



# HIGHLIGHTS

Internal Newsletter of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies 05/21/2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 21 President's Reception for graduates
- May 22-24 [110th Graduation Exercises](#)
- May 25 A presentation on the "[Eschatological Economic Behavior \(EEB\) Positioning of the Modern-day Kingdoms in Daniel 2:39-41: A Factor Analysis](#)" by Dr. Hector Martin and Dr. Eric Nasution
- May 27 [Eid-Al-Adha](#)
- Jun 9 [Silang Day](#)
- Jun 12 [Philippine Independence Day](#)

## WELCOME!

Former Pacific Adventist University president Ben Thomas from New Zealand visited AIAS with two of his colleagues from the South Pacific Division on Wednesday, May 21, to look at AIAS as one of the possibilities for locating a unique and creative initiative between the SSD and SPD. A group of programmers will coalesce to develop I.T. programs that will serve both divisions. Ben Thomas envisions this as a project that would also provide work for students with I.T. expertise. Whether they choose AIAS, AUP or SSD campus, we see this as an innovative collaboration, and applaud it!



## ENGLISH CENTER - TESOL International Conference

The English Center staff flew to South Korea on May 14, 2026 to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Korea TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language) International Conference. The team also visited the Seventh-day Adventist institutions operated by the Northern-Asia Pacific Division (NSD), to learn more about their language learning needs to promote AIAS.

## STUDENT ASSOCIATION (SA) - Election & Outing

On May 15, 2026, the [Student Association Officers](#) for academic year 2026-27 were elected.

Congratulations to

- President: Innocent H. Tuyishime
- Vice President: J-Lawrence Pascual Catubigan
- Secretaries: Naomi Booia & Naw Tracy
- Treasurer: Jean Baptiste Nkurunziza
- Public Relations Officer: Ravi Chiravuri
- Chairperson for Religious Affairs: Thalita Catharina Cebulski Miiler
- Chairperson for Social Affairs: Donno Van S. Valdehueza



On May 17, 2026, the SA celebrated the end of the term by spending a day at [Splash Island Waterpark](#) in Southwoods, Binan, Laguna. The students and their families, explored the area, enjoyed the water slides and adventure activities, and spent quality time together. Everyone left at 5pm with tanned skin, full hearts, and awesome memories of the fun day they had. See their photos: [Batch 1](#) [Batch 2](#)

## AIAS ACADEMY - Jail Visit, Moving Up, and Graduation

The AIAS Academy has ended their school year in a flurry of activities too! On Sabbath, May 16, 2026, the Grade 9 student visited Bulihan Extension Jail. Then on May 20, 2026, they had their Moving Up ceremony for the [Kindergarten](#) and [Grade 10](#) students in the morning, while the Grade 6 and Grade 12 students had their graduation in the afternoon. Congratulations to all our AIAS Academy graduates! May God bless you as you transition to the next stage in your education.

## SERVICE AWARDS (Part 2) - Karole Mercado

Congratulations to Karole Mercado, one of recipients of this year's Service Awards! Karole is our seminary dean's secretary and *"consistently produces high-quality work and always considers what is best for AIIAS. She is dependable in any assignment given to her and executes her responsibilities with excellence. She shows genuine care for her work, the institution, and its mission, treating her responsibilities as a trust given to her by God. This is reflected in the careful and thoughtful way she performs her duties. When Karole is there, you do not have to worry. The seminary can run smoothly as long as she is there, even without the dean."* (Wording from one of her nominations)

The annual service awards recognize AIIAS employees that demonstrate their "dedication, competence, performance, customer service, impact on the continuing success of the institution, or a significant contribution to the mission of AIIAS through outreach and service to the community surrounding AIIAS."

Karole received her award during the Bible Study Tour in Turkey on May 7, 2026.

## FLAG RAISING - by SSD PhD in Education Cohort

At 6:00 AM on May 17, 2026, Dr. Ginger and the SSD PhD in Education Cohort students participated in a flag raising ceremony at the Bell Tower in preparation for the 110th Graduation Ceremony this coming weekend. The flags represent the countries of this year's graduates.



*"Our goal is to graduate in the year 2030. This activity gives me inspiration that if I can participate at least 5 times, that fifth will be our own graduation".* - Noreen Sumalpong, SSD PhD in Education Cohort student

**Underlined words are links.**

## AQRA - 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference

On May 18-20, 2026, AIIAS Qualitative Research Association held their 10th International Conference on Qualitative Research with the theme "Reimagining Qualitative Inquiry: Creativity, Context, and Relevance".

*"This year, our conference was conducted in a hybrid format. The face-to-face sessions were conducted here at our main campus, at AIIAS, while our virtual presenters and attendees joined us virtually from different parts of the world. The hybrid modality made it possible for us to expand the inclusivity and accessibility of the conference."* - Dr. Innocent Sigauke, AQRA President

Founded in 2015, AQRA (the Asian Qualitative Research Association) is led by the AIIAS faculty and has become a leader in fostering qualitative research practice and education across Asia.

### COMMUNITY REMINDERS

- **PROMOTE AIIAS!** - Are you traveling during this inter-semester and want to share about AIIAS with your church? Dr. Ginger has provided a slide show presentation with some notes for you to use! Here are also some promotional videos you can use.
- **AIIAS COMMUNITY GROUP** - the AIIAS Community Facebook Group is intended for the current AIIAS Faculty, Staff, and Students. The AIIAS policy is to remove members of the group when they've been gone for one year. We will begin the pruning process next week.
- **AIIAS ALUMNI GROUP** - This is for all our AIIAS community members (students, faculty, and staff) that have left campus. We hope you join us over there!
- **"I love AIIAS Because"** featuring Osée Kamgang Toho from Cameroon.
- **"A Day in My Life as a PhD Cohort student in AIIAS"** - Noreen Sumalpong

### FUNNY BONE

(Alumni Contributor: Dr. G. T. Ng)

"Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth."

Author unknown