



NOVEMBER 2013

What's New

Training of Scout Leaders in Myanmar, the first in 50 years

The long awaited training for Scout Leaders in Myanmar, the first in 50 years, has just concluded in Mandalay.

After the initial visit of a high level delegation to Myanmar from the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) in May this year, a basic training for Burmese Scout leaders was held on 25-31 October. The Ministry of Education initiated this move by sending 48 adults to the 7-day training course. The Minister of Social Affairs of Mandalay Region, Dr Win Hlaing, was guest of honor at the formal opening.

Ninety-two year old U Hla Kyaw, an Assistant Trainer in the late 1950s, was so excited about the training. He brought old Scouting mementos for sharing, and the session hall displayed photos of Scout activities that took place recently.

A team from WOSM's Asia-Pacific Region ran the training: APR Chairman of Adult Support Sub-Committee, Rajalingam Ramasamy; Thian Hiong-Boon from APR Office as the Course Leader, and training team members David Cossart from Australia, Mohd Zaliridzal Zakaria from Malaysia, and Syd Castillo from APR Office. Senior education officers took care of local and logistic support.

Another participant, Mr U Nyan Win, said "the training course is systematic and the training style effectively transfers Scout knowledge and skills to us". He added that they had a similar training on knot tying with Naval officers but what makes Scout training different is the *learning by doing* approach. The trainers agree, and they say that the Burmese participants are highly motivated, enthusiastic and eager to learn.

Indeed, the training was skills and knowledge-based that included topics on Scouting Principles, Purpose and Method; Scout Unit formation and records, Patrol System, Scouting and the community, and Unit Leaders Training Scheme.

Burmese Scouting has a long history. It became a separate branch of the Scout Association in UK in 1922 and was officially recognized in 1948 as the Union of Burma Boy Scouts. Eventually it became one of the ten founding member-countries of the then Far East Regional Scout Conference, now Asia-Pacific. Scouting was dissolved in the country in 1964 but through the years, Scouting remained unforgettable. Recent changes in the country led the Ministry of Education to reintroduce the Scouting program in schools since November last year. On top of that, former Scouts and leaders still living in Yangon are relentless and their spirit is indomitable.

Scouts of China warmly hosts Regional Committee meeting

Scouts of China gave a heartwarming welcome to the members of the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee who met at the Chien Tan International Youth Activity Center in Taipei on the 19th and 20th of October.

For two days, the Regional Scout Committee (RSC) was fully engaged in a lengthy agenda of national, regional and global interest. They discussed operational matters related to governance, membership fee and location of the World Scout Bureau global office. Sub-committee and task force chairmen presented status

UPCOMING EVENTS 2013

National Programme Development Workshop
2-3 November
Myanmar

World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU) Meeting
6-8 November
Japan

25th International Johor Jamboree
16-21 November
Malaysia

World Scout Education Congress
21-24 November
Hong Kong

CALT for Vietnam Scout Leaders
27 Nov – 2 December
Manila

4th ASEAN Scout Jamboree
27 Nov – 4 December
Thailand

4th National Jamboree
3-8 December
Brunei Darussalam

Ticket to Life Workshop 6-9 December
Pakistan

20th New Zealand Scout Jamboree
28 December –
6 January 2014

MAJOR EVENTS FOR 2014

ISGF Committee Meeting
1-2 February
Philippines

reports of their strategic areas in the regional plan for 2012–2015. There was a situational review of some National Scout Organizations to address their specific needs.

Focus was also given to upcoming events this year such as the World Scout Education Congress in Hong Kong and the strategic meeting for Vision 2023 in London, apart from large gatherings in 2014 – the APR Scout Leaders Summit in Sri Lanka and the World Scout Conference in Slovenia.

The meeting stretched beyond the day for a meeting of the APR Scout Foundation to talk about supporting projects in different countries. Separate meetings were arranged for key members of the Asia-Pacific Evergreen Scouts (APES) and the Association of Top Achiever Scouts (ATAS).

RSC Chairman Dr Chao, Shou-Po appreciated the complete attendance of members including the Young Adult Members Group Chairman, Sub-Committee Chairmen, Consultants, the Regional Director and Asia-Pacific Regional staff. Taking part in the meeting were World Scout Committee (WSC) Chairman Simon Rhee, WOSM Secretary General Scott Teare, and WSC members Eric Khoo and Mari Nakano.

An interesting feature of the event was the presentation of national and international awards from the President of the Republic of China, H.E. Ma Ying-jeou, as a gesture of recognition and goodwill to the international participants.

World Scout Committee Meeting

21-23 March

8th APR Scout Leaders Summit

26-29 April
Sri Lanka

4th International Patrol Jamboree

4-9 August
Korea

40th World Scout Conference

11-15 August
Slovenia

57th JOTA/ 18th JOTI

18-19 October
Worldwide

Scouts of China Chief Commissioner Lin, Junq-Tzer and government officials showed their support to international Scouting. Dr Pi-Twan Huang, Political Deputy Minister of Education, welcomed the committee at a dinner reception and the mayor of New Taipei City, Mr Chu, Li-Luan hosted lunch. Even the Rover Crew of Tamkang University received their special guests with enthusiasm. After the meeting, participants had a leisurely walk at historic sites in Taipei.

WOSM announces result of postal vote to modernize WSB

Through a circular, World Scout Committee Chairman Simon Rhee and WOSM Secretary General Scott Teare announced the results of the postal ballot of Member Organizations as outlined in Circular 23/2013 and Circular 24/2013. The circular stated "A total of 465 votes were cast to endorse the decision of the World Scout Committee to accept the plan from the Secretary General to modernise the structure of the World Scout Bureau. Subject to the same final recount, a total of 198 votes were cast to not endorse the decision of the World Scout Committee. The decision of the World Scout Committee has, therefore, been endorsed". The letter ended with a note of thanks to NSOs for their participation in the postal voting.

Circular no. 23 explains the new operational approach for the WSB comprising of introducing a more decentralized structure that moves from having a single Central Office to one that involves all WSB offices in order to create a global network of offices; an additional WSB office will be established in Kuala Lumpur which will serve as a shared service centre of WOSM and will include a number of functions currently delivered by the existing WSB Office; and the WSB will retain its legal seat incorporated in Geneva, although the current WSB Central Office in Geneva will be closed.

The circular further explained that "By releasing itself from the construct of a 19th and 20th century organization, WOSM can become a genuine 'World Organization', operating with agility and reacting swiftly to both the needs of its member NSOs and Scouting's growing membership. Such an approach strengthens the unity of Scouting and also implies significant cost savings – thus freeing up resources to provide a better service to NSOs."

WOSM launches Permanent Digital Jamboree

On 16th October, the World Organization of the Scout Movement announced the launch of the new website (scout.org) which is also dubbed a "Permanent Digital Jamboree". This new platform will enable over 40 million Scouts worldwide to virtually meet and share project ideas at any time of the day, regardless of geography or culture.

The new scout.org bears resemblance to a social network and driven by the users themselves who will contribute to shape the site by sharing their stories and experiences. The openness of the platform reflects the

values shared by the Scout Movement.

Scott Teare, Secretary General of the World Scout Bureau said: *"This new engagement platform is another element which showcases how relevant and vibrant Scouting is today. Scouts have entered the digital age and any Scout can now connect seamlessly with another Scout at the other side of the globe."*

The social platform also integrates another flagship initiative of the Scout Movement called "Messengers of Peace", a Global Network of Scouts serving their local communities in projects in different parts of the world.

Since the launch, the World Scout Bureau has taken note of statistics reflecting viewership of the new site:

- The number of unique visitors to the website for week starting 15th October 2013 was higher than for the whole of June 2013.
- The total number of pages viewed during week starting 15th October was 10 times higher than during week starting 15th June.
- Finally during week in October, visitors have spent on average 6 minutes per website visit instead of 2 minutes previously.

Further improvement of the site is ongoing and will continue in the coming months.

UN awards Boy Scouts of the Philippines for MY WORLD 2015 Campaign

For its contribution to the MY WORLD 2015 campaign, the United Nations gave a Special Recognition Award to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. Acting BSP Secretary General Mr Wendel E Avisado received the award from the UN Resident Coordinator Ms Luiza Carvalho. BSP gathered more than 7,500 votes putting them on 3rd place in the Philippines and 25th place globally. BSP also was chosen as one of the top 10 candidates out of over 60 organizations globally for the My World Peoples Choice Award, an award given to the candidate that receives most popular votes to an online poll. Although BSP did not make it to the title, WOSM's sister organization WAGGGS got the award.

Bangladesh Scouts invite participants to 9th Bangladesh National & 1st SAANSO Scout Jamboree

Bangladesh Scouts is organizing this Jamboree to promote and strengthen peace and solidarity among young people, not only in south Asia, but in other parts of the world. Known as the 9th Bangladesh/1st SAANSO Scout Jamboree, it is open to all National Scout Organizations. SAANSO stands for South Asian Association of National Scout Organizations.

The Jamboree will be held on 20-26 December 2013. Arrival is on 19th December and departure on the 27th. The Jamboree site is in Bhuyanpur in Tangail district, which is 126 km away from Dhaka and it takes three hours by bus or train to reach there. The site is on the bank of river Jamuna and in the eastern side of "Bangabandhu Bridge".

For details, please contact Mr Arshadul Mukaddish, Executive Director, Bangladesh Scouts at:

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Opportunity to experience Arab culture and heritage

Here's an opportunity for cultural exchange with the Arab Region. The United Arab Emirates Scout Association and the Arab Regional Office invite National Scout Organizations to participate in the 6th International Scout Gathering, in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, on 1-10 February 2014.

The event aims to strengthen ties of friendship among Rovers, and for those from outside the Arab Region, it's an opportunity to exchange experiences and appreciate the Arab cultural heritage.

All National Scout Organizations worldwide are invited to nominate one male Rover who has high interest in cultural exchange and must have experience at national or regional levels that he can share with other participants. He should be between 18-26 years old.

For more information please contact the Arab Scout Regional Office: Dr. Atif Abdelmageed, Arab Scout Regional Director, Tel: +202 24014274 / 24014267, email: arab@scout.org, www.scout.org/arab.

What's Ongoing

World Scout Education Congress

Who: National Adult Resources Commissioners, Youth Programme Commissioners,
International Commissioners, Chief Commissioners, other key NSO decision-makers
When: 22-24 November
Where: Hong Kong

4th ASEAN Scout Jamboree

Who: Young people between 12-17 years old from Southeast Asian countries
When: 27 November – 3 December
Where: Thailand

What's Upcoming

Ticket to Life Evaluation and Planning Workshop

Who: Ticket to Life Country Coordinators
When: 6-9 December
Where: Pakistan

20th New Zealand Scout Jamboree

Who: Open to all New Zealand Scouts years 6-10 (New Zealand School years) in 2013, or for International Scouts, please refer to your own Scout Association for age requirements up to age 15 as at Day 1 of Jamboree.
When: 28 December 2013 – 6 January 2014
Where: Fielding, New Zealand

Be Prepared

8th APR Scout Leaders Summit

Who: Chief Commissioner or equivalent; International Commissioner, and Chief Scout Executive or equivalent
When: 26-29 April 2014
Where: Goldi Sands Hotel, Negombo, Sri Lanka

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