



APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 02 / 2011 ~February-March 2011

1. Disaster Updates...

Japan earthquake and tsunami

Three weeks after the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that hit northeastern coast of Japan on 11 March. Latest news said that more than 11,000 have been killed, left more than 16,000 missing, and hundreds of thousands homeless. The toll is still increasing and the crippled nuclear power-station remains a serious problem.

Mr. Shigeru Shimada, General Secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of Japan (NCYJ) shared that a National Special Task Force was formed to respond to the needs of the disaster areas particularly the vulnerable victims – children, people with special needs and disabilities, elderly and the migrant workers in Japan. At the last update received, we learned that YMCAs in the worst hit cities/prefectures and in other areas have started mobilising all available resources to extend support and respond to the needs of the affected. Morioka YMCA has sent volunteers and staff to Miyako city, one of the most affected areas and is working closely with the churches. Sendai YMCA established its volunteer center on 22 March and has been providing space and food to the victims right after the quake. Ibaraki YMCA is offering childcare and recreation programs to the displaced families from the Fukushima nuclear crisis. Tochigi YMCA offers day service for the elderly staying at the evacuation center. YMCAs of Kobe, Kyoto, Tokyo, Yokohama and National Council have sent staff to the affected areas to support, explore the situation and needs of the affected. Y's Men's Clubs had collaborated with the Tokyo YMCA to deliver emergency supplies. YMCA International Youth Center in Tozanso started accepting 15 people from nuclear crisis zone. Over 2,000 people joined the donation campaigns organised by other YMCAs. The National Council is working in good cooperation with other NGOs and organisations in national level and set up "Japan Civil Net", a network of NGOs working for the people in the affected areas. Japan YMCAs have been prepared to send staff and volunteers to the affected areas when routes and places to stay are ready for the mid-and-long term recovery programmes.

"YMCAs in Japan unite together to raise the fund and to overcome this tragedy. We really appreciate again all the support and specially to the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs for all the coordination, and we appreciate continuous support and solidarity", concludes Mr. Shimada.

YMCAs at work in the affected disaster zone... (Photos by Japan YMCA)



....more photos on the APAY web

Christchurch earthquake, New Zealand

Last 22 February, an earthquake devastated the city of Christchurch that brought massive damage and multiple fatalities. YMCA buildings, its centers and facilities had considerable damages and closed operations. More than a month after it happened, we quote an excerpt from the report of Ms. Josie Ogden Schroeder, Chief Executive Officer, YMCA Christchurch:

It is with much sympathy and aroha that we extend our thoughts and prayers to the members and staff of the Y who have lost a family member or friend due to the earthquake. There are no words that will ever suffice in this situation. All I can say is that we all mourn with you, and we can only but determine to ensure the memory of those lost serve as a constant reminder as to what is important and what we, as a community, need to be focused on for the future. We are focused on doing the best we can for our staff, members, participants and guests... and a key part of this is timely information, restoration of services, and invention of a few new ones that are now relevant... We have begun working with schools and their students to provide some support to students who are either sharing a school with another or who are simply a bit 'jumpy' to be back at school and away from home. We are also working on family camps for the communities on the East side of Christchurch who are still lacking homes/schools/etc - any enquiries about these initiatives don't hesitate to call.

Thanks again to everyone who is continuing to support the YMCA- as we work hard to build strong people, strong families, and now more than ever, strong communities.

From their website post, we learned that they are also fundraising for their own organisation's community projects and also for the terrible crisis in Japan. Kindly visit their website: www.ymcachch.org.nz/ for latest update/information.

The full report and updates can be downloaded from our website. Sri Lanka YMCA has completed their 1st phase of emergency relief work and the report will be posted on our website as available.

Our thanks and gratitude...

We have so far received pledges and contributions from the YMCA family and partners (*partial list*) for the appeal we made with the support of the World Alliance of YMCAs:

Christchurch earthquake emergency fund ~ APAY, NCY Japan, YMCAs of Argentina, Canada, Singapore and USA

Japan disaster works ~ APAY, Hong Kong Council, YMCAs of Myanmar, Pakistan (Lahore), Philippines (Baguio, Makati and Manila), Singapore, Taiwan (Taipei), Argentina, Canada, Germany, USA and HAI-EAPRDC (Help Age Intl East Asia Pacific Regional Development Center)

Sri Lanka floods emergency relief fund ~ NCY Japan, YMCAs in Singapore, Hong Kong Council and YMCAs of Germany and Canada.

We were informed that some YMCAs have organised campaigns and mobilised their membership to support the efforts of the YMCAs in the affected areas of disasters. Others are continuing their fund-raising efforts following their initial commitments. Please contact our APAY office for your donations and kindly share your updates/fund-raising efforts.

We express our deepest condolences...we pray in solidarity with you for comfort, strength and courage to overcome and in rebuilding lives and communities...

2. Executive Committee Extends General Secretary's Term, Adopts New Governance Structure

More than 100 leaders and representatives from 21 Movements from around the region were gathered during the last Executive Committee (ExCo) Meeting held last 9-12 March 2011 at the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. In addition to the regular related committee meetings and work, focus was on the proposed Governance Structure. The Executive Committee adopted an amendment to the Constitution for the election of new APAY Board composed of the six Officers and two others that can serve for one full-term of 4 years for the same position. Giving priority to the youth and women to sit on this new Board, the election

guidelines in the by laws would be modified as approved at this meeting. Movements are urged to look into balance representation on age, gender and sub-regions when people are nominated and elected. The new set of Board will be elected at a regular APAY Council meeting held in accordance with the bylaws.

The term of our General Secretary, Mr. Kohei Yamada was extended by the Executive Committee until the next APAY General Assembly in 2015 and with the extension of his retirement age to one year to the age of 66. The President's Remarks, Dr. Park Jai Chang and the General Secretary's presentation of Annual Report for the year 2010 highlighted this year's ExCo Meeting. From the evening of March 7 to morning of March 9, several meetings were conducted simultaneously in relation to the General Assembly, Youth Assembly and the QPP evaluation. The National General Secretaries likewise met on 8 March 2011. Fellowship Dinners were generously hosted by the 2 YMCAs in Hong Kong.

3. 18th General Assembly Planning Committee Firms Up Plans

At the last meeting of the General Assembly Planning Committee, programme details have been finalised and firmed up. The members of both the Writing team and Youth Assembly Preparatory Team that met afterwards joined them. Further information about the Strategic Dialogues, Witness Rooms, Exposures and other programme contents will be released soon.

The early bird registration is open from April 1 to May 15, 2011. As decided at the Executive Committee Meeting, there would be a special discounted rate for participation cost only. There will be no changes in the registration fee. Please refer to the updated registration form that was sent to the Movements few weeks ago. We are also promoting a "Green Assembly" and all participants will be properly notified on the guidelines as designed by the APAY Green Team.

Closing date for registration is 15 July 2011. Please contact your Local or National YMCAs for participation details.

4. 2nd Youth Assembly Breaks Barriers, Transforms Lives

The 2nd Youth Assembly (YA) Preparatory Team comprised of some key members of the APAY Youth Committee and the Local Host Committee had initially met up last 8-9 March in Hong Kong in preparation for the Youth Assembly. This will be held on 3 – 6 September 2011 at the YMCA of Penang, Malaysia. We expect all YA participants to be staying on until the General Assembly from 6-10 September.

Adopting the General Assembly's theme: "***Breaking Barriers, Transforming Lives***", the Youth Assembly makes the youth an integral part of the movement. It envisions to **Recognize** their own potentials as they **Revisit** its mission and purpose. Various engaging activities such as input presentations, strategic dialogues, workshops, and community service program are featured in the assembly. With a **Renewed** commitment, **Responsiveness** among youth develops ~ daring them to break the barriers in effect of transforming more lives!

(Programme Information and Forms have been sent to the National Movements and can be downloaded from our website)

5. Fifteen US Dollar Green Fund in all APAY programmes and events

In our effort to make APAY events carbon neutral, a *Fifteen US Dollar* (15USD) Green Fund will be collected from each participant in all APAY international events/programmes as agreed on the last Executive Committee Meeting. This green fund is our way of offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions of air travel of each participant. The fund will be invested in appropriate renewable energy projects and other environmental conservation projects of YMCAs in the region.

6. Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers in Sub-regions

In line with the need to intensify the promotion of Global Citizenship awareness, this year's Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers (GCE ToT) will be held twice in different sub-regions. GCE ToT Southeast/Northeast Asia will be held on 3-9 July 2011 in Makati, Philippines and GCE ToT South Asia will be held on the last week of July in Alwaye, India.

The GCE TOT will be an effective tool necessary in developing skills, knowledge and understanding of global citizenship and social responsibility that will provide the participants with more space for exposure and engagement to implement GCE program. At the same time, it motivates participants to be multipliers of GCE within their context, to make them experience the process of connective perspectives on relevant issues in different area levels, and to mainstream the GCE through their local actions. *Programme information will be sent to your National Movements*

For this year, the **APAY Partnership Project (APP)** will be closely connected with the Global Citizenship Education. The 1st group of project grantees will be selected after the GCE ToT in Philippines and in India. This is supported by the Y's Men's International Time of Fast Fund. *Details will be sent to your movements soon.*

7. Movements' Updates

YMCA Korea Appoints Nam as New National General Secretary

Following his 4 years service as General Secretary of Gwangju YMCA, Korea, Mr. Nam Boo-Won was appointed as the new National General Secretary (NGS) of the Korea YMCA effective 2 March 2011. As the new NGS, he wished to deepen Korea YMCA's movement on Life and Peace. He also expressed his vision to extend the programmes on global citizenship, beyond national boundaries, as a response to the current "neo-liberal globalization."

Nam as he is commonly known was the former APAY Executive Secretary for Programmes responsible for leadership formation, civil society development, and Youth and Gender concerns from 1998-2002. He started his YMCA career in 1985 as Secretary of the Council of the Korea Four Regions of the Y's Men International dispatched by the National YMCA office. He worked in Seoul YMCA as Secretary for Planning and Policy-making and in the department of Civil Society Development and again after his APAY service, responsible for the commemorative projects of its 100th anniversary. He launched a reform campaign of the bureaucratized YMCA including an organized appeal to Seoul YMCA board to allow its female members full voting rights. Later, he worked at the National office as Senior Executive Director for Programmes and Policy-making for 2 years. Then he studied Global Ethics in Birmingham, UK with a purpose to develop relevant programmes on global citizenship. Upon completion of his MA degree on global ethics, he returned to Korea and became the General Secretary of Gwangju YMCA. *We thank Mr. Lee Hack Young for his services and congratulate Nam on his appointment.*

YMCA Philippines Invites Trainees for Youth Leadership and Career Development Program

As part of the National Movements' Centennial Celebration, the YMCA of the Philippines opens its YMCA Rizal Youth Leadership Training institute 2011 to the member Movements in APAY. This is a 15-day training, which will be held on 15-31 May 2011 at the La Salette Shrine and Retreat Center in Biga, Silang, Cavite. This year's theme is: *At 100: The Movement goes on in Transforming Lives and Communities*. The training highlights the instilling of transformational leadership skills in order to produce quality young leaders not only within the movement but also for global governance.

Similarly, the National YMCA is inviting YMCA Movements to send applicants to their Career Development Program (CDP), basic training for young professionals wanting to pursue a career in the YMCA. The main focus of the program is the formation of YMCA professional leaders for the strengthening and growth of the various movements emphasizing the 3-pillars of Movement Strengthening.. The training is scheduled from 22 September to 8 October 2011 in Cavite. *For further details and participation, please contact YMCA Philippines and write to ymcaphilippines@yahoo.com).*

8. Update ~ YMCA Fellow for Youth

Thirty-five (35) Fellows have pledged at the end of the 1st campaign period of our YMCA Fellow for Youth that started last 1 December 2010 until 31 March 2011. Some donors are YMCAs (national and local), and many are individuals - mainly YMCA board members and a few staff. Two YMCAs of the 35 fellows pledged 10,000USD each for this year giving a total pledge of 54,000USD. We have awarded Certificates of YMCA fellow for youth and specially sculptured "little cupid" to all paid Fellows.

As shared earlier, donations will be used purposely for youth development programmes focusing on the promotion of global citizenship education – training of trainers in sub-regions and in several countries, subsidies for youth participation to Assemblies, encouraging more youth driven activities and developing more youth interns. We will provide a report for this purpose.

The Fellows' list and campaign video are found on our APAY website. The video is also available on youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHYT-K21pX0>

We thank you sincerely for this very strong support that you have extended. More than anybody else, the youth themselves feel a warm support from APAY and its member movements. Our next campaign will start from December 2011 with the new leadership of APAY.

9. Update: YMCA Global Alternative Tourism

Training Workshop on Pilgrimages in Search of Truth 2011

The workshop focused on our vision of seeing Alternative Tourism as a tool for social movements to promote transformation of both the community and of the visitors through transformational tourism. It brought together 24 YMCA staffs/volunteers and social activists from ICF network who are committed to explore ways of creating pilgrimages to replace conventional tourism. Participants shared their vision for Alternative Tourism in their communities in the workshop. The workshop included investigations of the local and national realities of the participants, sharing of experiences related to tourism, study of the difference between tourism and pilgrimage and brainstorming on strategies for developing programs for transformation. This workshop resolved the establishment of a Global Alternative Tourism Movement for strengthening our advocacy on this issue by networking with organizations that share similar vision all over the world. The new website for this purpose was also introduced. Resource persons and experts were invited as featured in the last *eNews*.

The National YMCA of Nepal and the Student YMCA of Nepal hosted this workshop held last 19-25 February 2011, supported and co -organised by the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) and the Mennonite Central Committee.

YMCA Global Alternative Tourism Website

Much awaited website for YMCA Global Alternative Tourism is now up www.ymcaalternativetourism.org that provides opportunity for posting the certified Alternative Tours of the YMCAs around the world to market worldwide with online booking facilities. YMCA hotels and Campsites will also be listed and make online enquiry. We request all the interested YMCAs to contact the APAY Secretariat (jose@asiapacificymca.org) for their alternative tours and accommodation facilities

10. Youth Participation and Development Programmes

15th Korea-Japan Uni-Y Exchange Camp



The 15th Korea-Japan Uni-Y Exchange Camp was held last 6-9 January 2011 in Jang Su, Korea. This year's theme was "Our School". This program best fits among the Korean and Japanese students for their school conditions are observed to be similar to each other. The discussions within the camp mainly revolved around their schools, students' school lives, situations of the students in the university and each country's Uni-Y activities. A forum focusing on their dream school followed. As part of the camp, field exposure to an alternative school was also conducted.

Korea Uni-Y Conference Marks 110th Anniversary

Last 11-13 February 2011, the Korea Uni-Y Winter Conference with the theme, “Reconstitution of the Student Society” was held in Chun Cheon, Korea. The conference centred on the present status of the student society especially those who are in the universities. Marking the 110th Anniversary of the Korea Student YMCA, its history was revisited through a role-play presentation and sharing of each Uni-Y’s activities and situations. A General Assembly of Korea Uni-Y was also held in the end wherein they elected a new set of Executive Officers for tenure of one (1) year. *(Sharing by Ms. JiYoon Lee, Intl Exchange Team Leader, National Council of Korea Student Y)*



11. Online Carbon Calculator for YMCAs

The APAY Green team has developed an online calculator for measuring the YMCA’s own carbon footprint. Mr. Colin Lambie, Australia, member of the Green team played significant leadership for developing the same. The calculator can be found on our APAY website. YMCAs are requested to use it for their own energy audit.

12. ICF National Coordinators and Working Committee Hold First Meeting

A new layer was added to the structure of Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) late last year when national coordinators were selected by the alumni of ICF’s School of Peace (SOP) in several countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and a joint coordinator for Thailand and Burma. The first meeting of the new national coordinators and ICF working committee was held from Feb. 7 to 9 in Davao, Philippines, with the ICF staff members and representatives of APAY and CCA, which are the project holders for ICF. After reviewing the work of ICF in 2010 and the activities of the SOP alumni in the six countries above in the past year, the group focused its attention on plans for 2011 to 2014. Among these activities are several planned with APAY for 2011—a workshop on alternative tourism that was held from Feb. 19 to 24 in Kathmandu, Nepal; a short SOP from July 9 to 24 in Bangladesh that will be similar to the three-week SOP held last year in Sri Lanka; and a workshop about dialogue in conflict situations that will be conducted from Oct. 8 to 16 in Bhudaneswar in the Indian state of Orissa with tensions in the state used as a case study.



13. 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 3rd week of every month (attn: cristina@asiapacificymca.org). We need your YMCA stories...

14. We are on facebook....

We created a facebook fan page for APAY. Search for Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs and « tick » the « like » icon. Movements and partners with fan page are already linked with us. You can start sharing your YMCA updates in this APAY fan page on *facebook* ☺

15. Upcoming Events/Meetings

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
3-9 July	Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers	Makati, Philippines
Last week of July	Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers	Alwaye, India

9-24 July	ICF-School Of Peace	Bangladesh
3-6 September	2 nd APAY Youth Assembly	Penang, Malaysia
6-10 September	18 th APAY General Assembly	Penang, Malaysia
14 Nov – 10 Dec	29 th Advanced Studies Programme	Hong Kong

16. From the desk of the General Secretary...*In times of disaster, what are we for?*

Last March 11, at the middle of the Executive Committee Meeting, breaking news informed that a strong earthquake followed by a huge tsunami hit various cities in Japan. This left thousands of people either dead or missing. Around 450,000 people have been evacuated to schools, gyms, and community centres. Moreover, supplies such as food, water, clothing, and even heaters were not enough to suffice the needs of this people at the midst of cold weather. Electric and gasoline shortage are being experienced nationwide. After a few days, situation went worse. The Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima was crippled by the earthquake resulting to some reactor problems.

People are willing to help...however roads are impassable. I had read from the news articles that people were into panic buying in Tokyo supermarkets. I also learned that in the affected areas, families were living and facing the difficulty quietly and patiently and even sharing what they have. Someone was quoted saying: “It is somehow premature to say so, but the disaster could well be a turning point towards new society based on more humility and self-restriction.” Our lives in major developed countries are totally dependent on high-end technology, phone, fast cars and train system, nice clothing and houses and more than sufficient supplies of food, clean water... but once we lost them, how do we live?

Being within the Asia and Pacific area, we YMCAs have experienced series of devastating natural calamities. As YMCAs who adhere to the belief that we should be socially responsible at all times, how can we respond to these kinds of situations? We have been always challenged by people in local and global communities. Our YMCAs are victims too. They are often affected including families of YMCA board and staff. I remember during the World Council, after a Tsunami hit India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka; a person once asked: “What do we do?” Discussions and deliberations flowed in response, but above all this marked on my head: “YMCA is not a relief organization!” Which immediately retracted with this eye-opening statement, “If we would not do anything to the victims, then what are we for?” After which, we quickly discussed our roles to help and assist the victims.

Unexpected disaster may come to any area and may affect any YMCA. It is our responsibility to avoid the potential risks. In respond to these kinds of circumstances, preparedness, alertness and knowing one's purpose being in YMCA may be of big help not only within your YMCA family but more so with the people in the communities. YMCAs have to form a team of experienced and learned staff and volunteers. Proper strategies and means of communications must also be established. Necessary resources, may it be financial or manpower should be ready at all times in any case appeal would be made.

In this time of difficulties and survival, people realized the significance of “living in harmony by sharing, helping, respecting, caring for others and the opportunity of touching and healing others' lives”. I hope and pray that all those affected by the disasters all over the world especially in Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Japan and recently in Myanmar will be able to overcome the difficult situation. This is also the time for us to learn the most important lessons as human beings...this is the time for us to be reminded of our mission as the YMCA...to work together with the community...to be the community that is caring, sharing, healing and re-building.

The Lord bless us and keep us all!

Kohei Yamada
General Secretary

Cristina A. Dalope & Jose Varghese
Executive Secretaries for Programmes