

ATA Theological Consultation in Korea Proclaims the Lordship of Christ in the 21st Century Asian Context



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The 2014 ATA Theological Consultation on Christology was held at the Asia United Theological University (a.k.a. ACTS), Yang Pyung, South Korea from August 11 to 14 with the theme, "The Lordship of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century Asia." It was designed to acknowledge and proclaim the Lordship of Christ in the 21st century

Asian context. ATA Korea consisting of three universities and eight seminaries supported this year's consultation of ATA. ACTS hosted the conference as part of her 40th anniversary celebration. Also, it was particularly significant for her to serve ATA again in view of her active involvement in its founding years. There were 96 full-time participants

including some Korean commute participants. Besides, a number of overseas students of ACTS joined and served as observers and staff. The delegates represented 17 countries such as India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand,

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Dr. Young Ook Kim, ACTS President, welcoming all participants of ATA Theological Consultation



Dr. Chul Ha-Han, honorary President of ACTS and one of the pioneer leaders of ATA, giving benediction at the opening service



The participants discussing various issues and concerns about the papers presented by plenary speakers



Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and United States.

The Consultation started with an opening worship on the evening of August 11. Eight plenary papers and 24 interest group papers were presented during the next two days of the event. Every session was brimful of vigor with lively discussions, debating and sharing on various issues and concerns. Two morning devotions provided occasion for spiritual fellowship with the Lord and with others. A Korean buffet on the second night where participants feasted and engaged with one another was followed by a special performance of "Theo-Drama Imago." The Imago performance was expressed in various artistic means such as music, dance, mime, acting, design and media. Imago highlights the biblical-theological concepts from Genesis to Revelation (creation, fall, salvation, reconciliation, union). The Imago performing team is composed of ACTS International graduate students and Korean undergraduate students. After

the conference, 35 participants joined the Seoul city tour where they visited Nam San (Seoul) Tower, Gyeongbokgung Palace and Insa-dong Street where many Korean traditional shops are situated.

The 2014 ATA Theological Consultation on Christology has successfully served as an opportunity to strengthen the bond in Christ among theological educators in Asia. Despite the diverse contextual concern, disciplinary issues and approaches, most papers intended to achieve this goal, some explicitly others implicitly. ATA's evangelical and biblical theological stance was maintained throughout the conference and was reflected in the presented papers. However, there was an awareness that most writers heavily rely on the western scholars and rarely refer to other Asian authors. The future ATA theological consultation should promote more active interactions among Asian scholars in the actual papers presented so that the Asian theological works.

ATA Key Leaders Receive Qianbei Award in Hong Kong



Dr. Joseph Shao and Dr. Wilson Chow with the other Qianbei Award recipients

On August 19, 2014, the International Congress on Ethnic Chinese Biblical Scholars sponsored a special banquet in Hong Kong. This congress was a gathering of 100 ethnic Chinese biblical scholars from 18 nations for a three-day seminar from August 18-20, 2014 at ChungChi Divinity School of the Chinese University. It was initiated by many renowned scholars from U.S. and Europe. Ten awards were given at the banquet. Dr. Wilson Chow, who has served many years as a member of ATA Board and Dr. Joseph Shao, ATA General Secretary were honorees. In order to appreciate scholarly contribution, citation was read and a plaque of "Qianbei Award" (Senior Scholar) was given that night. The purpose of the award, according to the organizers, was to appreciate the honorees' scholarship. The award will also allow the younger generation to know that there are senior scholars who have plowed the field ahead of them. This is a great honor for ATA too, as our peers acknowledge the evangelical contribution to the Biblical scholarship!

The Lausanne Movement connects influencers and ideas for global mission. In early 2015, Lausanne will offer the first of its quarterly Lausanne Global Classrooms. Each Global Classroom will feature a selected panel of influencers who will highlight current thinking on global mission in a digital learning environment. In this online format, participants will have free access to premium content through Lausanne's Working Groups and the 36 Issue Networks, all of which is guided by the Lausanne Covenant, the Cape Town Commitment, and other key Lausanne statements on global mission. To learn more about Lausanne Global Classroom and how this new digitally-based initiative in global theological education can help those in your seminary contribute to the global church on missional issues of high significance, please contact Bobby Ryu at bryu@lausanne.org.

Passing the Baton — ATA India Chapter



Installation of Dr. Paul Cornelius as the new ATA Regional Secretary for India



Dr. Brian Wintle (outgoing Regional Secretary, ATA India) passing his leadership to Dr. Paul Cornelius

The ATA India Regional Chapter's Annual General Body Meetings at the Frontier Management Centre in Bangalore on July 30-31, 2014 was participated by about 75 ATA institutions. During this momentous event, Dr. Brian Wintle handed over charge to Dr. Paul Cornelius as the incoming ATA Regional Secretary. Dr. Joseph Shao, General Secretary of ATA International and Dr. Takanori Kobayashi, Chairman of ATA International attended these meetings.

In a special evening ceremony on July 30, Dr. Brian C. Wintle, the outgoing ATA India Regional Secretary was given a farewell. There were several who reminisced about the work of ATA in India and also recognized the valuable contributions of Dr. Brian Wintle to its growth. Dr. Paul Cornelius was also installed as the new Regional Secretary for India. Dr. Joseph Shao and Dr. Takanori Kobayashi gave him the charge, while Dr. Shekar Singh led him in a pledge of commitment. In a

symbolic gesture, Dr. Brian Wintle passed on a baton to Dr. Paul Cornelius as a reminder to continue to "run the race." We are grateful to God for Dr. Brian Wintle's unfaltering commitment to the work of ATA over these years and for the new leadership for India. Please continue to pray that God will extend ATA's ministry through Dr. Paul Cornelius and the ATA India staff.

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Visit to Harvest International Theological Seminary, Indonesia



The ATA Visiting Evaluation Team consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, ATA Associate Secretary for Accreditation and Educational Development (Singapore); Dr. Madeline Vega, Associate Professor, Asian Theological Seminary (Philippines); and Dr. Purnawan Tenibemas, Director of Doctoral Program, Sekolah Tinggi Alkitab Tiranus (Indonesia) visited Harvest International Theological Seminary (HITS) in Jakarta, Indonesia on August 20-22, 2014.

Harvest International Theological Seminary is an interdenominational seminary which began in January 1993 as the Education pillar of World Harvest (WH). World Harvest was established by the International Full Gospel Fellowship (IFGF) in 1985. It is an international humanitarian organization whose vision is "impacting the World through Creative Community, Education and Media Service."

HITS aims to become an excellent and foremost theological college in the field of Theology, Christian Education and Church Music with the result to produce transformative Christian leaders in churches and in society and to become one of the top ten theological colleges in Southeast Asia by 2030. It also prepares and builds excellent Godly leaders ready to serve in God's church, in organization and in society in the 21st century. It started with non-degree programs but gradually developed into a theological college offering undergraduate degrees in Theology, Christian Education and Church Music, graduate and postgraduate studies. Presently, the school offers Sarjana Teologi (S.Th.) in Theology, Sarjana Pendidikan Agama Kristen (S.PAK) in Christian Education, and Sarjana Musik Gereja (S. MG) in Church Music.

Visit to Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology



The Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Theresa R. Lua, ATA Accreditation Secretary (Philippines); Dr. George Capaque, Dean of Discipleship Training Center (Singapore); and Dr. Ram Khaw Lian, President of Myanmar Christian Institute visited Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST) in Yangon, Myanmar on September 8-10, 2014.

MEGST was established in 1996 by Myanmar Evangelical Fellowship (MEF) known before as the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Fellowship (MECF). MEGST "trains and equips Christians to be Christ-like leaders who will build up the church

and the nation of Myanmar and beyond." It serves as a resource center assisting the local churches to fulfill their biblical mandate.

Rev. Dr. Aung Mang was the founding principal and has served in that capacity for 17 years. In 2013 he stepped down as principal and has been appointed as the board chairman. Rev. San Cung Nung who has served as academic dean for seven years was appointed as the new principal.

MEGST has an aggressive faculty development program. With the help of its mission partners in New Zealand (Leadership Development International) and Australia (Overseas Council), MEGST was able to send local faculty for further studies abroad. Two of them already have their Ph.D. while six are currently pursuing Ph.D. studies in the Philippines, India, New Zealand, and Australia.

MEGST offers Master of Divinity in Theology, Master of Divinity in Biblical Studies, Master of Divinity in Pastoral Studies, Master of Divinity in Missiology, Master of Theology in Theology, and Master of Theology in Missiology.

Visit to Bethany Theological Seminary, Myanmar



The VET consisting of Dr. Theresa R. Lua, ATA Accreditation Secretary (Philippines), Dr. George Capaque, Dean of Discipleship Training Center (Singapore), and Dr. C.K. Hrang Tiam, Academic Dean of Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology visited Bethany Theological Seminary (BTS) in Yangon, Myanmar on September 11-13, 2014.

The mission of BTS is "to train and produce humble and dedicated spiritual leaders, theological educators, compassionate and passionate missionaries and evangelists, and effective Christian workers armed with academic excellence

and personal godliness through Bible-based programs.”

In the year 1996, Rev. Dr. Charles Tan (Senior Pastor of Bethany Independent Presbyterian Church, Singapore) and Rev. Dr. Pa Sang, (former President of Independent Presbyterian Church of Myanmar) caught a vision to begin Pastoral Institute in Yangon. However, the Lord enabled the leaders to broaden the capacity of that vision to Seminary level, which becomes now as Bethany Theological Seminary. Dr. Pa Sang has been its president from the beginning until now.

The BTS campus was built in December 1997 and was completed in November 1998. The three-story building can accommodate up to 150 students. The facilities include male and female dormitories and faculty housing. BTS is blessed to have a faithful and committed mission partner in Singapore that supports its ministry and other related ministries such as orphanages and church planting projects in different areas in Myanmar.

BTS became an Associate Member in 2009. It offers Bachelor of Theology (in English, Chin, and Burmese), and Master of Divinity but has applied for accreditation of the B.Th. English program only.

ATA Publications In Progress



ATA Publications Committee members met with some of our ABC writers during the ATA Theological Consultation in ACTS, Yang Pyung Campus, South Korea last August 12, 2014. It was good to have some time of fellowship with several of our writers.



Dr. Rico Villanueva, General Editor of ABC and Dr. Andrew Spurgeon, ATA Publications Chairman met with the writers of Ecclesiastes, Dr. Seree Lorgunpai and Dr. Sim Churnai in Bangkok, Thailand on July 7, 2014. Drs. Seree and Sim will try to interpret the book of Ecclesiastes in the context of Buddhism.

Good News!

Asbury Theological Seminary has agreed to support our ABC commentary series. They are offering six writers grants to enable some of our writers to spend between 3-6 months with free housing, full library access, and substantial amount for travel or expense assistance. We are grateful to the Lord and to Asbury for this partnership. We have sent guidelines to those interested in applying for this grant.

Partnership with Langham

We are excited over the prospect of partnership with Langham Partnership International. Once this pushes through all the commentaries which will be published will be made available worldwide including eBooks and all formats. Please pray for the Lord's guidance as we work out this partnership.

“The Books” Group

The team is doing initial planning for the One-volume Asian Theological Dictionary. We are now praying for editors for this important volume. Please pray for the Lord's guidance.

Journals

The latest issues of Journal of Asian Mission (JAM) and Journal of Asian Evangelical Theology (JAET) are now out. Some of the articles included were “The Challenge of Asian Biblical Interpretation Today,” “Canon, Community, and Interpretation in Buddhist Tradition,” and “Contextualization in Diaspora Missiology.” We hope to make these journals more available worldwide.

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