



## Society of Asian Biblical Studies (SABS)

*To foster biblical studies in Asia*

Dear Colleagues:

As promised, we are writing to provide more information about our next SABS meeting from **10-15 July, 2024**, inclusive of arrival and departure. This is important information, please take time to read everything carefully.

**Venue:**

We are meeting at the *Yu-Shan Theological College & Seminary*, 28 Chih-Nan Road, Sec. I, Chih-Nan, Shou-Feng, Hualien, Taiwan TEL: (03) 8641101-2 FAX: (03) 8641104

Web Page: <http://en.yushanth.org.tw/index.html>

The *Yu-Shan Theological College and Seminary* is in Hualien County, which is in the eastern part of Taiwan.

**Conference Schedule and paper Presentations:**

Our theme for the meeting is "Biblical Hermeneutics in Indigenous Perspectives." There will be three plenary lectures, delivered by Prof. Walis Ukan, President and Professor/ Old Testament, *Yu-Shan Theological College & Seminary*; Dr. Shu-Pin Chiu, Assistant Professor, New Testament, also from *Yu-Shan Theological College and Seminary*; and Dr. Jione Havea, research fellow with *Trinity Methodist Theological College (Aotearoa)* and the Public and Contextual Theology Research Centre (*Charles Sturt University*).

The main conference will take place from the 11 July to 13 July, starting at 8:30 am. A total of 72 papers have been accepted for presentation. A Schedule, including plenary and concurrent sessions, will be shared when it is ready, so you will know when you will be presenting and alongside whom. Please note SABS doesn't make any photocopies for you. So, any handouts you might want to distribute to your listeners will have to be brought by you. Each meeting room is equipped with AV equipment, so you can prepare a slide presentation to accompany your presentation if you'd find that helpful.

One day, 14 July, is for sightseeing and a visit to a local indigenous church a short distance away from the college (including Sunday morning worship). The plan for the day is being

made by the Host Committee, and it tentatively includes a visit to the Qixingtan Beach and the Taroko National Park. This is optional but we hope you will join the group. If you are departing on 14 July, you will need to make your own way back to the airport (see more below under “Travel”).

### **Conference Fees**

*Membership fees:*

Please do note that **only members can present papers and participate on invited panels**, and our two-year membership fees (**2024-25**) are as follows:

**Full member** (from Asia/Africa/Latin America/Pacific except Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan): **US\$ 30.00**

**Full member:** (from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan): **US\$50.00**

**Full member** (from Europe, North America): **US\$50.00**

**Student Member:** **US\$20.00**

**Lifetime member:** (with one-time payment): **US\$500.00**

*Registration Fees:*

From Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Canada, Europe, and USA: **US\$110.00**

Under-resourced countries including Cambodia, China, Indonesia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam: **US\$60.00**.

Students: **US\$40.00** (please bring proof of your status as a student/student ID)

Please note that spouse, partner, and guests of a registrant will also need to pay for the full registration fee of either US\$110 or US\$60, depending one’s country of residence.

**All fees will be paid in US dollars and will be collected on site at the Registration Desk.**

### **Travel (Arrival and Departure):**

We strongly recommend that you fly into Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (IATA: **TPE**, ICAO: **RCTP**). If you arrive on 10 July and depart on 15 July, we will have a chartered bus to bring you to and from Yu-Shan’s campus. The bus will depart from Taoyuan Airport twice on 10 July: 2 pm and 6 pm. You might need to spend some time at the airport before the bus departs, and those taking the 6 pm bus should have dinner at the airport (because the bus ride takes four hours).

For departure on 15 July, the bus will depart from Yu-Shan’s campus at 6 am (meaning

that your flight departure time should not be earlier than noon) or at 10 am (meaning that your flight departure time should not be earlier than 4 pm). It is, of course, always good to assume that a longer bus ride might result from busy traffic jams.

Further details regarding meeting points for the chartered bus will be sent when they become available.

Those who are familiar with Taiwan can take the Metro rail from the Taoyuan Airport to the Taipei Main Station (40 minutes but it does not run after 10 pm) and, from there, take a train to Hualien (2 to 2.5 hours). Upon arrival at Hualien, you will still need to take a taxi to Yu-Shan's campus (30 minutes). It might therefore be more convenient for you to stay at the YMCA Hotel near Taoyuan Airport if your flight arrives at Taoyuan late on 9 July or departs early on 16 July, so you can take advantage of the chartered bus service we have arranged. For more information about the hotel, see: [https://www.ymcahotel.tw/index\\_en.php](https://www.ymcahotel.tw/index_en.php).

For those who prefer not to fly into Taoyuan Airport or make your own arrangements upon arriving at Taoyuan, here is a site that gives more information about traveling to Hualien: <https://hopenworld.com/taipei-to-hualien/> (note that the prices indicated have not been updated to reflect 2024 costs and please remember that you will still need a taxi ride from your arrival at Hualien to Yu-Shan's campus). Despite the use of the word "easy" on this site, we strongly recommend that you fly into Taoyuan and take the chartered bus that we are arranging just for you.

Those planning an extended stay in Hualien (early arrival or late departure), you will be responsible for making your own travel arrangements between Yu-Shan's campus and your departure airport.

### **Accommodation:**

As usual, our registration fee includes room and board during days of the conference (room will be **double occupancy** at the *Yu-Shan Theological College*). Each room has two beds and an attached bathroom and toilet. We have a limited number of beds and if you want to avail yourself of this free accommodation please register early. Priority will be given to presenters from under-resourced countries. Accommodation will be available from the night of 10 July to the night of 14 July (a total of five nights). Any early arrivals before 10 July or stays beyond 14 July will incur full costs that will have to be borne by the participant (US\$60.00 per night, single or double occupancy). Please indicate clearly your arrival and departure dates on your registration form, as what you indicate on the form will be final and no change will be permitted.



Those wanting single rooms will be able to have one at an extra cost of US\$60.00 per night, single or double occupancy, per night.

Smoking in the rooms or on campus is forbidden.

For those who prefer to stay in a local hotel, the host committee in Taiwan recommends the following Minsus/B&B (they are **relatively** close to Yu-Shan and modestly priced, but we strongly recommend the housing on campus because you might still need transportation from the Minsus to campus):

Lake-House (similar to B&B) (<http://www.lake-house.in>);  
Lake's Heart Minsu (<http://www.lakesheart.com.tw/lake.html>);  
Monet Garden Minsu (<http://www.monetgarden.com.tw>).

**Registration:**

Registration form is available at our SABS website (<http://www.sabs-site.com>), and registration will close on **30 April 2024**. Here is also a link and a QR code to the registration site, for your convenience: <https://bit.ly/sabs2024>



### ***Support Letters for Visa:***

Letters to support your applications for visa **will be sent to all who register**. If you don't need such a letter, you may ignore it upon receipt.

For those of you with passports from India, Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Vietnam, you might want to explore the possibility of applying for a **Travel Authorization Certificate** which is free of cost and will allow you to stay in Taiwan for up to 14 days following arrival. The process to apply for such a certificate is simple and quick through an online portal:

[https://niaspeedy.immigration.gov.tw/nia\\_southeast/](https://niaspeedy.immigration.gov.tw/nia_southeast/). If this link doesn't work for you, please consult the Taiwan consulate/embassy in your country.

If you need to specify a local host for visa application purposes, please list:

Rev. Dr. Lin Chang Hua, Dean of Academic Affairs;  
Email: [chhiong@gmail.com](mailto:chhiong@gmail.com); Tel Office: 03-86411001.

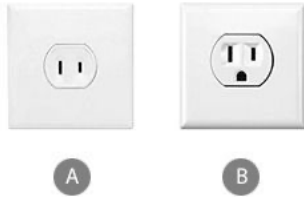
Please address all other questions regarding travel and visas to concerned authorities or agents in your home country. Please do not contact Dr. Lin directly.

### ***Climate, Food, Dress, and other matters***

The **temperatures** in Hualien during July will be very hot and humid, so please bring appropriate clothing. Guest rooms and conference rooms will be air conditioned.

**Meals** will be provided from the night of the 10 July to breakfast on the 15 July. When you register, please indicate if you are a vegetarian or if you do not eat pork. The staple will be rice.

You may also need to pack **an adapter** for your electrical equipment. For Taiwan there are two associated plug types, types A and B. Plug type A is the plug which has two flat parallel pins and plug type B is the plug which has two flat parallel pins and a grounding pin.



Taiwan operates on a 110V supply voltage and 60Hz.

***Finally ...***

Any contribution you can make towards the expenses related to the conference over and above your registration fee in the form of a donation will be welcomed and appreciated.

If your proposal has been accepted and you have **decided not to attend, please notify us immediately**. This will help us immensely in our planning of sessions. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Please do not hesitate to write to us if you need further clarification about the matters above. Do register early!

Warm regards,  
Monica and Benny