

Dominican International School

Taipei City, Taiwan (ROC)

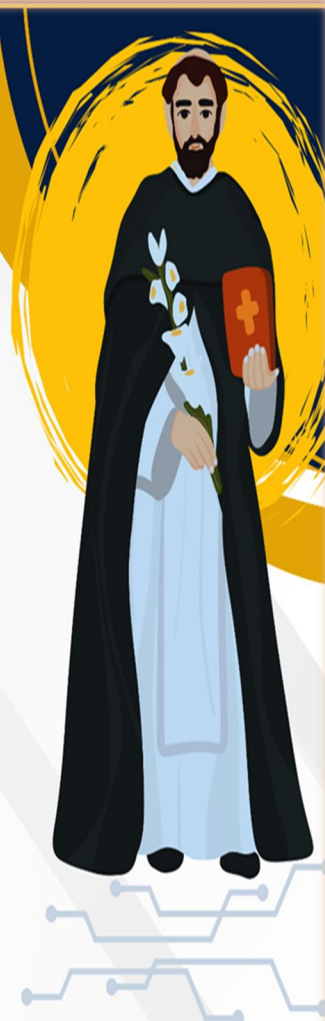
S.Y. 2025-2026



ANNUAL TEACHER AND STAFF CONFERENCE 2025

"KINDLING THE LIGHT OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE:
THE LEGACY OF ST. DOMINIC DE GUZMÁN"

October 7-9, 2025





"KINDLING THE LIGHT OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE:
THE LEGACY OF ST. DOMINIC DE GUZMÁN"



REV. FR. NICANOR PIER GIORGIO AUSTRIACO, O.P., PHD, STD
(KEYNOTE SPEAKER)
"ST. DOMINIC'S LEGACY: A CALL TO TRUTH IN EDUCATION"
LEADERSHIP TRAINING (DEPARTMENT LEADERS)
OCT. 8, 2025 FROM 8:05 AM TO 9:00 AM



MR. DAVID MITCHELL, M.A.
(RESOURCE SPEAKER 1)
SESSION 1: PBL-MEASURING WHAT MATTERS



MR. CHRIS LIN
(RESOURCE SPEAKER 2)
SESSION 2: AI INTEGRATION & FUTURE-READY STRATEGIES



DR. CHIAO FENG-CHUNG
(RESOURCE SPEAKER 3)
CO-REGULATION: LAYING THE
EMOTIONAL GROUNDWORK
FOR LEARNING

IN-HOUSE SPEAKERS:
MR. TIM SAMPSON
MS. ALICE O'HALLORAN
MR. SEB LANGLEY

Faith and Future-Ready Learning

**DIS ANNUAL
TEACHER
AND STAFF
CONFERENCE 2025**





FUTURE-READY LEARNING



DOMINICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
TAIPEI CITY, TAIWAN (ROC)

ANNUAL TEACHERS AND STAFF CONFERENCE

Faith and Future-Ready Learning

Day 1: October 7, 2025 (Tuesday)

Venue: D'TORCH Gymnasium



8:30 AM: Holy Mass – Celebrating the Spirit of St. Dominic and opening minds and hearts to learning

Main Celebrant: *Rev. Fr. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, O.P., PhD., SthD*
Concelebrants: *Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, O.P. and Fr. Francisco Carin, CMF*

9:30 AM: Snacks



10:00 AM: Opening Remarks: Sr. Jackie Manuel, O.P.
Keynote Introduction: Mr. John Erick Moje, M.A.Ed., LPT
Keynote Speech: "St. Dominic's Legacy:
A Call to Truth in Education"

Keynote Speaker: *Rev. Fr. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, O.P., PhD., SthD*



11:AM: Guest Speaker Introduction: Mr. James Seb Langley
Session 1: PBL: Measuring What Matters
Speaker: *Mr. David Mitchell, M.A.*

12:00 PM: Lunch



1:30 PM Guest Speaker Introduction: Mr. Joe Schoeman
Session 2: Cultivating Critical and Creative Thinkers:
AI Integration & Future-Ready Strategies
Speaker: *Mr. Chris Lin, Founder of the KKCompany*



"Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán"

Day One Conference

October 7, 2025

Illuminating the Power of Prayer

The Annual DIS Teacher and Staff Conference began on a deeply spiritual note, commencing with the Holy Eucharist in solemn observance of the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary. The celebration honored the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, setting a foundation of faith for the day's events focused on education and innovation.

The Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., from the Order of Preachers, who served as the main celebrant. He was joined by concelebrants Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, O.P., and Fr. Francisco Carin, C.M.F.

During his inspiring homily, Fr. Austriaco captivated the attendees by sharing the historical significance of the Holy Rosary. He then shared a poignant anecdote involving Saint John Vianney, the Cure of Ars. Fr. Austriaco recounted the story of a woman who was distraught over the tragic death of her husband, believing he was lost. Saint Vianney offered powerful assurance, telling the widow that her husband was saved thanks to her fervent and persistent prayer of the Rosary.



This story underscored the theme of the Dominican Order's commitment to truth and the belief that the Blessed Mother's intercession makes all their educational endeavors possible.

This meaningful Eucharistic celebration signaled a fruitful and grace-filled beginning for the entire conference. By uniting staff and teachers in a profound spiritual act, the organizers cemented the conference's goal: to pursue the Dominican love for Truth (*Veritas*) while drawing strength and guidance from the intercessions of the Blessed Mother. The Mass served as the perfect prelude to the day's keynote address and sessions on future-ready strategies like PBL and AI.



Keynote Speech

Unveiling the Conference's Commitment to Excellence

The conference transitioned from its spiritual opening to its academic core with the welcoming remarks from Sr. Jacqueline Manuel, O.P., DIS Directress/Principal.

Drawing inspiration from the renowned Thomistic philosophical tradition, Sr. Jacqueline formally welcomed all delegates. Her remarks provided an optimistic and forward-looking note, underscoring how the conference, through its panel of illustrious speakers, would directly shape the future of the students. Her address powerfully communicated the school's unwavering commitment to excellence in education and formation.

The Scientist-Theologian: Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P.

Following the Directress's vision, the stage was set for the highly anticipated keynote address. Mr. John Erick Moje, M.A.Ed., LPT, Professional Development Coordinator, then formally introduced the conference's Keynote Speaker, Rev. Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P.

Mr. Moje's introduction was a compelling unveiling of Fr. Austriaco's impressive achievements, highlighting his rare blend of spiritual and scientific brilliance. The speaker was recognized not only for his profound theological background but also for his distinguished career as a Scientist with impeccable educational achievements.

Essentially, the introduction emphasized Fr. Austriaco's advocacy for nation-building and his practical commitment to the marginalized. This includes his laboratory experiments focused on developing more affordable vaccines to help particularly destitute communities. Attendees were further reminded of the depth of his scholarship through the mention of his outstanding publications and authored books. The introduction positioned Fr. Austriaco as the ideal figure to bridge the conference's themes: combining intellectual pursuit (*Veritas*) with practical, future-ready service.

From Humble Roots to Global Scholar

The conference's anticipated keynote, delivered by Rev. Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., commenced with a captivating personal journey that immediately resonated with the audience. A brilliant storyteller, Fr. Austriaco shared his roots in the Philippines, his exposure to international education in Thailand, and his relentless pursuit of knowledge across the globe—a journey that led him to the intersection of science and faith.

His impressive academic path was highlighted, including graduating Summa Cum Laude in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania, prestigious scientific fellowships in London, a Ph.D. in Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and achieving both a Pontifical Doctorate in Sacred Theology and an M.B.A. His pursuit of truth was so compelling that he ultimately answered God's call.

The Call for *Veritas* in the Age of Fake News

The core of Fr. Austriaco's address focused on the critical importance of Truth (*Veritas*) in navigating the present era, which he characterized as precarious due to the rampant proliferation of fake news. He stressed that in this information-saturated world, the capacity for discernment is magnified and becomes a vital skill that educators must cultivate.

Teachers and staff were thoroughly engaged by his magnificent storytelling style, which demonstrated both intellectual joy and profound humility. He shared personal anecdotes from his early years as a classroom teacher, an experience that, he noted, kept him humble and reinforced the core value of the teaching profession.

The Scientific "Aha!" Moment

In a memorable moment that earned an "*Aha!*" response from the audience, Fr. Austriaco synthesized his diverse expertise by explaining the creation story from a biological scientific perspective. Attendees later commented on his extraordinary open-mindedness—a quality made more striking by his immense scholarly achievements.

He concluded his address by powerfully linking the perennial pursuit of Truth to the most contemporary educational frontier: Artificial Intelligence (AI). Fr. Austriaco emphasized the urgent significance of understanding AI and its pivotal role in the modern classroom setting, thus challenging educators to uphold *Veritas even as they embrace the future*.



Session 1

PBL (Project-Based Learning): Measuring What Matters

Speaker: Mr. David Mitchell, M.A.

Dynamic Group Work and the '6 Cs' Framework

The first workshop commenced with a highly dynamic, hands-on activity that engaged teachers and staff based on their specific content areas and student services responsibilities. The session, led by Mr. David, focused on the critical integration of soft skills with the strategic implementation of meaningful Project-Based Learning (PBL) assessment across all school levels and disciplines.

The cornerstone of the workshop was the "6 Cs" Framework, which provided the language and structure for the discussion:

- Citizenship
- Character
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking

Re-evaluating Practice Through Collaboration

Using this framework, the groups launched into interactive conversations designed to revisit their current PBL practices. The highlight of the session was an engaging "Gallery Walk," where teams displayed their assessment ideas and methodologies. This format allowed for constructive comments and peer feedback, enabling participants to analyze and refine the work of other groups.

The workshop successfully moved the faculty toward a more unified and intentional approach to PBL, ensuring that assessments not only measure academic outcomes but also cultivate the essential 21st-century soft skills embodied by the 6 Cs.



Session 2

Cultivating Critical and Creative Thinkers: AI Integration and Future-Ready Strategies

Speaker: Mr. Chris Lin, M.S.

From Tech Unicorn to Educational Mentor

The afternoon session immediately became a source of inspiration as the conference pivoted to the creative integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for future-ready learning. The speaker was Mr. Chris Lin, a renowned serial entrepreneur who fundamentally shaped the digital landscape in Asia.

Mr. Lin isn't just an internet industry pioneer in Taiwan; he's the visionary who launched KKBOX—the world's first music streaming platform—in 2003. He transformed that single idea into KKCompany, a massive, diversified media technology group and a regional tech unicorn. With elite educational foundations from Boston University and Stanford University, Mr. Lin spent two decades building this empire.

However, his powerful choice in 2023 marked a transition from leading a corporation to pursuing his true calling: teaching and mentoring in innovation and entrepreneurship. He now stewards new talent through early-stage investments and advising founders, offering profound lessons on preparing students not just for the jobs of the future, but for a life of purpose.

Practical AI Integration and Pitching Excellence

Mr. Lin's presentation shared practical ways for teachers to engage students with the proper and creative utilization of AI in the classroom.

The faculty was truly wowed by the creative outputs he showcased, specifically the innovative pitches produced by his students during recent workshops. These professional-quality outputs left an inspiring drive among the teachers to be more creative and adventurous regarding the ethical and practical utilization of AI in their own subjects.

This session perfectly complemented the morning's focus on Project-Based Learning (PBL), demonstrating how AI can be the revolutionary tool that elevates PBL assessments, making them authentically "future-ready" and industry-relevant.





FUTURE-READY LEARNING

DOMINICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
TAIPEI CITY, TAIWAN (ROC)

ANNUAL TEACHERS AND STAFF CONFERENCE

Faith and Future-Ready Learning

Day 2: October 8, 2025 (Wednesday)



8:00 AM: *Opening Prayer*

8:05 AM: **Department Leaders' Leadership Workshop**

Speaker: Rev. Fr. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, O.P., PhD, SThD

Venue: Conference Room



8:05 AM: Concurrent Session for all teachers

**The Connected Classroom: Fostering Engagement
Through Technology**

Speakers: Mr. Tim Sampson, Mr. Seb Langley, and Ms. Alice O'Halloran

Venue: Computer Laboratories

9:00 AM Snacks



9:30 AM: **Guest Speaker Introduction:** Ms. Sofia Vintimilla

Co-Regulation: Laying the Emotional Groundwork for Learning

Speaker: Dr. Chiao-Feng

Venue: Auditorium B1



10:30 AM: **Faculty Meeting: Platinum Celebration (70th) of DIS**

Reminders: General Instructions for the outdoor activity
(Mr. Victor and Mr. Henry (Social Committee Members))

Venue: Auditorium B1



"Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán"

Day Two Conference October 8, 2025 Concurrent Sessions

The second day of the Annual DIS Teacher and Staff Conference began with a serene tone, featuring the opening prayer led by Ms. Blanca Delarte, Religious Studies Teacher, setting a reflective stage for the intensive leadership discussions ahead and concurrent sessions.

The day's first major session brought the Department Leaders together in the Conference Room for an exclusive reflection led once again by keynote speaker, Rev. Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P.

Fr. Austriaco on 'Leadership of Hope'

Fr. Austriaco's address, titled "Leadership of Hope: Preaching the Truth with Compassion in an Age of Complexity," centered on a vital and timely question: How can educators serve as agents of hope during a period marked by constantly increasing levels of anxiety?

He diagnosed a critical challenge among today's students, noting that their perception of authenticity is often fractured by an unclear understanding of their own identity. Fr. Austriaco argued that education's role is to become the voice of discernment where confusion lurks and hopelessness abounds.

He eloquently anchored this concept of hope: For Catholics within the institution, hope is fundamentally rooted in Jesus Christ, while for non-Catholics, it is anchored in the strength and solidarity of the community. Furthermore, he drew a powerful correlation between passion and excellence in educational leadership.



Engaging Dialogue on SEL

The presentation led to a relevant and dynamic conversation, particularly when department leaders raised questions and offered reflections on the school's current Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs for both students and teachers, and staff. This dialogue demonstrated the leaders' commitment to translating spiritual and philosophical concepts into practical, compassionate support systems.

The session concluded with Mr. John Erick Moje, Professional Development Coordinator, extending a profound vote of thanks to Fr. Austriaco for the outpouring of his wisdom, expressing the hope that this will be one of many opportunities to benefit from his profound insights.

Concurrent Sessions for Teachers and Staff: AI Integration in Instruction

Concurrent sessions on the integration of AI in instruction were successfully led by three of our own DIS In-House Speakers: Mr. Tim Sampson, Ms. Alice O'Halloran, and Mr. James Seb Langley.

These workshops targeted key institutional goals:

- Mr. Sampson and Ms. O'Halloran ran sessions focused on enhancing teachers' digital skills, directly supporting Goal 7.
- Mr. Seb Langley focused on strategies for addressing the challenges of mixed-ability classrooms, aligning with Goal 4.



Session 2

Co-Regulation: Laying the Emotional Groundwork

Speaker: Dr. Chiao Feng-Chung

The Annual Conference concluded its second day with a highly impactful session led by renowned expert, Dr. Chiao Feng-Chung, who captivated teachers and staff with a fundamental discussion on co-regulation as the essential groundwork for emotional stability in the learning environment.

Dr. Chiao introduced the concept of co-regulation—the process by which a supportive adult helps an individual, particularly a student, manage their emotional state. She emphatically stated that a well-regulated emotional state in educators is not merely a personal benefit but an essential prerequisite for facilitating sound and productive learning for all students.

Moving from theory to application, Dr. Chiao provided the audience with a suite of practical, real-world tools for emotional self-regulation. The core of her lecture focused on strategies to help maintain presence within the "Window of Presence"—a state she described as the optimal neurological zone where the mind is most capable of sound reasoning, complex thinking, and effective learning.

The expert used illustrative examples to clearly demonstrate how staff could identify and navigate back into this optimal state, effectively modeling the calm required to help students regulate their own emotions.

The session culminated in a dynamic and highly relevant panel discussion. Reactor-panelists, consisting of experienced teachers, staff, and administrators, engaged Dr. Chiao with pointed questions. The discussion centered on seeking concrete advice and best practices for navigating actual classroom encounters and challenging student behaviors where the successful application of co-regulation is deeply and immediately involved.





Faith and Future-Ready Learning

Day 2: October 8, 2025 (Wednesday)

Time: 2:00 PM

Venue: D'TORCH Gymnasium



Opening Prayer and Solemn Blessing: Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, O.P.

Opening Remarks: Sr. Rosa Dabhi, CCV, School's Vice-Principal

Awarding Part 1:

- Service Loyalty Awards
- D'TORCH Awards (Teachers and Staff/Maintenance)
- Teachers of the Year Awards

Musical Performance

Inspirational Words: Fr. Francisco Carin, CMF

Awarding Part 2:

- Most Innovative PLC Leadership Award
- Research and Professional Excellence Award

Words of Appreciation

VIP Representative/s: VIP Representative

Student Leader/s: STUCO and DYM Leaders

Congratulatory Remarks: Sr. Jacqueline Manuel, O.P.

Photo Opportunities

Hosts: Mr. John Erick Moje and Ms. Mafalda Wu

Congratulations!



"Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán"



KINDLING THE LIGHT
OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE:
THE LEGACY OF ST. DOMINIC DE GUZMÁN

FAITH

FUTURE-READY LEARNING

**DOMINICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
TAIPEI CITY, TAIWAN (ROC)**

**ANNUAL TEACHERS
AND STAFF CONFERENCE**

Faith and Future-Ready Learning

Day 3: October 9, 2025 (Thursday)

Outdoor Activity & Team Building

Report to DIS.....	8:00 AM
Departure from DIS.....	8:45 AM
Outdoor Activity & Team Building.....	9:00 AM
Yuanshan Bowling Sports Center	
Hilai Island Buffet Restaurant, Nangang.....	11:00 AM
Lunch at Hilai Island Buffet Restaurant.....	11:30 AM
Home Sweet Home!.....	2:30 PM



"Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán"





Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校

No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.

104042 臺北市中山區大直街76號