



Dear Y's Men friends all over the world

It is a privilege, a great pleasure and big honour for me to serve as your International President and I am extremely thankful for all the good experiences you have given me during the first 4 months of my period, including the wonderful installation as IP in Kochi, India. I have had the opportunity to attend several Area conventions, Regional conferences and new club charter ceremonies.

I am happy and thankful for meeting so many devoted and proud members of Y's Men International. It has been a great inspiration for me to attend the Area Conventions in Kochi (India), Taiwan (Asia), Yeosu (Korea), St. Louis (USA) and Skjern (Europe). I congratulate all the new clubs being chartered during the last months. Please allow me to especially mention the new clubs in Dhaka, Bangladesh and East Jerusalem, Palestine. I had the opportunity to attend the chartering ceremony for those two new clubs in new territories, both of them with a high number of members (26 and 32), and both of them members of, and in close connection to, the local YMCA.

United Nations day was on 24th October and this reminds us of the Roll Back Malaria campaign. Please promote this campaign in the clubs in your Region and encourage increasing contributions to this programme. I must also mention the Time of Fast Global Projects. Last year we had 18 applications, but due to lower contributions we could only approve 6 of them. These two programmes are the flagships for

our movement and correspond to the line in our constitution: '*...to make the world a better place for all mankind*'. It is most important for me that we, as an International movement, do all we can for the needy people around the world.

In a few years our movement will celebrate our 100 years anniversary and as you may know ICM has set a goal to reach 50,000 members in 100 countries by the year 2022. This is a great challenge for our movement and we cannot achieve the goal without the participation of our clubs and Regions. From my point of view I think our partnership with YMCA gives us a good opportunity to increase the number of members. In accordance with this we will arrange a survey once a year in order to follow up the development of the movement. Please make sure that your Region and clubs take part in this survey.

A Task Force has been established to discuss the International Council structure in our movement. Compared to other NGOs our movement has a high number of members on the International Council. Chairperson for the Task Force is AP Asia Wichian Boonmapajorn and I hope that we will be able to come up with a proposal to ICM and to clubs within the immediate period. It is very important for our International movement, almost crucial, that we all can agree about a change on this challenging item. A meeting of the Task Force is planned to be held in December.

IP Finn Pedersen

IP Bulletin and IHQ News

News from IHQ

Learning Opportunities

One of the pleasures and values of being International Secretary General is the opportunity to take part in Regional Director education. It is a chance to meet leaders away from IHQ and make sure there is a consistent standard of 'Learning Opportunities'. Together with IPE Philip Mathai I have recently participated in the Europe Area Regional Elect (RDE) Training held at Silkeborg Denmark, one held in Minneapolis, USA for joint RDE training of USA, CNC and SOP and joint RDE training of the new Korea area and Asia area at Gimpo, Korea. These are great opportunities for learning from each other, although APE and ASD-LTOD share 'Educational Opportunities' and plans for the next Y's year. Not only goals, but also how the new leaders want to lead their Regions for the future, particularly Towards 2022 for a centennial celebration year of our movement. One of the interesting points from the joint USA, CNC and SOP session was the use of Skype Video conferencing. This enabled us to involve more members without additional travel costs, part of the carbon reduction efforts in Y'sdom.

There is a new club in Long Island, New York, USA. The Gulf District Indian Y's leaders initiated this new club and all the members are Indian-American citizens who have lived there for well over 20 years, with good professions and families. The charter presentation was conducted on 16th October with the presence of RD North Atlantic Region, Bob Hubbard, PICM Robert Wilby and Phil Italiano.

A month later over 30 committed charter members and their Y'slings and Menettes gathered at Long Island to welcome IPE Philip Mathai and myself when we made a visit between RDE training in Minneapolis and the Service Club leadership conference at St. Louis. We made this trip to greet and witness the strong

leadership and membership of the club which is expected to carry out good community work and make expansion in a unique way. During the stay I visited the International YMCA in Manhattan New York with the President of the new Long Island Y Service club, Shaju Sam, to make an official introduction and discuss how this new lay-volunteer group can be a service to the community with the YMCA. Let's encourage them and see how this new club will be providing service to the community in New York which has been isolated for a long time without any Y's Men's club in spite of being such a metropolitan city of the world.

ISG Nishi



RDE training at the joint USA, CNC and SOP session with video confernce facilities

Y's Men's World

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Silver Jubilee Y's Care – 2011

By Mathew Sebastian, Assistant Editor, India

Community Service is central to the work of Y'sdom. Mid West India Region of India Area is celebrating its silver jubilee this year and as part of this hosted a one day cultural and sports event in November 2011. 330 residents aged from 5 years to 80 years from Boys & Girls Care Homes and Old Age Homes in Kochi took part. Y's Care – 2011 was a day of fun and enjoyment. Y's Men had prepared nearly 40 cultural and sports events suitable for all age groups of boys, girls, men and women.

All participants were given a sports cap with the Y's Men logo printed on it. At the end of the day, a 'Y's Grandpa' and 'Y's Grandma' were selected from the aged participants and honoured. Prizes and medals were given to winners of all the events. Free transportation was provided to all the 12 institutions which attended. A tasty lunch and refreshments in the morning and evening and a professional orchestra to support the participants were valued additions to the happiness of the residents of the care homes.



The event touched a sentimental note in the minds of



all the Y's Men, women and children present at the venue. The words of a catholic nun who came along to the DG of District-1 will sum up the day *"Look at the smile and joy on their faces, forgetting all their worries and feelings of loneliness this whole day. You may not feel the difference, but we do. Y's Men have done a wonderful service and please continue this in the future also."* In their minds Y's Men International stands very high. Let us try not to bring it down.

Ideas for 'Green Team' Activities

By Rita Hettiarachchi, ASD/CS, Green Team Member

Recycling

Have a campaign to get all club members to recycle. Provide recycling bins and a list of things the local rubbish collection will accept. Could be implemented at church groups too. Have a glass collection once a month. Collect all empty bottles and arrange to drive to the recycling centres that accept glass. Even the church and the work place could be encouraged to have recycling bins at various places.

Energy Reduction

Take energy-saving measures such as draught proofing, upgrading, replacing windows, etc. Encourage those who are able to walk within a reasonable distance to walk. Encourage members to use compact fluorescent light bulbs in their homes. Encourage neighbours who have garden space to bury the waste/garbage instead of burning them.

Saving Resources

Green supplies. Buy recycled, process chlorine-free office paper. Use environmentally friendly cleaning products. Use recycled chlorine-free paper towels and toilet paper. Sell reusable shopping bags. Use native plants and plants that require little watering. Eliminate pesticide use on the grounds. Instead use dry leaves/composted manure. Replace Styrofoam cups with reusable mugs. Encourage members to have a compost bin at home. Provide materials and education.

Did You Know?

Every month the IP issues a Family Newsletter. Josey Joseph distributes it by email to all officers in Y'sdom with a request that it is passed on.

Do you see a copy?

If you do not then contact your Regional Director and ask why not.

Service is the Word

By PIP Kevin Cummings, ISD Community Service

Someone once said, "People do not join an organisation for who they are, but rather for what they do". This is the essence of Y's Men International. Community Service is what we do! We serve through the local YMCA, our churches or just within the community in general. Sometimes this community can be half way around the world. It is just such service that has helped our movement to grow to nearly 30,000 members in over 75 different countries. Each club demonstrates this unselfish act in differing ways. We operate free medical clinics; we collect food for local food banks; we help seniors with difficult tasks; and much more. There are hundreds of ways in which we serve.

In just eleven short years Y's Men International will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The 'Towards 2022 Team' is working to find ways in which we can celebrate this amazing milestone. As the ISD for Community Service I have been challenged to create a data base of community service projects from clubs around the world. I am challenging each of you to send information of projects in local clubs. As new clubs are chartered around the world the need for community service project ideas is increasing. Wouldn't it be great if a project idea from your local clubs could help these new clubs gain recognition within their community? Wouldn't it be great if these projects could help these new clubs to grow and increase service to their community?

All right... the challenge has been issued! Contact your RSDs and send them ideas for Community Service Projects today. I am anxious to get your information to share with the rest of Y's Men International.



2nd to 5th August 2012

Latest news, information and registration is to be found on our website;

www.ic2012.org

Wrestling for Good

By Jennifer Jones, ISD ASF

On an icy cold Saturday morning in Minneapolis, USA, about a dozen teenagers and their two coaches from the local high school Wrestling Team came to help the Hiawatha Y's Club unload a truck full of Christmas trees.



Each year over several weeks, a roster is prepared where club members work together with YMCA staff to sell a large number of these attractive trees to raise funds for the local YMCAs at Hiawatha and Blaisdell. The council provides the use of a vacant lot for several weeks and a portable room is hired for shelter when the weather is inclement. With the help of these energetic lads, the yard was set up just in time before the snow settled in. Coffee and donuts certainly hit the spot that morning.



It was a treat to see the way in which the club members worked alongside the young wrestlers to set the site up so well. Hopefully they will be able to enjoy some of the fruits of their labour by attending and using the facilities of these local YMCA s. Be generous in your support of the Alexander Scholarship Fund so that more YMCA staff can receive training, which in the long run will help lads such as these.