



# ATA news online

The Official Newsletter of Asia Theological Association

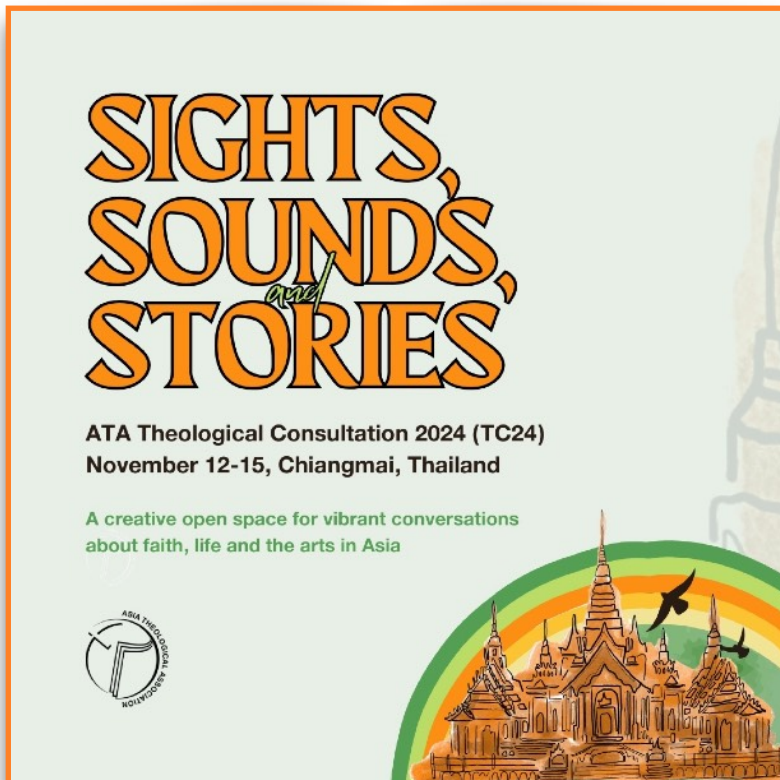
## GET READY FOR SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND STORIES: THE 2024 ATA THEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION!

A prominent artist by the name of George Inness once said, “The true use of art is, first, to cultivate the artist’s own spiritual nature.” But several people, especially those within the church, rarely associate art with anything spiritual or think that it has any theological or missional use at all!. Art, in the eyes of the majority, only serves aesthetic purposes and has no use in matters of spirituality, theology, and mission. Yet the arts, in its diverse forms, can intersect with

theology and things spiritual and can even be of great use in the life of the church and in His mission. So, there is a great need for the church to come together to converse on such an often overlooked matter- and the Asia Theological Association dares to create the space for such conversations through this year’s theological consultation with the theme “Sights, Sounds, and Stories”.

**Theology and the Arts: Sights, Sounds, and Story, the 2024 ATA Theological Consultation, will be held on November 12 up until the 15<sup>th</sup> in Chiang Mai, Thailand.** The goal of this year’s consultation to bring together creatives, pastors,

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**2024 ATA Theological Consultation Poster**

leaders of churches and mission organizations, and of course, theologians and biblical scholars into an open space of vibrant conversations about, faith, life, and the arts in Asia. In addition to lively conversations, we will likewise be having keynote speakers, panel discussions and interviews, workshops, presentation of papers, performances, art installations and displays, and artistic presentations! Exciting right?

So, we are inviting not just researchers, students, professors, and others working in the theological and wider academic community, but also artists and creatives to contribute to this year's consultation! So, we are not just calling for paper proposals that intend to explore the intersection of theology and the arts, but also for creative art project proposals too! We encourage paper proposals and creative art project proposals that:

- Reflect the breadth and the depth of human experience
- Embody and inform Christian thinking.
- Express, enact, and unfold the beauty, wisdom, and love of God.
- Invite hermeneutical discourse and critical contextualisation.
- Reach and transform communities.

*The paper proposal should include the title of the proposed presentation along with an abstract of 250 to 500 words. It should also include the following information: name of the presenter/s, institutional affiliation, phone number, and email address. While we hope that all presenters present in person, we will consider proposals that can be pre-recorded or delivered via Zoom. But preference will be given to those who can attend in person. Please upload your paper proposals to the following link: [Sights, Sounds, and Stories Paper Proposals \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)*

*On the other hand, the creative art projects may come in the form of visual art, sculpture, photography, fashion design, ceramics, decorative arts, digital arts, spoken word, drama, storytelling. Collaborations between artists are most welcome too! Well, creative art project proposal should include the title, along with a project description of 250-500 words describing the creative arts project. You may also upload audio-visuals if you wish to. Contact details include the name of the presenter/s, institutional affiliation, phone number, and email. Please upload your creative art projects to the following link: [Sights, Sounds and Stories, Creative Arts Projects \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)*



The deadline of submission for both paper proposals and creative arts projects is on **June 30, 2024**. We will notify all those who submitted of the result by July 20, 2024. For paper presentations, complete manuscripts should be submitted by October 12, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, kindly email [atatc2024@gmail.com](mailto:atatc2024@gmail.com).

*We look forward not only to seeing you in Chiang Mai, but also to receiving your submissions! ♦*

# The journey towards the “Next for Theological Education” has begun!

With the world changing at record speed, it is imperative that communities of theological educators together discern what is next for theological education- and so the theme for the upcoming ICETE consultation (C25). While C25 is in a year's time, the journey towards it has begun with its very first online conversation held last March 15, 13:00, UTC.

This first online conversation was attended by over 300 people from more than a hundred countries. It was filled with many rich conversations and exchange of ideas as majority of the time was spent doing just that: discussing topics relevant to what is ahead for theological education in breakout rooms.

On the other hand, given that ICETE is a global community, there were regions that could not have participated even if they wanted to simply because of their time zone. So, to allow for their participation, a watch party hosted by INCREASE was held on March 18 , 6:00am London/ UTC, just a few days after the first online conversation. Not only did the participants



watch the recording, but they too engaged in rich conversations, using the same breakout questions.

**Well, the journey towards C25 continues as three more sessions are underway: 14 June, 11 October, and 10 January 2025, all 13:00 UTC. Please save those dates and we look forward to seeing you then! ♦**

## PUBLICATIONS CORNER

# Faithful Ministers

Andrew B. Spurgeon  
Publications Secretary

Before it was fashionable, my grandfather Abel wore a watch without the “face.” He opened the watch and removed the paper showing the manufacturer’s name, country, and the numbers on the dial. He said, “I

wanted you to know the face is for the show, but these wheels and clogs keep the time.”

This is true of every ministry. Behind the visible celebrities are the hardworking and faithful ministers who keep the machine moving. As the Publications Secretary, I have the privilege of working with four faithful workers whom I’d like to introduce in this segment without prioritizing them; each one does a valuable ministry.

Mrs. Bubbles Lactaen has been serving the ATA for almost 15 years. In the early years, she worked part-time, helping Dr. Theresa Lua (the current General Secretary) produce the ATA News. Then, she became the Project Editor of the Asia Bible Commentary Series.

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It's a full-time job coordinating with the publication team and transforming the raw manuscripts into printed commentaries. In addition, she communicates regularly with forty-plus authors and seven editors. She once wrote me, "It's a tough job to be in the publication ministry of the ATA. It's challenging but, at the same time, fulfilling and rewarding because I know that the books that we are producing will be used for the furtherance of God's kingdom."



After her two children started having their own families, she didn't have to multitask as a working mom and ABCS project editor. Now, she enjoys her new role as the grandmother of twins – Hailey and Millie – "a double bundle of joy" and "a great blessing from our loving God!" Bubbles further writes, "Having a very supportive husband is a great blessing, too. Since day one of our marriage, he has been all-out in ensuring my happiness in all that I do, including the practice of my profession. The publication has been my craft since I graduated from college. I've been working on textbooks and theological journals for several years. My love for book publications will always be in my heart. It will be a few years before I say goodbye to ATA. I thank God for using all the gifts and talents He has bestowed on me to serve ATA and other publishers that I have been part of for the 40 years of my career. All glory to God!"

Mrs. Marlene Riate is the Finance Officer for ATA. She is married to Pastor Ronaldo Riate, the Senior Pastor at Caloocan Bible Church, North. They have two grown-up sons. The eldest runs a food business, while the youngest is in college. Marlene works closely with the General Secretary and the Board Treasurer and keeps track of the finances of the ATA, including membership and accreditation fees,



budgeting, spending, and auditing. Her contributions to ATA are invaluable.

Miss Maria Angelica de Vera serves as the Communications Officer. We all marvel at the wonder and beauty of the informative ATA News that comes to us every other month. Angelica is the editor of the ATA News. She also manages several other communications between various departments within the ATA. Angelica is "happily single" and loves her two nieces, whom she cares for as her own. She says, "I enjoy their company a lot and learn a lot from them too." Angelica is currently working on her PhD in Orality Studies. She enjoys playing her violin, drawing, listening to music, going for long walks, being creative, and thinking outside the box.




Mr. Alex Lactaw is the IT/Website Administrator for the ATA. He produces videos placed on the website and used for promotion. Alex is the official photographer for the ATA, almost like a picture historian. He is also the in-house layout artist for several projects, including the ATA News. Alex is married to Aiza, and they have one son, Andrei. He enjoys spending time with his family and is involved in the Oral Bible Translation project.



These faithful ministers work behind the scenes. But apart from the work they do for the Publications ministry of ATA, these staff are also responsible for providing administrative support to the other ministries of ATA: accreditation, theological consultations, seminars, and workshops. Sometimes, however, you'll see them quietly doing their work in ATA consultations or other meetings (except for Angelica, who is bubbly). Next time you see them, thank them for their hard work.

Thank you. ◆

**GET TO KNOW US MORE!**



**ORGANIZE AN**

**ATA DAY!**

**BE PART OF WHAT THE LORD IS DOING IN AND THROUGH ATA**

✉ [ataasia.comms@gmail.com](mailto:ataasia.comms@gmail.com)

## What is the ATA Day?

We at the Asia Theological Association desire to build stronger relations with our member institutions- and what better way to do that than to invite everyone within our community to get to know us and be part of what the Lord is doing and through us! So, we are inviting all our member institutions to an ATA Day!

So, what is an ATA day? Well, an ATA day is an opportunity for us to share with you who we are, what we do and how you can participate! Of course, we aren't demanding an entire day of your academic calendar for this! Just a few minutes of your chapel time to present who we are through a video- and perhaps a few minutes of prayer too! So, allow us to introduce ourselves to your community and for your community to participate in what the Lord is doing in and through ATA.

We look forward for you to get to know us even as we get to know you- so together we can work together to for God's global mission! ♦

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ATA News is a bi-monthly publication of the  
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[www.ataasia.com](http://www.ataasia.com)

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# SIGHTS, SOUNDS, *and* STORIES

**ATA Theological Consultation 2024 (TC24)  
November 12-15, Chiangmai, Thailand**

**A creative open space for vibrant conversations  
about faith, life and the arts in Asia**

