

Farewell, Dr. Takanori Kobayashi

A tribute to a visionary leader and great man of God



November 25, 2017, Chiba, Japan. Roughly a thousand people gathered in the large chapel of the Tokyo Christian University to bid their final farewell to Dr. Takanori Kobayashi in a joint funeral service by the Tokyo Christian University (TCU) and the Presbyterian Church in Japan, East Kanto Presbytery. Dr. Kobayashi went to be with the Lord last October 24, 2017, 9:30 pm (Japan time) after suffering from a heart attack on his way to preach at a church in Lomita, Los Angeles. He was in the U.S. for the re-accreditation visit to International Theological Seminary. The ATA General Secretary, Dr. Theresa Lua, who was also in LA to lead the visit, conveyed the sad news to the ATA community.

Known for his quiet demeanor and warm smile, Dr. Kobayashi was a visionary leader who was gentle yet firm in his ways. A blessing in all his spheres of influence, Dr. Kobayashi was undoubtedly a gift to ATA throughout the seven years he served with us. He first began his service with ATA as board member and as member of the Commission on Accreditation and Development (2010) and then he was

appointed as chairman in 2013 up until his demise. In all those years, never once did Dr. Kobayashi slack off in his diligence in carrying out his responsibilities, even as he was called to serve as the President of Tokyo Christian University, which was among the many ways he had served the university prior to that.

Indeed, we grieve the loss of a dear brother, colleague, and friend. Yet in his passing, he has left countless beautiful memories in the hearts and minds of many and these that follow are just some testimonies to that:

"Dr. Kobayashi, a quiet person but a man with a sincere heart to serve our LORD & His people. ATA was honoured to have him as Chairperson & Champion of Theological Education to train Asians to serve Asia & beyond....Will miss his gentleness yet firm[ness] in carrying out his duties." -Dr. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of Accreditation and Educational Development, ATA.

"To us in the ATA, Dr. Takanori Kobayashi was an esteemed colleague, a humble, godly and great man of God, a beacon of light in seeking the cooperation and unity of individuals, churches, and colleges of Asia for the sake of the Kingdom of God. He will be greatly missed. Yet he now joins that great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1) who cheer us on in the walk of faith, and that group of whom we are all urged "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7). I like the way we are not urged to try to imitate Dr Kobayashi's life, for who could imitate such a great and worthy life, but rather, we are called more simply and humbly to imitate his faith." -Dr Rick Weymouth, member, ATA CAED, Academic Consultant, e-Learning Director, PTEE (Jordan)

"I am greatly saddened [by] Dr. Kobayashi's

sudden passing. I am so grateful [for] him and the Japanese scholars for their faithfulness and consistent dedication to the ATA ministry. My deepest condolence to his family and the Tokyo Christian University. We have the hope of glory in Jesus Christ who is our resurrection and life." -Dr. Sangbok David Kim, Chancellor, Torch Trinity Graduate University, Seoul, Korea

"Many, many people knew Dr. Kobayashi much, much better than I did. But I would love to say that I remember him as a very cultured, kind, wise, and thoughtful person. I do thank the Lord for him and his leadership of the ATA." -Dr. Graham Aylett, member, ATA CAED, and member, Executive Committee of Increase Association

"... Dr. Takanori was a great Christian leader and he provided great leadership to ATA International. He was kind and loving and we have to learn much from his life and ministry." -Dr. Shekhar Singh, Principal, UBS, India

"...our deepest condolences to Mrs. Kobayashi and his family. I will always remember him as a gentle, polite and wise man." -Dr. Luke Cheung, Vice President, China Graduate School of Theology

"Our condolences to the family of Dr. Takanori Kobayashi and to the ATA family for losing a godly leader. Dr. Kobayashi is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ATA. The last time we interacted was in Indonesia in July. We were both coughing, so we sat together at the back of the conference room, frequently going in and out. One time, something got stuck in my throat which made me cough really hard for a long time. With his usual gentle smile and sparkling eyes, he approached and offered me cough drops and a bottle of water." -Dr. Dick Eugenio, Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary

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A joint funeral service by Tokyo Christian University (TCU) and The Presbyterian Church in Japan, East Kanto Presbytery was held last November 25, 2017.



The large chapel of TCU was jam packed- with more than 850 people coming over to commemorate the life of Dr. Kobayashi.



ATA representatives by the Memorial Wall of Dr. Kobayashi: (LR) Dr. Jung Sook Lee, Dr. Joseph Shao and wife, Rosa Shao, and Dr. Eiko Takamizawa.

"Dr. Takanori Kobayashi was a tremendous leader whose leadership was marked both by strategic courage and inspirational vision. He was committed to his students, his faculty, his staff, and to the vision of Christian higher education. It has been an honor to have him as a member president of the CCCU, and we all mark this as a loss." -Shirley V. Hoogstra, President Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), as seen their news update entitled "In Memoriam: Takanori Kobayashi" (used with permission)

"I am deeply saddened by the sudden death of our beloved Chairperson, Dr. Takanori Kobayashi, whom I highly respect and admire. I was encouraged to accept the role as ATA General Secretary knowing that I will be working with a Christlike and competent



ATA was represented by Dr. Joseph Shao, former general secretary, who likewise gave the eulogy.

Chairperson. As a leader he was gentle but firm, gracious but focused in leading us in pursuing ATA's mission. Despite his busy schedule he always had time for ATA. It was a joy working with him as he was always supportive and affirming. One of the last emails I received from him was on September 27, 2017 which says, "I wholeheartedly appreciate you and your team's efforts..." It is painful to think that Dr. Kobayashi is no longer with us, he will be greatly missed in ATA! We look forward to our great reunion someday." -Dr. Theresa Lua, General Secretary, ATA

Because of her scheduled trip to Sri Lanka, Dr. Theresa Lua was not able to attend the funeral. But ATA was represented by Dr. Joseph Shao, former General Secretary and current president of the Biblical Seminary of the Philippines, together with his wife, Dr. Rosa Shao. With him also were Drs. Jung-Sook Lee, ATA Board Secretary and president of Torch Trinity Graduate University and Eiko Takamizawa, faculty at Torch.

The following is the eulogy, entitled "Remembering Dr. Takanori Kobayashi", given by Dr. Joseph Shao:

Today we are gathered to remember a great spiritual man of God, Dr. Takanori Kobayashi. We truly miss him. Dr. Kobayashi has faithfully served Asia Theological Association (ATA) for seven years, first as a Board member and as a member of the Commission on Accreditation

and Education Development from 2010-2013, and then as the Chairman of ATA from 2013-2017. On his way to Los Angeles, California, to accredit the International Theological Seminary for ATA, he was called to glory on Oct 24, 2017. He had run the good race and finished the race well!

I would like to use ATA as acronym to remember our beloved Chair.

Action Man

I was very privileged to know him as a friend in 1998 during the ATA General Assembly held in Thailand, and then later as a colleague serving as the General Secretary from 2007-2016. We were together for these six precious years. Immediately after he was elected to be the Chair, we began to see his energetic footsteps in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and North East Asia. With his appointment as the President of Tokyo Christian University, he never neglected his duties at ATA. He answered his emails promptly, guiding ATA to what it is today.

Tender Man

We remember his quiet demeanor and warm smiles as he greeted members of ATA community. As a caring Chair, he was quite sensitive to the challenges of ATA by seeking the best option to bring about the unity of our organization. He was gentle but firm in carrying out his responsibilities. My wife Rosa remembered him as a kind person who looked into details responsibly. Every time he came to Manila, Dr. Kobayashi would always bring a small gift item for her. We treasure his friendship.

Astute Man

As ATA grows to become the largest evangelical theological association, we are intentional in engaging in theological dialogues with other global theological associations. As an astute scholar, he, as the Chair, prepared an insightful New Testament academic paper; whereas, I contributed an Old Testament academic paper for presentation. As a Johannine expert, he was well versed and attentive to detailed studies. I will certainly miss his scholarly contribution from an Asian perspective.

Lastly, I would like to quote Dr. Kobayashi's own words in showing his sympathy to a colleague who lost a loved one, "May the Lord of utmost comfort and resurrection be with you and your family!" Yes, may our Living Christ be the comfort of Mrs. Kobayashi and the TCU community!

Farewell, Dr. Takanori Kobayashi. Thank you for being God's instrument and a blessing to us all! ■

ICETE Consultation on Standards for Global Theological Education



ICETE held a consultation in Rome to discuss standards for global theological education. ATA was represented by Dr. Theresa Lua, (General Secretary), Dr. Paul Cornelius (Regional Secretary, ATA India), and Prof. Ronnie Poon (Chairman, ATA Commission on Accreditation and Educational Development). At the end of the consultation, the group came up with the following declaration.

Rome Declaration

On September 4-9, 2017, and on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation,

the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) held a global consultation in Rome, Italy. Theological educators and leaders from seventeen nations and nine regions participated in the consultation and discussed the future shape of global evangelical theological education. The below was issued at the conclusion of the consultation.

Based on the values stated in the ICETE Manifesto (<http://www.icete-edu.org/manifesto/>), and in re-affirmation of our mutual respect and trust, while recognising our regional identities, and in relation to our calling as evangelical theological educators and accreditors.

We declare our commitment to:

1. Strengthening the identity, transferability, and consistency of ICETE criteria and procedures for quality assurance and improvement;
2. Developing a common global framework for the accreditation of evangelical theological education, including:
 - Global indicators of quality assurance

- Comparability of regional degree specifications;
3. Formulating quality assurance indicators for technology-enhanced learning;
 4. Integrating principles, quality measures and assessment of character education into our global indicators, within our vision of holistic theological education;
 5. Exploring our specific calling to be a prophetic voice for service of God and his church and world, with particular attention to relationships with the ecclesial communities in our regions;
 6. Revising the ICETE member recognition process and encouraging members subsequently to engage with it;
 7. Ensuring the vital sustainability of ICETE and ICETE member bodies and leaders.

These, we must accomplish, by God's grace

A team was mandated to produce a taxonomy of standards and guidelines for global evangelical theological education. The document, to be known as "Rome Roadmap," is now undergoing review by the ICETE member agencies. ■

Equipping the Equippers

Theological schools exist to equip women and men for the mission of the Church and for service in God's kingdom. The faculty is at the heart of this ministry. They are the heart of the learning that happens within the school. Thus, it is important to facilitate the ongoing personal growth and professional development of faculty in ATA member schools to ensure they have the knowledge, values, maturity, and skills necessary for the formation of ministers and scholars for the church.

Through a grant from a generous donor, ATA will be conducting a series of faculty workshops in several countries. The project will be in partnership with the Global Associates for Transformational Education (GATE) which has an excellent training program that seeks to help institutions and teachers to engage in "transformational education." GATE's training requires completing a four-year curriculum:

- Theological and Philosophical Foundations for Transformational Education / Year 1
- Teaching Methods for Transformational Education / Year 2
- Leadership that Transforms Education / Year 3
- Developing Curriculum for Transformational Education / Year 4



Participating schools must make a four-year commitment to participate in annual, three-day workshops. GATE likewise expects participation of a critical mass of faculty and administrators from each school, increasing the probability of change in the institutional culture.

The first ATA-GATE workshop was held in India on Oct. 12-14 at the beautiful campus of the South Asia Institute for Leadership and Cultural Studies in Coimbatore, Tamilnadu with 50 participants from the following institutions:

1. Logos College of Theology (Kerala)
2. Olive Theological Institute (Kerala)
3. South Asia Institute of Leadership and Cultural Studies (Coimbatore)
4. Jubilee Memorial Bible College (Tamilnadu)
5. ACTS Academy (Bangalore)
6. Southern Asia Bible College (Bangalore)

7. South India Baptist Bible College and Seminary (Coimbatore)
8. ATA India

Dr. Joanna Soberano (GATE Associate) and Dr. Theresa Lua (ATA General Secretary) served as facilitators. Assisting them were Dr. Paul Cornelius (Regional Secretary, ATA India), and Dr. Manoka Korada (Faculty, Indian Pentecostal Church Theological Seminary) who are undergoing GATE's "Training the Trainers" (T3) program.

Participants generally felt that the workshop was relevant and thought provoking, helping them assess their teaching approaches and curriculum. They commended ATA's initiative to bring different institutions to learn together. They found the interactions with other institutions helpful and refreshing. They are looking forward to the next workshop! ■

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Brisbane School of Theology invites expressions of interest for the position of a full-time lecturer in the Chinese Department (founded 1997), teaching Biblical Studies, to begin Semester 2, 2018.

The successful candidate will be fluent in Mandarin and English, demonstrate mature Christian character, evangelical conviction, a willingness to embrace the mission of BST, proven ability in teaching, preaching and communication, a relevant research degree (MTh minimum, PhD preferred), ministry experience and a capacity to engage with the

wider Chinese Christian community. The role involves assisting the Director of BST's Centre for Asian Christianity (established July 2016). As a member of the faculty, they will be expected to participate fully in the life of the community, including chapel, mentoring of students, and leading fellowship groups and short-term missions.

Contact the Principal,
Rev Dr Richard Gibson at
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Applications close Friday,
March 2, 2018



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BST is a gospel-centred, evangelical and interdenominational Bible college, which has been training men and women for ministry and mission for the past 74 years. It is committed to providing a formational experience in preparation for a lifetime of Christian service, congregational leadership and cross-cultural mission. Accredited by the Australian College of Theology, BST delivers courses from undergraduate diplomas and degrees through to doctoral awards.

ATA VET Teams Visit 12 schools in the last quarter of 2017

The last quarter of 2017 has seen a rather sizeable number of VET visits across Asia and beyond. Various ATA VET teams visited the following member schools across the months of October to December: Southeast Asia Bible Seminary (Oct. 10-12), Asian Theological Seminary (Oct. 23-25), China Graduate School of Theology (Oct. 23-25), International Theological Seminary (Oct. 23-25), Evangel Seminary (Oct. 26-28), Alliance Bible Seminary (Oct. 30-Nov. 01), Biblical Graduate School of Theology (Nov. 6-8), Colombo Theological Seminary (Nov. 20-24), Lanka Bible College and Seminary (Nov. 27-29), Assemblies of God Bible College (Nov. 27-29), L.I.F.E. Bible Institute (Nov 30- Dec 02), Baldeus Theological College (Dec. 4-6), and CMI, Hong Kong (Dec. 6-8).



South East Asia Bible Seminary (SEABS), Malang, Indonesia, was visited by Drs. Ng Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of Accreditation and Educational development, ATA; Madeline Vega, Asian Theological Seminary, Philippines, and Samuel Sidjabat, Principal, Sekolah Tinggi Alkitab Tiranus, Bandung Indonesia.



Asian Theological Seminary (ATS), Manila, Philippines, was visited by Drs. Teresa Chai, Associate Academic Dean, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Philippines; Mona Bias, Academic Dean, International Graduate School of Leadership, Philippines, and Samuel Sidjabat.



China Graduate School of Theology (CGST), Hong Kong, was visited by Drs. Ng Peh Cheng, Paul Cornelius, Regional Secretary- India; and Derek Li, adjunct and visiting professor in Seminaries, Hong Kong.



International Theological Seminary (ITS), El Monte, California, was visited by Drs. Theresa Lua, General Secretary, ATA; and Larry Caldwell, Chief Academic Officer and Dean, Sioux Falls Seminary, USA.



Evangel Seminary, Hong Kong, was visited by Drs. Ng Peh Cheng, Paul Cornelius, and Derek Li, adjunct and visiting professor in seminaries, Hong Kong.



Alliance Bible Seminary (ABS), Hong Kong, was visited by Drs. Ng Peh Cheng, Derek Li, and Lee Chee Chiew, Senior Director of Advanced Studies.



Biblical Graduate School of Theology (BGST), Singapore, was visited by Drs. Samuel Sidjabat, Arun K. Sarkar, President, Buntain Theological College, Kolkata, India; and Davina Sok, Education Consultant, ACS College, Singapore.



Lanka Bible College and Seminary, Kandy, Sri Lanka, was visited by Drs. Theresa Lua, Arren Bennet Lawrence, Assistant Regional Secretary- ATA India; and Mano Immanuel, Academic Dean, Colombo Theological Seminary.



Colombo Theological Seminary, Sri Lanka, was visited by Drs. Paul Cornelius, Theresa Lua, and Danny Moses. Director, Lanka Bible College Center for Graduate Studies (The visit included visits to 2-3 centers).

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Baldeus Theological College, Tricomalee, Sri Lanka, was visited by Drs. A.N. Lal Senanayake, President, Lanka Bible College, Arun K. Sarkar, and Arren Bennet Lawrence.



L.I.F.E. (Light House of International Foursquare Evangelism) Bible Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka, was visited by Rev. Devapriya Hunukumbra, Academic Dean of Lanka Bible College and Seminary- Centre for Graduate Studies; Dr. Arren Bennet Lawrence, and Dr. Arun K. Sarkar.



Assemblies of God Bible College, Sri Lanka, was visited by Drs. Paul Cornelius, Dr. Arren Bennet Lawrence, and Rev. Ravin Caldera.

SAVE THE DATES

Field Research Doctoral Supervisor's Seminar Chiang Mai, Thailand May 9-12, 2018

Asia Theological Association (ATA) and The International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) announce a unique opportunity for mentors in the doctoral programs in theology schools to explore best practices in FIELD RESEARCH!

Facilitators:
Dr. Kevin E. Lawson & Dr. Jessy Jaison

2018 ATA Theological Consultation Manila, Philippines July 31 - Aug 2, 2018

Theme:
Responding to the Call: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Doing Theology in Asia

CALL FOR PAPERS: The organizing committee of the 2018 ATA Theological Consultation in Manila. Invites paper proposals (one page or less) under the theme, "Responding to the Call: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Doing Theology in Asia," from scholars of all theological disciplines. Papers should be thoughtful examples of contextualized theology, biblical interpretation, or theological education, especially through multidisciplinary approaches. Selection is based on relevance to the theme and regional representation. Please submit proposals at ataasia.research@gmail.com on or before January 30, 2018. Finished papers must be submitted by June 30, 2018.

Visit www.ataasia.com for more details.



CMI, Hong Kong, was visited by Drs. Chiu Eng Tan, CAED member and Academic Dean, Biblical Seminary of the Philippines; Andreas Himawan, ATA Vice Chairman and President, Great Commission Seminary, Indonesia; and Jean Lee, Academic Dean, China Graduate School of Theology.

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