

**Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
20th General Assembly 2019
“Living Together Within Nature
on a Path to Peace”
Tozanso, Japan**



1st Bulletin

With immense pleasure, APAY invites the YMCA leaders of our region to the 20th General Assembly of APAY, scheduled to be held during 2 – 6 September 2019 at YMCA International Youth Center, Tozanso, Japan. About four hundred YMCA leaders are expected to participate at the greatest YMCA fellowship of our Asia-Pacific region. Likewise, the 4th Youth Assembly will be held during 31 August – 2 September 2019 at Tokyo Olympic Memorial Center, Tokyo.

APAY General Assemblies are held at every four years with an objective to stimulate and renew YMCA leadership through discussions and the sharing of insights on existing realities that impact our societies and our YMCA activities; to demonstrate and experience the togetherness in mission that exists in the YMCAs in our region and within the global family of YMCAs at large; to search

together for ways to witness the Good News in our region; to study as one body in discovering the stark realities of our region; and to plan collectively for common actions of the YMCAs at the local, national and regional level in responding to the challenges of our sub-regions, our region and the world as a whole.

The Theme of the Assembly

The theme of the 20th General Assembly has been decided as **“Living Together Within Nature on a Path to Peace”**. We, as stewards of God’s creation, are to ensure the sustainability of our future. We therefore are called to live in harmony with the nature, and not only take every step in our behavioural patterns but also launch collective actions as a faith-based social movement to protect the mother earth including combatting imminent climate change.

Similarly, we are also called upon to strive, with all our efforts, to build lasting peace with justice in our region as well as in the world at large by committing ourselves as peace-makers and reconcilers amidst growing inter-religious tensions and injustices in our region and beyond. Let us join at the Assembly and unite in our minds and spirits for working to set up the path towards genuine peace and sustainability.

Dates of Arrival and Departure

The youth delegates are expected to arrive on 31 August 2019 and other delegates on 2 September, preferably in the morning. The members of the APAY Executive Committee and the APAY Council are expected to arrive at Tozanso on 1 September. The APAY Executive Committee Meeting will be held in the morning of 2 September participated by the APAY Board Members, National Presidents, NGSs, Chairpersons of YPLD and Gender Committee, Past Presidents of APAY, Executive Committee Members of World Alliance of YMCAs from our region and the Secretary General of World Alliance of YMCAs. The APAY Council Meeting will be held on the evening of the same day participated by the National Presidents, NGSs and one Youth Delegate from each movement. All delegates of the General Assembly can arrive either at Narita Airport or at Haneda Airport, but the delegates participating at the Youth Assembly are required to arrive only at Narita Airport, as the Youth Assembly will be held in Tokyo city. All delegates shall depart from Tozanso on 6 September immediately after lunch.

Registration

The period for early bird registration will be until 31 March 2019. The Early Bird Fee includes Registration Fee US\$ 250, Participation Fee US\$ 400 and Green Fee US\$ 15 per person excluding the accommodation charges. This will only be applicable if all the fees are transferred along with the registration process to APAY within the deadline.

The regular fees of Registration Fee US\$ 270, Participation Fee US\$ 400 and Green Fee US\$ 15 will be effective from 1 April until 30 June 2019 excluding the accommodation charges.

Accommodation rates are indicated in the Registration Form, and this needs to be paid in cash Japanese Yen only at the registration desk at YMCA International Youth Center, Tozanso upon arrival, including those who opts to stay at Hotel Alpha One. Credit cards and no other currencies will not be accepted.

It is mandatory for all registrations to be endorsed by the respective national movements.

Business Meetings

The APAY Executive Committee Meeting and the APAY Council Meeting will be held on Monday 2 September 2019. The elections of the new APAY board for the next quadrennial will be held on Thursday, 5 September. The Election Committee of APAY will send detailed information to the national movements inviting nominations for the candidates for the APAY elections of Office Bearers for the next quadrennial to be held during the General Assembly.

Conference Shirts

All delegates will be provided with commemorative polo shirts with the conference logo. Please indicate your preference of size in the registration form.

Cancellation Policy

Delegates will be only registered upon payment of the required registration fees. In case there is any cancellation, refunds of registration and participation fee will be made according to the policy as elaborated in the registration form.

Program Schedule

We share with you a tentative overall program schedule of the General Assembly, for your information, however, later we shall be sharing updated program schedule with more concrete information as we finalize it.

Conclusion

We are thankful to the National Council of YMCAs of Japan for hosting this event and also making all necessary arrangements for a successful and meaningful assembly. We will be sharing more information with you regarding the General Assembly in the coming days.

All registration forms should be sent to Ms. Irene Chan, Administrative Assistant of APAY email : office@asiapacificymca.org or by mail to Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, 23 Waterloo Road, 6/F, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

If you have any other queries or need any information, please contact Mr. Duncan Chowdhury, Executive Secretary of APAY, his email ID is duncan@asiapacificymca.org

Looking forward meeting you at Tozanso in September, 2019.

Nam Boo Won
General Secretary
Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs