



Asia Pacific Region

World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses

Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts

ASIA PACIFIC LINK NEWS

World Thinking Day

Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association: National Thinking Day Programme

The Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association's World Thinking Day 2014 activities and celebrations were conducted at Sri Parakramabahu Maha Vidyalaya, an urban school for children from low income families which reside in the neighbourhood's slums. The main sponsor for the event was the American Center, Colombo and the Chief Guest was Her Excellency Ms. Michele Sison, Ambassador for the United States of America.



The World Thinking Day 2014 theme of "Education opens doors for all girls and boys" was cleverly portrayed by having activity stations with stylized "doors" depicting various aspects of education:

- Door 1 – Child safety
- Door 2 – A child friendly school environment
- Door 3 – Good nutrition
- Door 4 – A healthy and happy home
- Door 5 – What is meant by education from a child's point of view
- Door 6 – Leadership and ethics

Various activities, songs, games, question and answer sessions were conducted in each room by Little Friends, Girl Guides, Senior Guides and young leaders.

Girl Guides Singapore celebrates World Thinking Day

This year saw the members of Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) gathered in their Divisions to commemorate World Thinking Day 2014. The activities were hosted at four schools. The theme for World Thinking Day was aligned to MDG 2, "Education opens doors for all girls".

To this end, GGS organized activities related to the five focus countries; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Egypt, Bangladesh, Armenia and Benin. Brownies, Girl Guides and Adult Leaders in Singapore enjoyed hands-on activities relating to the cultures of these countries, including weaving Bangladeshi baskets, making voodoo dolls from Benin, learning the Egyptian belly dance, tasting apricots from Armenia and rolling hula hoops like the children of St Vincent and the Grenadines.



Siak Ru Jing from South Division said, "One of the best things about Girl Guiding is being able to learn new

things. It is not just about getting the badge but about learning life skills. I had many opportunities to set and achieve goals and to identify and develop my strengths. I am also able to work on meaningful projects with fellow Girl Guides and schoolmates to help others."

Pakistan Girl Guides Association's Thinking Day Rally

Pakistan Girl Guides Association, Punjab organized a Thinking Day rally on 20 February 2014 at Provincial Headquarters Lahore. The theme of the rally was "Education for All". Ms.

Zakkiya Shanwaz, Minister of Population Planning and Women Development was the Chief Guest and Ms. Ayesha Sana (actress) was



the Special Guest of the day.

More than 800 girls and leaders from different districts of the Punjab attended the rally. The programme of the rally presented the progress of Girl Guiding in Punjab, the role of Girl Guides as agents of change in the fields of literacy, health, environment, poverty and women's empowerment.

Another Thinking Day rally was organized at the Government Girls Model High School, Okara on 26 February 2014. 30 schools participated. Girl Guides of Government High School Bhghana Kalan, Kasur also organized a Thinking Day Rally, with over 150 participants.

Girl Guides Association Malaysia Johor Branch hosts National Level WTD 2014

More than 1000 members and friends of Girl Guides Association Malaysia (GGAM)



gathered at Taman Merdeka in Johor Bahru to celebrate World Thinking Day and the launch of GGAM Johor Branch Outreach Program.

GGAM President HE Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor officiated the event and complimented the Johor Girl Guides for their initiative in training disabled youth with entrepreneurial skills, such as making cakes and handicrafts.

In line with the theme 'Education Opens Doors For All Girls and Boys', participants had a busy and fun day visiting the various exhibition booths and taking part in the 23 games stations. The challenges at the activity stations included activities on braille, dyslexia, health, cyber safety, tracking signs, knots and lashings, 'Learning Olympics', aerobics exercises, breaking stereotypes and many more.

"It is also a great way for the girls from all over the country to interact and learn from each other", said GGAM Relationship to Society National Commissioner, Joyce Ong Choon Kim.

Also present were GGAM Johor Branch Deputy President, HRH Tunku Tun Aminah Binti Sultan Ibrahim, wife of Johor Chief Minister Datin Seri Rosni Omar, GGAM Chief Commissioner, Ms Normala Baharudin and members of Girl Guides Singapore.

World Thinking Day 2014 in Hong Kong

The Island Divisions organized a World Thinking Day ceremony with a service project on 22 February. The Division Commissioner delivered the WTD message to Rangers, Girl



Guides, and Brownie in the district. They conducted a service programme for sharing love and

warmness to elderly members in Wan Chai District after the ceremony.

The newly reactivated Hong Kong Trefoil Guild held their second meeting on 22 February 2014 with a World Thinking Day Ceremony at HKGGA headquarters. Their Trefoil Guild provides continuation of the spirit of Girl Guiding for those who are no longer in uniform, opportunities of fellowship and fostering of further support of Girl Guiding in Hong Kong.

Many participants had not participated in Girl Guiding activities for a long time. They thought this gathering brought back happy memories, and further gatherings will be arranged for them in the near future.

Girl Guides in Sai Kung worked on the World Thinking Day badge and have already finished one of the criteria by fundraising. They raised HKD 4,643.50 on 25 January to be split between two charities. They had a table at the biannual garage sale held in community and sold unwanted toys, books, games, that the girls brought from home.

They made a donation to Make Every Child Count (MECC), which operates in Cambodia and they hope to sponsor a teacher for a year. Another beneficiary organization was Butterfly Hospice, which cares for disabled children in



China, who have often been abandoned by their parents. The Girl Guides gave thanks to all

parents, Guiders and Girl Guides who gave up their time to help raise this amazing sum in donations.

Outcome 1:
**Strengthened the quality of
GGGS**

**The Grantham Uniformed Youth Groups
Outstanding Service Award 2013-2014
(Hong Kong)**

This Service Award was established in 2012 to recognize the contributions made by

outstanding members of Hong Kong Uniformed Groups in the community services. Each



Uniformed Group may nominate two members for the award. Nominees should possess good character and demonstrate a high level of leadership, strong commitment to the organization, active participation in regular training activities and devoted to taking part in community service. Lam Tin Kei and Tsang Yuen Ying (2012-2013), and Lau Ying Wa and Ip Tsz Man Mandy (2013-2014) were recognized by the Fund Committee.

**Girl Scouts Japan and Myanmar Girl
Guides join together for 1st International
Camp for Myanmar Girl Guides**

From 28 to 30 December 2013, a group of Girl Scouts of Osaka Council (GSO) of Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ) visited Myanmar and conducted the First International Camp for Myanmar Girl Guides (MMGG) and GSO. Nine Ranger Girl Scouts and three Leaders from Osaka, 36 Girl Guides and 15 Leaders from Myanmar, and support staff (around 80 people in total) joined this memorable international event. The theme was "Friendship" and the aim of the programme was to deepen the understanding of the Patrol System and to raise awareness of the importance of public health including brushing of teeth.

GSO has already visited Myanmar six times. They have provided activities to teach and to improve public health for girls in Myanmar.



Since MMGG was certified as 'Country Working Towards Membership' at the 11th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in 2013,

GSO decided to expand their activity to a joint programme with MMGG.

During the camp, MMGG learnt the Patrol System through experience. GSO trained MMGG as Patrol Leaders, which gave Rangers the confidence. Also, MMGG learnt various camp skills such as building and striking a tent, wide game, rope works and campfire. GSO also encouraged MMGG to deliver the programme of brushing of teeth and public health to their family, friends and communities.

We believe MMGG will grow rapidly as the Girl Guides and Leaders are eager to learn and to acquire knowledge and skills actively. GSJ is one of the link countries to support the reconstruction of MGG along with Australia. GSJ would like to strengthen friendship with MGG utilizing the experiences and knowledge of GSO.

Awesome adventures at F14ME

Awesome adventures and the opportunity to learn new skills sums up F14ME, this year's



Ranger Event based in Auckland, New Zealand from 4 to 11 January 2014.

For the first few days over 370 Rangers, aged from 13 to 18 years, and 120 leaders and volunteers were under canvas in Pukekohe. The New Zealand girls were joined by Rangers from as far away as Ireland, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Fiji, the Philippines and the Cook Islands.

The event programme ensured that there was an amazing range of both on-site and off-site activities and challenges to extend the Rangers' through new experiences and adventures, to have fun, develop teamwork skills and develop their confidence as young women. Because of the girls' ages the off-site activities were run by outside providers while the leaders' role was to ensure they were safe and to provide support and encouragement.

Before starting their off-site adventures, all the Rangers spent time under canvas at Wesley College having fun at a talent quest, disco, as well as confidence building and team work activities. A range of inspirational speakers spoke at a leadership development workshop aimed at opening their eyes to opportunities and broadening their horizons.

Women's Refuge held a session about helping girls to protect themselves through their nationwide Shero programme.

"They tried self-defence moves and learnt about confidence building and not having to put up with any problems they may be having in a relationship," says Rhonda.

Try It Tuesday saw the girls trying something new on-site including archery, orienteering, boxing or circus skills which was all about juggling, acrobalancing, unicycling and hula hooping.



MO to MO partnership between Girl Guides Australia and Myanmar Girl Guides

Fiona Bye, member of Girl Guides Australia Incorporated writes, "In January 2014, I was lucky enough to be selected as one of four Australian Leaders and five Japanese trainers to travel to Myanmar to facilitate the Myanmar Girl Guides Intermediate Leaders Training Event. We were also joined by the two Asia Pacific Region Development Executives, Grace Tam (Malaysia) and Karen Chatto (Australia's own).

There were approximately 70 Leaders from all over Myanmar, all of whom had completed the Basic Training held last year. The mood was amazing as soon as we arrived at the training venue. The Leaders were whispering excitedly and had notebooks and pens ready to take notes on everything we spoke about and did.

The training event lasted for three days, during which we ran sessions on a number of different topics, including the patrol system and self-governance, programme planning, unit administration and Girl Guiding history and traditions. We also ran lots of ice breakers and fun games, demonstrating that Girl Guiding is all about doing and girls can learn through games.

One of my personal highlights was seeing and hearing Girl Guiding traditions in another language and culture. To hear the Girl Guide Promise spoken in Myanmar by over 70 Leaders and 80 Girl Guides was just incredible! Seeing the pride and discipline on the faces of both Leaders and Girl Guides

performing the daily flag ceremony and colours was another beautiful moment. It was a perfect example of the fact that Girl Guides are an international movement and have similar traditions and values all over the world.

I am so glad to have been able to be a part of this amazing and life changing event. Thank you to everyone that supported and helped me get to Myanmar. That is one of the brilliant aspects about Girl Guides; that there are so many wonderful opportunities out there, and there are also so many fabulous and supportive people to help you along the way! I learnt so much about myself and feel that my self-confidence has increased."



Fiona Bye, Girl Guides Australia

Training Course for Girl Scout Trainer Candidates and the Qualification Session of Girl Scouts of Japan

On 12 to 13 January 2014, Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ) held a Training Course for Girl Scout Trainer Candidates and their Qualification Session. 15 Candidates from nine local councils participated in the course and all of them were certified as new Girl Scout Trainers.

In Japan, there are two levels of Trainer. The first level is called a Programme Trainer. An experienced Programme Trainer could be a candidate for a Girl Scout Trainer. Girl Scout Trainer has the responsibility for the training on governance and structure and organizing Leaders' training course including the certification. Therefore, the candidates had training on "Governance" and "Leader Training Course", and learnt their role and responsibilities as a Girl Scout Trainer. They were also told that they should be role models for Leaders. The session reassured them that Trainers had to keep developing themselves, updating their knowledge on WAGGGS and



GSJ, and provide accurate information to Leaders. The new Trainers will cooperate with other experienced

Trainers and work as a team to develop local councils and fulfil the mission of GSJ and WAGGGS.

Hong Kong's Highest Service Hour Award

Hong Kong Girl Guide Association (HKGGA)

has attained the Highest Service Hour Award for the seventh consecutive year. HKGGA conducted over 3 million hours of



services to different aspects of community every year. We are proud of this achievement.

Girl Guides Australia Inc. – Building a Better Tomorrow ... For our future

In April 2013, Girl Guides Australia Incorporated released its leadership statement “Building Australia and Contributing to a Better Tomorrow”. The statement is a key advocacy document for the organization.

From an organization and business perspective, the document advocates for more strategic policy approaches to volunteerism. Specifically, it asks for a “workforce development plan for the future of volunteering including”:

- The development of career pathways for young people in volunteering.
- The creation of sustainable organization development practices for volunteers utilising organizations so that they can build resilience at a time of great change of volunteerism.
- Creating better cohesion between development of skills in volunteer work and the paid workforce.

Over the last six months Girl Guides Australia Incorporated has been pursuing its case for more contemporary and informed approaches to supporting and developing effective volunteerism, resulting in a request for a Senate Inquiry into volunteerism and the practices of organizations that provide volunteering opportunities.

“We know from our Leader of Adults and Leader of Youth research that there are great opportunities to provide quality opportunities for people in our community to volunteer. The work now is about getting this right.” said Chief Commissioner, Robinette Emonson.

“We are asking that there is a strategic national conversation on the workforce planning and development needs of volunteers” said Kit McMahon, National Executive Officer of Girl Guides Australia. “In Australia, as with many countries around the world, the policy architecture around improving capacity and capability of paid workers is understood very well. We are arguing that equal effort should be made to organizations that utilise volunteers”.

“What is important for us, is that the conversation occurs specifically from the perspective of volunteers – which is a completely different perspective to the paid worker”, said Kit. “Rather than directly apply the ways of work of the paid workforce onto the volunteer workforce, we need to take the opportunity of fully appreciating that this is a unique workforce. On par in strength, talent and capacity of the paid workforce – but, with its own set of unique challenges, opportunities, languages and ways of working.”

Outcome 4: Increased Funding

Vee Yen's Design is the Best!

Girl Guides Associations Malaysia (GGAM) congratulates Heng Vee Yen, 16 years old from Selangor, who came out top in the recent GGAM biscuit wrapper design and poster competition. Her winning design is now on our Girl Guides Choco Rolls which will be



launched very soon. The Choco Rolls is a fundraising project, in collaboration with London Biscuits Berhad Group (LBBG).

“My drawing conveys the message that nothing is impossible when we are together in Girl Guiding. We must always uphold our Girl Guiding spirit”, she explained.

She added that she enjoys Girl Guiding very much as it encourages her to grow and challenges her potential.

GGAM Johor Branch President YM Tunku Fatimah Faridah Binti Tunku Osman presented the prizes and certificates to them at the World Thinking Day celebration in Johor Bahru on 1 March 2014. Also present was GGAM Chief Commissioner, Ms Normala Baharudin.

Asia Pacific's Project 3L Grantees for 2014

During the Asia Pacific Regional Committee meeting held in March, the Committee approved grants for the 3L Projects. We congratulate the Member Organizations which were successful in getting the 3L Project grant this year. They are:

- Bangladesh Girl Guides Association – Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness Programme.
- Girl Guides Association of Cambodia – Life Long Learning on Social Responsibility and Social Development.
- Girl Scouts of Japan – Seminar to acquire Professional Skills in Business and non-Business World.
- Pakistan Girl Guides Association – Empowering Women through Vocational Skills Training.
- Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association – Empowering Young Women to Reach their Full Potential.

Outcome 5:
Increased and Diversified Membership

Asia Pacific Region membership on the rise!

The Asia Pacific Region is proud to announce an increase of membership from 3.07 million as of 31 December 2012 to 3.174 million as of 31 December 2013, an increase of 3.33%. 12 out of 25 Member Organizations recorded an increase in membership, ten marked a decrease and three maintained their membership from the previous year.

University Students Support Challenge Program of the Girl Scouts of Philippines

De La Salle University (DLSU), College of Liberal Arts AB Organizational Communication students, in partnership with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP), conducted the "2014 Chall8nge the Girls" event on 15 March 2014, in Quezon City, Philippines.

The event succeeded in introducing the



concept of Cadet Girl Scouting to non-Girl Scouts from different colleges and universities in

Metro Manila belonging to the 16 to 21 age bracket. 85 girls participated in the event.

"2014 Chall8nge the Girls" was designed after the game "Amazing Race," where participants had to finish a given task in eight stations, with each station representing the GSP's Eight-Point Challenge. Each team was allowed to proceed to another station only after finishing the task to the satisfaction of the Girl Scout facilitators assigned to the station.

The Eight-Point Challenge is the GSP program that embodies meaningful, responsive, relevant, contemporary, and time-tested activities that adequately prepare Filipino girls to face and cope with the changing times. Senior and Cadet Girl Scouts and Troop Leaders from Pasig City Council served as the facilitators of the activities.

Inclusion of Private Colleges in Guiding in Pakistan

Pakistan Girl Guides Association Azad Jammu



and Kashmir (AJK) organized an enrolment ceremony of Senior Girl Guides at Scholars College of Sciences and IT. The

ceremony was the first step towards inclusion of the private colleges into the Girl Guide Movement in AJK. The ceremony was conducted by Miss Samea Sadique, Commissioner Private Colleges and Ms. Hanifa Khanum, President PGGA AJK was the Chief Guest. 35 Senior Guides were enrolled during the ceremony.

Girl Scouts of Philippines Activities Features In University Exhibit

The outputs of two interns who received their "on-the-job training" at the GSP National Headquarters, Communications Division, were showcased at the "Tanghal: Development Communication Interns' Exhibit," held from 11 to 14 March 2014, at the Central Luzon State

University (CLSU) in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

Christia Jane Joson and Jennelyn Anne Raakin of CSLU displayed their activities,



accomplishments, and outputs as interns as they introduced GSP to the visitors of the exhibits and to the CLSU community.

During the exhibit, the two interns relayed to the visitors the stories behind the pictures, articles, and other outputs. GSP's official Audio-Visual Presentation, "Are You a Girl Scout?" was also played at the GSP booth.

Christia Joson explained the lessons she learned from the GSP during her two-month internship: "During our internship, we realized the importance of GSP for every Filipino girl and young woman. GSP ensures the betterment of the society. I also learned that GSP is not only about camping. It also supports advocacy activities."

In addition, Jennelyn Raakin said, "We are very thankful to the GSP for giving us opportunities to learn in the workplace. We will treasure and share our learning and experiences with the Movement."

A caricature standee of Gespie, the official Mascot of the GSP, attracted many visitors to the booth of GSP.

Outcome 6:
Influenced Issues that affect girls and young women

Girl Scouts of Japan conducting Stop the Violence TV campaign with focus on stopping "Dating Violence"

An online course was launched on the Girl Scout Japan's (GSJ) website as the introductory explanation about Dating Violence. This enabled GSJ to learn about Dating Violence and acquire the skills to implement a campaign. This project was



funded by the Asia Pacific Region's Project 3L grant.

GSJ also held trainings for girls and adults in six districts in cooperation with NPO. Participants shared cases of violence that could happen to anyone and learnt how to deliver the information.

Furthermore, GSJ cooperated with Cabinet Office in Purple light-up campaign, which aims to eliminate the violence against female.

In the special event "Know! No! Dating Violence!!" from 1 November to 10 December 2013, GSJ collected 1,769 messages in relation to what is necessary to stop Dating Violence. This idea came from the WAGGGS Stop the Violence Training in Rwanda in May 2013. Girls were empowered through the campaign and involved a lot of people around them.

Young leaders and Rangers realised that Dating Violence is not known to the society yet and it is important to respect each other to eliminate the violence. They organized the meeting in school, shared the knowledge and raised the awareness of Dating Violence.

Girl Scouts of Philippines Joins in Setting World Record for Largest Woman Symbol in the World

Representatives from the Girl Scouts of the Philippines joined the 10,168 Filipino women and men at the Quirino



Grandstand in Manila, Philippines, on 8 March 2014, to form the largest woman gender symbol for the Philippines' bid to enter the Guinness Book of World Records in 2014.

The event sponsored by Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) for the International Women's Day Celebration embodied the theme "Juana ang tatag mo ay tatag natin sa pagbangon at pagsulong! (Woman, your strength leads to our progress)" showed the world that Filipinos are united in heeding the call to value the indispensable role of women in recovery, progress, and nation building. In the Philippines, the month known as National Women's Month is celebrated in March each year.

Pakistan Girl Guides Association Women's Day Celebrations

Pakistan Girl Guides Association AJK Chapter celebrated Women's day on 12 March 2014 in collaboration with Fatima Jinnah



Post Graduate College. Mrs. Matlooba Dar was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Senior Girl Guides, their leaders and Executive Committee Members of AJK attended.

Senior Girl Guides of Fatima Jinnah Post Graduate College, Students of Al -Raazi College of Sciences, Model Public School and College presented tableaux, skits, songs and speeches based on women's rights, violence against women, role of women in police force, domestic violence, etc.. Poster competition was also part of the programme.

At the end Mrs. Hafeeza Rehman, Executive Committee Member thanked and congratulated State Branch for organizing the event and giving the young girls a platform to show their potential. She assured her co-operation to enhance Girl Guiding in government colleges.

Girl Scouts of Philippines representatives Unite at 1st National Gathering

144 Cadet and Senior Girl Scouts from 96 different councils in the Philippines participated in the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) 1st National Gathering of Girl Representatives (NGGR) held from 29 November to 3 December, 2013 at the Ating Tahanan National Program and Training Center in Baguio City, Philippines.

With the theme "Timek. Tingog. Tinig. Hundred Voice of Girl Scouts in Action," the national gathering encouraged the Girl Scouts to speak their minds and hearts through their advocacies.

"Be the voice of all the girls in the world who could not speak up for themselves. Educate yourselves about the issues that affect you and take to heart the lessons you learn over time. These experiences will shape your attitude toward life and will help you become better persons," Salud A. Bagalso, M.D., GSP National President told the participants.

The five-day event was composed of five categories; "Whisper," to acclimatize the participants to the weather and allow them to settle down; "Soliloquy," to introduce the girls to different forms of advocacy which includes plenary sessions on Millennium Development Goals and Techno Speak; "Speak Your Mind," to know the Girl Scouting International linkages and their advocacies which includes plenary sessions on nation building, international opportunities, Post 2015, International Day of Girls, disaster risk management, Project Life Long Learning and international food festival. "Shout Out!" includes, advocacy visits and plenary sessions on synthesis/processing, action planning, workshop and Women Icon Night.

"One could easily sense that these 'cream of the crop' Girl Representatives were definitely outspoken. "Speak Out", the theme of the gathering was very well practiced. They listened, thought and spoke with conviction. They went through a lot of thinking and walking through their action plans. The 1st NGGR was probably one of the best experiences I've had in Girl Scouting!," Dr. Cristina Lim- Yuson, Programme Chairperson and 1st National Vice President said.

World Centres

Sangam

Sangam's **Swimming Pool** has been operational since 1974 and it is a great place for our guests, volunteers and staff to relax and connect! Since then, repairs have been undertaken for various issues. Our pool still has the original concrete shell and it is finally showing its age. Our pool is leaking water along a major crack that has developed through the width of the pool. We need to completely rebuild our Swimming Pool! You can help us build our new pool by donating a tile to our virtual swimming pool! For £100, you can buy a tile and have it added to our virtual pool. For more information on our Save Our Pool campaign, please [visit this page](#). For donations, email wcm@sangamworldcentre.org.

Sangam's **Community Programme** is accepting applications! Join us for a 12 or 4 week experience living in a World Centre and volunteering with a local organization. Whether your strength is in childcare, providing organisational support, or teaching; we have a place for you with one of our Community Partners! For more information on the Community Programme or scholarship

opportunities, click [here](#) or email crm@sangamworldcentre.org.

Want to visit Sangam this year? You can! We have spots available in our **scheduled events for groups or individuals**. Take a look at our [event list](#) for 2014 and book in today! Don't see an event that works for you or with your group's schedule? Don't worry! Email guestservices@sangamworldcentre.org and ask about availability for an event just for your group!

Our Chalet

Have you experienced autumn or winter at Our Chalet?

Now is your chance! No matter what your likes or abilities there is definitely something suitable for everyone at Our Chalet. For those who wish to experience the first world centre but don't have much time, you could stay for a couple of days as an independent guest or have an exciting couple of days on a mini break! If you would like to stay for longer, there are even more opportunities to experience all that Our Chalet can offer, from challenging activities to international friendship.



"We had an amazing weekend! We're already planning our return! Thank you so much to all the staff again for such a life changing experience which we will never forget!"

Charlotte Nash, Girl Guide leader and mini break participant

The autumn season at Our Chalet runs during September and October with many opportunities for fun including: Walking week (perfect for all of those hikers out there); autumn adventure weeks; alpine experience weeks and friendship weeks (fantastic for those who would like to see more of the surrounding areas without the hiking).

Our winter season runs from December until late February. Once winter arrives there are even more events that you can experience: New Year's break; rover week (for anyone over 18); winter adventure week; or ski weeks.

If you would like to take part in some programme days and still have some days doing your own activities that can also be possible! Just send an email to

info@ourchalet.ch and we will help you in any way we can. Start your World Centre story today!

Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS



Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS 4th General Assembly.

Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS (FAPW) held their 4th General Assembly in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 16 to 20 January 2014.

Participants enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) of Thailand and the Girl Guides of Chiang Mai, who made the General Assembly a memorable event. Activities included a day at the Rai Choen Bamphen Campsite sampling a wide range of delicious Thai cuisine and were entertained by the Girl Guides. A deeper understanding of local history and culture was gained through visits to temples, Thai dance performances, parks, orchid gardens, a hand weaving institute, the Celadon factory and handicraft centres. A visit to an elephant show provided not only entertainment and elephant trunk cuddles, but surprise and delight when one of the elephants painted a World Trefoil which was bought and later auctioned, with the proceeds being donated to FAPW.

Of course, it was not all play. During the business side of the General Assembly, reports were presented, new members elected to the Working Group and future plans discussed. The new members of the Working Group are Lee Fook Tai Peggy (Hong Kong), Normala Binti Baharudin (Malaysia) and Sun Kyo Jung (Korea). The three continuing members are Susan Locsin (Philippines) who was elected Chairman, Helen Hargreaves (Australia) who was elected Vice Chairman and Junko Sato (Japan).



Unfortunately, FAPW Patron, Her Royal Highness Princess Azizah Iskandar of Pahang, Malaysia was

unable to attend so at the membership Ceremony, the Founder of FAPW, Dato Dr

Juseon Byun presented the membership pins to new and upgrading members. Future events include a gathering to run concurrently with the World Conference and an OB-PS event in Hong Kong in July and a gathering in Melbourne, Australia, at the same time as the Asia Pacific Conference for Leaders of Girls, in November and December. The 5th General Assembly will be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2017.

Announcements

Girl Guides Malaysia for MH370

The past few weeks have been totally heartbreaking for us Malaysians and all those involved in the international search and rescue operation for Malaysia Airlines MH370



which disappeared on 8 March 2014. There were 239 people on board the flight which was bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. Members of Girl Guides Association Malaysia share the anguish of the families and friends of those on board. We wished, prayed and hoped for the safe return of the missing plane.

We helped fold 5000 origami cranes with messages of hope and prayers inscribed on them. We created the page 'Girl Guides Malaysia for MH370' on Facebook. Besides joining and collaborating with other organizations, we also set up special message walls at the malls.

The response was overwhelming with people from all walks of life and nationalities penning their wishes and hope such as 'Come home', 'We love you MH370', 'The whole world is waiting for you', 'We miss you', 'We are family'. We are touched by our sister Girl Guides and Girls Scouts who sent their messages of hope and prayers too. We joined hands in the various [#prayformh370](#) activities without giving up hope.

However, on 25 March 2014, our Prime Minister HE Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced that flight MH370 ended in the southern Indian Ocean. Our thoughts and prayers are for the families and friends of the passengers and crew on board MH370.

"The search continues the hope continues for the truth to be revealed. MH370 wherever you are, it's time to come home", said our Girl Guide trainer, Stanee Tan.

Asia Pacific Membership Development Strategy revised at Asia Pacific Regional Committee meeting

The Asia Pacific Regional (APR) Committee held its annual meeting this year in Seoul, Korea from 17 to 22 March 2014. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the Asia Pacific Operational Plan 2014-2017 for its final year of implementation and discussed the way forward to deliver the Asia Pacific Membership Development Strategy (APMDS) based on the needs identified by our Member Organizations through the reports submitted. The APMDS was approved by the 11th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Japan last year. From the discussions during the meeting, the APR Committee came up with a revised APMDS with more enhanced outputs for all the six strategic priorities. The summary of the APMDS can be downloaded here:

<http://asia.waggs.org/en/resources/document/view/25106> .

The meeting also discussed the review of some APR guidelines to increase efficiency and effective delivery of our work. The revised guidelines will be shared with Member Organizations soon. The Committee agreed on a new format for Partnership Visits which are more engaging and better address needs and priorities of Member Organizations. Member Organizations have been informed of the new format and a pre-visit survey is being conducted now to plan visits in 2015-2017.



Besides the committee members and regional staff team, also joining us in the meeting were Mary Mc Phail, Chief Executive of

WAGGGS and Asia Pacific Region's latest addition to the staff team, Prerana Shakya from Nepal who joined us as Development Executive for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Countries from 1 April 2014.