



# HEADLINES

Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 44 / August 2005

## 1. Situation in Mumbai

Though there have been heavy rains again in recent days, the situation in Mumbai is slowly improving. We have been in communication with the National Council and the Bombay YMCA and they have reassured us that every precaution is being taken for the safety of the participants of the Youth Forum and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event of the World Alliance.

Let us remember in our prayers those who have lost loved ones and friends in the floods and landslides; and, the Indian YMCA and Bombay YMCA as they prepare for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the World Alliance amidst unforeseen circumstances.

## 2. All Geared Up for the APAY Youth Forum in Mumbai, India

Around 50 youth from Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam will actively deliberate on YMCA's Heritage and Youth's Role in the YMCA as they envision the future together. This will take place on 14-16 August 2005 in Mumbai, India. It will be an opportunity for them to be inspired for greater core leadership roles in the YMCA and its mission, and to be participating in the uniqueness and richness of the World Movement at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programmes.

We express our appreciation to the YMCA of Japan for their support for the participation of youth from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam in the Youth Forum/150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Programme.

*There will be about 200 participants from our region (excluding about 200 participants from India), at the World Alliance of YMCA's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from 17-22 August 2005 in Mumbai.*

## 3. YMCA Korea Initiates Economic Justice Project with East Timor

We are happy to share that as a commitment to the people and YMCA of East Timor, the YMCA of Korea has initiated an innovative project, **Alternative Trade/Fair Trade Campaign** towards economic justice and fair trade in East Timor. It is targeted at improving export-oriented agricultural products for better and fairer economic returns for the East Timorese. YMCA Korea had negotiated with coffee farmers and community leaders of Maufahi District, a mountainous region for the import of 10 tonnes of organic coffee beans. The YMCA will also discuss with the community leaders about community development, including producers' cooperative organisations, the empowerment of the coffee growers, sustainable agriculture for poor communities, education and healthcare. The YMCA will sell coffee beans imported from East Timor throughout Korea to raise US\$250,000 to support the East Timor YMCA Development Project a multi-lateral programme of the APAY with the YMCAs of Australia, Japan and Korea.

Mr. Hideki Ishibashi, a staff seconded by the YMCA of Japan is the Project Coordinator based in Dili.

*Interested to carry out a similar Project in your Movement? Contact the National Council of YMCAs of Korea (Mr. Song Jin Ho, Senior Executive Director) for information on how to initiate such a project.*

#### **4. Youth Service Programme in Tsunami-affected Batticaloa, Sri Lanka**

In line with the QPP proposal for youth participation in disaster-rehabilitation work, various National Movements (Japan, Philippines, Singapore) have held work camps and service programmes in Philippines and Sri Lanka. The YMCA of Singapore has scheduled their second Youth Service Programme from 25 November to 10 December 2005 in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. Participants will assist in the construction of a community centre at Batticaloa. In addition to the construction assistance, the participants will also be conducting community programmes. National movements are invited to send youth for this Tsunami Response Service Programme organised by the YMCAs of Singapore and Sri Lanka. The approximate cost of S\$750 will cover accommodation, meals and transport.

Please communicate directly with Mr. Ronnie Gan, Manager for International Programmes, YMCA of Singapore, at [ronniegan@ymca.org.sg](mailto:ronniegan@ymca.org.sg) with a copy to our Executive Secretary, Ms. Shella Quezada-Zagada at [shella@asiapacificymca.org](mailto:shella@asiapacificymca.org)

#### **5. Movement Strengthening ~ Organisation Scan**

An organisation scan will be undertaken this month to obtain an overall view of the constituent National YMCA Movements. It is a useful tool for reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of your YMCA, as a start of an organisation development process and a first step in a strategic planning process. It will provide information as to the situation of the movements in relation to the three major aspects of Mission, Social Relevance and Institutional Viability. The information will also be useful for designing the proposed Regional Roundtable on Membership and Mission scheduled in 2006.

#### **6. Survey on YMCA Work on Migrant Workers' Issues**

The Committee on Building Community and A Culture of Peace (BCCP) will conduct a survey in August on YMCA's responses and initiatives on migrant workers' issue among national movements. The information gained will be useful for the future design of migrant workers programmes and the expansion of the Network of YMCAs working with Migrant Workers, to also include those in host countries.

#### **7. Regional Workshop on Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Response**

The Workshop will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from **2-6 October 2005** with the expected participation of volunteer and staff leaders from disaster-prone countries, especially those with experiences and expertise on disaster mitigation and management programmes. Case studies and interactive sessions will be used for sharing of experiences and knowledge on emergency relief handling, disaster management, post disaster rebuilding efforts and preparedness strategies adopted by various national movements in disaster-affected areas. It is expected that best practices and strategies that could be applied in situations of future disasters will emerge. *Details will be circulated soon.*

## 7. Youth Participation and Leadership Development

Two youth work camps are currently being implemented – a Youth Peace Work Camp in Dili, East Timor (25 July to 5 August) and the other (25 July to 2 August) a disaster-related work camp, “Youth in Rebuilding Community” in Quezon Province, Philippines. The camps are organised in solidarity with the people of East Timor and Philippines who had experienced much pain and suffering, one human-inflicted, the other devastated by natural forces.

There are 26 campers from East Timor, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea in the East Timor programme, coordinated and supported by YMCA Korea. There are 30 participants from Hong Kong, Japan, Myanmar and the Philippines at the Quezon Province camp. It is being coordinated by the YMCA of Philippines and sponsored by the YMCA of Japan.

From 28 – 31 July, 29 youth led by Im Thano, the Chairperson of the YMCA of Cambodia, were engaged in a YMCA-Students’ Christian Movement Youth Leadership and Exposure Programme with an indigenous Khmer community in the Rotana Kiri Province northeast of Phnom Penh. Prevalent social issues faced by the people there, especially land rights, HIV-AIDS, and human trafficking were topics of discussion. Action planning will follow this programme.

## 8. YMCA Tsunami Responses ~ 7 Months on .....

### **Good Response for Support of Indonesian Tsunami Comprehensive Plan**

The Indonesian Tsunami Comprehensive Response Plan for 2005-2008 with the parallel programmes for the strengthening of the Medan YMCA, the implementing YMCA, has received tremendous support through the YMCAs of Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Y Care International, Ireland and England. Aad and Mettie Kik of the YMCA Netherlands have begun the implementation of the Social Services component on upgrading skills for Psycho-social Counselling services initiated in March 2005, and extending the services.

### **Sri Lanka’s Implementation Gather Momentum**

The Sri Lankan YMCA’s tsunami responses are moving forward gaining momentum in many mid-term and long-term interventions despite various roadblocks that had initially slowed down the process. The work is taking place in 15 locations. The mid-term *Educational Aid Project* has provided assistance to almost 2000 students. Under the on-going *Home Sustenance Programme*, 7 local YMCAs have provided assistance to more than 200 families from each YMCA area. Repair on the first five houses have begun in the *House Repair* component. Initial work has started for 9 *Community Centres* under the Long-Term Interventions. Two *Vocational Training Centres* are being established in Matara in the south and Batticaloa in the east.

### **India - First Five Houses handed over to the Beneficiaries**

The Rehabilitation Programme has gained momentum with the initiation of the *Housing Plan* fully supported by the Y Care International. Considering the urgent need of the people sheltered in temporary makeshift arrangements provided by local governments and NGOs, the construction work has been geared up in all the project areas through the local YMCAs. In most cases, houses are constructed in clusters with the land provided by the local government. The first five houses have been completed through the YMCA South West India Region in the Allappat Panchayat, Kollam District in Kerala and have been officially handed over to the beneficiaries. The work on another 15 houses in Kollam District is progressing well.

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

In response to the invitation to support five selected action programmes, we are happy to announce that the YMCA of Japan has provided the full support for the “*Youth In Rebuilding Community*” Work Camp in the Quezon Province, Philippines, currently taking place. YMCA Korea has expressed interest in the other programmes presented for multilateral support. YMCA Australia has expressed interest in pursuing longer-term partnerships on action programmes that will be further explored with various partners. We appreciate the cooperation and generosity of YMCAs within the region for the multilateral support to local and national action programmes.

## **10. Advanced Studies Programme ~ Update**

Thirteen candidates have been selected so far for the 23 Advanced Studies Programme (ASP) from 23 October to 16 November 2005. They are from Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Singapore and Taiwan.

## **11. Changes in National Movements**

### **New National General Secretary for Myanmar**

We are happy to welcome **Mr. Richard Kaing** who has assumed the position of National General Secretary of the Myanmar YMCA from April 2005, upon Mr. Kyi Maung Aye's completion of his term of office.

**Mr. Kyi Maung Aye** had served as National General Secretary of the Myanmar YMCA since 1993, and has made much contribution to the development and use of the appropriate technology in the rural parts of Myanmar, besides other development work.

### **New National Presidents**

**Col. (Rtd.) Aung Din** was elected National President of the Myanmar YMCA at their Annual General Meeting in March 2005, taking over the leadership from Rev. Dr. Andrew Myan Han.

**Mr. Lindsay McKenzie** took over the leadership of YMCA New Zealand from Mr. Peter Waterhouse at the Annual General Meeting held on 30 May 2005.

## **12. Workshop on Fundraising and Financial Management ~ YMCA of Singapore**

Capacity building is a key concern for many YMCAs today. Our mission action programmes need financial support. There is an urgent need to equip our YMCAs for the task of raising the necessary financial support for these programmes, especially in an increasingly competitive fundraising environment. The YMCA of Singapore is inviting YMCAs in the region to join them in an Asia Pacific Master-class Workshop in Fundraising and Financial Management that they are jointly organising with the Resource Alliances (a global NGO) on **9th & 10 September 2005**. Highly experienced practitioners and experts from the UK, USA and Singapore will be leading the Workshop. It offers a rare opportunity in interactive learning to examine new realities, trends and challenges in fundraising.

*Please contact Mr. Albert Ching, AGS - YMCA of Singapore, [albertching@ymca.org.sg](mailto:albertching@ymca.org.sg) for details if you are interested in attending. Please note that this is NOT a subsidised programme.*

### 13. YMCA News in Brief from China

- ❖ A China, Japan, and Korea YMCA Task Group on Peace Education held its first meeting in Shanghai on 3 April 2005 to discuss various efforts for building a culture of peace, including the Peace Forum in Tianjin (September 2005), and Youth Peace Education in Inner Mongolia, China later this summer.
- ❖ The National Committee of YMCAs of China and the Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong co-sponsored a symposium on “*High Efficiency: NGOs Strategies on Publication and Public Relations*” for 40 participants from the YMCAs in the China mainland, Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR. It was held from 11-15 May at the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong.
- ❖ The Wuhan YMCA was recognised for its role in building a harmonious community by the Mayor of Wuhan City when he visited the YMCA.
- ❖ Guangzhou YMCA has initiated social work among “women in reform through labour.” It is also extending services to those with cerebral paralysis and mentally challenged children in collaboration with the Guangdong Provincial Rehabilitation Centre for Physically Challenged People, after 5 years of providing care and service to Deaf Children.
- ❖ Chengdu YMCA/YWCA has launched a programme to help Tibetan orphans to acquire vocational skills with a project partner from Hong Kong. Whilst attending the training, they take the nine-year compulsory education programme in the evening with the assistance of YMCA and YWCA School Teachers.
- ❖ The Shanghai YMCA/YWCA is hosting a group of 84 university and college students from Hong Kong for a 3-month *Youth Internship Placement* with local companies in the summer.

### 14. Striving for Economic Justice and Social Sustainability ~ Reminder

As announced, a regional faith-based conference on “*Striving for Economic Justice and Social Sustainability*” will be held from **9–11 December 2005** in Hong Kong prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 13-18 December 2005. As one of the partners organising this conference, we encourage national movements to participate in this important conference on the WTO and economic justice. Applications from our movements should reach the APAY Secretariat on or before **10 September 2005** for selection.

(Conference brochure has been circulated. Visit [www.asiapacificymca.org](http://www.asiapacificymca.org) for more details.)

### 15. Invitation to Share News and Information

**We invite once again, National Movements, to share news and information from their movements for the benefit of other movements through this QPP adopted strategy as we seek to build stronger bonds within the region. The sharing of knowledge and support will greatly encourage and motivate actions for mission within the region.**

**The preparation for the publication of *Headlines* usually takes place in the second half of the month. Please share your news/information with us latest by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.**

## 16. Concluding Thoughts

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the establishment of the World Alliance of YMCAs and the adoption of our founding principles, the *Paris Basis* and our own pre-Celebration Youth Forum are just round the corner. These events will be of immense significance and bring to bear important changes throughout our unique movement worldwide and in our own region. The call to celebrate and give thanks, to vision for the future and to seek ways to build communities of peace with justice, will challenge all of us, present or not at the Mumbai events.

As an integral part of the World Alliance of YMCAs, we as a region have played various important roles in fulfilling the thrust and vision of the World YMCA. The YMCAs in Asia and Pacific have played key roles in the promotion and practice of ecumenism and in bridging gaps across the many churches and other faith-based groups within our communities.

We have been involved in the development of leadership for mission, for spirituality, for movement building, for transformation of community and for the renewal of our movement. Together, we have also pursued the agenda for development with a human face since the early days of the United Nations Development Decade. Sustainable development – rural and urban, building Civil Society, work towards the protection of the rights of children, youth, women against exploitation and trafficking, and a host of other social conditions, of deprivation, marginalisation, discrimination, etc.

The Asian and Pacific YMCAs have upheld the YMCA's precept of holistic development of persons in *spirit, mind and body* – and more importantly, with the *“heart”* ~ with commitment and compassion. YMCAs in the region have **engaged** with the community. They have **encountered** the realities of the people at the grassroots. They have **educated** and **empowered** the people for self-reliance with dignity.

These actions are our strengths in our mission-journey to fulfil the imperatives of the *Paris Basis*, *Kampala Principles* and *Challenge 21*. We are again challenged by the words of John R. Mott an influential figure in the development of YMCAs in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

*Without a doubt, there comes to many of us the choice between*

- a life of contraction or one of expansion;*
- a life of small dimensions or one of widening horizons, and larger visions and plans:*
- a life of self-satisfaction and self-seeking, or one of unselfish and truly Christ-like sharing.*

Surely, our choice is one of *expansion, of widening horizons, larger visions and plans ~ all with unselfish and truly Christ-like sharing.*

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*