



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

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## East Asia Regional Institute Report Lucien Giordano, VP for Government Relations

Following successful institutes in Shanghai, London, and Nairobi, the International ACAC East Asia Regional Institute (EARI) 2017 continued a burgeoning tradition of providing regionally relevant professional development in an intimate atmosphere. The University of Utah Asia Campus (UAC), located in Songdo, Incheon, South Korea, hosted the EARI. The UAC proved to be an exemplary host, providing fantastic facilities, logistics, and hospitality. In total, 150 attendees, from over 20 countries traveled to the UAC and shared in the collaborative learning experience from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

The EARI featured faculty contributions from over a dozen members and two sets of breakout sessions led by over 10 additional members. There was a successful High School Fair and networking opportunities in the morning and evening. The EARI University Fair was hosted at Dulwich College Seoul on Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>. 47 universities had tables at the fair and 3 public presentations were given. The fair was open to the entire community from 1-4pm, with an estimated 250 students and parents from throughout Seoul in attendance. For this to happen, 8 members contributed to the logistics and presentations that day. From the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, approximately 25% of attendees volunteered to assist prior to and during the institute. International ACAC events are built upon the collaborative spirit and selfless volunteerism we witnessed in Incheon. It was beautiful to see!

The learning experience vis-à-vis the EARI curriculum featured four streams of presentations – Beginning Counselor, Advanced Counselor, University Admissions, and Mixed. All of the sessions aimed to provide professional development that would help our members in their current circumstances, to give them tools to further their careers, and to contextualize the learning in an East Asian context. Sessions such as Holistic vs. Formulaic Admission in East Asia, How to Build a Beginning Counseling Office, Working Together for the Best Mutual Outcomes, and Best Practices in Communicating with Families in Asia were led by outstanding

faculty members, but were made rich by informed and passionate participation from audience members.

Finally, the interpersonal and collegial experiences were fun and productive. The goal of registering 150 attendees was achieved, and it seems the right balance was struck: a diversity of perspectives and an opportunity for everybody to have meaningful interactions with each other was achieved.

The Regional Institutes are an integral part of International ACAC's future. As our membership grows, so to does the size of our summer conference. It is so important to see this growth, as it ensures that we are able to advocate for and collaborate with students and colleagues from increasingly diverse personal and professional backgrounds. However, we want to make sure that the issues pertinent to specific regions of the world are given the attention they deserve. We want to make sure that our membership is able to interact in smaller-scale environments that compliment the broader learning and networking opportunities of the summer conference. Want to make sure that members throughout the world are afforded opportunities to contribute to International ACAC and our professional community. That is why we are excited to provide updates on the forthcoming Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Latin America (LARI) Institutes. Following the updates, you will find International ACAC's official announcement that commits to a three-year cycle of institutes throughout the world.

#### MENA Update:

Our first Middle East and North Africa Institute will take place at the American Community School in Abu Dhabi from October 19-21, 2017. The Institute registration is quickly filling up. As of right now there is a fantastic selection of universities on the roster. High School Counselors, we are especially encouraging you to register for the event before it is too late. You will have a chance to learn beside and from institutions that represent Canada, the US, UK, France, Spain, Singapore and more. Please keep an eye on the Regional Institutes section of the International ACAC webpage.

#### LARI Update:

Our first Latin America Regional Institute will take place at the Florida State University campus in Panama City, Panama from March 8-10, 2018. Registration is not yet open, but we strongly encourage you to visit the LARI section of the International ACAC webpage to express your interest. There is a link you can click that will allow you to receive direct updates about registration and programming.

#### Mapping the Future of Regional Institutes:

During Executive Board Meetings in Cleveland this summer, it was decided that future Regional Institutes will move from one region of the world to the next in

three-year cycles. The goal is for International ACAC to host two institutes per year. There was careful consideration paid to how to decide *what is a region in the world?* There are countries like Turkey, Australia, and Egypt that are so important to our membership, but that could perhaps be grouped into one region or another depending on one's perspective. In the end, we have decided to use the Institute of International Education's regional designations.

We are excited to release these designations and announce International ACAC's goal for when and where to hold the next three institutes between the LARI and the next time we officially cycle back to East Asia in 2020.

As you can see from the table below, the next institute that needs to be planned will be in Europe in the Autumn of 2018. From Europe we will aim to host 2019's institutes in Sub-Saharan African and South and Central Asia sequentially. This means that in the near future we will be looking for host institutions, program managers, planning committee members, and faculty members to bring the next three institutes to fruition. This is a great opportunity for the host institution to gain recognition and for volunteers to gain leadership experience and professional development. Having just worked with a wonderful team of people and a brilliant host institution in the University of Utah Asia Campus, I can honestly say that my experience as the EARI Program Manager was one of the most equally challenging and rewarding experiences of my career. I hope that we will have eager members ready to step forward when the time comes!

Following the NACAC Executive Board Meetings, we will release information on how you can express interest in hosting or working on a regional institute. It is our hope that these institutes not only help you connect in settings that are more intimate and relevant to the regional contexts of your work, but that they also provide you with opportunities to get more involved with our organization – something the Executive Board knows is important to everybody!!

Please keep an eye out for MENA and LARI updates. Be ready for another set of announcements after the NACAC conference that will give you important information about future institutes.

# REGIONS

A	B	C	D	E	F
EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC	MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	EUROPE	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

2017	A EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC	B MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
2018	C THE AMERICAS	D EUROPE
2019	E SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	F SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

2020	A EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC	B MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
2021	C THE AMERICAS	D EUROPE
2022	E SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	F SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA