



# headLINES

Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs ~ No. 68 / October 2007

## 1. Leaders' Quadrennial Roundtable For a Common Vision, Mission and Plan

*The Leaders' Quadrennial Roundtable* is a concrete effort to work together to develop a common vision, mission and plan for the Quadrennium that all movements in the Alliance can identify with. It is a roundtable of APAY Officers, National Presidents, National General Secretaries and Ex-officio Members of the APAY Executive Committee. It has been planned as a time and space for open and frank discussions in a process to explore the 'why' and determine the "how" in doing our Mission in the light of the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Mandate, the diversities and the complexities of our context and times. It is an opportunity for envisioning our YMCA mission response to these challenges in collective wisdom to translate and develop the Mandate into mission responses for the Quadrennium 2008-2011.

The 1<sup>st</sup> LQR was held in 2004 in Bangkok. Its output, the Quadrennial Programme Plan (QPP) 2004-2007, had reflected the general concerns put forth by the movements and had given them "ownership" of the QPP.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Leaders' Quadrennial Roundtable (LQR) will be held at the YMCA Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 6 – 9 December.

## 2. APAY PeacE-Forum: My Dream For Peace

We invite young people of the YMCA to explore peace building on the YouthNet from 6 – 9 November 2007 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> APAY PeacE-Forum. The topic for the 6 – 9 November will be "*My Dream For Peace, My Commitment For Peace*". We welcome youth who were at the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to join the *PeacE-Forum*.

If you have not registered in the APAY YouthNet, you may do so by e-mailing Cristina Dalope, [cristina@asiapacificymca.org](mailto:cristina@asiapacificymca.org) or Lakshan Dias, [lakshan@asiapacificymca.org](mailto:lakshan@asiapacificymca.org)

## 3. Japan YMCA Staff Development Exposure Visit

Nine STEP II of the Staff Development Programme of the Japanese YMCA will visit Hong Kong for exposures to learn about the YMCA and community responses to urban realities and other social issues from 3 – 7 November 2007. They will also learn about the APAY's thrusts

and YMCA work around the region and join in a 25<sup>th</sup> Advanced Studies session on Contemporary Theological Reflections.

Exposures will be arranged for them to an advocacy organization and a shelter for migrant workers, the Night Drifters' Programme of the Chinese YMCA and the Integration Centre Against Ethnic Discrimination of the YMCA of Hong Kong.

#### **4. Silver Anniversary of Advanced Studies Programmes!**

The Alumni of the ASP – serving, retired, resigned – will gather from **2 – 4 December** at the Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village, “home” of the ASP for many years. The 2-day programme will begin at 5.00pm on 2 December and end with lunch on 4 December.

Dr. Bart Shaha then Asia Alliance Executive for Leadership, and now World Alliance Secretary General, will address to the ASP Alumni. There will be sharing and fellowship..... *time to “relive” happy memories...* and the 25<sup>th</sup> ASP Graduation will be on 3 December.

The Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong is generously hosting the 2 nights stay/board at WKS for the gathering. Participants wishing to come earlier or stay longer may do so *at your own cost* at the Chinese YMCA or other accommodation.

*We request all National Movements to share this information again with all ASP graduates and for them to kindly return the circulated participation form to Ms. Cristina Dalope, Executive Secretary for Programmes, APAY by 17 November 2007.*

**(Information/Response Form sent to National YMCAs/Also on Website.)**

#### **5. Developing Inspired Transformational Leadership**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Advanced Studies Programme commenced on 30 October with 14 participants for a time of study, reflection and learning together: China (4), Hong Kong (2), India (1), Japan (1), Korea (1), Philippines (1), and Singapore (2). In South-South Solidarity, we received a participant each from Argentina and Egypt.

The Studies is using the revised curriculum under the Integrated Leadership Development Plan, 2007.

#### **6. Moving Forward .....Beyond YTRP Nias, Indonesia**

A “reality check” on the YMCA Tsunami Response Programme (YTRP) in Nias was held on 18 October to review the impact of the implementation and process of the YTRP. The meeting was a time when we put our ears to the ground again for the future of Nias beyond YTRP as we heard from the field teams from Nias. During our last evaluation visit in July, the people had spoken about “being the YMCA”. The YTRP that will enter its final year in 2008 has created fresh hope for the future of the 14 villages they have been engaged with. Similarly, it

had also brought about renewed efforts for the sustainability of Medan YMCA, the only local YMCA in Sumatra.

To ensure the continuance of the 3-year transformative work being implemented by the Medan YMCA, plans were proposed to build on the “successes” and continue the process *HEAL* with fresh partnerships. (*HEAL* – *HE*alth for all, *A*lternative education for children, adults, *L*ivelihood for sustainability)

### **7. Indigenous People – Spirituality and Peace**

The Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) Workshop on “*Indigenous People – Spirituality and Peace*” workshop was jointly organized on 19 – 24 October 2007 in Medan, Indonesia. There were 26 participants from 8 countries at this programme. Three members from the YMCAs of Metro Jakarta and Medan participated together with Executive Secretary Cristina Dalope.

Following the workshop a Refresher Programme for participants of the School of Peace was held from 24 – 30 October at the same venue.

### **8. YMCA Youth Shares Love and Affection in Jogjakarta**

Twenty-five young leaders from YMCAs of Japan, Student YMCA of Sleman, Metro Jakarta YMCA, ecumenical groups and local villages recently participated in a “Love and Affection” Camp on 13 – 18 September 2008 in Jogjakarta, Indonesia. Together with the community, they built a community hall called “*Pendopo*” a symbol of Javanese traditional culture. The youth experienced home-stays with villagers. The programme included peace-sharing activities and exposure visits to villages, giving the participants an understanding of the local culture and traditions. This “Love and Affection” Camp was organised for the children survivors (of the May 2006 earthquake).

We thank the YMCAs of Okayama, Sleman and Jogjakarta for organizing this camp as part of our Disaster-related Camps, together with the National Council of the YMCAs of Japan.

### **9. YMCA/YWCA Week of Prayer 2007 Focuses on Children**

“*Children First*” is the theme of this year’s World YMCA and YWCA Week of Prayer and World Fellowship from 11 – 17 November in response to the YMCA World Council Resolution on Vulnerable Children.

A Week of Prayer booklet is available with 6 days of Bible study and prayer, each focusing on a different aspect of the needs of children, and a suggested order of service is provided for day 7. (*YMCA World, September 2007*).

### **10. Congratulations as Singapore Y Turns 105!**

The YMCA of Singapore celebrated their 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 20 – 22 October with several activities/events. In honour of the YMCA’s work, the National Parks Board of Singapore will

name a new hybrid dendrobium, the *Dendrobium YMCA*. Our felicitations to the members, volunteers, leaders, professional staff, and we thank God for this YMCA's service and commitment to the community for the past 105 years.

### 11. Staff Change at Secretariat

We welcomed Ms. Irene Chan as Administrative Assistant in the Secretariat in mid-September. Ms. Chan was formerly with the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA).

We thank Ms. Grace Hui who had served in that position for the past three years, for her service to the APAY.

### 12. Upcoming Events, October – December 2007

DATES	PROGRAMME	VENUE
19-24 October	ICF Indigenous Populations: Spirituality and Peace	Medan, Indonesia
30 October-3 December	25 <sup>th</sup> Advanced Studies Programme	Wu Kwai Sha, Hong Kong
2-4 December	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering of Advanced Studies Alumni	Wu Kwai Sha, Hong Kong
6-9 December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Leaders' Quadrennial Roundtable (LQR-2)	YMCA Kuala Lumpur

### 14. Concluding Thoughts: Building on the Momentum ~Let Us Not Keep Youth Waiting

Our Vision of *Spirituality* binds and strengthens our *Solidarity* towards *Sustainability* for life as Global Citizens responding as people called by God to act in God's love as we carry out our mission in the contemporary realities; our social responsibilities in building communities of love and peace with justice.

We need to build up our social capital for the mission. We need to build momentum to motivate each other to continue to respond to the challenges, old and new, before us.

The Youth are ready and waiting to play larger roles in the YMCA and the community. Thus as we push towards sustainability, we need to develop strategic, relevant and meaningful plans and programmes to engage and stimulate youth to keep building the momentum towards transformative actions in community.

Youth in their diversity of interests similarly have equally diverse capacities and potential – waiting to be tapped, to be empowered to engage with social and other relevant issues in their lives and community. Engagement in community enhances leadership skills and strengthens social responsibility.

Youth consultations, deliberations, workshops, seminars, caucuses have churned out many statements of intent over the years. However, the support, the space, and, the urgency to partner and empower our young leaders to respond meaningfully to these numerous statements that could transform lives, their own, that of the people and the YMCA itself, often fall short of what is called for. So we go on a merry-go-round, going full circle once in 4 years at our General Assemblies and with our programmes.

The youth have spoken, loud and clear at the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The youth want to be heard. They want to play their rightful roles in the YMCA and its mission. We have given them space and heard them. Now we need to hand in hand with them, build on the momentum ..... to recognise youth potential, to bridge the gap between talk, rhetoric, policy and practice.

Let us not keep youth waiting .....till they become tired.... of waiting. Let us build on the momentum to strengthen our movement as together we respond responsibly and in God's love to the challenges that confront us citizens in a global world.

*May the Lord bless us and keep us, as we, awakened and strengthened by our spirituality, in solidarity join in mission and commitment with our youth in sustaining life, our communities and our Earth.*

**Yip Kok Choong**  
*General Secretary*

**Cristina A. Dalope & Lakshan Dias**  
*Executive Secretaries*

