

ACTEA INSTITUTIONS EXECUTIVES' SEMINAR PLANNING MEETING

August 28, 2020

Institutions attendance:

1. Evangelical Theological College (ETC)- Addis,Ethiopia
2. Africa College of Theology (ACT) –Kigali,Rwanda
3. West Africa Theological Seminary (WATS)- Lagos,Nigeria
4. Moffat Bible College(MBC) -Kijabe, Kenya
5. LIFE Theological Seminary (LTS)- Ikorodu, Nigeria.
6. The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary (NBTS)- Ogbomoso ,Nigeria
7. Kima International School of Theology (KIST)- Luanda, Kenya
8. Shalom University of Bunia (SUSB)- Bunia- Democratic Republic of Congo
9. Africa Christian College (ACC) -e-Swatini.
10. Evangelical University (EU)- Ndola -Zambia
11. Theological College of Zimbabwe (TCZ)- Zimbabwe
12. Shiloh Bible College of Ethiopia (SBCE)- Hawassa, Ethiopia
13. Baptist Theological Seminary Lagos(BTS-L)-Lagos, Nigeria
14. ECWA Theological Seminary – Kagoro(ETSK), Kagoro, Nigeria
15. Africa Theological Seminary (ATS)- Kitale, Kenya

ACTEA Office:

Dr. David Tarus: Executive Director
Dr. Dwight Singer: Networking Officer
Flo Kagwamba: Executive Administrator

The ACTEA Director welcomed the members to the zoom meeting. The ACTEA chairman, Prof. Emiola, who is also the president of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, was present and therefore took time to welcome the Heads of institutions and other participants. We had a total of 32 participants

Some of the institutions update:

KIST: Informed us of the demise of their Archbishop. We will send condolences from our office. On the issue of COVID 19, they were post break. They had to reconvene and reorganize themselves. They have started online classes, making baby steps, with lots of challenges but doing well so far. They are about to finalize the term.

ETC: They had been doing the traditional way of teaching- the chalk and talk. They are using different social media- google classroom, Zoom, and the mobile app-Telegram. Their country is in a state of emergency too. They are planning on offering classes online until the state of emergency is lifted.

MBC: They have been teaching online since May. They did not have online classes before although they had prepared the online platform before COVID-19 pandemic. They had their virtual

graduation on July 11th, 2020. New academic year is starting next week, they will continue teaching online.

MYS: They are trying to do their best under the present circumstances. They have been doing their coursework online and sending course materials through post office and using google classwork. They are looking forward to starting classes in the coming month, though they still need to hear from the government on the institution opening.

WATS: Was caught unawares just like all institutions. It was closed also in March 2020, their semester was 6 weeks to completion and they were able to complete the semester.

LTS: They have completed their last semester through Zoom. They will be starting their first semester next week online. Their students have lost jobs so not able to pay tuition fees. The students also don't have phones or computers therefore it becomes a challenge to enroll online.

ACTS: Few students can access technology such as smart phones. They have tried to teach online although with a lot of challenges.

ACC: They decided in early May 2020 to complete their academic year online, so they will not be relying on the government decision to open the institution. They are primarily using google classroom.

ETSK: They have started teaching online but struggling with putting up course content.

ATS: Closed since March 2020. They will be opening next month. They will not be having pure online but blended since many students live in the rural areas, therefore they do not have the resources to log in online. They will do a lot of induction on how to use technology and after 7 weeks, they will invite them to sit for exams.

TCZ: They engaged in transformation from electricity to solar energy in 2016. This reduces expenses every month. They do not have to worry about power cuts. All their classroom and IT is covered by solar energy. They are engaged in blended learning process and have already done their exams. They appointed one of their key lectures who is an IT savvy, to assist the institution to move to online mode.

Shalom: The school has been closed since March 2020. The school will be opening up in December 2020. He requested for prayers as they start online theological education.

What else do we need to address as ACTEA office? What should we be concerned about?

- Sustainability: How do institutions continue?
- Collaboration. Schools to collaborate / combine to access resources and technology e.g., Zoom etc., to cut costs. Institutions could also share faculty members in teaching, supervision, and curriculum development.
- Training: It's not just lecturers who need help on having classes online, but the students need help also.
- Course content development: Institutions need help in developing courses for online platforms. They also need help with assessment of online programmes.

- Funding. How do institutions fund online theological education? How can they access funding? How do they write proposals? Who are the donors interesting in funding theological education?
- Solar Power to solve problems of intermittent electricity.
- Education technology
- Online Platforms – accessing them and how to use them. Also paying for them.
- Spiritual formation and community must be emphasized

The Director reminded the participants to log in to ICETE Academy courses for free. He informed them that ICETE Academy has so many courses on online theological education; some of these classes are on how to design online theological courses. He also informed them that the office is working on ODEL standards and virtual site visits to enable us to accredit the institutions online.

Important thing to note:

Solar Project: The director invited the ACTEA chairman to share the NBTS solar project success story. NBTS identified solar energy as a matter of priority. They were able to get some funds to start this project. This will cost them about \$300,000. The ACTEA chairman also shared about their collaboration with the Horizon Education Network on online theological education. He mentioned that Horizon helped NBTS with faculty training on online education. In July last year they established distance learning center so by the time COVID hit, they were already offering 43% face to face learning, 30% blended mode and 27% online classes. They were able to complete their classes and held their graduation. They have started their academic year last week.

Dr. Lazarus Phiri of Evangelical University and ACTEA Vice-Chairman informed the participants that EU are doing hybrid mode of learning. They have installed solar power energy which is powering e-learning. He encouraged the other institutions that they do not need the full amount to install solar panels. They can start with the little they have and keep moving from there.

Dr. Robert Wafula also shared about the solar project at Friends Theological College where he serves as Principal. They have been on solar energy since 2016. They made 80% savings after this installation! They have been operating online since April this year. They still have about 50% students online but are encouraging others to join.

Way Forward

- ACTEA Chairman (NBTS President) is willing to share his experience with other executives on solar energy.
- Institutions were encouraged to train someone on educational technology to help oversee the institutions’ technological needs.
- Come up with step by step development of capacity for staff, faculty, and students
- Spiritual formation and community building need to be emphasized, with regards to online theological education.