



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

HONGKONG

Chung Chi College, CUHK
Hong Kong Baptist University
Lingnan University

INDONESIA

Parahyangan Catholic University
Petra Christian University
Satya Wacana Christian University
Universitas Kristen Indonesia
Maranatha Christian University
Duta Wacana Christian University
Soegijapranata Catholic University
Universitas Pelita Harapan
Krida Wacana Christian University
Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta

JAPAN

International Christian University
Kwansei Gakuin University
Meiji Gakuin University
Nanzan University
Doshisha University
Aoyama Gakuin University
St. Andrew's University
J.F. Oberlin University
Tohoku Gakuin University
Seigakuin University

KOREA

Ewha University
Sogang University
Soongsil University
Yonsei University
Keimyung University
Hannam University
Jeonju University
Handong Global University
Hoseo University
Myongji University

PHILIPPINES

Ateneo de Manila University
Central Philippine University
De La Salle University
Philippine Christian University
Silliman University
Trinity University of Asia
Filamer Christian College
Philippine Women's University

TAIWAN

Fu Jen Catholic University
Soochow University
Tunghai University
Chung Yuan Christian University
Providence University
St. John's University
Chang Jung Christian University
Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages

THAILAND

Payap University
Assumption University
Christian University Of Thailand
Mission College

Message from the President

I am writing this message in March, which is graduation time at the Ateneo de Manila. I have just finished writing a message for our graduates and so they and the world they will be entering have been very much on my mind. I mentioned in an earlier message that I was in Rome for our Jesuit General Congregation from early January to early March. We reflected a lot on the world where we must bring the saving message of Christ today:

Globalization has hastened the spread of a dominant culture which has brought to many people wide access to information and knowledge, an enhanced sense of the individual and freedom to choose, and openness to new ideas and values across the world. At the same time,

Globalization has hastened the spread of a dominant culture which has ... been marked by subjectivism, moral relativism, hedonism, and practical materialism leading to a "mistaken or superficial vision of God and man."

this dominant culture has been marked by subjectivism, moral relativism, hedonism, and practical materialism leading to a "mistaken or superficial vision of God and man." (Pope Benedict XVI to Jesuit General Congregation, February 21, 2008) In many societies people find themselves increasingly alone, and struggling to find meaning for their lives.

And on the people to whom we seek to bring the love and hope coming from God in Jesus Christ:

The rapid pace of cultural change has been accompanied by an interior emptiness as well as a new interest in popular religiosity, a renewed search for meaning, and a thirst for a

spiritual experience sometimes sought outside institutional religion.

Let me share with you then part of my graduation message to our students. It is my hope that in our various student exchanges, we may help them share of their own journey towards "a joyful integration of their lives with God and with others."

We live in a world of so many more choices and opportunities than the world of your parents. At the same time, it is a world of such different values or lack of values. In a document we wrote in Rome, where I was part of the drafting group, we spoke of the world you will be entering.

In this new world of instant communication and digital technology, of worldwide markets, and

of a universal aspiration for peace and well being, we are faced by growing tensions and paradoxes: we live in a culture that privileges autonomy and the present, and yet we have a world so much in need of building a future in solidarity; we have better ways of communication but experience often isolation and exclusion; some have greatly benefited, while others have been marginalized and excluded; our world

is increasingly transnational, and yet it needs to affirm and protect local

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BIENVENIDO F. NEBRES, S.J.

President, Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (2007-2008)



Special Issue: The 2007 ACUCA Management Conference



(Clockwise from left) An appreciative audience at the plenary; a colorful welcome dinner presentation; President Nebres opens the conference with a toast. (Bottom) campus tour

Fifty-five participants from 33 ACUCA member universities and a guest university joined the 2007 ACUCA Management Conference hosted by Keimyung University in Daegu, South Korea, on October 25-27, 2007. Anchored on the theme "University Management: Focus on Internationalization and Quality Assurance," the conference had two distinguished speakers during the plenary.

One of them was Prof. Edmond Ko, Senior Advisor to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Adjunct Professor of Chemical Engineering of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, who discussed "Learning-Centered Quality Assurance." Meanwhile, Dr. Thomas A. Shostak, International Education Consultant and former Dean of Lifelong Learning at Ohio University, talked on "International Education and Learning Partnerships."

ACUCA member institutions represented included 2 institutions from Hong Kong, 8 from Indonesia, 2 from Japan, 5 from Korea, 6 from the Philippines, 6 from Taiwan, and



4 from Thailand. Sanata Dharma University -Yogyakarta, a guest institution, was also represented.

The plenary was followed by workshops and discussions on best practices, challenges and possibilities for collaboration. In the area of quality assurance, Mr. Brian O. Co, Director of the Information Technology Center of De La Salle University, shared the best practices of the university. Mr. Glen Vivian Chatelier, Director of the Office of International Affairs, on the other hand, presented the best practices of Assumption University in Thailand.

At the end of Day 2, the participants had a tour of the Keimyung University Museum. On the third day, they had an optional trip to Gyeongju, a UNESCO Heritage Site. Gyeongju is a living museum of the ancient capital of the

Silla Kingdom showcasing a people's tradition and culture that dates back to 1000 years.

Another highlight of the conference was the Visioning Workshop for Presidents, where presidents of member-schools discussed the directions ACUCA should take in the next five years and the programs that would take the organization there. ACUCA's vision is to become a network that is more responsive to its members' needs, and one that would have more collaborative activities among members. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Edna Franco, Executive Director of the Ateneo Center for Organization Development.



Message from the President ... from page 1

and particular identities; our scientific knowledge has reached the depths of life, and yet the very dignity of life itself and the world we live in are threatened.

You were very much in my thoughts when we wrote how you and we are to engage this new world, how we may prepare you and continue to walk with you as you face the challenges of life and work.

We need to walk with young people, learning from their generosity and compassion and helping each other to grow through fragility and fragmentation to joyful integration of our lives with God and the others. Volunteer work with and for the poor helps them to live in solidarity with the other and find meaning and direction in their life.

It is my hope that part of your memories of Ateneo College may be our walking with you, that in the midst of your own experience

of fragility and fragmentation, you have begun to grow towards a joyful integration of your life with God and with others. It has certainly been a continuing source of inspiration and hope for me to see the generosity and compassion of so many of you. You have shared much of life and work with the poor and I have seen how you have grown in solidarity with them and have found there a direction and meaning in your life.



Special Issue: The 2007 ACUCA Management Conference

Focus on Internationalization



Institutions of higher learning play various roles as international educators: as learning specialists, business leaders, and most

importantly as world citizens, according to Dr. Thomas Shostak of Lancaster, Ohio, USA. In this context, partnership and outreach programs are indispensable tools for any learning institution.

Schools usually engage in partnerships in order to expand student learning and broaden faculty horizons. Partnerships may be done in the areas of student exchange, study abroad, research and graduate study. For faculty members, faculty exchanges, visiting scholar programs and academic research are made available. As business leaders, schools may enhance the financial resources of their

Focus on Quality Assurance

Confronted with a changing educational landscape, institutions are shifting their focus from teaching to learning and raising new questions such as:

What do we want our students to learn? How do we facilitate that learning? What is the evidence of that learning that is being achieved?

According to Dr. Edmond Ko of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the first question is about intended learning outcomes; the second, teaching and learning activities that would lead to those outcomes; and the third, assessment of both student learning and institutional effectiveness. The ability to address all these questions constitutes a "quality loop" which assumes that quality improvement is a continuous process.

Professor Ko presented a conceptual framework by which to think about quality assurance (QA), irrespective of the level of maturity of the institution. The framework uses an outcome-based approach to enhance

own institution through "imports" (students, visiting scholars) and "exports" (programs or institutional strengths that can be distributed to other countries).

Another reason to cultivate learning partnerships is the highly competitive globalized environment in which today's schools operate. With the availability of new media, schools are now able to offer degrees online, make information available to everyone and recruit students and faculty globally. Students and faculty, meanwhile, are able to shop for learning opportunities around the world.

But the final and most important

reason for forging learning partnerships, Dr. Shostak says, is that "as world citizens, we must learn to live together, understand each other, help each other grow and develop ... and leave a better world for our students."

He discussed the numerous possibilities for internationalization, as well as the markets for such programs. In conclusion, he advises

student learning and teaching quality. It also takes into consideration evolutionary stages of both assessment and quality assurance.

Assessment evolves from assessment of learning, to assessment for learning to assessment as learning. With the evolution of assessment, a student matures by taking ownership of his or her learning and development, becoming more intrinsically motivated and acquiring the habits to be a reflective and self-regulated learner.

Since QA is an assessment of an institution in its educational work, its evolution has also followed a similar pattern -- from assurance of quality, to assurance for quality, to assurance as quality. Assurance as quality, assumes that the institution takes full responsibility and ownership of its quality process and has in place an internal quality culture.

Professor Ko then discussed the Hong Kong

international educators to build a better world by starting with themselves and their own interests. "Use effective business principles to enhance learning and effective learning methods to enhance your business."

During the workshop, the participants identified the challenges to internationalization which their institutions face, such as the language barrier, funding, and the absence of a common academic credit system and schedule. Other challenges mentioned were the lack of sensitivity of students to the need for internationalization, the lack of top

"As world citizens, we must learn to live together ... and leave a better world for our students."

leadership support and the lack of response to information on internationalization.

It was noted that the ACUCA already helps address some of these problems through programs and projects such as the Student Mobility Scheme, Faculty Mobility Scheme, and ACUCA Website.



experience over the past decade which demonstrated how QA system matures along with the institutions within that system. In Hong Kong, the University Grants Committee (UGC) played an important role as funding agency and QA agency, thus encouraging institutions to adopt an outcome-based approach especially in curriculum design.

Since ACUCA member institutions are in countries where the QA systems are at different levels of maturity, establishing a quality culture in these institutions has its challenges. Ko says it is important for an institution to first evaluate itself as to where it is in terms of its maturity in QA and then to know where it wants to be in terms of student learning. He also suggested the creation of a change agent team in order to bring about a shift to a culture of quality.

He concluded by saying that when an institution focuses on its core competencies, namely the education of its students, its efforts in enhancing student learning will inevitably contribute to the development of its quality assurance system.

Special Issue: The 2007 ACUCA Management Conference

What are the challenges, threats and opportunities that ACUCA member institutions face today as Christian universities? How are they responding to these challenges, threats and opportunities? What is ACUCA's response to these and how can ACUCA be more responsive?



Presidents' Visioning Workshop

These are some of the questions tackled by the school leaders in the Presidents Visioning Workshop attended by more than 20 presidents, rectors and top administrators from ACUCA member institutions.

Based on the survey, the biggest challenge that ACUCA member schools face is balancing the attention they give to accomplishing their Christian mission, and responding to market forces.

The schools recognize that they are operating in a complex, fast-changing, technologically advanced and culturally diverse environment where Christian education, identity and values are constantly being challenged. There is also the challenge to project the image of a Christian university in a way that appeals to the young generation, including a growing number of incoming students who did not get a Christian education.

In relation to market forces, Christian schools are challenged to maintain their standards and traditions of excellence in spite of the changing metrics of "quality education," specifically the premium placed on employability. Attracting and maintaining good faculty and staff while other attractive job options abound is another challenge schools face.

Schools also deal with several threats such as the declining number of students, competition from "cheaper" and more "job-relevant" learning institutions, faculty brain drain and rising tuition fees.

On the other hand, globalization has opened up opportunities to internationalize programs and institutional strengths and forge linkages with other schools. Competition drives quality, new and innovative programs. Emerging markets for English language learning and low-cost quality education also offer new opportunities

for schools.

In response to all these, ACUCA member institutions committed themselves to supporting efforts to improve competitiveness and reinforce their Christian mission. Among the strategies for improving competitiveness are strengthening collaboration through benchmarking, sharing of best practices and better information dissemination; expanding internationalization through student mobility and faculty exchange; academic collaboration through team teaching, research and publication; and conducting joint human resource development programs for administrators, faculty and staff. A mechanism for the mutual recognition of graduates to facilitate mobility and international accreditation to meet the standards of the Asian market are other strategies.

Among the strategies for reinforcing Christian mission are the conduct of training programs for leaders, workshops and conferences that forge the Christian mission, and joint service programs such as chaplain exchange, summer school, internship, and mutual visit of volunteer organizations.

The workshop participants agreed to put these commitments into action starting with disseminating the workshop output to other members through the Internet and encouraging conversations on these. Future conferences, programs and activities will also be guided by these new directions agreed upon during the workshop.



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Dr. Antonette P. Angeles
General Secretary, ACUCA &
Academic Vice President
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights
Quezon City 1108
Philippines
T (00632) 426 6001 local 4006
F (00632) 426 6079
Email avp@admu.edu.ph

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