



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

World Scout Bureau, Asia-Pacific Support Centre, Makati
Bureau Mondial du Scoutisme, Centre de Soutien Asie-Pacifique, Makati

ODC International Plaza Building
219 Salcedo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Metro Manila 1229
PHILIPPINES

Phone (+63 2) 818 09 84
(+63 2) 817 16 75
Fax (+63 2) 819 00 93

Email asia-pacific@Scout.org
Web Scout.org/asia-pacific

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To: Chief National Commissioners
International Commissioners
Chief Scout Executives

7 March 2017

Sea Scouting in the Asia-Pacific Region

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings from the Asia-Pacific Support Centre!

In the first edition of "Scouting for Boys", Baden-Powell wrote "A Scout should be able to manage a boat, to bring it properly alongside a ship or pier ...". In December 1908, the first Seamanship badge was issued as one of the first 'Efficiency' badges.

Young people who wish to learn maritime skills and who may be considering a maritime career can gain these skills and continue their membership to WOSM through Sea Scouting. Sea Scouting, however, should not be seen as a separate programme but an extension of the Scout Programme of the national Scout organization so that we can provide our Scouts with skills specializing on water activities like advanced sailing and many others.

The Asia Pacific Region is comprised of large countries and very small island-countries with vast bodies of waters - oceans, rivers and waterways. There is a real need for education on safer water activities among Scouts and young people. Sea Scout Groups within the World Organization of Scout Movement can learn a great deal from each other by working collaboratively to develop safety standards, improve efficiency, run more comprehensive programs and organize joint events for the benefit of youth members and leaders.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee, at its meeting in October 2016 in Bangkok has decided to encourage national Scout organizations to collaborate and work together to enhance water safety programs, assist with delivery of water safety programs, and promote collaboration on international sailing events within the Asia-Pacific Region.

In view of the foregoing, we would like to request your national Scout organization to nominate a person in-charge of Sea Scouting. Kindly send the name, position in the NSO and email address to Syd Castillo, Director for Youth Programme <syd@scout.org> by **15 April 2017**.

Yours in Scouting,



J. Rizal C. Pangilinan
Regional Director
World Scout Bureau/Asia-Pacific Support Centre

JRCP/ypc/afc