



HEADLINES

Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 42 / May 2005

UPDATE: Asian Quake and Tsunami

Following the devastation of the Asian Quake and Tsunami, YMCAs in the most affected countries of India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka had responded immediately to organize and provide emergency relief to those affected. The World Alliance and the Asia and Pacific Alliance in collaboration launched a global solidarity appeal for support of these efforts. Soon reports and updates of the devastation and emergency response of our YMCAs came in rapid succession, in spite of the fact that it was still the year-end holiday season. Pledges and contributions of financial support and in kind followed. The YMCAs of Thailand and Malaysia responded and supported emergency work directly in the affected areas in their countries.

Following international partners' group visits in January to Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, and further updates and deliberations during the Asia and Pacific Alliance's Executive Committee Meeting on 2-5 March 2005 Partners' Coordinating Groups (PCGs) were formed to support mid-term and long-term responses. The Sri Lanka PCG met on 7-9 April, the India PCG from 9-11 May and the Indonesia PCG on 18-20 May followed by a field visit (21-24 May) to the Christmas tsunami and Easter earthquake devastated island of Nias on the west coast of North Sumatra (See Website www.asiapacificymca.org for reports of the Nias Quake: Medan, Indonesia Updates 20 April and 3 May)). Even when we were meeting in Medan, there was a quake of 5.6 on the Richter Scale on the west coast of North Sumatra.

The YMCAs of Sri Lanka and India have finalised their Comprehensive Response Plans. The YMCA of Indonesia will revise and finalise their Plan by the end of June.

1. Response to Rebuilding of Tsunami Affected Communities

The PCG Meetings held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (8-10 April), in Madras, India (9-11 May) and in Medan, Indonesia (18-20 May) reviewed and adopted the respective response programmes proposed. Members of the PCG and local YMCAs present signed a Partnership Agreement to express commitment to the support of the plans. The implementation of some mid-term programmes has already begun and others will begin soon.

Sri Lanka: Chris Roles, Chief Executive, Y-Care International, UK and Ireland, gave leadership to the Sri Lanka PCG. Group partners attending the meeting included the YMCAs of Australia, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Sri Lanka, USA and Y-CARE.

The YMCA of Sri Lanka has established a Tsunami Response Programme Secretariat and appointed a Director and other base-coordinators for the implementation of the Response Programme. The Comprehensive Plan comprises the following mid-term and long-term programmes:

- Housing: build 200 houses (Y Villages); repair 450 damaged houses,
- Community Centres and Y Children’s Playgrounds,
- Recovery and growth - home recovery/sustenance; psycho-social counselling,
- Educational support scheme,
- Rebuilding livelihood,
- Repair/Replacement of damaged YMCA buildings/facilities, and
- Movement strengthening.

Mr. Emile Stricker, Executive Secretary, World Alliance; Mr. Lakshan Dias, related Executive Secretary, and Mr. Yip Kok Choong, General Secretary APAY attended as representatives of the Asia and Pacific Alliance.

India: Rev. Samuel D. Stephens, President of the APAY and Mr. Emile Stricker, Executive Secretary, World Alliance, jointly led in the PCG discussions. Present were Ms. Wumi Onadipe, Head of International Programmes, Y Care International UK and Ireland; Ms. Marianne Clauss, YMCA of Germany, Dr. J. Alexander and Prof. P.J. Oommen, President and Vice President, YMCA of India respectively, and 8 implementing YMCAs were present. Mr. Yip Kok Choong, General Secretary APAY was also with the PCG Meeting.

The major programmes planned include:

- To build 350 houses and 16 Community Centres
- Community Building Activities (e.g. health care)
- Rebuilding Livelihood (incl. Fishing equipment, coir making, vocational training, etc)
- Support for 2,560 Children
- Capacity Building

A Chief Project Coordinator will be appointed to oversee the implementation and will be supported by Regional Coordinators and local coordinators.

Indonesia: Present in the PCG meeting were volunteers from Medan YMCA, National YMCA Vice President Mr. Ratty Supit, National Board and Tsunami Task Group Members Ms. Anna Marsianna and Dr. A. R. Kambodji, National General Secretary Judith Lim; Mr. Toshihisa Iwanabe, Executive Director for International Cooperation, Mr. Hiroo Tsutsumi, Executive Director, Kumamoto YMCA from the YMCA of Japan; and the APAY related Executive Secretary Shella Zagada, and General Secretary Yip Kok Choong. The Partners Meeting agreed on a modest Indonesian response in Nias Island and parts of Aceh (in comparison with the devastation and needs of the affected areas in North Sumatra) composed of:

- **Social Services:** Paralegal, Advocacy; Trauma Healing and Counseling Service.
- **Training and Development:** Youth Leadership and Training for Teachers for engagement in Community Building and Development.
- **Rebuilding livelihoods:** Support for development of alternative economic activities and training.

The meeting also proposed a tsunami response organizational structure for effective implementation of the programmes.

Movement strengthening prospects were also discussed. The Medan YMCA will work on its membership and board development, YMCA mission and programmes alongside the tsunami response. It was envisaged that a new YMCA will be established in Nias during the course of the next 3 years.

Field Visit to Nias Island, Indonesia: The meeting was followed by an exposure visit by Toshihisa, Hiroo and Shella together with volunteers Juni, Batara, Christi, Erix in Nias Island. They visited affected communities in Gunong Sitoli, Mandrehe and Sirombu, and talked with the survivors. The islanders speaking mainly in their own local language warmly received them and openly shared their stories. The people were still living in fear of another major quake. Tremors were still being experienced almost daily. We hope to be to support the Medan YMCA leadership and the group of very dedicated young volunteers to support the affected communities and address their most urgent needs on their way to recovering from their physical and psychological losses and grief.

The participants of the Trauma Counselling Training Programme conducted by Aad and Mettie Kik of the YMCA of Netherlands have been actively involved in Nias Island following the 28 March earthquake. A Trauma and Healing Centre has been set up in Gunong Sitoli on Nias.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to Aad and Mettie Kik and the Dutch Church in Action for their support timely intervention in early March 2005. We also thank the Dutch YMCA for their the support and collaboration.

Thailand: The Thai Alliance of YMCAs and the Y's Mens Clubs of Bangkok and Chiangmai have committed to continue their efforts in raising local support for rebuilding work in the affected coastal areas. The Thai Alliance together with the Bangkok YMCA Foundation and a Senator, are working on establishing a local YMCA on the island of Phuket

2. Heritage and Visioning Forum of Young YMCA Leaders

To celebrate and discern the heritage of the YMCA movement in the light of the *Paris Basis* and *Challenge 21* its contemporary interpretation, the APAY will hold a two-day forum with young leaders on the theme "YMCA's Heritage and Visioning for the Future". The programme will be held on **14-16 August 2005** (including arrival) in the Bombay YMCA prior to the 17-22 August global celebration of 150th Anniversary of the World Alliance of YMCAs and the adoption of the *Paris Basis*. The young leaders are expected to then participate in the World Alliance programme from 16-22 August.

The main components of the Forum will include: theme presentations on *Our YMCA Heritage: The Paris Basis, Challenge 21*, and Ecumenical Understanding, national and regional reports and reflections, workshops on youth issues, cultural space and action strategies for strengthening youth leadership with ecumenical vision. Young leaders will particularly have an opportunity to experience the YMCA family and fellowship.

We invite young leaders to this programme and seek the support of National Movements to make this possible.

Please send your registration forms to the APAY Secretariat on or before **1 July 2005**.
(*Information has been sent to National Movements.*)

3. Youth Peace Camp in East Timor

The YMCAs of Australia, Japan, and Korea, and the APAY are collaborating in efforts to develop the YMCA in East Timor. The Japanese YMCA has seconded Mr. Hideki Ishibashi to the APAY for this purpose for three years from April 2005. We thank the Japan and Korea for pledges of financial support towards this multi-lateral effort, and Australia has pledged support in other resources.

In solidarity with the people of East Timor who have gone through painful experiences and are now rebuilding their lives and communities, the YMCA of Korea is coordinating on behalf of the group, an International Youth Peace Camp on **25 July - 5 August 2005** in Dili, East Timor. (*Information on the Camp has been sent to National Movements.*)

Kindly submit your registration forms **on or before 20 June 2005** to the NCY Korea c/o Ms. Hwang Jung Hwa, E-mail: hjhlucia@ymca.or.kr

4. Youth Disaster Response Work Camps

The floods that covered almost 3/4s of Bangladesh in August 2004, the typhoons that devastated parts of Quezon Province, Philippines in October/November 2004, the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the most recent earthquakes and destruction in Nias Island and Padang in Indonesia, and other disasters. The YMCAs in the most affected countries – India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka as well as the Philippines are engaging in mid-term and long-term community reconstruction activities. These disasters move us as the YMCA to be a caring community engaged in healing and rebuilding people and communities.

Work Camps are a meaningful vehicle for young people's engagement in the rebuilding process. They will have the opportunity to experience the realities in the given community and get immersed into the daily life of people. Participants will be enabled to contribute to rebuilding processes and be involved in social transformation, and assume leadership in the YMCAs.

The recent Executive Committee adopted this as an integral component of the Quadrennial Programme Plan. In this regard, we are happy to note that the Sri Lanka YMCA has planned work camps with the YMCAs of Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, and Singapore.

Together with the concerned YMCAs, the APAY has planned to implement the following Work Camps:

4.1 Philippine Work Camp

This Work Camp will be held on **24 July to 2 August 2005** in the Quezon Province in the typhoon belt of the Philippines where the YMCA had recently conducted a shelter rehabilitation programme. Following up on their involvement with the community, a work camp has been planned by the young people to support the construction of community facilities as well as in the clearing of typhoon debris. Discussions on development issues in relation to natural disasters and a Youth Forum on HIV/AIDS as a focused issue for young people in the region will be organized as part of the programme.

Information has been sent to National Movements. Closing date for registration: **10 July 2005**.

4.2 Sri Lankan Work Camps

We are happy to note that some National Movements will in collaboration with the National Council of YMCAs of Sri Lanka organise work camps in the tsunami-affected areas in Sri Lanka during the year:

23 June – 01 July	Japan	Kalmunai
27 June – 01 July	Singapore (with Citibank)	Galle
04 July – 14 July	Singapore (<i>Open to movements in APAY</i>)	<i>To be selected</i>
27 July – 11 Aug	Germany	Point Pedro
20 Aug – 27 Aug	Hong Kong (Youth Leadership Programme)	Trincomalee
24 Nov – 10 Dec	Singapore (<i>Open to movements in APAY</i>)	<i>To be selected</i>

Young people will have an opportunity to engage in work related to the comprehensive tsunami response of YMCA and in rebuilding communities such as construction of facilities and community and healing programmes for children.

Y-Global of Norway and Fredskorpset (Norwegian Peace Corps) Support for Sri Lankan Tsunami Response Programme

Y-Global of Norway is supporting 12 volunteers under the Fredskorpset (Norwegian Peace Corps) programme to assist in the work of local Sri Lankan YMCAs in implementing the National Tsunami Support Programme. Six of the volunteers are from Norway, with three from India and three from Bangladesh. They will support the work in 12 local YMCAs in the south and eastern part of Sri Lanka for six months.

5. Exchanges for Capacity Building and Experiential Learning on Focus Issues

5.1 Youth Participation and Leadership Development

The Quadrennial Planning process has identified this as a high priority at all levels of the YMCA in the region.

The Youth Exchange Programme has facilitated the development of youth leadership as it provides practical exposure and working experience for young people. This year's Exchange Programme will focus on issues prioritised by the 2004 Youth Forum: peace building, youth employment, HIV/AIDS prevention, and holistic education.

Movements may send young leaders to another Movement within the region engaged in any of the issues to learn from their experience and explore the implementation of similar programmes upon their return. Or, your Movement could host a young leader and provide hands-on exposure and learning on any of these issues that your movement is engaged in.

We invite Movements to join the APAY in meeting the challenge of developing our young YMCA leaders to make a difference in the life and work of the YMCA.

Please submit application forms for participation and/or hosting before **15 July 2005**.

5.2 Gender Leaders Exchange Programme

A key step forward for Gender Equity is **Leadership Capacity Building for Women**. Movements are urged to integrate national processes for capacity building for leadership in the Movement and in doing gender-based programmes. Movements can also engage in the challenge of doing pioneering work and actions in making the YMCA a model of gender equity.

In the spirit of *Challenge 21* and the APAY quadrennial priorities that calls for genuine partnerships between women and men, we are pleased to invite your Movement to engage in practical implementation of the said principles we seek to uphold through the Gender Leaders Exchange Programme. Movements may nominate YMCA volunteers/staff involved in gender-based issues for selection to go through such an exchange, or to be a host YMCA.

The nominees and the host YMCA should be engaged in study and implementation of gender equity in YMCA leadership, formulating and implementing gender analysis and perspective in YMCA programmes, gender-based violence and discrimination, women empowerment and community organising, HIV/AIDS, poverty with perspectives in gender and development, etc.

This is a unique opportunity for your YMCA to become more engaged in developing partnership between women and men. We encourage your YMCA's participation. Please submit application forms for participation and/or hosting on or before **1 August 2005**.

6. Leadership for Mission - 23rd Advanced Studies Programme (REMINDER)

The 23rd Advanced Studies Programme for senior YMCA secretaries with a minimum of 3 years service will be held from **23 October to 26 November 2005** at the YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village, Hong Kong. The Registration Fee is US\$200 and the Course Fee is US\$1,500. **National Movements are reminded to submit applications of suitably qualified candidates for selection to the APAY by 15 June 2005.**

7. Youthnet Message Board

The APAY Youth Participation and Leadership Development Committee recently launched a message board for more interactive discussions among Youthnet members. We invite young YMCA leaders in the region to take part in our cyber community. Visit and register at: <http://apay.proboards30.com>

8. Network of YMCAs Working with Migrant Workers

We invite movements in receiving countries to join the existing **Network of YMCAs Working with Migrant Workers**. YMCAs in the sending countries have been organizing migrant workers to provide them necessary assistance and protection from exploitation. If your YMCA is interested in joining the informal network, please write to us.

9. Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation

In view of the number of natural disasters in the region over the past few years, a Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery Workshop to develop and increase the capacities of YMCAs to mobilise communities in disaster preparedness, response and recovery planning as a means of poverty alleviation. To do this, the workshop will be a sharing and learning space for national movements that have experienced such disaster situations. Participants will be invited to share knowledge and information of their responses to recent disasters. They are expected to formulate emergency and rebuilding guidelines for future disaster situations.

The dates for the Workshop that has been planned in Sri Lanka will be announced soon.

10. Multi-lateral Action Together: Mission in Action Programmes

We share for general information below, five short listed proposals after further work on some of the plans with the proponent YMCAs for your consideration of support from July 2005- June 2006. Your movement is invited to provide support for (a) programme(s) of your choice at an amount to be decided.

Code	Focus	Country / YMCA	Programme Title	Amount US\$
MAP/05/1	Sustainable Livelihoods	Myanmar National Council of YMCAs – Kutkai, Mogaung, Taungoo YMCAs	Collective Micro Finance Programme	4,000
MAP/05/2	Interfaith Cooperation	Sri Lanka National Council of YMCAs – Vavunia YMCA	Building Communities Through Interfaith Cooperation	4,300
MAP/05/3	Youth /Community Building	Philippines – National Council of YMCAs – Quezon Province	Rebuilding Community	6,000
MAP/05/4	HIV/AIDS/Youth	Thailand – Bangkok YMCA,	HIV/AIDS Prevention Among Urban Poor Youth in Bangkok	5,900
MAP/05/5	HIV/AIDS	Bangladesh – National Council of YMCAs	Campaign on HIV-Aids Awareness Programme (2 nd Year)	4,850

11. Anniversaries Across the Region

Several YMCAs in the region are celebrating important anniversaries this year. The Tainan YMCA, Taiwan recently celebrated its 50th anniversary in April. In May, the New Zealand YMCA celebrated its founding 150 years ago. Other YMCAs celebrating anniversaries that we have been informed about are:

- Tianjin YMCA, China, 110 years, 24-27 September
- Manila Downtown YMCA, Philippines, 85 years, 25-26 October
- Kuala Lumpur YMCA, Malaysia, 100 years, 27-30 October
- Taipei YMCA, Taiwan, 60 years, 4-6 November

We extend our congratulations to these YMCAs and pray for God's continued blessings on them as they celebrate and give thanks to God for leading them thus far.

(Inform us if your movement is celebrating a significant anniversary this year.)

12. Celebrating, Envisioning and Building Peace With Justice

The theme for the **150th Anniversary of World Alliance of YMCAs and Adoption of Paris Basis** is Celebrating, Envisioning and Building Peace With Justice. Movements in the region are encouraged to participate in the global Celebration event on 16-22 August in Mumbai, India, and to be involved as a region in the envisioning process of the YMCA. Movements are further encouraged to celebrate the founding of the World Alliance and adoption of the Paris Basis by organising events during the **“150 days of Events Around the World”** leading up to the Mumbai Celebration. These could include studies of the YMCA's heritage and Mission, and sharing significant impacts of the YMCA's work within the community, the nation, and worldwide

13. EASYNet Prepares for Asia Pacific Students and Youth Week (APSYW)

The Asia Pacific Students and Youth Week (APSYW) is set for 17-23 October 2005. The Ecumenical Asia Pacific Students and Youth Network (EASYNet) organised a Creative Writing Workshop on 10-16 May 2005 in Chungjiky Church, Gunpho City, Korea. The workshop guided by Proverbs 1:4 “Knowledge and Discretion to the Youth” translated their insights and understanding of the theme through liturgies, poems, songs, prayers, visual arts and community building exercises. The APSYW message? *“Prevailing Educational system and policies are limiting the opportunities and access to education. Together we empower the youth to act for people's dignity.”* The APSYW will highlight the values of holistic education covering the various dimensions of life - material, personal, emotional and spiritual - and critique institutions and policies promoting otherwise.

The Leadership (moderator role) of the EASYNet is rotated among the 6 partners on an annual basis. For the current term (2005/2006) the APAY will take the leadership. Shella Quezada-Zagada, Executive Secretary will serve as the moderator.

14. New National YMCA Leadership in Indonesia

We congratulate Mr. Ratty Supit of Jakarta, Indonesia on his election as the new President of the YMCA of Indonesia at their recently held *Musyawarah* (Assembly) in Jakarta on 21-23 May 2005. Mr. Supit was formerly Vice-Pres We thank Drs. Supardan who has served the movement there as President for the past 3 terms.

15. Closing Thoughts

On 29 April, I was invited to speak to the Tainan “Brotherhood” (Partners) Conference prior to their 50th Anniversary Celebration on 30 April. The Anniversary Dinner also honoured Rev. Paul D.C. Hwang, General Secretary of Tainan YMCA, who would retire in August after serving the YMCA for 31 years. We commend Rev. Paul’s commitment and dedication and wish him God’s continued blessings.

The partnership meeting was an opportunity for YMCAs from different countries to meet as a family and to learn from each other. “Brotherhood” as their relationship is termed, is a bonding of movements with common interests and expressions of the mission and offers opportunities for mutual cross-cultural learning and sharing. I was able to reflect with the conference some concerns, including the following:

- **Relationships** and our connectedness to one another and to the community, and to be bridges to support one another and the community in mission.
- **Reaffirm** the unity of our Mission and its expression in contextual actions
- **Renew** our Mission and Programmes contextually in view of the *Challenge 21* to be socially relevant.
- **Rejuvenate** our membership and leadership to meet the changing, challenging context of the community where we have our being.

Our mission direction of seeking spirituality for transformation and for the building of community and a culture of peace causes us to pause and to seek a deeper meaning in the context we find ourselves in now. We are called in any context we are in, to be united in Christ's Mission, to do what God requires of us: *"to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly before your God"* (Micah 6:8)

As we draw closer to the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the adoption of the *Paris Basis* on 22 August 2005 in Mumbai, let us review and renew our work and Mission. Let us revisit and reaffirm our heritage. Together let us re-envision our work in the context of the day. With commitment let us rejuvenate our membership and leadership for the tasks ahead.

The Lord bless us and keep us ...and teach us to love and care, to heal and build.

Yip Kok Choong
General Secretary

With Shella Quezada-Zagada & Lakshan Dias, Executive Secretaries.