



SCOUTS
Creating a Better World



Messengers of Peace

Scouts build on peace initiatives

When the World Organization of the Scout Movement introduced the Gifts for Peace programme to celebrate the centenary of Scouting in 2007, millions of Scouts in 110 countries were inspired to do the work.

In El Salvador, Scouts worked with violent street gangs; New Orleans Scouts helped in post-Katrina rehabilitation; Lebanese Scouts had the 'Phoenix operation'; and Scouts in the Great Lakes region of Africa ran an amazing inter ethnic peace education.

They were joined by Scouts in other parts of the world like Sierra Leone who rebuilt their communities following a cruel war; Scouts in Ireland

brought young Catholics and Protestants together; and Scouts in Haiti did a remarkable job in rescue, relief and rehabilitation after the deadly earthquake.

When he saw this massive work, His Majesty King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia – a great friend of Scouting – made a proposition to carry on the work on peace, and the idea of Scouts being messengers of peace was born.

Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf, Honorary Chairman of the World Scout Foundation, also impressed with the Gifts for Peace, joined the King of Saudi Arabia to launch the Messenger of Peace (MoP) initiative in September 2011 in Jeddah.

A number of activities are planned to support the project, including the appointment of coordinators, encouragement of members to join



Messengers of Peace

January 2012, Issue 1

Messenger of Peace a quarterly Newsletter is an initiative taken by World Scout Bureau/Asia-Pacific Region highlighting the projects that are going on the Region by the NSO's, which are involved in the Messenger of Peace Project.



the on-line network, submission of project proposals and production of resource materials.

One of these materials is this 'Messenger of Peace Newsletter', to be published every three months.

I am happy to welcome you to this maiden issue of the MoP regional newsletter, which features the NSOs that kicked off MoP initiatives in their countries.

I hope this newsletter will serve as a vehicle for sharing our collective work for peace.

-- Abdullah Rasheed
Regional Director

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What do we mean by "Peace"?

The concept of peace as defined by the Scout Movement encompasses three different dimensions:

1. The personal dimension: harmony, justice and equality.
2. The community dimension: peace as opposed to hostility or violent conflict
3. Relationships between humankind and its environment: security, social and economic welfare and relationship with the environment

So any Scout that has participated in a project, which has a significant impact on the community in any one of the three dimensions above, will qualify as a Messenger of Peace

What will the Fund support"?

The Support Fund will consider applications for funding in the following five areas:

1. Support to specific peace project.
2. Support to young people living "hot" conflict situations.
3. Training in dialogue.
4. Capacity strengthening
5. The Global Network of "Messenger of Peace"

Pakistan and India jointly hold special integration camp



A special integration camp was organized between Rovers of Pakistan and India from 16th to 20th November 2011 at the National Youth Complex, in Gadpuri, Haryana where about 300 Rovers, Rangers, including leaders from India and 55 Rovers and leaders from Pakistan participated.

The main objective of this integration camp was 'Aman ki Asha', meaning people to people, which was shown by Rovers from India and Pakistan during the camp. The campers learnt about each other's traditions, and more importantly, they expressed that they no longer want conflicts as well as political and religious interferences. The Pakistani Rovers went to India to discover more about the country, and the Pakistani Rovers want to reciprocate the hospitality for their new Indian friends. They came up with the idea of "two nations one soul" to symbolize this exchange.

The components of the exchange include:

1. Country exposition where participants will discover more about each country's culture, geographical conditions, political situation, religious activities and heritage, and Scouting activities.
2. Exhibition in which each country displays handicrafts, traditional costumes, recipes and food habits.
3. Tree plantation and community visit activity where participants plant 50 saplings at a village and a visit to a local school.

Mop Orientation meeting in Indonesia



To equip key leaders on the important aspects of Messengers of Peace (MoP) project, including its network and funds, a 3-day orientation meeting began on 4th December at the Cibubur Scout Camp, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The meeting aimed to support project managers or coordinators in designing peace projects .

Gerakan Pramuka Chairman and Regional Scout Committee member Dr Azrul Azwar facilitated the orientation, with over 20 participants, mostly board members and commissioners.

Assisting Azwar was Director for Development Support and Finance S Prassanna Shrivastava from APR office.

Indonesia is currently undertaking the health awareness program in Beji Village located in Depok, West Java which will eventually become nationwide.

Sri Lanka's integration camps dispel differences, bridge similarities



Starting August 2011, Scouts in Kandy hosted the first camp, followed by the second camp in Kankesanthurai, the third in Galle, and the fourth in Jaffna. All camps were completed, one after the other, until December 2011.

Gayantha, a Scout from Kandy, said that after spending time with Scouts from the south, he came to realize that Scouts from the north faced many hardships for years. "I now better understand the difficulties the Scouts went through during those years of conflict," he said.

Another Scout from Galle said that "even though we speak different languages, we sing the same songs in Scouting."

Participants had team building activities and shared their thoughts on selected themes at the youth forum with lectures by resource persons from a university.

The leadership concept was a new experience for them, where they chose their leaders and worked as teams.

At the end of each camp, they went hiking for two to three kilometers to visit villages and talk to local people from middle and lower income families.

Messengers of Peace Team visits Asia-Pacific Region



The global team of Messengers of Peace (MoP) met with the executives and MoP regional team in Manila to strengthen coordination between the central and regional office work in implementing the MoP projects.

The team consisted of Patrik Hedljung, Abir Koubaa and Ray Saunders. Director of Global Projects Peter Illig could not join because of unavoidable circumstances. The team had earlier visited Africa, Eurasia and Europe regional offices.

To know more about the visit, please click <http://bit.ly/zIjicP>.

What was most significant to many participants was sharing their homes with the visiting Scouts. During their brief stay, the host parents welcomed and treated their guest Scouts like their own.

With the camps over, the Scouts are hoping that reciprocal visits will continue and their friendship will grow.

Pilot MOP Projects in the Asia-Pacific Region

Ten National Scout Organizations have submitted their MoP projects, some of these projects have been approved and others are in the pipeline.

Projects approved are from the following countries: Sri Lanka, India, Japan, Indonesia (with 9 projects) and Australia.

Projects in the pipeline are from Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Mongolia and Maldives.

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For any information or for submitting your MOP initiatives, please feel free to contact World Scout Bureau/ Asia-Pacific Region

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