

**World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Asia Pacific region celebrate 40th anniversary by donating gift packs to typhoon survivors**

**Manila, 7 November 2009** - At their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in the Philippines, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Asia Pacific region will donate gift packs to children in need, as well as those affected by Typhoon Parma.

The packs will be delivered by members and supporters of WAGGGS Asia Pacific region who will gather in the Philippines to attend the Regional Summit and celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

June Cameron, Chairman of the Asia Pacific Committee commented that "The tradition of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in our 100 year history has been to serve our communities and we see the Summit celebration as another opportunity to help the Girl Scouts of the Philippines to support their community".

Girl Scouts Philippines (GSP) has been supporting relief operations for girls affected by the Typhoon since it hit on 26 September 2009. The week after the typhoon, Girls Scouts and adult leaders in areas not badly affected were mobilized to help in the relief operations as an immediate response to the disaster. 80 girls and adult leaders volunteered to repack relief goods at a major TV network for its relief operations.

The inaugural Regional Summit will be attended by 100 participants from 16 countries around the region. Themed "Kaleidoscoping the Future", the Summit aims to strengthen the Guiding experience and to ensure relevance and sustainability so that more girls and young women can harness the opportunities inherent in the Movement. One of the agenda items will be the implementation of the WAGGGS Global Action Theme (GAT), girls worldwide say "together we can change our world." This educational programme focuses on the eight United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and encourages girls, young women and members of all ages to make a personal commitment to change the world around them.

"The GAT is important to Guiding in Australia because it clearly empowers us to engage in issues that affect not only our members and other young Australians but the youth of the world. GAT provides a definite platform from which to Stand up, Educate and Do" said Karen Chatto, Program Manager of Girl Guides of Australia, who is also the GAT Champion of WAGGGS.



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

Ms. Regina Paz Lopez, Managing Director of one of the Philippines' biggest non-government organizations, ABS-CBN Foundation will give a keynote speech. Ms. Lopez has received many awards for her outstanding contributions in educating science, value, literature and environment. She is also the first Southeast Asian to receive the Unesco Kalinga Award.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner will share the past, present and future of the Movement with WAGGGS members and honour the many committed supporters, particularly the Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS (FAPW). The dinner will be attended by HRH The Crown Princess of Pahang, Malaysia, Princess Azizah Iskandar who commented:

"Is it mere coincidence that we are all gathered in a country that's been hit by disasters? The GSP in their hour of need, are an example to the other Guides in the world, that the survival spirit taught from a very young age to always be prepared, to help others and to fulfil their duty to their country. I am proud to be here not as Patron of the FAPW, but as a member of this big Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting family to exemplify that we are steadfast and prepared to go through all obstacles together, in the spirit of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting."

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#### **Notes for Editors:**

##### **About the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts**

With ten million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from 145 countries across the world, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to supporting girls and young women to develop their full potential as responsible citizens of the world. We deliver a well-established, unique value-based approach to non-formal learning, innovative global programmes and advocacy on issues such as leadership, HIV and AIDS, environmental sustainability, health and empowerment and equality. For more information, please visit [www.wagggsworld.org](http://www.wagggsworld.org)

The Asia Pacific Region brings together more than 2.5 million girls in 25 countries. The Region is very diversified and organizes a range of activities for different groups all offering fun and friendship as well as opportunities for personal development and education.