

DECEMBER 2012

What's New

24th APR Scout Conference concludes as one of the best organized conferences

This article is a brief overview of the conference and its ancillary events. A comprehensive report will be published covering the various areas, including the business sessions, special events and gatherings, and educational tour.

Organization and Participation. Pleasant surprises and many great things have been said about the conference from the day of welcome to the time of farewell. Still, the APR Inbox puts on record that the 24th APR Scout Conference hosted by Bangladesh Scouts on 24-29 November 2012 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka, was very well-organized and the hospitality of Bangladesh leaders and Scouts was unquestionably superb. While the Regional Scout Committee put together the official and business side of Scouting, Bangladesh Scouts hosted the conference with their best efforts to bring out the joy and warmth in everyone.

H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, graced the opening ceremony and welcomed overseas participants to see the beauty, color and culture of Bangladesh. The support and presence of Md. Abdul Karim, President of Bangladesh Scouts and Md Abul Kalam Azad, Chief National Commissioner were strongly felt throughout the event.

The conference had more than 425 participants and guests from 25 NSOs in the Asia-Pacific Region, with guests from Africa, Arab, Inter-America, Europe and Eurasia. A number of World Scout Committee (WSC) members were present, including the Chairperson Mr Simon Rhee, Secretary General Luc Panissod and Secretary General designate Scott Teare.

Host Organizing Committee Chairman Mr Habibul Alam said in his remarks that although there might be some limitations in some areas, he assured the participants that their best efforts have been utilized.

Welcome dinner was arranged at the Army Golf Club with chief guest, Mr Abul Maal A Muhith, Finance Minister and patron of the conference.

In the midst of adrenaline rush, the conference did not forget to offer a moment of silence and prayer for the victims and bereaved families of the tragic fire that occurred in a garment factory in Bangladesh at the time of the conference.

New Regional Scout Committee. Conference delegates voted for the five new members of the Regional Scout Committee for the term 2012-2018.

REMAINING EVENTS FOR 2012

WSB Staff Meeting
10-14 December
Kandersteg, Switzerland

Ticket to Life Evaluation & Planning Workshop
17-20 December
Indonesia

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013

12th New Zealand Venture – Venture South
5-14 January

National Strategic Plan Review Workshop
16-20 January
Nepal

Visit to Myanmar
8-10 January

MoP NSO Coordinators Gathering
14-17 February
Malaysia

15th International Adventure Programme

16-25 February
India

Regional Scout Committee Meeting
23-24 March
Indonesia

World Scout Committee Meeting
23-24 March
Indonesia

Newly elected members are Mr Janaprith Fernando (Sri Lanka), Mr Paul Parkinson (Australia), Ms Reiko Suzuki (Japan), Mr Wendel E Avisado (Philippines) and Mr Abul Kalam Azad (Bangladesh). In addition, Ms Sornsawan Ho (Thailand), chairman of the Young Adult Members Group, is a full-fledged member with voting rights following a constitutional amendment, bringing the Regional Scout Committee to 11 members.

Continuing their term for another three years until 2015 are Dr Azrul Azwar (Indonesia), Mr Sang Ho Shim (Korea), Mr Shree Ram Lamichhane (Nepal), Mr Nicholas Tang (Singapore) and Dr Chao Shou Po (Scouts of China).

Dr Chao was elected Chairman of the Regional Scout Committee with Shree Ram Lamichhane as the 1st Vice Chairman and Reiko Suzuki as the 2nd Vice-Chairman.

Committee members who completed their term at the conference were Hon Jejomar C Binay (Philippines), Mr Prakorb Mukura (Thailand), Dr Mohammed Mukhyuddin bin Sarwani (Malaysia), Mr M. Fazlur Rahman (Bangladesh), Mr Syed Parvez Ali Shah Jillani (Pakistan) and Mr Maeedh Mohamed Zahir (Maldives, Young Adult Members Group).

New APR Sub-Committees. The re-composition of the five APR Sub-committees for 2012–2015 was announced at the last day of the conference. Programme Sub-committee chairman is Mr Lian Ie-Bien (Scouts of China), Adult Sub-committee chairman is Rajalingam Ramasamy, Management Sub-Committee Chairman is Mr Malcolm Tan (Singapore), Finance Sub-Committee Chairman is Mr Joseph Lau (Hong Kong), and Scouting Profile Sub-Committee Chairman is Mr Richard Miller (Australia). Mr Simon Rhee (Korea) was reelected as the President of the Foundation Management Committee while Mr Alex Wong (Hong Kong) chairs the Awards Committee.

Educational Tour. Participants took an eight-hour journey by train to and from the tea capital of Bangladesh at Sreemangal District and to see the true beauty and character of the countryside. A community of thousands, including Scouts, waved and lined up the streets to welcome the motorcade of participants. Local tribal Scouts awaited them for a cultural performance and Vice Principal Abdus Shahid joined the celebration at the invigorating resort.

APR Plan 2012-2015. A breakout group was formed to review the upcoming 3-year regional strategic plan covering the five priority areas: Young People, Adults, Management, Finance and Scouting's Profile. The plan, incorporating the proposals from the breakout group, was adopted by the conference and will be circulated to all NSOs and sub-committees in January 2013.

Breakout Groups. Five breakout groups met and had very useful discussions on different topics covering the APR Plan 2012-2015, Human Rights, Innovative Leadership, Media Relations, Global Support System and MoP. Except for Media Relations, key leaders in the region facilitated the breakout groups with counterparts from the World Scout Committee who were very well acknowledged by the participants.

APR Scout Foundation. President Simon Rhee and members of the Foundation Management Committee saved their best efforts for the Fellowship Gathering and Foundation dinner. The dinner raised US\$13,100 from ticket sales and auction. Another US\$8,700 was raised from new members and membership upgrades. Professional singers and musicians performed on both occasions to the delight of the participants.

A brief report was presented, new members were recognized, and the Bangladesh Scout Foundation was introduced.

International Scout Peace Camp

25-31 March
Indonesia

APR Basic Management Course

4-13 April
Malaysia

Suncheon Board Meeting

19-21 April
Korea

Consultancy Visit

20-25 April
Fiji

National Strategic Plan

May
Pakistan

Advanced Unit Leaders Training Course

20-26 May
Afghanistan

APR Management Committee Meeting

13-14 June
Philippines

30th APR Scout Jamboree

1-7 August
Japan

9th APR Air/Internet Jamboree

3-4 August

14th World Scout Moot

8-18 August
Canada

56th JOTA/17th JOTI

19-20 October
Worldwide

20th New Zealand Scout Jamboree

28 December – 6 January
2014

Special Events. Bangladesh Scouts International Commissioner Md Mozammel Haque Khan facilitated the **International Commissioner's Gathering** with the presence of many International Commissioners, their representatives, and leaders from other regions who purposely came to promote their upcoming events.

Around 80 Scout leaders, mostly members of APR Programme Sub-Committee and APR Adult Support Committee, attended the **Palaver**. Bangladesh Scouts National Training Commissioner, Mr Rafiqul Islam Khan, welcomed the participants and Mak Wai Ming of the APR Adult Support Committee highlighted the synergy between Youth Programme and Adult Resources. A number of participants briefly shared their practical experiences in implementing the World Scout Conference Resolution on "Youth Programme and Adult Resources Synergy".

Members of the Asia-Pacific Evergreen Scouts (**APES**) met at the tea resort and elected Mohammed Ali Khalid (India) as the new President, Mr Fazlur Rahman (Bangladesh) as Vice-President and Rajalingam Ramasamy (Malaysia) as the Secretary for the triennium 2012-2015.

Bangladesh Scouts ATAS chapter hosted the gathering of the Global Association of Top Achiever Scouts (**ATAS**), with a fellowship dinner and a Baul show of traditional mystic songs. A new committee was appointed, and Mr Eric Khoo (Malaysia) was reconfirmed as the new President of ATAS.

Conference Resolutions. The conference resolutions highlights the submissions from the Regional Scout Committee arising from various workshops and seminars organized from 2010 to 2012, from NSOs and from the breakout groups such as the Human Rights. Mr Chang Wen-Shing (Scouts of China) chaired the Resolutions Committee.

New Chairman's Challenge. In his inaugural speech as the new Regional Chairman, Dr Chao Shou-Po highlighted the APR Vision 2020 and said that greater efforts must be and can be made in the following four areas: To make the Scout Movement more attractive to the youth; reaching out more actively and extensively to governmental agencies, other NGOs and NPOs; more and greater efforts for the promotion of community scouting; and more awareness of important global issues.

Awards. The conference recognized many individuals for their outstanding contribution and good service through the APR Award for Distinguished Service, Chairman's Award, and Certificate of Good Service. World Scouting conferred the Bronze Wolf to Yoritake Matsudaira (Japan), Habibul Alam (Bangladesh) and Scott Teare (USA). John Ravenhall (Australia), Alex Wong (Hong Kong), MA Khalid (India) and Reiko Suzuki (Japan) were presented the APR Distinguished Award.

APR Award for Outstanding Scouts. Five Scouts with exemplary achievements in Scouting, in school and their community, were honored with the Outstanding Scouts Award. Runners-up are Eui Jae Jeong (Korea) and Sidath Chandima Gajanayaka (Sri Lanka). Winners are Nicholas Banks (Australia), To Hoi-Man (Ashley) (Hong Kong), and Miguel Ricardo R. Leung (Philippines).

Hon Jejomar C Binay in his farewell words, said, "the moment of leaving fills me with great personal emotion and working with all of you has been a very fulfilling experience". He said that the conference made him feel very special as he received two highest national Scout awards: Silver Elephant from Bangladesh Scouts, personally conferred by the Chief Scout and President of Bangladesh His Excellency President Zillur Rahman and the Silver World Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Binay also personally thanked the Asia-Pacific Regional Office under the leadership of **Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed** for keeping the flame of working together. He said, "Thank you, Rasheed, for acceding to my call for you to continue your service in the Bureau for another three years since the Malaysia conference in 2009. While it pains our hearts to let go of you, we sincerely hope that you would not turn your back to the service of manhood".

Mr Rasheed is retiring in June 2013. He received a special plaque of appreciation from WSC Chairman Simon Rhee and SG Luc Panissod for his 11 years of dedicated service to world Scouting. Earlier, he received the Silver World Award from Boy Scouts of America.

The conference also gave a couple of standing ovations to **Mr Luc Panissod** who has served world Scouting for more than 30 years and is retiring in December 2012.

7TH APR Scout Youth Forum

Scouting's youthful spirit was evident throughout the 7th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Youth Forum organized from the 17th to the 21st of November at the BRAC Centre for Development and Management in Savar, Bangladesh. Mr Abul Kalam Azad, Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Culture Affairs, inaugurated the forum.

The regional youth forum provides an opportunity for young people to discuss and express their views on issues affecting them while sharpening their skills in decision-making. Gist of the forum's conclusions were included in the report of the Forum Chairman, Mr Maeedh Mohammad Zahir, which was presented to the 24th APR Scout Conference plenary. Some of their recommendations were later integrated in the conference resolutions.

A total of 71 boys and girls from 24 countries attended the forum who discussed topics aligned to the theme "Scouting Bridging the Gap".

A number of leaders supported the forum, including APR Programme Sub-Committee Vice Chairman Mr Rajalingam Ramasamy, and members Mr Malcolm Tan and Md Mesbah Uddin Bhuiyan; YAMG Chairman Mr Maeedh Mohammad Zahir, Youth Forum Director Mr Shafayatul Islam Khan, and Mr Syd Castillo (WSB/APR).

Youth Forum elects 4th batch of young leaders

Participants of the Youth Forum elected six young leaders from different National Scout Organizations forming the new Young Adult Members Group (YAMG) for the term 2012-2015.

Elected members are Pangkaj Sutradhar (Bangladesh), Tam Man-ying (Hong Kong), Nizarul Idhafi Omar (Malaysia), Firuzul Abdulla Khaleel (Maldives), Eugene Lester Lin (Philippines), and Sornsawan Ho (Thailand).

Sornsawan Ho of Thailand was elected Chairman and will represent the YAMG to the Regional Scout Committee. The remaining five will serve in the five sub-committees: Young People, Adult Support, Management, Finance and Scouting Profile. Apart from their sub-committee involvement, YAMG members will take part in planning and supporting the 8th APR Youth Forum in 2015.

The inclusion of YAMG in the region's operational framework demonstrates the Regional Committee's confidence in the capability of young people to take responsibilities and provides them with experience in operating at regional level structures.

YAMG members ending their term at the conference were Maeedh Mohamed Zahir (Maldives), Dicky Lam (Hong Kong), Ari Adipratomo (Indonesia), Jessy Seo Jieun (Korea), Hafiz Ariffin (Malaysia), Oliver Lim (Singapore), and Benz Tantivisitkul (Thailand).

Course for Leader Trainers

The refurbished Bangladesh Scouts National Training Centre in Mouchak was the venue of the APR Course for Leader Trainers. The course opened on 15th November and ended on the 21st.

The ideal ambiance of the training centre set the high energy level of participants right from the beginning. Bangladesh Scouts worked for months to renovate the centre with upgraded facilities at the session halls, lodging, discussion rooms and planting more trees around the area. Facilities include a new auditorium named after Manzoor Ul Karim, former Chief National Commissioner and former Chairman of the APR Scout Committee in the 1980s.

Mr Md. Abdul Karim, President of Bangladesh Scouts inaugurated the course and welcomed 49 participants from 15 NSOs: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the USA.

Abdul Karim said that it is a rare occasion for Bangladesh leaders to join this highest level of training of trainers and to exchange views and ideas with participants from other countries.

The course covered five modules and Risk & Safety Management Skill was added as an elective, and Team-Talk was introduced as a new topic.

Mr Rafiqul Islam Khan was the Course Leader while overseas trainers include Dr Mak Wai-Ming (Hong Kong), Paul Parkinson (Australia), Dr Cyrus Wadia (India), Joko Musitho (Indonesia), Dr Mirza Ali Haider (Bangladesh) and Thian Hiong-Boon (WSB/APR).

Chief Scout Executives Meet

Thirteen Chief Scout Executives (CSEs) and seven representatives from 15 NSOs gathered on 22nd November at the BICC in Dhaka. They discussed how they can strengthen the services of NSOs to their direct and indirect customers.

External resource speaker Dr. A. K. M. Saiful Majid, Professor at the University of Dhaka, gave an input on Service Management which became the jumping board for the discussions on the role of NSOs. APR Management Sub Committee Chairman Mr Janaprith Fernando briefed on the work undertaken by the APR Management Sub-Committee (2009–2012) and the release of the concept paper "Services from NSOs" that speaks of the NSO role being the service provider to its direct and indirect clients ranging from sub-national level organizations to young people.

WOSM Secretary General Luc Panissod, who attended the meeting, said "Scouting is a voluntary organization, that without young people there will be no Scouting. Without leaders, there will be no Scouting, and without the professionals, there will hardly be any Scouting." He encouraged to always keep a perspective that maintaining the interest of competent professionals and balancing with volunteers is crucial.

The chief executives agreed to meet regularly in conjunction with regional summits and regional conferences.

The Chief Executive and Chief Scout of the Hong Kong

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Honourable LEUNE Chun Ying GBM GBS JP, Chief Scout of Hong Kong, was formally invested as a uniformed member of the Scout Association of Hong Kong by the Chief Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and President of the Scout Association of Hong Kong the Honourable Geoffrey Ma CJ GBS. The investiture was held during the Annual Hong Kong Scout Rally on 4 November 2012 at the Hong Kong Government Stadium attended by over 30,000 Scouts.

By constitution and unbroken tradition since the birth of Scouting in Hong Kong 101 years ago, the Chief Executives of HKSAR (and formerly the Governors of the Colony) are the Chief Scouts of Hong Kong.

SCOUTS New Zealand Celebrates 100 Years of Vice-Regal Patronage

The Governor-General of New Zealand, Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, and Lady Janine Mateparae, hosted a reception at the Government House Wellington for Scouts New Zealand on 9th November 2012 to mark the centenary of the Sovereign's representative in New Zealand being Chief Scout.

In a speech, His Excellency spoke of Lord Islington, who was the first Governor to take up the role of Chief Scout in 1912. Since that time, every Governor and Governor-General has agreed to be Chief Scout. The agreement of the Governor-General to be Chief Scout is not a given. His Excellency said "that I, like all of my predecessors, was keen to retain the connection with Scouts New Zealand, speaks of the respect I have for Scouting and the fundamental values and activities that it promotes."

The event was well attended by key leaders, staff, zone leaders, national council and life members from Scouts New Zealand, many of whom referred to it as a reunion. Scouts enjoyed the chance to meet with each other in a social setting, and talked to His Excellency and heard his words of encouragement about Scouting.

International Volunteer Day 2012

5th of December was set as the International Volunteer Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. The theme for 2012 is 'Celebrate Volunteering!' International Volunteer Day offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions - at local, national and international levels. United Nations Volunteers (UNV) said on their website that 'on IVD 2012, we celebrate our commitment and hope for a better world'. The Scout Movement, with its millions of volunteers from around the world, and with a Vision of 'Creating a Better World', has been contributing to this goal - everyday of its existence for over 105 years now.

WOSM Secretary General Luc Panissod said "Volunteerism is, of course, its own reward. But the International Volunteer Day is a wonderful opportunity for us to remind all volunteers out there - selflessly seeking to improve our world - that we indeed recognise and value their contributions. Personally, on my last International Volunteer Day as the Secretary General of this great Movement, I express my sincere gratitude to all my sister and brother volunteers who share their skills and talents with the Scouting world, and hope that many more will follow in their footsteps in the years, decades and centuries to come."

Call for candidature for the position of Regional Director of the WSB APR Office

Following the decision of Mr Abdullah Rasheed to retire from his position in July 2013, the Secretary General of the World Organization of Scout Movement is calling for candidatures for the position of Regional Director for the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the World Scout Bureau. The circular with information pack containing all of the details related to the position can be downloaded at http://www.scout.org/en/around_the_world/asia_pacific/our_organisation/job_opportunities2 Deadline for applications is **17:00 GMT on 21 January 2013** and it is anticipated that the position will be operational by 1 June 2013.

Brunei Chief Scout passes away

We deeply regret to share the news that the former Chief Scout of Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Hussain, passed away on 3 December 2012. Pehin Hussain's dedicated service to the Scout Movement will be deeply cherished and his invaluable contribution to Scouting has inspired many.

What's On-going

WSB Staff Meeting

Who: Executives of World Scout Bureau Central Office and Regional Offices
When: 10-14 December
Where: Kandersteg, Switzerland

Ticket to Life Evaluation & Planning Workshop

Who: TTL Country Coordinators and Unit Leaders
When: 17-20 December
Where: Cibubur, Jakarta, Indonesia

What's Upcoming

12th New Zealand Venture –

Venture South 2013
5-14 January 2013

15th International Adventure Programme

Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh, India
16-25 February 2013

Be Prepared

30th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree – 2013

Who: Young people between 12-17 years old
When: 1 – 7 August 2013. Participants are requested to arrive 31 July and may leave 8 August 2013
Where: Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi City, Japan

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