

Minutes of Enlarged JCEAO Consult

Meeting of Secretaries, Directors and Consultors
with JCEAO President and Team
2nd Floor, CLC Building, Ateneo de Manila University
27-28 November 2009

Participants:

Secretaries:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Tabora, Joel | AJCU-EAO |
| 2. Sekine, Etsuo | JEC-EAO |
| 3. Veliath, Cyril R | Buddhism |
| 4. Heru Prakosa | Islam |
| 5. Kim Woo-seon, Denis | Social Ministries |
| 6. Martinson, Jerry | Communications |

Directors of Work:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 7. Matsumoto, Koichi | AIR |
| 8. Champoux, Roger | Tertianship |
| 9. Rasiah, Jeyaraj | EAPI |
| 10. John Shea | EATEP |

Consultors:

11. Francisco, Jose Mario
12. Gendron, Louis
13. Riyo Mursanto
14. Pollock, Paul
15. Jung Kang-yup, Benedict

JCEAO Staff :

16. Raper, Mark
17. Chae Joon-ho, Matthias
18. Steinbugler, Tom
19. Cadiz, Tata

Resource Person:

20. Leger, Arthur

The first-time attendees to the enlarged consult were welcomed: Frs Sekine, Heru, Shea, Gendron, Pollock, Benedict. Fr Arthur Leger was also introduced. Frs Heru and Champoux stayed only on the first day. Fr Veliath managed to attend the second day only. Apologies: Bernard Arputhasamy, JRS

Prayers were led by Fr Jeya (27 Nov) and Fr Denis (28 Nov).

1. Updates on the Conference and Rome were shared by Fr Mark.

- Revised conference statutes is now on the 8th draft.
- The meeting of theologate deans/rectors last 23-25 Nov was very productive. Participants were open to cooperation. It was an opportunity for them to find ways of doing things together. Cooperation also helps resolve problems in their own institutions.
- Rome Curia has sent out four letters of Fr Nico that touched on the priorities of the Society following GC35.
- The General is very much concerned about:
 - Loss of respect for the Church
 - Demographic shift of Jesuits. 66% of young SJs are in Asia and Africa. With Latin America, the number goes up to 77%.
 - This implies greater expectations from Asia, especially East Asia because the area is rich with spiritual traditions and there is greater opportunity for inter-religious dialogue.
 - Two Asian Conferences are asked to explore the idea of a program of formation for formators serving the whole Society that takes into account the spiritual traditions of the region. Fr General is convening a task force on this.

- The US Conference has developed a paper on leadership formation. It is a good reference. JCEAO can start by identifying institutions that offer leadership training, e.g. Asian Institute of Management.

2. Group Sharing on a story that gave a moment of insight on the role of the Conference, and finding one's own place in that role.

Frs Jerry, Denis, Sekine:

- When Fr Johnny Go became a director of JesCom Phil, he transformed the music ministry into one of the most successful apostolates of the Philippine Province.
- During the August 2009 social apostolate meeting, Jesuits in social ministry realized that they need to work together. The lay participants were a source of inspiration.

Frs Paul, Tom, Heru:

- Exchange of scholastics between VIE and TAI, MYN and MIC is a good example of “breaking down barriers”.
- Fr M Evans in Nairobi celebrating Thanksgiving all by himself. Fr Ron Anton in Beijing celebrating Thanksgiving with about 300 people. Two people giving themselves to the mission.

Frs Matthias, Shea, Champoux:

- Scholastics from different countries participating in EATEP, learning from each other, living in a different culture, show that the Conference is becoming more unified.

Frs Riyo, Louis, Benedict:

- A lay CLC member spearheads the Matteo Ricci Volunteer Project which conducts the training of Catholic volunteers in China Mainland.

3. Group sharing on Frontiers

- Fr. Jeya's group:
 - Digital technology. How is the Society using it? How do we make the best use of it? How to form people so they can avoid its misuse and making it personal?
 - Handling of finances. How to maximize its use? How to have resources available to other units? A unit should also consider the Conference's needs in its major financial decisions.
 - Ways of forming people for ministry.
 - Backlog of tertianship. The group did not agree that this is a frontier, but this is a problem that should be addressed by the provincials.
- Fr. Riyo's group:
 - Frontiers are challenges, unmet roles, uncomfortable situations
 - Frontiers are formation, collaboration, education
 - SJ can enter or be employed as public servants to reach others
 - We need experts on Buddhism, Islam
 - How to make use of online technology
 - Climate change
- Fr. Denis' group:

- Collaboration among Jesuits, e.g. universities
- Collaboration with the laity
- Asian theology, not only academic level, but something that transforms
- Migration, environment
- Fr. Matsu's group:
 - Working in China
 - Working in formation: need for depth, knowledge of both local and universal needs
 - Working w/ Islam

Reflections:

- Social apostolate, Communications, Inter-religious dialogue are frontier areas to be pushed.
 - How to identify and animate "hidden" Jesuits
 - How to push young Jesuits to move from the more secure main apostolates and go to the frontiers.
- Challenge of universities on how they can shift to a higher/global level of collaboration, find a commonality.
 - Building of "Jesuit Commons" to be the Facebook of Jesuit universities, a site for collaboration and outreach
 - Current issues, e.g. migrants and environment, are frontiers for research and outreach
 - A lot has to happen from below.

4. Updates from different sectors

Social Ministry (Fr Denis Kim):

- From the August 2009 meeting, these are the emerging networks: Jesuit social services, migration, environment.
- There will be a South-South Collaboration meeting (Latin America, Asia Pacific, Africa) in India during February.
- Mapping project results may be useful for the Higher Education sector. Issues like migration, especially migrants most vulnerable to abuse, and environment, are very pressing concerns.

Communications (Fr Jerry Martinson)

- The sector makes the best effort to reach out to difficult areas, e.g. KAM, VIE, CHN.
- "Creative communications" would be an area to pursue. Possible names to include on the consultation are: Frs Richard Leonard (ASL), Michael Kelly (ASL), Hari Suparwito (IDO), Charlie Cenzone (PHI).

Education (Fr Etsuo Sekine)

- Fr Johnny Go represented the Conference in the ICAJE meeting May 2009.
- Fr Sekine is preparing for the job, visiting schools in the region.
- A meeting of Education secretaries will be held 6 – 9 December 2009 in Hong Kong. Major topic is the new school in East Timor.
- A workshop for principals is scheduled in August 2010 in Fukuoka, Japan. It is suggested that principals of non-Jesuit schools be invited.

Dialogue with Islam (Fr Heru Prakosa)

- A proposal for EATEP with focus on Islam was presented. Frs John Shea, Matthias and Mario are to be consulted about the schedule.
- The meeting of Islam experts in July 2009 discussed the need for formation in the area of interreligious dialogue, how to develop our theology in relation to Islam, how to develop theology in the context of Asia, what is the role of the Jesuits in the political area, e.g. peace process with Muslims, how do we educate Jesuits and lay on Islam.

Dialogue with Buddhists (Fr Cyril Veliath)

- Difficult to communicate with our people.
- YouTube lectures were quite successful. Website needs to be developed further.
- A suggestion to include the sector under a general category of inter-religious dialogue was received. This was not encouraged as Buddhism is predominant in quite a number of our regions.
- A meeting of those involved in Buddhism is proposed for 23 – 24 April 2010, over-lapping with EATEP in Thailand. One of the issues will be how to integrate Ignatian spirituality with Asian cultures and how to make it accessible. Fr Miguel LaFont could be a resource person. The activity is to be coordinated with Thailand and EATEP.
- Dialogue with evangelicals and Protestants may be explored.

Theologates (Fr Mario Francisco)

- LST has included migration in its courses even before GC35. Courses are geared towards preparing people to minister to migrants. LST is working with Ateneo de Manila and Fr Denis Kim on this issue.
- The recommendations from the meeting of Theologate Deans/Principals last 23 – 25 November 2009 were presented.
 - Collaboration of theologates is not limited to Jesuits, but strategically, must begin with Jesuit institutions.
 - Steps have been taken to implement collaboration, e.g. funding is being secured, costs and its sharing are being studied, contracts of faculty engagement are being drafted.
- On the area of formation with a social dimension
 - LST does not provide expertise in everything, but seeks to help Jesuits (and its participants) reflect on their own specific contexts.
 - In one seminary in Manila, students spend 50% of their time in exposure, other 50% in the classroom. Guided reflection is provided. It is suggested that a similar arrangement be considered for Jesuit scholastics.

EAPI (Fr Rasiah Jeyaraj)

- EAPI's Mission-Vision has been revised.
- The Institution is financially viable.
- There are a greater number of participants with special needs, psycho/spiritual problems, and in need of spiritual direction. Psychiatrists are available but they do not have enough time to attend to the participants.
- Immediate personnel requirements are priests for spiritual direction.
- The search for the next EAPI director is ongoing.

EATEP (Fr John Shea)

- The program is applicable to other religions. Buddhism is just for the exposure of the participants, and not the framework of the program.
- With EATEP-Islam, EATEP may be developed into a two-phase program to avoid repetition of modules.

AIR (Fr Koichi Matsumoto)

- The residence can house 65 people. There are now 50 scholastics (10 juniors, 24 philosophers, 14 theologians, 2 in special studies), 6 AIR staff, and 1 JCEAO staff.
- More theologians are expected to come. This will result into having a more mature group of scholastics living in AIR.

Common Tertianship (Fr. Roger Champoux)

- There are 10 participants, next year's group will all be from our Conference.
- Fr Bill McGarry is getting older and his speech sometimes is difficult to understand. Fr Champoux has been Director for 11 years already.
- It is difficult to increase the group to more than 10.
- Tertianship program in Australia will not be open in 2012. It is not yet decided if it will open again in 2013.

JRS-AP (Fr Mark Raper)

- There was a regional JRS Asia Pacific meeting last 16 – 31 October 2009.
 - Several issues were taken up: - new causes of displacement: labor, climate-related, status determination
 - It is striking to note that Muslims and Christians in Aceh, and Buddhists and Christians in Thailand are working closely together.
 - The Rohingya people of Burma is a major concern.
 - JRS is deficient in Malaysia and in Southern Philippines. An assessment team is being prepared for Mindanao.
 - JRS Cambodia is working with the government, as an NGO, to assist people in status determination
 - JRS still keeps its presence in ETR as it is in a fragile, post-conflict status.
 - Work in Myanmar is being done discreetly.

5. Group sharing on Collaboration, Spirituality, Leadership

- What advice would you give to the President and/or to the Major Superiors?
- What do you want to be followed through? To be done?

Collaboration (Frs Jeya, Jerry, Tom, Benedict):

- What is collaboration? It should be inside-out (Jesuits reaching out to others) and not outside-in, i.e. How can we collaborate with others in fulfilling their mission? Rather than: How can others help our mission?
- Jesuits should be trained how to work with people, be willing to take second position.
- Lay partners should be given opportunities to know our Spirit and way of proceeding.
- The conference should be a model on lay collaboration. A lay partner heading one of the key sectors is welcome.

- Cooperation with Jesuit groups in the Conference is encouraged. The Conference could also ask the different circles to discuss a Conference priority during their regular meetings and submit recommendations.
- Workshops on Ignatian spirituality and lay collaboration, similar to the one conducted by Ms Jenny Go and Fr Tom O’Gorman, should also be done on a regular basis.

Spirituality (Frs Sekine, Matsu, Roger, Paul):

- Reflection on giving the Exercises in the context of Asia and giving retreats to non-Christians should be promoted.
- For people in the spirituality centres, get them together for initial sharing, and then identify areas for further discussion.
- Review spirituality projects/activities on the Conference level.
- There is a hunger for spirituality everywhere and the Society should find strategic ways of addressing this.

Leadership (Frs Shea, Joel, Denis, Riyo, Heru, Louis, Mario, Mark):

- Workshops on leadership should be conducted, to cover various topics/training on subsidiary, teamwork, basic leadership skills, etc.
- Scholastics can be asked to join or be observers in meetings of the Board of Trustees and similar management bodies.
- A group should be assigned to study the US paper on leadership and see how it can be applied in Asia.

6. Updates on the Decisions of the Major Superiors’ July 2009 meeting

- Change of Conference name from JCEAO to JCAP was acceptable to Rome and JCSA. AJCU-EAO will change its name after the world conference. JESCOMEAO will be happy with the change.
- Several suggestions have been received for the Conference logo, but nothing has been finalized yet.
- Fr Arthur Leger is assisting in the planning of the regions. He has visited Cambodia and East Timor.
- New development offices have been set up in PHI, KOR and CHN.
- Socii meeting was successfully held in Rome. The group decided to have it regularly, every 3 years in any of the units in the Conference, every 5 years in Rome.

7. Input on planning (Fr Arthur Leger)

- Can Jesuits really plan?
- The C’s of planning:
 - **Consultant**: what is his role?
 - Know that there will be **Conflicts**.
 - It is a **Challenge**.

- Include the **Culture**.
- It should be a **Collaboration**.
- Expect **Change**.
- There should be constant **Communication**.
- It is **Complex**.
- A facility for planning is needed in the Conference. A team is to be set up.

8. Review and evaluation

- Conference plans are clearer.
- The meeting was very useful.
- The sharing of ideas and plans give new hope.
- The use of different formats (e.g. small group sharing, inputs) was effective in giving an extended view of the Conference and of the resources available.
- Attention to action plans is appreciated.
- The meeting moved well and stayed focused. The preparation was good. It was enjoyable and pleasant. There was a good balance between discussion and action. The meeting is getting better.
- There's a wealth of content.
- It is an act of humility to recognize that one is just a part of a bigger whole.
- The mass with Arrupeans was a special experience.
- Networking is helpful.
- Input by Fr Arthur was very impressive.
- Every moment is a learning moment.