



Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

APAY eNews

Monthly eNewsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs | November-December 2011

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UPCOMING EVENTS

26Jan - 28Jan: APAY-EASY Net Core Team Meeting (Hong Kong)

29Jan - 4Feb: APAY-ICF Workshop: Break Walls, Build Bridges (Orissa, India)

Feb - May: ICF School of Peace Program (Bangalore, India)

5Mar - 10Mar: Executive Committee Meeting 2012 (Hong Kong)

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29th Advanced Studies Concludes

10 participants from 7 different movements came to participate in the 29th Advanced Studies Program. This is a 27-day training program held from 14 November – 10 December 2011 at Wu Kai Sha Youth Village.

As the usual expectation goes, everyone wanted to deepen their knowledge of the YMCA, what are the emanating trends and issues, and innovative ways of addressing these issues. However, there would always be more than that that could result with after the entire program. Here are some of the meaningful learning experience and dreams that the participants had and would put forward to.

Carol (Fu Yan Qiu), is the Assistant Director of Tian Jin



YMCA in China. Her YMCA is just small with only a few staff. She has been vigorously working with college students together in conducting several programs. Once she returns, she plans to conduct a project on Climate Justice. Aside from that, while in Hong Kong she has established a stronger connection with CYMCA in order to develop international ex-

changes for the youth.

Sean (Cai Shu Qun) is also from China. He works as the Executive Secretary of Social Service Department in YMCA of Guang Zhou. He is so proud of having more than 8000 youth volunteers in his YMCA, and to make them more viable, he plans to con-

(Continued on page 2)

APAY Leaders Meet in Singapore

The APAY Leaders Quadrennial Roundtable convened at Metropolitan-YMCA Singapore last 17-19 December 2011. 29 participants from 12 national movements participated. The group was primarily composed of APAY Officers, lay leaders, national general secretaries, youth leaders and the APAY staff.

This leadership meeting was

held to review the General Assembly mandate formed last September in Penang, Malaysia. Based on the General Assembly, this set of leaders formulated the 'Strategic Plan for the Next Quadrennial'. Also, the Roundtable meeting ensured that national movements were able to actively participate in the process so they can take ownership of the plan which will have to be shared

and implemented both at local and national levels.

The process included identifying the important concerns and issues to be addressed and responded to; the deliverables and strategies that will be taken and the indicators that will help gauge the success and impact of the responses. The reports will have to be

(Continued on page 3)



From the desk of the General Secretary...

OIKOS + LOGOS in YMCA WORKS

We have just finished our 29th Advanced Studies Program (ASP) this year. Ten (10) participants from seven (7) movements attended. At the beginning of the program, we studied Contemporary Theology. Based on this, we reflected on several social realities ~ poverty, human-right violation, discrimination, conflicts and disasters present in our ecology. As a YMCA staff, and as a faith-based organization, how do we respond to such issues? And how do we relate our understanding of God as a faith-based organization? This became the core part of the Advanced Studies. Each participant developed his/her Action Plan for the next few years as an output of the ASP. I hope all the plans they wished will come true.

Also, I would like to share what I learnt from the theology lecture of Prof. Park

Seong-Won of Younghan Theological University and Seminary, Korea about God's logic over all creations.

We are all God's creation. Something is controlling the orders of human life and our universe. God has something to do with whole creation of the universe. We have to understand and obey orders to sustain all the total creation present in our universe such as nature, people, trees, animals, birds, insects and other unobservable creatures.

We need to see God's logic in every aspect of life. We need to discern what God wants us to do. OIKOS means God's household and God's world. OIKOS and Logos make the term "Ecology" which means to learn how God created our world, the universe, and human beings. We need to under-

stand God's creation, its logic, its purposes, and our future.

However, human beings often violate their relationship with God. We have gone beyond the logic for the sake of development. We have violated God's rules by ignoring God's logic. We should stop uneven distribution of resources. Our responsibility is to discern how God speaks to us. YMCA is working in line with God's perspective and we need to discern what God thinks and expects for us to do. With a strong faith, we are working very differently in this sense.

Together, let us work strongly and progressively with faith in God.

I wish you all a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year!!!

29th ASP... *(continued from p.1)*

duct Youth Leadership Training and Global Citizenship Training for all of them.

Orasio (Orasio Mendes) is the Director of East Timor which is known as AN-JUCTIL. His YMCA is a very new one with only a few staff. In the beginning of the program, he admitted that he has no strong background of YMCA. He expected so many things to learn in the ASP, which ASP was able to provide him in the end. Inspired with the Global Alternative Tourism Network (GATN) of APAY, Orasio plans to adapt the program in East Timor in 2012.

Carman (Wong Yiu Yu) is the Coordinating Secretary of CYMCA-HK who closely works with the Uni-Y sector. CYMCA has very strong Uni-Y groups and they have good programs as well especially for international exchange matters. As ASP ended, she plans to conduct a new program for the Uni-Y

groups which she calls "U Start". Mainly, the objective of the program is to make the youth initiate and implement socially relevant activities for the communities.

Joyce (Joyce Chan) is the Principal Program Secretary for the Kowloon Center of CYMCA-HK. She has been dealing with the Sports and Recreation Programs of the CYMCA for the past few years. Aligned with her advocacy for a Green Community, she plans to do a huge project for her center called "Green Podium" and one of its highlights is the Organic Farming.

Naoki (Naoki Kobayashi) or Naoki-san as we fondly call him is in charge of the High School Communication and Social Skills Course in Osaka YMCA High School. He has strong objectives and huge dreams for his high school students. One of his missions is to provide a huge opportunity for these students to have great jobs and employment after they graduated from school.

During the ASP, he has developed a project plan addressing Youth Employment among his high school students.

Sylvia (Sylvia Piedad), for two years now, has been working as Program Officer of Davao YMCA in the Philippines. Seeking greater opportunities for Davao young people, she wants to establish a Youth Council in her YMCA. This council aims to provide space and opportunities for these young people to intellectually babble on relevant issues concerning them and to plan actions addressing these pressing issues.

Brownson (Theonis Charles Brownson) is the Executive Secretary for Peace Reconciliation and Reconstruction in NCY Sri Lanka. In relation to this, he plans to conduct a 10-year program called "Reconciliation through Palmyra Trees". This will be a huge program, but with his ability to

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29th ASP... (Continued from page 2)

source out funding, this will surely make a huge impact in the Sri Lanka society in the future.

Prabu (Joseph Antony Prabu) is Trincomalee YMCA's General Secretary. His YMCA has been undergoing many challenges recently. However, through his persistence, his YMCA can still manage to conduct fruitful programs for the youth. Dreaming of achieving greater prospects for Trincomalee youngsters, he designed a program relevant to Information Technology that could broaden up the perspectives of the youth as well as to divert their attention from the outraged brought about by the civil war which has just ended

not so long ago.

Lastly, we also have K.D. (Chen Chi Chih) from Taiwan. He is currently the General Secretary of Chang Hua YMCA. It is just a small YMCA with only four (4) staff members. However, Chang Hua YMCA has good and very interesting programs for the youth. In hopes of empowering the young people more, K.D. plans to strengthen their existing programs. With all his efforts in raising funds for the security of running the programs, surely, the young people will have greater chances to be empowered.

All of them are struggling for how they can be effective in realizing these project plans. Through their common goal of Empowering Youth and Communities, soon our social realities will be transformed; thus, would bring out the concreteness to the YMCA mission.

Let us all continue spreading the true Christmas message everyday through sharing and bringing hope to our brothers and sisters through our YMCAs.

APAY Leaders...

(Continued from page 1)



reviewed by the APAY staff for identification of detailed success indicators and implementation plan.

The new set of APAY officers also presented some changes in the structure for effective operationalization of the plan. The finalized plan will then be forwarded to the members of the Board and participants for comments/amendments and confirmation prior to endorsement to the Executive Committee Meeting which will be on 5-10 March 2012.

We thank Metropolitan YMCA-Singapore and YMCA of Singapore for the warm and collaborative hosting of this event. We also thank the lay-leaders, national general secretaries and the young volunteer leaders for their involvement in this strategic process.

APAY Holds International Forum on Alternative Tourism

37 participants from YMCAs of Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Nepal, Palestine, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam and representatives from EED Tourism Watch, ECOT, ICF and Tourism Research joined the International Forum on Alternative Tourism organized by APAY in Cambodia last 24-30 November 2011.

Together with the resource persons, the participants underwent a deeper analysis of the current global trends on tourism, emerging challenges and opportunities. This led them toward the debate on positioning YMCAs role and strategy in building alternatives for a trans-

formed tourism. There was a detailed study on Community-based Tourism's theory and practice. The participants interacted with community-based eco-tourism initiatives in Cambodia as facilitated by Dr. Rith Sam Ol, the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Mr. Heinz Fuchs (Director Tourism Watch), Mr. Caesar De Mello (Director, ECOT), Mr. Max Edgier (ICF, Coordinator), Mr. Nidal Abuzuluf, Dr. Park Jai Chang, Ms. Chularat Phongtudsirikul, Mr. Andrew Leo and Mr. Jose Varghese served as facilitators on different sessions. This meeting tended to form a working group for the establishment of a Global Alternative Tourism Movement with Dr. Park Jai Chang as Chair. Different

task groups for Certification Standards, Training and Curriculum Development, Advocacy, Code of Ethics and Marketing were also developed. The forum was convened through the support of EED and YMCA Victoria, Australia. Follow-up actions of the forum would include training support for 20 YMCAs, pilot tour with domestic tourists, advocacy on tourism issues, enforcement of the code of ethics, and marketing of alternative tour programs through the GATN website.

Some reflections from participants:

The Forum on Alternative Tourism, for me, was indeed educative and informative. The fellowship and the

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Cambodia... (continued from p.3)

bonding were fantastic and encouraging. Exposures to very practical community tourism were eye-opening. A program owned and managed by the community and any income accrued from it remains in the community for their benefit. Kenya YMCA plans to undertake Alternative Tourism with the following objectives: a) create an opportunity for tourists to learn the local people's culture; b) enable the tourists to interact with community; c) create a platform where the tourists can participate in community development; d) enable the tourist to appreciate and be involved in environmental conservation activities; and e) create an opportunity for tourists to appreciate diversity. **(Jared Musima, Kenya)**

This was my first time to attend a forum abroad. First, I expected to know how workshops would be like. As a staff from, I wanted to find out more about activities of Alternative Tourism from other YMCAs and to establish possible partnership with them. Also, I expected

*to learn so much from the participants who are expert in their respective fields. But, as I came back to Vietnam, I realized that I have learned more than I expected. All sessions by well-experienced speakers gave me an in-depth knowledge about tourism. I was indeed interested in sharing session of various YMCA activities and Alternative Tourism opportunities. Moreover, I was amazed with Mr. Andrew Leo of Singapore who presented their international exchange programs and learned more how sending organizations expect from host organizations. My vision for action for YMCA of Vietnam is to promote Alternative Tourism via work camps and study tours. We will also try to organize as ecological and pilgrimage tours next year. **(Trang Nguyen, YMCA Vietnam)***

The GATN encourages the YMCAs to monitor the negative impacts of tourism and to transform communities/societies. Personally, GATN increased my knowledge and raised my awareness on gender sensitivity, child pro-



GATN Meeting in Cambodia

*tective care, environmental responsibilities, and culturally-appropriate and equitable-sharing of economic benefits. Community-based Alternative Tourism model gives us a leeway to balance self-fulfilment with social responsibility. I strongly believe that GATN is a good area to venture for it is a win-win situation for the host and guests. Eventually, communities involved would develop holistically. **(Christopher Bachman, India)***

We thank the Cambodia YMCA for the very warm and professional hosting they extended to all of us.

ICF Working Committee Meets in Cambodia

The working committee of Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) met in Phnom Penh on Dec. 3 and 4 to review the work of the regional network in 2011 and to discuss plans for activities in 2012. In addition to the working committee members from Burma, Cambodia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka and ICF staff members, Kohei Yamada, APAY general secretary, and the Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang, CCA general secretary, represented the two organizations in the meeting as the two project holders of this inter-faith program.

It was noted at the meeting that APAY and ICF had collaborated on several programs during 2011—a workshop on alternative tourism in February in Kathmandu, Nepal, and a two-week School

of Peace (SOP) in July in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Moreover, ICF coordinator Max Ediger also was the keynote speaker at APAY's 18th General Assembly in September in Penang, Malaysia. Other ICF programs during the year included a workshop on indigenous spirituality in November in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

For 2012, the main activity of ICF will be a 14-week SOP in Bangalore, India, beginning on Feb. 1. Twenty-five participants have been selected for this program from Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam and, for the first time, several SOP participants from outside of Asia—a staff member of a local YMCA in England and two Native Americans from Canada and the

United States.

Another ICF program that has been confirmed for 2012 is a joint workshop once again with APAY that will take place between Jan. 29 and Feb. 4 in the Indian state of Orissa, which has experienced communal violence in the past several years. *(for more information, please see ICF article on p. 5)*

The working committee also discussed a number of other activities for ICF to undertake in 2012, including programs at the sub-regional level, such as the Mekong region; a workshop on reconciliation, especially in areas that have experienced violent conflicts; and a series of workshops to train SOP alumni to be resource people in several areas, such as human rights and community organizing.

APAY and ICF Seek to Break Walls and Build Bridges at Orissa Workshop

People in the Indian state of Orissa have lived with tension and violence between the Hindu and Christian communities in the state for a number of years. In an attempt to provide young people in this part of eastern India with some tools to address the challenges they face, APAY and ICF are holding a workshop from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4 in Orissa in the community of Bhubaneswar with the local YMCA as the host. This workshop, whose theme is "Breaking Walls, Building Bridges," will bring together about 30 people from Orissa and others parts of India as well as participants from several other Asian countries that have also experienced violent conflict.

Interested participants may register with the APAY through their national movements until 10 January 2012.

YMCA World Challenge 2012:

OCTOBER 13th 2012



YMCA WILL MAKE HISTORY

The aim of YMCA World Challenge is to tell the YMCA story by mobilizing 5MILLION people on the same day. Start your YMCA World Challenge Plans now, and let the world know your activities. Together, let us make history this coming 2012.

APAY Welcomes New Young Staff



We welcome Mr. Lewis Semper from YMCA of England, as the New Young Professional in the APAY family. He will be working with the Global Alternative Tourism Network (GATN) Program of the APAY.

Lewis, 21, has been working with the Romford YMCA for nearly two (2) years. He began working with them as a part-time volunteer in the IT department which later lead to a full-time position as an I.T. Support Officer. Apart from this, his role also extends up the Human Resource Department. Previously, he has also contributed

significant efforts in the fund-raising activities in his YMCA.

Among the international programs, he attended the 2010 Annual National Assembly in Nottingham and also took part in 2010 International Youth Forum and World Council here in Hong Kong. From these programs, his interest for international YMCA works and programs was developed. Due to the Volunteer Placement in Romford YMCA, he is now finally working with us in the Asia-Pacific YMCAs.

He has started working with us since the 18th of November for promoting Alternative Tourism. He will be with the APAY for a year.

Y-Philippines Has New President and New NGS



The YMCA of the Philippines elected Mr. Felix Eliral Refuerzo as their new National President during their Council meeting in November 2011. He is also re-elected as President of the YMCA of Baguio for 2012 after serving the same office for two (2) terms in 2009 and 2010. He is the outgoing National Treasurer of the YMCA of the Philippines. A Journalist by profession, Mr. Refuerzo was a YMCA professional trained staff before his fulltime practice in his chosen field.

We congratulate Mr. Pablito Tabucol for being appointed as the new National General Secretary of NCY Philippines. He assumed the position last November and was officially announced during the NCY Philippines Centenary Celebration.



Pabs has nearly 24 years of work experience in the YMCA as a Program Assistant, Program Secretary, and as Assistant Secretary for Movement Strengthening. Also, he has worked for APAY as Sub-regional

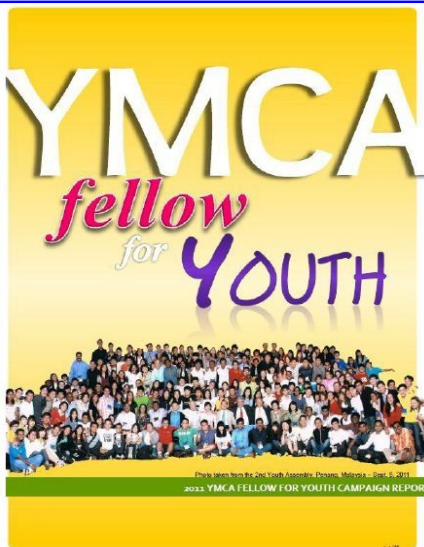
Coordinator for South East Asia YMCAs. Further, he has participated in many programs and activities in various area levels. For the past recent years, he has been the Training Coordinator/Director for Career Development Program which is the training ground for YMCA Secretaries in Philippines, and also for YMCA Rizal Youth Leadership Training Institute which is basically for university students. He has been also an active member for Association of Professional Directors in the Philippines in which he is presently the Vice-President.

Among the recent regional programs he participated were Executive Committee Meeting 2011, SEA YMCA Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers, 2nd Youth Assembly, 18th General Assembly, WAY Dialogue on Global Citizenship, and 3rd Leaders Quadrennial Roundtable in which he was either a coordinator, facilitator, or a presenter.

By profession, Pabs is a teacher with a master's degree in Educational Management. He has taught for sometimes in the University handling English and Literature classes. Also, he has been involved in Christian Education with his own religious affiliation and has been providing workshops and seminars in creative worship and liturgy.

APAY congratulates both of you for your new offices.

APAY Campaigns for YMCA Fellow For Youth 2012



YMCA fellow for YOUTH 2011-2012

How to join the roster of YMCA Fellows?
You can be one of the YMCA Fellows by contributing 1,000 USD or more in one time or during the 4-5 year campaign period. Please use the YMCA fellow form below and send back to APAY.

Pledge form:
1. YMCA Fellow for Youth US\$ 1,000
2. After (donation amount) USD
3. I will continue to support in the following years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 for a total of USD
(Please circle the year(s) of your plan of supporting. You can send the 2000 USD in three or four years, if you prefer.)

A. DONATION
How would you want your support to be spent?
☐ I would want to donate the FULL amount to APAY Youth.
☐ I would prefer the amount to be split 50% to APAY Youth, 50% to MY NATIONAL MOVEMENT.

B. DONATION INFO:
CIBANK TRANSFER:
Account Name: Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
Bank Name: Bank of East Asia
Account Number: 955 515 00 0904-5
Swift Code: BEA333 KHH
SEND TO THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT FIRST DUE TO TAX REDUCTION PREFERENCE
(CASH TO APAY YOUTH AVAILABLE (please specify destination))

YMCA FELLOW NAME (must be under 30 years old)
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL: _____ CONTACT NO./: _____
DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

fellow for YOUTH REFERRAL FORM
Can you recommend someone else to join the fellowship? If so, please write the person's info below.

YMCA Fellow NAME (must be under 30 years old)
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL: _____ CONTACT NO./: _____
DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

This year's campaign will continue until March 31, 2012.

Cover of the 6-page 2011 YMCA Fellow for Youth Campaign Report.

other national movements.

YFY has started since 2010. This is seen to be an avenue for developing young leaders, their potentials, and social awareness. This campaign will run from December 2011 until the 19th APAY General Assembly in 2015. The goal is to receive at least 100 YMCA Fellows each year.

Let us all spread the Christmas spirit through supporting the YFY 2012 Campaign and together we will EMPOWER the YOUTH!

You can browse through this YFY Campaign Report Booklets through our APAY facebook Page (Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs) or download it through our website: www.asiapacificymca.org.

Campaign Report Booklets of our YMCA Fellow for Youth (YFY) have been circulated to some movements during the 3rd Leaders' Quadrennial Roundtable in Singapore. Soon it will also be circulated among



Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

ANNOUNCEMENT

APAY office will be closed from the 24th of December until the 2nd of January for Christmas and Year-end break.