

A SHORT HISTORY OF TANGAZA COLLEGE 1986-2011

Origin

On 7th December 1984, the Religious Superiors' Association of Kenya (R.S.A.K- now the Religious Superiors' Conference of Kenya – R.C.S.K.) established a committee to explore the feasibility of collaborating in a single project for the academic formation of their students.

In April 1985, as a result of the committee's findings, a group of Major Superiors decided to establish a combined institution, to be known as Theological Centre for Religious (T.C.R.). The name was subsequently adjusted to Theological Centre of Religious in order to describe more clearly the inclusive nature of the institution. In 1989, Tangaza College became the legal name of T.C.R. The founding congregations were:

Benedictine Fathers

Camilians

Consolata Missionaries

Congregation of the Holy Cross

Passionist Fathers

Holy Ghost Fathers

In May 1986 before the College opened its doors the Salesians of Don Bosco joined the cooperative venture.

These congregations were subsequently joined by:

Capuchin Franciscan Friars

Discalced Carmelite Friars

Comboni Missionaries

Conventual Franscan Friars

Franciscan Friars Minor

Missionaries of Africa

Institute of Charity

Society of Divine Word

Brothers of the Christian Schools

Dominican Friars

Congregation of the Mission

Society of African Missions

Order of St. Augustine

Congregation of the Marianhill Missionaries

St. Patrick's Missionary Society

These twenty-two now constitute the foundation member congregations or corporate members of Tangaza College.

Opening of the College and initial years

In 1985, in agreement with all the member congregations, The Consolata Fathers undertook responsibility for building the facility on a site owned by them on Langata South Road. Simultaneously, a committee drawn from the various member congregations began planning the curriculum. Teaching began on 25th August 1986, before the building programme was finished, with twenty students enrolling for the first year theology. These students were drawn from seven countries and comprised the following: Consolata Fathers (8), Holy Ghost Fathers (6), Salesians of Don Bosco (6). The studies commenced in two specially prepared rooms. One of these rooms was used as a classroom while the other served as an office for administrative purposes as well as the beginnings of the library organization

and temporary library for the students. Despite the very real constraints of space and the disturbance from the noise of the on-going construction, the study year was successfully completed in May 1987 in a spirit of great cooperation and patience on behalf of all, teachers and students alike.

On 30th October 1987, in the presence of the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Clemente Faccani, the College was formally inaugurated by his Eminence Maurice Cardinal Otunga, Archbishop of Nairobi, who blessed the facility prior to presiding at a Thanksgiving Mass.

By 1st September 1987, with construction of the physical plant by and large completed, and all the necessary procedural requirements and governing structures established, the second year began on a firmer foundation and with a clearer vision. Moreover, in addition to the students from the member congregations, the College was pleased to welcome four Rosminians, one Capuchin and two seminarians from the Meru diocese, bringing the total enrolment to 58, 24 in the second year and 34 in the first.

From the beginning, the College was intended to be a non-residential centre. Therefore member congregations constructed residential halls, mostly in the vicinity of the College in Langata and Karen. However, later on also residential halls were situated further away from the College in other parts of Nairobi.

Constituent College, academic affiliations and aggregations

While strictly retaining its own autonomy in the area of administration and governance, it was envisaged that the College should become a constituent college of the Catholic Higher Institute of Eastern Africa (C.H.I.E.A.) – now the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (C.U.E.A.). It would thus offer degree programmes in theology, religious studies and related ecclesiastical sciences to those studying for the ministerial priesthood as well as to men and women who would benefit from such training in other ministries of the Church. Negotiations with C.H.I.E.A. for this status were begun in March 1986. However, when the first students had completed the prescribed three and a half year study course in 1990, the degree of Bachelor of Divinity was granted by the Urbanian University. From 1989 to 1997 Tangaza College was affiliated to this Pontifical University, through the Apostles of Jesus Scholasticate, Langata. On 5th September 1997 Tangaza College was granted a direct affiliation ad quinquennium to the Pontifical Urbanian University. This expired in 2002. On 5th December 2000 Tangaza College applied for affiliation of the Tangaza Theology Programme to the Pontifical Faculty of Theology of C.U.E.A. The convention of affiliation was signed on 9th July 2003 and expired after 4 years. In 2007 the affiliation was renewed for 5 years(?).

On 3rd November 1992, the Charter of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (C.U.E.A.) was granted by the President of Kenya, His Excellency the Hon. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, and, an Appendix to the Charter, also signed by the President of Kenya, declared Tangaza College to be a Constituent College of C.U.E.A. In addition to the Charter, the relationship of Tangaza College to C.U.E.A. is regulated by the Convention for the Constituent Colleges of C.U.E.A., as approved on 6th February 1997, and amended on 19th September 1997, in conformity with the requirements of the Kenya Government's Commission for Higher Education. In May 2001 a further revision of the Convention for the Constituent Colleges of C.U.E.A. took place.

The Convention is very clear as to the relationship of Tangaza College to C.U.E.A. The College is conceptually part of C.U.E.A. for academic purposes only. Administratively, the College is autonomous, viz. in finances, governance, organizational structures etc.

In 2011 Tangaza College applied to the Pontifical Urbanian University for affiliation and aggregation in theology. With an aggregation to the Pontifical Urbanian University Tangaza College will be authorized to grant licentiate degrees in theology. Moreover this will be a first step in becoming a full fledged pontifical theological faculty.

Academic expansion

Over the years a number of Institutes have been affiliated to Tangaza College or have been established as integrated Institutes of the College.

In November 1995, the Tangaza Board of Governors approved the Institute of Social Ministry in Mission and it became an integral part of Tangaza College.

In May 1996, Christ the Teacher Institute for Education was accepted by the Board of Governors as an Institute of Tangaza College.

In August 1996, the Tangaza Board of Governors approved the Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation and it became an integral part of Tangaza College.

On 2nd September 1998, an agreement was signed for the affiliation of Amani Counselling Centre and Training Institute to Tangaza College.

In May 1999, the Maryknoll Institute of African Studies was academically affiliated to Tangaza College.

In November 2002 the Board of Governors approved that the Social Communication Department of the School of Theology be upgraded to an Institute of Social Communication. It was inaugurated in March 2003 on Tangaza Day and became an integrated Institute of Tangaza College.

In November 2002, the Board of Governors approved the Institute of Youth Ministry as an integrated Institute of Tangaza College. It was inaugurated in March 2003 on Tangaza Day. It received its first students in August 2003.

Beginning in August 2007, Tangaza College entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with DePaul University Chicago-School for New Learning, through which a Bachelors degree programme in Leadership and Management was put on offer under the Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation.

In February 2010 Tangaza College entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Duquesne University in Pittsburg, USA, enabling the School of Theology to offer Masters programs in Theology and in Pastoral Ministry, accredited by Duquesne University.

In 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding between the College and the Catholic University of Milan has been signed to enable the Institute of Social Ministry in Mission to offer an MBA in Social Entrepreneurship accredited by the Catholic University of Milan beginning January 2011.

Nature of the College

Tangaza College started as an institution arising from the co-operation of a number of Religious/Missionary congregations to provide for the theological education of their respective students. Since the 1990s when the different Institutes were founded this nature has been broadened. It is now formulated as follows. Tangaza College is a centre of Catholic theological and ministerial education in the context of the Church in Africa. Students and lecturers come from over 40 countries and approximately 100 Religious/Missionary congregations. Graduates of Tangaza are now ministering in Africa and in various parts of the world. Besides the training of seminarians, the College has grown to embrace the professional and religious education of others, Christians and non-Christians, who meet the entrance requirements, and share in their aspirations to bring the light of the faith into the realities of the world through service for transformation of societies. The College, by its very history and identity is a collaborative effort, sharing resources and teaching personnel in a collaborative effort.

Physical expansion

The original college building, Nuru House, has been extended once in D wing in 1997.

On 20th November 1998 the Board of Governors approved to initiate a building project. The new building called Imani House stands on the Mwithukia plot of 7.5 acres that was bought on 23rd March 1998. It was blessed by Fr. Umberto Pescantini, M.C.C.J., chairman of the Board of Governors and officially opened by Prof. George Saitoti, Minister of Education, Science and Technology 25th March

2003, the College Feast Day. On the same day the Mary Immaculate Library was inaugurated in Imani House. This Library was donated by the Vincentian Eastern Province of the U.S.A.

On 7th November 2003, the Board of Governors approved that a women's hostel be built. For this purpose Tangaza College bought a plot of 1.40 acres from the Consolata Catholic Mission Trustees on 8th February 2005. In August 2006 the Women's Hostel received its first female students as boarders. The Hostel is run by the Daughters of Divine Love from Nigeria.

Number of Students

Tangaza College started with 20 students. In the academic year 1989-1990 the student population reached beyond the 100. In the academic year 1998-1999 there were a total of 505 students, 276 of these in the Theology Programme. The enrolment continued to increase. In the academic year 2005 - 2006 it reached a total of 1001 students, 454 of them in the Theology Programme, the rest in the other Institutes of the College. In the Jubilee Year of the College (2010-2011) the total enrolment is 1233 students. The breakdown for the different Schools and Institutes is as follows: School of Theology: 494; Institute of Social Ministry in Mission 269; Institute of Social Communication: 92; Institute of Youth Ministry: 45; Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation: 91; De Paul Programme: 22; Christ the Teacher Institute of Education: 200; Maryknoll Institute of African Studies: 20.

Principals of Tangaza College

Daniel Lyne C.P.	1986-1987
Lucian Odorico S.D.B.	1987-1988
Andre McGrath O.F.M.	1988-September 1993
Rogath Kimaryo C.S.Sp.	September 1993- December 1993 (Acting Principal)
Martin Coffey C.P.	January 1994-1995 (Acting Principal)
Aylward Shorter M.Afr.	1995-2002
George Kocholickal S.D.B.	2002-2005
Timothy Redmond S.P.S.	2005-2006 (Acting Principal)
	2006- December 2008
Dominic Ehrmantraut F.S.C.	January 2009-July 2009 (Acting Principal)
Paddy Roe C.S.Sp.	2009-

Deputy Principals Academic

Tom McDonald C.S.Sp.	1986-1987
William Blum C.S.C.	1987-1992
Paddy Roe C.S.Sp.	1992-1995
Patrick Harrington S.M.A.	1995-1998
Thomas Kearney C.F.C.	1998-2001
Albert de Jong C.S.Sp.	2001-2007
Dominic Ehrmantraut F.S.C.	2007-2009
Beatrice Churu Ebalé	2009-

Albert de Jong cssp
22nd March 2011