



Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

# APAY eNews

Monthly eNewsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs February 2012

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- **Movements' Updates: CYMCA of Hong Kong Has New National General Secretary**
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- **ICF School of Peace Begins in Bangalore**
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**25Feb - 29Feb:** APAY-EASY Net Core Team Meeting (Philippines)

**6Mar - 11Mar:** Executive Committee Meeting 2012 (Hong Kong)

**29Apr - 2May:** Disaster Preparedness Workshop (Myanmar)

### APAY eNews

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## ECM Prep Goes Full Swing

As the ECM week is fast approaching, APAY is diligently preparing and coordinating all the related meetings and events that will take place during the Executive Committee Meeting 2012.

Participants this time are expected to reach 100 above. As

the previous quadrennium is about to end and this ECM will commence another quadrennium, most YMCA people are expecting this ECM to be more fruitful than the previous years. This ECM will also serve as space where new ideas, concepts, and plans formed based on the strengths and weak-

nesses of the past four years are expected to set off.

Indeed, this ECM 2012 will freshly cater mission-based actions for all area-levels that will lead to the betterment of the communities in Asia-Pac. With all these, APAY is looking forward in meeting all of you from 6 March until 11 March. See you there!

## Violence Inspires Conflict Transformation Workshop in the Indian State of Orissa

The YMCA in Bhubaneswar, India, hosted a one-week workshop conducted by Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) and APAY from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4 whose theme was "Breaking Walls, Building Bridges."

In August 2008, the YMCA in Bhubaneswar hosted another group of people—about 900 people who had walked more than 160 kilometers from the district of Kandhamal after violence targeting Christians had erupted in this part of Orissa after the murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati that Hindus blamed on the Christian community even though Marxists in the area publicly claimed responsibility for the swami's death.

It was in this context and a similar explosion of violence in Kandhamal on Christmas Eve in 2007 that the interfaith



Nearly 30 people attended the workshop "Breaking Walls, Building Bridges" hosted by the YMCA in Bhubaneswar in the Indian state of Orissa. Much of the learning was based on the experiences of the participants themselves, who discussed in small groups the violence in Orissa involving different faith communities and ways to respond to it that can foster peace.

workshop in Bhubaneswar took place. Nearly 30 people from Orissa, other parts of India and several of ICF's School of Peace (SOP) alumni from Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka—countries that have experienced years of violence themselves—attended the Bhubaneswar workshop. During the program, some of the participants shared how they had personally experienced the violence in Kandhamal. They

also explained that the violence in the state was a complex phenomenon that had more to do with politics and economics than religion.

In response to these issues, the content of the interfaith program focused on various tools that could be used by the participants to perhaps transform the violence in Kandhamal between the two faith communities through engagement and

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*From the desk of the General Secretary...*

## PSG Movements Updates: Indonesia and Cambodia

**In February, we held two Partners' Support Group (PSG) meetings, one for Indonesia and the other, for Cambodia. Three (3) PSGs have been formed with several partner movements together in the recent years. Thus, PSG has been APAY's tool to strengthen weak or emerging movements within our area. I would like to share about those movements.**

### Indonesia YMCA



The Indonesia YMCA was one of the strong YMCA movements 15 year ago in the Asia-Pacific. However, as they have gone through leadership changes, property loss and financial crises, the activities have become very limited in 2000's. In 2009, the new leadership of National Council was elected during their National General Meeting. However, they have been struggling for survival still up to today. With this case, APAY decided to start Partners' Support Group to help redevelop the YMCA movements in Indonesia in 2010. We have held PSG meetings five (5) times since then. Recently, it was just held in Surabaya last February 2012. The initial PSG meeting in 2010 decided that an immediate attention would be necessary for Surabaya and Malang YMCA since those YMCAs had own facilities though the Surabaya School (IMKA) was poorly managed and was in serious financial difficulty. It was at that time that the National Office and NGS moved to Surabaya, assuming the roles as an Acting General Secretary for the Surabaya YMCA since November 2010.

In the following year, three (3) major decisions were made. First, the elementary school, junior high and senior high schools would need to be closed since it may become as a financial burden. Secondly, the PSG decided to expand the kindergarten. Thirdly, the youth work and membership activities would need to be explored.

From late 2011 up to now, something unexpected happened. The local members, who seemed not to be active at all, gathered and formed a new group aiming to protect and conserve the Surabaya YMCA (IMKA). The local YMCA members have own plans and concepts over how the future YMCA movements be created. In the last PSG meeting held few weeks ago, the YMCA decided to do a leadership transition from National GS to local leadership by the end of February

2012. In this regard, we felt good to hear that the local members would be willing to take more responsibility over their own YMCA. At the event, we would continue to monitor and support the local movement for the time-being. To widen the view of their would-be new leaders, we welcome to invite them over for our APAY-ECM this March 2012.



### Cambodia YMCA

Cambodia YMCA was formed by a group of senior pastors in 1999. However, the development of the movement had been slow. In 2009, the first group of five (5) partners met in Cambodia and discussed forming the how the PSG can possibly attend to the Cambodia YMCA's situation. Since then, each partner has helped the movement by supporting financially as well as mentoring and advising in various ways. PSG meetings have been held seven (7) times for the last two (2) years. Just two weeks ago, the latest meeting was held.

Currently, the CYMCA is renting a 3.5-storey building for the YMCA's office and space for their programs and activities. Since October 2010, the Street Children Project has been conducted in two sites. At the same time, a new General Secretary was hired. Board formation was one of the weak points of the YMCA last year. Recently, they selected five (5) new board members who are young leaders from different ecumenical movements in Cambodia.

As a very young and emerging YMCA with newly appointed NGS and board members, there is/will be a strong need for capacity building towards a stronger local leadership, good governance, membership development and conduct of sustainable programs to meet the needs of people and the community they served.

Both YMCAs have developed their Strategic Plans for 2012 in agreement with their respective PSG partners. Both have formed new board and staff leadership, too. With the PSG and local leaders, how can these highly potential YMCAs effectively move forward to our common goals and become one of those sustainable YMCAs? Indeed, more attention, encouragement, mentoring and concrete hands will be needed for their development.

- KOHEI YAMADA

**Movements Updates: *CYMCA of Hong Kong has New National General Secretary***

Following the retirement of Dr. Lawrence Yick, who had been serving the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong since 1970, Mr. Karl Lau has been appointed as the new General Secretary of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong effective from 1 January 2012.



Mr. Lau started his service in the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong in 1983. He took up the position of Deputy General Secretary in 1999 and was responsible for the associa-

tion's administration and management of the social services.

Mr. Lau has obtained two master degrees, in Business Administration (Executive MBA Program) from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and in Social Work from The University of Hong Kong. His first degree, Bachelor of Science (Social Administration) was obtained in Loughborough University in the UK.

His strong links with industry fellows, academic scholars, Christian organisations and business corporations helps the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong explore resources

from different communities, and his leadership and innovation continue to make contributions to the development of new services of the association.

He is married with two children. It is his belief that successful management begins with being an effective manager of oneself. That's why he always maintains a good balance between work, family and church life. He wishes to create a better world and serve the people in need by connecting with the worldwide YMCAs to foster youths as global citizens and leaders of our society.

**YMCA World Challenge 2012: Hoops Spring Eternal**



The aim of YMCA World Challenge is to tell the YMCA story by mobilizing 5MILLION people on the same day. Start your YMCA World Challenge Plans now, and let the world know your activities. Together, let us make history this coming 2012.

***Violence Inspires Conflict Transformation...***

*(Continued from page 1)*

dialogue that emphasizes respect and listening to those who are different. While not necessarily an easy process, it offers an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences and mindsets of those with a different identity with the hope that conflict can perhaps be a vehicle for transformation of oneself and ultimately of one's relationships with people from a different faith community.

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***ICF's School of Peace Begins in Bangalore***

The School of Peace (SOP) conducted by Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) began on Feb. 1 at the campus of Visthar in Bangalore, India. This year 20 participants from 14 countries are taking part in the 14-week program. For the 2012 SOP, participants are from Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, the Phil-

ippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Moreover, a new country that is represented at SOP is East Timor, and, for the first time, there are several participants from outside of the region as Native Americans from Canada and the United States and a staff member of a local YMCA in England have joined the program.

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***Disaster Preparedness Workshop in Myanmar***

At this phase, advancements in the preparation for the Disaster Preparedness Workshop in Myanmar is taking place. As scheduled, this will be held on the 29 April - 2May 2012.

We are presently on the process of circulating program information in the movements so they can start sending their representatives too. Surveys on some disaster-related experiences have been sent out too, thus, will serve as one of the platform bases of the workshop curriculum.

**Deadline for registration is on 20 March 2011.**

# YMCA Fellow For Youth 2012

## YMCA *fellow* for YOUTH 2011-2012

How to join the roster of YMCA Fellows?  
You can be one of the YMCA Fellows by contributing 1,000USD or more in one time or during the 4-5 year campaign period. Please use the YMCA Fellow form below and send back to APAY.

**Pledge Form**  
(Please circle one)  
1. YMCA Fellow for Youth US \$1000  
2. Other (donation amount USD \_\_\_\_\_)  
3. I will continue to support in the following years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 for a total of USD \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please circle the year(s) of your plan of supporting. You can send the 1000USD in three or four years, if you prefer)

**A. DONATION**  
How would you want your support to be spent?  
 I would want to donate the FULL amount to APAY Youth.  
 I would prefer the amount to be split 50% to APAY Youth, 50% to MY NATIONAL MOVEMENT.

**B. DONATION WAYS:**  
 BANK TRANSFER  
Account Name: Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs  
Bank Name: Bank of East Asia  
Account Number: 015-515-20-05004-5  
Swift Code: BEAESHKH  
 SEND TO THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT FIRST DUE TO TAX REDUCTION PREFERENCE  
 CASH TO APAY WHEN AVAILABLE (please specify date/event: \_\_\_\_\_)

YMCA Fellow NAME: (PLEASE WRITE NAME)  
YMCA: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NO./s: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

### *fellow* for YOUTH REFERRAL FORM

Can you recommend someone else to join the fellowship? If so, please write the person's info below.

YMCA Fellow NAME: (PLEASE WRITE NAME)  
YMCA: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NO./s: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

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This year's campaign will continue until March 31, 2012.

# YMCA

## *fellow* for YOUTH



Photo taken from the 2nd Youth Assembly, Penang, Malaysia - Sept. 5, 2011

2011 YMCA FELLOW FOR YOUTH CAMPAIGN REPORT

Let us continue to uplift the YOUTH spirit in YMCAs through supporting the YMCA Fellow for Youth 2012 Campaign. Place your pledges now and together we EMPOWER the YOUTH!

The YMCA Fellow for Youth Campaign runs from December 2011 until March 2012. For details, please visit our website at [www.asiapacificymca.org](http://www.asiapacificymca.org).