



APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 01 / 2010 ~January 2010

1. Executive Committee and Related Meetings 2010

We have earlier circulated that our Executive Committee Meeting will be held from 10-13 March 2010 at the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. The Executive Committee and Standing Committees will consider the work implemented so far in accordance with QPP. We will be reviewing updates and focus on our movement strengthening work and other key issues. In addition to the regular meetings, focus will be on the 18th General Assembly in 2011. The venue and host YMCA will be decided and relevant committees shall be formulated. Updates on the World Council 2010 will be shared by the WAY.

This year's meeting will include a Workshop on Resource Mobilisation beginning at 9 am on 10 March and end by 12 noon on March 11. The Executive Committee Business Meeting will commence at 2 pm on 11 March and end by around 4 pm on March 13. The National General Secretaries meets on 9 March, from 9am to 5pm. For their community building and orientation, the Youth Committee will meet initially from 2pm on 9 March. We are thankful to the Movements who responded to our request to send their youth representatives.

Please be reminded to submit your registration forms to the APAY Secretariat before 12 February 2010. *[Details of the meeting are posted on our website.](#)*

2. Global Citizenship Education Trainer's Training, Macau

As part of our commitment to youth engagement and development, we are organizing the Global Citizenship Education (GCE) Trainer's Training on 26-30 May 2010 to be hosted by Macau YMCA. The GCE as an effective tool for developing youth can provide more space for exposure and engagement to better understand their needs and concerns as agents of positive change. This training programme will enable participants to apply and transfer what they learned to their youth work and involvements in their own local communities. It is envisioned that participants will be able to continue their leadership roles and commitment to youth involvement. We expect at least 2 youth participants (volunteer-leader and staff engaged in youth work) from each Movement. *[Details of the training programme will be available soon from the National Council Secretariats and our website.](#)*

3. Forum on Global Warming Develops Response to Climate Change

To position YMCAs' stance on climate change and strategise actions for combating global warming, we facilitated a forum on Global Warming hosted by the Christchurch YMCA, New Zealand. Fifteen participants from Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, India, New Zealand together with APAY leaders put their thoughts by sharing realities and responses and developed practical actions for the YMCAs in the region to engage with.

Mr. Rod Oram, journalist and a celebrity speaker on climate issue delivered the keynote address that was centered on local responses. Good practices/case stories were shared by the Christchurch City Council and the YMCAs of Australia, New Delhi & Christchurch. The participants had an exposure visit to Hinewai reserve. Ms. Lister Cheung, environmentalist from Hong Kong facilitated a participatory session on addressing Climate change in a globalised world. She also shared her participation in the COP15 together with the World Alliance of YMCAs delegation.

In the statement adopted by the forum, the participants expressed the commitment to tackling the primary causes of global warming and minimizing impacts on vulnerable communities and reducing YMCAs own carbon footprint. They also expressed commitment to supporting the target of achieving CO₂-e levels of less than 350 ppm and encouraging all to take responsibility to adapt their behaviour and actions to help reduce

the impact of climate change. A ten point plan of action is also devolved towards actualising the commitment which includes ~ (1) Do a carbon audit on their organisation (2) Establish a Green Team at local, national and regional levels (3) Reduce Energy (from fossil fuel based sources) (4) Reduce Waste/Recycle (5) Plant, protect & conserve forests (6) Develop innovative programs (7) Facilitate transfer of knowledge & technology (and resources where possible) (8) Reduce use of fossil fuel based transport, (9) Advocacy & lobbying - social policy regarding environmental issues (10) To become carbon neutral, use Carbon Offsets for remaining carbon emissions ([Full Report can be downloaded from our website](#))

4. Updates ~

Appeal ~ APAY Partnership Project (APP)

We are thankful to the YMCAs of Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and USA that have considered supporting 13 projects of the 18 APAY Partnership Project. We are still in need of at least 5 more partners' support. *Would you consider?* Please contact the APAY Secretariat.

S2S Campaign09

We are most appreciative of the efforts of YMCAs and individuals who have contributed to the 1st APAY S2S Campaign 2009. Some Movements have sent their contributions to APAY and we are still waiting for the others. Please send check or bank transfer to the APAY account before 10 February 2010 to enable us make a report at the Executive Committee Meeting this March.

5. News and Updates from our Movements...

YMCA-KB Raon Atti International Coordinators Meeting Held

Representatives of host/partner YMCAs, NCY Korea, Kook Min Bank and APAY gathered together from 12-16 January 2010 in Seoul, Korea for the *Raon Atti* International Coordinators Meeting. The partners and representatives shared and evaluated the 2009 *Raon Atti*. They had also deliberated on this year's plan and some youth participants presented their report and feedback on the impact of the programme.

The 3rd batch of the 1st team of thirty Korean youth will do a 5-months volunteer work from 3 March to 3 August 2010 in local communities and be engaged in YMCA work. Partner/host YMCAs identified are the following ~ Thailand (Chiang Mai), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur and Penang), Philippines (Nueva Ecija), Sri Lanka (Moratuwa), Vietnam and Cambodia (Dail Community). The APAY was represented by Ms. Cristina Dalope and was also invited to facilitate a session on Youth & Women Issues as part of the 10-day home training programme of *Raon Atti* participants.

ANJUCTIL Builds 2 More Libraries

Timor Leste ~ Two more new libraries were built by the ANJUCTIL (Timor Leste YMCA) with the local community. One is located at the YMCA main office beside the existing library at the University of Dili (UNDIL) Campus and the other one is located in Taci-Tolu Primary School, approximately 500 meters away from ANJUCTIL Terra Santa Training Center. These two public libraries will be very helpful for Timorese people particularly for the youth and students. All books received were in English and Bahasa, Indonesia. Volunteers and members of YMCA translated these books into Tetum (national language) particularly the books for kids. The hand over ceremony was held last 18 December 2009, which was attended, by the ANJUCTIL staff and members, Dili University Rector and the lecturers, Primary School Headmaster and the students. This project was supported by KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) as coordinated by NCY Korea. (*ANJUCTIL news ~ Oct to Dec 2009 issue*)

NCY Sri Lanka Shares...

A **Global Citizenship Education** (GCE) basic training programme has been developed for students in Sri Lanka. Local YMCAs are directly responsible in its implementation targeting O/Level, A/Level students in 5 regions reaching about 500 students within 3 months. Environmental interdependence, multi cultural co-existence, health and related issues are the three focus areas of the GCE. A coordinators training workshop was organized by the National YMCA for the implementation of the programme.

International humanitarian and Founder President of Y-Care International (YCI), Mr. Terry Waite was the speaker at the **People's Diplomacy for Reconciliation Seminar** organised by NCY Sri Lanka last December 2009. Together with Mr. Chris Roles, YCI Executive Director, they visited the Y-Care partnered Tsunami housing schemes and Vocational Training Centers. Mr. Waite also addressed a Public Meeting on Peace and Reconciliation attended by those who were severely affected by the recently ended 30-year-old armed conflict.

Becoming Instruments of Peace and Liberation in the multi-religious context of India

A National Consultation on '*Becoming Instruments of Peace and Liberation in the multi-religious context of India*' was convened by the NCY of India last December 2009. The consultation was aimed towards strengthening YMCAs involvement in promoting communal harmony and the peaceful co-existence of different communities, religions and faith-based traditions through YMCAs in the country. The discussion generated valuable suggestions and innovative ideas with a view to impacting and influencing YMCAs conscientious and committed engagement with Civil Society. Fresh insights and perspectives as well as best practices in the YMCAs were shared and which contributed immensely to the success of this consultation fuelling assurance of meaningful follow-ups by local YMCAs in their immediate societies and communities in the coming days. Prof. P. J. Oommen, Vice President, APAY delivered the keynote address on the main consultation theme, while the different sub-sessions were dealt with by resource persons drawn from across the vast cross-section of Indian society. (*Report by Mr. Anjan Mukharjee, Secretary, Media and Communication, NCYI*)

6. Ecumenical News...Our Partners...and Networks

APAY Convenes 4th Ecumenical Partners/NGOs Regional Meeting

The 4th Ecumenical Partners Regional Meeting was again convened by APAY last 29 January 2010. Since the initial meeting in July 2008, partners have stressed the importance of cooperation and exploring new forms of partnerships in strengthening and developing work in various concerns within our region. It was recalled that the last meeting was held in 2004. Participants had expressed their appreciation to the APAY General Secretary for the initiative of reviving this regional partnership of ecumenical groups/NGOs. The need for communicating, sharing of ideas, building partnerships and alliances and working together for common goals must be nurtured and continued.

As an initial collaboration, partners have decided to focus on migration as a common concern. APAY presented and shared the summary report/recommendations of the workshop on gender concerns and migration held last December 2009 in Metro YMCA Singapore. Participants of this meeting shared some of their reflections and possible collaborative efforts. Both the Asian Migrant Center (AMC) and APAY will take the lead in coordination with other partners as we respond to issues on migration.

Interfaith SOP Commences on February 1

The 4th School of Peace (SOP) of the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF), a joint program of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and the APAY financially supported by the EED will take place in Visthar, Bangalore, India. The 15-week program will begin on 1 February and conclude on 14 May. Twenty participants from Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam will take part in this year's SOP. Since its inception in 2006, a total of 49 people between the ages of 20 and 30 from different faiths and nationalities in Asia have participated in the program.

EASY Net Core Team Meets in Manila

The Ecumenical Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Network (EASY Net) Core Team, comprising representatives of 6 member organizations, met on 23-24 January 2010 at the YMCA Philippines in Manila, to review past actions. It focused its discussion on strategies for strengthening the National Ecumenical Teams (NETs) and made a thorough review of its Constitution. There will be 2 major programmes this year ~ the Creative Writing Workshop Trainer's Training in June and the EASY Net Week Celebration in October. Both programmes are aimed at promoting grassroots ecumenism. EASY Net is celebrating its 10 years of ecumenical journey in 2011.

We encourage our Movements in Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka to continue taking efforts with the NETs toward a deeper and more effective level of ecumenical cooperation and networking.

7. Haiti Need Our Support

We convey our sadness and grief for those affected by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti last 12 January 2010. Let us pause to remember in prayer those who have lost loved ones, those who have been suffering greatly in this disaster and all those who have been working to bring urgent needs/relief to the Haiti families and communities.

Please support and continue donating generously to the appeal of the WAY and the Latin American and Caribbean Alliance (LACA) to support the relief and rehabilitation work. Please communicate all pledges and funds to the following persons: Mauricio Vandorsee, Secretary General of LACA, (secretariogeneral@lacaymca.org), Norberto Moreaux, LACA's Chairman of Board of Directors (nathaliecoo@hotmail.com) and Simon Pluess, World Alliance (simon.pluess@ymca.int). You may also contact your National Movements.

8. Feature ~ International Women's Day, 8 March

In an effort to continue our awareness building on gender equity and women empowerment, we share this information on International Women's Day.

Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on 8 March. Various events occur for the whole month of March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. This is a day of hope, a day of courage, of celebration for women who fought for equality, justice, peace and development. IWD is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries –old struggle for women to participate in society on an equal footing with men.

In 1975, the United Nations began celebrating 8 March as International Women's Day. In adopting its resolution on the observance of Women's Day, the General Assembly of the United Nations cited two reasons: (a) To recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom require the active participation, equality and development of women. (b) To acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security.

As the YMCA that seeks to empower women and to promote greater partnerships between men and women, we encourage local and national YMCAs to commemorate the International Women's Day. This year's theme focuses on *Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all*. YMCAs are therefore encouraged to organize activities that reflect global and local gender issues.

9. Dr. Bart Shaha Receives Distinguished Alumni Award!

We express our congratulations to Dr. Bart Shaha, Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs for being selected as one of the Awardees of the 60th Anniversary Distinguished Alumni Award of the University of Hong Kong. Dr. Shaha did his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the said University while he was the APAY General Secretary. The awarding ceremony will take place on 6 February 2010 here in Hong Kong.

10. Announcement! 2010 is International Year of Youth!

This early, we share with you that the UN General Assembly on 18 December 2009 adopted a resolution proclaiming the year commencing on 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The Year coincides with the 25th anniversary of the 1st International Youth Year in 1985 (More information available on <http://social.un.org/youthyear/>)

Get involved! We encourage YMCAs to organize activities that promote an increased understanding of the importance and benefits of youth participation and to harness the enthusiasm, creativity and energy of our youth in overcoming the challenges impacting them

11. Forthcoming Events/Meetings

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
9 March	National General Secretaries Meeting	Hong Kong
9 March	Youth Participation & Leadership Devt Committee Mtg	Hong Kong
10-13 March	Executive Committee and Related Meetings	Hong Kong
10-11 March	Resource Mobilisation Workshop	
11-13 March	Executive Committee Business Meeting	
26-30 May	Global Citizenship Education Trainers' Training	Macau

12. Notice!!!

The APAY Secretariat will be closed for the Lunar New Year on 15-16 February.

Our Blessed Lunar New Year Greetings To All Colleagues and Friends Celebrating the Lunar New Year!

13. From the Desk of the General Secretary...Moving into 2010

As we move into 2010, we are mid-way through the Quadrennial Program Plan arising from the last General Assembly held in September 2007. We have achieved much over the last two years, and I would like to share my plans for 2010.

I. Global Citizenship toward global and relevant issues in Asia and Pacific area

The following workshops and forums have been conducted since 2008:

1. Regional Roundtable on YMCA As Global Citizens in Mission 21, May 2008, Manila
2. Regional Youth Roundtable on Globalisation and Global Citizenship, July 2008, Tozanso
3. Regional Training Workshop on Empowering Women for Mission & Devt, Sept 2008, Chiang Mai
4. Forum on Global Citizenship, October 2008, Tokyo
5. Workshop on YMCA Global Alternative Tourism, June 2009, Chiang Mai
6. Workshop on Poverty and Sustainable Development, August 2009, New Delhi
7. Forum on Ageing, September 2009, Penang
8. Regional Workshop on Gender Concerns and Migration, December 2009, Singapore
9. Global Warming Forum, January 2010, Christchurch

We will propose to follow up on the issues arising from the workshops and forums:

Issues	2010 Plan of Action – Follow ups
Global Citizenship Education	To conduct Trainers' training on Global Citizenship Education in May 2010. This will be for staff and leaders of youth groups in each movement to prepare for GC education in each movement
Alternative Tourism	To prepare for a new web site for Alternative Tourism in the region for promotion of the Alternative Tourism Network. There is also a need to develop a set of guidelines and training activities for Alternative Tourism
Ageing	To formulate and develop YMCA approaches for working with the Ageing Population with the Help Age International
Gender	To continue developing activities and programs to build up gender equity and concerns.
Migration	To prepare a new action plan for migrant workers in sending and receiving countries
Climate Change	Forming Green teams in APAY, National and Local YMCAs for further action on issues pertaining to climate changes

II. Promoting Peace with Justice

Regional Roundtable on Peace and Security was held in Feb. 2009 at Colombo. According to the recommendations, sub regional meetings were held in South Asia (August, New Delhi) and in Southeast Asia (September, Penang). In those meetings, School of Peace by Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) and the new approach to APAY Partnership Project (APP) were introduced.

ICF has been operated by APAY and CCA jointly for young people to promote interfaith dialogue and education. So far, the ICF has conducted 3 School of Peace education programmes, 3-month education in India. 49 graduates from 7 countries and 21 more will be attending the 4th School of Peace this year. This is a great tool and method to promote peace and interfaith dialogue. APAY will propose to hold a one month School of Peace for YMCA staff and volunteers in Southern Asian countries jointly with ICF.

The first APAY Partnership Project (APP) was conducted starting fall 2009. 18 projects from 6 countries were submitted and hopefully some local or national movements as well as Y's Men's Club will support them and be a partner to those YMCAs. This will be continued to 2010.

III. Sustainable Development

(1) Movement Strengthening:

I visited many movements from June 2009 and I have identified some urgent needs for the following emerging YMCAs and movements in difficult situations:

- Partners' Support Group (PSG) of East Timor and Cambodia were formed in 2009 and support will be continued. Special focus will be given to Indonesia this 2010, as it needs more assistance and strengthening of its leadership and organisation. Movements are now being identified for the formation of PSG.
- Vietnam, Fiji, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan for close Monitoring with the help of other movements.

Movement strengthening requires careful attention and proper mentoring to the staff members in each movement. APAY is proposing to send Advisors to those movements in need. These advisors will be senior staff or retired staff who is willing to help those movements. The Advisors will visit the given movements twice or three times a year and to report back to APAY and PSG.

(2) Youth Development:

Youth Development has been a priority concern in APAY in the last few years. This involves not only strengthening the programs for youth, but as a youth organization, we need to include the youth as important partners of the YMCA movement. We should be involving youth in our work with the local and global communities, by working together with them in our activities and involving them in the decision-making processes. We found out through the youth survey that they want more networks, mentors, and backups from their respective YMCAs. Global Citizenship Education will be one of the strong tools for developing youth interest and encouraging their actual engagement with some activities in their local communities. We will provide Trainers' Training for Global Citizenship education in May.

In 2010, APAY will strengthen the Youth Committee of APAY, invites a Young Professional from a member movement, and hold APAY Youth Council prior to the World Council and International Youth Forum in July 2010 in Hong Kong. The Youth Council will be for the key leaders and staff of the Youth group in each movement, and will discuss actual strategies for youth development in APAY as well as in each national and local YMCA. The 3rd Asia-Pacific Uni-Y Regional Conference is set on December 2010 following the 2 Conferences in 2008 and 2009 held in Hong Kong and Singapore.

(3) Resource Mobilization:

To assist us to conduct and run the above-mentioned programs and activities, APAY needs to mobilize Resources. A Resource Mobilization workshop will be held during our Executive Committee meeting in March. This will help member movements understand the needs and the ways to mobilize resources that will make our work more effective and help build strong movements.

May God continue to guide us, to inspire us and to give us the energy to respond as Global Citizens in carrying our Social Responsibility, fostering Peace with Justice, and promoting Sustainability for Life.

Kohei Yamada
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Executive Secretaries

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