

# AQUA



Taiwan  
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### To Our Readers:

The logo on the front cover of this late edition of AQUA may require an explanation. Wenzao College, here in Kaohsiung, has recently hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities, affectionately known as ASEACCU.

The logo was designed by Jamie, Chia Chen Hsu, a student of Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages. He interprets it in this way.

It represents how people use their hands to give love to the world. It is made up from four elements: a sprout, a firebird, a blue planet and a heart.

First, the green part is the sprout which speaks for “hope”. It also shows how the power of love and service keep growing strong. Then, the red part is a firebird. When our hearts are full of passion, we are going to soar like a firebird to fly across oceans and to spread love throughout the world. Next is the blue planet, our earth covered with water. The last part is a heart. It stands for Love which inspires and underlies all human endeavor.

Later in these pages we shall speak of ASEACCU because its theme is so closely connected with SERVIAM, the ideal we present in our educational mission, no matter what it comprises.



Welcome Banquet, Ambassador Hotel, Kaohsiung

## OUR PROVINCE NEWS

The best province news begins with persons so we shall begin with them because, being a province small in number, the “disappearance” of one us is big news. It was the case with Huaying (Sister Alphonsa) who returned from Cambodia to recuperate after a bicycle accident but “disappeared” for major cancer surgery in March, something which no one expected, least of all Huaying. It’s good news that she is making a strong recovery so we look forward to her return to Kaohsiung at the end of October.

Marie du Sacre Coeur Lee has made headlines too. She was due to return to Taiwan after some twenty years in parish apostolate in Shantou, China. Just before her departure, perhaps as a result of over fatigue, she suffered a mild stroke which left her incapacitated down her right side, unable to walk but as clear headed as she has always been. With much help on both sides of the Taiwan Strait she arrived in Kaohsiung and after a stage in hospital is now in a Care Home run by the Chinese Dominican Sisters. We visit her almost every week, are happy to see she becomes more mobile and hope she may eventually rejoin us in an Ursuline community.

It has been a joy to welcome home Ching-Yi Chen after completion of her Biblical Theology studies in Chicago. Elizabeth Lin is home to gather data for her IPh.D dissertation and two juniors have joined us to strengthen their English before going to the Theologate in Taipei to study Theology for three years.

Apostolates of education in their various forms take up much of the attention of Ursulines in Taiwan. We are more than happy to welcome five new Indonesian students into Wenzao College, together with two more from Vietnam. This semester there will be almost thirty international students to enrich the campus population. This is an encouragement during a period of falling student recruitment due to plummeting birthrate in Taiwan. Our Stella Maris High School in Hualien does wonderfully well but the kindergartens and elementary school there fight to fill places. The same is now happening at college level where the number of tertiary education institutions far out numbers the student population to fill them so Wenzao may feel the pinch this year. Even so we remain optimistic and cooperate to devise a number of strategies to create courses and programs that will attract students. Strong in the belief that Ursuline education has lasting value we have been working on the Ursuline educational documents : ROOTS and TRUNK, that have appeared on the Generalate website up to now. They are in process of being translated into Chinese and the Ursuline Education Center in Wenzao has already met three times as a study group to discuss their application in the college. The meetings will continue in the new academic year. Other apostolic activities have taken place outside Taiwan. Both Marie de Lourdes Siao and Marian Kao have been in the Philippines to give retreats or to lecture there Teresa Ku, our provincial, brought home most interesting formation documents from the meeting in Rome with the promise of more development for on-going formation to which we look forward eagerly.

## MORE ABOUT ASEACCU

It fell to Wenzao to host this 20<sup>th</sup> international meeting of Catholic Colleges and Universities for 2012, August 23-25. Before giving any details about the event let us say that the whole activity was overshadowed by typhoon Temblin whose slow arrival prompted one change after another in venues and the program. In fact, plans A to F were in place regarding arrivals and departures as well as travel from one spot to another according to what had been planned. In the end, as Julian of Norwich would have said: All manner of things were well, but this meeting will certainly go down in college annals as being somewhat unusual.

In total, 147 active participants including faculty members and students took part in the meeting. They came from the countries with which the Ursuline Asia-Pacific area is familiar: Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Cambodia and Taiwan while an invited guest: Sister Diana Stano, President of Ursuline College, Ohio, U.S.A. was also glad to be present. The participants came from some 44 different institutions and had much to exchange since they last met. One rector of a college in Indonesia said he had been attending since 2004.

The title of the meeting theme was long: *“Contribution by Catholic Higher Education to Sustainable Development in the Modern World. From Service Learning to Social Entrepreneurship”* Three keynote speakers from Taiwan and three scholars from member institutions developed it from the viewpoint of higher education, how to equip highly educated and talented young people with social skills and concern to face the burning issues in our modern world.



Lecture Hall, Wenzao

The keynote speakers outlined the service learning programs in their various colleges and how they attempted to integrate theory with practice. The three young scholars spoke on people in the world today and the human capacity to share life, how the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm Cycle enhances service learning in a Jesuit university and how an ecology class enhanced students' concerns and sensibilities towards the ecological environment.

The contribution made by the students after their visits to social institutes and enterprises in Kaohsiung reminded us that the future of the Catholic Church is with young people. Their grasp of the meaning of sustainable development and lively presentation of possible, (but in one case quite impossible) social enterprises gave hope for their understanding of the social teaching so long set out by the Church.



Some of the Student Participants

Five Ursulines from Wenzao Ursuline College were present during this meeting. We wish to share a little about it because in all our Ursuline schools we sow seeds of service in an atmosphere of service culture. It's our response to the Gospel text: "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:28) and "Whatever you did for the least of these followers of mine, you did it for Me" (Mt. 25:40).

## ACTIVITIES

An opening ceremony and welcome banquet in Kaohsiung's Ambassador Hotel took place on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> August while the opening Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Peter Liu Chen-Chung of Kaohsiung diocese with the homily given by the Charge d'Affaires, Monsignor Paul Russell.



Opening Mass – Wenzao Zhishan Building, 16F

All was well that ended well. Only Plan B had to be put into effect and the closing Mass in the Chapel of Mount of Beatitudes Center was fervent and grateful for graces received. Needless to say, culture presentations and good meals formed part of the program and they were much appreciated. All the participants reached home safely with deeper convictions and renewed earnestness to do what is possible for the sustainable development of planet Earth.



Closing Mass – Church of Mount of Beatitudes

## Sharing with AQUA READERS what I have recently read in a Newspaper

### TEN WAYS TO HAPPINESS

1. Happiness is not an aim, but a journey. If you seek for pleasure in the course of the journey, the course will become a destination, and what's more, it will be a prolonged, boundlessly beneficial destination for all your life.
2. The happy place is this place and the happy moment is this moment, remain standing here, seize the present moment and you will be happy.
3. Happiness is mental before it is physical. In order to be physical happy to the full, you must firstly feel at ease and be free of worry. It is better to eat without meat than to have a load on your mind.
4. Happiness is the opposite of unhappiness; the decline of the one means the growth of the other. Release yourself from the unhappy mood and you will be happy.
5. Happiness is a matter of "five cakes and two fishes", the more you give out the more you will get back. Share your happiness with others and you will enjoy it most.
6. If your heart's desire is easily satisfied, your happiness will soon come to an end. In order that your happiness may last, you have to leave some of your desire unfulfilled.
7. When you are happy, you feel contented. You should also feel contented when you are happy. Be always full of zest and happiness will become an inveterate habit.
8. Happiness is a very strange thing. It will not turn up when you beckon it, call it and solicit it. But you feign complete indifference; it will fawn upon you, lean close to and live with you. In dealing with happiness you should adopt the strategy of leaving it at large, the better to apprehend it.
9. Happiness is drifting from place to place. It is unwise as well as futile to try to retain it. You have got to keep on making new happiness, so that one happiness follows in the wake of another.
10. The greatest happiness you can gain is realizing that you are not necessarily in need of it.

Marie de Lourdes Siao, osu.