

# Diaspora Task Group Summary Report

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## Group Members:

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## The Task

Arising out of papers presented at the *Exploring New Horizons* conference in Kuala Lumpur in April 2015 a Task Group was set up to look at issues related to Increase and the Diaspora. A specific task was formulated to address how Increase Members who use SEAN course materials can better serve the Diaspora. Before the *Moving Forward Together* conference in Kuala Lumpur in April 2016, the task group agreed to broaden the task to set the discussion within the global opportunities for mission and discipleship and the role Increase members can play in the discipling of the diaspora.

## Update

The story so far

1. Papers given at the KL conference last year leading to this task group.
2. Questions raised on the ground were taken to SEAN Trustees for discussion and decisions.
3. Out of this David B and Tim G worked on drafting a diaspora package for SEAN partners. This covers 5 main areas:
  - a. Acceptable Group Leader (GL) training: minimum standards for SEAN GL training, so different SEAN groups can accept each other's GL training.
  - b. How to obtain different TEE courses, eg. Agreement Forms
  - c. Translating SEAN courses into new languages: Can people in the diaspora (eg, the US) translate SEAN courses into an Asian language? What are the implications of that for the host country at a later stage (eg. for Vietnam)?
  - d. Developing Digital Courses
  - e. SEAN Courses database
4. At the *Moving Forward Together* conference, the Task Group considered the SEAN documents drafted by David B and Tim G in the light of particular cases and also in view of how these might help Increase members share learning resources more widely. These documents have now been redrafted to be approved by SEAN Trustees as Guidelines for serving the Diaspora.
5. At the *Moving Forward Together* conference, the Task Group began to look at the bigger picture of the diaspora and the role that TEE can play in discipling the nations.
6. The Task Group felt that while much has been accomplished, there is still much to do in terms of:
  - a. articulating the place of TEE in serving the diaspora and in terms of sharing this vision with those inside and outside Increase's Membership.
  - b. clarifying (and simplifying) the processes for diaspora TEE as it spreads more widely across the world.

## Going Forward

The Task Group raised the question as to whether its task is completed. The members felt that there were still things to be accomplished in relation to Increase and the Diaspora (see the Appendix on p2):

1. There is a need to write up the accomplishment of the present task for the sake of SEAN (before Sept 2016) and also for the sake of communication with members and the wider Christian world (within 6 months).
2. One thing the TG has worked on is responding to real situations needing responses. With the ever changing situation, it is likely that other real situations will arise and need addressing and there is a need to draw out principles to help Increase members co-operate effectively. Can this be formulated in such a way as to be a time-bound, measurable task or will it need on-going co-ordination as it is full of complexities and unique situations?
3. The task group also raised a wider vision, i.e., making Increase members and Christians aware at a wider level of the need and opportunity; linking with networks and partnerships to make others aware, reporting on this in plenary feedback. Could this become the next task for the group?
4. Since this is a growing need with complex realities, it would be good for the Increase Committee give the group a new mandate and review the membership of the group going forward.

## **Appendix: Diaspora Tasks still to be done**

- a. Writing up progress so far
- b. Envisioning
  - i. Increase Network (converted and unconverted)
  - ii. Churches and Missions
  - iii. TEE Students, Tutors and Practitioners
- c. Empowering (i-iii above)
  - i. Making courses available
  - ii. How to get started
  - iii. Group leader Training
- d. Partnering with Diaspora Networks
- e. Providing resources (for b. c. and d. above)
  - i. Articles
  - ii. Presentations
  - iii. Examples
  - iv. TEE course
- f. Continuing to reflect on complexities and particular situations to find solutions