

## ATA, ICETE and Global Theological Community

Dr. Joseph Shao, ATA General Secretary



ATA delegates at ICETE Consultation in Antalya, Turkey

**W**e thank God for giving us the Asia Theological Association (ATA). With an active Board and able staff, ATA continues to grow. We now have 285 members in 34 nations. We are preparing for our upcoming Triennial General Assembly in Seoul, Korea scheduled on July 25-29, 2016. As a theological association, ATA provides various services such as accreditation, leadership training, and publication. With a slogan "training Asians in Asia," ATA oversees Asia Graduate School of Theology (AGST) in various countries through AGST Council. As members of both CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) and Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), we are obligated to ensure that work in accreditation is of quality. With our focus deeply rooted in the Word, ATA continues to grow under God's

grace and mercy. We are seeing God's abundant blessings in the growth of churches and seminaries in Asia and beyond Asia.

ATA is one of the nine evangelical theological associations from the global evangelical theological community that forms International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE). Global Evangelical seminaries have come of age as we are engaged in the world through our theological input. ICETE is a global community that enables international interaction and collaboration among all those concerned for the enhancement of evangelical theological educational worldwide. With nine theological associations, ICETE covers the whole world in languages, and also in geography.

ATA, on our part, encompasses a huge geographical region from West Asia such as Israel and Jordan to Asia (South Asia, Southeast Asia, North East Asia), and to Asia Pacific Islands. Member schools of ATA also use various national languages. With diaspora, there are many Asian schools in various continents.

On November 6 to 11, 2016, 393 theological educators from 73 nations gathered in Antalya, Turkey to join the ICETE's 2015 International Consultation with a theme "Engaged and Effective: Impact of Theological Education." It is possible to measure the impact of theological education on Church and society. Through the generosity of Oversea Council Australia and Oversea Council USA, eleven theological schools were selected to come together for consultation with key advisers to guide them through the assessment process. The assessment is research-based, so that the facts will be more accurate in the process. By interviewing the stakeholders of their own school, each of them definitely will change the hidden and written curriculum of their training ministry. In Asia, three schools were selected for the assessment project. These were South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS, India), Asian Theological Seminary (ATS, Philippines), and Biblical Seminary of the Philippines (BSOP, Philippines). At

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this Consultation, members of ATA are well represented. As an association, we have the most number of participants at the said gathering.

The focus of this year's Consultation is about research-based assessment. Various plenary speakers were asked to present papers with different models of assessment. In the afternoon, workshops on various topics were conducted. Schools representatives presented their project as a case study in the plenary session. The presidents and deans of the eleven schools gathered together for a final debriefing on what they can learn through this assessment projects.

At the gathering, we see many friendships being established. Old acquaintances are renewed. Seminary leaders of the global south and global north are able to sit down together to discuss many issues related to theological education. By sharing of significant information, we strengthen not only theological education in its governance, but also services that can be rendered to schools. The impact of such gathering does not end at the consultation. With exchanging of business cards, and addresses of email given, definitely more interactions among theological educators will continue. ■

## AGST-Pacific Holds its Board Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii



The Asia Graduate School of Theology-Pacific held this year's Board meeting at the AGST-Pacific office in Honolulu. It was participated by Drs. Hyung-Yong Park (Chairman), Young-Ook Kim (ACTS President), Heung-Ho Chong (Secretary, ACTS Dean of Graduate School) with three other members from Hawaii: Dr. Bong Rin Ro (Dean), Dr. Andrew Cho (Honolulu Korean Presbyterian Church), and Elder Daniel Lee (Eden Church). The board discussed the AGST-Pacific Intercultural Studies program (M.A., Th.M., and D.Min.) in Honolulu which offers three courses from August 17 to December 11, 2015. They also discussed programs in other Asian nations for the training of Korean missionaries and national church leaders. AGST-Pacific is registered in the State of Hawaii by replacing Hawaii Theological Seminary which has trained over 1,000 students since 1971. Some 20 Korean pastors and lay leaders enjoyed a light dinner held at the AGST-Pacific lecture hall after which there was a presentation of AGST-Pacific missions program in Honolulu. ■

**2016 ATA Triennial General Assembly**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**See you at Chongshin University and Seminary, South Korea on July 25-29, 2016!**

**Registration details will be announced later.**

The image shows a large group of people, including men and women, gathered for a group photo. They are standing in front of a building. The text "2016 ATA Triennial General Assembly" is overlaid on the image. To the right, there is a red box with the text "SAVE THE DATE". Below the image, there is a green box with the text "See you at Chongshin University and Seminary, South Korea on July 25-29, 2016!". At the bottom, there is a yellow box with the text "Registration details will be announced later.".

## ATA Accreditation Team Visits Member Schools in Singapore

### Asian Pastoral Institute Limited



Faculty and staff of API Limited

On October 19-21, 2015, Asian Pastoral Institute (API) Limited was visited by Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary

of CAED; Dr. Rahmiati Tanudjaja, Head of Missions Department, Southeast Asian Bible Seminary (SEABS), Indonesia; and Dr. Allan G. Harkness, Dean of AGST Alliance.

The API, a church-based theological institution, began in 1999 as a training arm of The Tabernacle Church and Missions Ltd. The institution offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Pastoral Studies. On May 5, 2015, API is registered as Asian Pastoral Institute Ltd. to operate independently from The Tabernacle Church and Missions Ltd. Dr. David Jeremiah Seah

is the Founder and President of API since its beginning.

The institution exists to train lay ministers or professionals for churches and Christian organizations in Singapore and developing countries in Asia. API is dedicated to prepare the people of God to submit to the authority of Scriptures, to act in the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and to serve with sensitivity to Asian culture. It is committed to train leaders who are committed to our Lord Jesus Christ in the biblical way of life of obedience, submission, commitment, faithfulness, humility, accountability, and mutuality. API offers Certificate in Pastoral Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies, and Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. ■

### East Asia School of Theology



The East Asia School of Theology (EAST) in Singapore was visited by VET consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of CAED;

Dr. Samuel Sidjabat, Principal, Sekolah Tinggi Alkitab Tiranus, Bandung, Indonesia; and Dr. Luke Cheung, Vice President, China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong on October 29-31, 2015. Dr. Cheung also visited the extension center of EAST on October 14-16, 2015.

EAST is the theological seminary of Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) established in 1991 to "equip East Asian Cru leaders and other Christian leaders for ministry

in East Asia." Dedicated to its intention to serve the church in East Asia, EAST has launched the Bachelor of Arts (Christian Ministry) and Master of Arts (Christian Ministry) studies to equip pastors at the extension center located in East Asia outside Singapore in 2013. Rev. Chan Chong Hiok is the first resident President. The mission of EAST is to develop and equip Christian leaders for the fulfilment of the Great Commission in East Asia and around the world. EAST offers Graduate Diploma, Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Master of Divinity. ■

### ACTS College



ACTS College was visited on October 26-28, 2015 by ATA VET consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of CAED; Dr. Tony Lim, Vice Principal/Academic Dean, Malaysia Bible Seminary; and Dr. Samuel Sidjabat, Principal, Sekolah Tinggi Alkitab Tiranus.

ACTS College was established in 1977 as the Bible Institute of Singapore (BIS). It is the national training college of the Assemblies of

God (AG) of Singapore. BIS was renamed as the Assemblies of God Bible College (AGBC) in 1998. AGBC was incorporated as Ltd. Company in 2014 as ACTS College. Rev. Dr. Emily Tan is now the Interim President.

ACTS is a global learning community which emphasizes on developing Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and spirituality from a missional and contextual perspective. The school offers Diploma in Theology, Graduate Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology, Master of Theological Studies, and Master of Divinity. ■

### Asia Theological Association Seminar in partnership with ICETE and Langham

**Developing Research & Thinking Skills at Masters Level in Preparation for Doctoral Studies**



Facilitator:  
Dr. Ian Shaw  
Associate International Director,  
Langham Partnership

February 26-27, 2016  
South East Asia Bible Seminary,  
Malang, Indonesia

**REG.FEE:  
\$50.00**

#### Topics:

Developing Critical Thinking Skills  
Writing at Postgraduate Level  
Developing Research Questions

#### Who should attend?

Supervisors of Masters level research projects,  
current or future doctoral supervisors.

To register, go to: [www.ataasia.com](http://www.ataasia.com)

## VET Members Visit Schools in Taiwan

### Holy Light Theological Seminary



The Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA CAED Secretary; Dr. Clive Chin, Academic Dean, Singapore Bible College; and Dr. James Wu, Academic Dean

and Acting President, Methodist Graduate School of Theology, Taiwan visited Holy Light Theological Seminary (HLTS) in Kaoshiung, Taiwan on November 19-21, 2015.

HLTS belongs to the Free Methodist Church. It was established in 1955 through Rev. James H. Taylor, II. This year the institution celebrated its 60th anniversary. The school trains Christian ministers to correctly handle and preach the gospel of truth and lead believers to live a life of holiness. It also trains church leaders to work together with their pastors for effective church growth and

expansion. The school offers Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, Master of Arts in Christian Studies, and Master of Divinity. Aside from its academic degree programs, the seminary is also offering a non-degree program through its Continuing Education Centre. With around 500 attendees a year, the program serves as a bridge between the seminary and the churches.

HLTS is seeking for recognition from the Ministry of Education. To meet the government requirement, the seminary purchased 8.2 hectares of land located in Shanlin District which is about 44 km. away from the current campus. ■

### Methodist Graduate School of Theology

The Methodist Graduate School of Theology (MGST) was visited by VET consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of CAED; Dr. Chiu Eng Tan, Academic Dean, Biblical Seminary of the Philippines; and Rev. Dr. Stephen Oliver, Professor of New Testament, China Lutheran Seminary, Taiwan on November 23-25, 2015.

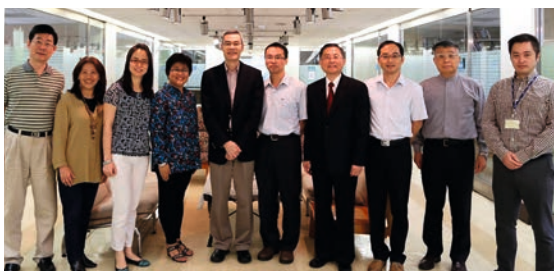
MGST officially started in 1999 to meet the need for theological education degree



programs for the Methodist Church in Taiwan. MGST is the only Methodist theological institution in Taiwan. The programs were reviewed and revised in 2011 to provide

a healthy balance to accomplish the vision and mission of MGST. Rooted in the Wesley traditions, MGST cultivates faithful Christian disciples who bring Christ's ministry to the world by means of the integrity of Christian living. The institution offers M.A. in Pastoral Counseling, M.A. in Ministry, M.A. in Theology, M.Div., and D.Min. ■

### China Evangelical Seminary



The VET consisting of Dr. Theresa Lua, Accreditation Secretary; Dr. Clive Chin, Academic Dean, Singapore Bible College; and Rev. Erwin Chen, Academic Dean, China Lutheran Seminary, Taiwan visited China Evangelical Seminary (CES) in Taipei, Taiwan on November 23-25, 2015. The institution started in 1970 with Rev. James H. Taylor, III, a missionary of Free Methodist Church as the first president. The current president, Dr. Lee-Chen Tsai, is the first female president of CES.

CES envisions its institution with its trained laborers to bring blessings to churches and transformation to society, as they venture out to the world with Christ's grace and truth. CES has been registered with the

Ministry of Interior but with the change in the government policy, it is now seeking recognition from the Ministry of Education. To meet the requirement by the Ministry of Education, a land was acquired at Ba-de City, Taoyuan. CES has established several extension centers in North America and East Asia. CES has been accredited by ATA since 2003. It offers Diploma in Christian Studies, Master of Theology, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Christian Studies, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry. CES is also offering TEE courses under the Extension Education to train lay people and serve the churches. Around 180 courses including on-line courses are being offered every year. ■

### China Lutheran Seminary



The China Lutheran Seminary (CLS) was visited by Visiting Evaluation Team consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of CAED; Dr. Chiu Eng Tan, Academic Dean, Biblical Seminary of the Philippines; and Dr. Samuel Chiow, Director of Advanced Studies, China Evangelical Seminary, Taiwan on November 26-29, 2015.

CLS was founded in 1966 by four Lutheran missions comprised of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Lutheran Brethren China Mission (USA), and Norway Lutheran Mission. Dr. Samuel Liu is the 13th and current President of CLS. China Lutheran Seminary is a community that inherits and transmits the Gospel of justification by faith. The institution offers B.A. in Theology, M.A. in Care and Counseling, Th.M. in Luther Studies, M.A. in Lay Ministry, Th.M. in Biblical Studies, M.Div. and D.Min. ■

## More VET Visits in Asia and the USA

### GETS Theological Seminary



The Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Joseph Shao, ATA General Secretary; Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA CAED Secretary; and Mr. Percy Deng, Overseas

Council Regional Director visited GETS Theological Seminary in Covina, California on September 28-30, 2015. Few days before this visit, Mr. Percy Deng visited the GETS centers in East Asia on September 16-22. Before proceeding to California, Dr. Theresa Lua visited the GETS centers in London and Paris on September 17-27.

Barcelona, Paris, London) and Moscow. In 2009 GETS branched out from GLEC with a separate board and faculty team and continued developing ministries in Asia and Europe. A new ministry was started in Madrid in 2013 and in Johannesburg in 2015. GETS has 18 full-time faculty and more than 40 adjunct faculty who teach in its various centers.

A major change in the institution is the move to build a permanent campus in the USA to provide an academic and research environment especially for post-graduate training. This year GETS relocated its office from El Monte to Covina. The school offers B.A. in Theology, M.A. in Theology, M.A. in Christian Studies, M.Div., D.Min., and Ph.D. ■

GETS Theological Seminary started as the Global Life Enrichment Centre (GLEC) in 1996. It focused on providing training to Chinese immigrants in Europe (Budapest, Rome,

### Global Mission Seminary

The VET consisting of Dr. Joseph Shao, ATA General Secretary; Dr. Theresa Lua, CAED Secretary; and Mr. Percy Deng, Overseas Council Regional Director visited Global Mission Seminary (GMS) in Irvine, California on October 1-3, 2015. Several days after this visit, Mr. Percy Deng visited the GMS centers in Moscow on October 12-17. An earlier VET visit was made in Yangon Campus in Myanmar last July 28, 2015 by Rev. San Cung Nung, President of Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST) and Dr. CK Hrang Tiam, Academic Dean of MEGST.

Global Life Enrichment Centre (GLEC) established GMS as its education arm. GLEC started its training ministry in 2002 to help address shortage of pastors in the mission

fields. It was formerly known as Global Enrichment Theological Seminary (GETS) with focus in Eastern Europe and has four campuses at different times. In 2009 GETS branched out from GLEC due to different ministry directions. The parting of ways was done amicably. GETS took over the training programs in Italy, France, Spain, Germany, and England. GMS kept the training programs in Russia and Myanmar. GLEC redefined its goals and changed the name of its training arm to Global Mission Seminary in 2013. The two seminaries have their own mission focus and maintain a good relationship.

GMS has four campuses in Russia and Myanmar namely, Moscow, Yekaterinburg,



Blagoveshshensk, and Yangon. GMS offers Certificate in Lay Ministry, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Master of Arts in Christian Studies, and Bachelor of Arts in Theology. ■

### Asia LIFE University



The Asia LIFE University (ALU) was visited by VET consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of CAED; Rev. Dr. Kyung Chul Lim, Professor of Missiology and

Leadership, Graduate School of Theology, Chongshin Theological Seminary, Korea; and Dr. Jonathan Ro, Associate Director for D.Min., GETS Theological Seminary, USA on November 3-5, 2015.

Asia LIFE University was founded in 1972 as the Korean Foursquare Bible College. In 1997 the institution changed its name to Asia LIFE University. ALU is affiliated with the Church of the Foursquare Gospel in Korea. ALU is a member of the Korea Evangelical Theological Society and the Korean

Association of Independent Churches and Missions. It has a five-fold mission: (1) Pre-service Training is the ministerial education through the various ALU study programs to prepare those that desire to be in practical ministry; (2) In-service Training is the focus on educating pastors and Christian leaders who are in ministry to know the Pentecostal way of ministry and mission; (3) International Leadership Training is equipping international leaders with Pentecostal Theology and ministry; (4) Training Korean Missionaries who are abroad in various mission fields; and (5) Developing Pentecostal is ALU's intention to promote Pentecostal theology. ALU offers B.A. in Theology, M.A. in Theology, M.Div., and Ph.D. ■

## College of Christian Theology Bangladesh



The VET consisting of Dr. Graham Aylett, CAED Coordinator for Central Asia; Dr. Bal Krishna Sharma, Principal of the Nepal Theological College, Kathmandu; and Mr. Anwarul Azad, Director of the Institute for Classical Languages, Bangladesh visited the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh (CCTB) on November 23-25, 2015.

The College of Christian Theology Bangladesh was established on July 25, 1968 by

representatives from sixteen national church bodies and mission bodies. CCTB thus became the first interdenominational theological training institute in the country. The College was based in Dhaka and moved to a number of locations before settling in Savar in 1984. The first courses offered were at Certificate level, followed by Diploma level courses. These courses were taught in two weekly or monthly seminars. To meet the needs of the growing churches, the

Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program began in 1976. Since then, more than four thousand five hundred students from different denominations have studied in the program. The first national Principal was Rev. Dr. Simon Sircar, who led CCTB from 1985-2006. In 1992 a ten-month residential component was added to the section studied through TEE, creating a mixed-delivery B.Th. program. This program was first accredited by ATA in 1997. In 2005 an M.A. in Christian Studies was added in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Theology, Bangalore, India. The mission of CCTB is to equip men and women through theological training, mentoring, and practical ministry to be servant leaders and scholar saints acting as salt and light amongst their communities. CCTB offers Bachelor of Theology and Master of Arts in Christian Studies. ■

## A Time of Thanksgiving

By Dr. Rico Villanueva, Asia Bible Commentary, General Editor

As a spillover of Thanksgiving Day, I recently received an email from an acquaintance, telling me how thankful he is of the blessings God has given to him, including people he has met, which includes me. That was Thanksgiving Day. How wonderful it is to have a day just devoted for thanksgiving. In the Philippines, we do not have a Thanksgiving holiday like they do in the USA, but would it be wonderful from time to time to just pause and thank God for all His wonderful blessings? The good news is that we do not need to have an official day to be thankful. We are grateful to the Lord for the way he has been guiding and blessing the projects of the ATA Publications, particularly the Asia Bible Commentary series project. Asbury

Theological Seminary's partnership with ATA has enabled one of our writers to focus on writing. Here is his reflection: "I am thankful for the opportunity to go to Asbury Theological Seminary (Wilmore, Kentucky) for ten weeks to do research for my work on Matthew for the Asia Bible Commentary (ABC). Wilmore is a small but peaceful city, and with the good collection of materials available at Asbury Seminary and Asbury University, the environment is very conducive for doing research and writing. This extended period of being away from ministry allowed me to focus on my work for the ABC. Being away from my family is the difficult part, but it is a good thing that there are various ways of communication available today. Now that I am back to work and back with my family, I can only be thankful for this brief period that I could give my full attention for the ABC." – Samson Uytanlet, Ph.D. in New Testament, London School of Theology, UK.

be launched during the ATA Triennial General Assembly in Seoul Korea. This is in partnership with Langham International who will be publishing the commentaries.

Next year, we are also launching two monographs on Christology. The first one is in partnership with one of the ATA institutions – Koinonia Theological Seminary in Davao, Philippines. The book will feature the papers/articles presented during the historic First Mindanao Theological Forum. What "faces" of Christ come out from a conversation between the Scriptures and our own context? This book will be a much needed resource for a contextual Christology. The second book will be devoted to a more international and historic perspective on Christology in the Asian context. Coming out of the ATA Theological Consultation in Korea, the papers come from different evangelical theologians in Asia.

There remains a great need for Christian theologians to continue to develop resources for the church in Asia. We are privileged to have this opportunity to contribute in our own way towards meeting this need. Please do remember to pray for the writers for the remaining volumes of the ABC (about 30 writers in all). May our Lord continue to grant wisdom, provide for their needs, protect them from the evil one, and enable them to accomplish their important role as writers for the Kingdom. ■

The Lord has gifted ATA with writers who are not only good academically but have a pastoral heart; people with a gift for communicating the message of Scriptures for the churches in Asia. We are excited that three of the commentaries will be coming out next year in July. The commentaries on Psalms 1-72, Judges, and Epistles of John will

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