UNITY IN DIVERSITY

So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole world!

What binds us together? OUR DIVINE DNA IS THE IMAGO DEI, THE IMAGE OF GOD.

ACSI functions as a diverse yet unified extended family on missions for the sake of the world and for God’s glory. And when we realize that consistently, amazing things would happen. New possibilities would arise. We would experience Jesus.

However, we sometimes find ourselves killing a movement or a program before it starts. We compare our abilities to others. We see a leader bursting with influence and wonder why we do not have that. Alan Briggs in his 2017 book, Everyone’s A Genius, says that God did not intend for diversity to discourage but to show off His genius. The diversity of gifts and influence should remind us that we are part of His plan to recalibrate and restore the world.

In this issue, we present events and accomplishments of our brothers and sisters in our different schools. May we all hold hands and be one in celebrating one another’s blessings from whichever part of the country we are placed. God be praised at all times.

BETHEL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HOST TO 2017 ELS AND TLC

Two of the major events of ACSI Philippines were held in Bethel International School (BIS) in July. Bethel IS is located in Palo, Leyte, a 10-minute distance from Tacloban City, a place known for its people’s resilience in overcoming devastating effects of a strong typhoon a few years back.

The keynote on visionary leadership at the Educational Leadership Summit (ELS) was explained comprehensively by Pastor Paul Varberg, the BIS School Superintendent. He challenged everyone to be willing to attempt what they have never done before and as God for a clear vision, a unique vision, of what God wants their schools to accomplish. Though there would be seemingly insurmountable roadblocks, one need not be discouraged and continue to trust God as written in 2Cor 4:18, “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

The Teaching and Learning Conference (TLC) focused on teaching strategies that could be applied immediately by all attendees in their respective schools. The levels of Biblical integration were demonstrated by Ms. Arlene Evangelista, Missions and Evangelism Head of Shekinah Christian Church. Dr. Andrada gave her seminar talk with workshops on the different questioning strategies that could be employed by the teachers.

The ELS and TLC sessions were capped by a short tour of the historical spots in Leyte like the MacArthur Landing in Leyte Gulf, the San Juanico Bridge, Marcos Museum in the Sto. Nino Shrine, Shrine for the Yolanda Victims. The tour ended with a festive lunch in one of the top restaurants in Tacloban.

Other equally notable and excellent guest speakers included Pastor Prudy Verzo, Care Pastor of Life City Church of Makati, Pastor Boris Joaquin and Renz Mansujeto of Lead Like Jesus Training Program, Dr. Lolita Andrada of the DepED NCR and Phoenix Publishing, Atty. Willie Santiago, Lawyer and Certified Public Accountant of DALUPAN & COMPANY, Dr. Ramir Uytico who heads 13 school divisions and 4160 schools in Region 8, Dr. Liberty Nolasco, Chief Operating Officer of the Asian Psychological Services and Assessment, Inc. (APSA Inc).

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Last July 24 to 26, 2017, the annual meeting among ACSI Global Directors was held in Marriot Hotel in Colorado Springs, USA. The Global Directors were joined by those from the ACSI US, making the event a remarkable time to get together for the first time for some and a time to catch up for the others. It was presided over by Michael Don Epp, the Senior Vice-President of ACSI Global and Dr. David Wilcox, Assistant Vice-President.

The highlights of the Global Directors’ Meeting included a message to action from Gavin Brettany, Director of Strategic Development Africa as he encouraged everyone to create strategic alliances or partnerships with groups or organizations that have shared objectives as those of ACSI and create initiatives that every global office could get into for sustainable growth. The Paths to School Improvement (PSI) which was first started in Africa’s under-resourced struggling schools was presented. Where accreditation would not be appropriate or attainable, standards are created for schools committed to improvement. The Teacher Certification Program was explained comprehensively.

Aside from the welcome dinner that commenced the meeting officially, the US and Global leaders enjoyed lunch and dinner fellowship together with ACSI HQ personnel, fun trek to the 7 Falls in Colorado Springs, wonderful bonding time at Rudy’s BBQ. The whole stay was capped with a tour of the ACSI Headquarters.
FEATURES

ACSI PHILIPPINES WELCOMES WESTHILL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

We Believe:
- The authority for education comes from God, and He gives the basic responsibility for education to parents.
- Academic study should be God-centered. All truths originate from God, and absolute truth can be known in God’s written revelation, the Bible, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Learning is not merely to gain abstract knowledge, but to acquire and apply wisdom from our creator in our daily lives.
- Our lives are to be lived as committed Christians so that our faith influences all our actions and decisions. Staff members who are dedicated to Christ will live as role models to students to encourage them to grow their faith and live their lives in the development of a Christian worldview.
- Christian education should provide a total worldview from which there will be a balanced personality, a proper understanding, and acceptance of a person’s role in life at home, in school, at work, at play, and in church which is all grounded in the Christian concept of love.

OUR MISSION

WIS, as a committed and dedicated institution, envisions to develop individual students to become successful, responsible, well-balanced, God-centered citizens, and globally competitive leaders.

OUR VISION

WIS promotes academic excellence through progressive and purposive learning, productive trainings and the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life.

A new member school from Dasmarias, Cavite, Westhill International School is headed by School Administrator, Ms. Grace Eun Sook Im.

MEMBER SCHOOL IN MABbate FIRST NGO ACCREDITED AS A DONEE INSTITUTION

(Note: All information were provided by Ptr. Moises V. Alcala, IV)

Masbate Ikthus Christian School, Inc. being a non-stock, non-profit tax exempt educational Institution certified by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Philippines, was advised to apply as a Donee Institution to the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC). A series of meetings with the Board were made and after submitting all the pertinent documents, representatives from PCNC conducted a visit for evaluation of documents, interview of the stake holders, study of community programs, financial documents and a five-year institutional plan. PCNC submitted their recommendation to the BIR and after going through the process of thorough checking of legal documents, the BIR granted them the Certificate of Registration that any donor could benefit from; that is, full deductibility on his company tax. Large tax payers can also donate to them.

PCNC is the private institution authorized by the BIR to scrutinize potential NGO to become a Donee Institution catering to the needs on education, community service, among others. One can see Masbate Ikthus Christian School, Inc. in the List of Donee Institutions with BIR Registration in the PCNC Website)

Pastor Moises V. Alcala, IV, the school Principal says, “We may be the first to become

Donee Institution among members of ACSI Philippines. This was even encouraged by one of the speakers who touched on Finance Management of school operations during the Educational Leadership Summit in Tagaytay City in 2016 under the leadership of Ms. Evelyn M. Bumatay as Country Director of ACSI Philippines.”

He also added that, “Our school plans to expand its operation up to college level, since we are operating until 10th Grade by now, procuring a land to accommodate sports area and build-able space for any philanthropist to donate buildings under their name or their company’s name, to provide scholarships to the under privileged if not all and to improve its facilities and amenities. It is our fervent prayer that our Masbate City will become a Christ-believing community with the existence of a Christian School like Masbate Ikthus Christian School, Inc. We firmly believe that God is working in every aspect of our service.

“...trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:1-6 NIV

Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

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Novotel Bali Benoa in Indonesia was the seat of the Asia Pacific Round Table last September 4 to 6, 2017. The participants were from Australia, India, South Korea, Pakistan, US, New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and the Philippines. The Round table was hosted by the ACSI, ACSI Regional Office, and ACSI Indonesia. It aimed to build networks, learn from one another, and explore strategic partnerships that could create a lasting impact on the Christian schools in the regions.

The participants came with ideas and proposals for mutual consideration. Among them were a professional learning plan, need for Mandarin curriculum, teacher certification programs, special needs support, eLearning, and collaborative projects among global members. Paul Campey, Director of ACSI Global and Dr. David Wilcox, Assistant Vice-President of ACSI Global spearheaded the event and the lively interaction among all delegates in the discussion of each proposal. Aside from the official business of the three days, free time was provided to enjoy the beauty of Bali.

ACSI strengthens Christian schools and equips Christian educators worldwide, as they prepare students academically, and inspire them to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Be a PART of your Association and enjoy numerous membership benefits.

Visit www.acsiphils.org or call 027472973.