



ACUCA NEWS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN ASIA
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in the community of service and fellowship."

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THAILAND

Asia-Pacific International University
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FJU faculty and students donate blood to save lives

Fu Jen Catholic University organized the campaign "30 Hours Blood Drive to Protect Lives" on March 28 and 29 of this year to address the needs of society as well as honor Jesus on Good Friday. Echoing the compassionate spirit of Jesus saving mankind, FJU organized the campaign to encourage everyone to donate blood and save lives. FJU also invited nearby schools, institutions and local communities of Xinzhuang and Taishan to join the campaign. It was estimated that more than 500 people donated blood in two days.



According to the statistics of blood centers in Taiwan, the number of blood donors has decreased since 2007, accounting only 8% of Taiwan's population. FJU initiated this campaign to address this problem. The campaign planner, Mr. Rong-Fu Ye, said that since Chiang Han-Sun took office as president, he has upheld the mission and spirit of FJU and strive to contribute to society by promoting social involvement through service learning and other related activities. One of the three vice presidents at Fu Jen Catholic University, Fr. Leszek Niewdana also remarked that the campus is an important educational platform and he hopes that through the blood drive, students will not only donate blood, but also learn more about blood donation. Furthermore, students can spread the word to others and continue to contribute to society after graduation. Since FJU is a member of the Taiwan Christian Universities and Colleges Alliance, Fr. Niewdana also encouraged other members of the alliance to organize blood drives during the school year for greater collective contribution.

FJU's president Chiang Han-Sun stated that donating blood is very safe once the donor's blood type is determined. By sharing true stories with students, he encouraged everyone to join the blood drive and advance the gift of love in the world. The Representative of the Society of Jesus Fr. David Yen also said that blood is the symbol of life and that donating blood out of love is a beautiful act of sharing, and a true sign of common prosperity.

To encourage the participation of faculty and students, the organizers of the blood drive collaborated with the Department of Food Science and Wen Yuan Campus Cafeteria. Those who donate blood get free ice cream or a large pineapple bun. An activity of searching for people named Zhiming or Shufeng was also held. According to blood centers, these two names were top on the list of blood donors. Donors who share the same name received a small gift.

In addition, FJU organized a special class called "FJU Social Involvement: Donating Blood to Save Lives," which was given during Philosophy of Life courses to call on students to donate blood as well as provide related information.

As the number of blood donors was higher than expected, the campaign was extended longer. Heng Yee Catholic High School and Avon Cosmetics Taiwan Ltd also joined the campaign. FJU even provided a shuttle bus to transport locals from nearby communities. "It is very convenient to donate blood on campus. This campaign is very meaningful, and I will certainly join again in the future," said Zheng Huiwen, a third-year student majoring in journalism.



Social Involvement of Fu Jen Catholic University: Care for the Quality of Life

"A Catholic University, as any University, is immersed in human society...it is called on to become an ever more effective instrument of cultural progress for individuals as well as for society. Included among its research activities, therefore, will be a study of serious contemporary problems...that will better serve the human community at a national and international level." - *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*

Inspired by the high ideals of Confucian education, Fu Jen Catholic University was first established in Beijing in 1925. With the spirit of truth, goodness, beauty and holiness, FJU has relocated to Xinzhuang in Taiwan in 1960. In its eighty years of history, the university has always upheld its mission to be involved with the development of the modern world and the Chinese community. For the past fifty years, FJU contributed to the advancement of Taiwanese society by providing higher education and training programs. It has also maintained a close relationship with the local Taiwanese.

Based on the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel, Fu Jen Catholic University strives to provide support for the socially vulnerable, challenge social chaos and improve the quality of life through teaching, research, and social service in all kinds of disciplines. For example, as early as ten years ago, the Department of Journalism and Communication Studies already identified news reports as tools for social involvement. Through media teaching, the department encourages practice and reflection. It has established Vita News to advocate social justice and reveal social phenomena manipulated by the media. With the Catholic belief in peace, the School of Law has also published *The Taiwanese Movement for Abolishing the Death Penalty: Development and Challenges*, an analysis on victims, offenders, prisons, crimes, education, and human rights. This work has increased public awareness on social issues surrounding crimes and violations of human rights. In

addition, the School of Law has spoken for the rights of Taiwanese new immigrants and aborigines. It also provides education and support for school-age children living in remote areas without adequate resources. Furthermore, it proposed laws to protect pregnant women and their children as well as defended the rights of women. The College of Social Sciences has advocated social justice and disaster management, at the same time promoting legislation through social service. The College of Medicine also extended professional expertise by providing physical and emotional support for communities and the economically disadvantaged. The above are only few examples illustrating the fact that Fu Jen Catholic University has always walked the path of social involvement, protected the Taiwanese, and spoken for social justice.

Fu Jen Catholic University also plays a crucial role in providing a platform to bridge social resources (such as government and corporate resources) with local churches and evangelization work. In recent years, the university has promoted cooperation between local communities and parishes. It invited charity foundations of business corporations to cooperate with parishes, so parishes could be turned into centers providing information, care, and hope for the socially vulnerable. As social development is an important focus in FJU's mission, the university encourages its students to develop a broad and open-hearted vision of service, take deep interest in public issues, acquire proper knowledge on social involvement, and take action to make a difference.

As a Catholic university, FJU is always committed to the highest ideal of being "immersed in human society." It searches for truth in dialogue with society, advocates compassion for those in need, promotes goodness among all, and fills lives with hope and holiness.



Providence University, Taiwan

411 Study Abroad Program—Bridge to the World

Like most other countries, Taiwan's economy relies on import and export. For this reason, the importance of international awareness to further acquire international mobility has been highly emphasized, especially in recent years. As a result, the 411 Study Abroad Program was initiated in 2010 by the Office of International Affairs, Providence University, Taiwan, to boost international education.

The core objective of this program is to encourage students during their four years of university life to sign up for at least one short term study abroad program in either winter or summer break, and to be an exchange student. The short term program, offered in the winter and summer break, is organized on a non-profit basis as it gives a miniature of overseas study experience under less financial burden. Students not only improve in their proficiency of the target language, but also raise their cross-cultural awareness in a foreign context. After completing the 2-6 week winter/summer program, student-participants are usually more likely to consider further exchange programs covering one or two semesters abroad.

To better provide integrated study abroad information as well as scholarship application counseling, Providence University has especially established the 411 Study Abroad Center. Each year PU sends out about 360 students either via outgoing exchange or short term programs to its partner schools or allied academic network such as ACUCA and ISEP. Meanwhile, PU is always exploring new forms and possible financial support for its students. As a matter of fact, PU was granted more than half a million US dollars by the Ministry of Education and other private organizations in 2012 for assisting PU students to study abroad.

Since the establishment of the 411 Study Abroad Program, the number of outgoing exchange students has grown 10% each year, while outgoing recipient countries have become more diversified. As of now, **Providence University ranks first among all private universities for its number of undergraduate exchange students, and fourth among all universities in Taiwan.** Indeed, PU is committed to helping more students experience study abroad because PU believes our students are a **BRIDGE TO THE WORLD.**



Note: The 411 Study Abroad Festival is held on April 11 annually. More than 50 schools are introduced in this event, and all the international exchange students from different countries who have joined the program are invited to be at the festival to introduce study abroad programs of different partner universities worldwide. Therefore, all members are welcome to send brochures regarding their study abroad programs to PU. In the meantime, PU welcomes all ACUCA members to send exchange students to us.

Chung Yuan Christian University Service Learning: Creating a Life of Hearts in Motion

Recycling bins for unworn clothes placed around cities are not an unfamiliar sight to anyone. Often we have no idea however, where the used clothes actually go. However, at 10:00 am on June 27, at the Global Town International Business Center in Taipei, during a press meeting for the Chung Yuan Christian University (CYCU) Service Learning Program "A Touched Life," we witnessed a sports uniform from Xinggu Elementary School, in the Sanzhong District of New Taipei City travel across the sea to a 12 year old boy in Cambodia, who, during this winter break had an encounter with the CYCU Cambodian Volunteer Group.

In Cambodia, where it's summer all year round, the young boy didn't seem bothered by the hot 40 degree weather wearing his long-sleeve uniform. He told a volunteer: "This is my favorite shirt!" These words really shocked and touched Zhang Yu-Ting, a first time volunteer and second year student in the Department of Financial and Economic Law, who repeatedly exclaimed, "it's really unbelievable! Don't these types of things only happen in novels?" Zhang said that "in the past I always thought that donating a dollar here or there would make no difference to the local people, but now I know that we shouldn't underestimate the little power we have!" The team members all shared a common response that "you would never have guessed that old recycled clothing would cross the ocean to Cambodia, and this seemingly simple act could really help other people. We hope that our volunteer service will be able to brighten things up for these children in the future." This surprising and emotional experience has helped give volunteers a resolve and enthusiasm for serving the community.

Chung Yuan Christian University's "Continuous Love for Cambodia - Cambodia Overseas Volunteer Team" has already been active for seven seasons. Starting in August of 2008, the team held a series of librarian training courses in a village in Siem Reap and was running the Wat Bo Elementary Digital Opportunity Center. Furthermore, in 2011, the team designed an active and interesting English curriculum according to local needs, and organized an information empowerment camp to plant the seeds of knowledge in the war-ravaged villages of Cambodia. This winter break, at CYCU's Service Learning Center, under the direction of Director Yen-Hui Lu, a group of eight flew to Cambodia's Siem Reap Province to conduct a 14 day education project at Lvea Village Library, Villages' Library, and the Siem Reap Teacher Training College.

At the location the volunteers saw with their own eyes the unbalanced way in which the world's resources are spread out. A thatched roof library without a single book, children using shaved down pencils till they're too short to use, and writing on the covers of their dust-covered note books – these realities were shocking to the volunteering students, and transformed their way of thinking. So, after returning home they took the initiative to share their love by creating and selling small note books with a Chinese play on words on the cover that is roughly translated as "Cambodia together". Together earnings reached 40,378 NTD, all of which was donated to the Khmer Akphiwat Khmer Organization to help build a wind and rainproof covering for the Cambodian children's library.

In addition to linking up with the world, Chung Yuan Christian University also fosters this type of caring and neighborly attitude towards Taiwan's society. Department of Electrical Engineering professor Chun-Yao Lee has on separate occasions led students to Taoyuan's Happy Home, SOS Children's Village of Taiwan, and the Taoyuan County Loving Home Development Center to check the electricity usage and help authorities there to meet energy savings goals by developing tailored energy saving plans to fight electricity costs. This not only allowed the students who volunteered to enrich themselves, but also gave them a chance to put to practice the professional knowledge they gained in electrical systems and machines. After four years, each of the groups had saved 5%-15% a month in electricity costs as a result. This year from March to April, it is expected that NT\$ 3000 will be saved. When the students unite theory and practice, and use service learning to care for the disadvantaged, they are able to contribute to society while experiencing transformation and growth in themselves.

In one press conference, we invited many guests from the service organizations to come to the event: Lin Jin-lang, Director of the Yunlin Aquaculture Association; Bai Bo-ruo, Director of SOS Children's Village of Taiwan; Shufang Tsai, Director of Frontier Foundation; founding Chairman Xiongjian Lin, Chairman Yangruo Jun and Director-General Li-Zhen Lin of Streetvoice Love Your Neighbor; Chairman, Zheng-bo Chang and Director-General, Liu Hsiu-jong of Taoyuan County's Carpenter's House; Taiwan Handicapped Work Promotion Association counselor Hsu-hsiung Tang; Taoyuan County Loving Home Development Center Director Wei Chilin, PR Hsue Yun Chang, social worker Chingwen Chang and Loving Home care-recipients.

In addition, there were award presentations. The guests took part in the special CYCU created "Professional No Borders, Service without Limits" Ceremony. A custom-made extralarge puzzle, which was pieced together by CYCU president, Wanli Cheng together with student representatives and the service groups spelling out "Heart of Life" – represented the heart of service that CYCU shares with the service groups. The groups put together a picture of moved hearts among those both giving and receiving care.

At the event, an exhibit also displayed the service achievements of the 22 member teacher-student service team. Achievements were separated into categories including Education and Counseling, Creative Design, Community Building, Information Technology and International Care. Together with partner groups, the participants designed a problem solving service project, creating a story of moved hearts. Students used "learning while doing" to transform self-focused attitudes. The exhibit encouraged students to look at the mission that young people can apply their knowledge to. Young people from all over should not overlook their own duties, but roll up their sleeves, cross boundaries, and make use of the gentle force of "lives affecting lives" to change themselves and the world.



Soochow University, Taiwan

Soochow University stands ready to welcome students of Mandarin Chinese as her Chinese Language Center wins approval from Taiwan's Ministry of Education

After careful planning and a process of two-tier scrutiny, paper review and on site inspection by experts and scholars from the Ministry of Education, SCU Chinese Language Center has now won approval and is ready to welcome foreign students to study Chinese language, starting in February, 2013.

The SCU Chinese Language Center offers localized Chinese learning programs with the prospect of creating and introducing competitive Chinese education in the world. Our mission is to promote Chinese language learning and teaching that is deeply rooted in Taiwan and widely adopted globally.

In addition to Chinese classes for foreign students, we are also providing comprehensive and professional Chinese language teacher training programs. President Pan Wei-Ta cordially invites all teachers and students from ACUCA schools to study Chinese at Soochow University.

In recent years, the wave of "Learning Mandarin Chinese" has swept across the world and across various different fields. Addressing

the global trend, matching the blueprint and objectives of national policy development, and responding to the ever increasing needs from universities overseas, President Pan Wei-Ta of Soochow University, upon taking office, established the Mandarin Chinese Language Center.

We now meet the challenges of Chinese Language Teaching with an eye to "bequeath Chinese culture, and teach Chinese language." In addition to well-designed regular Chinese Language Teacher Training programs, we are also taking advantage of the easily accessible Palace Museum, Chiang Kai-shek Residence, and Yangmingshan National Park, all significant cultural or natural sites located in our vicinity. The Mandarin Chinese Language Center may also provide various customized programs and contents to meet different needs, all in the best possible learning environment.

For more detailed information about our programs or classes, please feel free to contact

E-mail: mandarin@scu.edu.tw, Tel: 886-2-28819471 ext. 5921 · 5922

CJCU celebrates “International Culture Day”

CJCU (Chang Jung Christian University) celebrated “International Culture Day” on November 20, 2012. The day’s activities, organized by the Office of International Affairs, provided local and international students with opportunities to build friendships, share their cultures with one another, and broaden their international perspective. Students from 10 countries, including Austria, Canada, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam, introduced unique aspects of their own cultures, discussing features such as geography, greetings, and cuisine. Participants enjoyed sampling a variety of international foods, including Japanese okonomiyaki (savory pancakes), French crepes, and Taiwanese vegetarian dishes. A mother of one of the students prepared Vietnamese spring rolls especially for the occasion. A choral performance of Philippine tunes and Christmas carols by students from Grace Christian College of the Philippines added to the festive atmosphere.

Commenting on the rationale behind International Culture Day, Joy Chen of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) explained that culture co-exists with life. According to Chen, “Cultural differences cannot be understood merely by talking about them. They have to be experienced first hand.” Chen expressed her appreciation to the exchange group from Grace Christian College of the Philippines, CJCU colleagues in the Language Education Center, the Teaching Resources Center, and the OIA for their assistance in holding the event. Dr. Lan Yu-Su, Director of the OIA, affirmed the value of such activities, saying that, in addition to having great fun, they gave students an appreciation of the special features of different cultures. Canadian international student Montagu Donald Orr also expressed his appreciation for the activities of International Culture Day. According to Orr, “I was moved by the warmth and enthusiasm I saw in the Taiwanese students. The activity gives us an opportunity to get to know people from different countries.”



Tunghai University, Taiwan

An Abundant and Blissful Semester at Tunghai University

School year 2012 was another busy and yet blissful year for Tunghai University. From the Freshmen Orientation at the beginning of the school year all the way to Christmas, God’s everlasting providence was there to sustain all things. May our Lord use the work of His hands to encourage all of us in the Spirit.

The school year started out with 3,600 freshmen arriving at our campus. Their years to come at Tunghai were unfolded with a four-day orientation. More than 200 senior students, and all the faculty and staff, dedicated their time to acquaint our young friends with their new home. The chaplain’s office was in charge of the activity, “A Night of Hope,” which closed the orientation. All the students and faculty members gathered at Luce Field to celebrate this new beginning for the freshmen. Having our motto, “*Truth is acquired through faith, expressed by deeds*” as the central theme of the evening, the activity expressed this belief on stage through music, dance, film, drama, and a live interview with a missionary who has devoted her life to Tunghai for almost half of a century. At the end of the evening, the students released their luminous bamboo dragonflies, with their hopes pre-written during the orientation, into the midnight air. The night was lit by more than 3,500 of these luminous bamboo dragonflies, creating an incredible view in the sky. Then the bamboo dragonflies dropped one by one to the ground and were subsequently picked up by the students. While it was likely the students picked up their own bamboo-copters, it was also more than likely they got other people’s, with a hope that they can make their dreams or other people’s dreams come true in the coming four years. Not only can students develop themselves at Tunghai University, but also provide service to others on and off campus, so as to achieve the ideal of holistic education and character development as well as the goal of service-learning education.

With this wonderful start in September, we then had a reunion concert for Tunghai Choir in October. More than thirty alumni returned to sing, and more than 200 came to join the wonderful concert. Our recently established Luce Choir, which was formed by our current students, also joined the program to sing with the alumni. Our legendary conductor Mrs. Rice guided these students to a successful evening full of wonderful memories and hopes for the new generation.

As always, the semester came to an end with the arrival of the Christmas season. Our Christmas theme for 2012 was “Gift no. N+1”. “N+1” symbolizes the infinite gifts we have received in the past. “1” indicates the one gift which truly touches our hearts. Students from the Fine Arts and Creative Design College mounted 22 works of art throughout the campus, displaying their own versions of “N+1.” On the Luce field, more than 200 gingerbread houses were on exhibit, demonstrating students’ ideas of what makes a house a home. On Christmas Eve, thousands of tourists and students gathered on the same spot, counting down for Christmas as we sounded the bell 100 times. On that night, we re-told the story of the wandering sheep, the story about how a shepherd left his 99 sheep to find the one that wandered off. This is the story about how we are all the 99+one, the lost one, the only one, the one reason why Word has become flesh, the one reason for Christmas. How wonderful are the stories God has written! Praise and glory be to Him!



A Night of Hope



Conductor Mrs. Rice and Luce Choir Practicing



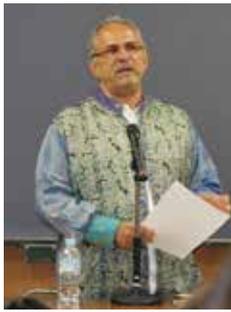
Exhibition of Gingerbread houses - Students demonstrating ideas of what makes a house a home



Luce Choir Practicing

"A Message of Peace from Timor-Leste to Japan"

Nanzan University joined UN Academic Impact on March 2011. Since then, through various lectures, it has been pressing ahead with initiatives to encourage understanding of peace and conflict resolution. On this occasion, the Department of Asian Studies in the Faculty of Foreign Studies was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to host an address by the former president of the Republic of Timor-Leste, Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, who led Timor-Leste in the period from securing independence to its first steps as a nation. Those in attendance were able to hear the thoughts of Mr. Ramos-Horta on peace and development in Asia.



A scene from the lecture
 hear the thoughts of Mr. Ramos-Horta on peace and development in Asia.

Apology and reconciliation required in order to build peace

While Timor-Leste gaining independence from Indonesia in 2002 is still fresh in the memories of many people, Mr. Ramos-Horta pointed out that few Japanese know that in World War II, Japan invaded the region that is now Timor-Leste. Furthermore, before that, the region was controlled by Portugal for 500 years. He repeatedly stated that "forgiveness" is crucial as we move forward, even in the context of such painful history. Of the countries that were invaded by Japan during World War II, Timor-Leste is the only one that has not demanded an official apology from Japan. At the same time, Mr. Ramos-Horta stated that he thinks that Japan should again offer an apology to its neighboring countries and pursue a process of reconciliation as Timor-Leste has done with Indonesia.

Issues with the truth about "Rising Asia"

Mr. Ramos-Horta voiced his concerns about Asia becoming a problem region with countries such as India, Pakistan and North Korea possessing nuclear weapons despite so many of their citizens living in poverty, and countries such as Iran attempting to develop such weapons of mass destruction. In order for Asia to develop in the true sense of the word, it is necessary to create a strong and stable partnership that is capable of dealing with the various problems that the region faces. However, as mentioned previously, we are in an unstable situation in which reconciliation is yet to be achieved among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea over matters dating back to World War II, fought more than 60 years ago. Mr. Ramos-Horta pointed out that we must apply the necessary know-how, funding and flexible thinking to bring about a solution to this problem.

A lecture room capable of holding 120 people was used as the venue for his address, but he was such a draw-card that many people were prepared to stand in the aisles to listen. Approximately half of the time allocated for his address was used on questions and answers, which testifies to the fact that the students were greatly interested in the content.

In addition, the Timor-Leste Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Isilio Antonio de Fatima Coelho da Silva, who is an alumnus of the Nanzan University Center for Japanese Studies, gave a lecture to students in October 2011, held by the Nanzan University Center for Asia-Pacific Studies and the Department of Asian Studies. It is likely that the lecture by Ambassador Coelho had already stimulated interest among many students in the economy, human resource development and language policies of Timor-Leste and that that contributed to the success of this latest lecture session.

Miriam College, Philippines

"Another World is Emerging" 5th World Social Forum on Migrations (WSFM)

hosted by Miriam College – Women And Gender Institute (MC-WAGI)

"Another world is not only possible, another world is emerging." This is how Rex Varona of Migrant Forum in Asia described the efforts of individuals and groups that gathered last November 26-30, 2012, for the 5th World Social Forum on Migrations (WSFM). The WSFM, previously held in Brazil (2005), Spain (2006 & 2008), and Ecuador (2010), was held in Asia for the first time, specifically at Miriam College, Quezon City, Philippines.

One thousand eight hundred national and international delegates from diverse sectors including migrant groups, indigenous groups, feminist groups, labor groups, among many other members of civil society, gathered once again for critical discussions and for strategizing on issues of migration and mobility, Entitled "Mobility, Rights and Global Models: Looking for Alternatives." The *Pasinaya* (inauguration) began with an opening parade where the participants chanted the cry of Migration Forum in Asia (MFA): "What do we want? Human Rights! When do we want it? Now!" as they marched along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City.

The march was followed by the keynote speech of Congress Representative Walden Bello, a member of the Philippine House of Representatives, who referred to labor trafficking as modern-day slavery that has deep-seated ties dating back to the 16th century. With the de-industrialization, trade liberalization and prioritization of debt payments by the government, the features of neo-liberal capitalism have led to the expansion of the network to include smugglers and illegal recruiters, multinational companies and corrupt government officials, as well as the push for numerous individuals to seek jobs abroad – the majority of which are in household and domestic work. With this, a re-structuring of economies is in order – to provide decent jobs that can render the search for unsafe jobs abroad unnecessary. More importantly, Representative Bello emphasized protection for human rights as an essential step in addressing and putting an end to modern-day slavery.

In line with seeking alternatives to "end modern-day slavery" and understand local and international contexts and perspectives, a series of workshops ensued with the subthemes: crisis, critique and

consequences of global migration, migrants' rights are human rights, re-imagining migration: proposing alternatives, exploring models, and resistance, organization, action.

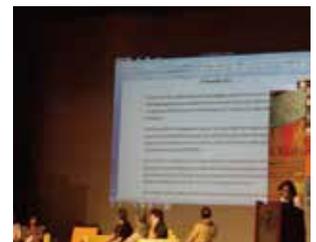
Among the workshops was an interactive discussion on stories of migrants facilitated by Miriam College Assoc. Prof. Aurora de Dios and Asst. Prof. Tesa de Vela, with partner school Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Prof. Jose Roberto Guevara Ph.D. and Prof. Margaret Liddell. The workshop entitled "Gender, Legal Frameworks & Trafficking" sought to deepen an understanding of the migration and trafficking phenomenon from the perspective of a migrant sending country like the Philippines, in dialogue with a migrant receiving country like Australia.

Towards the end of the WSFM, the members of the Philippine working group and the international organizing committee released a draft declaration of the points and recommendations discussed throughout the 5th WSFM. The final version is posted at the WSFM site - <http://www.wsfm2012.org/home/latest-news-a-updates/121-manila-declaration-5th-wsfm>.

To end modern slavery, the declaration calls on civil society and all human rights organizations to be at the forefront of social transformation. It calls on individuals and groups through collective empowerment to "forge ahead" and work towards making migration a choice, not a necessity.



Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Australia Prof. Robbie Guevara, Ph.D. and students join opening parade



Forging Ahead: A presentation of declaration and summary of points and recommendations

Filamer inaugurates 2nd University President



Rev. Dr. Domingo J. Diel, Jr.

Filamer Christian University officially welcomed its new university president with the investiture of Rev. Dr. Domingo J. Diel, Jr. as its 2nd university president on September 18, 2012, at the FCU Roblee Hall. The ceremony, as requested by Dr. Diel himself, was as simple and as solemn as possible, reflective of his own personality.

President Diel is one of the most respected leaders and widely known Christian luminaries in the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches (CPBC), the umbrella organization of the Filamer Christian University (FCU). Rev. Dr. Diel, Jr., is a foreign trained pastor. He obtained his Doctor of Theology degree at the University of Hamburg, Germany; his Master of Theology at United Theological College in India; and his Bachelor of Divinity in Serampore College, India. He has impressive national and foreign professional experiences, and is noted for his powerful and inspirational preaching.

Dr. Diel, Jr. had been president of Filamer Christian College from November in 1993 until he retired in August of 2000. Thereafter, he became part-time professor in the College of Theology at the Central Philippine University (CPU), where he served in different significant positions before his tenure as president of Filamer. During this time, he was re-elected President of CPBC for the second time in 2000-2003.

He is married to a very supportive German national, Elsbeth Dutt Diel, and has two children, Prema Helga Muria, married to Naser Khalil, and Soeren David, who is married to Donna Justiniani. President Diel's grandchildren include Micha Gabriel, David Aaron Khalil, Anja Francisca and Vera Althea.

Filamerians specially sought Rev. Dr. Diel's return as OIC president last January 1, 2012, to assist them in their financial and moral struggles. Now they are pleased by his acceptance as full pledged president for three years until May 31, 2015 with the FCU, BOT Resolution. This will give the university more continuity in the implementation of programs and more stability as well in management.

Christian University of Thailand, Thailand

Christian University of Thailand Presented Honorary Doctor of Arts to the King of Bhutan



Mr. Charn Chotinantasath, Chairman of Christian University Council, Professor. Dr. Janjira Wongkhumthong, the President of Christian University of Thailand, the committee members of Christian University Council and the faculties from Christian University of Thailand had an audience with the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and presented a proposal to bestow a Honorary Doctor of Arts in the Public and Honorary Doctor of Arts in the Public and Private Management on His Majesty, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck at Thimphu Palace, The Kingdom of Bhutan.

His Majesty, the King, has successfully demonstrated his leadership and versatile talents of administrative work including exercise of the Philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) to become more visible internationally. His Majesty the King Khesar has emphasized development of the country in different areas, which includes agriculture, tourism, education and health care services, in parallel with the successful transition to democracy in the country. His Majesty, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck is an excellent diplomat and has extraordinarily demonstrated his public and private management skills.

The University Council has unanimously agreed to bestow the Honorary Doctor of Arts Degree in Public and Private Management on the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

Certified Master Entrepreneur

Blood, sweat, tears, and deprived sleep— this is how batch representative Zenaida E. Palisoc described her rigorous yet interesting 18 month experience in Ateneo de Manila Professional Schools' Master in Entrepreneurship. Last February 7, 2013, Master in Entrepreneurship batch 5 had its closing ceremony, acknowledging a new generation of Certified Master Entrepreneurs.

The ceremony was opened by Dr. Anton Del Carmen, program director of AGSB-ME and followed by the induction of graduates. Professor Danilo Antonio, Professor Mariano Lagman, and Professor Francisco Bernardo III each introduced their students and their achievements in their own enterprises. Batch representatives Zenaida E. Palisoc and Patricia Lianne Prado thanked their professors and gurus for the experience and learning they had received under their wings.

Dr. Aljenadrino Ferreria gave an inspirational talk to the graduates, the nation builders. Lastly, Professor Albert Buenviaje, the Dean of ME reminded the students to uphold the Ateneo values as they lead lives to make a difference as nation builders: Light in the Lord and for the greater glory of God.

The Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and the ACE Center for Entrepreneur and Management Education Inc (ACE-ME) is a designated program for real-life entrepreneurs who wish to develop their skills and knowledge in handling and advancing an enterprise.

This year's graduates are Aldous Alinog, Edwin Bernal, Carmela Crisostomo, Dominic David, Velrie Go, Sharlyn Rose Kaw, Annaliza Laxamana, Jeremie Lo, Andrew Gregory Lui, Zanaida Palisoc, Patrica Lianne Prado, Jose Remo III, Marlon Tan, Tyrone Jason Tan, Tristan Timbol, Raisa Trefias and Annika L Yao. For more photos, visit ME Batch 5 Closing Ceremony Album in Ateneo.edu



Developing Leadership Potential In Our Youth: Ateneo –Pathways Launches Praxis

Forming leaders requires more than the usual workshops and discussions done inside the four corners of classrooms.

Last November, Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) – Pathways to Higher Education (PHE) launched a series of praxis projects that aim to hone the project management skills of youth and give them opportunities to engage in activities that are relevant to several key issues our country faces today.

Almost 800 students, teachers, and volunteers were involved in seven development-oriented projects in chosen communities led by different groups of PHE college participants called *Trailblazers*, where they applied what they learned from the various Pathways leadership workshops, interacted with other Filipino youth, and sharpened their skills in organizing activities.

After the recent typhoons and disasters that hit the Philippines, another group of Trailblazers decided to organize *Survival Skills Training*, a half day seminar-lecture and actual demonstration on disaster preparedness and survival measures for earthquakes, fire, floods, and tropical storms with more than 160 Marikina City parents participating in the event. The activity was in partnership with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Rescue 117 and National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC) last November 24, 2012.

Another project was the Popcorn: *Asian Film Fest*, an inspirational Asian film viewing activity about different Asian practices, beliefs and cultures which aimed to instill intercultural awareness and values for around 60 second year Quirino High School students in Quezon City on November 10 and 24, 2012.

The most recent praxis accomplishment was *Groundbreaker: Lead to Save our Nature*, a tree planting activity in Marikina Watershed, Antipolo City last January 12, 2013. More than 250 students and volunteers trooped to the activity site with their gardening tools at hand, and planted 150 fruit-bearing and rainforest tree seedlings in the Marikina Watershed, one of the most devastated areas by the south-west monsoon (*Habagat*) rage last August. Public school teachers were also sent by principals in the hope that they will be able to conduct the same

for their schools and nearby communities. The praxis team partnered with different non-government organizations (NGOs) and government offices around the watershed in implementing the activity.

Read, Lead, Succeed, a reading tutorial activity, *Silip Pilipinas*, a Philippine appreciation camp, and Volunteer' s Christmas Party, and Paskuhang Pathways, a celebration of the Christmas season in the country through an outreach program for children were the other completed praxis projects.

Four more groups are expected to implement projects regarding awareness about cybercrime, voter' s education, publicity and fund raising, and tutorials on computer technical troubleshooting this February 2013.

The praxis projects were spearheaded by different groups of college students as part of *Trailblazers*, the core leadership formation program of Pathways to Higher Education, which includes academic formation, as well as the boosting of participants' self-esteem and character to ensure that they can confidently face the rigors of college and life after college, and make use of their skills to serve society. The program is anchored in psychology and capacity-building theories and frameworks that equip students with skills that go beyond academic excellence to form young citizens who will lead and serve the nation.



Some of the Pathways students and organizers of Groundbreaker: Lead to Save Nature after the tree planting activity.



PHE Director Solvie Nubla-Lee with the praxis team leader Rosebelle Anduyon, making sure that the *bitaog* seedling is planted properly under the soil of Marikina Watershed, January 12, 2013.

ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme Report

Name: SUMIN JEONG

Home University: Keimyung University, South Korea

Host University: Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

During the Exchange Student Program, I was able to spend time with friends from other parts of the world. As foreigners in the Philippines, we had a lot in common and we were challenged by the new environment and the new things we were facing. It was fun comparing similarities and differences among Asian exchange students. It was worthwhile learning the cultures of the European exchange students. Before being an exchange student, I only knew about other cultures through books and articles. I discovered it was easier for me to understand and remember details about other cultures by listening directly to people.



Everything was a challenge for me at first. I had to ask local friends for help. At times, I got desperate and upset having to adjust to a different culture. I felt lonely as well. As time passed by, I got to know the culture better and became more independent. I always recall what Charles Darwin said: "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, not the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change. These words gave me inspiration to do my best to adjust to live in another country.

I usually hang out with Asian exchange students because we have a lot in common such as rice being the staple food in Asia. We spent a lot of time sharing each other' s culture. It was very interesting to know

about Southeast Asian culture with exchange students from Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei. I have joined some organized trips and it was quite fun to travel with local people and exchange students. I think that traveling alone and with friends is always good.

In the middle of the semester, I was a bit busy with my homework and quizzes, but at the same time I was getting closer with my local friends. I experienced more of the local culture like taking a jeep and going to local restaurants, then learning more about their food. I found out that my knowledge of the culture and history of a certain country was superficial. Relating with both local and foreign friends made me discover more. I also have joined a class in capoeira, one form of the martial arts in Brazil with an exchange student who learned it. Thanks to that, I have met lots of local friends who are not near my university.

Choosing the Philippine was a great choice for me. It was easier for me to get used to Asian culture and to share my culture with the local people. At the same time, it was exciting to spend time with European exchange students who are interested in Asian culture. The Philippines is an English speaking country, but they also have their own language as well. I tried to learn their mother language because I believe that language is a basic tool for communicating with people. The Exchange Student Program made me a better person. I am more mature and very motivated to face challenges.



Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia

PARAHYANGAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (UNPAR) INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE 2013 ON GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

UNPAR ISC 2013 was held at UNPAR on 17-24 January 2013. This year's was the first conference, and it was designed as the annual event of UNPAR's Office for International Affairs and Cooperation. As a member of International Network of Universities, a Consortium for Global Citizenship, UNPAR also chose Global Citizenship as the basic topic of the Conference. The concept of global citizenship shapes the attitudes that UNPAR finds important to be implanted for all young people, to develop their sense of responsibility and a feeling that they are not only national, but also global citizens, who are responsible to cope with not only local, but also global issues. Therefore, UNPAR humbly strives to deepen the awareness of young people that they are global citizens.

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This year the conference was divided into 2 (two) different sub-conferences.

-Global Terrorism

International terrorist activities have become a growing concern within international societies after a significant number of attacks and bombings in the beginning of the 21st century. States and nations are working together to tackle this escalating phenomenon. And in this respect, societies take a prominent part, since they are the ones who are directly involved and become victims of the terror. As a part of society, students have a great interest in domestic and international affairs, and need to grasp their implications to the society in which they live and grow up. With different cultural backgrounds, different disciplines, different experiences and different perspectives to view terrorism, students from various parts of the world can share their experiences, feelings, and ideas on how to combat terrorism.

-Water and Environmental Sustainability

Provision of an adequate quantity of clean water has been a matter of concern since the beginning of civilisation. Besides drought, streams have also always been the recipient of waste discharge from human activities, be it domestic sources, industrial or agricultural effluents or mining process water. The massive increase of industrial production, accompanied by a high growth of large urban populations, has led to severe water pollution problems over the last two centuries. Although there are regulations to control all activities related to water pollution and environmental protection, the water quality of some rivers in the world is deteriorating or even getting much worse because of weak legal enforcement and a lack of legal consciousness in the general population. A proactive action is therefore needed to communicate with stakeholders to communicate about the above water problems. Students and local people are stakeholders, and deserve information and sensitization about water and environment.

Hence a workshop entitled: "Think outside the sink" was designed to discuss and evaluate the water and environmental issues in the world and learn from the mining industry how to establish programs for maintaining water and environmental sustainability. In this conference, the participants advanced a campaign for improved conditions for Cikapundung River that crosses Bandung City.

The conference welcomed the participation of 79 international students and 31 UNPAR students from 26 different countries. During this conference, the students stayed at Sany Rosa hotel. All accommodations, local transportation and most of the meals were provided by UNPAR.

During their stay in Bandung, the participants experienced cultural activities, i.e. Karawitan (playing traditional music instruments), traditional dancing, and Pencak Silat (an Indonesian martial art). The participants actively participated in the programs. They also visited the Museum of Asia Africa Conference and Geology Museum, had a short city tour, went to Saung Angklung Mang Udjo, and enjoyed an angklung (traditional bamboo music instrument) workshop and performance. The participants not only watched the dance and music performance, but also instantly (under supervision of a conductor) played angklung together. They even played some modern and popular songs such as *Imagine* (John Lennon) and many other songs. At the closing ceremony, all delegations presented special cultural shows to represent their countries. They delivered various entertaining performances, from an Arabic style song by a Yamanian participant to a rap song by an American participant.

In general, the conference was successfully organized. Much excellent feedback was received by UNPAR. Participants' testimonies were very positive. The conference was a good venue for students from all over the world (including from the ACUCA network) to know each other and experience an opportunity for internationalization.

This conference was designed as an annual event of UNPAR. For the next UNPAR 2014 International Student Conference, we expect students from the ACUCA Network to participate. The Topic of the August 2014 Conference will be *Disaster Management*. It will be a single conference with an interdisciplinary approach.



Participants of Water and Environmental Sustainability Conference at Site Visit to Kota Baru Parahyangan.

ACUCA NEWS is published four times a year by the Secretariat of ACUCA. It is published primarily for circulation among member institutions. Hence, contributions from members are most welcome. Organizations and scholars interested in obtaining a copy may contact:

Fr. Leszek Niewdana, SVD
General Secretary, ACUCA
Fu Jen Catholic University
No. 510 Zhongzheng Rd.,
Xinzhuan Dist., New Taipei
City 24205, Taiwan (R.O.C.)
Tel +886 2 2905 2964
Fax +886 2 2902 8073
E-mail: acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw

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Editor's Notes

- Fu Jen Catholic University is honored to serve as the ACUCA Secretariat for 2013 to 2014. For future contacts, you can address your e-mail to acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw.
- Four issues of the newsletter "ACUCA News" are published each year. For the next issue, please send them together with print quality photos by e-mail to the ACUCA Secretariat (acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw) no later than **May 25, 2013** if you have any stories to share.