



# 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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Lingnan University

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Silliman University  
Trinity University of Asia  
Filamer Christian College  
Philippine Women's 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 College of Languages

### THAILAND

Payap University  
Assumption University  
Christian University Of Thailand  
Mission College

## Message from the President

I was talking to two young men who graduated from Ateneo de Manila last March. They had come from our grade school and high school and, until sophomore year in college, typified the stereotype we have of several of our youth today. They got by, but had no great dreams; they were interested mainly in barkada (peer groups) and having fun. Like the lament of one student in a survey we ran: "Why can't my parents simply allow me to be an underachiever?"

During their sophomore year, there was a devastating typhoon and landslides in Eastern Luzon. We responded with relief operations and then later agreed to build new homes for over a hundred families in Gabaldon, a town about three hours away from Manila. Together with a couple of other high school classmates, they decided to join the first trips for this housebuild-more of a lark, free trip, food, excursion.

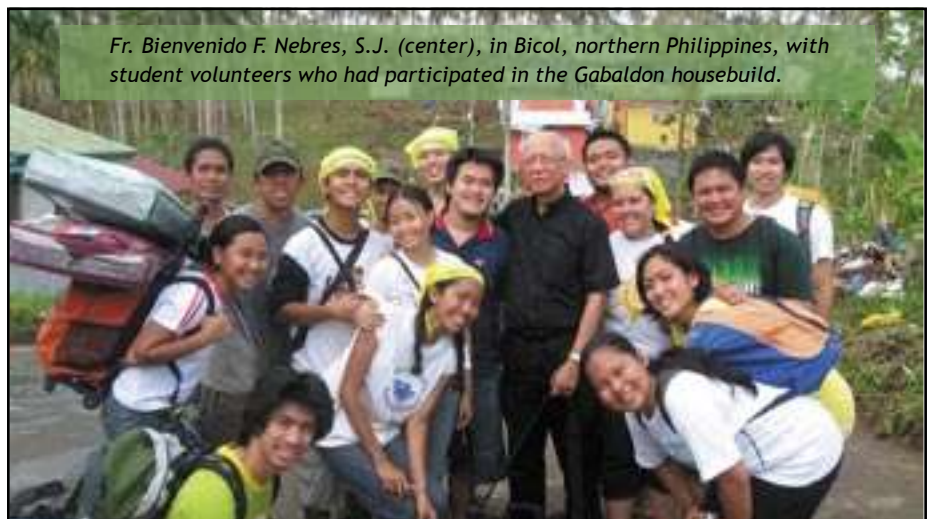
But then in our summer, April-May, they joined a one-week build. And through the physical work, the evenings with one another and with the community, they were transformed. They became the most dedicated workers, going every weekend. They brought in other friends till the group grew to be about

a hundred. Their studies improved as well. When I asked them to share their reflections, they said they found themselves and found that they had a purpose in life.

As one of them put it in our recent conversation, the community in Gabaldon became a metaphor for their life. In the beginning there was nothing, it was a barren piece of earth. "And that, too, is what we were," they said. As they worked to build the community house by house, family by family, they found the pieces of their lives coming together. "And now that the community is complete, we feel that we, too, have found completion and wholeness," they said.

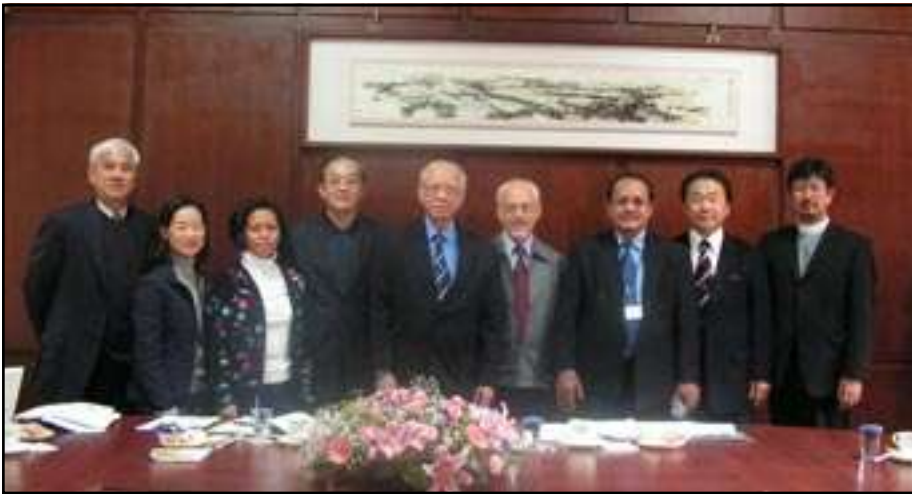
That conversation illustrates for me in a very powerful way our deeper goals as Christian universities and colleges in Asia. We seek to form our youth to excellence, yes. But even more, we seek to help them discover that, in giving of themselves to others, they do not lose themselves. Rather, they find their true selves and discover, to their surprise and joy, that they have a meaning and purpose in life.

**BIENVENIDO F. NEBRES, S.J.**  
President, ACUCA (2007-2008)



*Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J. (center), in Bicol, northern Philippines, with student volunteers who had participated in the Gabaldon housebuild.*

## News from the Secretariat



### ACUCA ExeCo reactivates Student Mobility Program

The ACUCA Executive Committee (ExeCo) approved a budget of \$5,000 to subsidize ACUCA's Student Mobility Program during its March 10, 2007 meeting at Tunghai University, Taiwan.

A student enrolled in any of the 53 ACUCA member institutions wishing to go as an exchange student to any ACUCA member university or college may now apply for the grant in his or her own school.

Grants are for travel subsidy only. University nominations should be submitted to the ACUCA Secretariat no later than November 30 (for spring term applications). The ACUCA ExeCo will act as review committee for the Student Mobility grants.

### ACUCA to hold management confab at Keimyung in October

ACUCA will hold its Management Conference at Keimyung University, Daegu, South Korea on October 26-27.

The conference will feature a talk on Quality Assurance by Professor Edmond Ko of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and a talk on Internationalization by Professor Thomas Shostak of Ohio University. Directors of International Programs and Quality Assurance are encouraged to attend. ACUCA Presidents will also hold a most important visioning

workshop in the afternoon of October 26, after the morning plenary session. The presence of all ACUCA Presidents in this visioning session will help ACUCA plan its future direction.

Please go to the ACUCA Website <http://www.acuca.net> for more information on the October Management Conference.



### More News from the Members ... from page 3

in research, seminars and, eventually, a degree program in Catholic Social Thought.

His Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, the Holy See's Prefect for the Commission on Justice and Peace, delivered the keynote address at the launching ceremony.

### Obirin University (JAP) renamed J.F. Oberlin University

The year 2006 marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the former Obirin University, Tokyo, Japan, by the Rev. Yasuzo Shimizu. According to Toyoshi Satow, Chair of the Board of Trustees, the anniversary provided fresh opportunities for the community to trace the wellsprings of the school's founding ideals which flow from the timeless words and deeds of French clergyman and philanthropist Jean Frederic Oberlin (1740-1826).

Thus, as a symbol of the university's determination to carry on Oberlin's educational philosophy, all schools formerly known as

The ACUCA Executive Committee (from left to right): Prof. Frank Fu, Associate VP-HKBU; Dr. Shinye Kim, Director for International Affairs, Keimyung University; Dr. Antonette P. Angeles, ACUCA General Secretary; Dr. Haydn Chen, President, Tunghai University; Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., ACUCA President; Dr. Warren Shipton, President, Mission College; Dr. Vincent Aryanto, Vice President for Development, Soegijapranata Catholic University; Dr. Matsu'ura Michio, President, Momoyama Gakuin University; and Prof. Takaaki Ito, Faculty of Sociology, Momoyama Gakuin University.

"Obirin" have been renamed J. F. Oberlin, the name used at their founding.

### Soegijapranata (INDO) presents collaborative research to AASA

Dr. Budi Widianarko, professor of ecotoxicology at the Graduate School of Urban and Environmental Studies, Soegijapranata Catholic University, Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia, presented a research paper at the Asia-General Assembly Meeting of the 23-member Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) in Seoul Korea.

His research, titled "Ecological and Human Health Impacts of Hyperacid Water from the Ijen Crater Lake, East Java, Indonesia," was a joint undertaking of Soegijapranata, Bandung's Directorate of Vulcanology, and the Netherlands' Vrije Universiteit and Utrecht Universiteit. It was sponsored by the Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (NWO-WOTRO).



Ijen Crater, an extreme eco-system with one of the biggest acidic reservoirs in the world, was the subject of extensively study.

## News from the Members

### Atma Jaya Yogyakarta (INDO) appoints new Rector



Dr. Augustinus Diby o Prabowo

**D**r. Augustinus Diby o Prabowo is the newly appointed Rector of Atma Jaya Yogyakarta University (AJYU), Indonesia, for the term 2007-2011. He earned his bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Economics, Gadjah Mada University (GMU) in 1966, his M.S. from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños in 1970 and his Ph.D. from Washington State University, USA in 1978.

Dr. Prabowo has been a full-time Professor of Economics at AJYU since 2005. From 1979-1991, he was the Vice Director of Post Graduate Program at GMU.

He is a recipient of numerous achievement awards and has written books, articles, and papers on natural resources economics, the informal credit market, and the ASEAN Free Trade Area.

### Chang Jung (TAI) opens M.A. program for foreign students

The Graduate Institute of Taiwan Studies of Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan opened its doors to foreign students wishing to enroll in its M.A. Taiwan Studies program in line with the government's thrust to foster international academic exchange.

The institute has designed three areas of concentration in Taiwan studies, namely, Taiwan history, Taiwan culture, and Taiwan current affairs. The courses are offered in English.

Annual admission is currently limited to ten foreign students but all students will receive a scholarship from Taiwan's Ministry of Education and the university. Chang Jung University's Division of Academic Affairs received applications until April 30, 2007.

### Filamer (PHIL) upgrades, opens programs

Filamer Christian College in Roxas City, Philippines, embarked on important initiatives and projects in the first quarter of the year.

The construction of a Php 30 million, three-story Elementary Department building is underway and will be completed in October 2007. Filamer also offered new programs when the school year opened in June 2007, after it was recently granted a permit from the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The new programs are B.S. Electronics



An architect's perspective is displayed at the building's site.

and Communications Engineering (BSECE) and B.S. Entrepreneurial Management (BSEM). The CHED has also approved the upgrading of Filamer's Commerce Program to a B.S. Business Administration (BSBA) program with new areas of specialization, namely, Human Resource Development Management, Financial Management and Marketing Management.

### Soochow (TAI) and Thunderbird business schools sign ground-breaking agreement

A landmark agreement was signed between the Vice President of Soochow University, Dr. C.M. Ma, and the Vice President of Thunderbird School of Global Management on March 14, 2007 at the Taipei Grand Hotel.

Soochow University, known as the most time-honored and yet global-minded private university in Taiwan, was proud to sign the agreement with the Thunderbird School

of Global Management, ranked No. 1 in international business by the *Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News and World Report* and the *Financial Times*. Both schools of business of Soochow University and Thunderbird are dedicated to producing global leaders who contribute to sustainable prosperity worldwide. The agreement highlights the EMBA dual degree program which emphasizes the design of a global-oriented and customized EMBA curriculum.

### Assumption (THAI) launches John Paul II Center for Catholic Social Thought

Assumption University in Bangkok, Thailand, launched the John Paul II Center for Catholic Social Thought on January 29, 2007 at the plenary hall of the John XXIII Conference Center. This initiative honors and commemorates the life and contributions of Pope John Paul II, particularly his encyclicals on the doctrines of Catholic social thought. The long-term contribution of the center would lie

*(Please go to page 2)*



(Above) Catholic leaders from the Vatican and Thailand gather in front of the newly installed statue of Pope John Paul II. (Below) The AU President (right) hands a token from the university to Cardinal Martino.





## Conferences of Interest

### Global business confab held at CPU (PHIL)

A business conference on “Managing Competitive Enterprises in the Digital Economy” was held on April 28, 2007 at the Central Philippine University (CPU) campus in Iloilo City, Philippines. Organized by the Association of Training Institutions for Foreign Trade in Asia and the Pacific (ATIFTAP) and the SPEED Business Assistance Center of CPU, the conference was the second run of the Global Business Conference held in Manila early this year.

CPU President Juanito M. Acanto welcomed the resource speakers led by Diosdado P. Cadena Jr. of the Department of Trade and Industry, who discussed “Managing Competitive SMEs in the Global Economy,” and Dr. Luz Suplico, ATIFTAP President, who talked on “Manny Pacquiao as a Global Brand?: A Glimpse of Sports Marketing.”

### 2007 TaiCUCA Service Learning Conference held at Tunghai University (TAI)

A Service Learning Conference which focused on the theme “Pedagogy and Networking” was hosted by Tunghai University, Taiwan, on March

9 and 10, 2007 at the university’s Liang Jen Hall. It was organized by the seven-member Taiwan Christian Universities and Colleges Alliance (TaiCUCA).

The first day was keynoted by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, President of Ateneo de Manila University and ACUCA, who spoke on “Education of the Heart: The Integrated Non-Academic Formation Program of Ateneo de Manila.” Fr. Michael Kwo, S.V.D., Vice President for Missions, Fu-Jen University, was the second keynote speaker and discussed the “Service Learning Pedagogy: Fu-Jen Experience.”

Among the conference participants were Dr. Haydn Chen (President, Tunghai University and Chair, TaiCUCA), Dr. Antonette P. Angeles (Academic Vice President, Ateneo de Manila University), Dr. Shinhye Kim (Director of International Affairs, Keimyung University), Prof. Frank Fu (Associate Vice President, Hong Kong Baptist University), Dr. Vincent Didiek Wiet Aryanto (Vice Rector for Development & Cooperation, Soegijapranata Catholic University), Dr. Matsu’ura Michio (President, Momoyama Gakuin University), Dr. Warren Arthur Shipton (President, Mission College), Dr. Peter Tuen Ho Yang, (President, St. John’s University), Mrs. Jane Wu (Dean, Student Affairs, Tunghai University), and Dr. Hu Yih Pei (Director, Center for Service Learning Development, Providence University).



(Clockwise, from right:) ACUCA ExeCo members as panelists during the TAIUCUCA Conference; ACUCA President, Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., keynote speaker; and the Tunghai campus made beautiful by trees that line pedestrian walks and streets.



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