



APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

No. 05 ~ June 2008

APPEALS UPDATE

Cyclone Nargis Rehabilitation Work in Myanmar and Sichuan Earthquake Rehabilitation Work in Chengdu, China



Source, People's Daily Online

We thank the following movements for their support to these appeals, to date:

- ▶ **For Myanmar** ~ YMCAs of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Manila Downtown YMCA - Philippines, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and USA – World Service. [Total – USD49,528, including USD 3,000 remitted directly to Yangon YMCA. A further USD40,000 has been set aside for medical missions from NCY Korea/Korean Medical Association/Daewoo International]
- ▶ **For Chengdu, China** ~ YMCAs of Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Manila Downtown YMCA - Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, USA – World Service. [Total USD 40,900, and a sum of USD85,750 remitted directly to Chengdu YMCA.]
- ▶ YMCAs that are continuing their fund-raising efforts in addition to their initial commitments are the YMCAs of Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore.
- ▶ The YMCA of Hong Kong has informed that in response to the need for the Rehabilitation of the Chengdu YMCA School and Orphanage, and relief work, it has provided the required funds amounting to RMB 540,000.
- ▶ A further RMB 136,800, as assessed by Ms. Isabella Hwa, the General Secretary of Chengdu YMCA, YMCA of Hong Kong Board Member Mr. Doug Oxley and General Secretary Mr. Chuck Allison, would be jointly supported by the APAY Appeal, the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and YMCA of Hong Kong, for the repair of the Chengdu YMCA, a heritage building.
- ▶ The YMCA of Singapore is a link partner of a tripartite support group - the National University of Singapore Alumni Associations in Singapore and Shanghai, and the NCY of China - to support further rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the Sichuan Province, particularly schools. The alumni are jointly raising funds in Singapore and Shanghai.

1. YMCA as Socially Responsible Global Citizens in Mission

More than 50 participants will gather from 25-29 June 2008 at Bayview Park Hotel, Manila, Philippines to engage in defining YMCA social responsibilities in the midst of contextual challenges of global phenomena, impacting on local communities. As Global Citizens to respond in our local contexts for building the common good, to transform community, to refresh our Mission.

Taking part will be volunteer and professional staff leaders from APAY, YMCAs of Australia, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam.

Representatives of the Philippines/World YWCA, Y's Men Asia Area and South Pacific Areas, and Philippines Region will also join us. A historic Asia-Pacific **3-Ys Deliberation on Strengthening Partnership in Mission** will be held on 28 June.

Contextual input on the APAY three Quadrennial Thrusts will be brought to life in exposures to local communities. Case stories on YMCA engagements with various sectors of community in socio-cultural, economic, environmental sustainability concerns, will sharpen our focus towards fresh mission imperatives.

Dr. Park Jai Chang, the APAY President will inaugurate this important mission clarification roundtable as we seek greater social relevance in the new Quadrennium.

We thank the Philippines YMCA for hosting the Roundtable, and strong support of its volunteer and professional leadership in making this Roundtable possible.

2. Key to YMCA Mission Sustainability – Youth Participation and Development

Youth participation and development as change agents, is crucial in sustaining the identity and Mission of the YMCA as a Movement. We learn best through active engagement and participation. Learning occurs in all types of settings and situations. Youth participation and interaction in the wider local community impacted by global influences, heighten youthful idealism and aspirations, their enthusiasm and commitment, to influence and turn communities around for building the common good.

With this APAY Quadrennial emphasis, YMCA youth in the region will have the opportunity experience the spirit of interconnectedness as they engage responsibly to build a better future:

- ▶ **Regional Youth Roundtable** on *Globalisation and Global Citizenship: Impacts on Youth in Society* on 7-11 July in Tozanso, Japan, when youth will be able to through the Japanese concept of *hidori* to share and learn collective community wisdom to live and act responsibly in a globalised society.
- ▶ **1st Asia & Pacific University YMCAs Regional Conference** on 2-8 August in Hong Kong at which university students will forge a coalition for a better world where they will be challenged to work for equality in local communities.

- ▶ **3rd International YMCA Timor Leste Youth Peace Camp** on 5-13 August in Dili, East Timor, where in one of the poorest countries in the world that had experienced much suffering/violence recently, youth will 'search' for the meaning of 'peace' and 'reconciliation' as they interact with the community.
- ▶ **4th Asian Students and Youth Gathering (ASYG)** on 25-31 August in Korea, will in this quadrennial ecumenical gathering of students/youth, reach out and build bridges across borders to define for themselves 'the culture of peace'.
- ▶ **3rd Nias Love and Affection Camp** on 25 August-2 September in Nias, Indonesia, where children/youth traumatised by the 2004 tsunami and 2005 earthquakes, find love and affection, interacting with youth from Japan and other parts of the region.

Support youth to participate in any of these to provide meaningful participation in international experiences to widen perspective for development.

Contact your National General Secretary or visit www.asiapacificymca.org for more details.

3. Global Citizenship through Field Study on the Issues of History and Peace

The YMCA of Korea has invited the Chinese YMCA of HK, YMCAs of Japan, Vietnam, Taichung and Tainan to co-organise/participate in the *Northeast Asian College Students' Joint Project on Global Citizenship through Field Study on the Issues of History and Peace in Local Communities*.

The project will consist of a project field study phase in a local community in the home country. The teams will then present their Field study Report at a Peace Forum on 27-31 August in Gyeonggi-do, Korea.

4. Y Movie Escapades takes flight with our inaugural YMCA Movie Premiere

'YMCA was pleased to launch yet another new YMCA-Tan Chin Tuan Community Service Programme, the Y Movie Escapades, at the YMCA Movie Premiere of "Get Smart" on 16 June 2008. Y Movie Escapades will be a regular mass outing to the movies for our special needs beneficiaries, who will be accompanied by YMCA volunteers. The programme is geared towards educating our beneficiaries on appropriate social behaviour that will assist them in their social integration.' *YE-News, YMCA Of Singapore*

'These special screenings, which take place about four times a year, are for people with special needs and other disabilities. They are taught how to behave in the cinema, and volunteer buddies are on-hand to accompany them.

One parent, Tini Widjaya, said: "I think it will be a good experience for Laura with this YMCA movie escapades because she will enjoy (having a) buddy-volunteer."

The programme was launched on Monday by President S R Nathan at the movie premiere of the spy parody "Get Smart".'

CNA/ms, Extract from YMCA Launches Movie Outings For Youths With Intellectual Disabilities By Margaret Perry, Channel News Asia

5. Reminder ~ 26th Advanced Studies Programme

Application for participation in the 26th Advanced Studies Programme from 26 October–29 November 2008 at YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village in Hong Kong will close on 15 July 2008. Selection will be completed by end July and successful applicants informed by 1 August.

Please note that the Advanced Studies will not be conducted in 2009. Instead, the 1st Post- Advanced Studies Programme on Resource Mobilisation will be conducted.

Contact your National General Secretary or visit www.asiapacificymca.org for more details.

6. Celebrating Youthfulness with Love, Peace and Happiness

The Sri Lanka YMCA is organising their first International Youth Festival from 8-14 October 2008 at St Joseph College, Colombo. Participation Fee, US\$ 150; Registration Fee, US\$ 10

Please contact NCY Sri Lanka for participation details: srilankaymca@eurela.lk

7. INTRODUCINGYouth Services of YMCA Australia

The YMCA has been a trusted provider of values based services to Australia's youth for over 150 years. Each year, over 300,000 young people come into contact with YMCA Youth Services staff. The YMCA has dedicated youth services operating in more than 25 communities across the country.

YMCA Australia's Youth Services are based on positivity, proactivity and a whole-of-person approach. The YMCA offers an extensive range of youth programmes. Here are some snapshots;

Juvenile Justice – The YMCA Juvenile Justice Centre programme provides health services for young people in custody.

Mobile Youth Centres – Perth YMCA Mobile Youth Centres bring activities, support and education to young people in metropolitan and regional Western Australia. The service is an important tool in the Y's preventative approach to youth and community services.

The Shed – where the young and the old work together to reconnect our community and to encourage the sharing of peoples' experience and knowledge, the Brisbane YMCA has established a community centre called 'The Shed'.

Alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders – The YMCA in Katherine, NT, works with Territory Police and the Justice System to support young offenders by providing alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.

Youth Parliament – The YMCA Youth Parliament (YP) is a non-party political programme and has been delivered at state and national levels for over 20 years.

[MORE on http://www.ymca.org.au](http://www.ymca.org.au)



8. INTRODUCINGYoung Entrepreneurs' Platform of YMCA of Hong Kong



Young Entrepreneurs' Platform serves as a focal point to networking and fostering mutual help. Indeed, securing the first business contract will not only give the young entrepreneur the opportunity to implement a business idea, learn and improve, but also an asset to a 'job profile', which will help gain the confidence of potential customers or business partners. This first business contract, coupled with network building, market research and workshops, will form the backbone for the sustainable development of a youth business and entrepreneurship.

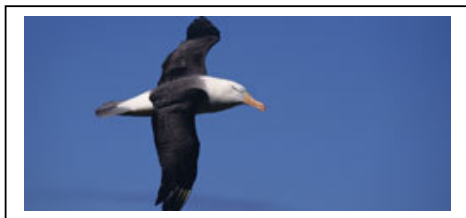
The target group is Young people, 18 to 40 years old, who have registered or are going to register business companies, or sole proprietorships and just start about to start their business in Hong Kong.

Visit www.yep.org.hk for more details

9. Upcoming Events, June to August 2008

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
25-29 JUNE	Regional Roundtable on YMCA as Global Citizens in Mission 21	Manila, Philippines
28 JUNE	Partnership in Mission: Triangular Deliberation of YMCA – YWCA – Y's Men	Manila, Philippines
7-11 JULY	Regional Youth Roundtable ~ Globalisation and Global Citizenship: Impacts on Youth in Society	Tozanso, Japan
14-19 JULY	Partners' Coordinating Group, Indonesia Tsunami Response Programme	Nias, Indonesia
2-8 AUGUST	1 st Regional Uni-Y Conference ~ "Extreme Disparity Between the Rich and the Poor: Social Responsibility of Youth".	Hong Kong
5-13 AUGUST	3 rd International Youth Peace Work Camp	Dili, East Timor
25-31 AUGUST	EASY Net Asian Students and Youth Gathering ~ Building a Culture of Peace Across Borders	Seoul, Korea
25 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER	3 rd Nias Love and Affection Camp	Nias, Indonesia
25-29 SEPTEMBER	Gender Equity Regional Workshop ~ Empowering Women for Mission and Development	Chiang Mai, Thailand

10. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS ~ Learning from the albatross and the goldfish.....



Albatross sometimes sleep while they're flying. They don't see what's ahead of them. You can.
SAS ad

You may have seen these advertisements by SAS, a software company. It has as its byline, 'The Power To Know' in the message of these and others in a set of advertisements named the 'Awareness Ads'. Some of my friends know that I enjoy looking at advertisements. The messages they convey often set me thinking, reflecting as these two and others in the set have.

I have seen these advertisements many times, and often reflected, how true the messages of these SAS awareness advertisements, especially, the byline, 'The Power To Know'.

We are sometimes like the albatross, winging through the vast open blue sky unaware of what is around, *'not seeing what's ahead of them'*.

Or like the goldfish endlessly swimming around in its safe enclosed space of the fishbowl, looking out into the 'outside world.'



How like the albatross and the goldfish we are sometimes, as members, leaders in our YMCAs. In our own lives. We fail to 'see' and 'hear' what is around. We choose not to remember and learn from the experiences of the past. We deny the changes of the present. Ignore or cannot see what is ahead, the future.

But the advertisement also asserts, 'YOU CAN.!'!

Our vision and mission has always been dynamic, socially relevant to the times and situations. They have to continue to be clear. To be socially relevant.

Let us review our Quadrennial Visions set in 2004 and 2008.

2004

Seeking spirituality of transformation within the reign of God, acting in solidarity with all sectors of peoples and community in holistic development efforts to promote love, justice and peace.

2008

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.

It is in the 'wholeness' of these two vision statements that we are called to review and refresh our mission in the local community that is globally impacted upon daily.

We cannot but see and feel the impact of the injustices of global economics, structures and systems. The food crisis, fuel/energy price hikes, abuse of labour, children, women. The unfair treatment of the poor, the disaffected, the marginalised. Those whose bodies ravaged by diseases like HIV-AIDS and treatable diseases like tuberculosis, etc. are unjustly denied affordable treatment by profit-oriented multi-national pharmaceutical companies.

The broken global community where God had planted harmony and peace in the Garden of Eden. Regional, civil, religious, ethnic, political conflicts, etc. result in situations of 'non-peace' and we cry for 'justpeace'.

Sustainability of communities, the earth, threatened. The earth ravaged. Earth's resources depleting. Air polluted. Water stress. Changing Weather and climate – global warming, rising seas. What next?

We need to be more aware of what is outside the YMCA confines, comfort zones. To venture more into the vast open blue skies, or deep blue seas with endless opportunities

To see and encounter the 'outside', the global space, and make it the 'inside' of our vision and mission in our local community.

This is our mission task for the 21st century, the future. Move out of our unconscious 'albatross and goldfish

selves', to see the impact of the global on our local community. Move out of our 'colonised' minds – to be view with fresh minds, to be socially and environmentally responsible global citizens, right where we are.

To see the wholeness that is in everything around us. To see the wholeness binding the past, the present, pointing to the future.

To capture wholeness of acting together as one, as we work together to change our YMCA, our community..... our world as responsible global citizens.

The Lord bless and keep us all as we seek to become socially responsible, sharing God's love, justice and peace to all.... the YMCA as global citizens.

Yip Kok Choong,
General Secretary

Cristina A. Dalope, Jose Varghese,
Executive Secretaries

9 August: International Day of the World's Indigenous People

There are an estimated 370 million indigenous people in more than 70 countries worldwide. Despite their cultural differences, the various groups of indigenous peoples around the world share common difficulties, which include lack of basic healthcare, limited access to education, loss of control over land, abject poverty, displacement, human rights violations, and economic and social marginalisation. Indigenous people are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people in the world today. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People is observed on August 9 to celebrate the rich contributions of indigenous peoples and their cultures to the human family. It is a chance to recognise the ongoing plight of many of the world's indigenous people and to work to protect their rights, languages and culture. The day also seeks to strengthen international cooperation in solving problems faced by indigenous people.

12 August: International Youth Day

The General Assembly on 17 December 1999 in its resolution 54/120, endorsed the recommendation made by the [World Conference of Ministers Responsible For Youth](#) (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organised to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995.

This year's theme for IYD is **Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action**. The selection of this theme is in recognition of the fact that climate change has already begun to devastate communities and deepen the effects of poverty and hunger. This situation complicates the challenges that youth face. However, young people are increasingly adding their voices to the call for action on climate change. It is important to actively engage youth in areas of preparedness, risk reduction, adaptation and mitigation. International Youth Day gives the world an opportunity to recognise the potential of youth, to celebrate their achievements, and plan for ways to better engage young people to successfully take action in the development of their societies. It presents a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to rally together to ensure that young people are included in decision-making at all levels.

23 August: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its

Abolition, celebrates humanity's achievement in abolishing the slave trade. UNESCO and the UN General Assembly chose this date to commemorate the insurrection on the night of 22-23 August 1791 in Saint-Dominique (today Haiti and Dominican Republic), which was to play a pivotal role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade and the emancipation of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade in the memory of all peoples.