

## The Report of ACUCA Academic Student Camp 2018 in Thailand

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I took part in the ACUCA Academic Student Camp 2018 at the Christian University of Thailand. I met a lot of new people from other countries and it was a good opportunity to think about my own culture and learn about the Internet-related issues that people in the world face nowadays.

This year's theme was "The Internet's impact on identity and character development of students in Asian Christian Higher Education". At the camp, keynote speaker Dr. James E. Wilder gave us a lecture on how the brain forms a group identity and develops a Christian identity, the effect of the Internet on human brain processing and the relationship between Christianity and the internet society in modern times. Dr. Wilder explained to us how the Internet has changed our identity formation in comparison with traditional socialization in the old days before the Internet and the idea of mutual mind states between religion and the Internet. Dr. Wilder's insights really helped us to understand deeply how Christian faith builds our own identities.

After the lecture, we gave some presentations about the topic. I gave a presentation in front of everybody about "Social Media and Mental Health". The reason why I chose this topic is because of my own experience. Many people, especially in the young generation, like me, use social media and look at smart phone screens anytime and anywhere. Even in my college, I always see students hanging out with phones and social media. That made me become interested in the fact that we are the first generation to face issues of social media related to the mental health. Through the presentations, I discussed these issues and potential solutions with the other students. We shared our opinions, our cultural background and experience of how the internet impacts us.

In addition to the academic activities, we had a really good time at the cultural presentations, games and at a floating market. I met many people and made a lot of new friends and now we are like one big family. It was such a special experience in my life that I couldn't hold back tears when left for the airport after the farewell party. Taking part in this academic student camp was a big challenge for me in the context of my college life. I sincerely appreciate ACUCA and my university for giving me this opportunity, and that they chose me to be part of the camp. Also I want to thank everybody who supported and accepted me. Through this experience, I gained new passion and found a new approach to my dream for my future.