



ACUCA

NEWSLETTER

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ACUCA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

HONG KONG

Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Lingnan University
Hong Kong Baptist University

INDIA

Christ University
Lady Doak College

INDONESIA

Parahyangan Catholic University
Petra Christian University
Satya Wacana Christian University
Maranatha Christian University
Duta Wacana Christian University
Soegijapranata Catholic University
University of Pelita Harapan
Krida Wacana Christian University
Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia
Atma Jaya University, Yogyakarta
Sanata Dharma University
Dhyana Pura University
Universitas Katolik Widya Mandira
Universitas Kristen Indonesia
Jakarta International University
Tarakanita School of Communication and Secretarial Studies

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International Christian University
Kwansei Gakuin University
Meiji Gakuin University
Seinan Gakuin University
Nanzan University
Doshisha University
Aoyama Gakuin University
JF Oberlin University
Sophia University
Osaka Jogakuin
Hiroshima Jogakuin University
Kobe College
Hokusei Gakuen University
Tokyo Woman's Christian University

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Keimyung University
Hannam University
Handong Global University
Sogang University
Yonsei University

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Myanmar Institute of Theology

PHILIPPINES

Assumption College
Ateneo de Manila University
De La Salle University
Silliman University
Trinity University of Asia
Filamer Christian University
Miriam College
St. Paul University Philippines
De La Salle University-Dasmariñas
Wesleyan University - Philippines
Philippine Christian University
Central Philippine University

THAILAND

Asia-Pacific International University (former Mission College)
Payap University
Assumption University
Christian University of Thailand

TAIWAN

Fu Jen Catholic University
Soochow University
Tunghai University
Chung Yuan Christian University
Providence University
Chang Jung Christian University
Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages
Aletheia University
St. John's University

SECRETARIAT NEWS

July to December 2021

2021 ACUCA Management Conference and 24th General Assembly

As part of the 45th anniversary celebration, the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (ACUCA) held a management conference last 2-3 December 2021 with Silliman University, Philippines as the host.



Participating colleges and universities have identified key characteristics of preferred futures as Christian institutions of higher learning during the July 2021 joint consultation of the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (ACUCA), Silliman University (SU), and the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UB). The said consultation has also provided a venue for the participating institutions to identify some strategies towards preferred futures.

Thes 2-day management conference picked-up and translated the identified key characteristics and viable strategies into complementary actions.

The conference theme is “Journeying Towards Preferred Futures at Christian Higher Education Institutions.” It is a call for every member institution of higher learning to undertake innovative learning strategies and research; and to strengthen ties and partnerships through shared resources and expertise, collaborative research undertakings, and creative teaching pedagogies, among others. The 2-day conference will attempt to navigate through paths leading to preferred futures. The paths taken by each member institution may be unique and different, but collectively leads to a common destination, i.e., providing students with quality education. At the heart of Christian higher education is the passion for academic leaders to nurture students that imbibe Christian values, old students to trailblaze in their respective fields, raise students who are engaged members of society dedicated to selfless service, and develop students as caring agents of the environment.

The management conference aims to enable participants to learn from each other the strategies undertaken towards their preferred futures, and increase tie-ups, meaningful connections and collaboration among member Christian institutions of higher learning in Asia. (related article, next page)



ACUCA members forge action plan toward preferred future in education

December 9, 2021



In a “rapidly changing” educational environment, programs of Christian higher education institutions (HEIs) should be reviewed using the lens of Christian mission and service, said Dr. Betty Cernol McCann, president of Silliman University (SU) and Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia (ACUCA), during the 2021 ACUCA Management Conference, December 2-3, 2021.

The conference picked up after the Joint Virtual Consultation of SU, ACUCA, and the United Board last July 2021 where key characteristics of Christian HEI’s preferred futures were identified.

With the theme “Journeying Towards Preferred Futures at Christian Higher Education Institutions,” the conference aimed to create action plans to complement the identified key characteristics and strategies.

“In these identified steps toward preferred futures at Christian

higher education institutions, a re-viewing of programs—academics, administration, services—from the lens of Christian mission and service in the context of a rapidly changing educational environment is of paramount importance,” said McCann in her keynote speech on the first day of the conference. McCann added that it is equally important for Christian HEIs to welcome faculty, students, staff, alumni, and partners as “strategic players in institutional plans for moving forward,” and to find ways to “maximize the power of partnerships” within and outside the educational arena.



Envisioned futures

Based on the Joint Consultation last July, McCann said Christian HEIs agreed on providing the kind of education with the following key characteristics in their preferred futures: anchored in the precepts of harmony among fellow human beings, towards God, and with the environment; without borders, and for all; committed to continuous improvement, and one that banks on greater collaboration among institutions and constituencies.

Christian HEIs also agreed on

targeting to become a “green campus,” which includes carbon neutrality and incorporating green infrastructure and technology.

Complementary actions

McCann identified steps that Christian HEIs can take to reach their preferred futures, which are: investing in the professional development of faculty and staff; embracing online learning and technology; accelerating unique growth potentials within the institution such as cross-border, online graduate education programs, and technology and business incubation programs; aligning sustainable development goals in research and community service programs; adopting new ways of managing school operations; providing wellness and emotional support programs for students, faculty and staff; and activating partnerships.

Unique paths

McCann recognized that Christian HEIs in Asia may take “different paths” to reach common goals.

“Colleges and universities in South and Southeast Asia, in North and Northeast Asia, and those others in Asia and the Pacific regions, may chart their educational journeys in ways different from one another as they have unique strengths, structures, and missions,” she said. *(cont. to p. 3)*



Continuous improvement

Dr. Yung-Lung Lee, Chang Jung Christian University president, said in his response to McCann’s speech that Christian HEIs should uphold and incorporate the love of Jesus Christ in the education they provide; uphold righteousness, justice, and inclusivity; and design learning content with the concepts and principles of whole-person education.

“Through continuous efforts and improvements, [a] Christian university could become an institution emphasizing inclusion, solving problems, and seeking sustainability,” said Lee.

Lee also said Christian HEIs should form a closer alliance with each other to promote cross-cultural cooperation and sharing.

“We should recognize our value, use our uniqueness, support, and cooperate on the platform established by ACUCA,” Lee added.

Dr. Mangadar Situmorang, Parahyangan Catholic University rector, said continuous improvement is part of a Christian HEIs “Christian responsibility” and is a result of learning from failures.

Christian values

Dr. Ir. Henry Feriadi, Duta Wacana Christian University rector, emphasized in his response the importance of upholding Christian values, and shaping future generations that are “willing steward and sustain the environment.”

“We understand that [we] probably cannot compete with other world-ranking universities, [but] we can provide the best education that’s shaping our future students and graduate as global citizens with Christian values, good character, and responsibility for others and the environment,” said Feriadi.

Dr. Wai Ching Wong, United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia vice president for Programs, also emphasized the need for environmental action in her response.

“A future can only be achieved with everyone having the opportunity to learn and take ownership of the knowledge and required action to do justice to the community and environment,” said Wong.



Equipping students

Dr. Gary Wayne Barkley, Seinan Gakuin University president, said in his response to McCann’s speech that it is important to equip students to become peacemakers. “As we work in a changing environment, it is important, I think, that we tailor our programs to meet the challenges of the societies in which we live,” said Barkley.

Dr. Fr. Abraham Vettiyankal Mani, Christ University president, shared the initiatives of their university in navigating the challenges from the pandemic, which includes efforts in upskilling faculty, volunteerism activities, and mental health initiatives. Ambassador Laura Quiambao-del Rosario, Miriam College president, suggested introducing students to social entrepreneurship, which can help address social issues.

“The aim of the conference is closely related to ACUCA’s objectives, which are to create environmental prerequisites for active interaction and participation among the member-institutions, paying particular interest to the changing conditions of Asian societies so that we can develop educational programs with a resolute will to actualize the Christian witness in academic pursuits,” said Dr. Kwang Sup Lee, Hannam University president and ACUCA vice president.



MEMBERS' NEWS

Silliman University Celebrates its 119th Founders Day

August 28, 2021



Silliman University (SU) opens its 119th Founders Day with Dr. Betty Cernol McCannSU President, as speaker during the SU Church Sunday service, August 9, 2020, marking the opening of the celebration.

Dr. Betty McCann, SU President speaks during SU 119th Founders Day at the SU Church

In her message, Dr. McCann said “Invoking God’s guidance and wisdom, we take courage to avoid the path towards panic and fear that can lead us to inaction, to a sense of powerlessness and hopelessness.”

The SU president added that “Instead, following God’s leading we take the road towards informed decision making, banking on factual information and pooling together human resources to stay on course, to be adequate in our response, to think beyond the crisis we now face, and to imagine what higher education would be like ? how Silliman University should position itself as we are catapulted into a 21st century learning environment that,

whether we like it or not, is now heavily leaning on the internet world and digital technology.”

With the theme “Hope Arising from the Solid Rock,” this year’s celebration, scheduled from August 9-31, 2020, the University outlined virtual activities that would maintain the “Silliman Spirit” despite the Covid-19 pandemic. “The FD (Founders Day) celebration this month will be part of the new students’ orientation to the life and works of this great university that has withstood the test of time for 119 years,” Dr. McCann said.

Sunrise service held on August 28, at the Amphi theater fronting the SU Church

She assures everyone that “the FD activities this year continue to feature the Sunrise Service, Sunday Worship Service, culture and the arts, Outstanding Sillimanian Awards, Parada Sillimania, church workers conference, and many more. Being online, the activities will not just be confined here on campus. As in the online ministry of the SU Church since March, the transmission of the Silliman



Spirit anchored on the teachings of Jesus Christ will be global with participation of many alumni and friends in various parts of the world.”

“Like the pandemic, our events will become ‘contagious’ and ‘infectious’. But unlike the COVID-19, our celebration will be awesome and inspiring, life enhancing and life giving,” Dr. McCann concluded.





MEMBER IN FOCUS

Assumption University, Thailand



Background/History

Assumption University was initially originated from Assumption Commercial College in 1969 as an autonomous higher education institution under the name of Assumption School of Business. In 1972, with the approval of the Ministry of Education, it was officially established as “Assumption Business Administration College” or ABAC. In May 1975, it was accredited by the Ministry of University Affairs. In 1990, it was granted new status as “Assumption University” by the Ministry of University Affairs.

The University is a non-profit institution administered by the Brothers of St. Gabriel, a worldwide Catholic religious order, founded in France in 1705 by St. Louis Marie de Montfort, devoted to education and philanthropic activities. The congregation has been operating many educational institutions in Thailand since 1901.

The University is an international community of scholars, enlivened by Christian inspiration, engaged in the pursuit of truth and knowledge,

servicing the human society, especially through the creative use of interdisciplinary approaches and cybertechnology.

Vision

Assumption University of Thailand envisions itself as:

- an international community of scholars,
- enlivened by Christian inspiration,
- engaged in the pursuit of Truth and Knowledge,
- servicing human society, especially through the creative use of interdisciplinary approaches and cybertechnology.

Vision 2000 for The Assumption University Graduates

Assumption University of Thailand envisions its graduates as:

- healthy and open-minded persons, characterized by personal integrity, an independent mind, and creative thinking,
- professionally competent, willing to exercise responsi-

ble leadership for economic progress in a just society,

- able to communicate effectively with people from other nations and to participate in globalization.

Mission

Assumption University exists for the main purpose of servicing the nation through generation, dissemination and application of business, scientific, technological and humanistic knowledge through research and interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships that build on a strong foundation of strong interdisciplinary scholarship.

Assumption University teaches students to think critically, objectively and creatively, and to be lifelong learners, leaders and productive ethical citizens; pursues research to advance knowledge, to meet local, national and international challenges in a diverse, interdependent, knowledge based and technologically dynamic society.



Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong



Background/History

In 1956, Hong Kong Baptist College was founded by the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong as a post-secondary college committed to the provision of whole person education. In 1983, Hong Kong Baptist College became a fully-funded public tertiary institution. It gained university status in 1994 and was renamed Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU).

Today HKBU encompasses eight Faculties/Schools offering a range of undergraduate programmes, associate degree and higher diploma programmes as well as taught postgraduate programmes and research postgraduate programmes leading to the award of master and doctoral degrees. It prides itself on its dual focus on teaching and research and encourages service to society among its staff and students. Over the years, HKBU has remained committed to academic excellence and the development of the whole person, and has gained a reputation as one of Asia's finest institutions of higher learning.

Vision

To be a leading liberal arts University in Asia for the world delivering academic excellence in a caring, creative and global culture.

Mission

HKBU is committed to academic excellence in teaching, research and service, and to the development of the whole person in all these endeavours built upon the heritage of Christian higher education.





BLOGS

Learning to be independent, organized, careful, and thoughtful

Hedwig Tiara Svayambhu
Sanata Dharma University
Spring, 2019



I learned about the ACUCA International Student Exchange Program from our University International Office through posters and school website. I also heard encouraging stories from previous students who had joined the program. Thankfully, my application at Wenzao Ursuline University in Taiwan was responded favorably. At the Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, I took Intercultural Communication: Taiwan Image and Professional Public Speaking Training courses. I also joined Chinese class at the Chinese Language Center of Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages. Be able to meet international students, I was advised to join a cultural class for international students. There were specific activities outside of the classroom which I joined such as the field trip to Meinong in order to learn about Hakka culture, trip to Penghu Island. I also actively participated during the university sport's day.

Living in Taiwan for more or less five months gave me new experience. Before I left Indonesia, I felt so excited because it was my first time staying abroad for such a long time alone. However, as soon as I arrived in Taiwan, I felt a little bit scared since I did not speak a word of Chinese. The first week of my stay was a discouraging moment as I had to rely on my friends a lot. I could not do even a simplest thing such as buying groceries.

Thankfully, I could pass this moment because I had a buddy who accompanied me every time I needed help. She gave me much information about the university, dorm, environment, and explained many other things to help me adjust with my new environment. She also took me to many interesting and famous places in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

In addition, my stay in Taiwan also became fascinating since I met new friends coming from many different parts of the world. I learned about new cultures and languages. I also got more exposure about European countries since I got some friends coming from Czech Republic, France, Belgium, and Germany. As there were also many students from Japan, I also got a chance to learn about Asian culture other than Taiwan.

The lecturers in the university and the teachers in Chinese Language Center were also friendly and caring. Hence, it was



always a good time attending their classes. In Taiwan Image class, I got new knowledge about indigenous tribes in Taiwan. I also got a chance to go to the museum and watched the indigenous tribes' performances. It was an unforgettable moment for me. Moreover, I got a chance to visit Penghu with other students from the Chinese class. The trip was really great because I could spend time with new friends and enjoy the view in the other part of Taiwan.

In a nutshell, I am really grateful for this international student exchange opportunity provided by ACUCA. I am grateful to my host university, the Wenzao Ursuline University, for the great experience. I am thankful to my home university for the support provided to me. This experience will surely be beneficial to me, particularly, in my future endeavor, and I thank God for His care and provision. This experienced has changed me to be more independent, organized, careful, and thoughtful. Now I have many friends coming from other countries, and I have learned new cultures and a bit of new languages. I have experienced many good things about life and friendship. I learned to be independent and to be appreciative of the many positive things this life could offer.



To Teach, Share, and Learn

Dr. Cheng-Chiou Huang
Associate Professor,
Providence University
Taiwan



Through the 2019 ACUCA Faculty Mobility Scheme Program, I had the chance to travel to “Asia’s World City”, Hong Kong. As a visiting scholar, I consider this occasion a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Aside from the financial support and living allowance provided by ACUCA, my host university, the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) has graciously provided me with free accommodation for the entire duration of the faculty exchange program.

The various events I had attended including seminars, interactive discussions, presentations, visiting activities, and the precious time interacting with the faculty, staff, and students of HKBU provided me an opportunity to establish stronger ties with new-found friends abroad.

Hong Kong Baptist University, Asia’s one of the finest institutions of higher learning



had been an incredible host during my visit. The faculty and staff were very warm and friendly. I could not thank enough HKBU for graciously welcoming me, guiding me, and taking care of me. I experience perfect professionalism on the campus from the administrators, faculty, and staff speaking appropriately, welcoming visitors warmly, and doing their job efficiently.



As a visiting scholar from Providence University of Taiwan to HKBU Hong Kong through the ACUCA faculty program,



traveling and engaging myself with HKBU academic community has provided me not only educational enrichment but a rich cultural experience as well. Through the ACUCA FMS program, I had the chance to teach, share, and learn.



A Journey of Learning and Change

Sesha Nivedhitha Manoharan
Lady Doak College Madurai,
Tamil Nadu, India

The ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity. -Ayn Rand

Among 4,500 students in my college, the wonderful opportunity to relish the joy of exploring world through an exchange program at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) was granted to me and I hope I used it to my fullest. I went to Hong Kong for my fifth semester (Fall Semester). My expected duration of stay was from the last week of August 2019 to the last week of December 2019. I started my journey to Hong Kong on 27 August 2019. After a long flight journey, the HKBU arranged transport facilities for all the exchange students arriving at the Hong Kong airport to reach the university. Though I was initially homesick, I adapted myself to this new way of life, which was a crucial experience for me. There was a special orientation for all the exchange students for three days which included a detailed orientation about the various clubs, library and different amenities on campus, a welcome lunch, a campus tour, and a Hong Kong tour.

Though Chemistry was my major subject in my home university, I decided to improve my volleyball skills and dancing styles too.



Hence I took three chemistry courses, a volleyball-cum-basketball course and a jazz dance course. I loved all the classes and the teachers. They took special care of me as I was the only exchange student in four out of the five courses I chose. In events like the International Fest organized by the International Office at HKBU, my Nepali and Indian friends took a huge part. Together, we organized a stall in the fest where we served the visitors with our kind of spicy, rich and flavourful food. I got to taste other cuisines like German, Indonesian and Korean too, which was quite amazing. When I took part in a hall activity where they took us to Tai O fishing village, it showed the other side of Hong Kong as people there lived such simple and peaceful lives. I really enjoyed the cool breeze in the seashore and the sea food served there in small restaurants. We even went for a boat ride to see the other side of the shore. I'm so glad that I met people from different countries and learnt different cultures. Though I'm also from an Asian country, I realized that people and cultures are so different

from the people and the culture in my country. It was very challenging to survive in a non-English speaking country. But I always had help from local friends who were so solicitous. This also made me more independent.

The duration of my stay was cut short to three months instead of four months due to the severe protests happening there. The classes and tests were switched to online mode so that I was able to complete the courses from my home country itself. I'm really proud and glad that I was a part of the history of Hong Kong. I managed to survive there for three months though the whole country was in threat which helped me to develop flexibility, the ability to reach my goals, focus and succeed through challenging times.

I wish to show my gratitude to ACUCA for supporting me financially and letting me get exposure to a totally different kind of life. I thank the International Offices at my home institution as well as at the host institution for being there during my tough times in Hong Kong. And I'm really grateful for each and everyone who stood behind me throughout my stay in Hong Kong.



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