



APR Summit gathers 21 countries

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Every three years, key leaders of the Asia-Pacific Region meet to reassess regional achievements and challenges as well as to set regional directions in the coming years.

In the 6th Asia Pacific Regional Scout Leaders Summit, held on 1st to 4th March 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal, the event was a great success by bringing together 21 countries.



Hosted by Nepal Scouts, the regional summit was officially opened by Chief Guest Rt Honorable Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal Prachanda who said that it was a matter of pride and an honor for him as the Patron of Nepal Scouts and Prime Minister of Nepal to host a major Scouting event.

Regional Chairman Jejomar C Binay, in his remarks, thanked all the National Scout Organizations for their cooperation and continuing efforts, placing a hope on the summit to bring collective knowledge of all key leaders at the world, regional and national levels that will further lead the region to a much higher position in the Scouting world.

The Nepal Summit was one of the biggest summits held in the region since it started in 1992 by having 113 participants comprised of NSO delegates, the Regional Scout Committee, APR Sub-Committees and its consultants, World Scout Committee, World Scout Bureau staff and accompanying persons.

At the opening ceremony, former regional chairman and veteran Scouter Abu Hena from Bangladesh Scouts was honoured with the Asia-Pacific Award for Distinguished Services.



At the Summit discussion on WOSM constitutional matters, Korea conference resolutions and world scouting strategy and focus areas were highlighted. Later, major regional challenges that looked into the membership growth, national strategic plan implementation and Committee NSO Visit experiences were at the forefront. Discussion groups worked on the focus areas for the next plan period of 2009-2012. At the last day of the summit, NSO's presentations on future regional events were made and the summit recommendations was adopted.

World Scout Committee Vice-Chairman Simon Hang-Bock Rhee graced the opening ceremony and took part in the initial stages of the summit while WOSM Acting Secretary General Luc Panissod attended at the latter part and graced the closing ceremony which was also attended by the Minister of Youth and Sports Mr Gopal Shakya. WSC member John May attended the entire session.

Prior to the summit, different APR Sub-Committees and the Regional Scout Committee made a separate meetings and a review on their respective achievements and challenges on each regional priority.

A one-day seminar on media relations was also organized on 1st March 2009 featuring award-winning media practitioners Bertrand and Sheila Pesayco from the Philippines who helped the participants enhance their appreciation of the role of Public Relations, media relations and the new communication tools in promoting the cause of Scouting and develop their skills in facing challenges related to media and learn new trends in PR that will enable their national Scout organization get their message across through various media channels.

