



ATA news

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ATA in the Global Scene

By Dr. Joseph Shao, ATA General Secretary



Theological education is an important force in reviving the churches. ATA, under the gracious leadership of the Lord, is making its impact. Blessed with expansive growth and access to rich resources in cooperative efforts, ATA already enjoys a membership of 282 in 32 nations.

Based in Asia, ATA is a servant-leader of theological schools. Asia, as the Majority World, is becoming very significant in terms of people, spirituality and resources. Churches are growing, but under strict scrutiny. The message of the cross is becoming more profound as the growing community of believing Christians face this operative context of persecution. Herein, our theological foundations are essential, rooted in the unchanging Word of God that prepares God's people to face this changing world!

International Recognition

ATA is registered in the Philippines as a non-profit organization. From its founding

year in 1970, we thank God for providing us with faithful colleagues who work for God's honor and glory. With a united and proactive Board and staff, we praise God for some of the opportunities we have.

Quality Assurance. At the founding stage of ATA, accreditation is the key word to bring our theological colleges and seminaries into the level of excellence. Through the work of our previous General Secretaries, we have evolved from a staff-oriented evaluation team to a mixture of staff, peer and national representatives in our Visiting Evaluation Team (VET). With the creation of Commission on Accreditation and Educational Development (CAED), the Commission through our Accreditation Secretary and VET carefully evaluates our schools. Schools are added today, embracing a common goal of excellence. Every five years, schools are revisited to ensure the quality of their theological education. The stakeholder studies enable us to face the challenge of the times.

In 2012, ATA became one of the founding members of CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG). In November 2014, ATA was fully accepted as member of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), a regional network of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). This means that when our members undergo a VET visit, the quality is further ensured with the standard that we uphold.

Literature Partnership. We thank God that ATA is intentional in producing literature for pastors and teachers through her publication of Asia Bible Commentaries (ABC) and other relevant publications. We are intentional in gathering Asian scholars for theological consultation, so as to produce quality publications that address relevant issues. All our publications not only cater to the needs of the Asian readers with its contextual theological content, but they also have become the voice of evangelical scholarship for the

Continued on page 2



Dr. Andrew Spurgeon, ATA Publications Chairman with Pieter Kwant, Langham Literature Director and Dr. Rico Villanueva, ATA Publications Secretary and ABC General Editor.



Dr. Rico represented ATA and Pieter Kwant signed on behalf of Langham International Partnership. Dr. Chris Wright, the International Ministries director of Langham Partnership and Mark Hunt, the executive director were present in the signing of Memorandum of Agreement.

series. Dr. Rico Villanueva, the ATA Publications Secretary and Pieter Kwant, Langham Literature Director signed the Memorandum of Agreement in San Diego, California. The ABC is the first multi-volume commentary written primarily by Asians who desire to understand and interpret the Bible from within their contexts for the Christian church in Asia and beyond. Dr. Bruce Nicholls started the project in 2000. For a long time the Bible has been interpreted mainly by our western brothers and sisters. With the emergence of the global church come the need for the biblical scholars and theologians in the Majority World to rise up and take the challenge of interpreting the Bible for their own people. This partnership not only empowers our Asian brothers and sisters in Asia to read and understand the Bible from within their own contexts; it also makes the ABC more accessible globally as Langham makes the volumes available in all formats, including e-book. We are grateful to the Lord for the leadership of Langham through its International Director Christopher Wright and to Dr. Joseph Shao, the ATA General Secretary and the ATA Board of Trustees for this milestone.

International Dialogue

Asia has become broader in opportunity and intentionality. With the migration of Asians, reflecting the global trends, more schools in other regions are joining ATA in leaps and bounds. Through the International Council of Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE), ATA spearheads joint VET visits with other evangelical theological associations. We are in communication with the leadership of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the U.S.A. and Canada.

With a growing, common theological challenge in Asia, the leadership of ATA joins the leadership of the Association of Theological Education of Southeast Asia (ATESEA) in the mutual recognition of degrees. We will soon join the Senate of Serampore in Calcutta, India for a discussion on the mutual recognition of degree in February 2015. ■

world. We have been supported for more than 10 years through ATA New Zealand for the needs of publication in recruiting and encouragement of our writers of ABC. ATA New Zealand has also been instrumental in supporting ATA by providing a fulltime Publication Secretary.

In June 2014, we have an understanding with Asbury Theological Seminary to encourage our Asian writers to spend 2-3 months of research related to our ABC, and also to interact with the prestigious, hardworking professors at Asbury. By virtue of interaction at the 2nd Lausanne Theological Consultation in San Paulo, Brazil in June 2014, we are hopeful that more North American schools will work with ATA through similar arrangement.

In November 2014, ATA and Langham Partnership signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to work together in publishing the Asia Bible Commentary (ABC)

APQN Approves ATA Membership Application

ATA has now been accepted as member of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN). APQN is an Asian network of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQA/AHE). The mission of APQN is "to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them."

ATA is grateful to Drs. Richard Hart and Theresa Lua for their hard work in completing the requirements for membership. The process of becoming part of APQN started in 2010 when Mr. Ben Pwee, then ATA Associate Secretary, represented ATA in the APQN Conference in Bangkok. Later that year, Drs. Joseph Shao and Theresa Lua visited the office of the previous APQN president based in Manila who encouraged ATA to apply for membership. But there was a change in APQN leadership and ATA's application submitted in 2012 did not prosper. Seeing the need to strengthen ties with APQN, Dr. Shao asked Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA Accreditation Secretary, to attend the APQN conference in Vietnam last March 2013. Dr. Lua took the chance to introduce ATA to the Vice President of APQN showing its membership with international quality networks such as International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) and the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) International Quality Group (CIQG).

APQN encouraged ATA to reapply. APQN members are accrediting agencies recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in their respective countries. Thus, it required proof of relationship with the CHED in the Philippines where ATA is legally registered. Dr. Lua sent a copy of the CHED recognition for AGST as a consortium of ATA accredited schools. She also pointed out that she and Dr. Shao have been appointed as members of the CHED Technical Committee for Christian Formation and included copy of the Certificate of Appointment as proof. On November 18, 2014 ATA was notified of its acceptance as member.

This membership with APQN brings greater credibility to ATA's work in the Asia-Pacific Region. In 2012 ATA became a founding member of CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG). CHEA includes all of the US Federal Department of Education recognized regional, national and professional accrediting associations. We thank the Lord that ATA is becoming better known in the global world of accreditation evaluation. To God be the glory! ■

Visit to East Asia Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea



work to start the school began in 2001. It joined partnership with the Pierson School of Theology in Pyeongtaek University (PU) in 2002 for a specific purpose of admitting foreign students. A brief historical background of PU is taken from its website:

“Pierson School of Theology maintains an interdenominational stance and is based upon the evangelical theology, in the founding spirit of Pierson Memorial Bible School established in 1912 in memory of Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Pierson, a promoter of the missionary movement in the 19th century.” The partnership between the Department of Theology, Pyeongtaek University and EATS is commended for their close collaboration in recruiting students, processing admission applications, providing financial aids, student care, curriculum development and others.

On September 2-3, 2014 East Asia Theological Seminary in Seoul (EATS) was visited by Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of Accreditation and Educational Development, ATA; Professor Hyun, Yung Hoon, Academic Dean, Goryo Theological Seminary, Korea; Dr. Bong Ro, Professor of Church History, Missions, Hawaii Theological Seminary, U.S.A. Dr. Jonathan Ro, Associate Director for D.Min., Global Enrichment Theological Seminary, U.S.A., participated as an observer.

EATS is an interdenominational seminary equipping Christian leaders for pastoral, educational and missionary ministries of the Chinese churches in East Asia. Preparatory

EATS is a member of The Korea World Mission Association (KWMA) and China Mission Association (CMA). The school offers Master of Arts (Theology) and Master of Divinity. ■

Visit to World Mission Theological Seminary, Korea

World Mission Theological Seminary (WMTS) was visited by Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of Accreditation and Educational Development, ATA; Rev. Dr. Kyung Chul Lim, Professor of Missiology and Leadership, Graduate School of Theology, Chong Shin Theological Seminary, Korea; and Dr. Bong Ro, Professor of Church History, Missions, Hawaii Theological Seminary, U.S.A. on September 4-5, 2014.



In 2003 Rev. Lee Kyu Wang founded WMTS with the help of David Kang (a missionary) and Go-International. Rev. Lee Kyu Wang has been the President of WMTS since 2003. WMTS is affiliated with the Suwon First Presbyterian Church and Rev. Lee Kyu Wang is the Senior Pastor. The school was established in response to the need for trained pastors for churches and professors for theological education institutions in East Asia. The purpose is to equip Chinese pastors, professors and missionaries in the Reformed theology and faith.

WMTS works in partnership with Cohen University in California, U.S.A. to confer the B.Th. degree. A brief description of the University is taken from its website: “Cohen University was founded and exists under the direct supervision of the Southwest Presbytery of the Bible Presbyterian Church in America (BPCA) to equip men and women for service in world missions. With mission fields closing to non-native workers, Cohen University believes a proper emphasis should be placed on training those who have a burden to reach their own people.” WMTS offers Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity. ■

Visit to Amanat Agung Theological Seminary, Indonesia



The Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA CAED Secretary; Dr. Graham Aylett, CAED Coordinator for Central Asia; and Dr. Rahmiati Tanudjaja, Academic Dean at South East Asia Bible Seminary (SEABS) visited Amanat Agung Theological Seminary (STTAA) in Jakarta, Indonesia from November 12-14, 2014.

Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Amanat Agung (STTAA) or the Great Commission Theological Seminary was founded as a result of the vision of the Church of Christ, Mangga Besar Congregation in Jakarta. This church subsequently became the Synod of a denomination called Gereja Kristus Yesus (GKY) or the Church of Christ Jesus. The decision to begin planning a new

theological seminary was made in 1993, and the plans became a reality when STTAA began operating in August 1997 at a campus in Green Ville, West Jakarta. STTAA moved to a purpose-built new campus at Kedoya Raya, also in West Jakarta, in 2007. The excellent facilities include faculty apartments and student dormitories. Dr. Andreas Himawan is currently serving as president.

STTAA is called to educate and equip believers to be effective full-time ministers to serve the Church and Christian institutions in this changing world. Although the GKY founded STTAA, and there is a close relationship, student places are available for other denominations. Developing the Resource Centre for Youth Ministry and publishing the Youth Ministry Journal is a

strategic initiative of STTAA for the present needs of the churches and the future needs of church leadership. It represents a major contribution to the service of the wider Indonesian public. It also serves the wider Christian community by hosting theological conferences and pastors' conferences in alternate years. STTAA offers Bachelor of Theology, Master of Divinity and Master of Theology. ■

For 2016 Enrollment

Torch Strategic Mission Scholarship (TSMS)

Torch Trinity Graduate University offers scholarships to **students from the Majority World for full-time study in Seoul, Korea.** Students must have an undergraduate degree and local ministry leadership experience to apply.



Why Torch Trinity? Our school is...

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- Master of Theology (ThM)*MDiv required



Visit to Central Bible College, Japan

The Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA CAED Secretary (Philippines); Dr. Calvin Chong, Associate Professor, Singapore Bible College (Singapore); and Dr. Yoshiki Saito, D.Min. Programme Director (AGST Japan) and Professor, Tokyo Biblical Seminary (Japan) visited Central Bible College in Tokyo, Japan on October 13-15, 2014.



The institution was established on March 15, 1949 when the Japan Assemblies of God made a resolution during its first General Assembly that a Bible School be established to train God's workers (clergy/ministers). It was first named Central Bible Institute but in 1976 the school's name was changed to Central Bible College (CBC). It is blessed with a beautiful campus in a prime location in Kamagome, Toshima-Ku Tokyo. The facilities include student dormitories. The primary purpose of Central Bible College is the formation of men and women for gospel ministry as Pentecostal pastors, evangelists, teachers, missionaries, administrators, and lay workers.

The school promotes, defends and practices the Pentecostal distinctive while maintaining a high standard of academic excellence.

CBC is actively listening to and responding to feedback from supporting churches and other stakeholders. According to its president, Dr. Koichi Kitano, the metaphor of the school as a mountain which people go to has been replaced with going out to where the people are. The effort to provide training to busy pastors and lay people through the i-class (Diploma program) is a good example of innovation and responsiveness to current needs. CBC offers Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity. ■

Visit to Tokyo Biblical Seminary



The VET consisting of Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA CAED Secretary (Philippines); Dr. Calvin Chong, Associate Professor Singapore Bible College (Singapore); and Dr. Masanori Kurasawa, former President and current Professor, Tokyo Christian University (Japan) visited Tokyo Biblical Seminary (TBS) in Tokyo, Japan on October 15-17, 2014.

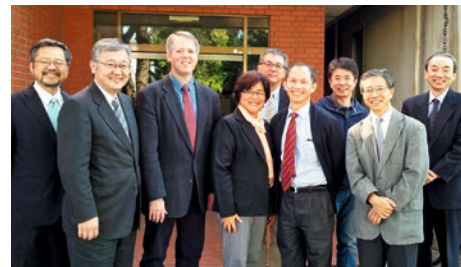
Tokyo Biblical Seminary started in 1901 jointly with what is now known as OMSI International (OMSI) but was closed down during World War II. The seminary was re-established in 1949 by the Japan Holiness Church (JHC) with the support of OMSI. In 1965 the seminary campus moved from Kashiwagi to the present location in a pleasant suburb in Tokyo. The ownership of the land and property has been transferred

from OMSI to JHC. The big facilities include faculty housing and student dormitories.

In 1985 the school's name was changed to Tokyo Biblical Seminary. TBS is Wesleyan-Arminian by faith and its purpose is to prepare dedicated people for the Lord in evangelism and pastoral work in Japan and overseas. It also prepares laypersons for service in the local church. Dr. Hiroshi Nishikori is the newly appointed president and Dr. Yoshiyuki Nishioka is the new academic dean. Most of the faculty members are also pastors who bring a wealth of ministry experience to their teaching. TBS offers Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity. ATA first granted accreditation to its B.Th. program in 1986 and the M.Div. program in 2004. ■

Visit to Asia Graduate School of Theology, Japan

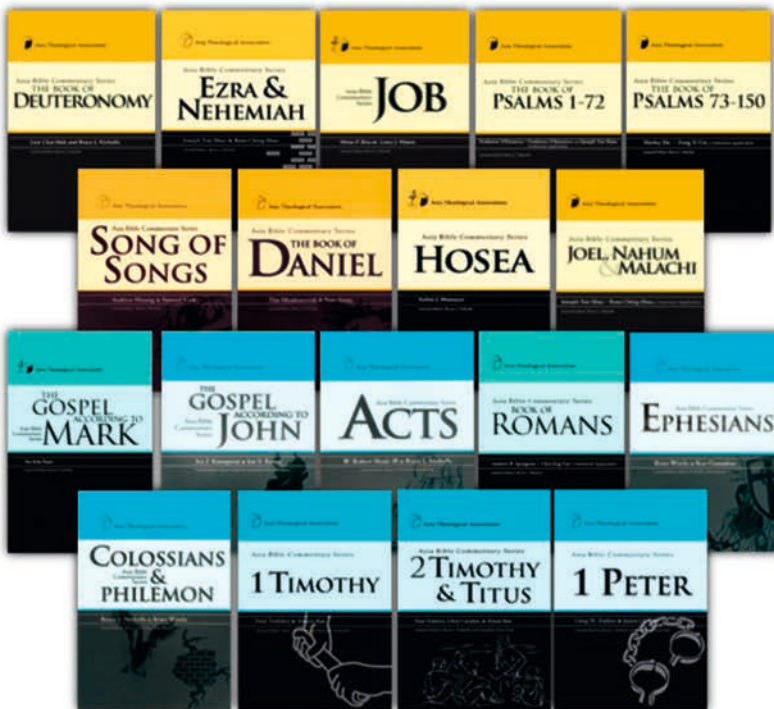
The VET consisting of Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA CAED Secretary (Philippines); Dr. Calvin Chong, Associate Professor, Singapore Bible College (Singapore); and Dr. J. Randall Short, Associate Professor, Tokyo Christian University (Japan) visited Asia Graduate School of Theology, Japan (AGST/J) on October 17-18, 2014.



AGST/J comprises a single graduate program that operates out of two centers: the West Study Center, which is based at Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary (KLTS), and the East Study Center, which is based at Tokyo Biblical Seminary (TBS). All AGST/J's students study part-time, with most of them involved in full-time ministry throughout their program. Nearly all of AGST/J's administrative officers and regular faculty members are also administrators and faculty members at ATA member and affiliate schools in Japan. However, majority are currently coming from KLTS and TBS. Dr. Makito Masaki, president of KLTS, is the current AGST/J Dean.

Students who enroll in a degree program at AGST/J do most of their coursework in only one of the two centers. Most courses are offered in both centers, though usually by different professors. On rare occasions students will travel to take a course offered by a particular professor in only one of the two centers. But despite a significant amount of overlap and duplication in courses and administrative work in the two centers, AGST/J is one school that serves and grants degrees to one student body that simply happens to be geographically separated from East (Tokyo area) to West (Kobe-Osaka area). Through collaboration and the pooling of resources, AGST/J is the only evangelical institution in Japan that offers the following degrees: Doctor of Ministry, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Theology. ■

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strengthening evangelical theological education through international cooperation