

INTRODUCING THE CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL INQUIRY IN ASIA: DEEPENING FAITH IN THE CHURCH IN ASIA

Something momentous happened in the campus of the International Graduate School of Leadership (IGSL) last May 23, 2024: the Center for Theological Inquiry in Asia or CTIA, an ATA-affiliate research center, was formally launched! The inauguration of CTIA came through the signing of a Memorandum of agreement between IGSL, represented by Drs. Cris Uy, President, and Andrew Liuson, Chairman of the Board, and ATA, represented by Dr. Theresa Lua, General Secretary. Gracing the event were select members of the IGSL community. Present also were a few members of the CTIA team who likewise shared of their experiences working in CTIA along with their

hopes and dreams for it: N.Earnest, John Leones, and Dr. Bea Ang, the incoming director.

CTIA was born to address the “resource differential in Asia”. It is meant to be a space where “Asian thinkers can create new things” and where scholars and practitioners can gather to dive deep into theological reflection and the Christian faith to bring those into expression in ways that are relatable to Asian Christians. The main areas CTIA aims to

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CTIA leaders and guests rejoice, together, celebrate the launching of CTIA!

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focus on are scriptural engagement, both through rigorous academic study and giving ear to the lived-out experiences of Asian Christians, interdisciplinary dialogue, practical theology, and cultural relevance. All these with a definite goal: to serve the Church and the broader community.

Of course, an endeavor this big is not something done alone! In order to make CTIA happen, the International Graduate School of Leadership and the Asia Theological Association joined forces! CTIA is the fulfillment of one of the Strategic Initiatives of ATA, that being to “develop regional communities of experts to address key theological and contextual issues through publications, consultations, and research”. It is likewise the first ATA- Affiliate Research Center.

ATA- Affiliate Research Centers are meant to “leverage the expertise available among constituent members of the ATA by promoting the discovery, sharing, and communication of knowledge within and beyond the ATA community”. ATA- Affiliate Research Centers are beneficial to both parties- and in this case, CTIA and ATA.

For one, CTIA will benefit as ATA facilitates cooperation between the research center and ATA leaders and scholars with expertise in the area of the center’s primary focus. This gives CTIA access to more resources, quality assurance, and accreditation. This likewise allows for an enhanced academic exchange between numerous theological institutions in the region and beyond! But more than just academic exchanges between theological institutions, being an ATA Affiliate Research Center will also open doors for exchange between other ATA- affiliate research centers. Dr. Theresa Lua, in her speech, expressed her hopes that CTIA will be an example to the ATA community, and that more research centers will spring to life in the years to come! In addition to all that, ATA will, of course, be featuring CTIA in ATA-related newsletters and updates!

On the other hand, CTIA will contribute to ATA as it will regularly be promoting events, projects, and publications of the ATA. CTIA will likewise make available select content (such as articles, multimedia and the like) it has developed for distribution via ATA-related channels. Furthermore, as CTIA seeks cooperation with and in support of ATA member institutions in the region, it is able to provide information on regional contextualization issues and

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Dr. Steve Pardue introduces CTIA to the guests.



Drs. Cris Uy and Theresa Lua share their hopes and dreams for CTIA.



Drs. Theresa Lua, Andrew Liuson, and Cris Uy sign the memorandum of agreement between IGSL and ATA



Dr. Bea Ang, incoming director of CTIA, shares four key areas that she hopes will define the ethos and strategic direction of CTIA.



CTIA's junior fellows share their experiences working in CTIA, along with their hopes for the research center.

responses- and CTIA will as part of its commitment in this partnership.

There is no doubt that the official launch of CTIA is just the beginning of many exciting and new things! We

can all look forward to seeing not just more resources, but also more collaborations and partnerships all with the goal of serving the church and the wider community! ♦

Unveiling the Logo of CTIA

Logos are great ways by which organizations communicate who they are, their purpose, and what they value; and CTIA does a great job conveying all that in its logo. Each element of the logo was intentionally designed to purposefully convey CTIA and all that it stands for and hopes to achieve. These elements are as follows:

C- The letter C was designed as a two-thirds circle. This conveys the fact that two-thirds of the world's population is in Asia. CTIA hopes to reach that two-thirds.

T- The letter T was designed with a grey book at the top. This represents both scripture, CTIA's starting point, and learning more broadly, as CTIA is a community of communal education.

I – The letter I was designed to be a person with a light bulb coming up. This conveys a person learning and understanding- and that is one of the things that CTIA hopes to achieve.

A – For geometry enthusiasts, one will immediately recognize a right triangle for the letter A. This was



CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL
INQUIRY IN ASIA

designed in that manner to convey the fact that CTIA wants to pass things forward.

Without a doubt, the logo of CTIA was not only designed well, but will also give strong positive impressions to those who see it and invite engagement with the wider community. Kudos to the designer, a member of Victory, one of the mega churches in the Philippines, for a job well done!

CHECK OUT THE CTIA WEBSITE!

Most websites exist just simply to inform those who visit of their business or cause and sometimes to sell the organization's product. But not that of CTIA. In fact, "there's nothing quite like it on the internet, where Asian evangelical theologians reflect on matters of Christian faith in the Asian context." So, if you want to be enriched, visit <https://ctiasia.org/> !!! ♦

AGST Philippines Turns 40: Four Decades of Working Together in Preparing Scholars and Leaders for the Church in Asia and Beyond!

AGST actually started because of a limitation. There was no one seminary back then [able to] offer a ThM or PhD on its own. That was why a group of seminaries joined together. And through this partnership, AGST was able to accomplish great things for God. There is great value in being limited.

- Dr. Rico Villanueva, AGST Alumnus, ThM in Biblical Studies, year 2002



Merrymaking, praise, and testimonies of God's faithfulness filled one of the halls of the Every Nation building in Bonifacio Global City, Metro Manila on the morning of June 4 as the Asia Graduate School of Theology (AGST)- Philippines celebrated its 40th anniversary. Alumni, leaders of each of the member schools that make up the consortium, program directors, students, and of course the leaders and the board of trustees gathered to look back in gratitude for all the things the Lord has done in and through AGST Philippines- and looked forward in eager expectation of what the Lord has yet to do!

The celebration began with powerful worship led by a team from Victory, one of the Every Nation churches. After which, the guests were welcomed and ushered into prayer by no less than the chairman of



Dr. Romer Macalinao, current AGST PH dean and Alumnus, acknowledged how God faithfully moved to make the celebration happen.



The Asia Theological Association gave its greetings through our General Secretary, Dr. Theresa Lua. She likewise served as AGST- PH dean for a decade and is an alumna herself!

the board, Dr. Laurence Gatawa. Over the course of the event, greetings from the various partners and related organizations of AGST- Philippines were heard; greetings from Langham, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), World Evangelical Alliance, and of course, the Asia Theological Association, the ministry through which AGST was born! A special anniversary message was given by Dr. Anastacio "Jun" Escosar, President of Every Nation Seminary (ENS) and AGST Alumnus. ENS likewise hosted this anniversary thanksgiving celebration, allowing it to be held in their function hall, free of charge!

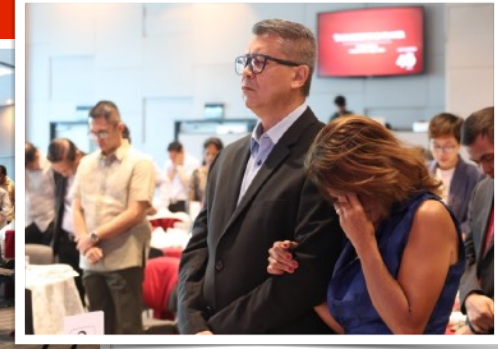
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Dr. Jun Escosar, ENS President and AGST Alumnus, gave a powerful and challenging message for the occasion.



Leaders and guests together prayed for AGST PH and its ministry.



The welcoming remarks were given and the opening prayer was led by AGST Chairman, Dr. Laurence Gatawa.



Langham sent its greetings through Dr. Rico Villanueva who is also an alumnus of AGST.

Dr. Ephraim Tendero gave greetings on behalf of the World Evangelical Association (WEA).



Dr. Timoteo Gener, President of Febias College of Bible, not only led the Thanksgiving Prayer but gave a short testimony of God's faithfulness.



Dr. Melchor Go, President of the Asian Theological Seminary and Co- Chairperson of AGST-PH, gave the Closing Remarks and Benediction



On behalf of Bishop Dr. Noel Pantoja, Dr. Aldrin Penamora gave the greetings of the Philippine Council of Evangelica Churches.



Guests enjoyed fellowshiping with one another on this joyous

Well, a common thread that ran through all the greetings and even in the message was the emphasis given to interdependence, cooperation, along with the strength each one finds when we all work together. The need to sustain cooperation along with the need to remain humble, never thinking much of ourselves, was likewise highlighted in all the messages.

God has been faithful not just to sustain but also to grow the ministry of AGST- Philippines! We can be sure that he will continue to be faithful in the next decade and even decades as we all look to Him in humble dependence and faith.

Congratulations, AGST- Philippines! ◆



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BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION: JOIN US FOR SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND STORIES!

We are excited to finally announce the details for our upcoming theological consultation!

Dates: November 12-15, 2024

Venue: Furama Hotel, Chiang Mai

Registration deadline:

September 30, 2024

Register through this [link](#) or simply by scanning the QR code:



Cost:

- **Stay-in participants:**

	Hotel room/meals	Registration fee	Total
Single room	US\$ 205.00	US\$ 95.00	US\$ 300.00
Twin sharing	US\$ 145.00	US\$ 95.00	US\$ 240.00

(Inclusive of 3 nights hotel accommodation (Nov. 12-14, checkout on Nov.15) and meals starting breakfast on Nov. 12 to lunch on Nov. 15.

* Dinner on your own on Nov. 14 as participants are free to go for sightseeing after lunch.

- **Non-staying participants: US\$ 190.00**

Inclusive of meals starting A.M. snack- Nov. 12 to Lunch- Nov. 15, 2024 w/ 2 dinners.

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

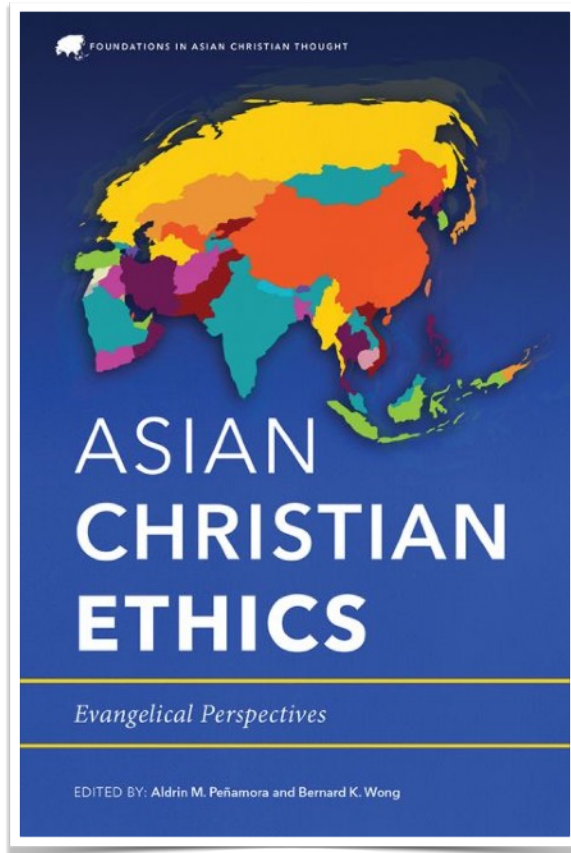


Asian Christian Ethics Gets a Very Good Review on Christianity Today

We are happy to share with you that our recently published “Asian Christian Ethics” was given a very good review on Christianity Today! If you would like to read it, please click on the following link: [Can You Serve Christ and Confucius? | Christianity Today](https://www.christianitytoday.com/2023/07/can-you-serve-christ-and-confucius/) .

Congratulations to all contributors and to the editors, Drs. Aldrin Penamora and Bernard Wong!

If you have not read or even have a copy of Asian Christian Ethics, it is available on Amazon https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BGL3P4C3?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_dp_N0MFF6SXXEBQG9EJJXS8 and on the Website of Langham <https://langhamliterature.org/asian-christian-ethics>. Go get your copy now! ◆



Updates on the ATA-Tearfund Scholarship

Last year, we invited postgraduate students from our accredited seminaries in Southeast and East Asia to apply for the ATA- Tearfund Integral Mission Scholarship. We are happy to announce and congratulate the following students who will be the first recipients of the scholarship:

Kiim, Thang Lian (Myanmar)

DMin, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Baguio, Philippines

“The Civic Engagement of Myanmar Christian Churches in Response to covid 19 Pandemic in a Case of Tedim Township, Chin State, Myanmar”

Mamre Buelis-Bating (Philippines)

PhD, Transformation Learning, Asia Graduate School of Theology-Philippines/Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary

“The Impact of the Light and Life Bible College (LLBC) on the Spiritual Formation of Its Selected Graduates: A Phenomenological Study”

Nari Josiah Wohufia (Papua New Guinea)

DMin, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Baguio, Philippines

“Developing an Effective Civic Engagement and Partnership between the State, the Civil Society Organisations, and the Assemblies of God Church in Papua New Guinea”

Once again, congratulations to Kiim Thang Lian, Mamre Buelis- Bating, and Nari Josiaah Wohufia!

Well, if you are a post- graduate (ThM, Dmin, PhD) student in one of the ATA accredited seminaries in Southeast and East Asia, doing research in the area of Integral Mission you are invited to apply for the ATA-Integral Mission Scholarship!

To apply for this scholarship, kindly follow these instructions:

1. Application Form: Fill in the ATA-Tearfund Integral Missions Scholarship application form on google forms.([Click here](#))
2. Information about your research project: In the application form, there is space to tell us more about your integral mission research project:
 - Topic, scope and purpose of your dissertation/ thesis research project
 - Field research methodology: data gathering and analysis.
 - Research subjects and context
 - Contribution of this research to the church and to the field of integral mission.
3. Recommendation: Provide one academic recommendation.
4. Transcript: Current academic transcript of grades.

The deadline for applications is on September 30, 2024.◆

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ATA News is a bi-monthly publication of the Asia Theological Association

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Address all correspondence to the editor:
Angelica De Vera
ataasia.research@gmail.com

Please send a camera-ready layout by email attachment to the ATA News editor.