



APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 03 / 2010 ~ April 2010

1. Global Citizenship Training Focuses on Promoting and Integrating GCE in YMCA youth work

About thirty YMCA youth leaders and staff are expected to act as multipliers in promoting and integrating Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in YMCA youth work and community development programmes at the culmination of the GCE Training of Trainers (ToT) from 25-30 May 2010. Participants from Bangladesh, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and host YMCA, Macau have already registered to take part in this training. A pool of trainers and resource persons mostly from our member YMCAs has been invited to provide education and mentoring support for the development of the GCE project ideas.

We thank the YMCA of Macau for hosting this year's GCE ToT programme.

2. China YMCA Responds to Qinghai Earthquake victims

A very strong earthquake struck Qinghai province in China last 12 April leaving massive destruction and damages with more than a thousand lives lost. As Yushu is a Tibetan Autonomous Region with the majority Buddhists--- the YMCAs are exploring ways for assistance, not necessary for "first hand" relief. Initially, the YMCA/YWCA of China had met and made a contribution of RMB200,000 Yuan for the relief work in earthquake area. Apart from the national YMCA, it was learned that the local YMCAs were trying their best respond to the emergency assistance via local channels. *More updated report will be shared once available.*

3. Indonesia Y Begins Post Earthquake Rehab Programme in Padang



Six months after the earthquake of 30 September 2009, the Indonesia YMCA proceeded with its planned post earthquake rehabilitation programme in Padang, West Sumatra. The Trauma Healing project with its theme "Heal the Children, Heal the Future" will provide trauma care to 60 children using theater, sports, arts and counseling after the school time from 1pm – 3:30pm. Young volunteers from YMCAs of Medan, Metro Jakarta and Yogyakarta with KPI (Indonesia Coalition of Women) their local NGO partner and youth leaders from the local community

started the project last 26 April 2010. Youth volunteers were carefully selected with background in trauma healing and had undergone necessary training with some specialists ~ doctors and psychologists. They will be accompanied by a theater arts expert during the duration of the 6-week project that ends early June 2010. There will be referral services for severe cases.

Ms. Retha Margaretha, National General Secretary of NCY Indonesia and main Coordinator of the project shared that working closely with KPI and the local community leaders will strengthen interfaith partnership to increase conscientisation and ensures sustainability of the programme. Padang is known as 95% Muslim with around 600-800 families.

This project is provided from the APAY emergency appeal funds supported by the YMCAs of Japan, Taiwan and Singapore. General Secretary Kohei Yamada made an onsite visit to the affected village last 17-18 April. A report shall be made available once the project is completed.



4. APAY Youth Council 2010, 14-16 July (right before the IYF)

The APAY Youth Committee's Working Group for the APAY Youth Council (AYC) has been having online conferences to plan this youth event scheduled from 14-16 July in Chinese YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village here in Hong Kong.

AYC will gather around 50 YMCA youth leaders and staff with the opportunity to discuss and debate issues important to them. With the theme: *"Into the Next Decade: YMCA Youth Leadership, Participation and Engagement"*. AYC seeks to become a critical conduit of new dialogue and ideas for the ever-changing region of the Asia-Pacific in this new decade, as we witness new emerging trends that seek to shape and challenge the mission of the YMCA in the years ahead. Furthermore, the AYC will provide a space for the youth delegates to prepare them and make meaningful contributions to the International Youth Forum (IYF) from 16-19 July at the same venue. Participants are expected to attend the IYF. *Programme information and forms are available at your National Movement's Secretariat and can be downloaded from our website. Registration ends on 31 May 2010.*

5. YMCA Global Alternative Tourism Network (GATN)

The website platform for the proposed YMCA Global Alternative Tourism Network is under way to make it operational by the end of June 2010. The GATN encourages the YMCAs in the region to see tourism in the perspectives of 'host community' and raise people's awareness on challenges brought by mass tourism and develop alternative tours that are Community centered, Holistic in approach, Advocating global citizenship, Nature conservative, Gender sensitive and Economically viable. The GATN website will provide facility for YMCAs to upload of alternative tours certified by GATN and users to buy alternative tours online.



YMCAs in the region are encouraged to start planning to develop Alternative tours focusing Education Tours, Volunteer Tour, Eco –Adventure Tour, Spiritual tour, Solidarity tour, Sports tour etc. The YMCAs that are interested to be the host of the Alternative tours or wish to send participants for alternative tours may kindly contact APAY Secretariat for more details. jose@asiapacificymca.org.

A training workshop for the interested YMCA staff of the sending and receiving YMCAs focusing on Alternative Tour product development, marketing strategies, delivery of programme, GATN website operations is planning to be held by the end October 2010.

6. International YMCA Youth Work Camp in East Timor



understand more about Timor Leste.

YMCA young volunteers from the region are encouraged to join this year's International YMCA Youth Work Camp in Timor Leste from 1- 9 August. This camp aims to provide youth participation towards sustainable development and peace building. Study sessions on issues affecting preservation of local traditions, cultural differences and environment will be shared and deliberated. The campers with local youth and the community will carry out work at the community centre. They will also conduct recreational activities, visitations and encounters with the people to

Interested Movements are invited to send youth leaders to participate in the programme to share and learn with the local members. This camp was formerly known as International YMCA Youth Peace Camp and it remains to be a multilateral cooperation of the YMCAs of Korea, Japan, APAY and ANJUCTIL (Timor Leste YMCA). *Details of the programme will be made available soon.*

7. News and Updates from our Movements ~

Cambodia YMCA PSG Meets Online

Members and representatives of Cambodia YMCA Partners Support Group (PSG) met online last 28 April to follow-up development and progress of the action items as discussed at the last PSG meeting held in Hong Kong on 12 March 2010. One of the pressing needs and priority is the hiring of a local Staff in order to carry out the YMCA works and achieve its mission. The PSG likewise concurred on the need to have a capable and supportive board to deliberate on the plan moving forward as well as to ensure ownership. The emphasis on forming a home-grown team of local staff and board would ensure a greater understanding of the work in their own Cambodia context. The Advisory system was likewise discussed during the online conference. All PSG members are expected to attend the next meeting to be scheduled during the World Council and to sign the Agreement and Terms of Reference (TOR) of Partnership represented by the General Secretaries of each partner. PSG is comprised of: APAY (Chair) Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, YMCA of Hong Kong, NCY Japan, Perth YMCA (Australia), YMCA of Singapore, Y Care International and Cambodia YMCA. Recently, Long Beach YMCA of USA has signified interest to be a member of this PSG.

Penang YMCA to Host 33rd YMCA International Deaf Youth Camp

Ms. Ong Sooi Gaik, General Secretary of Penang YMCA, Malaysia shared that the 33rd YMCA International Deaf Youth Camp for the Handicapped in Hearing (HH Camp) will happen in Malaysia from 30 July – 6 August 2010. This is the first time Penang YMCA will host the HH Camp as decided by the Executive Committee last HH Camp in 2007 held in Osaka, Japan. As a biennial programme, this was supposed to be held in 2009 but was postponed due to the AH1N1 virus.

The week-long camp will gather participants from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia and India that includes programmes/events on cultural exchange, camp fire and sports carnival. “B-Uniq” is this year’s theme. For more information on the HH camp, please write to: ymcapg@po.jaring.my

Vietnam YMCA Report on Ketsana Typhoon Victims Completed

A report on the implementation of the emergency relief programme to the affected communities and families of Ketsana typhoon in Vietnam is now completed and available at our website. An initial report was sent to all YMCA donors that supported this emergency response last March 2010. Typhoon Ketsana hit Vietnam last 26 September 2009 affecting several coastal provinces from the north to the center of Vietnam. YMCA carried out its emergency relief in Kontum, the most affected by the typhoon and a mountainous inland province, about 450 km away from Ho Chi Min City. [Full report can be downloaded from our website.](#)

8. Ecumenical News...Our Partners...and Networks

ICF Partners Look at the Past and Future Activities of the Interfaith Network



The three partners supporting the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) network met at the APAY office in Hong Kong on April 27 to review the work of ICF in the past year and to discuss future plans for the regional interfaith network. Michael Tournée, a representative of Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED), or Church Development Service, in Bonn, Germany; Prawate Khid-arn, the general secretary of CCA, based in Chiang Mai; and Kohei Yamada, APAY general secretary, took part in the meeting with APAY executive staffs Maria Cristina Dalope and Jose Varghese and ICF staff member Bruce Van Voorhis.

The partners reviewed the series of 6 ICF workshops held in 2009 for the ICF School of Peace (SOP) alumni. It also included updates on this year’s SOP currently taking place at Visthar in Bangalore, India, that will conclude on May 14. As for the future activities, SOP programs at the sub-regional and national levels were discussed. The group will also explore the possibility of having a youth from Europe, North

America and Palestine take part in these ICF programs in the future. These youths will also work for a year with an Asian NGO that is part of the ICF network. In addition, potential future plans involve organizing an exchange of religious scholars of different faiths.

When discussing the role of ICF in nurturing future religious leaders in Asia, it was noted that the Rev. Retno Sri Wardhani Ngapon from Indonesia, an alumni of the first SOP in 2006, was elected as the Youth Representative of the Presidium at the recently concluded CCA General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur. ICF extends their heartfelt congratulations to her!

School of Peace for YMCA and Ecumenical NGOs

As approved at the last meeting of the APAY Executive Committee, three-weeks School of Peace for staff and volunteers of YMCA, CCA and other ecumenical groups from South and South East Asia will be held on October 25 – November 12 at the YMCA International Center, Katunayake, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The program is supported by EED as part of the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF)

The participants in the school of peace will have opportunity in developing deeper awareness and appreciation of the similarities and differences between faiths, their views on justice and peace and some of the roots of conflicts. It will also help participants to develop their peace-building skills and strategic actions for promoting just-peace through their YMCAs and NGOs. Participants in the age group of 20-40 from different faiths are eligible to apply. *More details/programme information will be sent shortly to National movements.*

13th CCA General Assembly Elects First Woman General Secretary

The 13th General Assembly of Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) gathered more than 300 participants from 19 countries in Kuala Lumpur last 14-21 April 2010.

We congratulate Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang from the Toraja Church, Indonesia for being elected as the first-ever woman General Secretary of CCA. She is a well-known ecumenical leader in Asia for many years and has served as CCA's Associate General Secretary for Program Coordination for ten years when CCA was still in Hong Kong. Dr. Lebang will assume the position from November 2010 replacing Rev. Dr Prawate Khid-arn of Thailand who will retire at the end of October 2010 after completion of his term.

APAY GS Kohei Yamada attended the Assembly and quoted Dr. Lebang's message "Poverty in many less developed countries from Asia force people to migrate to more developed countries. Migrants, many of them women in search of work, end up abused and alienated in receiving countries." She appealed to Churches and Ecumenical partners to become agents of healing and reconciliation.

WSCF ~ SCM Gathering Leads to Formation of NESCAP

The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) and Student Christian Movement (SCM) Senior Friends Gathering was held last 19 April 2010 during the 13th General Assembly of the CCA in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. With 40 senior friends and students attending the event, the gathering aimed to bring together the senior friends and students who were participating in the CCA Assembly to a time of fellowship and introduction, to share the life and work of WSCF AP. One of the tangible outcomes of this gathering was the formation of NESCAP or the Network of Student Christian Movements Senior Friends in the Asia Pacific Region (NESCAP). Senior friends have played an important role in the life and works of SCMs and have been a great source of support, guidance and motivation in the region (*Shared by Ms. Necta Rocas, WSCF Regional Secretary*)

9. Congratulations! APAY Treasurer Appointed Y's Men International Secretary General

Our warm congratulations to our APAY Treasurer, Mr Takao Nishimura, for his appointment as the incoming International Secretary General (ISG) of Y's Men International. *Nishi* as we call him is a very committed and skilled volunteer leader in Y's Men and the YMCA at local and international levels. Mr. Kevin Cummings, International President remarked in his circular that with Nishi's experience, motivation

and dedication to Y's Men, he would continue developing and promoting the Movement as a relevant organisation engaged in today's critical global issues. Nishi will assume this position in September 2010. Mr Rolando Dalmás, the concurrent ISG will retire at the end of November 2010 after completion of his second term.

10. Call for Forming YMCA Green Team

We encourage YMCAs to form Green Team for realizing our commitment for tackling the primary causes of global warming and minimizing climate impacts on vulnerable communities. YMCAs in the region are reminded of reducing own carbon footprint and encouraging all to take responsibility to adapt their behavior and actions to help reduce the impact of climate change.

A green team is functioning at APAY to assist the process of achieving the organizational goal. Please share the actions taken by your YMCA with us.

YMCA RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do a carbon audit on their organisation • Establish a Green Team • Reduce Energy (from fossil fuel based sources) • Reduce Waste / Recycle • Plant, protect & conserve forests • Develop innovative programs • Facilitate transfer of knowledge & technology • Reduce use of fossil fuel based transport • Advocacy & lobbying - social policy re environmental issues • To become carbon neutral, use Carbon Offsets for remaining carbon emissions

11. 2010 YMCA World Urban Network, Hong Kong

"The Health of Children and Youth around the World" will be the main focus of this year's YMCA World Urban Network (WUN) Conference from 25-30 July at the YMCA of Hong Kong. Up to 80 chief executives/ general secretaries from YMCAs operating in large urban centres around the world will gather for this conference, held once in every two years. The YMCA WUN is a network of General Secretaries/Chief Executive Officers dedicated to strengthening their leadership, to deal with the human consequences of urbanisation. The WUN also organises training event on alternate years for CEOs and their key staff.

A team of three CEOs from our region is working together on the Conference ~ co-chaired by Ms. Phyllis Tan, CEO of Metro Y Singapore, Mr. Chuck Allison of YMCA of Hong Kong (City Plans) and Mr. Peter Burns of Victoria YMCA (Programme). More information of the programme and the registration form can be found on www.ymcawun.org

12. Youth in Focus Column – YMCA Young Writers Needed!

Starting June this year, we will have a special column on "Youth in Focus" in celebration of the International Youth Year. We encourage YMCA young writers to send articles on youth in action programmes, on various issues and concerns impacting them and good practices on youth participation, engagement and leadership in their own YMCAs. Please send your articles on or before 25th day of each month and e-mail to: cristina@asiapacificymca.org

13. World Council (WC) Updates

Bulletin No.3 containing the latest information and updates for the 17th World Council of YMCAs has been released. The most recent version of the WC programme is also available. Kindly visit the WAY website www.ymca.int for more updates.

14. Forthcoming Events/Meetings

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
25-30 May	Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers	Macau
14-16 July	APAY Youth Council	Hong Kong
16-19 July	(WAY) International Youth Forum	Hong Kong

25-26 July	18 th APAY General Assembly Planning Committee Meeting	Hong Kong
19-24 July	World Council 2010	Hong Kong
24-28 September	Gender Workshop	India
19-24 October	3 rd Asia –Pacific University YMCAs Regional Conference	Baguio, Philippines
25 Oct to 12 Nov	School of Peace (SOP) for YMCA Staffs/Ecumenical Groups	Sri Lanka
14 Nov – 11 Dec	28 th Advanced Studies Programme	Hong Kong

15. From the Desk of the General Secretary...A Shift for A New Culture of YMCA Movements

I attended the North American YMCA Development Organization (NAYDO) Conference last 5-7 April in North Carolina. NAYDO was established for introducing philanthropic culture into YMCA movement. Every year, nearly 1,000 participants of fund-raisers, CDO, CEO, and board members meet and learn the top-level practices and ideas in present situation.

In USA, over US\$300 billion is raised in a year as gifts to charitable organizations. The US YMCAs have been one of the biggest receiving organizations among Non Profit sectors for the last several years. Both YMCAs in the USA and Canada have been experiencing a big shift of working in the community. This shift I believe will soon spread to many parts of the world.

This year's NAYDO gathered 39 overseas participants from 21 countries. I can say that they all felt something new ~ a different trend. The programmes and activities in the YMCAs in North America are not so much different from the past, but how they involve communities and businesses makes it different. And this new culture of YMCA has been well accepted in their communities.

I would like to share my conversation with a board member of one local YMCA from Mexico. He belongs to a small YMCA that has been receiving financial support from Mexico City YMCA. I learned that they want to build their own YMCA center to sustain their activities and this needs a huge amount of money. Without such philanthropic culture in Mexico, he was very keen on reaching the goal of raising such fund. This is just one of the examples how some centers in Mexico were built for their own sustainability. YMCA movements were shifted to become strong community service organizations. More than anything else, I felt a strong commitment and confidence among those delegates from Mexico.

YMCA is the organization of good practices in youth development as well as in community development. If we can show effectively the purpose of our work, the quality of our programmes and the impacts on youth and communities, our whole work will be much more strengthened. This is the real message of the NAYDO I got. In order to change our ways of working, we need strong, clear governance, supportive volunteers, professional skills and knowledge in fund raising, and commitment of staff and board members.

I felt strongly that this growing trend of philanthropy will be and should be absorbed to our Asia and Pacific movements. This kind of new shift could be only possible when a top leadership of each movement realizes the needs. APAY will need to facilitate more opportunities to learn the philanthropic culture in YMCA movements.

Kohei Yamada
General Secretary

Cristina A. Dalope & Jose Varghese
Executive Secretaries