



# HEADlines

Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs ~ No. 65 / July 2007

## ◀ 17<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY ~ SUPPLEMENTARY PAGES ▶

### 1. Youth/Staff Exchanges – Our Response to Future YMCA Leadership

We believe in young people's roles, capacity and leadership in achieving our mission. In line with the proposals for Youth Development in the Quadrennial Programme Plan (QPP), East Timor, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines have implemented youth exchanges. They are avenues and opportunities for leadership and skills development to respond to issues impacting community today. The YMCAs of Hong Kong and Singapore have active youth volunteer community service programmes in Cambodia and China. The YMCA of Australia supports the Youth Entrepreneur Training Programme in Vietnam. *(Share with us stories of youth development and their engagements in community.)*

Korean Uni-Y members Ms. Kim Ji-hye and Ms. Lee Da-young are on a six-month exchange in the Philippines that began in mid-March. They are engaged in youth leadership development programmes, HIV/AIDS education-prevention with young people and the community; Migrant Workers issues and women empowerment initiatives. Youth volunteer Mr. Hidehiko Otsuka of Morioka YMCA is in East Timor in July and August. He is working with Ishibashi, planning peace building and reconciliation programmes and then implementing the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Timor Leste Youth Peace Camp in August. Two Korean YMCA staff, Mr. Yu and Ms. Yang are in East Timor from middle-April, working on the Fair Trade/Peace Coffee Programme in Same District and with the Terra Santa Community Centre, respectively.

These inter-movement exchanges promote regional solidarity and helps build leadership for the future. We encourage and will be happy to facilitate more of such exchanges.

### 2. Youth Deliberate on Peace-building in the APAY PeacE-Forum

Young people from the region and from other parts of the YMCA world enthusiastically explored peace-building on the YouthNet from 17-25 June. As lead-in to the e-forum, three thematic presentations, two by Sri Lankan YMCA youth and one from a Philippine Interfaith Youth Group for Peace were shared. They described their living with violence, war and how they worked together as young peace builders to transform their own

communities. Following this initial 5-day *PeacE-forum*, many requests have been received from youth to participate in future forums. The next two e-forums will be held in August and October. **The topic for the 20-24 August *PeacE-forum* will be “The World Needs Justpeace, not Just Peace!”** Topics for the October *PeacE-forum* will also be discussed during the August forum.

### 3. Love, Affection and Peace Efforts by Youth

*Let us be more inspired and motivated by young people as they engage in rebuilding communities, touching lives and effecting social transformation through their involvement.*

▶▶ **Fostering Peace** ~ Twenty youth from Hong Kong, Japan and Korea will take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Timor Leste Youth Peace Camp scheduled on 31 July – August 8, 2007 in Dili, Timor Leste (East Timor). They will be joined by East Timorese youth in peace-making activities to foster harmonious relationships in the community. We thank the National Councils of Japan and Korea for collaborating and implementing this camp.

▶▶ **Tsunami: Love and Affection** ~ YMCAs of Kumamoto, Medan and Taiwan will participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nias YMCA Love and Affection Youth Camp in Simeasi, Nias, Indonesia on August 13-20, 2007. Together with local youth volunteers, and the YMCA Tsunami Response Programme community organizers, they will give leadership in organizing activities for Niasan children and youth affected by the earthquakes and tsunami in 2004 and 2005. We thank the Kumamoto YMCA and the National Council of Japan for financially supporting and coordinating the L & A Youth Camp.

▶▶ **Earthquake: Love and Affection** ~ YMCAs of Okayama, YMCA Japan, Jakarta (Metro), Jogjakarta, and Student YMCA of Sleman will cooperatively organize activities with the children survivors (of the May 2006 earthquake) in 4 affected villages. The programme, from 12-18 September, will include the building of a community hall and a home-stay with the villagers. The Student YMCA of Sleman has been active in the rehabilitation work after the earthquake. We thank the Okayama YMCA and the Yogyakarta YMCA for organizing this camp together with the support of the YMCAs of Japan.

#### Leadership for Transformation ~ Focus of 25<sup>th</sup> Advanced Studies Programme

Open to YMCA senior Secretaries/Executives who have completed Basic Secretaries' Training. Check with National General Secretary/APAY Website for details. Participants of this year's Studies will be from China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, and Taiwan; and, from Argentina and Egypt as our South-South cooperation action.

Registration Fee: US\$200; Participation Fee: US\$1,600

Consult your YMCA / National Council  
Visit [www.asiapacificymca.org](http://www.asiapacificymca.org)

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering of ASP Alumni / 25<sup>th</sup> Advanced Studies Graduation

A Gathering of alumni of the ASP from 1981 – serving, retired, resigned, does not matter – will be generously hosted by the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong from 2-4 December (2 nights stay/board) at the “home” of the ASP, the WKS Youth Village.

The 2-day programme will begin at 5.00pm on 2 Dec. and end with lunch on 4 Dec. Those wishing to come earlier or stay longer may do so at your own cost at the Chinese YMCA or other accommodation.

Visit [www.asiapacificymca.org](http://www.asiapacificymca.org) for details.

#### 4. Capacity Building for Tsunami Response Field Organisers and Volunteers

Resource persons Pastor Nelson Siregar and Ir. Parlin Manihuruk inspired the participants of a Capacity Building Workshop for the Nias YTRP team, the volunteers of YMCA Medan engaged in HIV-AIDS Prevention, and Entrepreneurial Skills Development Programme. It was conducted on 28-30 June in Samosir Island, Sumatra, Indonesia.

The workshop strengthened participants' skills for better coordination of responsibilities as a team, learning from one another's experiences in the spirit of oneness and service. The sessions focused on Spirituality, Christian mission, Social Issues, Community Organizing for transformation. YTRP Chief Coordinator Poltak Sigalingging reminded them of the YMCA Mission and reviewed the deliberations of the Tsunami PCG Meeting. They deliberated on the Tsunami Response and other Action Plans for the year. The implementation plans were revised to ensure a more comprehensive and effective approach for the continuing development and transformation of communities.

#### 5. Upcoming Events, August – December 2007

DATES	PROGRAMME	VENUE
17-21 August	APAY-CCA-EED Interfaith Cooperation Partners Meeting*	YMCA Kuala Lumpur
4 September	APAY Nominations Committee Meeting	Empress Hotel, Chiang Mai
4 September	APAY Officers Meeting	Empress Hotel, Chiang Mai
4-5 September	APAY Youth Caucus	YMCA Chiang Mai
5 September	APAY Gender Equity Forum	Empress Hotel, Chiang Mai
5-10 September	APAY 17 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly	Empress Hotel, Chiang Mai
7-12 October	ICF Indigenous Populations and Peace	Indonesia
30 October-4 December	25 <sup>th</sup> Advanced Studies Programme	Wu Kwai Sha, Hong Kong
9-14 November	Micro-financing for Development and Sustainability	To be determined
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

#### 6. Concluding Thoughts ~ Sustainability: Making Everyday an Earth Day?

**The concern about climate change has become more real** with the recently released report of the authoritative Inter-governmental Panel on Climatic Change (IPCC). You may also have read the book or seen the documentary by Al Gore, "*An Inconvenient Truth*". Global warming is difficult to dispute. It is generally accepted now that nature is unsettled. Something has happened to the world's weather. The IPCC has predicted that temperatures will rise 4 degrees Celcius or more by the end of the century. We have seen unprecedented severe weather, intense storms, failing monsoons, increased flooding or drought, rising seas in different parts of the world. Is the increased flooding in Bangladesh, or the sudden floods in England, or the drought in Australia because of global warming?

**As weather changes**, people and animals will be forced to move – as the desert sands encroach into farmland and even towns. Will increased or decreased rainfall or evaporation cause conflicts or even war for water between communities and countries? What about cities as

development and urbanisation result in increased energy consumption, greenhouse-gas emissions and waste? With these and many other changes that impact on our life together on Mother Earth, economic and geopolitical changes will also follow – will the poorer or less developed countries bear the brunt of these and other changes?

**How can we in the 27 YMCAs in Asia and Pacific**, together with another 100 more YMCAs around the world make everyday an Earth Day (*Intel Advertisement: **Earth Day. Everyday***)? Experts in the field are speaking of adaptations, that we can make changes, and take the opportunities for policy changes that could better protect the environment; for pollution and greenhouse gas emission controls. Or for changing wasteful habits in our daily lives. Did we remember to turn off the lights? Did we leave the tap running when we were brushing our teeth this morning? Did we use a hose to wash our cars or water the garden? Are we wearing a sweater in the office because the air-conditioning is set too cold?

**YMCAs in our region** have long discussed environmental issues at various forums. Some are actively engaged in environmental protection and conservation, and sustainability. For example, the Chiang Mai YMCA works with village communities on water conservation/sharing; community forests as a means of conservation of forest and water resources; alternative energy sources and waste management. Myanmar YMCA promotes the use of economic stoves to maximise the heat from a fire source, and mini-hydro electric dams. They promote the Sloping Land Cultivation Technique (SALT farming) to reduce soil erosion in mountainous areas. The Korean YMCA runs Green Shops and campaigns against excessive consumeristic habits. The YMCAs of Hong Kong has the Green Ambassadors to promote sound environmental practices among young people. There are more of such actions around our YMCAs.

**“Sustainability”** is one of the thematic concepts of our General Assembly theme. In Spirituality and Solidarity with our common heritage of Life and the Earth, we need to seriously ask **“Are we ready to change? To make everyday an Earth Day?”** **“How can we live with climate change and do our part for a sustainable future?”**

*May the Lord bless us and keep us as we seek to strengthen our spirituality, our solidarity and our commitment for sustaining our common life, our communities and our Earth.*

**Yip Kok Choong**  
*General Secretary*

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

***We regret the delay in this issue of Headlines ....***

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## supplementary

### 17<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY~UPDATES



\* Design by YKC/07/tammy

### The Logo.....

The Sun, the Sky, the  
Wind,  
the Tree, the Land,  
the Water,  
Humankind, as one  
with the Spirit of God,  
together,  
strengthening  
sustainability  
for a harmonious,  
abundant life for all.

STRENGTHENING SPIRITUALITY, SOLIDARITY, SUSTAINABILITY  
*A Fellowship, Inspiration, Reflection, Sharing-learning Together*  
Gathering  
(A *FIRST* Class Gathering!)



#### 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

## GENERAL ~ PARTICIPATION

**On the 15 July Registration deadline**, registrations and indications were that we could expect up to 350 participants, barring last-minute cancellations. We thank National YMCAs for actively promoting the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to their local YMCAs.

**This must be a first for our Assembly** – ALL the World Alliance Officers, and Executive Committee Members from the region will be joining us at this Assembly: President, Mr. Martin Meissner; Deputy President, Rev. Samuel D. Stephens; Treasurer, Mr. Fernando Ondarza; and Secretary General, Dr. Bart Shaha; Members - Ms. Cristina Miranda, Ms. Helen McEwan, Ms. Hiromi Nagao, and Dr. Park Jai Chang.

### **Other Partners from Around the World:**

Africa Alliance of YMCAs	Mr. Clifford Sileya, President
	Mr. Carlos Sanvee, Area Executive
Y CARE International, UK	Mr. Chris Roles, Executive Director
	Ms. Wumi Onadipe, Director for international Programmes,
YMCA of the USA	Ms. Boon Chin Tan, Sr. Assoc. Director, International Group
CCA	Dr. Prawate Khidarn, General Secretary

## MORE ABOUT KEYNOTE SPEAKER DAVID SELVARAJ .....

**David Selvaraj**, is the founder Executive Director of *Visthar*, a community-based people's development organisation. Founded in 1989. *Visthar* is engaged in development and peace initiatives ~ in leadership development for church and civil society organisations (CSOs), justpeace education and advocacy, and community development.

**He writes about his own formation:** *“My formation, both personal and theological has followed a praxis of action-reflection leading to fresh action. Both by choice and circumstance, I set myself on this path, which has paid rich dividends to my formation. I am grateful to individuals who have journeyed with me, nurturing me in faith and guiding me in my encounters with social realities and for inculcating a commitment to God’s world. I am grateful for the services of my pastor, who taught me a love for the scriptures, the power of relationships and a commitment to the poor. .... I feel deeply indebted to the poor, victim-survivors and members of my family (who from their death bed) taught me the grace and power of the ‘anawim’ to bring about healing and wholeness to a world that is fragmented and tortured.”*

David has been engaged in consulting on developmental programmes for many years. His continuing engagement in community organising work is the development and sustaining of *Visthar*, the work of which reaches beyond the doors and confines of the institutional church, re-building peoples lives, communities and peace. In 2005, he also launched an alternate residential school for girl children of “temple prostitutes” and continues to be involved in campaigns on violence against women. In 1997-2000, he assisted the Church of South India (CSI) to establish a new department focussing on actions of relief, development and peace. He has also conducted many training programmes on Peace and Development for churches.

David is a dynamic, inspirational, challenging and down-to-earth contextual speaker. He is familiar with the YMCA and its Mission and has facilitated modules on *Contemporary Theological Perspectives* and *Building Civil Society* at the Advanced Studies in 2004, 2005 and 2006. He is also a key facilitator for the School of Peace run by the Joint APAY-CCA-EED Interfaith Cooperation Forum at the *Visthar* campus.

*(David will also be conducting a Seminar/Workshop on “Rediscovering the Biblical Message in Context” on 9 September, in spite of a very busy schedule.)*

### **GEForum FOR INCREASED GENDER SENSITIVITY AND RESPONSIVENESS**

*The Pre-Assembly Gender Equity Forum (GEForum)* on 5 September (2:30pm-6:30pm) for both women and men is for exchange of opinions and reflection on issues of gender sensitivity and responsiveness in the YMCA. **Ms. Wumi Onadipe, Director International Programmes, Y Care International**, with more than 20 years experience in the field of gender equity and women empowerment will deliver the key input. The Forum will focus more on the “hows” of women development and involvement so that together we will be able to further advance women’s role as partners and leaders in the YMCA and in the community.

Participate in the GEForum to promote gender equity and to motivate your YMCA to sustain efforts for gender justice and gender-based programmes.

### **YOUTH DOING ACTIONS, RESPONDING TOGETHER (DART)**

*In the Pre-Assembly Youth Caucus* on 4-5 September, our Youth will share their Voices, share their actions and responses to concerns and realities in society. Together we will Dialogue on future directions towards increased youth participation and leadership in the YMCA at all levels. They will identify practical and socially relevant priority actions and responses

Commitment throughout the movement is needed to move from rhetoric to reality-actions. We encourage our National Movements to continue supporting the participation and development of young people as they engage in helping us identify issues and **DART** towards a better community for all.

Youth, with their *idealism, enthusiasm, and initiative*, our beacon of hope for a brighter and better today and tomorrow, lest our Vision be lost amidst the realities around us.

### **WITNESSING TO TRANSFORMATION**

*“Witness Rooms”, is the answer to one of the main concerns of the Assembly Planning Team:* “How can we know and show how we are relevant to our community?” “How can we ensure that we stay relevant?” Other than inputs from resource persons and the whole-day exposures, another key programme component of the Assembly will be the “Witness Rooms”.

Witness Rooms will be used as a medium of sharing-learning-reflection. Here, will be the space and time to interact and share-learn about various action responses that are impacting our society, and see how we have been and can be relevant where we are. We want to share experiences and life stories in building community in solidarity for the “abundant life”.

*Some proposed actions:* mission-response at grassroots; response to youth isolation in highly urbanised environments; Youth “Green Ambassadors”; community building and transformation; peace-initiatives; specific HIV and AIDS responses; international movement of people and marriage (foreign brides), Youth Volunteerism, etc.

### **FOCUSSING FOR THE FUTURE ~ ENSURING MISION CLARITY AND SOCIAL RELEVANCE**

*For collective envisioning of our Future in Focus*, to bring together the learning about *who we are* and *what we do*, participants will have the opportunity to express their concerns and vision for

the next Quadrennium. This is when we focus on how we can best express the YMCA Mission in relation to the thematic concepts of *Spirituality, Solidarity and Sustainability*. How can we ensure that our service is socially relevant to the community we serve?

How can we, in the words of David, ensure that following “***a praxis of action-reflection leading to fresh action***” with “***a love for the scriptures, the power of relationships and a commitment to the poor***” ***we will go forth*** to translate our declarations into fresh actions and responses together?

### **SHARING AND LEARNING TOGETHER IN SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS ...**

**Objective:** *To provide sharing and learning opportunities to explore issues and concerns within the diverse regional realities for greater mission clarity, social relevance, responsiveness, and, institutional viability as we work towards transformation of communities for sustainability and abundant life for all.*

**Sharing and Learning Together in Seminars and Workshops** is a response to the diversity in experiences and expectations of equally diverse Assembly participants. Participants will be able to engage “comfortably” at their own interest or concern level in a variety of issues of concern and skills or a blend of both.

The Seminars/Workshops will be repeated. Each participant will be able to participate in two Seminars/Workshops of their choice that they will register for. Registered participants will receive Sign-up Form – please respond as early as possible to enable finalisation of logistical details.

**Some Topics:** Rediscovering the Biblical Message in Context; Developing Participatory Ecumenical Worship; Living with Global Warming and Climate Change; Challenges of Social Transformation at Grassroots; Diversities and Inclusiveness; Poverty, Development and Sustainability; Alternative Tourism and development; Disaster Response – Lessons from the Tsunami and Typhoons; Global Citizenship, Social Responsibility in Action; Child Rights; Internet E-news Writing; Appreciative Inquiry and Strategic Planning; Resource Development and Management; etc.

### **LEARNING IN THE COMMUNITY, EXPOSURES FAR AND WIDE**

**Exposures to YMCA and community responses to contextual realities** impacting on their lives will help us learn how the YMCA in Thailand has responded to social realities in partnership with the communities.

They include work related to community organising for development, HRH’s concept of village self-sufficiency; economic and environmental sustainability; local leadership-governance – gender equity; children, youth, girls at risk; indigenous culture preservation/handicrafts, etc.

Registered participants will receive Exposure Sign-up Forms to indicate their preferences, prior to the Assembly. This is for necessary logistical arrangements as the sites selected for the exposures are village communities that are between an hour and two from Chiang Mai, and in some instances further away, e.g. the Bangkok YMCA Phayao Centre (Girls at Risk).

### **TOWARDS THE 2<sup>ND</sup> GOLDEN MILLION!**

**With the achievement of the 1<sup>st</sup> GATF\* Million, the Campaign for the 2<sup>nd</sup> GATF Million will be launched** at the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. We will be recognising those movements and

individuals who have made significant contributions at Council Meeting and General Assembly. At the same time, we appeal to movements and participants to be ready to make pledges or contributions during the Launch to kick-start the Campaign. We have done a Million together.....let us do the 2<sup>nd</sup> Million together!

**A GATF Bazaar**, a collective fundraising event, was held during the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly by participating Movements. It was “fun and fellowship” time. Participants mingled and “bought” traditional/indigenous handicraft, souvenirs, etc. for a cause. It will be an excellent opportunity for movements small and large, rural or urban, a year old or a Century old, and participants to play a part in supporting the GATF by contributing (items for sale) or making purchases at the GATF Bazaar. Local YMCAs are encouraged to participate through your National Movement.

**\*GATF ~ Golden Anniversary Trust Fund**

*Officially launched in 1999 at the APAY's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Manila. It is a Trust Fund to support in good global citizenship, socially relevant Mission Action Programmes that help transform lives and communities.*

**ASIA PACIFIC NIGHT ~ HOSTS' DINNER**

**The Thai Alliance and the Chiang Mai YMCA** will host a farewell dinner with traditional *Lanna* fare on **9 September 2007, Sunday**. Movements have been invited to put on a cultural presentation ~ traditional / indigenous music, songs, dances and other cultural expressions at the Asia Pacific Night. The Hosts will also arrange for a Thai Cultural Presentation. Come in your traditional costumes...make it a most colourful and enjoyable time of fellowship!

**Quadrennial Council Meetings ~ 5 & 8 September**

**National Movements are reminded** to note that the Quadrennial Council Meeting, as per *Article II of the APAY Constitution (see below)*, shall be held at the General Assembly. The QC Meetings are scheduled for 8.00pm – 10:00pm on 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, due recognition to the role of youth in the decision-making processes of our Alliance.

**MORE INFORMATION NEXT HEADlines**

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