



# 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"*

## ACUCA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

### HONG KONG

Chung Chi College  
Hong Kong Baptist University  
Lingnan University

### INDIA

Christ University  
Lady Doak College

### INDONESIA

W P D D D D W K R O C C H O W B I G R H D D  
Atma Jaya Yogyakarta University  
Dhyana Pura University (Undhira)  
Duta Wacana Christian University  
Krida Wacana Christian University (UKRIDA) □  
Maranatha Christian University  
Parahyangan Catholic University  
H O L W D D U D S D E Y H U D W □  
H W U D K U L W L D E Y H U D W □  
D D W D K D U P D E Y H U D W □  
D W D D F D D K U L W L D E Y H U D W □  
R H J L M D S U D D W D D W K R O L F F Y H U D W □  
D U D N D E W D E K R R O R I R P P F D W L R D G □  
B E U H W D U L D O W G L H □

### JAPAN

Aoyama a in University  
Doshisha University  
Hiroshima Jo a in University  
International Christian University  
J O erlin University  
Ko e Colle e  
K ansei a in University  
ei i a in University  
omoyama a in University  
Nan an University  
Osa a Jo a in University  
Seinan a in University  
So hia University

### KOREA

E ha Womans University  
Handon lo al University  
Hannam University  
Keimy n University  
So an University  
Soon sil University  
onsei University

### PHILIPPINES

Ateneo de anila University  
Central Phili ine University  
De La Salle University  
De La Salle University Dasmari as  
ilamer Christian University  
La Consolacion University  
iriam Colle e  
Phili ine Christian University  
Silliman University  
St Pa l University Phili ines  
Trinity University of Asia

### TAIWAN

Aletheia University  
Chan J n Christian University  
Ch n an Christian University  
Jen Catholic University  
Providence University  
Soocho University  
St John s University  
T n hai University  
Wen ao Urs line University of Lan a es

### THAILAND

Asia Pacific International University  
Ass m tion University  
Christian University of Thailand  
Paya University

Volume XVII No. 2

July - December 2017

Payap University, Thailand

## Message from the ACUCA President

Greetings from the ACUCA Secretariat at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand! I am pleased to address all ACUCA members in this biannual ACUCA Newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing ACUCA and Payap University President, Dr. Sompan Wongdee. Dr. Wongdee recently retired, effective 31 July, 2017. However, she continued to perform her duties as ACUCA President up until the ACUCA Management Conference (MC) which was held on the campus of Payap University from 19-21 October, 2017. The enormously successful ACUCA MC was testimony to not only her dedication, but the entire Payap faculty, staff, and students, as well as the many ACUCA members, who participated.



Speaking of the ACUCA MC, I was tremendously pleased to have met the many representatives of our ACUCA membership. It brings us great joy to organize such an event for the benefit of our diverse members and see directly the fruits of our labor. The theme of the conference was "Exploring the Relationship of Religion, Culture, and Peace in Christian Higher Education" and we were blessed to be able to share and discuss this topic with academicians from all over the region. For more information about the conference, please see other articles in this Newsletter or visit <http://www.acuca.net/management-conference/2017-conference/>.

I do want to mention that we at Payap University take very seriously our responsibility as ACUCA President and Secretariat. ACUCA is a unique network of institutions that share a common bond which is our Christian heritage. The mission of the ACUCA Secretariat is to bring together this community of Christian institutions of higher learning in Asia so that we can all work to benefit one another as well as the societies in which we exist. The ACUCA Secretariat, therefore, is the "instrumentality for creating the environmental prerequisites for active interaction and participation among the member-institutions to take place." We intend to diligently continue this work for the remainder of our time as ACUCA President and Secretariat.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to announce our upcoming ACUCA event. Please join us for the Biennial General Assembly and Conference during the period October 11-14, 2018, to be held at Christian University, Nakorn Pathom, Thailand. The theme for this event is "Internet Impact on Character and Identity in Christian Higher Education in Asia." We will also have a concurrent student camp from October 10-14. The Call for Papers will be coming soon!

Regards,

Rux Prompalit, Ph.D.  
ACUCA President

Photo:  
ACUCA Management  
Conference 2017 Luce Chapel,  
Payap University, Thailand



**PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE PLENARY ASSEMBLY  
Vatican, November 15-18, 2017**

**“The Future of Humanity, New Challenges to Anthropology”**

As a Consultor to the Pontifical Council for Culture from Thailand, Glen Chatelier attended and participated in the plenary on “The Future of Humanity, New Challenges to Anthropology” organized at the Jesuit Curia, The Vatican. Challenging and engaging the participants from all the five continents, including philosophers, sociologists, theologians, experts on bioethics, genetics, cyber technology, the plenary keynote speakers challenged the participants to look at dialogs, interconnections and trajectories in technologies to internalize, debate and more importantly enter into dialogs of engagements between all the seemingly polemic dialectics between science and humanities to “think out of the box” and to move towards harmonizing emergent trends and sciences for the betterment of humankind.

The plenary concluded on the high note of a Keystone address by His Holiness Pope Francis at The Palace of the Vatican, on November 18, 2018 when His Holiness urged all the participants to combine elements of faith and reason, research and debate to help enrich human living, not desecrate it.

At an audience with His Holiness The Pope, Glen Chatelier presented to him, a copy of a newly released book of his poems titled, “SADUDEE MAHARACHA” recounting the nobility of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s work and sacrifice for the Thai people who loved him as Father.



St. Paul University, Philippines

**SPUP-CDCFI, ChildFundPhil conduct Community Sponsorship Management Training Program**

St. Paul University Philippines Community Development Center Foundation, Inc. (SPUP-CDCFI), in partnership with ChildFund Philippines, conducted a 3-day Training on Sponsorship Management for ChildProTect Project, held on Oct. 24-26, 2017, at the Global Center, St. Paul University Philippines.

The 3-day Training Seminar was attended by Volunteer Workers, Barangay Nutrition Scholars, Barangay Officials of the Province of Apayao, in Northern Philippines.



Gracing the occasion were the following: Dr. Agripina B. Maribbay (SPUP VP Academics) gave the Opening and Closing Remarks. Invited speakers expanded their topics related to ChildProTect Program:

- Mrs. Noemi T. Cabaddu (Director, SPUP-CDCFI) - Vision, Mission, Goals, Programs and Services of SPUP-CDCFI;
- Ms. Cherry Moreno (Sponsor Relations Officer) – ChildFundPhilippines Program and Services;
- Mr. Dexter Garcia - (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer) – Child Verification Process, Policies, Procedures and Responsibilities;
- Ms. Gretchen Garcia (Project Development Officer II, Province of Apayao) - Philippine Laws on ChildProTect);
- Mr. Erwin Peter Galido (Disaster Risk Management Specialist) - Family-Based Disaster Risk Management (FDRM).

ChildFund Philippines is a member of ChildFund International. Its mission is to help deprived, excluded and vulnerable children living in poverty have the capacity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change to their communities, and to promote societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting, and advancing the worth and the rights of children.

The training seminar afforded the participants increased knowledge, appreciation and services of Sponsorship Management of the Child Protection Program.



Photos of Trainers and participants of SPUP-CDCFI-ChildFund Phil Project Management Training Seminar held on Oct. 24-26, 2017.

## Providence University Commenced Tai-Thai Connection Project

In the advent of the new south bound policy, Providence University has been selected as the host institution for Taiwan-Thailand Connection Project, 2017 by the Ministry of Education, Taiwan. The mission is to facilitate bilateral academic and industry exchange by building up a timely and responsive platform. Since August, 2017, PU began to send several batches of delegation to Thailand to visit schools, industries and also Taipei Economic and Cultural Office to provide education exchange and volunteer service, while gathering practical information and suggestions during the trip. Started in late November, PU sent four teams bearing perspective missions to Bangkok as well as Chiang Mai, and achieved great success with abundant gracious support.



First of all, the "Chinese Language Education Team" provided one week Chinese Teaching workshop and student internship program in Sripatum University, Bangkok. Second, the "Volunteer Service Team", for more than 10 years in a row, offered volunteer education service to mountain villages in Northern Thailand for the decedent of ROC army for a week. Third, the "Intern team", 26 students together with 7 faculty and staff members made a successful visit in Thailand. We have launched

PU alumni association in Thailand, host an Industry-academic forum in Novatel Hotel, visited Taipei Economic and Cultural Office to exchange ideas and visited and signed MOU with leading manufacture and agriculture related industries owned by Taiwanese, MEC, Jinpao, BDI, Hongda, JSK. etc.; and furthermore, visited Payap University, Chiang Mai University, East Asia University, St. Gabriel College, Thailand International School, for collaboration and student cultural exchange. Forth, the "Research team" Visited Chiang Mai University and Signed MOU, and also successfully developed International Joint Research on international tourism and trade exploring the impact of Chinese tourists to Thailand.

Moreover, PU also received high school and college students for short term program in October. After the mutual engagement in these 6 month, it shows Taiwan and Thailand share many things in common such is the warm hospitality, high respect for spiritual beings, and rich culinary culture. There's indeed more than meets the eyes. PU will continue to create more opportunity to bring together Tai-Thai people.



## Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

### HKBU Strategic Plan lays out goals and path of becoming a leading liberal arts University in Asia for the world

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) announced its Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP) 2018-2028 of turning itself into a leading, research-led, liberal arts University in Asia for the world delivering academic excellence in a caring, creative and global culture. HKBU is also launching the Talent100 scheme with the aim of recruiting 100 new academic staff globally over the next three to five years to strengthen teaching and research.

President Professor Roland Chin said, "The ISP 2018-2028 is a defining expression of HKBU's collective aspiration and at the same time a clear plan of action to achieve the aspiration, grounded in HKBU's Caring, Creative and Global DNAs. The ISP, which was approved by the University Council after in-depth discussions and thorough consultations with stakeholders, sets out a comprehensive list of goals that will both re-dedicate HKBU to its historic mission and transform the institution over the next 10 years."

To fulfil the University's aspirations, energy and resources will be channeled into the three strategic priorities. The first one is to deliver the best student experience in Hong Kong by emphasising integrity, creativity, communication, employability, and commitment to the common good of humankind. This is to be achieved by enhancing and enriching students' learning both on- and off-campus. Secondly, teaching and research excellence at HKBU will extend the frontiers of knowledge and tackle global challenges. The University will raise the bar of excellence by conducting world-leading research in three overarching institutional research clusters that have been identified:

- Creative Media and Practice. This covers areas in which HKBU has gained a reputation as pioneers and leaders..
- Health and Drug Discovery. HKBU has contributed to the solution of global problems, most notably in the field of healthcare.
- Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence in applications such as Fintech, data-journalism and digital humanities.

The third priority is capacity. HKBU will continue investing in its most valuable resource — its people. The objective in this area is to sustain academic and research excellence through appropriate investments in people, governance, and facilities, as well as building capacity through schemes such as Talent100.



(From left) HKBU's Vice-President Dr Albert Chau, President Professor Roland Chin, Vice-President and Secretary Mr Andy Lee, Vice-President Professor Rick Wong and Provost Professor Clayton MacKenzie.

## Soochow Celebrates 500th Anniversary of Protestant Reformation

Do you know how far Soochow University's motto can be traced back? It all began half a millennium ago when Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation, and its impact on the University find expression in many ways. SCU marked the 500th Anniversary of this influential historical event with a grand celebration in commemoration of Martin Luther 27 October to 6 November 2017.

Jointly held by SCU's Chaplain's Office, the Library, the Department of Music, the Bible Society from the Department of German Language and Culture, and Goethe-Institut, the celebration included a memorial exhibition, a symposium, and a concert that helped SCU students, faculty, staff and alumni gain a better understanding of the breadth of Martin Luther's impact on diverse spheres, especially on SCU.

The opening ceremony on October 27th was joined by distinguished guests including Board Director Song-Chang Tang, SCU President Wei-Ta Pan, Vice President Pao-Cheng Dung, Pastor Jian-Zong Chen of The Methodist Church, Pastor Cheng-Dao Xu, Chairman of Bible Society, and Tai-Yin Yang, Chairwoman of Board of Deacons at Christian Church.

President Pan praised Martin Luther as a distinguished monk whose far-reaching implications of the Protestant Reformation led to the establishment of SCU, one of thirteen universities started by Protestants in China at the end of the nineteenth century. Even more closely relevant is the school's motto "Unto a Full-grown Man," which came from the New Testament. Pan emphasized that the act of one person may seem insignificant but could change the world - the philosophy and spirit SCU tries to impart and encourage students to learn and to carry on.

The Protestant Reformation bequeathed to the world ideals that are

still relevant today; plurality in society, freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, literacy, universal education, and the rise of rationalism and science.

The Year 2017 is a significant milestone in human history as it marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's religious reformation – a time for people to look back on history and introspect. May the world continue to carry forward the spirit of the Reformation, stride ahead with dauntless heart, and embrace challenges with no fear!



Commemoration of Martin Luther on Soochow University campus began with posting of the "95 Theses", 27 October 2017

St. Paul University, Philippines

## Sr. Merceditas Conferred Asia's Education Excellence Award

During the 8th Asia Education Excellence Awards, on August 2, 2017, held at Le Meridien Sentosa, Singapore, SR. MERCEDITAS ANG, SPC, President of St. Paul University Philippines, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley, received an Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education. Sr. Merceditas is the 8th recipient of Asia's Education Excellence Award, since its foundation in 2010.

The Asia Education Excellence Awards are presented by World Education Congress, CMO ASIA, with CMO Council as its Strategic Partner, and Stars of the Industry Group as Research Partner. The Awards of the highest stature are presented to Individuals and Institutions who have surpassed several levels of its excellence and set example of being a role model and exemplary leadership. Individuals behind the Institution who are building their Institutions through Leadership, Innovation, Academic and Industry Interface and a supreme objective of Building future leaders.



Criteria: Those who can make a difference to the lives of others are chosen: in the quality of their work, rural reach and other outlook, and ability to contribute value of social change. Change can be quantified – especially since it impacts the lives of many. If it does, then it is positive

change. But the main is Making a Difference (MAD).

Process: The ASIA'S EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS are intensely researched process undertaken by research cell consisting of Post Graduate in History and Management, with over 5 years research experience posts their studies. It is the iconic job of the research cell to produce a shortlist of Individuals who are doing extraordinary work and track record of their achievements. The shortlist is then reviewed by a jury comprising of senior professionals across the globe.

This year's jury members include Dr. Arun Arora, former president and CEO of The Economic Times, India's leading business newspaper; Dr. Harish Mehta, founding member of NASSCOM, an association of software and services companies in India; Nina E. Woodard, an American Human Resource consultant, and Andrew Kelly, chief patron of CMO Asia – a global network of top marketing decision makers.



## Report: ACUCA Management Conference 2017 October 19-22, 2017

### “Exploring the Relationship of Religion, Culture and Peace in Christian Higher Education”

About 60 ACUCA participants from member institutions joined 15 full-time participants and staff from Payap University in this year's Management Conference at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The conference organizers proposed the theme, “Exploring the Relationship of Religion, Culture and Peace in Christian Higher Education,” which is a focus developed in several ways at Payap University. Organization of the conference was undertaken jointly by the ACUCA executive committee, a conference taskforce of Payap University, Payap's Institute for Religion, Culture and Peace (IRCP), and the Christian Communications Institute (CCI) of Payap. Housing for conference participants was arranged at the Empress Hotel and Conference Center in Chiang Mai. The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia provided scholarships for 10 participants, and sent three staff members to observe and participate.

As participants arrived, there was a welcome dinner at the hotel on Thursday evening, October 19. The conference theme was introduced right away with performances by the CCI which used Thai cultural forms to convey a warm Christian welcome to participants from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Indonesia and India.



The conference was opened formally with worship in the Henry Luce Chapel on Payap's main campus on Friday morning. Worship services for the conference were led by Dr. Sathanun Boonyakiat, Dean of the McGilvary College of Divinity of Payap University, assisted by musicians from the seminary and the College of Music. Dr. Amnuay Tapingkae, former President of Payap, one of the founders of ACUCA and a former President of the association, brought a homily that reflected on the unique tasks of Christian higher education. Dr. Sompan Wongdee, immediate Past-president of Payap, and President of ACUCA greeted the participants, and then Dr. Rux Prompalit, current president of Payap welcomed everyone.

The conference program continued with a keynote address by Dr. Suchart Setthamalee, head of Payap University's Department of Peace Studies (PhD program) in which he told movingly of “My Journey to the Road of Violence and Peacebuilding in Islam.” His timely emphasis was on how peace and non-violence are essential to Islam, and how he has found ways to promote those in Thailand.

The morning ended with a change of pace presentation by the Revs Allan and Joan Eubank and performers of the CCI directed by Suchinda Chaiagunsarakorn. Allan told how he had discovered ways to overcome resistance to traditional Thai folk arts, and how, for more than 30 years, Thai Folk Melodrama has been used to tell stories from the Bible. CCI then performed 3 scenes from their rendition of “The Story of the Prodigal Daughter.”

Throughout the afternoon, conference participants attended parallel sessions in which 14 presentations were made on observations and research conclusions about “Christian Higher Education” (how Christians are doing it), and “The Vital Role of Christian Educators in Multi-Religious Societies” (mostly about the roles of teachers and chaplains in promoting peace and mutual appreciation). The presentations were followed by short periods of questions and answers and the full papers were printed in the conference “Program and Proceedings” book.

The program on Saturday, October 21, began with a choral service of morning prayers led by the McGilvary College of Divinity choir. Four IRCP reporters then summarized the things they had heard from each of the four parallel sessions so that the salient ideas would be brought to everyone's attention.

After a refreshment break, participants from each country met with their colleagues to decide how to disseminate the values of the conference back in their home universities.

The 2017 conference ended with a report by the Rev. Dr. Esther Wakeman, General Secretary of ACUCA about new member institutions, the Student Mobility Scheme, and plans for the coming ACUCA General Assembly and Student Camp to be held in 2018, a year from now hosted by Christian University of Thailand. A closing worship service was the last formal event of the management conference.

After lunch, many of the delegates took a tour of Chiang Mai before heading back home from the Chiang Mai International Airport.

*Conference Report presented by Dr. Kenneth Dobson, Payap University.*

Texts from speakers and presenters are available on the ACUCA website, as well as albums of pictures taken by conference photographers at: <http://www.acuca.net/management-conference/2017-conference/>

**DAY 1 - ACUCA Management Conference 2017**

The ACUCA Management Conference 2017 was held at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, home of the current ACUCA President and Secretariat, during the period 19-21 October, 2017. The theme for this year's conference was "Exploring the Relationship of Religion, Culture, and Peace in Christian Higher Education." The three-day event commenced with the welcome dinner held at the Empress Hotel. The second day moved to the campus of Payap University where events included an Opening Worship Service in the university's Henry Luce Chapel, followed by conference activities in the university's

central library (Sirindhorn Learning Resource Center). Various keynote speeches, research/paper presentations, and cultural shows were included among the day's festivities. The evening included dinner at the famous Chinese restaurant in Chiang Mai called the Jia Tong Heng. The final day of the conference included additional presentations, country discussions, and the ACUCA Secretariat report provided by the General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Esther Wakeman. Afternoon field trips included visits to the Chiang Mai National Museum, local temple, and the Night Bazaar shopping district.



DAY 2 - ACUCA Management Conference 2017



DAY 3 - ACUCA Management Conference 2017





## Gratia Choir: International Pride of Soegijapranata Catholic University

As one of SCU's student association, Gratia Choir brought glory to university's name and to Indonesia by winning various medals in two international choir competitions held in Italy, Europe. This great news was reported by Gratia Choir to the SCU Rector, Prof. Dr. F Ridwan Sanjaya, MS., IEC and the Vice Rector for Student Affair, Dr. V Kristina Ananingsih, ST., M.Sc (Thursday, October 5th, 2017).



Under the guidance of Alfonso Andika Wiratma, the coach and the conductor of Gratia Choir, 30 students with their gold voices achieved 5 gold medals and 1 silver medal as well as 2 other special awards i.e. "2nd Place Grand Prix Competition" and "Best Performance of Song from Italian Composer". This prestigious achievement is not something that can be obtained without hard work, Gratia Choir had been practicing intensively for 7 months in order to defeat the other 12 competitors coming from various countries.

In Italy, Gratia Choir participated in 2 different competitions. The first was "Rimini International Choral Competition" held on September 21st – 24th, 2017 in Rimini. In this competition, Gratia Choir took part in 3 competition categories i.e. Sacred Choir, Mixed Choir and Folklore. Gratia performed Stated Angelus, Ave Maria, Gloria Patri and Domine Deus which brought them 1 silver medal in the Sacred category. As for Mixed category, Gratia performed Pange Lingua, Io Mi San Giovinetta, Mate Saule and Cantate Domino which brought them 2 gold medals. Lastly in Folklore category, Gratia performed various Indonesian traditional songs such as Ugo-Ugo, Hela Rotane, Luk-Luk Lumbu and Yamko Rambe Yamko.

### Advancing to the Grand Prix Competition

The second competition was "Andrea del Verrocchio International Choral Festival" held on September 26th – 29th, 2017 in Florence. Gratia Choir took part in Youth and University Choir, Folklore, and Sacred categories in this competition. Learning from the evaluations given on the previous performance, Gratia obtained an even bigger achievement here. They were awarded with 3 gold medals for those three categories and won the 1st place in the Youth and University Choir as well as in the Folklore categories. Gratia Choir were able to advance to the Grand Prix Competition due to those achievements and were given the "2nd Place Grand Prix Competition".

Rosalia Hapsari, a member of Gratia Choir mentioned that in the beginning she did not expect to be able to participate in this competition considering her schedule in the last study year. "This is such a precious moment for me and I am really grateful to be able to join this competition and even return with various awards before graduating from Soegijapranata Catholic University," said Rosalia.

St. Paul University, Philippines

## Japanese Embassy turns over Charcoal Briquetting Facilities to SPUP

The Embassy of Japan has formally turned over to St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP), on Aug. 14, 2017, the Clean and Green Non-Wood Charcoal Briquetting Facilities, it has funded, through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP-EOJ).

Mr. Kenji Terada, First Secretary and Agriculture Attaché, Embassy of Japan, ceremonially bequeathed the Symbolic Key of said facilities to Sr. Merceditas Ang, SPC, SPUP President, in the presence of representatives from the Embassy of Japan, St. Paul University Philippines, Municipality of San Jose, Baggao, Cagayan Valley, and the beneficiaries of said project.

The turn-over ceremony was held at the Science Agri-Based Entrepreneurial High School (SABEHS), an agri-business high school, under St. Paul University, located in San Jose, Baggao, Cagayan Valley, where the charcoal briquetting facilities have been set up. The SABEHS students are involved in the production of the green charcoal production, as part of their training.



Mr. Kenji Terada, turning over the Charcoal Briquetting Facilities to Sr. Merceditas Ang, St. Paul University Philippines.

The Clean and Green Non-Wood Charcoal Project started in 2011, initiated by Ms. Perla Manapol, SPUP Adviser on Clean and Green Energy, based in USA. The project consists in the production of non-wood-sourced cooking fuel, the "green charcoal" coming from corn cobs that are carbonized with corn paste, poured into a briquette molder to produce briquettes, as non-wood, alternative cooking fuel. The charcoal briquettes are economical, environment-friendly, affordable to low-income households.

For mass production of the briquette-charcoals, Ms. Manapol was able to secure funding from the Grants for Grassroots and Human Security Project from the Embassy of Japan (GGP-EOJ), consisting of the following facilities: 1) grinding machine to carbonize corn cobs; 2) charcoal fines mixer to produce charcoal briquettes; 3) charcoal briquettes; 4) Elf-Truck for hauling raw materials, and for delivery of charcoal-finished products, and 5) concrete one-story building to house the charcoal briquetting facilities.



## The ASEACCU 25th Conference on “Catholic Universities and Inclusive Education: Transforming Spaces, Promoting Practices, Changing Minds”

Assumption University of Thailand hosted the ASEACCU 25th Conference on “Catholic Universities and Inclusive Education: Transforming Spaces, Promoting Practices, Changing Minds,” between August 21 and 27, 2017 at the Suvaranbhumi campus.

The student camp for seventy four students from ASEACCU institutions, commenced on the evening of August 21, 2017 with dinner and icebreaking activities.



On August 22, 2017 the student campers visited the Father Ray Foundation on the outskirts of Pattaya city, Chonburi province to gain a firsthand exposure to the spaces and practices carried out by the Redemptorist mission for physically handicapped and specially challenged children who are typically abandoned by parents who are either too poor or ashamed to care for such children. A student participant, moved to tears admitted that she was challenged as never before to reach out and understand the children at the Father Ray Foundation, while another student conceded that she saw the kids as energetic and talented, irrespective of their physical or mental limitations. The expert lecture given by Prof. Wiriya Namsiripongpan at the King Solomon student activities room at the Suvaranbhumi campus, the morning of August 23, 2017 clearly proved to the students that human faculty limitations has nothing to do with confidence and optimism in life. The post-lunch session on August 23, 2017 was a half day workshop with nine volunteer students simulating either physical or mental challenges, being led on a campus tour, aided and facilitated by groups of student campers. The camp activity on August 24, 2017 morning involved a workshop session on conceptualizing the student presentations for August 26, 2017 using the “Tree of Life” conceptual construct.

The student campers joined the Presidents and staff from their respective institutions for the Conference activities on August 24, 25 and 26, 2017. The conference itself ended with a lively session “reflections and conversations with students” at which the students shone forth in brilliance and vivacity with their presentations at 11 am on August 26, 2017. The outcome from the student camp was an innovative social media campaign to show solidarity with less gifted students.

The second major activity of the 25th Conference was the first ever Campus Ministry workshop. The campus ministers, 31 in all from ASEACCU member institutions were hosted to vivacious and thought-provoking sharing motivated by Rev. Brother Amnuay Yoonprayong. Most certainly, networking resulted from open and committed sharing among all the campus ministers at the workshop.

The ASEACCU Executive Board met on the morning of August 24, 2017 at the Brother Martin’s Collection, the Cathedral of Learning, Assumption University Suvaranbhumi campus, to follow up on matters discussed at the April 24-26, 2017 Executive Board meeting at Boracay Island, and to pre-view arrangements for the 25th ASEACCU Conference.

Organized with the theme “Catholic Universities and Inclusive Education: Transforming Spaces, Promoting Practices, Changing Minds,” the 25th ASEACCU Conference, began with a solemn Holy Eucharistic Con-celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Herminio Dagohoy,

O.P. Rector Magnificus of the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, the Philippines and Executive Secretary of ASEACCU at the ornate Chapel of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. The Assumption University Chorus Group rendered resplendent hymns at the Mass. The Holy Mass was followed by a brief conference opening and awards ceremony honoring the ASEACCU Founding institutions – Fu Jen University, Taiwan, Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan, Ateneo de Manila University, the Philippines and Assumption University of Thailand. The opening dinner was held at the Foyer of the John XXIII Conference Center and featured a Thai classical dance and light music courtesy of the Assumption University Faculty of Music. The second day of the conference, August 25, 2017, was launched with the con-celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Bishop Siripong Silvio Charatsri, representing the Catholic Bishops Conference of Thailand. Prayers were offered for the repose of the Soul of Rev. Fr. Daniel Ross, the prime motivator for the setting up of ASEACCU, who has passed away in July 2017 in Taiwan. The two keynote sessions were indeed thought provoking with Rev. Fr. Joseph Maier and Professor Dr. Dianne Chambers illustrated the definition of Inclusive Education through her vast and unenviable research and workshop experiences in Australia and across Asia. The afternoon sessions of the conference involved resource presentations from Sophia University, Japan and The Catholic University of South Korea, Seoul. At the ASEACCU Business meeting the minutes of the report for 2016-2017 ASEACCU Activities was considered, accounts presented and the proposals to the ASEACCU Bye Laws were vetted. Assumption University (through Rev. Brother Prathip Martin Komolmas and Glen Chatelier) contributed a token amount of US \$ 100 to set up the Daniel Ross ASEACCU Research Fund for the Support of Research in Social Sciences among the ASEACCU members. At the evening dinner, a multicultural display of talents among students and professors redefined ASEACCU as God’s one family built through the diversity of cultures, customs and traditions. The third day of the conference got off to a start with a Holy Mass concelebrated by Rev. Brother Amnuay Yoonprayong and priests from ASEACCU member institutions. The morning resource presentations were equally informative about the implementations of Inclusive Education agendas in the LaSalle Benilde Philippines and the Atma Jaya University, Jakarta, Indonesia. The cultural components of the conference involved a visit to the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall in the heart of Bangkok city where Faculty, staff and students experienced some the finest and decorative of Thai Royal artifacts. The Siam Niramit dinner and cultural extravaganza was indeed a fitting way for the conference to come to a close. The 25th ASEACCU Conference proved to be one in which the largest number of participants attended, and included an observer from the Church in Myanmar courtesy of the goodwill of His Eminence Cardinal Charles Muang Bo. In all ninety nine faculty and staff, thirty one campus ministers and seventy four students from forty seven institutions in nine countries, attended the conference which indeed turned out to be memorable.



Article prepared and submitted by Glen Chatelier, Assumption University

## Soochow Ultra-marathon Reaches New Heights

### Seven Runners Qualifying the Event for IAU Gold Label Marathon

On December 2nd and 3rd, 2017, the world renowned Soochow International 24hr Ultra-marathon entered its 17th and best year, with seven ultra-runners completing outstanding records, qualifying the event for IAU Gold Label Marathon, the third time since the race first began in 1999, and the only one so far in the world to be awarded such honor in 2017.

Former ROC President Ma Ying-Jeou recounted his participation in the Soochow Ultra-marathons since 1999. He quoted Yiqi Mei, former President of National Tsing Hua University, "what a university needs is not great buildings, but great people", to explain how Soochow managed to put on such a large scale event despite the small campus. He found it admirable and heartwarming that everyone worked so diligently to overcome hardships and make the event a success. Soochow University President Wei-Ta Pan added, "Every step in the preparation is a challenge in itself. But with the spirit of ultra-marathoners, we tried our best and kept moving forward." He shared his hope that people around the world will be able to witness this spirit in Soochow University faculty, and students as well.



*A great start in the Soochow Ultra-marathon.*

Soochow's Ultra-marathon Ambassador, "Ultra-marathon Mom" Shu-Jung Chiu, once named the fastest female runner in Asia, accompanied by President Ma and President Pan, walked the first lap of the 30 minute celebrity race to cheer on the runners. President Ma took part in the 30 minutes run for ALS patients to gather support, to encourage everybody to constantly challenge themselves, and to create meaning in life. Baseball stars from the ChinaTrust Brothers Club ran with Malaysian Cerebral Palsy runner Cheng Zhee Long. Visually-impaired Chinese major Po-Hung Shen ran the 30 minute race for the first time with two invited fellow visually-impaired students; Law major Shih-Peng Wang, and English major Shao-Ching Hsieh. They were the showcase of positive attitude toward life which touched and encouraged all the other runners.

*"Ultra-marathon Mom" Shu-Jung Chiu circles the field to cheer on the runners.*



*Photo from L-R: Former ROC President Ma Ying-Jeou, Shu-Jung Chiu, and Soochow University President Wei-Ta Pan.*

Yoshihiko Ishikawa from Japan finished first with 266.938 kilometers. Toshiro Naraki, also from Japan, took second place with 261.605 kilometers. France's Stéphane Ruel came in third at 259.178 kilometers. Courtney Dauwalter from the USA was the champion in female race with 256.405km. The three together with Poland's Andrew Radzikowski 245.180km, Hungary's Tamas Rudolf 241.699km, as well as the UK's Dan Lawson 241.205km all completed more than 240 kilometers, enabling this year's race to Gold Label designation.

In order for a 24 hour ultra-marathon to qualify as a Gold Label Race under the International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) guidelines, at least five runners have to meet the set criterion, which is at least 220 kilometers for those in the women's division and a minimum of 240 kilometers for those in the men's division. This year's Soochow Ultra-marathon breaks Gold Label Race records with six in the men's division and one in the women's division.

Soegijapranata Catholic University, Indonesia

## Soegijapranata Catholic University Welcome the Visiting Students from Phillipines

Soegijapranata Catholic University welcomed the visit of ten foreign students accompanied by one lecturer coming from University of San Carlos Cebu City, Philippines (October 15th, 2017). This visit was a form of realization for faculty mobility and student mobility agreement in the MoU between Soegijapranata Catholic University and University of San Carlos Cebu City, Philippines which was signed in 2015.



On this occasion, the group was welcomed by the Vice Rector of SCU for Academic Affairs, Dra. Cecilia Titek Murniati, MA., PhD, and Vice Rector for Cooperation and Development, B. Danang Setianto, SH., LL.M.,MIL.

The Vice Rector of SCU for Cooperation and Development, Beni Danang Setianto, explained that this visit was a follow up for the faculty and student mobility agreement between these two universities. However, this visit progressed to the next stage when University of San Carlos required their students to have an experience of international exposure. In this occasion, visiting students were from the Faculty of Business and Economics, hence, giving an opportunity for SCU Faculty of Business and Economics to accompany their visit. "Visiting students from University of San Carlos will be participating in two activities i.e. introduction of Semarang / Indonesian culture and excursion to several factories as well as small-medium enterprises in correspondence with their study of Business Administration," said Beni.

Another lecturer from SCU Faculty of Business and Economics, Devitia Putri Nilamsari, SE., M.Si, added "The visit will be carried out for one week and in this period they will be arranged to go to a cultural tourism site such as Borobudur and also to do company visit."

Meanwhile, a student of SCU Faculty of Business and Economics, Maria Chatarina Laras, who were the Liaison Officer (LO) for this student visit mentioned "The visit will be conducted from October 15th to October 22nd . Personally, I feel really glad as last February, me and other students from SCU Faculty of Business and Economics visited their university, this time is their turn visiting our university."

### Upcoming ACUCA Events:

- **Biennial General Assembly and Conference (October 11-14, 2018)**  
- to be held at Christian University, Nakorn Pathom, Thailand
- **ACUCA Student Camp (October 10-14, 2018)**

For more details and to keep up-to-date visit the ACUCA website at [www.acuca.net](http://www.acuca.net)

**ACUCA NEWS** is published by the Secretariat of ACUCA. It is published primarily for circulation among member institutions. Hence, contributions from members are most welcome. Organizations and scholars interested in obtaining a copy may contact: [secretariat@acuca.net](mailto:secretariat@acuca.net).

ACUCA  
Officers and Executive Committee  
Members 2017-2018

#### President

DR. RUX PROMPALIT, Ph.D.  
Payap University  
Thailand

#### Vice president

DR. BEN S. MALAYANG III  
Silliman University  
Philippines

#### Treasurer

PROF. ROLAND T. CHIN  
Hong Kong Baptist University  
Hong Kong

#### Board Members

DR. CHRISTIANNA SINGH  
Lady Doak College  
India

DR. OLGA CATHERINA PATTIP-  
AWAEJ  
Maranatha Christian University  
Indonesia

PROF. YASUO MATSUBARA  
Meiji Gakuin University  
Japan

PRESIDENT CHUAN YI TANG  
Providence University  
Taiwan

#### General Secretary

REV. ESTHER WAKEMAN, Ph.D.  
Payap University  
Thailand

#### Editor's Notes

Payap University, Thailand, serves as the ACUCA Secretariat for 2017 to 2018. For contacts, you can address your e-mails to [secretariat@acuca.net](mailto:secretariat@acuca.net). Two 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 ([secretariat@acuca.net](mailto:secretariat@acuca.net)).