

NOVEMBER 2012

What's New

UPDATE: 24th APR Scout Conference

With three more weeks to go, Bangladesh Scouts and the Regional Scout Committee are prepared to welcome over 400 participants from 25 member-countries in APR, observers from potential countries, key Scout leaders from other regions and partner organizations. In addition, the conference will be joined by World Scout Committee (WSC) Chairman Simon Rhee, Secretary General Luc Panissod, Secretary General designate Scott Teare, five WSC members and Regional Chairmen.

On 24th November, the first day of the conference, the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina will grace the opening ceremony.

For arrivals, an exclusive emigration counter with a special seal has been arranged at the Hajrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. After passing through the emigration and luggage area, participants are advised to proceed to the special booth installed at the airport for smooth transfer to their hotels.

For the entire afternoon of 22 November, around 16 executives and observers will gather for the Chief Scout Executives Meet. Secretary General Luc Panissod will attend this gathering that will tackle the major theme "Services from the NSOs". Prof. Dr. Syed Ferhat Anwar from Dhaka University will give an input on service management.

All sub-committee meetings will take place on 23 November starting 0900hrs at designated areas at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) to be followed by the Regional Scout Committee meeting in the afternoon.

To know more about the conference, log on to www.24aprsc.org.

UPDATE: APR Youth Forum

As of today, 2nd of November, 25 member-countries will send their young adults to the 7th APR Scout Youth Forum on 17-21 November. The forum will take place at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka. In total, there will be 79 young adults at the forum, out of which almost 50% will stay on to participate in the APR Scout Conference.

Youth Forum participants will tackle three major topics using the theme "bridging the gap". Apart from open debates, participants will elect their representatives to the Young Adult Members Group who will be appointed to different regional sub-committees and the elected chairman will join the Regional Scout Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Ticket to Life Evaluation & Planning Workshop

17-20 December
Indonesia

MoP Intervention for Youth Participants

Immediately after the Youth Forum, all participants are invited to join the Messenger of Peace (MoP) Intervention at the Mouchak National Scout Training Centre in the morning of 21st November. The event will introduce the MoP and its components – network and support fund, where participants are expected to form a fellowship and create a network. Around 30 local Scouts will join the Forum participants.

UPDATE: APR Course for Leader Trainers

Fifty participants will gather at the Mouchak Training Centre in Gazipur, Bangladesh for the Course for Leader Trainers. Countries represented are Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the USA. Substantial upgrading has been made to accommodate the course with a fully refurbished auditorium.

Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Khan of Bangladesh will be the course leader. International staff and resource persons are Dr Mak Wai Ming (Hong Kong), Paul Parkinson (Australia), Dr Joko Mursitho (Indonesia), Dr Cyrus Wadia (India), Dr Mirza Ali Haider (Bangladesh), Ms Hooi Lin Lau (Malaysia) as facilitator and Thian Hiong Boon of APR office as coordinator.

Pakistan hosts 2nd SAARC Scouts Friendship Camp

Around 350 Rover Scouts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka camped on 17-21 October 2012 in Islamabad, Pakistan for the 2nd SAARC Scouts Friendship Camp under the sponsorship of Messengers of Peace.

This friendship camp was inaugurated by Syed Hussain Bokhari, Chairman Senate of Pakistan and Acting President of the country along with the Chief Commissioners of all the SAARC countries and the Regional Director.

Participants carried out a series of activities that are friendship-centered including cultural exhibits, treasure hunt, youth forum, and visit to educational places. They displayed artifacts featuring different cultures, and a peace song was rendered at the campfire. A special visit to Khewra Salt Mine was arranged in Punjab. Khewra Salt Mine is Pakistan's largest and oldest salt mine and the world's second largest. It is a major tourist attraction that reportedly draws up to 250,000 visitors a year.

Considered to be the most interesting activity was the youth parliament where young people exchanged their ideas based on the camp theme. Common issues of young people in the South Asian region were discussed and participants identified their roles to address them.

Prior to the camp, on 17th October, was the meeting of Chief Commissioners of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka as part of their annual gathering. PBSA Chief Commissioner Justice Agha Rafiq Ahmed Khan presided over the gathering. The Chief Commissioner is the Chief Justice of Federal Shariat Court and chairperson of the South Asia Association of National Scout Organizations (SAANSO), a recognized body of SAARC.

The Chief Commissioners also met with H. E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President and Chief Scout of PBSA on 18th October at his official presidential complex.

Indonesian Scouts public declaration for Messengers of Peace

The sun was shining brightly in Papua Province, Indonesia on 14th October 2012 as more than 5,000 Rovers and senior Rovers stood in front of the office of the Governor of Papua signing the MoP declaration "Scouts the Messengers of Peace."

The signing ceremony demonstrated their public declaration of their commitment to support peace in Indonesia and the rest of the world.

With the help of Scout leaders, MoP Indonesia Program Manager Sri Gusni Febriasari organized two types of MoP activities: MoP intervention/promotion session and the MoP exhibition. The intervention had two sessions a day while at the exhibit area, participants wrote their commitment to be peace messengers. These commitment papers were placed on the wall forming like a tree. Participants received MoP pins in return. *By Berthold Sinaulan, APR Honorary/WOSM Correspondent, Indonesia*

Bhutan recognizes role of adults in Scouting

Bhutan Scout Association (BSA) has committed to enhance Adults in Scouting during the consultancy with key leaders in Thimphu from 11th to 17th October 2012. The concept of consultancy is under WOSM's priority on "Global Support" and eventually became a project of MoP on capacity building. The consultancy focused on two areas: establish a national award system for adults and develop a plan to institutionalize the issue of warrants for adult leaders and honorable charges for trainers.

Overseas resource speakers were Mr Au Yeung Chi-Yuen from the Scout Association of Hong Kong, Mr Manuel Isidoro III of Boy Scouts of the Philippines and Mr Thian Hiong-Boon of APR office. Following the visit, the Bhutan Scouts commits to work on the awards recognition scheme and to institutionalize the adult appointment system.

Looking for more Messengers of Peace at a Moot

"Skills and good character are the main capital to succeed in life," were the words of the Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Prof Dr Boediono at the opening of the 10th National Rover Moot at the Cenderawasih Scout Camp in Papua, eastern part of Indonesia on 10th October 2012.

Before a crowd of over 5,000 participants, the Vice-President Boediono further said, "I am very proud that all of you have participated actively in the Scout Movement. Trust me that there are many lessons and experiences in Scouting that are useful in life."

Chief Commissioner Dr Azrul Azwar explained that the National Moot was designed to use creative, recreational and productive methods. One of the highlights "Scouts are Messengers of Peace" encouraged participants to have a dream for themselves that one day can become a powerful testimony of their life. It also means that when one begins with a dream, and puts that dream into action, it can become an inspiring story to other Scouts which qualifies him/her to be a Messenger of Peace.

Sri Gusni Febriasari as Program Manager Messenger of Peace Indonesia briefed participants about the three key words: Dream, Do and Share. One of the peace messengers was Joshua Simonsabra, former Chairman of Papua Provincial Rover Council, an entrepreneur who opened a restaurant inside the campsite. Joshua said that he begun his restaurant with a dream. He recalled that several years ago, on his way from Jakarta to Papua, he dreamed of how he can maximize the campsite, not only for camping activities. With the permission from the local government, he put up a restaurant inside the campsite that now gives jobs to people living around the area. *By Berthold Sinaulan, APR Honorary/WOSM Correspondent, Gerakan Pramuka, Indonesia*

Kiribati holds historic AGM

The Kiribati Scout Association had the historic Annual General Assembly on 27th of October 2012 at the Parliament Conference Room marking the beginning of a new era in scouting in this remote republican archipelago. The AGM had special guests including the Mayor of Teinainano Urban Council Capt. Ruoikabuti Tion who is no stranger to Scouting, as he was a Scout leader in his younger days and still advocates Scouting.

Around 36 Scout leaders attended the AGM and elected the KSA National Council: Mr Martin Tofinga as President, and Mr Amon Timan and Mr Tibwere Bobo as Vice Presidents. As mandated by the constitution, a new Executive Committee was also set up with new Scout Commissioners for all important functions. Mr Kantera Tebwebwe remains as the Chief Commissioner with Mr Amon Timan as the new International Commissioner. Other key positions were filled up. Ms. Burenata Titi is Training Commissioner and Mr Buraua Teriba is Programme Commissioner. Representatives from the church, civil bodies and from the Girl Guide Association were also elected to the Council.

Planning the AGM emerged from the CNV discussions in July 2012 that reviewed the situation of Scouting in Kiribati. At the AGM, the Chief Commissioner gave his report and emphasis was laid down on the need for fund raising and project development.

The AGM was also a good chance to present the Messengers of Peace initiative by MoP Coordinator for Kiribati Mr Martin Tofinga.

Ticket to Life troop joins blood donation campaign

As part of Messengers of Peace project and to mark the diamond jubilee of Nepal Scouts, the Ticket to Life troop collected blood from donors as part of their community development program. Nepal Scouts is coordinating with other supporters for this event such as the Nepal Red Cross Society, Mid Regional Police, local clubs, community people and Scouts in Kathmandu Valley.

International Commissioners appointed

Two international commissioners (IC) were appointed just recently. Mr Ipai Edward is the new IC of the Scout Association of Papua New Guinea who works for the Prime Ministers Department as Senior Protocol Officer. He has been an Area Commissioner and a Scout for a long time.

Mr Anatchai Rattakul is the International Commissioner of the National Scout Organization of Thailand. Anatchai was IC in previous years and is well known in the Asia-Pacific Scouting community for having served the region in various capacities. Mr Sutham Phanthusak, the outgoing IC, has rendered noteworthy services to the region for many years.

Learning, shooting and winning

With interest, hard work and anticipation, the staff of the World Scout Bureau/Asia-Pacific Regional Office explored basic digital photography as their chosen topic for their annual staff development workshop, taking place from 5th to 7th October 2012 in Antipolo City, Philippines.

The workshop aimed at helping the regional office in professionalizing the selection of best photos for its publications and to equip staff in taking the right photos especially during major events.

Participants practically explored the entire resort to work on their assigned tasks in two categories: documentary and thematic using the practical tips from resource speakers Richel Mascarinas, Edwin Tuyay and Ramon Ching who are some of the top-rated photographers in the country.

Winners emerged from the indoor and outdoor shooting, with Thian Hiong Boon winning the first place for both the thematic and documentary categories. Runners-up were Luz Taray for her thematic photo and Imee Songco for her documentary photo.

Special thanks was given to Vincent Morales, National Sales Manager of YKL Color Incorporated, for allowing the participants to use their Fuji cameras during the workshop.

What's On-going

APR Course for Leader Trainers

15-21 November 2012

National Scout Training Centre
Mouchak, Gazipur, Bangladesh

7th APR Scout Youth Forum

17-21 November 2012

BRAC CDM, Khagan, Savar, Bangladesh

Chief Scout Executives Meet

22 November 2012

Bangabandhu International Conference Centre
Dhaka, Bangladesh

24th APR Scout Conference

24-29 November 2012

Bangabandhu International Conference Centre
Bangladesh

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