedicated ACUCA office at the International Education Center at Keimyung University, Daegu, Korea.

Pictured above from left to right are: Mr. Pil-Geun Lee, Ms. Myunghwa Kang, Dr. Shinhye Kim (ACUCA General Secretary) and Andrew Brennan (Assistant to the General Secretary).



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