CIRCULAR NO. 33, Series of 2009

To: Chief Commissioners
   International Commissioners
   Chief Scout Executives

10 November 2009

23rd APR Scout Conference Resolutions

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to furnish you with a copy of the business resolutions of the recently concluded 23rd APR Scout Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Conference Resolutions consists of 11 provisions (excluding the Resolution of Thanks) that are directly related to National Scout Organizations and the region at large.

The Regional Scout Committee and National Scout Organizations are bound by the constitution to implement the conference resolutions. Therefore, may I, on behalf of the Regional Scout Committee, request all NSOs to integrate the resolutions into their national action plans within the period 2009-2012 and take appropriate action at national level to give effect to the resolutions.

The Asia-Pacific Region will likewise incorporate the resolutions to the regional plan and in relevant regional policies.

Progress reports on the resolutions’ implementation will be tackled at Regional Scout Committee meetings and at the next Regional Scout Conference in 2012.

With best regards,

Abdullah Rasheed
Regional Director

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BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

02/09 Constitutional Review on Exit Management of Regional Scout Committee Members

Recognising that duly elected members of the Regional Scout Committee may from time to time be unable to discharge their duties due to extenuating circumstances; and

Acknowledging that proper governance requires that clear parameters ought to be set for the management of the exit of members of the Regional Scout Committee in order to ensure the orderly and continued functioning of the Regional Scout Committee;

The Conference resolves that the Regional Scout Committee shall set up a task force to review the Constitution and By-Laws of the Asia Pacific Scout Region with a view to defining the criteria for, and the setting up of a process or processes for the regulation of, the exit of Regional Scout Committee members, including but not limited to resignations, terminations and other casual vacancies; such review to be completed and draft constitutional amendments to be presented to the next Regional Scout Conference for consideration and adoption.

03/09 Youth Empowerment

In order to truly empower youth in Scouting and ensure their effective participation in Scouting;

Bearing in mind Resolution 2/2007 made at the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference held in Tokyo Japan, in particular Clauses (a) and (b);

Taking into account the excellent work done by the Young Adult Members’ Group (YAMG);

Acknowledging the Regional Scout Committee’s sterling efforts in ensuring youth involvement in decision making as set out in the guidelines on the responsibilities of the YAMG;

The Conference resolves:

i. That all NSOs are strongly urged to consider granting full voting rights to youth members (aged between 18 – 23 for the Young Adults Members Group, 18 – 25 years for NSOs, and 18 –26 for the Youth Forum) at the highest decision making body and any other relevant committee in each individual NSO;

ii. That in principle, the duly elected Chairman of the Young Adult Members’ Group should have full voting rights in the Regional Scout Committee; and

iii. That the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee should set up a select committee to make recommendations for appropriate amendments to the Asia-Pacific Region’s Constitution and By-Laws as well as to make similar recommendations for the amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws of the World Organisation of the Scouting Movement, through the World Scout Committee.

Resolution 2/07 reads-
“$The Conference resolves that:

a. all the NSOs be urged to have youth involvement in decision making at all levels in line with WOSM’s number one priority on youth involvement and World Scout Conference Resolution 6/02;

b. the NSOs be encouraged to send young delegates with at least one young member under 26 to the APR Scout Conference$"
04/09 Terminology of “Street Children” to be Reconsidered

Bearing in mind that the term "Street Children" carries negative overtones in some countries and cultures, and considering that there is scope to expand the good work in this area to cover other youth in difficult circumstances, with reference to programmes such as the "Ticket to Life", the Conference resolves that the Regional Scout Committee consider how to change the terminology to be used when seeking to promote Scouting in less privileged communities to reflect a more positive image that carries no negative overtones, while ensuring that the uniqueness of the current programmes relating to relief for street children is not compromised.

05/09 Bidding and Hosting of Regional Events

In view of the true Scouting traditions and values, taking into account the Asia-Pacific Region’s vision of spreading the impact of Scouting across all member NSOs, and acknowledging that the honour of hosting a Regional event will help upcoming NSOs to acquire and build new infrastructure and capacity, the Conference resolves that the Regional Scout Committee should conduct a study with a view to implementing guidelines for the bidding and hosting of Regional events.

06/09 Strengthening Networks

Acknowledging that Scouting faces many challenges for the future, and taking into account that it is desirable to share the benefits of Scouting with the less-favored individuals and communities in countries within the Asia-Pacific Scout Region, the Conference resolves that all NSOs within the Region and the Asia-Pacific Scout Region as a whole should strengthen their efforts in building ties and establishing networks with external stakeholders in each country as well as with regional stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific Region.

07/09 Gathering of Training Team and Youth Program leaders at future Asia-Pacific Region conferences

It is current practice to include in an Asia-Pacific Region Conference a gathering of Training Team members. This was adopted by the Conference in 2001 as resolution 21/01.

There is growing support to include the key Youth Program leaders and commissioners in these gatherings, so at this conference there is a joint gathering, achieved by invitation to Youth Program leaders to join the Trainers function. It is intended to call this gathering a “Palaver” as it was named at this Conference.

To encourage and enable this gathering at future Conferences to include Youth Program personnel as a matter of course, it is resolved that:

At future Asia-Pacific Region Conferences, a combined gathering of Youth Program and Adult Training leaders and commissioners, called a Palaver, be included in the Conference social program.

08/09 Change of terminology: Adults in Scouting or Adult Support, rather than Adult Resources

Since the concept of “Adult Resources” was introduced to the Asia-Pacific Region at the APR Conference in 1995 there has been only limited success in implementing the Adults in Scouting strategy, as it has not been well understood in some NSOs and therefore lacking in commitment and successful application.

"Use of resources” generally applies to use of materials such as electricity, water, timber, etc. "Adult Resources” has tended to relate to “use” of adults, or management of adults as a human resource.

The strategy “Adults in Scouting”, as illustrated in the diagram: “The Life Cycle of an Adult in Scouting”, is a strategy for support of (individual) adults – uniformed or non-uniformed, not about “using” adults.

(Support means visiting adults, encouraging them, bringing new ideas and skills to them, training-on-the-job, having productive meetings and being an advocate for our adults.)
The Adults in Scouting strategy is about selection, recruitment, induction, training and support of adults, with opportunity for mutual review of goals set and achievements.

That is, supporting our individual adults, not “using” them.

To make this more clear and to assist NSOs to make such a more positive impact in supporting our adults, so that they can provide better quality Youth Programs, it is strongly recommend that the term “Adult Resources” be replaced by “Adults in Scouting” or “Adult Support”, depending on the context of the expression.

This would apply to the relevant Objectives and Action Steps in the A-P R Strategic Plan and mean changing the name of the A-P R sub committee from “Adult Resources sub-committee” to “Adult Support sub-committee”.

Resolution:
Depending on the context of the expression “adult resources”,
1. The term “Adult resources” be replaced by “Adults in Scouting” or “Adult Support” and
2. This includes the name of the APR sub-committee, which would be called the “Adult Support” sub-committee.

This Resolution has been discussed by, and is supported by, the Regional Scout Committee.

09/09 Voting Rights for Associate Members/Accredited NSOs

For some years, Macau Scouts and French Polynesia Scouts have regularly participated at all Asia-Pacific Regional meetings, workshops and seminars and fully supported Scouting’s role within the Region;

there is awareness that WOSM is reviewing the criteria for full membership being granted to autonomous territories and regions which have not been eligible to become a full member, because of the current policy that there can only be one WOSM member in any country;

therefore, to ensure that Macau and French Polynesia can take an equal role with all other NSO members in the Asia-Pacific Region for all activities and responsibilities, the Conference urges that immediate actions are taken to progress changes to the Asia-Pacific Region Constitution that will provide for both Macau and French Polynesia to be given full voting rights within the Asia-Pacific Region and further, it is recommended that WOSM give urgency to progressing the amendment to the WOSM constitution, with the objective of Macau and French Polynesia being admitted as full members at the next World Scout Conference.

10/09 Request to WOSM for Constitutional Review of the Term of Service of World Scout Committee Members

After the 38th World Scout Conference in 2008, clause 3 of Chapter V, Article XII of the Constitution and By-Laws of the World Organisation of Scout Movement, on “Term of Service of Elected Members” was amended and it now reads:

“Each member elected by the World Scout Conference is elected until the next World Scout Conference.

A returning member shall only be eligible for re-election after a lapse of three years.”

This Conference expresses its strong desire and urges the 39th World Scout Conference (to be held in Brazil in 2011), and/or the World Scout Committee, to review clause 3 of Chapter V, Article XII of the Constitution and By-Laws of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, on “Term of Service of Elected Members”; and if necessary, to re-amend Chapter V, Article XII, clause 3 of WOSM’s Constitution to read as follows:

“Each member elected by the World Scout Conference is elected for a term of six years. A retiring member shall only be eligible for re-election after a lapse of three years.”
**11/09 Radio Scouting**

Recognising the significant benefits to be gathered from friendship on the Air, and taking into account the regular activities including the APR/World Jamboree on the Air/Internet

Noting that the Regional Scout Conference is attended by many NSOs/countries with Ham Radio License Holders and considering the large number of Youth and Adults in Scouting of similar interest and enthusiasm;

Realising the potential of Radio Scouting to improve the image of Scouts and to inspire the younger generation to join Scouting;

The Conference resolves:

a) to encourage each NSO to establish Radio Scouting in its country;

b) to establish strong networking among the Radio Scouting networks in the Region with the leadership from APR Scout Committee;

c) That Radio Scouting progress report activities be included in the agenda of future Asia Pacific Region Conferences and Jamborees.

It is hoped that the Radio Scouting meetings held during the Conference would enable exchange of acknowledgement (QSL Bureau) cards, foster greater relations and camaraderie between Radio Scouting members at large with the aim of enhancing the quality of Scouting.

**12/09 Omnibus Resolution: Focus for the Future**

The Conference recognises the excellent work and effort of the Break-Out Groups in the areas of Membership Growth, National Strategic Plan Implementation, Synergy between Programme and Training, and Community Based and School Based Scouting;

acknowledges the outcomes from and accepts the recommendations of the Break Out Groups;

and calls upon the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee to follow up on those outcomes and recommendations and report back to the NSOs on the implementation of those recommendations.

Further in each of these specific areas, the Conference resolves as follows:

**Membership Growth**

Bearing in mind that in line with the WOSM plan, ‘Membership Growth’ has become one of the priority areas for the Asia-Pacific Region, the Conference:

i. takes note of and endorses the membership growth targets for each NSO and in particular the target of a 4% increase of membership for the Asia-Pacific Region by 2012 that was agreed by the NSOs present at the 6th Asia-Pacific Scout Leaders’ Summit in Nepal on 1st – 4th March 2009;

ii. urges all NSOs and the Regional Scout Committee to strive towards meeting and to develop appropriate strategies in conjunction with the World Scout Committee for achieving those targets; and

iii. eagerly anticipates the deliberations and recommendations of the Membership Growth Sub-Committee that aim to help NSOs achieve realistic growth targets, support NSO membership development strategies, and assist NSOs in improving the membership retention rate.

**National Strategic Plan Implementation**

Accepting that a National Strategic Plan is crucial for bringing better Scouting for more young people, observing that 23 out of 26 NSOs in the Asia-Pacific Region already have an on-going National Strategic Plan, and acknowledging with gratitude the sterling work done by the Management Sub-Committee in assisting NSOs to draft their National Strategic Plans and advise on implementation, the Conference strongly urges that all NSOs should continue to develop and ensure the implementation of a National Strategic Plan bearing in mind the following matters:

i. that there will be many challenges in implementation, but necessary effort and sufficient resources have to be provided in executing the implementation of the National Strategic Plan, including:
a. Commitment at the highest level,
b. Setting simple and realistic plans with clear accountabilities and milestones identified,
c. Coordination with government authorities and other external stakeholders,
d. Proper and clear communication and marketing of the plan to all members to ensure ownership at all levels,
e. Plan to implement - including regular Reviews
f. Budget for the Plan Implementation
g. Empowerment of the Grass Roots with the provision of guidelines for implementation of the plan

ii. and that support is available from the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee, Management Sub-Committee, World Scout Bureau Manila Office, and other NSOs.

Synergy Between Programme and Training
Remembering that the core of the Scouting movement is our youth, and that the mission of Scouting is youth development; and recognising that our program must meet the needs of young people and training must support program implementation; it is recommended that all NSOs:

i. Have regular collaboration between Training and Youth Programme with equal representation at all levels to build greater synergies;

ii. Continue to engage young people in policy and decision making to maintain the relevance of the current Youth Programme;

iii. Consistent with the World Scout Conference Resolution 10/05, recommend that NSOs set up a joint Committee (comprising Training and Youth Programme) to oversee, coordinate, implement and review the work of the Youth Programme and the Adult Resources Department.

Community Based and School Based Scouting
Acknowledging that there are different merits to community based and school based Scouting, and accepting that the coordination, motivation and transfer of best practices between each style facilitated by each NSO will often deliver the best results for the youth in both community based and school based Scouting, the Conference recommends that:

i. NSOs should strive to achieve both community based Scouting and school based Scouting modes of Scouting delivery in their countries;

ii. NSOs should consider that both modes of Scouting delivery provide different experiences of Scouting;

iii. NSOs should recognize that appropriate adult resources are important for both modes of Scouting delivery and that the training will differ for both modes of delivering Scouting;

iv. NSOs should recognize and understand that each mode has its own unique strengths; and

v. NSOs should recognize the value in both modes to service local communities and young people but understand that community based Scouting offers a higher degree of Scouting ethos, culture or philosophy, while school based Scouting allow enormous access and opportunity for young people.

(Please note that the APR Plan 2009-2012 is not included in this Resolution as the Plan and the recommendations were approved by acclamation at the Conference earlier.)