

SEPTEMBER 2010

What's New

Vietnamese leaders take advance training

All is set for 45 Vietnamese Scout Leaders who are gathering this first week of September for the Advance Unit Leader Training Course in Mt Makiling, Laguna, Philippines.

This training will run for a week from 1st to 7th September organized by the Asia-Pacific Regional Office in cooperation with Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP).

The idea of this advance training or better known as Wood Badge course emerged when Vietnamese Scouts came as observers of the 26th APR Scout Jamboree in December 2009. Today, the participants are generations of Scout leaders living in Vietnam whose ages range from 20 to 67 years old. This course is a way of updating their knowledge and honing their skills, as well as to show their unyielding spirit to continue the Scouting tradition back home.

Overseas trainers are Dr Cyrus Wadia from India and Mr Young Chang Kim from Korea, member of the APR Adult Support Sub-Committee. Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed graced the opening ceremony while BSP Secretary General JR Pangilinan welcomed back the Vietnamese friends to Makiling. Roger Villa of BSP and Thian Hiong Boon of APR office are managing the course.

Pakistan Scouts expand relief work

As an aftermath of the heavy flooding in Pakistan, the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA) is working with government agencies along with international and humanitarian organizations in relief, medical assistance and reconstruction.

Rovers and Scout Leaders are assisting people in relief camps and rehabilitation centres in Balochistan, Punjab province, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, AJK, Gilgit Baltistan and even at the Islamabad and Karachi airports. They are building temporary shelters, distributing food, clothes and blankets and administering emergency medical assistance. In collaboration with UNICEF, Scouts prepared child-friendly spaces where children could play board games, football and cricket.

In Balochistan alone where the flood submerged several villages, Scouts set up camps and shelter at the Scout headquarters premises for more than 80 families, many of them are children. At the camps, UNICEF and the local government built a temporary learning center to engage school children in educational activities.

PBSA National Secretary Ali Yameen Qureshi said that Rovers and Scout Leaders living in heavily affected places are working in their own communities as heavy damage on roads and infrastructure makes access very difficult.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2010

World Scout Committee Meeting

3-5 September
Geneva

APR Communications Forum

29 September - 2 October
Bhutan

Ticket to Life Coordinator's Meeting

5-8 October
Sri Lanka

World JOTA/JOTI

16-17 October
Worldwide

Regional Scout Committee Meeting

30-31 October, Korea

WSPU 6th General Assembly

1-4 November
Korea

Centenary Jamboree & 3rd ASEAN Jamboree

4-9 December
Singapore

For details of events Visit

www.scout.org/asia-pacific

Email

asia-pacific@scout.org

WOSM Secretary General Luc Panissod sent a message of comfort to PBSA expressing sympathy on behalf of all Scouts. Other Scout associations in Malaysia and Finland are arranging assistance programs for Pakistan.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Office in Manila sent financial assistance to PBSA to mobilise Scouts in their relief work. The assistance is from the APR Scout Aid Disaster Fund established early this year to assist the National Scout Organizations in service-related activities in times of calamities.

Malaysia hosted APR Air/Internet Jamboree

Every year on the first weekend of August, Scouts "get together" and make friends over the airwaves and on the internet.

On 7th August, it was a lively afternoon in Kuala Lumpur as Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia (PPM) hosted the 6th Asia Pacific Region Air/Internet Jamboree. Chief Scout of Malaysia, Dato Seri Paduka Dr Haji Shafie bin Hj Mohd Salleh, officiated the opening with World Scout Committee member Eric Khoo. It was the first time for Scouts in Malaysia to host this international event.

About 420 Scouts, equipped with personal computers, gathered at the International Youth Center in Kuala Lumpur for the event. They got excited as soon as they connected on-line with other Scouts and were later awarded the King Scouts badge for participating.

Some 60km away, in Hulu Selangor, 210 Scouts joined the sub-launching of the Air Jamboree with Regional Scout Committee Vice-Chairman Dr Mukhyuddin bin Sarwani and Tuan Haji Zakran Abdul Manan, Chairman of the Organizing Committee. Chairman of Public Relations Committee, Mr Ismail bin Ramli, officiated the sub-launch through radio as he greeted all participating stations across the region.

Much farther away, in Suncheon City, Korea where over 12,000 Scouts were camping at the 27th APR Scout Jamboree, a soft launch of the air/internet jamboree was held on 7th August morning at the APR Centre. Later, camp participants had fun talking with Scouts from other parts of the world. Even key leaders participated, such as World Scout Committee Vice-Chairman Simon Rhee, Regional Scout Committee member Sang-Ho Shim, Programme Sub-Committee Vice-Chairman Rajalingam Ramasamy, Financial Resources Sub-Committee Chairman Sonny Kim SeungSu, and some members of Young Adult Members Group who coordinated the soft launch.

Hong Kong Scouts joint activities with China's youth

It was a significant event for the Scout Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) as their Scouts held joint Scouting activities with young people in China at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing last July. SAHK International Commissioner Alex Wong led the Hong Kong delegation.

On 18th July, a special train of 10 cars with around 600 Scouts left Shenzhen and traveled through China from south to north, all the way crossing the Yangtze and inner Mongolia. They converged with another group of 150 Scouts who arrived in Peking by plane on 25th July and had a rendezvous in Tiananmen Square. The latter group was traveling back by train through Central China to Chengdu to do community work in earthquake-affected areas of the Sichuan Province in Western China.

With the good relations between SAHK and the Chinese Government and the All China Youth Federation, Hong Kong Scouts were privileged to send hundreds of Scouts to China, by coach, by train and by plane, all in Scout uniform through an invitation programme arranged every year.

Last year, SAHK and the Youth Federation of Sichuan signed two agreements in July related to assistance for the reconstruction of two youth facilities in the cities of Mianyang and Deyang and a multi-year support for a training program targeting young people living in these areas which were heavily affected by the May 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

Nippon Jamboree: Living in harmony with nature

For many years now, the Scout Association of Japan (SAJ) has maintained its annual tradition of inviting Scouts from many countries to their SAJ Invitation Programme. The program primarily seeks to promote international understanding and friendship among the participants, and this year, SAJ has invited a team of two Scouts and one leader from 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. Another special program was arranged for a team of 2 to 3 leaders from 19 NSOs representing all six Scouting regions: Africa, Arab, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Europe and Interamerica.

All participants of the invitation program joined over 20,000 Scouts and leaders in Japan, including some 800 from 41 other countries for the 15th Nippon Jamboree held from 2nd to 8th August. The campsite was located in Asagiri Plateau at the western foot of Mt Fuji.

The scenic view of Mt Fuji was meant to inspire the participants as they went through eco-friendly activities like reduction of CO2 emissions and recycling.

Part of the program was working with the local communities through volunteering and getting to know the local people and their cultural practices. For the Scout Association of Japan, this is just the first step in their massive preparations for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in 2015.

Hong Kong Rovers build homes with Habitat for Humanity

A group of Rover Scouts from Hong Kong left for Mongolia on 18th August 2010 for a two-week house construction project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity Mongolia which plays a major part in this project is under the Habitat for Humanity International which seeks to eliminate poverty by building decent, simple and affordable houses.

From the capital city Ulaanbaatar, the team headed for Erdenet, located in the northern part of Mongolia to do construction work that includes mixing cement, carrying blocks or bricks, painting, hammering and interior decoration.

This community service project, initiated by Rovers under the guidelines of the Scouts of the World Award and under the guidance of Hong Kong Scout Association, aims to meet one of the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals for 2015 which is to eradicate extreme poverty which can be achieved through collaboration with Habitat for Humanity.

Rover Scouts concluded their volunteer service with a meeting with Mongolian Scout leaders who guided them to a wonderful tour of Ulaanbaatar.

Scouts and Bookbridge build additional libraries in Mongolia

In early August, twenty Scouts worked closely with Bookbridge in setting up additional three teaching libraries at the rural areas of Mongolia.

Bookbridge is a registered charity based in Germany which strives for a worldwide balanced access to education. Through its partnership with Scout Association of Mongolia (SAM), children and young people in this country are given access to books and reading materials.

Along with the Scouts and the crew of Bookbridge who went to Mongolia was the training team comprised of American, Norwegian and German dedicated teachers. During the two-week period, they were able to give basic training to more than 120 local teachers on the materials that Scouts from Switzerland, Germany, and the United Kingdom had previously collected.

Many children, Scouts and adults came to attend the opening ceremony. The teaching libraries provide space and time for Scouting activities with the purpose of expanding the reach of Scouting in Mongolia especially at the community level.

Another highlight of this visit in Ulaanbaatar is the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between SAM and Bookbridge ensuring a long-term collaboration of the two organizations.

Bookbridge project founder Mr Carsten Rubsaamen expressed his gratitude on the partnership for it provides quality education and at the same time expands the reach of Scouting in Mongolia.

With the success of the project in Mongolia, Bookbridge is now in the process of selecting another country in the Asia-Pacific Region for the coming year.

Fiji Scouts appoint new leaders

Scouting colleagues in Fiji share the news that an Executive Committee meeting, also known as Commissioner's Conference, was called on 28th August. This is one of the decisions made in the recent Committee NSO Visit (CNV) to Fiji Scouts Association last June. The conference clarified issues arising from the CNV recommendations. All HQ Commissioners were appointed and confirmed including the appointment of Mr John Naisu as the new Chief Commissioner and Mr Kajal Umarao as Deputy Chief Commissioner.

APR Management Meeting in Manila

Regional Scout Committee Chairman Jejomar C. Binay met the executives of the World Scout Bureau for this year's management meeting from 17th to 18th August in Makati City, Philippines. This is also the chairman's first official visit to the regional office as the Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines.

Chairman Binay said that the management meeting is the best time to assess the region's yearly performance while keeping in mind the many challenges and global problems that confront the world today.

The management meeting is a regular annual event held at the regional office to review the region's last year performance and decide field activities for the next fiscal year. This year focused on "support to NSOs" using the Committee NSO Visit (CNV) indicators and recommendations from each visit.

Participants of the management meeting were World Scout Bureau Executive Director Mr Jim Sharp, Management Sub-Committee Chairman Mr Janaprith Fernando, Regional Treasurer Dr. Renato Paras and the Asia-Pacific executives headed by Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed.

Executives reviewed the operational plan for 2010 to assess the region's mid-year achievement and the extent of work that needs to be accomplished in six priority areas (young people, adult support, management, finance, Scouting profile, and membership growth). The revised operational plan for 2010 included a total of 131 events/actions and a total of 110 events/actions for 2011.

APR Services Survey

In line with the World Scout Committee's framework on Drivers of Change, the APR office continues its initiative to determine the quality and usefulness of its services to NSOs. For the second time, the region conducted the NSO satisfaction survey which was conducted during the recent Bangalore summit. The survey is in the form of a questionnaire addressed to key NSO leaders as respondents. The initial survey was done in 2007 using the same questionnaire with an average of 94% responses from NSOs in both occasions.

Analysis of the survey shows that NSOs find the services provided by the regional office either highly remarkable, above expectation, satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The item that got the highest rating is "support to NSOs" that includes encouragement to attend regional events, staff services and new initiatives that are evident during Summits and Conferences. Several others are above expectation such as regular contact with NSOs, staff services, correspondence and this APR inbox. Items rated as satisfactory include the visibility of regional staff in national events and support to sub-committees. Very few areas that were marked as unsatisfactory are related to support from APR Scout Foundation arising from limited resources.

More detailed analysis of the results and comparison with the 2007 survey is being done and further measures will be taken to improve the services.

APR Staff Development Workshop

Every year, APR staff members choose a topic for their Staff Development Workshop and this year majority picked the topic on disaster/emergency preparedness. All 15 staff members underwent the emergency preparedness training on a weekend in mid August in Davao City, Philippines. Volunteers of the Philippine Red Cross Davao City Chapter facilitated the training.

First day was allotted to the administration of basic First Aid followed by lectures and drills on what to do during emergency situations like fire and earthquake. The workshop was assessed to be practical and helpful especially when the Philippines, and most of Asia, is situated in the Ring of Fire where some member-countries are considered to be among those frequently visited by natural disasters.

Bhutan Workshop

Bhutan Scouts Association is gearing up to host the Regional Communications Forum from 29th September to 2nd October in a resort in Thimpu. This workshop is being organized by the World Scout Bureau central for all Scouting regions, with the Asia-Pacific forum as the sixth in a series of eight forums scheduled this year.

As of today, 1st September, there over 40 participants from 15 countries, comprised of persons in charge of communications, potential young spokespersons, and Scouting officials of NSOs. World Scout Bureau executives will run the forum.

We also take this opportunity to welcome Mr Karma Tenzin who is joining office as the new International Commissioner of Bhutan Scouts Association.

What's Ongoing

APR Communication Forum, Bhutan

Who: Key national scout leaders responsible for communication and young spokespersons
When: 29 September- 2 October 2010
Where: Thimpu, Bhutan

First Preparatory meeting for the 2012 Regional Conference

Who: Host organizing committee, Regional scout committee and APR Executives
When: 23 September 2010
Where: Dhaka, Bangladesh

What's Upcoming

APR Ticket to Life Project Evaluation and Planning Workshop

Who Ticket to Life Country Coordinators and Unit Leaders
When 5-8 October 2010
Where Pedro Scout Activity Centre, Nuwara-Eliya, Sri Lanka

National Strategic Planning Review Workshop

Who National Commissioners and Scout leaders of Sri Lanka Scout Association
When 11-15 October 2010
Where Lee Dassanaik Scout Activity Centre, Mirigama

Committee NSO Visit

Who Commissioner and Key Leaders of the Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia and Regional Scout Committee members
When 15-17 October 2010
Where Malaysia

JOTA-JOTI

Who Members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
When 16-17 October 2010

Regional Scout Committee Meeting

Who Regional Scout Committee members and Chairmen of Sub-Committees
When 30-31 October 2010
Where Korea

Be Prepared

Jamb 100 and 3rd ASEAN Jamboree

Who Scouts and leaders from local and overseas countries.
Young people (boys and girls) aged 11-16 years old
When 4-9 December 2010
Where Sarimbun Scout Camp, Singapore

Hong Kong Scout Centenary

Who Young people (boys and girls) aged 12 to 25 years old. Each Patrol should consist of nine Scout members and one Adult Leader. Each NSO may form more than 1 patrol.
When 27 December 2010 – 1 January 2011
Where Penny's Bay next to Hong Kong Disneyland. The site is located in north-eastern Lantau Island, the largest island in Hong Kong. It is only 30 minutes away from the Hong Kong International Airport and 40 minutes away from the city centre.

01 September 2010