

# Y's Men's World



## Editorial

I greatly enjoy the position of editor. It allows me to have contact with so many interesting people. The stories and pictures I see are amazing. However sometimes I am not able to pass them on to you, the readers. Why not? Because the information is not always in a suitable format. Here begins a JPEG lesson!



Digital photography is wonderful but has its problems for me. Do not reduce the image size to email as it then becomes too poor to print, I need original files. For those with film cameras I need a scanned image of 300 dpi. Do not include the picture in a word document, I cannot extract a usable image, I need the original as a separate file.

Finally, the content of the picture is all important. Two or three people doing something is much more interesting than a line of people staring at the camera! Try to get a Y's Men's logo into it. Blurred images are of no use.

I look forward to receiving your best efforts for consideration.

*Yours in Y'sdom  
Naily*

### Y's Men's World N° 1 2007-2008 EDITORIAL BOARD

**Editor**  
Alan Wallington  
21 Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 2RU, England  
Tel: +44 (117) 9568285 Skype: Ysmanwally  
email: editor@ysmen.co.uk  
Graphic Design Support  
Graham Walker & Mike Bendrey

#### Assistant Editors

**CANADA**  
David Ing  
158 Stratford Road, Stratford  
Prince Edward Island, Canada C1B 1H1  
email: pingding@eastlink.ca

**AFRICA**  
Tunji Makinde  
P.O. Box 2106, Lagos, Nigeria  
email: tunjimakinde@yahoo.com

**EUROPE**  
Torbjörn Sjöqvist  
Visthusgatan 115  
SE-72481 Västerås, Sweden  
email: torbjorn.sjoqvist@vasteras.se

**KOREA**  
Shim Jai-sung  
902 Chungwoonmansion  
429 Doma2-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon City,  
302-825, Korea  
email: sjs@mail.pcu.ac.kr

**USA**  
McKinley Johnson  
4115 Washington Blvd,  
St Louis, Mo, 63108, USA  
email: mc.johnson@sbcglobal.net

**JAPAN**  
Ichiro Yamakawa  
168 Shiromicho, Himeji, 670-0831  
Japan  
email: yamaqua@vesta.ocn.ne.jp

**LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN**  
No appointed Asst Editor  
Send contributions direct to  
Editor Alan Wallington

**SOUTH PACIFIC**  
Bill Schmidt  
15 Nandina Court,  
Strathdale, Vic., Australia 3550  
email: william.schmidt2@bigpond.com

**INDIA**  
Prof. TK Thamby  
Divyadeepam, Polyglot House TC 25/253-1,  
Vanchiyoor PO, Thampuranmukku,  
Trivandrum 695 035, India  
email: itla@belintra.net

**Distribution**  
Josey Joseph  
Pallamkulam, PTR A 96  
Plamood, Trivandrum 695 004, India

**Reprinted at**  
S T Reddiar & Sons (EKM)  
Ernakulam, Cochin 682 035  
India

ONLY FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS

## A Golden Story

The Endowment Fund was established in 1958 with the concept of creating a capital fund to be invested and the interest used to underwrite the administrative work of the organisation. In the early days the programme struggled and by 1970 had only reached 5,000 US\$. A study recognised the Fund was poorly understood by the membership. To promote the fund a 'Golden Book' was started to recognise outstanding Y's Men with tributes and memorials, accompanied by monetary contributions. The headquarters of YMI was moved from the USA to Geneva in 1973 and the sale of the old YMI headquarters building in Oak Brook, Illinois, realised approximately 285,000 US\$ which was transferred to the Fund. In 1980 the idea of asking clubs to donate 100 US\$ per year in honour of one of their members was introduced. The fund was made a legal Trust in 1981 and is administered by the trustees separately from Y's Men International. The Trustees set a goal of 1 Million US\$ by the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of 1997 and the goal was passed in 1996. (Information extracted from 'A Fellowship of Service' – The story of Y's Men International at 75)

Today the fund's goal is 'To extend and develop clubs affiliated with Y's Men International around the world' and 'To provide funds to solve special problems or carry on special projects which strengthen, extend and develop Y'sdom in Areas or Regions'. The Endowment Fund currently stands at 2.5 million CHF (2 million US\$) and many clubs now use the Golden Book to honour members.

An example is the Haderslev Y's Men's Club, Denmark who in 2007 recognised the long service of three members. Niels Aage Sørensen and Jens Schulz have been members of Haderslev Y's Men's Club since it was chartered in 1965, consequently for more than 40 years. Henry Hede Nielsen has been a Y's Man for about 45 years in 4 different clubs in Denmark – the last 31 years as a member of the club in Haderslev.

Because of their energy, readiness to help, practical involvement, and belief in the cause with which they are identifying themselves, the three of them have been a great asset to the club and a great inspiration for their companions in the club. Their attitude has been expressed powerfully at the club evenings, as well as at their work in the committees. The club would not have been the same without their great effort. In an exemplary way the three of them have fulfilled the motto of the Y's Men's movement: To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right. For these reasons their names have been registered in 'The Golden Book' in Geneva – along with a long list of outstanding Y's Men from all over the world.

Hans Kirkegaard, Haderslev Y's Men's Club, Denmark

*Optimism and Fellowship*



*"For good or ill, your conversation is your advertisement. Every time you open your mouth you let men look into your mind".*

Bruce Burton

Dear Y's Men

Welcome to the new Y's Men's year. When you read this I hope you have had a good start to the new club year and are ready for the job you are supposed to do as well as possible. We should always be ready from the first day – because suddenly it is over. I am looking forward to hearing good stories through the year telling of new ideas and creative ways of working. I am thinking of the international projects such as ASF, BF, TOF and of course EF. It is also important to start, not only thinking, but also working for extension both for new clubs and for consolidating your own club. Everybody needs to feel they are welcome in the fellowship. It is the mix of fellowship and working together with projects that tie us together in our efforts to make this world of ours better for mankind.

One of the pleasures of being IP is the chance to meet many Y's Men. Starting in July I have been around the world. Phileas Fogg took 80 days for his tour – but I did it in 35 days. First I headed for Charleston in South Carolina, USA, for the USA Area Convention. From a cold and rainy summer in Denmark I landed in a warm and beautiful city with a lot of history. AP Fred Leonard picked me up at the airport and brought me to the hotel where the Area Council meeting was to be held. It was a very fine meeting with a positive and friendly atmosphere. There were inspiring discussions and a lot of optimism for the future. I had the feeling that they saw the possibilities more than the difficulties. The US Area Convention had gathered about 150 participants – and I think they had the same feeling that I did – this positive and optimistic attitude for the future. I sincerely hope they will succeed with their plans for the future work. A big thank you to the American Y's Men I met during the days I spent in Charleston. It was a great pleasure to speak and discuss with them.

After USA I went to Canada. I spent 6 days in Western Canada just as a tourist and then became IP again. I flew to Halifax where ISD LTOD Kevin Cummings waited for me in the early morning at the airport. I lived with the Cummings Family for a couple of days and among others we visited the beautiful city of Amherst and the mayor of the city, Jerry Hallee, welcomed us at his office. After that the Regional Director for the Maritimes Region, Wayne Jarvis took over. He was an excellent host and guide around the area. Also a thank you to him and his

wife for hospitality. On one of the nights the Amherst Y's Men's Club was gathered and we had a fine night together.

So it was time to go to Australia. The International Council Meeting took place in Adelaide – and even though we had a day less than normal we completed the agenda. The discussion of 'Power Balance/Influence Balance' came to an end – and I think that the result that came out of it was satisfying for most of the members of the council. A Task Force was set up to work on the image of Y'sdom. We feel that we have to find ways to be recognised by the communities where we are, but also by the press. The Council confirmed the Forward Plan – which all members should be acquainted with. The relevant ISDs have been appointed for a period of 3 years. It is really important that this plan reaches every corner of our organisation because it deals with 6 of our important working areas. My stay in Adelaide ended with the SOP Area Convention. As always when Y's Men meet there was an atmosphere of optimism and fellowship. There were group discussions, and I sincerely hope someone wrote down some of the good ideas that appeared during the meeting, both from the Youth and the Y's Men.

Yes – we are still a very living organisation. Let's Show – Let's Grow

Y'sly yours,  
Lasse Bergstedt IP



*IP Lasse Bergstedt and PIP Choi Han-ki taking office at the South Pacific Area Convention*

## *Taking Care of our Relationship*

One purpose of Y's Men International—to support and extend the work of the YMCA— needs constant care, like a garden or a family. Being aware of the needs of the YMCA and its activities is a major step in taking care of this relationship. The club president and the executive or programme staff should meet regularly to discuss ways in which the club members might assume a stronger role, either financial, or hands-on. In turn, the YMCA might be able to offer support to club members.

One of the actions in the Forward Plan is to take on a joint project with the YMCA. This may be a new action or an expansion of one already in place. Each community has its own areas needing attention directed at homeless youth and families, health and education issues and adult literacy. Working together on a specific project strengthens both movements. Persons in the community will recognize the presence of the YMCA and might become members of Y's Men International.

If you do not have a local YMCA then perhaps looking outside one's own neighbourhood is the place to take on a new project. Often these ideas may come when a Brotherhood Fund Delegate visits your club describing some action at that local level. What can your club do to help out? Gather books to send to another place in the world? Send support to your Brother Club to carry out one of their local projects? These kinds of projects strengthen both clubs and their YMCAs.

As members of Y's Men International we are proud of our YMCA relationships established through Time of Fast. But the closeness of family is easier to experience when it is club-to-club and person-to-person. Determine this year which specific joint project your Club, District, or Region will initiate with the YMCA. Let's show that this relationship is important to tend and cultivate.

*Rachelle Reeg, ISD YMCA Liaison*

## *Million Dollar Books*

The Carondelet Y Service Club in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, will pass the million-dollar mark in revenue in its 29<sup>th</sup> year from its joint project with the YMCA. The club collects books throughout the year and regularly sorts into well-organised categories. Over a long weekend the club holds an annual book sale and the proceeds are shared between the YMCA and the Y Service Club in local community action including a literacy programme and support for youth and family participation. Y's Men International projects receive funds from this event as well.

*Rachelle Reeg, Carondelet Y Service Club, USA*

## *YMCA China Cooperation*

The YMCA is established in Mainland China but Y'sdom has not yet been permitted to start there. However cooperation is ongoing between Y'sdom in Hong Kong and the National Committee of YMCAs of China. The work of the North West - Hong Kong Y's Men's Club and Xi'an YMCA is an example of this.

Starting in 2000 North West Club commenced an 'Education Enhancement Project' by building five primary schools in Xi'an and Guangxi. Close links with Xi'an YMCA have been established and support to over 300 deprived students has been given in the last ten years. In May 2007 four representatives from North West went to Xi'an to present 25,000 HK\$ (3,200 US\$) to the Xi'an YMCA for 50 student educational fees and pledged the same amount for 2008.

*Extracted from 'Ys Update' the bulletin of the National Committee of YMCAs of China*

*With additional information from Li Sing Pak, North West - Hong Kong Y's Men's Club.*

## *What is a Y's Men's Club?*

It is Club life. It is Friendship. It is Solidarity. The Y's Men's Club is International. It is having a good time. It is staying young. It is beautiful and wonderful. It is 'standing in your local area while seeing the world from a global perspective' it is 'seeing the world globally but also caring locally'.

It is the movement to build a better world for all mankind.

*Extract from AP Hirotooshi Fujii's speech at the Asia Area Convention.*

### **YMCA - Our Partner**

Keep Connected to the YMCA.  
Log on to the World Alliance website at  
[www.ymca.org](http://www.ymca.org)  
for special events and features on  
National YMCAs.

This may be an opportunity to form new clubs.

Check out action of the YMCA around the world.  
Read their publication *YMCA World* online for  
the latest from the World Alliance.

## Never Before and Maybe Never Again

In 2006/07 over 100 new clubs were chartered in Area India

The secret....

1. Working differently.
2. Upholding democratic values.
3. Full transparency.
4. Confidence and pleasure of working at all levels.
5. High confidence and hopes in grass root levels, which was never before.
6. Extensive travel from South to North and East to West by AP and RDs for personal contact, motivation and sharing.
7. Determination for change for the movement.

My grateful thanks to all members who assisted.

V.S. Bashir PAP & IPE

## Brother Club Support

Nitra Y's Men's Club, Slovakia, was chartered in 2001 to support the Nitra YMCA. Clubs in the Danube District are cared for by Region Denmark and Nitra is a Brother Club with Aars Y's Men's Club of Denmark. Aars club has visited Nitra several times and sponsors a Nitra member to attend the Danish Regional Convention each year. In 2006 two members of Aars club visited Nitra to see how things were progressing.



Nitra is an active club which undertakes excellent work for handicapped children. It is not easy to run money-raising activities in Slovakia, but the club arranges concerts and other public events. The YMCA has worked for over 15 years with the Evangelical Church and The Slovak Museum of Agriculture to support a special school for handicapped children and the club has joined in this work.

On the way back home a visit was made to the Bible School in Martin, which a few years ago was supported by a Danish Regional money raising project. It was a joy to see how well this school functions.

Christian Bach Iversen, President Aars Y's Men's Club, Denmark

## Y's Men as Peace Club in Kosovo

Four years after the terrible war in Kosovo interested people met to form the first Y's Men's Club in 2005. The charter night was celebrated on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2007 and they were delighted to welcome RD Central Southern Europe, RSD Extension, Club President of Malta and board member of European YMCA.

The purpose is – with service to the YMCA – to help bring peace to this war stricken country. So the constitution quotes:

*Balkan Peace with Justice Programme to promote peace and integration through social, cultural and sports activities, targeting kids, families and communities in Balkan Region. The emphasis is on sustainable youth leadership trainings; cultural and social interaction of multicultural youth in Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia, Montenegro and Croatia with an aim to achieve tolerance, understanding and reducing ethnic tension in Balkan.*

In keeping with that task the members are a mixture of Albanians, Serbs and ex-patriots, now helping Kosovo to develop. There are still some of the ruins of war to be seen, but new modern buildings like the Youth Centre Prishtina show the enormous will of peace and prosperity in the country.



The main project of the new club will be to create, educate and provide leadership for the YMCA Kosovo with its different local YMCAs in Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Gjakov and Mitroviza. Following the teachings of Jesus Christ for them means to build a basis for leadership in PEACE. It is hoped that a good number of businessmen, bankers, politicians and people from NGOs will help to achieve this goal.

Klaus Dietzel, RSD Extension

## *From Charter to Service*

In the *Y's Men's World* 2006/7 issue 4 you will have read of the February 2007 chartering of the Y Service Club of Honiara, Solomon Islands. Disaster struck the islands five weeks later. An undersea earthquake resulted in a tsunami that hit the Western and Choiseul provinces with loss of lives and many homes destroyed.

Honiara Y Service club responded immediately. 4,300 US\$, including a donation of 1,000 US\$ from Region Australia, and 3,000 US\$ worth of goods collected from local sources were handed over to the National Disaster Management Office. The main concerns of the club in the long-term rehabilitation process are water and sanitation, especially for children who suffer most in these situations. The club will continue to seek ways to assist the recovery and continue in service to the community.

*Drummond Tupe, President Honiara Y Service Club, Solomon Islands*

## *A Major Indian Club Project*

There are seventeen families in Y's Men's Club of Kalamassery Academic Circle, India, and we have undertaken a major project of running a Primary School for downtrodden Adivasi Children in a remote village tucked in the hills of the Western Ghats. The only way to reach the village is to trek through the narrow paths in the hills for an hour.

This year the School will be celebrating its 6th anniversary. The School was started in a small thatched shed with two teachers and twenty-two children, boys and girls, in Classes I and II. The teachers were selected from the better educated girls of the village. They were brought over to Kalamassery and given the necessary basic training by experienced teachers. In the year 2003 we constructed a semi permanent building on land provided by the village chief to accommodate children in classes from I to IV. Now there are five teachers and thirty-two children in four classes. Our club provides the children with books, uniforms, stationery and umbrellas. The club pays the salaries of the teachers and provides the children with noon meals and supper in the evening. The inhabitants of the village are very poor and eke out a living from agriculture and collecting the forest produce. Three or four members from our club travel every month to the School to assess the performance, give necessary advice and encouragement.

The Club spends on average Rs.80,000 per annum (2,000 US\$) for the School. Donations from Members and well-wishers contribute this amount.

*V. T. Thomas, Y's Men's Club of Kalamassery Academic Circle, India*

## *Surprise Gift*

The Pacific Northwest Region, US Area was blessed in September 2006 with a visit from Brotherhood Fund Delegate Lambert Okure Drata, who is a YMCA Branch Executive and fellow Y's Man from Jinja, Uganda. Lambert was visiting our region as well as the Pacific Southwest Region.

The major work of Lambert's Jinja YMCA is in developing the mind by offering education and training programmes to 520 young people. These programmes include nursery school, nursery teacher education, secretarial studies, accountancy, business management, tailoring and design, institutional catering and hotel management, to name a few.

In his talks before our clubs, Lambert spoke of their area being greatly affected by the irregular supply of electricity from the major hydro electricity supply that is only one mile from the YMCA Jinja office. This affects all the activities of the branch operations with lack of electricity for two or three days a week. Computers cannot be used, not to mention lights and power. This retards the training activities and prolongs many programmes. He did not ask for anything but the obvious need struck a chord with us.

Our Salem, Oregon Y Service Club, upon hearing this, got together with their YMCA and discussed the possibility of raising funds to purchase a generator for Lambert's Y. They asked him to submit a proposal, which he did, where it was indicated a generator could be purchased to do the job, for 1,640 US\$. This idea was presented to the members of the entire Pacific Northwest Region and the response was so great that it was decided that our Region would take this on as our Regional World Service Project for the year.

In March 2007 we were most happy and gratified to be able to wire funds to Lambert in Jinja, Uganda in the amount of 2,322 US\$. With the amount collected being over the actual purchase price of the generator, he will have some operational funds for the equipment for a time. The generator arrived in April at the Jinja YMCA and has already improved the service to the members out of all recognition. This was a great project for our Region. One thing that made it great was because it was spontaneous.



*Lee A. Woodard, Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, USA*

## A Mountain of Public Relations

In *Y's Men's World* 2004/05 issue 1, Osaka Kawachi Y's Men's Club, Japan, showed our annual mountain climb of wheelchairs, which is now in the 11<sup>th</sup> year. This year we took 19 wheelchair riders to the top of the mountain called Ikoma-San, 650 metres high.

We started the event and still organise it, with help from Ritz-Carlton Osaka Y's Men's Club, but it has snowballed into a major community event involving Y's Men, Y's Menettes, Y'slings, YMCA young leaders, primary, middle and high school pupils, citizens, company and some voluntary groups. It is not any more only a YMCA and Y's Men's activity. We support the 'Sun Home, Home for the Aged' run by Osaka YMCA. But we take not only Sun Home dwellers but also those in the community in wheelchairs.

Behind the scene, there is much complicated work. How to take them to the top of the mountain safely? What if it rains, and how many cars need for wheelchairs to take them at the foot of the mountain? How many hands are needed for each chair? Every expense is on the Osaka Kawachi Club, such as lunch, car, insurance and fees for public relations. This is really a Public Relations achievement following ten years of constant labour by Osaka Kawachi Y's Men's Club. The local TV covers the event.

Our concept for the event:

- 1) Service to the aged who are shut in the Home.
- 2) Through the Y's Men's activity, we deepen people's understanding of how the YMCA contributes to society.
- 3) By exchanging information with the community, we walk together and share service to the community with people around us. We always seek partnership with our community. This event is one of the ways.

From these points of view, this project is very essential. We hope this is the one of the models for Community Service, and Public Relations.

This year it involved 150 persons. Many said "This is not just for the service to the aged, but for us as well. The service gave us diversion, refreshment and unlocked us from the stress we have in our daily life." "We can hardly wait for next year."

*Keisuke Itoh, Osaka Kawachi Y's Men's Club, Japan*

### Thanks...

to Osaka Kawachi Club for the front cover picture

Send a good picture plus story and your club could be on the front page of the next issue

## Flower Power



The North Coast Y Service Club, located in Encinitas, California, has always had strong fundraising projects, but its Annual Flower & Plant Sale is a true winner! The proceeds benefit the 'Kids to Camp' programme.

This touches many children by serving as scholarships for children that probably would not be able to have a camping experience. These funds also helped send children of servicemen, those whose parents are serving in Iraq. There is a Marine Base near by, so people in this vicinity are quite conscious of their needs.

The sale is held in the spring, on a Saturday, sometimes 2 Saturdays, at the Magdalena Ecke YMCA. Local flower growers donate all of the produce. Club members drive to the growers and bring back all the flowers & plants. It is an intensive 3 days of hard work but with big rewards. This year the club made 11,000 US\$. Everything is sold at a very reasonable price. People who use the YMCA come and go all day



long, often making return trips to buy more. They like the idea that it benefits children and are willing to support it year after year. None of this could happen without a good ambassador and that is Edgar Engert, a charter member of our club. He has been a part of the local flower & plant grower's community for many years. He is the liaison between the club and the growers. We appreciate his help.

The club also holds a successful Annual Casino Night and it has continued to grow. This year we are holding it in October and working together with the Lions Club for an even more successful event. Fundraising projects are often the result of the members' talents and experiences. Our club hopes that these ideas may, in some way, inspire other clubs.



*Carol Friis, North Coast Y Service Club, USA*

## *Adventures in Japan*

My name is Patrick Simon. I am 20 years old and I live in the German city of Mülheim an der Ruhr. For five weeks I lived in Japan as a participant of the Y's Men's STEP (Short Term Exchange Programme). During this time I travelled around the country, staying at the homes of no less than seven different families. Every Japanese Y's Man (and Y's Menette) I met was extraordinarily nice to me and tried their best to make my visit as fun, interesting and comfortable as possible. And it really was!

From my arrival in early June in Osaka to my departure there was rarely a day without some sort of schedule for me. I visited one Buddhist temple after the other, went to many Shinto shrines and impressive Japanese castles (which are very unlike their European counterparts). I went diving in the ocean and I took a bath in one of Japan's famous hot springs. I visited a ninja village and I wore samurai armour. On a particularly rainy day we even climbed parts of Mt. Fuji, Japan's highest mountain. My host families were also very eager to introduce me to the variety of Japanese food specialties. To everyone's delight I did not mind eating raw fish. After coming back home it took some time to get used to eating with knife and fork.



Discussions with the Japanese covered many topics. Of course there were many questions about Germany, my family, the German Y's Men and so on. I often talked about German cars, beer and sausages, which seem to have quite a reputation. Apart from the time I spent with my host families there were also a few 'official' events that I attended. It started with a small club meeting in Osaka on the evening of my first day, but I also went to the Regional Convention of Japan West, with about 800 attendees from over 80 clubs! In Atami I even met the mayor in his office (he is a member in the Y's Men's Club, too) and the local newspaper published a small article about me. The time in Japan was a great experience and I am truly grateful to the STEP programme and all my new friends in Japan who made it possible.



Patrick Simon, Germany

## *Adventures in Denmark*

Way back in 1996/97 Trehøje Y's Men's Club from Vildbjerg in the middle of Jutland in Denmark hosted a YEEP student from Japan. The name was Yoriko Hashizaki from Himeji Global Y's Men's Club. Ten years later the club received an email from Japan asking whether Trehøje Y's Men's Club was willing to receive another guest from Japan. In February we met Yoriko's younger brother Makito Hashizaki in Billund Airport.

Makito arrived in Billund after 18 hours in the air, from Japan via Amsterdam. After his arrival he was constantly surprised by life in Denmark. There are for example no mountains in Denmark. The country is completely flat, while there are a lot of mountains in Japan. "Here I can see as far as my eyes can reach. I can't do that in Japan," Makito explains.



At a club meeting Makito told us about his home area around Himeji and about Himeji Castle which is on UNESCO's list of buildings worthy of preservation. "Most interesting were the visits to the schools,

where I participated in Danish, English, Science and Physical Education. Also the visit to FC Midtjylland where I met the Manager was good. Besides that the visits to local industrial firms were very interesting," Makito said, "The major difference is the welfare. For example working hours are much longer in Japan. In Denmark you go to work at about 7 o'clock in the morning and return at about four or five in the afternoon. In Japan however you also start about 7 in the morning but return about eight or nine in the evening. I also notice that the income taxes are much higher in Denmark than the 13 percent we know in Japan."

Makito was positively surprised by the taste of Danish food. Delicious! Especially potatoes and cutlets with sauce tasted good. Funny how different it is compared to Japanese food. "In Japan we get a lot of rice and here you get a lot of potatoes" After his short stay in Denmark Makito is looking forward to starting a new job in Tokyo.



Jorn M. Pedersen, Trehøje Y's Men's Club, Denmark

## *A Y's Philosophy for Life*

I was born into a YMCA/Y's Men environment. My father, Honorary Y's Man Goh Soon Hock, had been a Board Director of the Chinese YMCA (later renamed the Metropolitan YMCA of Singapore) for many years. He was also an extremely active member of the Beta Chapter Y's Men's Club. He was a District Governor, Regional Director, and International Council Member, and was Asia Area President in 1983-84. I remember following him as a Y'sling to many Y's Men functions, including the District, Regional, Area and International Conferences and Conventions. At an early age, my father had instilled in me the necessity and desirability of practicing the Y's concept of equal development of the Spirit, Mind and Body. He believed in the concept and practiced it. For years, he was a strong Christian and a church usher, well-read, learned and an active sportsman.

Being a Y's man meant much more to him than just a social past-time. Through his membership of the organisation, he was offered many opportunities to travel and see the world, made numerous friendships with other Y's Men in many countries, and also obtained invaluable leadership and communication skills through the many Y's Men activities in which he participated. Most importantly, he learned how to give back to his community by sharing his many talents in helping those less fortunate than he.

My father also subscribed to the Y's Men's belief that "the measure of a Man (person) is the breadth of his (her) horizon." To him being a Y's Man was not just about friendship, fellowship and social work. It was a life philosophy he believed in and practiced in his daily life beyond Y's Men.

In 2005, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and underwent a major operation. It was amazing that his faith in God didn't waiver, nor did his passion for Y's Men falter. He was continually interested in the international and local Y's Men's scene. However, the cancer came back and the chemotherapy treatment eventually weakened him further. Yet, even though he was bed ridden and physically very weak, he tried to keep his mind active and continued in his walk with God. He passed away in end of June 2007. The proof of his life philosophy? I was very touched when many of his friends turned up and sent messages to share with us about how my father had impacted their lives whether in big or small ways. His horizon was extensive.

As a Y's Man, what do you consider is the best thing about being one? I am sharing my father's joy of how Y's Men impacted his life because I hope that you too will share your joys of being a Y's Man with others and to show them that being a Y's Man is not just a social affair, but also a way of life.

*Marianne Goh, Past Youth Intern 1999-2000*

## *A Man Who's Y's*

Somewhere among the mingling crowd  
There walks a man whose heart is proud  
Perhaps he's young and full of wit  
And yet, perhaps he's aged a bit  
But his concern is fellow man  
He's looking for a better plan  
He's solid, both in mind and nerve  
And looking for a way to serve  
This man whose eyes lift toward the skies  
This man who's obviously wise

Somehow this man will be sought out  
Or he could find us first, no doubt  
And bring this man into our midst  
Then he will meet our men and see  
That this is where he ought to be  
A Triangle, with solid hub  
A world accepted Y's Men's Club  
And efforts that are his give rise  
To be at last a man who's Y's

Among the great things in his life  
Is that important one - his wife  
She loves her husband, home, and yet  
She strives to serve as a Y's Menette  
The two of them face hand in hand  
The Christian way that God has planned  
Within a scope of rights, so few  
Their service pledge they must renew  
It's tough amid a world of lies  
To try to be a man who's Y's

And when his time on earth is past  
His helping hand will rest at last  
In knowing he had lived his life  
In close relation with his wife  
If some small effort he has done  
To lift the life of those to come  
Then his existence must have been  
A plan of God, mankind to win  
The Lord above can claim his prize  
I've found another man who's Y's

*Written over 40 years ago by Ron Atkinson  
Submitted by David Ing, Charlottetown Y's Men's Club, Canada*

### ***Did you Know?***

Look into the future at [www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)  
'Youth Involvement'

Read the wonderful news of Y'sdom's youth in  
Youth World

Wonder at their experiences at the 06 Youth  
Convocation

## *International Council Meeting 07 – Adelaide, Australia*

Touching moments of the International Council were: a) the installation of the new International Council Members by IPIP Choi Han-ki; b) when IPIP Choi Han-ki handed over to IP Lasse Bergstedt the Bible and Gavel, symbolising the transition of the great responsibilities of the International President, and IP Lasse Bergstedt gave thanks for his election as International President; and c) when IP Lasse Bergstedt presented a plaque to IPIP Choi Han-ki, on behalf of the International Council, for his service and dedication as International President 2006/07, highlighting his great achievement in membership increase and in accomplishing his goal of 30,000+ members.

This year we had the great pleasure and opportunity to count on the participation of the World Alliance of YMCAs Liaison to Y's Men International, Rev. Samuel Stephens, who is the Vice President of the World Alliance. During the first session of the International Council he presented a very motivational speech highlighting the similarity of the work of the two movements – common issues, needs and mandate to serve the community – and said that we should build stronger bridges between the two organisations, strengthen our relationship and partnership, and work together to address the issues before us for the good of humanity. IP Lasse Bergstedt thanked WAL Sam Stephens for the strong message, saying: YMI is ready to 'build' and 'run' together with the YMCA.

In a moving and simple ceremony Carol Reynolds was installed as International Director, Y's Menettes by Past ID Shirley Unmack, who highlighted the important responsibility that the ID position involves and the wide experience and deep commitment of ID Carol Reynolds. IP Lasse Bergstedt expressed his deepest appreciation for the dedication and strong support that Y's Men always receive from Y's Menettes all around the world and how honoured the International Council was to have the participation of ID Y's Menettes.

The International Council considered many important topics for the future of the Movement:

Consultative Status with the UN. It was recognised that YMI should be a cooperative group at the ground level. Y's Men could help the UN in some of their concerns, such as: a) preventing malaria (perhaps a TOF project) which causes death among children and young people in certain countries; b) providing clean water to communities; c) sharing the UN Agenda and our committee's report during RDE Training events and RDs sharing this information with their clubs; d) Club members could celebrate special days like "Women's Day", etc.

The report of the Power Balance Committee - and the discussion that followed its presentation - was one of the most important agenda items. Several motions were approved, the main ones as follows, aimed at minimizing the risk of changes to the International Constitution being too easy to make:

- Notice of amendment[s] to the International Constitution must be lodged in writing to the International Secretary General at least ninety [90] days before the next International Council meeting setting out the specific clause[s] or part[s] thereof to be amended and a statement of intention must be submitted therewith.
- Motions which foreshadow any amendment to the International Constitution must be moved and seconded by members from different Areas.

The procedure to define Special Dues. It was agreed that Special Dues be defined following a system of Cost of Living (IWF) [countries are grouped by purchasing power on the basis of IWF data], effective from the first Semester 2008/09, subject to revision every third year, from 2007.

14 Time of Fast Projects were approved (two of them ongoing projects) for a total of CHF 420,453, the highest amount approved since the TOF programme started. The International Council also authorised the Mid Year Meeting 08 to approve a further TOF Project presented by Canada, (a 3-year project for a total of CHF 36,480) subject to favourable recommendation by the TOF Committee.

Youth Involvement continues to be an important issue in all Areas and last year a process of formation of Y's Youth Clubs started in most Areas. Several Y's Youth Clubs have already been started. Two Task Forces were established by the International Council to deal with different Youth Programmes.

The International Council discussed a proposal to improve the image of Y's Men. The discussion centred on the value and cost/benefit of contracting a professional enterprise. Then the International Council approved the establishment of a Task Force to select and contract a PR company to conduct a review of our image. This review should include Y's Men International, Y's Menettes and Y's Youth.

IP Lasse said at the end of the meeting: "We are all different, so we have to discuss things. Discussion is good – we can learn and become wiser – a true 'wise man' and 'Y's Man'. Diversity disappears when we bid farewell to each other in friendship and love. Let us give 'Service Without Borders' and 'Let's Show – Let's Grow'.

*Rolando Dalmas, International Secretary General*

## *Growing Strong Together*

In the words of Martin Luther King – “Everything that is done in the World – is done by Hope.”

This will be my theme and my message for my 2-year term as International Director. I will be encouraging closer communication with Y's Men International and to strengthen the awareness of Y's Menettes. We are doing tremendous work for our YMCAs, our communities and supporting our Y's Men's International projects and it is time we showed what we really do.

Communication – Communication – Communication

How many times do we have to hear this? The answer is - as many times as it takes to get it right. The key to Communication is the reality that in order for it to be completed, it has to be two-way. Communication is essential within a teamwork environment and everyone plays a key role in the eventual success. By responding to the communication, you show dedication and commitment to be part of a team. Look at it as a chain with various links. The chain connects two organizations – Y's Menettes and Y's Men – this chain must be solid. If any of the links are broken because of lack of communication we will not be successful.

We are part of an international organisation that offers fellowship and the opportunity to help others, not just within our own communities but worldwide; somewhere your help is happening because of what we stand for as a Y's Menette. If we want this movement of ours to grow, we must prepare ourselves for the future. It was once said, “Organisations are living organisms and therefore have many cycles. We live in an ever changing society with various cultures and we need to adapt and re-learn many things – we need to change.” Let us use the strengths we have, and that is ourselves.

If we are to grow in numbers along with our Y's Men's Clubs, we must prepare our Y's Menette leaders for the role and responsibilities that go with their leadership. I will be emphasizing these responsibilities from club level to International. Leadership Development IS KEY TO OUR SUCCESS. We must be ready for the future and we must have our leaders prepared for it. We can have faith and dedication, but without leadership we will not succeed. If we look at the word Extension, it means, 'to spread out or stretch forward.' Going forward means getting ready for the future.

I encourage you to continue your efforts in bringing in new members and as a result, increase your ability to help your Communities, your YMCAs and your Y's Men's Clubs.

*Carol Reynolds, International Director Y's Menettes*



*In Adelaide Carol Reynolds, the new Y's Menette International Director, met up with four previous holders of the position. Left to right Shirley Unmack, Carol Reynolds, Beryl Jones, Pam Crammond & Jennifer Cameron*

## *What's My Job?*

Whether you are a club officer or not, whenever we are individually tasked with a job, what should we be doing to ensure that the job gets done? I suggest the following:

1. Be willing to assume responsibility.
2. Have a clear picture of the end result of your responsibility.
3. Take full initiative to plan all the tasks involved with your job, create an action plan and follow through.
4. Plan to do better than what is expected.
5. When you need help or answers, ask the right person.
6. If you cannot fulfill a task when it is expected to be done, ask for help before it is too late.
7. Be positive and motivating to others as you fulfill your task.
8. Take full accountability for the successful completion of your job at all cost.
9. Be ready to help out each other at all activities.
10. Remember that we are all owners of our club.

*Paul Kuromoto, Kaimuki Y's Men's Club, Hawaii  
Extracted from Lima Hana, bulletin of the Kaimuki Y's Men's Club.  
The excellent full text can be downloaded from the IHQ web site at the  
Bulletins section of the USA Hawaii Regional Website*

## What is Love?

In 2005 I received a Brotherhood Fund grant which took me to Panama, Barbados and Brazil where I took part in Y's Men's activities and visited Time of Fast Projects in Brazil. During my travels I made many lasting friendships. I am writing this article in Barbados where I am staying with a Y's Man and her family. After Barbados I will be going back to Brazil to do voluntary work at a TOF project in Porto Alegre. The friendship that we share with other Y's Men from the many clubs throughout the world is unique to our movement and it is important that we continue to foster friendship in our organisation. I visited Washington DC and toured the city sites and found many monuments commemorating the wars that have taken place over many years. Arlington Cemetery in America is a reminder of the many thousands of servicemen and women who have lost their lives in war. The cost of lives and the human suffering that people from all walks of life suffer should never be forgotten.

It is 200 years since the abolition of the slave trade. Some 10 million people were taken from their birth country and transported across the seas to work in foreign countries. Human rights were non-existent for those people and countries that transported slaves are now offering their apologies for their treatment of these people. A master of a slave ship knew that this was not the way to treat people and turned to Christianity and now we have that wonderful hymn 'Amazing Grace' in which he tells how his life was changed. Every human on the earth has a right to a quality life and we should not deny him or her that right. It is up to each of us to help ease the suffering of the many millions in the world today. Think of those in need daily. Don't take your freedom for granted. Cherish the friendship that you have with your fellow Y's Men.

Robert Riedel writes in 'A Y's Man's Vademecum' - Love means accepting our fellow man as he is, without criticizing or making conditions. Love signifies not only to live and let live but also helping the other to shoulder his burden, giving him a brotherly hand and loving him without any ulterior considerations, material, ideological, physical or psychological. Love must be totally disinterested. It can consist simply of a good word, a helping hand, an invitation to share a meal, or it can be some very important sacrifice.

'In Christ there is no East or West,  
In him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.'

Peter Gilbert, ISD, Christian Emphasis

## Ulf Rasmusson Centre for Low Vision

National Association for the Blind, Kerala, India, branch sincerely thank the YMC of Orebro, Region Sweden and YMC of Trivandrum North for the kind donation of 5,000 US\$ for a Centre for Low Vision persons. Created in memory of the late Ulf Rasmusson to be called 'Ulf Rasmusson Centre for Low Vision'.



The centre was inaugurated by Klaus Dietzel, International Treasurer of Y's Men International on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007. He was briefed about the activities that will be carried out in this centre, which will be the first of its kind in

the State of Kerala. The centre has been well equipped with all modern amenities needed for eye care like Slit Lamp and Perimeter for measuring the visual field and other various optical and non-optical functional assessment equipment. In his inaugural speech Klaus Dietzel thanked the YMC of Orebro, Region Sweden and the family of Ulf Rasmusson for this kind gesture in developing such a centre. He said that through this centre more than 1,000 persons with low vision would benefit in a year.



Josey Joseph in his address remembered the support given to the Anganwadis by Mr. Rasmusson. He also remembered that he enquired about the situation of the Anganwady immediately after the 2004 Tsunami and when informed that the Anganwady required repairs, he immediately sent support for the same. He said that Ulf will always be remembered as a good and model human being.

Josey Joseph, Trivandrum Y's Men's Club

## Some Impressive Statistics



The Y's Men's Club of Trivandrum North has been granted Time of Fast funding for a programme of education about HIV and AIDS in the coastal region of Kerala State, India. The project is being implemented with the support of Y's Men's Clubs in these

areas and with the National Association for the Blind, Kerala Branch. The following is a summary of some of the results of the first half of the programme.

**Intensive Training Provided to Community Leaders -** 62 awareness programmes have been held up to March 2007 in the four Districts of Kerala State - Trivandrum, Kollam, Alleppey and Ernakulam, with the support of the Y's Men's Clubs and the local agencies. We are sure that the message will spread from the 6,500 persons who attended these awareness programmes to a minimum of 25 to 30 thousand persons in the four Districts of Kerala State.

**800 Youth Leaders are equipped with tools -** The most important achievement in the awareness programme was the education programme organized for the 800 Youth Leaders of the Church of South India, who represent the whole of Kerala State. This group will spread the message of our movement to their respective clusters and we are sure that this will reach at least 800,000 persons in the State of Kerala.

**Publicity -** Printed and distributed 50,000 attractive multi-coloured 2007 calendars with AIDS prevention slogans.

We believe this important programme is a valuable contribution to the Unified Global Project of Y'sdom.

*Josey Joseph, Chairman, TOF Implementation Committee, 06-07  
Trivandrum, India*

Have you seen an article that interests you?

Would you like to know more?

Check the IHQ web site to see if the author is listed.

If not write to the editor for a contact address.  
wally@ysmen.co.uk

## Love can Overcome Everything

The YMCA of Vietnam was fortunate to have Time of Fast funding approved at ICM 06 for 30,500 US\$. The grant is for a Counselling and Community Support Centre in support of people living with HIV/AIDS. This is the story of one family touched by the project.

TB came to the counselling room run by the Vietnam YMCA at the Xom Moi Polyclinic, situated in one of the most populated parts of Ho Chi Minh City, where a lot of poor families live. There TB met counsellors and volunteers of Vietnam YMCA. Dr. Phan, Director of Xom Moi Polyclinic and one of the core volunteers of the Vietnam YMCA, operated on TB for a breast abscess. The kind comprehension from counsellors and volunteers of the Vietnam YMCA, the new environment of joy, hope, and the joyful acceptance, have given her the confidence in life to begin everything again.

TB had graduated from the external commerce faculty of the Social Sciences and Humanities University and got a good job with a stable income at a real estate company of the city. Her family and friends were proud of her and shared joy with her. TB wanted to broaden her business relationship and made acquaintance with D, who was 4 years older than her. They loved each other and married. D was previously married and had a daughter. He had experienced many love adventures. D left his first wife when he declared his love for TB. TB only knew the background of her husband after her infection with HIV. They had a child without asking for permission from their families in October 2004.

The two families don't want the two young married persons to live together. The parents of TB think that D and his parents are not good towards their daughter and D has spread the deadly disease to their daughter and their innocent grandchild. The parents of D have not yet been willing and ready to accept TB as their daughter-in-law. The two families have unintentionally made the tragic life of TB more tragic.

After many contacts with the counsellors of the Vietnam YMCA, TB has decided to return to her work at the real estate company. With a will of iron, an immense love and sacrifice, plus the support and encouragement from the counselling room of the Vietnam YMCA, TB has succeeded in overcoming all difficulties. The couple desire to rebuild the relationship between the two families, consolidate the family income, legalize their marriage registration and apply for their daughter's birth certificate. The home visits made regularly by the counsellors have helped them to overcome difficulties of all kinds to live more optimistically each day.

*Recorded by Nguyen Thi Thuy Tran, Counsellor -  
Based on testimony of TB*

## Time of House 500

Super typhoon Durian hit the Philippines in November 2006 leaving over 2,000 families homeless. The plight stirred the members of Area Asia and under the leadership of AP Lee Joo-min sufficient funds were raised to build 8 new concrete homes in the affected region. PIP John Choa coordinated the project in the Philippines and was able to arrange free architectural and project management support. The Lord Mayor of Legaspi City was approached about the TH500 project and he immediately agreed to provide land for free, located at the Taysan Resettlement site of Legaspi City.

Build progress was rapid and the simple homes were completed by June 2007. Each home has a Y's Man logo prominently displayed to remind visitors of our involvement. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the national government agency primarily tasked to take care of the homeless, identified the poorest of the poor and trimmed it down to 50 numbers, and from the 50, a raffle was conducted for the first eight lucky recipients. The award and turnover ceremony was made on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2007, presided by the Lord Mayor of Legaspi City with the presence of press and TV people, as such the ceremony was witnessed by the whole community, thereby boosting the good name and image of our Y's movement in Legaspi City.



*PIP John Choa visiting one of the Y's Men's Houses*

The ceremonies were personally witnessed by IPRD Yang Hyun-kook, RD Chung Woo-young and Y's Man Lee Sang-myung from Korea Center Region. They were so impressed that they immediately committed to donate 3 additional units and the TH500 project has now been taken over by the Korea Center Region who plan to raise the additional funds needed.

*John Choa, Past International President*

## Singing for Homes

One of the purposes of Y's Men activities, 'to build a better world for all mankind' took the form of the Joint Korea Y's Menettes Choir Festival in April 2007. It was an exciting night event in Seoul. Drastic super typhoon Durian's power hit the Philippines in November last year and choked Y's Men members' hearts with sorrow. Voices to get help for the sufferers had come from different quarters at the Mid-Year Conference of Asia Area early this year, and eventually a new movement - TH500 - which is the simpler form for 'Time Of House 500', made its appearance to the world.

TH500, a campaign to offer modest houses for the victims of Durian, costing 500 US\$ for each family of sufferers, that would mostly be used for purchasing building materials. The campaign had to assemble TOF spirits of Y'sdom to raise money for the project. The spirit of the movement was also conveyed to other sectors of service organisations for support as well as all over the Y'sdom families. Korea Center Region took the lead in getting this programme started and organized a Choir Festival to collect funds for the victims.

An estimated audience of 900 filled the Centennial Anniversary Hall of Yonsei University where the concert was held, applauding enthusiastically the choir teams, and soprano Lee Hanna Kim. She is a Prima Donna of several operas who once played in New York's Carnegie Hall. Foreign pop singers, Eddie from Uganda and Chaissa from Philippines appeared as guest artists, making the event more significant. Contributions collected through the festival were transferred in full to the TH 500 account.

Chung Kyung-joo, host of the festival and representative of Korea Y's Menettes said, "Such an event is an important one for the sector. If you're involved with Y's Men in any way, the festival brings it all under the one umbrella. We won't stop this job until all kinds of victims disappear from our paradise"

*Shim Jai-sung, Assistant Editor, Korea*



## *Your Club and the Local Community*

The needs are there.

Is your club fortunate enough to be in a city or town where there is no need for 'community service'? I don't think so! Even if you live in an affluent neighbourhood, rest assured that there are fellow citizens in need of something - and that your club can do something about it. Why? Because a fellowship of Y's Men can do a lot if they set their heart to it! Did I hear you say that you already contribute a handsome amount of money to Y's Men's Time of Fast projects, the Brotherhood Fund, YMCA etc.? Excellent - these are extremely important projects, but - there are also needs much closer to home, where often money is not the issue but rather a helping hand, a call for justice, a food drive, a renovation project, a cry for world peace.

A better world.

Community Service is the basic Y's Men activity. This is how we strive 'through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for all mankind.' We cannot change the world but 1,700 active Y's Men's Clubs scattered around the world will surely make an impact. There are spin-off effects for your club: improving fellowship in the club, making the club better known in the community, raising the general recognition of Y's Men.

- and an idea for a community service activity!

In any community there are good people doing their best to make life easier for fellow citizens - but who are mostly not really recognised for their effort and commitment: Nurses, teachers, social workers, postmen etc. Your club could institute an annual, festive prize ceremony, e.g. hosted by the club or the mayor's office in honour of such a person or organisation, thereby illuminating the service concept and setting a good example.

If you have a good Community Service project, why not share it with others. Send the story and pictures to *Y's Men's World* and spread the news.

*Otto H. Larsen, ISD Community Service*



*Hot work at the Hanham Common Fair*

## *A Licence to Fill*

'Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May'

So wrote Shakespeare in his Sonnet Number 18. I can assure him that rough winds shake more than this, especially when the Y's Men's Club of Hanham meets for its annual cookout at the Hanham Common Fayre.

Yes, Hot Dogs on the Common is a fundraiser we cannot miss. It's the time when we barbeque our wares and go home exhausted with our eyes stinging and smelling like something between an over-cooked piece of meat and a rotten onion. Over the years we have expanded our menu to include beef and cheeseburgers, which go down and hopefully stay down, very well. The Board of Governors (Bless Them) decide on quantities, costs, timings, personnel (not much difficulty here, it's usually the same people) and equipment needed to optimise our thrust into the world of mass catering.

The day begins with the collection of items such as BBQs, gas, tables, tent, new gazebo (which tried to escape when we took the anchor pegs out and William's rough wind blew again), sausages, burgers, cheese, rolls, relishes and those sliced onions which stink out my garage for about a week after the event plus all the gear required to do the job, including temperature probes. Our cooking skills and knowledge of food safety and hygiene have increased over the years and we now check the temperature of each cooked item before sale to the public and indeed to ourselves and wear suitable aprons and gloves. No deaths have been reported.

The tent and gazebo are erected, the BBQs fired up, the tables covered and after the holding up of wet fingers, observation of the direction of the leaf movement on the trees and much discussion the wind break is positioned. Cooking and selling commence. This year we sold about 250 hot dogs and 200 beefburgers including 120 cheeseburgers. The remarks made by those unusual passers by who don't want to buy range from "I'm a vegetarian" to "I've just had my breakfast" but mostly our customers are lured into our web by the exquisite aroma of our food and no doubt an empty feeling in their stomachs - some even come back for more. The pace of demand varies along with the anxiety of meeting the expectations of our customers.

At the end of it all the tired and weary team dismantle and disperse the whole paraphernalia and go home content and satisfied with its efforts, to shower and rest. I hasten to add that the team does not shower en masse. This year we raised £375 (750 US\$) which goes towards our charity giving, we also performed a service for the local community and enjoyed a social get-together with the club—all on the back of ground up meat.

*John Liddiard, Hanham Y's Men's Club, England*



First of all, I thank my Loving God for the wisdom and guidance you gave me during my IPE and IP term.

Time flies so fast. The time I was installed as International President 06/07 during the International Convention in Busan, Korea on August 3, 2006 was like a few days ago. When I was International President Elect, I really hoped that Y's Men International would be peaceful, pleasant, fruitful Y'sdom and our membership would reach over 30,000.

We have a wonderful dream for Y's men International for 10 years future. I made my theme, vision, and slogan for this dream. We need a strong number of Y's Men ~ over 30,000 which is the magic number for us to build a better world for all mankind. We should build a cornerstone for the future to be one of the top three international service organizations. We should take part in all meetings, international programmes and projects actively.

I am proud that we have achieved over 30,000 membership by the end of June 2007, which I consider a milestone in Y's Men International history. We made history. We have achieved a great work. I am optimistic that from now, our members will increase markedly, geometrically. I am very happy to achieve my goals through the cooperation of every individual Y's Man for one year. Therefore I would like to extend my deep appreciation to all our Y's Men, APs, ICMs, ISDs and IHQ staff.

This year I have given the Harry M. Ballantyne Award, the highest honour in Y'sdom, to Dr Ahn Hyun-jin of Daejeon Y's Men's Club, Korea. He joined Y'sdom in 1962 and served in all major offices, including Area President. As a medical doctor he has provided a free medical service to his local community and contributed immensely to the good image of Y'sdom. In admiration of his enthusiasm, service, dedication and contribution to Y's Men International, the Harry M. Ballantyne Award is a fitting tribute to Dr Ahn Hyun-jin.

I have given the IP Awards for outstanding RDs to RD Elfie Musil of Central Southern Europe Region, RD T.M. Jose, West India Region, RD Sionides of Brazil Region and RD Moon Sang-Bong of Korea South Region.

I was very impressed by the kind treatment and friendly hospitality of Y's Men during my visits to Area Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, India, LAC, SOP and USA for RDE training sessions, Area Conventions, Regional Conventions, Committee meetings and ICM and MYM

while I was IPE and IP. Thanks to all our Y's Men all over the world. I was especially very proud of the TOF Projects implemented through the YMCA when I visited India and Brazil. Our TOF project is a real international service with the YMCA.

I would like to extend also my deep appreciation to my predecessor PIP Benson Wabule, who is a pleasant, humble and cool person, for his cooperation. I am very happy that I have my excellent successor International President Lasse Bergstedt who is an open minded, humble, energetic and knowledgeable person in Y'sdom. I have no doubt in my mind that Y's Men International will grow to over 50,000 in membership and international service amount to over 5 million US\$ per year in 10 years.



*IP Lasse presenting PIP Choi Han-ki with a souvenir of his year in office*

To be honest, I confess that my wife didn't like my IP job. I had a lot of trips abroad attending meetings and it affected my health. I stayed up late job receiving and sending emails and preparing for meetings for two years during my IPE and IP periods. But now, I thank my wife for her cooperation without causing any trouble. Now I have graduated from this hard job. I am free. I want to go early to bed and go on sightseeing trips, and take a rest with my wife.

I sincerely hope that Y's Men International will develop markedly and that it will last forever. We are one family with the name of Y's Men International. Let's see, meet with pleasure, anytime, anywhere all over the world.

Thank you. Choi Han-ki, IP 2006/07

### Did You Know?

The Time of Fast team has produced a super TOF awareness calendar to encourage donations.

It is in 12 editions...

Chinese, Danish, English (\$ and £), French, German, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish

Download it from [www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org) and distribute it to your club members

**Deadline for the Editor to receive material for the next full issue is January 31st 2008**