



APAY eNews

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UPCOMING EVENTS

4-10 July: Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers (Makati, Philippines)

26Jul-1Aug: Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers (Alwaye, India)

9-24 July: ICF- Dialogue in Diversity (Bangladesh)

3-6 September: 2nd APAY Youth Assembly (Penang, Malaysia)

6-10 September: 18th APAY General Assembly (Penang, Malaysia)

14Nov - 10Dec: 29th Advanced Studies Programme (Hong Kong)

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Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

April - May 2011

From the desk of the General Secretary...

World Alliance of YMCAs and APAY

After our APAY Executive Committee Meeting in March, I attended the World Alliance of YMCAs (WAY) Executive Committee Meeting held in Geneva and I would like to share my thoughts and impressions about the worldwide movement.

There are 30 Executive Committee members of the WAY with a balance representation of age, gender and region including 3 officers and the 4 area presidents.. The members represent the 7 regions/ areas ~ Asia and Pacific, Africa, Canada, Europe, Latin America and Carib-

bean, Middle East, and USA. From our area, we have the following Executive members: Ms. Helen McEwan (New Zealand) ~ Treasurer, Judge Edilberto Claravall (Philippines), Mr. Oliver Loke (Singapore) – Youth Representative, Ms. Hiromi Nagao (Japan), Mr. Babu Gomes (Bangladesh), and Dr. Park Jai Chang, APAY President.

Their Executive Committee meets only once a year. Their key to success is by keeping most of their members actively engaged and aligned with a common agenda. "Youth Empowerment" will be the



Oliver Loke, APAY youth committee member presenting Mega-trends affecting YMCA movement at the WAY ExCo meeting. He and WAY President, Ken Colloton did the presentation

overall goal of their works for the next four years. In relation to this, Resource mobilization, Movement Strengthening, Governance, and other strategies for various issues will all be related to Youth Empowerment as the direction of the World Alliance
(continue on p.2)

General Assembly Reminders and Updates

Registration/Participation

Early Bird Registration is still open! Please send in forms and payment to our office until June 15, 2011.

We expect movements to

submit registration forms before the July 15 deadline. We encourage all of you to avoid last-minute registration in order to have proper arrangements for your logistical needs.

Nominations for Election

– national movements are reminded that the nominations process for the election to the positions of President, Vice Presidents (4) and Treasurer for the quadrennial term 2012-2015 will close on 20 June 2011. (continue on p.2)

From the desk of the General Secretary... (continuation from p.1)

Another thing that is unique and unexpected is the position of the youth. There are 8 youth members (below 30 years of age) among the Executive Committee. For the last four years, WAY had a Youth Committee who talked about youth issues and organized Youth Forum. For this new term, no Youth Committee was formed; rather youth were challenged to take part of the three committees: Finance, Governance, and Image and Branding.

In 2006 World Council in South Africa, the "Vision 2014" was discussed. One thought that I could still clearly remember was "In 2014, there will be no Youth Forum to be done separately from the World Council because the youth will be the majority of the World Council." It was well received by the audience with a big applause. Yes, I strongly agree to this proposition that the young people should be highly encouraged and challenged within the YMCA, for them to be vigilant, to voice out their thoughts and contribute meaningfully to the YMCA movements as equally as senior volunteers.

One big change I felt in the World Alliance is that they are very determined to fully involve and integrate the Regional and National movements with their current direction. The YMCA is a worldwide organization -- the biggest youth organization in the world. However, people outside YMCA do not see us as who we want to be. Our works are so diverse sending so many different messages to the world. Or we must have failed in bridging con-

cretely the message that we want to convey to them. Each movement is doing a lot and has made impacts to young people and communities. We need a common and strong brand as to "Who we are?" and "What we do?" The next four years will be the challenge of work alignments of the World Alliance (1) to the Area Alliances (7) towards the National movements (125) down to the local movements (10,000). We have over 45 million members worldwide. Indeed a huge organization. All are unique and autonomous yet has a strong

identity as YMCA movement.

As World Alliance initiates, let's all move toward our common goal, which is "Youth Empowerment". Assuredly, APAY is fully aligned with this goal through our Global Citizenship Education and Youth Driven activities in various fields on Interfaith Cooperation, Environment and Alternative Tourism, Migrant and Employment, and Gender Justice and Equality...

Embarking to a new 4-year direction, we all move towards a common goal. Together, we, the YMCA, will all make one concrete step towards "Youth Empowerment". (Kohei Yamada, APAY -General Secretary)

General Assembly... (continuation from p.1)

Participating movements for the *Witness Room* have already been identified. This will be the space to share some selected good practices of the YMCAs in the region in line with the quadrennial thrusts. This is the time to share, learn and reflect how relevant we are to our community and how we have been.

Community Exposures to realities and issues are in the process of finalisation. We will have exposure-model for alternative tourism project. Registered participants will receive Exposure-Sign up form prior to the Assembly for necessary logistical requirements as some exposures are located at the Penang Island which are between an hour or less than 2 hours from the main city of Penang.

Strategic Dialogue on 7 major areas that include gender,

resource mobilization, environment, alternative tourism, YMCA leadership and governance, youth empowerment and engagement, and movement strengthening will lead us towards the realisation of our mission for the next quadrennial 2012-2015.

(More information and updates next eNews...)

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**.

Visit us: *Username*: Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

Young Leaders Prepare for Youth Assembly

As of this time, the Youth Assembly Preparatory Team has been diligently preparing all the necessary arrangements for the upcoming Youth Assembly on 3-6 September 2011. This assembly targets about 100-150 youth participants within the region and other areas that may proceed to the General Assembly. We aim to shift the mind-sets of the youth in order for them to signify the importance of some values to be incorporated with their leadership roles and actions. This would be realized through the various major components that include keynote address, parallel workshops on 4 specific issues and concerns, sub-regional re-

flection/sharing, strategic dialogue and community service programs. One unique and important session will be the strategic dialogue with the APAY leadership ~ officers, national general secretaries and other key leaders of the Movement.

To finalize details and preparatory works, APAY Youth Committee members Oliver Loke and Ng Yee Khai, Chair and Co-Chair of the Youth Assembly will be meeting the Local Host Committee together with our General Secretary, Mr. Kohei Yamada and Ms. Cristina Dalope, Executive Secretary for Programs from 22-25 June 2011 in Penang YMCA, Malaysia.

Please have your names registered now for YOUTH ASSEMBLY, GENERAL ASSEMBLY or BOTH! ☺

GCE News

The 1st Sub-regional Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers (GCE ToT) will take place in Philippines (South East Asia) on 4-10 July and India (South Asia) on 27 July – 1 August. YMCA of Makati in Manila and YMCA of Alwaye in Kerala were identified by their national Movements to be the local hosts of this program.

Besides input presentations and skills training workshop, community immersion and homestay program are planned for a more meaningful experience and engagement to implement GCE program in their local communities. As seen, Global

Citizenship Education plays a vital role in empowering the Youth of today.

Participation is extended to the sub-regions of North East Asia and the Pacific including Y's Men's Club whom may choose in either of the above-mentioned training schedules. The registration for this training is on going. Deadline will be on 10 June 2011.

We thank the Y's Men International Time of Fast for funding our GCE ToT program for this year.

For further information: kindly e-mail our APAY Youth Intern, Ms. Kristina Velez (velez@asiapacificymca.org) and our Sub-Regional Coordinators: Mr. Pablito Tabucol (pablitz63@yahoo.com) for South East Asia and Mr. Immanuel Mullakariyil Mathai (ymcascr@rediffmail.com).

Our works on Movement Strengthening

Cambodia YMCA PSG Members Conduct Training



A series of basic training for Cambodia YMCA (CYMCA) board members, volunteers and staff were conducted by some members of the Partners Support Group (PSG) during 19-27 March 2011. Mr. Richard Kaing, APAY Special Project Officer started with the Forum on Constitution and Manual for Board/Volunteers, Committees and Staff. The participants were also introduced to YMCA as international ecumenical youth movement and its imperatives. In his session on Membership, Mr. Sunny Wu of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong (representing the Hong Kong Council) gave emphasis on the importance of YMCA members ~ understanding the mission, culture of service and importance of Christian spirit. He shared some categories of membership and strategies for recruitment campaigns. Mr. Ron Mell of Perth YMCA, Australia, facilitated an interactive, experiential learning approach on Governance. The session included project development with the current constraints of CYMCA. Financial management and basic accounting procedures were conducted by Mr. Andrew Leo of Singapore YMCA. The PSG members hoped that this training had provided the participants more understanding of YMCA and an opportunity for growth which could sustain them within a couple of years.

Position of Executive Secretary, Vacancy 2011

We are pleased to announce the opening for the post of an Executive Secretary for Resource Mobilization and Programmes in the Alliance with specific function for Fund Development and in the areas of Youth Leadership Development and Gender Equity that will become vacant on October 2011

The position is to be filled by 1 September 2011 (which allows her/him one month for learn-

ing and handover). The appointment will be for a contract of 3 years. The closing date for applications is **10 July 2011**.

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.

APAY Observes World Environment Day as YMCA Green Day, June 5

June 5 is internationally observed as the World Environment Day (WED) with the theme on *Forests: Nature at Your Service*. As initiated by our APAY Green Team, we invite all our YMCA movements to observe this day as YMCA Green Day doing actions that are relevant in their context. A blog <http://ymcagreen-day2011.wordpress.com/> has been created for this event for some updates, sharing of resources and action responses of YMCAs in the region. We request local/national YMCAs to form their own Green Team for consolidated actions. Our WED participation and celebration is properly acknowledged and appreciated by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). We encourage everyone to get involved and put our acts together in caring our environment!

Visit the blog now! YMCAs can easily upload their program plans or report or photo by simply sending e-mail to toy894tuve@post.wordpress.com. The subject of the e-mail will be displayed as the title in the blog automatically.

YMCA Anniversaries

Kobe Turns 125!

Our congratulations to Kobe YMCA for celebrating its 125 years last 8 May 2011 at San'nomiya Center. Despite the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, the National Council of YMCAs of Japan shared that there were around 550 people from Japan, overseas friends and international partners gathered at the ceremony. The celebration included worship, gospel music and sharing of Kobe YMCA history. Mr. Yuji Mizuno, General Secretary expressed his gratefulness to the Lord and was thankful to everyone that supported their 125th anniversary.

We encourage YMCAs to share stories of their anniversary celebrations specially those reaching centenary. Only a few YMCAs have reached 100 years or more!



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 YCMAs in the region. Please send us news and information every 3rd week of the month to this e-mail address: cristina@asiapacificymca.org. We need your YCMA stories.



Emergency Funds/Disaster Response Appeal - Update

Tables show the contributions that we only received from YMCAs and partner organizations. The list does not include YMCAs/partners that have sent directly their contributions to the affected countries/national movements. *We express our sincerest thanks and gratitude for all your support and assistance.*

Sri Lanka Floods	Amount in US\$
YMCAs/Partners	
Canada YMCA	7,800
Germany YMCA	6,923
The Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong	3,000
National Council of YMCAs of Japan	5,000
Singapore - Metropolitan YMCA	2,000
Singapore - YMCA of Singapore	1,000
Total	25,723

Christchurch Earthquake, New Zealand	Amount in US\$
YMCAs/Partners	
APAY Emergency Fund	5,000
Argentina YMCA	1,000
Canada YMCA	8,900
YMCA of Hong Kong	3,000
National Council of YMCAs of Japan	5,000
USA YMCA	5,000
Total	27,900

Japan Tsunami and Earthquake	Amount in US\$
APAY Emergency Fund	5,000
National Council of YMCAs of Australia	22,251
National Council of YMCAs of Bangladesh	2,000
Canada YMCA	17,558
Germany YMCA	20,769
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong	9,920
YMCA of Macau	2,129
Myanmar - Mandalay Interfaith Network	4,235
Pakistan- Lahore YMCA	500
Philippines - Baguio YMCA	1,000
Philippines - Manila YMCA	1,000
Philippines - Makati YMCA	700
Philippines - Dr.. Ramona Morales	300
Singapore - Metropolitan YMCA	3,000
National Council of YMCAs of New Zealand	2,956
National Council of YMCAs of Sri Lanka	4,000
Taiwan - Taipei YMCA	3,000
Uruguay YMCA	1,000
Help Age International-East Asia PRDC	85,000
Total	186,318

ICF... (continuation from p.6)

sharing and strategizing ways to build an interfaith justpeace movement are invited to join the School of Peace (SOP) from 1 February to 14 May 2012. This 14-week course is looking for participants who have involvement and experience with interfaith justpeace work among marginalized communities. SOP aims to identify the political, economic and social causes of conflict and injustice in the region and create regional activities that can effectively deal with these root causes in ways that are sensitive to gender, ethnicity, age, religious belief and social inequalities. The deadline for sending in applications is 1 November 2011. Interested participants are requested to e-mail the ICF Coordinator, Mr. Max Ediger-ediger.max@gmail.com.

The ICF is organized jointly by the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY), the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst, Germany (EED) which officially began activities in 2004.

Japan Disaster 2011



YMCAs in Japan joint hands in rebuilding life and ruins left by tsunami.

Update from Mr. Shigeru Shimada, General Secretary, NCY Japan

18 May 2011 - Two and a half months have passed since the disaster. Thank you very much for your continued support from both within and outside Japan. Our staff members and volun-

teers are highly recognized as coordinators of volunteers and organization in many fields of relief and recovery supporting activities. It is appreciated our being always cheerful and our drawing out the people's strength, our flexibility and our way of services to affected people.

YMCAs have cultivated the technique of group work; that is to raise each other in small group activities by organizing camps and various programs. YMCAs' activities are based on the love and spirit of service and each of us is voluntary and responsible. That is how we have fostered leadership to build democratic local communities.

Movements' Updates



Historic Gender Assembly of the YMCAs of India

First to gather both men and women...

The National Council of YMCAs of India (NCYI) organized a National Women's/Gender Assembly at YMCA Greater Noida Programme Centre from 29 April to 1 May 2011 with YMCA New Delhi as hosts.

Mr. Anjan Mukherjee, Secretary of the National Programmes and Women's Empowerment & Gender Concerns, shared that this was the eighth in a series of annual conclave of women staff persons/lay-leaders/members and the very first gender assembly of its kind in the history of the Indian YMCA Movement. Some 79 delegates comprising men and women including 53 from outstation covering eight of the nine YMCA Regions of India attended the three-day Assembly on the theme, *Gender Parity: Pathway to a Common Humanity*. Four sub-sessions were gone through which included Encouraging Equal Access to Opportunities, Promoting Gender-Mainstreaming and Gender-integration within the YMCA, Towards Gender-Sensitization within the YMCA and Promoting Capacity-building and Women's Enablement in the YMCAs with a

parallel discussion on the topic Women Creating a Safe World. Several noted specialists and experts from civil society and NGOs were invited as resource persons and panellists.

The Chairperson of the Delhi Social Welfare Board, Dr. Mrs. Sudharshan Pathak, a noted social activist and renowned woman sports-person, inaugurated the seminar as Chief-Guest. Dr. Patcharawan Srisilapanan, Chairperson of our APAY Gender Equity Committee, delivered an impressive address and witnessed the whole program. The Assembly adopted a five-point resolution stressing on the need for organizing gender-sensitization workshops for YMCA members and the community; affirmation of support for the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill through mass mobilization programs and representations by local YMCAs and the National Council among other well-intentioned goals. Dignitaries of the NCYI and the local hosts graced this historic gender

gathering having both men and women.

(Full text of article can be found on our website)

YMCA Australia Announces New Chief Executive Officer

YMCA Australia is excited to announce the appointment of Mr. Ron Mell as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



of YMCA Australia. He is the current CEO of YMCA Perth and is an acknowledged key leader within the Y Movement across Australia. Mr. Mell has the values, qualities and experience to work closely with the Board, our leadership teams as well as liaise with all member associations and partners in leading the Y Movement to the next level. Ron is looking forward to starting his new role on August 2011.

Our congratulations to Ron on his appointment.

Our Partnership with Inter-Faith Cooperation Forum

Dialogue in Diversity Workshop

Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) is organizing a two-week workshop on "Dialogue in Diversity" which will be held in YMCA Training Center, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 9 -24 July 2011. This workshop calls for an encounter among a very diverse group of youth for learning and living together through practice in dialogue. It is hoped that participants would develop a deep interest and some skill in dialogue that can be applied to situations of diversity and conflict in their home communities. Twenty participants from Asia and eight participants from

the YMCAs of England, representing different faiths, ethnicities and living experiences with ages from 20-40 years are expected to join this dialogue. Details have already been to your National Secretariat. Completed registration forms may be sent to Mr. Bruce Van Voorhis by e-mail: bruce.vanvoorhis@gmail.com before 15 June 2011.

Call for Application ~ School Of Peace (SOP) 2012

Young people between the ages of 20-30 from conflict-prone areas in Asia for study, *(continue on p. 5)*