



## Scouts in Mt. Makiling welcome the New Year

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In a festive atmosphere, Scouts and leaders from 24 countries enjoyed the International Night on 31st December 2009 as they gathered at the grand arena in Mt. Makiling, and watched representatives of participating National Scout Organizations performed on stage.

Faces lit up and smiles beamed as Scouts performed showing their own culture in the form of cultural dances, songs and playing musical instruments.



Countries that made the crowd cheered through their amazing performances were Thailand, Australia, Nepal, Maldives, Mongolia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Japan, Bhutan, and New Zealand and guest Vietnam. The young participants had an amazing display of performances but the ones who made the crowd roared and cheered as they performed were the small children from the Korea Scouts Association who appeared on the stage in their colourful traditional Korean costumes and creatively beat the drums, echoing strength and grace and produced a sound with so much harmony and symmetry.



On behalf of the Regional Scout Committee, Vice-Chairman Dr Mohammed Mukhyuddin gave the inaugural message, highlighting that no matter how fast things are or how modern they appear outside, for us Scouts, nothing beats living with nature. Living at the camp or simply being at the jamboree provides you with the opportunity of going back to simple life, which nowadays, is difficult to find, he added. Living at the jamboree provides you pleasure over simple things. Inside the camp, things may look very basic but gives you great adventures.



Also present were APR Programme Sub-Committee Chairman Jose Eduardo Delgado, Vice-Chairman Rajalingam Ramasamy, Adult Support Sub-Committee member Alfian Amura, past Jamboree Organizing Committee Chairman Mari Nakano and Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed, together with local key leaders headed by Boy Scouts of the Philippines Secretary General JR Pangilinan, who witnessed the performances which lasted for more than four hours continuous as they waited for the countdown.

The Swedish jamboree team took the stage and invited the participants to attend the next World Scout Jamboree in 2011 as they demonstrated a typical Swedish yell as the crowd repeated after them with fun and joy.



As the midnight approached, greetings from various languages from all participating countries echoed at the entire crowd of over 14,000 thousand participants.

Scouts cheered and fireworks lighted up the sky above the grand arena while thousands of mobile phones taking photos lighted the pitch dark ground, as the clock hit 12 midnight welcoming the New Year with hope for more fun, learning and Scouting adventures in 2010.

Young people stayed on for more than an hour enjoying the beginning of the year in the beat of fast music, songs and dances as they greeted one another the best of 2010.

