

**Report on the 12th General Assembly meeting
Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, India
November 1-4, 2011**

The Conference of Catholic Theological Institutions (COCTI) held its 12th triannual General Assembly on November 1-4 at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Ramwadi, Pune, India.

The theme of the meeting was “Doing Theology in the Context of Religious, Cultural and Ideological Pluralism”.

Participants were greeted on the university campus by an exceptionally warm welcome by its President, Job Kozhamthadam, by the Faculty of Theology and its President Thomas Kuriacose, and by the organization committee presided by Noël Shet, together with Sister Rekha Chennattu, John Karuvelil and their teams, the priests and seminarists on the campus.

The General Assembly was attended by forty-two participants coming from twenty-two countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, the Republic of Congo, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Ivory Coast, Spain, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, and the United States. The participants worked together in three successive workshops under the guidance of President Philippe Bordeyne, together with Vice-President Alexander P. Zatyryka Pacheco, counsellors Léonard Santedi (Africa), and Marc Pelchat (North America). Secretary João Marques Eleuterio was not able to make the trip. Guy Réal-Thivierge, IFCU General Secretary, and Joao Vila-Chã, COMIUCAP President, were prevented at the last minute to come to Pune because they could not get a visa in time.



FIUC
IFCU

Fédération internationale des universités catholiques
Federación internacional de universidades católicas
International Federation of Catholic Universities

We have celebrated the memory of the late P. Arockiadoss, the last Dean of Pune's Faculty of Theology who had accepted to welcome this 12th General Assembly and passed away a few months after the previous one. Mgr Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune, opened the General Assembly during which President Philippe Bordeyne made his Moral Report.

Twenty-five communications were communicated to the participants divided in three workshops, together with a paper on promoting Christian libraries and their networks. You will find the list of these communications annexed to this report. They will also be available on COCTI internet site in May 2012.

The Assembly was rythmed by an Indian-style Mass, a film on the subcontinent, a cultural show and a banquet which together brought everyone into the heart of Indian civilization. Each participant received a gilded copper picture of Nataraja as a souvenir of this memorable stay. Finally, a three-day trip to Janta and Ellora sanctuaries gave some of the participants the opportunity to familiarize themselves with India's religious and artistic culture.

Thanks to the large number of institutions represented, this 12th General Assembly made it possible to put to the record the first stage of the refoundation of our professional association of Deans and Heads of Theological Catholic Institutions, a refoundation that took place in Paris in January 2008. COCTI is one of IFCU nine sectorial groups, together with that of philosophy (COMIUCAP), education (ACISE), sciences and technologies, psychology (FIUCUP), social sciences, family (REDIF), medicine (AIFMC) and political sciences.

A new Executive Board was unanimously elected, comprising of:

- Thierry-Marie Courau, President (and delegate for Europe)
- Yvon Christian Elenga, Vice-President (and delegate for Africa)
- Thomas Kuriacose (delegate for Asia-Oceania)
- Marc Pelchat (delegate for North America)
- Herman Rodríguez Osorio (delegate for South America)

The mandate of the Board members will run until the next General Assembly.

Participants voted to hold COCTI 13th General Assembly in 2014 in the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Nairobi, Kenya, a choice which was verbally accepted by this university's dean.



Some themes were chosen for the forthcoming three years:

1/ expand COCTI membership

- identify potential members
- organize the promotion of the association

2/ develop administration and management tools

- learn how to organize common projects
- together, seek funding from international, European and francophone organizations

3/ improve our university ability and expertise by knowing and helping each other

- promote exchanging ideas on our organizations, our new teaching projects
- encourage inviting professors and the exchange of students between faculties
- promote the development of, and on-line access to a working network of libraries
- consider ways of improving our governance processes and pedagogical methods
- assume our responsibility as theologians in the dialogue with the secular world
- make ourselves better known in Rome

Each regional organization, under the authority of its delegate, should plan to have a 2-3 days interim assembly in 2013 to maintain and develop the network of catholic theological institutes and prepare the 2014 General Assembly. COCTI Executive Board will meet sometime before Fall 2012 to make a list of suggestions for this General Assembly.

Thierry-Marie Courau
President



Annex
Workshops of COCTI's 12th General Assembly
1-4 November 2011, Pune, India

Workshop 1 :

**Religious Studies / Religious Sciences / History of Religion /
Comparative Religion in a Theological Institution**

BARREDO HEINERT Fernando, Dean, Facultad de Ciencias Filosófico-Teológicas, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador : «Theology is a spiritual experience ».

CORNILLE, Catherine Marie, Doyen, Department of Theology, Boston College, USA : « Comparative Theology and the Study of Religions at the Catholic University ».

GONSALVES Francis, Dean, Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi, India: « Contextual Method of Theologizing : Brief Reflections. »

PELCHAT Marc, Dean, Faculté de Théologie et de Sciences Religieuses, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada : « Interaction between Religious Studies and Theology in a Pluralist Context : the Case of the Quebec French Speaking Institutions ».

RODRÍGUEZ OSORIO Hermann, Dean, Facultad de Teología, Pontificia Universidad Católica Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia : « A Public Debate about Religious Studies and their Relation to Theology : the Presence of Religious Studies in a Catholic Faculty of Theology. »

SILVA-SOLER Joaquín, Dean, Facultad de Teología, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile : « Relevance of an Empirical Theology of Religion ».

SZCZUREK Jan Daniel, Dean, Theological Faculty, Pontifical University of John Paul II, Cracow, Poland : « Theology, Religious Studies and Religious Sciences in Poland (and other post-Communist Countries) after the collapse of Marxism (the state of affairs) ».



Contribution on the Christian Libraries :

DUPONT Odile, Executive manager for the promotion and the libraries network, Institut Catholique de Paris : « Which Role for the Christian Libraries in the Contemporary Documentary World ? »

Workshop 2 :

Interculturality and Cultural Diversity in a Theological Institution

BOEVE Lieven, Dean, Faculteit Godgeleerdheid, Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven : « The Interruption of Theology in Europe ».

ELENGA Yvon Christian, Dean, Institut de Théologie de la Compagnie de Jésus, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire : « A Theology Listening to the World ».

KOUMAGLO Joseph Kossivi, Dean, Institut Catholique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire : « Interculturality in Theology ».

KRANITZ, Mihály, representing the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Peter Pázmány Catholic University, Hungary : « Theology of Inculturation among Churches at the Beginning of the 21st Century and the Role of the Catholic Theological Institution ».

MAJAWA Clément Alfred, Dean, Faculty of Theology, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Nairobi, Kenya : « Integration of Interculturality in the Teaching of Theology in Theological Institutions : East Africa Experience. »

MALZONI Claudio Vianney, Coordinator of the Theology Cursus, Universidade Católica de Pernambuco, Brésil : « Doing Theology in the Context of Religious, Cultural and Ideological Pluralism ».

GNANAPRAGASAM Patrick, Head i/c, Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras, Chepauk, Chennai, India : « Public Theology in the Indian Context : A Note on its Prospects and Challenges ».

SANTEDI Kinkupu Léonard, delegate for Africa, Faculté de Théologie, Université Catholique du Congo, Kinshasa, DRC : « Practicing Theology in the Context of Interculturality. Challenges and Prospects ».

SAVARIMUTHU Stanislas, Dean, St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, India : « Does Paul define Social Boundaries for Christians ? An Indian-Christian reading of 2 Co 6 :16 - 7 :1 ».

YAP Joaquim Jr., representing the President of Loyola School of Theology, Quezon City, Philippines : « Does God Speak Today ? »



Workshop 3 :

Religious and Ideological Pluralism in a Theological Context

AMALADOSS Michael, Director, Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Religions, Loyola College, Chennai, India : « Hindu-Christian, Conflict or Challenge ? »

ARBY Gregory, Dean, Faculty of Theology, St Joseph's Pontifical Institute, Alwaye, India : « Religious and Ideological Pluralism in a Theological Context ».

COURAU Thierry-Marie, Dean, *Theologicum* – Faculté de Théologie et de Sciences religieuses, Institut Catholique de Paris, France : « Developing a Theology of Dialogue for Pluricultural Societies ».

DEMERS Bruno, representing Father Maxime Allard, Collège Universitaire Dominicain de Théologie et de Philosophie, Ottawa, Canada : « Developing and Implementing an Interreligious Prayer : Shedding Light on the End Purposes of the Interreligious Dialogue and Establishing a Deeper Understanding of the Relationship between Mission and Dialogue ».

KURIACOSE Thomas, Dean, Jnana-DeepaVidyapeeth, Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Pune, India : « Theological Issues arising from the Experience of Interreligious Dialogue in India ».

MARULANDA DIAZ Diego Alonso, Dean, Escuela de Teología, Filosofía and Humanidades, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Medellín, Colombia : « Doing Theology in the Context of Religious, Cultural and Ideological Context ».

URIARTE GONZÁLEZ Luzio (paper presented with Lidia RODRÍGUEZ and José ARREGI), Coordinator of Euskera, Facultad de Teología, Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao, Spain : « Contributing academically to Build a Multireligious Society ».

