

ASIA-OCEANIA REGION

Handong Global University: Newly Established Global Mission Institute

Global Mission Institute (GMI) has been established since April 2021 as an affiliate office of Handong Global University to facilitate world missions in cooperation with professionals, to inspire the spirit of missions, and to strengthen the network.



The goals of GMI are as Follows:

- Establishing and recommending a mission model of professional cooperation utilizing academic majors at educational institutions.
- Having a role as a mission platform in crossing over denominations.
- That Handong's small mission flame will be able to spark a big fire of mission revival in the Korean Church and around the world.
- Contributing to strengthening and developing the Spirit of Missions of Handong University.

To accomplish these goals, GMI has established 35 regional centers and 48 functional centers and has been focusing on following practices:

- Professional Support & Cooperation for missions through the directors of centers by regions and specialties.
- Restoring and strengthening a vision and passion for missions.
- Establishing an extensive network by connecting all denominations, churches, and regions.

Currently, GMI is organizing weekly regional forums, a mission discipleship training school for refugees, and a 24 hour Handong Prayer Network.

Lumina College Celebrates First Cohort of International Master's Graduates, with Wheaton College

In partnership with Wheaton College in Illinois, USA, Lumina College in Hong Kong offered its world-renowned, long-standing M.A. in Intercultural Studies program. The graduating student cohort is significant for at least two reasons: they are the first of Lumina's master's graduates, and the last for Wheaton's program, which has graduated over 2,000 alumni who have gone on to serve in cross-cultural ministries worldwide.

Dr. Clara Chan, a faculty member with 30+ years of intercultural teaching experience, gave a celebratory speech on a September evening titled "Cultural Intelligence: An Important Competence for Future Leaders." Chan stressed the urgency of understanding different cultures in an increasingly globalizing world, going beyond knowing "tip of the iceberg" culture such as food and art, to recognize unseen aspects, such as worldviews and assumptions. One such concept that may differ across cultures is time, which may be polychronic (having no problem with interruptions) or monochronic (sticking to a rigid schedule).

Then Chan also described other cultural concepts, such as power distance, which tends to be more egalitarian in the West and hierarchical in the East; and generational differences, highlighting mainstream-valuing Boomers in contrast with idealistic Millennials. In connection with the Hong Kong context, she noted how independence in decision-making had become part of the city's core societal values, causing tension with the Chinese government. Yet despite the cultural clashes, Chan emphasized true listening and leadership marked by bringing "unity amid division." In closing, Chan offered a simple prayer: "Let the world change us before we can change the world."

