



Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

Inside Stories...

- **Youth Empowerment: YMCA Priority for the Next 4 Years** on p. 2
- **APAY-GS Shares WAY's Executive Committee Meeting 2012** on p. 3
- **YMCA World Challenge 2012: Hoop Springs Eternal** on p. 3
- **WAY NEWS: Stakeholders' Meeting** on p. 4
- **GCE ToT in Sri Lanka** on p. 5
- **30th Advanced Studies Program** on p. 5
- **YMCA Anniversaries** on p. 5



21May - 25May: Green Ambassadors' Training (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

5June: World Environmental Day

6Jul - 9Jul: Resource Mobilization Workshop (Metro-Y, Singapore)

13Jul - 15Jul: Resource Mobilization Workshop (KL, Malaysia)

17Jul - 22Jul: 4th YMCA Regional Youth Conference (Singapore)

7Aug - 12Aug: GCE ToT (Sri Lanka)

APAY eNews

Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
23 Waterloo Road, 6th floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong
tel. 852-2780 8347, 2770 3168, 2783 3058;
fax 852-2385 4692
e-mail: office@asiapacificymca.org

APAY eNews

Monthly eNewsletter of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs | April & May 2012

YMCA Regional Youth Conference 2012

As announced in our March eNewsletter issue, **YMCA Regional Youth Conference** with the theme 'STEP-UP: ENCOURAGE, EDUCATE, ENGAGE', will be held on 17-22 July 2012 at National University of Singapore ~U-Town and to be hosted by the YMCA of Singapore.

The conference is jointly organized by APAY Youth Participation and Leadership Development (YPLD) Committee and the University Students Group of the YMCA of Singapore as part of the celebration of YMCA

of Singapore's 110th Anniversary. Previously, this program was known as 'Asia-Pacific University Youth-Regional Conference'. Through program evaluation activities, concerns with the 'inclusiveness' of the program title arose; thus, resulting with the revision of the program's name. From this year, the program will be known as 'YMCA Regional Youth Conference'. This will embody the purpose of the program which is to serve as an avenue for various youth groups (Uni-Y, College-Y, Campus-Y, Student-Y, Youth Club, etc.)

wherein they could share and learn the various structure, programs, and activities of the many different youth groups.

Registrations are still open. Upcoming registrations will be registered for the whole month of May. 31st of May is the last date for registrations.

So STEP UP and SIGN UP NOW!

For further program information, please visit our website at www.asiapacificymca.org.

Go Green in Chiang Mai

The Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs is striving to educate the stakeholders of the YMCAs towards a behavioral change to reduce YMCAs own carbon footprint and advocate for ecological justice. As a part of this continuous endeavor, the APAY envisions to train 30 Green Ambassadors from amongst the YMCAs of our region. The Green Ambassadors Training shall take place during 21-

25 May, 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

National YMCA Movements are encouraged to send YMCA staff or lay leaders for this training program. We expect that the participants of the program subsequently shall play a leadership role in implementing green activities in their respective YMCAs. A follow up advanced training will be held in the 2013 for the participants of this pro-

gram, who had successfully implemented effective green programs in their own YMCAs.

The Registration Fee is US\$ 30 (including Green Fund Fee) and the Participation Cost is US\$ 200. Limited subsidies are available for deserving candidates. National Movements are encouraged to send participants for this Training Program.

For details of this program kindly contact Mr. Duncan Chowdhury, Executive Secretary for Programs, APAY at duncan@asiapacificymca.org



From the desk of the General Secretary...

Youth Empowerment: YMCA Priority for the Next 4 Years

As APAY has set the Strategic Plan for 2012-15, the core and priority goal will be Youth Empowerment. The APAY Youth Committee proposed to have Youth Representatives. This is a pool of young staff and volunteers which we call 'Youth Reps' for short; hence, will work closely and collectively for the next four years.

What does Youth Empowerment mean? How do we know if APAY Youth Empowerment goal is successful? Meeting this goal would mean that we would be hearing a stronger Youth voice in APAY, national and local associations. Moreover, many young people would actively engage with in creating youth programs as well as responding to social issues in local and global communities. For this goal, the Youth Reps, together with the Youth Committee members, would be more involved in YMCA structure, locally, nationally, and globally.

APAY has requested the National movements in selecting the proper candidates for Youth Reps. Those Youth Reps need to be supported so that they can represent the youth's voice in respective decision making structures such as in National or Local board and their committees. It would be important for the Youth Reps to be invited to the board meetings.

Another expectation in the APAY strategic plan is to increase youth groups and youth activities in YMCAs. The YMCA Regional Youth Conference (Singapore in July 2012) is being held annually. This serves as a platform for introducing and sharing youth empowerment program models from different youth groups. YMCA activities in Universities and Colleges have been growing in several countries. We need to intentionally create such opportunities for youth to develop their leadership and experiences of being empowered. The Global Citizenship Education, School of Peace, Uni Y, College Y, Campus Y, and Student Y are spaces where youth can be empowered. We, by sharing such good models, could improve our existing programs to encourage and empower more young people.

Lastly, the Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is a

good tool for empowering young people. More and more youth will be creating local actions in their own communities. GCE makes young people become more responsible citizens. GCE promotes socially relevant actions among youth. Youth Reps will be the promoters and initiators of GCE actions in each community. Therefore, the program in Sri Lanka (August 7-12, 2012) will be the starting point for the Youth Reps. Each Youth Rep will learn how to promote GCE in their movement, and how to increase youth lead activities in national and local YMCAs.

During this quadrennial term (2012-15), Youth Reps who receive trainings in 2012 and 2013 and who are fulfilling their responsibilities will be sent to the World Council in July 2014 (in USA). Finally, they are expected to attend APAY General Assembly in September 2015 to represent the Youth voice from their national movements. At the same time the Youth Reps will hold the Youth Assembly, where they discuss another strategic direction toward 2016-2019.

We believe that this Youth Empowerment Strategic Plan and various activities related to the Youth Reps will create big impacts in the YMCA movements in the world. The YMCA is such place where many young people feel empowered through its YMCA activities in local settings as well as through the global network. I am sure those Youth Reps will be our future leaders in the YMCA movements in all countries.

- KOHEI YAMADA

**IF WE TRULY
BELIEVE IN
YMCAS AND YOUTH;
THEN, WE SHOULD
INVEST NOW!**

APAY-GS Shares WAY's Executive Committee Meeting 2012

Officers and Executive Committee members met in Nairobi. From the Asia-Pacific area, the ECM members who attended were: Ms. Helen McEwan (Treasurer), Mr. Joshua Yau Chung Wan (APAY-President), Mr. Babu Gomes (APAY-Vice President), and Mr. Oliver Loke (APAY-YPLD Committee Member).

Progresses and Challenges in 2011

1. Youth Empowerment: Developed the Youth Empowerment as the main priority. The idea of Change Agents and Change Model have been focused. The World Alliance team of young people conducted research regarding the contemporary youth issues in different areas in which about 100 movements responded. World Challenge (scheduled on Oct. 13, 2012) has been prepared among 54 movements and received official support from

YMCA World Challenge 2012: Hoop Springs Eternal

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.

UNESCO and Federation of International Basketball Associations. The World Alliance has been closely working with United Nations. As an official representative of YMCAs' young people, Mr. Romulo Dantas (WAY-Executive Secretary) has been selected to be one of the advisory group members for the UN office.

2. MS: Movement Strengthening has been continuing as one of the major activities of the World Alliance. Governance and Leadership, Sustainability, Program Development and Communication (for more visibility) have been the focal aspects in this area.

3. RM: Resource Mobilization has been conducted after the Investor's Circle of the World Council in 2010. A total goal of 1 Million has been accomplished and four (4) areas have been working hard for their capacity development on Resource Mobilization. Strategic Collaboration with Y's Men, NAYDO and WUN has been built and concrete partnership has been started in Asia-Pacific and Africa areas.

4. Global Branding Strategies: Image and Impact Committee has been working for global branding strategies. The YMCA World Magazine has been issued twice this year; for the upcoming issues, publications will be made via web uploading only.

5. Governance of the World Alliance: Governance Model has been discussed and the Code of Conducts and Ethics has been developed. Evaluation of ECM itself and the works of the Secretary General have been done periodically.

6. Global Citizenship: Global Citizenship Dialogue was conducted in Penang last September after APAY's 18th General Assembly. Similar events will be conducted in all areas. Global Citizenship Book was published in collaboration with APAY.

7. Challenges felt by the World Alliance: 1) Economic recession made the WAY's interest income from JRM

funds much less; 2) Low visibility of YMCA in the world during the resource mobilization process; and 3) Lack of collective identity as a world-wide movement.

8. Plan and Strategy: New Focus on Youth Empowerment was discussed in the Stakeholders' Meeting. As agreed, the World Alliance needs to move concretely under the following three (3) main point agenda: 1) Hiring a Full-time Communications Specialist for the coming three (3) years; 2) Mobilizing 200 Change Agents from all YMCA movements in the world who will be trained in the area level then meet at the World Council; 3) Coordination will be done by rotation of 6 experienced staff for 2 month each from various member movements.

9. World Council Planning Committee: The World Council will be held from June 29 to July 5, 2014 in Colorado, USA, and Youth Forum and NGS meetings will be held from July 5 to 7. The theme will be "YMCA Empowering Young People". The World Council will invite 200 change agents. They will be trained in the Area levels in 2012-13, and they will share their experiences in the World Council. After the WC, they meet in Youth Forum jointly with NGSs for making follow-up plans for 2014-2018. The participants will approximately be around 1500 in which 500 will be youth members.

Resource Teams: The World Alliance will form the following Resource Teams for carrying out the NEW WAY strategies. The teams are headed by: 1) Youth Empowerment (Bob Cabeza of Long Beach Y, USA), 2) Resource Mobilization (Ghassan Sayah of Lebanon); 3) Social Enterprise (Peter Burns of Australia); 4) Global Citizenship (Dr. Park Jai Chang of Korea); 5) Environment (Jose Varghese of India); and 6) Student YMCA Leadership (Ashley Koloya of Y USA).

WAY NEWS: Stakeholders' Meeting

***The YMCA wants to achieve its full potential
We therefore must be a stronger movement
We therefore must attract greater resources
We therefore must have more visibility
We therefore must demonstrate greater impact
We therefore must have a shared focus
Relevant to the world
Grounded in our mission
Worthy of our aspiration
Connected to our current work
We therefore choose to collectively stand for
youth empowerment***



From March 31 to April 4, in Nairobi, Kenya, the world YMCA came together with 80 leaders from all continents at the Stakeholders meeting and the World Alliance Executive Committee. The leaders affirmed the following collective statement written above.

The world movement committed to advance a common focus and vision on youth empowerment in action. This agreement is centered on a common framework for a change model of youth empowerment focused on space, transformation, and impact. On a worldwide basis, YMCAs in all continents and communities work in youth empowerment. The NEW WAY Strategy has opened new perspectives so that YMCAs now will have the opportunity for increased coordination, learning, and sharing of our common work in youth empowerment. Through this coordinated effort YMCAs will achieve increased strength and visibility in programs, scale, and impact. With the affirma-

tion of the vision, the worldwide YMCA will now focus on implementation on youth empowerment in action in the NEW WAY.

The Global Staff Team - GST (composed of Area Executives from Africa, Asia and Pacific, Europe, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, USA, and the Middle East) met throughout the process in Nairobi and discussed key elements of the vision, the change model, impact measurement, the implementation plan, and resourcing the vision. The first action of the 2 year period is focused on the recruitment and training of the 200 Change Agents. The GST developed a consensus to work together to raise and leverage resources with local and national YMCAs to support the training, development, and integration of the 200 Change Agents.

It is anticipated that training will take place at the Area level between June and August 2013. A group training is planned to coincide with the Prague Festival in August 2013 where it is hoped that a large number

of the 200 Change Agents would be present. Training and action will continue to 2014 at the World Council (where all Change Agents will be present). This will be the opportunity to showcase and demonstrate results, evaluate the process, and plan for the next phase of implementation. A total 15 Trainers (from all continents) are planned to be recruited and identified over the next 90 days for training the Change Agents. The Change Agent training curriculum is planned to be developed by June. To assist with the implementation process, Resource Groups leaders (Peter Burns, Bob Cabeza, Ashley Kolaya, Dr. Park, Ghassan Sayah, and Jose Varghese) came together with World Alliance Executives (Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Romulo Dantas, and Selma Zaidi) on April 16 and 17 to share the common vision of youth empowerment, discuss concrete actions to advance youth empowerment, and to identify resources, tools, and partners to implement the strategy.

- REV. JOHAN VILHELM ELTVIK,
Secretary General, World Alliance of YMCAs

GCE ToT in Sri Lanka

Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs will soon be conducting the Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers (GCE ToT) on its fourth run. This will be held in conjunction with the NCY Sri Lanka's 50th Anniversary on 7—12 August 2012.

This training program is meant for young staff and volunteers who are willing to advocate Global Citizenship Education in their respective YMCAs. The 5-day program will equip the participants with the appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitude of a global citizen.

Program documents will be circulated among the national movements. For further information, please log on to www.asiapacificymca.org or contact us on office@asiapacificymca.org.

30th YMCA Advanced Studies Program

The 30th YMCA Advanced Studies Program organized by the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs will be held from 5th to 30th November 2012 at YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village in Hong Kong. The Advanced Studies Program (ASP) equips the Senior Managerial Staff Personnel of the YMCAs to manage their respective YMCAs to respond to the need of the present day realities and also help them to accomplish the YMCA Mission in their own communities.

The Registration Fee for the Program is US\$350, Green Fund Fee US\$ 15 and the Participation fee is US\$ 1,600. Limited Full / Partial Scholarships are could be made available for deserving candidates.

Detailed information and course curriculum is available at our website or please contact APAY at office@asiapacificymca.org for enrollment.

Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong

The Joint Inauguration Ceremony of Student Committees of University & College YMCAs

The Joint Inauguration Ceremony of Student Committees of University & College YMCAs was successfully held on 30 March 2012. More than 200 guests from local universities and colleges, the Nuremberg YMCA, Y's Men International (Hong Kong Districts) and the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong attended the ceremony to witness the significant moment.

Dr. Cecil S.O. Chan, President of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and guest of honour, encouraged all student committee members to do their part in serving the needs of the community whilst



Upholding the mission of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong – to serve, but not to be served.

The theme of the ceremony was “The Orchestra”. It conveyed the message that each member of the University and College YMCA is like a musical instrument, which, when brought together, as in an orchestra, can play a wonderful and harmonious melody – a concerted devotion to serving society.

Dr. Chan also mentioned that, in order to further develop the youth networks and pull their strength together in serving the wider community and our world, the Hong Kong Alliance of University & College YMCAs will be established by the Chinese YMCA in the near future.

YMCA Anniversaries ~ Congratulations!!!



YMCA of Singapore Goes 110!

The YMCA of Singapore celebrates its 110 anniversary Thanksgiving & Dedication service on July 20, 2012. The YMCA Regional Youth Conference which is a joint program of YMCA of Singapore & APAY will be held in the same month from July 17-22.

...

NCY Sri Lanka Turns 50!

The National Council of the YMCAs of Sri Lanka celebrates its 50th Golden Anniversary. A series of inspiring and motivational programs are planned from August 7-14, 2012. The detailed calendar of events connected to the celebration will be shared with you in due course. In conjunction to its anniversary celebration, NCY Sri Lanka will be hosting the Global Citizenship Education Training of Trainers (GCE ToT) on 7-12 August 2012.



Our warm Congratulations to both YMCAs and more power!