



Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

APAY eNews

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UPCOMING EVENTS

5June: *World Environmental Day*

13Jul - 15Jul: Resource Mobilization Workshop (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

17Jul - 22Jul: 4th YMCA Regional Youth Conference (Singapore)

7Aug - 12Aug: GCE ToT (Sri Lanka)

5 Nov - 30 Nov: Advanced Studies Program

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Monthly eNewsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

June 2012

Workshop on Disaster Preparedness and Management

The Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs in partnership with Y Care International held a Workshop on Disaster Management in Yangon, Myanmar on 29 April to 3 May 2012. It was participated in by 27 representatives from 10 national movements in the Asia and Pacific area including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The team of facilitators included Ms. Lizz Harrison, Ms. Jen Blackwood from Y Care International and Ms Polly Newall from Church World Ser-



vice (CWS) based in Yangon. The sessions provided the participants with a learning experience including introduction to key disaster concepts/terminologies, disaster response, what YMCAs do to respond to disasters, how

to fill up the Y Care International appeal process, needs assessments in emergencies, and the YMCA Emergency Coordination Protocol. Each of the participants also learned how to use the Emergency Appeal Template based on a given scenario. In between the inputs and lecture sessions, practical exercises, sharing and presentations from different movements were done as important components to learn from and cases to draw discussions from. The groups also prepared their final Emergency Appeal Templates as a way to learn how to make a program or project proposal in response to a disaster. The learning process included a critique and feedback. Other important components were on Standards and Accountability, Disaster Preparedness Planning, Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework, experience sharing from CWS disaster risk reduction projects in the Asia and Pacific, sharing on the APAY perspective on Disaster Risk Reduction Program and how it can be incorporated into YMCA work.

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Green Ambassadors' Training in Chiang Mai

The Green Ambassadors Training was held during 21-25 May 2012, in Chiangmai Thailand organized by the APAY Green Team. Fifteen participants representing National Movements of Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Macau, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka & Thailand attended the Training Workshop.



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Recommendations arrived at the Workshop are as follows:

1. To formulate proposed policy guidelines in consultation with Y Care International and the national movements and organize committee at national level. It was noted, however, that the APAY should process this in close coordination and collaboration with the national movements to ensure follow-up and implementation at the local level;
2. Educate and involve the Board Members. Even if the volunteer and professional staff are trained, if the decision making leaders are not involved and do not support the ideas, or don't know anything about Disaster Risk Reduction Program, the initiative may not be effective due to lack of support and resources;
3. Staff and leaders who have participated in this workshop should also be accountable by reporting back to respective movements and plan for follow-up;
4. It was also proposed that the curriculum be adjusted and reformulated based on Asian context;
5. To develop a model program on disaster risk reduction based on the presentation from Philippines to help educate more YMCAs and communities;
6. For any plan of sending volunteers and staff to help respond to disaster in the future through YMCA, particularly through work camp program, the staff and volunteers need to be trained and prepared for safety. They should be physically and mentally healthy;
7. To request the World Alliance to set aside stand-by/emergency funds to support disaster program;
8. To develop the YMCA specialized field and not duplicate what other organizations can effectively do. It is believed that YMCA is good as support organization to help/implement disaster response program through collaborative work/partnerships. The YMCA lacks the infrastructure and the system to deliver the needed services; and
9. The face to face dialogue and discussion and the learning that can take place in similar workshop are irreplaceable. It is therefore recommended to have more of a similar program in the future.

A full report on this program is available and will be shared to all the national movements.

In behalf of all the participants, the APAY and the Y Care International, we wish to convey our heartfelt appreciation to the Board and staff of both the National Council of Myanmar and Yangon YMCAs for graciously co-hosting this important program of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs. It has been a fruitful and meaningful learning experience for all of us. □

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The Training Workshop started with an Opening Worship lead by Dr. Hope Antone, a Faculty Member of Payap University, Chiangmai. In her reflection she related to the Creation Story in Genesis and explained how we have misinterpreted it to plunder the earth and other living beings.

Dr. Ms. Patcharawan Srisilapanan, Vice President of the Asia & Pacific Alliance of YMCAs in her inaugural speech welcomed all the participants at Chiangmai and also urged them to devote themselves for the cause of restoration of the environment and ecology.

Mr. Kohei Yamada also greeted the participants and urged them to form Green Teams in their own YMCAs and in order to work towards environmental projection.

The key note paper 'Global Warming and Climate Change' was presented by Dr. Wasan Jompakdee, Faculty Member of Chiangmai University. He elaborated the scientific facts & figures of global warming and the reasons of climate change. He also shared the global endeavor to protect the environment and explained that how we could involve ourselves to do more green activities to reduce our own carbon footprints.

The responses of the YMCAs to protect the environment were discussed and some good practices of our YMCAs were presented as case studies. The Chiangmai YMCA's various environmental program, especially the Environmental Program & Energy Learning Center, the practice of Green Hotel were explained to the participants by Ms. Patcharin Aviphan and Ms. Chularat Phongtudsirikul.



Mr. Ley Man Key from the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, shared about their new environmental program 'Project Zero' with the participants, the objective of this program is to transform the Wu Kwai Sha YMCA Youth Village to a zero carbon emission center, adopting on renewable energy and energy saving appliances to run the Youth Center. This was an ambitious project with an investment of millions of dollars.

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Ms. Kai Yu Wong, from the YMCA of Hong Kong shared their Organic Farming Project.& Social Enterprise... Mr. Colin Lambie from the Australian YMCA, shared with us about the YMCA Camp Wyuna, at Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia as a case study, which adopted the use of energy efficient appliances and rain water harvesting. A grand welcome dinner was hosted by Chiangmai YMCA on the evening of 22 May where the Honorable Board Members of Chiangmai YMCA were present. A series of field exposures were arranged as a part of the training program for the participants to have a practical knowledge of environmental activities. The participants visited the Environment & Energy Learning Center of Saohin YMCA, this center is led by Ms. Patcharin Aviphan. The participants had the firsthand experience in various types of energy sources, their merits and demerits in terms of energy consumption. They also had the opportunity to experience the usage of solar energy for cooking and electricity generation.

The participants visited The Prince Royal College, an ideal green school with a host of green activities and experienced their sensitivity towards the environment and ecology.

The biogas project of Chiangmai YMCA was a learning experience.

The Chiangmai YMCA helped the farmers of the dairy farm to install biogas plants, which took care of the fuel for cooking at their homes, such saving the fossil fuels.

Three local schools had set up make-shift exhibition centers in the premises of the venue to share with us their environmental activities; this was a learning experience for us and shall inspire our participants to form similar green schools in their own localities.



Mr. Colin Lambie, explained the participants the terminologies of energy units and the consumption behaviours of various power appliances. He also discussed about various energy saving appliances and their cost benefit. The main topic was the energy consumption of our own YMCAs and the volume of carbon foot print we were creating for this. The participants were involved in practical exercises to estimate the carbon emissions of the YMCA through the use of online car-

bon calculator.

The Training Program concluded in the afternoon of May 25 at a Closing Ceremony, where the participants committed to work as green ambassadors in their own local YMCAs and actively work towards promotion of green activities and encourage others to involve themselves in green activities to make this world a better place to live in. Certificates were awarded to the participants.

During the final sessions the participants laid down the terms of reference of Green Teams to be formed in their local YMCAs and also at the National Level. They also defined the objectives of the Green Teams. Sub Regional Plans were also worked out, which shall be materialized during the current quadrennial.

The training program was facilitated by Ms. Patcharin Aviphan, Mr. Colin Lambie and Mr. Duncan Chowdhury. We would like to mention that the cost of the Training Program was met by APAY Green Fund and partially by the Y's Men International. We thank them for their kind contribution. We also thank all the staff members of Chiangmai YMCA for their relentless effort for hosting this program. □

APAY GS Visit to Timor Leste

The Partners Support Group (PSG) meeting for East Timor YMCA was held in Dili, East Timor during May 26-30, 2012. Representatives from Korea and APAY with local board and staff members attended. Representatives from Japan and Australia could not attend the meeting.

The General Secretary of Timor Leste YMCA Mr. Orasio Mendes presented the Current Situation of the Timor Leste YMCA. In the capital city of Dili, Computer classes and Kids' English, Art, Music and Library have been successfully conducted for youth and children in the local communities. Their Strong Soccer Team has over 100

members below 21 year old and some of them have become the National Team Members. We discussed that the Soccer program could be the signature program in Timor Leste, since, everywhere in the street or park, children and youth are playing soccer with bear feet. Soccer is a kind of national sport and everyone's favorite. We decided to hold a Soccer Tournament during August 20-30, 2013. The team will be mainly for Grade 5-6 age group from various movements. The program can be done in five days including matches, special school for children, youth and managers.

I had a chance to visit the very remote area where the YMCA has conducted coffee production for fair trade with Korean YMCA. There are about 500 families (coffee farmers) in two communities, Rotutu and Cablagi. The Project

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started 7 years ago. Not only the coffee export for fair trade, but Korean YMCA has helped make schools, provide health care and introduce solar power since no electricity was available. The relationship with these communities has become stable and people in the communities have come to trust the YMCA even beyond the village. Korean YMCA has spent a lot of resources for developing the coffee projects, and for the lives of remote areas such as Rotutu and Cablagi. They funded for solar energy panels, health clinics with mobile clinics, coffee project centers and machineries. They have sent several staff and volunteers from Korea. Even now, there are staff

and two volunteers from Korea. The Korean YMCA taught the method of peeling the skin and selecting good coffee beans. As the result, they can earn more profit. From the profit, the YMCA introduced the idea of saving 5% in case of poor production and another 5% for the common interest as community fund.

Finally, my visit to Rotutu and Cablagi was very interesting. It took us nearly 6 hours in car crossing mountain areas with very bad road conditions. The SAME area was even worse. We had to cross two rivers with rapid flow. Only four wheel cars can go ahead. Moreover, we had to walk two hours in the mountain roads since no car could access especially road

was in bad conditions. The village of Rotutu is really in nature and people live with nature. There were no electricity until the Korean YMCA introduced the solar system in the village. People take two or more hours to walk for buying anything they don't have in the village. People take all day picking the coffee cherries in bags. They carry it long distance on their shoulders or heads of men, women, elderly and even children. They work all day in the field for their family. One kilo of the coffee cherries, they receive 35-40 cents. People live in peace with nature, in the community and closely living with God I sensed. The life in Rotutu was interesting. □

KOHEI YAMADA

Working Visit to YMCA of Indonesia with focus on local YMCA Surabaya

As one of the strategic action plans to help national/local YMCAs strengthen their work and mission in a particular area or community, the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, together with Partners Support Group (PSG), are closely working with the national movements to implement the plan as agreed upon during PSG meetings. Following recent efforts to help Indonesia YMCA with current focus on local Surabaya YMCA, including the series of meetings and consultations with both local and national leaders and the sending of a special project officer and staff assistance, notable positive developments are now slowly shaping up.

After the final turn-over of the operation and management of the kindergarten and other local programs back to the local Board and new staff team, it has been observed that some changes have slowly been introduced at the local YMCA through the formation of a new leadership and re-establishing a local YMCA office. Another working visit to Surabaya YMCA has been completed on May 21-31 to provide staff support in guiding both national and local YMCAs to adopt and use movement strengthening scheme which takes the three (3) pillars of mission clarity, institutional viability and socially relevant program as a working framework. This will provide the strengthening process to help them gauge the success of their own initiatives. Series of consultations, meetings and Board and Staff Leadership Development Training were conducted as part of the preparation process for a more unified, strong, dynamic and vibrant leadership and governance, with structure aligned and consistent



with other YMCAs in the world and help them regain the positive YMCA image and become actively connected with their community through socially relevant programs and services for their constituents.

To kick-off this image re-building and membership campaign and to encourage parents to send their children to YMCA for pre-school education program, an "open house and bazaar" was held with children joining the coloring contests for ages 3-4 and 4-5 categories. There were about 38 children

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who joined the said contest. The event was made even more colorful and lively by having youth volunteers render local and cultural songs and music followed by games and fun-filled ac-



tivities with mascot and children. Simultaneously, some of the members of the women's group had their session for project introduction. All other guests, participants and guests enjoyed the food bazaar in the compound the whole morning.

The working visit included other activities to follow up sharing sessions to share about the APAY Youth Empowerment program to help them become change agents for the quadrennial and how local YMCAs can participate and contribute in achieving this global YMCA vision. One of the youth representatives who is a local board member was present and it was a good opportunity to encourage him to start organizing the youth in Surabaya. The plan to hold the International Work Camp in Surabaya YMCA was also discussed, citing that it is the Youth's Committee's idea to have a PSG's focus local YMCA as host and venue. Hopefully, the program will help this YMCA strengthen itself and promote the YMCA works and mission in this part of the world. ▣

School of Peace Concludes in India

The School of Peace (SOP) for 2012 conducted by Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) concluded on May 14. This year 20 participants from 12 countries and four faith backgrounds—Buddhism, Christianity, indigenous spirituality and Islam—took part in the 14-week program that began on Feb. 1. As well as Asian participants from Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Papua in Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam, three women from Canada, England and the United States also attended the program that was held on the campus of Visthar in Bangalore, India—the first time that people from outside of the region have been a part of this program. Rachel Dyne, the participant from England, is a staff member of the Tees Valley

transformation of oneself and transformation of one's community.

In addition to the modules in the classroom, the participants also took several field trips to expose them to the realities of some of India's marginalized communities, such as Dalits, or Untouchables, in the state of Tami



Field visits—here to Hyderabad in April to learn about the past violence involving the city's Sikh community—are a way for the SOP participants to hear the voices of those who have experienced conflict.



YMCA in Darlington and had taken part in the mini-SOP hosted by the National Council of YMCAs of Bangladesh (NCYB) for two weeks in July last year in Dhaka, and the two participants from North America—Mariam Leah Faith Sainnawp from Canada and Erica Littlewolf from the United States—are from the Native American communities of these countries, thus offering new experiences and new perspectives to the dialogue among the SOP participants.

The program was divided into three modules that focused on the self, the other and community; conflict and the violence of development; and, lastly,

Nadu, and some of the country's issues, such as communal violence in Hyderabad, child labor and child marriages in Koppal District in the state of Karnataka and the concerns of tribal people in the state of Kerala. The field visits gave the participants the opportunity to relate the discussions in the classroom to the lives and experiences of people in India.

Near the end of SOP the Festival of Justpeace, known as the Bhoomi Habba (Celebration of the Earth) this year, was held on May 5 to celebrate the struggle of people in India and around the world for their rights and dignity as human beings.

With the close of the 2012 SOP, 88 participants between the ages of 20 and 30 from 16 countries have now taken part in this joint interfaith program of APAY and CCA. ▣

GCE ToT in Sri Lanka

According to our documents circulated to the National Movements on May 9th, the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs will soon be conducting the Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers (GCE TOT) for the National Youth Representatives from each movement on 6 – 12 August 2012. Those youth representatives will also be invited to attend the Strategic Planning Meeting organized by APAY, and also to participate in the NCY Sri Lanka's 50th Anniversary on 11th, August.

This GCE ToT is a training intended for those selected National Youth Representatives only. Once they attended the training, they shall continue to be advocates of Global Citizenship Education and initiate in actions in their respective YMCAs. Registration processes is still open and please address your registrations to office@asiapacificymca.org.

Applications for 30th Advanced Studies Program (ASP)

Applications are now open for suitably qualified professional secretaries for selection to participate in the 30th Advanced Studies Program (ASP). It will be held from November 5 to November 30, 2012 (Arrival on November 4, Departure on December 1) at the Chinese YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village, Hong Kong. All selected participants are required to pay the mandatory Registration Fee of US\$350 and Green Fund of US\$15. The Participation Fee is US\$1,600 covering board and lodging & programme costs.

Closing date for application is **31 July 2012**. Details have been circulated to National Movements, and posted on the APAY website.

YMCA World Challenge 2012: Hoop Springs Eternal

OCTOBER 13th 2012

YMCA WORLD CHALLENGE

YMCA WILL MAKE HISTORY

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.

50th Anniversary Celebration of the National Council of YMCAs of Sri Lanka



Once again, we would like to inform you that Sri Lanka YMCA has confirmed to be hosting the delegates/participants who will come to join in the celebration of their Golden Anniversary from 10th to 14th August 2012. All national movements are invited to join and requested to arrange departure on 15th August 2012.

YMCA Regional Youth Conference 2012

'STEP-UP: ENCOURAGE, EDUCAGE, ENGAGE'

Finally, registrations are close and we have received over one hundred sign-up from overseas movements. Thank you very much for your registrations and let's join together the 110th Anniversary of YMCA of Singapore.



Movement Updates

NCY Malaysia

Mr. Geh Cheng Lok was been re-elected as **President** for another term for 2 years during their Annual General Meeting on 14 April, 2012. The new Honorary Secretary of NCY Malaysia is **Mr. Alfred Ong** from YMCA Kuala Lumpur. Our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Geh Cheng Lok, Mr. Alfred Ong and all the members of Executive Committee.

Election of YMCA National Council Members of China YMCA

During the National Convention (2012) of China YMCA, Election of the YMCA National Council and YWCA National Council were held. Each Council consists of 15 members. The majority of the members of the Councils come from local YMCAs and YWCAs. The average age of the member of the YMCA National Council is 50. Soon after the first Council Meeting, the YMCA announced the new leadership elected/appointed. The New Leadership of the National YMCA of China are as follows: National President: **Rev. Xu Xiaohong** & National General Secretary: **Mr. Tu Hanqiao**. Our heartiest congratulations for them.