



# APAY NEWS

Monthly e-Newsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs No. 05 / 09 ~ September 2009

## 1. Update: Disasters ~ South East Asia Typhoon and Quake

The week of recent catastrophes caused great devastation, leaving millions of people homeless and the death toll expected to soar into the thousands. First was the Typhoon Ketsana - one of the most destructive storms in years that extended its deathly paths across SEA affecting the Philippines, Vietnam and Laos. Then came the earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 that affected a good part of the region of Padang, Sumatra, Indonesia"

We share with you excerpts from reports of the National Councils of YMCA Philippines and Vietnam, which were heavily affected by Typhoon Ketsana. (*Full report/appeal uploaded on our website*). Attached are also some photo reports from Medan YMCA, Indonesia that formed a Volunteer Team who visited and assessed the affected area of earthquake victims on 3 October 2009. We are awaiting a written report and rehabilitation work plans from the National Council of YMCAs of Indonesia.

We have already made an initial appeal for financial support to our member Movements and to our international community. We thank those Movements who have immediately responded to this appeal and expressed a ready-hand to support the rehabilitation works of these affected countries thru the YMCAs.

*Excerpt from a Report of Ms. Eloisa Borreo, NGS, YMCA of the Philippines*

### **Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) Relief / Rehabilitation Action Response**

On 26 September 2009, Typhoon Ondoy brought a month's worth of rainfall to Metro Manila and nearby areas in just few hours, causing severe flooding. It resulted in loss of lives and displacement of thousands of families. Communities around the Laguna Lake east of Metro Manila are still submerged in floodwaters affecting some 2 million residents. Farms, housing developments, factories and tourist resorts in the said areas remain under water. Of the six million residents around the Laguna Lake, about 2.2 million live in districts that would stay flooded for three months.

Immediately after the disaster, some local YMCAs in Metro Manila have taken some small steps and initiatives to give their share and contribute to other organizations' relief efforts. The YMCA of the Visayas Region has turned over Fifty Thousand Pesos to the YMCA of the Philippines as donation for an organized and coordinated relief and recovery efforts.

We have identified severely affected communities and appeal for support to help us mobilize resources to provide emergency relief goods for 545 families.

*Excerpt from a Report by Mr. Luu Van Loc, NGS, YMCA of Vietnam*

### **Update ~ Typhoon Ketsana in Central Vietnam**

As you may know, the Typhoon Ketsana (called typhoon No 9 in Vietnam) entered our country on 26 September, 2009 with the winds up to 90 mph (144 kph) and has severely affected 9 coastal provinces from the north to the centre of Vietnam: Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and 4 western highlands provinces: Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dac Nong and Lam Dong.

#### Current situation of Ketsana typhoon as of 1<sup>st</sup> October

- 168,585 people had been evacuated.
- 101 lost lives, mainly by landslides and the collapse of their houses in the vicious winds and heavy rains; 23 still missing; 200 were injured
- Rivers are rising and many mountainous districts in western highlands provinces have been isolated by mudslides.
- 6,376 houses have been completely destroyed and washed away.
- 176,672 houses have been damaged, 173,611 houses have been flooded.
- 21,424 hectares of rice have been flooded and damaged.
- 15,000 hectares of agricultural products have been damaged.
- 80 public constructions have been affected.
- 652,000 m2 landslides.
- 179 boats sank.

#### Relief & Rehabilitation Program

Among the affected provinces, we have chosen Kon Tum, which is a mountainous inland province, situated about 450 km from HCMC and has been the most affected by the typhoon, with 30 people lost lives. We are contacting the local authorities of Kon Tum province for our relief and rehabilitation program scheduled between 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. We will be selecting 200 families to receive relief items in one affected village of this province.

Presently, we have formed the Relief and Rehabilitation team comprised of staff and volunteers to prepare the relief works. We are collecting used clothing, note books, stationery for the children and raise funds among us.




*(L-R: Mr. Tumpal Simanjuntak of Medan YMCA having a meeting with youth group, Nurse Academy and local church).*

Medan YMCA formed a Volunteer Team in coordination with Ephorus (the Management) of the Christian Protestant Mentawai Church (GKPM) in Padang, Mandiri Love Foundation (YCM) Sandang and YCM ~ Korta.

We express our sympathies and sadness at the loss of lives and properties. We pray for comfort for the survivors and strengthen for the relief workers and other workers engaged in the massive support work. May God be with all the affected at this time of disaster.

Please remember that in the last issue of our eNews, we featured Typhoon Morakot that hit Taiwan and also appealed for support. We are also awaiting the long-term recovery work of Taiwan YMCA.

## 2. December 12 is APAY S2S Day!

	<p>As decided at the last Executive Committee Meeting 2009, we will be conducting a fundraising campaign “SKIP to SAVE (S2S). Under this programme, all YMCA members are encouraged to skip a meal and the money saved will go to the youths for leadership development programmes and activities for them.</p> <p>We are preparing a special video for this Campaign. Please watch it on Youtube and this will also be uploaded on our new website and youth groups on facebook.</p>
<p><i>Our special thanks to the Corporate Communications and Marketing Section and Audio Visual Unit of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and to the Communications Department of Hong Kong YMCA for this S2S campaign logo/promotional video.</i></p>	<p>We will be launching this programme on December 12, 2009 and it will also be our 1<sup>st</sup> APAY S2S Day! Please join us and do it with your friends and all YMCA members within our region. Together we can do much for the youths!</p> <p>Watch out for more information...</p>

## 3. 27<sup>th</sup> Advanced Studies Programme (ASP) Commences on 27 October

The 27<sup>th</sup> ASP will officially commence on 27 October with a Welcome Ceremony to be hosted by Hong Kong YMCA. The newly elected President of the Hong Kong YMCA, Mr. Patrick Yip will be the Inaugural Speaker.

Study of Contemporary Theological Perspectives, Contextual Realities and Impact, Study of YMCA Movement and its Mission in Context and Planning and Writing Contextual Programme Response are the main components of the 35-days staff leadership for transformation programme. Exposures and contextual programme responses on sustainable community-based movements, global citizenship, focused issues on migrant works, women and youth, ageing and urban poor will be part of their experiential learning. Building YMCA Capacity on Good Governance, Resource Generation & Management and a workshop on Project Proposal Development shall likewise be given emphasis in this training programme.

#### **4. Workshop on Gender Concerns and Migration**

About 30 participants are expected to attend the Workshop on Gender and Migration on 14-17 December in Metro YMCA Singapore. This programme will use a combination of experiential, reflective, participative approaches. There will be exposures, case presentations/panel discussions to stimulate active exchange of views and sharing of experiences among the participants, the resource persons and the facilitators. The workshop will have two major components: Part 1~*Updated Gender Equity Survey* and Part 2~*Migration*.

Movements are highly encouraged to send volunteers and staff (both women and men). Registration closes on 20 November 2009. ([Details available on our website](#))

#### **5. Nominations Called for Hosting of the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

National Movements are invited to submit their offers to host the 18<sup>th</sup> APAY General Assembly in 2011. Details have been circulated and completed questionnaire must be returned to the APAY Secretariat before 15 January 2010. A summary list of potential Hosts will be presented to the Executive Committee in March 2010 for consideration and decision.

#### **6. YMCA South East Asia Peace Forum**

The YMCAs of Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand gathered for a forum on peace in YMCA Penang on 27 September 2009. Dr. Park Jai Chang, President of the APAY delivered the opening address. Mr. Liew Mun Khai, Vice President of the APAY chaired the forum. Dr. Francis Loh made the key presentation focusing on peace and security issues in South East Asia and provided framework for peace building process in South East Asian context. The national movements shared their current engagements on peace building and also the pressing issues that they are facing in their countries. APAY General Secretary, Mr. Kohei Yamada shared about the concept of School of Peace and suggested to organize a short-term school of peace for the youth in the YMCA. He also shared the concept of the APAY Partnership Project and encouraged developing peace-building project as part of APP.

#### **7. Forum on Ageing**

Forum on Ageing was held at the YMCA Penang from 27 September to 1 October 2009. 48 participants from 10 countries participated in the forum. Dr. Christopher Beer, former CEO of the Help Age International and Y Care International and Mr. Godfred Paul of Help Age (Asia-Pacific Region) served as the key facilitators. YMCAs of Myanmar, Chiangmai (Thailand), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Thumpamon (India), Metro Y Singapore, Chinese Y of Hong Kong and AgeNet Thailand shared their good practices on Ageing. The forum developed a framework for YMCAs response to ageing and suggested recommendations to National and APAY for furthering responses. The participants visited the Volunteers programme of the Adventist hospital as part of the exposure visit.

Dr. Park Jai Chang, President, APAY inaugurated the forum and Rev. Daniel Lim, Deputy Chair of the CMSR committee chaired. We express our deepest thanks to YMCA Penang and the National Council of YMCAs of Malaysia for their invaluable support for the successful forum.

## **8. Peace School at the 4<sup>th</sup> YMCA Peace Camp in Timor-Leste**

*Report by Mr. Orasio Mendes, Executive Director, ANJUCTIL (YMCA of Timor Leste)*

More than 100 Timorese children participated in the peace school as the main activity of this year's YMCA International Youth Peace Camp in Timor-Leste held last 5-10 August. The peace school was aimed to gather the Timorese children to share, learn and play with them. This was very important in this context because of the military crisis in 2006 affected thousand of families who left their homes and lived in IDP camps (Internally Displaced Camps). This caused them get stressed, trauma and feel afraid. Through this activity, it helped them understand the situation and the importance of peace in their community.

Exposure visits to historical places, ecumenical worship, cultural night & sharing and discussion on peace related issues were part of the camp programme. Some members of Student Christian Movement (SCM-TL) and YWCA of Australia participated in the worship and bible study session. International participants from Japan and Korea were joined by staff and members of ANJUCTIL.

## **9. Hong Kong YMCA Elects New President**

We congratulate Mr. Patrick Yip on his election as the new President of Hong Kong YMCA at their Annual General Meeting held on 23 September 2009. Mr. Yip has been serving the YMCA Board since August 1998. He was the Vice-President from 2007 until his election as President this year. Concurrently, he is serving as Chair of Member & Programme Services Committee and as Treasurer of YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College. Mr. Yip also chaired the Finance & Audit Committee and was a member of the Christian Outreach Committee.

The new President is Deloitte Deputy Tax Managing Partner for Greater China. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and is a member of both the American Institute of CPAs and Hong Kong Institute of CPAs.

## **10. News and Updates from our Movements...**

### ***Chinese YMCA Launches its Culture of Peace Campaign 2009***

On 21 September ~ UN International Day of Peace, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong launched a citywide promotional activity for its Culture of Peace Campaign 2009. Started in 2007, this year's theme is dedicated to "I'm a Global Citizen" using a slogan "Love Through Reconciliation". This aims to promote solidarity and the healing of relationships, as ways to bring about peace to our world, and as one of the notions of Global Citizenship. The celebration included the distribution of over 150,000 Peace Cards in different parts of Hong Kong, launching of the website <http://www.ymca.org.hk/peaceday> and email promotion to all the kindergarten, primary and secondary schools, NGOs, corporations and around 60,000 individuals. We have also published a full-page colour advertisement on local newspapers.

Another highlight of this campaign is our work for the annual YMCA Peace Day, which falls on 14 November this year. Apart from the media promotion, a series of educational programmes related to our campaign will be organized by our service units over the period of 3 months all over Hong Kong, as we hope to carry the message as part of the run ups of the World Council 2010. *(Report by Mr. Eric Wong, International and Mainland Affairs Section, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong)*

### ***Japan YMCA Pilots Youth Global Citizenship Education***

Youth participants from the East Asia sub-region were gathered together for the 1<sup>st</sup> Japan YMCA Youth Global Citizenship Project 2009 –Summer Training in Tozanso. Mr. Song Jin Ho, Senior Executive Director of the National Council of YMCAs of Korea gave a presentation on globalization, various global issues and their project response. In order to deepen our understanding on issues, we were exposed to fieldwork focusing on the theme of multicultural society, peace, poverty and economic gap, and sustainable development. Staffs from the Development Education Association and Resource Center facilitated a development education workshop. Our last day was committed for doing our action plans that would be carried out in our own local YMCAs and communities.

The training programme was held in YMCA Tozanso International Conference Center from 22-28 August with 60 participants including guests, facilitators and staffs from China, Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan and Japan. (*Report by Ms. Maki Enokita, Staff Intern, NCY Japan*)

### ***Hong Kong YMCA Social Enterprise Supports Sichuan Rebuilding Works***

Love to Draw, Love to Hope...a Sichuan T-shirt Social Enterprise Project of Hong Kong YMCA to support families affected by the earthquake. Sichuan families are being trained to express their feelings through drawings since April 2009. Drawing instructors and volunteers develop the feelings and drawing concepts of Sichuan families into drawings for T-shirt printing. Vulnerable groups are hired to work for this printing process. All revenue generated from this project will be used to support various community and economic rebuilding works in Sichuan through YMCA. Sichuan T-shirts are sold at G2000 outlets here in Hong Kong as they have co-operated to launch and support this meaningful project. Bring hope to Sichuan families!

### ***Act Now! ~ India YMCA Youth Camp 2009***

The National Council of YMCAs of India is holding its National Youth Camp 2009 from 16-18 October at Bombay YMCA Camp Lakeside. The camp is being organised with the idea to sustain youthful dynamism of the movement, while offering youths a sense of adventure and a unique opportunity to experience outward-bound learning. Local YMCA youth members and volunteers are expected to attend this 4-days programme and deliberate on the theme ~ Act Now!

## **11. Eumenical News...Our Partners...and Networks**

### ***Regional NGOs Meeting Set on 24 October, Hong Kong***

Following the initial meeting of regional NGOs in Hong Kong, another meeting is set on 24 October to strengthen their network and further collaboration dealing on a common issue ~ migration. Some partners shall be requested to share their programmes and responses on this issue. The APAY will host this meeting and representatives of the following are expected to attend: Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), Asian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC), World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) – Asia Pacific, Asian Students Association (ASA), Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT), Asian Migrant Centre (AMC), Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) and the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY).

### ***International Consultation on Peace, Reconciliation and Reunification of Korean Peninsula***

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) will be jointly organising the International Consultation on Peace, Reconciliation and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula. This is scheduled on 21-23 October 2009 in Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong. Twenty-five years have passed since the ecumenical family has been deeply involved and concerned about peace and reconciliation of the Korean peninsula. The first consultation was held in Tozanso, Japan in 1984 and this is the time for various ecumenical actors to come together to reflect and envision future ecumenical strategies for accompaniment.

Around 100 participants including representatives of churches in North and South Korea, ecumenical and church partners from Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia will attend. The APAY will be represented by Dr. Park Jai Chang, President and Mr. Kohei Yamada, General Secretary

### ***EASY Net Week Celebration***

YMCAs are invited to join and observe the Ecumenical Asia & Pacific Youth Network (EASY Net) Week Celebration on 18-24 October together with the partners (CCA, IMCS, IYCS, WSCF-AP and YWCA). This year's theme will focus on "Ecumenical Youth Movement on Ecological Justice". Please get in touch with the YMCA representative of your National Council and/or with the Coordinator of the National Ecumenical Teams (NET) organised in Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

### ***National Youth and Students Consultative Training Workshop***

The Philippines National Ecumenical Team (PhilNet) held its National Youth and Students Consultative Training Workshop last 14-16 August with the theme "Affirming Our Ecumenical Journey, Moving Towards Shalom". This was enjoined by the 5 member organizations of PhilNet ~ YMCA, YWCA, National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), Student Christian Movement (SCM) and Student Catholic Action of the Philippines that hosted the workshop. The programme was aimed at strengthening partnership among member organizations and to create possibilities for future growth and direction. The consultative training is part of PhilNet's National Youth & Students Gathering (NSYG).

*(Report by Ms. Johanna C. Dela Cruz, Asst. Program Secretary-Youth Desk, NCCP, PhilNet Coordinator)*

### ***ICF Workshop in Sri Lanka Focuses on Organic Farming***

Ten participants from Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand learned theoretical knowledge and gained practical experience about organic farming. The workshop was an attempt to mimic nature and put emphasis on the link between organic farming and better health. Ways to make compost and the liquid fertilizer wormy wash were some of the practical skills learned as well as the value of recycling to reduce the cost of farm inputs. In addition, the group spent one day visiting more than 10 organic home gardens near the training center that taught them how many diverse varieties of fruits and vegetables can be grown on a small piece of land. Some of the participants intend to use organic farming as a tool or entry point to organize their communities when they return home. Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) organized this workshop from 6 – 12 September at the Gami Sevana training center south of Kandy in Sri Lanka. *(Report by Bruce Van Voorhis, APAY Coordinator for Interfaith Programs)*

## 12. Happy Anniversary YMCA! ~ Penang YMCA Turns 50!

The Penang YMCA in Malaysia celebrated its Golden Anniversary with a series of events last 25-27 September 2009. APAY President, Dr. Park Jai Chang and Mr. Kohei Yamada, APAY General Secretary led the overseas guests from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. They were joined by YMCAs in Malaysia at the Thanksgiving Service and Dinner Celebrations. APAY Vice Presidents, Mr. Liew Mun Khai and Rev. Jack Young were also present. The Chief Minister of Penang, YAB Mr. Lim Guan Eng, graced the Anniversary Dinner.

Focusing on the theme “Reaching Out, Transforming Lives”, the celebrations included Twinning Ceremony with YMCA of Chiang Mai, Thailand and with Metropolitan YMCA Singapore; Dedication of Multi-Purpose hall and Sealing Ceremony of Time-Capsule. A very interesting Heritage Tour was likewise organised for the foreign guests.

As part of their celebration, Penang YMCA also hosted the YMCA South East Asia Peace Forum and our Forum on Ageing.

*Do let us know your anniversaries and share some of your celebration stories!*

## 13. Surveys...Surveys...Surveys...

### ***Gender Equity Survey 09 ~ General Summary***

As earlier circulated, we share with you some key points and general analysis of this year's survey:

1. 18 Respondents – 16 National Movements and 2 local YMCAs of Hong Kong
2. Membership with voting rights is a good start to get more women in the YMCA. 17 YMCAs responded with voting rights.
3. Women members in local YMCAs, local boards and national committees decreased (*as compared in the past surveys*). There's only a slight increase in the national board.
4. Steady progress in leadership (senior) position for women volunteers and staff in both national and local. However, the representation is still small in number.
5. There's still a very small percentage of Certified Professional Secretaries although this represents increase of figure from the past.
6. There were some indicators of changes and improvements on the implementation of policies and formation of task groups/committees.
7. As regards the gaps (*towards gender responsiveness*) in our own Movements, the most common gaps: 2 factors ranked *first, Lack of understanding and Not equipped to handle the issue; second Cultural beliefs/Reasons of Society; third, The name “YMCA”; fourth, Seen as women's issues and fifth, Constitution and By-laws*. These factors were also prevalent in the past.
8. Very few YMCAs shared programmes/activities with gender-related concerns or women's issues.
9. There were some specific plans mentioned in translating Challenge 21
10. Local and National YMCAs have a greater role and important participation towards gender responsiveness within our YMCAs/communities

*Full details of the report can be downloaded from our website. This document will be used at the forthcoming Workshop on Gender Concerns and Migration in Metro YMCA Singapore this December 14-17.*

There are still few Movements who have not responded to the Youth and National Movement's Surveys. Please send all your completed survey forms to the APAY Secretariat (*Attn: Cristina Dalope*) the soonest possible time. We need these documents for the ongoing "information architecture" of our new website.

#### **14. Reminder! APAY Partnership Project**

We wish to remind Movements who plans to submit their project concept notes for the APAY Partnership Project (APP) before 20 October (*Attn: Jose Varghese*). The APP is intended to provide opportunities for the YMCAs in the developing countries to initiate local action programs in line with the regional thrusts. (*Details available on our website: [www.asiapacificymca.org](http://www.asiapacificymca.org)*)

#### **15. WAY Workshop on Global Citizenship in England**

On 7 to 11 October 2009, the World Alliance will organize a Workshop on Global Citizenship to be hosted by the Coventry YMCA in Coventry, England. This aims to develop a global framework and perspective on global citizenship that could be adopted at the local and national levels and used as a basis for the development of programmes and a strategy for global citizenship education.

Dr. Park Jai Chang, APAY President Chairs a special Task Force to develop and promote the notion of global citizenship. This is in response to a resolution adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Council of YMCAs in Durban. Dr. Park and our Executive Secretary for Programmes, Mr. Jose Varghese will attend this workshop.

#### **16. YMCA Global Photo Competition ~ World Council 2010**

The World Alliance of YMCAs (WAY) will be launching a global photo competition to gather images from around the world to gather a collection of images from around the world that effectively illustrate the YMCA's mission and activities, and its impact on the lives of young people and their communities in a creative way.

The winning photographs will be selected by an international jury composed of renowned professionals in the field of photography and graphic arts. Selected photographs will be exhibited during the World Council of YMCAs 2010, to be held in Hong Kong. More information will be posted on WAY website: [www.ymca.int](http://www.ymca.int)

#### **17. Let's Stay Connected ~ Share News and Information**

National Movements are invited to share programme stories, news and information. Please send us your articles/news reports by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month. (*Attn: Cristina Dalope*)

#### **18. We remember in our prayers...**

Mr. Harold Jenner who passed away recently. He is the former National General Secretary of YMCA of Australia (1970-79).

## 19. Erratum

We would like to correct a statement of our August eNews issue on story 18 ~ From the Desk of the General Secretary. The following statement “This YMCA Building was badly hit by the Tsunami” should have been written as “This YMCA community was badly hit by Tsunami”. Our apologies.

## 20. Forthcoming Events/Meetings

DATES	EVENTS	VENUE
26 Oct – 28 Nov	27 <sup>th</sup> Advanced Studies Programme	Wu Kwai Sha, Hong Kong
14-17 December	Regional Workshop: Gender Concerns and Migration	Metro YMCA Singapore
14-17 January	Global Warming Workshop	To be announced later
9 March 2010	Natl General Secretaries Meeting/Officers Meeting	Hong Kong
10-11 March 2010	Resource Mobilisation Workshop	Hong Kong
11-13 March 2010	Executive Committee Meeting	Hong Kong
14-18 March 2010	Global Citizenship Education for Youth	Macau

## 21. From the Desk of the General Secretary.... *Focusing on Indonesia and Nepal...*

As I have mentioned before, there are 27 Movements including 4 non-affiliate members, namely, China, Cambodia, East Timor and Mongolia. One of the important roles of APAY is to visit and assess the needs and difficulties faced by member Movements. Over the last decade we have managed to start up two new Movements – Cambodia and East Timor, and at the same time we have lost Papua New Guinea and Samoa. We need to be in close contact with our Movements to learn and understand their problems and difficulties lest we lose them without giving them some assistance. Our office has identified 8 Movements that will receive special attention from us. These Movements are Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam, Fiji, Tahiti, Cambodia and East Timor. They have been struggling for survival.

I had the opportunity to visit Indonesia and Nepal and have managed to speak to some of their lay leaders and make an assessment of the situation there. Indeed they do need help very urgently and I will be preparing a detailed report of my visits there for further action.

Let me just share with you some of the current realities and concerns of these 2 YMCAs.

*Indonesian YMCAs* ~ over the last several years, the leadership of the National Council changed many times. After the NGS resigned in 2007, the NCY stopped functioning. The National Assembly of 2008 elected a new President and he too resigned in less than a year. And in the recently concluded Assembly a new National President and a new National General Secretary was appointed.

At the same meeting, I was able to listen to reports of some surviving YMCAs. There are officially 14 local YMCAs and one YMCA Foundation that is responsible for the administration for all assets of the National Council. YMCAs of Metro Jakarta, Malang, Makassar, Salatiga, Yogyakarta, Medan and Surabaya shared their programmes and major issues. I have learned that some of them are being led by young people addressing some social issues like HIV/AIDS, global warming, inter-faith, childcare education and with strong youth group of university students. But, it was sad to note that the efforts of these youths are sometimes not supported by the local YMCAs who are inactive and that the ownership rights of their properties and assets are challenged in courts.

*Nepal YMCAs* ~ The YMCA Movement started in Nepal in 1997 and Mr. Mukti Acharya served as the General Secretary since 2002. Aside from Mukti, the National Council has a full time assistant staff in a rented office space. There are 8 local YMCAs and one Uni-Y organised.

During my visit, I have found out that the Childcare Center is doing well. Three centers have women empowerment programmes offering short-term course on sewing. The Uni-Ys have regular activities that include tree planting with government support and they provide tutorial services to the village children. Both the President and Secretary of Uni-Y are members of the Board of Nepal YMCA.

Knowing this situation, I feel that there is much need to train leadership in both the board and staff. It is essential for Nepal YMCA to develop from among the youth members in Uni-Y and include more leaders from the business sector, church groups and NGOs.

I believe these two Movements have great potential in working with the poor and marginalized in their communities, but they need guidance and assistance to keep their programs and activities going. As brothers and sisters in the same boat to serve our Movement, I appeal to all of you to consider coming forward to give a helping hand in developing and making these Movements grow.

May God be always with us in all our works in YMCA!

**Kohei Yamada**  
*General Secretary*

**Cristina A. Dalope & Jose Varghese**  
*Executive Secretaries*

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