



# APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 01 / 2011 ~January 2011

## 1. Executive Committee Meeting and Related Meetings 2011

As per earlier announcement, we wish to confirm that the Executive Committee (ExCo) and Standing Committees will meet from 9-12 March 2011 in Hong Kong. There will be a special session on the proposed Governance Model of APAY on the 1<sup>st</sup> day. As this is the last year of our QPP, standing committees are expected to review the progress of the works done and some recommendations. The National General Secretaries will meet on 8 March from 9AM to 5PM.

Prior to this year's ExCo, there will be meetings set for the QPP Evaluation team and 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Planning Committee with the youth group and writing team. The youth working group will again meet on 12-13 March in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Assembly. The Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong have extended invitation to all Executive Committee members for a joint dinner launching of their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on 13 March 2011.

## 2. Movements' Updates

### *Australia appoints interim CEO*

YMCA of Australia announced that their National Board had just appointed an interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Peter Malone. Ms. Katherine Pengilly has resigned the position of CEO. Quoting President Morton's circular, "*Following careful consideration of the short-term needs of the Movement across Australia and within the National Office, the Board has decided to make an interim CEO appointment*". Peter Malone is well known within the YMCA and has provided many years of volunteer service both at local Association level and as a long-standing member of the National Board and a past National President. He has agreed to take leave from his employer and has stepped down from the National Board to take on this interim appointment.

### *Sri Lanka has a new National General Secretary*

Mr. Lakshan Dias is now the National General Secretary of the National Council of the YMCAs of Sri Lanka (NCYSL) with effect from 1 February 2011. Lakshan is no stranger to the YMCA family giving over 25 years of active involvement with the YMCA family. In Sri Lanka, he served at the YMCAs of Moratuwa, Dehiwala, Kandy and the National Council. He is an attorney-at-law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. He is an ardent ecumenist and a defender of human rights specially those of internally displaced people. President Aruna shared that Lakshan's experiences and involvement with ecumenical and humanitarian organisations would make a paradigm shift in the YMCA movement of Sri Lanka towards making it a foremost ecumenical-humanitarian movement in the country. He was our APAY Executive Secretary for Programmes from 2004-2007.

### **Our warm congratulations to both of you!**

#### *Sri Lanka Floods ~ YMCA Response*

*Excerpt from the report of Mr. Charith De Silva, National Council of the YMCAs of Sri Lanka*

The downpour that started in end of December in most part of Sri Lanka ravaged the Eastern Province with relentless rains. This area received the highest rainfall in a week after the year 1923. Batticaloa and Ampara areas were inundated for weeks and all 9 YMCAs located in this region were affected. Most of their infrastructure and equipments were damaged. Leaders and members were displaced.

YMCAs in affected and non-affected areas have sprung into action under the guidance of the Disaster Management Committee (DMC) of the National Council of the YMCAs of Sri Lanka. They launched an immediate relief programme and dispatched water; food, medicine and other urgently needed items with cash to the value of Rs. 2,281,060/ to the nine affected YMCAs. Flood relief item collection Centres were set up at the NCY & member YMCAs. Notices were sent to newspapers and TV stations. Volunteers and scouts were mobilized to assist in these relief operations. All friends and partners were advised by emails and phone.



Sri Lanka YMCA is also organizing an “Educational Aid Distribution Programme” for those children in the flood-affected areas. Save the Children field officials say nearly 400,000 children could face malnutrition without enough food. According to NCY teams that visited and conducted needs study, another major problem that needs to be tackled is providing clean water and sanitary conditions. Floods have contaminated the wells; the source of water in this region. They say the elderly, disabled, pregnant mothers, new mothers and children needs special attention. Sri Lanka YMCA's National Disaster Management Committee has helped regional YMCAs to develop their own Disaster Management Committees and now working with these committees to strengthen their capacities so that any disasters can be addressed immediately at local level.

*We thank the YMCA of Canada and YMCAs of Singapore for sending their contributions to our APAY appeal for this Sri Lanka floods emergency response*

#### ***YMCA youth participates at the IAVE Youth Conference 2011, Singapore***



From the 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011, the YMCA of Singapore co-organised the IAVE Youth Volunteer Conference held in Singapore Management University. It attracted a total of 439 youths from 26 countries, the largest IAVE Youth Conference to date. 9 youth leaders from the YMCAs in Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand were among the scholarship awardees of the conference, which were based on the theme of ‘Volunteering to Change the World’. They were joined by around 40 youth of Singapore YMCA. Over the

course of the conference, delegates were exposed to a myriad of activities, including service projects to over 14 local organizations as well as workshop tracks led by 15 invited speakers and moderators. The International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) as well as Singapore’s National Volunteer and Philanthropy Center (NVPC) spearheaded this conference. *(Photo shows welcome tea for all overseas YMCA participants hosted by YMCA Singapore. News report sharing by Mr. Oliver Loke, Conference Chair, YMCA of Singapore/APAY Youth Committee Member)*

#### ***Good Friends of Asia ~ Raonatti Prepares for 5<sup>th</sup> batch, Korea***

Another 30 young people were finally selected to take part in this year’s 5<sup>th</sup> batch of Raonatti ~ an international volunteer service programme of the National Council of YMCAs of Korea (NCYK). They are now having 3 weeks home training programme and will meet with the members of 4<sup>th</sup> batch (returnees) for proper transition. From 14-18 January 2011, the National Council invited all Coordinators of 5 host YMCAs (Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Vietnam, Sri Lanka – Moratuwa, Thailand – Chiang Mai and Philippines – Nueva Ecija) and had a very fruitful meeting in Seoul for evaluation and sharing of future plans. Ms. Ana Lee, NCY Coordinator hopes that Raonatti can be a catalyst of Asia and that many youth can be developed and be global citizens. She also shares some reflections of Raonatti returnees:

*Ms. Minha Lee (2<sup>nd</sup> batch) ~ after coming back from Philippines, I concentrated on my double major – NGO. Now I’m doing an internship at the NCYK which is part of my NGO classwork. Last week, I welcomed the 12 international coordinators who have been hosting Raonatti programmes. I was happy to meet them in Korea and we had a great time during “temple-stay” I learned not only about Buddhism but also the way to fully concentrate on ourselves through meditation.*

*Ms. Eunsol Lee (3<sup>rd</sup> batch) ~ I belong to Malaysia team. It was a great experience and our team participated in HH Camp (YMCA International youth camp for deaf) as volunteers. Although, there several kinds of deaf languages, they could still communicate and we could be good friends. I realised that we can friends whether we are normal or with disability. Thanks to this kind of experience, as I was able to be a Chinese translator during the last China-Japan-Korea YMCA Peace Forum last 20-22 January and YMCA NEA Forum on 22-24 January 2011. I was really happy to meet many YMCA staff/leaders and could listen good information/discussions.*

### **3. Our Works on Movement Strengthening**

#### ***Cambodia PSG brings plans to progress***

Cambodia ~ Partners Support Group (PSG) members of Cambodia YMCA met last 14-15 January 2011. The group reviewed the progress of action undertaken for the last 6 months, which included youth forum and a workshop on strategic development that resulted to a 3-year strategic plan. The YMCA street children project, which is supported by Y Care International, has commenced last November. PSG members have decided to draw a realistic, relevant and manageable one-year strategic plan to be implemented within 2 phases for 2011 (January-June and July to December). The plan will focus on governance development, membership campaign, leadership training, education program, and enhancement of street children project and on Christian witness. The meeting also included visits to the programme sites - communities. A follow-up meeting was set on 25-27 March 2011 also in Cambodia.

#### ***Indonesia YMCA PSG Meets in Surabaya***



From 18-20 February 2011, the Indonesia YMCA Partners Support Group (PSG) will meet in Surabaya YMCA. They are set to review the action steps as planned at the last PSG meeting held on October 2010. As shared by NGS Retha Andoea, the IMKA/YMCA School was able to hold its Christmas event on 12 December 2010. This featured “Jalan Sehat” - a community walk (for promotion and awareness), performing arts by students and free diabetic check up. Students, teachers, staff, alumni and supervisor of the local government attended this event. One of the PSG members, Ms Boon Chin of US YMCA joined and shared

her experiences in rebuilding YMCAs. This event was also successful in collecting some funds through the S2S program to develop the youth activities program.

#### ***Pakistan ~ Learn about Karachi YMCA***

There are two YMCAs in Pakistan, one in Lahore founded in 1856, and one of the oldest YMCAs in Asia and in Karachi located in the central part of the city, next to the Governor’s Mansion. From 17-19 January, our APAY Vice President, Paul Le Gros and I visited Karachi YMCA. It has a land area of about 22,000 square meters. However, long time dispute over the land issue has caused division in the leadership and had to close many programs.

Even in such a critical situation, Polytechnic Institute (PI) celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during our visit. This Institute has been receiving generous support from the German YMCA and the German Government. There are 800 students in 7 different technical fields. The Institute has a good reputation since their graduates have been recognized internationally due to the YMCA brand. In 1989, PI opened its St Mary School offering Kindergarten to Grade 10 classes. 250 students enrolled in this school are from the poor community of the city (about 9 km from PI). There is another YMCA School (Grade 1-10) being managed by Karachi YMCA itself with 500 students and almost 50 teachers in the YMCA campus. No supervision has been given to the school, and the number of students has been decreasing. It dropped about almost 50% in the last 10 years. Both PI and YMCA school are located in the YMCA property.

Karachi YMCA has been long time detached from the YMCA fellowship due to its internal political and leadership disputes. This is our first visit and we hope that Karachi YMCA will return to its normal operations in the near future. *(Sharing by GS Kohei Yamada)*

#### **4. GATN ~ Workshop on Pilgrimages in Search of Truth, Nepal**

A workshop on pilgrimages in search of truth will be held on 19-25 February 2011 at St. John Vianney Pastoral Care Center, Godavari, Lalitpur, Nepal. 30 participants from 9 YMCAs (Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar) and ICF SOP Alumni are joining in this workshop that aims to provide an in-depth training on developing alternative tourism and pilgrimages. The participants will have sharing of their Alternative Tourism engagements. The new website for the YMCA Global Alternative Tourism will also be introduced for sharing and marketing. Mr. Ranjan Solomon, Consultant, World Council of Churches, Rev. Dr. Wati Longchar, Dean, SCEPTRE Shrachi Centre, Kolkota, Max Ediger, Coordinator ICF will serve as the key resource persons. Our APAY President, Dr. Park Jai Chang will deliver the keynote address. This workshop is a joint programme of APAY, ICF and Menonite Central Committee.

#### **5. YMCA Fellow for Youth Update**

We are happy to announce that Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong is the first donor for our George Williams Fellow pledging an amount of 10,000USD. There are now 6 individuals and organisations that became YMCA fellows donating 1000USD each. Please continue extending your support to this campaign. Leaflets and campaign materials were already sent out to your movements. Our campaign video is available on our website and this youtube link ~ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHYT-K21pX0>.

#### **6. Y's Men International supports APAY Global Citizenship project**

This year, the Time of Fast (TOF) fund of the Y's Men International has approved an amount of \$30000 to support our project on “*Global Citizenship Education (GCE) for Youth for leading Change*”. The project aims to empower youth with knowledge on global realities and its impacts on their communities and responsibility as citizens of the world. This enables them to respond with commitment by developing skills for combating challenges through local action. The project is intended to develop human resource for the implementation of the GCE in different National Movement with around 360 youths providing an opportunity for local action based on their commitment to the issues that they are challenged through the respective YMCAs.

#### **7. ICF Holds First Meeting with National Coordinators**

Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) will hold a planning meeting from Feb. 7 to 9 in Davao, Philippines, with its working committee members, staff and project holders - APAY and CCA - and national coordinators. The latter are part of an expansion of the ICF regional structure to increase the activity of ICF members at the national level. The national coordinators, which are selected by the School of Peace (SOP) alumni in their country, are from Burma-Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines—countries where ICF has a greater presence. As well as review activities for the past year and discuss plans for 2011 to 2014, the participants at the meeting will also discuss the roles and responsibilities of the national coordinators and working committee members.

#### **8. North East Asia Forum Develops Common Action Response**

23 participants from YMCAs of Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macau and Taiwan joined the first Northeast Asia Forum of the YMCAs held on 22-24 January 2011 at Incheon, Korea. Dr. Park Jai Chang, President of the APAY delivered the opening address. Mr. Anselmo Lee, Executive Director of the Human Right Foundation delivered the keynote address. Together with the resource persons, the participants in the forum deliberated on the present context of the Northeast Asia, the emerging challenges, and possible ways of developing practical responses, leadership and resources. The forum observed that the world is looking at Asia especially Northeast Asia as rising economic power. Along with the governments and economic institutions, the non profit sectors in the Northeast Asia also gaining substantial influence in the new world order. The forum made to understand a new frame for seeing the realities: Military Security to Human Security, Ageing to Maturing, Sustainable Development to Ecological Sustainability, Development as Freedom and Poverty as denial of human rights. Rev. Dr. JongSun Noh, Mr. Sung Hwan Jun, Ms. Marie Myung Hee Lee, Mr. HyunSe Cho facilitated the focus group discussions on issues related to Peace and Justice, Climate change, Social Enterprise and Ageing population respectively. Mr. Kohei Yamada shared

the APAY framework for action responses. The participants developed a common strategy for future action and calls for 1) *A shift from traditional YMCA program & resource mobilization towards multi- lateral partner process with good partnership principles*, 2) *A very significant contextual response on emerging issue*, 3) *A sharpened commitment for youth leadership and engaging youth in Mission*, 4) *A coordinated strategy on programs for greater impact in NE*, 5) *New way of communicating directly with stakeholders and impact with public with increased use of Social Media*, and 6) *Readiness for CHANGE, & full ownership of CHANGE*. The forum also urged the YMCAs to develop “*politically concerned, socially engaged, culturally informed, spiritually sensitive and globally connected leaders*” through their own leadership development initiatives. We thank the National Council of YMCAs of Korea for hosting the forum in the most befitting manner.

## 9. Obituary

Former India YMCA National General Secretary, Mr. Kavalimakal Pothen Philip from April 1988 – March 1994 passed away on 11 January 2011. He served the YMCA in various positions and assignments as professional staff starting from the year 1959 until his appointment as NGS. Several new projects and firm steps were taken to consolidate the YMCA movement in India during his tenure. He leaves behind his wife Kunjamma and two children and their families.

*We convey our condolences to the bereaved family and the YMCA of India.*

## 10. Share your YMCA stories....

We invite National Movements to share programme stories, news and information. Our monthly *e-newsletter* can be an avenue for sharing that can serve as an inspiration and motivation for YMCAs in the region. Please send us news and information by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month (attn: [cristina@asiapacificymca.org](mailto:cristina@asiapacificymca.org)). We need your YMCA stories...

## 11 Upcoming Events/Meetings

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
19-25 February	Workshop on Pilgrimages in Search of Truth	Nepal
8 March	National General Secretaries Meeting	Hong Kong
	18 <sup>th</sup> GA Planning Committee Meeting with the YA Preparatory Team and Writing Team	
9 (2pm) – 12 March (1pm)	Executive Committee Meeting and Standing Committees	Hong Kong
March 12 – March 13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Youth Assembly Preparatory Team Meeting	
3-6 September	2 <sup>nd</sup> APAY Youth Assembly	Penang, Malaysia
6-10 September	18 <sup>th</sup> APAY General Assembly	Penang, Malaysia

## 12. From the desk of the General Secretary

*2011 – the final year of our QPP and the year of our 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

As we move on to the last year of our quadrennial programme, we shall be busy with our 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Assembly this September 2011.

“*Breaking Barriers, Transforming Lives*” is the theme of this year’s Assembly. Throughout my experiences of visiting various movements and working closely with the global movements, I have encountered several questions and concerns. *How do we break barriers and challenges in attaining our mission? What are the trends of society and YMCA movements in Asia and Pacific area?* The world has been continuously changing. Issues regarding climate change, increased migrant population, growing ageing population, and lack of spirituality among youth need to be addressed. Ironically, the YMCA movement, which has been known worldwide as a youth organization, also lacks youth leadership and participation. Moreover, many movements are still weak and struggling, 4 YMCA movements are no longer active (Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Tahiti), and the need to support 7(seven) others (Cambodia, East Timor, Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal, and Pakistan).

We have been focusing on Global Citizenship, Movement Strengthening, Youth Development and Resource Mobilization. But for us to reach greater heights mean that we have to openly discuss and agree on our directions and come up with concrete plans for the next four years. As the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, we need to create more meaningful youth interactions; offer more training and development programs focusing on social issue awareness and generation of resources. In addition, the creation of partnership among movements for support will be very important.

This year is the time to review and evaluate the things we have done and the steps we have undertaken. *How much did we accomplish? How do we move forward? How much of the APAY agenda should be shared by the member movements?* It is also the time for us to envision the next quadrennium of our region as we come together for our 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly this September 2011. Together we share our concerns and vision as one APAY, as part of the global movement.

## NOTICE

THE APAY SECRETARIAT WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS  
FROM 3-6 FEBRUARY



BLESSED NEW LUNAR YEAR AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO ALL THOSE CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR!

**Kohei Yamada**  
*General Secretary*

**Cristina A. Dalope & Jose Varghese**  
*Executive Secretaries for Programmes*