

APRIL 2011

What's New

Scouts Aid to Japan

It was utterly heartbreaking as we helplessly watched in disbelief the news on the March 11 tsunami that washed away villages in northeastern Japan. Now, that helplessness can turn into helpfulness. We share here the message of Scout Association of Japan (SAJ) International Commissioner Kunisada Kume who expressed his gratitude to a number of NSOs and individuals who extended their sympathy and intention to help.

At the meeting of regional leaders in Bangladesh, a moment of prayer was offered to the victims, including one of our own, APR Adult Support Sub-Committee member Mr Takahashi Yusuru and his wife, who were unable to escape the tragedy.

Mr Kume confirmed the loss of some Scouts and leaders in Miyagi Scout Council and the evacuation of many others to temporary shelters. All Scout Council HQs in the affected areas were damaged, even then, Scouts of those councils were out in the field trying to help others. In many areas of Japan, Scouts and leaders have started their campaign to raise money for the victims. The APR office has contributed to this campaign with a token amount from the APR Disaster Fund, and Brunei Darussalam is one of the first countries to donate.

Due to the present nuclear threat in Japan, Mr Kume explained that this is not the right time to accept volunteers from outside Japan. Instead, donation is encouraged for those who want to support the recovery and may contact the Scout Association of Japan for details. A financial report on all assistance received will be posted at the SAJ website.

Bhutan hosts 1st SAARC Friendship Camp

Camping in the picturesque town of Thimphu was a delight to 126 Scouts from all over Bhutan, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the first SAARC Scout Friendship Camp. This was held from 21 to 27 March 2011 at the centenary youth village.

The camp's thematic focus was "Scouts for a Green and Happy South Asia" where young people discussed the present global environmental concerns and to find ways how they can help at their own level. Participants, who came together with their Chief Commissioners, also agreed to collaborate in supporting projects that aim for a balanced regional development. Bhutan Chief Commissioner Chencho Dorji chaired the Chief Commissioners Gathering.

Inaugurating the camp was Labour Minister Lyonpo Dorji Wangdi who shared his hope for innovation and growth from year to year in South Asian countries. Education Minister Lyonpo Thakur Singh Powdyel was also present.

Looking for new horizons in Cambodia

The month of March was dynamic with three Scouting events happening in a row in Phnom Penh. First, the Committee NSO Visit (CNV) began on 14th March, a significant meeting of leaders to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the current situation of Cambodia Scouts. 1st Vice Chairman Prakorb Mukura led the simple opening ceremony at the Council of Ministers complex by an active interaction on the major needs of this new association.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2011

WSJ HOC meeting
1-3 April
Sweden

Management Sub-Committee Meeting
13-14 April
Taiwan

Regional Scout Committee Meeting
16-17 April
Philippines

Committee NSO Visit
23-25 April
Nepal

Committee NSO Visit
28-30 April
Bhutan

Strategic Planning Workshop
30 Apr – 4 May
Fiji

Committee NSO Visit
5-6 May
Polynesia

Executive Directors Team Extended meeting
16-21 May

Committee NSO Visit
27-29 May
Singapore

APR International Seminar on Environmental Education & Biodiversity
4-7 June
Indonesia

NSOT centenary Celebration
1 July
Thailand

From the reports, Cambodia Scouts are widely involved in community and social services. These cut across many areas ranging from good sanitation to environment awareness, from maintaining public order in large national events to cleanliness around the city. They are active in the outdoors educating the public on proper disposal of garbage, traffic control and tree planting in nine provinces. Thousands volunteered in the renovation of school libraries. Over 850 Scouts have camped together, explored and learned new skills in preparation for the planned first National Scout Jamboree.

At the meeting, options were explored on how to make community based scouting stronger by looking at new horizons – the streets, half-way houses, orphanages, delinquent centers, and prisons – and tapping the help of international agencies who are presently running social projects in these areas.

Cambodia Scouts, which became a WOSM member in 2008, has over 5,700 members in the Scout and Rover Sections. They are supported by over 900 adult leaders. The plan to increase membership calls for vigorous training of more unit leaders. For this, an Assistant Leader Training course is set for November 2011 and basic training courses for adult leaders are planned for early next year.

Comprising the regional team were 2nd Vice Chairman Dr. Mukyuddin bin Sarwani, Committee member Nicholas Tan and Consultant Mohamed Ali Khalid and the executives of the regional office. At the Cambodian side were highly distinguished Scout leaders including two Vice Presidents, Mr Tuon Siphann and Mr Kong Uok; Chief Commissioner Phan Sokim; Secretary General Mr. Lak Sam Ath and both the Programme and Adult resources Commissioners and their Deputy Commissioners.

Cambodia focuses on youth programme development

Now the second event – a workshop on youth programme development held on 17th–20th March. Strengthening youth programme is the core business of Cambodia Scouts. Thirty-nine participants came from all over the country with the purpose of having greater understanding of the Youth Programme Policy and the cycle of programme development.

Regional Scout Committee Nicholas Tang shared powerful insights on personal leadership in the context of globalization and its greater uncertainties. He said, “the non-formal education provided by organizations such as Scouting can ameliorate the impact of these changes through a structured programme under the guidance of an adult.”

A seasoned group of resource persons explained at length the process of youth programme development, thanks to APR Programme Vice-Chairman Rajalingam Ramasamy, member Malcolm Tan; Lai Kwok Chin of The Singapore Scout Association and Syd Castillo from the APR office.

Joining the regional leaders at the opening ceremony were Cambodia Scouts Vice-President Kong Uok as Chief Guest, Vice-President and International Commissioner Tuon Siphann, Chief Commissioner Phan Sokhim and Secretary General Lak Sam Ath.

A new generation of Cambodian Scout Leaders

The third event was a rare occasion where the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, H.E. Im Sethy, witnessed the presentation of Gilwell scarf and beads to 43 Scout leaders. For a young association, this marks the birth of a new generation of leaders.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement, through its Asia-Pacific Regional office, trained adult leaders since 2007 paving the way for this first batch of Wood Badge holders who will comprise the first national training team.

28th APR Scout Jamboree

11-17 July
Taiwan

22nd World Scout Jamboree

27 July – 7 August
Sweden

APR Management Meeting

25-27 August
Manila

APR Workshop on Effective National Adults in Scouting & National Training System

16-19 September
Japan

Fundraising & Partnerships Seminar

22-26 September
Korea

Launch of Messengers for Peace Global project

26 September
Saudi Arabia

World Scout Committee Meeting

24-25 September
Saudi Arabia

Ticket to Life workshop

11-14 October
Manila

Regional Scout Committee Meeting

21-22 October

JOTA/JOTI

15-16 October

Executive Directors' Team Meeting

28 November – 1
December
Geneva

For more info visit

www.scout.org/asia-pacific

Email

asia-pacific@scout.org

Regional Scout Committee 1st Vice Chairman Mr Prakorb Mukura did the honor of donning the scarf and beads with Consultant Mr Mohamed Ali Khalid. Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed stressed the responsibility that comes with wearing those Scout insignias.

Cambodia Scouts Secretary General Mr Lak Sam Ath reported that all adults in Cambodia Scouts, at all levels including top ranking officers, have to undergo training.

Bangladesh prepares for 2012 APR Conference

Updates are available after the 2nd preparatory meeting for the 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference in 2012. The meeting was held at the Bangladesh Scouts National Training Center on 17th March.

Sheraton Hotel - Dhaka is the conference venue where 100 rooms have been blocked. The Host Organizing Committee (HOC) has also identified other economical hotels and hostels ranging from US\$10 to US\$70 to give wider options to participants. Shuttle transport will be arranged between the designated hotels and the conference venue.

Conference registration begins from January to July 2012 and forms will be available on the website, both for online and manual registration. Pre and post education tour will be arranged for accompanying persons program, and a separate home hospitality program for those who wish to stay longer before or after the conference. For participants of the ancillary events - Youth Forum and Course for Leader Trainers - who will stay on to attend the conference, home hospitality will be extended as an inter-event activity.

Complete information will be published in Conference Bulletin No. 2.

Under the chairmanship of Habibul Alam of the Host Organizing Committee, 16 sub-committees gave progress reports on registration, accommodation, cultural events, home hospitality, safety and security, infrastructure development, among others.

Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed and Chief National Commissioner Abul Kalam Azad commended the HOC for their early planning and readiness to host around 500 conference participants from all over Asia-Pacific and beyond.

To get the latest information on the conference, please visit: <http://www.24aprsc.org>

In Korea, Scouting is serious business...

It is also for lasting friendships for adults and fun for the young. This was the general tone of the Korea Scout Leader's Gathering held on 25th-27th February where 365 Scout leaders met in Incheon for the three-day gathering. There was much to share and discuss at this gathering that includes Korea's annual conference, the bidding for the 25th World Scout Jamboree in 2003, and the 39th World Scout Conference report. They also talked about the Korea-Japan Top Leaders Meeting that sealed the cooperation between the two NSOs that has been going on for many years. While thirteen Rover Scouts were given the Scout of the World Award, the leaders had their night of brotherhood. After the business sessions, Rover Scouts entertained their leaders with a fashion show to model their new Scout uniforms.

Besides the reporting, the gathering has a much larger and lasting purpose - to keep up the synergy, to communicate, to strengthen fellowship, and ultimately, to reignite their common passion for Scouting.

Pakistan boosts training of leaders

After a dry spell of eight years in the arena of Course for Leader Trainers, an oasis of renewed energy emerged when a new batch of 39 participants took part in the 6th National Course for Leader Trainers of Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA). This course took place at the Scouts Global Village in Islamabad, Pakistan.

"Scouting is one of the best ways to serve humanity", said Tariq Pirzada, Chief Scout of Islamabad Boy Scouts Association, who addressed the participants at the closing ceremony.

Thirty-nine participants came from nine out of ten provinces in Pakistan. Course modules used primarily the World Adult Resources Handbook with modification to suit the needs of PBSA. Sessions included Scouting knowledge, training skills, adult learning skills, leadership skills and personal development skills.

PBSA Acting Director of Training and Programme Mr Zahid Mahboob managed the event efficiently as course leader. A combined local and overseas training team shared their wealth of experience and expertise – Dr B D Sharma from India and Prof. Mozahid Hossain from Bangladesh, with Thian Hiong Boon from Asia-Pacific Regional office as full-time coordinator and Prassanna Shrivastava, also from the APR office, as trainer. Their local counterparts were course trainers Mian Nazeem Zahur, Aftab A Qureshi, Abdul Mannan, and Munir Ahmed.

Singapore's Seniors-in-Scouting

One of the strategic moves of the Singapore Scout Association is to bring Scouting closer to the community through the Seniors-in-Scouting (SIS) programme that enables them to reach out to seniors and retirees.

In this program, senior members continue to play active roles, giving them life-long learning. One example is the Ukulele practices held regularly. The Ukulele team enjoys the privilege of performing for government and civic organizations in formal occasions. Another group of Seniors are learning the art of line dancing, instructed by Margaret Anderson, a long-time dedicated and committed leader of the association.

Since the program started in December 2006, SIS has grown from strength to strength, training 379 seniors in four years.

Photos capture volunteering in action

Volunteering is the spirit of Scouting. This is also the theme of this year's regional photo contest. Out of the 107 photo entries from ten National Scout Organizations, Mr Arvind Danapalan from Malaysia won the gold prize. Mr Sarwar Shahriar of Bangladesh and Mr Nino Christopher Cardenas of Philippines won the silver prize while photos of Mr Min-HA JOO, Korea; Megan Donoghue, Australia and Nino Christopher Cardenas, Philippines won the bronze prize award.

Winners will receive trophies and their entries will be featured in major regional publications such as the annual calendars and posters.

The photo contest theme is aligned to the International Year of Volunteering (IYV+10) being celebrated this 2011, to show that volunteering is a gift of time, spirit, commitment and service. The contest is for amateur photographers to interpret volunteering, and now, the best photos speak for themselves.

The Scout Association of Japan mainly supports this yearly photo contest which is now on its 9th consecutive year.

Nepal Scouts welcome regional colleagues

On a rare occasion, the newly appointed Minister of Youth and Sports of the Government of Nepal Hon. Barsha Man Pun, met on 20th March the regional scout colleagues from the Asia-Pacific who made a stop over in Kathmandu on their way to Bhutan for the SAARC Scout Camp.

Chief Commissioner of Nepal Scouts Mr Shree Ram Lamichhane, also a member of the Regional Scout Committee, welcomed the minister and briefed him on scouting activities in Nepal. He was accompanied by the Chief Commissioner of Pakistan Lt. General (R) S. P. Shahid and Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed.

The minister, who was a scout in his school days was quick to affirm his support to Nepal Scouts through budgetary provisions for the growth of scouting. He said he firmly believes in scouting as a necessity especially that discipline is a fundamental value that Scouting could offer young people at an early age. The minister also assured the Chief Commissioner some financial support for the holding of the 2nd National Jamboree in 2012.

The minister took his oath as the Chairman of the Nepal Scout Council on 27th March and will chair his first Council meeting in early April.

Earth Hour 2011: Going beyond the hour

Every year since the Earth Hour was introduced globally, the Asia-Pacific Regional office encouraged the participation of Scouts. This year's Earth Hour brochure was shared with all NSOs in the region with an overview of how to take part in the Hour, and to share a list of actions to take even beyond the Hour.

Sharing of Earth Hour stories and photos from NSOs is highly encouraged. Kindly send them to asia-pacific@scout.org.

What's Ongoing

APR Management Sub-Committee Meeting

Who Members of APR Management Sub-Committee
When 13-14 April
Where Scouts of China, Taiwan

Regional Scout Committee Meeting

Who AP Regional Scout Committee, APR Sub-Committee Chairmen, Regional Consultants
When 16-17 April
Where Manila, Philippines

Committee NSO Visit

Who Regional Scout Committee, key leaders of Nepal Scouts
When 23-25 April
Where Kathmandu, Nepal

Committee NSO Visit

Who Regional Scout Committee, key leaders of Bhutan Scouts Association
When 28-30 April
Where Bhutan

What's Upcoming

Committee NSO Visit

Who Key leaders of National Scout Organization, Regional Scout Committee
When 5-7 May 2011
Where French Polynesia

Executive Directors Team Extended Meeting

Who Key leaders from world and regional levels
When 15-21 May 2011
Where Kandersteg, Switzerland

Boy Scouts of the Philippines National Jamboree

Who Young people both male and female aged 12 to 17 years old.
When 26-30 May 2011
Where Philippines

Committee NSO Visit

Who Key leaders of National Scout Organization, Regional Scout Committee
When 27-29 May 2011
Where Singapore

Be Prepared

28th Asia Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree

Who Young people both male and female aged 12 to 17 years old.
International Service Team should be above 18 years old and ideally not above 45 years old
When 11-17 July 2011
Where Chengcing Lake, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ROC

Environment and Bio-diversity workshop

Who Volunteers and key leaders who are involved in environmental protection
When 4-7 June 2011
Where Indonesia