



# APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 01 / 09 ~ January 2009

## 1. Peace and Security Roundtable in Sri Lanka

Furthering the QPP thrust on Peace with Justice, a Roundtable on Peace and Security will be held from 11-15 February 2009 in Sri Lanka with participation of leaders and peace advocates from different YMCA Movements in the Region. Dr. Francis D Lee, Lecturer in Peace Studies, Sung Kong Hoe University, Korea and Executive Director of Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA) will deliver the keynote address on Peace with Justice and Security. Panel presentations from Sub Regions will focus on the emerging peace and security issues in Asia Pacific Region. The Roundtable also includes a training session on peace building in communities to develop core facilitators.

Good practices of different YMCAs and organizations on addressing the issue of Peace and Security will be presented. Participatory work groups will engage on conceptualizing the concepts and rediscovering the role of YMCA in peace building. The Roundtable will have space and opportunity for community exposures to listen from the community and learn from their action responses.

Besides developing conceptual framework on peace and security in the context of the YMCA as community based organization, the Roundtable will also develop guidelines for practical actions by YMCAs at different levels. *Registrations will close on 30 January 2009.*

## 2. Executive Committee Meeting 2009

On March 25-27, the annual Executive Committee and Related Meetings will be held at the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. Updates on the various Task Forces formed to formulate strategic actions in response to quadrennial thrust will be deliberated in the respective Standing Committees. A progress report on the year 1 implementation of the QPP 2008-2011 will be presented during the plenary.

The report of Search Committee for the new General Secretary for the Asia and Pacific Alliance will also be presented.

## 3. APAY General Secretary ~ Application Closes on 31 January

As announced earlier, the closing date for applications for the APAY General Secretary is on 31 January 2009. The short listed candidates will be invited for an interview to be conducted by the Search Committee from 24-25 February 2009 in Hong Kong. The Search Committee will recommend a suitable candidate for appointment by the Executive Committee in March.

#### **4. New President for Australia YMCA**

We congratulate Mr. Alan Morton, the new President of the National Council of YMCAs of Australia who was elected during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 30 November 2008 in Canberra. He served as President of Ballarat YMCA and Victoria YMCA before he was elected National Board Member of Australia YMCA in 2006.

The AGM brought together 170 delegates from different YMCAs. Issues on community development, social inclusion and development of YMCAs in the local communities were among the highlights of the discussions. They have also deliberated on their vision for 2008-2012 and how to be actively engaged in the area and world levels.

#### **5. YMCA of Singapore ~ Outstanding Non-Profit Organisation 2008**

The YMCA of Singapore was named the Outstanding Non-Profit Organisation at the National Volunteerism and Philanthropy Awards on 13 November 2008. The prestigious award instituted by the National Volunteerism & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) recognises the best practices and excellence in both volunteer and donor management systems in non-profit organisations. Our congratulations to the members, volunteers, leaders and staff of the YMCA of Singapore!

#### **6. YMCA-KB Raon Atti Engages More Youth Volunteers in Communities**

The *Raon Atti*, a partnership of the Kook Min Bank (KB) and the Korean YMCA will engage another group of young volunteers for 5 months in different communities in the region. This programme aims to foster global citizenship for sustainable communities and to extend significant support in strengthening the works of the YMCA Movements.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> project of “ YMCA-KB *Raon Atti* Friends of Asian Peace” starts on 5 March and concludes on 4 August 2009 in 9 sites involving 8 Movements - East Timor, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia (NGO). An International Coordinators Meeting will be held on 3-11 February in Seoul, Korea to be participated in by the partner YMCAs for evaluation and planning.

#### **7. Sri Lanka YMCA National Youth Peace Camp**

*Report by Theonis C. Brownsonm Junior Executive Secretary, NCY Sri Lanka*

Celebrating Youthfulness together with Peace was the main focus of the National Youth Peace Camp held in a war affected fishing village in Kaluvankeni. Workshops related to peace building, democracy, human rights and gender balance were conducted. Together with the local community, the young volunteers were able to build a community centre, which symbolises the strengthened relationship between the local YMCA and the villagers. All the participants valued the unique experience of understanding and achieving peace in a war affected community.

The National Youth Peace Work Camp was organised and participated by the National Council of YMCAs of Sri Lanka, Batticoala YMCA and Y Global Norway. It was held on 11-15 November 2008.

## 8. Reminders ....Reminders....

### *QPP Progress Report – Year 1 Implementation*

We wish to remind all National Movements to return the completed QPP progress report ~ year 1 implementation to the APAY Secretariat (*Attn: Cristina Dalope*) before 31 January 2009. As we have emphasised, we need to have a regular system of interactive learning and sharing to ensure effective implementation of our QPP. This progress report will give us an opportunity to have more engagement to QPP and enhance the collective ownership of the programme.

### *YPLD Committee – Nomination of 5 more youth representatives*

We have earlier circulated the invitation to nominate more youth representative to the APAY YPLD Committee as we can have a maximum of 12 members. Kindly send nominations of your youth representative before 15 February 2009 for selection and appointment at the Executive Committee meeting.

**Let us show our response to our continuing commitment and thrust for a genuine, increased youth participation and leadership in the YMCA.**

## 9. EASY Net Core Team Meets

The Core Team of the Ecumenical Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Network (EASY Net) met on 12-14 January in Manila to review its past actions, Terms of Reference and Vision Statement. It has defined its program thrusts for 2009-2010 with the main focus on strengthening the National Ecumenical Teams (NETs). Specific programme details shall be deliberated during the National Coordinators Training that is scheduled on 23-28 June 2009 in Malaysia. The training aims to consolidate EASY Net's work at the grassroots in their respective countries into a deeper and more effective level of ecumenical cooperation and networking.

The network of six ecumenical organisations is in the process of selecting its Regional Coordinator who shall serve as the primary representative in promoting the work of EASY Net.

For this year 2009, Mr. Adam Row of CCA-Youth has been appointed the new EASY Net Moderator according to the rotation system among the member organisations

## 10. HEAL Programme Towards Community Sustainability

Eight villages in Nias have been identified to strengthen the sustainable development processes as a follow-up of the concluded YMCA Tsunami Response Programme. The *HEAL* programme will focus on Health, Education and Livelihood. Y Care International will continue to support this programme through APAY. Together with the communities, the Medan YMCA will carry on the implementation of this programme with the objectives:

- Income Generation for Youth to empower them through enhanced cooperatives and training for small business enterprise
- Expansion of Children's Programme to develop their quality of life through better education, nutrition and health.

### 11. HOPE Vocational Training School in Vietnam

A new phase in the vocational training engagements of the Vietnam YMCA begins with the initiation of the HOPE Vocational Training School in partnership with the YMCA of Australia. This three-year partnership programme is focusing on imparting vocational training in motor cycle repair, refrigeration, industrial electricity, industrial sewing and computer for the less privileged youths in Ho Chi Min City and nearby rural areas. The project will also assist in job placements for the successful students.

### 12. YMCA Youth Peace Network

The Youth Peace Network (YPN) programme of Vancouver YMCA in Canada has announced the extension of applications to 31 January 2009. This 3-month leadership development program aims to train YMCA youth in peace building, conflict resolution and social justice. The YPN commences on 5 June and ends on 4 September 2009. Please visit [www.vanymca.org](http://www.vanymca.org) for more programme information.

### 13. World Alliance Convenes Conference on Leadership in the YMCA

The World Alliance of YMCAs is organising a Conference on Leadership in the YMCA for National General Secretaries (NGS) and Senior Executives from 30 March – 1 April 2009 in Barcelona, Spain. This is in response to the call of the NGSs at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Council in Durban. They expressed the need for an international forum that would provide the space for sharing and discussion of international issues and themes that are relevant to YMCA work.

### 14. Forthcoming Events/Meetings

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
11-15 February	Regional Roundtable on Peace and Security	Sri Lanka
18-22 March	World Alliance Executive Committee	Geneva
24-28 March	APAY Executive Committee and Related Meetings	Hong Kong
30 March - 1 April	Conference on Leadership in the YMCA (National General Secretaries and Senior Executives)	Barcelona, Spain

### 15. Our Sympathies ... Solidarity .....

*We express sympathy and condolences to the families of the innocent people who have lost their lives in Gaza Strip and other areas in Middle East.*

*We also express our solidarity with the YMCA movement in Gaza and Middle East in its efforts for peace building and rebuilding of broken communities.*

## 16. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS ~ New Year...New Challenges...New Hope

Warm New Year Greetings with this first issue of *eNews* for the year.

The month of January is associated with the Roman God Janus, usually seen with two faces and a key. One looks forward, the other backward; one is bearded, the other smooth. It symbolised transition of past to the future, and the flow between vision and realization. For us in the YMCA it's the time for stock taking, reviewing the challenges that have been encountered, achievements that were made, failures that have been witnessed.

Looking back, our hearts are filled with praise and thanksgiving that God has showered mercies on us. We faced and have overcome the unexpected losses and enormous challenges that we encountered. It's been a year that we have witnessed the outpouring of human compassion, solidarity and unity in moving forward.

The New Year 2009 gives us another year of opportunities, hopes and challenges. Our living world has become more and more complex. Everyday, we hear stories of conflicts and war, rampant poverty, the groaning earth and the impacts of global crisis. All these bring new challenges to our mission.

As people of faith, we have enough reasons to believe that these challenges are our opportunities to be united in mission. To act in solidarity with the last, the least and the lost. This also call us to understand more of our YMCA mission in the midst of our troubled world...that we have great responsibilities...that we need to fulfill our calling as expressed in John 17:21 ~ *that they all may be one*.

As a movement of people, our vision and mission has always been dynamic, socially relevant to the times and situations. The voices of the suffering people are deafening.... we hear their hunger ... and what will be our response?

*Let this New Year inspire us to achieve God's calling as One Body in Christ, to respond as Global Citizens in carrying our Social Responsibility, fostering Peace with Justice, and promoting Sustainability for Life.*

**Cristina A. Dalope & Jose Varghese**  
Executive Secretaries

### NOTICE

THE APAY SECRETARIAT WILL BE CLOSED  
FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FROM 26-28 JANUARY

**BLESSED LUNAR NEW YEAR**  
TO ALL COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

---

#### Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

23 Waterloo Road, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
tel. 852-2780 8347, 2770 3168, 2783 3058; fax 852- 2385 4692  
e-mail ~ office@asiapacificymca

---