



HEADLINES

Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs ~ No. 63/May 2007

Nominations for Election as APAY Officers 2007-2010

With the closing of Nomination for Election to the position of Treasurer, the Nomination Process is now complete. The List of Nominees for Officers will be circulated to all National Movements as soon as the Nominations Committee finalises the List. The Nominations Committee, Chaired by the APAY President will meet on 4 September 2007 in Chiang Mai.

1. Leadership Development for Mission and Movement Strengthening

KOREA: More than 120 Korean YMCA lay and professional leaders met on 13-14 April in Muju, about 4 hours from Seoul for their Biennial Leaders' Conference. The focus was on "*Seeking For Spirituality Of Sustainability Toward Asian Solidarity*". The APAY President and General Secretary were invited to participate in the Conference. Rev. Samuel D. Stephens shared thoughts on "*Effective Delivery of Mission by the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs*" through addressing contextual issues with the strength of inter-movement solidarity within the Region." I was requested to share on the "*Thrusts of the Asia and Pacific Alliance*" and on "*Leadership and Governance Towards a Strong Movement*". We were also invited to visit with the Gwangju YMCA prior to the Conference. The President addressed more than 20 Ecumenical leaders at a special meeting arranged to share on our common ecumenical mission.

PHILIPPINES: In an effort to revitalise the once highly regarded Philippine YMCA's *Rizal Youth Leadership Training Institute (RYLTI)*, the new leadership of the National Council organised a *Youth Leadership Development Programme for Transformation* from 22 April – 5 May. It was encouraging to interact with the 17 young volunteer and professional leaders, including 3 from the Korean YMCA when I shared about the *Heritage and Mission of the YMCA in the Region*. The 14-day intensive training programme that included exposures and action plan writing was coordinated by Ms. Elsie Borreo, NGS and Bishop Tex Garbo, Professor in the College on Community Development, University of Philippines. Our appreciation and thanks to YMCAs in Korea for their support of the training under the Mission In Action Programme (MAP).

MALAYSIA: The General Secretary facilitated a one-day Malaysian YMCA Leaders' Seminar attended by 20 YMCA volunteer and professional leaders on 28 April at the Penang

YMCA. Topics discussed were the Heritage, Mission and Thrusts of the YMCA in the Region; the Leadership Situation, and, YMCA Governance and Leadership. Following this Seminar, on 1-4 May, 26 young professional staff of YMCAs from Malaysia and Singapore participated in a Joint Basic Secretaries Training Programme (Part I) that included conceptual and skills modules from the revised Integrated Leadership Development Plan: Mission of the YMCA; Mission In Action – Collaboration; Communication; and Programme Development, Execution and Evaluation. Mr. Liew Mun Khai, Hon. Secretary, NCY Malaysia; Mr. Albert Ching, NGS, NCY Singapore; and Ms. Phyllis Tan, CEO Metro YMCA, Singapore jointly coordinated the Training.

2. Towards the 17th General Assembly ~ Updates

The 17th General Assembly from 5-10 September 2007 has been so actively promoted in some national movements that early indications from 5 national movements are that anticipated registrations are about 140. If this trend continues, we could be looking to more than 300 delegates at the Assembly!

The Host Committee has been hard at work. Preparations are going on well and with urgency. Further details about the Exposures and other programme contents, including Spouses Programmes will be released soon.

Closing date for registration is 15 July 2007. Please contact your Local or National YMCAs for participation details.

3. At 17th General Assembly ~ Quadrennial Council Meetings

National Movements are reminded that to note that the Quadrennial Council Meeting, as per **Article II of the Constitution** (see below), shall be held at the General Assembly, on **5 September and on 8 September**, at 8.00pm – 10:00pm both days:

1. The Council shall consist of **three representatives** from each member Movement and Associate of the World Alliance, and such other Associations or Movements as may be invited and admitted by the Council, namely **the President, one Youth representative, and the National General Secretary**. In case any of these representatives is not available, the corresponding National body shall appoint a substitute. **Each member Movement will have equal votes.** (Youth means a person between the age-range of 18-30 years at the time of appointment).
2. Former Presidents of the Asia and Pacific Alliance, Officers and Members of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance from Asia and Pacific and the Secretary General of the World Alliance or his authorised representative are Ex-Officio members of the Council.

We urge National Movements to ensure that there will be a *Youth delegate* to represent the Movement at the Quadrennial Council Meeting, to give due recognition to the role of youth in the decision-making processes of our Alliance.

4. At 17th General Assembly ~ Youth Participants to Caucus

We expect around 60 young people to participate in the General Assembly, especially those who attended the 1st APAY Youth Assembly in Kuala Lumpur and the Youth Forum 2005, in Mumbai. They will caucus for sharing, learning and reflection on **4-5 September** at the YMCA Chiang Mai. This Meeting is to provide an additional space to deepen experiences and to inspire our YMCA youth to share their lives with other youth and to enhance their role in society. They will search together with the 17th General Assembly for meaningful responses to contextual realities. Their idealism, initiative and involvement in more defined responsibilities towards self, family and community will indeed counter the drive into furthering materialistic and individualistic values, often in danger of being devoid of spirituality and connectedness with nature and humanity.

We encourage National Movements to send their youth delegates to this caucus. Let us listen to Voices of the Youthour beacon of hope for a brighter and better today and tomorrow!

5. At 17th General Assembly ~ Gender Equity Forum: Sensitivity and Responsiveness

In conjunction with the General Assembly, a half-day Forum on **5 September (2:30pm-6:30pm)** will be organised for Assembly participants, both women and men to exchange opinions and reflection on issues of gender equity. We want to inculcate gender sensitivity towards more gender-responsive partnership between women and men, including leadership and governance within YMCA and the society. Following an input from an invited Resource Person, the Forum will look at the recommendations of YMCA World Council, 2006 and the APAY Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Women, 2006.

The forum is organized to promote gender equity and to motivate YMCAs to sustain efforts for gender justice and gender-based programmes.

6. Solidarity With Ulaan Bataar YMCA, Mongolia at 6th Anniversary

A Solidarity Visit was made to the Ulaan Bataar YMCA, Mongolia (UB-YMCA) from 7-11 May, in conjunction with the celebration of its 6th Anniversary on 8 May. Dr. Kim Youn Kwon, the UB-YMCA President, in his 6th Anniversary Address pledged that the UB-YMCA would be a “**truly Mongolian YMCA**” led by Mongolians by the time of the celebration of the 10th Anniversary.

After the Thanksgiving Worship, more than 150 members and participants of the YMCA enjoyed a variety concert by the youth participants. Dr. Cho Ki Hung, Chairperson, Rev. Pyo Yong Un, former Chairperson, and Mr. Kang Tai Chul, President/CEO of the Board of Directors of the Seoul YMCA, Korea were present as representatives of the YMCA that had initiated its formation. Mr. Jack Young, President, YMCA of Hong Kong, Mr. Honorio Tan, President, Manila Downtown YMCA-Philippines, Mr. Song Jin-Ho, Senior Executive

Director, National Council of YMCAs of Korea, Seoul YMCA-Korea, and the APAY General Secretary made up the visiting team. The Japan and Taiwan YMCAs had confirmed their participation in the proposed Partners' Support Group, but were unfortunately not able to participate in the visit.

As a follow-up, it was agreed to hold a meeting of the Mongolian YMCA Partners Support Group (MY-PSG) from **28-30 June** at the Taipei YMCA, Taiwan to finalise the Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Commitment for the MY-PSG. The meeting will work with the UB-YMCA to review and formulate plans for its further development. *Other YMCAs interested to join the MY-PSG may contact the APAY Secretariat.*

7. Student Mission Conference in Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia

The Ulaan Bataar YMCA in Mongolia is holding a Youth Mission Conference for students from **7-10 August** at the Gajort Retreat Center, Ulaan Baatar. They are expecting 200 Mongolian College/University students and students from other Asian universities (through their own university network) to participate.

The main components of this Mission Conference are Worship, Quiet Time, Bible Studies, and Lectures on Christianity. There will be group activities: Presentations, Camp Fire, Camp Olympic, Recreation, etc. The Conference Fee is US\$50 for the programme/other costs at the Retreat Centre. Additional nights' stay (including on arrival, 6 August) and other visits/tours will be at participants' own cost.

YMCAs interested in sending participants are requested to contact the APAY Secretariat, attention Christina Dalope.

8. Inaugural Young Peace Builders E - Forum

Interested in Building a Culture of Peace? The Inaugural Young Peace Builders E-Forum on **25 to 30 June 2007** will examine the topic, "*Youth Participation in Peace Building*". YMCA youth are invited to deliberate on peace building through sharing of stories and experiences. We want to engage the youth from the Training Programme for Young Peace-builders in Sri Lanka last year and YMCA Youth interested in peace issues to participate in building a culture of peace right ~ where they are.

Young people are invited to submit thematic presentations for selection/use as introductory or opening comments for the Forum. These should be forwarded to lakshan@siapacificymca.org **on or before 15th June 2007** to facilitate preparatory work for the Forum. A moderator will be selected from among those youth whose presentations have been selected as introductory presentations to lead in this *E-Peace Forum I*. Youth who are not already registered with the APAY YouthNet are invited to register to participate ~ contact lakshan@asiapacificymca.org or cristina@asiapacificymca.org

9. Update: Philippines YMCA Rehabilitation Work in Albay, Philippines

The NCY Philippines and the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office in Albay have reviewed and selected 55 families for the YMCA shelter rehabilitation support. The appeal proposal was to provide support for up to 100 families at approx. US\$25,000 in 3 *barangays* (villages). We have remitted US\$15,000 received so far for emergency response and the shelter rehabilitation programme. *We are seeking further pledges to provide the necessary support for another 45 families to rebuild their homes.*

10. Partnering for Mission in Action Programmes (MAP)

The Mission in Action Programmes (MAP) was introduced in 2004 to build multilateral partnerships for national or local action programmes in the community. We thank the partner YMCAs that have responded to support YMCAs implementing MAPs in 2007/2008 so far:

YMCA	PROGRAMME TITLE	RESPONSES TO DATE
Cambodia YMCA	Capacity Building for Social Transformation	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, YMCA of Hong Kong, YMCA of Singapore, Japan YMCA
National Council, Philippines	Professional Leadership for Transformation and Movement Strengthening	<i>In discussion with potential partner</i>
Myitkyina YMCA, Myanmar	Rebuilding Lives of Children at Risk - Centre of Hope for Vulnerable Children	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong
YMCA of Vietnam	Social Reintegration: Education for Migrant Families	<i>In discussion with potential partner</i>
National Council, Philippines	Community Rebuilding and Empowerment for Sustainable Development (2004 Typhoons - Year 2)	Japan YMCA
Bangkok YMCA, Thailand	Community Participation in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Promotion of Reproductive Health	<i>In discussion with potential partner</i>
Mogaung YMCA, Myanmar	Community Building Through Micro Finance and Savings Groups	Australia YMCA
National Council, Philippines	Youth Leadership Training for Social Transformation	YMCA of Korea
Medan YMCA, Indonesia	Entrepreneurial Training for Young School Leavers	Japan YMCA

We are in consultation with some partners for support of the MAPs. Local YMCAs wishing to be a MAP Partner, may contact your National Council Secretariat for relevant information and/or documents.

11. Final Reminder ~ Home-movement-based Young Professional for Area

Youth leaders who are committed to a leadership role in the local/national YMCA are invited to participate in a fresh initiative, the APAY Home-YMCA-based Young Professional Programme scheduled to begin in **July 2007**. Details available from National YMCA Offices/APAY Website. *National YMCA endorsed applications should reach the APAY Secretariat by 30 May.*

12. Remembering Dick Ortmeier, Former Director, Asia YMCA Institute, Hong Kong

We have received the sad news that Dick Ortmeier passed away on 3 March 2007, aged 87 in Davis, California from the International Group, YMCA of USA. He arrived in Hong Kong in 1964 as Associate Director of the Asia YMCA Institute located at the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong to the then Director, Karl Strange, a fraternal secretary from the YMCA of the USA. He was Director of the Institute from 1966 till 1974, when Mr. Homer Eng, Asst. General Secretary of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong took over as Director. He remained in Hong Kong until 1984 as the US YMCA Liaison Representative to the YMCAs in Asia.

Past Institute graduates and YMCAs in Asia and Pacific will remember his dedication as Director of the Institute and his later work as the US YMCA Liaison Representative in the region. We remember and express our appreciation for his life and work here in Asia.

Messages can be sent to **Ms. Carolyn Ortmeier, 1515 Shasta Dr 3327, Davis, CA 95616, USA.**

13. Upcoming Events, May – August 2007

DATE	PROGRAMME	VENUE
MAY 7-11	Solidarity Visit to Ulaan Bataar YMCA in Mongolia	Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia
JUNE 12-17	Indonesian Tsunami PCG/Site Visit	Medan & Nias, Indonesia
JUNE (date to be fixed)	Cambodian YMCA Annual General Meeting	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
JUNE 28-30	Partners' Support Group for Mongolian YMCA	Taipei, Taiwan
JULY /AUGUST	Review/Evaluation of QPP 2004-2007	Area-wide

14. Concluding Remarks ~ Solidarity in Strengthening One Another

This past month has been one of being with National Movements in solidarity with initiatives to clarify and strengthen mission imperatives in response to social realities, strengthening governance and leadership development/partnerships for transformation.

I want to highlight my visit on 12-13 April to Gwangju and the YMCA there together with the President because of the significance of the solidarity of the people of Gwangju in their struggle for unity and democracy in Korea, culminating on 18 May 1980. Many of us may be unaware of the history and significance of the May 18 struggle, not only for Koreans, but also for democracy, liberty and peace. We remember history because we want to learn from history and be enlightened by its lessons. *"History gives hope to the present and the future"*.

We learnt about how the people of Gwangju who from 14 May 1980, united and strengthened in spirit, stood up against what has been described as the "30-year successive military dictatorship..." By 18 May 1980, more than 20,000 armed soldiers had been sent into

Gwangju to break – unfortunately, violently – what is seen as a democratic movement by the people that gave birth to the “Civilian Government of Kim Young-sam, the people’s Government of Kim Dae-jung and the Participatory Government of Roh Moo-hyun.” For more than ten days in May 1980, ordinary citizens, students and youth, the academia, of Qwangju, were in solidarity, struggling and sacrificing for what they believed in, and in their vision of a democratic society. “According to government figures, 168 civilians were killed...the injured totalled more than 4,000 and 406 were missing.” On 21 December 2001, the Government enacted “laws that made the May 18 freedom fighters nationally recognised heroes”. The dead are now interred in the May 18 National Cemetery opened in 2002. In the memorial book “We Saw”, published by the May 18 Memorial Foundation, the poet Kim Jun-tae writes that the Gwangju struggles were like “seeds.” *“They have already been planted, and hopefully, future generations will learn of the sacrifices brave men and women have made.”*

At the May 18 National Cemetery, the young guide who translated for us, proudly declared, as we said our goodbyes and expressed our appreciation to her and the Centre for the experience of being able to pay tribute and to be among “heroes” united in solidarity for democracy and freedom... *“I am proud to be a Gwangju Citizen to have the Gwangju Spirit.”* We stood humbled by her declaration and her Qwangju Spirit.

We were humbled to learn of the important roles played by the YMCA and YWCA, their members and leaders during the May 18 struggle and its aftermath. In the Memorial Centre, we stood in front of the picture in which Prof. Myung Noh-guen, a former National President of the YMCAs of Korea, was testifying at a Special Committee for the Investigation of the May 18 Gwangju Democratization Movement. Earlier, we had stood at his grave (he died in 2000) and those of other YMCA leaders, in the May 18 National Cemetery. I remember Prof. Myung’s last attendance of an APAY event was in 1999, the 15th General Assembly in Manila, Philippines. We give thanks to God for his and many other Qwangju citizens who struggled and died that liberty and freedom may live *“akin to an unbreakable chain of great mountains”*.

We were humbled. The history of the struggles, solidarity and sacrifice that we had witnessed in the visit to the May 18 National Cemetery and Centre reminded us of our own call to unity and solidarity as YMCA leaders ~ to uphold our Mission and to be in solidarity with the community we serve.

We were humbled. We were reminded of our own need to have the same Spirit as we serve as leaders of the YMCA, working in solidarity towards achieving our Mission.

May the Lord bless us and keep us as we seek to strengthen our solidarity and our commitment for rebuilding communities and lives.

Yip Kok Choong
General Secretary

Cristina A. Dalope, Lakshan Dias
Executive Secretaries

17th General Assembly of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

5-10 September 2007 ~ The Empress Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand

STRENGTHENING SPIRITUALITY, SOLIDARITY, SUSTAINABILITY

A gathering of Fellowship, Inspiration, Reflection, Sharing-learning Together

REGISTER BY 15 JULY 2007 WITH YOUR NATIONAL COUNCIL

Registration Fee: US\$150 (50% for Spouse) + Participation Fee: US\$300



Related Meetings

APAY YOUTH CAUCUS, 4-5 September / YMCA Chiang Mai

Participation Fee: US\$30

APAY GENDER EQUITY FORUM, 5 September / Empress Hotel

Participation Fee: US\$15

QUADRENNIAL COUNCIL MEETING, 5 & 8 September / Empress Hotel

Fair Share to be paid up for 2006, to be eligible to vote