

# THE FOUNDATION FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

[www.ftesea.org](http://www.ftesea.org)

Newsletter No. 2, August 2016

Office of the Executive Director: 140 West Highland Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118 USA. Tel. 215-247-2458

## From the Chairperson: Cannon Peter Ng



At their 2013 annual Board meeting in Berkeley, CA, the FTESEA Board Members devoted two days to revision more effective ways of organizing the ministry of FTESEA in support to theological education of its partners in China, South East Asia and the World Council of Churches (Programs on Ecumenical Theological Education and Ecumenical Institute at Bossey).

At this revisioning session, Board members committed themselves to be a “working board”. In the last three years the insights from the revisioning session for effective partnership was followed through by the executive director, the newly created program committee, and all of the Board members in embarking on some the following engagements with partners.

- Joint ATESEA-FTESEA team visits to 12 ATESEA doctoral centers in July 2014,
- Joint CCC-FTESEA team visits to 8 seminaries in China in November 2015,
- Organizing a Conference on Asian Women in Theological Education and Women in theological Movements in June 2015 in Manila,
- Organizing a consultation in April 2016 in Hong Kong with partner representatives to set goals for partnership engagement in the next five years,
- Reconnecting with seminaries in Vietnam and Cambodia, and working on a possible support to training programs in Laos,
- Partnering with ETEWCC and ATESEA in organizing an Asian conference on the continued significance of contextual theologies in April 2017 in Bangkok.

My term as the chair of FTESEA will come to an end this year and I am deeply grateful to all my FTESEA colleagues for your commitment, good spirit and hard work, which have greatly benefited the mission of the Foundation. I have been awed by your dedication and tenacity, humbled by your creativity and competence, sustained by your good humor, and have savored your friendship.

I believe firmly that under the new leadership of the Foundation, the future will hold many opportunities for continued collaboration and friendship in the months and years ahead.

## **FTESEA Consultation with Partner Representatives**

In order to develop a long term plan of partnership, the FTESEA Program Committee held a consultation in Hong Kong from April 24 to 27, 2016 with partner representatives: the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA), the China Christian Council (CCC) and the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary (NJUTS), and the Ecumenical Theological Education of the World Council of Churches (WCC/ETE). The goal of the meeting was to discuss the respective programs of the partners, identify strategic priorities, and articulate ways of implementing these priorities in collaborative, collegial, and networked ways in the next three to five years. At the 2016 Annual FTESEA Board meeting in October the Board members will review and plan for the renewed partnership programs for the next three to five years.



Participating members: sitting left to right Dr. Foong Nghian Ngoei (ATESEA), Rev. Baoping Kan (CCC), Canon Peter C, Ng (FTESEA), Dr. Kwok Pui Lan (FTESEA), Dr. Chen Yilu (NJUTS), Dr. H.S. Wilson (FTESEA). Standing from left to right Dr. Amele Adamavi-Aho Ekue (WCC/ETE), Ms. Tammy Jackson (FTESEA), Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan (FTESEA), Dr. Manhong Melissa Lin (CCC and NJUTS), and Dr. Lester Edwin J. Ruiz (FTESEA) who is missing from the photograph.

## **Conference on Mutual Learning of Life and Mission of Younger Women Theologians**

A joint conference of ten younger theological educators from member seminaries of the Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College, and member seminaries of the China Christian Council will take place in Bangalore, India in the month of November 2016. The conference is planned to enable sharing and interacting between the Indian and Chinese participants about their context, faith and mission from the perspectives of the younger generation of women theologians.

## **Global Forum of Theological Educators**

The first meeting of the of 86 theological educators from six church confessional families—Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal and independent churches—from around the globe was held from May 16 to 20, 2016 in Germany to learn and share about current situation of theological and ministerial formation in their respective countries and regions.

FTESEA made a contribution for the participation of eight theological educators from China, South and Southeast Asia. Two of FTESEA Board members Dr. David Esterline (as co-chair of GFTE Executive Committee), Dr. Lester Ruiz (ATS representative) and the FTESEA Executive Director also took part in the Forum.



Group photo of the participants (courtesy of GFTE)

## **New Representative of the Reformed Church in America**



The Reformed Church in America has recommended Dr. Han-luen Kantzer Koline as its representative on the FTESEA Board. Dr. Kantzer Koline is an Assistant Professor of Church History and Theology at the Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI since July 2015.

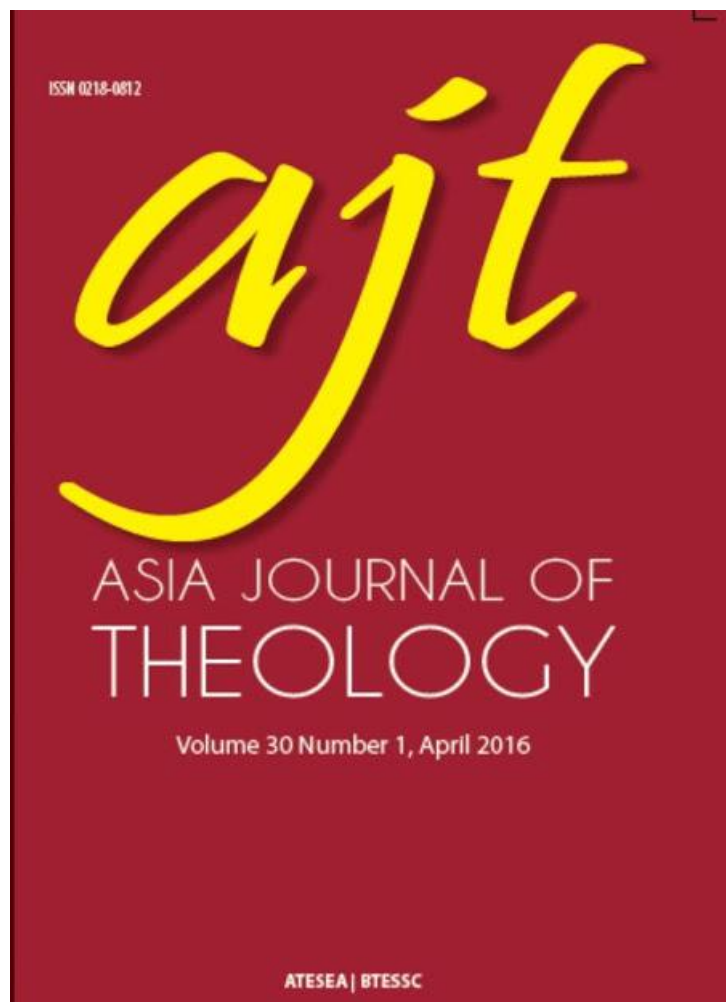


## Chinese Theological Review

The Chinese Theological Review volume 27 is now available. Ms. Janice Wickeri, editor ([ctreditor@gmail.com](mailto:ctreditor@gmail.com)) welcomes readers' feedback and she is especially interested to know whether readers found the articles included in *CTR* useful and helpful in their work and study. Web copies of *CTR* are available at <http://www.amityfoundation.org/eng/publications>; new issues are made available shortly after the publication.

## Asian Journal of Theology

(new look and a new editor)



*Asian Journal of Theology*, a joint publication of Association of Theological Education in South East Asia and the Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College and supported by FTESEA has a new editor: Dr. Simon Chan, Earnest Lau Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Theological College, Singapore. Email: [schau@ttc.edu.sg](mailto:schau@ttc.edu.sg)

## Visit to Seminaries in Cambodia

In the month of April 2016 ATESEA Chair of ATESEA Dr. Foong Nghian Ngoei, ATESEA Executive Director Dr. Limuel Equina and FTESEA Executive Director visited Cambodia Methodist Bible School and Phnom Penh Bible School to learn about current status of theological education in Cambodia and accompany them in whatever possible way to strengthen the programs of theological education in Cambodia. The political and social turmoil in Cambodia from mid 1970s to mid 1990s has left the country in a great devastation. Christians along with the rest of the Cambodians are rebuilding the nation and the education system and are in need of support and encouragement. The Cambodian Christians are trained in a number of member theological seminaries including Trinity Theological College, Singapore.



From left to right standing: Rev. Samuel Om (Lecturer), Dr. Foong Nghian Ngoei (ATESEA), Rev. Prak Vuthy (Principal), Dr. H.S. Wilson (FTESEA) and Dr. Limuel Equina (ATESEA); standing left to right Rev. Jessica Tiong (Dean of study), Rev. Pyo Myong Dae (Dean of students), Mr. Jacob Cheng (lecturer) and Rev. Svay Youtheareth (lecturer)

A similar visit was undertaken to seminaries in Vietnam by the Chair, the Executive Director of ATESEA and the Executive Director of FTESEA in September 2014. As a result of this visit FTESEA through ATESEA was able to support theological text book program of the Institute for Bible and Theology in Ho Chi Minh City since 2015.