

# International Service Learning and Multi-Cultural Symbiosis: The Silliman-International Christian University S-L Model Program

Takashi Nishio & Yutaka Sato  
International Christian University  
Friday June 1, 2007

# report on

- activities done so far to develop service-learning curriculums, programs, and activities at ICU, and
- networking and exchange of students among institutions in Asia.
- outcome: an International Service-Learning Model Program at Dumaguete, the Philippines, in which the idea of Multi-Cultural Symbiosis was emphasized.

# International Christian University

educate men and  
women who serve  
God and humanity

*University Bulletin volume I*  
1953

- a small liberal arts university in Tokyo
  - with 2,900 students and 150 faculty
    - established 1953
    - missions: I – C - U

# ICU's SL curriculum

***Sending-out-for-service Type:*** require 30-days of unpaid service, guidance by advisor, assignments of journals and essays

- International Service Learning
- Community Service Learning

***In-class type:*** classroom courses

- Introduction to Service Learning
- Preparation for Service Learning
- Reflection on Service Learning

# Service Learning Center

opened in 2002

- Help ICU students engage in SL and receive students from Asian universities
- Develop/maintain the networking with Japanese and Asian universities



# Sending ICU students to service

SLC provide info, recruit, screen, intermediate between students and faculty/agencies

	2003	2004	2005	2006	total
<b>International S-L</b> (Exchange programs)	6	15	21	30	72
<b>International S-L</b> (Other programs)	15	9	15	3	42
<b>Community S-L</b>	6	11	9	6	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>146</b>

# SL student exchange programs

w/

## **Service Learning Asia Network**

- American College, India;
- Chung Chi College, Hong Kong;
- Lady Doak College, India;
- Petra Christian University, Indonesia;
- Payap University, Thailand;
- Seoul Women's University, South Korea;
- Silliman University, the Philippines;
- Soochow University, Taiwan;
- ICU, Japan

# ICU ranked as 5<sup>th</sup>

Asahi News Paper article May 14, 2007

	<u>volunteers 02-06</u>	<u>total No.</u>
• Kansai Gaidai Univ	331	10,031
• Nagoya Univ of Commerce & Business		
	209	3,917
• Waseda Univ	172	45,286
• J.F. Oberlin Univ	153	7,192
• ICU	116	2,845

Total number of students from PASSNAVI

[http://passnavi.evidus.com/search\\_univ/](http://passnavi.evidus.com/search_univ/)



# ICU ranked as 5<sup>th</sup>

Asahi News Paper article May 14, 2007

ICU was ranked as fifth in terms of the number of students sent abroad for some 'voluntary work' between 2002 and 2006

- Total number of ICU students is much smaller
- ICU emphasizes Learning as well as Service
- ICU requires students to prepare and reflect on their experiences
- ICU requires students to do 30 days of service (to give them course credit)

# receiving students from SLAN partner institutions

- since 2004 up to now, received 16 students  
about 4 students per year, 2 students per institution for period of 5 weeks → thanks to UB and FOI funding
- find service sites for students with no Jpn ability; give orientation/workshops, let students sit in some ICU courses, provide opportunities to meet/talk with ICU students and faculty

# Networking with Asian institutions

- ICU hosted three international conferences and held two workshops under the financial support from the UB. (as of Dec. 2006)
- The beginning was a conference held in 2002.

# 2002 conference

June 30-July 3 2002

## **Service Learning in Asia: Creating Networks and Curricula in Higher Education**

co-organized and funded by UB,

- Decided to create networks whereby to exchange information and students  
→ Service Learning Asia Network (SLAN)

# ICU

2005 ICU was awarded a Japanese GOVERNMENT GRANT (the Ministry of Education and Science) for further development of its *INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING* in the summer of 2005, covering the period from AY 2005 through the end of AY 2008 (March of 2009)

# 2003 conference

## **ICU Service Learning Coordinators' Meeting**

ICU proposed to exchange students with financial support from UB

*ICU proposes to start, on an experiential basis, a student exchange network in SL among selected colleges and universities in Asia.*

- ICU initiated sending students to SLAN in 03; and started accepting students from SLAN in 04
- 2004, website for SLAN was created for each member to upload information

# International Model Program

Sept. 2005, **the Service Learning Evaluation Workshop** – w/ SLAN members

Agenda: How can we provide alternative quality grouped international service learning program in Asia?

Summary: ICU has proposed to organize a model international service learning summer program, using the government grant

→ Silliman University summer 2006

# student exchange + international model program

- student exchange – bicultural
  - international model program – multicultural
- students (and faculty/staff) from SLAN institutions are brought together at one place
- students are broken down into groups of 2-3
- each team has one student from host institution
  - consists of students from different cultural backgrounds
  - do homestay with a local family and do service in the community



# Cultural Symbiosis

- the leading idea was ‘cultural symbiosis’
- symbiosis originates in Japanese word *kyoosei* (*gongsheng* in Chinese, *kongsaeng* in Korean), which means ‘live together’
- *kyoosei* originally meant animal symbiosis
- recently *kyoosei* is used often to refer to people with different cultural/ethnic backgrounds to live together in a community in Japan

# Cultural Symbiosis

- in *Kyoosei*, people respect other cultures; no assimilation to one mainstream culture; symbionts remain different species
- In Silliman-ICU International Model Program, students were to find the best way to live together with their teammates and community people

# *the Silliman-ICU International Service Learning Model program*

Period: August 2 - August 30 (29 days)

36 (total)	20 students + 16 faculty/staff
ICU	6 students + 5 faculty/staff
Silliman Univ	8 students + 8 faculty/staff

## *<SLAN Members>*

Seoul Women's University 2

Chung Chi College 2 + 1

Lady Doak College 1 + 1

Soochow University 1 + 1

Payap University 0

American College 0

Petra Christian U. 0

# *ICU-Silliman University International Service Learning Model Program*



**August 2-30, 2006**

**At Dumaguete,  
Negros Island,  
The Philippines**

# Program

## ■ Orientations & Guidance

## ■ August 7-26

- Start of stay with host communities
- Participation in community activities

## ■ Weekly sharing of reflections were done in relaxing venues

## ■ Celebration & Cultural Night

# Eight community agencies

- Buglas Bamboo Institute (bamboo craft NPO)
- Gawad Kalinga, GK (housing project for the poor)
- 2 Habitat for Humanity sites (housing project)
- 2 SU extension service (community development including child care or ice cream making)
- 2 SU College of Nursing extension service (community development including family visit and child care)

# What they did

- taught Japanese language & culture to village children
- made pavers, cleaned community, visited homes to interview about income & family
- supported classes at a daycare center by teaching English & Japanese culture, baked bread, visited school and homes, helped farmwork
- nothing → taught cultural activities at a daycare center, helped painting play huts and fixing bamboo fences
- cleaning bamboos for crafting
- taught Japanese culture and English at school, and reading and songs at kindergarten, helped making coconut oil

# problems

Communication seems to be a problem for many

- communication in English
- communication with young children
- communication with and understanding villagers (groundless rumors)

shocked at a story told by a DV-victim

found nothing to do

relationships with teammates were not easy



# what they have learned

support from and friendships with the teammates;  
can trust teammates from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds

Found socio-economic realities in the village

- understand the rural economy and how it hinders children from going to college.
- young people are leaving the village for the city
- violence and poverty in the village
- NGOs have strong footing and support from local people

# what they have learned

'simple, slow, natural village lifestyle

mutual understanding with villagers;

renewed the image of Filipinos; found similarities rather than differences

meaning of service learning; to do service

you need support from those to whom you do service

4/5 think they can live in a different culture

# Overall evaluation

Overall evaluation of the program was  
'success'

- hosting institution said it was big success; even willing to host next year for a longer term (at Assessment Meeting)
- no students lost/injured

# Lady Doak College-ICU International Service Learning Model Program 2007



- The same framework as Silliman Program
- July 23 – August 18, 2007
- At Lady Doak College, Madurai, India

# Plan for future: Evaluative research on what we have done

We are planning to do three-strand research with SLAN members

- Internal (within-institutional) surveys
- Bilateral surveys
- International SL Model Program surveys

Question: What difference did it make?

Do surveys and analyses

Research products by 2008

Thank you.