



APAY **eNEWS**

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 01 ~ January/February 2008

To Stay Connected – Share News and Information

We have renamed our monthly newsletter '**Headlines**' as the **APAY eNEWS** to reflect the nature of the newsletter...bringing more news from the areaelectronically.

We invite National Movements to share programme stories, news and information. Our monthly e-newsletter can be an avenue for sharing that can serve as an inspiration and motivation for YMCAs in the region. Please send us news and information by the 3rd week of every month.

1. First Executive Committee Meeting of the Quadrennium.....

The annual Executive Committee and Related Committees will be from 27-29 March 2008 at the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. The National General Secretaries meet on 30 March. We expect about 100 representatives from our movements, and partners. The Standing Committees will deliberate on the thrusts and concerns of new Quadrennial Programme Plan framework. Prof. Elmer Ferrer who assisted us in the evaluation of the QPP 2004-2007, will present his final report to the meeting.

For the first time, the Youth Participation and Leadership Development, and Gender Equity Committees will select the Chair and Deputy from among themselves.

2. Focus on Youth Participation and Development

14th Japan-Korea Student YMCA Exchange

Twenty-two members of the Korea University YMCA and Japan Student YMCA gathered for the 14th Japan-Korea Student YMCA last 11-14 January 2008 at the Kansai Korean YMCA in Japan. The participants deliberated on the impact of "Globalisation and Poverty" with particular focus in developed countries. They visited a homeless community in Kamagasaki, Osaka and committed to work further for cooperation and peace building.

1st Regional Forum for Strengthening Uni-Y Social Responsibility

The Chinese YMCA in Hong Kong is collaborating with the APAY to host a regional Uni-Y Gathering on 1-7 August 2008. One of the aims is to enhance collaboration and strengthening of networking between Uni-Y in the region. With the Uni-Y's creativity and enthusiasm, this programme envisions the development of more responsive and socially

relevant leaders through study and reflection together on the issues that have been impacting them.

Uni-Y in Singapore - Going, Growing, Glowing

The YMCA of Singapore in response to the call of strengthened youth-led and youth-initiated processes within the Movement, have successfully initiated another Uni-Y in the last quarter of 2007. Their first Uni-Y recently celebrated its 3rd Anniversary. One of the key activities is their International Service Programme. Others include local community service and social entrepreneurship programmes.

3. Mission In Action Programmes (MAP) – Invitation to Submit Proposals

In 2004, the Mission in Action Programme (MAP) was initiated and has served as an opportunity to strengthen multi-lateral partnerships among our YMCAs in the region. It has supported a variety of programmes focused on capacity and community building, movement strengthening, and issue-based programmes that bring transformation within the community. Movements working on action programmes in the community requiring resources to implement them may submit proposals with the endorsement of their respective National Council. Programmes should focus on the thrusts for the Quadrennium, namely:

- **Global Citizenship and Social Responsibility**
- **Peace with Justice**
- **Sustainability for Life**

4. Interfaith Cooperation Forum Plans for Next Phase

The APAY-CCA-EED jointly organised Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) has in the past 3 years worked towards peace-building and conflict resolution at grassroots level. Four workshops and three Schools of Peace were held. The Partners and the Working Committee met in Hanoi, Vietnam from 16-19 January to review the work and to plan for the next three years.

5. EASY Net Plans for Asian Students and Youth Gathering 2008

Representatives of the Ecumenical Asia Pacific Students and Youth Network (EASY Net) met in Manila on 7-9 January for the planning of the Asian Students & Youth Gathering (ASYG) 2008. The theme will be “*Youth Across Boundaries Redefining the Culture of Peace*” will be held on 3-9 September in Korea. About 100 participants from 6 partner organizations are expected for this ASYG. Mr. Art Sadorra, Associate Director General of the Manila YMCA represented the APAY at the planning meeting. We encourage movements to continue networking with the EASY Net partner organizations particularly in peace building and inter-faith cooperation., and plan to send participants to the ASYG 2008.

The current Moderator of EASY Net is Ms. Necta Montes, General Secretary of WSCF Asia-Pacific. Mr. Wataru Arizumi of Japan SCM/YMCA is the part-time Coordinator.

6. Youth Leaders Challenged to Lead Action on *Challenge 21* Imperatives

Thirty-one young leaders from 23 YMCAs around the world discussed *Challenge 21* imperatives and impacts of globalisation on youth amongst other pressing concerns. They experienced Thai culture in home-stays. Exposures to the community organising work of the Chiang Mai YMCA widened perspectives on issues. The participants were challenged to lead in action as agents of change and transformation in their communities. They responded to these issues through planning of national and local responses.

From our region, 8 participants from India, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam participated in this YMCA Global Youth Training from 18-28 January 2008 in Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, Thailand, organised by the World Alliance. APAY Executive Secretary Cristina Dalope was a member of the Leadership Team together with Cristina Miranda, Chair of the World Alliance Youth Development Committee.

7. Tsunami Response Updates

Sri Lanka: The 4th and final meeting of the Sri Lanka Tsunami Partners' Coordinating Group was held on 23-26 January at the NCY International Youth Centre in Colombo. Visits were made to tsunami response work sites in the eastern provinces where housing, community centres and vocational centres had been completed. Livelihood programmes were also visited. International partners have agreed to continue supporting movement strengthening efforts and vocational training development.

India and Indonesia: The PCG for India will tentatively meet in September and the Indonesia PCG in July.

8. WA Fair Share and Resource Development / Mobilisation

The aim of a meeting of representatives of the 15 largest contributors, area presidents and secretaries was held on 10 January in Geneva 'to develop a benchmark that could be used as a tool for ascertaining an equitable and transparent Fair Share, which would stabilise the income of the World Alliance.'

The following principles (adapted from principles agreed in 2002) were agreed upon:

- a. Fair Share contribution is a commitment to the fulfilment of the global mission of the YMCA. It is an acceptance of being part of the global family united in purpose and in Mission.
- b. The payment of Fair share dues requires a renewed commitment to belong to the family and to support its Mission.
- c. The level of contribution is based on a combination of factors, namely the number of participants each national movement is serving and Purchasing Power Parity Index.
- d. No national movement should pay less than CHF 1000 (full members) or CHF 500 (associate and related members).
- e. No national movement should pay less than the 2007 level of Fair Share.

- f. Any significant increase should be phased in over a number of years, with a maximum % increase per year.

Next steps :

These recommendations will be presented to the World Alliance Executive Committee meeting in March. The formula will then be tested with other national movements. A final recommendation will be brought to World Council 2010.

9. Weblinks – Stay Connected to Share and Learn Together

We have been trying to update our YMCA website and started with the list of address and contact persons of our YMCAs in the region. Several YMCAs have informed us of their latest e-mail addresses and websites. Kindly share with us any changes or new contact details of your YMCAs and we will make necessary changes.

Note ~ Executive Secretary Jose Varghese’s e-mail address is jose@asiapacificymca.org

10. Upcoming Events, January – March 2008

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
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

NOTICE

**THE APAY SECRETARIAT WILL BE CLOSED
FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FROM
7 - 10 FEBRUARY**



**WISHING COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING
THE LUNAR NEW YEAR,
BLESSED NEW LUNAR YEAR AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS.**

11. Concluding Thoughts: VISION A to Z

Reading Paul's letter to the Ephesians 2:1-10, we see Paul reflecting on the past – reminding that those who were 'dead in trespasses', have been 'made ...alive together with Christ' through God's present redemption. We have been raised like Paul, who led with boldness, being raised by God.

Joel 2:28 reminds us that "your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions". John C. Maxwell wrote, "*Vision is an informed bridge to a better tomorrow.*"

What do we need to do in our new Quadrennium as we seek a "better tomorrow"? As we seek 'sustainability of life' with spirituality and in solidarity? I remember Bishop Rev. Robert Solomon preaching at the 105th Anniversary Thanksgiving of the YMCA of Singapore saying that '*tradition is the living faith of the dead*', and '*traditionalism is the dead faith of the living*'.

We need to hold on to the living faith in God....and relate to God's promises that in Christ we have a vision of 'a new heaven and a new earth' that is an improvement on the present [v.3], meets needs [v.4] and offers a permanent solution [v.6]. Often dreams are of the past....visions are of the future.

We need a Vision A to Z....**Analysing** our past and our present, **Zeroing** in to our future. In simple terms,

1. **Renew our perspective** – analyse and see for ourselves the possible scenarios of the future, rather than just dependence on past and present experience, as to our contextual realities and mission. We need the living faith of God to guide us.
2. **Release our past** – let go of the old patterns of doing things, old baggage, old dreams. We need to 'die to the past' that prevents us from moving forward.
3. **Remember our mission** – zero in to the vision, embrace the future.
4. **Renew our commitment** – remain faithful to God who has entrusted us the mission to 'those who are called the least of these', to the community.

May the Lord bless us and keep us, as we, strengthened by our spirituality, in commitment to the living faith, motivated by love, compelled by our compassion, zero in as partners in sustaining life, our communities and our Earth.

Yip Kok Choong
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