



God of life,
lead us to
justice and peace

World Council of Churches
10th Assembly
30 October to 8 November 2013
Busan, Republic of Korea

Global Ecumenical Theological Institute

*“God of life, lead us to justice and peace –
The Future of Ecumenism and the Transformation
of World Christianity in the 21st Century”*

Seoul and Busan/ -Korea, 25 October – 9 November 2013

Project Outline for theology students

Ecumenical Theological Education Programme of the World Council of Churches (Dr Dietrich Werner, Geneva)

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I. Short Summary

What is the GETI programme?

The Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) is a major event for about 150 younger advanced theology students from all different regions of the world and all Christian denominational traditions. It will take place in Seoul and Busan/Korea from the 25 October to 9 November 2013, alongside the World Council of Churches' 10th Assembly. The project aims to bring those young theologians to the Assembly for an intensive theological course program for a period of 2 weeks. It focuses on *"the future of ecumenism and the transformation of World Christianity in the 21st century"* and will be geared to the theme of the WCC General Assembly *"God of life, lead us to justice and peace"*. GETI will be a place for ecumenical leadership formation, intense theological learning and mutual dialogue. This project is one of the ways by which the dimension of Διδαχή (ecumenical formation and theological education) will be highlighted during the assembly process as one of the four core dimensions of what is essential for being the church today (κοινωνία – Unity; μαρτυρία – Mission; διακονία – Justice and Peace; Διδαχή – Ecumenical Formation and Education).

GETI is a special initiative which is prepared and supported by the Ecumenical Theological Education Programme of the WCC in cooperation with Bossey Ecumenical Institute and a network of partnering theological colleges and associations of theological schools in both Korea and the regions.

Alongside the international GETI program there will be a Korean Ecumenical Theological Institute (KETI), which will be held in Korean language with up to 300 Korean theological students. One common session is being planned for GETI and KETI participants.

II. Context

The WCC 10th Assembly is planned to be held for Wednesday 30 October to Friday 8 November 2013 in Busan, South Korea under the theme *"God of Life, lead us to Justice and Peace"*. Some 3'000 representatives from all traditions of World Christianity are expected to join for this unique event.

The ETE programme of WCC will bring a group of 150 younger theological students and lecturers to this assembly for a major project for ecumenical leadership formation, intense theological learning and mutual dialogue.

Inspired by the fact that the year 2013 will have several major regional ecumenical church conferences (AACC assembly; CLAI assembly, CEC assembly, PCC conference) the next year will provide an opportunity for many theological colleges to plan for courses under the possible title *"On the way towards Busan - World Christianity, Ecumenism and Mission in the 21st century"*. For this purpose, GETI will provide additional resources on Ecumenism and World Christianity in the 21st century which can be used and offered in theological colleges in the academic year 2013/2014. These regional courses will be held in the respective countries and conducted in the responsibility of regional theological colleges according to their different needs, conditions and different academic calendars. It is assumed that those participating in regional courses in Ecumenism, Mission and Interfaith Issues in 2013 will receive already a substantial introduction into essentials on ecumenism and its history in the 20th century.

III. The GETI program schedule

The GETI program can be divided into two parts: a shorter introductory period prior to the assembly in Seoul (Friday 25 to Tuesday 29 October) and a longer period during the WCC General assembly in Busan (Tuesday 29 October to Saturday 9 November).

During the first period there will be joint introductory courses on Asian Christianity, Asian theologies and interfaith realities as well as the specific Korean historical, religious and social context.

The second and major part of the GETI program will take place in Busan during the assembly. During the morning GETI participants will take part in major events of the assembly (such as thematic plenaries, worship occasions, ecumenical conversations, some workgroups, and exhibitions; except for business sessions).

In the afternoon there will be a daily plenary session (lecture style), followed by a seminar session in smaller groups that is conducted by a GETI faculty member.

GETI program will have its own spiritual life components and daily short evening prayer. Each evening there will be also an evaluation session in the Youth Hostel Ariana. The academic part of the GETI program in Busan will be oriented according to major thematic tracks of the WCC assembly and will involve occasions for inter-generational dialogue with important leaders of the ecumenical and evangelical movement. Participants will also be involved in substantial studies of core texts of recent ecumenism both from global and regional level.

For the weekend of 2 and 3 November a special excursion program (only) for all GETI participants is planned: The excursion is planned to Gwangju, which is a cultural, social and political Korean city with great significance for Korean history. In partnership with Honam Theological University and Seminary in Gwangju lectures will be given on Christian mission history and the role of churches in the process of democratization of Korea, including visits to the national monument of the Gwangju Movement for Democracy as well as the commemoration site of Christian martyrs and the graves of Christian missionaries closed to Honam Theological University. The visitation program can also include a visit to a traditional Korean village setting. Accommodation for one night currently is being explored in collaboration with Honam Theological University and YMCA, Gwangju.

IV. Core faculty

The GETI student group 150 theological students will be accompanied and taught by a faculty group of ~15 to 18 members of a theological faculty group representing a diverse spectrum of professors from various regions and denominational background (being send both by theological colleges and supporting partners). The GETI faculty group will have Steering Committee, consisting of the GETI Project Director, Academic Dean and Vice Dean and the GETI Project Assistant. It will be appointed by the WCC in cooperation with its Korean partners.

V. The GETI reader

In early spring 2013, a GETI reader will be released. This reader will serve as an “Essential Guide to Courses on Ecumenism in the 21st century”, highlighting new trends and developments in ecumenism. It will be a collection of core texts from major ecumenical programmes, provided in order to contribute to the formation of a next generation of ecumenical leaders. This resource book can be used both within the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (the different texts will be discussed in the seminar sessions) as well as in Courses on Ecumenism and World Christianity of theological seminars and faculties around the world.

VI. Accommodation

During the first part of the GETI program in Seoul participants will be accommodated in the Hotel Academy House of PROK, closed to Hanshin University in Seoul (close to Bukhansan National Park in San 76, Academy House, Insu-dong, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul)¹.

Participating students will have to stay in two- or three-bed-rooms. Hospitality for meals will be provided for all participants by a consortium of major theological universities in Seoul and the venue of courses will be at Hanshin University (Suyuri Campus).

Accommodation in Busan will be provided in Arpina Youth Hostel², which belongs to the Centum City locations and is within walking distance to the main assembly venue in BEXCO Busan.³ The venue for GETI specific seminars and lecture events will be either the BEXCO conference center which is hired for all assembly related events or a separate Korean church center in Busan.

VII. Working requirements

Academic working requirements for students participating in GETI will include:

- a) preparation of a presentation of one’s own church background and a major ecumenical issue which the students have pursued in their own study projects related to the theme of the assembly (to be prepared prior to the GETI course and to be brought to Seoul on arrival in order to be shared in small groups during the first period of GETI [~10 pages])
- b) preparation of the assigned readings for the GETI seminars according to the curriculum develop for GETI
- c) preparation of a presentation of one major theological reference or study text from the GETI workbook “Essential Guide on Ecumenism in the 21st Century” (to be presented during one of the seminar sessions in Busan [5 pages])

¹ www.academyhouse.co.kr/

² www.busan youthhostel.co.kr/english/01.guest/?code=0106

³ www.bexco.co.kr/english/main/main.jsp

- d) preparation of a 20 pages paper on one particular aspect of the Ecumenical Movement as experienced during the assembly in Busan in which critical reflection is included on what was experienced during the assembly process (to be submitted after returning from Korea to the home context, but not later than midst of February 2014)
- e) one overall report and presentation on the GETI and the assembly experience to be reported back to the sending theological seminary, churches in one's own region or ecumenical youth organization in written and visual format (powerpoint, video or other means)

Every student participating in GETI will be assigned to one academic supervisor during and after the GETI process. All four essential papers to be submitted will be registered and marked by the academic supervisor. Only at the end of this process (according to a common format developed in collaboration with KAATS) a GETI certificate will be issued (by the respected member of GETI faculty) to the individual participants which includes credits for all course elements attended and academic assignments carried out.

VIII. Expected learning outcomes for the GETI course

- a) Participants should be familiar with major Christian church families and confessional traditions being present within the expanded space of the WCC assembly
- b) Participants should be able to interpret and understand major operating forms and working principles of an assembly of WCC as a privileged instrument within the historical ecumenical movement and relate this to their own social, political and ecclesial background
- c) Participants should have made themselves familiar with the assembly preparatory materials and with major sections within the GETI Reader
- d) Participants should be able to articulate their own experience of an assembly and relate this to their core vision of what ecumenism means for the future of World Christianity in the 21st century
- e) Participants should have a reflected understanding of at least two major current theological themes characterizing current social, political and interfaith challenges of Christianity in Asia or other regional contexts of World Christianity (such as: migration, political division, interfaith dialogue, militarization, ecological issues, interfaith issues, gender issues)
- f) Participants should be able to develop a deeper understanding and study of one of the major sub-themes of the WCC assembly (God of Life, lead us to Justice and Peace) according to a list of core readings provided
- g) Participants should have cultivated an attitude of ecumenical learning in respect and sensitivity to other doctrinal and political positions. Participants also should have contributed in the spiritual life during the GETI and the assembly process. They should develop an ability of mutual learning and sharing, combined with the art of constructive theological controversy.

IX. GETI website

The GETI course project will be also accompanied by an international digital working space which will be offered via the Global Digital Library for Theology and Ecumenism (GlobeTheoLib).⁴ A special GETI web page has been set up for this purpose and can be consulted at: www.globethics.net/geti. At a later stage, all registered student and faculty participants will have access to this site through which core materials, additional resources, working papers, key-note addresses and other relevant materials can be shared before, during and after the GETI Project.

X. Criteria for participants

Participants eligible for being proposed to participate in GETI have to fulfil the following criteria.

Theological level:

- female and male post-graduate students of Christian theology of any Christian denominational tradition preparing for the Christian ministry which are in an advance stage of their studies (MDiv programs, recommended from second year; students which graduated in a theological seminary and completed at least 4 semesters of theology in a faculty) or
- young theological lecturers who have obtained a Master degree (MDiv or MTh), are in their first five years of ministry or in an advanced stage of PhD programs and did not have much exposure yet to a representative ecumenical gathering on world level or
- candidates which are prepared by having participated in one of the regular regional courses on ecumenism as prepared by CCA (Regional Ecumenical Courses), AACC (African Theological Institutes) or CLAI (regional courses on mission and ecumenism) or
- some additional younger ecumenical theological lay leaders with interest in ecumenical theology, interfaith dialogue and Asian Christianity which are related to WSCF networks in the different regions.

Age:

- theology students which generally are in the age group of advanced theology students or younger lecturer up to 45 years

Motivation:

- advanced students of theology which have an interest in the ecumenical movement, contextual theological developments and interfaith dialogue and are fluent in English language

Sending organization/ institution:

- theology students who have backing (written recommendation) from sending institutions of WCC member churches or ecumenical partner churches involved in the assembly process (including Evangelical, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic churches and theological colleges or associations of theological schools which are part of the GETI process)
- theology students where sending organizations are able to cover at least part of the costs for the conference fee and the travel fee.

⁴ www.globethics.net/web/gtl

XI. Application process

Generally, participants will have to be nominated by sending and financing partners (theological colleges/associations/regional ecumenical organizations; mission partners). Interested individuals can apply on their own, but will have to ask for financial support from an organization and have to be related to a major institution of theological education. Information on whom to turn to in different regions with a letter of interest for participation can be obtained in WCC/ETE office (contact melisande.lorke@wcc-coe.org).

A first screening of applications takes place according to common standards and criteria in the different regions by the supporting organizations. Supporting partners for the GETI project will receive from WCC a certain allocation of GETI places they are invited to fill with candidates from certain regions. Special mechanisms will be developed to identify younger theologians from non-member churches (ecumenical partners). Supporting GETI partners need to send their regional lists of suggested candidates to participate in GETI to WCC (ETE office) by end of January 2013 in order to be confirmed by WCC. **Only after this central confirmation from WCC/ ETE office participation is assured and accepted.** Official registration and enrolment for GETI students will then be processed via WCC assembly office. A central list with registered GETI participants will be administered in WCC/ETE. Letters of final confirmation are expected to come between February and April 2013 to the individual participants from WCC via the sending and financing organizations.

The composition of the GETI participants group is aimed to respect widest regional diversity, gender balance, denominational plurality and inclusiveness as far as this is achievable. As the assembly will take place in Asia there will be slightly higher percentage of Asian participants. The regional balances intended are expected to follow the general criteria for regional, denominational and gender balances as developed within the WCC. A general application form for GETI is available and has to be handed in.

XII. Supporting partners for GETI

As the GETI project is a programmatic activity of WCC programs alongside the assembly, but not an activity of the assembly as such (and therefore also not part of the assembly budget) a crucial role is played by supporting partners for GETI. The organizing principle at work for GETI will be a threefold sharing of the financial costs:

- a) Sending institutions or supporting partners will cover travel costs and a registration fees for a certain number of candidates allocated to them.
- b) WCC/ETE would cover a major part of preparatory, program and transportation costs in Korea and will provide some subsidies for candidates where otherwise participation is difficult.
- c) Korean partners for GETI would cover a major part of the costs for hospitality, meals and facilities.

XIII. Budget and Fundraising for GETI

The costs per participant are twofold:

- a) The **GETI registration fee** amounts to **1'500 USD** [this amount has to be transferred to WCC-EET accounts together with a (confirmed) registration per participant].
- b) **Individual travel fees** to reach Seoul. *[Travel costs vary between 800 and 2000 USD. Ticket costs for travelling to South Korea from various parts of the world are estimated to range from 500 SFR (HongKong, China) to 1600 SFR (Germany), 1200-1700 SFR (USA) or 2500 SFR (Argentina).]*
- c) It is anticipated and planned in the GETI budget that - if sufficient funds become available – each participating GETI faculty member will receive a honorarium of some 900 USD for their services rendered to the GETI project.

The supporting organization should cover at least part of the costs as far as financial means are available. There are some funds at hand from the ETE-WCC and partner organizations to support students from the global South.

XIV. First Organizational aspects for participating GETI students

- a) There will be a central coverage of health insurance for all GETI participants during their stay in Korea which will be organized via WCC assembly office.
- b) For arriving in Korea participants will have to travel to Incheon International airport, Seoul, for coming to Korea. The return flights can be booked either from Gimhae International airport, Busan, or from Incheon International airport as well, as Korean partners have recommended to take the bullet train from Busan to Seoul airport in returning.
- c) After arrival in Seoul International airport participants would be directed to go in groups, to take a new direct bus line to Hanshin university (2 hours), and then a local bus to the Hotel Academy House of PROK. For this arrival travel within Seoul participants have to cover their own costs and change currency at Incheon Airport for this (around 60 USD). This arrival pilgrimage will be accompanied by Korean stewards who will be organized by NKHC. Registration and welcome for all GETI participants will take place in a conference room facility for some 200 people just outside the Hotel Academy House, opposite to PROK Central Building. This arrival and welcome hall will be available for GETI for the whole day on Friday 25 October.
- d) Travel from Seoul to Busan on 29 October will be organized by buses (Joong-boo Express Way or cheaper options), departure will be around 7.30 (time for travel: some 4 hours). Costs for this transport are included in the GETI Budget and covered centrally.
- e) Travel from Busan to Gwanju on 2 and 3 November will also be organized by buses and covered via GETI budget. Only light (one-night) luggage is allowed to be carried along, as the main luggage will be

kept in Busan, Ariana Hostel. The excursion to Gwanju is obligatory as WCC cannot organize different excursion events for the GETI group.

- f) Return travel from Busan Youth Hostel to Busan Gimhae International airport or via bullet train back to Seoul is organized centrally for all assembly participants and covered within assembly budget.
- g) **Any earlier or later stay of participants from GETI in Korea beyond the core GETI period between Friday afternoon 25 October (arrival in Seoul) and Saturday morning 9 November 2013 is beyond the responsibility of the organizer and would have to fully covered and insured by participants themselves.**

XV. Other

GETI participants will have the status of regular assembly participants (with sub-category as GETI students), but they do not have a voice during official assembly meetings. There will be no special visitor's status, but GETI participants will be registered also as assembly participants. GETI participants (both students and faculty) however cannot simultaneously be voting delegates or official observers of the assembly which are nominated from WCC member churches or ecumenical partners. GETI participants will have access to worship occasions, thematic plenaries, ecumenical conversations and workshops during the assembly (as long as they do not conflict with the fixed GETI course program), but not to business sessions of the assembly. Health insurance for GETI participants will be arranged by WCC assembly conference office as part of the global arrangements for assembly delegates. GETI student participants have to make sure that they participate full-time in all regular programs of GETI, they cannot just come and stay away according to individual decision.