

A Summary of the Programme Evaluation Project (PEP) of MEGST (Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology)



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1. Why PEP needed to be done

a. Evaluation of MEGST programmes

MEGST leadership will use the results of this project, along with other forms of assessment, to evaluate and improve the content, quality and success of its educational programmes and processes.

b. Alumni Welfare

Information gathered will help MEGST think how best to provide opportunities for the continuing education, encouragement, refreshment and up-skilling of its Alumni. PEP also provided opportunity for obtaining contact details for Alumni – to update the database MEGST holds on Alumni.

c. Student Recruitment

Contacting graduates at Alumni fellowship events has given opportunities for the promotion of MEGST and to engage in student recruitment.

d. Fundraising

Leadership Development International NZ will use the results of this project to review its investment in MEGST, to report back to donors, and to inform its future planning.

2. Process

Involved the completion, analysis and reporting (mostly quantitative) of the Alumni questionnaire. 137 questionnaires were completed at Alumni Gatherings – mostly in Yangon but the MEGST Coordinator of PEP along with either the Principal, other Faculty and/or the Alumni Cte Chair, visited several other cities around Myanmar. Other activities included interviewing around 80 Alumni as well as employers, supervisors, peers, and neighbours of Alumni.

Although electronic questionnaires were developed in both English and Burmese there was almost a nil return although these were sent out to about 80 folk who had not attended the Alumni Gatherings.

A comprehensive database was created by the Academic Registrar at SAIACS and then Denise Edwards entered the data from 137 questionnaires.

Mostly the data analysis was completed by Dr John Buchanan with involvement from both Allan Harkness and Denise Edwards.

Findings and reports were sent to the MEGST Principal for distribution to the Faculty.

Infographic was prepared by Mark Edwards and a Prezi presentation prepared and presented at the 20th anniversary celebrations of MEGST early June 2016.

3. Results

a. Alumni Satisfaction was very high in relation to:

- i. Quality of courses
- ii. Faculty as role models
- iii. MEGST communication with Alumni
- iv. Formation of Christian character during time at MEGST

b. The courses that have helped Alumni most with their current ministries were:

- i. Christian Leadership
 - ii. Summer English School
 - iii. Pastoral Care and Counselling
- c. The ways of learning, In order of preference, were:
- i. Lectures
 - ii. Reading and research
 - iii. Group discussion
 - iv. Preparing assignments
- d. Main struggles (in order of difficulty) in ministry were:
- i. Managing time
 - ii. Insufficient finances
 - iii. Application of Biblical truth
 - iv. Working in a team
 - v. Physical health
 - vi. Emotional health
- e. Some gender differences emerged from the survey, but not markedly so. For the main ministry roles of Pastor/Minister, Bible College Faculty/Principal and Ministry Leader the survey showed that women (81% of all female respondents) were keeping pace with the men (84% of the male respondents).
- f. How MEGST could have equipped Alumni better
- i. Courses should focus more on preparing for future ministries,
 - ii. More student participation in classes, and
 - iii. More attention should be given to mentoring students

4. Significant Positive Highlights

- a. The most frequently acknowledged contribution to the life and ministry of Alumni has been the various ways that MEGST has helped to **diminish narrow, exclusive attitudes** with regard to denominations, ethnicity, styles and behaviour of others.
- b. Through the SES and the use of English as the teaching medium, Alumni have been well equipped and are **confident with using the English language**.
- c. Through lifestyle, pastoral care, teaching and humility MEGST Faculty have contributed significantly towards **Alumni development to be more Christ-like**.
- d. An outstanding finding is that virtually **all 137 Alumni interviewed are involved in active ministries** that address a wide variety of spiritual, physical and social needs within the contexts of churches, local communities and Myanmar society.

5. Key Implications for MEGST

- a. MEGST will implement a comprehensive review of the whole MDiv programme
- b. MEGST will seek to serve Alumni better through:
 - i. Increased communication (via email, phone, social media, visits, MEGST newsletter).
 - ii. Regular fellowship gatherings for encouragement, prayer and sharing.
 - iii. More interest and participation by MEGST in Alumni ministries.
 - iv. The appointment of someone to serve Alumni.
- c. MEGST will explore possibilities for offering TEE and distance education, seminars/courses in business, management, administration, finance and people management.