Korean Christians inaugurates a 100% Scholarship Theological School for Asian & African Students!

The Yonsei University’s United Graduate School of Theology held its first official gathering for the opening of Songdo Global Institute of Theology (GIT) on Tuesday, March 18th, 2014 at 3 p.m. The gathering was celebrated with a thanks giving worship at the Yonsei Theology Chapel, inviting various Christian leaders of South Korea. The worship was led by representatives of different Christian institutes, including WCC, NCCK (National Council of Churches in Korea) KAATS (Korean Association of Accredited Theological Schools), and Yonsei’s very own president Kap-Young, Jeong. Several Media companies like FEBS, CBS and CTS were present to witness the worship, capturing the historic moment. The successful inauguration of the Songdo GIT signaled a new blooming in Korea’s contribution for global theological education.

The Yonsei United Graduate School of Theology (UGST), celebrating its 50th anniversary with the fund from WCC in 1963, announced “The Songdo Global Institute of Theology (GIT), which will accept its first batch of students in the coming March of 2015 in Yonsei’s new Songdo International Campus. GIT is a new theology graduate school hosting only foreign students (especially Asian and African) with full coverage of scholarship by Korean christians and the Room and Board by Yonsei University. The core theme GIT carries out is to train foreign students to become the future leaders of global Christian community. GIT invites foreign students and current leaders, accepting 30 students every year. The school plans to offer professional degree program such as master level (Th.M. M.T.S.) and doctoral level (Ph.D. Th.D. D.Min). GIT will also offer various short-term Continuing Ed. programs on ‘Global Leadership Development and Networking’ and ‘Cross-Cultural Theology and Ministry.’

During the inauguration worship, several Christian leaders of Korea spoke of their impression about the establishment of GIT. Rev. J.H. Kim (FEBS) delivered his message that he felt “most thankful about opening a fine ground of education where international students of every background can receive higher education of theology with full scholarship support”. Also he mentioned how he hoped the GIT could be a historic stepping stone to “all kinds of Christian community, not only within Korea but worldwide.” President Jeong of Yonsei University within his welcoming address said “it is truly historical and inspirational moment of the University established by a missionary, Rev. Horace Grant Underwood that we educate and send the well-trained missionaries to other foreign countries!” Rev. Jong Hwa Park, the chair of inauguration committee said, “GIT is opening a new horizon for the new concept of mission and evangelism by educating local leaders of the international countries and resend them to their mother land as professional missionaries!” Several Christian leaders of Korean Churches also spoke of their joys and promised their strong and continuing support for GIT.