

Conclusions IAPCHE Europe 2009 Biezenmortel

1.

My first conclusion concerns the education in worldviews.

I think that what we are been doing in introducing worldviews in professional education doesn't fit with students' every day life. In this conference we bridged several gaps between countries, cultures and traditions. But we are all convinced that there is a gap between our educational practise of teaching worldview to our students and the every day life of the professional practise. It's a challenge for us to bridge this gap. The theme of our conference is an important theme for all of us. In the future, we need to invest in new methods. We obtained a few ideas this week. But there is a lot of work to do. The main question in this work we have to do is: How to connect Christian faith with the professional practise. The most important task for Christian Higher Education is not only teaching professional skills, but fitting our students out with a clear sense of direction.

2.

The formation (building) of the student.

We all agree that training students to become good professionals is important. But, during this conference, we again realised how important it is not to forget the formation of our students. Our colleagues mentioned some fruitful ideas such as:

- pastoral care for our students
- to be connected with our students
- to talk and listen to them
- and – very important – to be a good example in our own walk and talk.

In the daily struggle for life in our institutions, there is a danger to emphasize the professional side of our work and forget the spiritual side. Please remember the mission of our forefathers who founded our institutions. They were inspired by the mission to form young people into firm Christians, with strong roots in the Bible, the Christian belief and tradition, and, most of all, in Christ himself.

3.

We detected differences in our own views on society. It is important to have such a view and to think about the practical implications of it.

IAPCHE would help its members not by adapting one point of view, but tot facilitate dialogues between the different opinions. This would help the universities to clarify their own concepts.

It would be done by

- asking penetrating questions
- sharing good practices
- exploring the roots of our thinking

4.

This conference was a one coming out of the universities of applied sciences. In the last 4 years they've made big steps towards knowledge development in their own institutes. They made enthusiastic contributions in this conference. Maybe the activities of these universities could be useful to bridging the gap I mentioned in my first conclusion.

For IAPCHE it's a challenge to include the professional activities in their mission statement.

5.

A conference like this

- is a source of inspiration
- opens doors to new insights, ideas, concepts, practical experiences and materials
- challenges us to re-examine our own thinking

I think that this kind of activity should be a regular component of the professional development of educators and researchers. As a manager I realise that it will be my task to facilitate this for my colleagues.

Particularly as a community in Christ, we have been blessed and encouraged by being at this conference. We thank our Lord for giving us this opportunity.

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