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Regional Director's Triennial Report



**22nd Asia-Pacific Regional
SCOUT CONFERENCE**

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TRIENNIAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

By Abdullah Rasheed

It is my privilege to report, on the behalf of the Asia Pacific Region, the major developments in Scouting that have transpired in the last three years from the Regional Conference in Brunei Darussalam in 2004 to the conference we are having this week in Tokyo.

Several opportunities of reporting will be given at the conference plenary, therefore, my duty is to give an overview of important events and issues where the region has given significant focus and resources. I will not deal deeply on strategic priorities, as our colleagues in the Regional Committee will give these to you separately in the coming sessions.

General Support to NSOs

As the secretariat of the World Scout Bureau in the Asia-Pacific Region, it is my privilege to report that during this triennial period, we have visited all member-countries, except Kiribati. Visits include our two associate members – Macau and French Polynesia and in many ways, we supported Scouting in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. In total, we have covered 32 countries and territories in the past three years. By visits, we mean consultative meetings, organization of events, and participation in national activities.

NSO Survey

It can be recalled that during the last conference in Brunei Darussalam, the APR office circulated a questionnaire to each NSO. The questionnaire touches on operational areas such as youth programme, adult resources, management, financial administration, communications, and world strategy for Scouting. The result of such survey gave indicators on areas that we do well and those that need improvement. Three years have passed since then, and we are repeating the process here in Tokyo to ascertain our level of improvement.

Early this year, we also made a survey on the services of APR office in these areas: Support to NSOs, Staff Services, Communications, Relations with Committee and Sub-Committees, and New Initiatives. At the regional office, we felt it was timely to assess where we are and what we do particularly in the last 4-5 years. The purpose is to sustain or improve our services and utilize our limited resources where it is most practical and useful.

APR Services Survey: Table of Interpretation of Qualitative Data

APR SERVICES	Highly Remarkable	Above Expectation	Satisfactory
<p>Support to NSOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular contact with NSOs by visit or correspondence; encouragement and assistance to NSOs to participate in regional events; meeting deadlines requested by NSOs on matters referred to the regional office; Content of regional conference, summit and workshops Number of visits to NSOs; funding for NSOs through partnerships and other agencies; support to NSOs through APR Scout Foundation 			
<p>Staff Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal contact maintained by executives and the Regional Director Professionalism and knowledge of staff in their technical areas; Scouting spirit of staff; availability of staff to support regional events in the country; quality of staff support; visibility of staff at national level; attitude of staff in phone and verbal conversations; correspondence and feedback from regional office. 			
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usefulness of APR Inbox (e-newsletter), Monthly Report, APR website, annual APR posters, annual APR wall calendar, CD-Rom "Insights", annual APR directory, hard copies of reports, electronic mailing of reports; timely delivery of publications 			
<p>Relations with Committee and Sub-Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of executives and the Regional Director to sub-committees Strengthening the work of sub-committees and contact with members 			
<p>New Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives to develop Scouting in the region Initiatives to make regional events (summit, conference, workshops) more productive Support to NSOs on new projects or programmes within available resources 			

Based on the interpretation of qualitative data, the general rating of APR services is *above expectations*, and for this, we are grateful to National Scout Organizations for their openness, support and confidence to the regional office. This does not mean that improving our services is not imperative. In fact, we are more than encouraged to improve our services particularly in areas where we need to give more drive and attention.

Operational budget

In the survey, we stressed that we supported NSOs at a maximum level within budgetary constraints. The APR office, including all other regional offices and the central office in Geneva, has been operating on zero growth budget with a 2.5% reduction in 2007 (and during the last 4-5 years). On top of this, we had to deal with the inflation cost and the recent 12% VAT levied in the Philippines.

Active Involvement of NSOs in regional and international events

Beyond our limitations, we highly commend and appreciate the enthusiastic support and involvement of most Scout associations in hosting regional and international events. In all, 18 member countries have either hosted a youth event or an adult event in the last three years.

Host of International Youth/ Adult Events

Host Country	Youth Events	Adult Events
Australia	Workshop on Special Needs	CALT, CLT
Bangladesh		Training System Development Workshop
Bhutan		Risk and Safety Management Workshop
Scouts of China		CLT for Chinese speaking countries Rover WoodBadge Course Regional Scout Committee Meeting
Hong Kong		APR Scout Committee Meeting
India	Ticket to Life Evaluation Workshop	
Indonesia		APR Workshop on Developing Partnership through PR Finance Sub-Committee Meeting
Japan	2005 Invitation Programme 2006 Invitation Programme	Conference Preparatory meetings Regional Committee meeting
Korea	International Agoonoree International Patrol Jamboree	Events Management Workshop
Macau		Regional Communication Forum
Malaysia		Marketing of Scouting Workshop ICT in Scouting Workshop
Maldives	Programme Development for Rover Section	
Nepal	SAF Camp	Baden- Powell Peak Climb
Pakistan	SAF Camp	Management Course
Philippines	Ticket to Life	APR Unit Leaders Roundtable
Singapore		E- game Task Force Meeting
Sri Lanka	SAF Camp	Resources Development Workshop
Thailand	25 th APR Jamboree	Basic Management Course for Scout Executives Regional Scout Committee meeting (twice) APR Sub-Committee meetings (July & December 2005) Scouts of the World Award Seminar
Vanuatu		South Pacific Council Meeting

Emphasis on Rovering

As a large youth organization, we are aware that our present strength in programme development is in the Scout section. One dominant indicator is the continuing popularity of Jamborees, whether the scale is institutional, national, regional or global.

We know that we need to do a lot of work in the older sections, particularly in the Rover Section. It is during this triennial period that we focused on this section by having three Rover-related workshops: a programme development workshop held in Maldives, and a seminar on the Scouts of the World Award held in Thailand and a woodbadge course in Taiwan. We also reprinted Baden Powell's Book on Rovering to Success. It is yet early to determine the fruits of our labor at this stage, therefore, a sustained effort is necessary to be able to see results in a few year's time.

Volunteers and Adults in Scouting

On adults in Scouting, we continued with the cyclic process of recruiting and training more adults to do the groundwork for Scouting. In the past three years, we had training courses in Afghanistan, Tuvalu, French Polynesia, Timor Leste, Thailand, Nepal, Macau, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Australia, Scouts of China, Solomon Islands, Cambodia and Maldives. Although most of these training are in developing and potential member countries, we also assisted countries that have excellent training teams and well established national training courses such as in Australia, Scouts of China and Thailand.

Spirit of Solidarity between NSOs

During the past three years, many of our colleagues have suffered a series of massive natural disasters. It was also during these times that our spirit of solidarity and generosity were well tested at the global level. The World Scout Bureau capitalized on this "Scouting spirit" when it formed the Tsunami Scout Aid Fund to help the 2004 Asian Tsunami victims. The outpouring support in cash, kind and messages were unprecedented. A separate report will be presented on the Scout projects funded by the Tsunami Scout Aid Fund.

Project Grants to NSOs

The Asia Pacific Regional office has become a conduit in procuring grants to provide for various projects in the countries. So far we have succeeded in getting grants from Scouts Canada, Robert Hall Foundation, South Asia Foundation, Asia Pacific Regional Scout Foundation, UNICEF, Scout associations of Japan and Korea, and from several individuals.

The regional office provided small grants to many NSOs and, combined with their own resources, completed projects such as strengthening IT structures and procurement of camping equipment, among others.

Executive Attachment Programme

To support NSOs in terms of human resources, the APR office introduced the executive programme and opened it to individuals who meet the criteria and qualifications. From this programme, four executives have been attached: two at the regional office, one in Cambodia and one in Papua New Guinea.

Regional Committee and Sub-Committee Involvement

May I reiterate that this region is blessed with the strong dedication of volunteers at the national and regional level. We have a hardworking Regional Scout Committee who met seven times during the triennium. This is an average of two regular meetings a year.

As reported by the Regional Chairman, the committee took direct interventions in formulating youth guidelines, governance, regional strategy, APR foundation and awards system. On top of this, they participated in regional and world events. It is through this committee and the sub-committees that we see true volunteerism at work especially that they dedicate their time, knowledge, skills, and financial resources to perform their responsibilities.

All sub-committees have a total of over 100 volunteers and they have taken the responsibility of implementing the objectives of strategic priorities in the APR Plan for 2004-2007. The same sub-committees have given their input to the objectives of the APR Plan for 2007-2009.

Increased visibility of Scouting

At all levels in the organization, we took the opportunity to create awareness on the centenary of Scouting and the region's golden jubilee. A new initiative of establishing World Scouting/APR centers started at the 25th Asia Pacific Jamboree in Thailand followed by similar exhibitions in national Jamborees in Taiwan, Japan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, Hong Kong, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Maldives.

We received interesting reports from many countries on their Scouting's Sunrise events and centenary activities such as Gifts of Peace, stamp issues and centenary badges.

We know that the APR Rover Peace baton received a massive and wide attention from government authorities, the media and the general public. A separate report will be given on this highly successful event.

To provide updated information to our NSOs, the APR office consistently issued monthly publications both in print and electronically. We also produced a number of brochures and leaflets to promote special events.

Publicity tools and support materials

- Monthly eNewsletter "INBOX"
- Monthly Report
- Monthly APR Scouting Newsletter
- APR Brochure
- APR Foundation brochures
- APR Youth Fund
- Annual Wall Calendar
- APR Posters
- CD-Rom: Insights 1, Insights 2
- APR Plan 2004-2007
- APR Constitution
- APR Conference Resolutions
- APR Directory
- APR website www.scout.org/asia-pacific

New Publications

- 2004-2007 APR Triennial Report
- Commemorative Publication "Asia Pacific at 50"
- Financial Management at the Group Level (A Guide to the Role of the Group Treasurer)
- Guideline for the Protection of Intellectual Property
- 7 Keys to Recruiting Leaders
- APR Scout Foundation Report 2004-2007
- Rovering to Success
- CD Insights 3

Upcoming Publications (by December 2007)

- Handbook on Financial Resources Management and Development
- APR Plan 2007-2009

New Initiatives

We embarked on many initiatives during the triennium at the level of the Regional Scout Committee, Sub-Committee, and the World Scout Bureau. Most of these are reported in the APR Triennial Report 2004-2007 and presented in various reports at this conference. Some initiatives:

- Strengthening the relationship between the regional WOSM and WAGGGS and undertaking joint visits to SAGNOs
- 2006 APR Golden Anniversary Celebrations
- 2007 Centenary Events
- New focus areas: Branding and Communications Strategy, Governance, Intellectual Property, Events Management, Risk Management, Scouting for Young People with Special Needs, Executive Attachment Program.
- Formulation of youth-related guidelines
- Formation of eGame Task Force
- Involving street children into Scouting through the Ticket to Life project
- Formulation of the Committee NSO Visit (CNV)

Support to Potential NSOs

At the beginning of the triennium, we focused our efforts on the constitutional legitimacy of potential Scout associations that could strengthen their official positions internally and externally. These are the Scout associations in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Timor Leste. Each country poses a unique challenge. We know that internal strife in Afghanistan is the biggest obstacle from organizing Scouting activities outdoors and we have organized leader training courses. At the same time, the Scout association formed its general assembly and adopted the draft constitution.

The situation in Cambodia presents a different scenario. The two parallel Scout groups have conceded to unite and form a single Scout association. This unification created the National Association of Cambodian Scouts where key people in both groups have taken lead roles in running the association. The Scout association has adopted the national Scout constitution and organized its first Annual General Meeting. An executive committee has also been elected. To strengthen the association's operations, the APR office deputed a senior executive from Boy Scouts of the Philippines for nine months to support NACS in firming up the overall organizational structure and putting in place appropriate strategies for youth programme and adult resources development.

In Timor Leste, two Scout groups made a consensus and jointly created their constitution and by-laws, which was approved at the Annual General Assembly. At the same time, national leaders were elected. The civil disturbance early this year has affected Scouting in general and activities have not progressed much.

Despite the uncertain political and economic situations in the three countries, our most important accomplishment is having established a solid foundation by constitutional means. It is from the strength of this foundation that these potential associations could build upon to gain acceptance and recognition.

Staff Development

May I highlight in this report that NSOs and the World Scout Bureau are partners at work. There are currently 14 staff members at the regional office in Manila. In the last three years, the staff has been working on their own professional and personal development. Every year, we organized staff development workshops attended collectively by all members. Topics for these workshops are chosen by majority consensus, and the last three annual workshops have been very useful. These are:

1. Power of Leadership
2. Leadership through Power Communications
3. Wholistic Wellness

In addition, all staff members are required to undergo their Basic Unit Leader Training Courses to prepare them as unit Scout leaders if they choose to do so.

As individuals, all staff members take their staff development training in areas related to their job responsibilities, fully funded by the Bureau. In the last three years, the staff enrolled in reputable universities and institutions of their choice and completed courses in events management, communications and correspondence, marketing and research, organizational development and corporate communications, graphic designing, photography and several others. In this way, it is our intention to serve the Asia-Pacific Region the best way possible.

Conclusion

Let me conclude this triennial report with great appreciation to colleagues in the National Scout Organizations, the Regional Scout Committee and Sub-Committees, the Regional Consultants, the World Scout Committee and World Scout Bureau, Scout associations in other regions particularly those who have supported our projects over many years, and most of all, our young people and volunteers who truly define what Scouting is in this 21st Century.