



head**LINES**

Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 69 / 70 December 2007

1. LQR-2 Forges a Common Vision, Mission and Programme Plan Framework

The 2nd Leaders' Quadrennial Roundtable (LQR) was held at the YMCA Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 6-9 December. Forty leaders from 15 National Movements, and, Officers and Executive Staff of the APAY attended the Roundtable.

The LQR spent time reviewing the evaluation of the Quadrennial Programme Plan 2004-2007 by Prof. Elmer Ferrer, University of Philippines. The participants then actively envisioned our YMCA mission response, setting goals to meet the challenges of the realities that had emerged from the 17th General Assembly in the Quadrennium 2008-2011.

The vision statement adopted reads:

Preamble

We affirm the Statement of the 17th General Assembly adopted in Chiang Mai in 2007

We are a community-led, people-focused movement in a globalised world where injustice, suffering and inequities are prevalent. We are positive and innovative agents of transformation – leading initiatives in supporting the last, the least and the lost of our communities. We work in spirituality and solidarity for the holistic development of new mindset in response to the advent of information society

Vision

Striving as One Body in Christ, to respond as Global Citizens in carrying our Social Responsibility, fostering Peace with Justice, and promoting Sustainability for Life, through awareness building and enablement, with practical and challenging models of inclusion, cooperation, strategic partnerships.

The following priority areas would form the building blocks for the QPP 2008-2011:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Spirituality | 2. Global Citizenship |
| 3. Sustainable Development | 4. Peace and Justice |
| 5. Equality and Inclusiveness | 6. Movement Strengthening |

2. Farewell Lakshan ~ Welcome Jose

We bid a fond farewell to Lakshan Dias who has served as Executive Secretary for the areas of Contemporary Mission and Social Relevance, Building Community and a Culture of Peace, from 2004 with full dedication and commitment. He returns to his home movement in Sri Lanka at the end of December 2007 as Assistant National General Secretary with a special assignment in movement strengthening. We congratulate him and wish him and his family God's richest blessings as he continues his YMCA service among the people he loves.

We welcome Jose Varghese, currently Regional Secretary for South West India Region, of the Indian YMCA, who will join us in January 2008. He has had wide experience in community and development work. He attended the 23rd Advanced Studies in 2005. Jose is married to Manju Kurian and has a 6-year old son, Joju.

3. Realities Challenge and Inspire 25th ASP Participants

The 14 participants of the 25th Advanced Studies Programmes were engaged in exposures with various sectors of Hong Kong society. They included the poor and youth at risk in a globalised environment, migrant workers and ageing population. They interacted and listened to the unnoticed, the neglected, discriminated against, those who struggle for justice.

They shared that they were valuable opportunities to re-think and to understand more deeply the realities and their contexts in the light of contemporary Christian perspectives and mission. The mission of the YMCA took on new meaning for them. They realised that it was time to think out of the box and to break free of the "prison" of tradition-bound YMCAs.

We thank the Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong for their support to participants from the YMCA of China, and the IHQ Y's Men International for their support for participants from outside the region through the Alexander Scholarship Fund. We also thank the Chinese YMCA and the YMCA of Hong Kong for their collaboration and support for the ASP.

We congratulate the graduates of the 25th Advanced Studies Programme:

<i>Argentina</i>	<i>Mario Cenci</i>	<i>Buenos Aires YMCA</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Zhang Ning</i>	<i>National Committee of YMCAs</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Zhang Xiou-yue, Melody</i>	<i>Shanghai YMCA</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Yuan Ye</i>	<i>Shanghai YMCA</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Sun Xiao-bing, David</i>	<i>Wuhan YMCA</i>
<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Magdy Fawzi Iskandar</i>	<i>Alexandria YMCA</i>
<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Liao Kok Che, Lehman</i>	<i>Chinese YMCA</i>
<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Li To Sang, Calvin</i>	<i>Chinese YMCA</i>
<i>India</i>	<i>Raju M. Prasanna</i>	<i>Bangalore YMCA</i>
<i>Korea</i>	<i>Kang Soon-gyu, Tommy</i>	<i>Jinju YMCA</i>
<i>Japan</i>	<i>Kei Hashimoto</i>	<i>Osaka YMCA</i>
<i>Philippines</i>	<i>Roberto Vinluan (Bobby)</i>	<i>Baguio YMCA</i>
<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Nicannor Soriano (Nick)</i>	<i>YMCA of Singapore</i>
<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Ruth Lim</i>	<i>Metropolitan YMCA of Singapore</i>

4. 25th ASP Graduation and 25th Anniversary Homecoming

The 25th ASP Graduation Worship and Celebration were held in the YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village on 3 December. About 60 YMCA leaders, ASP Alumni, ecumenical partners and friends attended the events. Among them were Dr. Philip Kwok and Dr. Bart Shaha. They were the then Chair of the Leadership Development Committee and then AAY Executive Secretary for Leadership Development, respectively, when the late Rev. Lee Soo Min, the General Secretary of the Alliance initiated the ASP in 1982.

Earlier in the morning, Dr. Bart Shaha, Secretary General, World Alliance and then AAY Executive Secretary for Leadership Development, gave a 25th Anniversary “homecoming” address to 31 alumni of the ASP. He reminded the alumni of the importance of developing contextual, contemporary and committed leadership for the YMCA in order to move the YMCA forward in its mission.

A pine tree was planted and messages from the graduates of the 25th ASP were buried near the Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village Chapel to mark the 25th Anniversary of the ASP.

5. APAY Peace-Forum: My Dream For Peace

The 3rd Peace-Forum was held from 6-9 November 2007. The thematic discussion was “**My Dream For Peace**”. Among the participants were youth leaders from the Ampara YMCA, Sri Lanka who shared their dreams for peace in their conflict stricken area.. They described their peace efforts while living with violence, war and how they worked together as young peace builders to transform their own communities.

6. Exposure in Hong Kong for Japan YMCA STEP II

The 8 senior YMCA Secretaries undergoing an 85-day STEP II Programme, visited the APAY and YMCAs in Hong Kong from 3-7 November as part of their training exposure. They discussed regional perspectives on YMCA Mission and learnt about the community outreach work of the YMCAs in Hong Kong. They joined the Advanced Studies Programme (ASP) in a session on Contemporary Theological Perspectives. They had discussions on issues and problems of migrant workers at a Migrant Workers Shelter. They also visited the YMCA of Hong Kong Cheung Sa Wan Centre working on issues of ethnic discrimination, and the Young Night Drifters Programme of the Chinese YMCA’s Tsuen Wan Integrated Centre.

7. 14th Japan-Korea Uni-Y Exchange Programme

Twenty-five Uni-Y students of Japan and Korea will gather in Osaka, Japan for the 14th Japan-Korea Uni-Y Exchange Programme on 11-14 January 2008. The exchange aims to promote solidarity and awareness building of social issues affecting both countries, in particular Globalisation and its impact on the “Gap between the Rich and the Poor”. They will have the opportunity to visit homeless people in Osaka and experience the realities of the community. They will also discuss their role in building justpeace.

8. Transformational Youth Leadership ~ Challenge 21 in Action

Eight participants from India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam will be among the participants of the World Alliance of YMCAs' Global Youth Training Programme. The programme from 18-28 January 2008 in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand will bring together young leaders from YMCAs around the world to explore *Challenge 21* issues, sharing their work in their own contexts, and work on future responses.

APAY Executive Secretary Cristina Dalope will be part of the Leadership Team together with Cristina Miranda, Chair of the World Alliance Youth Development Committee.

9. YMCA Philippines Elects New President

Our Congratulations to Mr. Ramon Cardenas and the new leadership of the YMCA Philippines elected during the National Council Meeting on 11 November. Our prayers are with you as you continue the strengthening of the Movement.

10. YMCA Cambodia's First Board of Directors Elected ~ Congratulations!

After 4 years of committed leadership by a group of 4 youth and 4 'seniors', the YMCA Cambodia held its first formal Annual General Meeting on 28 October. It elected Mr. Im Thanos as its first President, Mdm. Van Arun Raksmeay as Vice-president, Mr. Nget Borey as Secretary, and Ms. Noch Nalen, Treasurer. Six of the Board of 13 are female, and 9 are youth. Our congratulations! Our prayers are with you as you work together to further develop the YMCA in Cambodia to serve the youth, the community and the nation.

11. YMCA of Singapore Shares the 'Dendrobium YMCA' with YMCA Family

Mr. Eric Teng, President of the YMCA of Singapore, presented participants of the LQR in Kuala Lumpur with a copy of the 'birth certificate' of the Dendrobium YMCA (*Dendrobium Kultana x Dendrobium Leporinum*), a hybrid Dendrobium named as a tribute to the YMCA and its work "in touching lives and lifting spirits". It is so named rather than just after the YMCA of Singapore as a contribution to the world YMCA family. Thank you, YMCA of Singapore for this magnanimous gesture!

"Dendrobium YMCA". This is the name of the new orchid hybrid named after the YMCA on 19 November 2007 at the YMCA Orchid Naming Ceremony & YMCA-Central Singapore Proms @ the Park Corporate Partners Appreciation at the National Orchid Garden.

We were very honoured to have Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Second Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts to officiate the ceremony. Dr. Vivian said: "YMCAhas provided sterling service to the community in Singapore for the past 105 years. This ceremony is therefore a tribute to the many dedicated leaders and volunteers of YMCA for your many contributions."

<http://www.ymca.org.sg/enews/dec07-index.html>

However, YMCA orchid enthusiasts will have to be patient - there are only 3 pots of mature plants currently.

12. Upcoming Events, January – March 2008

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
January 9-12	World Alliance Fair-share Meeting / Global Staff Team Meeting	Geneva, Switzerland
January 18-28	World Alliance Transformational Youth Leadership Programme	Bangkok/Chiang Mai, Thailand
January 17-19	Interfaith Cooperation Forum Partners' Meeting	Hanoi, Vietnam
January 19-26	Sri Lanka Tsunami Response PCG Meeting/Site Visits	Colombo, Sri Lanka
February 22-24	APAY Officers Meeting	Penang, Malaysia
March 14-17	Global Staff Team Meeting / World Alliance Executive Committee	Litomysl, Czech Rep.
March 27-29	APAY Executive Committee & Related Meetings	Hong Kong
March 30	National General Secretaries' Meeting	Hong Kong

13. Concluding Thoughts: Vision, ResponseMore Than Words

Let us not keep youth waitingtill they become tired.... of waiting. Let us build on the momentum to strengthen our movement as together we respond responsibly and in God's love to the challenges that confront us citizens in a global world.

These were the closing thoughts in the previous *Headlines*..... Similarly, we should also not keep women waiting as equal partners with men, together to strengthen our movement.

Gender-based regional programmes have expressed that heightened gender-based violence, and abuses, feminisation of poverty, the subordination of women and weak role of women in decision-making processes, continue to occur alongside increased globalisation. Patriarchal traditions continue to marginalize and de-empower women resulting in further inequalities. In the region, we have to appreciate that women are more burdened, discriminated and violated against in some countries.

Let us also bear in mind that a gender perspective takes into account the gender relations in our families, communities and our YMCAs. It establishes relationships of justice between women and men, and an environment of fairness and tolerance.

How will the YMCA respond to address women's issues and gender concerns positively? To promote partnership in sustaining family lives and bonding towards transformation to a gender-just and sustainable community?

What is our response?

Women and men have different roles, interests and needs. Thus, we need to integrate women into our structures, our ongoing decision-making and programmatic processes, if we have not. We need to transform unequal social and gender relations. By responding positively and empowering women, we create an equal partnership of women and men in determining and directing our collective future.

What is our response?

May the Lord bless us and keep us, as we, strengthened by our spirituality, in solidarity, in commitment with women, work together as partners in sustaining life, our communities and our Earth.

**BLESSED
CHRISTMAS
SEASONS GREETINGS**

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

A child cries in the night, cold, hungry.
Do we hear the cries
of countless numbers around us?
Does the laughter of our celebrations
deafen us that we do not hear?

We
Celebrate
the Christ child's
coming to live, suffer
with us humankind.
We are strengthened
by his grace to share
love, justice and peace
to all
* * * * *

Thank you for the collaboration
in rebuilding lives & communities,
responding to the peoples' cries
in the Area.



APAY Executive Staff Team
Cristina Dalope, Lakshan Dias, Yip Kok Choong



dream and hope for the future

*I dreamt that all children were going to school,
And all young people were employed.
I dreamt that all the children of God had a peaceful night's sleep,
And when they got up, they enjoyed the beauty of the day
In a safe, clean environment.*

*I dreamt that all wars had stopped in Iraq,
In Gaza, Morocco, in Lebanon, in Afghanistan, in Africa.
I dreamt also that all nations had stopped building up arms,
And the 900 billion dollars, spent on arms every year,
Were now directed towards the welfare of all nations,
Saving the lives of children and young people.*

*I dreamt that we did not talk about issues of human rights,
Women rights, children rights, minority rights, any more,
Everyone had been given rights without even their asking for it.*

*I dreamt that we had an effective, strong world organization,
Which used to be called in the past, United Nations.*

*The expression of the so-called "developing counties"
Had disappeared from the dictionary,
As all nations had become "Developed."*

*Just before I woke up, I had the best part of my dream.
I dreamt that we had a ten-year plan to introduce YMCA work
To every single country on earth!*

**Magdy Fawzi Iskandar,
Executive Director, Alexandria YMCA, Egypt
25th APAY ADVANCED STUDIES ~ REFLECTION ON MISSION OF YMCA**



NOTICE ~ APAY SECRETARIAT

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE APAY SECRETARIAT WILL BE CLOSED
FROM DECEMBER 24 – 31 FOR THE CHRISTMAS/YEAR-END BREAK.**

DECEMBER 25 –26 ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN HONG KONG.

**WE THANK YOU AND YOUR YMCA
FOR THE SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION DURING THE YEAR
AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER AGAIN
IN OUR MISSION FOR THE EXTENSION OF
GOD'S REIGN OF LOVE, JUSTICE AND PEACE
IN THE YEAR AHEAD.**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
BLESSED CHRISTMAS & SEASONS GREETINGS**