

JULY 2012

What's New

APR Outstanding Scouts finalists selected

A team of three formed the selection panel that was tasked to shortlist the finalists of the APR Award for Outstanding Scouts 2012. The selection took place in Manila on 23-24 June.

Out of eight candidates, five were selected for the award: Nicholas Banks of Australia, To Hoi-man of Hong Kong, Eui Jae Jeong of Korea, Miguel Ricardo E Leung of the Philippines, and Sidath Chandima Gajanayake of Sri Lanka. Members of the selection panel are Berthold Sinaulan and Oliver Lim of APR Scouting Profile Sub-Committee and Malcolm Tan of Programme Sub-Committee.

The finalists will have a face-to-face interview with a bigger selection panel during the 24th APR Scout Conference in November 2012 in Dhaka. Criteria for the contest are mainly major accomplishments in Scouting, positions held, academic performance and achievement, community involvement and awards received.

This is the fifth search for outstanding Scouts at the Asia-Pacific level since the award was introduced at the Regional Scout Conference in 2001 in Delhi.

World Environment Day launched at Scout Nature Park

On 5th June, forty Scout leaders representing 12 National Scout Organizations (NSOs) marked the World Environment Day at the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Environment Education in Scouting held in Sabah, Malaysia.

First day of the workshop began with a demo of practical environment activities at the Sandakan Scout Nature park. Succeeding exercises included those which could be played among children for them to feel and admire the beauty and texture of trees. Participants identified the creative use of natural materials which otherwise could be treated as waste. Each NSO representative planted a skyfruit at the Scout park.

At the other side of the camp, 400 young people from Sandakan gathered as a pre-camp of the Sabah centenary Jamboree. Their day began with a session on environment education to understand environmental problems and ways of reducing these problems with proposed actions.

A representative from the Sabah Forestry Department gave a lecture on climate change and the role of young people, which preceded the formal launch of the world environment day by the National Scout Chief Commissioner of Malaysia Dato Shahurum. Using a video presentation, State Chief Scout Commissioner Dato Awang Zaini shared the activities of Sabah Scouts on mangrove reforestation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Committee NSO Visit
10-11 July
Kiribati

CSPSA Forum
16-20 July
New Caledonia

Woodbadge Course for CSPSA
22-28 July
Fiji

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

World Scout Committee Meeting
28 September –
1 October, Geneva

BP Scout Peak Climb 2012
5-17 September
Nepal

Regional Scout Committee 1st Vice Chairman Dr. Mukhyuddin bin Sarwani congratulated the Scouts of Malaysia Sabah State for organizing the workshop. He said, "I am glad that the Asia-Pacific Region is encouraging and supporting the NSOs to join the World Scout Environment Programme (WSEP) and to integrate environment education with the Scout programme. On this World Environment Day, we look back at the American Indian Proverb *only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize we cannot eat money.*"

Sandakan is a city known for its most accessible tropical rainforest and forest reserves, which is only about 24 km from the city centre. The state of Sabah is well known for its Sepilok Orang Utan rehabilitation.

52 Scouts and leaders attend the Asia-Pacific Correspondents workshop

A mix of Scouts and young adults, seasoned journalists, professional Scout leaders and volunteers comprised the first APR Correspondents Workshop in Manila, Philippines 22-25 June. The workshop was the first Asia-Pacific event held at the new BP International hotel of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) in Manila.

The four-day workshop had 52 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka. At the opening ceremony, Jorge Banal, BSP Chairman of the PR Committee, welcomed all participants and BSP Secretary General JR C. Pangilinan came to express his support.

The workshop aimed to establish the communication standards of Scouting in a global context, editorial planning and networking of correspondents in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Honorary correspondents for Scouting is a concept that has been practiced in the Asia-Pacific Region for decades. A new set of correspondents has been reactivated over the past 15 years. Their responsibility includes regular contribution to the region's monthly e-news, printed newsletter and website. A similar concept has now been extended at the world level and all member countries have been requested to nominate correspondents across all six regions.

In his session "Scouting in transition," Maximino J Edralin Jr., veteran PR practitioner in the Philippines and life member of the BSP, picked up a number of practices from the past against Scouting nowadays and the emerging challenges of the new media.

Media practitioners also joined the workshop as resource persons: Tita Valderama and Chelo Banal-Formoso handled the sessions on news writing and feature writing.

Resource speakers at the workshop include the APR Programme Chairman Jose Eduardo Delgado, former outstanding Scout Redempto Parafina, and Caleb Cheah of Singapore.

Key Scout leaders supported the workshop: World Scout Committee member Eric Khoo, APR Scouting Profile Sub Committee Vice-Chairman Berthold Sinaulan, member Oliver Lim; APR Programme Vice-Chairman Rajalingam Ramasamy and member Malcolm Tan Ban Hoe; and Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed. Nixon Canlapan of the BSP was the Workshop Director and Luz Taray of APR office was the facilitator.

Indonesia Scouts launch eco-friendly projects

Gerakan Pramuka mobilized Scouts in different locations for three environmental projects under the Messengers of Peace. The projects target coral reef restoration, saving rivers and coastal areas.

APR Workshop on Membership Growth Review 2012

7-10 September
Macau

JOTA/JOTI

20-21 October
Worldwide

SAARC Scout Camp

17-21 October
Islamabad, Pakistan

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 Team Meeting

10-14 December
Geneva

In the communities of Pasir Putih, Situbondo, and East Java, Scouts worked with the community on the "Scouts Coral Restoration Project" where they taught practical ways to restore and protect vital reefs. They shared tips on how to be eco-friendly and why it is important to protect coral reefs.

Seeing the river as a source of life, Scouts started the project "Saving the Planet, One River at a Time" where they cleaned up the Pesanggrahan River in Jakarta. This clean-up will benefit around 5,400 residents around the area. Scouts later went around the area to talk about the damaging effects of littering.

In Semarang City, the project "Mangrove Trees – Saving Indonesia's Coast" also started. Scouts covered a 75-hectare coastal area. Scouts learned how to plant mangrove trees, develop skills in coastal ecology conservation which will benefit over 8,000 people. Presently, Scouts are continuing the work by filling up the remaining 85-hectare area with mangroves.

Aidan Jones cites Ticket to Life project in Karachi

Aidan Jones, on his first visit to the Asia Pacific Region as the new Chief Operating Officer of the World Scout Bureau, visited Karachi, Pakistan on 16th June with Asia-Pacific Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed.

Part of the visit was a meeting with Ticket to Life (TTL) Scouts where Aidan cited the efforts on the project, with goals and services shared by other Scouting projects around the world. This is the first time that key Scout leaders witnessed a TTL project since it was shifted from Islamabad to Karachi. One of the parents spoke and appreciated how the program supports the children who have never been to school, or have been begging on the streets. Now the children are in school. Some are even earning.

The programme was held at the auditorium of Commerce College in Karachi, along with Scout leaders, Scouts and their parents. Among the key leaders present were Syed Pervez Ali Shah Jillani, member of the Regional Scout Committee, the former National Secretary of Pakistan Boy Scouts Association Mr. Ali Yameen Qureshi, Mr. Akhtar Mir, Provisional Secretary Sindh Boy Association, and Mr Imran Chishti, the Controller of Examination in Karachi. TTL coordinator Prof. Anwar Zain detailed out the work done in Karachi.

Two young Scouts, including Obama, a TTL Scout who represented TTL during the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden last year, led the programme. Obama said that Scouting is making him more self-confident.

TTL unit leaders said that many activities are designed for the Scouts, such as outdoor activities, vocational training and proficiency badge. These unit leaders are in-charge of the four troops operating in Karachi. Presently, there are only boys in the troop and no female members yet.

During the past year, TTL troop in Karachi focused on vocation skills. Remarkably, 39 Scouts underwent various vocational skills such as bookbinding, tailoring, motorcycle mechanic. Out of 39 Scouts, 16 achieved their proficiency badge in book binding and tailoring. In the advancement scheme, a total of 115 Scouts have passed the second level, the Tanzeem badge, and are now working for the next level.

In a separate occasion, Aidan Jones and Abdullah Rasheed met with the Chief Commissioner, Justice Agha Rafiq Ahmed Khan, and had a series of discussions with the Acting National Secretary Mr Malik, National Commissioner NHQ Mr Memon and Director Programme and Training Mr. Aftab Qureshi. Various organizational and operational issues were discussed.

Youth Councils established in Hong Kong

The Scout Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) recently held the inauguration ceremony of its first Venture and Rover Scout Councils on 24 June at the Hong Kong Scout Centre.

After over two years of preparation, SAHK has formed two youth councils with 18 members for each respectively. Members are from all the five regions of Hong Kong Scouts and they are representing the Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts from their regions.

They will serve a one-year term and council members will be involved in various decision-making bodies within the Programme Branch so as to implement Youth Involvement in decision-making, under the guidance of Programme Commissioner and other Commissioners.

Deputy Chief Commissioner of SAHK, Mr NG Ah-ming, inaugurated the ceremony. He expressed his expectation on the councils and delivered his confidence on council members.

Programme Commissioner Mr Jason NG Ka-leung explained the function of the councils, and his support to the concept of Youth Involvement in decision-making. He mentioned that Youth Involvement in decision-making is valuable to the Scout movement and will give opportunity to young people to decide which is a learning opportunity to them.

The two councils will start their work immediately and they will self-initiate event and service plan such as thematic service project and youth forum so as to fulfill the aim of serving others and providing ideas about youth policies. Representatives from the councils will likely attend the APR Scout Youth Forum in Bangladesh as part of the Hong Kong delegation. *(by Dicky Lam, Hong Kong)*

Fiji Chief Scout cites increase of members

At the recent general meeting of the Fiji Scouts Association, the Chief Scout and Fiji President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, addressed Scout leaders. "It is our role as scouts to lead with morality and dignity so that young people are empowered to participate in the upgrading of this organisation and the nation as a whole," he said. Representatives came from districts around the country.

Chief Commissioner Jone Naisu reported that the number of registered Scouts increased from 5,445 in 2010 to 7,401 in 2011.

"The implementation of scouting in the school curriculum has led to the increase in numbers of our members," Mr Naisau said.

"The association has plans to implement more effective services this year through various programmes as we also try to strengthen our movement."

Ratu Epeli said it was vital for youth to be encouraged to join the association so that they could be guided with moral values to become good future leaders of this nation. *(Fiji Sun)*

Nepal Scouts kick off Diamond Jubilee

To celebrate 60 years of Scouting, the Nepal Scouts plan to organise a series of programmes including youth seminars, organisational development seminars, and stressed on discipline to make Scouts more dignified and glorious, according to the Nepal Scout.

Nepal Scouts was established and inaugurated on June 19, 1952 at Narayanhiti Palace under the initiation of the then King Tribhuvan Shah.

Chief Commissioner of the Nepal Scouts Shreeram Lamichhane stressed on making the organisation more dignified and glorious and added the Scout Act and regulations should be amended as per changing times.

He claimed that the Nepal Scout has taken scouting activities in all the 75 districts. There are around 100,000 scout members in Nepal at present. *(Himalayan Times)*

In a separate occasion, the first-ever National Youth Forum in Nepal took place on 29 June at the Kakani International Training Center. Fifty five Rovers, Rangers, Scouts, and unit leaders from 32 district actively participated. Chief Commissioner Shree Ram Lamichhane inaugurated this forum.

The forum enabled the young people and young leaders to share their opinion on the development of the Scout association, the review of sectional Scout programs, and formation of a youth council at different levels. They voiced out ideas and input on the upcoming amendment of the Act and by-laws governing Nepal Scouts. *(by Sudip Aryal, Honourary Correspondent)*

Afghan Scout membership goes up

Scouting in Afghanistan is growing as more training of adult leaders continue. In the current collaboration of WOSM/Asia-Pacific with PARSA, 52 participants including six female members, took part in the 3rd Basic Unit Leaders Training Course (BULTC) held in Kabul city held on 22-28 June.

PARSA is a non-government organization that partners with WOSM/Asia-Pacific to conduct Scout training in orphanages in Afghanistan. In her opening remarks, PARSA Executive Director Ms Marnie Gustavson, mentioned that Scouting in Afghanistan is now 81 years old. "With the course going on here, the Afghan young people and adult leaders are connected to the world Scouting community through Scouting," Gustavson said.

The Ministry of Education recently appointed Safiullah Subat as Chief Commissioner. The ministry supports Scouting with a secretariat that coordinates Scout activities. There are 4,192 members (2,144 female and 2,048 male) coming from different schools and institutions in Kabul city.

Training participants were mostly leaders in orphanages and officials from the Education department and the Ministry of Interior. Eight participants were from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan or UNAMA.

Mr Thian Hiong Boon from Asia-Pacific Regional office served as course leader, assisted by Qureshi and Ramesh C Patniak from India; and local trainers Tamim Hamkar, Gul Mustafa and Mohd Jawad.

Special guests present at the opening ceremony were Heather Coyne from UNAMA and Rick Smith from Wilderness Medicine Institute. This training was funded partly by the Afghanistan-Japan Scout Exchange Program (AJSEP) with local funding from PARSAs.

MoP Projects being completed

Since the launch of the Messengers of Peace nine months ago, seven projects in six countries in the Asia-Pacific Region have been completed. This includes the integration peace camp in Sri Lanka, the Scout Disaster Relief Centre in Japan, two reciprocal integration camps between Indian and Pakistani Scouts that took place in India and Pakistan. Indonesia has completed two projects on community health and coral restoration. Sri Lanka completed its project called Operation One Region in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree held last April.

NSOs nominate leaders for APR Specialist Panel

Since the announcement from the Asia-Pacific Region calling for nominations for a pool of experts in different areas, National Scout Organizations in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Indonesia have sent their nominations. Areas of expertise include youth program, Adults in Scouting (AIS), communications and strategy, IT, fundraising, governance, and management.

Invitation for Regional Youth Forum and Leader Training Course still on

The Asia-Pacific Regional office encourages more participation of young people to the 7th Asia-Pacific Scout Youth Forum to be held in Bangladesh on 17-21 November 2012. National Scout Organizations are allowed to send two delegates and a maximum of eight observers to the forum.

Invitation for the Asia-Pacific Course for Leader Trainers on 15-21 November 2012 is still open. The training will take place at the Mouchak National Training Centre in Gazipur, which is 46 km from Dhaka City and 45 minutes drive from the Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport. The training centre sits on 87 acres of land with newly renovated facilities for training and accommodation.

Maximum of 50 active serving Assistant Leader Trainers (3-bead holders) from all National Scout Organizations in Asia-Pacific Region are invited specifically those who have fulfilled the requirements of their national training scheme with endorsement from their NSOs.

First Meeting of Contingent Heads for APR Jamboree in Japan

The Scout Association of Japan is inviting National Scout Organizations to send their contingent head to the First Meeting of Contingent Heads of the 30th Asia-Pacific Scout Jamboree. The meeting will be held at the Yamaguchi Seminar Park in Yamaguchi City on 28-29 July 2012.

Next year's Regional Jamboree will take place in Kirara-hama in Yamaguchi City to start on the 1st of August and to close on 7th August. The Jamboree will utilize 250 hectares of Kirara-hama, a reclaimed land used for the Yamaguchi Kirara Expo in 2001. Kirara-hama has a domed sports field, swimming and other sports facilities and the camping area is covered with decomposed granite soil.

What's On-going

Committee NSO Visit

Who Regional and sub committee members and national leaders
When 10-11 July 2012
Where Kiribati

Council of South Pacific Scout Associations (CSPSA) Forum

Who Regional leaders, Chief Commissioners and other national leaders
When 16-20 July 2012
Where New Caledonia

Wood Badge Course for CSPSA

Who Scout leaders
When 22-28 July 2012
Where Fiji

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

What's Upcoming

13th Korea National Jamboree

Who Young people (Boys and Girls) aged 12 - 17 and adult leaders
When 2-8 August 2012
Where Goseong, Gangwon Province (4 hours-247km from Incheon international airport)
Jamboree Fee USD 250 (participants and leaders), USD 200 (IST)

Be Prepared

8th APR Air/Internet Jamboree

Who Scouts around the world
When 4-5 August 2012
Where World Scout Jamboree Site, Goseong, Gangwon Province, Korea

2 July 2012