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Asia Pacific Region

World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses

Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts

To: All Member Organizations in the Asia Pacific Region
Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS Working Group

From: Low Lih Jeng,
Chair, Asia Pacific Regional Committee 2013-2016

Date: 30 April 2014

The Asia Pacific (AP) Regional Committee held our first Committee meeting in Seoul, Korea from 16-21 March 2014. We reviewed your Member Organization (MO) reports, finalised the delivery of the AP Membership Development Strategy to address your needs and concerns, and discussed strategies to take the AP Region forward in 2015-2017. We thank the **Girls Scouts of Korea** and the **Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS (Korea)** for their kind and generous hospitality in hosting us during the week.



The AP Regional Committee at work during the AP Regional Committee Meeting in Seoul, Korea

1. 35th World Conference, Hong Kong

There are several major issues that will be discussed and voted upon at the upcoming World Conference. Please read the World Conference documents **thoroughly** so that you will be fully aware of the issues relating to the various motions. You can download the document from the conference at <http://www.wagggs.org/en/35worldconference/conferencedocuments>

1.1. Constitution

The World Board is proposing a new Constitution that will make the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO). This is a newly-introduced legal form for charities in the UK where WAGGGS is legally based. For further information please refer to World Conference Document 3.

The AP Regional Committee submitted feedback on the November 2013 draft version. A revised draft (version 4 March 2014) has taken into account some of the feedback and will be put to vote with some options. Conference Document 3 also has a list of Frequently Asked Questions. If you would like to have copies of the the AP Regional Committee's feedback, **please email me** at lowlihjeng@hotmail.com **or AP Committee member Marybelle Marinas** at bellemarinas@yahoo.com

1.2. Quota. The World Board is proposing either retaining the current quota or an alternative method for the quota calculation. The proposed alternative method introduces additional wealth bands so that the increase in quota payment due to movement from one band to another band will be more gradual. While some MOs will pay less quota, some will pay more due to membership increase or moving to a higher wealth band. World Conference Document 11 shows you the comparison of your payments with the current and proposed new methodologies. You will vote on your preferred methodology.

The World Board is also proposing that there be no increase to any Member Organization's Quota (or Membership Fee) in 2018 to 2020 as a result of an increase in their membership since the 2012 census. However, any increases due because an MO moves to a higher wealth band would continue to be applied. A new Quota Support Fund is being proposed in the budget for 2015-17 to help MOs that are struggling to meet their Quota obligations.

1.3. Rules of Procedures. There are amendments to the Conference Rules of Procedure. Once the Conference **starts, no new motions** will be allowed (Rule 2.2). **Proposed amendments cannot apply** to motions on: major policy, amendments to the Constitution, membership or motions that by their nature require significant research (major topics) (new Rule 2.3.6).

This means that if the proposed new rules of procedure are adopted, you will have had to submit any new motions and amendments to motions relating to major topics **before** the Conference starts.

1.4. Regional Gathering and Regional Reception. At the Regional Gathering, the AP Regional Committee will let you know how we intend to deliver the AP Membership Development Strategy for 2015-2017. An updated copy will be sent to you closer to the date. There will also be updates on the new policies and guidelines for the WAGGGS Educational Programme and Adult Training, Learning and Development, AP grant guidelines and Partnership Visits.

We have set aside time for the AP Regional Committee to answer any questions that you may have or wish to be discussed together with the AP Region MOs. **Could you please email those questions** to me at lowlihjeng@hotmail.com with a copy to AP Regional Director Ching Ching Wee-Ong at chingching@wagggsworld.org by **10 June 2014**.

The Regional Reception will be party time where we are expecting to celebrate the Full Membership of the Girl Guides Association of Cook Islands and the Girl Scouts Association of Mongolia as well as welcoming Myanmar Girl Guides as an Associate Member. More details of how we will be partying will be announced soon!

2. Asia Pacific Region

The AP Region continues to grow. Our latest membership figures from your MOs reports show us at 3.174 million as of 31 December 2013, up from 3.07 million as of 31 December 2012.

Recommendations have been made for Full Membership for the **Girl Guides Association Cook Islands** and **Girl Scout Association of Mongolia**, and Associate Membership for **Myanmar Girl Guides**. We are waiting for the World Board to approve the recommendations. If approved, AP will be 25 plus 1 i.e. 26 MOs!

2.1. Olave Award winners. I am delighted to announce that three of our MOs will receive the Olave Award at the 35th World Conference for service projects by their girls' troops/units to the community:

1. **Hong Kong Girl Guides Association**
2. **Girl Scouts of Japan**
3. **Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association**

2.2. FAPW General Assembly and new OBPS-FAPW partnership.

Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS (FAPW) successfully held its 4th General Assembly from 16-20 January in Chiang Mai. Susan Locsin (Philippines) and Helen Hargreaves (Australia) were elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Working Group. Other members are Normala Baharudin (Malaysia), Sun Kyo Jung (Korea), Peggy Lee (Hong Kong) and Junko Sato (Japan). Our profound thanks to former Chair Chempaka Pahamin (Malaysia), Annette Chan (Hong Kong) and Soon Duck Chung (Korea) for their six years of service on the FAPW Working Group during which they have raised a record



amount of funds for the AP Region and developed new initiatives.

New FAPW Awards were introduced for for cumulative donations up to GBP 3,000 (for FAPW Silver Award) and GBP 5,000 (for FAPW Gold Award).

FAPW Patron, Her Royal Highness Princess Azizah, sent her apologies for not attending the event as she was recuperating from a medical operation but generously donated USD 10,000 for the development of Girl Guiding in Myanmar.

I am pleased to announce a new fundraising initiative in the AP Region with the Olave Baden-Powell Society (OBPS). The OBPS-FAPW partnership will allow every new OBPS member from an AP country to donate the first GBP 1,000 to FAPW thus becoming a FAPW major donor. The FAPW Membership Incentive, where 30% of every GBP 6,000 (GBP 1,800) donated by donors from an AP MO country is returned to their respective AP MO, will apply to these OBPS-FAPW donations.



Our thanks to the **Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) Association of Thailand** and the Chiang Mai District for hosting the General Assembly. Most memorable was the talented elephant that painted the AP logo. The painting was auctioned with proceeds to FAPW and the painting donated to GGAT.

2.3. AP MOs. The AP Committee and Staff Team continued to implement strategies according to the APOP 2014 to strengthen Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in the AP Region. An intermediate training workshop for 58 selected Girl Guide leaders was conducted in January 2014 for **Myanmar Girl Guides** with funding from Rotary International Melbourne. Karen Chatto and Grace Tam, AP Development Executives were assisted by trainers from **Girl Guides Australia** (Rochelle Reed, Fiona Bye, Allison Hooper and Elizabeth Davey) and **Girl Scouts of Japan** (Kuniko Tatamitani, Katsuko Shimada, Tomoko Nishi, Aya Inaura and Fumi Murakami).



Intermediate leaders training in Myanmar

A partnership visit to **Bharat Scouts and Guides** was conducted in February by Melanie Bennett, AP Vice-Char, Mary McPhail, WAGGGS Chief Executive and Ching-Ching Wee-Ong, AP Regional Director. This was followed by a National Strategic Workshop conducted jointly with WOSM in February 2014 with the co-facilitation of Jen Barron, Sangam's Centre Manager, Wajira Silva, AP Resource Pool member and Grace Tam, AP Development Executive.

A partnership visit to **Girl Scouts of Korea** was also conducted after the APR Committee meeting by Lucy Tan-atichat, APR Committee Member and Grace Tam, Karen Chatto and Prerana Shakya, AP Development Executives.



Partnership Visit - Bharat Scouts and Guides



Strategic Planning Workshop for Bharat Scouts and Guides



Partnership Visit – Girl Scouts of Korea

2.3. MO contacts. We have re-organised ourselves and the following Committee Members will be your contacts. We will be your first point of contact if you have any questions or need any information.

Low Lih Jeng	Melanie Bennett	Minori Yuda	Marybelle Mariñas	Lucy Tan-atichat	Pinky Lin
Fiji Malaysia Pakistan	India Solomon Islands Taiwan	Australia Maldives Mongolia Myanmar Tonga	Bangladesh Brunei Darussalam Hong Kong Papua New Guinea Thailand	Cambodia Cook Islands Korea Philippines Sri Lanka	Japan Kiribati Nepal New Zealand Singapore

2.4 APR Guidelines. Amendments have been made to guidelines of the AP Region at the recent committee meeting. Information about the new guidelines will be emailed to you in due course.

Conclusion

The Asia Pacific Region continues to forge ahead. We are gaining growth momentum and the AP



Regional Committee wants to make this momentum irreversible. We will continue to implement the partnerships that MOs have with other MOs and continue to strengthen our training and educational programmes. The cornerstone of all these efforts will be a strong and sustainable fund development strategy not just for the AP Region but also for our MOs.

I am completely confident that we will be able to achieve this and more in the 2015-2017 triennium and beyond. As we look towards celebrating the 100th anniversary of several MOs and AP's 50th anniversary in 2019, let us all remain

steadfast in our mission to develop our girls into responsible leaders to serve their community and the world, and for all of us to always live by our Girl Guide/Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Warmest regards

Low Lih Jeng
Chair
Asia Pacific Regional Committee
WAGGGS