



Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

APAY eNews

Monthly eNewsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs | June—July 2011

Inside Stories...

- **GCE Sub-regional Implementation Takes Off**
- **EASY Net ~ Ecumenical Creative Workshop for Youth and Students**
- **ICF - Dialogue in Diversity**
- **YMCA World Challenge 2012 Hoop Springs Eternal**
- **World Alliance Adopts NEW WAY Strategic Plan**
- **Movement Updates**
- **MS Updates - Country focused**
- **Applications for Advanced Studies Program 2011**



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

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

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

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Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
23 Waterloo Road, 6th floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong
tel. 852-2780 8347, 2770 3168, 2783 3058;
fax 852- 2385 4692
e-mail: office@asiapacificymca.org

Assemblies Prep Now on its Full Swing

General Assembly Registration/Participation

To date, registrations stand at 308 from our 20 member movements, including guests from World Alliance, Africa Alliance, USA and Y Care International. There is about 80 youth participating. Youngest delegate is a 17 year old from New Zealand, Mr. Kahurangi Peehikuru.

Workbook will soon be uploaded on our website and soft copies will be sent to your National Movements. All registered participants will receive one copy upon registration in Penang.

Quadrennial Council Meeting (QCM) - Notice and Agenda were already sent out to all Movements for the QCM scheduled on 6 & 9 September 2011 during the 18th General Assembly.

Schedule of Meetings/Events - Several meetings and events will be held before, during and after the Assembly, which involves General Assembly working teams, Partners meetings, National General Secretaries and Presidents, APAY Officers, International guests and World Alliance.

2nd Youth Assembly

The 2nd Youth Assembly is just a few weeks away. As we closed the registration last August 5, we are glad to share with you that there will be about 200 youth participants from 18 movements who will join the assembly. As preparation takes on a full swing, both the Youth Assembly Preparatory Team and the Local Host Youth Committee are finalizing logistics and program. Amplify your thoughts through the Parallel Workshops, brainstorm with those from your Sub-regions, get close with the APAY leaders through dialogue, and do some planting through the Community Service Program.

Get engaged with social responsibilities as you critically think of various strategies in addressing global issues along with other youth of the YMCA. Share your experiences and also learn from others. Open your minds to the YMCA global arena and be ready to get soaked on muddy ploughs while helping them save their marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

A sixteen year College-Y member from Philippines, Ms. Karren Fetalvero is the youngest among the participants.

Pack up your luggage and stock up your knowledge as we let the countdown begin!

IMPORTANT! **Arrivals/Airport Pick-up**

The Penang International Airport is currently undergoing major renovations and we apologize for the inconvenience. As you arrive, make your way to the ARRIVAL HALL and look for the Volunteers/Staff holding a placard with the YMCA LOGO. A YMCA Desk will be set-up at the airport arrival area. Please note that some Deaf Youth Volunteers will be gladly welcoming and assisting you on your arrivals.

SEE YOU THERE!

(Important information and reminders for all youth participants can be downloaded from our website and was sent to your National Office/Contact Persons)

URGENT! Please return the following response forms and requirements:

* **Flight Details** - Those yet to inform us of their flight details should do so before August 25, 2011 to ensure proper airport pick-ups.
(continue on p. 5)

The Wonder of Nature



APAY staffs Mr. Kohei Yamada (GS), Ms. Cristina Dalope (ES), Mr. Bruce Van Voorhis (ICF Coordinator) and Youth Assembly Chair Mr. Oliver Loke sampled some seed planting in Penang during their meeting with the local host committee last June 23-25.

At the end of June, I was in Penang to finalize the arrangements with the Host Committee for the forthcoming Youth Assembly and General Assembly. I enjoyed this trip more as I learned and experienced more about the local food, culture and the people. I would like to share some of feelings and experiences about Penang especially with those who are not sure whether to attend the Assembly or not.

It was the middle of the Durian season. The Durian is known as the 'King of Fruits' in Malaysia and Penang has some of the best species there. It has a very unique and very strong smell...yes...very strong smell. You will have to make a very quick decision to stay to try it or to get away from the very strong smell. There are people who like it very much and there are those who dislike it's smell. Most hotels, including our Penang YMCA, do not allow durians in its premises. Many people buy them and eat them on the spot. They do not like to bring them home, as their cars will stink with the smell for at least a week. It was the peak season when I was in Penang, and the season will end around the time of our Assembly. I hope you will get a chance to try this fruit during the Assembly.

On my way to an exposure site for the Assembly, I stopped by a village on a hillside and saw many durian trees full of fruits. Durians grow on tall trees and the drop naturally once they are ripe. Thus one has to be very careful when walking along durian trees lest one drops on you. I was told that durians usually drop early in the morning or around 3pm. True enough, I heard them dropping. The size of a durian is like that of volleyball. It has a hard shell with sharp thorns. There are durians that taste sweet and some tastes bitter. In the village I had a variety of durians and we drank lots of water after eating them as it is considered a 'hearty' fruit. I learned that I could remove the durian smell from my mouth by drinking water with the shell and the smell from my hands and fingers by washing my hands with it. Truly it worked!

We visited a farm run by a Christian group comprising a pastor with 8 young men who were formerly drug addicts. The farm served as their rehabilitation place. The farm was planted with fruits and other nature's products, including durians. They start work each morning at 5am and pick up fruits and bring them to the

village for sale. They work hard, eat together and they sleep in a little hut on the mountain slope. They study the Bible together. I was very impressed by this way of missionary work on the mountain slope, and the attitude of these ex-drug addicts. I feel the YMCA can do more of this type of work. This experience further enhanced my understanding of missionary work without having to flash the word Christianity.

The 18th Assembly will be held in city of Georgetown, which has been accorded Heritage status by UNESCO. The city has many colonial buildings as well as local buildings that have been kept intact as heritage for hundreds of years. The venue of our Assembly is in the centre of these heritage buildings. You will not only enjoy visiting these heritage buildings but you will also enjoy the variety of local food and enjoy observing the varied cultures of the Malays, Chinese and Indians. The Malaysian culture is truly a mixture of its heritage, its races and its religions. Its tropical nature creates beautiful greenery, and a variety of fruits and vegetables. Spending a few days here in Penang, I really felt *"Malaysia, Truly Asia"*

GCE Sub-Regional Implementation Takes Off



GCE participants who went to the Southern Zone of Kerala were having their interaction with the community people during their Community Exposure part of the GCE ToT held in YMCA Aluva, Kerala India.

The first Sub-regional Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers took place last July. First, it was held in Makati Philippines for South East Asia last 4-10 July; then at Kerala, India for South Asia last 26-31 July. A total of forty-three (43) young volunteers, staffs and leaders participated in both events from the YMCAs of Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and hosts' countries, India and the Philippines

(continue on p. 3)

GCE... (continuation from p. 2)



Participants working on their presentation for one of the workshops on GCE ToT in the YMCA Makati, Philippines.

The training program was composed of input presentations, skills training workshops, and community exposures. The trainings were facilitated by a roster of trainers' expert on the fields

Community Exposure is one of the integral components of these trainings. Both sub-regions had different ways of conducting this. For the South East Asia Region, participants went to three grass-root communities: Coalition of Services for the Elderly, Kalingap Marikina Watershed, and Peoples' and Organization Group. While for South Asia: participants were divided to visit 4 zones of Kerala. In each zone consisted of an itinerary that led them to places where pressing issues emanate. The trainings ended with the presentation of the participants' Action Plans that will bring this training into the next step – mainstreaming of the GCE/GC programs down to the local.

To share some of the reflections from the participants:

"Recently I visited Kerala to attend GCE ToT organized by APAY. At first I thought it would be like this: a person comes, gives a long speech and then goes away. The entire training module was interactive based and the resource persons know what they were talking. It was enriching experience for. This program has given me a direction and future of our Youth department and also a solution to our YMCA problem where we are lacking

Youth involvement in YMCA's Activities and Programs. Though the task in hand is way too big but this will be a great step for all of us in trying to accomplish the Mission of YMCA "in extension of God's kingdom amongst Young People"- Paul Daniel Lakra, 26 (YMCA New Delhi, India)

"I'm very thankful to be part of the Global Citizenship Education (GCE) Training of Trainers (ToT) in Makati. This training taught me that globalization involves not just positive effects but also negative impacts on the lives of individuals. But more than that, GCE has sparked in me a burning passion to better the world, that is, to act on the issues that directly damage the community where I belong. GCE also opened new doors for me to meet other local and international youth movers in the YMCA. The other participants would always remind me that I am not alone in this advocacy. We may be doing simple steps in our own little ways but the results will lead to a big difference in the world. As it was once said, "United we stand, Divided we fall." Let's spread GCE together!" – Alfred Esteban, 27 (YMCA Nueva Ecija, Philippines)

ICF ~ Dialogue in Diversity

Twenty-four participants from seven countries gathered at the YMCA Training Center in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from July 9 to 24, 2011, for the interfaith workshop Dialogue in Diversity hosted by the National Council of YMCAs of Bangladesh and conducted by Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF), a joint program of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA). The participants included Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs and Christians from Cambodia, India, Laos, Pakistan and Thailand as well as Bangladesh. For the first time, an ICF program also included people from outside of Asia as seven participants from the YMCA in England took part as increasingly people of different faiths are finding themselves living in the same English community, such as

in Bradford. (full text of the story found on <http://daga.org/icf/faithpeace/2011/110731a.htm>).



Shabeb Khan, a Muslim staff member of a local YMCA in England, leads the interfaith prayer that is offered each morning.

A Reflection from India

Kohei Yamada shares his interaction with Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrisostem Metropolitan Marthoma Church, India last July 29, 2011 at his residence in Kerala, with GCE ToT participants

The bishop is 96 years old and we had a meeting with him for an hour. He asked us questions and we answered, then he questioned further. In this way he tried to explain his views of life, YMCA and young people.

He explained the Good Samaritan's story and he said that the robber took the clothes of the victims to meet his needs. He thinks those who passed by without helping the victims were worse robbers than the actual robber. He asked us, "How about the YMCA?"

He said that YMCA should pray. Why do we pray? Does God change me because of my prayer? What do you pray for? He said that we do not need to pray for the others. Rather we pray for what we do in this world. Then discover the real needs of the poor. We should not judge according to our own scales. Go and meet people and find out what is really needed. In this way, we give ourselves to the poor.

The YMCA is the first (turn to p.4)

A Reflection... (continuation from p.3)

ecumenical organization providing the support to anybody and has always put people together regardless of religions, castes, sex, and status. In London, India YMCA built a hostel for students and travelers. Those students became interested in church because of the YMCA. God created our world good. But is the world good? We need to work for peace and harmony.

The old always looks back the past and talk about the past. The youth look at and bring future visions to present. Only youth can help our future society. The youth can transform the world. Then what is the wish for the world? "Love, Peace and Joy of God".

Who goes to heaven? You should be better than who you are today. That is the way to heaven and this effort lasts till God wants you to be there. He gave us a story of twin babies in the mother's womb. One says, "we die after 10 months", and the other says, "no, we will come out of mother for the new world". Accordingly, birth is death and death is the birth.

After his speech, one participant mentioned. YMCA is not the building but it is the people who build the buildings. But YMCA is too busy to maintain the buildings. We should have realized the realities that many YMCAs and their staff have been in such position.

In this brief meeting with 14 youth and staff members of GCE TOT program, those questions and his ideas were shared. It was short but we felt somehow enlightened with his wisdom and the way he told us the faiths and mission of YMCAs. We should be proud of what we have done in the last 160 years, but we should always pray and ask what we can further do to the people and youth in need. And we always be questioning what the real needs are from those people themselves.

- Kohei Yamada

EASY Net ~ Ecumenical Creative Workshop of Youth and Students



This was a "tableau" made from Dr. Rommel Linatoc's Workshop. Inset: Ms. Joy Sin Lok Yue's creative output during one of the other workshops in the program.

From 25 – 31 July 2011, an Ecumenical Creative Workshop of Youth and Students in Asia and the Pacific was held in Tao Fung Shan, Hong Kong. Focusing on the theme, "Justice and Peace Now!" the workshop provided opportunities to share stories and witness how Church youth leaders/students demonstrate their creative talents as catalyst of peace. Resource persons gave input and used creative alternative art forms through bible studies, workshops and group discussions. As an output of this workshop, a resource book is being produced that would contain the creative works of the participants in mobilizing ecumenical youth groups in the grassroots communities and local Churches. The resource book will be used for the celebration of EASY Net Week this October and of the Asian Students and Youth Gathering (ASYG) in 2012.

This is the first time I joined EASY Net program. There was lots of learning that inspired me. First, I know how to read Bible from the underside. In one of the workshops, I was asked to break a pot and use it to make a new thing. It reminds me that I need to be broken and shine for Jesus. Most importantly, when I hear of some issues, I'll remember, "what would Jesus do". And do it immediately (reflection by Ms. Joy Sin

Lok Yue, Macau YMCA)

The workshop that gathered 22 young participants was a partnership program of Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC) and Ecumenical Asia and Pacific Students and Youth Network (EASY Net). The ecumenical partners highlighted this event for the International Year of Youth.

We congratulate Mr. Bipul Alite Gonsalvez, Bangladesh (Executive Secretary for Programs of NCY Bangladesh) for his appointment as the Coordinator of EASY Net effective 1 August 2011. On rotational system, Ms. Sunita Suna, Regional Women's Coordinator of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) – Asia Pacific takes over as the Moderator.

Applications for 29th Advanced Studies Program (ASP)

Applications are now open for suitably qualified professional secretaries for selection to participate in the 29th Advanced Studies Program (ASP). It will be held from 14 November to 10 December 2011 at the Chinese YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village, Hong Kong. All selected participants are required to pay the mandatory Registration Fee of US\$250 and Green Fund of 15USD. Participation Fee is US\$1,550 covering board and lodging & programme costs.

Closing date for application is **31 August 2010**. Details have been circulated to National Movements, and posted on the APAY website.

YMCA World Challenge 2012 Hoop Springs Eternal

The World Alliance of YMCAs is delighted to invite the World YMCA Movement to participate in a new initiative – a lifetime experience starting in 2012 that will demonstrate the relevance of the YMCA to itself and to the World as part of the NEW WAY strategic plan and its emphasis on Youth Empowerment.

This is an invitation for more than 5 million people to get involved and have fun, whilst helping the YMCA to send a strong message of unity and impact to the world touching the lives of millions of young people. The challenge in 2012 is to invite our communities to join a worldwide YMCA Celebration of our activities with focus on youth empowerment and at the same time shoot basketballs, the 2012 Motivating Factor. The back-up hot site for this World Challenge has just been launched <http://challenge.ymca.int/> and the visual identity of the event will be presented in October 2011.

YMCA Youth Speaks at the High-level UN Meeting on Youth...read more at the World Alliance website www.ymca.int

Assembly... (continuation from p.1)

- **Exposure Sign-up forms** to indicate preferences for necessary logistical arrangements for travel, and with the village communities by August 25, 2011.
- **Witness Rooms** video presentation before August 25, 2011.
- **Parallel Workshop Forms** (Youth Assembly participants) on or before August 25. Names of those who will fail to comply up to the deadline will be grouped randomly to the Workshops.



Y's Men International Asia Area Office in APAY

An Asia Area Coordinating Office of Y's Men International is now located in the APAY Office starting 1 July 2011. Mr. Wichian Boonmapajorn, Asia Area President (AP), Mr. Frederick Ng, Hong Kong District Governor and Mr. Kohei Yamada, APAY General Secretary signed a memorandum of agreement for the coordinating procedures and management of the Area office. The Asia Area is composed of the 5 districts in South East Asia, Japan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Taiwan. A Y's Men member in Hong Kong, Ms. Rose Yun has been assigned as the Asia Area Coordinator for a year.

World Alliance Adopts NEW WAY Strategic Plan

The Executive Committee of the World Alliance of YMCAs (WAY) approved the NEW WAY Strategic Plan 2011-2014 focusing on 5 critical strategic goals: youth empowerment, movement strengthening, resource mobilization, branding and communication, and constitution and governance. The plan reaffirms the strong commitment to the ecumenical mission of the YMCA. In collaboration with member national movements and area organizations, this NEW WAY plan will strengthen and expand the collective capacity and leadership of the

YMCA worldwide in youth empowerment, strengthening communities, and organizational capacity and self-reliance. Full text of this Strategic Plan can be downloaded from world alliance website: www.ymca.int.

Mr. Thoumiyan Soundaram, Sri Lanka, member of the APAY Youth Committee and Ms. Ji Yoon Lee, Korea, National Uni-Y Committee Chair on International Relations are representing the APAY to the WAY Youth Empowerment Task Force. Other representatives are from YMCA Europe, Latin America and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs, Africa Alliance of YMCAs, the USA, YMCA of Canada and of the Middle East Committee. The Youth Task Force aims to provide a forum for discussing, developing action plans, and taking action to implement the NEW WAY Strategic Plan 2011-2014 with special focus on Goal number 1: Youth Empowerment.

Centenary Celebrations of YMCA Training School, India

We congratulate the Training and Leadership Department of the National Council of YMCAs of India as it observes its Centenary this year. The YMCA Training School at the United Theological College in Bangalore kicked off its Centenary Celebrations last 22 July 2011. This 1st YMCA training school was initiated in the then Calcutta in 1911 and was relocated within two years in its present location. It has acquired an enviable reputation as an institute of excellence in the last 100 years and prides in its long array of leaders including YMCA Secretaries from across the globe, including Africans, Bangladeshis, Britons, Americans and those of other nationalities.

MOVEMENTS' UPDATES

NEW ZEALAND

Tony Jones is the current National President of the National Council of YMCAs of New Zealand following his election in



Tony Jones, New Zealand's new National President.

June 2011. Prior to that he held the position of National Vice President. He joined the YMCA Auckland board in 1999 and served as president from 2004 to 2006. Tony's background in finance and dispute resolution gives him the insight of both the economic and human-interest side on each issue. A member of the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute, Tony is now retired from a long career in property and fee-based consultancy, but the charity and community projects of the YMCA keep him gladly involved and committed. His long-term dedication to the YMCA makes him prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.



Mr. Chim Hou, the new President of the National Council of Singapore starting last June 2011.

leaves a legacy of principled leadership and service of 20 years (since 1991).

Mr. Chim brings with him a wealth of experience, having been involved with

SINGAPORE

Mr. Chim Hou Yan, takes over from Dr Robert Loh, as President of the National Council of Singapore, from June 1, 2011. Dr. Robert Loh

the YMCA movement as a youth member since 1971. He was drawn into the board of directors of the Metropolitan YMCA and was mentored by Dr Gwee Ah Leng, who together with Dr Robert Loh formed the National Council of YMCAs of Singapore in 1981. He was actively involved in the Asia Alliance of YMCAs, and was a member of the Executive Committee and held the position of Vice President from 1987 to 1995, and subsequently President of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) from 1995 to 1999. Mr Chim is a practicing lawyer, and runs his own legal firm Hilborne & Co.



Ms. Phyllis Tan takes over the Honorary National General Secretary starting last June 2011.

YMCA Singapore in 1990, and was appointed Executive Director & CEO in 2007. Born in Penang, she graduated with an LLB (Hons) in Singapore and was called to the Bar in 1989.

MOVEMENT STRENGTHENING UPDATES — COUNTRY FOCUSED

CAMBODIA YMCA

We welcome YMCA of Long Beach in USA as the newest member of the Partners Support Group (PSG) of Cambodia YMCA (CYMCA). Mr. Bob Cabeza (Vice President of Long Beach YMCA, USA) and Ms Boon Chin Tan (Senior International Director from YMCA, USA) had visited CYMCA from 21-26 July 2011 to pursue the development of an exchange program

in Cambodia. For over one month in July and August, Mr. Richard Kaing, our Special Project Officer (SPO) stayed in Cambodia and served as Honorary General Secretary. During his stay, he provided on-the-job training to the staff to improve their skills and interpersonal relations. The first AGM (Annual General Meeting) was held and a membership campaign was organized to increase supporters of the new YMCA. The recruitment process for hiring the new General Secretary has been started and in the early September, this new position will be filled. Gradually and steadily, the YMCA has been strengthened with young members and the continuing support from the PSG members

Partners Support Group (PSG) members of Cambodia YMCA includes Australia (Perth Y), Japan, Singapore (Y of Singapore), Hong Kong Council, Y USA, Y Care International and APAY.



INDONESIA YMCA

Mr. Albert Chong, our Special Project Officer (SPO) for

Indonesia YMCA went to visit Surabaya and Malang for two weeks last June 2011. During his stay, we conducted PSG meeting and discussed the progress of the revitalization plan of Surabaya YMCA. The construction of Surabaya YMCA Kindergarten as the initial project of PSG has been completed with the support of PSG partners ~ Japan, Victoria YMCA, Metropolitan YMCA Singapore and YMCA USA. Likewise, two staff from Victoria YMCA, Australia visited Surabaya last June for training of Kindergarten teachers. The project provides a new hope for Surabaya YMCA although it will take a while to regain its credibility to run the new kindergarten. Meanwhile, YMCA will create more community-based programs and for that a new staff may be recruited soon.

Partners Support Group (PSG) members of Indonesia YMCA includes Australia (Victoria Y), Japan, Singapore (Metropolitan Y), Philippines, Holland and APAY.