



APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 06 / 2010 ~Sept-Oct 2010

1. 3rd Uni-Y Regional Conference 2010: Asia-Pacific Uni-Y Week Declared in Baguio City, Philippines

In connection to this year's Uni-Y Regional Conference, the Sangguniang Panlungsod (City Council) of the City of Baguio declared 18-24 October 2010 as Asia-Pacific Uni-Y Week. The special courtesy as stated in Resolution No 217 (Series of 2010) is recognizing the efforts of the APAY, its co-organisers/hosts and participants in choosing the City of Baguio as venue, bringing closer to our youth and inculcating in them due importance of personal discipline, service, social responsibility and leadership. This is the first time, APAY has given such kind of special courtesy.

As at this writing, young participants and staff from the YMCAs of India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Metro YMCA Singapore, USA and Philippines will share and learn together on the theme: *Bayanihan* 2010: Live, Work, Help ~ Together, We Transform Lives. As the theme encompasses two major components of Youth Leadership and Youth Volunteerism in *Bayanihan*, this can bring positive social change fostering respect for diversity, equality and the participation for all. Working together more than an individual as a source of community and power.

Lead by its youth hosts committee comprised of College-Y'ers from some local YMCAs has planned several innovative programmes and events other than inputs and sessions. One of which is the Assembly Tales, which will highlight the celebration of their existing Uni-Y activities or other output materials coming from the two previous Conferences. The Walk for Volunteerism is designed to promote volunteerism and advocacy campaign for greater awareness on issues impacting the youth and the society. Dawn promenade could be a different and exciting experience for everyone.

We express our appreciation to the country host, National Council of YMCAs of the Philippines and to the local host, YMCA of the City of Baguio for their support to this year's Uni-Y Regional Conference.

2. Advanced Studies Programme 2010 ~ Update

To date, 13 participants have been selected so far for this year's Advanced Studies Programme (ASP) from China (2), Hong Kong (2), India (1), Japan (1), Korea (2), Myanmar (2), Philippines (1), Sri Lanka (1) and Africa Alliance (1). The 28th ASP will have its Inauguration and Welcome Dinner-Ceremony on 16 November to be hosted by Hong Kong YMCA. The training programme starts with the participants sharing of "Life Moments" which is a natural way of building a sharing-learning community. This process will generate a deep consciousness and concern for each other, for people and each other's YMCAs. Their personal life situations experiences in relation to their local and national socio-political realities and work engagement will serve as a foundation for this community process. This year's ASP will have more emphasis on Movement Strengthening as the ASP emphasises the formation of YMCA professional leaders for the strengthening and growth of the Movement. The 28th ASP will be held from 14 November – 12 December 2010 in Chinese YMCA Youth Village, Wu Kwai Sha, Hong Kong.

3. YMCA Staff Join SOP in Sri Lanka

Twenty-one people from 11 countries will take part in the first School of Peace (SOP) organized by APAY with Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) and CCA. The YMCA International Hotel near Colombo in Sri Lanka will host this program for participants from Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines as well as Sri Lanka. In addition, interns from Kenya, Palestine and Sudan presently working in the national YMCA office in Sri Lanka will also take part in this SOP.

During this three-week interfaith program that begins on Oct. 22, the participants will reflect on one's multiple identities, the difference between religion and faith and the various ways in which people relate to members of other faiths. The participants will also learn about the teachings of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam on justice and peace. A major component of this SOP are field visits to four different parts of the country that use the Sri Lankan context to examine various forms of violence that affect societies. It is hoped that the inputs of the first week and the field visits of the second week will lead the participants toward transformation that is the central focus of the last week of the program.

4. Gender Workshop 2010...an experiential learning

The workshop was aptly titled, 'Gender and Sustainable Development with Focus on Economic Empowerment' scheduled between September 24 and 28, 2010 in Pune YMCA, India. This Regional Workshop was an experiential workshop where delegates shared their experiences in their individual



YMCA's and endeavoured to learn with a view to synthesizing the output/insights from the workshop. This is an obvious departure from routine workshops and seminars, which culminate in pious resolutions and recommendations which later gather dust for ages. The 'look-listen-learn' approach is an innovative way of providing delegates with tools to work with while envisioning their tasks ahead and creating the ideal ambience for exchange of experience gained at first hand in their home settings.

APAY General Secretary, Kohei Yamada, inaugurated the Regional Workshop in the presence of Mr. K John Cherian, President, YMCAs of India, country host and Mr. Vivek Aranha, President, YMCA Pune, local host besides, APAY Chair for Gender Equity, Dr. Patcharawan Sirsilapan, Indian YMCA Chair for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity, Dr. Ann Thomas and Mr. John Varughese, National General Secretary at a colourful opening.

The keynote address by Dr. Neela B. Onawale, Director, Deep Griha Society, Pune drew on her own experiences. She founded the group in 1975 to empower the marginalized through capacity-building and sustainable urban and rural development programmes. She discussed the inputs that went into individuals to make them able citizens, equipping them with skills for life. She is happy that the female literacy in India is fast increasing and education is helping them to make right choices for themselves and their families.

Mercy Kappen, Associate Director, Visthar, Bangalore, facilitated a very interactive Gender Sensitivity Trainings. This was an energising session and left a tremendous impression on the delegates by virtue of its realistic presentations and portrayals of present day scenario involving gender issues and concerns. It was conducted with great *finesse* by Mercy and provided food for thought for the almost two dozen initiates at that time. The training modules were in keeping with the objectives of preparing for general awareness raising and gender sensitivity. The interactions, often hilarious, were replete with mimicry and dramatics, which enhanced the appeal of this session in particular.



Another session conducted with great competence by Revd. Dr. Jonathan Borde of the Integrity Foundation in Pune, focusing on 'Mobilizing Women for Action on Economic Empowerment'. In an insightful power-point presentation, Revd. Borde, gave a comprehensive picture of efforts to improve the lives of thousands who live a sub-human life in the slums and shanties in the shadows of Pune's sky-scrappers. The integrated slum development programme and other facets of his programmes to empower the indigent women-folks were brought out beautifully in his power-point presentation which provided an interesting introduction to the social exposure programme in the post-lunch session. The delegates were taken on an organized tour of the neighbouring slums and given first-hand knowledge of economic empowerment efforts of the Integrity Foundation which were meeting with tremendous success in these slums with scores of "success stories" to vindicate the integrity of the intervention of this unique Foundation

Enhancing Enterprise Development Skills' in a session conducted with rare aplomb by a motivational speaker of repute, Mr. Bobby Mennon from Pune city. The proceedings were so engrossing that the

delegates sat spell-bound imbibing the rich inputs which they could adapt and adopt in their intervention programmes for empowering women to become economically powerful in society.



The concluding day, which began with morning devotion, saw the greater part devoted to 'Plenary Sharing – Presentation of Future Initiatives'. Prior to this, Mr. Kohei Yamada, gave a prefatory talk, which served as a load-stone for delegates in envisioning the future. Rich in content and suffused with sublime thoughts, Mr. Yamada's discourse made an impressionable impact on the delegates and that would ultimately lead to a lot of clarity in their conceptualizing of the future as they explored future initiatives. The session was ably conducted by Dr. Pat, Dr. Ann and Ms. Cristina Dalope, APAY ES for Programmes and had the embryonic elements of a new

resurgence on the APAY horizon in the closing decade of the third millennium. The Indian delegates exploration at national, regional and local level was followed by that of Thailand and Japan which formed the core of the presentation that would be integrated in the learning experience of this workshop. (*Excerpt from the Documentation/Report by Mr. Anjan Mukherjee, Secretary, National Programmes & Women's Empowerment & Gender Concerns and Media & Communication, National Council of YMCAs of India*).

There isn't a day that I don't recall the days in Pune since I came back to Japan. Everyday, people I met, place we visited, and food we ate were new to me and got excited to know everything and I always fell in sleep so fast at the end of the day. However, in this Workshop, I think hard especially about the gender how important the women's empowerment is through each session. I will keep working based on our action plan we made and hope to share with everyone in the future. I deeply appreciate for giving me an opportunity to join this Workshop and all the support. Thank you. *by Eriko Hikishima, Youth Volunteer, Kobe YMCA, Japan*

"Gender is socially constructed roles and responsibility of women and men. Sex is biological, either a male or a female." We understood that gender is about social expectation and relational concept between men and women or in relation to both and similar sexes.

For us to fully understand the greater impact of these expectations, we need to see the deeper aspects of the societal levels on the areas of poverty and empowerment. We have to go deeper from sex to the concept of gender. To satisfy everything, we have to hit both the basic needs (foods, sanitation, housing, health care which could be provided) and the strategic gender needs (attention, confidence, freedom, decision making and respect). The real transformation of women occurs when this second need is fulfilled. Our work is in this transformation. *by Kohei Yamada, GS, APAY*

We sincerely thank both the National Council of YMCAs of India (country host) and the Pune YMCA (local host) for such a wonderful workshop and for their generous support.

5. Pakistan Floods – Relief Operations Update



Lahore YMCA has continued its emergency relief work to the flood affected areas in Pakistan. Recently, APAY Executive Secretary Cristina Dalope joined their YMCA relief team in Kot Addu, Muzaffargarh during her assessment visit of their emergency good practices and movement strengthening process last 2-9 October. The village was more than 8 hours drive from Lahore toward south in the southern Punjab. This area was severely affected by the floods and floodwater still persists. They started their relief efforts in August and had serviced three areas in Northern

Pakistan – Noshera, Charsadda and Risalpur. Last September, another group of relief team was organised to distribute food rations of 10 kg bag of flour, rice, sugar, pulses, cooking oil, tea and dry milk in the areas of Muzaffargarh.

We quote an e-mail from the General Secretary of Lahore YMCA, "We are happy to note that more movements have come forward to strengthen our efforts to support the flood victims of Pakistan. We had been able to make some efforts to share their sufferings in their crucial time entrapped in a murky environment following the flood, providing them with emergency relief with food rations. Thank you for your support and prayers."



We express our appreciation to the YMCAs of Canada, Germany, Japan, Macau, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, USA and Y Care International for their support to Pakistan's relief work.

6. Our Movements Updates...

YMCA Australia welcomes new CEO

Our congratulations to Ms. Katherine Pengilly, the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of YMCA Australia who took office on August 31.

Having held positions as the CEO of the Sustainable Melbourne Fund, COO/Deputy CEO of Save the Children Australia and executive positions with Europcar and the St. Kilda and Carlton Football Clubs, Katherine is an acknowledged leader with extensive leadership and management experience.

“Pengilly brings the qualities, experience credentials and mission focus required to continue YMCA Australia's trajectory of growth, innovation and whole of movement leadership - to build on the outstanding record of achievement under the leadership of the former CEO of YMCA Australia, Bob Nicholson,” excerpt from letter of Mr. Alan Morton, President of YMCA Australia.

We also express our thanks to Bob for his service and dedication to YMCA Australia.

Myanmar YMCA holds basic secretary training 2010

The National Council of YMCAs of Myanmar, Human Resource Development Department held a basic secretary training from 13-30 September with 28 participants from local YMCAs and ecumenical partner organizations.

It aims to promote young generations from YMCA and ecumenical partner organizations to be leaders of and for the future by changing the process of secretarial duties and to become professional secretaries of the YMCA in the future. Becoming good secretaries professed on Christian ethics and good leadership while having the confidence to go on working for the communities and the YMCAs as good leaders are expected.



An exposure trip was organized for participants to learn about street children, the old people and the ones sheltered in home for the aged. This activity is held once a year.

After attending the Basic and Advanced Secretary training and Workshop in the YMCA for more than 3 years only then will they have the opportunity to continue to attend the APAY Advanced Studies Program in Hong Kong. (Report by Jonathan Paw, Executive Secretary, NCY Myanmar)

Japan YMCA conducts its 2nd Youth Global Citizenship Summer Training Project

Goshi Ito, youth leader of NCY Japan, APAY YPLD committee member, shares his experience....

The 2nd Japan YMCA GCE program for youth was held last 20-26 Aug 2010 in Japan YMCA International Youth Centre in Tozanso. 43 youth volunteers and staff from Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and Japan joined in and took trainings aimed for leadership and good understanding of today's global issues.



At the first part of the program, Maria Cristina A. Dalope, Executive Secretary of APAY –our special guest – gave us a keynote speech and facilitated a workshop. She shared ideas addressing the importance of Global Citizenship in YMCA, and why prioritise the youth in GC Education. These concerns have been addressed and discussed via series of workshops and conferences of APAY in the recent years. It enabled the attendees to understand the importance of our youth movement but also the thought of YMCA beyond.

In the “trading game” workshop, we realized the reality of today’s highly globalized society. In addition, we have learned how the economical gaps between advanced and developing countries happen and how people of each country would feel through role-playing acts of manufacturing and free international trading. In the fieldwork, we visited several places where Japanese local social problems like poverty, discriminations, multi-cultural society, etc happen or some local YMCAs and NGOs act for the issue, and discussed how each issue relate to the globalization.

The feature of this programme is not only aimed for understanding but also for youth leadership. Participants made their action plans by following the 4Ws and 1H on the things will initiate to do when they go back to their own local communities. All participants are expected to take action for a half year, and write final report and present in next March. Most participants are going to hold workshops or campaigns with not only participants of this programme but also their YMCAs’ fellow and they also committed to keep everyone in touch. This enables them to strengthen youth network both on domestic and international levels. Moreover, this can bring youth’s high motivation for action and good leadership too.

The Global Citizen Education of YMCA has just been launched a few years ago. It is our challenge. Trust to educate youth to be aware of our responsibility for today’s globalized society and to bring up their leadership for it. I do hope this movement will spread all over the APAY countries and eventually give way to the birth of many youth leaders from our generation. Thank you very much for your concern and support!



“I know that my country is facing various problems but I don’t know the solutions for these problems. However I don’t want to give up even if I don’t have good solution now. This is the reason why I participated in this program. I believe that I can do something for my community so I’m going to search about what problems my community has. And I will start my action. I felt that Global Citizenship Project was exciting and good experience for me” *by Sachi Sumiyoshi, Sapporo YMCA College, Japan*

“Participating in this program was the greatest experience during my summer break. It was very tough for me to communicate in English at the beginning of the program, but I could make many friends and we discussed what we should do to be a Global Citizen. I think that IT IS TIME TO ACT! I will take action in my school” *by Natsumi Hara, Sapporo YMCA College, Japan*

Bangladesh YMCA Youth Training on Values Education

The YMCA Youth Training on Values Education organized by the National Council of YMCAs of Bangladesh was held on 12-16 August 2010 at the YMCA Training Center, Savar, Dhaka. The training was organized to promote values education and awareness raising for YMCA young members was attended by 26 youth members from 10 local YMCAs and 2 local General Secretaries.



The training included devotion, community building sessions, exposures and several sessions/inputs on leadership, human resource management, formation development programs and faith reflection. Each local YMCA got space to share their youth activities along with youth problems in terms of values practice. Two young leaders, who both attended the 17th World Council, shared some of their youth work and engagements. Balmi Chisim expressed that she was motivated to work on MDG (Millennium Development Goals) within the YMCA. And, Bappu Mree, Acting Secretary of Edilpur shared about EASY Net (Ecumenical Asia Pacific Students and Youth Network) who attended a national program of Bangladesh National Ecumenical Team (NET).



The participants took part in deliberations after each session and also met on group meetings and expressed their views in the common sessions while creatively preparing their daily journal entries. They concluded the seminar with creative cultural show and singed on campaign slogan which will be promoted across Bangladesh through

local YMCAs. Mr. Symon P. Adhikary, President of the National Council of YMCAs of Bangladesh and Mr. Duncan Chowdhury, National General Secretary were present to share some of their thoughts on the issues. The three day long training was facilitated by Bipul Alite Gonsalves, Executive Secretary and assisted by Tapan Karmakar, Associate Secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of Bangladesh (*Report by Mr. Duncan Chowdhury, NGS, NCY Bangladesh*)

Gwangju YMCA celebrates its 90th year

The 90th anniversary was held in Gwangju, Korea on October 7-9, 2010. Gwangju is well known to many people by the “May 18 People’s Struggle”. This struggle for democracy brought Korea a major turning point to change its authoritarian government to democratic government. In May 1980, 30 years ago, over 500 people, mainly students were killed in the struggle for its democracy against the authoritarian regime. This struggle happened right in front of the Gwangju YMCA main building. YMCA played the major role and provided leadership in the struggling movement for the country’s democracy. The YMCAs in Korea, especially in Gwangju, has gone through such strong and unique mission for the civil society. As one of the 90th anniversary events, they issued a new vision statement of YMCA toward its centennial year 2020.

YMCA Christchurch Wins Outdoors New Zealand Awards

This year, Outdoors New Zealand recognises the YMCA Christchurch as being a leader in the outdoor sector, particularly in terms of how they strive to provide quality outdoor experiences for children and young people.

The Education Outdoors New Zealand Programme Award was won for YMCA Christchurch's high quality and enduring holiday camp and leadership training programme that is run from their camp, Wainui Park. Wainui Park has been a central and significant feature of YMCA Christchurch's activities for 80 years. The awards dinner was held last September 24.

Thousands of school students from hundreds of schools from around Canterbury have an outdoor camp at Wainui every year. During school holidays Wainui provides a wide range of camping programmes for children from age 7 to age 17 – providing different activities and challenges for participants depending on their age, their interests, and the number of times they had already attended the programme (*sharing by Andrew Hopper, Camp Manager, YMCA Wainui Park, NZ*)

7. Ecumenical News...Our Partners...Our Networks...

EASY Net Week 2010

From 17-24 October, each National Ecumenical Team (NET) is enjoined to simultaneously celebrate the EASY Net Week with the theme *Engaging Youth in Peace Building through Grassroots Ecumenism*. This year's theme reflection highlights our commitment on engaging the youth and students on peace building. As we are all faced with different levels and forms of violence, the EASY Net Week theme encourages us to reflect and strengthen our action towards becoming peace makers. The various forms of celebrations can be deepened through the biblical theme reflection lifted from Romans 14:19 that says, ***“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another” (Romans 14:19).***

The EASY Net Week Celebration is an annual event that provides opportunity for NET to celebrate together through various forms like joint worship-fellowship, exposures, musical events or/and full-blown national gathering with components of input discussion, worships, bible studies, and other creative expressions. This annual youth week is held every third week of October. A guide paper for this year’s celebration has been circulated to all organised NETs or e-mail Ms. Cristina Miranda (easy_net@ymail.com), EASY Net Coordinator. YMCAs are encourage to join the celebration with their own NETs.

The Earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand

by Ric Odom, National Chief Executive Officer, YMCA New Zealand

As you all know, at around 4.30 a.m (New Zealand time) on Saturday 4th September, Christchurch, the largest city in New Zealand's South Island (population around 372,000), was struck by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake. While New Zealanders have long experience with earthquakes (we have the dubious honour of sitting on a number of fault lines and have a few volcanos that spring to life from time to time), this earthquake revealed a hitherto little known fault which apparently has not been active for around 16,000 years. I felt it in Wellington, approximately 400kms or 250 miles away.

More than four weeks after the quake, damage is still evident in some areas of Christchurch and there remain a few communities with no sewerage services to their homes. As I have mentioned in previous articles, Christchurch has not been devastated and much of the city continues to function more or less as normal but of course, this is little comfort to the residents who have experienced, and continue to experience the frightening result of nature at its most destructive. So far there have been more than 1,400 aftershocks – some close to 6 in magnitude. Fortunately and almost unbelievably, there have been no fatalities.

Christchurch is also home to the second largest YMCA in the country and that has also been seriously affected, tough things could have been much worse. The staff were also quick to begin damage assessment and clean up (where they were able to access the facilities). Some of the staff have had their own homes seriously damaged. The YMCA staff have worked, and continue to work, under what must be sometimes frightening conditions to keep the Y going.

The CEO of YMCA Christchurch, Josie Ogden Shroeder and her staff are very appreciative of the offers and messages of support that have flowed not just from members of the New Zealand YMCA community but also from our extended family around the world.

8. Erratum...

We would like to correct an error of our previous eNews issue on story 15 – Reflections...Our Youth Voices. Ms. Balmi Chisim Tora is from Birisiri YMCA, Bangladesh and not from Dhaka YMCA as stated. Our apologies.

9. Forthcoming Events/Meetings

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
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
14-15 January 2011	Cambodia YMCA PSG Meeting	Cambodia
22-24 January	East Asia YMCA Forum	Korea
8 – 12 March	Executive Committee Meeting	Hong Kong
4-6 September	2 nd APAY Youth Assembly	Penang, Malaysia
6-10 September	18 th APAY General Assembly	Penang, Malaysia

10. From the Desk of the General Secretary...YMCA India ~ strongly moving forward

I had a weeklong stay in India and visited some of their local YMCAs...here I share with you...

In India, there are 588 affiliated YMCAs and 350 YMCAs not yet affiliated in 9 regions in the country. Under the National Board 22 committees are formed. Under the National Structure, 9 regions have own National staff and Regional offices. The chairman of the region becomes National Executive member, and the chair of the Regional Youth committee becomes National Youth Committee member. Therefore, all the decisions of the National levels will be informed and carried out by their own representatives, and all the important opinions of regions can be heard and respected by the National bodies.

The YMCA movement in India has been growing. This year alone, 36 new YMCAs were proved to be affiliated after all the process of affiliation conditions. They should have at least 30 Christian members, and

of which one third should be below 30 years of age. Amazingly, this year alone they identified 20-30 new YMCAs being prepared to start its activities as YMCA.

I visited the Eastern Region of India where it is known as the poorest area in India. I would like to introduce some movements I visited in this region.

From September 2008 for over 100 days, over 800 people from Kandhamal area escaped to Bhubaneswar area, but churches or Christian organizations did not open the doors for them due to the fear of violence by Hindu extremists. The YMCA Bhubaneswar decided to accommodate 800 individuals for over 100 days. During the time, they provided foods, church service every evening, trauma counseling, and harmony meetings with Hindu leaders were held. The doctors in the YMCA board provided clinic services for the victims. The small YMCA of Bhubaneswar, its President and General Secretary with a few project staff members did this with the strong support from board.

This human made disaster has brought so many issues to Christian communities in Orissa. The YMCA board members have developed the idea of "Dream Project". They want to build a Disaster Management Center for young people to build up brotherhood with the others. The Christians are minority in India, but the missionary work has been changing some of the whole local communities. The violence against Christian families in the small local tribal area happened accordingly. I think people's fear or defense mechanism should be further studied and understood from this case. The findings can be useful in understanding the roots of the inter-religious conflicts

Tanki Belaray is a small village along the East coast of India. The YMCA there is serving a few villages, with a population of about 3,000. The area has tribal population and they are mainly relying on farming as their source of livelihood. The YMCA provides education for preschool children, medical clinic, micro-finance program for the women, etc. Without the YMCA services there is no other services there. Individuals supported the YMCA but the total income is limited. The secretary's salary is very limited and it is possible only upon his missionary spirit. The young General Secretary, Samal, wants to have overseas partners if possible. His idea is to make an Agricultural Training Center for the farmers. Training, renting equipments, etc could be very useful in this area. Young people are mostly going out for better jobs and only a percentage would stay in the community. He thinks he can help them for successful farming.



Ranchi YMCA was established in 1969, and now it is one of the biggest established YMCAs in India. It is known as reaching out to people in the communities. It has 6 centers at present- 2 of them have big schools from Kindergarten to Grade 8th. These schools started in early 2000's and they both have been growing rapidly. The Ranchi YMCA provides urban community development program to 9 slum areas. These include education to slum area children in 9 schools. I went to one of them. Located under a bridge along the river, the school has 32 supported students with age varying from 2-5 with food and school materials provided for them with a support coming from the German YMCA for the past three years. These schools have been present for many years and majority of the graduates have grown up to be successful in society.

Another Urban community program is to provide services to 70 Leprosy families. They live along the river and most of them live by begging money in streets. YMCA has provided food and housings to them. Those outreach programs get supported mainly by YMCA abroad like Norway, Germany and Japan. But now without the big support for them, they are trying to be strong enough to sustain those outreach programs. Ranchi YMCA has 3,000 life members, and over 1,000 full memberships, which is one of the largest in India. I sensed the growing mission works and confidence among boards and staff members.

Patna is the capital of Bihar State, known for the Buddha being enlightened there. In 1988, the professional secretary, Christopher was placed and he reopened the Patna YMCA. After so many years, this YMCA has shown some uniqueness in its programs. Three different main programs were conducted. First, education to children from the neighbouring slum area has been offered in the afternoon and the classroom is at their outside garden. Some 40 children ages 3 to 14 come every day and sit on mat, studying Hindu and English

languages, Math and Arts through drawing. This program is supported by members' donation. Second, they offer free counseling to women in trouble. There are 20-25 cases every month and most of the problems are coming from marriage and dowry system. Women's rights are not existed in this traditional system, which is still deeply undergoing in Indian communities. Many times girl babies are not welcomed and husband's family forced to abort once they find out. They deal with those cases by counseling both families and people involved. Thirdly, they have usual computer classes in the middle of business area. There are over 40 students; all college students, for their career development. But they are encouraged to volunteer for the YMCA programs and it turns out that about a half of the students really do for the YMCA. The board members are motivated to support the YMCA operation. Young students are encouraged to be involved in the YMCA activities. Young and new staff has now decided to be a Professional Secretary of the YMCA after working for a few years there. People have been transformed through the YMCA- its programs, seeing the dedicated secretary and staff members.

Here I see the APP project being conducted. YMCA USA have been supporting for its movement-strengthening project. The YMCA's financial sources are limited to donation from members, donation from abroad to some projects and computer class tuitions for students. The support was to strengthen the computer classes by coming up with better equipments, better classrooms, and qualified teachers. The new equipments can also be rented out for other business use. For example the overhead projector can be utilized by renting out for 1200 Rps per day, etc. After the four months of this APP, the number of students went from 15 to 44. The GS thinks the number goes up to 120 (60 as break-even point).



Overall the Indian movements especially for those professional secretaries have strong mission sense and commitment. They had nearly one-year basic training in the first few years of their careers. I heard that many stay in the movement. Without faith and personal commitment, I don't think this kind of work is possible. I respect those committed and genuine leaders among the professional secretaries. The only concern is that this traditional model of secretaries may not be continued among the younger generation. This is the problem of many movements in YMCAs as well as many areas of professionalism. But the good and talented individuals are coming up among the young generations. We, the YMCAs, may need to think and create new

culture of work for the poor and marginalized. We need to show our commitment, our dreams and our mission senses to the next generations with the confidence.

India has so much to offer to each other within India and also to the international brothers and sisters. Especially the big 8 or 10 movements in India have so much to share within and outside India. The commitment of the secretaries, strong lay leadership, good investment to human resources especially for the professional leadership. Poverty alleviation, education for the poor, empowerment of youth and women especially among the marginalized, and initiation of the new development of work areas are extremely strong in India. The talents, experiences and confidence of Indian secretaries should be shared to those that lack in various fields of work.

Kohei Yamada
General Secretary

Cristina A. Dalope & Jose Varghese
Executive Secretaries