



MAY 2012

What's New

Regional Scout Committee decides on conference-related issues

The Asia Pacific Regional Scout Committee meeting held in April in Dhaka finalized some matters related to the Regional Scout Conference in November 2012.

After the Chairman of the Host Organizing Committee (HOC) Habibul Alam presented the progress report, the committee approved the final conference agenda and special guest package fee of US\$125 for Scout leaders and guests who are coming for special events such as the APR Foundation Fellowship Gathering, ATAS and APES Gathering and the awarding ceremony. It was also agreed that the educational tour plan will not be a simple "train journey" to the Sylhet region, it will be a memorable and educational trip to see real life situations in the countryside.

The committee looked at the facilities of the conference venue, the Bangladesh International Convention Centre. The APR Youth Forum will now be held in Savar at the BRAC Centre for Development Management. Earlier some committee members visited the Mouchak National Training Centre for the Leader Training Course where major renovations are undertaken.

Conference registration started in 1st February and deadline for registration is fixed on 31st July 2012 for all three events: Conference, Youth Forum and Leader Training Course. Participants can register on line or download the registration form from the website and submit it electronically or by fax/mail with NSO endorsement. Details of recommended hotels are available on the conference website.

The committee also approved three discussion topics for the Youth Forum chosen from responses in the on-line bulletin boards. An exciting full package for accompanying persons was endorsed by the committee to include visits to historical, cultural and development institutions.

The committee also took note of eight nominations for the Regional Scout Committee election (list below).

At the meeting, President of Bangladesh Scouts Mohamed Abdul Karim welcomed the APR Scout Committee and expressed confidence that Bangladesh Scouts is doing its best to prepare for 600 participants. 1st Vice Chairman Dr. Mukhyddin bin Sarwani chaired the meeting on behalf of Chairman Jejomar C Binay. World Scout Committee member Mr. Eric Khoo was also present.

On 18th April, two days before the RSC meeting, members of the Host Organizing Committee and the regional team had a dry run of the educational tour to the Tea Estate Resort in Sylhet with a colourful cultural show by Scouts from Srimongol tribal areas.

Candidates for the Regional Scout Committee 2012-2018

Eight NSOs endorsed their nominations for Regional Scout Committee membership for the term 2012 to 2018. The candidates are Dr Mohamad Shahrum bin Osman (Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia), Ms Reiko Suzuki (Scout Association of Japan), Mr Md Abul Kalam Azad (Bangladesh Scouts), Mr Janaprith Fernando (Sri Lanka Scout Association), Shri Shyamal Kumar Biswas (The Bharat Scouts & Guides), Mr Wendel E. Avisado (Boy Scouts of the Philippines), Mr Pattaroj Kamonrojsiri (National Scout Organization of Thailand), and Mr Paul Parkinson (Scouts Australia).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Executive Directors Team Meeting

7-11 May
Geneva

Workshop on Building Financial Capabilities

25-28 May
Mongolia

APR Correspondents Workshop

22-25 June
Philippines

Committee NSO Visit

10-11 July
Kiribati

CSPSA Forum

16-20 July
New Caledonia

4th Inter-religious Symposium

1-5 August
Korea

13th Korea National Jamboree

2-8 August
Korea

8th APR Air/ Internet Jamboree

4-5 August
Korea

Suncheon Board Meeting

5 August
Korea

BP Peak Scout Peak Climb 2012

5-17 September
Nepal

APR Workshop on Membership Growth Review 2012

7-10 September
Macau

Out of the eight candidates, five will be elected to the Regional Scout Committee at the forthcoming 24th APR Scout Conference in Dhaka.

Workshop participants simulate experience of a person with special needs

With great excitement, 34 participants from different parts of the Asia-Pacific Region arrived in Perth, Western Australia for the APR Workshop on Scouting with Special Needs held from 6th to 9th April 2012. They were coming from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and local participants from Australia to share knowledge, develop ideas, and commit to act.

The participants and staff gathered in the first evening of the event not only to savor the marvelous meals prepared by a group of volunteers from WA Branch of Scouts Australia but also to enjoy the songs provided by Catch Music, a community of young people with special needs. That evening was their first gig ever. Abdullah Rasheed, the Regional Director, welcomed the participants and thanked them for taking part in the workshop and wishing them success. Peter Blatch, the Workshop Coordinator, also welcomed everyone, and highlighted the importance of the workshop and to have fun.

The integration of young people with special needs in Scouting is not a new idea but it was the vision and wisdom of the Founder of Scouting Baden-Powell to give chance to these people to be active citizens and have fun using the Scouting program, and help to make the world treat them better.

Many sessions were delivered and 'hard talk' happened in small groups, which led all participants to think about the purpose of the workshop and share in patrols their thoughts on program development for young people with special needs in Scouting. During group photo time, the participants simulated the experiences of a blind person. The participants paired up and one member of the pair donned blanked out goggles. Each 'blind person' was led by their partner across the car park, up a hill, across what might have been the busiest street in Perth, over the lawn, and to the gardens outside of Western Australia's Parliament House.

At the end of the workshop, thirteen recommendations came up under three areas: training, networking/resources and program/activities. One of the recommendations is to organize a similar workshop in 2014.

The workshop was concluded well with the support of Reg Williams, the National Commissioner, Peter Blatch, John Clarck, and Sheridan Bunney as Workshop Director, with Abdullah Rasheed and Farouk Boraoui from the Asia-Pacific Regional office.

Leaders of NSOs in Southeast Asia reaffirm to support each other

National Scout Organizations in southeast Asia had a two-day gathering in Chiangmai, Thailand for the 3rd Conference of the ASEAN Scouts Association for Regional Cooperation (ASARC).

Outgoing Chairman Dr Azrul Azwar chaired the meeting and the conference was declared open by the Senator and Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Education Honourable Mr Siriwat Kraisin, accompanied by the Vice Governor of Chiang Mai Province. Senator and 2nd Vice Chairperson of Senate Committee Dr Nareewan Chintakanond gave the keynote speech highlighting the readiness of Thailand to enter the ASARC community. Reports of the 3rd ASEAN Jamboree (Singapore) and the 2nd ASARC conference (Indonesia 2008) were presented.

Second Vice Chairman of the Regional Scout Committee Prakorb Mukura and Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed briefed on the ways ASARC as a sub regional group that could support the development of Scouting in non-member countries.

World Scout Committee Meeting

29-30 September
Geneva

SAARC Camp

17-21 October,
Islamabad, Pakistan

JOTA/JOTI

20-21 October
Worldwide

APR Course for Leader Trainers

15-21 November
Bangladesh

7th APR Scout Youth Forum

17-21 November
Bangladesh

Chief Scout Executives Meet

22 November
Bangladesh

APR Sub-Committee Meetings

23 November
Bangladesh

Regional Scout Committee Meeting

23 November
Bangladesh

24th APR Scout Conference

24-29 November
Bangladesh

Executive Director's Meeting

10-14 December
Geneva

Chief Commissioners of all seven ASARC member countries were present with the participation of the Chief Scout of Malaysia Dato Dr Shafie Salleh. Two Scouting groups represented Vietnam. Thailand expressed to continue supporting Vietnam, while Cambodia will help re-introduce Scouting in neighboring Laos. The comprehensive work of Scouts Australia in Timor Leste was commended.

For the next two years, more youth activities are planned for ASARC including youth roundtable gatherings, Rover Moot and COMDECA. Another Leader Training Course is being eyed after the success of the first course held in Indonesia last November. New ideas were shared, such as holding a workshop on the concept and working model of school-based Scouting to be hosted by Malaysia and the development of Scout properties to be hosted by the Philippines.

The conference endorsed the nomination of the Chief Commissioner of Malaysia Dato Shahrum as the new Chairman of ASARC for the next three years with Mr Sutham Phanthusak as the Treasurer. The conference also adopted its logo and membership badge and agreed that all members of the ASARC wear the badge on their Scout uniform. The conference also agreed to hold the next ASARC conference in the Philippines in 2015. ASARC was formed in 2007 at their first meeting in Malaysia for the purpose of sharing resources and jointly organizing Scouting activities.

Regional team visits Scout groups in Nepal

After the Regional Scout Committee (RSC) meeting in Dhaka, RSC member Mr Fazlur Rahman and Regional Director Mr Abdullah Rasheed visited Nepal from 23-27 April as part of the consultancy visit to NSOs.

The team met the Chief Scout and Minister of Youth and Sports of Nepal Ms Kamala Roka, assisted by the Secretary of the Ministry Mr Sushil Ghimire and briefed her on the developments of Scouting in the region, the forthcoming Regional Scout Conference in Dhaka, and the progress of Nepal Scouting. The team also joined the Nepal Scouts Executive Committee meeting. Among the key issues is the proposed National Scout Jamboree and improvements on Kakani Scout Centre. Kakani is being developed to be self reliant in its operation. At the first quarter of this year, more than 2,200 Scouts and non-Scouts utilized its facilities. Plans are underway to promote the centre and make it more attractive to Scouts and other youth groups.

With Chief Commissioner Shree Ram Lamichhane, the team visited Scout groups at nearby districts in Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Bhakthapur with a briefing on the Messenger of Peace initiative. In Bhakthapur, a special radio interview was arranged by Bhakthapur Media House which also airs a program on Scouting.

With Nepal Scouts International Commissioner Mr Gunja Bahadur Shrestha, a meeting was set with young people and key leaders of Bharatpur in Chitwan district, about four hours by road from Kathmandu, where the National Scouts Jamboree will be held at yearend of 2012. There was tremendous enthusiasm among the Scout leaders who talked about the need to strengthen the Rover Section, introduce open Scout groups, and involve the corporate sector in Scouting.

Chitwan district has over 2,000 scouts in 40 different schools. District Commissioner Mr Tirtha Raj Neupane shared how Chitwan Scouts are playing a major role in organizing community camps for climate change and disaster control, establishment of Scout fund, and numerous image building activities.

Key Scout leaders meet SAARC Secretary General

Some key Scout leaders from the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee met the Secretary General of SAARC Mr Ahmed Saleem at his office in Kathmandu on 23rd April to brief him about Scouting in the SAARC area, one of the main coordinating bodies of youth activities in the sub-region.

Leading the team was Chief Commissioner of Nepal Scouts, Shree Ram Lamachhane, who is also designated as coordinator of South Asia Association of National Scout Organizations (SAANSO) whose secretariat is the Nepal Scouts. SAANSO is a recognized body of SAARC since February 2011, now chaired by the Chief Commissioner of Bhutan, Mr Chenchu Dorji. Other leaders in the meeting with the Secretary General were Fazlur Rahman, former Chief Commissioner of Bangladesh and current RSC member and Mr Abdullah Rasheed, WOSM AP Regional Director. SAARC Director Ibrahim Zuhuree also took part and will continue to be the contact person for SAANSO.

At the meeting, the team briefed the Secretary General about the annual SAARC Scout Friendship Camp last held in Bhutan in early 2011 and on the next camp to be held in Islamabad from 17-21 October 2012. A request is made to include the SAARC Scout Friendship Camp as part of SAARC's calendar of activities.

Annual Scout events among the SAARC countries have been a regular feature since 1990 starting with the first SAARC Scout Jamboree in Sri Lanka. Since then, Scout events continued around the SAARC area with the inclusion of Afghanistan. Apart from the camp, the Jamboree on-the-train, a regular event in Bangladesh, is popular among Scouts which is now being considered as a future activity.

During the annual meetings of SAANSO, Chief Commissioners of the eight participating countries agree on an annual calendar. Bhutan hosted the last Chief Commissioners meeting of SAANSO in March 2011. Next meeting is set for October at the SAARC Camp in Islamabad.

Result of APR Photo Contest 2012

In cooperation with Mr Takeyoshi Tanuma, President of Japan Photographers Society, the winners for the 2012 APR Scout Photo Contest have been selected. They are:

Gold Prize: Photo by Mr Gye Ho Kim, Korea Scout Association
Silver Prize: Photo by Ms Min Ha Joo, Korea Scout Association
Silver Prize: Photo by Ms Anil Kumar, The Bharat Scouts & Guides
Bronze Prize: Photo by Mr Frederick Bonifacio, Boy Scouts of the Philippines
Bronze Prize: Photo by Hsiao-Ming Sheng, Scouts of China
Bronze Prize: Photo by Aldwin John Eufemio Maranan, Singapore Scout Association

Winners will be awarded at the 24th APR Scout Conference in Dhaka in November, and their winning photos will grace the 2012 APR wall calendar.

Special mention is made on the photos of Mr Katsuhisa Kitagawa and Mt Tomofumi Chiba, both of Scout Association of Japan (SAJ), which won the Scouts of Japan annual photo contest, coinciding with the APR contest. SAJ is the generous sponsor of the contest since it started in 2001.

Singapore to organize Messengers of Peace Community Leader Training

In coordination with the World Scout Bureau, Singapore Scouts Association will host participants from all regions of WOSM for the Messengers of Peace (MoP) Community Leader Training to be held on 24-27 May. The training will introduce the MoP and the MoP Network, with sessions on storytelling. There will be discussions on social media and the MoP Platform and finally, on community leader training.

WOSM is launching an online community for Scouts from all over the world to take action on a global scale. The purpose of the network is to build a movement around the Messengers of Peace initiative and to make it clear to everybody how Scouting creates a better world. The dedicated Scouts needed to help kick-start the movement and later on keep momentum are called Community Leaders and they resemble the qualities of a Scout leader. In practice a Community Leader is an online leader that helps fellow Scouts tell their stories, inspire so that Scouts want to come back, and help other Scouts participate. They will do all this while ensuring a warm and friendly tone in the community. These are vital ambassadors and play a key role in the success of the online community.

Update on Messengers of Peace

Since the MoP took off in September 2011, several NSOs in the Asia-Pacific Region have applied for funding for a wide-range of projects related to environment protection and preservation, disaster relief, post war integration camps, and community health. MoP will also fund the on-going regional project for street children – Ticket to Life. There are eight projects in Indonesia. MoP has granted projects to Australia-Timor Leste, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, India and Japan.

Cambodia Scout Leaders take keen interest on NSO operations

A group of top Scout leaders from Cambodia made a visit to Manila to take a look at the operations and management of a National Scout Organization with Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) as the benchmark. The visit started at the new BSP national headquarters building and then at the Scout campsite in Mt Makiling where training and camping facilities are well established. The visit included a brief meeting with executives of the World Scout Bureau/APR office in Makati City. The Cambodia team includes Vice President & International Commissioner Mr Tuon Siphann, Vice President Mr Kong Uok and Secretary General Mr Lak Sam Ath.

What's Ongoing

Basic Training Course

Who Young adult leaders
When 21-27 May 2012
Where Afghanistan

National Workshop on Building Financial Capabilities

Who Leaders who are involved in financial management and capability
When 25-28 May 2012
Where Mongolia

What's Upcoming

APR Workshop on Environment Education in Scouting

Who Key leaders, full time executives for community Scouting
When 4-7 June 2012
Where Malaysia
Workshop Fee is US\$150

APR Workshop for Correspondents

Who Honorary Correspondents of NSOs, coordinators of Messengers of Peace, Young Correspondents, Young Spokespersons and persons responsible for their NSO publications
When 22-25 June 2012
Where Philippines
Workshop Fee is US\$100

Be Prepared

1st International Jamboree/2nd Mongolian National Venture

Who Young people (Boys and Girls) aged 12 - 17 and adult leaders
When 27 July-3 August 2012
Where Scout Adventure Camp, about 65 kilometres Northwest from Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia
Workshop Fee US\$ 150.00

13th Korea National Jamboree

Who Young people and adult leaders
When 2-8 August 2012
Where Jamboree site in Goseong, 17th World Scout Jamboree campsite, Gangwon Province, Korea (4 hours-247km by bus from Incheon International Airport)
Workshop Fee US\$ 250