

## IAMS Matters October-December 2015

Dear fellow IAMS members,

First of all, a couple of updates about the preparation processes concerning the upcoming Seoul general assembly:

**Note that IAMS website now contains a lot of new information on the assembly, including information on the fees, venue, transport, program and how to register for the Assembly.** Concerning accommodation in the dormitory: the rooms are for four and we intend to use all of the new air-conditioned rooms. The number of participants accommodated in each room will depend on the total number of participants, and the most likely number of participants per room is three or two.

Note that the website also contains a link to the **subsidy** application. Only IAMS members are eligible to the subsidies, and when deciding about them, the criteria are the need and that the applicant's paper abstract has been accepted. Our goal is to be able to grant 40 full (flight ticket & conference fee) and 10 partial (only conference fee) subsidies. Until now IAMS has been able to fundraise for 30 full subsidies so that we are well on the way. The subsidy application deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and the decision about the recipients will be made in January.

The assembly **paper sessions/study groups** have awakened a previously unseen level of interest. The number of submitted abstracts exceeds 180! Many of you have already heard from your paper session moderator(s) whether your abstract has been accepted as it is, or whether some clarifications are needed, or rejected. If you haven't, you should hear from them very soon. The next step is to write the 2000-word paper by the end of May on which you will get some feedback from the moderator(s). The following step will then be meeting each other in Seoul!

I would like to remind you of two questions regarding the future of IAMS: Our association's **secretariat** is looking for a new home. If you have an idea of where one could find suitable voluntary staff (general secretary, possible assistant to the general secretary, website manager) as well as institutional support, please, contact me.

The **location of IAMS 2020 assembly** is an open question. Invitations are welcome! They can be presented in Seoul, but I am happy to be contacted about them anytime even though the decision will be made by the next executive committee. What will be especially important, alongside suitable logistics (venue, transportation) is that in the planned country/area there is a community of mission scholars and others interested who can form a hosting committee.

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Below, there is a short description on two recent mission studies conferences, in Australia and in India. If you wish to have an advertisement of a mission studies or related issue conference to be published in this newsletter, send it in good time as there usually is a gap of about three months between these e-letters. If you wish to send in a very short conference report, that is also welcome.

Yours,

Mika Vähäkangas, IAMS president

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**Australian Association of Mission Studies** organized an international Mission Symposium “Mission Beyond Ad Gentes” October 2-3, 2015 at Yarra Theological Union. For more information see <http://www.dorishmarucollege.org.au/events/mission-beyond-ad-gentes.html>

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**Fellowship of Indian Missiologists** had its Bi-Annual Conference and Research Seminar October 13-16, 2015 in Guwahati. The theme was “Digital Generation: Challenges and Missiological Response”.

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