



# HEADLINES

Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 43 / June-July 2005

## 1. Moving on ..... Six Months After the Asian Tsunami....

### Indonesian Tsunami Response

The Indonesian YMCA through the YMCA of Medan has finalised their Tsunami Comprehensive Response Plan for 2005-2008, following the Partners' Coordinating Group Meeting in May. Parallel to the implementation of the Tsunami Response Plan are programmes for the strengthening of Medan YMCA.

The three major components are:

- **Community Rebuilding** to support the economic and livelihood recovery of survivors, particularly in Nias Island;
- **Training and Development** for young people as key human resources to support the community in its development and reconstruction efforts;
- **Social Services** such as Paralegal and Psycho-social Counselling services to assist people and communities to cope with their grief, burden and losses.

The target groups of the Programmes are affected farmers, fisher-folk, small traders, teachers, young people, women, children in the villages of Nias Island. Some programmes will also be implemented in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and Medan. The programmes have been planned to start in August 2005 or as soon as funds are available.

### Sri Lankan YMCAs Begins Community Programmes

The Sri Lanka YMCA is slowly, but surely moving forward in the implementation of the Comprehensive Response Plan, encountering red tape and other local sensitivities. A National YMCA leadership team visited the YMCAs of Ampara, Akkarappattu, Komari, Kalmunai, Kallar, Kluwanchikudi, Batticaloa, and Valaichchnai in early June 2005. Presidents and General Secretaries/ Coordinators from 14 out of 15 tsunami-affected YMCAs attended the review meeting on 27 May to finalise the Local YMCA interventions.

Refurbishment and repair of damaged YMCAs have been initiated with the pledges from Australia YMCA, St. Gall Church of Switzerland, Orange County YMCA, USA and New Zealand YMCA. The following affected YMCAs are involved: Dehiwela, Galle, Komari, and Trincomalee. Various other international YMCA supported programmes have been carried out, e.g. Cross-regional Love & Affection Camp in June by YMCA Japan with 50 participants at the North-South Camp and 74 at the East - West camp. The YMCA of Singapore has just completed a work camp.

### Indian YMCA Housing Moves Ahead

All the YMCAs involved in Tsunami House Construction in Tamilnadu have now received the go ahead from the State Government to start construction work. Y Care International is the main partner in the area of house construction: In the meantime, other community and livelihood-

recovery activities, “children in crisis” programmes, etc. will take off soon. YMCA Japan will be supporting some programmes for children in crisis.

## **2. Young People in Rebuilding Communities**

As part of the numerous on-going disaster response initiatives addressing the needs of people affected by the recent Asian tsunami and typhoons, the APAY has planned to organise Disaster Response Youth Work Camps. Integrated into the camps will be discussions on issues related to the community, including Community Empowerment, Gender and Development, Disaster Response, and HIV-AIDS.

The first such work camp will be organised with the YMCA of the Philippines on 24 July to 2 August in Quezon Province, Philippines, that suffered serious damage to properties and livelihoods in October 2004. Participants in this work camp will work together with the community to construct a Community Centre. The work campers will be to experience first-hand the realities and suffering of the marginalised, share their burdens and contribute to their well-being. Integrated into the camp will be discussions on the issues of poverty and HIV/AIDS.

Work Camps by international partners like Japan and Singapore, are also being held in the tsunami-hit areas in Sri Lanka, coordinated by the National Council.

## **3. Youth Peace Work Camp in East Timor**

To promote youth participation towards reconciliation, peace building and rehabilitation in East Timor, a Youth Peace Work Camp will be held in Dili, East Timor on 25 July to 5 August 2005. The Peace Camp is being organised in solidarity with the people of East Timor who had experienced much pain and suffering following the referendum for independence. It also provides support to the formation and strengthening of YMCA in East Timor through multilateral cooperation among the key partners – the YMCAs of Japan and Korea and the APAY.

The Peace Camp will be a *Peace-building Journey* to learn from and share with the East Timorese as they work together to replant mangrove forests, repair some school buildings and facilitate a community peace and healing programme with children. They will also have exposures with different local and international NGOs working for community reconstruction in East Timor. We thank the National Council of YMCAs of Korea for their leadership in this East Timor Peace Work Camp.

## **4. Cambodia YMCA ~ New Committee and Youth Leadership and Exposure Programme**

Following the visit by Rev. Samuel D. Stephens, President and the General Secretary in early May, the “revamped” Organising Committee has met twice. Mr. Im Thano has been elected as the Chairperson, with Mr. Yi Narith and Miss Khiev Phanou as Vice Chairpersons. The other committee members are Pastor Oum Savy, Mrs. Ten Sokhom, Mr. La Monren, Mrs. Arunrasmey, Mr. Lim Kim Chhay, and Ms. Nget Borey

From 28 – 31 July, about 30 youth will participate in a joint Students’ Christian Movement and YMCA youth leadership and exposure programme in Rotana Kiri a province northeast of Phnom Penh. Discussions with an indigenous Khmer community will help to raise cultural awareness of Khmer life and prevalent social issues there, namely land rights, refugee status of the Montargard people from Vietnam, HIV-AIDS, and human trafficking. This follows a similar programme held in Siem Riep in 2004.

## **5. APAY Youth Forum at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Rev. Samuel D. Stephens, APAY President, will challenge the youth as the Keynote Speaker in the APAY Young Leaders' Forum on YMCA's Heritage and Visioning for the Future to be held on 14-16 August 2005 in Mumbai, India. The Forum aims to consolidate the youth's reflections and visions on the YMCA within the region, and their role in the expression of the *Paris Basis* and *Challenge 21*, and their response. It will be an opportunity for them to experience YMCA unity and solidarity amidst diversity, and to inspire them for greater core leadership roles in the YMCA and its contextual mission.

Group sharing, sub-regional encounters, creative and reflective time, action and strategising workshops, community building and cultural exchanges will all be part of the two-day programme. Around 45 international and some will be at the Forum. They will join the World Movement at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programmes to bring our regional insights, perspectives and on the YMCA Vision.

## **6. World Alliance of YMCA's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Updates**

Around 400 local and overseas delegates will gather in Mumbai, India on 16-22 August 2005 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Alliance and the adoption of the *Paris Basis* as the YMCA Mission Statement, with the theme "Celebrating, Envisioning and Building Peace with Justice",

The Anniversary Celebrations will feature YMCA work, actions and their impacts across the globe over the years. YMCA's pioneering role in the ecumenical movement, sports, social work, community building and other innovative programmes will be showcased. Seminars and workshops on YMCA interventions on global social issues such as civic empowerment, sports for integration, environment, peace education, building peace with justice, displaced persons, migrants, living with conflict, gender justice, women's development, tackling racism, ecumenical role of the YMCA in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, economic/trade justice, etc. Fringe events and cultural expressions will show the diversity in the YMCA and stress our oneness as a worldwide family.

Planned exposures will deepen participants' understanding of the realities of the world, particularly in India. Keynote presentations and group sharing will facilitate the envisioning process to build a community of love and peace with justice, transcending barriers of race, age, gender and class in the context of a troubled world.

## **7. Mission In Action Programme (MAP) 2005/2006 ~ Reminder**

The invitation for support to five selected action programmes were circulated at the end of May. National Movements are reminded to return the Response Form to us by **20 July 2005**. (Please refer to the Circular Invitation and/or Headlines 43/June 2005.

We are happy to announce that the YMCA of Japan has provided support for the "Youth In Rebuilding Community" work camp in the Quezon Province, Philippines scheduled to begin on **29 July**. Our appreciation and thanks to the YMCA Japan for the support.

## **8. Advanced Studies Programme ~ Reminder**

The 23 Advanced Studies Programme will be held on **23 October to 16 November 2005**. To date, 11 participants from Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, and Taiwan have been selected so far. National Movements that have not submitted candidates for selection are reminded to do so **before 20 July 2005**.

## **9. Quadrennium Programme Plan (QPP)**

The various focus components of the Quadrennium Programme Plan (QPP) were endorsed and deliberated by the relevant Standing Committees during the Executive Committee Meeting in March. The whole QPP has been revised and updated, incorporating the outcomes of various consultative processes. The final revised/updated QPP will be ready for despatch by electronic mail and in print by 15 July 2005. The document will also be on our website. We hope that the QPP will be a useful reference document to be used in conjunction with the deliberations of the Standing Committees and for National Planning.

## **10. Changes in National Movements**

### **New National General Secretaries**

We are happy to welcome and to congratulate the following on their recent appointments as National General Secretary for their respective movement:

Singapore: Mr. Albert Ching who joined the YMCA of Singapore as Assistant General Secretary, Programmes on 1 March 2005, has been appointed the Hon. National General Secretary for Singapore YMCA effective 1 May 2005. He began his working career with the Boys' Brigade (BB) and was its Executive Director prior to joining YMCA. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the social service sector having also worked in the National Council of Social Service, Singapore.

Indonesia: Ms. Rietsy K. Dandel was appointed the new NGS of Indonesia effective July 1, 2005. She takes over from Judith Lim. She has served as a volunteer Secretary with the National YMCA and the IMKA (YMCA) Foundation. She has been also organising volunteer training for the National Council. Rietsy brings with her a strong administrative background having worked in various commercial hotels, and in organising conferences/seminars.

### **Indonesia: Farewell to Judith Lim**

Ms. Judith Lim was appointed the National General Secretary in September 1999 at a difficult time when she had to work on revitalising the YMCA after almost 2 decades of decline. Working closely with the National Board led by Drs. Supardan, she has moved the YMCAs in Indonesia forward. YMCAs have been established on the island of Sulawesi and in Papua. After two contractual terms as NGS, she has stepped down to return to Jogjakarta to be with the family. She will continue to as a volunteer YMCA leader and will assist the National YMCA in training. We thank her for the work she has put into the rebuilding of the YMCAs in Indonesia.

## **11. Networks – 30<sup>th</sup> International YMCA Deaf Youth Camp (HH Camp)**

As shared in the Headlines, May 2004, the International YMCA HH Camp Network will be holding its 30<sup>th</sup> Camp from 29 July to 4 August hosted by YMCA Malaysia, with the Kuala Lumpur YMCA as the local host. The theme is “Be One” and around 150 participants from the regional network – Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and newcomers

India, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first camp of 24 participants from the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and the Osaka YMCA. Mr. Yoshio Uno, then General Secretary of the Osaka YMCA, Mr. Lee Tae Woo, then Executive Director in the Osaka YMCA, Mr. Alan Liu, then Executive Secretary in the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong were the pioneers of this network.

## 12. News in Brief from China

- ❖ Guangzhou YMCA celebrated its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 19 November 2004 and has launched a new project in rural areas with 80 families, each receiving 3 cows for 2005-2007.
- ❖ YMCA National Committee and Xi An YMCA sponsored the first International Youth Rural Service project supported by YMCAs of Hong Kong, Macao, Taipei, Singapore (Metro), Honolulu and several YMCAs from China.
- ❖ Chengdu YMCA and YWCA enrolled over 500 children for their “Little Environment Guards” programme.
- ❖ Tianjin YMCA will celebrate its 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005. Various programmes – YMCA Peace Forum, International Teens “Peace in the World” Painting Competition, Seminar on “Tianjin YMCA and the Contemporary Chinese Civilization” and others will be held.

## 13. Conference on “Striving for Economic Justice and Social Sustainability”

The 6th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) will be held in Hong Kong on 13-18 December 2005. The Christian Conference of Asia, Hong Kong Christian Council, Association of Christian Institute for Social Concern in Asia, and APAY have got together to organise a regional conference on “*Striving for Economic Justice and Social Sustainability*” to be held from **9–11 December 2005** in Hong Kong.

National Movements are requested to participate in this important faith-based conference on the WTO and economic justice. The Conference brochure and forms have been circulated and **applications from our movements should reach the APAY Secretariat on or before 10 September 2005** for selection. For more information please visit the APAY Website.

## 14. Concluding Thoughts

Since 26 December 2004 we have been engaged in various meetings and planning sessions with the YMCAs in the three most affected countries of India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. With the major tsunami response comprehensive plans finalised and support secured, we have entered into the “long haul”, working with affected communities for the recovery of livelihoods and to build new and better lives for the future.

But even as we were completing the work on this *HEADLINES*, we saw the breaking news of the simultaneous bomb attacks on innocent civilians in London that up to now has reported at least 37 dead 700 injured. We have written messages of condolence and solidarity to the YMCA of England and Y-Care International to express our deep sadness and concern, and our condolences to those of our YMCA family who may have lost relatives or friends in the bomb attacks in London, and the people of the United Kingdom. We pray to God for peace and comfort for the affected and all inhabitants of London and the United Kingdom, and that they find hope in our Lord’s promise that He will always be with us.

As the YMCA in the Asia and Pacific region, we re-affirm our stance of working towards communities of peace and justice and towards building a just and peaceful world where there is human security. We are against any form of violence, especially those acts that are targeted at civilians and the innocent.

We take heart in the determination of your Prime Minister, the Hon. Tony Blair, speaking yesterday morning soon after the attacks:

*"It is important, however, that those engaged in terrorism realise that our determination to defend our values and our way of life is greater than their determination to cause death and destruction to innocent people in a desire to impose extremism on the world."*

*"Whatever they do, it is our determination that they will never succeed in destroying what we hold dear in this country and in other civilised nations throughout the world."*

May God be with all who are suffering, who feel threatened, and who "labour and are heavy-laden" at this time of tragedy in London and the United Kingdom.

May the Lord bless us and keep us all.....

**Yip Kok Choong**  
**General Secretary**

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*With Executive Secretaries Shella Quezada-Zagada and Lakshan Dias*

