

# ASIA & PACIFIC ALLIANCE OF YMCAs

**ENGAGING  
EQUIPPING &  
EMPOWERING**

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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## ABOUT US

### ASIA AND PACIFIC ALLIANCE OF YMCAS

The Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY), an integral part of the World Alliance of YMCAs, is a federation of 24 National/territorial YMCA Movements in the region of Asia and the Pacific, with its office based in Hong Kong.

As a faith-based social movement, YMCA is an international, voluntary, ecumenical organization based on the Christian teachings and values of justice, peace and love. It promotes Inter-Movement Cooperation among National Movements, other regions, and with the World Alliance. It draws on the spirit of mutual trust and accountability, and serves as a platform for dialogue, consultation, capacity-building and collective advocacy.

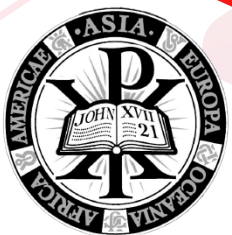
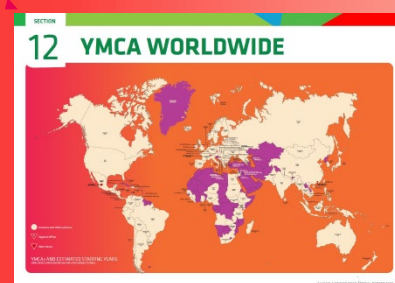
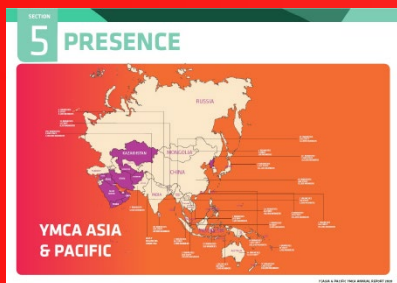
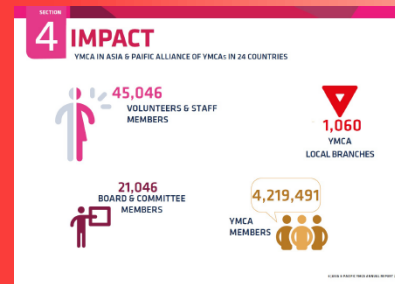
APAY and its member associations currently work on the worldwide YMCA Movement themes related to youth empowerment (global citizenship), building peace with justice (including the Inter-Faith Cooperation Forum), sustainable community development, gender justice and equity, climate emergency and alternative tourism, most of which are closely linked to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

### THE WORLDWIDE YMCA MOVEMENT

YMCA is one of the oldest and largest youth-focused movements in the world. Founded in 1844, it now operates in 120 countries and reaches 64 million people every year. YMCA associations are strongly rooted in their communities and offer a variety of programmes and services based on local priorities and issues affecting young people. The worldwide YMCA movement is committed to promoting empowerment, social justice and peace for young people through four key areas – Health, Employment, Environment and Civic Engagement. These programme areas cover all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and unite us in our mission to empower young people so that they may transform the world for the better.



# CONTENTS









# FOREWORD

2020 will always be remembered as one of the most challenging and difficult years. The unabating Covid-19 pandemic throughout the year was the main cause of this adversity, with the disruption that it brought to so many aspects of our lives – the social, the economic, the cultural, the political, the spiritual.

Amidst these challenges and hardships, the Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY), in close collaboration with the National YMCA Movements in our region and beyond, strived to cope with these rough tides in overcoming the difficulties faced by the whole YMCA family.

In the spirit of inter-Movement cooperation and mutual support, we remained faithful to our Quadrennial Program Plan (QPP) 2020-2023.

This 2020 Annual Report is an expression of our collective endeavors in witnessing God's unfolding ministry in times of uncertainty, fear, and vulnerability.

The new format of this Annual Report is the result of collaboration between the World Alliance of YMCAs and all the Area Alliances. Though the Asia Pacific Alliance will publish a longer narrative report at a later stage, this coordinated report gives a bird's-eye view of all the programs and activities of the global YMCA movements in 2020. We hope this collaboration will continue and get even stronger in the future.

We want to convey our deep gratitude and thanks to all the stakeholders of our region who made their unique and their utmost contribution to the work and ministry of the Asia Pacific Alliance, in so many diverse and creative ways.

To name some of them: the National Presidents and National General Secretaries, the Board members and Standing Committee/Task Force Chairs and members, many local YMCAs and their members and staff, the Asia Pacific Alliance's partners both within and outside YMCA movement, resource persons and funding partners, as well as our own staff members. We sincerely hope that this Annual Report will serve as a resource and also a prompt for ever more relevant and impactful work in the months and years to come.

28th February 2021



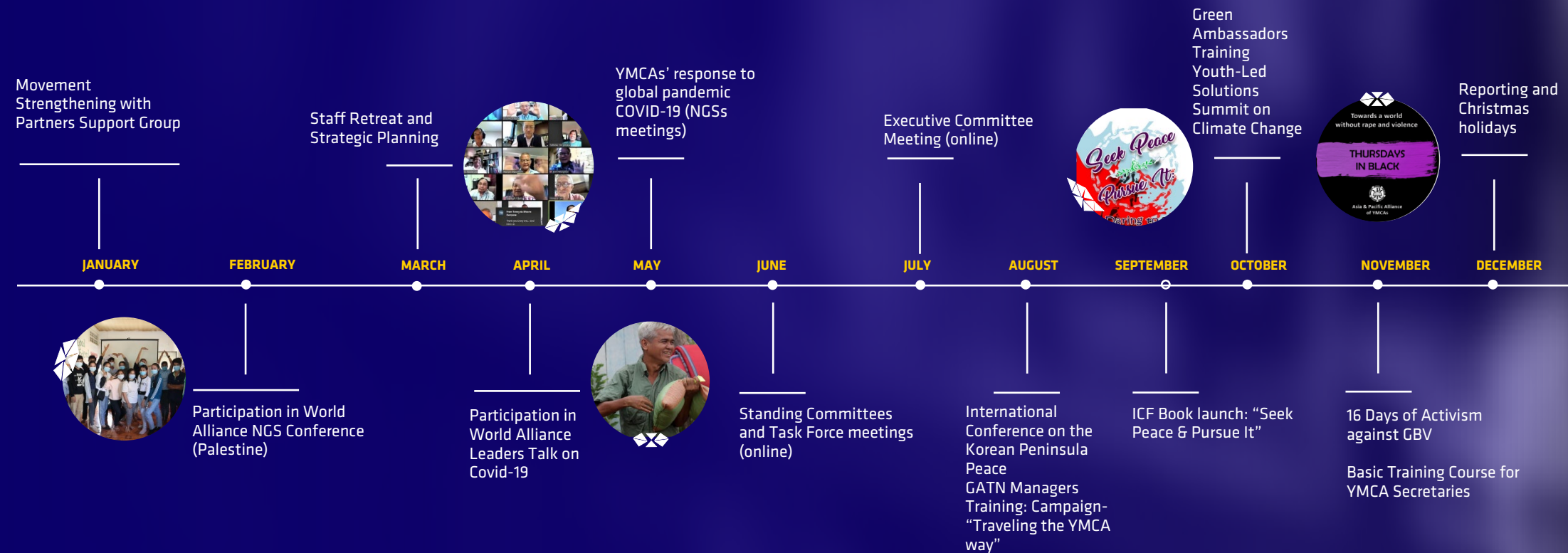
CHEN CHIN-SENG  
PRESIDENT

NAM BOO WON  
SECRETARY GENERAL

**The Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY)**



# 2020 AT A GLANCE





# IMPACT

YMCA IN ASIA & PACIFIC ALLIANCE OF YMCAs IN 24 COUNTRIES



45,046

VOLUNTEERS & STAFF  
MEMBERS



1,060

YMCA  
LOCAL BRANCHES

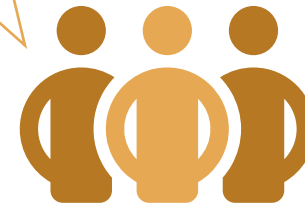


21,046

BOARD & COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

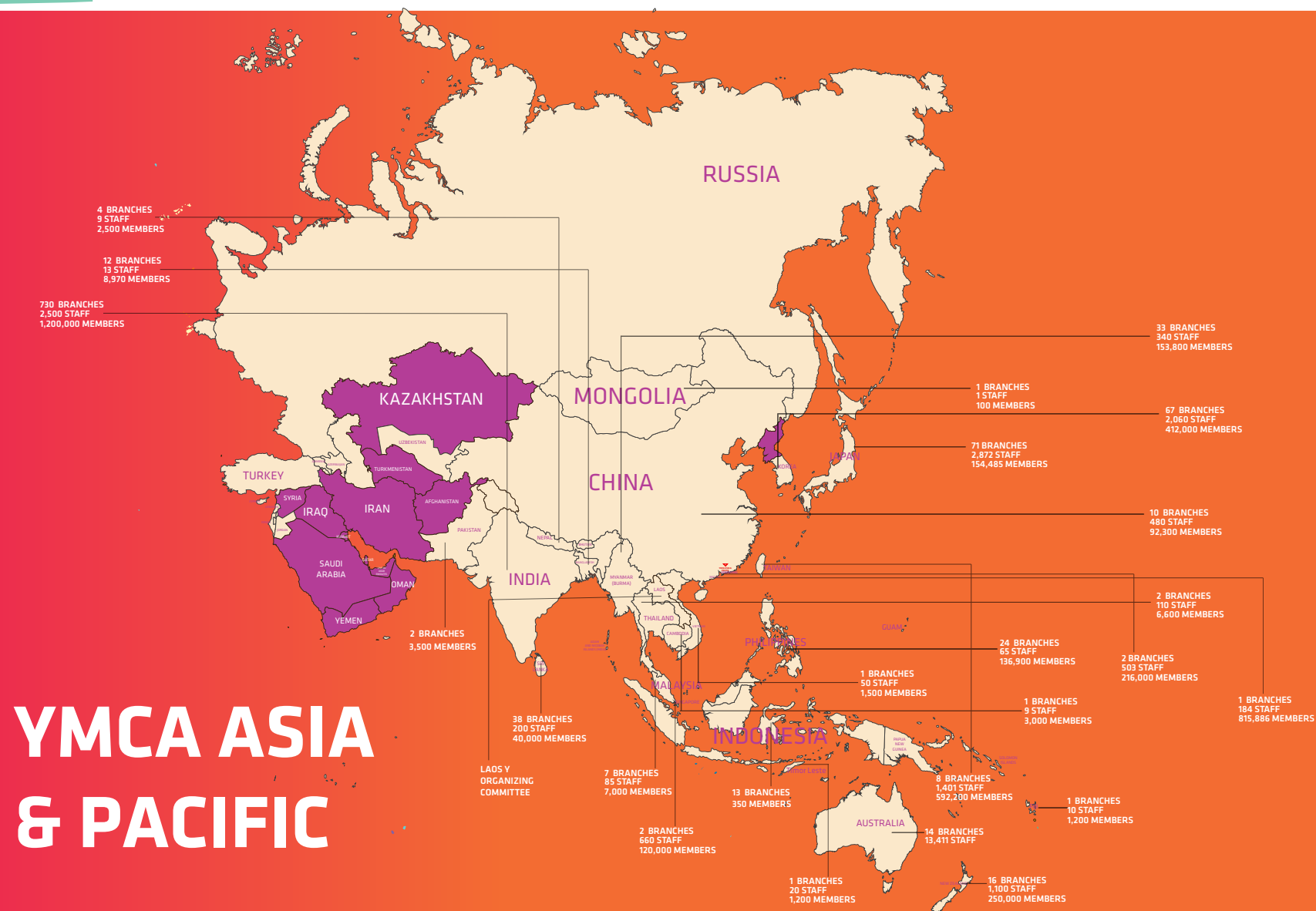
4,219,491

YMCA  
MEMBERS





# PRESENCE





# 6 COVID-19



The world has been transformed by the global pandemic of COVID-19. Our lifestyle has changed as we adapt to the 'new normal'.

By mid-February 2021, some 18 million cases of COVID19 had been reported in the Asia and Pacific regions, and nearly 275,000 deaths. The impact of the pandemic has been wide-ranging in different continents, countries, societies, contexts and communities. As a result, the epidemic has added more challenges to a section of the world's population already suffering under inequitable and unjust systems.

The global pandemic has battered the economy worldwide, and especially in the Asia and Pacific region. The epidemic has

swelled existing unemployment, hunger, displacement, migration, human trafficking, discrimination based on gender, sexuality, disability, nationality, and violence, especially in South and South-east Asia.

## YMCA solidarity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Asia Pacific region

The ongoing work of the YMCAs across Asia and the Pacific was severely affected by the pandemic. Many lost their financial income, as the hotels, educational and leisure activities run by the YMCAs had to shut down due to the restrictions of COVID-19.

## The Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs responded to the COVID19 situation in three ways:

1. Regional & Global Solidarity
2. Solidarity with local communities
3. Regional conversations



## Regional & Global Solidarity

The Global Pandemic of COVID-19 demanded urgent international solidarity to respond to the challenges and crisis caused by the pandemic. In response to the appeal by the World Alliance of YMCAs, APAY contributed US\$20,000 from the Golden Anniversary Trust Fund (GATN) to the "YMCA Solidarity Fund". The Fund aimed to support National YMCAs that faced a tremendous financial crisis due to COVID-19 effects. Though all YMCAs within the AP region are hit hard by the pandemic, some YMCAs came forward in giving financial or other support (through the Partners Support Group, PSG) to the struggling YMCAs within the region. This was solidarity and inter-Movement cooperation in action.



### Solidarity with the local communities

National YMCAs in the region, along with many local YMCAs, responded to the needs of the local communities in their contexts. The YMCAs' immediate responses were to initiate relief distribution of food, masks, sanitisers, emergency supplies, etc. to the community, particularly to the poorest and most vulnerable. Some YMCAs opened their Cafés for women to cook and sell, to make some income for their families while the restaurants were closed. They also reached out to international students at YMCA colleges, who couldn't travel back home due to Lockdown and COVID19 restrictions. Some YMCAs even linked street vendors who had no capacity to sell their foods, to customers for direct orders. Meanwhile other YMCAs built up their advocacy work in collaboration with like-minded organizations in demanding their governments to be proactive and fair in distributing resources to vulnerable and unemployed people, to maintain their livelihood and hope.



Location: Joroan Tiwi, Albay

### Regional conversations/ discourse

The global pandemic mainly affected human relations. Due to travel restrictions, we couldn't meet in person for our regular programs and activities. So we had to stay connected, and to understand not only how the members in our region are responding to the problems and challenges and coping with the 'new normal', but also how best we could support each other in the spirit of unity and inclusion. The Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs held a series of extraordinary meetings of its National General Secretaries, and virtual events and webinars on burning issues like mental health, and COVID-19 and its impact on youth, women, and girls.



## STORIES

## KALIGRAM YMCA BANGLADESH

“

Youth members of Kaligram YMCA visited communities on a mission to create awareness among village people on the importance of wearing masks to prevent transmission of COVID-19 among the community.

”



## CHIANRAI YMCA THAILAND

“

The women staff of the Chiang Rai YMCA made 750 cloth masks and distributed them to five hospitals in Chiangrai and Phayao provinces in Thailand.

”

## RANCHI YMCA, INDIA

“

Staff of Ranchi YMCA made available temporary shelters for 15,000 people and distributed relief material including food for one month for the slum centres.

”



## YMCA CAMBODIA

“

15 youth from YMCA Cambodia joined the Raonatti program an international volunteering group dreams of sustainable Asia and local community. The youth are getting ready to work voluntarily with the communities affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

”



# PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

### No Youth Should Be Left Behind: Regional Conversation

26 August and 9 September 2020

The first online regional conversation among young people on the social and economic impacts of COVID19 was attended by 60 participants from 12 national movements: Australia, Bangladesh, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Myanmar, Mongolia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Under the banner 'No Youth Should Be Left Behind', it focused on the risks that young people are facing in terms of economic opportunities (loss of jobs and livelihoods and less opportunity to find them); and access to education and/or learning.

The panellists included young people who shared testimonies about the direct impact of COVID19 to their lives, YMCA and other NGOs working with youth, and academics who gave perspective and research-based information related to the topics. The event was led by the APAY Committee on Youth Participation and Leadership Development (YPLD).

The event was attended by YMCA staff in-charge of youth work; youth volunteers and lay leaders; student constituents such as student YMCAs, Uni-Y, College Y, Campus Y, High Y, community based youth, YMCA staff, leaders and volunteers.



## Youth-Led Solutions Summit: Climate Action 12-23 October 2020

125 young people represented the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs at the Youth-Led Solution Summit (YLSS) on Climate Change organized by World YMCA, in collaboration with YMCA of USA and the YMCA of San Francisco. The YMCA also partnered with the United Nations to celebrate the signing of the UN Charter. The summit featured two live events.

The youth representing APAY comprised 13 local and national 'Solutions Teams' from 10 national movements, namely, Australia, Cambodia, India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Mongolia, Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand. Each team discussed the climate crisis and explored youth-led solutions. The regional office facilitated a series of online discussions and learnings from March onwards, to prepare the group. To culminate the learning experience, APAY organized a virtual regional dialogue that included a keynote presentation by Sze Pang Cheung, Executive Director, Greenpeace East Asia.

The APAY also facilitated online workshops on subject matters taught during APAY Green Ambassadors Training and GATN Manager's Training. These workshops included input on Carbon Footprint Calculation by APAY Green Team Member Colin Lambie, and on Global Alternative Tourism by Taichung YMCA and GATN APAY. APAY was also represented by Hemant Yauthai, a Green Ambassador Alumnus and a young volunteer at Sao Hin YMCA, Chiangmai during the youth dialogue session. APAY also took part in the YLSI program plan and design through its youth representatives to the YLSI Global Planning Committee, namely Magda Gana, YMCA of Makati, Philippines and Jeannie Chen, YMCA Taichung, Taiwan.

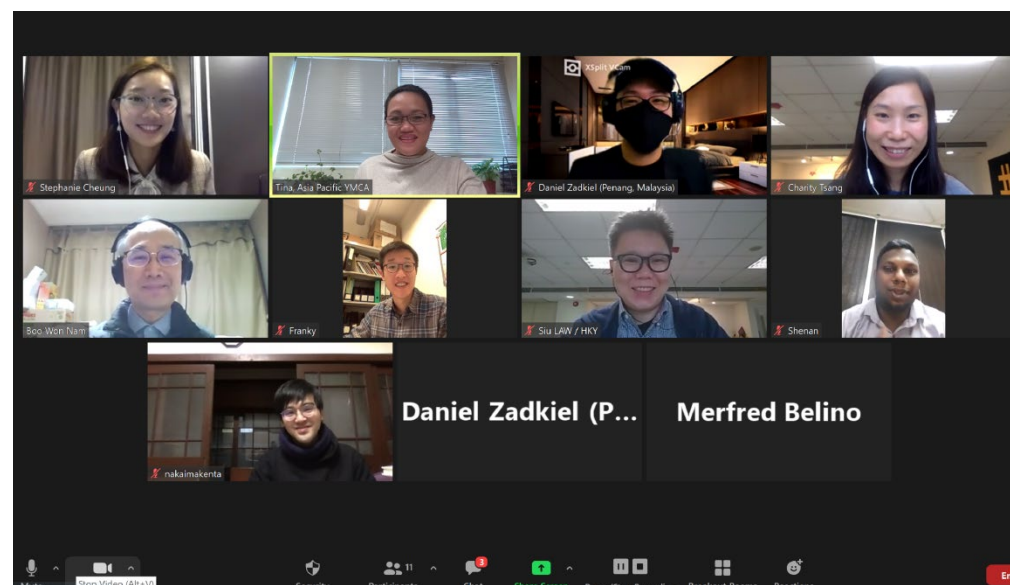
At present, there are eight local/national solutions teams implementing their climate change projects, funded the Y-USA. These Solutions Teams come from the national movements of Australia, Korea, Myanmar, Mongolia, Philippines, and Taiwan. The projects will be implemented and monitored until April 2021

### Stephanie and Daniel elected as Chairperson and Vice -Chairperson to lead the Committee on Youth Participation and Leadership Development

APAY congratulates Stephanie Cheung of YMCA of Hong Kong and Daniel Cheong of YMCA of Penang on being elected as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively, of the Committee on Youth Participation and Leadership Development during its election held last 10 December 2020. Cheung Siu Ting, popularly known as Stephanie, is a volunteer and leader from the YMCA of Hong Kong. She started her journey as a participant of the Youth Leadership Program (YLP), one of the after-school youth programs organized by YMCA of Hong Kong for secondary school students. Since then, she continued her journey with the YMCA by becoming an active alumnus of the YLD programs

and one of the Change Agents (3rd Cohort) that led her representation of Asia and Pacific to the Change Agent Task Force 2018. She also joined various regional and world youth events such as 2018 APAY Regional Training, 2018 Change Agent Global gathering, 2019 APAY Youth Assembly and General Assembly and 2018 World Council.

Daniel Cheong is a volunteer of YMCA of Penang in Malaysia and is serving his local YMCA on various capacities. He is also part of Change Agent Cohort 3 and has participated in APAY 4th Youth Assembly and APAY 20th General Assembly. Both these young leaders envision a strengthened youth participation and leadership development in the YMCA through young people's active role in addressing social issues in their communities.





# CAPACITY BUILDING

## Together We Stand for Just Peace Towards A Better World YMCA Secretaries Basic Training Course 08-22 November 2020

The bi-annual YMCA Secretaries Basic Training Course (BTC) comes under the Christian Foundation and Movement Relevance program of the Quadrennial Program Plan (QPP) 2020-2023. The training module targets the new and young professional YMCA secretaries, who are not provided with basic training facilities in their respective YMCAs. The BTC aims to strengthen its capacity as a community-based people-centred organization. For the first time in its history, a shortened version of the 2020 BTC was run virtually.

'Together We Stand for Just Peace Towards A Better World' was the overarching theme for the BTC. It encourages debate and looks at realities from the perspectives of justice and peace rooted in Christian faith.

### The programme aims:

1. To develop YMCA professional staff with an in-depth perspective of the mission of the YMCA in Asia and the Pacific: its context, faith and spirituality;
2. To empower YMCA professional staff by equipping them with faith perspectives, knowledge, methodologies and management skills for planning and implementation of programs relevant to the needs of the communities they serve;
3. To introduce YMCA professional staff to the ideas and concepts relating to the socio-cultural, economic and political realities of the people with whom they work and identify viable and meaningful YMCA responses.

### Course Module

The participants explored areas of i) Contemporary Christian Theology ii) Ecumenism & Ecumenical Movements. iii) History & Mission, Structure, Governance system of YMCA, iv) YMCA's response to Contextual Realities and Social Analysis, v) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). vi) Quadrennial Program Plans of APAY - Alternative Tourism; Interfaith and Peacebuilding; Youth Empowerment; Gender Justice; Disaster risk management, etc.

### A summary of the reflections:

- Participants revisited the YMCAs' fundamental principles and statements, such as the Paris Basis, the Kampala Principles and Challenge 21, to understand the work of different YMCAs. The input broadened their understanding of the history, mission, vision, structure, identity, and importance of the YMCA's governance system - the organisation's foundation.
- Christian faith is an integral part of the YMCA, and the course relates Christian faith to present realities. Faith and praxis should go hand in hand, and faith must motivate and inspire us to express our faith in public spheres by taking action against any kind of violation of God's creation.
- How do we understand YMCA, an ecumenical movement, especially in the Asian context? How should ecumenical movements like YMCA focus on being "gospel-centred" and "life-centred," "mission-oriented," "peace-oriented," "justice-oriented," and "value-oriented"?

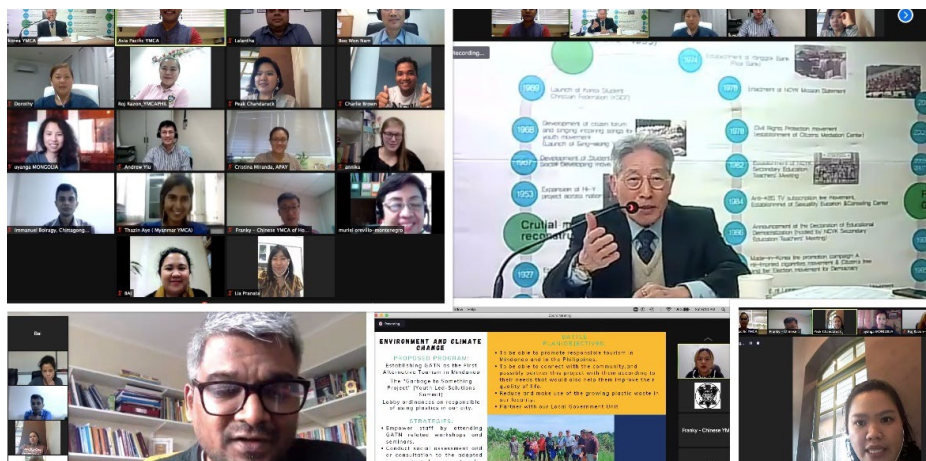


● YMCA in the Asia Pacific region has diverse identities due to its varied contexts. Identifying the problems, challenges, and social issues based on our geographical locations is crucial to enable YMCA actors to respond to the realities they confront in their communities. Hence, the social analysis of the unjust structure of social, political, and economic realities significantly reshapes our perspectives and approach to addressing social justice issues.

● Why and how YMCA should address the 2030 UN Agenda - the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? What are the opportunities we have in networking and collaborating with the CSOs in our local communities in responding to the SDGs?

At the end of the training, participants shared the plan of action based on YMCA's mission and vision, integrating the input at the BTC for the local YMCAs. Some program proposals were brought as recommendations to the national YMCA leadership. Participants shared their overall experiences of virtual BTC and gave feedback for the future virtual program/training.

Most participants found the BTC meaningful and beneficial for their work. There were limitations and challenges to organizing a two-week training online. This was the first



## Act of Commitment

*By All*

1. We will try understanding the needs of our community/city/country, and serve with our heart
2. We will love and protect the earth that we are living as brothers and sisters.
3. We will join hands together with the YMCAs from different countries/cities to take action for the sustainable development goal.

time for the organizers and the participants to experience virtual training like BTC. We received valuable feedback from participants, and there are lessons learned to improve the BTC for future virtual training.

Despite limitations overall, the two weeks of virtual training provided a common platform for local YMCA leaders to deepen understanding, develop perspectives, new insights, friendship, partnerships, and networks to work together towards common goals. BTC was also a place to pray and worship together to draw inspiration from our faith. All participants expressed that the BTC was meaningful and helpful for them to perform their roles effectively and meaningfully

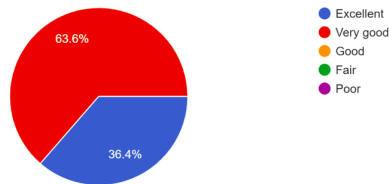
## Conclusion

A graduation ceremony was conducted on the final day of the BTC. The General Secretary and the APAY staff, the President of APAY Chen-Chin Seng also joined programme on the last day. They delivered congratulatory remarks to the participants. An electronic certificate was given to the participants. The Christian Foundation and Movement Relevancy program area of the quadrennial Program Plan (QPP) is one of the essential areas of the APAY. The BTC for the YMCA Secretaries must continue at all levels to achieve our vision, suggested by participants.



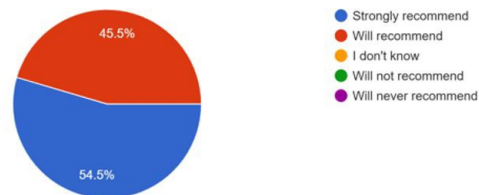
## BTC 2020 – APAY – FEEDBACK SURVEY RESPONSES

Overall, how would you rate the event?  
11 responses



Lia found the BTC very meaningful for her and said, “ I learned a lot from the resource persons and especially sharing from other countries. This training program must continue, and I suggest APAY to hold the BTC in person for one month.”

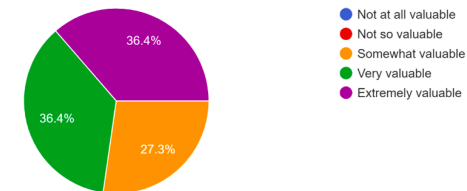
Would you recommend other colleagues to attend the BTC of the APAY?  
11 responses



Lalantha, shared “ though we are located in different countries with different time zone, we made it a point to worship together every day. My expectation for the BTC is fulfilled, and overall I am very happy about the BTC.”

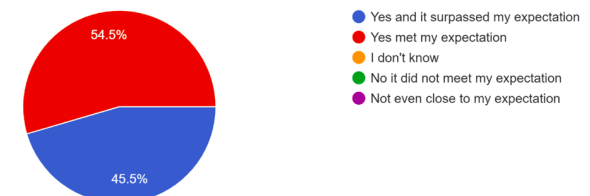
Thazin Aye said, “ this is the first time for me to attend an international training program. The BTC is significant for me; I gained new experiences, new knowledge, and new friends.”

In terms of your roles in your YMCAs how valuable were the input sessions at the BTC?  
11 responses



Franky said, “It was very good for me to hear from each YMCA as I learned a lot from different YMCAs. What possible cooperation and collaboration can we make in the future. I look forward to the APAY to organize training programs in the future where possible to meet in person.”

Was the input related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) met your expectations?  
11 responses



# ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

## Green Team 2020-2023

The YMCAs in the region during its 20th General Assembly committed to reducing carbon emissions and taking effective steps to become carbon neutral by 2030. Part of the work of the Environment and Climate Change program is to strengthen its existing Green Team to support regional work in the development of policies and environmental programs. As such, the APAY Green Team was engaged in regular monthly meetings, starting in July 2020. The meetings also included some sub-group formation and meetings that helped design the upcoming Green Ambassadors Training from October 2020. Likewise, the members have started sharing knowledge, experience and good practices through written articles which have been included in the APAY monthly e-news.

APAY Green Team 2020-2023 includes Colin Lambie (Australia, Y's Men Int.), Panha Chhem (Cambodia), Lee Man Key (Hong Kong), Mariko Ikeda and Koichi Sakata (Japan), Da-eun Yang (Korea), Saw Tun Lu (Myanmar), Pablito Tabucol (Philippines), Niranga Fernando (Sri Lanka), Rita Hettiarachchi (Sri Lanka, Y's Men International), Patcharin Aviphan and Narupacha (Thailand), Nam Boo Won and Cristina Miranda (APAY).

## Green Ambassadors Training (Virtual) 6-12 October 2020

One aspect of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs' efforts to combat climate change is its annual Green Ambassadors Training. Due to COVID19, the training was held virtually in 2020.

Around 70 young staff and volunteers from the YMCA movements in China, Hong Kong, India, Myanmar, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated. The training aimed to educate YMCA staff, leaders, volunteers, youth and communities to bring about behavioural changes in order to reduce carbon footprints and to advocate for eco-justice. The training was moderated by the APAY Green Team, and included the following areas as part of the continuing journey towards a carbon neutral YMCA by 2030:

- Carbon Emission and Carbon Footprint Calculation: a presentation and workshop by Colin Lambie, APAY Green team Member and YMI Green Team
- Sustainable Development Goals on Climate Change: an input presentation by Lee Man Key, APAY Green Team Member and Coordinating Secretary (Kowloon District 1), Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong
- Climate Crisis, Policy and Advocacy on Climate Justice: A keynote presentation by Sze Pang Cheung, Executive Director, Greenpeace East Asia
- Action Planning led by Narupacha Muang-in, APAY Green Team Member and Head of Climate Change Education Program at Sao Hin YMCA



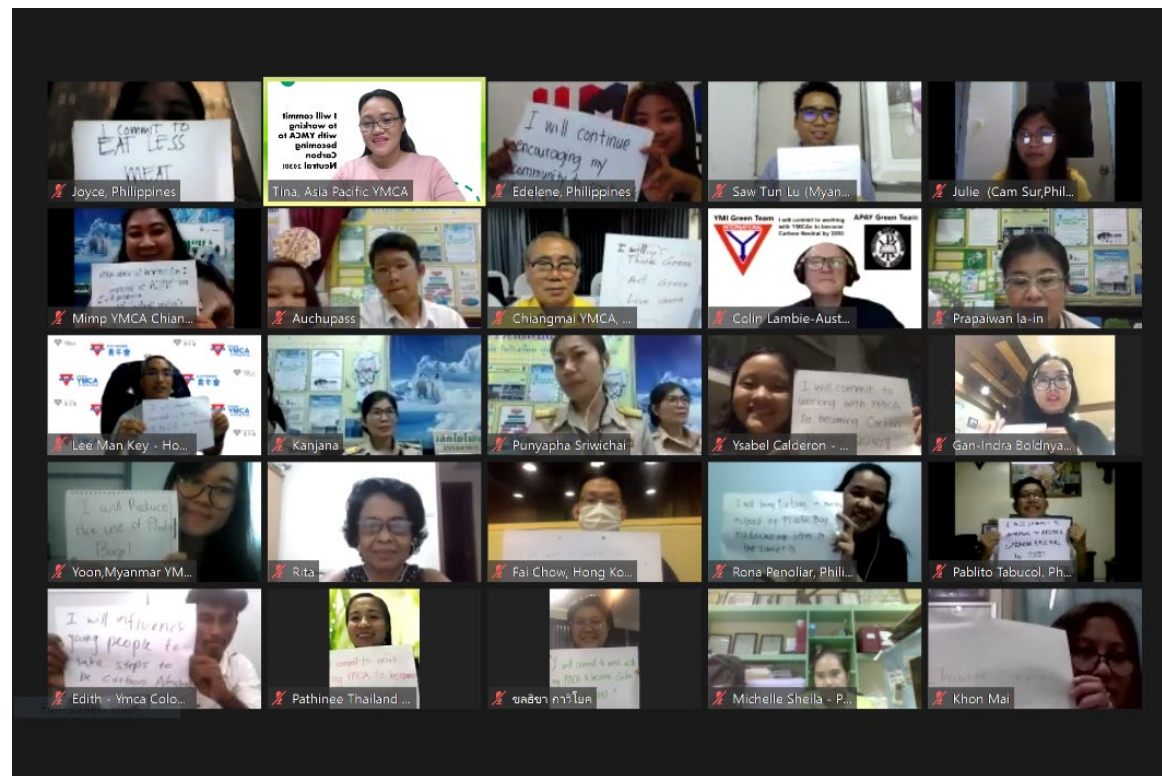


The training also included case studies related to YMCA good practices on climate change action. Three YMCAs presented their case studies and the impact it created in their communities. The following case studies were presented:

1. Green YMCA and Green Community: YMCA of Makati, YMCA Philippines, presented by Magda Gana, Program Secretary, YMCA of Makati, Green Ambassador Batch 2018
2. Sao Hin YMCA Educational Center, presented by Narupacha Muang-in, Head of Climate Change Education Program at Sao Hin YMCA
3. Environmental Conservation, presented by Saw Tun Lu, Manager, Sustainable Livelihood and Community Development Project, Myanmar YMCA

Participants also shared their national environmental and climate change situation, and the current actions being taken in their respective countries and YMCAs. The participants also presented their action plan.

Through the designed learning sessions, APAY is confident that these 'Green Ambassadors' will continue the work in encouraging their respective YMCAs and communities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; to form and strengthen Green Teams in local YMCAs; to increase engagement in environmentally friendly practices in local YMCAs and communities by integrating environmental issues into YMCA programs, to create more Green YMCAs and Green Communities; to expand the Green YMCA and Green Organization Network; to conduct carbon audits; and to develop green action plans towards becoming a carbon neutral YMCA by 2030.



# DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM)

## DRM Task Force Meeting

The APAY Task Force on Disaster Risk Management held virtual meetings on 18 August and 15 September 2020. The group discussed coordinating and mobilizing risk management systems to achieve greater impact in rebuilding lives and communities. Members of the Task Force engaged actively in the discussion on how the region can strengthen its response on disaster management, highlighting the importance of mitigation in reducing the risks that translate the 20th General Assembly Mandate.

The task force also adopted its terms of reference. It will focus on:

1. Advancing the APAY Regional Coordination Guidelines on Disaster Risk Management for effective, efficient, and appropriate responses.
2. Ensuring that a relevant disaster risk management system is in place to address the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by disasters to maximize the impact on the lives of the people.
3. Organizing and mobilizing national/local movements to strengthen governance structures with built-in accountability.
4. Compiling knowledge and best practice for the development of DRM plans and strengthening collaboration and networking.

The members of the task force include Margaretha Andoea (Indonesia), Katsumi Jinbo (Japan), Jegan Jeevaraj (Sri Lanka), Shena Awatin (Philippines), and Gilbert Chin (Taiwan).

## Regional Appeals launched for Bangladesh Flood and Super Typhoon Gori Responses

APAY facilitated funding appeals for YMCA Bangladesh and YMCA Philippines in their responses to the floods and typhoons of August and November 2020, respectively. Funds assisted their humanitarian response in providing flood victim households with relief commodities (rice, lintel oral rehydration solution and face mask) through two local YMCAs in Bogra and Birisiri in Bangladesh. Emergency shelter supplies were delivered to two heavily affected areas in Albay and Camarines Sur, Philippines.





# GLOBAL ALTERNATIVE TOURISM NETWORK (GATN)

The Network promotes alternative tourism (responsible and sustainable travel) in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals primarily through encouraging behaviour change and low carbon lifestyles among young people.

The Global Alternative Tourism Network promotes alternative and sustainable travel/tourism as a response to the negative impacts of uncontrolled mass tourism and climate change. GATN is also committed to helping hosting communities become the subjects of tourism and benefit appropriately from responsible and sustainable travel. GATN works through the YMCAs and academic institutions to have lasting impact on the lives of the young people.

GATN promotes responsible and sustainable lifestyle when traveling – by introducing responsible and sustainable behaviour which should be practised not only when traveling but on a daily basis. We also network with academic institutions and travel organisations to change tourist behaviour (abandoning the “bucket list” mind-set of traditional tourists) and encourage positive impacts on the communities at the destinations.

The main activities of GATN include skills and capacity building through workshops, workcamps, service learning and seminars, raising awareness of personal carbon footprint and climate change. We teach young people to make their travel count, to mitigate their carbon footprint when traveling, and to volunteer for community service with local communities etc.



Support the local economy  
Ensure local communities  
benefit from your travel  
Stay at local hotels  
Eat and drink at local cafes  
and restaurants  
Buy locally-made  
crafts and souvenirs  
Empower local communities  
by supporting social causes



Respect the place  
that you are visiting -  
Dress and act appropriately.  
Respect the local religions  
DO take rituals  
and ceremonies seriously  
Appreciate the differences  
culture, etiquettes,  
traditions and superstitions.



Save water  
Take short showers.  
Reuse towels and bed linen  
rather than having them replaced daily.  
Save energy  
Turn off all lights and air-conditioning  
when you leave your room.

Traveling the  
YMCA way...

## GREENER TRAVEL TIPS



Local communities don't want  
to feel like they're a human zoo.  
You should never take someone's picture from  
up close without asking for permission. And...  
**DO NOT** take photos of other people's children,  
especially when visiting less-developed communities.



Plastic addiction  
and over consumption  
Tourists can produce  
up to twice as much waste  
as local residents.  
Contribute your personal "R"  
to mitigate your footprints...  
Reject, Replace, Reduce,  
Reuse, Recycle, Re...



Global Alternative Tourism Network

For APAY, GATN is not just an alternative tourism project. It is a tool to promote new ways to travel responsibly and sustainably. It teaches about climate change and personal actions and commitment to combat climate change. It helps young people understand different cultures and the social and economic realities of people from different parts of Asia.

It teaches social responsibility and social engagement through community service projects. It stresses the importance of peace, understanding and interfaith and intercultural tolerance. It teaches human rights and the avoidance of exploitation of women and children in tourism.

GATN conducts an e-learning on climate change each year. The program increases the awareness among youth in YMCAs and empowers them to participate in advocacy work on Climate Change. Youth are mentored through a 3-6 month e-learning course on climate change. On completion of the e-learning, they are encouraged to design and implement action plans with the assistance of Mentors to demonstrate their comprehension and application of the knowledge acquired from the e-learning. Five of the best action plans will be selected to receive financial support for implementation. A certificate will be given to all registered participants who successfully complete the whole e-learning course and implement an action plan.



# GENDER JUSTICE



APAY adheres to the guiding principle of Challenge 21, so a commitment to Gender Justice remains an integral part of its mandate. Promoting Gender Equity at all levels with a community-specific approach is one of the objectives of APAY.

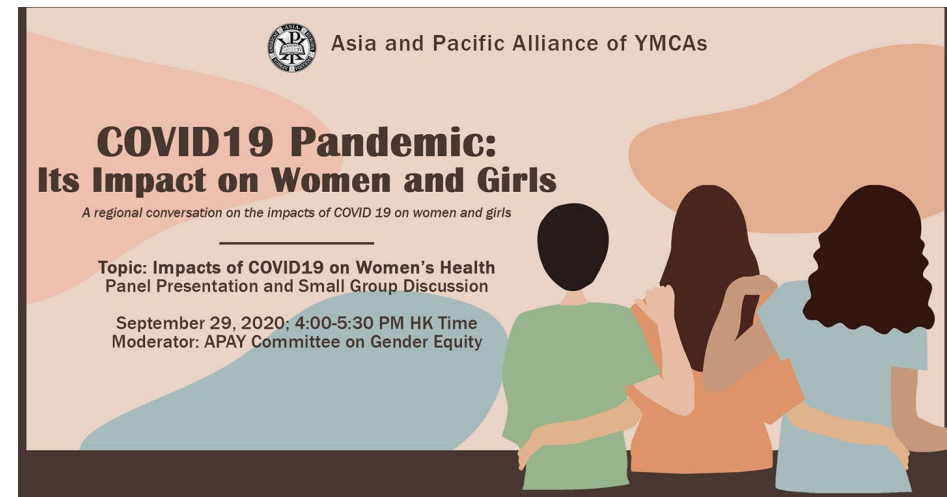
It affirms that the quest to eliminate discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence and promote an inclusive society requires a collaborative undertaking irrespective of sex and gender. YMCAs will continue to establish an inclusive environment by creating awareness and policies that promote and reflect gender justice and develop a mechanism that addresses gender issues, including sexual and gender-based violence. Through the Gender Justice initiatives, APAY increases dialogue and discussions on various perspectives, including the non-binary perspectives of gender and sexuality.

Gender Justice is one of the main areas of the Quadrennial Program Plan (QPP) of the APAY with the following objectives:

- 1 To cultivate a culture of gender equity and empowerment of women and girls at all levels through the creation of platforms of learning, reflection and exchanges of experience
- 2 To ensure the development of leadership skills, organizing and advocacy capacities of YMCA constituencies that promote reforms for equal opportunities for all at all levels

The Gender Equity Committee met online to connect and discuss plans for the two regional online conversations in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the members conducted the programmes virtually. The meeting also included Sunita Suna's announcement as related staff in charge of the gender justice program starting in October 2020.

Around 60 participants from 15 movements (Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Malaysia, Myanmar and Philippines) joined the COVID19 Pandemic: Its Impact on Women and Girls regional conversation held on 22 and 29 September 2020. This regional online conversation highlighted how the pandemic had deepened the pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities women and girls face simply by virtue of their sex. The conversation specifically focused on gender-based violence issues, including cyber/digital violence and access to health care services.

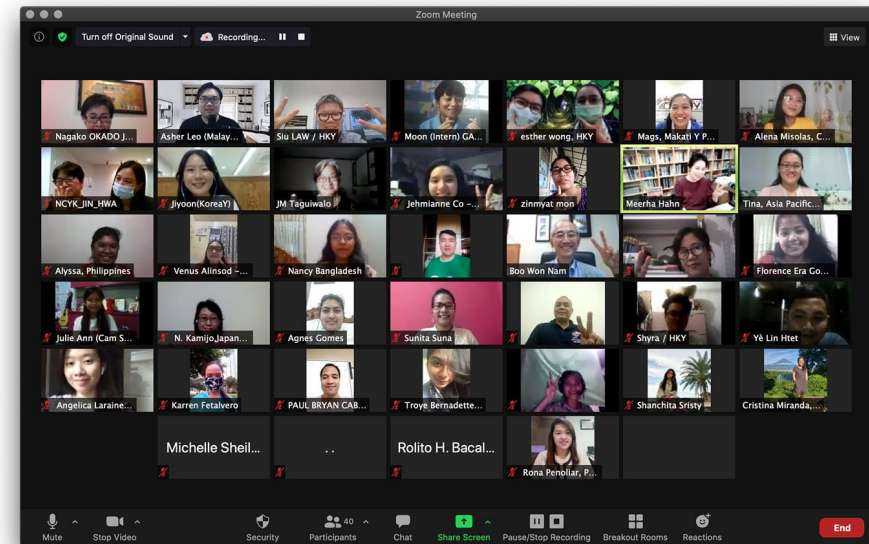
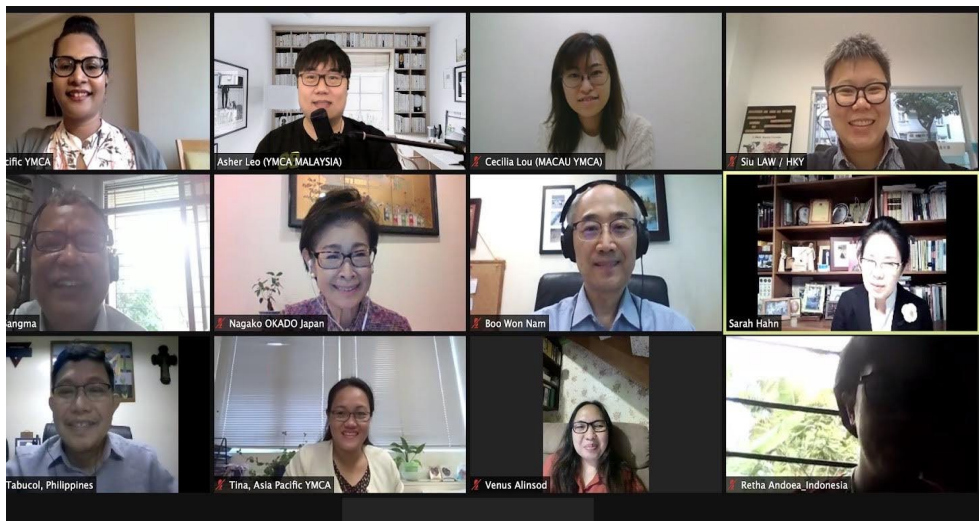


The regional conversation aimed to:

- explain the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, particularly on issues related to gender-based violence and access to health care services
- listen to women and girls' experiences during the pandemic
- learn about the YMCA's social interventions in addressing the gender inequalities during the pandemic and its recovery
- suggest short-term and long-term response towards building a more equitable society

The online panellists included Dr Judy Taguiwalo of University of the Philippines; Lee Myung Hwa and Um Jin of Aha Sexuality Education Center of NCY Korea, and a young girl who gave testimony of her experience of digital violence. Meanwhile, Dr. Priya Letitia John of the Christian Medical Association of India and “Metha” of Indonesia served as panelists during the conversation on access to health care service.

The online talk is moderated by the APAY Committee on Gender Equity 2020-2023 in its endeavour to address the region's gender justice objective of cultivating the culture of gender equity and empowerment of women and girls at all levels through the creation of platforms of learning, reflection and exchanges of experience.



### The Gender Equity Committee (GEC) of APAY elected Dr Meerha Hahn as the Chairperson

On November 4 the Gender Equity Committee met virtually and elected Dr Meerha Hahn as the GEC Chairperson for the current quadrennium (2020-2023). Dr Hahn, from South Korea, is an ordained minister at the Korea Association of Non-denominational Seminaries at Christian Universities (KANSCU). She also is the Emeritus Professor of Applied Theology at the Hoseo University, Graduate School of Theology.

Dr Hahn brings a wealth of experience as an academician and feminist theologian to the GEC to contribute to the ongoing work of gender justice in the Asia Pacific region through the APAY. She envisions a better world for women, men and young people, to experience life in all its fullness. She is committed to addressing discrimination based on gender and sex, and gender-based violence through the gender justice program of the APAY.

While we welcome the new chairperson, the GEC acknowledged and extended heartfelt thanks to Ms Nagako Okado, the outgoing chairperson for her excellent leadership in leading the GEC with passion and commitment for gender justice for the past five years.



## 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 25 November to 10 December

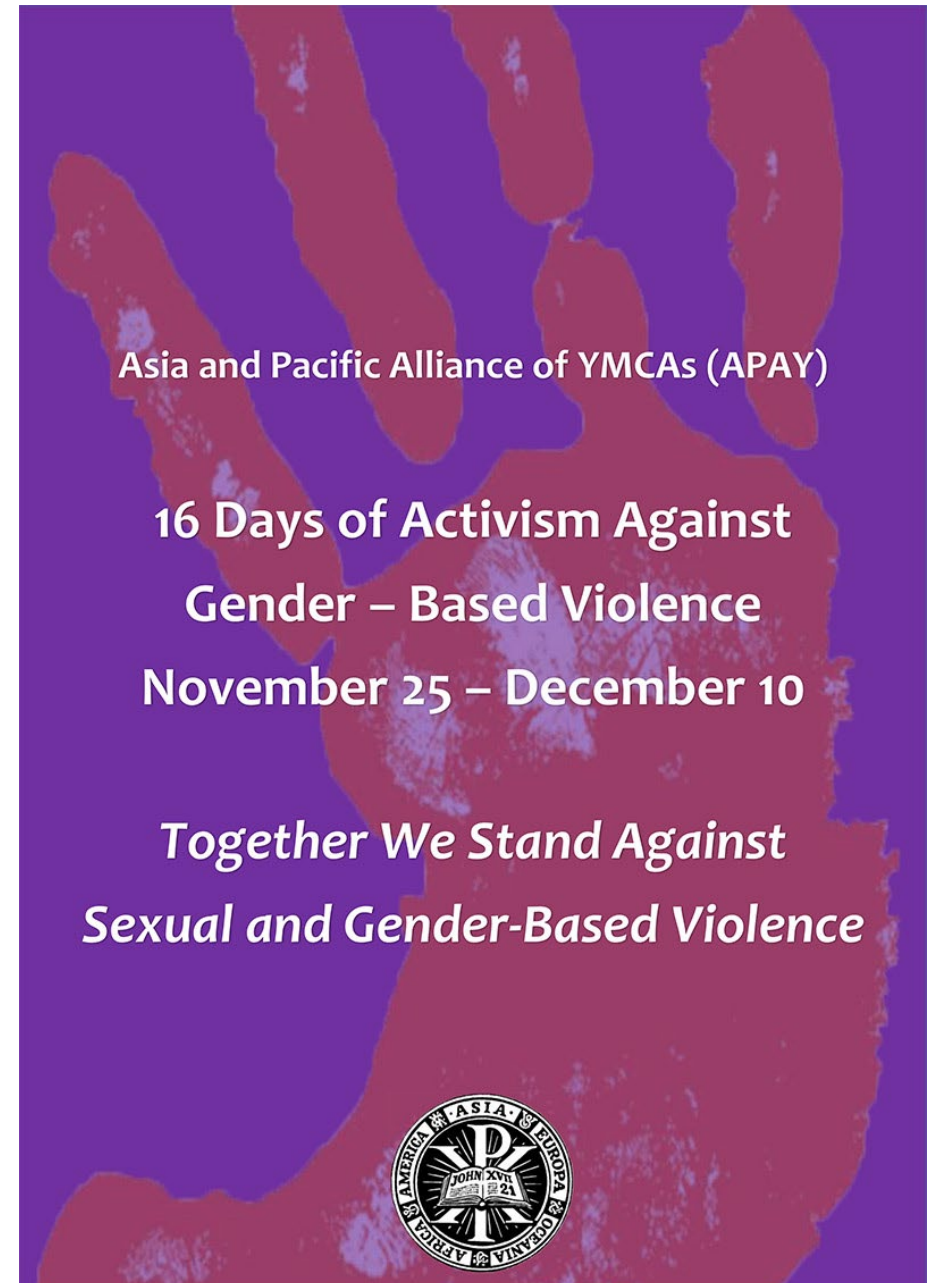
The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an annual international campaign that begins on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and continues until 10 December, the Human Rights Day.

Even though the UN UNiTE campaign had set the theme of 2020 for the 16 days campaign "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!", the Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs chose the theme Together We Stand Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and invited men and women to participate in the campaign. The activism was an affirmation to the Challenge 21 that we believe in a gender-just and inclusive society. APAY prepared a liturgy on the theme and shared with the national movements, inviting them to participate in the campaign in different ways such as:

- Join local civil society campaigns
- Observe Thursday in Black  
<https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black>
- Organize webinars at the local level on Gender Based Violence
- Participate in activities organized by the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) for 16 days of activism
- Use social media to advocate and campaign to end GBV and use the #16daysofactivism and #APAYWOMEN hashtags
- Organize prayer meetings to worship together to end violence against women and girls

### A week of activism against GBV organized by the NCY of India

In response to the call of the Asia & Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY), to observe the 16 Days of Activism against (GBV), the NCY India organized a week long virtual program on December 4-10, 2020.



# INTERFAITH COOPERATION FORUM

The Interfaith Cooperation Forum is a project run by the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY). Formerly a joint project of APAY and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), it is now solely managed by APAY, which has set aside budget for it. APAY plans the programme alongside the ICF Program Committee of seven ICF alumni, the APAY General Secretary, and APAY's related Executive Secretary responsible for the Mission and Response Committee.

ICF's goal in 2018-2020 was to "contribute to a peaceful transformation of inter-religious and social conflicts in the participating program countries of Asia." It has two objectives: to strengthen and equip the ICF youth movement network for peace and conflict work, and to improve advocacy for and awareness on interfaith/interreligious dialogue and cooperation for peacebuilding in communities

Activities included two sets of 'School of Peace', ten thematic workshops, two sessions of two-week Peace Institute, supporting the ten follow up programs of the ICF alumni (those who have attended the ICF-initiated activities), and support for eight grassroots peace initiatives by ICF Alumni and Youth Peace activists in various countries. ICF has outlined the subjects or topics, balancing knowledge and theory with skills development.



A key element of the curricula is the story of the formation of YMCA and APAY. ICF takes a maximum of twenty young people in its activities, ensuring gender and religious balance.

The School of Peace offers courses on Understanding Conflict, Peace, and Peacebuilding Frameworks; Religions, Practices, and their Teachings on Peace; Identifying Situations as Peace Issues; Some Practical Skills for Peace and Peacebuilding; and Preparing for Re-entry and Application of Learning. The Peace Institutes have few courses, some of which are part of the School of Peace curriculum. It also introduces new topics on demand.

Topics for the thematic workshops varied, depending on the suggestions of the host group of alumni. The ICF alumni host the thematic workshops in their respective countries. The workshop participants came from different areas of the host country.

The ICF encourages the alumni to conduct follow-up activities for their continuing education and strengthening of their groups or forums. ICF encourages them and friends from other peace networks to hold local activities for peace education, advocacy, and networking.

ICF provides small financial support for these activities.

ICF maintains a website and a Facebook page to promote peace activism. It also publishes e-newsletters through its website. In 2020 it published a book with hardcopy and e-copy versions containing the stories and struggles of ICF alumni in situations of conflict, and in peacebuilding efforts. One of its advocacy programs, the Asian Peacebuilding Summit, did not materialize due to the pandemic and international travel restrictions.

ICF was externally evaluated in 2019, and used the Evaluation Results as a guide in formulating the proposal for the next project phase, from October 2020-September 2023. In July 2020, ICF formally received the seconded personnel from Bread for the World, Ms. Annika Denkmann. She works closely with Ms. Baidido Saganding, the ICF Program Officer.

## ICF in 2020: Negotiating the Challenges of the Pandemic

ICF continued to release its e-Newsletter, The Peacebuilders, once every two months with two special editions in September and December. ICF also maintains its website, [interfaithforum.org](http://interfaithforum.org), and its Facebook page. During the pandemic, ICF held meetings and workshops virtually.



The year 2020 came with so many challenges for ICF and many people all over the world. There are no signs yet that 2021 will be COVID-19 free, nor is there a sign that travels can resume with no more quarantine required. Thus, for now, ICF will continue to plan for virtual meetings and seminars. It will also make contingent, flexible plans for programs that demand a physical gathering of participants.

### Connecting peacebuilders virtually on Human Rights and Women's Rights Issues

As the Covid-19 pandemic continued, we at ICF took our programs online to keep young peace-builders in Asia connected. The programs also provided them with a space for learning and exchange. While tackling COVID-19 may still be the main concern of most states, other issues however, did not just disappear. And some, such as gender-based violence, unfortunately only intensified amidst lock-downs. These issues were at the forefront of our virtual workshop series late last year on the Intersection of Religion, Gender and Human Rights, and the highly qualified speakers brought them to light. A wide range of participants from different countries and from different faiths attended and shared their thoughts and experiences. They discussed with their peers. They wrote short reflections: Psyche Mankhin from Bangladesh shared her thoughts after the first session on Religion, Femicide and Various Forms of Sexual Abuse: *"Women who are the victims of violence and sexual abuse usually do not get justice for themselves."*

*them from fighting for their rights. We just have to give them space to express their thoughts and feelings about the violence they are experiencing. It is important to strengthen women's forces. It is only right that society should protect and support women to be free for them to effect changes in society."* Cicilia Novalia Jambuani from Papua, Indonesia lays out the following plan on the question of whether or not there is something that she can do: *"I think, yes. I can take small steps to strengthen the base of women's education and mentoring young girls so that they will know their rights and fight for them."*

Though the result is not a hundred per cent, people are now raising their voices for justice for the victims of violence and sexual abuses. People are breaking the silence against violence, and this is a good sign. Hein Thura Htet from Myanmar reflects on the session on Health as a Human Right Issue, by looking at his own country's relation to sexual education and the related challenges: *"In Myanmar, people are still sensitive about teaching sex and reproductive health to the young due to their misconceptions. People think that teaching sex education may lead the children to teenage sex, marriage, and pregnancy. Sex education is still a taboo, unacceptable, and against their social beliefs and norms. As a result, children are uninformed. Lack of proper information leads teenagers to unplanned pregnancy, abortions, sexual diseases, HIV/AIDS, and later, mental health problems and death."*

However, for the participants, it is not only about understanding and identifying these issues in their respective contexts. It was also about finding spaces and opportunities to tackle them. Jerome Fernal from the Philippines states: *"As young people, we can do something to help women not only for them to break their silence, but also our silence, that prevents*



# Movement Strengthening

In 2020, APAY's Movement Strengthening work focused on six national YMCAs: YMCA Cambodia, YMCA Mongolia, YMCA Timor Leste, YMCA Laos (Local Organizing Committee), and YMCA Vietnam.

## 1) YMCA Cambodia

The YMCA Cambodia board appointed Mr. Hem Thel, then Program Secretary responsible for GATN, as Acting General Secretary, for the Y Cambodia's revival process. In consultation with the APAY, a restructuring program was developed for the office space and the street children care centre. The "Street Children Program" benefits many street children in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Our thanks to PSG (Partners Support Group) members, Singapore Y's Men, and Nelson YMCA: "Bernard Fund". However, with reduced PSG funding due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the YMCA came up with an alternative project – the social enterprise of YMCA Cambodia. Sejong YMCA, Korea, through the Coordinator Lee Yun-Hee, was provided with technical and financial assistance. Mr. Bora was hired as staff by YMCA Cambodia, and he will be trained in Korea on operating a social enterprise, particularly on recycling papers.

YMCA Cambodia managed to re-activate its youth members and volunteers through the Raonatti youth volunteering program of YMCA Korea. The Youth Empowerment Strategy reflecting Cambodian realities and contexts is postponed to 2021 due to the COVID19 pandemic. As part of leadership training and capacity building of professional staff, the Acting General Secretary Hem Thel was invited to join the APAY's Virtual Basic Training Course for two weeks in November.



## 2) YMCA Mongolia

Despite the lockdowns and other restrictions imposed in Mongolia, the YMCA Mongolia managed to run programmes:

**YMCA Coffee Shop** creates a shared space for youth activities and fellowship. The Coffee Shop offers music lessons on piano and guitar for community members, hosting several events and meetings for both members and non-members that provided revenue.

**YMCA Education Center** continued providing educational opportunities and programs for youth and young adults at an affordable cost. The Center also hosted first aid and

In consultation with APAY, YMCA Mongolia reflected on the outcome of the YMCA program relevance, impact or benefit for the youth in the community; what areas to improve, YMCA's ongoing activities and the needs for young people. The YMCA continues connecting with young people, studies, capacity-building and self-improvement.

Ms. Uyanga Choijilsuren, General Staff, was invited to the APAY's Basic Training Course, as part of leadership training and capacity building of the professional staff. She successfully completed the two weeks training course.

Some tasks were deferred to 2021 due to the global pandemic, like exploring and developing an income-generating program to ensure financial sustainability and self-reliance, and ensuring good governance by supporting the new board leadership.

## 3) YMCA Timor Leste

In September 2019, YMCA Timor Leste became a full member of the APAY at the APAY 20th General Assembly. Though small in scale and financial volume, the YMCA continued to grow in stabilizing its programs and activities amid challenges and difficulties caused by the pandemic. The YMCA largely depends on PSG (Partners Support Group) financial support for its operation and program activities. Encouragingly, the YMCA started growing, in stabilizing the income-generating programs such as YMCA Kindergarten and Language Course.



Due to the pandemic, several projects were deferred to 2021: strengthening governance; developing youth empowerment strategy; capacity building and leadership training.

Most of the planned activities - such as the soccer program, youth ecumenical gathering, kindergarten, Japanese language course - were implemented in a reduced capacity due to the pandemic. The Japan Foundation supported the Japanese Language course through the coordination of Fukuoka YMCA and the NCY-Japan. The YMCA conducted an awareness-raising campaign in the surrounding villages on Covid-19 pandemic and its health risks.

#### 4) YMCA Laos Local Organizing Committee

YMCA Laos in Luang Prabang city started in 2016 as the Local Organizing Committee. Registering the YMCA as a fully-fledged institution is under process. Together with the Local Organizing Committee, the PSG members focus on relevant program development and implementation at present. This would demonstrate the need and recognition of the YMCA in the community positively by the government. Meanwhile, the Local Committee established a formal partnership with the LPB provincial government and central government for cooperation in the future.

From January to February, few GATN activities were hosted by the Laos Luang Prabang YMCA. Due to Covid-19 related restrictions, scheduled GATN activities could not continue. So the work focused on mentoring Ms. Peak, full-time Secretary of LPB YMCA, on capacity building in developing environmental programs and office management. APAY sent her to Saohin YMCA, Chiang Mai, to learn from the youth work camp and Northern Agriculture and Forestry College at Hadyang School. The YMCA also organized the Green Team and conducted green activities in several schools on small scale activities like garbage collection and re-cycling.

APAY explored with Tokyo YMCA, in setting up a "YMCA Hotel School" in Vientiane initiated by Mr. Nishimura, former ISG of Y's Men International. Other projects were deferred, on recruiting potential Board members and developing a strategy for youth empowerment in the YMCA and community.

#### 5) Vietnam YMCA

Vietnam YMCA has experienced internal conflict since 2017. APAY intervened to resolve and re-activate the YMCA, but unsuccessfully. Sadly, the YMCA in Ho Chi Minh city stopped functioning. APAY continues to try and revitalize the YMCA. Simultaneously, APAY explored with a new group of young people, including former staff and youth volunteers, the possibility of re-starting YMCA in Ho Chi Minh city. The coordinator visited Ho Chi Minh to meet with the youth group and confirmed their zeal and willingness to start a new YMCA in the city.

A Social Enterprise has been established, to avoid a complicated registration. Despite the challenges, some GATN activities are supported by YMCA Singapore for this new group of young people. Due to Covid-19, offline activities did not go ahead: instead, they conducted an online English teaching Program.

#### 6) Pakistan YMCA

APAY has been involved in the court cases of YMCA Karachi, Pakistan for five years. The legal case is between two Karachi YMCA boards, both claiming legitimacy to govern the YMCA. The High Court of Pakistan issued a court order in February 2020, allowing full authority and power to APAY to take over the Karachi YMCA governance for three years, and to re-instate YMCA governance and operations according to the YMCA Constitution.

Based on the decision of the Executive Committee of the APAY, Mr. Chrisantha Hettiarachi, former National General Secretary of Sri Lanka YMCA, will be sent to Karachi as the representative of APAY as well as the administrator of the Karachi YMCA for at least one year. Due to the pandemic and international travel restrictions, he could not travel to Pakistan. We hope travel restrictions will be lifted soon so that Mr. Hettiarachi could start working with the Karachi YMCA based on the court order.

## ADVOCACY

**THURSDAYS IN BLACK - TIB**

The Gender Equity Committee of APAY and the ICF joined the UN's call and the World Council of Churches' campaign, and invited national YMCA movements to join the TIB movement, encouraging them to wear black on Thursdays. Wearing black indicates a commitment to be part of the global movement to resist "attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence, and to show respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence."

The Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) held a series of virtual seminar-workshops on 'The Intersection of Religion, Gender, and Human Rights' from November 19 to December 10, 2020, in line with the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. ICF incorporated the concerns of people affected with HIV and AIDS, and of Persons with Disabilities as World AIDS Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities fell on December 1 and December 3, respectively. ICF gathered a pool of experts to speak on these topics. Some 40 young people at each session came from all religious backgrounds.





# 10 PARTNERS & NETWORKS

In 2020, APAY continued its close partnership with its partners and networks in the region and around the world. These include Bread for the World (BftW), Y's Men International (YMI), World Student Christian Federation-Asia Pacific (WSCF-AP), World Council of Churches through the Ecumenical Forum on Peace and Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula (EFK), the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the Asia Migrant Centre (AMC), the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC).

BftW continued to support financially the APAY's two ongoing projects – Global Alternative Tourism Network and Inter-faith Cooperation Forum. General Secretary Nam Boo Won has been and continues to serve as Global Reference Group of the BftW, advising and participating in the strategy developing process of the BftW. The Asia Pacific Area and Korea Area of YMI continue to support leadership training programs of the APAY from their Alexander Scholarship Fund (ASF).



In addition, several local Y's Men clubs continue to support APAY's Movement Strengthening work in many National YMCAs. APAY keeps close connection with WSCF-AP in terms of ecumenical youth and students networking and common advocacy.



APAY continued to be actively involved in the Ecumenical Forum on Peace and Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula (EFK), a joint initiative of WCC and NCC-Korea, with a view to contributing to building a lasting peace in the peninsula. We also collaborate with YWCA in the EFK and other programs with the shared mission. As a steering committee member, APAY not only contributes to but also learns from GSEF in strengthening social and solidarity economy, particularly in our national/local YMCAs. Within its Quadrennial Plan, APAY collaborated more closely with the CPCS and GPPAC in our common pursuit of bridging and advocacy role in the Korean Peninsula peace process. The three organizations co-organized an online "International Conference for Korean Peninsula Peace" on 10-13 August 2020. The objective of the Conference was to convene a diverse audience of stakeholders, with experts from inside and outside of the Korean Peninsula, to analyse, and explore possibilities to support peace interventions and international advocacy.







# GOVERNANCE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### BOARD MEMBERS (2019 - 2023)

Prof. Chen Chin-Seng, President, Taiwan  
 Mr. Raymond Areng, Vice President, Bangladesh  
 Mr. Poon Chin Chung Philip, Vice President, Hong Kong  
 Ms. Hannah Dunlop, Vice President, New Zealand  
 Dr. Honorio Tan, Vice President, Philippines  
 Rev. Dae-Kyun Shin, Treasurer, South Korea  
 Ms. Panha Chhem, Board Member, Cambodia  
 Ms. Nagako Okado, Board Member, Japan

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF WORLD ALLIANCE FROM ASIA AND PACIFIC

Mr. Ronald Yam Tak Fai, Treasurer, Hong Kong  
 Mr. Alan Morton, Australia  
 Ms. Nagako Okado, Japan  
 Dr. Indong Song, South Korea  
 Ms. Karren Joy Fetalvero, Philippines  
 Ms. Chanita Maneekarn, Thailand

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Dr. Philip Kwok, Hong Kong (1987-1995)  
 Mr. Chim Hou Yan, Singapore (1995-1999)  
 Mr. Kan Tanikawa, Japan (1999-2003)  
 Rev. Samuel Stephens, India (2003-2007)  
 Dr. Park Jai Chang, South Korea (2007-2011)  
 Mr. Yau Chung Wan Joshua, Hong Kong (2011-2015)  
 Mr. Babu Markus Gomes, Bangladesh (2015-2019)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Christopher Lewis, Australia  
 Mr. Babu Markus Gomes, Bangladesh  
 Mr. OK Libounna, Cambodia  
 Mr. Sunia Rakuita Cama, Fiji  
 Mr. William Fu, Hong Kong  
 Chief Justice (Retd.) J.B. Koshy, India  
 Dr. Alphinus Kambodji, Indonesia  
 Mr. Ryushi Kawamoto, Japan  
 Prof. Kim Heung Soo, South Korea  
 Mr. Ip Pui Fai, Macau  
 Dato' Daniel Tay Kwan Hui, Malaysia  
 Ms. Bolortuya Dondovsambuu, Mongolia  
 Mr. U Tha Sein, Myanmar  
 Dr. Mohan Pun, Nepal  
 Mr. Matt Roberts, New Zealand  
 Mr. Andrew McMullen, Pakistan  
 Atty. Eduardo P. Pilapil, Philippines  
 Mr. Chim Hou Yan, Singapore  
 Mr. Nirmal De Fonseka, Sri Lanka  
 Dr. Dennis Ching-Yang Lee, Taiwan  
 Mr. Danuch Yontarak, Thailand  
 Rev. Samuel Belo, Timor Leste  
 Dr. Hahn Meerha, South Korea Chair, Committee on Gender Equity  
 Ms. Stephanie Cheung Siu Ting, Hong Kong Chair, Committee on YPLD

### NATIONAL GENERALS SECRETARIES

Ms. Merlinda Crole, Australia  
 Mr. Nipun Sangma, Bangladesh  
 Mr. Hem Thel (Acting NGS), Cambodia  
 Dr. Wu Jianrong, China  
 Mr. John Lee, Fiji  
 Mr. Karl Lau, Hong Kong  
 Mr. Peter Ho, Hong Kong  
 Mr. Bertram Devadas, India  
 Ms. Margaretha T. Andoea, Indonesia  
 Mr. Tsutomu Taguchi, Japan  
 Mr. Kim Kyung Min, South Korea  
 Ms. Grace S.L. Kuan, Macau  
 Ms. Ong Sooi Gaik (National Administrator of NCY Malaysia), Malaysia  
 Mr. Munkhsog Davaadorj, Mongolia  
 Mr. Maung Maung Win, Myanmar  
 Mr. Mukti Nath Acharya, Nepal  
 Mr. Chris Knol, New Zealand  
 Mr. Samuel Pervez, Pakistan  
 Mr. Pablito A. Tabucol, Philippines  
 Ms. Phyllis Tan (Joint National Secretary), Singapore  
 Mr. Steve Loh (Joint National Secretary), Singapore  
 Mr. Theonis Charles Brownson, Sri Lanka  
 Mr. James Tou, Taiwan  
 Ms. Chularat Phongtudsirikul, Thailand  
 Mr. Antonio B.S. Da Silva, Timor Leste

### RELATED YMCAS REPRESENTATIVES

Rev. Xu Xiaohong, China

### ECUMENICAL PARTNERS & INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Y's Men International (YMI)

Y Care International (YCI)

Bread for the World-Protestant Development Services Evangelisches  
Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V. (BftW)

Asia Civil Society Platform on Sustainable Development (APSD)

Asia Migrant Centre (AMC)

Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)

Ecumenical Asia Pacific Students and Youth Network (EASY Net)

Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF)

World Student Christian Federation-Asia Pacific (WSCF-AP)

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

Ecumenical Forum on Peace and Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula (EFK)

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS)

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

## STAFF AT 31/12/2020

General Secretary: Nam Boo Won, South Korea

Executive Secretary: Maria Cristina Miranda, Philippines

Executive Secretary: Sunita Suna, India

Coordinator for GATN: Chan Beng Seng, Malaysia

Coordinator for MS: Lee Yun-Hee, South Korea

Coordinator for ICF: Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro, Philippines

Program Officer for ICF: Baidido Manalasal Saganding, Philippines

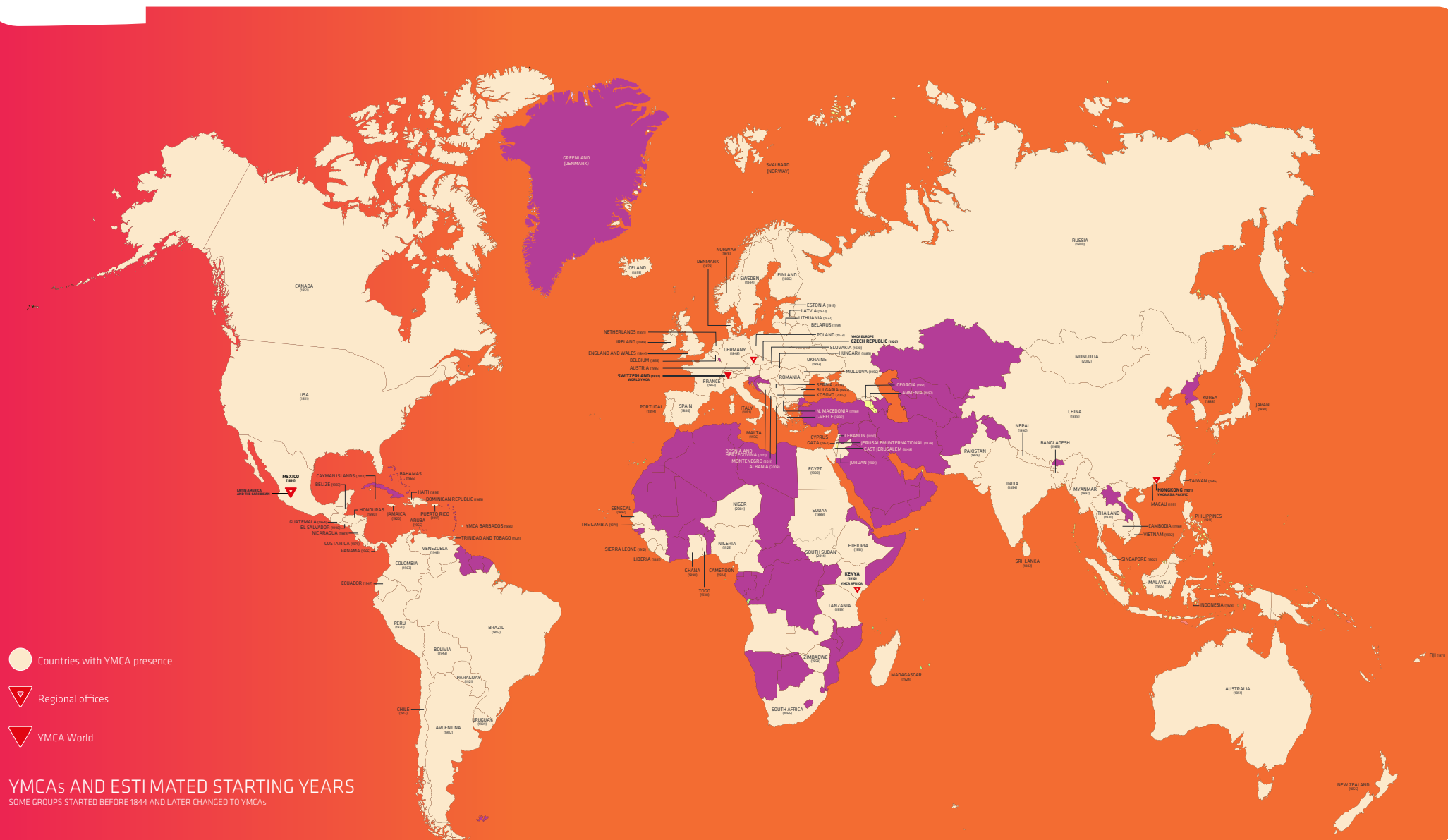
BftW Seconded Personnel to ICF: Annika Denkmann, Germany

Youth Intern: Maji Seng Moon Pan, Home base in Myanmar

Administrative Staff: Fion Fung, Accountant /Irene Chan, Administrative Assistant/  
Fanny Li, Office Assistant, Hong Kong



# 12 YMCA WORLDWIDE



# WORLD YMCA IN 2020

## COVID

World YMCA shared in the global journey of the worldwide YMCA Movement in 2020. In March, it developed a three-part response to COVID-19 in 2020: building 'Resilience', launching 'Recovery', and initiating a process of 'Reimagination'.

## RESILIENCE

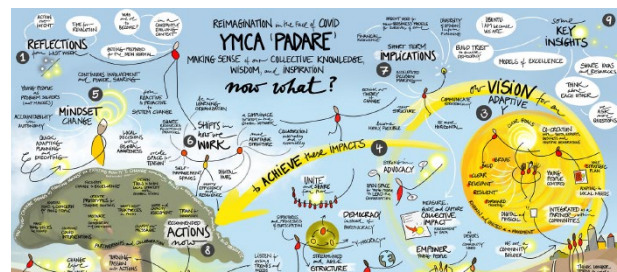
A series of Leaders Talks in April and May – designed to source wisdom to cope with crisis – assembled 1000 people online, addressed by 20 global leaders. A Resilience Playbook was issued. Two 'Youth Voices' online fora were run in May and June: 'The future we want', and 'A future without racism'. Online ecumenical thanksgiving services were organised in May, June and July, and the World Week of Prayer in November.

## RECOVERY

World YMCA set up the YMCA COVID Solidarity Fund, and approved grants of almost CHF 380,000 to support 27 National Movements struggling in the face of the pandemic.

## REIMAGINATION

World YMCA organised a series of 'Padare' online sessions in July and August, bringing together 190 people in 55 countries to debate the challenges facing YMCAs. The resulting handbook '*Becoming an Adaptive YMCA*' for the 21st Century' was issued in December. Building on the Padare debates, in November a 'Reimagine Lab' was launched in Australia, to revolutionise YMCA responses to mental health.



## ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIP

In April, May and December, World YMCA and the rest of the 'Big 6' youth organisations highlighted the role of young people helping their communities in the time of COVID-19 and the massive challenges they faced. They called on governments and policymakers to put young people at the heart of the solutions in post-pandemic recovery efforts. In December, World YMCA and the rest of the Big 6 joined WHO in launching the 'Global Youth Mobilization for

## PROGRAMMES

### YOUTH LED SOLUTIONS

World YMCA launched the Youth Led Solutions Initiative, empowering young people to lead change. Its first summit was held online with Y USA in October, on the topic of climate action. 'Solution Teams' from nearly 50 countries submitted ideas for combating climate change, and are now being seed-funded.



## CHANGE AGENTS

The fourth Cohort of Change Agents concluded in October, with 135 Agents from 50 countries receiving diplomas. Despite lockdown, the cohort completed its curriculum. 750 Change Agents have graduated since 2012.

## COMMUNITIES OF IMPACT

YMCA worldwide Communities of Impact on Refugees & Migrants (led by YMCA Canada) and Employment & Entrepreneurship (Y Care International, USA) involved 15 National Movements throughout 2020. Communities are tasked to scan, share and scale the very best of what the global Movement is doing all around the world. At year-end, World YMCA launched three new Communities of Impact, on Mental Health (YMCA Australia), Climate Action (Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs), and Policy & Advocacy (YMCA England & Wales).





# ASIA & PACIFIC ALLIANCE OF YMCAs

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Asia Pacific Alliance  
of YMCAs

