



# World Congress of Comiucap

Johannesburg  
Nov. 13-17, 2013

**General Assembly of Comiucap**  
«The Role of Philosophy in Catholic Context»

## Order and Disorder in the Age of Globalization(s):

*Philosophy  
and the Development  
of Cultures*

*Program & Abstracts*

*Programme et Résumés*

*Programa y Resúmenes*



COMIUCAP  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
ST AUGUSTINE COLLEGE  
OF SOUTH AFRICA





*Welcome*  
*Bienvenus*  
*Bienvenidos*  
*Welkom*  
*Siyaalemukela*  
*Kamogelo*  
*Kamohelo*  
*Sondzela*  
*U amukeriwile*  
*Vhořanganedzwa*  
*Ulwamkelo*  
*Ukwemukela*  
*Benvenuti*  
*Willkommen*  
*Bem-vindos*

Πάντες ἄνθρωποι τοῦ εἰδέναι ὀρέγονται φύσει.  
σημεῖον δὴ τῶν αἰσθήσεων ἀγάπησις· καὶ γὰρ  
χωρὶς τῆς χρείας ἀγαπῶνται δι' αὐτάς, καὶ  
μάλιστα τῶν ἄλλων ἢ διὰ τῶν ὁμμάτων.

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΟΥΣ

(ΤΩΝ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΑ ΦΥΣΙΚΑ Α, 980<sup>α</sup>.)



**World Congress of Comiucap**



# **Reports on Meetings of Comiucap (2009-2013)**



**General Assembly of Comiucap**  
**«The Role of Philosophy in Catholic Context»**

**Johannesburg – Nov. 13-17, 2013**



### **Report on the Meeting of the Administrative Council of Comiucap-2009**

**Roma, Gregorian University, 14-15 November 2009**

On September 27, 2009 the President of COMIUCAP, Prof. Leovino Garcia, elected during the last General Assembly in Manila (September 11, 2008) asked, for personal reasons, to be relieved of his duties. Shortly thereafter the Vice-President/World of COMIUCAP, Prof. João J. Vila-Chã, of the Gregorian University, convoked an urgent meeting of the Administrative Board of COMIUCAP for Rome. The convocation was duly addressed to the Members of the Administrative Council of the organization: The Vice-President for Europe; The Vice-President for Asia-Oceania; the Vice-President Latin-America; the Vice-President for Africa. Moreover, the two following persons were invited for their expertise: The First President of COMIUCAP; the General Secretary of the International Federation of the Catholic Universities. The meeting took place at the Gregorian University on 14-15 November 2009.

Following the call, the following persons convened at the Gregorian University on the evening of November 14, 2009: Prof. Philippe Capelle, First President of COMIUCAP; Prof. Hubert Faes, Vice-President/Europe; Prof. Noel Sheth, Vice-President for Asia-Oceania. Prof. Mgr. Guy-Réal Thivierge, General Secretary of FIUC announced his presence for the following day only. The host of the Meeting was the Vice-President World of COMIUCAP. Prof. Néstor Corona, Vice-President for Latin America and Prof. Georges Ndumba, Vice-President for Africa, were not able to attend the Meeting. Yet, on November 9, 2009, Prof. Corona had been personally visited by the Vice-President World, so that some of his points of view were communicated and taken into account. The first meeting of the Board produced the following decisions regarding the Agenda to be followed in the upcoming day: 1. Leadership of COMIUCAP; 2. Financial situation of COMIUCAP; 3. Fourth World Congress of COMIUCAP and General Assembly; 4. Publications of COMIUCAP; 5. Regional initiatives of COMIUCAP:5.1. Regional Congress of Europe in 2010;5.2. Regional Congress for Latin-America in 2010.

On November 15, the above mentioned persons present in Rome gathered in the Sala del Consiglio of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and started around 10:00am their deliberations, which evolved as follows:

- 1.1. After a serene conversation regarding the Statutes of COMIUCAP as well as those of IFCU, and once all the participants in the Meeting had expressed their views and opinions regarding the present situation of the organization, the persons with the right to vote decided unanimously that the Vice-President World of COMIUCAP, Prof. João J. Vila-Chã, of the Gregorian University, should assume the role of Acting President of COMIUCAP for the duration of the present mandate, that is, until the next General Assembly of the Organization. After exposing his particular situation as Faculty member of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Gregorian University, the Vice-President World of COMIUCAP declared, not without first expressing some relevant particulars, his acceptance of the choice that had been made upon him, thereby assuming the leadership of COMIUCAP until the next General Assembly. Prof. Néstor Corona, in Argentina, was informed by telephone of this choice and he gave his approval of the same. Prof. Georges Ndumba could not be reached for the same effect.
- 1.2. Once the first deliberation took place and the Acting President assumed his role, the Administrative Council of COMIUCAP assembled in Rome took notice that the new headquarters of the Organization for the duration of the mandate is **Piazza della Pilotta 4, 00187 Roma (Italy)**.
- 1.3. During the deliberations pertaining to the first point of the Agenda, Professor Thivierge underscored not only the importance of COMIUCAP as a Sectorial Group of IFCU, but also underlined the fact that, after all, COMIUCAP was showing again signs of institutional robustness.
2. **Regarding Finances**, the following exchanges took place:
  - 2.1. Professor Philippe Capelle, former President of COMIUCAP, informed the assembled persons that the cost of the Congress in Manila amounted to 14,669.00 Euros. He further informed that the amount of **2000,00 USD** was given to Professor Leovino Garcia for the purpose of the Publication of the Papers delivered during the Congress in Manila. Moreover, he also informed that in the actual account of COMIUCAP in Paris the organization has the amount of **3,317.00 Euros**. The amount of **700.00 USD** is also available in the funds of the organization in Paris.
  - 2.2. The Acting President informed the Assembly that on **October 31, 2009**, he met personally with Professor Leovino Garcia in Belgium and that on the occasion, besides a collection of documents pertaining to the organization, he

also received the amount of **2,750.00** Euros corresponding to the contractual amount that the University *Ateneo de Manila* agreed to refund for the plane ticket of Professor Jean-Luc Marion on the occasion of his participation as Plenary Speaker during the Congress of Manila in September of 2008.

- 2.3. The Council further deliberated that the Acting President should, if at all possible, seek the appropriate ways to officially register COMIUCAP in the terms required and allowed by the Italian Law so that an account for the Organization can be duly open and made available for the regular functioning of the Association. The alternative would be to simply try to open a sub-account for COMIUCAP with the Administration of the Gregorian University in Rome, should this be possible.
- 2.4. The Council mentioned also the great urgency that COMIUCAP collects the fees of its members both for 2009 and, then, at a later moment, for 2010.
- 2.5. In accordance with the Statutes of COMIUCAP, the Acting President mentioned his intention to choose as soon as possible a Secretary/Treasurer, possibly from among the Faculty Members of the Faculty of Philosophy at the Gregorian University.
3. Regarding the next World Congress and General Assembly, the Board recommended the following:
  - 3.1. That the next Board Meeting (to take place possibly in March-April, 2010) decides on the place and the institution that shall have the onus, and the privilege, of organizing the next World Meeting (possibly in 2012).
  - 3.2. The board made a strong recommendation that all efforts should be done in order to maintain Africa as the destination of the next World Congress. Since Kinshasa was named in Manila as a strong possibility, we shall keep this in mind. The Acting President mentioned his intention to contact the Rector of the Catholic University of Congo/Kinshasa during the days of the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the IFCU. In case the option above mentioned does not work out, the Acting President will look first for other alternatives in Africa, as for example: Abidjan (Ivory Coast); Nairobi (Kenya); Entebe (Uganda); Maputo (Mozambique); Yaoundé (Cameroun). In case an African venue is recognized as being not possible for 2012, then the first option will be to look for a place in North America (Boston College; Georgetown; Fordham, etc.).

- 3.3. In the present context, the participants also mentioned the need to contact Professor Richard Cobb-Stevens and, eventually in accordance with him, to look for his replacement as Vice-President for North America.
4. **Regarding the Publications of COMIUCAP**, the following considerations were made:
  - 4.1. The need to clarify what happened to the texts presented in Manila, whereby the following must be ascertained: that either BUDHI fulfils its duty of publishing a volume under the editorship of Professor Philip Capelle (eventually with the assistance of Leovino Garcia and João Vila-Chã), or the English texts must be returned to the editor of the volume and the 2000 USD restituted to COMIUCAP.
  - 4.2. The possibility of creating a Collection dedicated to COMIUCAP was also mentioned. That collection could be developed within the realm of IFCU.
  - 4.3. Equally mentioned was the eventual interest of COMIUCAP in publishing the texts pertaining to the meetings both in Chile and in Portugal, to which other more recent meetings could easily be added.
5. **Regarding the Regional Meetings:**
  - 5.1. Professor Hubert Faes reported on the arrangements pertaining to the organization of the next Congress of the European Section of COMIUCAP. It was said that: the Congress will take place at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv between 9-12 September, 2010; that the organizing committee is already in place; that the European Vice-president is looking for eventual sources of financing. The general topic of the Congress is the following: *Religion, Cultures and Society*.
  - 5.2. The Acting President of COMIUCAP promised the Organizers of the next European Congress in Lviv a subsidy in the amount of **1,500.00 Euro**.
  - 5.3. The Acting President, taking into account his recent meeting in Buenos Aires with the Vice-President for Latin America, also informed that the next Congress of this region shall take place in Porto Alegre, Brasil, in November of 2010. It was also decided that COMIUCAP, if requested, should make a financial contribution for this initiative in an amount up to **1,500.00 Euro**.

6. **In the period after the order of the day**, the conversation turned to the importance and the eventual possibility of COMIUCAP organizing a Regional Meeting in Asia. In this regard, it was mentioned the special importance of topics like the ones associated with the *Hermeneutical Approach to Religious Texts or the Metaphysical Problem of Fullness* (both divine and human). As places of particular interest for a Regional Meeting in Asia, the following got special mention: Sogang University, in Seoul; Sophia University, in Tokyo; Nanzan University, in Nagoya.

The meeting was concluded around 15:30 PM. This, however, not without the following recommendations were also made: that the Acting President goes to Paris as soon as possible in order to meet and have conversations with the following persons: the Former President of COMIUCAP; Madame Valérie Delobel, Secretary of the former President of COMIUCAP; The General Secretary of FIUC; the Webmaster of FIUC; The President of the Sectorial Group of IFCU for Theology.

The Acting President thanked all persons present in the meeting, whereby a special word of gratitude was due to Professor Mgr. Guy-Réal Thivierge and Professor Philippe Capelle for their special and most valuable assistance.

The Acting President, here below undersigned, elaborated this report and submitted it for review to the other participants in the Meeting of Rome on the date below indicated. The other signatures in this document are those of participants in the Meeting of the Administrative Council of COMIUCAP that the Acting President was intending to collect during a short visit to Paris in the month of December of 2009. For practical reasons, the approval of the other participants in the meeting shall be registered in electronic form only.

**Rome, November 23, 2009**

(João J. VILA-CHĂ, SJ)  
Acting-President of COMIUCAP

(Prof. Hubert FAES)  
Vice-President of COMIUCAP for Europe

(Prof. Philipp CAPELLE)  
Former President of COMIUCAP





### Report on The Administrative Council of COMIUCAP - 2011

From 7-9 January, 2011 the Administrative Council of COMIUCAP was held in Rome, at the Pontifical Gregorian University. Prof. **João J. VILA-CHÃ**, Acting-President of COMIUCAP since November 2009, presided over the meeting. The following Members of the Council were present: Professor Hubert Faes, of the *Institut Catholique de Paris* et Vice-President for Europe; Professor Néstor Corona, of the *Universidad Católica Argentina* and Vice-President for Latin-America; Professor Noel Sheth, of the *Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth / Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion* in Pune and Vice-President for Asia and Oceania. Professor Georges Ndumba, of the *Université Catholique du Congo* and Vice-President for Africa was not in attendance because of issues with obtaining a visa to enter Europe; but he will join the Acting-President as soon as he gets his travel documentation for a supplementary Session of Work during which the present document shall also be analyzed and discussed. Professor Richard Cobb-Stevens, of Boston College and Vice-President for North America was unable to attend the meeting for health reasons. This document aims at presenting both reflections and deliberations of the Council on, at least, some of the following points contained in the final **AGENDA OF THE MEETING**, which was the following:

**January 7 / 21:30**

#### **0. Introduction to the Proceedings**

**January 8 / 9:00-12:30:**

#### **1. Word of the Acting-President**

- 1.1. Members of COMIUCAP
- 1.2. Financial Situation of COMIUCAP
- 1.3. Report on the European Congress of COMIUCAP in Lvyy
- 1.4. Present Strategies of Communication for COMIUCAP
- 1.5. Introduction of questions to be decided upon
  - 1.5.1. Locale, Topic and Dates of the World Congress of COMIUCAP in Africa (with report about recent visit of the Acting Presi-

dent to Kinshasa)

- 1.5.2. Locale and Date for the Next General Assembly of COMIUCAP
- 1.5.3. Possibility of New Modalities for Membership in COMIUCAP
- 1.5.4. Strategies for the Promotion of COMIUCAP
- 1.5.5. Development of Partnerships (e.g., RVP-Research Council for Values and Philosophy, American Catholic Philosophic Association; World Union of Philosophical Societies, International Metaphysics Society; Asian Association of Catholic Philosophers, Association of Catholic Universities and Higher Institutes of Africa and Madagascar, etc.).
- 1.5.6. Participation (with RVP) in the World Congress of Philosophy (Athens, 2013).
- 1.5.7. Publications: New Journal? New Philosophical Collection?
- 1.5.8. New Vice-President for North-America

**14:30-18:30 –**

## **2. Word of the Vice-Presidents**

- 2.1. The present situation of COMIUCAP in EUROPE (Prof. Hubert FAES)
  - 2.1.1. Elements of the Philosophical Situation in Europe
  - 2.1.2. Challenges and Possibilities of Development for COMIUCAP in Europe
  - 2.1.3. What can/shall the European Region expect from COMIUCAP?
- 2.2. The present situation of COMIUCAP in Latin America (Prof. Néstor CORONA)
  - 2.2.1. Elements of the Philosophical Situation in Latin America
  - 2.2.2. Challenges and Possibilities of Development for COMIUCAP in LA
  - 2.2.3. What can/shall Latin America expect from COMIUCAP?
- 2.3. The present situation of COMIUCAP in Asia/Oceania (Prof. Noel SHETH)
  - 2.3.1. Elements of the Philosophical Situation in Asia/Oceania
  - 2.3.2. Challenges and Possibilities of Development for COMIUCAP in Asia
  - 2.3.3. What can/shall the Asia/Oceania Region expect from COMIUCAP?
- 2.4. The present situation of COMIUCAP in Africa (Prof. Georges NDUMBA)
  - 2.4.1. Elements of the Philosophical Situation in Africa
  - 2.4.2. Challenges and Possibilities of Development for COMIUCAP in Africa

2.4.3. What can/shall the African Region expect from COMIUCAP?

### **3. How to define the Mission of COMIUCAP within the Framework of the Catholic University in the world today?**

3.1. Further perspectives on the Regions

3.2. Promotion of Philosophy in the Catholic World and beyond

3.3. Fostering International Cooperation in Teaching and Research

3.4. Financing the activities of COMIUCAP.

19:00 – Eucharist

**January 9 / 9:00-13:00:**

### **4. Making Decisions**

4.1. Functioning of COMIUCAP

4.1.1. Way of Proceeding in regard to the administration of COMIUCAP

4.1.2. Additional sources of Financial Support for the Activities of COMIUCAP

4.1.3. Strategies in Communication *ad extra*.

4.1.3.1. Role of Rectors and Presidents

4.1.3.2. Role of Deans

4.1.3.3. Role of Professors

4.1.3.4. Role of Graduate Students

4.2. Strategies of communication *ad intra*.

4.2.1. Uses of Facebook

4.2.2. Uses of other technologies

4.3. World Congress of COMIUCAP in 2012

4.3.1. Locale

4.3.2. Date

4.3.3. Theme

4.3.4. Organization

4.4. General Assembly of 2012

4.4.1. Together with World Congress?

4.4.2. If not, where? When? How?

4.5. Regional Meetings

4.5.1. Latin America

4.5.2. Asia/Oceania

4.5.3. North America

4.5.4. Europe

4.5.5. Africa

4.6. International Cooperation and Publications

## **5. Evaluation of the Proceedings.**

The Acting President, undersigned, elaborated this report and submitted it for review to the other participants in the Meeting of Rome on the date below indicated. The other signatures in this document are those of participants in the Meeting of the Administrative Council of COMIUCAP that the Acting President was intending to collect during a short visit to Paris in the month of December of 2009. For practical reasons, the approval of the other participants in the meeting shall be registered in electronic form only.

1.1. In the first part of the Meeting, the Acting-President of COMIUCAP presented a description of what he sees as the present situation of the network, whereby it was announced that from January 1 to December 31, 2010 a little more than 30 Universities renewed their Membership and paid the corresponding fees to COMIUCAP.

1.2. An exhaustive financial report was presented, whereby the financial situation of the network was rigorously presented.

1.3. **Report on the European Congress of COMIUCAP in Lvyy, Ukraine (9-12, September 2010):** During this Council Meeting, Prof. Hubert Faes had the opportunity to confirm the basic accuracy of the notes I wrote down immediately after the Meeting in Lvyy. In what follows I am presenting the report I had previously written. To this, however, one thing shall here be added, namely, the fact that due to the generous subvention received from IFCU/FIUC, the final result of the European Congress of COMIUCAP in Lvyy was the following: **55,29 Euros (+ two annuities paid in the name of Ukrainian Catholic University by the subvention received for the Congress in Ukraine)**. The Report on the **European Assembly of COMIUCAP in Lvyy** was presented in the following terms:

The **European Assembly** of COMIUCAP followed the Regional Congress COMIUCAP-Europe-2010 (**September 9-12, 2010**), which took place at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lvyy and was entitled **Religion, Culture and Society: Challenges for Philosophy Today**. The following persons were present: Prof. João J. Vila-Chã, SJ (Acting-President of COMIUCAP-World); Prof. Hubert Faes (Vice-President of COMIUCAP for Europe); Prof. Emmanuel Falque (Dean de la Faculté de Philosophie de l'Institut Catholique de Paris); Prof. Miguel García-Baró (Chairperson of the Philosophy Department at Comillas

University, Madrid); Prof. Thomas Alfieri (Université Catholique d'Angers); Prof. Maciej Bala (Wyzynski University, Warsaw); Prof. Emmanuel D'Hombres (Faculté de Philosophie de l'Université Catholique de Lyon); Prof. Volodymyr Turchynovsky (Vice-Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University and local Organizer of the Congress-2010); Prof. Jean Paul Coujou (Institut Catholique de Toulouse); Prof. Michael Dunne (Dean, Pontifical University, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth); Prof. Philip Capelle (President Emeritus of COMIUCAP); and Prof. Peter McCormick (Académie Internationale de Philosophie).

The first interlocutor was Prof. Hubert Faes, Vice-President Europe. Prof. Faes began by communicating what seemed to him, and all present agreed, a very successful Congress in Lviv. The Congress at the Ukrainian Catholic University managed to gather 40 participants from nine different countries. In the words of Prof. Faes, this was a Congress in which we all made relevant discoveries and entered into new relations. In a second point, Prof. Faes presented his perspective on some important aspects regarding the future. Among those relevant aspects the Vice-President of COMIUCAP for Europe mentioned the following: 1. The need to improve the participation of the European Institutions and Colleagues; 2. The need to confront the problems of financing the activities of COMIUCAP; 3. Accounting for the need for COMIUCAP to improve her presence in the public space by means of Publicity; 4. In many cases the information that was sent to the Deans and Chairpersons of Philosophy Departments was not properly communicated to the Colleagues in those Departments and Faculties or not done so in a timely manner; 5. Interesting enough, in the cases in which the Deans responded positively it is worth mentioning that in a good number of cases young faculty members were sent as representatives.

On the other hand, considering the need for deliberations in the future, the Vice-President of COMIUCAP-Europe brought to the attention of the assembly the following considerations: a. The need for the constitution of a small Group with the objective of discussing in a more consistent way aspects regarding the future of COMIUCAP in Europe; until now the activities of COMIUCAP in Europe have been very episodic, so that the question to be asked needs to be: what do we think must be done between the Congresses? Moreover, regarding the important question of finances, the European Section of COMIUCAP should seriously think about possible ways to solicit support from the EU, particularly taking into account that COMIUCAP represents what technically amounts to a Réseau de Partenaires Transnationales. During his report, Prof. Faes also advanced the following suggestions for COMIUCAP: 1. Implementation at European Level of a Regular Seminar for

PhD-Candidates on a yearly basis, an initiative that, obviously, can have immediate effects in terms of the mutual knowledge of the future Professors of Philosophy at Catholic Institutions in Europe. 2. Organization and implementation of a questionnaire about the real situation of Philosophy in terms of Teaching and Research in Catholic Institutions ; in this sense, one of the crucial questions to ask pertains to PhD. Programs across Europe, as well as about all other kind of projects relevant to the fostering of philosophical activity at Catholic Institutions.

The second speaker was Prof. Volodimir Turchynovsky, from the Ukrainian Catholic University. He started by mentioning the potential presence in the Catholic Universities of the world, as can be seen from recent meetings of rectors of Catholic Institutions both in Rome and Japan as well as in Lvyy. The potential for cooperation is clearly there. Hence the importance of making sure that the role to be played by philosophy receives due implementation, whereby it is absolutely essential that Deans and Presidents of Catholic Institutions of Philosophy become all the more involved in these processes. The vocation of COMIUCAP, indeed, is not one of being yet one more professional group for Philosophers in the Catholic World. Therefore the absolute need to ensure that Deans become all the more present in the activities of COMIUCAP, as, in fact, is demanded by the Statutes of our network. Prof. Turchynovsky suggested that among the common activities to be realized in the ambit of COMIUCAP, the following should be considered: translations of important works in Philosophy; one annual conference in Europe; ensure that COMIUCAP organizes one of the top five Conferences in Philosophy worldwide; cooperation in the process of application to Grants of International relevance, etc.

Prof. Emmanuel Falque, Doyen de l'Institut Catholique de Paris, besides declaring his joy for the fact of being able to be present in Lvyy, raised this fundamental question: why is it that so few Deans are present in the present Assembly? With that the question of representation of the Faculties came up again, where it was made clear that the representation of the Faculties should be done by the deans themselves, even if accompanied by a professor of the Department. Prof. Falque also mentioned the fact that no Italian institution besides the Gregorian University (and this one just indirectly) was present in Lvyy, something that should give us pause to think and ask what can be done so that this situation can be remedied. Prof. Falque also proposed that for an effective development of COMIUCAP in Europe it is not sufficient that people are invited to intervene in the program of a Congress. COMIUCAP-Europe must rethink the way it invites the Faculties. And Prof.

Falque insisted again: the presence of faculty members is good and encouraging, but, as such, for the purposes of COMIUCAP, it is not sufficient so that the mobilization of the Deans/ Presidents of Faculties should be considered a top priority for COMIUCAP. Indeed, our Meetings should be much more than just a supplementary Congress in the annual Program of our Faculties. In fact, the important questions for COMIUCAP are those regarding institutional projects and the like. COMIUCAP must make itself present in the world of today's Philosophy by means of a well-conceived and even better implemented common project in Europe. Accordingly, and so summing up his exposition, Prof. Falque suggested that a meeting of European Deans should take place as soon as possible (cf. personal dialogue with the President of COMIUCAP/World). In fact, without the presence of the Deans COMIUCAP will not be able to make important decisions regarding the future of the Philosophical Catholic Activity in Europe and, even more so, to implement them. And yet another thing in this regard was equally emphasized: we must ensure that, by the kind of initiatives we take, a situation is created in which the Deans that continue to resist invitations for cooperation with/in COMIUCAP will begin, as a natural effect, to feel that, in doing so, they are missing something really important for them and their corresponding institutions. Prof. Falque finished his considerations mentioning the following aspects: 1. Importance of Rome for the process of developing the Role of Philosophy in Catholic Institutions in Europe and in the world; 2. In Europe and as soon as possible we should start a common project tailored around a topic such as this: How to build a Spiritual Europe for the Future?

The following comments were made by Prof. Miguel García-Baró, from the University of Comillas. Prof. Baró started with an invitation for COMIUCAP to have its next European Congress at the University of Comillas, in Spain. On his return to Spain and after getting approval from his Rector, Prof. Baró communicated to the Acting-President of COMIUCAP that COMILLAS is indeed ready and willing to organize the European Meeting of COMIUCAP in 2014.

Prof. Emmanuel D'Hombres (Institut Catholique de Lyon) suggested that COMIUCAP institute a double track for its own financing : one Institutional and the other Personal. The Colleague insisted also on the need to make COMIUCAP more open and present in society, and he also recognized the role that Deans have to play when it comes to the divulgation and sustainable development of the network.

Prof. Philipp Capelle, of the Institut Catholique de Paris and the University of Strasbourg, centered his intervention around the following points:

1. That COMIUCAP, eventually by means of a change of Statutes in the next General Assembly) undertakes measures in order to open the possibility of personal adherence to the network; 2. That COMIUCAP needs to promote Regional Congresses for Deans; 3. That COMIUCAP always has maintained very good relations with the Congregation for Catholic Education and recommended that the President of the network makes a point of meeting once a year with the Cardinal-Perfect of the said Congregation; 4. That COMIUCAP should consistently stimulate the participation of Doctoral Students in the activities of the network; 5. That indeed it would be important to promote recognition of the role that Spirituality needs to play in Europe in general as well as in the countries of the former Soviet Union in particular; 5. That the proper of COMIUCAP is to maintain the best possible relations with IFCU/FIUC and its governing body.

Prof. Peter McCormick, of the International Academy of Philosophy, alerted for things like the following: the no-presence of representatives of Jesuit-Institutions of Philosophy; the importance of COMIUCAP for the future of philosophy in Europe and in the world. Prof. McCormick also mentioned the importance of COMIUCAP having good relations with FISP; instructed about the eventual importance that relations with Institut International of Philosophy could have for COMIUCAP; noticed the small number of institutions that responded to the Inquiry promoted by COMIUCAP on the present situation of Philosophy at Catholic Universities (2005); insisted that the main interest of COMIUCAP should be academic and how crucially important it is to raise the standards of Philosophical Teaching and Research throughout the world. Prof. McCormick also referred the importance of the Process of Bologna and indicated that, after Bologna, the process of philosophical training in Europe is no longer the same it was before and that the introduction of the Process of Bologna has already produced some serious consequences. In this sense, it also said that we are now confronted with an absolute need of imagining better Post-Doctoral Programs in order to compensate for the possible loss of level in philosophical training throughout Europe. Hence the importance of developing a program of Post-Doctoral Fellowships, a good example of which is the Post-Doc Program at the Institut Catholique de Paris. Consequently: reaffirmation of the need to elevate the level of philosophical Teaching at Catholic Universities (better philosophical training is a must!); awareness of the fact that such a desideratum presupposes a structure for secular/independent Evaluations (in coordination with AVEPRO!). Thus, one useful mantra for Catholic Institutions of Philosophy could be: without evaluation no real



progress is to be expected! Hence the need to think about issues like the constitution of effective evaluation committees, and this with full awareness of a basic fact: serious **evaluation** should no longer be delayed! And this, he said, if not for anything else, for a very pragmatic reason: it no longer makes sense to attempt to persist in believing that people “can be fooled around”.

**Other Comments:** Prof. Cojou (Toulouse) proposed the importance of creating links among PhD students in Europe; on the need to develop the presence of COMIUCAP in internet; on the importance of paying the best possible attention to the Bologna Process and of looking for sustainable financial resources. Prof. Michael Dunne expressed his happiness in receiving the invitation to participate in the Assembly; Prof. Maciej Bala returned to the problem of the website and announced that his University had received a grant of several million euros for the study and promulgation of Polish philosophy; Dr. Povilas Aleksandravicius, from Vilnius, Lithuania, while being in a theological faculty at a state university, expressed gratitude for the invitation and demonstrated interest in COMIUCAP and its possible contribution for the clarification of the proper role of Theology in a context like the one of Lithuania.

My own comments touched upon the following points: 1. Publications and volume with texts of the Congress of Lvyy and others still missing (e.g., Chile); 2. Meeting of Deans in Europe; 3. Production of a new list of colleagues and universities potentially interested in COMIUCAP; 4. Possibility of an International Congress in Rome for 2011; 5. Next General Assembly of COMIUCAP in 2012... This Report on the Congress COMIUCAP-EUROPE-2010 was completed, in the city of Lvyy on 11-12 of September, 2010.

**1.3. Report on the European Congress of COMIUCAP in Lvyy, Ukraine (9-12, September 2010):** During this Council Meeting, Prof. Hubert Faes had the opportunity to confirm the accuracy of the notes I wrote down immediately after the Meeting in Lvyy.

1.4. In terms of Communicational Strategies for the network, the Acting-President of COMIUCAP referred among other things the experience of opening and maintaining in the name of COMIUCAP a page in FACEBOOK ([facebook.com/COMIUCAP](http://facebook.com/COMIUCAP)).

1.5. An introduction was given to the main points to be decided in the third part of the Meeting.

1.5.1. Firstly, the Acting-President of COMIUCAP made a report on his visit to Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in order to test the ground the feasibility of COMIUCAP accepting the proposal that the Catholic University of Congo has made in order to host the next World-Congress of COMIUCAP.

1.5.2. It was also proposed the possibility that, for the first time in the history of COMIUCAP, the World Congress and the General Assembly of COMIUCAP be held separately, i.e. date and venue. This would mean that, by definition, all Congresses of the network have potentially a global dimension while at the same time remaining focused on the proper needs and interests of the Region in which they take part.

1.5.3. The proposal was also made in order that starting with the present year of 2011, COMIUCAP starts implementing a scheme of membership according to which the following modalities (to be confirmed during the next General Assembly of COMIUCAP) of membership should be divulged and accepted: 1. Full-Membership for Catholic University Institutions of Philosophy (250,00 Euros/year); 2. Membership as Associated Members for Catholic Institutions (or Institutions of other Christian Denominations) dedicated to the teaching of Philosophy, as well as for Catholic Organizations dedicated to Research and diffusion of knowledge in the different fields of Philosophy (150,00 Euros/year); 3. Individual Membership for Professors at Catholic Universities or at Institutions of Higher Learning of Catholic Inspiration (50,00 Euros/year); 4. Individual Membership for Graduate Students at Catholic Universities (25,00 Euros/year).

1.5.4. Equal emphasis was given to the need for COMIUCAP to work seriously towards the implementation of strategies (communication) that can make the network as widely known as possible.

1.5.5. The Acting-President spoke about the possibility of COMIUCAP establishing partnerships with other organizations (e.g., RVP, World Union of Philosophical Societies, International Metaphysics Society; Asian Association of Catholic Philosophers, etc.). A short presentation was given on each one of these associations with special attention put upon the importance of working in a closer relationship with the COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN VALUES AND PHILOSOPHY (Washington, DC).

1.5.6. Information was also given about the invitation received from the President of RVP in order that COMIUCAP co-organizes a Special Session during the next World Congress of Philosophy to be held in Athens in the Summer of 2013.

1.5.7. The possibility, as well as its feasibility, of opening a new line of publications under the executive care of COMIUCAP was also, even if all too briefly, put on the table by the Acting-President.

1.5.8. Finally, after informing the Colleagues about the fact that the Vice-President for North America, Professor Richard Cobb-Stevens, of Boston College, was unable to be present for health reasons, the Acting-President proposed contacting Prof. Cobb-Stevens in a more personal and direct way about the future of the network in North America (United States and Canada) and, consequently, of the

urgent need to prepare a substitute that may be able and willing to be confirmed during the next General Assembly of COMIUCAP.

## **2. Word of the Vice-Presidents**

2.1. Professor Hubert Faes reported, both orally and in written form, about the work done towards the organization of the last European Congress of COMIUCAP in Ukraine, which took place from 9-12 September 2010 at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and about which my own report was given above. Among other things, the Vice-President for Europe made reference to the difficulty of having to work without secretarial support as well as about the challenge that it was to find ways of financing the travel expenses of the keynote speakers. He also mentioned the challenge, and the difficulty, of convincing the faculties at Catholic universities across Europe of the urgent need for them to understand that each one of them is structurally called to be part of a much bigger reality than they are just in themselves. In this sense, it was also said that COMIUCAP is now faced with the urgent need of helping convince Philosophy Departments and Faculties across the Catholic World about the importance of being an active member of this network.

On the other hand, in terms of the present situation of Philosophy in Europe, Prof. Faes referred in particular to the consequences that derive from the fact that in university systems across Europe there is a great diversity of modes and modules to be found. Special mention was given to the situation in Germany, one of the countries in Europe in which COMIUCAP is more in need of a renewed presence. Prof. Faes also mentioned that at the present time there is a significant process of transformation going on in Europe (e.g., France). Be that as it may, the fact is that the position of philosophy, as well as theology, within the different systems of higher learning is undergoing a process of marginalization. At least, as in the case of France, the number of students studying Philosophy and Theology seems to be decreasing at a rather significant rate, as for example when published data make us realize that just during the last 10 years the number of master students in Philosophy in France diminished by about 1000 students; a situation that, for obvious reasons, is duplicating itself in many other places across Europe. Hence the urgency of a task like the one COMIUCAP is willing to face in order to serve the causes of Philosophy, a task mainly compounded by the urgent need to clarify what properly should be the role to be played by the "Philosophical Sciences" within the university realm of teaching and practicing research.

The case of France as a reminder of how important it is for the Catholic System of Higher Education in Europe to effectively work together. Interestingly enough, Prof. Faes noted, there is now an agreement between the Republic of France and the Holy See by means of which the French State recognizes the canonical course

of studies established in the country and, thus, concedes equivalence to the studies done in Catholic Institutions throughout France. For our network, indeed, this could be the occasion to seriously think about things such as the following: What is/shall be the role of the canonical diplomas in Europe? What is/shall be the role of the Vatican agency AVEPRO within the global process of evaluation going on in Europe? How to integrate in a more global vision the fact that in Europe reigns a considerable disparity between the educational systems of the diverse nations (eg. France vs. Belgium)? Prof. Faes also referred the importance of developing mechanisms of greater efficiency for communication among the members (institutional and individual) of COMIUCAP. Furthermore, he also mentioned the need to foster collaboration among Catholic professors as well as to promote the exchange of students between different institutions located in different countries, and all this while not forgetting the crucial importance for European Catholic Institutions of Philosophy to share in common programs of research and publication. Hence the need to look both for effective ways of finding financial support for such activities at the European level as well as putting into place a real and effective structure that allows the actual and effective networking of colleagues and institutions dedicated to research and teaching in Philosophy across the Old Continent. In other words, we need to be clear about the fact that neither financial nor linguistic barriers should be taken for unsurpassable in Europe.

Professor Néstor Corona, Vice-President for Latin America, began with a short enunciation of the major difficulties he has faced as Vice-President for Latin America during the period in which the headquarters of COMIUCAP were in Manila, a time during which the line of communication was significantly interrupted. He also mentioned that about 60 Catholic Institutions of Philosophy are active in Latin America while only 6 of them are at the present time members of the network. He recommends that the Institutions be contacted anew. He also deplored that the Regional Congress originally planned for Porto Alegre (Brasil) had to be called off. The Vice-President for Latin America insisted particularly on the idea that COMIUCAP should be able to become an important means of encouragement for dialogue and cooperation among Catholic Institutions of Higher Learning in Latin America. Taken into account that in many societies of South America there are still many prejudices against Catholic identity of institutions like universities, it would be quite important to find common ways of institutional affirmation and development within such a context. One way to foster such dialogue in what concerns the realm of Philosophy could be, Prof. Corona underlined, by way of finding new ways of incorporating the methodological contribution of a current of thought such as Phenomenology (husserlean and otherwise).

Professor Noel Sheth, Vice-President for Asia/Oceania, referring to the situation of philosophy in this region, called attention to the consequences of a serious lack of communication among the catholic Institutions in Asia; referred also that, traditionally, in Asia Philosophy and Theology were not two separate disciplines. In addition, seminarians tend to be more interested in theology than in Philosophy; that in many places philosophy tends to be considered as servant of theology; that students tend not to be particularly interested in studying philosophy for the sake of philosophy as such. On the other hand, with the exception of Corea, not many Catholic universities exist in Asia. In India, for example, there is not a single Catholic University in the technical sense of the term. On the other hand, ecclesiastical institutions tend to be very catholic, since all professors are catholic. However, in many such institutions, and apart from few ecclesiastical institutions, the number of teachers with adequate preparation tends to be rather small. Prof. Sheth also mentioned the fact that, after conducting a visitation of all seminaries in India, it was the Vatican that insisted upon the need to have more Indian Philosophy taught at Catholic institutions in the sub-continent. A recurrent problem seems to be the financing of the ecclesiastical institutions.

The contribution of COMIUCAP to the development of Philosophy in India has to pass through the process of stimulating philosophical research in seminaries across the continent. One of the major problems we have in Asia at the present time has to do with the systemic lack of recognition of the importance of Philosophy in the *curriculum*. But it must also be clear that the situation cannot be remedied until the great majority of philosophy teachers get into the habit of doing quality research. Hence the proposal that the contribution of COMIUCAP should include things like the organization of Academic Conferences in order to encourage and publish the research of people engaged in the teaching process at ecclesiastical institutions. Hence, once again, the particular importance of encouraging Catholic Institutions of Higher Learning to become members of COMIUCAP. It was also said that Association of Christian Philosophers of India exists and meets annually, so that COMIUCAP should eventually look up for occasions to establish an effective relationship with this organization as well. The secular colleges of Catholic orientation in India could also be invited to take part in the process of networking institutions in which Philosophy is taught in a system ruled in the terms of an university system inherited from Britain.

Finally, the Vice-President for Asia encouraged the Acting-President of COMIUCAP, whenever necessary or justifiable, to demonstrate our common solidarity with Bishops in places in which the Christian faithful have, as of recent date in Egypt and Nigeria, being violently attacked and harassed by fundamentalist groups. He also encouraged a closer collaboration with the Catholic Philosophy

Association of East Asia. Mentioned with particular emphasis was also the fact that from November 1-4, 2011 the World Meeting of COCTI, the International Network of Catholic Theological Institutions, will take place at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth in Pune, India. We were informed that the topic for this gathering will be the following: "Doing Theology in the Context of Religious, Cultural and Ideological Pluralism". Prof. Sheth also indicated that there will be 3 workshops during the symposium: 1. Religious Studies in a Theological Context; 2. Interculturality and Cultural Diversity in a Theological Context; 3. Religious and Ideological Pluralism in a Theological Context. This announcement was followed by the indication given by the Acting-President of COMIUCAP that he has been invited by the President of COCTI himself to participate in this initiative as well in order to foster the mutual relations of cooperation among the two networks within the overarching structure of International Federation of Catholic Universities.

At the beginning of the last day of our proceedings a conversation (even if strongly conditioned by the lack of time) took place in continuation of the main topics raised during the much longer conversation we had in the previous afternoon. Prof. Corona, for example, raised the problem connected with the role that Philosophy has to play in the formative process of the students at Catholic universities. He observed how insufficient the so called interdisciplinarity still is; he also considered that the dichotomy between faith and reason continues to contribute to the difficulty attached to the fact that the two terms of the opposition are still not sufficiently clarified, something that for the speaker has much to do with the difficulty of our ecclesiastical culture in accepting that Philosophy should be considered more as an expression of life than as an objective science. In other words, until we come to the point of demonstrating the central role that Philosophy (and Theology) has to play in the process of living culture, and how central to culture – any given culture – the experience of faith is, we will not be able to see the due role of Philosophy in the formation process proper to the Catholic university.

Prof. Sheth mentioned that in the Society of Jesus it is now a rule that each and every Jesuit attains a Licentiate/Master in either Philosophy or Theology. Indeed, it is more than clear that without an adequate knowledge of Philosophy and Theology priests cannot do their job well in today's world. People from other disciplines ask theological and philosophical questions all the time, even when they are not aware of the fact that they are doing so. Moreover, the Vice-President for Asia added, Philosophy must also be considered, more than Theology, as the best possible, and most indispensable, basis for the Interreligious Dialogue. Indeed, the common basis for Dialogue, one can say, is Philosophy, not Theology. COMIUCAP needs to promote Philosophy also as a means for the realization of the

necessary dialogue with other religions, since, it was said, Philosophy is better placed to demonstrate the plausibility of Dialogue than Theology itself, since the latter presupposes scriptures which are not accepted by people of other religions.

Prof. Faes returned to the idea that in a world so diverse and complex as ours, a world in which a growing number of people are getting PhD., it becomes particularly urgent for the Church to realize that much is at stake with the philosophical preparation of the Candidates to the Priesthood; at least, it is absolutely necessary to demonstrate that Philosophy is much more than a Degree to attain and then forget. In other words, it is necessary to understand that, in the Church, Philosophy at all levels should remain a permanent and vital sector of a continuous human formation. Indeed, it would be a serious mistake to think that Philosophy is nothing more than a degree that prepares for the necessary professional formation of the Pastoral Agents of the Church. After all, it is of the highest importance to understand that the more a person becomes specialized and able to exercise a given profession, the more that person is in need of philosophical reflection and wisdom; the more a person is called to live and work in the context of a growing cultural diversity all the more that person, and the Priest in particular, is in need of a true and consistent exercise of the philosophical spirit.

Prof. Corona added that one of the problems we have when considering the inter-religious dialogue is the determination of the answer to a question like the following: Is it, or is it not, absolutely necessary for the future of such dialogue that we arrive at the level of a true and proper philosophical conceptualization of the problems? In other words: Is Dialogue a real possibility without Philosophy? Well, the answer depends on the notion of Philosophy one has and cultivates. For example, we cannot conceive of an inter-religious dialogue without mediation at the level of the language proper to myth and all the pre-conceptual forms of religion. If we stay at the level of the language proper to each religion, mutual understanding only barely will be possible. And yet, we can say that at the base of all religions is at work a universal rhetoric that we need to discover and identify. In line with Gadamer, Prof. Corona considers the importance of studying philosophically the metaphor that grounds all forms of religious discourse and, he added, of human discourse all together. In this sense, the Vice-President for Latin America even established as for clarification the following opposition: on the one hand, Hans Küng and his demand of an universal ethic based on universal concepts; on the other, Paul Ricoeur and his demand for serious incursions in the more profound realms of life, even to the point of entering the mystical sphere of reality, that is, that very source from which the possibility of human language (religious and otherwise) flows. In this sense, the speaker underlined, there is no possibility of achieving mutual understanding among human beings

until we come to operate at the level of that basic metaphoricity that undergirds all human forms of language and always points towards that mystical realm well beyond all linguistic and conceptual forms.

Prof. Sheth responded and raised the problem associated with the phenomenological consideration of the fact that even at the level of the mystical experience we always remain conditioned by a clear sense of community and, consequently, of belonging. In other words, the "I" always tends to articulate experience in conceptual terms, that is, in linguistic forms that always configure cultural and paradigmatic ways of achieving differentiation among human beings. The moment I am trying to understand the experience of the other, I am using concepts culturally determined and, thus, specific to my own experience of the world. Therefore, while in order to achieve mutual understanding we always have to use concepts; we must, at the same time, recognize the different meanings that people can attach to the same concepts. But the point is this: there is no other way of interpreting human experience than the one that a differentiated use of concepts allows us to do. Or is it not so that, while looking at the same historical event, what for a citizen of India evokes freedom for a British person may just appear as an act of rebellion? Hence, we might say, the demand for the technical uses of Philosophy and the cultivation of the philosophical spirit.

Prof. Corona replied that the philosophical way of proceeding implies that we depart from the realm of experience, but in order to arrive at the level of a conceptual interpretation. In this sense, the challenge would be to promote an integration of philosophy and experience, whereby included must also be the mystical dimension as possibility that can be given in the realm of human experience as such. After all, is this not precisely what *Fides et Ratio* is proposing with her concept of an enlarged Reason?

Prof. Sheth's agreed that there is no disagreement and that the possible difference we are registering should be considered simply as one of emphasis. Yet one other thing must remain clear, that is, that no human conversation is possible without the use of concepts. Even the mystical experience is subjected to different interpretations by different people. Hence the importance of the model presented by *Fides et Ratio* of Pope John Paul II, a model that can be referred to as the one of the coincidentia oppositorum. In this sense, it would certainly be appropriate if COMIUCAP were to promote a better sense of the "philosophical game", one indeed whereby opposition does not destroy, but rather solidifies, the very possibility of convergence. In other words, one might say that the present situation of Philosophy should make us think of new approaches to Spirituality, at least taking into account that for many of our contemporaries while "religion" always tends to appear as divisive, spirituality seems rather to convey a sense of convergent growth.



The conversation on the morning of January 9 ended with Prof. Corona reporting what he considers to be the meaning of the distinction Paul Ricoeur used to make between "religion", "atheism" and "faith", whereby "religion" connotes "conceptualization" (also understood as institutional closeness and rules alienated from life; "atheism" is understood as critique of all excesses in conceptualization; and "faith" refers to any proper and authentic act of thinking). In other words, the concept of religion is not ultimate, since ultimacy always must remain open, so here openness can just point to the experience of "Faith", that is, the one that brings us back to *die Sache*, to that ultimate mystery of being accessible to an Open Reason only. And we can ask: How can Philosophy allow herself not to be serious about this ultimate dimension of all human experience? No, Philosophy must be attentive to the realm of mystery as much as in the depths of each and every human heart is the experience of a divisiveness constantly striving to reach an ever greater unification. Hence the meaning of a proposition such as the one Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini used years ago while answering the question about the "proper" of the Catholic Faith, an answer he gave in just one word: Beauty! Therefore the question: is there anything more urgent for a network like COMIUCAP to promote than to foster a renewed discussion on the proper role of both Philosophy and Theology within the context formed by the very "Idea" of a Catholic University?

Subsequently, in the meeting that the Acting-President had with Prof. Georges Ndumba, Vice-President for Africa, the following elements concerning the presence of COMIUCAP in Africa emerged: 1. That we must function in the awareness of the importance that for Africa the real philosophical emphasis is not so much in the theoretical dimension of the reflection, but rather on its practical aspect. Indeed, it seems to be of the greatest importance that we understand the African hopes for Philosophy, namely that it contributes to the African quest of a better and more meaningful life. Hence the need to recognize that for Africa and the Africans the dominant philosophical perspective is the one that concentrates on issues of social and economic nature and takes seriously the issues raised by the political praxis and the governance of the peoples. 2. That the spirit of Philosophy in Africa is closely connected with the problems of Education, that is, with the many issues facing the formation of the generations that in the future will be called to make Africa what Africa is supposed to become. 3. That one of the major concerns for Catholic Philosophy in Africa should also be the increasing number of issues raised by the exponential growth of the sects and of the so called "églises de réveil", a phenomenon that is now significantly present all over Africa and, of necessity, faces us with some important questions, namely when it comes to the need to evaluate in a more efficient way the kind of pastoral action fulfilled

in the terrain by the Catholic Church. 4. Furthermore, we also need to realize the importance for Africa of issues related to the Rule of Law as well as to the practical application of any form of universal discourse about Human Rights, whereby deeper studies and reflection is particularly needed when we face issues of great actuality as are the ones that have to do either with violence and social security or with the many problems that turn around ecology and the practical definition of the best way for the human being to live out his insertion in the world of nature.

From the conversation held between the Acting-President of COMIUCAP and the Vice-President for Africa it also emerged that a definition of the Role of Philosophy for Africa is inseparable from the need to assure that the theoretical level of the discipline remains unabated while at the same time taking into consideration that the African Cultures demand from the practice of Philosophy a rather close attention to the fact that the value of the discipline tends to be perceived in terms of the pragmatic effects that derive from her. In other words, the situation of philosophy in Africa cannot be separated from the cultural, as well as from the socio-political needs of the continent, so that the pragmatic turn of Philosophy in Africa needs to be taken very seriously indeed if what we want and desire is precisely to assist Institutions of Philosophy to achieve a better presence throughout the continent. On the other hand, we must also be attentive to the fact that for many African philosophers, in an era of intensive globalization as ours, it is particularly important to come up with new platforms for the understanding of all that in the cultures of Africa has to do with Traditional Wisdom, as the one manifesting itself in rituals, story-telling, medicinal practices, religious and communal values. In other words, one wonders if among the concerns of the network for Africa should not be the one of sustaining the catholic intellectuals of the continent in the search for renewed forms of integrating traditional Wisdom emerging from the local cultures and contemporary demands of a global inter-action among the cultures of the world.

For COMIUCAP, therefore, it seems that one of the central priorities for development of the network in Africa should be to promote closer and more intense relationships between Institutions and Individuals dedicated to teaching and research in the different fields of philosophy throughout the continent. Professor Ndumba, in fact, recommended that COMIUCAP enters into a particular relation of cooperation with the ACUHIAM – Association of Catholic Universities and Higher Institutes of Africa and Madagascar –, something that the present writer has indeed done immediately so that we are now waiting for a response. Moreover, we also considered that in the present situation, and regardless of what has already been said, we should also look closely into issues like the ones relative to dialogue among religions, to the socio-political and spiritual problem of

reconciliation, etc. In this regard, the understanding is that we need to continue to look for ways of identifying authors that better can assist and stimulate the African philosophical community to pursue such goals. In religious terms, for example, one of the major tasks for philosophy is certainly to bring about a phenomenological clarification of the diverse and different manifestations of the religious spirit present in the continent. Prof. Ndumba mentioned also the role that Philosophy has to play when it comes to the edification of a better and more authentic relation between the Christian Faith and the traditional religions of Africa. Happily, according to the Vice-President for Africa, the Diocese of Kinshasa counts already with a research center dedicated to the study of the traditional religions of Africa. For the network, however, the question would rather be this: by what (philosophical) means will the Church be able to assume, explain, or simply correct, all the good things that are already present in the African traditional ways of relating to the sphere of the Sacred? After all, is it not so that one of the things in which Africa excels is precisely the inquire about the spiritual dimension of human existence? Moreover, we also need to take into account that Art and Aesthetics also play an important role in the African way of approaching the mystery of being and of elucidating the mystery of human existence as such.

The presence of COMIUCAP could also be an instrument that could assist the local Churches in defining the theoretical terms leading up to a proper clarification and a reinforcement of the practical role that, in accordance with the determinations of the Church, Philosophy is or might be called to play in the process of priestly formation across the continent, particularly taking into account that Philosophy is more and more recognized as a true condition for the success of the theological formation as such. According to Prof. Ndumba, it is for a good reason that in Africa it is already common that the candidates to the Priesthood in the Catholic Church undergo the much needed philosophical formation regardless of the program of studies that they may bring along. Needless to say how important it is in the process of priestly formation in the catholic Church that all candidates receive adequate philosophical preparation.

In this sense, the contribution of COMIUCAP should be particularly signaled by an attentive listening to the different ways of thinking and relating (in the contextual manner corresponding to the different cultures) proper to Africa, but without forgetting that the aim of the process is to redirect the all of reality to God by means of a Life in Christ and in correspondence with what plausibly can be described as the most fundamental set of Christian values. In other words, and in this like any other continent, philosophy in Africa as practiced by catholic institutions shall never be disconnected from what amounts to the goal of all the work

that human intelligence is able to do, namely to recognize and foster acceptance not only of the problems at hand but also to promote awareness of the most fundamental line proper to any form of development, that is, that things are already leaning towards God in Christ.

Furthermore, taken into consideration that Africa is also faced with the constant need for reform and aggiornamento of the existing programs for the Teaching of Philosophy, the Vice-President for Africa also noted that it could be helpful if COMIUCAP could make herself available to aid the African Institutions of Catholic Higher Learning to face the challenge of bringing up-to-date their own programs. Obviously, this also signifies that we are all faced with the need to develop coherent and sustainable syllabi oriented to the promotion of the best possible quality in philosophical teaching and research. In this sense, we came to the conclusion that COMIUCAP should look into proper ways of diffusing the message regarding the present global demands for quality in teaching and research as well as for the promotion of mobility and exchanges among both teachers and students, whereby a special attention should be given to participation in common projects of research and diffusion of philosophical knowledge.

### **Here an elenchus of the decisions made by the Administrative Council of COMIUCAP:**

1. The Administrative Council approved the Financial Report presented by the Acting-President.
2. The Administrative Council approved the request that all financial operations of COMIUCAP are to be concentrated at its roman Headquarters, which at present are at the Pontifical Gregorian University, at all times and in all cases, that is, as long or as much as the President of COMIUCAP/WORLD resides in Rome.
3. The Administrative Council approved that the following measures be implemented even before they are formally submitted to the General Assembly of the network: That only Institutions that have paid the Institutional Membership Rate (250.00 Euros/year) at least 3 years in a row are able to exercise active/ passive voice in any deliberative process of COMIUCAP; that Catholic institutions dedicated to the teaching of Philosophy that do not qualify as universities or that are universities of Catholic inspiration in a secular context as well as Philosophical Associations of Catholic/ Christian/ Ecumenical Inspiration can become Associate Members of COMIUCAP by paying a special rate of 150.00 Euros/year or by making an yearly donation of at least 150 Euros; that professors of Philosophy at

Catholic universities are eligible to become Associated Members of COMIUCAP by paying the corresponding Individual Membership Rate of 50.00 Euros/year; that Graduate Students at Catholic universities are eligible to become Members of COMIUCAP when presenting to the President of the network two Letters of Recommendation by Catholic professors of Philosophy and by paying the Individual Membership Rate of 25.00 Euros/year; that no Institution can organize an event in the name of COMIUCAP without first becoming either a full member or, exceptionally, an Associated Member of the network; that until further notice all Payments to COMIUCAP are to be made to the sub-account conceded to the network by the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. It further determines that valid proofs of payment are either a Letter from the President acknowledging such Payment or the Official Receipt issued by the financial services of the Pontifical Gregorian University once stamped by COMIUCAP.

4. The Administrative Council accepted the proposal of the Catholic University of Congo and the Canisius Faculty of Philosophy in Kinshasa to organize for 2012 the next Congress of COMIUCAP which is to take place in Kinshasa at the end of June of 2012. The conditions are the following:
  - A) That an Organizing Committee presided by both Prof. Georges Ndumba and Prof. Cyprien Bwangila be effectively constituted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March of 2011, whereby invited to this Committee should also be members of other Catholic Institutions of Higher learning in Congo.
  - B) That by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 the Organizing Committee sends confirmation that a Committee of Honor is in process of constitution, whereby H. E. the Cardinal of Kinshasa shall be a member of such a committee; Bishops of Dioceses with institutions of learning; Ministry of Education and Culture; rectors of the more prestigious Universities in Kinshasa.
  - C) That by the same date the Scientific Committee needs to be in process of formation, where in addition to the President and Vice-Presidents of COMIUCAP shall be: 2-3 French speaking Philosophers from Africa; 2-3 English speaking philosophers from Africa; 1-2 Portuguese Speakers from Africa.
  - D) Proof that a provisory Reservation of Rooms and Meeting Spaces has been done at the CARITAS-Kinshasa for the dates of the Congress: 27 of June (arrival day) - 1 of July 2012 (departure day).
  - E) Confirmation by March 15, 2011 that the topic of the Congress is the following: « *Ordre et Désordre à l'ère de la Mondialisation : Enjeux Philosophico-Politiques pour un meilleur Avenir* » // *Order and Disorder in the age of globalization : Philosophical and political challenges for the construction of a better world.*
  - F) Confirmation by March 15, 2011 that the thematic structure of

the Congress will be the following: 1. *Enjeux Métaphysico-Religieux*; 2. *Enjeux Interculturels*; 3. *Enjeux Économiques*; 4. *Enjeux Politiques*; 5. *Enjeux Educationnels*. Confirmation aussi that the distribution of the Keynote Speakers can be done as follows : Themes 1-3-4, are to be preferably attributed to African Thinkers; Theme 2 to a philosopher from the Asian provenience; Theme 5 to a philosopher coming from Europe or America (including Latin America). G) That by the end of April, the headquarters of the network in Rome are informed about work completed towards the attainment of financial support by local companies or the State of the RDC (eg., Vodacom, etc.). In any case, before the end of May 2011 both the Organizing Committee as well as the COMIUCAP/World must have a clear idea of the financial prospective for the Congress. H) That the First Call for Papers is sent out before the end of the month of April 2011, whereby it is understood that: The first announced deadline for submission of proposals is October 15, 2011; that the second deadline (if necessary) is December 15, 2011 ; that either by the end of December 2011 or in the first days of 2012, a Meeting between the President of COMIUCAP and the Local Organizing Committee takes place in Kinshasa/Kimwenza destined to finalize/particularize as many organizational questions as possible. I) The approval, finally, was granted based on the principle that all parties involved will take very good care so that the line of communication between Kinshasa and Rome always remains functional and efficient.

5. The Administrative Council approved the proposal that the next General Assembly of COMIUCAP might take place at a time and in a place different from the one decided for the Congress in Africa. Furthermore, the Administrative Council also approved that: 1. The General Assembly 2012 preferably takes place in North America or, if not possible there, than in Rome; 2. This Assembly shall be the occasion for a World Meeting of Deans/Presidents/Directors; 3. Among the issues for discussion these shall be present: a. Revision of Statutes and all due Elections according to the Statutes of COMIUCAP; b. Defining strategies for the clarification and implementation of the Role/Mission of Philosophy in the context of the Catholic University; c. Exchange/ sharing of information regarding Philosophical Activity (curricula, programs...) in the context of the Catholic University; d. Devising strategies for cooperation (e.g., exchange of teachers and students, research programs, etc.); e. publications and other means of cooperation in diffusing philosophical knowledge. The date for the General Assembly shall be decided as soon as possible. – In order

to explore and bring about this possibility, the Administrative Council mandates that the Acting-President engages personally Professor Richard Cobb-Stevens in the process of finding out possible candidates for the role of Vice-President for North America, and this in context of a visit to Boston College and the Catholic University of America. It also mandates research about the possibility of COMIUCAP having a Special Session during the next Congress\_2011 of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, something we shall start exploring as soon as possible.

6. The Administrative Council approved the strategies for Communication presented by the Acting-President for the dissemination of COMIUCAP, including some investments in specially tailored publicity.
7. The Administrative Council approved the following proposal regarding the Regional Congresses: 1. That all Regional Congresses, being "Continental", nevertheless be promoted at a global level so that, by nature, all future Congresses of COMIUCAP be open to global participation; 2. That the Latin American Region organizes and promotes such a Congress in 2013; 3. That the European Region does the same in 2014; 4. That the Asian/Oceania Region does it in 2015.
8. For lack of time the other points in the Agenda, not extensively reported here, could neither be discussed nor decided upon.
9. The meeting was closed shortly after 13:00 o'clock on January 10, 2011.

**(Prof. João J. VILA-CHÃ, SJ)**  
**(Acting-President of COMIUCAP)**



## ***Report of the Acting-President***

Submitted for Approval to the General Assembly of COMIUCAP

Johannesburg, November 16, 2013

Dear President-Rector/Dean/Professor,  
Dear Colleagues

The introduction to this document will be presented orally at the beginning of the General Assembly of COMIUCAP to be held on November 16 at St Augustine College of South Africa in Johannesburg. Here you can find a descending chronological order a summary description of some of the main activities undertaken by the Acting-President of COMIUCAP from 2010 to 2013.

**[2013/08/20-24]** • Participation in an European conference dedicated to the topic «Secularization and Evangelization» organized by the European Association of Jesuits in the Social Sciences, in Lviv (Ukraine) (20-24 of August, 2013). One of the lines of thought developed in the conference had to do with the frequent lament that religion is on the decline. It was shown how many sociologists of religion tend to explain the ongoing distance of many Europeans to the Church in terms of individualization. Georg Simmel was the first to analyze the phenomenon, placing the understanding of man at the intercession of a multiplicity of societal phenomena. As for Simmel, it is relevant to consider that the contemporary phenomenon of secularization is inseparable from the processes attached to the growing urbanization of human life. The conference in Lviv touched many aspects of the problem, whereby the connection between social differentiation and individualization was shown as becoming more and more obvious. The concept of individualization in the present context came basically to mean that what before was a source of security and meaning is now seen just as a mere source of constraint. In line with the thought of Charles Taylor, prof. Franz Xavier Kaufmann, for example, underlined the idea that the best explanation we have for religion is personal need. Hence the importance of recognizing that religion is destined neither to disappear nor to have a serious return; rather, we are confronted with a significant process of pluralization of the religious dimension in contemporary societies.



**[2013/08/04-10]** • Participation in the XXIII World Congress of Philosophy in Athens (Athens, 4-10 of August, 2013). The event, to use the words of Professor Konstantinos Boudouris, President of the Hellenic Organizing Committee, was «a unique opportunity for philosophers, friends of philosophy and serious thinkers from all corners of the world to meet, to put forth ideas, exchange points of view, to argue and to present the fruits of their research to a unique and distinguished academic audience.» The World Congress does indeed represent an «important cultural institution» and should be seen as a meaningful platform for the «forging of universal values that address the common human issues of our times». Through the many papers presented and the numerous conversations that took place, the XXIII World Congress of Philosophy, despite the serious crisis affecting Greece at the time of its realization, was a considerable success.

**[2013/08/01-03]** • Participation in the congress that the RVP-Council for Research in Values and Philosophy organized and promoted on «Culture and Philosophy as Ways of Life in Times of Global Change» (Athens, 1-3 of August, 2013). The event took place in the School of Philosophy of the University of Athens just before the beginning of the XXIII World Congress of Philosophy, in Greece. The location of the conference in Athens was in itself a unique context to promote reflection on one of the topics that is most present in the praxis of the RVP, namely, to consider the many ways in which philosophy emerges from culture. In the program of the conference were important philosophers from some of the great cultures of the world, all of them very capable of opening up serious discussion not only about the significance of philosophy in and for culture, but also on the contribution that cultures can and need to make for the ongoing transformation of Philosophy within the global context of a changing world. On the first day of the Conference, the accent was put on the philosophical rediscovery of the nature and evolution of culture in the last fifty years, a process that is inseparable from the work of thinkers such as Heidegger, Gadamer and Ricoeur, but also from the many initiatives and publications that the RVP has been able to bring forth with the help of many philosophers in all continents, all of which were called to relate their own cultural heritages to the many changes taking place in contemporary cultures and societies. Richard Cohen, from the University of Buffalo, enriched us with the many insights of Emmanuel Levinas; Mark Gedney, from Gordon College, addressed issues related to the social role of the body: the present writer submitted a contribution towards the transformation of metaphysics by the power of agapic love; Enrique Dussel, from the Universidad Autónoma de México, presented the challenges that the material and embodied condition of the human condition present to philosophy; IndraNathChoudhuri, from the University of New

Delhi, elaborated on the deep sense of the Self in Indian Philosophy; Gholamreza A'vani, from the Iranian Academy of Philosophy, drawing on the Islamic cultural tradition, presented important considerations on the relation of spirit and matter, mind and body, as an integrated whole; M.B. Ramose, of the University of South Africa, explained the cultural resources and prospects for Philosophy from an African point of view while TuWeiming, from the Harvard-Yenching Institute and Peking University, did the same from a Chinese perspective. The papers presented were numerous and the number of persons attending was close to two hundred. In [www.comiucap.net](http://www.comiucap.net) you can find a small collection of pictures of the Pre-Congress organized by the Research Council for Values and Philosophy, of the «Global Dialogue Prize» given to Professor George McLean (Catholic University of America), of the Commemoration of the first Hundred Years after the birth of Paul Ricoeur, with Richard Kearney (Boston College) and Peter Kemp (Copenhagen), as well as, among other events, of the debate on the «Future of Metaphysics» led by Professor Oliva Blanchette (Boston College). The small set of images also underlines the participation of Professor Jürgen Habermas (Frankfurt) in the World Congress at an event organized with the contribution of David Rasmussen (Boston College), as well as the participation of John P. Manoussakis, from Holy Cross, Jeffrey Bloechl (Boston College), TuWeiming (Harvard and Beijing), Рузана Псху (Moscow), Robert Cohen (Buffalo), and others.

**[2013/07/28-30]** • Participation in the International Conference «Philosophy and Crisis: Challenges to Our Ways of Life in the Contemporary World» organized by the Sector of Philosophy of the University of Ioannina (Greece) in cooperation with RVP-Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (28-30 of July, 2013). The departing point for this interesting and rich conference was the notion of crisis, a concept that in the modern and late modern world brings Philosophy to deep reflections upon questions such as the ones about nihilism (Nietzsche), the decline of the West (Spengler), the crisis of European humanity (Husserl) or about that critical line that for Heidegger represents both the danger and the possibility of the turn (Kehre). The Congress, nicely organized by a team led by Dr. Golfo-Maggini, explored the various meanings and functions of Crisis both in classical as well as in modern philosophy. In the sense of a crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending, crisis was already very much present in the Socratic quest for general definitions of the moral virtues and even in his search for convincing answers to the fundamental question about how human life is to be lived. The moderns, however, attached to crisis the unprecedented dimension of historicity, an understanding that incorporates both an annihilation and a revelation. Situated in-between two continuous states of affairs, crisis is destined to

be not just destructive, but also sign of instant, often unexpected, flourishing. The Conference in Ioannina marked an important moment in the process of situating the question of crisis, one of the most relevant when it comes to the re-definition of the very tasks of Philosophy.

**[2013/06/08-09]** • Participated in Vienna (Austria) in the ongoing Seminar organized by RVP-The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy on «Faith in the Secular Age» and the Four Disjunctions presented by Charles Taylor in the follow-up to his monumental *The Secular Age* (8-9 of June, 2013). The Seminar counted with the presence of Professor Charles Taylor and Professor José Casanova and about a dozen or so other scholars coming from the United States and Europe. The convener of this important Seminar was Professor George McLean, Founder and President of RVP. In his initial remarks, Professor McLean formulated the problem on the table asking again the question that moves Charles Taylor in the realization of his own analyses of the phenomenon of secularity: How is it that in the last 400 years we went from a situation in which there was almost no difficulty to believe to a situation in which, as in our time, it seems so radically difficult to accept the faith? Hence the challenge: to recognize that for Philosophy there is no longer an escape from culture and, thus, that we must respond to the challenges of contemporary culture. We consider this to be all the more important as the ongoing technological revolution offers us a renewed opportunity to make the Mission of the Church truly universal.

**[2013/05/23-25]** • Participation in «2013 East-West Theological Forum» organized in Seoul, South Korea, by The Methodist Theological University (23-25 of May, 2013). The topic of this Meeting was the concept of Imago Dei and had contributions from Scholars from both the East and the West, among them the following: Anselm Min (South Korea & USA), Kuruvilla Pandikattu (India), Robert Russell (USA), Jens Schröter (Germany), Allan Torrance (Scotland), YounChul-Ho (South Korea), among others. The event was organized by Dr. Heung Myung Oh (South Korea) and Prof. Christoph Schwöbel (Germany).

**[2013/01/28-30]** • Participation in the International Symposium «Iglesia Católica y Fundación de las Universidades» organized by the UCAB-Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, de Caracas (28-31 of January, 2013). The event, organized by Dr. Corina Yoris, took place as part of the celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the University. The initiative also involved the Seminario Arquidiócesano de Caracas and the Sociedad Venezolana de Filosofía. Together with two colleagues from the Catholic University of Lublin (Poland), Dr. Piotr Jaronszynski

and Dr. Pawel Tarasiewicz, we also had a round-table discussion on the Mission and Identity of a Catholic University, which took place on January 31 in the city of Puerto Ordaz. The UCAB-Universidad Católica Andrés Bello is a very active member of our network.

**[2013/01/21-25]** • Participation au Colloque International «Justice, cultures et charité»(21-25 Janvier, 2013) organisé par l'Institut Catholique de Paris, le Conseil Pontifical pour la Culture, la Délégation du Bénin à l'UNESCO, l'Université Nationale d'Abomey-Calavi, l'Université Catholique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, l'Université Catholique de Yaoundé et l'Université Catholique de Kinshasa, en occasion du premier anniversaire de l'Exhortation Apostolique *AfricæMunus* sur «l'Église en Afrique au service de la réconciliation, de la justice et de la paix », signée par le Pape Benoît XVI à Ouidah (Bénin) le 19 novembre 2011. L'enjeu du Colloque était un double: 1. Envisager un renouvellement des théories philosophiques de la justice et de la démocratie, sur la base d'une prise en compte de la conflictualité, de l'interculturalité et de l'interreligiosité; 2. Évaluer l'apport du christianisme à la théorie et à la pratique de la justice et de la démocratie, en le confrontant notamment à l'apport de l'Islam et des religions traditionnelles africaines. En prenant compte du fait que la thématique du Colloque est tout à fait centrale aux préoccupations du réseau, la COMIUCAP a été particulièrement heureuse de pouvoir être associée avec cette importante initiative d'un de ses membres plus actives et manifestement au service de la philosophie et de son rôle particulier dans une Afrique toujours appelée à devenir fière de soi-même et passionnément engagée dans les procès de développement humain et social nécessaires au triomphe d'une justice que soit toujours meilleure et d'une paix définitivement ouverte à la transcendance et au Dieu qui donne fondement et justification à nos meilleurs désirs de Liberté, de Justice, Paix et Beauté. A l'occasion de l'ouverture solennelle du Colloque et en présence d'autorités civiles et académiques telles que le Secrétaire du Pontificale Conseil pour la Culture du Saint Siège, le ministre d'Éducation du Bénin, le Doyen et des professeurs de la Faculté de Philosophie de l'Institut Catholique de Paris, et d'un nombreux publique constitué par professeurs de différentes Universités africaines, journalistes et d'autre personnes intéressés au thème du Colloque, le Président en exercice de la Comiucap a eu la possibilité de prononcer parmi autres les paroles suivantes: «Dès les premiers siècles de son histoire et bien plus encore depuis le dernier Concile, la tâche éducationnelle reste toujours au cœur de la Mission spécifique de l'Église. Dans le Vatican II, l'Église reconnaît l'impossibilité même de réaliser son obligation fondationnelle, celle de témoigner dans le monde la force et la puissance de la Foi en Jésus Christ, en l'absence d'hommes et de femmes en son sein formés pour l'excellence évan-

gélique, et donc disponibles et capables d'entreprendre d'importantes et même décisives responsabilités tant à l'intérieur de l'Église que dans la société. Mais il est aujourd'hui plus difficile que jamais de donner un témoignage qualifié des vertus et des possibilités, c'est-à-dire, du sens anthropologique plus profond de la Foi en Jésus Christ, sans une formation constante et intégrale de la personne humaine. Comme champ de recherche et d'enseignement, la Philosophie en contexte catholique représente donc, comme tout savoir universitaire authentiquement humain, un service de particulière importance pour la véritable Éducation des jeunes générations et, par conséquent, pour la formation intégrale d'agents capables de promouvoir et implémenter un vrai e propre renouveau social.» – Le Congrès fut organisé par l'Institut Catholique de Paris, membre de COMIUCAP.

**[2012/12/01-03]** • Participation in the Seminar organized by RVP-The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC on «Faith in the Secular Age» and the Four Disjunctions presented by Charles Taylor in the follow-up to his monumental *The Secular Age* (1-3 of December, 2012). The Seminar counted with the presence of Professor Charles Taylor and Professor José Casanova. The next meeting of this important Seminar will take place in Vienna in June of 2013.

**[2012/11/01-03]** • Visit to St Augustine College of South Africa in order to take part in the Conference «Humanities and Social Sciences in an African Context: Education for Life» (1-3 of November, 2012). The main organizer of this Conference was Prof. Gerard Walmsley and in it participated Scholars from different parts of the world, among them the following: Professor John Haldane («Understanding the Human: The Necessity of Philosophy for Education and Research»), Professor Bert Olivier («The Significance of Human Sciences in the Age of Enframing»). Prof. Gerard Walmsley spoke on «What is a University For? Educating for Wisdom» and the acting-President of COMIUCAP spoke on «The Call of Vatican II for the Renewal of Catholic Education: «Gravissimumeducationis» and the Idea of a Catholic University». This visit to Johannesburg, during which I also had a personal meeting with Rev. Dr. Michael van Heerden, President of St Augustine College, was decisive in terms of bringing to Africa the next World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP. In general, during the visit to South Africa, we agreed on the importance of COMIUCAP addressing issues such as these: What are the questions that Catholic Philosophers must engage in today? How to develop in a Catholic context a stronger awareness about the role of consciousness and promote a true recognition of human need for integration? Projects such as the following were also talked about: How to create in our day an effective alternative

to the *Weltanschauung* propounded by the neurosciences? How to develop and make plausible an ethics that is truly holistic? We also agreed that COMIUCAP has the call to address questions such as these: What are the pressing issues in Philosophy today? What are the best alternatives to analytic philosophy in general and analytic ethics in particular? What kind of philosophical questions should the members of COMIUCAP and the network as such be pursuing? How to present, and justify, the need for Catholic Philosophy/Philosophers? What kind of fields and topics should the catholic philosopher of today make his/her own?

**[2012/04/19-21]** • Participation in the International Conference organized by the People's Friendship University of Russia in Moscow (Russian Federation) on «Philosophy and Spirituality Across Cultures and Religious Traditions» (19-21 of April, 2012). The Conference was presided by Professor NurKirabaev, Vice-Rector for Research, and by Professor Vladimir Tsyvk, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Under the organizational leadership of Dr. RuzanaPskhu, of the PFUR, the conference gathered participants from the following countries: Brazil, China, India, Iran, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Russia, and United States of America.

**[2011/12/12]** • Participation in a Meeting of the Sectorial Groups of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU/FIUC) (12 of December, 2012). The meeting took place in Paris, at the Headquarters of the Federation of Catholic Universities. Besides COMIUCAP, the Meeting counted with the participation of the following Sectorial Groups of IFCU/FIUC: ACISE – International Catholic Association de Institutos Católicos de Educación, represented by Prof. Juan Carlos Torre Puente (Universidad PontificiaComillas); COCTI – Conference des Institutions Catholiques de Théologie, represented by Prof. Thierry-Marie Courau, o.p., of the Institut Catholique de Paris; the Sectorial Group for Sciences and Technology, represented by Prof. Pierre Becker of the ÉcoleCentrale de Paris; the FIUCUP – Sectorial Group for Psychology, represented by Prof. Dominique Reniers, of the Université Catholique de Lille; FIUC-Social Sciences, represented by Prof. Fernando Vidal Fernández, of the Universidad PontificiaComillas; the REDIF – European network of Institutes for the Family, represented by Prof. Carlos Perez Testor, of the Universitat Ramón LLull (Barcelona); the AIFMC – International Association of Catholic Schools of Medicine, represented by Prof. Ignacio Gómez, of the Universidad Católica de Valencia; FIUC-Politica – Sectorial Group for Political Science, represented by Prof. Miguel Ayuso of the Universidad PontificiaComillas(Madrid). The Meeting was coordinated by Prof. Mons. Guy-Réal Thivierge, General Secretary of FIUCA, and, among others, was privileged occasion to debate issues related to the Identity, Role, Mission and Function of each Sectorial Group actually

in existence within the wider structure of the FIUC. We also dealt with the overall responsibilities of any Sectorial Group in FIUC as well as the diversity of structural and operational models that are both possible and actually in existence. Issues related to the Bologna Process, to the way the different Sectorial Groups could/should interact with one another, etc., were also dealt with. We consider this to be a Meeting of special importance for COMIUCAP. It certainly was highly relevant and very productive.

**[2011/11/26-28]** • Participation in the International Conference Religion and Culture: A Multicultural Discussion in Bambolim-Goa (India) on the occasion of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Professor Francis D'Sa, SJ (26-28 of November, 2011). The Conference was organized by the Institute for the Study of Religion (Pune) and the participants were from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, the Philippines, Portugal and the USA. This was an occasion of special importance for COMIUCAP since it gave the acting-President of COMIUCAP the opportunity to meet the representative of the Association of Christian Philosophers of India, Prof. Dr. Johnson Puthenpurackal former President of the Association and at present General Secretary of the Organization and Editor-in-chief of ACPI *Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.

**[2011/10/28]** • Participation as organizer and chair in a Satellite Session during the 2011 Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association (ACPA) in Saint Louis (Missouri, USA) on The Role of Philosophy in the Contemporary Catholic Context. The Speakers at this Satellite Session of the ACPA were the following: Prof. Oliva Blanchette (Boston College): "The Catholic Need for Philosophy: The Case of Maurice Blondel"; Prof. Dominic Balestra (Fordham University): "Where is Catholic Philosophy Today?"; Prof. Arthur Madigan (Boston College): "Philosophy and Catholic Modernity"; Prof. Holger Zaborowski (Catholic University of America): "Catholic Philosophy as Education Towards Reality". A short presentation on the importance of COMIUCAP within the wider horizon of the ongoing process of «Networking in Catholic Philosophy» also took place.

**[2011/08/20-09/22]** • Participation in Washington DC at International Seminar on The Meaning of Justice and Responsibility in the Globalized World of Today. The Seminar was lead by the Acting-President of COMIUCAP and had the goal to explore possibilities for the renewal of the ethical life in our global age. In order to achieve this goal, two fundamental concepts were put at the center of the different research plans: responsibility and justice. The meta-ontological notion of responsibility led us some of the conditions for a new vision of what humanity

is, particularly as much as ethics must be at the center of any form of authentic human life. Justice, on the other hand, was seen in constant reference to responsibility as well. The intended plan for the Seminar (it remained incomplete) was the following: 1. The Principles of Responsibility (w/ Max Weber and Hans Jonas); 2. The Nature of Responsibility (with Emmanuel Levinas); 3. The Transition from Responsibility to Justice (w/ Paul Ricoeur); 4. The relevance of the cultural and the religious contexts for the clarification of issues related to the integration of a deeper sense of responsibility with the notion of a better justice (with contributions from Asian, African and Latin-American thought as well as the perspectives derived from the three monotheistic religions). The participants were from countries such as these: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Russia, Vietnam, United States of America, etc.

**[2011/06/26-28]** • Participation in Shanghai (P. R. of China) on the Symposium *Revitalizing Chinese Culture: Values and Virtues for a Global Age*, which was organized by the Department of Philosophy at Fudan University in conjunction with the Research Council for Values and Philosophy (Washington, DC) (26-28 of June, 2011).

**[2011/05/23-26]** • Participation, w/ the Vice-President for Asia/Oceania (Prof. Noel Sheth), in the International Philosophy Conference *Thomism and Asian Cultures: Celebrating 400 Years of Dialogue Across Civilizations* organized and promoted, under the leadership of Professor Alfredo P. Co, by the University of Santo Tomas (Manila, Philippines), an event designed to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the foundation of this Catholic University, the oldest in East Asia. COMIUCAP is proud to have been associated with the impressive celebrations promoted by the University of Santo Tomas, a Member of COMIUCAP, during the year of her quadricentennial anniversary. For the occasion, the Acting-President of COMIUCAP sent in the name of network the following Message (dated March 19, 2011) to the Academic Authorities of the University of Santo Tomas: «The educational mission of the Church in the globalized world of today demands from Philosophy as of all the integrative parts of the University, a most serious engagement in the search for new ways and strategies leading up to an ever more effective dialogue between spheres apparently so heterogeneous as the ones of science and religion, faith and knowledge, ethics and the economy, person and society, culture(s) and truth. The fact that we continue to live in a world that continues to be so disfigured by violence and intolerance, suffering by the lack of justice and peace, demands from us a deeper understanding of the crucial importance for the world of today of the ideal of the Catholic University. As Pope John Paul II clearly taught



and Pope Benedict xvi continues to remind us, the Ideal of the Catholic University remains crucial in any serious effort to re-order our personal and societal priorities, so that at the very heart of the University endeavor is the realization that Education continues to represent for the Church a most important Work of Love. Thus, COMIUCAP is particularly happy to be associated with the Celebrations of the 400th Anniversary of the University Santo Tomas, the oldest University in Eastern Asia and today one of the most important instruments available to the Church and Civil Society in the Philippines for pursuing a development that is both integral and sustainable. Indeed, we wish UST a renewed energy and willingness to pursue Education as a Work of Love so that future generations when joining this University will continue to realize the plausibility and the importance of integrating realities only apparently heterogeneous like Faith and Reason, Science and Service, Truth and Justice. COMIUCAP rejoices with this Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the University of Santo Tomas, one of its Members, and expresses to the distinguished Academic Authorities, all Teachers and the entire student body warm wishes and kind hopes of a present leading to a Future in which the UST will continue to consistently pursue that kind of excellence on the path of Wisdom and Service that made the past 400 years of her existence so memorable and so worthy of being remembered and celebrated today. Ad multos annos!»

**[2011/05/19-20]** • Participation in the Symposium «Alternative Reflections on Anti-Life Culture in the Globalized World» organized by the Institute for Life and Culture at Sogang University, a Member of COMIUCAP (19-20 of May, 2011).

**[2011/04/24-05/01]** • The Acting-President of COMIUCAP visited Boston in order to meet with the Vice-President of COMIUCAP for North America, Professor-Emeritus Richard Cobb-Stevens, of Boston College. The meeting took place on April 26th and was very pleasant and productive. We expressed to Professor Cobb-Stevens the appreciation of COMIUCAP for the many years in which, since the very foundation of our network in 1999, he served as Vice-President for North America. We agreed that the time has come to start the search for a new Vice-President of COMIUCAP for North America, a process that hopefully will be concluded on the occasion of the upcoming General Assembly of COMIUCAP. On April 27th we met with Professor Artur Madigan, Chairman of the Philosophy Department at Boston College. The occasion served in the first place to introduce Professor Madigan to the present situation of COMIUCAP in North America and to express both our sincere appreciation for the role that Boston College has played since the foundation of COMIUCAP and the most urgent need of the network for the continuous engagement of Institutions like Boston College in the promotion of the goals of

COMIUCAP in North-America. On April 28th a meeting took place with Professor Oliva Blanchette, President of the International Society for Metaphysics (ISM). In this meeting also participated the Secretary of the ISM, Dr. Philipp Stambovsky, wherein we extensively discussed the following issues: 1. Cooperation between the ISM and COMIUCAP; 2. Ways to promote each one of the two organizations in North America. April 29<sup>th</sup> was dedicated to a series of meetings with Professor Emeritus George McLean (Catholic University of America, Washington), founder and President of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP), as well as with Ms. Hu Yeping, Executive Secretary of RVP. We agreed on things like the following: a.) the role that COMIUCAP could play in assisting other philosophical Groups and Societies (once they become members of the network) to fulfill their particular call and mission at the service of Philosophy in the world of today; b.) the possible mediating role of COMIUCAP in regard to initiatives coming from newly established Centers of Philosophical Research in countries like Russia and China; c.) the special vocation of RVP in the consistent recognition and promotion, both within as well as outside of the Catholic World of the intrinsic value and reflective potential of cultural diversity of our world today. In practical terms, moreover, we agreed that the process of cooperation between COMIUCAP and RVP should start immediately, so that: d.) the acting-President of COMIUCAP lead the International Seminar of RVP in Washington (August 20-September 24) on "The Meaning of Justice and Responsibility in the Globalized World of today"; e.) COMIUCAP and RVP shall organize each year one or two Conferences in partnership; f.) RVP will publish selected papers in the English language presented during the International Congress "Person and Society" (Braga, 2007). – The writer may also be allowed to mention the fact that during this short visit to the United States of America an article was published in the *New York Times* in which reference was made to the many initiatives taking place within the Catholic Church while at the same time noticing the absence of something the author of the article (Steinfels) considered absolutely essential for a more productive and well-calibrated intervention in the cultural world of today, namely, consistent platforms! Now, it is precisely this that COMIUCAP as a global network intends to be: a consistent, and reliable, platform for all institutions and individuals seriously engaged in philosophical teaching and research in the diverse fields of Philosophy.

**[2011/01/07-09]** • The Administrative Council of COMIUCAP was held in Rome, at the Pontifical Gregorian University (7-9 of January, 2011). Prof. João J. Vila-Chã, Acting-President of COMIUCAP since November 2009, presided over the meeting. The following Members of the Council were present: Professor Hubert Faes, of the Institut Catholique de Paris et Vice-President for Europe; Professor Néstor Corona, of

the Universidad Católica Argentina and Vice-President for Latin-America; Professor Noel Sheth, of the Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth / Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion in Pune and Vice-President for Asia and Oceania. Professor Georges Ndumba, of the Université Catholique du Congo and Vice-President for Africa was not in attendance because of an unexpected delay in the attainment of his visa for Europe; Professor Richard Cobb-Stevens, of Boston College and Vice-President for North America was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons. The meeting was unanimously considered a success.

Johannesburg, 16 of November, 2013

(Prof. João J. VILA-CHÁ)  
Acting-President of COMIUCAP



## Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP

St Augustine College of South Africa, Johannesburg, November 16, 2013

### REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS

The Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP took place at St Augustine College of South Africa in Johannesburg on November 16, 2013. The Agenda of the Assembly was the following: 1. Report of Activities by the Acting-President; 2. Financial situation of the network; 3. Election of the President of Comiucap; 4. Revision of the Statutes of Comiucap; 5. Fifth World Congress of Comiucap; 6. Regional Issues and Activities: 6.1. Nomination of the Regional Vice-Presidents; 6.2. Regional Congresses of Comiucap; 6.3. Academic Issues: Ecclesial, Regional and Trans-Regional. 7. Analysis of concrete proposals: 7.1. Survey of the Members of the network; 7.2. Journal under the Auspices of Comiucap; 7.3. Creation of a Book-Series for Comiucap. 8. Other Issues of common interest (topics could be suggested to the Acting-President up to 24 hours before the start of the General Assembly in Johannesburg, that is, until 16:30 of November 15, 2013). 9. Final words.

The proceedings of the General Assembly started at 16:30 and lasted for almost two and an half hours. At the beginning of the General Assembly it was announced that the Executive Board of COMIUCAP had designated the following scrutinizers for any voting moment during the General Assembly: Professor Hubert Faes, of the Institut Catholique de Paris, and Professor Noel Sheth, of the Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune-India. Both accepted the nomination and so proceeded to preside over all the voting processes that took place during the Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP. It was also established that the Institutional Members of COMIUCAP in good-standing with proper delegates in Johannesburg, and thus able to fully exercise the right to vote, were the following: Australian Catholic University, represented by Prof. Janis Ozolins; Institut Catholique de Paris, represented by Prof. Jean-François Petit; Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, represented by Prof. Noel Sheth; Maynooth University, represented by Prof. Michael Dunne; Nanzan University, represented by Prof. Noboru Kinoshita; Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, represented by Prof. Jorge Martinez-Barrera; Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, represented by Prof. Miguel Giusti; UNISINOS, represented by Prof. Álvaro Valls; Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, represented by Prof. Co-

rina Yoris; Universidad Católica Argentina, represented by Prof. Néstor Corona; Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, represented by Prof. Alfonso Flórez; Universidad Pontificia Comillas, represented by Prof. Miguel Garcia-Baró; Universität Innsbruck, represented by Prof. Edmund Runggaldier; Université Catholique d'Angers, represented by Prof. Thomas Alferi; Université Catholique de Lille, represented by Prof. Stanislas Deprez; Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik, represented by Prof. Hoda Nehmé; Uniwersytet Kard. St. Wysznskiego, represented by Prof. Gregorz Bugajak. St Augustine College of South Africa was also accepted as a voting member, being represented by Prof. Gerard Walmsley. Taking into account that the Institutional Members duly represented in Johannesburg were 18 and that the Regional Vice-Presidents have *ex-officio* the right to vote, the total number of ballots that possibly could be casted was the following: twenty two (22).

The Assembly started with the then Acting-President of COMIUCAP introducing the Report of Activities for the years 2009-2013 previously distributed to all the participants in the Assembly (all colleagues present at the World Congress of COMIUCAP were invited to attend, but expression in deliberative matters and the right to vote was granted only to the representatives of the Institutions mentioned above). The Acting-President of COMIUCAP introduced his REPORT for the years 2009-2013 with the following words:

*Dear Colleagues: It is a great honor for me to be able to open the Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP here in Johannesburg, at St Augustine College. As I begin, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rev. Dr. Michael van Heerden who as President of St Augustine College welcomed the project of COMIUCAP bringing to South Africa its Fourth World Congress and General Assembly. I also want to thank Professor Gerard Walmsley who, during the break of a Meeting both of whom attended in Beijing (China) listened to my reasons why a Meeting of COMIUCAP should take place at St Augustine and, when I came to Johannesburg in November of 2012 shared some of his good thoughts and ideas on important issues related to the present and the future of Philosophy in a Catholic context worldwide. To be able to discuss and promote Philosophy in this Land of Africa is for me a source of joy. I am proud of the fact that after the great difficulties we had to face while trying to bring this dual event to the Capital of the R. D. du Congo we finally realized the vow of the General Assembly gathered in Manila in September of 2008 that the next one, the one we are now inaugurating, should take place in Africa. And so here we are, not in Kinshasa, but in Johannesburg, in the Republic of South Africa, the Land of President Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, two contemporary icons of*

*the need for Peace and Reconciliation in this world of ours. I want to thank the two Colleagues in Kinshasa, one from the Faculty of Philosophy Saint Peter Canisius in Kimwenza (Prof. Cyprien Bwangila) and the other from the Université Catholique du Congo (Prof. Georges Ndumba). But for all the efforts done on behalf of COMIUCAP here in Johannesburg I want to make it very clear that I owe a special debt of gratitude to both Dr. Jakub Urbaniak and to Mrs. Petru-Harrisson for their excellent, and most reliable, engagement both during the long preparations for this event as well as in the last few days. This expression of gratitude also goes to Dr. Wojciech Szypula SVD and the other members of the academic family of St Augustine, professors and students, that in one way or another contributed with their time and energy for the good success of this important realization of our network. I trust that everyone felt welcomed here in South Africa and that all of us are taking home, should home be outside of this country, memories of beauty and a deeper sense of humanity. In this sense, I want to underline the beautiful contribution given to us by the Youth Group from the Jesuit Parish in Soweto, with their harmonious singing and beautiful dancing. Among the people towards whom I want to express sincere gratitude, and regardless of them being already included in the Thank You Note of the Booklet each one of you received, is Mr. Filipe Oliveira and Ms. Filipa Oliveira for the important contributions made during the process leading to the production of the images you have in front of your eyes and of the Booklet you have now in your hands.*

*Before going further, please, allow me two special thoughts. The first one goes to the victims and survivors of the recent typhoon that devastated vast regions in the Philippines, the country that hosted us the last time we gathered for a World Congress and a General Assembly (Manila, of September, 2008). In this regard, I suggest that we now spend a full minute of Prayerful Silence for the many victims and survivors of these tragic events in the archipelago of the Philippines. [One minute of prayerful silence took place]. Thank you! In this regard, I also want to inform you that, during its meeting here in Johannesburg, the Executive Council of COMIUCAP approved my suggestion that as soon as we are financially able to do so COMIUCAP will send through a reliable channel to the Peoples of the Philippines 1% of the amount corresponding to the total cost of bringing to Johannesburg the Fourth World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP.*

*My second special thought on this occasion is once again one of gratitude towards two particular persons. In the first place, towards Professor Philippe Capelle-Dumont, founder and first President of COMIUCAP (1999-2008), a phi-*

losopher and a thinker of today to whom we all owe gratitude not only for his highly relevant and pertinent thinking but also for his engagement with COMIUCAP and other institutional expressions of the ecclesial commitment to Intellectual Life. Taking into account the fact that Professor Capelle-Dumont is here present among us and that I am now a candidate to the Presidency of COMIUCAP, I would like to immediately pursue the recommendation that I myself did in Manila five years ago and so ask the present Assembly to approve the following submission of mine: that Professor Philippe Capelle-Dumont, should he accept it, be granted the title of Honorary President of our network. [The proposal of the Acting-President was received with a spontaneous applause by all participants in the General Assembly of Johannesburg]. The other person towards whom I would like to express gratitude in a special way is Professor Guy-Réal Thivierge the Executive Secretary of FIUC/IFCU both for his presence here these days as well as for the financial support granted to COMIUCAP for the realization of this dual event here in South Africa.

I express here my sincere gratitude to His Eminence Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the «Pontificium Consilium de Cultura» for having granted His Patronage to the Forth World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP. Furthermore, I also want to express my gratitude to the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See in Pretoria for being so forthcoming and helpful in trying to solve the problem that arose in Doha with the transit of S. E. Mons. Barthélemy Adoukonou. We deplore greatly that in the end His Excellency was not able to take part in our Proceedings here in South Africa.

Last but not least, I want to express gratitude towards all the Institutional Members of COMIUCAP that pay their Membership Fee on time and, thus, grant a minimum of viability to our network. Without the Membership Fees paid by the Members of COMIUCAP none of this could have taken place. But here a special word of gratitude is also due to the colleagues that came from far away even in the absence of institutional support. Furthermore, let me also mention the joy I feel for the two Graduate Students from Nigeria that were accepted as Presenters in our Congress and diligently managed to take part in it. Thanks so much to all of you!

I invite you to read our REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, and regardless of the many imperfections you might find in it, as a confirmation of my commitment as Acting-President (and in the immediate future as President should I be elected in the election that is about to take place) to the following aims and goals: 1. Pursue

*and develop all collaboration possible and/or desirable with FIUC/IFCU taking in particular advantage of the fact that I was elected to the Board of Directors of FIUC/IFCU during the General Assembly of the Federation that took place in São Paulo/Brasil in July of 2012); 2. Start a process of dialogue and communication with the Roman Dicasteries of the Holy See that are of particular relevance to us, namely, the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Congregation for Catholic Education, as well as with the Agency of the Vatican for Quality (AVEPRO); 3. Put the communication with the Deans of our Faculties, as well as Deans of other Faculties whenever possible, at the center of our communication strategy; 4. Pursue the goal of maintaining the Presidents-Rectors of Catholic Institutions of Higher Learning informed about the activities, as well as the needs, of our network; 5. Work as intensely as possible towards the enlargement of the number of Institutions that are members of COMIUCAP; 6. Consolidate and develop the activities of each Region, at the center of which, in concomitance with the corresponding Regional Conference or separately, shall be the plan to hold meetings of Deans of Philosophical Faculties in order to discuss issues of interest to our institutions and so foster the role and the function of Philosophy within the diversity of Catholic contexts around the world; 7. Consolidate and foster the financial development of COMIUCAP; 8. Start as soon as possible with the preparation of the Fifth World Congress of COMIUCAP; 9. Intensify the uses of our institutional Web-Page; 10. Apply all means available, including Facebook, to spread news and writings relevant to our network and/or to philosophy in general; 11. Encourage individual members (professors and graduate students) to be part of our network; 12. Be as present as possible, including with proper initiatives, whenever the Church is asked, or decides to contribute, to platforms oriented by goals such as the following: development of serious strategies for the achievement of true inter-cultural and interreligious dialogue; promotion of issues such as Freedom of conscience and of religion, as well as promotion of Justice and Peace around the world; intensification of the recognition of cultural rootedness and the hermeneutical dimension of Philosophy; affirmation of the crucial value of Philosophy when it comes to interdisciplinarity and the deepening of the relation between Faith and Reason, Philosophy and Theology.*

The Report of Activities of the Acting-President for the years 2009-2013 was approved by show of hands with 18 votes. Immediately thereafter, the participants in the General Assembly were asked to approve both the Report of the Meeting of the Administrative Council of 14-15 November 2009 (which, among



other things, asked Professor João J. Vila-Chã to take over as Acting-President of the network effective November 15, 2009, and the Report of the Administrative Council of COMIUCAP that took place in Rome in January of 2011. Both Reports were approved by show of hands with 18 votes.

The Acting-President of Comiucap proceeded then with a Financial Report for the years 2009-2013. The Report was discussed in detail and was approved, by show of hands, with 18 votes.

The third point in the Agenda for the General Assembly was the election of the President of the network for the period 2013-2017. There was only one candidate proposed, namely, the Acting-President of COMIUCAP, Professor João J. Vila-Chã, SJ. The electoral process was done by secret ballot. After calling nominally each one of the delegates entitled to vote, the scrutinizers distributed the corresponding ballots. Once confirmed that the number of ballots was correct and corresponded to the List of the Institutions able to vote (besides the delegates of the Member Institutions of COMIUCAP, the Vice-Presidents also assumed their right to vote), the scrutinizers proceeded with the final counting of the votes and then announced that Prof. João J. Vila-Chã was elected President of COMIUCAP for the term 2013-2017 with 22 votes, that is by unanimous vote.

After thanking all the delegates present for their trust, the new President of COMIUCAP announced that among the issues to take into account in preparation of the Fifth General Assembly of the network was the eventual revision of the Statutes.

The Assembly proceeded to decide about the place and the hosting institution for the Fifth World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP. After the necessary deliberation, it was decided that the next World Congress and General Assembly of COMIUCAP shall go to Latin-America. Moreover, taking into account that the Universidad Santo Tomás de Bogotá officially presented her candidature for the organization of the event, and not without recommending that the different neighbouring universities and institutions that are members of the network be invited to contribute as well, the General Assembly decided with 18 votes (by show of hands) that the Fifth General Assembly and World Congress of Comiucap go to the Universidad Santo Tomás de Bogotá, in Colombia.

Point six of the Agenda stipulated that the General Assembly should also deal with Regional Issues and Activities of the network. In the first place, there was the need to ratify the Nominations that each one of the Regions of the Network present in Johannesburg had made the previous day. The Nominations for Vice-Presidents presented for ratification to the General Assembly were the following: Professor Joseph Agbakoba, of Madonna University in Nigeria, as

Vice-President for Africa; Professor Janis Ozolins, of the Australian Catholic University, as Vice-President for Asia-Oceania; Professor Miguel García-Baró, of the Universidad Pontificia Comillas, as Vice-President for Europe; Rector-Emeritus Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres, of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, as Vice-President for Latin-America; Professor Brendan Sweetman, of Rockhurst College, as Vice-President for North-America. All five Nominations were ratified by 17 votes by show of hands.

Regarding the Regional Congresses of COMIUCAP it was made clear that each Continental Region of the network should organize at least one Regional Congress during the next four years, that is before the next World Congress and General Assembly of the network in Latin-America. It was also stated that the understanding now prevalent is that the Regional Congresses should be open to the participation of Members from other continents. Special emphasis shall also be given to initiatives capable of at the same time becoming occasions for Deans of each one of the Continental Regions of the network to come together in order to discuss issues of common interest, including administrative matters and methodological approaches to both teaching and research in the diverse fields of Philosophy.

The importance of the institutional website was anew emphasized and all the delegates were kindly asked to help the President of COMIUCAP in the tasks of fostering the usefulness and the relevance of our presence in the virtual space. It was said that any Regional issue with relevance for the aims and goals of the network should be promptly communicated to the President of COMIUCAP. Particular emphasis was thus put upon the need, and the importance, of each Member of COMIUCAP sending back to Rome, once filled, the ongoing SURVEY OF OUR MEMBERS. Information pertaining to initiatives of the Members of the Network that might be of interest to others was also kindly requested from all, namely in regard to initiatives such as congresses and major publications.

In point 7.2 of the AGENDA mention was made of the possibility of COMIUCAP having a journal under its auspices. In this sense, a suggestion was made that a journal originally published by the Australian Catholic University could eventually be integrated in the future activities of COMIUCAP. It was responded that such suggestions would be considered in due time by the Executive Board of COMIUCAP. There was also debate on some of the pros and cons of having a COMIUCAP Journal, whereby considerations were also made on the responsibility of Catholic Philosophers when it comes to the practices of Philosophy in contexts in which more and more academic life tends to be treated in a business-like manner and the focus of the university instead of being put upon the formative dimension shifts more and more to the immediate economic value of the

courses or of the university as such. Regarding point 7.3. on the possible creation of a Book-Series for COMIUCAP no further consideration, mainly due to the lack of time, was made. However, participants were reminded that COMIUCAP has already published a few volumes under its auspices and that all Institutions that are members of the network should have copies of these books in their libraries.

Before declaring its the Fourth General Assembly closed, the newly elected President of COMIUCAP presented to all the design of a Medal to be given to Professor Philippe Capelle-Dumont, founder and first President of the network, and to all the outgoing Regional Vice-Presidents as a token of gratitude for their service to COMIUCAP. However, since due to problems of logistics the medal was not available in South Africa for personal delivery, the President of COMIUCAP announced that it would be sent to the persons it is destined to around Christmas time.

The present REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COMIUCAP in Johannesburg was written by the President of the COMIUCAP, Professor João J. Vila-Chã, and counted with the contribution of Professor Noel Sheth, outgoing Vice-President for Asia-Oceania and one of the two Scrutinizers during the General Assembly in Johannesburg. What now follows is a complement in French to this REPORT written by Professor Hubert Faes, the first scrutinizer during the Assembly and in charge of taking note of any part of the proceedings that had taken place in either French or Spanish. The short *Compte-Rendu* offered by Professor Hubert Faes, outgoing Vice-President for Europe, is as follows:

*Concernant point 5 de l'ordre du jour (le 5ème Congrès Mondial) de la COMIUCAP, le président Vila-Chã expose les propositions du Conseil d'Administration de la COMIUCAP relatives au prochain Congrès Mondial. Compte-tenu des lieux choisis pour les précédents congrès et de l'impossibilité d'organiser dans l'immédiat un Congrès Mondial en Amérique du Nord, le mieux serait d'organiser le prochain en Amérique Latine. L'université Santo Tomas de Bogotá (Colombie) s'est proposée pour le faire ; l'Assemblée Générale doit se prononcer sur ce point. Le professeur Antolinez Camargo, délégué de l'Université Santo Tomas informe l'Assemblée sur les conditions dans lesquelles le Recteur de son Université a donné son accord pour que lui-même fasse la proposition à l'occasion du Congrès de Johannesburg. Il indique aussi que sa Faculté est disposée à organiser le prochain Congrès en partenariat avec d'autres universités catholiques de Bogotá. Le professeur Alfonso Florez de l'Université Javeriana de Bogotá indique de son côté qu'il avait reçu du Vice-Recteur de son Université la consigne d'accueillir favorablement une éventuelle demande relative à l'organisation du prochain Congrès Mondial. Le professeur Philippe Capelle, Doyen Honoraire et Président Honoraire de la COMIUCAP*

rappelle que la tradition, au sein de la COMIUCAP, a toujours été, quand il y avait plusieurs universités catholiques dispensant un enseignement universitaire de philosophie dans la ville où un congrès mondial était organisé, d'inviter les universités à collaborer pour l'organiser. Le professeur Jean-François Petit, exprime pour sa part le vœu que l'Université La Salle de Bogotá soit également partie prenante du projet. Le président propose donc à l'Assemblée de confier à l'Université Santo Tomas la responsabilité de l'organisation sur place à Bogotá du Congrès, à charge pour elle de l'organiser avec la participation des autres Universités Catholiques mentionnées. L'Assemblée approuve cette proposition.

A la fin de l'Assemblée Générale, un échange a lieu entre les délégués présents et plusieurs suggestions sont émises. Le Professeur B. Feltz, ancien Président de l'Institut Supérieur de Philosophie de Louvain, dit l'intérêt qu'il a pris à participer au Congrès Mondial. Il voit deux objectifs principaux pour la COMIUCAP: les rencontres intellectuelles d'une part, les rencontres institutionnelles d'autre part. Il souhaite que les deux objectifs soient poursuivis car ils sont également importants. Qu'une assemblée de philosophes chrétiens s'exprime au niveau international sur des questions institutionnelles, dans le domaine politique et social en général (par exemple sur la question de la démocratie et de ses rapports avec la religion), dans le domaine universitaire et dans le domaine ecclésiastique, cela pourrait avoir un impact significatif. Une telle Assemblée devrait, après avoir élaboré une position, s'exprimer sur ce que devrait être une université catholique ouverte sur le monde contemporain. Le président Vila-Chã rappelle que le souci de la Comiucap en ce qui concerne les Congrès régionaux est qu'ils soient ouverts, que puissent y participer des Institutions non catholiques et des intellectuels de tous bords. Le Professeur Jean François Petit souligne combien il est important que les philosophes des Universités Catholiques soient présents sur la scène publique européenne. Mais il estime que pour cela, les dites universités devraient être plus nombreuses à adhérer à la Comiucap. Un objectif essentiel est d'augmenter le nombre des institutions adhérentes. Le Professeur Hubert Faes remarque que si la Comiucap entrait plus avant dans les questions institutionnelles et affichait certaines positions, elle serait plus attrayante et gagnerait des adhésions. Mais il importe d'intervenir au bon niveau, en évitant les réactions d'humeur, sans se laisser prendre dans le jeu d'affrontements purement politiques. Il faut intervenir sur des questions majeures avec des arguments consistants. Il souligne aussi que le projet de permettre des adhésions individuelles à la Comiucap permettrait d'obtenir un investissement de plus nombreux collègues. Le professeur B. Feltz souligne que l'obstacle principal à l'adhésion des institutions à la Comiucap n'est pas financier, mais le fait que tout le monde manque de temps. On ne peut sacrifier plusieurs jours en déplacements et en colloques que si on a le sentiment d'un enjeu important, d'un intérêt majeur pour soi et pour les autres. Le président Vila-Cha tiendra

*compte de ces différentes remarques ; il souligne aussi qu'il est important d'être là et de participer pour dire ce qui ne va pas.*

After his final words, the President of COMIUCAP declared closed the Fourth General Assembly of COMIUCAP and all the participants were invited to take part in the celebration of the Eucharist that followed immediately thereafter. The present document was completed in Rome on November 25, 2013 and submitted on the same date to Professor Hubert Faes and Professor Noel Sheth for revision and approval before being sent to the Members of the network. Upon approval by Professor Sheth on November 26 and by Professor Faes on November 28, we are now ready to publish it.

Rome, November 30, 2013

Prof. João J. VILA-CHĂ  
(President of COMIUCAP)



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