

ASIA PACIFIC LINK NEWS



Asia Pacific Region

World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses

Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts

International Day of the Girl

Girl Scouts of Japan visit Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe

Five Girl Scouts visited Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe on Saturday 12 October 2013, celebrating the second International



Day of the Girl. Girl Scouts of Japan has launched "Girls in the Lead, Girls Creating Future for Japan" campaign, promoting girls to take the lead in society and change the country so that it is better for all girls and women in Japan.

Japanese Prime Minister Abe had recently said that the power of women is another source of major potential for Japan that has not been fully utilized. He called for women to fill up 30% of senior positions in all aspects of society by 2020. Under his strong and accelerating leadership, issues surrounding Japanese women are about changing drastically and talked at large within Japan.

Girl Scouts of Japan has made "Three vows to Prime Minister Abe, for Creating Future of Japan".

1. We, Girl Scouts will make the most with Prime Minister Abe, creating the world in which women's potential is fully utilized.
2. We will be a leader who has a global perspective.
3. We will discover our potential and be confident with friends and be the person we'd like to be.

Girl Scouts asked Abe to make a society in which their potential and talent will be fully utilized by the time they will be women of

Japan. Abe said that it will be a long journey but it is possible and he will do it with speed by year 2020. Abe also said, "The society Girl Scouts want is the society my policy is heading to." "Thanks to you, the International Day of the Girl is now promoted in Japan," he added.

Celebrations held in Myanmar

Myanmar Girl Guides celebrated the "International Day of the Girl" on 11 October 2013 with a ceremony at State High School No.2 Lanmadaw. This is a school where the members of Osaka Girl Scouts from Japan held a camp in December 2013.

The agenda included a speech by Yangon Region Minister of Electric Power and Industry, U Nyan Tun U, on the purpose of celebrating this special day, a video presentation by a Girl Guide on "Girls in the Lead", a brief PowerPoint presentation by a Girl Guide sharing information on Myanmar Girl Guides, and a video on "Science World" by the YMCA.

There were about 250 participants present, including specially invited guests, senior Girl Guides, women principals of State schools in Yangon, Girl Guides, and female students of State High School No.2 Lanmadaw.

Extensive media coverage was given with three television networks and reporters from magazines. This was seen as a successful occasion especially since they raised awareness among the young female students about Girl Guiding.

Kiribati celebrates International Day of the Girl

The Kiribati Girl Guides Association (KGGA) celebrated on 26 October 2013 by "Planting more Mangroves" on the affected areas surrounding the main island Tarawa. The girls led on this knowing they are young, energetic

and smart, especially knowing about their country Kiribati which is at great risk now with climate change which is affecting the Pacific Islands and the rest of the world. In September their Chief Commissioner was among the delegation that ran the Climate Change Training which took place at various venues which most participants had not visited before. These venues allowed them to give good ideas on the preservation of the local culture, food/drink, dances, planting and other traditions which are dying out. Among the participants were two members of the KGGA who had time to share and show their good-turns to some disabled women who took part in the training.

Korea's IDG "The World You Want for Girls" (The World without Sexual Violence) is Ranked No.1

Kyoung-Ok Kim, National President of Girl Scouts of Korea and three Senior Girl Scouts of National Youth Committee visited Bok-Sil Lee, the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Gender and Family and conveyed the girls' voice around the perfect world they wanted for girls in celebration of the International Day of Girls on 11 October 2013.



The National Youth Committee has conducted a survey on 'The Perfect World for Girls' with 1,000 Girl Scouts since May. The world without sexual violence topped the survey, and the world without stereotypes and discrimination against women was voted second followed by various opinions such as a world where girls are not worried about their appearance and the world where 50% of the top rank officers consist of women.

The visit to the Vice-Minister was an attempt to make a happy world for girls a reality. The girls used this opportunity to share their ideas and opinions so that these are reflected in government policy and lead to a change in the world.

Bok-Sil Lee noted that women experience difficulties in Korean society because Korea is still a male-dominated society although the status of women is gradually improving. To overcome these difficulties, women need to have the desire to find their own job and to prepare for going out into the world with confidence. She promised to do her best to

encourage policies where the world was a happy world for girls and women.

Sri Lanka's Commemoration of the UN International Day of the Girl

On Friday 25 October 2013 around 107



members including Little Friends, Girl Guides, Senior Guides, national and provincial level Leaders of the Sri Lanka Girl Guides

Association (SLGGA) visited the Parliament of Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Sri Lanka Women Parliamentarians' Caucus to commemorate the UN International Day of the Girl.

The highlight of the proceedings were speeches delivered by three young Girl Guides in the three national languages of Sri Lanka (Sinhala, Tamil and English) respectively. These speeches were delivered by Rizma Nawaz on "Protecting girl children and women through our culture"; Kavishna Thangaraj on "Protecting girls and women after the conflict"; and Kavindya Tennakoon on "The role of the government in stopping violence". The three Girl Guides spoke with passion and intensity and delivered a clear message to the audience messages on various aspects of gender-based violence.

The parliamentarians, the Resident Coordinator of the UNDP and the Ambassador for the United States of America who all later addressed the audience, complimented the three Girl Guides and the SLGGA for the worthwhile work carried out on the subject of gender-based violence. Many offers of cooperation and establishment of partnerships were made to the SLGGA, who will follow up on these offers shortly.

Of special interest was the launch of letters to the fathers, uncles, and sons campaign during which the assembled Girl Guides gave letters to all males present in the auditorium. The letters outlined what the Girl Guides felt male members of families should do to "Stop the Violence". Wrist bands purchased from WAGGGS with the slogan "Stop the Violence" were also distributed to all present.

Pakistan International Day for Girls 2013



Pakistan Girl Guides Association Balochistan celebrated International Day of the

Girls on 11 October, 2013 at Government Girls High School Ladysendeman Quetta. Afshan Saleem and Kulsoom Rasheed (young leaders) informed the Girl Guides about the importance of the International Day of the Girl and gave examples of women leaders in the world from the past history. 50 Girl Guides and Guiders participated in the event.

Activities included poster making and essay writing competitions. The theme of the competition was "Put the Girls in Lead".

Girl Guides actively participated in the competitions and expressed their feelings about the theme. During the group discussion girls shared their ideas about women leaders in the world and how the girls can take the lead. A pledge wall was also signed by the Girl Guides. Non Girl Guide students also signed the Pledge Wall, and agreed to the phrase "We are Leaders".



Korea holds International Service Camp in Mongolia 2013

The National Young Leader's Committees of Girl Scouts of Korea carried out an 'International Service Camp



in Mongolia 2013' at Mary Ward Center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 4 to 12 August which was partly sponsored by Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS. This camp was implemented as part of the joint programmes to come together with 13 Korean Girl Scouts, seven Canadian Girl Guides and 90 Mongolian Girl Scouts and children in order to make Girl Scouting more active in Mongolia.

Korean young Leaders organized troop meetings for the Mongolian youth and children to enjoy Girl Scout programmes such as craft, science, physical activities and music and some local youth and children earned interest patches. They also painted the wall of the troop meeting place and built a ger, the Mongolian traditional nomadic house, for one underprivileged family with the financial support from Girl Scouts of Korea, Korean



young Leaders fundraising and participating Canadian Girl Guides. This family was delighted to get a new house and appreciated

the support from the Girl Scouts.

In addition, participants learned dances and songs from each country and shared each country's food such as Khuushur, Bulgogi and hot cake. During the Camp, Korean young Leaders developed their leadership by planning and implementing the programmes by themselves as well as global citizenship by exchange programme.

At the International Service Camp, participants felt some difficulty due to the language barrier, but the spirit of Girl Scouts made the project successful by uniting them into one. Mongolian Girl Scouts will keep learning the spirit of Girl Scouts and growing as years go by. Korea's National Young Leaders' Committee will keep trying to exchange with Mongolian Girl Scouts and to develop networking with other Member Organizations other than Canada to make this camp more international.

'Gather and Give' initiative by Queen's Guides in Malaysia

The Queen's Guides Guild from Girl Guides Association Malaysia (GGAM) Kuala Lumpur Branch initiated and successfully carried out a 'Gather and Give' community service project as part of the International Day of the Girl 2013 celebration.

The four-fold objectives were to:

- Gather dried foodstuff and groceries to be donated to those in need.
- Encourage the spirit of volunteerism among the Guild members.
- Respond to the International Day of Girls 2013 theme: "Girls in the Lead".
- Strengthen the Girl Guiding sisterhood among Guild members and retain the membership of those who have left school.

People from all walks of life contributed generously in cash and kind with gifts such as rice, tins of food, sugar, biscuits, flour, cooking oil, soap, toilet paper, toothbrushes, colour pencils, notebooks, etc.



These contributions were presented to four

orphanages and the Woman Aids Organisation around Petaling Jaya.

Toh Wooi Wah, Branch Chief Commissioner, GGAM Kuala Lumpur who firmly believes in 'Love all, Serve all' complimented her Queen's Guides Debbie: Liew Mun Tung, Wong Xin Mei, Ng Wen Cai, Chris Cheah, Wong Kai Xin, Hong Syuen, Tan Xin Yi and volunteer Dharshini Mugunam for taking the lead in bringing cheer to the community.

Due to the overwhelming response, they will be going to visit more homes and shelters in November 2013.

Bangladesh holds Career Building on Catering Business

A training course on "Cooking" was held at the headquarters of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association



(BGGAO from 17 to 27 June 2013. It was arranged by the Project committee of BGGGA. A total number of 34 Girl Guide members of different age groups (mostly Rangers) attended the training course. Ms. Meherunnessa, Ex Ranger Commissioner, member, Project sub Committee also teaches cooking at ATN Bangla a popular TV channel in Bangladesh.

The training aimed at career building for the participants so that they can start their own catering business by supplying food items to different places to generate their income.

Wellington Region (New Zealand) lives up to the challenge

Wellington East Brownie Leader Genevieve Grant (26) has enough challenges with 30 young girls in her Unit but she has stepped up to another challenge this year by developing the Wellington Regional Challenge Badge.

With the theme of the badge being "I've Been Seen Guiding", it was up to Genevieve to create the programme for Pippins through to the older Rangers. She decided to base the badge not only around being seen in the community but also animal advocacy.

"Animal advocacy not only means the girls looking after their own pets but also being aware of how many endangered species there



are," says Genevieve. Throughout the region, girls had sleepovers at Wellington Zoo and had different animals come to

visit every week to learn about how to take care of them."

"They also had a drive to collect puppy/kitten food and old blankets for the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). We also made cat toys from bottle tops to practice our knotting."

Being seen and being involved in the community was the other key theme of the Wellington Regional Challenge Badge. Genevieve took her Brownies to Life Flight Trust in Wellington to learn about what they do. Whitby Guides visited the Pauatahanui Inlet where the inlet's guardian gave the girls advice about how to care for the salt marshes and the wildlife that surrounds the area. Whitby Girl Guides have also helped others by producing a pack for children at Wellington Hospital who are in isolation and unable to play with toys while they are in isolation.

Pakistan ready Senior Guides with Session on Emergency Preparedness

Pakistan Girl Guides Association (PGGA) organized a session on Emergency preparedness in collaboration with Capital Development Authority (CDA) on 26 November 2013 at Pakistan Girl Guides Association (PGGA) National Headquarters, Islamabad. 300 Senior Guides from the educational institutes of Islamabad capital territory attended the session.

Multimedia presentations as well as practical demonstration was given to the Girl Guides to make them understand how to cope up with emergency fire situations, First Aid and PGGA's campaign on giving way to emergency vehicles. Resource persons from PGGA and CDA facilitated the sessions. The Fire department of CDA also demonstrated the fire extinguishing, rescue and evacuation techniques.

Outcome 2:
**Built leadership capacity
at every level**

GOLD in the Cook Islands 2013

A team of six young Leaders aged 24 to 30, from Australia and New Zealand headed to the Cook Islands in October as part of the GOLD



Project (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development). This is the second year of a five year project to support The Girl Guide Association Cook Islands to grow and develop.

The GOLD team participated in the Girl Guide Association Cook Islands' 85th birthday camp. The theme was "Believe, Belong, Be more!" and was an eight day indoor camp. The GOLD team in association with Cook Island Girl Guides organized trainings for youth and adult members during the camp.

The highlight for the GOLD team was going on an overnight experience with Cook Island Girl Guides aged 14 to 18 on a "motu" (island across from the lagoon). The 26 girls and GOLD team were transported via boat to the island and then spent 30 hours "surviving" using the rations provided. It was a great opportunity to learn skills from each other and develop friendships sleeping under the stars on the beach.

Another highlight was having two young leaders from Mauke (an outer island) attend the camp and take the knowledge they gained back to their home island. A positive outcome from the previous year was to hear about the succession planning and the training of young Leaders to grow Girl Guiding in the Cook Islands.

We were also privileged to be able to present Asia Pacific awards to many leaders from the Cook Islands at the 85th birthday celebration day. The GOLD team had a wonderful time and are very thankful to have been able to participate in this project and strengthen the relationship between Girl Guides Australia, Girl Guiding New Zealand and the Girl Guide Association Cook Islands.

First Asia Pacific WAGGGS Training for Myanmar Girl Guides

History was made when the first basic Girl Guide training was successfully conducted in Myanmar from 2 to 6 August 2013. The five-day training which involved 85 Leaders from over 70 schools throughout Myanmar was part of the efforts to revive Girl Guiding in Myanmar.

The Training Team led by Asia Pacific Resource Training Pool trainer, Dr. Fe Violeta B. Taring (Philippines) included two trainers from Girl Guides Australia, two trainers from Girl Scouts of Japan, five volunteers from Girl Scouts of Japan, Osaka Council and the Asia Pacific regional staff team. The training received great support from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Girl Guiding ceased in the Union of Burma in 1962. Although Scouting was abolished by the then government, Girl Guiding was never abolished but Girl Guiding activities stopped around 1962 to 1963. In December 2012, approximately 50 years later, the Asia Pacific Regional Committee received an invitation from YMCA Myanmar through the assistance



of Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ), to meet with the Myanmar Ministry of Education officials to discuss re-starting Girl Guiding activities in

schools. Representatives from Myanmar Girl Guides attended the 11th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Tokyo, Japan in July 2013 and Myanmar Girl Guides (MMGG) was awarded with the Certificate of Country Working Towards Membership (CWTM).

The opening ceremony of the training was officiated by the new Deputy Minister of Education, Dr San Lwin. Ching Ching Wee-Ong, Asia Pacific Regional Director handed over a WAGGGS flag to the Deputy Minister during the ceremony to mark the beginning of Girl Guiding in Myanmar. During the same ceremony, Girl Scouts of Japan presented two tents donated by GSJ to the Deputy Minister and GSJ Osaka Council presented two tarp tents to the Deputy Minister as part of their Peace Messenger programme.

The training covered basic Girl Guiding knowledge and skills. Participants had the opportunity to learn and experience Girl

Guiding through games and activities like camp skills, wide games, tracking signs, and have mock unit meetings. The new Leaders also learned how to manage their units and organize activities in their schools.

A bazaar was organized on one of the evenings. Participants from different states and regions brought their local products such as food and craft to sell to each other. Everyone wore their local traditional costumes and there was a fashion show to parade the different costumes from different places. It was like visiting the whole of Myanmar in one evening.

U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw (Myanmar Parliament) visited the training during the outdoor skills session and addressed the participants. During his speech, he shared his experience from his younger days as a Scout.

During the training, participants and guests experienced the first campfire in the country in 50 years. Everyone sang and danced to campfire songs.

The Australian trainers with the support of local staff built a beautiful mock fire. The young leaders from Japan created an active atmosphere to encourage participation of the guests. Everyone had fun.



The training ended with the appointment of Prof Tin Hla Kyi as the first Chief Commissioner of Myanmar Girl Guides, Daw Khin Saw Ohn Mar as the Deputy Chief Commissioner and U Tin Nyo as the Advisor. In the same ceremony, a total of 115 newly-trained Guiders were officially enrolled. They include the participants plus the volunteers and interpreters who supported the event. It was a very emotional moment.

GGAT Youth Representation at the 11th ICAAP

Thamonwan Na Nakara (Praewa), Deputy International Commissioner and Young Board Member of The Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) Association of Thailand (GGAT), submitted an academic abstract about her work on HIV-AIDS with Eileen Smith, Girl Guide Trainer and Tutor from the UK for the hill-tribe girls at GGAT Sub-Northern Training Center in Wiang Pa Pao District, Chiang Rai Province. The



work was chosen by the organizing committee to be presented as an E-poster at the 11th International Congress

on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, which is the largest congress on AIDS for the Asia Pacific Region. It was held from 18 to 22 November 2013 in Bangkok with about 4,000 participants. Prior to the main event the Youth Delegation of which Praewa is one had the chance to meet high level leaders to present their agenda.

Praewa attributed the selection of the work with the Girl Guides and the various opportunities she had in attending WAGGGS and the Asia Pacific Region leadership development events. "I was very excited to have my abstract selected even for an E-Poster presentation. Nevertheless I was given a chance to participate at the Youth Meeting, where we had a chance to talk with leaders from many fields. I wanted to thank GGAT and the Asia Pacific Region and WAGGGS for my personal development all these years. Also I have to thank Mrs. Eileen Smith from the UK who inspired me by being a role model of Girl Guiding for me."

Japan follows up after WLDP

In October 2012, a WAGGGS Leadership Development Programme (WLDP) was held in Japan and the participants have worked actively following this. Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ) is monitoring their activities and encouraging them.

As a person who will make a change, each participant is working to develop their leadership skills utilizing what they learnt at the WLDP. Also, they are finding ways to share their experience with others.

For example, some participants attended Girl Scout Gathering events at district level and shared their experience with local Girl Scouts and young Leaders. At Nagano Council, participants organized four events for Girl Scouts and Leaders to share the WLDP and to experience a part of it. In Kyushu district, they



had a programme to think about "Leadership" for Leaders. It provided an opportunity to empower young women. In the southern part

of Kanto district, an event was held for young Leaders to experience leadership development. The participants found out what was the shared leadership and realized that they could be a needed person.

Girl Scouts of Japan is also planning a seminar to experience Leadership Workshop for both members and non-members in February 2014. GSJ aims to provide broader opportunity for many people of all ages and enhance leadership as much as they can.

Papua New Guinea runs 1st NLDP in 2013

The Girl Guides Association of Papua New Guinea

conducted its First National Leadership Development Programme (NLDP) at the Girl Guides



Headquarters in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 22 to 26 September, 2013. The Training was attended by 41 participants, ranging in age from 15 to 60 years of age. The participants came from the ten different Provinces of Papua New Guinea and were drawn from National Boards, Commissioners of Different Provinces, Leaders, Rangers and Girl Guides.

The Theme of the NLDP was “be the river “, the same theme given to the WAGGGS National Leadership Development Programme held in London in May 2013, which two of their Trainers had attended. This was an amazing theme as the river plays an important role in many rural communities in Papua New Guinea. People use rivers for bathing, cooking, drinking, transportation etc. talking about something that is part of their lives or part of their childhood has more significance.

The training itself brought to light a lot of self-reflection. There were moments of jubilation and moments of sadness, lots of tears were shared, lots of friends made and lots of positive things said. There was a lot of determination and courage to accept their flaws and imperfections and to face the challenge to make themselves a better person, a better leader and a better team player.

The NLDP was conducted for four days with topics taken from the three modules on Personal development, Understanding Leadership and Leading Teams. Truly a

wonderful experience and Big Bravo for the NLDP Programme.

Outcome 3:
Improved Image and Visibility of GGGs every level

Passion ignites award nomination in New Zealand

A passion for developing leadership skills and advocating for equality led to New Zealand’s Ranger Leader, Fiona Bradley being named as a finalist for a Commonwealth Youth Award for Excellence in Development Work from 296 nominations.

Fiona, from Palmerston North in New Zealand, was nominated for the award by GirlGuiding New Zealand President, Sonia Faulkner and was one of 16 finalists within the Commonwealth region.

“As one of our young Leaders, we are very proud of Fiona becoming a finalist. She has educated and empowered young women in Girl Guiding to take a stand and raise public perception of safety and violence issues within their own communities,” said Sonia.

Fiona has brought a strong advocacy focus to GirlGuiding New Zealand and is a member of the National Board. She established an event called “Take Back the Night” as a way for young women to speak about the importance of making their communities safer and raising awareness about violence, particularly against women and children.

“The “Take Back the Night” project is innovative and outside the square of any other initiative within GirlGuiding New Zealand. Fiona is committed to inspiring and motivating others to take action on this important social issue,” said Sonia Faulkner.



From the first “Take Back the Night” organized by Fiona in Palmerston North there are now ten events nationwide.

In the last three years Fiona has also raised awareness about violence in sessions at an international and national level, speaking at

forums, conferences, young leader events and local meetings.

“Through advocacy, self-esteem and leadership development we are empowering girls to take control of their own futures. They have the confidence to speak up, take a stand and be counted on a range of issues including the abuse of women and children - which is a sad reality within New Zealand society,” said Fiona.

Bangladesh takes active part in Child Rights Week

On the occasions of “Child Rights Week”, Bangladesh Girl Guides Association (BGGGA)

arranged for a Human Chain on 30

September 2013

in front of the National Headquarters at Guide House, New Baily Road, Dhaka. Syeda Rehana Imam, National Commissioner of BGGGA, other members of the National Executive committee, Girl Guides, Rangers and office staff of BGGGA formed the human chain.



Thai Girl Guides and Japanese volunteers Present Gifts to Corrections Department

On 1 November 2013 International Volunteer (IV) Japan Foundation, led by Ms. Sachiko Tominaga with a group of donors from Japan visited the imprisoned father of the girl, whom they provided educational funds in the northern province of Lamphun. Gifts were also presented to other inmates through the Corrections Department officials. Executive Committee members from GGAT, Bangkok and Chiang Mai, also joined in. A trip was then made to the girl’s home, where she lives with her mother and younger brother, which is a self-built shack from discarded or donated materials. This was the first visit by the donors to see at first- hand how their donations have been used.



Thai Girl Guide Volunteer Receiving Outstanding Alumni Award



On 26 November 2013 Ramkhamhaeng University awarded the “Outstanding Alumni Award 2556” to Dr. Lucy Tan-atichat, Asia Pacific Region WAGGGS Committee, for her volunteer work to The Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) Association of Thailand

and the Asia Pacific Region of WAGGGS. Dr. Lucy completed all her tertiary degrees from The Institute of International Studies (IIS), Ramkhamhaeng University and is currently an adjunct lecturer of IIS.

Other awardees include senior officials from the various government ministries, head of a state enterprise, SEA Write Awardee 2013 and an outstanding teacher.

Ramkhamhaeng University is the largest university by intake in Asia having more than 800,000 students. It was the first Thai open university in Thailand to be established 42 years ago and was named after King Ramkhamhaeng the Great, the third king of Sukhothai Period, who was credited for re-inventing the Thai alphabet.

Congratulations Lucy!

Miss Universe 2013 – 3rd Runner Up in one of Us!

Twenty four-year old Ariella Hernandez Arida, the reigning Miss Universe 2013 3rd Runner-up is a Girl Scout! A BS Chemistry graduate of the University of the Philippines – Los Banos (UPLB), she was the Philippines representative to Miss Universe 2013 Beauty Pageant last November 2013 in Moscow, Russia.

“I was a Twinkler Scout, Star Scout, Junior Scout and Senior Girl Scout during my pre-school, elementary and high school days. I do not have any affiliation with Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) during college and at present but in my heart and in my mind I love Girl Scouting pure and true,” Ariella said.

As to the memorable experiences she had as a young Girl Scout, Ariella excitedly narrated this story: “I used to tag along with my mother (who is a Teacher/Troop Leader) whenever she was sending delegates to the Provincial Star Holiday/Junior Encampment at Camp

Maria Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna, so at a young age of three, I was used to a Girl Scouting life already. So when it's my turn to be a "real Girl Scout," I was always an active participant in the Star Holidays/Junior



Encampments. Girl Scouting is fun and you meet a lot of friends, you learn to live in the out-of-doors, you hike out in the forest and you experience going to a lot of places outside your classroom like Enchanted Kingdom, SM South Mall, Star City etc. I really loved being a Girl Scout."

With a string of achievements, we cannot help but wonder if she thinks Girl Scouting has helped mould her into what she is now – character-wise and personality-wise. Without batting an eyelash, Ariella quipped, "I learned to mingle with others, gained friends and established rapport even if they have different personalities. Girl Scouting made me strong and confident. I was shy before but I learned to overcome that trait through Girl Scouting. It helped me a lot and contributed much to what I am now."

With such a positive spirit and engaging attitude, we all cannot help but take pride in having her as one of us. Ariella lovingly ended the interview with this special message for her fellow Girl Scouts.

"Aim high and hit the mark. If you want to achieve your goal, then work hard for it. Try to focus, be determined and be patient because it's God's will, then it's yours. Pray to God and stay humble."

Outcome 4:
Increased Funding

Asia Pacific Region develops partnership with Rotary International in Melbourne (Australia)

It is with excitement that the Asia Pacific Region Team welcomes the partnership with Rotary International District 9800 (Melbourne, Australia) in their support for the development of Girl Guiding in Myanmar. The District Vocational Training grant has been developed to initially support the training of Leaders and volunteers in Myanmar by helping to finance

the participation of Trainers from Girl Guides Australia.

Outcome 5:
Increased and Diversified Membership

Japan encourages Trefoil Members involvement

On 28 September 2013, Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ) held a meeting for the Trefoil Member which is the GSJ's support member, in Fukuoka, Japan. 33 members attended the meeting and were updated GSJ's activities. It was a good opportunity for members to meet and talk together and to motivate their continuous support. There was a ceremony to present membership pins for the new members. The venue was a local Japanese restaurant and ex-Board members of GSJ talked about their enthusiasm for Girl Scouting. Therefore, they could learn more about Girl Scouting in a relaxed atmosphere as well as enjoying a delicious dinner.

Also, GSJ introduced a new donation system called "Monthly Supporter" as a fundraising activity for GSJ's centenary. There were members who registered as Monthly Supporter on that day. GSJ would like to develop Girl Scouting further cooperating with Trefoil Members.

From buying Guide biscuits to starting up a Girl Guide Club

Buying Guide biscuits in Gisborne, New Zealand, inspired local principal Karen McClutchie to setting up a Girl Guide Club in the remote rural area of Ruatoria as a way of giving back to her community.

"I wanted to do something else other than as a school principal, instilling the values that we encourage with our girls at Girl Guiding into other girls, such as confidence and teamwork," says Karen.



The support of the local community along with Karen's hard work and determination attracted 12 girls aged from eight to 14 years to the club. The Ruatoria Guide Club officially opened its doors in September 2013.

“On the first night we had three girls, the second night there were eight girls and we had 12 at our third meeting,” says Karen.

“Because many of the girls live in isolated areas and travel to school by bus, we needed the club meetings to be held directly after school.” Daughter Fushia (11) was one of the first members.

Many of the families living in the local area only speak Maori so all the GirlGuiding New Zealand programmes are conducted in both languages, says Karen.

The success of the Ruatoria Guide Club can not only be measured by the smiles on the girls’ faces but they already have a waiting list. Two more leaders are currently being trained and Karen’s future plan is to enrol another 12 members and that the age range can be broadened to five year olds up to 18 years. “We are becoming an integral part of the local community and the girls are really enjoying being part of GirlGuiding New Zealand,” says Karen.

Outcome 6:
Influenced Issues that affect girls and young women

Philippine Girl Scouts assist in relief operations for Typhoon Haiyan survivors
Typhoon Haiyan, known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, was an exceptionally powerful tropical cyclone that devastated Southeast Asia particularly the central part of the Philippines in early November 2013. It is the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record, killing at least 5,680 people in the Philippines alone. Haiyan was also the strongest storm recorded at landfall and unofficially the fourth strongest typhoon ever recorded in terms of wind speed.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines rose to the challenge of offering disaster and relief operations starting from a sizeable calamity fund from the National Headquarters. The Visayas Regional Office in Cebu City served as the main hub which purchased and delivered relief goods containing rice, bottled water, canned goods, biscuits, noodles, medicines, hygiene packs and used clothing.



These relief packs were distributed in Tacloban, Guiuan, Samar, Eastern Samar, Iloilo, Aklan, Antique, Capiz and other affected areas in

Central Philippines. At the forefront of this initiative were the Girl Scouts, volunteers, and staff from the Council, Region and National Headquarters.

As more donations from fellow Girl Scouts/Girl Guide organizations, friends and relatives started pouring in upon the announcement of WAGGGS and the Asia Pacific Region’s call for support, they saw more than just one nation uniting, but a global community working towards one goal—uplifting the lives of thousands of Filipinos ravaged by the super typhoon.

The Girl Scout spirit of helping and sharing was very much alive. Certainly, no amount of help is too small or too big to make a difference.

A plan for the rehabilitation project to be started by the Girl Scouts of the Philippines for the affected Councils and their communities is underway. The generous financial donations will enable them to provide help in rebuilding the lives especially of the Girl Scouts and their families.

Motorbike riding for Empowerment in Pakistan

Pakistan Girl Guides Association started a campaign to teach the Senior Guides, how to ride a motor bike in collaboration with “Smile” the school of Motoring Lahore. The training aimed to empower young girls and make them independent to move around.

During the introduction session Dr. Asif Khawaja from “Smile” said that we have 51% female population in Pakistan and it is our



social dilemma that they are so much dependent regarding their mobility. Senior Girl Guides found this training very

interesting and skilful.

Personal Health Care, Cleanliness and Nutritional Awareness Project for “Mother and Child” in Bangladesh

On 30 September 2013 the launch of the project “Personal health care, cleanliness and nutritional awareness project for mother and child” was held at “Ramna Shabjee Bagan”, a slum area in the Capital Region. The programme is a pilot project arranged by the national headquarters of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association. The target group was a low income group with young and pregnant mothers and children under five years of age. Syeda Rehana Imam, National Commissioner, chief guest, highlighted the need for personal cleanliness and the value of nutritious food in our daily life. Shaheda Husain Choudhury Project Commissioner, Rowshan Islam, Finance Commissioner and Nurjahan Ara Begum, Regional Commissioner (Dhaka Region), and Daulat Jahan, Project Officer attended this occasion. 40 mothers and children of the project were presented with nutritious snacks.



The aim of the project is:

- To develop awareness about personal health care, cleanliness and nutrition for pregnant mother and children.
- To develop a healthy society by developing a habit of taking proper personal health care, cleanliness and nutritious food in slum areas.
- To develop leadership quality and conscious citizens among Rangers by rendering service to their community.

Rangers started running sessions on various topics of the project since the first week in September. Sessions were held for one hour per day, two days a week. The six month long project started in September 2013 and will run until February 2014.

Ranger Rahnuma Jahan Trisha, Sheuly and other Rangers from “Shanonda Open Ranger” Unit are working as resource persons for the project. The regions are making preparations to start the project in their respective regions.

Four Malaysian young women experience the United Nations

Three young leaders of Girl Guides Association Malaysia were part of the Malaysia-United States Youth Leadership

Engagement and United Nations Friendship



Programme from 5 to 18 August 2013. Eng Chee Wen, Nurnuha Bt Zulfakar and

Shazana Bt Mohd Daud were also privileged to have the opportunity to participate in the 12th United Nations Youth Assembly from 7 to 9 August,

Nurhuha said, “The Youth Assembly 2013 at United Nations was an eye opener and an uplift of confidence for myself to be at the groundroofs of finding new solutions. It has created upon me moments of pondering, pocketfuls of knowledge and vast experience about the reality of the world, and about bringing that reality to our own youth and nation.”

“We are sharing a movement for change across generations. Be the change, we don’t have to be free and rich to make a difference. The initiatives and actions that we take today will shape and mould the present into a future that we want. I am thankful, especially to Girl Guides Association of Malaysia as it has nurtured me and made me a better leader and an empowered lady. The years of Girl Guiding and volunteering experience has granted me this golden opportunity of taking part in the Youth Assembly of the United Nations!” says Chee Wen.

Meanwhile, Koh Kar Ling, another young leader who was also a Juliette Low scholar was one of the five Malaysian youths selected to participate in an internship programme at the Malaysian Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Kar Ling was the only girl in the team selected for this privileged programme. She writes on the programme “Unlike attending an international forum, being at the United Nations has been truly amazing! It was a dream come true indeed! At the United Nations, we attended daily meetings and consultations with world leaders, designing policies and getting resolutions coming to consensus. Often I discovered myself coping with challenges, practising skills and knowledge I learnt through my Girl Guiding life. The international experience



WAGGGS provided had absolutely been helpful serving at multilateral UN community, especially in understanding

differences in terms of social and cultural affairs. Girl Guiding brought me to the United Nations, to discuss on different global issues, be part of decision-making process at the global level, witness how policies were designed, how strategies were set and how did the UN bodies and system help a huge number of vulnerable people each year. The leadership qualities I developed through the platform given in Girl Guiding enabled me to move this far and this continues. Therefore, I must take this opportunity to thank WAGGGS for its effective training and programmes as well as its Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting methods for empowering me as a better leader today."

Begum G.A Khan Shield – helping disabled persons in Pakistan

Pakistan Girl Guides Association's (PGGA) Platinum Girl Guides Company was awarded with Begum G.A. Khan Shield (which is awarded annually to a best Girl Guide company of Pakistan for doing a Social Service project) on 3 November 2013 during the Annual Council Meeting of PGGA. The Company was awarded with the shield for their work on a one-year social service project regarding "Helping Disabled Persons".

In the beginning the Girl Guides decided to conduct a survey regarding physical disability and took view points from the community. They raised funds through a garbage collection and a henna stall during which they distributed bookmarks for raising awareness.

The Girl Guide Company also organized a poster competition on the topic "I am not disabled but I am differently abled". Winners of the competition were awarded shields and the rest of the participants were given certificates.



World Centres Sangam

Alice Aoki, Girl Scouts of Japan, a participant at the November four Week Community Programme participant writes "Fantastic India!! I have been to Sangam twice. First was March 2013 to participate in Be



The Change event. I enjoyed learning and sharing with 10 Girl Guides/Girl Scouts who came from different organizations.

Second was October to November 2013 to participate in the Community Programme. Thanks to receiving an Amy Bush Bursary, I could be a Tare. I worked at Door Step School and taught Japanese songs, easy Japanese and English for small children.

I had a lot of international experiences which I cannot explain in words. Once you come to Sangam, you may be able to see what I mean."

Sangam's Community Programme

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 organizational support, or teaching; we have a place for you with one of our Community Partners. Not ready to volunteer but want to stay informed about our Programme? Sign up for our mailing list! For more information on the Community Programme or scholarship opportunities, email crm@sangamworldcentre.org.

Last Minute Spots Available!

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!

Pax Lodge

It took Tandra Norris 18 hours on a plane to get here. But she says it was all worth it.

"It feels like home," says the 20-year-old Girl Guide from Bunbury, Australia. "It's really not that different," she says. "The only difference is that it is freezing cold here and they don't chuck a snag on the barbie."

Tandra is the World Centre Intern at Pax Lodge. In her opinion, Pax Lodge is special because there are so many different people coming and going in the building. "The diversity of both guests and staff and volunteers is really nice," she says.

Fellow Asia-Pacific Pax Lodge volunteer Mahdia Shahzad, agrees. Shahzad is from Lahore, Pakistan. "To meet different people of different cultures and understand their values has helped me break down the stereotypes I have about them," says Shahzad. "People are also learning about my culture and religion and I am able to get rid of some of the misunderstandings people have about my religion."

Both girls agree that while it takes volunteers from the Asia Pacific Region a long time to get to Pax Lodge, the experience is particularly beneficial for them.

"It's important to learn about and understand Girl Guiding on an international level," says Shahzad. "Being at Pax Lodge, in England, where Girl Guiding started, it's amazing."

Smiling the two girls, reminisce about their favourite memories from their time at Pax Lodge.

"I really enjoyed meeting the new Australian Commissioner Robinette Emonson and National Executive Officer, Kit McMahon," says Tandra.

Tandra has also met members of the World Board, the Asia Pacific Regional Director and other Girl Guiding/Girl Scouts VIPs. "It's not an everyday thing you get to meet the higher up people and I was able to actually make a connection with them," she says.

Shahzad loves talking to all the girls that come through the Centre about their Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting experiences. "There was one night where we talked for hours with a group of British Girl Guides," says Shahzad. "That was a really special night."

Shahzad says the experience is one all girls should have. "Every girl who has the opportunity to come to World Centre should," she says. World centres really are a world of possibilities.

Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS

Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS 4th General Assembly

The Friends of Asia Pacific Working WAGGGS Group is holding the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS



(FAPW) 4th General Assembly in the beautiful Northern cities of Chiang Mai and Lamphun during 16 to 20 January 2014 (at the best time of the year to experience the cool atmosphere and see beautiful flowers and nature). The FAPW General Assembly is held once every three years.

Announcements

AP Appreciation Award

The Asia Pacific Region Appreciation Award is the highest award given by the Asia Pacific Region to honour individuals who have given outstanding service and contribution to the development of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in the Region. The award is presented once every



three years and awardees will receive a certificate and an exclusive pin.

During the 11th Asia Pacific Regional Conference a special presentation was given to:

- HRH The Crown Princess of Pahang, Malaysia Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Almarhum Almutawakkil Alallah Sultan Iskandar Alhaj, Patron of the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS (FAPW). HRH The Crown Princess was unable to attend the Regional Conference, and the award will be given to her at the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS Gathering in Hong Kong in July 2014.
- Dr Juseon Byun, Founder of the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS (FAPW).

Many congratulations to the following people who also received this during the 11th Asia Pacific Regional Conference:

- Mrs Sally Leung GBS OBE JP, Hong Kong Girl Guides Association
- Dr Eileen Aw, Girl Guides Singapore
- Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, Girl Guides Singapore
- Mrs Lois Beckett, GirlGuiding New Zealand
- Mrs Catherine Ford, GirlGuiding New Zealand
- Mrs Venetia Gamage, Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association

- Mrs Rhonda Gray, GirlGuiding New Zealand
- Ms Utai Isro, Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) Association of Thailand
- Mrs Maznahbi (Mindi) Peter, Girl Guides Singapore
- Mrs Elaine Vallender, GirlGuiding New Zealand
- Mrs Robyn Watkins, GirlGuiding New Zealand

Condolences



Condolences to Myanmar Girl Guides on the passing of Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aye, who was one of the few Guide Leaders of the former Union of Burma Girl Guides Association and met the Asia Pacific team during their visit to Myanmar in January 2013.

Condolences to Bharat Scouts and Guides (India) on the passing of Same Saroj Lalwani. Ms Lalwani was a member of the Asia Pacific Regional Committee from 1987 to 1990.

Condolences to Pakistan Girl Guide Association on the passing of Begum M.H. Shirazi (adviser to the PGGGA-Punjab and member of Adhoc Committee for Establishing Girl Guiding in Central Asia Countries) and Miss Ismat Niaz (ex-Provincial Secretary PGGGA-Punjab). Both passed away in May 2013.

Condolences to Solomon Islands Girl Guides Association (SIGGA) on the demise of Jenny Ofu, former EXCO member of SIGGA on 9 January 2014..

Condolences to WOSM on the passing of Mr Eric Khoo on 13 January 2014. Eric is from Malaysia and was a current World Scout Committee member and former Chair of the Asia Pacific Regional Scout Committee.. Many Chairmen and Regional Directors of Asia Pacific Region/WAGGGS had the privilege of meeting and working with Eric on several occasions of Girl Guiding and Scouting, especially during his term as the Chair of the Asia Pacific Regional Scout Committee of WOSM. He had been a keen supporter of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting through his efforts in promoting cooperation between WAGGGS and WOSM at the regional level, sharing his wisdom and generously providing financial and in-kind contribution to local and regional Girl

Guiding/Girl Scouting events. He has also donated to the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS (FAPW) to support Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in the Asia Pacific Region.

Asia Pacific – Anything’s Possible!

The Asia Pacific Region is delighted to invite Member Organizations from the Region to participate in the Asia Pacific Region Conference for Leaders of Girls 2014. The Conference with the theme “Asia Pacific – Anything’s Possible” will be held from 30 November to 5 December 2014 at University College of the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia. The event is being hosted by Girl Guides Australia. Watch out for more information on the Asia Pacific Region microsite.

Greetings for World Thinking Day 2014 from Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) of Thailand

For all Sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts each 22 February has a special place in our heart to remember everyone. According to Aristotle, “the roots of education are bitter, but its fruit is sweet,” we cannot agree more. Think of the time your parents toiled for you to have an education, your teachers and you yourself have to undergo those sleepless nights along the journey to education. On the other hand, many more especially girls and young women never have the opportunity to be literate. Think of Malala Yousafzi, an epitome on education. On this very special day, when remembering our Sister Guides and Scouts, think of how we can help make those deprived, have a better life. Happy World Thinking Day 2014!

Welcome to Karen Chatto

Karen started work with WAGGGS at the beginning of November in the role of Development Executive in the Asia Pacific Region. Karen is an active member of Girl Guides Australia and she lives in Ballarat, Victoria. She has worked with all ages of Girl Guides, but most recently with the older Girl Guides aged 13 to 18 years. Karen brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in programme development, having been the Australian Programme Manager for five years, and project manager for the new Australian Guide Handbooks. Karen is also a facilitator of the WAGGGS Leadership Development Programme (WLDP). The Asia Pacific warmly welcomes Karen to her new role in the Asia Pacific Region.

