

The President

January 28, 2008

To all WOCATI member Associations, and other invitees

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Herewith I officially invite you to the IV World Conference of Associations of Theological Institutions (WOCATI) Congress. The Congress will take place in Neapolis, Thessaloniki, Greece, from May 31st to June 7, 2008 according to the attached program.

The Congress will consist of three important activities: First and foremost the WOCATI World Conference on the theme "Theological Education: A Radical Reappraisal"; second, the Jubilee Celebration of the Ecumenical Theological Education (ETE) branch of the World Council of Churches (WCC); and third the WOCATI Business session. For this reason the whole event is jointly organized by WOCATI and ETE.

As we indicated in our preliminary correspondence last year (1st Letter, see att.), WOCATI will provide full accommodation throughout the entire Congress, thanks to the generous hospitality of the Orthodox Diocese of Neapolis, assisted by the Diocese of Demetrias and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The co-organizers decided to set an upper limit of 50 participants: 30 from the WOCATI constituency (i.e. its Executive Committee and the delegates of its Member Associations), 10 from ETE and the rest from the region and from future members of WOCATI.

For these reasons this final invitation letter is meant to remind you: a. to name your delegation (one male and one female according to our constitution, but in a pre-described order, in case the organization committee is forced to diminish the participation); b. to send the title of your presentation, if your association wishes to make an input, as soon as possible, and certainly by the end of April, in order to finalize our program; c. respond to the attached questionnaire for the future of theological education, the needs of the providing theological education institutions, the co-operation of the institutions among themselves, as well as between them and their supporting agencies. All these accordingly apply to all invitees.

WOCATI is convinced that "Theological Education is carried out in a world which is increasingly being made aware of its interdependence and religious pluralism. Its context is both local and global". It is appropriate therefore that a closer cooperation must be established to serve, support and enhance theological education in its constituent parts. To this end has the World Conference of Associations of Theological Institutions rendered its services, its "diakonia", up to now.

Sisters and brothers.

I know well that all of you share this vision; a vision of a theological education which ensures not only the indigenization of Gospel, Church and Theology within individual cultures, but that theological institutions in their individual situations set out to discover anew, out of their own historico-religio-philosophical traditions, their unique perception of theology implicit in the Gospel, relevant to the local situation, but at the same time available to the Church universal. And I am quite sure that the forthcoming WOCATI Congress will facilitate the implementation of this vision as wide as possible.

Looking forward to having your final response, I greet you in Greek with our Lords words

EIPHNH YMIN

