



World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses

Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts

Application for Full and Associate Membership

World Conference Document No 7



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THE NATIONAL UNION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS OF ARMENIA (NUGGGS)

Introduction

Armenia is situated in the south of Under-Caucasus, bordered to the north and east by Georgia and Azerbaijan and to the west and south-west by Turkey and Iran. For most of its history, Armenia was controlled or occupied by external powers, including Assyrians, Persians, Romans, Mongols, Turks, and Russians, although independent Armenian states also existed for short periods of time in the past. In 1922 Armenia was incorporated into the USSR, but after the movement toward independence in the late 1980s, Armenia seceded from the USSR in September 1991. It became a member of the United Nations in 1992, a member of the Council of Europe in 2001. Due to the war that broke out in the early 1990s, Armenia is still suffering from economic difficulties that affect Armenians' daily lives.

In 2012, the population of Armenia was 2.97 million, of which the number of girls and young women aged 5-19 years old is 264,000. National population has been declining since 1991, following the break-up of the USSR, largely due to high levels of emigration. Ethnic Armenians make up 90 per cent of the population, with the next largest groups being Kurds and Russians (each being less than 2 per cent of the population). Most Armenians are Oriental Orthodox, although there are some Catholics and Evangelical Protestants. Armenian is the official language.

Armenia is ranked 59 out of 149 countries in the Gender Inequality Index 2012, making it one of the least gender equal countries in Europe Region. Women's civic and political participation and women's economic opportunities are also considered poor or very poor. Meanwhile, girls' access to education at the primary and secondary levels are considered to be very good, and their access to college education to be good. The most critical challenge is considered to be the stereotypical image of women's role which is reinforced by cultural beliefs, the media and religious views.

Report

Girl Guiding: Background Information

The first Girl Guide patrols in Armenia were founded in 1988 as part of a coeducational Scouting organization. In 1996, the girls left this organization and founded the National Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in Armenia (ASTGIK), a girls-only association. The first contact with WAGGGS was established in 1997, and in 1999, the association received the Certificate of Country Working Towards Membership. ASTGIK was authorized by the Armenian Ministry of Justice in December 1998 and in 2002, the association became an Associate Member of WAGGGS. In 2011, the World Conference voted to approve the change in the association's name to the National Union of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of Armenia (NUGGGS).

1. Educational Programme

There is a team responsible for the development and review of NUGGGS' Educational Programme, which is developed according to WAGGGS' Educational Policy and WAGGGS' Mission, Vision and initiatives. NUGGGS' programme is well structured and consistently implemented; the focus is on empowering girls as self-conscious individuals going beyond the traditional societal roles. WAGGGS' educational initiatives are integrated in the annual programme on an ad-hoc basis and in line with the themes. The importance of a grounded and interesting Educational Programme is very much shared by National Board members, especially given the objective to gain more visibility within the country and different programmes have been developed for each of the three age groups (6-10; 11-15; 16-20).

2. Training

NUGGGS' Training Scheme was accredited by WAGGGS in 2010 and it is based at national level. In the Association there is only one national trainers' team. The Training Committee, which coordinates the training policy, includes the trainers' team and expert-consultants.

The number of accredited trainers is currently meeting the needs of the existing leaders. However their number and capacity would need to be strengthened as the association grows, especially in the regions.

Application for Full Membership

3. Membership

NUGGGS is a girl-only association with a total membership of 1,065 according to NUGGGS most recent census dated April 2013. The association is open to all girls in Armenia and is mostly present in Yerevan and the surrounding regions. The development of other regions has been identified as a key element for membership growth. Different actions on recruitment and retention of members are also being set up depending on specific needs and opportunities.

4. Relationship to Society

The Association is consulted by the government on issues relating to girls, young women and youth. It is a member of the National Youth Council and has a good network of contacts in the country, taking part in discussion forums and other activities linked to the formulation of youth policy in Armenia. The Association is active in worldwide Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting and participates in WAGGGS and other Member Organizations' initiatives as far as resources allow.

Improving the image, awareness and understanding of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in Armenia has been identified as one of the key objectives in NUGGGS' strategic plan. It is being addressed through co-operation with other NGOs and educational bodies, and the National Board has had recent success contributing to a number of local groups.

5. Structure and Management

The highest body of the Association is its Conference. It determines the Association's policy and general plans for the coming year. Members of the National Board of the Association are elected by the conference with a simple majority for three year terms. The Executive Committee is considered to be the executive body of the Association. The Executive Committee is elected by the National Board for a three year term and organizes the everyday work of the Association. The regions carry out the daily work at district level providing the link between the national body and the regional level. Each group belongs to their respective district.

NUGGGS is currently working on updating a new Constitution which has been reviewed by WAGGGS' Constitutions Committee. It outlines the decision-making process of the Association and the responsibilities of the National Board and the Executive Committee. NUGGGS does not employ professional staff and young women are involved in all levels of the Association including the National Board where most members are under 30.

6. Finance

The association's main sources of income are membership fees (35 per cent); camp fees (45 per cent); trainings, seminars and campaigns (15 per cent); and donations (5 per cent).

NUGGGS has identified increased funding as one of the objectives of its strategic plan, through the prompt collection of membership fees, and generating income through different projects linked to their educational programme (i.e. summer camp inviting non-members). NUGGGS has developed a financial policy which outlines the responsibility for managing finances within the association.

(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)

Proposed Motion

That the National Union of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of Armenia, the National Organization of the Republic of Armenia, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

ASSOCIATION DES GUIDES ET ECLAIREUSES DU CAMEROUN (AGEC)

Information

The Republic of Cameroon is a country situated on the Gulf of Guinea. It is bordered to the west by Nigeria, to the north east by Chad, to the east by the Central African Republic and to the south by Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. To the south-west, the country opens on to the Atlantic Ocean. Administratively, Cameroon has 10 regions, 8 of which are primarily French-speaking and two of which are English-speaking. Cameroon became independent on 1 January 1960.

The population is estimated to be 17,123,688 inhabitants of whom 50.5 per cent are women. Those under the age of 25 years represent 64.2 per cent of the population compared with the 3 per cent over the age of 65. The linguistic panorama of the country, influenced by its history of settlers and migration, is made up of 287 national languages, grouped into various language families. Cameroon's economy is diversified and is dominated by agriculture and mining. Cameroon's educational system is structured around formal and non-formal education and the general rate of schooling is approximately 81.3 per cent. There is a lack of equality between men and women and between rural and urban environments and women are less represented on decision-making bodies.

Report

Girl Guiding: Background Information

Girl Guiding was introduced to Cameroon in 1943 in Victoria and that Girl Guide Unit is still operating today. From 1947, the Association expanded throughout the country and this increased further after independence in 1960, joining with other groups such as the Girl Scouts of Cameroon. After the creation of the United Republic of Cameroon, the various branches agreed to become a single unit, the Association des Guides et Eclaireuses du Cameroun (AGEC), and has been an Associate Member of WAGGGS since 1975. The AGEC was suspended in 2000 due to internal conflicts which led to poor management of the association and non-payment of its quota. This suspension was later lifted in 2008 following an evaluation of the progress made by the new leadership team.

1. Educational Programme

The Association has followed the recommendations in this area. It now has an up-to-date reference document on the Educational Programme for the three age groups based on the WAGGGS guidelines and includes WAGGGS' initiatives. This facilitates the work of Unit Leaders and enables them to give girls and young women an opportunity to build character and develop a sense of leadership, service and responsibility. This document also includes education on responsibility to your country and on public duty, by awakening the interest of young girls on issues that affect them.

2. Training

A strategy to implement the Training Scheme was presented and it is now with AGEC to begin its implementation. Leadership development was identified as a priority for the Association and the implementation of adult training, learning and development would meet this requirement. Currently, the expansion of unit leader training is also a priority in order to keep in line with the increase in its membership and the implementation of the Educational Programme. Having a member of the AGEC National Team participate in the Africa Region's Training of Trainers facilitated the creation of a leadership development plan. The first agreed goal was to implement an inter-disciplinary training team for AGEC. Trainings carried out to date have been based on the implementation of basic training for National Commissioners and unit leaders.

3. Membership

The Association is established in rural and urban areas. The recruitment and retention committee is beginning to implement the strategic plan by raising awareness in schools, parishes, mosques, districts and villages and seeking to open more units. Advocacy activities are promoted with public figures and civil and religious communities. Media coverage of the Association's activities is an important tool in recruitment and visibility, and membership is on the increase, growing by over 418 per cent since 2010. Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting is also present in schools, districts and parishes without distinction of religion, ethnicity or social standing.

Application for Full Membership

The Association has a plan for the expansion of the movement through the proposed membership mobilisation strategy. Priority is given to raising awareness, recruiting in secondary schools and universities; ensuring media coverage of projects and activities; meeting with public figures in villages; and the creation of new income-generating activities.

4. Relationship to Society

The Association is supervised by the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education and they have a very good relationship. This is demonstrated by the payment of quota arrears, the donation of a headquarters and support in activities. It also has good connections with civil and religious authorities and a positive public perception. The Association is a member of the Cameroon volunteer platform which is supervised by the UNDP and the National Youth Council of Cameroon. The Association plans to organize and carry out community development projects from its headquarters with a view to further raising its profile with the public.

5. Structure and Management

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body. The Councils provide advice and control while the national, technical and regional teams are responsible for planning and execution. A core of four people is currently responsible for implementing the strategic plan. AGECC has to date respected the Constitution with particular regard to respecting the terms of reference and the goal of the Association, the payment of quota and the organization of the General Assembly. The team in place will complete its term of office in 2015 and a General Assembly will be held. The Association's communication with WAGGGS has made significant progress since its suspension was lifted and Full Membership has been a primary objective of the team as it will open more doors and opportunities.

6. Finance

The Association's sources of funding include membership quota, gifts, legacies, subsidies and income-generating activities. A budget is voted on based on the annual plan of action, but its implementation remains weak.

A fundraising committee was created and has taken ownership of the action plan resulting from the training in Togo. The organization is using the documents from the Africa Region on fundraising to draw up a fundraising strategy for the Association.

(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)

Proposed Motion

That the Association des Guides et Eclaireuses du Cameroun, the National Organization of the Republic of Cameroon, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION COOK ISLANDS

Introduction

The Cook Islands is comprised of 15 small islands with a total land area of 240 square kilometres. The 15 islands are spread over 1.8 million square kilometres in the South Pacific Ocean northeast of New Zealand. The largest Island is Raratonga which is 3010 kilometres northeast of Auckland, New Zealand. The Cook Islands were a British Protectorate from 1888 and they were administered by New Zealand from 1901 until becoming self-governing, in 'free association with New Zealand', in 1965. The main industry is tourism and the country is supported economically by foreign aid, in particular from New Zealand and China.

According to the US Bureau of Census, the population of the Cook Islands in July 2013 was 10,500 – this is half the population recorded in 2007. Many young adults have moved to either New Zealand or Australia. Cook Island Maori make up most of the resident population. Less than 12 per cent are of foreign descent, mainly from other Pacific Islands in particular Fiji, and also from the Philippines and China. The church forms a major part of the community of the Cook Islands.

Report

Girl Guiding: Background Information

Girl Guiding commenced in the Cook Islands in 1928 on Raratonga and was registered as a Province of the Girlguiding New Zealand. In 1992 a deed of transfer was signed which enabled Girl Guiding in the Cook Islands to become independent of New Zealand and they became an Associate member of WAGGGS that same year. Girl Guiding is affiliated with church organizations and all companies are connected to either the Cook Islands' Christian Church or the Catholic Church. The organization is also affiliated with the Cook Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and the Cook Islands National Council of Women. Many leaders of the Girl Guides Association Cook Islands (GGACI) have worked tirelessly to achieve the goal of WAGGGS Full Membership, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses and addressing areas for improvement.

1. Educational Programme

Monday is 'Uniform Day' in the Cook Islands and all Girl Guide Companies meet that afternoon. The companies meet together and share the opening and closing ceremonies but the girls then work in their sections with their own leaders, creating a supportive atmosphere conducive to establishing sound leadership skills. Leaders use a combination of the old Pacific Islands' programme and the previous New Zealand Girl Guide programme and there are currently new Pacific Island Handbooks being developed. Craft along with camping, water activities, service to the community and activities introducing the Girl Guiding fundamentals are important in the programme. The Guiding Overseas Linked with Development (GOLD) teams from New Zealand and Australia are working with the Association to implement programmes in the outer islands.

2. Training

The Association has been using a copy of the 2012 WAGGGS Policy and Guidelines on Training which covers WAGGGS' requirements. Trainings are included in the calendar for the inner and outer islands and senior members visit the islands to conduct these trainings. The leadership is also eager to send as many leaders as possible to the Asia Pacific Training for Leaders of Youth being held in Melbourne at the end of 2014. The organization is aware of the areas that it needs to develop further. There is currently a great deal of 'on the job' training and the buddy system of support from experienced leaders is widely implemented. The Training Scheme is in the process of being accredited by WAGGGS.

3. Membership

Most of the members are Cook Island Maori and Christian. The National Executive is aware of the need to diversify their membership to the small percentage of Fijian, Filipino and other Asian communities living on the islands and is working on a plan to achieve this. They have reached out to the other churches including the Seventh Day Adventist and the Church of Latter Day Saints and have had a number of members from these church communities join.

Application for Full Membership

According to the 2013 Census, there are 760 members including 454 youth members and 68 leaders. The rest of the membership is made up of adult supporters and committee members, many of whom are previous leaders who retain their membership and interest in Girl Guiding. Among girls aged three and 19 it is estimated that the penetration rate of membership would be at least 10 to 15 per cent and possibly higher. Some leaders are reaching out to disadvantaged girls and young women and there does seem to be a number of young leaders under the age of 30. For the future, the National Executive has a target to increase membership by two per cent per annum.

4. Relationship to Society

This is GGACI's strongest area. The organization is extremely well-recognized and regarded by other NGOs and community groups, pastors of the various churches and government Ministers. Notable articles regularly appear in the newspapers, sometimes weekly, and there is always an article included when a Girl Guide member achieves something special or attends an international event. A Girl Guide supporter runs a free-to-air radio show on Sunday afternoon for an hour called "The Guides" and this is broadcast to all of the islands as well as the Cook Islander communities in Australia and New Zealand.

Girl Guiding provides support at various sporting and other community events which gives it excellent fundraising opportunities and the Girl Guides have a reputation for being reliable and are the first port of call for community leaders organizing events.

5. Structure and Management

The organization has successfully implemented the suggestions made in 2010 and they are now using office and job descriptions for new roles. The size of the National Executive Committee has been reduced and the National Council (NC) which is the governing body has grown. The larger council represents all the islands including young women, the National Youth Directors for the Cook Islands Christian Church, the Catholic Church and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The NC delegates its powers to the National Executive (NE) which consists of five members only – the National President, National Commissioner, National Secretary, National Treasurer and National Programme Coordinator.

The NE meets at least 10 times per annum and the five members have been elected by the National Council. The term of office for each of the five roles is three years with no extension. The individual can be elected into another NE role for a further three year term. At the end of the six years however, they can no longer be on the NE. The organization is currently in the process of considering the possibility of taking on a staff member and renting space for the organization to operate in.

6. Finance

Generally, individual members do not contribute to quota either for the GGACI or for WAGGGS. The money is generally raised by the individual Girl Guide companies. Budgets are not prepared either at a local or national level but there does not appear to be a need for this on the island. A membership fee of \$2 per member is paid by the Girl Guide Companies and they also involve themselves in lots of local activities and receive significant support from the church. Individuals are expected to be heavily involved in fundraising and families also support them tremendously. As a result, young women have had the opportunity to attend international events and they are eager to get involved with future activities which they will be willing to fund themselves if WAGGGS support is not available to them.

(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)

Proposed Motion

That the Girl Guides Association Cook Islands, the National Organization of the Cook Islands, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES GUIDES DE GUINEE (ANGG)

Information

The Republic of Guinea, located in West Africa, has a surface area of 245,857 km² and a population of 10,800,000. Women represent 52 per cent of the population, but it is estimated that only 30 per cent of women over the age of 15 are literate. This is explained by the socio-cultural bias which prioritizes the education of young men to the detriment of young women.

The country is rich in natural resources such as gold, diamond, iron and bauxite but more than 60 per cent of the population lives on less than one dollar a day due to the poor management of resources. Guinea is also in a period of reconstruction following political crises and the President, Professor Alpha Conde elected in 2010, is working to create the Republic's institutions and to establish the rule of law. The country is also facing the problems of power cuts and lack of water.

Report

Girl Guiding: Background Information

Scouting began in Guinea in Catholic parishes prior to independence and units at that time were mixed (girls-boys). Co-education was the norm. In 1996, under the leadership of Sister Solange, of Malagasy nationality, and Mrs Marie Anne Tofani Fofana, the female branch of Scouting separated from the male branch. Since then, these two women, helped by many other women, have worked tirelessly for the organization for girls and young women in order to create the Association Nationale des Guides du Guinée (ANGG) which was officially recognized as an Associate Member of WAGGGS in 1999 at the World Conference in Ireland.

Guinea has experienced many episodes of political crises over the last few years and this has affected the socio-economic situation of the country and the activities of the Association. During the last three years the country has gained some stability and it has now been able to prepare the Association for Full Membership. There is a new dynamic generation of young female leaders who wish to provide Guinean girls and young women with the positive learning experiences that Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting offer.

1. Educational Programme

ANGG has created an Educational Programme based on WAGGGS' guidelines. The programme, while being based on the Law and the Promise, is adapted to the needs of the girls and young women of the country, according to the different age groups. The programme is being actively implemented (learning through action).

Training leaders to use the Educational Programme has been a challenge for the ANGG. However, there have been many training sessions organized to support leaders in the delivery of the Educational Programmes. The Association has produced guidelines to strengthen the use of these and there is a strong emphasis on community development projects.

2. Training

A training team made up of five national trainers support the ANGG in the training of unit/company leaders, regional leaders and members of the national team. This is based on the national Training Scheme which was developed and submitted to WAGGGS for accreditation. Training sessions are organized by members of the national team and for new leaders at their request. As the training team is in the process of building the capacity of leaders, offers of training are frequent. The training sessions continue, with a view to creating a pool of trainers in each region. It is important to note that the regions of Conakry and Kindia have already had a good number of training sessions.

Application for Full Membership

3. Membership

The association has members in rural and urban areas. Many rural Guides want to be seen as the example of best practice in rural Guiding in their activities such as market gardening (growing of tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, onions, and fruit), livestock farming, dye, etc.

In the capital, Conakry, there are a good number of young women who want to join Girl Guiding and units in the city have seen a considerable increase in membership. The Girl Guides have good knowledge of the movement and they recognize the importance of Girl Guiding for the development of girls and young women. Two specialists in income-generating activities (making soap and dyes) were also recruited and share their expertise with the girls. The interest the Girl Guides have in these activities has contributed to the growth in membership and this helps them to grow as independent individuals. The recruitment and retention plan is being prepared and will be ready this year.

4. Relationship with Society

The Association is very much involved in all sectors of the community in urban and rural areas and the Ministry of Youth firmly recognizes the place of the Girl Guides in Guinea. This has established a trusting relationship and furthered the development of girls and young women in the country. The Ministry recognizes the need for effective collaboration as well as active inclusion of the Girl Guides so that young people benefit. The Ministry has been very supportive of Girl Guiding and the proof of this is that the new headquarters of the ANGG was a gift from the Ministry of Youth. ANGG has also been working closely with a number of local leaders and other NGOs on projects which seek to improve living conditions, develop women and strengthen civil society.

5. Structure and Management

ANGG elected a new national team on 8 January 2014 and the team is young and dynamic. This team is made up of young educated and rural women, it meets regularly twice per month and its members regularly attend training sessions to help them reach the level of training they need.

ANGG is legally recognized by the country's authorities as a youth organization. Job descriptions have been drawn up specifying roles and responsibilities of the members, in order to better manage the performance of each member of the management team. The country is divided into five regions and each region is led by a Commissioner. The National team is responsible for planning and management and decisions are taken collectively. The Chief Commissioner coordinates activities which are supported by a strategic plan and an operational plan. ANGG has also appointed six women as trustees who will be responsible for the ethical and financial management of the Association.

6. Finance

ANGG has a finance team which proposes a draft budget to the national team in line with the needs for that year. It also produces an annual financial report. The income of ANGG is derived from member subscriptions, development projects and support from members of the General Council. The process to obtain a permanent subsidy from the government has also been initiated. ANGG attended the fund development workshop that was organized by the Africa Region in 2012 and they are finalizing the fund development strategy to include the key points from the workshop.

(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)

Proposed Motion

That the Association Nationale Des Guides De Guinée, the National Organization of the Republic of Guinea, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

GIRL SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MONGOLIA

Information

Mongolia borders Russia to the north and the Inner Mongolia region of China to the south, east and west. At 1,564,116 square kilometres (603,909 sq mi), Mongolia is the 19th largest and the most sparsely populated independent country in the world. The country contains very little arable land, as much of its area is covered by steppes, with mountains to the north and west and the Gobi Desert to the south. The country is subject to occasional harsh climatic conditions known as “zud”. The annual average temperature in Ulan Bator is 0°C, making it the world's coldest capital city. The population of Mongolia is around 3.2 million people. Ulan Bator, the capital and largest city, is home to about 45 per cent of the population. Approximately 30 per cent of the population is nomadic or semi-nomadic.

The area of what is now Mongolia has been ruled by various nomadic empires, including the Xiongnu, the Xianbei, the Rouran, the Gökturks and others. At the end of the 17th century, all of Mongolia had been incorporated into the area ruled by the Qing Dynasty. During the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, Mongolia declared independence. The country came under strong Russian influence, resulting in the proclamation of the Mongolian People's Republic as a Soviet satellite state in 1924. It was only after the breakdown of communist regimes in Europe in late 1989, when Mongolia saw its own democratic revolution in early 1990, leading to a multi-party system, the new constitution of 1992, and the transition to a market economy.

Economic activities in Mongolia had traditionally been based on herding and agriculture, although development of extensive mineral deposits of copper, coal, molybdenum, tin, tungsten, and gold have emerged as a driver of industrial production. About 20 per cent of the population continues to live on less than US\$1.25 per day. Education is often seen as an important lever in empowering women and in raising their social status beyond the traditional attributes which ascribe status to women, such as bearing numerous children.

Report

Girl Scouting: Background Information

The Girl Scouting movement started in Mongolia in 1997 through the establishment of the Girl Scouts Association of Mongolia (GSAM). GSAM was accepted as an Associate Member of WAGGGS at the World Conference held in Jordan in 2005. Since then the Association has grown in what it offers to its members as well as engaging as a member of WAGGGS. Membership is strong in the capital Ulan Bator and big efforts are being made to expand to other areas. The vastness and the scattered population of the country pose challenges to expanding Girl Scouting to every corner of the country but Girl Scouting is held in high regard and its work with girls, young women and the wider community is highly respected.

1. Educational Programme

GSAM Educational Programme Committee is responsible for developing the educational programme. This currently has three levels designed for different age groups. There are Educational Programmes for the different age ranges: Brownie (8-11 years), Girl Guide (12-14 years) and Ranger (15-18 years) which provides a progressive learning experience. Each level of the programme reflects the needs of the respective age range and the content is decided by the committee. Girl Scouting activities are school-based and the activities as well as the delivery method are geared towards indoor delivery due to harsh weather conditions at most times of the year. GSAM has also translated various new resources provided by WAGGGS such as badge curriculums and toolkits to be used as part of the Educational Programme. These serve as a good basis for developing and implementing the programme and are adapted to the national context.

2. Training

There is a training committee that is responsible for training and Training for Leaders and other Volunteer Adults is organized twice a year. General information sent to leaders is followed by specific training for leaders from different age groups. Communication with those leaders in rural areas is by phone and necessary training materials are sent via post. Bringing leaders to rural areas poses a physical and financial challenge which the association manages well. WAGGGS' Policy and Guidelines on Training of Adults is widely used and followed by the Training Committee.

Application for Full Membership

3. Structure and Management

The structure of GSAM meets the needs of its membership as it is enshrined in GSAM's Constitution and approved by the National Council meeting. GSAM has been renting a single office since its establishment. The Association has no staff, all the work is done by volunteers who have their own full-time jobs. The office has basic equipment that allows it to function and they hire venues for training when necessary. Among the Board members there are representatives from the three age groups and they are responsible for keeping in touch with leaders of the age groups for whom they are responsible. There are also leaders/contacts in the provinces and information from headquarters is sent to them. The National Council, which administers GSAM, has a strong representation of young women under 30 and the majority of the committees are chaired by young women as part of the Association's succession planning. GSAM has been focusing on increasing its adult membership of young women under 30 since 2010 and as a result there are now many dedicated and skilled young women in line with WAGGGS' Policy and Guidelines on Young Women in Decision-Making. Most of the young women sent to international training and events are still keen volunteers of GSAM and some of them have taken on important positions in the Association. The association also has a three year strategic plan and a plan of work for 2014.

4. Membership

GSAM has a strategy for recruiting and retaining members. Part of the strategy is to offer young women training in development of advocacy and leadership skills and the opportunity to interact with young women from other countries. This has attracted more young women to join GSAM as young leaders and led to steady organic growth. Part of the membership strategy is to focus on spreading Girl Scouting to rural areas in the near future by prioritizing the recruitment of new members and training of new leaders in those areas. Currently, Girl Scouting is most active in urban areas with a few rural sites outside Ulan Bator. Girl Scouting is open to all sections of the community but most Girl Scouting is school-based and 99 per cent of all members are school students. There are currently 1500 members, up from 800 in 2010. The organization's strategic plan is to maintain and increase membership in other provinces to attain their goal of 2000 members.

5. Relationship to Society

Like other NGOs in Mongolia, GSAM does not have close contact with the government. However, they have good relationships with the National Children Authority and a few other agencies such as National Water Authority. The current President of the GSAM, Ms.S.Odontuya is a Member of Parliament and there are good opportunities to raise the profile of Girl Scouting across Mongolia. The Association has good contacts with Buddhist and Catholic organizations and they organize various types of activities together for the well-being of the communities. The association has also worked closely with The Scout Association of Mongolia, which supports them through the sharing of human resources and experiences. There is a mutual respect between the two organizations. The general public really appreciates what GSAM is doing and expects them to extend their activities to young people in more areas.

6. Finance

The main source of income for GSAM is from fundraising and membership fees. Each young member pays MNT 5,000 (3.5 USD) and MNT 18,000 (14 USD) for adult members and MNT 50,000 (35 USD) for volunteer honorary members. The Association receives good support from the Asia Pacific Region of WAGGGS, other Member Organizations in the Region, and supporters and GSAM is aiming to build skills in fundraising and fund development.

(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)

Proposed Motion

That the Girl Scout Association of Mongolia, the National Organization of Mongolia, be recognized as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

MYANMAR GIRL GUIDES

Information

Myanmar, officially the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is a sovereign state in Southeast Asia bordered by China, Thailand, India, Laos and Bangladesh. The country is divided into seven states and seven regions, and Nay Pyi Daw is the capital. The administrative divisions are further subdivided into districts which are further subdivided into townships, wards and villages.

Myanmar's last population census was in 1983. According to estimates the total population of Myanmar is 55,000,000 and, 50 per cent are female. It is estimated that there are over 8.7 million young women between 5-19 years, constituting about 14.3 per cent of the total population.

In 2011 the military junta was officially dissolved following a 2010 general election and a nominally civilian government was installed. Although the military retains enormous influence through the constitution that was ratified in 2008, it has taken steps towards relinquishing control of the government and Myanmar has undertaken major reforms towards a democratic system and market-based economy.

Although 25.6 per cent of the population still lives below the national poverty line, economic growth in Myanmar accelerated in 2012. This has been propelled by improved business confidence, commodity exports, buoyant tourism and credit growth. The economy is expected to continue to grow even though the longer-term political stability of Myanmar remains somewhat uncertain.

Report

Girl Guiding: Background Information

Girl Guiding started in the Union of Burma (former name of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar) when the first Girl Guide company was formed in 1916 by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Girl Guide companies were mostly based in mission schools at that time. The Union of Burma Girl Guides Association was recognized by WAGGGS as a Member Organization in August 1952. In 1962, the two organizations for Girl Guides and Boy Scouts become a joint organization under the name of the Union of Burma Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association. Although Scouting was abolished by the then government shortly afterwards, Girl Guiding was never abolished. Instead the Central Council of the Union of Burma Girl Guide Association sent a letter to WAGGGS to notify them that the association had been dissolved at the beginning of March 1964.

The last record found at the World Bureau regarding Burma stated;

"An official announcement was presented to the 19th World Conference. Sept/Oct. 1966 (W.B.1536, page 33) for ratification, and the proposal was carried unanimously that Burma was no longer considered to be on the list of Member Organizations of WAGGGS. It was also explained that this ratification of the World Conference's was in no way a cancellation of membership. The report of the 19th World Conference states: PHILIPPINES asked what the procedure would allow that the day would come when BURMA could think of returning as a Member of the World Association. Mrs. Lykiardopoulo replied that ratification by the World Conference of the World Committee's action in no way constituted a cancellation of Membership and the usual procedure of cancellation had not been followed."

No other records were found nor any documentation at World Conferences that the Membership of the Union of Burma was cancelled or discussed.

Evolution of Girl Guiding in Myanmar

- Initial contact was made by the Asia Pacific Committee between the 1990s until 2000 with no success.
- The breakthrough came in 2007 when the Girl Scouts of Japan, (GSJ) Osaka Council started service projects in Myanmar through the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) who were active there. The GSJ secured strong contacts with YMCA Yangon, which led to the eventual invitation to meet with Myanmar's Deputy Minister of Education in January 2013.

Readmission into Associate Membership

January 2013

- The Asia Pacific Region team (APR) met with the Deputy Minister of Education and key ministry officials responsible for re-establishing Girl Guiding. The Ministry had already introduced Girl Guiding and Scouting activities in 18 schools in November 2012. A group of former Scouters (they could not locate any former female leaders at that time) trained 90 teachers (50 per cent were female teachers). Subsequently 900 boys and 900 girls were recruited as Scouts and Girl Guides and a camp was held for them. The requirements for the Membership of WAGGGS were explained.

July 2013

- Myanmar was invited to attend the Asia Pacific Regional Conference held in Japan and a Certificate of a Country Working Towards Membership was presented to them.

Between August and December 2013

- Basic leaders' training courses were conducted for 85 leaders. The Interim Committee was appointed to run the affairs of the Association. The constitution was drafted and organizational structures were created. This included the set-up of financial procedures, guidelines and a membership database. The Constitution was approved by WAGGGS' Constitutions Committee in February 2014. Through the support of the Ministry of Education the Girl Guide leaders conducted their own week-long training for selected girls and these girls were all registered as the first batch of Girl Guides. There were 507 leaders and 4600 girls registered as Girl Guides.

January 2014

- The Asia Pacific Region team conducted the Intermediate Girl Guide leaders training for 58 selected Girl Guide leaders who had been trained in August 2013. A 12-week programme resource pack was created by the Asia Pacific Region team to assist them in running Girl Guide meetings.

1. Educational Programme

There is a team responsible for the Educational Programme. They have revised the sections of the old Handbook for Girls and the 12-week Programme Pack and corresponding Programme Reference. This will be translated and ready for use in June. Girl Guiding will be promoted in more schools and the meetings will take place fortnightly from June 2014 and the next training for leaders will take place in October 2014.

The Asia Pacific Region -Myanmar strategy includes a step-by-step approach to development of the Educational Programme with needs analysis and consultation with girls and leaders. The Girl Guide programme for the Girl Guides, 12-18 years old will be completed first, followed by the Bluebirds, 7-11 years old. Programme development meetings and workshops have been planned in the next two years.

2. Training

The Asia Pacific Region -Myanmar Strategy includes a simple adult training, learning and development framework consisting of annual progressive training for adults to be supported by the Asia Pacific Region. In August 2013, 85 female teachers from 78 schools were trained and they in turn shared the skills with another four to five female teachers (some more than five). The new Girl Guide Leaders have demonstrated basic understanding of Girl Guiding. There are currently no trainers but Asia Pacific Region Team and Association have begun to identify potential trainers from those trained. The advanced training for Girl Guide leaders will take place in October 2014. During this training a core group of capable Girl Guides leaders will be identified for the training of trainers. An additional workshop to develop the Association's adult, training, learning and development Training Scheme has been planned for 2016.

3. Membership

A total of 507 Girl Guide leaders and 4,600 Girl Guides were registered with the Myanmar Girl Guides by the end of January 2014. They have exceeded the membership target set by the Interim Committee and Asia Pacific Region team for 2014. An action plan has been put in place with membership targets and membership strategy. There will be further increases after June

Application for Full Membership

2014, when the new school term begins and Girl Guiding will begin in schools as a fortnightly co-curriculum activity.

Presently communication within Girl Guiding is supported by the Ministry of Education through the Department of Basic Education No 3 (responsible for Yangon region) which will disseminate information about Girl Guides to the other departments. Several staff members from the Ministry of Education have already been assigned to coordinate Girl Guiding and Scouting activities in schools. These will also support the Association in the application of grants from the Ministry for Adults and Girl Guide uniforms, training equipment and travel for teachers.

4. Relationship to Society

The re-establishment of Girl Guiding and Scouting is a personal goal of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and therefore all relevant departments, ministries and NGOs fully support this initiative.

There has been a lot of media coverage. In the beginning the term Scouts in the Myanmar language was used to describe both Girl Guides and Scouts. However, through strong advocacy and promotion the term Girl Guides in the Myanmar language is now correctly used when Girl Guides are involved. All members now wear the Association's blue and white uniform, with the correct Peacock trefoil. WAGGGS leaders have also recently featured in a range of local media and received great interest from the press.

5. Structure and Management

The Interim Committee is led by Prof Tin Hla Kyi, a capable and well-known female leader in Myanmar. Her six-member committee comprised , the Adviser who is the Ministry of Education appointee to lead the re-establishment of Girl Guiding and Scouting, Deputy Chief Commissioner (also Programme) Training , Communications and Finance. The core group meets regularly and is supported by a bigger group of around 30 female volunteers. They meet regularly and minutes are kept for official meetings.

The Constitution is now being translated into the official business language in Myanmar. WAGGGS has however received written approval from the Ministry of Education supporting the creation of the Myanmar Girl Guides.

6. Finance

Currently the Myanmar Girl Guides has received donations amounting to approximately USD21000 and have spent USD 9,000 on training workshops and stationery. Financial records are being kept and the Association is aware of legal and accounting compliance guidelines. The Association is aware of its financial responsibilities once it is accepted into WAGGGS Membership. A fundraising strategy has been developed.

(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)

Proposed Motion

That the Myanmar Girl Guides (previously the Union of Burma Girl Guides Association), the National Organization of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, be ratified by the 35th World Conference as an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.