



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

**Presented to the
Executive Committee meeting
On 25 March 2009, Hong Kong**

ASIA AND PACIFIC ALLIANCE OF YMCAs

Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
Annual Report to the
Executive Committee Meeting, March 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

We are passing through an era where:

- *the world is facing an acute financial crisis*
- *millions of young people are loosing their jobs*
- *terrorism and war on terror is on the rise*
- *natural and manmade calamities are escalating*
- *individual freedom and right to life are increasingly being denied.....*

Feelings of fear, anger, confusion, anxiety, sadness, hopelessness and discouragement are seen everywhere. Who's to blame for the crisis currently sweeping the globe? Where are we heading?

Searching on different perspective understanding of the current tragic situation lead us to the Chinese word (*Ngai Gai*) for CRISIS. It is made of two symbols one representing 'danger' and another representing 'opportunity'. The implications of this derivative are intriguing. While the 'danger' in crisis is the painful breaking up of the communities, the 'opportunity' in crisis gives the chance to be more united and identify unjust structures by reviewing self and the world towards restoring abundance life for all.

How do we respond to the current crisis as a community of faith? The letter of James (1: 2-4) says, "*when ever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing*".

The 17th General Assembly's mandate was a PROPHETIC VOICE, calling us to *strive as one body in Christ to respond as Global Citizens in carrying out our Social Responsibility, fostering Peace with Justice, and promoting Sustainability for Life.*

Furthering the quadrennial thrusts was our primordial focus during the year and our standing committees have undertaken significant initiatives during the year. Roundtables and Forums organized under the auspicious of these committees have stimulated discussions on Global Citizenship, Peace with Justice and Security and articulated fresh contextual mission imperatives. It also developed framework for actions at different levels, reviewed the work of YMCAs and move towards exploring alternative ways of carrying out our tasks towards initiating communities of practice. Youth participation and leadership and concerns on Gender Equality again given greater priority.

The Executive Secretaries report as well as report of the standing committees appended to this and the QPP Progress report will give a vivid picture of the actions that is taking place at various levels.

2. QUADRANNIAL PROGRAMME PLANS

*We have experienced several opportunities and challenges in our journey with Quadrennial Programme plan prepared based on the mandates of the General Assembly. The challenges reminded us on the intensity of our inter- relationships. We have had the nice feeling of **TOGETHERNESS** from all corners of the YMCA Movement and our partners in facing social and organizational challenges in the implementation of the QPP envisioned for the year.*

2.1 Roundtable on YMCA as Global Citizens in Mission 21

SEARCHING Contextual Imperatives for Mission was the basic objective of the historic gathering of the 57 YMCA leaders from across the region in Manila for a Roundtable on *YMCA as Global Citizens in Mission 21*. It was a journey of learning, unlearning and relearning. The participants found the need to simultaneously make a critique and offer alternatives on the changing global trends and impact of globalisation on individual and community life; and the renewal of our Asia-Pacific contextual mission. The *Manila Commitment* provided a renewed commitment to the vision and contemporary mission of the YMCA, to pursue imperatives and guidelines for contextual action. (See Appendix 1)

2.2 Forum on Global Citizenship

STIMULATING discussion on Global Citizenship and developing practical actions was given grater emphasis this year. The Forum on Global Citizenship held in Tokyo conceptualized *Global Citizenship as an awareness and act of commitment rooted in the spirit of global consciousness and interconnectedness of the world. It recognizes the need to understand global realities and social responsibilities and motivates the people to develop mindset as citizens of the world with human and ethical values. It promotes the collective community social responsibilities and actions towards justice, peace and sustainability of life by citizens as change agents.* The participants observed that in this globalized world Rights, Duties, Membership and Participation as key components to Citizenship by integrating notions of universal human rights, environmental and planetary interests, multiculturalism and the emergence of an information society and they understood Global Citizenship as a pragmatic response to these conditions. The forum also developed a curriculum framework and formulated guidelines for furthering actions. The Tokyo Statement on Global Citizenship also includes recommendations to WAY, APAY and National Movements in order to move further. (See Appendix 2)

2.3 Roundtable on Peace and Security

SECURITY politics was critiqued and challenged in our Roundtable on Peace and Security held in Sri Lanka. The Roundtable developed strong conceptual base on peace and justice for understanding the emerging peace and security issues in the region and call for a shift from political security to human safety that encompasses economic development, social Justice, environmental protection and democratization. The participants shared the view that peace is possible only with the eradication of the root causes of poverty, violation of human rights, aggression, violence, counter violence, terrorism, issues of economic safety, food safety, environmental safety and socio-political safety. The Roundtable suggested guidelines for action that encompasses the promotion of deeper cultural understanding, people-to-people

contacts and enhanced cooperation in uplifting the lives and well-being of our people in order to promote environmental protection, protection of migrant workers, natural disaster mitigation and resolution of human right violations. The Roundtable made significant recommendations to APAY and National movements, which includes the development of Sub Regional level peace forums that could address the common issues and develop people's solidarity for building peace and harmony. (See Appendix 3)

2.4 Youth Roundtable on Globalization and Its Impacts

Valuing the local community wisdom “*hiroba*”, a Japanese indigenous community concept *to share and learn to live and act responsibly* has enhanced the participants understanding on the impact of globalisation and global citizenship on youth in society. APAY Youth Roundtable held in Tozanso has given opportunity for youths to deliberate, share and develop a common framework for practical responses on identified focus areas and specific issues affecting them. The youths were engaged in a learning process throughout the programme and were given the opportunities to critically reflect on issues affecting them and to develop a common framework of action responses, the ‘*Tozanso Hiroba Consensus*’. They call on all local and National movements to adopt the ‘*Consensus*’ principles and to take action to address the issues of globalisation faced by youths, together with them as global citizens. (See Appendix 4)

2.5 1st Asia and Pacific University YMCA (UNI-Y) Conference

STUDENT members of the YMCAs in the Region had a unique opportunity to be part of the 1st Asia and Pacific UNI-Y Conference organized in collaboration with the Chinese YMCA in Hong Kong. This move towards encouraging youth participation and leadership in various YMCA work by engaging them in meaningful platforms. The Uni-Y's shared and reflected on the issue of ‘extreme poverty and disparity’ and our social responsibilities in today's context. At the same conference, the University YMCA Asia Pacific (UYAP) Network was formed. The founding members of this Network are the Uni-Ys of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, YMCA of Singapore and YMCA of the Philippines. Metropolitan YMCA of Singapore, YMCA of Taiwan, University YMCAs of the National Council of Japan and National Council of Korea are co-founders.

2.6 YMCA – YWCA – Y's Men Int-: Partnership in Mission

STRENGTHENING Partnership in Mission was emphasized in the Triangular deliberations of YMCA – YWCA – Y's Men International arranged in collaboration with the Regional Roundtable on Mission. Representatives of the Y's Men Asia Area, Y's Men South Pacific, World YWCA (represented by YWCA of Philippines) joined in the deliberations. Apart from understanding the current engagements of the three organizations, the meeting put forward recommendations that lead to furthering partnership in mission between these organizations at local, National and Regional level by recognizing each other and strengthening collaborations.

2.7 School of Peace

SCHOOL OF PEACE was yet another ecumenical initiative together with Church Development Service (EED Germany) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) grew out

of a deep conviction that dialogue between different faiths and spiritualities is an essential component to any process of confronting the violence. The third school of peace was successfully concluded at the Visthar Campus in Bangalore. In the past three school of peace of the ICF, 49 people from 10 countries have participated. Work now continues with this core group of activists to build interfaith just peace programs at the local, national and regional levels through workshops designed to sharpen knowledge and skills for active engagements.

2.8 3rd Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Gathering

SOUTH KOREA was the venue for the 3rd Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Gathering (ASYG) 2008. This is our continuing partnership programme with the Ecumenical Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Network (EASY Net). Building peace across boundaries was the main theme of the young peacemakers gathering. The ecumenical youths and students across Asia-Pacific were provided an avenue to collectively study, reflect and take actions towards contributing in building a culture of peace.

2.9 Workshop on Empowering Women for Mission and Development

Empowering Women for participation and leadership responsibilities for mission and development was the main focus of the Regional training workshop on Empowering Women for Mission and Development held in Chiang Mai. . Participants had an experiential learning on addressing gender issues in a more holistic and practical approach. This training workshop is our continuing response to our ongoing actions for developing women capacity, fostering Gender Equity and furthering partnership between women and men within the YMCA.

3. MOVEMENT STRENGTHENING.

***STRATEGIC** Directions of the World Alliance continued as our thriving force in strengthening of the movements in the Region. We have worked with movements on multi-lateral collaborative efforts to share resources through coordinated initiatives to strengthen movements for the delivery of their mission imperatives. Revitalising of movements in difficult situation and strengthening of emerging YMCAs are also given grater priority.*

3.1 Revitalising Movements in Crisis

The leadership crisis situation in **YMCA Bangladesh** is over and the restoration of the Bangladesh YMCAs is in progress. Normal activities have resumed there. Mr. Symon P. Adhikary had been elected as the new President of the National YMCA at the 30th Annual General Meeting held on 25th April 2008. The AGM was held in the presence of the Representative of the World Alliance. The National Council had also reinstated Mr. Duncan Chowdhury as National General Secretary thereafter. The Special General Meeting of the NCY held on 12 December 2008 adopted all the constitutional amendments proposed by the Constitution Review Committee and recommended by the World Alliance. They have completed the financial audit up to date and now in the final stages of restoring relationship with the NGO Affairs Bureau. Dr. Park Jai Chang and Mr. Bill Harte visited Bangladesh as observers representing APAY and World Alliance and had made these recommendations.

We continue our effort to revitalise the **YMCAs in Papua New Guinea and Fiji** through the YMCA of Australia and New Zealand. Updated information's on these YMCAs are being provided by YMCA Australia and New Zealand for discussion in the Movement Strengthening Committee.

Mr. John Shafaq, National General Secretary of the **Pakistan YMCA** has passed away on 1 February 2009, adding another difficulty in the restoration of the Pakistan YMCA during the year. The ongoing bilateral partnership of the Japan YMCA with Lahore YMCA is continuing as major source for keeping connected with Pakistan YMCA. Mr. Kohei Yamada has given a detailed report on the current position of the Pakistan YMCA for discussion in the MS Committee.

The YMCA Nepal has received full membership with the World Alliance of YMCAs during the year 2007. Dr. Nastu Sharma and Mukti Nath Acharya continuing as National President and National General Secretary. **The Indonesia YMCA** continues as an associate member in the World alliance. The National Meeting held in Makassar on 25-26 October 2008 elected new National board for the period 2009-2011 with Rev. DR. Martin Lukito Sinaga as President and Rr. Manda Andrian as Secretary. The **YMCA Samoa** is under the status of 'suspended movement' with the World Alliance. **The YMCA Tahiti** is maintaining their full membership with the World Alliance of YMCAs but they are not in communication with APAY and hence their functional status is unavailable with us.

3.2 Strengthening Emerging YMCAs

The **leadership workshop** on mission organised with the support of the Partners Coordination Group in **Timor Leste** also reviewed the work of the TL YMCA and develop plan for action for next three years. Mr. Ishibashi, APAY coordinator for East Timor has completed his 4 years assignment in East Timor and returned to Japan YMCA. We appreciate his dedicated service for the development of the TL YMCA. NCY Korea continued its support to this YMCA through the Fair Trade Coffee project and other community development programmes. NCY Japan and APAY are continuing as other members of the PSG.

The **Cambodia YMCA** is renamed as Cambodia Young Men's Christian Alliance (CYMCA) and has registered with the Ministry of Interior in 2008. It is moving towards self-reliance process. YMCA of Hong Kong, YMCA Hemiji Japan, YMCA Australia and Singapore YMCA are in close contact with the Cambodia YMCA.

Existence of the YMCA in **Magnolia** is in difficult situation and the matter will be discussed in the MS committee. YMCA of Korea is in close contact with the YMCA in Magnolia.

3.3 Partnership for Movement Strengthening

The Movement Strengthening process of Sri Lanka YMCA is in progress based on its five Pillars - Strategic Development, Programme Development, Membership Development, Human Resource Management, Professional Development and Strong Governance.

The Philippines YMCA MS programme focuses on Program Development, Membership Development, Human Resource Management, Governance/Board Management,

Development of Properties and Upgrading of Facilities. The YMCA of USA is extending its support for both processes in Sri Lanka and Philippines.

3.4 Responsiveness through Mission in Action (MAP)

Our Mission in Action programme continues to foster responsiveness to contextual realities and the APAY quadrennial priorities. MAP system is now undergoing a review process by the Task group to suggest recommendations to enhance its effectiveness. The following MAP programmes are continued in this year too.

1. Rebuilding Lives of Children at Risk in YMCA Myitkyina, Myanmar in partnership with Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong
2. Community Rebuilding and Empowerment for Sustainable Development in Philippines in Partnership with the National Council of YMCAs of Japan
3. Entrepreneurial Training for Young School Leavers in Medan in partnership with Kumamoto YMCA/ NCY Japan

4. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

STRENGTHENING leadership for transformation continues as our focal point in our leadership development actions. The diversity and complexity of the Asian and Pacific context call for a YMCA leadership, rooted in our founding philosophy and spirituality to transform lives and to empower individuals and communities. It is a leadership that takes cognizance of the realities of the day and responds in love to bring justice and peace, to build harmonious societies. The Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, as a facilitator and enabler, is striving proactively to consolidate training and support the building of capacities of YMCA leadership at different levels.

26-Advanced Study Programme

The 26th Advanced Studies programme was yet another experiential journey of learning and sharing of the participants together with the interactive exchange of inputs provided by the resource persons/facilitators on the thematic concepts and knowledge components. The participants were motivated and challenged to initiate and or enhance transformation process in their own movements and communities. The impact of this leadership development programme on the participants was largely reflected in the presentation of their contextual programme responses submitted towards the fulfillment of the Advanced Studies Programme.

The 26th ASP was inaugurated by Mr. Louis Tong, Chairperson of the Council of YMCA of Hong Kong on 28 October at an Inauguration Ceremony hosted by the YMCA of Hong Kong, while Rev. Jack Young, APAY Vice President, officiated at the Graduation Ceremony and presented Certificates to the graduates hosted by the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong on 28 November. The participants also had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Park Jai Chang, President APAY and Dr. Bart Shaha Secretary General of the WAY.

13 participants from 10 National movements have successfully graduated in this year's Advanced Study programme, including one participant from Kenya and one from Argentina

We thank the Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong for their support to participants from the YMCAs of China and Myanmar, and the IHQ Y's Men International for their support for Participants from outside the region through the Alexander Scholarship Fund.

5. RESPONDING TO DISASTERS AND SUFFERINGS

We have experienced several natural calamities in the region during the year such as the Earth Quake in Sichuan, Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, Flood in Bihar and Bushfire in Australia. Together as one family, the YMCA movement could respond to these calamities meaningfully.

5.1 Actions on Emergency Relief / Rehabilitation

SICHUAN Earth Quake relief was yet another occasion for the YMCA fraternity to show our solidarity with the victims of the devastating **earthquake** on 12 May 2008 in Sichuan province, which took the life of 69226 people. The APAY have made appeal to the National Movements and mobilized relief fund for the for the rehabilitation work. The Chengdu YMCA used the amount for the repair of the YMCA Building and Primary School as proposed. Including APAY contribution, the Chengdu YMCA receive contribution of RMB 3014863 from the YMCA fraternity and same is used for emergency relief, community rebuild including providing food, drinking water and clothing, repair of school buildings, equipments, desks, chairs and beds for boarding school. Medical services and Psychological comforts were also provided as part of the comprehensive rehabilitation plan.

SOLIDARITY with the people who are affected badly in the **Cyclone Nargis** that struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008 was expressed by the YMCA Movements by Contributing to the APAY Relief Fund. However the coordination and implementation of the Emergency relief and Rehabilitation work in Myanmar turned to be difficult process due to the political situation in Myanmar and lack of programme plan from the National YMCA in Myanmar. We are still pursuing to receive detailed implementation plan and budget for disbursing the fund mobilized for the purpose with the approval from the movements who contributed for this fund.

SUPPORT extended by the YMCA Australia to the victims of recent **Bushfire Tragedy** was not just in the form of bricks and mortar, but also to rebuild the emotional and physical strength of the individuals, families and communities involved. As part of the YMCA's response to the bushfire the Victoria YMCA set up a Bushfire Response Team, centrally coordinated at YMCA Victoria towards ensuring support as a collaborative approach with partners and communities. Every YMCA Centre willingly responded to call to act as a collection point for non-perishable and personal care items.

The **SUPAUL**, Saharsa and Madhepura districts of the India's poorest state **Bihar** were badly affected as a result of changing the course of Kosi River. The YMCA of India initiated emergency relief programme through the Patna YMCA procuring support of local YMCAs in India, other NGOs as well as Y care International. The major intervention was in the form of supply of household and livelihood materials, emergency medical relief and trauma counselling in the most affected districts.

5.2 Asian Tsunami Response- Builds Sustainable Communities

SUSTAINABILITY at the level of the community and organization was given greater priority in the all the three Tsunami Response programs during the year. Final meetings of the partners coordination groups (PCG) had in **Sri Lanka**, Indonesia and India during the year. The external evaluation of the Sri Lanka Tsunami response is completed and reports / recommendations are shared. External evaluation of the **India Tsunami Response** in process and support to the Community building and Vocational Training programmes will continue until 2010. Following the YTRP programme in Nias community in **Indonesia**, an integrated development programme *HEAL (Health, Education, Adult Illiteracy and Livelihood)* was initiated. Together with the local communities, the Medan YMCA is now implementing the Programme in partnership with Y Care International.

5.3 Solidarity with the victims of Civil War

SYMPATHIES and concerns are expressed by APAY on the increasing bloodshed in Gaza, which took the life of more than 1000 people including 100 children and put thousands into miseries. A message has been sent to **Gaza YMCA** expressing our solidarity with their endeavors and other YMCA movements in Middle East towards building lasting peace in the Region. The YMCA Korea is closely working with the YMCA East Jerusalem.

SUFFERINGS of the people in **Sri Lanka** are escalated with the ongoing civil war. The Sri Lanka YMCA sent appeal to all its Member YMCAs updating the Humanitarian situation in the Vanni Area and requested assistance to support the children in crisis. Noting the large number of the Internally Displaced Persons, the YMCA in collaboration with the NCC suggested to concentrate the needs of Children under 3 years of age at IDP (Internally displaced people) Camps. The Sri Lanka YMCA has been in close contact with World Alliance of YMCAs and APAY updating the situation in the Country to buildup an International appeal to all International YMCAs to have concerted efforts for rebuilding communities.

6. TASK FORCES FOR FURTHERING RESPONSES

SYNERGISING actions on focus issues was the idea behind in setting up of task forces on different issues by the respective standing committees. The **TF on Global Citizenship** have developed a conceptual base for the concept of Global Citizenship in the context of the YMCA, the **TF on Ageing** is striving to develop frame work for action responses and assisting in the convening of a Forum on Ageing Population in 2009, **TF on fair Trade** move well ahead in exploring opportunities in building sustainable community within the circle of YMCA to mobilize resource for sustainable fair-trade. It also suggested the possibility of establishing a Global YMCA Tourism network. The **TF on constitution** review drafted its recommendations and circulated to National Movements for feedback. The **TF on leadership development** continue to explore the possibility of establishing a multi-centered institute by tie-up with university for academic credit on leadership and community development focuses. The **TF on Resource mobilization** is yet to start discussion as it is waiting to receive the adopted strategy of the World Alliance on resource mobilization.

7. GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY TRUST FUND

The Golden Anniversary Trust Fund (GATF) is a concerted fundraising effort of the Alliance to support local and National YMCAs' actions to help poor, disadvantaged or marginalized communities.

7.1 Status of the Fund

The total receipts were US\$1,231,201 (*Dec. 2007 – US\$1,207,636*) as at 31 December 2008. Contributions/Income for the period 1 April 1996 – 31 December 2008

No.	Category	Pledged Total 2007	Pledged Total 2008	Received as at Dec 2007	Received as at Dec 2008	Balance of Pledges
1	National Movements	700,484	703,791	699,915*	703,223*	568
2	Local YMCAs	192,292	192,292	132,805	132,805	59,487
3	Other Organizations	23,516	23,516	23,516	23,516	
4	Individuals	132,306	132,306	119,365	119,365	12,941
	Sub-total 1	1,4048,598	1,051,905	975,601	978,909	72,996
5	Sales/Miscellaneous	–	–	10,999	10,999	–
6	APAY Surplus (10%)	–	–	7,095	7,302	–
	Sub-Total 2	–	–	18,094	18,301	–
7	Interest Received	–	–	213,941	233,991	–
	Sub-Total 3	–	–	213,941	233,991	–
	Total (ST 1,2,3)	1,4048,598	1,051,905	1,207,636	1,231,201	72,996

* Including Additional Contribution from the Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong of amount in lieu of hosting dinner for the ECM, since 2004

7.2 Investments

Investments totalled US\$708,921 (2007, US\$1,096,388) in bonds and fixed deposits, with fixed deposit interest rates averaging 2% against the bonds average 4%. In this year, with the new deposit interest rates dropping, we will have to review our investment instruments in 2009.

Loss on Investment

Due to the unexpected financial tsunami - the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers Holding Inc, GATF was suffered on the investment for: -

Pacific Int'l Fin Ltd (7A) US\$55,000, subscribed on January 2004

Pacific Int'l Fin Ltd (36A) US\$350,000, subscribed on May 2008

All GATF Trustees decided to provide the impairment loss amount of US\$405,000 for matching the standard of HKAS 36.

The total interest from bonds and fixed deposits received in 2008 was US\$18,820 (2007 US\$55,363). In 2009, the return from fixed deposits is expected to be in around US\$1,300 average rate 1.3% or below.

8. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

We ended the year under review with a surplus of US\$1,861 (2007:US\$25,790) compared to a budgeted surplus of (US\$52). This was achieved primarily as a result of lower operating expenditure of US\$309,718 (budget: US\$374,448) by 17.3%. By the way, the total Income of US\$311,579 (2007:US\$363,751) was lower than budgeted US\$374,500 by 16.8% came from less contribution for travel subsidy for special programme and APYDF.

Total expenditure of US\$309,718 was lower than the budgeted US\$374,448 (2007: US\$337,961 or 8.4%. It was due to the lack of General Secretary for 2 months, by the way taken a tightly monitoring on operation expenses and programme support costs.

The year's net surplus of US\$1,861 has brought the accumulated surplus to a total of US\$134,307 (2007: US\$132,446)

Total investment as at 31 December 2008 was US\$800,000. Cash at banks was US\$366,777 and actual cash in hand was US\$5,508. These amounts also include amounts held for the Golden Anniversary Trust Fund, Myanmar Cyclone Nargis Relief & Rehabilitation Fund Asia Tsunami Response Programmes, APAY-Quadrennial Programme Plan, and APAY General Funds.

Bond Investments of US\$600,000 were on behalf of the Golden Anniversary Trust Fund. The Golden Anniversary Trust Fund as at 31 December 2008 dropped to US\$711,395 compared to US\$1,100,092 for the year before. It was caused by the written off of PIFL Bond 7A US\$55,000 and PIFL Bond 36A US\$350,000, all decisions were made by the Trustees of GATF.

9. PERSONNEL

The **APAY SECRETARIAT** operated under the same structure and with the same number of staff. The Officers met and initiated a Search Committee to seek for a replacement, when the health of the late Mr. Yip showed signs of rapid deterioration. While the search process going on, the late Mr. Yip returned to the Lord on October 31st. Ms. Maria Cristina A Dalope from Philippines and Mr. Jose Varghese from India are serving as Executive Secretaries. Ms. Fion Fung, Accountant; Ms. Irene Chan, Administrative Assistant, Cheung Yeuk Sze, Office Attendant; has worked hard and with great dedication to their tasks. Significant efforts have been made to review and revise the personal policy of the APAY by the officers during the year.

Tribute To Late Yip Kok Choong

The entire YMCA world was shocked and saddened by the untimely demise of Mr. Yip Kok Choong, General Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs on 31 October 2008. YMCA movement lost a professional leader who has shown high standards of professionalism and leadership qualities. His vision and unfailing commitment towards building community and youth/women participation resulted the emergence of significant multilateral cooperations and actions at various levels of the movement in the Region. He had endeared himself to the

entire YMCA family in the world through his ever-inspiring leadership and affectionate relationship he has maintained with the lay leaders and professional colleagues alike.

Together with the family members, hundreds of people from YMCAs across the world, ecumenical partners, church members and friends from different walks of life joined in the Necrological services on 6 November in Hong Kong and on 8-10 November in Kuala Lumpur in celebration of Yip's life in this world. Several YMCA leaders, including Dr. Park Jai Chang, President of the APAY, Dr. Bart Shaha, Secretary General of the World Alliance, Colleagues and friends shared eulogy and expressed their life-celebrating stories together with Yip. Letters of condolences from the YMCA leaders, volunteers and staff expressing their deepest sentiments and solidarity with Yip's family were received from all over the world. We thank all of you for your words of comforts to Mrs. Lucy Lim Yip and to APAY.

10. TOGETER IN COMMUNIQUE

SIGNIFICANT efforts have been made to enhance our communications with the National / local movements, partners and members of the various committees and task groups. Our *e News* has become an important channel of communication of our information and information from national movements to all who associate with APAY. Report of the General Assembly, Roundtable on Mission, Forum on Global Citizenship and Roundtable on Peace and Security produced during the reporting period will serve as useful guides for furthering actions at National / local levels. As regards our YMCA website, we have been working to update it. YMCAs have informed us of their latest e-mail addresses and websites. Kindly share with us any changes or new contact details/Programme information/news of your YMCAs.

11. APPRECIATION

The review of our work for the year 2008 will not be complete without expressing our appreciation and thanks. No words of thanks could truly express the appreciation we feel for all those who have had a part in our work and in our challenges.

To the Local, National YMCA boards and Professional Colleagues, for their cooperation, support, and counsel.....our gratitude and appreciation.

To Dr. Park Jai Chang, the President for his caring support and gentle guidance, and inspiring leadership, and to the supportive, understanding and collective leadership of Rev. Jack Young, Mr. Liew Mun Khai, Prof. P.J. Oommen, Mr. Paul le Gros, the Vice Presidents; and Mr. Takao Nishimura, the Treasurer..... our deepest appreciation.

To the World Alliance of YMCAs and other Area Alliances.... for their concern and support our sincere appreciation

To the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong for its invaluable support our heartfelt appreciation.

12. MOVING FORWARD

SIXTY YEARS have passed through in the journey of AAY/ APAY with its mission of transforming lives of the people and communities. At this historic juncture we salute our past leaders for their vision and dedicated efforts for strengthening the YMCA fellowship in Asia / Asia Pacific.

As we move forward with our mission , what kind of a transformation we are looking for in our communities ?and what kind of a path we are taking for the transformation ? and what else do we need to do for this transformation in this world of crisis ?

This reminded us our Assembly theme *Strengthening Spirituality, Solidarity , Sustainability*. The spirituality that imbibe in us calling us to transform ourselves as Christ like Personalities , emptying ourselves , partnering with sufferings and journeying together in solidarity with the people in the margins towards *A New Heaven And New Earth* .

May God bless us , strengthen us and keep us **TOGETHER**:

Thank you all !

APAY SECRETARIAT

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