



APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 02 / 09 ~ Feb-May 2009

1. Yamada is New General Secretary

The Executive Committee appointed Mr. Kohei Yamada as the new General Secretary of our region. He served as the National General Secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of Japan from 2004 until his appointment as APAY General Secretary.

Mr. Yamada started his YMCA Career as Director of Senior Citizen Project of the YMCA of the Greater Baltimore Area, USA in 1977. After a year, he moved to Tokyo YMCA. He held several positions as Student Counselor, Principal of both the YMCA College of English and the YMCA College of Human Care and International School. He served as General Secretary of Tochigi YMCA for a decade. In 2002, he was the Director of Domestic and International Relations of the National Council of YMCAs of Japan. He was the Chairperson of the National General Secretaries of APAY.

The General Secretary has been attending the Executive Committee Meetings of both the APAY and the World Alliance and is greatly involved in several programmes/activities. He is an active member of Y's Men International. He is married to Mrs. Marlene F. Yamada and they have three (3) children.

Mr. Yamada assumes office at the APAY on 1 June 2009. His e-mail address is kohei@asiapacificymca.org

2. Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Eighty-eight representatives/leaders and partners of the region attended the Executive Committee Meeting held in Hong Kong on 25 to 27 March 2009.

In his **President's Address**, Dr. Park Jai Chang remarked that last year witnessed considerable actions by the standing committees of the APAY in furthering the Quadrennial thrusts. He cited some of the planned action responses and hoped that the respective standing committees would pay due consideration to develop effective implementation strategies for these programmes. He emphasised that various recommendations should likewise be given special attention and action.

The President said that his visits to several National movements had given him a sense of satisfaction and pride but some interactions disturbed him. He found the need to focus on movement strengthening and to capacitate emerging YMCAs towards self-reliance with local leadership, membership and resources.

The **Annual Report** highlighted the implementation of the 1st year of the Quadrennial Programme Plan (QPP) and key aspects of the work done by the APAY Secretariat and National Movements. The report concluded with a challenge as to the kind of

transformational change we are looking for in our communities, the right path to take and responses to undertake as we move forward with our mission.

To ensure an effective implementation of our QPP, a **Progress Report (Yr 1 Implementation)** was presented at the Executive Committee. This gave an opportunity to have more engagement and collective ownership of the whole QPP programme.

Dr. Bart Shaha, Secretary General of the World Alliance shared the World Alliance's Resource Mobilisation Plan and the World Council 2010 to be held in Hong Kong.

The **Report of the Search Committee** that recommended the appointment of the new APAY General Secretary was presented to the meeting

Our **ecumenical and YMCA partners** brought greetings. **The National General Secretaries** met on 24 March.

3. Regional Workshop on Global Alternative Tourism in Chiang Mai

National Movements are invited to join to a workshop on YMCA Global Alternative Tourism to be held on 27-30 June 2009 at YMCA Chiangmai, Thailand. The workshop aims at conceptualizing possible Alternatives in Tourism through theoretical inputs and practical exposures. It will bring together experts on Alternative Tourism together with YMCA lay and professional leaders across the Region towards developing strategies for YMCAs involvements. The workshop also hopes to develop a working mechanism for the proposed YMCA Global Alternative Tourism Network.

Details have been communicated to all National Movements and uploaded on our website. *Last date for receiving registration of participants will be 12 June 2009*

4. 2nd Asia & Pacific University Y Regional Conference 2009

As earlier circulated, the 2nd Uni-Y Regional Conference will be held from 29 July to 3 August to be hosted and co-organised by the YMCA of Singapore. The theme "Youth *Revolution*" encapsulates 2 key issues on youth leadership and social entrepreneurship. The Conference will consist of several participatory and interactive sessions/workshops with exposure visits and community service.

We encourage National Movements to send your Uni-Y'ers to this programme as we continue to ensure greater participation and sustained leadership of young people in the YMCA. *Closing date of registration on 30 June 2009.*

Full details of the programme/participant's information booklet can be found on www.ymca.org.sg/apuy2009/ and www.asiapacificymca.org

5. Regional Workshop on Poverty and Sustainable Development

APAY is facilitating a Regional Workshop on Poverty and Sustainable Development on 7-11 August 2009 hosted by the New Delhi YMCA on behalf of the National Council of YMCAs of India. It will search for renewed strategies for alleviating poverty and development models and develop plans to re-engage with concerted initiatives for grater impact in our communities.

The Workshop will give new opportunities for YMCAs in the developing countries to strengthen their efforts for poverty alleviation in marginalized communities. It will also give opportunities for the YMCAs in the developed countries to build partnership with these YMCAs through signature initiatives under the APAY Partnership Project Scheme.

The programme aims to further the QPP thrust - *Sustainability of life for all* and to strengthen YMCA's engagements as global citizens in alleviating poverty and building sustainable communities.

Contact your National General Secretary or visit www.asiapacificymca.org for more details.
Last date for receiving registration of participants will be 20 July 2009

6. YMCA South Asia Peace Forum on 7 August 2009, New Delhi

The officers and key leaders of the National Movements in the South Asia Sub-Region will be gathering for the YMCA South Asia Peace Forum on 7 August 2009 at New Delhi YMCA to develop plans for translating the Colombo Declaration on Peace and Security into practical actions. This Sub Regional forum will be concerned on identifying ways and means for intensifying the implementation of the recommendations and to develop Sub Regional level Cooperation of YMCAs for building peace and harmony. It will also create a platform for APAY and National Movements in the sub region to discuss about furthering QPP Thrusts of the APAY.

7. 27th Advanced Studies Programme

Based on the quick survey conducted, a circular announcing the 27th Advanced Studies has been sent to National Movements. It will be held from 26 October to 29 November 2009 in YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village, Hong Kong. We are expecting about 12-14 professional secretaries to join this year's ASP.

Programme Information and Details will be sent out to National Movements and will be available on our website.

8. New Zealand YMCA Sponsors Youth Week

On 23 – 31 May, young New Zealanders celebrated Youth Week 2009 that focused on relationships and highlighted the amazing things young people do. Youth Week is a yearly event about creating a society that values young people and affirms their diversity. The YMCA of New Zealand was a proud gold sponsor of this celebration.

9. International Youth Peace Camp in Timor Leste

The 4th International Youth Peace Camp will be held on 4-11 August 2009. It will provide an opportunity for Timorese youths and other youths from the region to meet and build mutual understanding as they work together for peace making and peace building, serving the community. It has helped, and will continue to strengthen the ANJUCTIL (YMCA of Timor Leste).

Details will be available soon from the National Council Secretariats and our website.

10. APAY Partnership Project: YMCA-RYLT

Report by Mr. Pablito A. Tabucol, Assistant Program Secretary for Movement Strengthening, NCY Philippines

Twenty-two young University student leaders representing the various local YMCAs in the Philippines gathered together for the YMCA-Rizal Youth Leadership Training Institute (RYLTI) held on May 15-31. This 16-day intensive leadership training aimed at building young leaders into socially responsible global citizens. One of the outputs from the training is the individual action plan, to be implemented in their local YMCAs. Plans vary from Uni-Y organizing to the conduct of community socially relevant programmes responding to the needs of the youth in their respective communities. This programme is under the APAY Partnership Project (formerly MAP), supported by NCY Korea.

11. Sri Lanka YMCA Supports IDPs

The Sri Lanka YMCA is providing emergency support to internally displaced children and youth affected by the armed conflict. The YMCA's involvement is basically with children under 3 years in the IDP Camps, providing baby milk and nourishment. They intend to provide recreation and play therapy activities for children once the situation stabilizes.

The National Council as well as local YMCAs in Moratuwa, Mannar, Vavuniya, Point Pedro, and Jaffna are liaising directly with the government authorities to help identify and to address needs and monitor distribution of relief items. They also coordinated collections with churches, temples, and members of the public and transported all collected goods to the IDP camps. The YMCA is also networking with other organizations such as the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCC-SL), Methodist Church, Anglican Church, and Evangelical Alliance. The World Alliance of YMCAs has made an appeal to all National Movements for financial support and Y Care is providing support for technical coordination.

12. Young Explorers Programme Fosters Global Citizenship

Report by Mr. Eric Wong, International and Mainland Affairs Section, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong

In 2008, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong launched the Young Explorers Programme (YEP), which fosters Global Citizenship. Since then, networks of working partnerships have been established with some YMCAs in the region and around the world.

This year, we have jointly organised a month-long internship exchange and cultural exposure for University YMCA members with YMCA of the Philippines. This is called the "Global YMCA Youth Trainee Programme", one of the inbound and outbound exchange programmes of YEP. Participants' shall have experiential learning through engagement in YMCA works and local communities. At the same time, it enhances their leadership capabilities, communication skills and sense of responsibility.

Since 10 May, we have 4 Uni-Ye's from the Philippines who are now involved in some of our international activities, youth and camp related programmes. The Uni-Y members of our Chinese YMCA are on outbound exchange for YMCA Philippines from 8 June 2009.

13. Executive Secretaries Attend Training on Rights-Based Approach

Our Executive Secretaries have been attending a Workshop Series on “ Enhancing Advocacy in a Time of Crisis – Better Advocacy using the Rights-based Approach (RBA). The workshop uses RBA as a tool to develop more accurate analyses, effective strategies and appropriate tactics to deal with challenges to advocates of social justice/human rights. This training of 4 full-day sessions is organised by Asian Center for the Progress for Peoples (ACPP), one of our ecumenical partners.

14. Young Professional in WAY

Dr. Janet Chan of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong was chosen as Young Professional of the World Alliance of YMCAs (WAY). She started her youth internship on March 2009 and will be directly involved in the preparations of the World Council 2010. This 27-year old young leader was a Uni-Y member and have participated in a wide range of activities in Y's Men Hong Kong District and with her own local YMCA.

15. EASY Net Appoints New Coordinator

After the selection process by the EASY Net Regional Core Team, Ms. Maria Cristina Miranda was appointed as its new Regional Coordinator beginning 1 April 2009. Ms. Miranda is not new to this ecumenical youth network, as she had participated in various regional EASY Net programmes/workshops.

16. 1st National YMCA Training for Female Staff

Report by Ms. Maki Enokita, Staff Intern, National Council of YMCAs of Japan

Twenty-three staff from 12 local YMCAs in Japan gathered for the 1st National YMCA Training Workshop for female staff on 14 May in Kobe YMCA. The workshop focused on “Using Our Talent to the Fullest at the YMCA”. There are about 800 female regular staffs and 2000 part-time female staffs working in the YMCA. Ms. Toshiko Takeda, Vice President of the National Council and Chairperson of the Gender Committee emphasised that this training was designed for female workers to reflect their attitude towards work and to value their life.

The training was a good opportunity to raise awareness of women's role in sustaining family lives and promoting gender responsiveness within the YMCA. This will be a regular capacity building programme to advance women's roles as partners and leaders in the YMCA and community.

17. Mr. T. Thomas Retires from Professional Service

Mr. T. Thomas, National General Secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of India is retiring after 42 long years of Professional service from the YMCA Movement on 1st June 2009. He served in different capacities in India and abroad such as General Secretary of the Ernakulam YMCA, Director of Refugee Service in Sudan, General Secretary of Indian Student Hostel in London. He became the National General Secretary in the year 1998. He was Chair of the National General Secretaries of APAY.

We appreciate his services to the YMCA movement and wish him a blessed and healthy retired life.

18. Congratulations! New National Leadership in the Region

We express our warm congratulations to the **New National Presidents** in the area:

Mr. Yau Chung Wan is now the President of the Council of Hong Kong YMCAs. Concurrently, he is the Vice President of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and Principal of Tsung Tsin Christian Academy.

Mr. K. John Cherian has been elected as the President of the National Council of YMCAs of India for the Triennial 2009-11 under the directives of the Delhi High Court on 5 February 2009. Mr. John Cherian served in different capacities at the National YMCA including National Vice President, National Treasurer, Chair of the South West India (Kerala) region. He was President of the Kottayam YMCA in Kerala.

In Singapore, **Dr. Robert Loh** has been re-elected as the Council's President at the recently concluded Annual General Meeting on 27 May 2009. He has been with the YMCA Movement for many years and is likewise the President Emeritus of the YMCA of Singapore.

The National Council of YMCAs of Sri Lanka elected **Mr. Aruna Shantha Nonis** as its President. He is the President of the Pamunugama YMCA. He served in different capacities as lay and professional leader at local and National levels.

And, meet our new NGSs...

Mr. Shigeru Shimada was appointed as the 14th National General Secretary (NGS) of the National Council of YMCAs of Japan, with effect from 1 July 2009. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Shimada was the General Secretary of the Toyama YMCA from 1999. He started his YMCA career in Yokohama YMCA in 1978. He has been active in community and international programmes. He also served as the Chair of the Association of the General Secretaries of Japan YMCAs for the last two years.

By rotation, **Mr. Albert LH Ching** has been appointed as the National General Secretary (NGS) of the National Council of YMCAs of Singapore effective 1 June 2009. Mr. Ching has been serving as General Secretary of YMCA of Singapore since he joined the Movement in 2005. He was the Executive Director of Singapore Boys Brigade (BB) and worked with the National Council of Social Service prior to joining YMCA.

We congratulate all of you, and wish you God's blessings as you carry out your responsibilities.

19. Y's Men International Asia Area Convention

The Y's Men International, Sri Lanka is hosting the 23rd Asia Area Convention from 31 July to 2 August and Youth Convocation from 29 July to 2 August 2009 in Colombo. Please coordinate with your Regional Directors for details/programme information.

20. RemindersReminders....

Survey on Gender Equity 2009

We would like to remind that we hope to receive responses to the Survey on Gender Equity before 5 June 2009. Kindly send all your completed survey forms to the APAY Secretariat (Attn: Cristina Dalope)

21. We remember in our prayers...

We offer special prayers to our YMCA leaders who passed away during the recent months:

Mr. Chun Dai Ryun, former President, Seoul YMCA

Mr. Richard Lee, former GS, Taipei YMCA/former National Coordinator, Taiwan YMCA

Mr. John Shaffaq, former NGS, Pakistan YMCA

Mr. Jun Ho-Young, former GS, Daegu YMCA

22. Forthcoming Events/Meetings

| DATES | EVENTS | VENUE |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| 27-29 June | Workshop on Global Alternative Tourism | Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| 3 – 8 July | EASY Net's National Coordinators' Training | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| 29 July to 3 August | 2 nd Asia & Pacific Uni-Y Regional Conference 2009 | Singapore |
| 31 July to 2 August | 23 rd Asia Area Convention of Y's Men International | Sri Lanka |
| 7 August | YMCA South Asia Peace Forum | New Delhi, India |
| 7-11 August | Regional Workshop on Poverty and Sustainable Development | New Delhi, India |
| 11 August | APAY Officers' Meeting | New Delhi, India |

23. Greetings from the New General Secretary....

I was appointed to the position of General Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) from June 1, 2009, a very fresh and new face here in Hong Kong.

While I was the NGS of Japan YMCAs, I used to work closely with the late Yip Kok Choong for several years. He would call me for advice and asked for my opinions but he sometimes did not follow what I told him. That was Yip! He did work hard until he could not even talk, I heard. He believed his work as God's given and in that sense I feel the same in this new position.

Today I read the Bible about Tobit who regardless of the dangers to himself, continued to work for the dead Jewish soldiers to be buried. He just felt so sorry for those abandoned and those feelings moved him to work as he did. The article said that was the same with Jesus. Jesus loved people so much that he served and taught regardless of the dangers to himself.

The YMCA was founded 165 years ago as George Williams and a group of young Christians felt towards the other youths and labourers who were suffering so much in the socially abandoned conditions. They were moved to work for people in each community.

My work does not have direct connections with youth or social problems. Rather I will reach out to them and the issues through the Movements. I am committed to extend my work in every possible way to help National and Local Associations to act effectively in the right directions and in building their capacities. In order to work effectively and to be focused, I would like to visit as many YMCAs at work, to see and feel the real confronting problems.

Movement strengthening, Staff leadership development, Youth leadership development, Fund raising, and working closely and coordinating with World Alliance are my top priorities during my term of service. I would like to work with all of you on issues common to our Movements.

We are all Tobits, who have gut feelings to work for the others. We are all committed by our mission.

I would like to share a poem I learned during devotion last March at the World Alliance.

*God, the YMCA is in your hands, work through it, and fill it with hope.
Give it new wings so it can fly on the power of your word and become, by your grace,
your joy and crown.
You make Christians alive, young or not so young marvelling at your wide-open arms
Creating new spaces for all who want to serve you through Jesus Christ.*

I express once again my thanks to the Executive Committee and National Movements for positioning your faith in me and encourage me to take up the responsibility as General Secretary of APAY.

Kohei Yamada
General Secretary

Cristina A. Dalope & Jose Varghese
Executive Secretaries

Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
23 Waterloo Road, 6th floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong
tel. 852-2780 8347, 2770 3168, 2783 3058; fax 852- 2385 4692
e-mail ~ office@asiapacificymca
