

ASIA-OCEANIA REGION

Lumina College Celebrates Five Years of its Development in Hong Kong

December 17, 2015 was the day of Lumina College's inauguration ceremony. Over the past five years, a journey has followed that is still unfolding. In the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, a seed began to form. The four founders — Rev. Dr. Paul Li, Dr. Bill Tsang, Rev. Dr. Tsoi Yam Keung, and Dr. Leung Wing Tai — considered the possibility of starting a Christian university in Asia, a daunting task. But they were sure of their mission: to place the soul back into higher education by cultivating a Christian mind among students. The Bible implores Christians not to conform to this world but to renew our minds (Romans 12), lest we be darkened by mere intellect and become worldly in character and behavior. Christian educators, as descendants of Abraham, are called by God to cultivate leaders. The vision of Lumina College is to nurture a generation of leaders with Christian worldviews to create culture by being salt and light in the world.

Lumina, meaning light, was the chosen name as it suggests the spirit of enlightening the mind; and the college became a community of learners exploring the world of God through the lens of Christian faith. A strong emphasis is placed on worldview formation, learning the deep structure of things, human relationships, and inspiration for awakening. Lumina College has three core values: coherency in worldview; creativity in culture making; and commitment to serve God and others.



Educational Programs

From the beginning Lumina College sought partnerships with global universities for master's programs: Wheaton College for a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies; Calvin University for a Masters of Education; Asbury University for a Master of Arts in Digital Storytelling; and Cairn University for a Masters of Business Administration. These programs are global in nature, while also catering to local contexts. The learning model is hybrid, with face-to-face classes as well as online learning.

Also, two local diploma programs have been launched from which the first two batches of students have graduated. These programs include topics such as spirituality in the media, history of church in social context, worldviews and Christian identity, integration of faith into academic disciplines, as well as review and engagement with the cultures of China, the West, and developing nations.

Connecting through dialogues, seminars, and conferences

Lumina College hosted an international conference titled "Christian Mind in the Emerging World: Faith Integration in Asian Contexts and Global Perspectives." Forty participants from five continents attended. The dialogues from the conference were published as a book.

With recent challenges such as the pandemic and radical social changes, corporations have sought Lumina College for professional staff development. College-based leaders have conducted corporate learning series on "Character Values: Worldview for Future



Leaders", teacher development for a number of secondary schools, and a social education series on "Value Education" for about twenty schools.

Lumina College, in collaboration with The University of Hong Kong's Faith and Science Collaborative Research Forum, also has conducted three year-long professional development series: "Redeeming Technology," "The Future of Business in a Technological Age," and "Higher Education in a Machine Age." Participants were faculty, pastors, and business leaders — primary change agents in their circles.

The Lumina story has just begun. It is an embryonic college and needs great cultivation and care. Yet Lumina leaders praise God, who laid the foundational stones for Christians in Hong Kong. Their prayer is that God may lead Lumina College into partnerships to serve the church and society.

Henry Baker College Stays Connected

Recently, INCHE received greetings from Henry Baker College in Melukavu, Kerala, India. This college is a long-time network member whose prior principal, Dr. Aneyamma Varughese, remained in communication with INCHE. After his retirement, Dr. Gireesh Kumar G S became the current Principal of Henry Baker College. In a recent email Dr. Kumar indicated that Henry Baker College has received ISO certification, an important step in recognition of its educational quality and outcomes. This certification is based on submission of a self-study report for the National Association and Accreditation Council, a government organization based in Bangalore, India that accredits higher education institutions.

Dr. Kumar also noted that recently, Henry Baker College received an award from Haritha Mission, Kerala state of India, for its thoughtful planning related to environmental stewardship. While there has been a full change of college administration and office staff at Henry Baker College, their leaders remain committed to investing in their INCHE membership vigorously as they pursue a path of progress and development.

Contact

Contact is the official newsletter of the International Network of Christian Higher Education (INCHE). It is published quarterly as a way of informing its members about news from across the many world regions in which INCHE operates. If you have any news items you would like to share with INCHE's members worldwide, please contact INCHE at:

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ABOUT INCHE

INCHE is a network of institutions and individuals worldwide committed to advancing Christian education through training, capacity building, scholarship, and networking in ways that reflect both the universal (shared view of Christ's centrality in our identity and work) and the local (attending to the specific realities and practices of where and who we serve).

INCHE's Mission is to develop a network that facilitates contact and mutual assistance, acts as a catalyst for research and training, and encourages biblical and contextual responses to the critical issues in contemporary society, so as to help people serve the Lord Jesus Christ in an integral way.



**Have news you would like to share
with other INCHE members?**

Members may email articles to office@inche.one. We suggest articles contain 400 words or less.