

Redeemer WASC-ONESQA Joint Accreditation Visit

By Mike Booton, RIST Assistant Principal



Thanks to everyone in the Redeemer-Ruamrudee community who made the accreditation process a great success. School improvement does not end with an accreditation visit. It is a valuable step along the way to building a stronger, more effective school. During the self-study and visit, everything comes under the microscope. Afterwards, all stakeholders, armed with the wise observations of expert visitors, can continue to work together to build an excellent school. RIST: Excited About Learning -Valuing the Individual - Celebrating Community.

“Just approaching Redeemer International School Thailand one gazes out of the bus to beautiful houses adjacent to ponds sporting flowers one only imagines in dreams. The school entrance to a fairly new building welcomes the traveler into a six-floor complex of classrooms surrounding an atrium. People are smiling everywhere and the students give every visitor a friendly greeting. The feeling of good, wholesome, education prevails.” This introduction to the WASC-ONESQA Visiting Committee report sets the tone for 36 pages of very positive feed-back following the five-day accreditation visit, 16-20 November.

Preparing for an accreditation visit is a huge undertaking with all members of the school community, students, parents, faculty, administration and the Board of Directors, working hard for months on surveys, reports, documents, data and action plans that show the schools strengths and areas for growth. During the visit, the visiting team worked tirelessly observing classes, holding meetings with all stakeholders, interviewing individual students and teachers, and then working late into the night so that they could leave a quality report with us before their departure.

Accreditation with an international accrediting agency like WASC (the Western Association of Schools and Colleges), based in California, is vital for any international school.

International accreditation guarantees that the educational program is of a high standard, and that the RIST diploma is accepted in universities throughout the world. RIST already achieved interim accreditation in 2005 but this visit was required for continuing accreditation and was the culmination of two years of rigorous self-study. There is now a joint accreditation process between WASC and ONESQA, the Thai Office for National Educational Standards and Quality Control, and one member of the five-strong visiting committee represented the Thai authorities.

The members of the distinguished team that visited Redeemer were:

Mr. Michael Saffarewich, Chair, Head of School (Ret.)
Fukuoka International School, Japan

Mrs. Rebecca C. Buettner, Director of Assessment and Accountability
Oxnard Union High School District, California, U.S.A.

Mrs. Alana Lisa Copple, Curriculum Coordinator, School Consultant
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Mr. Brent Fullerton, Teacher, Pasir Ridge International School
Balikpapan, Indonesia

Mr. Wannasarn Worakit, ONESQA Representative
Thailand

(Members of the school community can access the full Visiting Committee report at:

<http://www.rist.ac.th/Redeemer/wasc/VC%20Final%20Report%20Nov%2008.pdf>)

