



**SCOUTS**<sup>®</sup>

Creating a Better World

# Document No. **6** Opening Ceremony

- \* Welcome Address by Chairman, Board of Directors, SAJ
- \* Address by Chairman, Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee
- \* Royal Address by His Imperial Highness
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22nd Asia-Pacific Regional  
**SCOUT CONFERENCE**

18-23 October 2007 Tokyo, Japan



## **Welcome Address**

By Mr. Tsunao Hashimoto  
Chairman, Board of Directors, SAJ  
Opening Ceremony, 18 October 2007

Your Imperial Highness Prince and Princes Akishino,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Fellow Scouters, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to the 22nd Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference.  
First of all on behalf of the Scout Association of Japan, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of you to attend the 22nd Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference in Tokyo.

2007 marks the centenary of the World Scout Movement, and it is a great honor for us to host the 22nd Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference which is the foremost conference in the Asia-Pacific Region, in such a memorable year.

Here almost 530 participants gather from 48 countries, territories and NGOs which is the record breaking in its history, and today, we have the honor and pleasure of having the presence of Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princes Akishino.

Starting from today, you will have a lot of discussion and a lot of opportunities to get to know each Organization and Region. I hope your discussion here will be a seed for your future, and someday the seed will bloom all over the World.

We endeavor to make your stay in Tokyo comfortable and valuable.

Thank you very much.

## **Welcome Address**

By Eric Khoo, Regional Scout Committee Chairman  
Opening Ceremony, 18 October 2007

*Your Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Akishino*

*Your Excellencies*

*Guests,*

*Heads of delegations from NSOs of the Asia-Pacific Region, Regional Committee Members*

*Chairman of the World Scout Committee, Herman Hui*

*Secretary General, Eduardo Missoni*

*Distinguished members of the Host Organizing Committee, Boardmembers and  
Commissioners of the Scout Association  
of Japan*

*Participants, especially the young people*

*Ladies and gentlemen*

A very pleasant day to all of you and welcome to the 22<sup>nd</sup> APR Scout Conference!

May I welcome to this conference your Highnesses and your excellencies.

I join the Scout Association of Japan's Host Organizing Committee in welcoming the delegations from the Asia-Pacific Region:

Australia and Chief Delegate Emma Barker  
Bangladesh and Chief Delegate Fazlur Rahman  
Bhutan and Chief Delegate Wangchuk Magyel  
Brunei Darussalam and Chief Delegate Hj Badar Bin Hj Ali  
Scouts of China and Chief Delegate Chao Shou-Po  
Fiji and Chief Delegate Mohammed Rafiq  
Hong Kong and Chief Delegate Pau Shiu-Hung  
India and Chief Delegate Lalit Mohan Jain  
Indonesia and Chief Delegate Dr Azrul Azwar  
Japan and Chief Delegate Tsunao Hashimoto  
Korea and Chief Delegate Simon Hang Bock Rhee  
Malaysia and Chief Delegate Col. Prof. Dato Dr Hj Kamaruddin Kachar  
Maldives and Chief Delegate Ahmed Ali Maniku  
Mongolia and Chief Delegate Sansar Jiimen  
Nepal and Chief Delegate Shree Ram Lamichhane  
New Zealand and Chief Delegate Stuart Fleming  
Pakistan and Chief Delegate Syed Pervez Ali Shah Jillani  
Papua New Guinea and Chief Delegate Winston Jacob

Philippines and Chief Delegate Jejomar Binay  
Singapore and Chief Delegate Nicholas Tang  
Sri Lanka and Chief Delegate Chandrasena Batungawala  
Thailand and Chief Delegate Boonrat Wongyai  
Macau and Chief Delegate Leong Sio Pui and  
French Polynesia and Chief Delegate Leone Revault

May I also welcome potential countries in Asia Pacific such as Afghanistan, Cambodia and New Caledonia.

It is my pleasure to welcome our Scout brothers and sisters from other regions: Africa Region, Arab Region, Inter-America Region and World Scout Foundation, and Scout associations from other regions, in particular, from Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States of America. Welcome to the Asia-Pacific!

We are happy to see the presence of representative from affiliate and other organizations, such as the WAGGGS, Duke of Edinburgh, International Union of Muslim Scouts, Kandersteg, ISGF, South Asia Foundation, World Scout Foundation, JICA, ACCU, and UNCHR.

May I welcome my colleagues in the Regional Scout Committee, Regional Sub-Committees, World Scout Committee chaired by Herman Hui and the World Scout Bureau Secretary General Eduardo Missoni, Deputy Secretary General Luc Panissod and World Scout Bureau Directors.

I am most happy to welcome our young participants coming from the Youth Forum which ended a couple of days ago. As a region, we have come quite a long way to increase participation in the youth forum. It is an inspiration to listen to what young people say and even then, it remains as our challenge to provide more opportunities for young people to be more spontaneous in making decisions and in developing their own activities.

All our presence here makes it the largest conference ever held and marks another milestone in our history that has now surpassed 50 years!

I hope that this conference will bring a greater understanding of the current realities and challenges in our movement. One of the challenges is to

We hope to gain a new meaning and impetus for the 21<sup>st</sup> century so that our organization continues to be responsive and dynamic to the changing needs of young people while keeping the core and universal values of Scouting.

This is also the time to have fellowship and see the beauty of Japan and its people.

Let me thank our hosts, the Scout Association of Japan, for a magnificent hosting of this conference and hope that you will continue to be one of the premier Scout association in the world!

Welcome and good day!



### **Royal Address**

His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino  
October 18, 2007 (Thursday)  
National Olympics Memorial Youth Center

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with many participants from overseas and various Regions of Japan on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the 22nd Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference.

The Scout Movement was founded in 1907 and it celebrates its centenary this year. More than 28 million members from 216 countries and regions around the world participate in its activities. And it has developed into the world largest youth educational Movement.

The Scout Movement including Japan has great its part in education of young people around the world. Since I participated in the 7th Japan Jamboree held in 1978, I have tried to foster deeper understanding of the activities of the Scout Movement through personal participation and various visits.

Therefore, I feel it is significant for me to know that the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference is going to take place in Japan for the first time in commemoration of its centenary.

I understand that the theme for this conference is "Advancing Towards a New Scouting Century".

I expect that all the participants gathered will exchange opinions and ideas during the conference in order to encourage further involvement of young people in society.

I am confident that your contribution will bring you fruitful and successful result for the future development of the Scout Movement in Asia-Pacific Region and around the world.

In conclusion, I offer my fervent hopes for the further development of the Scout Movement, which promotes the sound development of the young people who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

## **Vote of Thanks**

By Abdullah Rasheed, Regional Director  
Opening Ceremony, 18 October 2007

*Your Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Akishino*

*Your Excellencies*

*Dear Guests*

*Regional Chairman Eric Khoo*

*Heads of delegations from NSOs of the Asia-Pacific Region, Regional Committee Members*

*Chairman of the World Scout Committee, Herman Hui and members of the WSC*

*Distinguished members of the Host Organizing Committee, Boardmembers and National Commissioner of the Scout Association of Japan*

*Participants, especially the young people*

*Ladies and gentlemen*

It is a great honor and privilege to be called upon to propose a Vote of Thanks to our Guest of Honor, The Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Akishino. Their Royal presence today is a great source of inspiration to all of us. We are extremely grateful to them to have acceded to our request for gracing the event and witnessing a Scout Conference happening in the Asia-Pacific Region at a time when the world Scout Movement, with over 28 million Scouts and as the largest youth organization in the world, is celebrating its 100 years.

In this rare occasion, allow me to take the opportunity of expressing our deep appreciation to Scout associations and individuals who enriched the historical milestones of Scouting in the Asia Pacific Region since we last met in Brunei in 2004.

Firstly, to the Scouts – both young and adults – who showed courage and compassion throughout 2005 after the devastating Asian Tsunami. While we witnessed the worst natural disaster occurring in our lifetime, we also saw the powerful spirit of solidarity through words of comfort, cash donations and personal involvement of thousands of Scouts in the disaster areas.

Secondly, in 2006, the region celebrated the Golden Jubilee, and for this we thank all the 24 countries in the Asia-Pacific who joined peace rallies in their countries through the Rover peace baton which is on display at this conference. We note the participation of government leaders such as the President of Bangladesh, the President of Indonesia, the President of Maldives and many other dignitaries who joined the Scouts in their campaign for peace.

Thirdly, we thank all Scouts and associations in the celebrations of the 100 years of Scouting; the over 5,400 participants and International Service Staff representing 24 countries from the region who participated in the World Scout Jamboree attended by over 40,000 Scouts and Scouters last July; the countries who organized Gifts of Peace projects and those who continue to make relevant contributions to their communities through Scouting.

A few days ago, we have just organized the largest Youth Forum of 130 young people from all Asia-Pacific member countries except for one and from other regions.

This conference is timely for these celebrations and it is most appropriate that

everyone here is now taking part in the largest conference of the Asia-Pacific Region in its 50 years with over 600 participants!

And for their active role in this important chapter of our history, I wish to express our deep felt thanks to Mr Tsunao Hashimoto, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SAJ, for setting the tone of the event by his warm welcome.

I thank the Chairman of the World Scout Committee Herman Hui and other members for their vision, support and presence today.

I thank the Secretary General Eduardo Missoni who has become the primary spokesperson for young people of the moment and reminds us all that our core business is young people.

A special thanks to our dynamic Regional Chairman Eric Khoo for his leadership in this triennium and who will surely continue to serve Scouting.

I also thank the government of Japan, all its government agencies, heads of the services and other officers for their unstinted support and presence on this occasion.

We are highly grateful to the Host Organizing Committee headed by its Chairman Osamu Hirose for their hardwork and commitment to make this conference a truly memorable one. Your enormous support and dedication has given us the confidence that this conference will be well organized and truly productive. I thank the working committees who spent many months to ensure that this event runs smoothly and all participants enjoy the warmth of Japanese hospitality in this beautiful autumn.

Last but not least, let me thank the delegates, observers, young people coming from the Youth Forum, accompanying persons, representatives from other organizations, and all colleagues in Scouting from the Asia-Pacific Region, the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau, Inter-America Region, Africa Region, Arab Region and Europe Region. Thank you for investing your precious time to be with us in this gathering.

Finally, I wish everyone a fruitful and enjoyable conference.