



ForATL News

Newsletter of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians

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ForATL News

is published twice a year (June and December) by the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians as a channel for updates on ForATL activities, as well as a forum for discussion and exchange in the field of Asian theological librarianship.

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ForATL News welcomes contributions related to theological librarianship and the development of theological resources in Asia. All manuscripts or correspondence should be sent to the Editor, who reserves the right to determine suitability for publication.

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NOTICE!

Please note that articles for the next issue of ForATL News (4:2, Dec 2006) will be contributed by the **India/Sri Lanka/Pakistan/Myanmar region.**

REPORT ON THE SEREMBAN CONSULTATION

Submitted by: Elizabeth T. Pulanco, ForATL Convenor



The 4th Asia-wide Consultation of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians (ForATL) was held from 19-23 April 2006 at Seminari Theoloji Malaysia in Seremban, Malaysia with the theme: “*Strengthening the Collaboration between Theological Librarians and Scholars Towards Growth in Asian Theological Formation.*”

The ForATL Consultation had four resource persons and 36 participants coming from different Asian countries: one from Hong Kong, four from India, nine from Indonesia, nine from Malaysia, four participants from Myanmar, six from the Philippines, one from Singapore, one from Sri Lanka, and one from Taiwan.

Resource persons:

- 1) Dr. Michael Poon (Director, Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia, Singapore)
 - Keynote address: *The Emerging Tasks of Theological Education and the Role of Scholars and Theological Librarians in Asian Theological Formation.*
 - Session : *Documentation of Christianity in Asia Pilot Programme*
- 2) Mr. Chan Beng Seng (Executive Director, Documentation of Action Groups in Asia, Hong Kong)
 - Session : *Digitization of Archives Resources*
- 3) Dr. Goran Wiking (Faculty member, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong)
 - Session: *Future Directions of Church History, Ecumenical and Mission Studies in the Asia-Pacific.*
- 4) Rev. Anthony Loke (Faculty member, Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban)
 - Session : *Online Theological and Biblical Research Resources*

(Continued on page 2)

Seremban Consultation ... (Continued from page 1)

Major concerns discussed:

- 1) Reiteration for the recognition of the ecumenical role that theological libraries and librarians have in theological education;
- 2) The need for active collaboration between theological librarians, archivists and scholars in the documentation of databases on Asian journals and compiling of theses and dissertations;
- 3) Continuous development of Asia's vast theological resources and digitization of archives collection;
- 4) Much wider networking of theological libraries through exchange, partnerships and publications – nationally, regionally and with supporting ecumenical associations;
- 5) Enlarged courses in Theological Librarianship; and
- 6) Fundraising for the different projects and activities of ForATL.



Participants from India leading Morning Worship

Specific plans:



A section of the participants during a Consultation session

- 1) Revision of the Directory of Asian Theological Libraries' format and data;
- 2) Continuity and consistency in the publication of the ForATL newsletter;
- 3) Revision of the ForATL brochure;
- 4) Collaboration among institutions offering courses in theological librarianship;
- 5) Regional or localized short-term courses and workshops;
- 6) Wider networking with national and international library associations;
- 7) Formation of a task force to coordinate the setting up of an Internet Database for Asian Theological Journals and Postgraduate Dissertations.

ForATL Executive Committee elected:

- **Convenor** and area representative for the Philippines :
Ms. Elizabeth T. Pulanco, Librarian
Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Baguio City, Philippines
- **Secretary** and area representative for Indonesia :
Miss Hilda V. Putong, Head Librarian
Sekolah Tinggi Theologia INTIM, Makassar, Indonesia
- **Treasurer** and area representative for Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam :
Miss Christabel Wong, Librarian
Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban, Malaysia
- **Task force coordinator** and area representative for China and Hong Kong :
Mr. Tang Sui-Tung, Librarian
Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong
- Area representative for India, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka :
Mrs. Rita Wesley, Librarian
United Theological College, Bangalore, India
- Area representative for Japan, Korea and Taiwan : to be appointed
- Area representative for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific : to be appointed

Top to bottom :
Beth Pulanco,
Hilda Putong,
Christabel Wong,
Tang Sui-Tung,
Rita Wesley



Next Consultation:

Participants suggested that the 5th Consultation be held in the year 2009 in either the Philippines or Hong Kong.

EVALUATION : BRICKBATS & BOUQUETS

Comments from Consultation participants

...on the schedule

- The Consultation can be extended another one or two days. The schedule is quite tight.
- The schedule is a little bit too tight; need to have short breaks in between sessions.
- Spend more time for discussion because it was so fast.

...on the sessions

- Sessions on information technology to be increased.
- Improve group discussion of the participants:
 - there was less group discussions on certain subjects of interest in connection with the theme
 - one or two authoritative persons should also be invited from Theological and Christian Higher Education Associations in the area whenever conducting workshop and regional Consultation
- If the number of participants exceeds 30, divide into smaller group to discuss specific topics.
- Give time for each country represented to give a report.
- Get good resource persons for every theme. The resource person must know the work of library very well.
- Exposure trip was excellent.
- I really enjoyed and benefited from the visit to ISTAC. It was reaffirming to see similar struggles in special libraries.

...on the organization

- Many people has not met before; it would be good to have time to introduce each other.
- The seating arrangement can be more creative to let participants get the chance to see closer.
- Prepare a songbook so that we can refresh ourselves by singing songs before each session starts.
- Make a list of persons to lead prayer before meals.
- Good arrangement and organization
- Syabas to all of you. You did a great job. God bless you.

...in general

- Do develop and continue because it is good for the future of librarians, especially with regard to high technology.
- The opportunity to meet and interact with other librarians has been an invaluable experience and has again motivated and refreshed commitment to the profession of librarianship, particularly theological librarianship.

(Evaluation and statistics compiled by Denise Tan, Administrative Staff at Seminari Teoloji Malaysia)



Photo:
Participants enjoying the
Closing BBQ Dinner

HOW THEY RATED

SOME STATISTICS:

Keynote address

Relevance to needs :

- Fair 24%
- Good 41%
- Excellent 35%

Documentation of Christianity in Asia

Relevance to needs :

- Fair 14%
- Good 59%
- Excellent 27%

Digitization of Archives Resources

Relevance to needs :

- Fair 14%
- Good 38%
- Excellent 48%

Future Direction of Church History

Relevance to needs :

- Poor 4%
- Fair 25%
- Good 50%
- Excellent 21%

Online Research Resources

Relevance to needs :

- Poor 4%
- Fair 12%
- Good 57%
- Excellent

Organization of Consultation

- Poor 3%
- Fair 7%
- Good 35%
- Excellent 55%

Schedule

- Poor 15%
- Fair 11%
- Good 44%
- Excellent 30%

Book sales

- Poor 7%
- Fair 15%
- Good 52%
- Excellent 26%

Food

- Good 45%
- Excellent 55%

(Based on 38 evaluation forms)

ONE BIG HAPPY (CONSULTATION) FAMILY

RESOURCE PERSONS & FACILITATORS : Dr Michael Poon, Director, Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia, Trinity Theological College, Singapore ; Dr Goran Wiking, Faculty member, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong ; Mr Chan Beng Seng, Executive Director, Documentation for Action Groups in Asia, Hong Kong ; Rev Anthony Loke, Faculty Member, Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia. **AREA PARTICIPANTS – AUSTRALASIA :** (no representatives). **CAMBODIA, LAOS, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND & VIETNAM :** Miss Christabel Wong, ForATL Area Representative; Librarian, Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia ; Mrs Barbara Terry, Library Consultant, Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Penang, Malaysia ; Ms Cheong Pooi Wah, Librarian, Bible College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia ; Mr Gideon Yong, Adjunct Faculty, Bible College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia ; Miss Kang Sor Hien, Librarian & Lecturer, Malaysia Bible Seminari, Klang, Selangor, Malaysia ; Rev Lim Yeu Chuen, Faculty-in-Charge, Archives, Bible College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia ; Miss Michelle Mah, Librarian, Theological Centre for Asia (M), Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia ; Mrs Tai Fui-Fong, Head Librarian, Sabah Theological Seminary, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia ; Miss Usun Anyie Ngau, Librarian, Malaysia Evangelical College, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia ; Miss Esther Low, Librarian, Theological Centre for Asia, Singapore. **HONG KONG & CHINA :** Mr Tang Sui-Tung, ForATL Area Representative & Librarian, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong ; **INDIA, MYANMAR, PAKISTAN & SRI LANKA :** Mr Chacko Chacko, ITLA President; Librarian & Dean of Ministry, Union Biblical Seminary, Bibwewadi, Pune, Maharashtra, India ; Mrs Elizabeth Kamalavadhanan, Librarian, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, Kilpauk, Chennai, India ; Mrs Laitlani Pachuau, Librarian, Aizawl Theological College, Aizawl, India ; Mrs Rita Wesley, Librarian, United Theological College, Bangalore, India ; Mr Alan Po, Librarian, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Insein, Myanmar ; Rev Hen Khan Go, Secretary, Zomi Association for Christian Communication, Zomi Baptist Convention of Myanmar, Kalaymyo, Sagaing Division, Myanmar ; Mr Lal Ram Zauva, Chief Librarian, Tahan Theological College, Tahan-Kalaymyo, Myanmar ; Rev Peter Joseph, Executive Secretary, Association for Theological Education in Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar ; Miss Sarah Niles, Assistant Librarian, Theological College of Lanka, Pilimatalawa, Sri Lanka. **INDONESIA :** Rev Karmito, ForATL Convenor, Kalasan, Sleman, Yogyakarta, Indonesia ; Ms Nurdiana Sari Wijaya, ForATL Area Representative, Miss Hilda Putong, ForATL Publications Task Force; Head Librarian, Sekolah Tinggi Theologia INTIM Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia ; Miss Christine Sadelì, Head Librarian, Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Jakarta, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia ; Miss Deitje Pangemanan, Assistant Head Librarian, Theology Faculty Library, Universiti Kristen Indonesia Tomohon, Sulawesi Utara, Indonesia ; Mr Efpreden Ansang, Library staff, STT-GKE Banjarmasin, Indonesia ; Mrs Jeni Konaniah, Librarian, Seminari Alkitab Asia Tenggara, Malang, Indonesia ; Miss Jens Akwan, Library Chief, Sekolah Tinggi Teologi GKI "I.S. KIJNE", Abepura, Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia ; Rev Wilda Simanjuntak, Assistant Librarian, Sekolah Tinggi Theologia HKBP, Sumatera Utara, Indonesia. **JAPAN, KOREA & TAIWAN :** Miss Fangli Fan-Chiang, Librarian, Taiwan Theological College & Seminary, Shihlin, Taipei, Taiwan. **PHILIPPINES :** Mrs Elizabeth Pulanco, ForATL Secretary & Area Representative, PTLA President; Librarian, Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Baguio City, Philippines ; Rev Anna Hymes, Library Coordinator, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Baguio City, Philippines ; Miss Crisanta Bustamante, Head Librarian, International School of Theology-Asia, Quezon City, Philippines ; Miss Laura Hymes, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Baguio City, Philippines ; Mrs Raquel Cruz, Administrative Librarian, Biblical Seminary of the Philippines, Valenzuela City, Philippines ; Mrs Rossanne Engcoy, Coordinator, Asia Pacific Research Center, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Baguio City, Philippines. ✨

Editor's note :

Okay, I admit the above format makes for difficult reading, but it does illustrate the close fellowship and bond shared by all present!

OUR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION

The ForATL is very grateful to following ...

... For their sponsorship and assistance (in varied ways) towards the 4th ForATL Consultation and projects :

- ④ The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (US\$15,000)
- ④ Elder Paul Lin, Taiwan (US\$10,000)
- ④ The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Theological Education desk (airfare for facilitator)
- ④ The Christian Conference of Asia and others who contributed to the fundraising sales
- ④ Seminari Theoloji Malaysia (host)
- ④ Resource persons and facilitators

... For their years of support and service to ForATL since its inception :



Rev. Joseph Lin (Outgoing ForATL Treasurer and Area Representative for Japan, Korea & Taiwan)



Rev. Karmito (Outgoing ForATL Convenor)

