



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 on ... Young Women



Three young girls aged between 14 and 16 years old were selected to be on the initial **Relentless Energy of Asia Pacific (R.E.A.P)** planning team for a teenage-focused event. Priyanaka V Kamble and Snehalata Venkateswaran, both from India Bharat Scouts and Guides (India), and Edis Mnarga T Villahermosa from the Girl Scouts of Philippines met with AP committee and Sangam personnel in September to plan this exciting event to be held at Sangam World Centre from 14 to 21 December 2008.

These girls have been involved in Girl Guiding for over ten years. Among the skills that they have acquired through Girl Guiding, include disciplined thinking, resourcefulness and performing as model leaders and citizens. They see Girl Guiding as being an exciting, adventurous Movement which has opened up many new opportunities for them. Issues that the girls are particularly interested in include the environment, serving the community, and of course, having fun.



The girls feel greatly honoured to have been selected to be part of the planning. The three girls have planned lots of exciting and energizing activities including extensive use of Sangam facilities such as the swimming pool! This will be an opportunity for girls to make friends from different cultures and allow them to consider how Girl Guiding supports girls in today's world.

The three members urge all 14 to 16 year olds to register for this event through their Member Organizations.

Edis wants girls at R.E.A.P to "speak out and be heard by other girls what it being a Guide is about". She adds that Girl Scouting has "helped me understand myself more

deeply, boosted my morale and self esteem and made me independent and a more effective citizen in our country. It greatly shapes our personality that Girl Scouting is not just earning badges but lending a hand to reach out to other people".

Priyanaka feels that: "Girl Guiding is a very good opportunity for girls to do something different - like becoming brave". She feels that girls should attend this event to "have a chance to learn different cultures and make friends from other countries." She hopes that the event will allow participants to improve their self-confidence and enhance their knowledge of international Guiding.

Snehalata hopes that the event will allow girls to prove that "we are the future and this future needs an opening for putting forth our voice".

Circular 1 on R.E.A.P. was circulated in December 2007. Further information on R.E.A.P. can be found at: <http://asia.wagggsworld.org/en/resources/documents/1992>

## WAGGGS goals

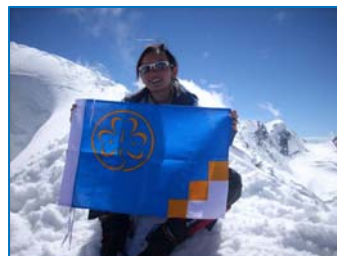
You will notice a few changes to this issue. In order to demonstrate how the Asia Pacific Region is meeting WAGGGS' Goals we will include articles under these goals, and objectives.

### Goal 1 – Leadership Development

#### Sophia Ng of Girl Guides Singapore discovers her potential

On 11 September 2007 Sophia Ng was the sole Guide along with 14 Scouts to set foot on the summit of Baden-Powell Scout Peak in Nepal. The climbers, from Australia, Korea,

Taiwan, Singapore and Nepal scaled what was previously known as Urkema Peak, in the Langtang Valley, north of Kathmandu, standing at 5,825 metres high. A new trekking route around the Ganesh Himal area is now called the Baden-Powell route.



Sophia says: "I was greeted with hot black tea served at the doorstep of

my tent at 3am. Still feeling groggy and in my dazed state, it suddenly dawned upon me that 'it's finally the day'. It's the day we will become history makers for being the first expedition team up on Baden-Powell Scout Peak. At 5am, everyone started preparing for the climb. I was having mixed feelings about the climb. I was excited about reaching the top of the summit, but this was, after all my very first peak ascent. As I took the first step onto the glacier with my crampons on, the guide law came to mind: "A guide has courage and is cheerful in all difficulties". With that in mind, I took a quick glance at the summit and exclaimed, "Here I come!"

As I saw myself approaching the last stretch of the vertical climb of the summit, my heart started thumping faster. I was so close to the summit... we were at the summit of Baden-Powell Scout Peak!! My heart couldn't contain the joy and exhilaration. I was elated. I was the first ever Girl Guide to be on Baden-Powell Scout Peak!!

This was my very first peak ascent on glacier but it definitely won't be the last. I am proud to be a BP Scout Peak "summitter" and as a Girl Guide, to have represented the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting community in this international event.

Falling down and picking oneself up again is never easy, however with determination and perseverance, one is able to overcome setbacks in life and look forward to the next challenge. Climbing is the same. Each step we take brings us one step closer to the summit. However there are times when we do fall and we fall really hard into the snow sometimes knee deep, but the key is to keep trying and never give up and pick ourselves up again and continue. That is what Girl Guiding is about; facing hardships with greater determination and courage, embracing friendships that bind us together transcending language differences, race and international ties."

**Honour for New Zealand Girl Guide**

A member of GirlGuiding New Zealand, Tara McDowall was recently awarded a national Girl Guide commendation for her role in saving her father from drowning when his kayak tipped over in Lake Te Anau on 25 November in 2006. Tara used her Girl Guide experience to respond quickly and phoned her mother to raise the alarm when her father got in distress during their kayaking trip.



Tara's actions brought her the certificate of commendation for bravery from GirlGuiding New Zealand's national body in recognition of the fact it was the skills she learned as a Girl Guide that meant she knew what to do in the emergency. Tara said that she was extremely proud to have been nominated for the award.

Tara said that the ceremony itself had been an emotional experience for her, as it had brought back some of the

overwhelming emotions of the day of the rescue.

**17<sup>th</sup> Council Wide Encampment in Philippines**

On 9 November 2007 Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) attended the 17th Council Wide Encampment with the theme, 'One World, One Promise' and "girls worldwide say...fun and adventure". This was held alongside the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Jamborette. Activities during the five-day camporal and encampment included an eco-camp/eco-challenge where participants hiked and planted trees at the Municipal Natures Park, a sports clinic, a challenge valley, training in emergency preparedness and an essay writing contest. Among the highlights were the grand campfires and the crowning of Camping Queen 2007.

**Taiwan holds exploration camp**

More than 300 Huey-Chi Girl Scouts from all over Taiwan took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> National Huey-Chi Girl Scouts Camp held at Dragon Campsite, Taipei County from 28 to 30 September. The theme was "Soaring to New Heights". The programme highlighted the potential exploration and outdoor activities. All participants enjoyed the activities including hiking, community activities and campfire. The participants also shared their talent in the Talent Night.

The camp also helped Huey-Chi Girl Scouts to promote health awareness. Members of



Taiwan Breast Cancers' Alliance and Gunglian Health Centre of Taipei County were welcomed to the camp to provide information and education

relating to early detection and treatment of breast cancer and also advocating the importance of exercise and physical examination.

### **Thailand completes GOLD project**

After five years of cooperation with the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, the Guiding Overseas Linked Development (GOLD) came to an end in 2007.

Each year 40 Thai trainers/leaders and 40 girls have benefited from life skills trainings undertaken by Girlguiding UK and Girl Guides Australia. The subjects included leadership, decision-making, self-esteem, positive women, teamwork, time management, programme planning, being healthy, HIV awareness, cultural exchange and campfire.



The participants who attended this GOLD project had the opportunity to broaden their Guiding perspectives and ideas that will eventually lead to developing their skills.

The Girl Guides Association of Thailand would like to extend its gratitude to the GOLD team from United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand for their hard work, tireless efforts and interest in sharing and exchanging cultural views and Guiding skills. If you are interested in GOLD, please visit:

<http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/xq/asp/SID.764/qx/whoware/article.asp>

## **Goal 2 – Strong and Growing Member Organizations**

### **Hong Kong's recruitment funfair**

A funfair was held on 17 November with the aim of recruiting youth members. Mr Michael Suen GBS JP, Hong Kong Secretary for Education, officiated at the ceremony. The ceremony also included singing, silent drill and a uniform cat-walk.



More than 50 games, handcraft/information booths were set up by Hong Kong Girl Guides Association members for the more than 5,000 visitors to enjoy Guiding and to learn more about Hong Kong Girl Guides activities.

### **Korean pop group members to be ambassadors for Girl Scouts of Korea**

'Sonyusidae', a teenage girls group will be the next ambassador of Girl Scouts of Korea. They were chosen during the 28th 'Girl Scouts Korea choose' to be ambassadors for the association's 62nd year. The group is popular with teenagers and actively promotes healthy images which match the association's new vision. 'Sonyusidae' will participate in campaigns and international camps, and model for publications targeted at schools, and also be included in the monthly magazine.

'Sonyusidae' said: "We are really happy to be ambassadors of Girl Scouts of Korea who represent girls. We will make an effort to show healthy and cheerful images of girls".

The official ceremony to welcome them as ambassadors will be held on 13 February, during the 2008 annual general meeting. Boy band group, Epikhigh, was the ambassador for 2006 and 2007 while Rain was ambassador for 2004 and 2005.

### **Girl Guides Singapore contribute to Singapore's Project Postcard**

Members of Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) participated in the Singapore Tourism Board's (STB) 'Project Postcard' - as part of their World Thinking Day celebrations and in commemoration of 90 years of Guiding in Singapore.

This is the first time GGS and STB are collaborating on Project Postcard. Members will act as tourism ambassadors to send greetings and invitations to visit Singapore.



Over 500 Brownies, Girl Guides, staff and volunteers penned their greetings

and invitations to other members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) at the GGS headquarters on 7 November in an event dubbed World Thinking Day Project Postcard.

Ms Jessie Tan, Deputy Chief Commissioner and International Commissioner, GGS said: "We are very pleased to participate in Project Postcard as it is complementary with a key component of GGS' five-point

programme which is to promote international peace and friendship. I am positive that 'Project Postcard' will not only enhance existing ties between our members and their counterparts overseas, it will encourage our members to promote our unique city as a must-visit destination."

## **Goal 3 - The Voice of Girls and Young Women**

### **Girl Guides Australia Say... Project 2007**

This Project 2007 enables Girl Guides Australia to listen to youth members in order to play a greater role in implementing the WAGGGS vision.



Every Guide unit in Australia received a 'Girl Guides Australia

say...' kit. The kit contains a suggested meeting programme with activity ideas to facilitate Unit or Patrol discussion on issues at world, Australia and local levels. A simple postcard is filled in by each Patrol and returned to Girl Guides Australia for collation. Guides enjoyed talking about issues that they care about. The project also has helped the girls feel that they do count and their opinions are important. Initial results indicate that environmental and water issues are those that they are most passionate about. There is a very diverse range of concerns including bullying, body image, criminal activities and peace. Final results will be available on [www.girlguides.org.au](http://www.girlguides.org.au) on World Thinking Day 2008.

### **Cambodia visits Khmer Rouge historical places**

Girl Guides Association Cambodia organized two trips to visit the Khmer Rouge historical places, on 17-18 September and 22-23 October. More than 100 participants including Girl Guides and their parents from Kampot and Takeo provinces and Phnom Penh City attended the visit.

The aim of the visit was to build up the capacity of girls and young women to be agents in the dissemination of information about the Khmer Rouge Genocide Regime for youth and communities. As well as visiting the various sites, it built up their capacity of conflict resolution, enabled them to learn lessons from the past and created friendship and solidarity among girls, young women, youth and community through Voice of Guide Forums.

Eam Chanthy, an 18 year old Ranger from Kampot says: "I thought what the older people said was unbelievable, but after I visited the killing fields I believe. I am shocked about the bad situation that our country was in at the time".



This visit has helped the girls to be strong and confident when faced with the problem of violence and crime. It is hoped that they can participate in government policy in abolishing violence, crime and aiding good governance in Cambodia.

### **India celebrates 138<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth**

In celebration of the 138<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a National School semi-finals contest, 'I Revived the Mahatma', was held on 1 October 2007 in tribute to the Father of the Nation. This event was organized by the Diana Princess of Wales Health Education and Media Centre and the Leprosy Mission Trust of India in partnership with the Bharat Scouts and Guides. Nine Scouts and Guides from different states and 22 school children from various schools in Delhi participated in the programme. The competition was arranged to make the children understand the ideals of Gandhi whilst also creating awareness that leprosy is curable.



### **Resolution for Girls Day in Korea**

**Girl Guides of Korea presented a petition to establish a Girls' Day in Korea to the National Assembly at Korea Press Foundation on 6 November. More than 200 people attended the event, including representatives from women's organizations.**

Dr. Jungsook Kim, National President, Girl Scouts of Korea delivered the petition to Ms. Hee Moon, Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Gender Equality and Family

Committee. Participants exchanged ideas on the need for Girls' Day in Korea for the empowerment of girls and young women and decided to make collective efforts for the establishment of Girls' Day in Korea.



The Girls' Day project has been joined by almost 100 women's organizations in Korea and supported by UNICEF.

### Taiwan runs adolescent HIV/AIDS curriculum event

Girl Scouts of Taiwan held an adolescent HIV and AIDS curriculum event on 15 September. The event was based on the WAGGGS adolescent health message "fight AIDS". To increase understanding both on HIV and AIDS and drugs abuse, speakers and experts are working in the field of anti-drug and HIV and AIDS prevention were invited to the sessions to share their experiences. Events have been held in cooperation with the Centres of Disease Control of government in each district for many years with the target to advocate the AIDS treatment, prevention and the human rights of HIV and AIDS infectors.



*Girl Scouts and Leader with AIDS quilt*

### WAGGGS ECOSOC Liaison at International Youth Leadership Conference

Valaikorn Phromyothi, WAGGGS ECOSOC Liaison Person, attended a conference organized by the United Nations in Bangkok on 'Developing Youth Networks for Peace and Achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals'. Youth leaders from various countries attended the conference, which took place on 2 August.

The main focus of the conference was to encourage, involve and engage youths in challenging tasks for projects.

The conference provided the opportunity to dialogue with different national leaders of the Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP) in the Asia region, to share the vision, to meet key leaders from a wide range of fields. It also provided a forum for the world's youth leaders to search for solutions to critical global problems.

Co-organizers of this conference included the Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP), International Cultural and Educational Foundation (ICEF) and the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace/Universal Peace Foundation.

## Asia Pacific Focus

### AP Committee represented at WOSM Asia Pacific Region Scout Conference

June Cameron, Chairman and Mariko Asano, Vice-Chairman, Asia Pacific Committee attended the 22nd Asia Pacific Region WOSM Conference from 17 to 23 October 2007 in Tokyo, Japan. June and Mariko were among 534 people who attended from 24

National Scout Organizations, along with representatives from other NGOs including ISGF, UNHCR, International Awards Association (IAA).

The conference theme was "Towards a New Century". The strategic plan for 2007-2009 was presented and Member Organizations also had the opportunity to share best practice in relation to projects. Topics covered included Scouts' involvement in the environment, peace projects and working with indigenous communities. WAGGGS was given the opportunity to give a presentation during the conference and June shared how WAGGGS and WOSM Asia Pacific Regions had been building a relationship of support on common issues and trialling partnership visits together with the Scout and Guide National organizations (SAGNOs) of India and Nepal.

During her visit, June Cameron was warmly welcomed by Girl Scouts of Japan and Scout Association of Japan. Asia Pacific Region WAGGGS congratulated Scouting on its 100 years as it begins its second century and the Asia Pacific Region as it celebrates 50 years as a region.



*Presentation from Scout Association of Japan*

### **Regional Chairman attends International Award Association regional board meeting**

The International Award Association held its Asia Pacific Region board meeting from 14 to 15 November 2007 in New Zealand. 26 people from 11 countries participated at this meeting. WAGGGS Asia Pacific Region was represented by June Cameron, Chairman, Asia Pacific Committee. A training was also run in parallel to this meeting.

One of the main focuses for the International Award Association Asia Pacific Region will be on rebranding as the Award is known by many different names e.g. Duke of Edinburgh, International Youth Award, Young New Zealander Challenge and President's Award. They are also looking at further developing partnerships.

June also attended a dinner with the Governor General, the Honourable Anand Satyanand and her Excellency, Mrs Susan Satyanand who is President of Girl Guiding New Zealand and met with other representatives of Girl Guiding New Zealand.

## **Announcements**

### **Goodbyes and hellos by June Cameron**

I was once told that life is made up of goodbyes and hellos, and I have come to see how true this is in Guiding, as we move on from one place and position to another.

At the moment I am also thinking of having to say goodbye to Mei as she prepares to leave the position of Regional director of Asia Pacific Region following the February Committee meeting in Singapore. I am sure you will understand when I say that I am feeling sad about this as Mei and I

began our adventure with the Asia Pacific Committee at the same time.

The Asia Pacific Region has been fortunate to have had Mel's contribution as director for the past three and a half years as we have benefited from her professionalism, her integrity and skill, mixed with her caring support. Her total commitment to the tasks she has undertaken and the example she has shown are challenges to all of us, as we see how the Region has progressed and is respected by the wider community. I am sure you wish her well in all she does and join with me in saying "Bravo" and many thanks. "Go well and safely."

Hopefully we will soon be saying "Hello and welcome" to a new Regional Director when the applications and interview process is complete. We will endeavour to keep you up to date with the progress, but in the meantime please be looking out for and encouraging those with the required skills to apply for the position.

As we face the beginning of a New Year let's look forward positively to all that lies ahead.

### **Taiwan to hold 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sub-National Camp**

In celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the Girl Scouts of Taiwan will be holding a Sub-National Camp. The camp will be divided into two regions. The South Sub-National Camp will be held from 29 to 31 January 2008. The North Sub-National Camp will be held from 30 May to 1 June 2008. Further information can be found at <http://www.girlscout.org.tw>

### **Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS to hold 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly**

The Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS will hold their Second General

Assembly at the Grand Hotel in Taipei, Taiwan, from 17 to 20 April 2008. The aim of this gathering will include the opportunity to share best practices among Friends of Asia Pacific, WAGGGS and elect members of the Friends of Asia Pacific working group.

This gathering will allow the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS to both celebrate their achievements and work on strategies and plans to strengthen their future work. An extensive range of activities that will interest members of the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS have been lined up to encourage members to participate. These include a city tour of Taipei, a visit to the National Palace Museum and the Taiwan Handicraft Promotion Centre amongst others. Present at the gathering will be both new and upgrading members.

A circular with further information on the event was sent out in October 2007 and can be found on the Asia Pacific website under the Resource section:  
<http://asia.wagggsworld.org/en/resources>

### **Jan MacIntyre Fund**

The Jan MacIntyre Fund was established in 2005 as a token of appreciation for Jan's tireless work with WAGGGS. 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](mailto:mei@wagggsworld.org)

### **Olave Baden-Powell Society small grants—Ann Scott Fund**

This fund provides valuable and quick support for girls and Member Organizations as they work on small projects. This fund was named after Anne Scott in recognition of all of her work as President of Olave Baden-Powell Society.

The Olave Baden-Powell Society will support applications that contribute towards the achievement of WAGGGS' Strategic Goals and Objectives. Grants are offered both to individuals and Member Organizations. Priority is given to young women under the age of 30. Applicants are expected to make a personal contribution to the costs of the event/activity, and/or fundraising. Grants will be in the range of £100 to £400.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.obps.org/en/grab/1228/1/Applicationformforgrants.pdf>

### **WAGGGS website**

Member Organizations are encouraged to keep up to date with WAGGGS news and the Asia Pacific Region news by visiting the main WAGGGS website: <http://www.waggggs.org/en/home> and the Asia Pacific micro site: <http://asia.wagggsworld.org/en/home>

### **New WAGGGS members' area**

WAGGGS has launched a new members-only area of the website, which provides Member Organizations and other groups within WAGGGS with their own place to exchange information, share ideas and offer support. The new area is available via a login procedure from the main WAGGGS website: <http://www.wagggsworld.org/en/home> Members' area users include Member Organizations, committee members, World Board members, WAGGGS'

representatives at the United Nations (UN), Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-PS) Board members and staff. These users are able to access and share restricted content in a very simple way with the usernames and passwords which have been distributed to all of them.

One of the most exciting sections of the new members' area is the WAGGGS Network, which is packed with information showing Member Organizations how they can share their experiences and best practices online, benefit from the WAGGGS Mutual Aid Scheme and form partnerships with other Member Organizations.

The Share, Support and Connect sections highlight success stories and topics of interest, provide information and encourage users to interact online. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the new members' area, please contact Elisenda Casellas, Web and Publications editor, at: [Elisenda@wagggsworld.org](mailto:Elisenda@wagggsworld.org)

### **WAGGGS position statements and guidelines**

The members' area of the website contains the new WAGGGS' position statements on each of the seven adolescent health messages and three supporting statements on adolescent health in general, human rights and education.

The position statements will support Member Organizations, WAGGGS staff and volunteers in their advocacy work. WAGGGS has also produced guidelines for Member Organizations and for staff and volunteers on how to use these position statements.

For further information, please contact Bernadette Fischler, Communications officer, at: [Bernadette@wagggsworld.org](mailto:Bernadette@wagggsworld.org)

### **Setting up your Member Organization own website**

Do you want to set up your Member Organization's own website but don't know how to do it?

WAGGGS set up micro sites for each of its Member Organizations as part of WAGGGS' repositioning in August 2005. This means that each Member Organization can use it and populate it with news, events and photos. Having a micro site is an excellent opportunity to be more visible as part of WAGGGS. It provides opportunities to promote yourselves, your work and your projects. It also adds value to the Member Organization and the Movement.

Please contact Elisenda Casellas at [elisenda@waggggsworld.org](mailto:elisenda@waggggsworld.org) if you would like to set up your micro site or if you have any queries regarding the website.

### **Global Action Days**

Get to know the 'Our Voice' section of the WAGGGS main website and get involved in the Global Action Days: <http://www.waggggsworld.org/en/issues/Globalactiondays>

Suggestions are made on how girls can get involved in issues such as the fight against HIV and AIDS, Peace, Women's Day, and many other topics.