



girls worldwide say



Asia Pacific Region

World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts
Association mondiale des Guides et des Eclaireuses
Asociación Mundial de las Guías Scouts

Asia Pacific Link News

Spotlight onYoung Woman from Japan

Sahoko Isoda, volunteer leader, talks about the Strategic Leadership Workshop in Cambodia



Twenty three years in Girl Scouting has helped me to be able to communicate with others and share issues. Participating in the Strategic Leadership Workshop in Cambodia was a significant opportunity. Girl Scouting encourages us to expose ourselves and to understand each other and has been an empowering experience for me. In every action such as singing, pouring water into a bucket at camp or asking people for charitable donation on a street, it has been rewarding.

The workshop emphasized the importance of strategic thinking. "Strategic" in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting means to make clear what a Member Organization would like to be and to decide how to achieve the respective goals. In my profession, strategic leadership is required too. After the workshop I realized that I did not know anything about my executives' way of work. The experience has enabled me to understand their needs and act more effectively to assist them.

If you say "I know", that is the end of the story. No progress, no change and no opportunity. You have to have courage to speak out "I don't know". In preparation for the International night, the delegation of Girl Scouts of Japan held a tea ceremony demonstration. If I put this in a strategic way, our mission would be: to make international night successful. Our goal would be: a successful tea ceremony. And our challenges were: lack of material and tea ceremony skill. My team beat our brains. We found two people among Friends of Asia Pacific who had the skills. One made a scoop and a tea whisk with an empty pet bottle. The other turned a case of tissue box into a water pot, soap to a snack... Many ideas came out. Our goal was realized and our mission was achieved.

I am a volunteer leader working with Rangers (age 15 to 18) in a local unit and my mission is to "lead" girls to the place they can contribute to the society, to the country and to the world. To reach this goal, the girls are encouraged to tackle the difficulties they face and to speak out about their needs. I am here with courage to say "I don't know." I am here as one who is struggling to be an independent woman in society. I am here to prove that Girl Scouting offers opportunities to make lovely friends from different countries. I can be one of their role models.

Lastly, I would like to say I have never been as proud of being a Girl Scout leader as this before. I would like to express my gratitude for all the people who lent a hand to my participation. Thank you to all the sister members I met in Cambodia for laughter, inspiration and compassion.

Hong Kong Girl Guides Association holds 90th Anniversary Celebration

The Hong Kong Girl Guides 90th Anniversary Grand Parade and Family Day was held on November 26 2006. About 30,000 guests, supporters, Girl Guide members and their families took part and enjoyed the programme.



The Hon. Donald Tsang GBM, Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR and Mrs Selina Tsang, President of the Association officiated the event. More than 1,200 girls, with 250 youth members from other uniformed groups, Macau and Mainland China, joined the parade. Eight hundred girls performed a Chinese dance with colourful fans and ribbons and were well appraised by the audience. Pop singers and artists were also invited to perform. Television Broadcasts Limited broadcasted the event live, giving more than 300,000 viewers to share the happiness with those in the stadium.



800 Girl Guides Group dancing Performance.

Girl Guides Association Of Malaysia awards ceremony

The Girl Guides Association of Malaysia held an awards ceremony to commemorate its 88th Anniversary on 19 November 2006. Three hundred members and guests attended the ceremony held in Selangor. The Royal Patron of the Girl Guides Association of Malaysia, Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah binti Al-Marhum Tengku Abdul Rashid, and the Deputy President of the Girl Guides Association of Malaysia, KDYTM Tengku Puan Pahang Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah Binti Al-Mutawakkil 'Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj, D.K.; D.K. (Johor); S.P.M.J, attended the ceremony.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of a token of appreciation to Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah binti Al-Marhum Tengku Abdul Rashid to honour Her Majesty's contribution to the Association as the Royal Patron of the Association since 2002.

The 'Anugerah Sri Kandi Kepanduan', an appreciation award, was presented to Y.M. Tunku Dato' Hajjah Fatimah Binti Tunku Sulaiman from Negeri Sembilan; Y.Bhg. Toh Puan Rahimah Stephens from Sabah; and Yang Hormat Dato' Nik Faizah Mustapha, Girl Guiding manager of the Girl Guides Association of Malaysia for their relentless contribution and commitment.

Thirty media organizations also received certificates as an appreciation for giving support to the Association during its 88 years of establishment.

Taiwan holds Joint National Camp for Centennial celebration of World Scouting Movement.

Girl Scouts of Taiwan and the General Association of the Scouts of China held the Joint National Camp from 27 July to 2 August 2006. More than 15,000 campers, including participants across Taiwan and around 300 international Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and visitors from WAGGGS and WOSM participated in the camp themed 'One World, One Promise.' Taiwanese Girl Scouts and international Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from USA, England, Japan, Thailand, Philippines and Singapore made up seven sub-camps. Dynamic campers enjoyed exchanging friendships and camp life. The Chairman of Asia Pacific Committee, Dr. Cristina Lim-Yuson, also attended the camp.



Girl Scouts from Hua-Lien in front of the entrance of the 1st Sub-camp.

Six Areas

Educational Programme

Cook Islands runs a native trees and historical places programme

The Ministry of Environment has elected the Arorangi Girl Guides Company for carrying out a pilot programme on Native and Significant Trees and Historical Site project in the village. This project gave the girls and leaders the opportunity to learn and seek information from landowners, old people and the traditional leaders. They were given



a GPS map of the district to plot onto the map the native and significant trees and historical sites like water pools, traditional meeting area (marae) and others.

Girl Scouts of Japan join campaign to reduce greenhouse gases

Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ) paid a courtesy visit to Yuriko Koike Minister of Environment at the time, current special advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, on 12 September 2006. GSJ announced willingness to join in the 'Team -6%' and cooperate with Government on the activities.

'Team -6%' is a national project that wants to reduce 6% of greenhouse gases that is committed on Kyoto Protocol. The project focus on what individuals can do to reduce CO₂ in every day life.



10th All Pakistan Girl Guides Camp

More than 700 Guides and Leaders from Pakistan, including AJK and northern areas, attended the 10th 'All Pakistan Camp' held at Islamabad from 1 to 9 November 2006. The main theme of the camp was 'Voice of the Girl' urging girls to raise their voice in a wise way, with a sense of conviction that they would change not only their own fate but also the destiny of many others who are incapable of doing it for themselves.

The programme of the camp reflected its different sub themes including 'Healthy Body Healthy Mind', 'We Are Prepared' and 'Our Homeland'. The Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, inaugurated the camp on 2 November 2006.

First Lady Begum Sehba Musharraf who is also the Chief Guide chaired the closing ceremony. She lauded the commendable services of the Girl Guides rendered during the difficult time of



the earthquake in October 2005. She noted theme of the camp 'Voice of the Girl' would raise the profile of the Movement in the context of girls' empowerment.

Girl Scouts of the Philippines gather for the 'Long Green Line of Hope'

More than 10,000 Girl Scouts from across the Philippines gathered for the 'Long Green Line of Hope' on 23 September 2006 in Manila to complete their celebration of Girl Scout Week. The event started with a run/walk by participants who included Girl Scout leaders, staff, representatives of different government organizations and non governmental organizations (NGO), friends and supporters. Girls participated in activities run at booths featuring talents unlimited, adolescent female health, story telling, economic self-sufficiency skills and fitness. Girl Scout badges were awarded during the day.

Girl Scouts from various parts of the country participated in the Long Green Line headed by National President Teresita B. Choa and Gespie, the official mascot of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines.



National Girl Scout Challenge Camp held for potential young leaders in Taiwan

Girl Scouts of Taiwan held a 'National Girl Scout Challenge Camp for potential young leaders' from 25 to 26 November 2006 to strengthen young leaders' ability of leadership and thinking. Sessions were based on WAGGGS' mission and key messages and the theme of the camp was "Discover Your Potential." In addition to indoor programmes, such as knowledge about HIV/AIDS, Scouting experience sharing and group discussion on leadership, participants also enjoyed different outdoor activities.



Adolescent HIV/AIDS Education workshops held in Taiwan

Under the remit of the WAGGGS advocacy messages, girls worldwide say "fight AIDS" and girls worldwide say "it's important to talk about sex", Girl Scouts of Taiwan held 2006 Adolescent HIV/AIDS Education Workshops on 18 October and 4 November 2006. The workshops were based on the UNAIDS and WAGGGS AIDS Badge Curriculum: through prevention, care support and human rights-changing attitude. Participants included high school students, teachers and parents. In addition to doctor and professional's lessons, they invited people who had HIV to share their experience.

Adult Training

India hosts pre-ALT course Guide Wing

Thirty six Leaders participated in the pre-ALT course Guide Wing at the National Training Centre, in Pachmarhi, from 25 to 29 September 2006. Subjects included training and testing, youth programme, 14 programme ideals, scheme of training, learning and teaching process, how adults learn, leadership qualities, counseling on course and campfire on courses.

India runs disaster preparedness training course

Twenty-six Guide captains and 59 Scout masters from 15 states participated in the course on disaster preparedness in Alania, Kota, and Rajasthan, along with seven instructors. The course covered theory and practical areas in the training for disaster preparedness and their management. The experts also organized demonstrations on fire fighting, floods and earthquakes.

Trainer Seminar – Girl Scouts of Japan

More than 100 trainers participated in the two trainer seminars held by Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ) in Tokyo in October and November 2006. GSJ invited Ching Ching Wee-Ong, field executive trainer, for the first seminar and Tek Mohamed, member of Asia Pacific training pool, from Malaysia for the second as a lecturer.

The aim of the seminar was to develop leaders to help girls to establish their independence. During the seminar the trainers developed the skills and improved their understanding on WAGGGS and WAGGGS' Guidelines.

Games and creation on the nature workshop in Taiwan

In collaboration with the Society of Wilderness, Girl Scouts of Taiwan held the Games and Creation on the Nature Workshop for leaders on 28 and 29 October 2006. The purpose of the workshop was to make leaders improve and motivate their skills of activity-designing and then draw up new ideas while leading Girl Scouts. Teachers introduced methods



and materials which help leaders develop Girl Scouts' interests on nature, learning from it and then knowing the importance to protect it.



Membership

Visiting Trainers from Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

A travelling group from Cook Islands Girl Guides Association visited Aitutaki to attend a weekend training camp. Aitutaki Girl Guide, Island Commissioner, Mrs. Josephine Lockington shared with the young leaders some of her survival and bush hunt skills to enable



them to collect food. The girls were taken for a six hours training to an unknown area for these particular activities.

Leaders worked on a structure and management chart for the Association. Sessions covered the Promise, Law, Motto, whistle and hand signals, founder's history, formations and ceremonies, organizational structure, songs and games.



Relationship to Society

Cook Islands Association runs Jumbo Sale and Food Donation during Girl Guide Day

The Girl Guides Association Cook Islands raised \$ 600.00 through a Jumbo sale at the Punanga Nui Market on 14 October 2006. They sold second hand clothing, and shoes, coffee/tea station, cakes and scones.



They also provided a donation of food packages to the Takamoa Theological students on Saturday 14 October to mark the Cook Islands Girl Guide Day, which is held every 15 of October. This day remembers the birthday of Guiding in the Cook Islands.



Friendship Caravan held by Hong Kong Girl Guides

The Friendship Caravan was successfully held from 16 to 24 July 2006 in China. More than 120 girls and leaders including members from other uniformed groups in Hong Kong and Macau, with 56 students and teachers from Kunming, China participated in this nine-day journey. The Caravan started off in Qingdao, then moved to Qufu, Jinan, Mount Taishan and ended in Beijing, China.



In Qingdao, the company Haier Group held a grand opening ceremony and participants had the opportunity to visit it. Haier Group is one of the most important and largest state-owned enterprises.

During the visit in Qufu, the birthplace of Confucius, a specially arranged ancient ceremony was held for members to participate and pay their respects to Confucius.

Students from Jinan organized an Open Day carnival event. Members set up and managed game stalls under the theme "fun, adventure, challenge, and friendship" and all enjoyed the activities and interactive games. They held a sharing session late that afternoon and members from different organizations and regions were all eager to show their distinctive culture and specialties.

In Beijing, members took part in the solemn flag ceremony at Tiananmen Square, followed by a photo session and ceremony in the People's Great Hall.

Support the film "Open Season"

A message from Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ), the Trefoil and the name of the organization are printed on the official posters of the film "Open season", from Sony pictures. The posters have been put up all over Japan. This is a great opportunity to improve GSJ's visibility through a good partnership with Ministry of Environment and media.



recognizing written commands (sit, shake etc) and numbers (for use in lifts). Younger girls interviewed vets about dog care,



compiled scrapbooks for public awareness. Many units were seen out and about with dog trainers on sponsored walks.

Older girls acted as waitresses for Mobility Dogs events and assisted delegates at training weekends. Lasting bonds have been established between units, local recipients and trainers and it is very likely that the relationship will continue into the future. The region was delighted with the response and presented all participants with a specially designed Mobility Dogs badge.



The Philippines holds a day with disabled Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) held a day for disabled Girl Scouts at national, regional and council level as part of the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation week, which was celebrated from 17 to 23 July 2006. This year's theme, 'Kalikasan Pangalagaan, Kapansanan Maiiwasan' aimed to stimulate public awareness of disability problems and concerns particularly on disability prevention, rehabilitation and equal opportunities for disabled people. Girl Scouts received special gifts from the Philippine Shrine Association, Inc., whose cause is to help in the rehabilitation of disadvantaged, crippled and burned children. For several years now the group has donated wheelchairs and provided artificial limbs. This year, another Girl

New Zealand runs partnership with Mobility Dogs New Zealand

Auckland's North Shore unit in New Zealand raised more than \$7000 as part of the partnership with Mobility Dogs New Zealand in 2006. The unit has also increased significantly the public awareness of the work of the trust across the Shore. The unit runs an annual service challenge dedicated to Ruby Graham, a Shore Guider and lone adviser for many years. Various sections have undertaken different projects since 1983.



Girls learned to consider life from a mobility impaired persons point of view, and how dogs can help by picking up objects, fetching and carrying, pulling wheelchairs and even

Scout whose face and arms were badly injured during a fire incident in her house, will receive assistance from the donors.



Deaf-mute Girl Scouts enjoy dancing with a local movie and tv personality.

Philippines Girl Scouts and Educators meet

Officials from the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) and regional directors and school division superintendents of the Department of Education in Central Luzon region held a meeting on 7 October 2006 to honor and strengthen their relationship. Both agencies have the same purpose of building girls and young women into well-rounded citizens.

Dr. Vilma Labrador, Department of Education assistant secretary for Programmes and Projects, acknowledged the mission of Girl Scouting and pledged continued support to GSP. Mrs. Choa noted that the similar missions of GSP and the Department of Education brought with them a set of values such as honesty, trustworthiness, respect, tolerance, caring, objectivity and openness.

The GSP President stated that the non-formal and informal methods GSP used served to enhance and strengthen formal education. Both institutions recognized this. The event finished with the awarding of certificates of recognition.



GSP National President Teresita Choa acknowledges the support of educators to Girl Scouting

JOTA/JOTI Programme

India takes part in second Asia Pacific Jamboree on the Air and Internet

More than 170 Guides and Scouts assembled at Bharat Scouts and Guides national headquarters on 5 and 6 August 2006 for their second Asia Pacific Regional Jamboree on the Air and Internet. Participants were able to contact other National Scout organizations in Japan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, England, Malaysia and Scotland.

Philippine Girl Scouts join Jamboree

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) participated in the 49th Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) on 21 October 2006. During the jamboree, Junior, Senior and Cadet Girl Scouts from 95 councils of the GSP, had the opportunity to communicate with other Girl Scouts from other countries through ham radio and the Internet.

The event is held in cooperation with local amateur radio Club/Station, Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA) and Boy Scouts of the Philippines. Local Girl Scouts who take part in the event earn the Ham Radio Badge.



Philippine Girl Scouts update their amateur radio training by participating in the worldwide Jamboree on the Air project.

Structure and Management

India runs Conference on Health and Development

Bharat Scouts and Guides run a conference on Health and Development at their national headquarters from 6 to 8 September 2006. Thirty eight district and state/national level executives participated in the event. The aim of the conference was to sensitize the state district level, implementing functionaries of the association on issues relating to adolescent

health and development, how to mainstream the adolescent health development programme and finally to discuss activities held on World AIDS Day on 1 September 2006.

Local Council Chairperson's Meeting and Training

All 47 local Councils' Chairpersons gathered in Tokyo in October 2006 in a local Council Chairperson's Meeting to understand GSJ's activities and policy. As part of the programme, the participant at the Juliette Low Seminar held at Sangam in August reported about her experience. Following the meeting, the Chairperson also provided training. Participants were encouraged to increase membership through the action plan.

Project 3L (Life Long Learning)

India runs three day workshop

The third workshop of 3L (Life Long Learning) Project was conducted at National Youth Complex Gadpuri from 21 to 23 August 2006. The workshop focused on various aspects of health education. The Leprosy Mission of India was invited to deliberate on Leprosy and other diseases and representatives from the All India Institute of Medical Science lectured on Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Participants learned and shared this message with their members and neighbours. The workshop proved to be very useful to all the participants.

External Relations

Mariko Asano, External Relations liaison, Asia Pacific Committee would like to introduce one international organization and one network which may be useful for Member Organizations.

ZONTA International

Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta members volunteer their time, talents and money to local and international service projects, as well as scholarship and award programmes aimed at furthering women's education, leadership and youth development. (<http://www.zonta.org/site/PageServer?pagename=homepage>)

Asia-Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)

This network is dedicated to advocating and monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the outcome document from the UN General Assembly on Women 2000 or Beijing + 5. It facilitates communication and collaboration among women's organizations and networks to ensure that the commitments and consensus made in Beijing are honored by governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society and women's organizations themselves.

Among its major activities were the Asia-Pacific non governmental organization (NGO) Symposium on Beijing + 5 in September 1999 and the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing + 10 in July 2004. Both events were held in Thailand and more than 300 and 600 women attended them respectively. APWW actively lobbies the UN, especially in relation to the fifth and tenth year reviews of the implementation of the BPFA. APWW is composed of national and regional networks of women's groups, as well as regional organizations dealing on women's issues. (<http://apww.isiswomen.org/pages/about/aboutus.html>)

Others

Friends of Asia Pacific

General Assembly of Friends of Asia Pacific Japan

Friends of Asia Pacific Japan held their General Assembly in October 2006. There are currently 163 Friends of Asia Pacific members in Japan.

Ching Ching Wee-Ong, field executive trainer, who visited Japan for the trainer's seminar, also attended the meeting and exchanged friendship.

Members of Friends of Asia Pacific are working hard to increase the membership to support Girl Scouting/Girl Guiding in Asia Pacific further.

Training Matters...!! by Cathy Chiu, Asia Pacific Training Pool member

Are you evaluating what you are doing and what is being achieved? Are you looking at updated knowledge, techniques and improved performances? Are you evaluating whether the sessions are fun? Are you evaluating the "live" applications as opposed to the "virtual" exposures of your trainings? Are you stepping back and looking at the big picture – the needs of your Member Organization now and what it will need to grow and strengthen in the next 20 years?

We, as trainers in our Member Organizations, need to be fully aware of current information in all these areas and be able to communicate the big picture needs as well as the focal skills of leading our programmes. We should check if there are new areas requiring specific or special training and assess if the capability to deliver such training is present within our own training departments. If not, does it exist in the community and can it be used and contextualized for Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting? Do we need to conduct a wider search e.g. in a neighbouring Member Organization, a cluster Member Organization or ask the Asia Pacific Region staff or trainers?

When training leaders to deliver our programmes, we should be constantly aware of the possible knock-on or domino effect that may take place. In providing an 'Aha' opportunity or a moment of insight to one individual, this may flow on to those she contacts or influences. Thus, a leader in Guiding may potentially make a difference to one

or more girls who will subsequently influence those in the next generation.

Every idea or plan should be fully assessed as to the consequences for the girl, the organization and even the local society. You should seek up to date knowledge from many sources. All manner of outcomes should be checked for positive and negative consequences as well as feasibility. Once you decide a course of action, you should institute measures for evaluation and fully evaluate the outcomes. Modification, action and re-evaluation continue as a cycle for as long as is necessary to complete closure.

Furthermore, we should be learning organizations, with the ability to learn from each other across all departments and job functions, to create opportunities for knowledge sharing and brainstorming in all areas of training, programme and administration.

So, provide some opportunity for your training department to come together to think creatively and cooperatively. Seek new ideas and methods of delivery; remember to evaluate all aspects to take learning forward and to look at what you could do better next time. And have fun!!

Asia Pacific Focus

Asia Pacific Strategic Leadership Workshop, 6-11 November 2006, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Theme: Then-Now-Next, Listen-Talk-Act

Delegates from 19 countries gathered in November in Cambodia to learn tips on strategic leadership and share their ideas on the issue. The facilitators were the Guiding experience leaders and did an excellent job. The workshop was a great success!

The aim of this workshop was to enhance the strategic leadership skills of members who influence decisions in the Member Organizations. The programme was

designed to meet the needs of the Member Organizations.

Four broad headings were selected to cover the objectives of the workshop: 'WAGGGS Then Now and Next', 'Leadership and Strategic Leadership', 'Listen and Talk: Taking and Creating Opportunities as a Learning Organization in WAGGGS', and 'Act: From Strategy to Success'. A plenary session introduced each broad heading and was followed by concurrent mini workshops.

The warm Cambodian hospitality gave us a



homely feeling throughout the workshop. Outings, audience with the King and a grand dinner hosted by the First Lady, were memorable moments to cherish.

The opening ceremony was a blend of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting and Cambodian culture. HRH Princess Preah Reach Botrei Preah Ream Norodom Bopha Devi, the Royal representative of Her Majesty the Queen Mother, attended the event. It was also attended by foreign embassy officials, government and non-government organizations' representatives and other visitors.

The keynote speaker, HE Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs of Cambodia stirred everyone to take a serious and functional stand on strategic leadership. Volunteerism and empowerment of women also played a significant part in her address, which was followed by a question and answer session.

On the last day, participants embarked on a journey to move from strategy to success. This highlighted the need for National Boards to share the organization's vision through expression of designing a table cloth to illustrate how they would share and use the information they gained at the workshop.



Some quotations:

Participants from Pakistan Girl Guides Association

"We will endeavour to make a better succession policy and a strategic plan which will suit the needs of the girls as designed by them."

Participants from Hong Kong Girl Guides Association

"With the guidelines and sharing experiences that we have learned in this workshop, we will be able to review our strategic plan so that we would be a better learning organization."

Participants of Guides Australia

"We learned to concentrate on the qualities of a Learning Organization and work towards improvement and carefully consider the WHY for every project"

The diary and session notes of the Strategic Leadership Workshop can be found on the Asia Pacific website (<http://asia.wagggsworld.org/en/workshop>)

A final farewell from Jan MacIntyre, outgoing Development Executive, Asia Pacific Region

Ten years working as a field staff member for WAGGGS Asia Pacific Region – where did they go? Started as part time in the Pacific Islands and then became full-time in the whole region. These years were filled with joy and tears, fired by the values of WAGGGS and the wish to share a love of the game of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting.

I started without a computer until I bought my own. WAGGGS was still not connected by email and work came via snail mail and international phone calls (not Skype). My trips in the Pacific lasted six to eight weeks at a time as I would 'Island hop' to save WAGGGS' money. I had no international mobile phone cover so I had to ring home every Sunday to assure my daughter that I was Okay. Now my trips last eight to ten days, emails and mobile phones ensure I am always a part of my world and I know Changi airport shops better than the local shopping centre at Victoria Point!

I have always been passionate about conversations, partnerships and transparency with all that those means in governance – mostly about how decisions are made. I have been delighted with the way those points have been taken up by the various Asia Pacific Committees. Slowly Member Organizations (MOs) are seeing us as working 'with' them rather than top down and ultimately they, the MOs, are responsible for their own future.



I have noted many changes in most of the MOs of the Asia Pacific as we strive to maintain relevance in a continuous changing world. Member Organizations do their best to respond to the changes required by WAGGGS and do it so well that it has given me heart for the future.

One of the features that I have most admired about this region has been the response to WAGGGS- Policy on Young Women in decision-making, especially in a region where most cultures do not see that 'youth' should be on Boards.

I have enjoyed the ten years that have just flashed by, changing and evolving all of the time; there are regrets for things done and not done but also pride in things done. The highlights are the people that I have worked with, colleagues of staff, committees and Member Organizations and the girls and young women we try to serve.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work at my passion and I thank all of you for allowing this.

I wish the members of the Asia Pacific Region well with a great future next year.

Jan MacIntyre

As a token of appreciation, a fund under the name of Jan MacIntyre is established. The fund will go towards subsidizing the travel fare of a volunteer at Sangam World Centre for each volunteer season until the fund is exhausted. Sangam World Centre was chosen as Jan began her professional career with WAGGGS there.

For more information on the fund or volunteer positions at Sangam, please inquire from mei@wagggsworld.org.

Nirmala Bhakre, Development Executive, Asia Pacific Region

Nirmala Bhakre joined the Asia Pacific team in October 2006. Nirmala holds a Master's degree in social work. She first associated with WAGGGS in 1991 as an International Youth Service team coordinator.

In the last fifteen years, Nirmala has mainly worked with women and children in various non governmental organizations (NGOs) and other organizations on the local and national level. Some of her work includes corporate projects for HIV/AIDS and train the trainers in family life education for adolescent girls. Nirmala is actively involved with women's NGOs working for dalits, minorities and women's issues at the state level. She is also part of Pakistan-India People's Forum for democracy and peace. During the recent earthquake at the Himalayas, she conducted trauma counseling at highly sensitive India-Pakistan border areas in Kashmir.



Nirmala grew up in the neighborhood where Sangam World Centre is situated. She is a long time friend of Sangam and often helps there too. Nirmala says: *"I have many Girl Guide friends all over the world who motivate me to do humanitarian work and improve my professional and personal skills."*

Amendment to September 2006 Issue

On the article entitled "Girl Guides Association Malaysia takes part in a rafting expedition" and published on the September 2006 issue of AP News Link, it should have read: "The team included 140 people consisting of Ranger Guides, Leaders, and volunteers from the Malaysian association, the Signature Programme Communications officer, one Queen's Guide, one Ranger Guide and four male volunteers."

Greeting

The Asia Pacific wishes everyone a peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing you all at the 9th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Sri Lanka.

Obituary

Elizabeth Su Mei Choy nee Yong a.k.a. Yong Su Mei passed away on 14 September 2006. She was a symbol of courage and a living testimony of the Guide Promise and Law to the final moments of her life. Elizabeth Choy was born on 29 November 1910 in Kudat, in British North Borneo (known as Sabah today). She was one of the first girls to sign up in the inaugural Girl Guide Company of North Borneo in 1925. Later, when she came to Singapore in 1929, she joined the first Girl Guide Company at the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society School (CEZMS, now St Margaret's.) After the Second World War, she was one of the privileged who were invited to Great Britain to recuperate from the war and met Queen Elizabeth II. She was a war heroine and stood out as the only woman who has been incarcerated for such an extended period. She was decorated the Girl Guide Bronze Cross by the World Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell, in 1946. The Bronze Cross, the highest award of the Girl Guide Movement, is an award for gallantry. She was also conferred the Order of the British Empire.

Elizabeth Choy was a remarkable, inspiring role model and a pioneer in Singapore Girl Guiding. Her passing is a great loss to all of us. But let us remember Mrs Elizabeth Choy; her life, living in commitment to the Promise and Law, shall be a legacy to us all.

