

DECEMBER 2007

What's New

Regional Team visits Cambodia

As the first working visit of the Regional Scout Committee after its reconstitution in Tokyo last October, a high level delegation visited the National Association of Cambodian Scouts (NACS) from 15th to 19th November in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Regional Chairman Jejomar C. Binay led the team together with vice-chairman Mohammad Ali Khalid, RSC members Tan Cheng Kiong and Prakorb Mukura, Regional Consultant Francisco Roman and Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed.

The purpose of the visit was to analyze the current situation and development of NACS both at national and unit level to ascertain its suitability for admission to the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). In recent years, NACS has been working on the fundamental pre-requisites for WOSM membership including its constitution and Policy Organization and Rules. Vital aspects of Scouting such as youth programme and adult resources were the focal areas of review in recent months.

The team's meeting with H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia and President of NACS, assured full commitment to make NACS a worthy organization for the youth of Cambodia. Together they decided significant events to build a high profile for Scouting starting with a First National Scout Jamboree possibly in November 2008. Other events such as national strategic planning workshop and management course for Scouters are in the pipeline for 2008.

Bangladesh prepares for International COMDECA

Cox's Bazar, located about 500 km southeast of Dhaka, Bangladesh, will be the campsite of the forthcoming COMDECA on 7th to 13th December 2007. Cox's Bazar is a major district of Bangladesh and a fishing port. Scout and Rover participants will be working in the villages of Moheshkhali island where community development activities will take place.

From 5th to 8th November, a team of six visited the site to assess the programme as well as safety requirements. The team comprised of Mihir Kanti Majumder (Bangladesh), Md. Abul Kalam Azad (Bangladesh), Mari Nakano (Japan), Susi Yulianti (Indonesia), Djatmiko Rasmin (Indonesia), and Syd Castillo (WSB/APR).

The team agreed on the programme having 80% community development and service projects and the other 20% for Scouting activities. Eleven challenges will be offered that includes beach walking, camp craft, health and environment development, water activities, fun and games, beach party, global development village, campfire, nature observation, learning from nature and well-being.

Bangladesh Scouts help cyclone victims

A couple of weeks ago, cyclone Sidr hit the southwestern coast of Bangladesh badly hitting eleven coastal areas. With the huge loss of lives and property, the cyclone left many in dire need of shelter and basic provisions. Bangladesh Scouts formed Rover Teams called Disaster First Responder who work round the clock in emergency relief operation in all affected areas. Rover teams are now collecting tarpaulins for temporary shelters and thousands of water purification powder packets, ORS packets and purification tablets. Scouts report that people

CENTENARY EVENTS

International Centenary COMDECA Bangladesh, 7-13 December

UPCOMING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

APR Programme Development Workshop, Pakistan 10-14 December 2007

18th New Zealand Jamboree 28 December 2007 – 5 January 2008

For details of events

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have difficulty in accessing normal drinking water as the ponds and lakes are filled with seawater.

Bangladesh Scouts Chief Commissioner Fazlur Rahman invited National Scout Organizations to send a contingent of Rover Scouts for the forthcoming International COMDECA to help rehabilitate cyclone-affected areas. At the same time, Bangladesh Scouts approached partner and donor organizations to support their initiative including donations of emergency relief materials. The Scout Association of Japan is one of the first to respond with a cash donation. Most recently, the government of Bangladesh, UNDP and Action Aid Bangladesh provided some support to the Scouts with relief goods. Six Survivors Work Camps are being organized for the recovery and rehabilitation phase of Disaster Response. Work camps will be held on 7-14 December 2007.

PNG Scouts in flood relief work

Reports say that Scouts in Papua New Guinea are in full force helping flood victims in Oro Province. The heavy flooding caused by cyclone Guba affected around 150,000 people. PNG Scouts sent a team from Morobe Province for the relief work.

Strategic Planning in Pakistan

The National Strategic Planning Workshop for Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA) was held from 26th to 30th November at the national headquarters of PBSA in Islamabad. Over 25 participants inclusive of provincial secretaries gathered for the workshop and drafted a vision statement for 2020. They identified new priorities and action steps for the coming three years. This is the second such workshop held in the country. The first workshop held in 2001 proposed action steps for 2001-2007.

Senior Deputy Chief Commissioner and RSC member Syed Pervez Shah Ali Jillani opened the event and Cdr. Aftab A. Qureshi, Director Training and Programme, was workshop director. RD Abdullah Rasheed addressed the opening session while APR Director S. Prassanna facilitated the entire planning exercise.

Scouts assist Haj pilgrims

Pakistani Scout leaders are doing extensive assistance for thousands of Muslim Haj pilgrims embarking on this year's Haj from Pakistan. On his way to Islamabad, Regional Director Abdullah Rasheed visited Karachi Haj camp where some 40,000 pilgrims are being serviced with preparation of identification cards, vaccination, air ticketing, passport, counseling etc.

The camp is organized by the government but largely managed by Scout leaders. Pakistan's Director for Religious Affairs expressed much appreciation and praise for the Scout services and indicated that Scout leaders are in every aspect of the camp administration. More than 300 leaders are assigned in six camps based in Multan, Faisalabad, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. The camp runs for 45 days and a pilgrim normally spends two days to complete the preparations. This practice of assisting Haj pilgrims has been going on for 26 years.

Scouting in Maldives awarded

The Scout Association of Maldives is given the award for outstanding public service at a special function held on 18th November 2007 in Male', the capital of Maldives, to mark this year's Republic Day. The government gives the award every year to individuals and organizations selected by the cabinet. President of the Republic of Maldives and Chief Scout H.E. Maumoon Abdul Gayyoom handed the award to Chief Commissioner Ali Ahmed Maniku who received the award on behalf of the association.

First meeting with Regional Chairman

On his first meeting with the APR staff, Regional Chairman Jejomar C. Binay said that his style of management is decentralized governance and he stressed the importance of teamwork and shared responsibility.

Acknowledging that the regional plan will form the basis of regional performance with a timeframe of two years, he said that the plan could be more quantified and measurable so that concrete results could be visible within two years.

Together with the executives and Regional Consultant Francisco Roman, they discussed the feasibility of the Committee NSO Visit (CNV) to be shared by all members of the Regional Scout Committee with a target of at least eight countries a year. The chairman suggested regular meeting with the APR staff on a monthly basis for a review of the region's progress.

Bhutan Scouts appoints new Chief Commissioner

Mr Chencho Dorji, Director of Youth & Sports of the Ministry of Education is the new Chief Commissioner of Bhutan Scouts Association (BSA) effective October 2007. BSA President Thinley Gyamtso said that Scouting in general will benefit from the new chief's devotion and commitment towards Scouting.

What's Ongoing

Regional Governance Review Task Force to meet in December

The region's Governance Review Task Force comprised of prominent Scout leaders from NSOs are meeting this 15th-16th December in Manila, Philippines. Regional Chairman Jejomar Binay and Boy Scouts of the Philippines offered to host the meeting with special invitation to members of the Regional Scout Committee, Chairmen of Sub-Committees and Regional Consultants.

The purpose of the meeting is to brainstorm on the required preparations for the forthcoming World Scout Conference in July 2008. A good number of Task Force and Regional Committee members have confirmed their attendance.

Programme and CLT events in Pakistan pushing through

Two events with international participation are taking place in Pakistan this early part of December. To support the local leaders, a training team will come from India, Bangladesh and the APR staff will run the Course for Leader Trainers from 2nd to 8th December.

An APR Youth Programme Development Workshop will follow on 10th -14th December in Islamabad. Fifteen participants are coming from other countries such as India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. APR Programme Sub-Committee Chairman Alfian Amura will attend together with member Prapatpong Senarith of Thailand.

What's Upcoming

International Centenary COMDECA (Community Development Camp), Bangladesh

Who Scouts aged 14-17 years old and Rover Scouts aged 18-25 years old
Host Bangladesh Scouts
Where Cox' Bazar, Bangladesh (about 500 kilometers southeast of Dhaka)
When 7-13 December 2007
Fee US\$150 covers tent accommodation, food, inland transportation (airport to venue), souvenir and tour

APR Youth Programme Development Workshop

Where Islamabad, Pakistan
When 10-14 December 2007
Fee US\$100 covers inland transportation from airport to workshop venue, food, accommodation, workshop kit and educational tour.

Be Prepared

18th New Zealand Jamboree

Where Canterbury Agricultural Park, Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand
When 28 December 2007 – 5 January 2008
Fee NZ\$590 covers meals and activities
Website www.scout.org.nz

6th APR Scout Leaders Summit

Who Chief Commissioner or equivalent, International Commissioner,
Chief Scout Executive or equivalent. Chairmen and members of APR
Sub-Committees are encouraged to attend.
Where Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal
When 7-10 April 2008
Fee US\$150