

Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
Regional Training Workshop: Empowering Women for Mission and Development

Introduction

We have a responsibility to promote and sustain the fostering of more partnerships of women and men, especially with those oppressed and discriminated against on the basis of gender. This is our imperative from our contemporary Statement of Mission, the *Challenge 21*. The Gender Equity Forum at the 17th General Assembly reaffirmed the Alliance's resolve towards more conscious and constructive efforts at mainstreaming gender equity and sensitivity. The United Nation's Millennium Development Goals also calls for promotion of gender equality and women empowerment.

Despite the increased understanding and commitment on gender equity and equality within the YMCA and women's issues, much practical work still needs to be done. There is a need for greater efforts and more process-oriented strategies to tackle gender concerns in a more holistic and integrated approach addressing its root causes.

Openness and acceptance are needed to create more interest and responsiveness to engage in gender issues. We need to transform unequal social and gender relations and work towards integration of women into the ongoing development processes, in all YMCA policy and decision-making structures, and programmatic processes.

Women empowerment and capacity building and skills enhancement programmes are needed. Empowered women contribute to a healthy, peaceful, gender-equal and sustainable families and communities.

Objectives

1. To reaffirm basic concepts of gender and gender relations in YMCA structures, culture and thinking.
2. To identify gaps and weaknesses in development actions and impacts on emerging issues; and develop appropriate gender responsive strategic interventions/tools for process of engaging women in mission and development
3. To identify key areas in which YMCAs need to focus to translate concepts/ideas into practice, moving towards advocacy.

Programme Content

There will be input presentations on key topics that lead to a reaffirmation of basic concepts, critical gaps and challenges in issues on women in mission and development; skills development and strategies or processes to ensure effective implementation to bridge the gaps between policy and practice. Participants will reflect and plan responses/actions in working groups. There will be space for case stories and exposures to reflect and learn from responses to past commitments.

Methodology

The Workshop will be interactive and participatory. Besides key inputs, group work, case stories, and exposures will be used for learning and sharing innovations and good practices. Participants will be encouraged to share feedback and responses.

Dates and Venue: 25-29 September/YMCA of Chiang Mai, Thailand

Registration Fee: US\$100 ~ Payable by all participants.

Participation Fee: US\$250 that covers full board and lodging (from tea of 25 September to breakfast of 29 September) in a twin-share standard room.

Target Groups/Expected Participants: 30

- Key leaders/staff (men and women) involved in gender related programmes and who are in the decision-making level at National or local YMCAs.
- Youth leaders

Expected Outcomes:

1. Enhanced participation of women for mission and development; an enabling environment for achieving the advancement of women
2. Learned new practical approaches on gender awareness raising and fostering gender equity.
3. Established network to strengthen solidarity among national and local movements for sharing and empowering action to bridge the gaps between policy and practice.

Registration

Registration forms, duly endorsed by the National Council are expected to reach the APAY Secretariat before **10 September 2008**

Contact Persons

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