



## **Asian Campus Ministry Forum (ACMF)**

### ***Theme: The Role of Campus Ministry in a Multi-religious Context***

March 11 – 15, 2019  
*(three full days, with arrival on the 11<sup>th</sup> and departure on the 15<sup>th</sup>)*  
International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan

Co-organized by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (United Board) and International Christian University (ICU)

and

Jointly sponsored by the Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia (FTESEA)

### **Call for Application**

#### **Rationale**

Campus ministry, also known as chaplaincy in other places, has been traditionally understood as serving the university's core mission through care of persons in its constituency and through creating and nourishing the overall campus climate that builds up holistically each member of the community. Hence, it is not only the work of a chaplain but requires the help of a thoroughly trained team, including the faculty and staff. More than conducting official religious ceremonies, campus ministry is expected to provide the holistic care of members of the institutions to inculcate a sense of mutual respect and social responsibility for the community.

Today, there are many challenges in Christian colleges and universities. First, more and more students enter the universities with their pluralistic cultures and multifaith backgrounds. For example, Hindu and Muslim students would constitute the typical majority on campuses of India and Indonesia, respectively, while Buddhist and students of other religions would characterize the majority of students in Thailand and elsewhere. Ministering to students of different faiths therefore presents a challenge to Christian colleges and universities in Asia.

Second, due to extremely high pressure to succeed and excel in their study, students carry the baggage of their parents' high expectations, in addition to adjusting to living away from home. In this connection, cases of depression, mental illness, and suicide among college students have been on the rise.

Recognizing the importance of campus ministry, some church denominations continue to provide and support theologically trained chaplains to their church-related institutions. In certain places however, chaplaincy assignments are given to regular faculty members who happen to be Christians and have the commitment but without proper orientation or relevant training.

To respond to these challenges and the needs in Christian college and universities in Asia, the United Board, the International Christian University and the Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia will jointly sponsor an Asian Campus Ministry Forum (ACMF) with the theme, “*The Role of Campus Ministry in a Multi-religious Context.*” This forum aims to gather campus ministers from the institutions in the United Board network for study and reflection, sharing of innovative ideas and useful practices and, if helpful, the building of a platform on campus ministry that would provide continuous learning and mutual support for campus ministers around the region.

This ACMF will be a three-day program that will include: sharing of personal journeys; biblical and theological reflections; interfaith campus ministry; counselling and mental wellness; campus ministry and digital and social media; and meditation and spiritual exercises.

Experienced chaplains, theologians and campus ministers will be invited to provide inputs, lead the various exercises, workshops and the discussion. We expect the Forum would be an enriching journey for participants not only in terms of knowledge enhancement but also transformational experience.

### **Expected participants:**

Expected participants are chaplains, spiritual directors, faculties or staff engaged in campus ministry or the spiritual formation in the universities. Institutions may nominate more than one representative; however, the United Board reserves the right on the selection of participants based on institutional representation and balance. Preferred number of participants is 30.

### **Application:**

Online application is now open at (<https://goo.gl/forms/QKNnaUA7Gvnizpj13>). The deadline is now extended to November 30, 2018 (Friday). Selection result will be announced in December 2018.

For the selected participants, we shall cover their local costs related to the conference program and venue, including meals and snacks for the duration of the conference; as well as the cost of the accommodation for 4 nights (i.e. March 11-15, 2019).

Participants or their sending institutions are expected to shoulder the round-trip flight ticket to Tokyo, and all related travel costs, such as insurance and visa fees.

For any enquiry on application, please contact Mr. Calvin Mok, Program Associate, at [cmok@unitedboard.org](mailto:cmok@unitedboard.org) or by phone (852) 3943 4216.