



APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 05 / 2010 ~ June-July-Aug 2010

1. World Council 2010 ~ APAY Youth Tops ExCo Elections! World Alliance New Leadership!

We extend our warmest congratulations to the newly elected Officers of the World Alliance for the period 2010-2014 at the World Council 2010 ~ President: Mr. Ken Colloton (USA), Deputy President: Mr. Fernando Ondarza (Mexico) and Treasurer: Ms. Helen McEwan (New Zealand) from our own area alliance. Rev. Johan Vilhelm Eltvik was appointed as the new Secretary General who will take up office from 1 January 2011. Rev Eltvik is the concurrent General Secretary of the YMCA of Europe.

We are happy to announce and congratulate Mr. Oliver Loke, Singapore, member of our APAY Youth Participation and Leadership Development (YPLD) Committee who topped the elections of the Executive Committee Members of the World Alliance of YMCAs. Mr. Loke also chaired our recently concluded APAY Youth Council 2010. He is currently the Vice President of Uni-Y in Singapore Management University. He also made history in YMCA Singapore and in his country for being the first Singaporean to take a highest spot in this world governing body of YMCAs.

Our congratulations as well to the other duly elected members from our region in the Executive Committee: Judge Edilberto Claravall (Philippines), Mr. Babu Markus Gomes (Bangladesh) and Ms. Hiromi Nagao (Japan). Dr. Park Jai Chang in his capacity as APAY President is a member of this Executive Committee.

Congratulations! And may God bless you all as you continue serving and carrying out the YMCA Mission.

2. Macau YMCA ~ Newest Member of the World Alliance



YMCA of Macau is the newest member of our region to the World Alliance as approved during the World Council. Since its organization in 1994, the Macau YMCA has been working for youth and children development. Our congratulations to Mr. Ip Pui Fai, President; Ms. Grace Kuan, General Secretary and the family of Macau YMCA!

(Photo shows Mr. Ip Pui Fai signing the Golden Book of WAY)

3. Position of Executive Secretary, Vacancy 2011

As earlier announced, a position of Executive Secretary for Programmes in the Alliance is now open with specific functions in the areas of Youth Participation and Leadership Development, and Gender Equity, that will become vacant on January 2011

The position is to be filled by 1 December 2010 (which allows her/him one month for learning and handover). The appointment will be for a contract of 3 years. The closing date for applications is **1 September 2010**.

Suitably qualified persons, with proven experience in the specific focus areas and interest/experience in other focus areas of the APAY should submit their application to the General Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs at 23 Waterloo Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong, SAR, by registered post. All applications and correspondence related to this matter will be considered confidential. The application needs to be endorsed by the National Movements.

4. Pakistan Floods – YMCA Response

This year's heavy monsoon rains in July and August resulted to worst flooding to history of Pakistan. The devastation is so severe and wide. The latest reports put the number of deaths at 1,600 with around 20 million people affected and is expected to rise in the coming days.

We have contacted and received reports from Mr. Samuel Pervez, the General Secretary of Lahore YMCA in Pakistan. The YMCA flood relief team is focusing on the distribution of food rations and emergency supplies. They will keep us informed of other developments.

We thank those movements and alliances that have expressed solidarity and support for the continuing emergency relief work. To date, the YMCAs of Japan, USA and Canada have extended a total amount of 5000USD to Pakistan's relief work. *May God be with all the affected at this time of disaster and for those working to bring relief to them.*

5. Gender Workshop 2010 in YMCA Pune, India

How can gender equality be achieved in enterprise development? What are the current trends and opportunities of enterprise development as a strategy for economic empowerment for sustainability? Conscious of the need to mainstream gender issues on sustainability, we are organising a Gender Workshop on Sustainable Development with focus on Economic Empowerment. This is an integral part of our Programme Plan which serves as a follow-up programme on YMCA actions to poverty alleviation, gender related issues and women empowerment. As earlier circulated, the workshop will be held in Pune YMCA, India from 24-28 September 2010. *Programme information can be downloaded from our website and is available in your National Secretariat.*

6. Bayanihan 2010 at the 3rd Uni-Y Conference

Bayanihan is a Filipino tradition that refers to the spirit of cooperation and volunteerism in one community to achieve a particular goal. This will be the main focus of the 3rd Asia-Pacific Uni-Y Regional Conference to be held on 19-24 October at the Teacher's Camp in Baguio City, Philippines. This is in collaboration with the YMCA of Baguio and YMCA Philippines. This year's conference will consist of parallel sessions, discussion workshops, community exposure and reflective sharing. Participants will be involved in a more intensive experiential learning through community service involvement projects. There will be various social functions that will build up and nurture the relationship and fellowship between and among the participants.

This will surely be a great learning experience for each and every youth and those who are youth-at-heart. Be at the 3rd Uni-Y conference! See you there! *(by Host Committee) Programme Information has been sent to your National Office and can be downloaded from our website.*

7. Advanced Studies Programme 2010 ~ Reminder

The 28th Advanced Studies Programme (ASP) will be held from 14 Nov to 12 December 2010 here in Hong Kong. The ASP is a very important training programme of our region as it aims to strengthen the professional leadership for movement building and transformation. To date, 13 participants from Bangladesh, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, China, India, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines and Sri Lanka have been selected so far. We are extending the closing date of application to **31 August 2010** to give more time for National Movements that have not submitted candidates for selection.

8. AYC 2010 Engages Youth with Christ-love Commitment, for Leadership

Report by Jude Miguelito De Lara, Youth Volunteer, YMCA of the Philippines



56 young leaders, students, volunteers and staff from 17 National Movements took part to the APAY Youth Council (AYC) from July 14-16 at YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village in Hong Kong. The program aimed to generate ideas for youth Leadership, Participation

and Engagement for the next decade. This has also provided a space for the youth delegates to prepare them and make meaningful contributions to the International Youth Forum (IYF), which immediately followed after AYC.

General Secretary of APAY Kohei Yamada presented a summary of report from the 19 National Movement responses on various issues concerning youth participation and governance in their respective YMCAs. His presentation on *Knowing our Past, Embracing our Future* has generated an insight from the youth as to the hindrances for involvement and realities felt by the different national movements. The growth of movement in terms of size and in youth leadership in policy making was raised. In conclusion, he emphasized that the YMCA is ready and willing so as the Youth of APAY and then asked: *What else do you need?* - A question that further created a train of thought from the participants.



Country sharing followed the next day. It became a medium of expression for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong (Chinese YMCA and Hong Kong YMCA), India, Indonesia, Korea, Macau, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore (Metro YMCA), Thailand and Vietnam. They presented the realities of the youth in their own movement and the different thrusts undertaken by their YMCA to help re-solve and re-build the lives of the Youth within their scope of influence or even beyond.



On the other hand- East Timor, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Taiwan presented a comprehensive case study. Following a common framework, the six representatives presented their paper on Youth Participation and Leadership, Youth Engagement, Youth Training and Development and lastly, Systems and Structures. A question and answer immediately followed after a set of three presenters to clarify thoughts and to suggest ways to improve the program. Mr. Oliver Loke, Chairperson of AYC 2010 and Ms. Cristina Miranda, Chairperson of the APAY Youth Participation and Leadership Development (YPLD) Committee provided a synthesis.

A dialogue between the youth members and the staff of the YMCAs is a unique experience in AYC. Moderated by Ms. Maria Cristina Dalope- Executive Secretary for Programmes of APAY that generated a free exchange of ideas and knowledge as to the present views of each other to one another as a significant member to the YMCA Community. A more vivid understanding, a deeper appreciation and strengthened support are some of the many results of the partnership linking the two parties.

Strategic inquiries and appreciative intents were discussed through the use of SOAR analysis. Work group sessions were facilitated to generate ideas from the youth which will serve as their guide come September 2011 at the APAY Youth Assembly in Penang, Malaysia and the next decade to come.



A night of fellowship through games, songs and dances (not to mention-auctions) was celebrated through a barbecue night. S2S campaign found its way to gain more support for youth activities from the youth members themselves having sold a shirt, a painting and a handbag and the unfortunate yet false kiss from a youth member from Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. Along the way, S2S was still practiced through auctions and stores, which sold different souvenirs from various countries.

Engaging Youth with Christ-love Commitment for Leadership became the central theme for the AYC Key Initiatives, which contents can be summarized to Increased Youth Participation in the local, national and regional levels anchored in our commitment to Christian principles and founding mission. This thought was based on the disparities in youth leadership opportunities and also with the low level of Youth participation in decision making processes based on the reports garnered from the respondents of the survey and the key leaders themselves.



At the end of the AYC, a key leaders meeting attended by the youth committee members of APAY with the representatives from various YMCAs examined even further the present situation of APAY Youth in general. The youth members of APAY have prepared themselves for the next Executive Committee Meeting and the APAY Youth Assembly both in 2011- for a collective shaping of robust Youth engagement thrusts for the Quadrennial 2012-2015.

We are glad that this was indeed a youth-led programme as most of the programme components were facilitated by the members of the APAY YPLD Committee with the guidance of the Executive Secretary for Programmes, Cristina Dalope. The APAY Youth Council was made possible through the funds raised during the Skip a Meal 2 Save (S2S) for Youth in 2009 - an APAY fund campaign initiative for Youth Participation and Leadership Development. *We express our huge thank you to the whole APAY family and those who supported this AYC! (Copy of AYC 2010 Key Initiatives and Looking Ahead to Vision 2020 and the AYC video made by Mr. Goshi Ito, Japan, APAY YPLD member, are available on our website.)*

9. S2S – From AYC to World Council 2010

Ms. Amanda Nguyen, Vietnam, Chair of the S2S Campaign Working Group, APAY YPLD Committee shares...

Inspired by the Resource Mobilisation Workshop at the Executive Committee 2010, the APAY youth committee formed its own S2S working group to create a more youthful campaign video. With this in mind, we conducted several online conferences and came up with several ways to introduce S2S during the international events in Hong Kong in July.

The APAY Youth Council (AYC), International Youth Forum and the 17th World Council Meeting became a birthplace of a stronger S2S- a resource mobilization campaign of the APAY for Youth Participation and Leadership Development (YPLD)

During our own AYC, several actions were undertaken by the S2S working team. Our S2S team started off the activities at the barbecue night by auctioning Vietnamese items ~ a handcrafted bag, a painting and a shirt. A false-kiss generated the biggest amount that night for S2S. Japan, Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines sold some of their souvenir items. Taiwan sponsored a special auction selling a memorabilia from the founding anniversary of Tainan YMCA and some more items. AYC was able to raise considerable amount with so much fun and fellowship.



The S2S campaign was brought to the International Youth Forum where it was introduced during the Welcome Party. A table was set-up to sell more souvenirs from the Asia and Pacific delegation where members from the other regions could buy specific item for an exact amount or more. At the World Council, I was given the opportunity to share about this campaign during the session on Resource Mobilisation.



We felt that somehow we made an impact about our S2S campaign particularly to our member movements and youth participants. We are happy that we were able to raise an amount of about HKD2503. Our S2S working group is in the process of making a new video that will be out in a few months to further educate the people about the fund raising campaign for the youth. All the AYC participants were excited to do this campaign locally and all believe that "it is possible!"

Please support the youth with this initiative...

10. Drinks for FUN(D) Gains Support

Our sincere appreciation to all of you, the WC participants and especially to the Y's Men's Club Hong Kong District ~ Tsim Sha Tsui, Northwest, Island South, Peninsula and Macau for the successful Drinks for Fun (d). As you all know, this was our special fund campaign organised at the World Council 2010 to support youth development programmes of APAY including



subsidies for this world events. We were able to generate a total fund of HK\$52,499 (USD6730) including the total amount of donations we received from the Y's Men's Clubs. We can say that this has strengthened the working partnership of Y's Men and YMCAs to further YMCA mission.

Here we quote what most of our supporters said for this special fund campaign, *This Drinks for Fun(d) brought together participants for fellowship and fun!*" We specially thank our volunteers, Marlene, Fion, Irene, Masao and Samuel for giving much of their time and energy!

11. Our Works on Movement Strengthening...

Cambodia YMCA PSG Signs TOR and Welcomes New Staff

At the last meeting of Cambodia YMCA Partners Support Group (PSG) held in Hong Kong on 21 July 2010, the newly hired staff was happily introduced by Mr. Im Thano, YMCA President. Mr. Chhun Srun has started working as a full time Executive Secretary effective 1 July 2010. Being a member of the Cambodia YMCA since 2007, Mr. Srun has been active in coordinating some YMCA programmes, workshops and study visits. He worked with an NGO in Cambodia and has a degree in English from a Language School in Phnom Penh. Together with Mr. Srun, a part-time staff has also been employed to provide support in finance. Ms. Un Sreyroth has been a member of the Cambodia YMCA since 2008. She is Accountancy and English holder and an experienced accountant for local NGOs and churches.

With this new development, Cambodia YMCA will gradually progress with the assistance, resources and expertise of PSG members. The representatives in another meeting held last 23 July 2010 signed the Terms of Reference and Partners Support Group Agreement.

Let us join the PSG members and Cambodia YMCA on their fervent prayer as they continue working together for the development of YMCA in Cambodia to serve the youth and the community.



12. Protecting the Environment for Sustainable Development – 5th IYYC

Under the theme “*Protecting the Environment for Sustainable Development*”, the 5th International YMCA Youth Camp (IYYC) organised by ANJUNCTIL/YMCA Timor Leste was held last 1- 9 August, 2010. Theme presentation was given by the two representatives from the Office of the Secretary of State for the Environment which focused on the environmental issues and responses made by the government. The participants were able to learn more on the current realities through the field exposures. Realizations and reflections have led to concrete action plans that were presented on the evening of the day.

A one-day tree-planting programme was organised with 60 Mangrove trees planted by the community through the assistance of Haburas Foundation (*Haburas* = “*green*” in local dialect) and Rede Hasitil. These national movements are working for the sustainability and strengthening of environment and agriculture. The local community was involved through discussions on the significance of protecting the environment towards a sustainable development. The YMCA was also introduced to the community through the presentations from YMCA TL, Japan and Korea.

Trash cans from drums were also made for distribution to 5 different areas. A clean up drive followed in a famous tourist site in Timor Leste. On the evening reflection, each of them shared their own on the camp activities and suggested to continue those activities in the coming days to respond the environmental issues particularly in the host country.

This one-week-camp brought together 26 youth staff and members from ANJUNCTIL, Student Christian Movement of Timor-Leste, Students from Dili and National University, KUP (Network of University Students), together with some volunteer of NCYs of Korea and Japan. The event also promoted unity among churches. (*Report by Mr. Admin Pinto, Administrative Officer of ANJUNCTIL*)

13. Our Movements Updates...

Walk for Peace Highlights Centennial Celebration of Korea YMCA Youth Meeting

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Korean YMCA Youth Meeting that started in 1910, both members of the Uni-Y Alliance and Hi-Y Club will come together on 14 August 2010. The youth members aim to proclaim their vision for peace and strengthen their youth organizations. Some 349 Hi-Y'ers will have a *Walk for Peace* from 11 August across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the North and South Korea and culminate on the 14 August in Seoul for their Centennial Celebration. From 21-23 August, the Korea Uni-Y Conference will take place in Gumi. (*Sharing by Ms. JiYoon Lee, Secretary, National Council of Uni-Y, NCY Korea*)

Young Explorers Programme 2010

To foster the notion of Global Citizenship and Cultural Understandings among young people, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong is in the second year of running the Young Explorers Programme (YEP), with an increasing number of participants for both inbound and outbound exchange.

Mr. Eric Wong of the International & Mainland Affairs Section of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong shared that this year they are working with YMCAs from Japan, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and USA. They will provide 4-6 weeks of internship opportunities for Youth Leaders and University Students from June to August 2010. A total number of 43 young explorers participating in this year's outbound exchange while 16 overseas interns are spending their summer working in Hong Kong.

YEP aims to provide a platform for students to develop their leadership, communication skills, sense of responsibility and explore their unique potentials; while building friendships with people among different countries around the globe. During the internship, participants will be undertaking duties at camp, children & youth programmes, schools and administration works.

Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong continues to look for working partners to further develop this international exchange programme. *For information, please contact Mr. Eric Wong, ericwong@ymca.org.hk*

Raon Atti works with the youth and the people of Asian communities...

On 3rd of August, the 3rd group of *Raon Atti* youth members came back healthy and now with an even deeper impression from their 5 month experiential learning with the 6 partners/hosts YMCAs ~ Malaysia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines. *Raon Atti – Friends of Asia* has been sending Korean YMCA youth to work with the youth and the people of local communities as part of their global citizenship education programme.



We have successfully chosen the 4th group last July and had undergone their own home-training programme including lectures about international volunteer services and a 2-week exposure in local YMCAs. These two groups will come together on 11-13 August for mentoring and sharing of experiences. This will prepare the 4th batch who are scheduled to go to their host countries from 8 September 2010. (*Report by Ms. Ana Lee, NCY Korea Global Citizenship Education Center, Raon Atti Friends of Asia*)

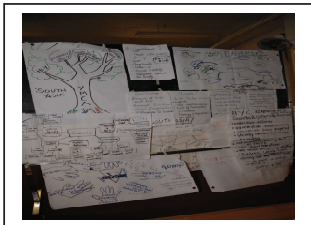
14. August 12 is International Youth Day and Launching of International Youth Year!



Dialogue and Mutual Understanding... We encourage all YMCAs to organise activities that inspires youth as an important partners in advancing development and sustainability of our movement. (see www.ymca.int as the WAY commemorates this day)

15. Reflections...Our Youth Voices

(This column will feature our young writers on several youth issues, learning, reflections and sharing of their YMCA youth development programmes. As an initial column, we are sharing their reflections from the APAY Youth Council 2010)



"It is our pleasure and privilege to be part of APAY Youth Council (AYC) for Taiwan YMCA. Being a part of AYC let me see that our local YMCA is somehow too satisfied to where we are, and is a little behind of training and developing our own youth leaders. It is a great profound opportunity to know and learn from these outstanding young leaders and volunteers of YMCA among Asian countries. AYC definitely opens a window for us, and I do hope that in the future Taiwan YMCA can bring more input and

contributions to APAY or any other YMCA youth engaging events. YMCA YOUTHS REALLY ROCK!"
(Ms Pat, Jia-Pei Lin ~ Director of International Group, Taichung YMCA, Taiwan)

"Attending the AYC is a great opportunity for me, since this is my first experience. I feel very happy because I can meet many youth from other country and share with them. I learnt that there are different context in every country and because of this, YMCAs must have different activities or programme response.

I'm not alone ~ that's one important learning! Indonesia consists of about 17,000 islands with about 500 languages and various cultures. From the 200 million populations, more than 90% are Muslims. We experienced refusal but also acceptance. We also have Muslim members in our YMCA We are not a big movement, but now I know that we are not alone. There are many people, especially youth with concern to do kindness. We are not alone...This experience is very inspiring. I'll share to my friends in Indonesia and I'm sure that it will be a great support for us to continue our pilgrimage through YMCA" *(Ms. Kristie Thie, President, Jogjakarta YMCA, Indonesia)*



"I would like to express my gratitude for the hospitality extended towards me. Though this was my first foreign exposure trip from the YMCA but I never felt an alien. Everyone was so kind and friendly that I felt like a part of ONE BIG FAMILY! ☺ This trip was the best exposure any youth can possibly ever get, and I am glad that I was part of it. As the Vice President of my local YMCA, I plan to conduct an *echo* meeting for the youth as I want to share my experiences and learning during my the stay in Hong Kong. This would help our youth to understand and be more involved in the YMCA and its mission.

After all, we are the children of Yesterday's Dream "*(Ms. Nilufer Dmello, Vice President, Jabalpur YMCA, India)*

"I am very glad and really excited to be one of the participants in APAY Youth Council because this is my first time to join an international conference. All AYC staffs and other participants are so kind and friendly. So I can learn many things about YMCA youth works in Asia-Pacific and meet many good friends from all over the region." *(Mr. Krissada Sangchay, Youth Volunteer-Leader, Chiang Mai YMCA, Thailand)*

"It's a gradually developing process for youth leadership. The strategies are productive and technically perfect to attract more youth. Sessions were creative, enjoyable and mighty spirited. The group works and sharing have given us new ideas and answered many questions that we have to face during our planning and working. I want to apply this experience in our country and hopefully can bring feedback, our own story from Bangladesh. Thank you! *(Ms. Balmi Chizm Tora, Youth Member, Dhaka YMCA, Bangladesh)*



"Thank God, because I was one of participants in this conference. We share, we learn, we laugh altogether. It helped me get new friends from all over region. We had lots of fun! YMCA is Youth organization. That's right! I found creative, passionate workers and volunteers in the AYC. We were all fighting for youth and a

better future Do you want to develop youth leadership, participation and engagement in our own region? Come on, find your nearest YMCA. Let's build our future together. I can't wait to see you soon. I love you all my AYC buddies! (Mr. Steven, Ng Kapo, Young Member's Council, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong)

16. 18th GA Preparatory Planning



Following the World Council 2010 in Hong Kong, a 18th General Assembly (GA) preparatory meeting was held from 25-26 July in APAY. The Planning Committee brainstormed on the Assembly programme contents and design, possible resource persons, theme, reflections on the quadrennial thrusts and review of the last GA process and flow. Strategic directions for the next 4 years and an evaluation of the current QPP were considered important components. Youth participation and leadership must be integrated in all aspects of the GA, during preparatory and in different working committees. Women participation must likewise be encouraged.

All committee members as approved during the Executive Committee Meeting in March were present. They have selected Mr. Peter Malone (Pacific - Australia) and Ms. Maria Cristina Miranda (Youth Committee Chair-Philippines) as Chairpersons. Other members include: Mr. Nam Boo Won (East Asia – Korea), Mr. Jerry Choo Soon Haw (South East Asia – Malaysia/Host YMCA), Mr. Duncan Chodhury (South Asia-Bangladesh), Dr. Patcharawan Srisilapanan (Gender Committee Chair – Thailand) and the APAY Executive Staff. The next planning meeting will take place at the host YMCA in Penang, Malaysia on 11-13 November 2010 to discuss further details of the next assembly. The 18th General Assembly will be held on 6-10 September 2011.

17. Election Committee Meets in Hong Kong

The Election Committee met on 20 July 2010 in Hong Kong to review the procedures and processes for nomination and election of APAY officers for the next quadrennium. We are implementing a new process of election as approved in the revised Constitution and By laws. This September 2010, the committee will send announcement to the national movements for nomination of election of officers. The committee is set to meet again on March 2011 during the Executive Committee Meeting. Ms. Helen McEwan (Pacific-New Zealand) was elected as Chair of this Committee at the said meeting. The other members of the committee are: Judge Edilberto Claravall (SEA – Philippines), Adv Joseph John (SA-India) and Ms. Hiromi Nagao (EA –Japan) with the General Secretary, Mr. Kohei Yamada as Ex-Officio Member.

18. Feature: WYFR ~ Retired...But Not Tired!

Many retirees around the world still active and care deeply about the YMCA and its mission, serving in different ways by keeping their talents and knowhow available as requested and needed.

Wearing blue T-shirts with the inscription “Retired...but not tired!”...with cheerful smiles the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees (WFYR) held its Fourth World Leadership Conference in conjunction with the 17th World Council Meeting in Hong Kong in Chinese YMCA Wu Kai Sha Youth Village.



This was a historic meeting, held for the first time in the context of the active YMCA movement, providing the opportunity of keeping retirees connected with the contemporary worldwide YMCA leadership.

There were 36 delegates from Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, Middle East and USA. The gathering was meticulously planned by WFYR Chairman Don Anderson, former CEO of the Honolulu YMCA. Kudos to him and his leadership team for their tireless and efficient efforts to make this possible.

The over arching purpose of the WFYR is to provide to all YMCA

retirees a flexible organization to enjoy fellowship, express their solidarity and proclaim their commitment to the YMCA mission.

Support to the efforts for Secours Speciaux (SS), a solidarity endeavor of the World Alliance of YMCAs to provide financial support to YMCA staff and dependants in crisis situations has been and will remain as a top priority for the new WFYR leadership. Additional efforts will be made to crystallize the so-called Global Retirement Initiative (GRI), a proposal in progress to address the issue of unsecured retirement for YMCA professionals. (*Sharing by Mr. Jerry Prado-Shaw, newly elected Chair of WFYR*)

19. Ecumenical News...Our Partners...Our Networks...

ICF Working Committee Meets in Cambodia to Plan Future Programs

The six-member working committee of Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) will meet on Aug. 20 and 21 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with Kohei Yamada, APAY general secretary, and Charlie Ocampo, CCA executive secretary for justice, international affairs, development and service, as well as ICF staff members to discuss future activities of the regional interfaith youth network. In addition to making plans for the remainder of this year, the group will also discuss the network's activities for 2011 to 2014.

SOP Planned for Sri Lanka in October

A School of Peace (SOP) conducted by Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) will be held for three weeks in Sri Lanka from Oct. 22 to Nov. 11. A total of 20 participants will be invited to take part in this interfaith peace program of which half will be from YMCA movements, especially from South and Southeast Asia. The remaining participants will be selected by CCA and ICF.

YMCA staff members and volunteers who are 20 to 40 years old who are committed to grassroots peace-building activities and working for justpeace through interfaith cooperation are encouraged to apply for this program. YMCAs should send applications through the YMCA national general secretary to the APAY secretariat office in Hong Kong by Aug. 31, 2010. In addition to a CV of the applicant, a brief essay of no longer than one page about the participant's vision and perspective on justpeace and their reason for participating in SOP should be included with the application. The participants will be selected on September 2010.

Questions about this program may be addressed to APAY Executive Secretary Jose Varghese at jose@asiapacificymca.org or ICF staff member Bruce Van Voorhis at bruce.vanvoorhis@gmail.com.

WSCF Regional Meeting 2010

The 19th World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) Asia Pacific Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) and the Pre-Women's Meeting were held from 18-28 July 2010 in Indonesia, which was attended by 16 member movements of the Federation. This was hosted by the 5 branches in North Sulawesi of GMKI (Gerakan Mahasiswa Kristen Indonesia) or SCM Indonesia on the theme, "Renewing the Earth, Climate Justice and Equity." Ms. Necta Rocas, WSCF Regional Secretary shared that highlights of the decisions were as follows: Election of new officers of both the standing and regional women's committee, commission recommendations and resolutions, amendments to the by-laws and approval of budget and regional programmes for 2011-2012. She added that SCM Nepal applied its associate membership to the global Federation. The search committee for the next WSCF Regional Secretary has also been formed during this meeting. It was also learned that the next RCM would be hosted by SCM India in July 2012. (*WSCF is one of the 6 partner organizations of EASY Net*)

EASY Net Updates

The EASY Net's commitment towards achieving its vision of deepening fellowship, common faith and social actions on building grassroots ecumenism within communities continues at the National Ecumenical Team/s (NET). This was discussed at the recent online conference of the Regional Team. It was learned that several initiatives have been undertaken in promoting ecumenical dialogue and co-operation within the NETs and other youth and student groups on social issues such as building a culture of peace, advocating

against human rights violation, combating HIV/AIDS, protecting the environment and addressing issues on migration.

The NET stories shared to the team included fellowships, activities, programs, dialogues, consultations, celebrations, and other creative expressions by the NET of Korea, Philippines, Hong Kong and Bangladesh. For the last quarter of this year, NETs from Malaysia, Hongkong, Philippines and Sri Lanka are geared on initiating events that facilitate discussion on understanding each national realities towards building a strengthened ecumenical partnership. The EASY Net Coordinating Team, together with the NETs are now planning for the EASY Net Week Celebration comes October 2010.

Y's Men Convention 2010 in Yokohama

Over 30 countries with about 1300 participants attended the 69th Y's Men's International Convention held in Yokohama, Japan from 5-8 August with the theme "From our Hands, We Pass Nature's Touch". APAY General Secretary Kohei Yamada gave an encouraging speech at the opening ceremony as a representative of YMCA. There were about 160 youth at the Youth Convocation that took place in Tozanso. The young people focused their discussion on "Make a Change, Be the Change"

We believe that the partnership between YMCAs and Y's Men's will be strengthened as APAY Treasurer, Mr. Takao Nishimura will assume as Secretary General of the Y's Men International from December 1, 2010.

20. In Memory: Mr. Kentaro Shiozuki, Former National General Secretary of Japan

Mr. Kentaro Shiozuki passed away on 9 July 2010. He had served as the National General Secretary of Japan YMCA from 1976 to 1984. He was a great leader of the YMCA, not only in Japan but also as an Asian leader of the ecumenical youth movement in 70s and 80s.

He started his YMCA engagement as a Student YMCA member and became a YMCA secretary in 1947, right after the World War II. He worked as the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) Asia Secretary for 13 years.

We express our condolences to the family of Mr. Shiozuki and to the NCY Japan.

21. Forthcoming Events/Meetings

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
24-28 September	Gender Workshop	Pune, India
19-24 October	3 rd Asia-Pacific Uni-Y Regional Conference	Baguio City, Philippines
22 Oct – 11 Nov	School of Peace (SOP) for YMCA Staff/s/Ecumenical NGOs	Colombo, Sri Lanka
14 Nov – 12 Dec	28 th Advanced Studies Programme	Hong Kong

22. From the Desk of the General Secretary... The Next 4 Years after World Council



500. This time we were very proud that many young delegates were involved, of which 50 were youth members of APAY.

The 17th World Council was held from July 19th to 24th in Hong Kong with great accomplishment. New Officers and Executive members were elected. The new Secretary General was officially announced. The second phase of Resource Mobilization was kicked off. The importance of capacity building was understood throughout the sessions. And various good practices were introduced by 75 workshops, etc. It was the biggest World Council in our history. A total of 1,134 delegates from 85 movements participated. From Asia and Pacific area alone, nearly 300 from 22 movements participated, and including local participants of Hong Kong, the figure went up to

I sensed a strong wave toward the direction of the World Movements. At the same time I sensed the distance between worldwide agenda and local realities of many parts of the world. The terms we used quite often during the World Council, such as “GOP and its three pillars” (Mission Clarity, Social Relevancy and Institutional Viability), “Resource Mobilization”, “Communication and Branding”, “Capacity Building”, etc. are not usual languages for many local YMCAs. During the World Council, many people felt the worldwide directions and needs to re-align their own YMCA directions. We are so different not only in our cultures but also in the global and local settings.

After the World Council, someone said, “we are so different in languages, cultures, YMCA programs, management priorities and styles... but when we all meet all together, we feel as one, one YMCA. This is strange but is the true feelings in the World Council.”



I was heavily involved in the process of preparation for the World Council with the other partners of Global team and World Alliance. From that viewpoint, I would like to share my thoughts toward next 4 years:

Movement Strengthening remains as the top priority of the World Alliance. There are 130 movements in the world, but more than half are weak. Many of them are extremely weak in the following items: Governance (Board and professional responsibility), Programs (Relevancy and its sustainability) and Institutional Capacity (staff, volunteer capacity of management), and Mission (how they understand and incorporate it into programs, and how the YMCA is seen by the community).

Resource Mobilization has been and will be the strong tool for Movement Strengthening and also for fulfilling our mission in each YMCA. We all understand that money (fund raising) is necessary for the above purposes. But money alone won't come. We need to tell our works, how important and how effective they are. So Communications to show the image of the YMCA become very important. At the same time, we have to demonstrate our impact of the programs to the youth and to the communities. Resource Mobilization is all about Capacity building and it means the same as Movement Strengthening.

World Alliance, APAY, National Councils, and Local YMCAs are all parts of the YMCA movement. We are all one YMCA. The above-mentioned Movement Strengthening and Resource Mobilization have been the agenda of World and Area levels with some limited number of National movements. Many National Councils and most local YMCAs may not know much about those till they attend the World Council of every four-year. The World Council is the time for realignment of different levels of YMCAs to be one movement. We were able to share and possess one common identity with common directions.

Global strategies for next four years were discussed in the World Council. Global Team proposed that we would strengthen National movements by regional trainings for Resource Mobilization, effective GOP continuation, and effective network building in information sharing. For those objectives, we requested 1 million USD to be raised. We were able to receive good responses from participants and many declared to support these efforts by providing necessary seed money.



We are all one YMCA...

Youth leadership, participation and youth involvement in YMCA movement have special meanings. Many felt freshness and powerful energy from youth participation, their willingness to be important role holders throughout the World Council. *"Nothing about youth without youth"*. This is the message introduced in the opening ceremony. I felt strong power from them and I believe this will be even stronger in the World Council 2014.

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