

Dear the Divinity School of Chung Chi College,

On behalf of MIT, I would like to give you an update on MIT and her needs.

I. Myanmar Institute of Theology

Founded in 1927 by the American Baptist Missionaries, Myanmar Institute of Theology is a post-graduate-level Theological Institute accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in South East Asia (ATESEA). The Institute gives fine-quality theological and liberal arts education in Myanmar. Its Mission Statement is to equip committed men and women to bring about social change and transformation among the Christian churches and in Myanmar society. In response to educational challenges and needs of young people in the country, the liberal arts program was launched in October 2000.

MIT is a religiously and culturally diverse community, which currently has a total of 1586 students, 397 in Theology, and 1189 in Liberal Arts Program. The whole student body comes from 22 ethnic groups, 4 major religious backgrounds (Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam), and 14 Christian denominations (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglican, Lutheran, Mara Evangelical Church, Salvation Army, Independent Church Home Mission, Assemblies of God, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal Church, Seven Day Adventist, Self-Support Karen, Jehovah Witness).

II. Degree Programs

MIT offers the following theological degrees: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Doctor of Ministry (DMin); Master of Theology (MTh); Master of Divinity (MDiv); Master of Ministry (MMin), Master of Arts in Christian Studies (MACS); and Master of Theological Librarianship (MTL).

The following degrees are conferred in the Liberal Arts Program: Bachelor of Arts/Science (BA/BSc); Master of Arts in Community Development (MACD); Master of Arts in Interfaith Dialogue (MAID); Master of Arts in Peace Studies (MAPS) and Master of Arts in Gender Studies (GSC). The program maintains a broad-based liberal arts curriculum.

In addition to regular degree programs, MIT has Summer Language Programs such as English, German, Hebrew, and Greek. Other research programs and activities such as short theological trainings, workshops, and seminars on various social, religious, gender, and peace issues were carried out through three research centers of MIT, namely Judson Research Center (Est. 2003), Peace Studies Center (Est. 2006), and Gender Studies Center (Est. 2016).

At present, all the LAP classes are offered online, whereas the hybrid system (both in-person and online) is employed for all Theology programs.

III. Faculty Members

Currently, there are 60 full-time faculty members (34 in the theological program, 26 full-time teachers and more than 80 part-time teachers in the LAP program).

A. Administrative Team of MIT for 2023-2027



B. Full-time Faculty in Theology

No	Department	Total Strength	Study/Other Leave	Admin	Total Active
1	Department of Biblical Studies	8	2	3	6
2	Department of Christian Education	4	0	0	4
3	Department of History and Mission	7	2	1	5
4	Department of Pastoral Theology	3	0	0	3
5	Department of Theology	8	3	0	5
6	Library	1	0	0	1
7	Extension Service	3	0	0	3
	Total	34	7	4	27

C. Full-time Faculty in Liberal Arts Program

No	Department	Total Strength	Study Leave	Admin	Total Active
1	Department of Business studies	4	0	0	5
2	Department of Community Development	3	0	1	3
3	Department of Computer Science	4	1	0	3
4	Department of English	6	1	0	5
5	Department of Music	4	0	0	4
6	Department of Religious Studies	2	1	0	1
7	Department of Social Studies	3	0	0	3
	Total	26	3	1	23

IV. Student Body

Currently, there are 1363 students studying in all the programs of MIT.

A. Students in Liberal Arts Program

Class	I	II	III	IV	REM	Total
LAP	329	271	174	164	64	1002
MACD	49	32	0	0	23	104
MAPS	9	16	0	0	4	29
MAGS	14	28	0	0	0	24
MBA	11	0	0	0	0	11
MAID	5	0	0	0	0	5
Total	417	347	174	164	87	1189

B. Students in Theology Program for 2023-2024

Amidst the problems of internet Wi-Fi, electricity shortage and the current political crisis, the administrative team and faculty council of MIT decided to reopen the school in person. The total number of newly admitted students for the 2023-2024 academic year is 141.

Class	I	II	III	REM	Total
DMin	17	13	28	6	64
DMin CBTS	0	10	10	5	25
MTh	21	22	-		43
MDiv	84	61	72		217
MACS	17	21	8		46
MTL	2	-	-		2
Total	141	127	118	11	397

C. Activities of MIT Students

At present, MIT offers classes both in person and online. Regular prayer fellowship meetings (online and in-person), vespers service every Thursday and Sunday, and other special talk programs are regularly conducted by the Spirituality Promoting Committee under the leadership of the Chaplain's office.

Since our LAP students are attending their classes online and do not come to MIT, we do not have any pictures of their activities. But since June 5, 2023, our theology students have been taking their classes either online or in person. The following pictures were taken when we had programs and activities.

1. Opening Convocation



EC Members of Student Council (Theology)



Faculty Members Praising God



2. World Environment Day Activities





President (above) & Vice President (Below)



3. Graduation Theology and LAP



4. Centers



5. MIT Prayer Day





6. MIT AA Day



Nokia G20
PHOTOGRAPH

NOKIA G20

7. Prof. Dr. Tobias Brandner, faculty members and students



In the past before the outbreak of COVID-19, the students of both Theology and LAP programs went on gospel trips to different parts of the country. However, due to our current situation, they cannot continue this important trip.

V. Centers and Projects

The three centers of MIT—Judson Research Center (JRC), Peace Studies Center (PSC), and Gender Studies Center (GSC)—also conduct their respective projects, programs, and activities related to peace, gender equality, interfaith relation both in person and online.

The Care and Counseling project team also has organized many programs and activities to help not only the faculty, staff, and students of MIT but also those who need mental and psychological support and assistance in times of crisis.

VI. Crisis Response Committee's activities

Despite many challenges, MIT CRC has committed itself to helping the needy as much as possible. Today CRC is reaching out to the needy by providing some financial assistance and basic food stuff such as rice and oil, holding worship services and counseling sessions, meeting and praying with the affected people online as well as in person and finding scholarships for needy students so that they can resume their theological and liberal art studies.

VII. Needs

MIT is now in transition of moving towards becoming a greater Christian University in the near future. She has to develop herself more and more in various sectors, especially in supporting faculty development, student and faculty research scholarship assistance, and finally in online education initiatives. Moreover, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the political crisis in Myanmar, MIT is in dire need of your support. The following needs are among MIT's many needs.

Scholarship for Students

- The parents and sponsors of many students lost their jobs and regular incomes, and it was difficult for them to support our students. Because of the trying situation, our students need not only financial assistance but also mental support.
- Many young people in Myanmar cannot attend universities due to our current situation. There are private colleges and universities in Myanmar, but they are very expensive and only for rich families. MIT's programs are a lot more affordable than those of other schools, but still, many young people need financial assistance, they will not be able to study at MIT. Thus, your scholarships have meant a lot to our needy students.
- As MIT's mission is to equip future leaders, it is very important to help our students complete their programs by supporting them both academically and financially.

Faculty and Staff

- Faculty recruitment and development is an urgent need. As Liberal Arts students are rapidly increasing in number year by year, more committed teachers are desperately needed.
- Moreover, in order to upgrade the academic Excellency of the Institute, further studies for faculty members should essentially be arranged.
- On the other hand, the salaries and other allowances have to be considered to raise for Faculty and staff due to the inflation and economic situation in the country.

90th Anniversary Building Project

90th Anniversary Building has been built to be able to accept more students. By the grace of God, the building has already come to its final part of construction including exterior painting. However, the interior works such as painting, room partitions, furnishing, ceiling, electricity for each floor, air-conditioning, and other minor groundworks across the building campus remain to be continued. We still pray and expect to get more donations from donors, well-wishers, partner organizations, and churches like you for the following funds:

1. Remaining payment to Contractor
2. Generator and Solar Power
3. Classroom Facilities
4. Office facilities
5. auditorium facilities
6. Gym facilities