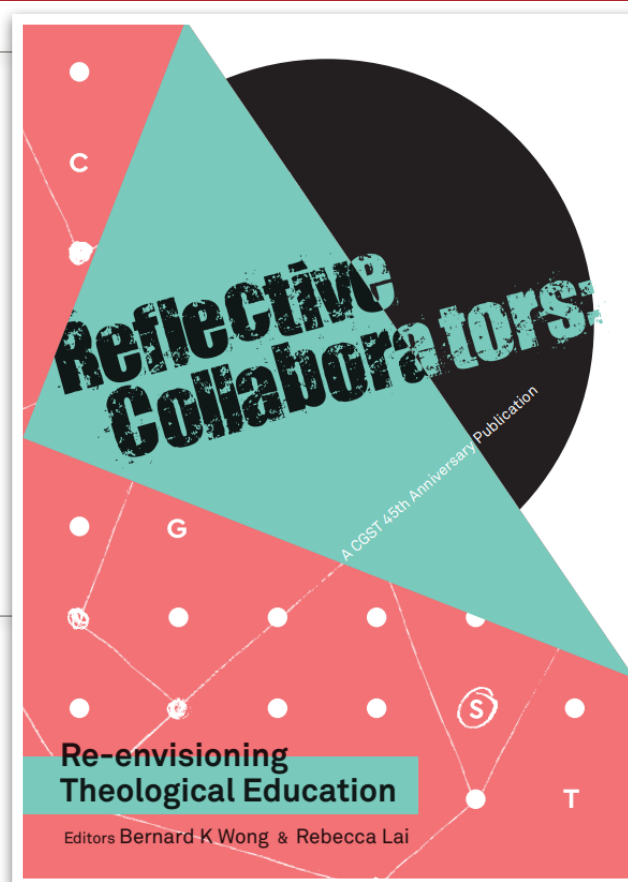


REFLECTIVE COLLABORATORS: RE-ENVISIONING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION



CGST'S Journey towards a relevant and contextual curriculum

“Alone we are smart. Together, we are BRILLIANT.”
– Steven Andersen, Educator

The China Graduate School of Theology or CGST, the only non-denominational seminary in Hong Kong, is an institution committed to upholding the evangelical Christian faith while staying in touch with [the] current social and cultural milieu. And just recently, the institution celebrated its 45th anniversary through the launching of a new book.

Reflective Collaborators: Re-Envisioning Theological Education, CGST's 45th anniversary publication, narrates the school's journey towards its comprehensive curriculum revision. The book was originally written in Chinese and had 24 chapters. CGST then released an unabridged English version but only including 10 out of the 24 chapters of the original Chinese version. These 10 chapters detail the background and methodology of the comprehensive curriculum revision- and even includes the relevant

outcomes of the process along with the experiences of select teachers who have adopted the method of teaching given this new curriculum.

Throughout the journey narrated in *Reflective Collaborators*, one will see that the thread woven all throughout is the desire to give students training that is integral and collaborative, regardless of whether they are training to serve as pastors, church leaders, or as lay ministers in the marketplace. These are not just big words on paper but practiced in real life as teachers of different fields of expertise work together to teach one of the four integration course.

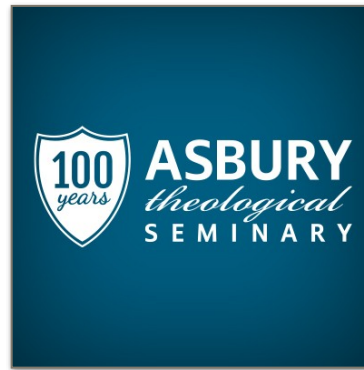
Reflective Collaborators: Re-envisioning Theological Education is edited by Drs. Bernard Wong and Rebecca Lai and this book is free for you to read, just click on the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qgs9Mvpnio3iAFqpASjezZLiKqHCB2bZ/view?usp=sharing> ◆

Asbury Theological Seminary and Increase Association are now ATA Fellowship Members

During the February board meeting in Pattaya, Thailand, the ATA Executive Board has approved a new category of membership: the Fellowship member. Previously, we only had two categories of membership: Accredited Members and Associate Members. Accredited members are institutional members whose educational program/s is/are accredited by ATA. Associate members are organizations, associations, and institution members that are either in the process of seeking accreditation from or in fellowship with ATA. In the new categories of membership, Associate Members will now be only for those that are in the process of seeking accreditation from ATA.

A Fellowship member is an organization, institution, or association involved in Theological Education (training, publications, etc.) seeking fellowship or collaboration with ATA. Two of our valued Associate Members, Asbury Theological Seminary and Increase Association are now Fellowship members, the category that best fits them.

Asbury has been an Associate Member of ATA since 2021. A well-established and respected theological institution, Asbury seeks to learn more intimately from the ATA community, participate in our meetings and consultations along with the opportunity to do shared research with us- something we will also benefit from. Being in fellowship and partnership with ATA will allow Asbury to learn from a broader, more diverse assortment of schools and be given the chance to listen to the issues our community grapples with, particularly in Theological Education. ATA, on the other hand, will not only have its scholars and writers continue enjoy doing their Sabbatical research on the Asbury Campus, but we will also benefit from the



possibility of having Asbury send their faculty and staff members to teach or consult with member institutions regarding a wide range of disciplines or accreditation topics. Furthermore, the opportunity to make use of the campus and facilities of Asbury for research and writing is now also available to the faculty of ATA member institutions. This privilege can be availed through an endorsement from ATA.

Finally, Asbury can likewise help do any training in areas where it has gifts and graces. And being an institution linked with institutions globally, Asbury could help provide insights from what it is seeing in Global Theological Education.

The Increase Association has been an Associate Member for many years. Increase is a network of church-based training organizations. The vision of Increase is to see churches equipping all Christ's

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followers in their contexts, so that many millions are disciplined and empowered for mission, ministry, and leadership. The purpose of Increase is to connect and strengthen church-based training movements across Asia and beyond. The focus for church-based training is through TEE: *Tools to Equip and Empower* churches and leaders. Increase also supports its membership with wider networks and expertise.

Throughout the years, Increase has been working closely with ATA to provide a 'TEE- relevant' approach to accreditation, alongside its service to campus-based institutions. While TEE institutions operate quite differently from campus-based institutions, there are some factors that are key to both kinds of institutions- which is why Increase members have been working with ATA and reworking the language and specifics of accreditation evaluation for TEE.

Three key leaders of Increase are members of the ATA Commission on Accreditation and Educational Development (CAED) namely, Dr. Graham Aylett (Increase General Secretary), Dr. Rick Weymouth, and Dr. Qaiser Julius. Furthermore, Drs. Aylett and Weymouth have also been closely involved in the most recent revision of the ATA Accreditation Manual in line with the ICETE Standards and guidelines for Global Evangelical Education.

We praise God for leading us to institutions that have willingly partnered with us through the years and desire to have a growing relationship with our ministry and community! And with our new membership category, we look forward to partnering and collaborating with even more institutions, organizations, and ministries for His Kingdom Come! ♦

Taking Steps forward in the Global Spiritual Formation Project

It is amazing how the Lord continues to open doors for ATA to collaborate with like-minded organizations and ministries to serve the Church! Just recently, Dr. Theresa Lua, General Secretary of ATA, was invited to be part of the Senior Advisory Board for the Global Spiritual Formation Project. The Global Spiritual Formation Project is a research grant funded by the Templeton Religious Trust (TRT) and aims *to deepen, culturally decenter and decolonize our understanding of what it means for Christians to be spiritually formed/ spiritually mature.*" ATA will be collaborating with other organizations on this project.

On May 8 & 9 the advisory board, composed of leaders from various Christian traditions and global networks, met in Chicago for the purpose of gaining interest, feedback, and support for the forthcoming major project- all of which will be useful contributions to the writing of the full proposal. The two-day meeting



Advisory Board for the Global Formation Project.

was nothing short of rich as connections and new networks were made and valuable feedback was given.

The Global Spiritual Formation project is under the leadership of Dr. David Wang, Penner Chair for the formation of Emotionally Healthy Leaders at Fuller Theological Seminary. Dr. Wang is no stranger to the ATA community as he conducted a workshop on Spiritual Formation at the ATA Triennial GA last year. ♦

ICETE holds its annual board meeting: “The Lord is indeed at work”

Board members, staff, senior advisors, and guests came together this weekend to reflect upon, envision, and be encouraged by ICETE’s future. The Lord indeed is at work! exclaimed Dr. Michael Ortiz, Executive Director of the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) during the most recent ICETE board meeting held last June 10 & 11 at the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), Orlando, Florida. ATA is under the umbrella of the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) and Dr. Theresa Lua represents ATA on ICETE’s board and was one of those present in the recently held board meeting. She, along with many others, can’t agree enough with the words of Dr. Ortiz as several developments have begun to unfold:

First, there is an Expanded Constituency Base in the ICETE community. Historically, ICETE served mostly formal theological institutions such as Bible colleges and seminaries. Although ICETE continues to serve formal theological education, the scope of ICETE’s global hub has expanded. Nonformal training ministries are connecting with ICETE like never before, fostering greater collegiality across the theological education spectrum.

Second, alongside an Expanded Constituency Base, there is also Extended Board Composition. Through the years, ICETE’s Board has been composed of leaders from its regional association members and was consequently led solely by theological educators. But in November 2022, the Board voted to expand its composition to include those outside of the ICETE regional members. Four new members have been added to the Board namely Dr. Seth Pollinger, a marketplace leader; Dr. Jessy Jaison from India who is involved in both formal and nonformal theological education; Mr. Eldon Porter, a global collaboration expert, and Dr. Graham Aylett, a leader of a nonformal theological education network.

Finally, there is also Increased Staff. Important staff changes have been made to help move ICETE towards its mission, objectives, and strategic plan. Stefani Morton is now serving as Communications and Events

Director, Dr. Marvin Oxenham’s role has been expanded to Quality Assurance and ICETE Academy Director. A new staff, Julie Shoemaker is serving as Assistant to the Executive Director. ICETE is grateful for the continued service of Dr. Orbelina Equizabal as Deputy Director, Dr. Evan Hunter as Treasurer, and Dr. Kevin Lawson as ICETE Consulting Director. In addition, several people are serving as volunteers, the most significant is Tim Bahula, who is serving as Digital Ecology Director.

The above key developments can be seen in ICETE’s most recent Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan includes key objectives related to quality assurance, collaboration, and theological education resources.

It may also be worth noting and celebrating that the ICETE website (<https://icete.info>) has undergone a complete redesign to include as many tools as needed to facilitate connection across regions and sectors of theological education worldwide.

In and through these developments, one will definitely be led to echo Dr. Ortiz’s exclamation, “The Lord is indeed at work”! There is no doubt that He is and He is moving ICETE towards the fulfillment of its mission to “advance quality and collaboration in global theological education to strengthen and accompany the Church in its mission.” ♦



ICETE board, staff, senior advisors and guests.



ATA INDIA'S THEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION & AGM



Aug 20th 6 PM to Aug 24th 5 PM
AGM: 25th 9 AM to 1 PM

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AT PRESENT TIMES

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