



Dear Partner,

Blessings to you in Christ! Alongside leaders of regional theological associations, presidents, principals, and rectors of other institutions, I invite you to participate in a select group of approximately 200 Majority World theological schools who seek to learn together through the [ScholarLeaders Vital SustainAbility Initiative \(VSI\)](#). We have developed this list with input from several regional leaders, including existing participant schools, local accrediting bodies, and partner ministries.

I sincerely hope you will join this network. **Please register by [clicking here](#).**

Through *VSI*, *ScholarLeaders* works directly with individual schools to develop a plan for the school to strategically achieve its unique mission in service to the Church in its context. Among the 200 schools, *ScholarLeaders* will work in person with approximately 50 institutions. From our work with these individual schools, we have begun to develop resources to share knowledge with the more extensive network of 200 schools.

School leaders who have participated in *VSI* already have praised the program's effectiveness:

I highly recommend *VSI* to theological schools throughout the world. Asian Theological Seminary (ATS) was one of three schools which participated in the first round of the project, and I am deeply grateful for how *VSI* assisted us in developing a five-year strategic plan for the seminary, especially in discerning strategic priorities and referring us to other global partners in theological education. *VSI* never works extraneously, imposing ideas and plans to schools; rather, it enables and empowers the flourishing of theological schools through organic planning flowing from a ministry of global partnership in Christ's body.

Timoteo Gener, President
Asian Theological Seminary, The Philippines

The *VSI* Project turned out to be very vigorous, thorough, and comprehensive. The painstaking study has meant so much to NBTS. Thus far it has benefited us in a number of ways. **First**, renewal and clarity of our institutional vision. NBTS is an old school with a renewed vision. **Second**, addition to institutional sustainability through strategic actions and focus on infrastructural projects. **Third**, development of academic administrative competence, to improve and implement a curriculum to better prepare and equip Christian leaders to address contextual issues theologically.

Emiola Nihinlola, President, Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary
Ogbomosho, Nigeria

Schools that join the 200-school network will:

- Gain free access to articles, research, and resources for institutional development that emerge from the *VSI* process. Current topics include strategic planning; faculty development; financial sustainability and the economics of theological education, and other contextual resources.
- Interact with leaders from peer institutions as part of the *ScholarLeaders* network.
- Participate in surveys and other research related to the development of theological education in the Majority World.
- Receive a free subscription to the *InSights Journal for Global Theological Education*.



As an example of what we have learned through the first phase of this project, with highlights from five of the participant schools, I encourage you to read the article, "[In Pursuit of Sustainability: Strategy & Planning for Theological Education.](#)"

You can read more about *VSI* and watch a video featuring leaders from the first group of *VSI* institutions [here](#). Again, I invite your participation in our network, which you can join by [clicking here](#).

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the benefits of being a participant school. I want to assure you that your contact information will not be shared with anyone without your permission. I look forward to learning and growing together as we strengthen the witness of the Church and change society through theological education.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emmanuel Bellon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "B".

Emmanuel Bellon, PhD
Vice President
Director, *Vital SustainAbility Initiative*
ScholarLeaders