

# Y's Men's World



## Editorial

As a result of IPIP John Choa's appeal we raised a considerable sum of money for the victims of the December 2004 tsunami. I am delighted to have received three stories and photographs telling us some of what has been achieved in Sri Lanka with the money donated. I know they have been working very hard in India to use the donations wisely and effectively and hope there will be stories in the next issue.



The completion of each issue is a last minute rush to find missing articles and, most of all, a front-page picture. You can help by sending your stories and photographs to me as soon as an event happens. I then have the time to sub-edit and, perhaps, help improve the chance of acceptance for publication.

I have a short article entitled 'How to catch an editor's eye' which I will be pleased to email or post to potential contributors. Please ask for it.

*Yours in Y'sdom  
Walker*

## Election Results



649 valid votes were received in time, with 26 late votes and 134 invalid. Based on a membership as at 1 October 2005 of 1596 clubs, the valid participation was therefore 41%, but 49% of clubs responded to the call to vote.

Lasse Bergstedt of Denmark was elected International President Elect 2006/7 and will take office in July 2006.

Klaus Dietzel of Germany was re-elected as International Treasurer for 2007/10.

New International Council Members to serve from 1 July 2006 are:

Mr Chung Ki-sung (Korea) for Area Asia  
Mr Hirotohi Fujii (Japan) for Area Asia  
Mrs Rita Hettiarachchi (Sri Lanka) for Area Asia  
Mrs Anne Marie Hertz-Jensen (Denmark) for Area Europe  
Mr Alan Wallington (England) for Area Europe  
Mr V. Vijaya Kumar for Area India

New International Council Members Elect from 1 July 2006 are:

Mr Bill Irwin for Area Canada (Area President Elect)  
Mr Colin Lambie for Area South Pacific (Area President Elect)

**Y's Men's World**  
**N° 1 2005-2006**  
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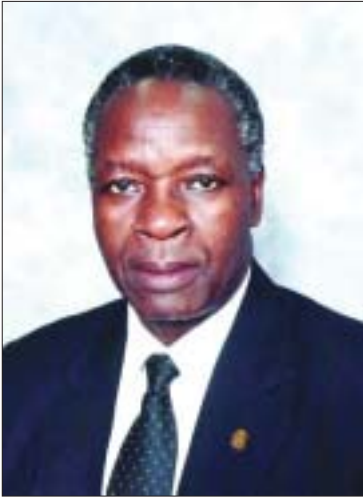
**Did You Know?**

To be eligible for International voting clubs must:

- \* Have a minimum of 15 members or between 5 and 14 and have applied for exemption through the Regional Director and
- \* Have paid no less than 94% of International dues for the last three semesters and
- \* Send the vote directly to IHQ before the deadline

Details are in the International Constitution Guidelines 409, 410 and 411 which are available on the Downloads page of the IHQ web site at <www.ysmen.org>

## The Importance of the Club



In the last issue of Y's Men's World I emphasized the importance of the individual Y's Man to our movement. In line with my Theme I asked Y's Men all over the world to remember the things they need to do to **Be Y's Men in Deed and not Y's Men in Need**. Action on the part of Y's Men and the service we provide occur at club level. All the things we profess to do are done at club level. The individual Y's Man and

his or her club are inseparable identical twins in service. The project carried out by the individual Y's Man becomes the project of the club. The dues paid by Y's Men as individuals become collectively club dues. The fact is that next to the individual Y's Man the club is the most important unit in our movement. In this article therefore I am highlighting the importance of the club in Y's Men International.

It is the club which is a member of Y's Men International. We are members of our movement through the club. In Section 1 of Article 1 of our International Constitution it is provided that **This Organisation shall be known as The International Association of Y's Men's Clubs and its Motto shall be To Acknowledge the Duty that Accompanies Every Right**. This International Association of Y's Men's Clubs has corporate status enabling our movement to acquire the status of a person in accordance with the Swiss Civil Code. This is important for legal reasons I cannot enumerate in this short article.

The club is the fulcrum of everything we do. It is Y'sdom's Identity Card. As a Y's Man, if you introduce yourself without mentioning your club, know from today your introduction is not complete! The club is the centre of everything, a place where we formulate, plan and perform our duties. It is a critical element in our purpose and objectives. It is from the club that Districts are formed and then upwards follow our other administrative levels of Region, Area and the International. When a new club is formed we grow as a movement and when a club is de-chartered part of the movement dies. If a majority of our current clubs disappeared there would probably be no Y's Men International.

It is the club which submits nominees for election to our supreme body, the International Council, and it is the club's vote which determines the results.

The International President Elect and the International Treasurer Elect must not only come from clubs with voting privileges (unless exempted) but are elected to their high offices by club votes. Thus the clubs determine who become our International President and our International Treasurer. In other words the clubs give us our leaders. Some clubs are rightly proud when they produce leaders to serve in various positions in our movement.

The club provides opportunity for socialising, entertainment, interaction, support, exchange of views, information, solidarity, execution of projects, leadership training, personal development and unity in pursuit of our movement's objectives. It is vital for Y's Men to realise that the success of our movement depends largely on what the individual Y's Man does at club level.

Have you noticed that when you introduce yourself and mention your club it strikes a stronger note than when you mention your District, Region or Area?

In my recent travels I have come to realise how important the club is to our movement. We often talk about the District, Region, Area and International but in reality the most important unit in Y's Men International, apart from the individual Y's Man, is the Club.

My call is to all Y's Men to increase their efforts in extension work. Let us support and strengthen our clubs, because in doing so we are supporting and strengthening Y's Men International.

Y'sly and sincerely,  
Benson Wabule, International President



International Executive Officers at the Mid Year Meeting '06

## *Welcome to the Land of Wonders*

Warm greetings to all fellow Y's Men and Women in Y'sdom.

As Host Convention Committee Chairman, I extend my heartfelt invitation to all of you to Busan, Korea, which is the venue and host of the 67th Y's Men International Convention.

We have prepared a programme that will allow you to get the most out of an international convention convened in an international class conference hall. Sessions, cultural events and attractions, souvenir shopping, Korean cuisine, tours, entertainment and leisure await you. In addition you will experience Korea's fair climate, ideal accommodation and facilities, and warm, friendly people.

I would like to encourage you, therefore, to make your plans to spend summer '06 in Busan where you can renew your friendships or make new ones, revitalise your commitment to Y'sdom and bring home fun-filled memories of your Korean experience!

Remember the dates: August 3-6 for the International Convention; July 30~ August 2 for the ICM; and July 31~August 6 for the International Youth Convocation.

On-line registration can be made by logging in at  
< <http://www.ysmenic2006.com> >

Welcome and see you at IC 06 in Busan!  
Choi Han-ki, Chairman Host Convention Committee, IC 06

## *A Real Treat*

The International Convention registration time is upon us. It is time to send this in and plan for a wonderful time in Busan, South Korea. The convention site is in the middle of a vibrant international city of over five million people. The convention hotel site is located where three subway lines converge, also several bus lines and in between there are two very large open-air markets. Just to the south are the indoor Peace market and the Kukje market buildings; full of floor upon floor bargains from kitchenware to clothes and other items you have never thought you would find to buy for decoration or wear. You will also be a short ride from hot mineral water spas, ocean beaches and multiple other tourist attractions and markets. Restaurants are abundant; while in Korea try the local version of barbeque. This dish is cooked at your table and comes with multiple side dishes including soup and, of course, rice. If you are in Busan you don't have to travel to try different foods. If you are reluctant to venture out - it is no problem, the Lotte Hotel (our convention hotel) is a world unto itself featuring multiple restaurants and Las Vegas style entertainment. You'll have to see it to believe it - an amusement world packed into one building.

The real treat will be in meeting Y's Men from around the world. We are expecting a big turn out due to the ease of reaching Korea from every part of the world. There will be workshops on all aspects of life in Y's Men International. Come, exchange ideas and learn what is going on around the world. You will take home renewed enthusiasm for our movement of being men and women at service to our YMCA and the community. Come to share a meal, coffee, or tea with others of like mind. This will truly be a convention not to be missed. Please get your registration in today.

*Jim Miller, Busan Central Y's Men's Club, Korea*

## *'Active Participation With Love'*

*International President Elect's Theme for 2006/7*

Through this column, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you for your support during the IPE election. It is a great honour for me to serve Y's Men International.

My IP job is like sailing a boat in the vast ocean. Our destination represents my goal/motto, which is to reach 'Over 30,000 in 06'. Our crew, the members and leaders of the eight Areas in Y'sdom from all levels in our organization, will help their captain reach our goal of 30,000 members in 2006.

In doing this, we need your 'Active Participation with Love'. In everything we do, be it a membership drive, community service, fund raising or training, let's do it out of love. When we do something with love, everything comes naturally and successfully.

Our goal, once achieved, will contribute immensely to my vision of 'Building a Cornerstone for the Future' ~ strong, quality members will make Y'sdom stronger, enabling us to reach more people in need, thereby realizing our mission of building a better world.

I hope and pray that, with God's blessings, the year 2006 will bring us more opportunities to develop not only our organization but also ourselves, our family and loved ones.

Welcome aboard ...!

Choi Han-ki, International President Elect 05/06

## March for Awareness

The Sri Lanka Region has had a successful campaign on HIV/AIDS awareness in support of the Unified Global Project of Y'sdom. The campaign began on the December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005 by pinning a red ribbon and pasting stickers at a number of strategic points such as the Stock Exchange, Arpico Shopping Mall, Pharmaceutical Companies, Hotels and Radio Stations.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December morning before the march commenced all those gathering at the starting point went on a spree pasting stickers on passing vehicles and passing out AIDS awareness red ribbons. This was quite a success as most of the passing vehicles co-operated and slowed down for the youth and the Y's Men to paste the stickers.



The Y's Youth designed a slogan with the words 'Not too young to know but too young to die'. Y's Men, Y's Menettes, Y's youth and Y'slings from the clubs in the Region participated in the march. Many members from the organising committee of the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka, who also joined the walk, made the campaign a reality.

The procession looked more colourful as the vehicles went in between the crowd with banners. The club banners and some advertisement banners too were carried along making it more meaningful. At the end of the walk at the Vihara Mahadevi Open Air Theatre all participants were served with refreshments sponsored by Nestlé. There was a DJ in attendance for a little warming up which was followed by a talk by a medical doctor from the Family Planning Association.

*Suzanne Paiva, RSD, Youth Involvement and Activities, Sri Lanka*

*Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need*

## Shoes are happiness

Can you imagine walking to school without any shoes on?

In August 2005 the African Youth at a Training session held at Jinja, Uganda, heard about children at a local school who had no shoes. This led to a project to see if they could help. The youth donated 32 pairs of shoes and collected from various Y's Men sources over 1 million Uganda Shillings (about 550 US\$). We instructed the head teacher at Kakinzi Primary School to purchase shoes for the students without shoes with the money we had donated. He did an excellent job, managing to purchase 115 new pairs for the students.



Despite the excellent support we were able to find, not all the students were able to get shoes. The criterion used by the head teacher was that he gave out the shoes to those who reported during the first days of the term, since it was a tendency that students started very late every term. He has reported that, due to the project, the number of students in the school has increased and more remained constant through out the term.



The students expressed their heartfelt thanks to the Y's Men fraternity for their kind gesture and the youth of Africa Southeast are grateful to all the Y's Men who supported this project, making it a huge success.

*Baraka Mwangi, Area Youth Representative, Africa*

## *Tsunami Housing Project in Sri Lanka*

The Y's Men International Sri Lanka Region has embarked on a project to provide assistance to those affected by the tsunami and whose houses they were living in were severely damaged or destroyed. As a result these occupants were forced to abandon such premises and seek shelter elsewhere. The initial problem faced by the Y's Men was that they were unable to rebuild these same houses as Governmental regulations debarred them from reconstructing any destroyed homes situated within a 100 metre buffer zone. The Authorities have not yet been fully successful in giving alternative land to such persons affected and that has now become a serious and major national problem.



*Inspection after the official opening*

A further 12 houses costing around 4,500 US\$ each have now been completed in several affected areas while 11 more houses will be built in Weligama (150 km south of Colombo) in a cluster and named as a "Y's Men Village"



*Houses under construction*

In these circumstances the Sri Lanka Region had to search for cases where occupants owned alternative land outside the buffer zone and assistance has been given to such persons. We had also to seek the assistance of the "Community Concern Society" which is an approved charitable organisation working in association with the "People's Church", to assist us in seeking approved sites for rebuilding the proposed houses. Special mention must be made of assistance we rendered to build 5 houses for a Gypsy community who lived in Dehiwala (a town 10 km south of the capital Colombo) whose temporary shelters were completely ravaged by the tsunami and were left literally on the cart road. This community will be resettled in Dankotuwa (a town 10 km north east of the airport) and a community ostracized has hope in the future to live a life of dignity. The houses are ready for occupation and our Past Area President Hiromi Nagao, who was in Sri Lanka recently, had the opportunity to visit this site.



*Finished and waiting for the new families*

We are extremely grateful to Y's Men International members for their generous contribution of 11,500 US\$. We also received 38,300 US\$ from the Y's Men Danish Region and 45,000 US\$ from Geneva Global, plus private donations from several well-wishers. Together we were able to raise approximately 150,000 US\$ in support of our housing project, the balance of which we hope to complete within the next 3 months.

*Veraan De Mel, Immediate Past Regional Director, Sri Lanka Region*

## Taiwan Y's Men Tsunami Fund

Immediately after the tsunami hit Southeast Asia, Regional Director of Taiwan, Mr Chang Ruei Hsing, called on all Y's Men of Taiwan to raise funds for the victims. The members in Taiwan have great compassion and raised 20,000 US\$ for the victims of the tsunami. The idea was to cooperate with local Y's Men's Clubs in relief work and it was decided to co-work with clubs in Sri Lanka.

From November 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2005 the Regional Secretary of Taiwan Region, Mr. Ma Jung-Hua, accompanied by PAP David Hsiao, made a trip to Sri Lanka. The purpose of their travel was to make a survey of the Tsunami disaster seeking how Taiwan Y's Men could help the relief and rehabilitation work.

They travelled with PAP Devane Perera to the disaster area. Although it has been almost a year since tsunami attacked the south east coast of this island country many victims are still living in camps or



small houses built of wood. A wooden house is only temporary shelter for many families. All family members, parents and children, are living in a room about 4 by 6 metres with no kitchen and no bathroom. They also visited a new compound in a mountain site where new houses are just being built. There are 33 houses under construction. One house costs about 4,000 US\$. The Government bought the land for the compound and the funds are raised by many organizations. Y's Men International, Sri Lanka Region also donated for 5 houses but more houses are still needed for the victims. Many of them are fishermen who do not want to move into new community in a mountain site. The government is making efforts in searching for land by the bay area to accommodate those people.



On the last day of their visit there was a meeting with leaders of Y's Men's Clubs in Sri Lanka. An agreement was reached to build 5 more houses with the Taiwan tsunami fund. As soon as Taiwan Region receives the written project, the fund will be sent to Sri Lanka.

David Hsiao, International Travel Coordinator

*Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need*

## Sri Lanka Club Tsunami Aid

Immediately after the tsunami struck Sri Lanka on December 26<sup>th</sup> 2004 the Wellawatte Y's Men's Club worked closely with the Sri Lanka National Council of YMCAs. They donated dry rations, medicines, clothing and toiletries to the value of 200,000 Rs (2,000 US\$)

Since then Elizabeth and Richard Dwight have received over 725,000 Rs (7,000 US\$) as donations from family and friends of the family living abroad This money has been deposited in the club account. The club also received funds from their Brother Club in Norway, Oslo St Halyard, in February 2005.

Fr Wickrema Fonseka of St Sebastian Church, Diyalagama, Maggona identified two needy fisher families who had lost their fishing boat, outboard motor etc. The first project was completed on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 when the club donated a Suzuki outboard motor and handed it over to Fr. Wickrema to be given to the fishermen.

The next project by the club will be building a house in partnership with Batticaloa.



*Seedeivi, Fr Wickrema, Jeevani, Elizabeth Devane & Richard after the presentation at the Outboard Motor*

PICM Elizabeth Dwight, Wellawatte Y's Men's Club, Sri Lanka

### Did You Know?

There is an archive of Y'sdom papers held at the University of Minnesota.

The contents of the archive can be viewed on the IHQ web site at  
<[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)>  
under 'Downloads'

## *YEEP reborn in Canada*

The Canadian Maritimes Region is thrilled to have its first full Youth Educational Exchange Programme activity in years! Allison Hurst went to Sao Paulo, Brazil on December 29, 2005 to spend the year with Marilene and Jose Roman (Alphaville Y's Men's Club in Sao Paulo, Brazil). Their son, Victor, arrived in Summerside, Prince Edward Island on August 9, 2005 to spend the year with Stephen and Glenda Hurst (Summerside Y Service Club, Canada). Both YEEP students are taking their grade 12 high school years and having to tackle the learning of a new language at the same time. This exchange is unique because the exchanges overlap and Allison and Victor were able to spend time with each other - Allison and Victor in Canada from August to December 2005, and Allison and Victor in Brazil from August 2006 to December 2006.



*Victor enjoys serving the club dinner*

Of special interest is that the Roman family is no stranger to YEEP exchanges as they have two other sons (Dennys and Vinicius) who were also YEEP students in Denmark and Canada. Another interesting factor is that the Romans have 4 boys and the Hursts have 3 girls, so there is quite a change in gender in their respective households. Both Allison and Victor have very quickly learned that the Canadian and Brazilian cultures are unique and special and that the only really noticeable difference is language. The world is really a small place!

*Marilynn Linkletter, Summerside Club, Prince Edward Island, Canada*

## *East Kauai Youth Run*

The East Kauai Y's Men, in partnership with the YMCA, held its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Youth Run in January in the grounds at Kilohana. The youth run includes youngsters from stroller age to teens and is a fun way to introduce adolescents to running as a valuable exercise. As a community event businesses are asked to donate prizes and refreshments. No child goes home without a prize and all runners receive a YMCA tee shirt.

The event, consistent with our Y's Men mission to support our local YMCA programmes and values and to be of service to the community, is just one of the many ways the East Kauai Y's Men's Club strives to support our local YMCA.

*Bev Olsen, East Kauai Y's Men's Club, Hawaii*

## *Youth Involvement via YMCA Internet*

In 2003 the YWCA/YMCA of Vilnius, Lithuania, was offered 10 modern computers by the YMCA of Finland. This provided the basis of a scheme for computer training in a country where very little government support is given to higher education in general and electronic equipment in particular. What computers are available are usually far behind today's technological requirements.



A Time of Fast grant of 16,209 US\$ enabled the project to get started and the computers were delivered in January 2005. The machines were upgraded (hdd, memory and processors) and associated hardware purchased to equip a computer training classroom.

Access to computing and knowledge of programs is essential for young people to progress and such facilities are too expensive for the youths served by the YMCA. Volunteers run the courses and the fees are considerably less than those charged by other computer trainers. Vilnius Y's Men's Club has taken this project to its heart and will have fundraising activities to support the project and ensure its continuation.

Creating and strengthening an information society in Lithuania are the main purposes of this project but there is an enormous secondary benefit. Until 1990 social life was strictly controlled by the government and even now young people know little about the idea of volunteering and participating in non-governmental organizations such as the YMCA. Antisocial lifestyles so often fill young people's spare time. It is hoped that by using this centre to meet other NGO leaders the enthusiasm for individuals to get together to create fulfilling activities will grow and young people will have a more positive attitude towards their future.



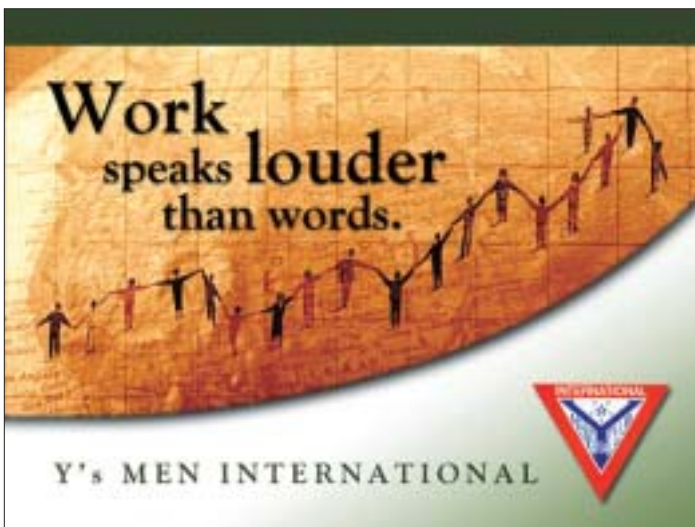
*Algirdas Ciuksys, General Secretary of LJKS, YWCA-YMCA Lithuania*

## US Area Produces Training CDs

All US Area Club Presidents recently received two training presentations on CDs for member education and extension purposes. Funding came from Special Development Funds from Y's Men International. A Task Force appointed in 2005 by the US Area Council supervised the production by a professional graphic designer.

*Pride in our Membership* can be used to inform prospective members, train new members and update current members. Because of its length, it may be shown in separate sections with an accompanying discussion. It may also be used to present information to community organisations.

*Work Speaks Louder Than Words* is meant as a presentation tool to be used in Extension. Shorter in length, it speaks more to a prospective YMCA representative about the benefits of establishing a Y's Men's Club.



Both CDs feature a logo with a fresh look and action photos accompanied by a simple text. They are meant to be presented by a member who can add some commentary pertinent to the local club. Although the text is in English and the photos feature US Area club activities, changes can be made by clubs in other Areas to suit their needs.

Comments from those who have viewed these CD's at Regional Conventions or at club meetings have been extremely positive. Someone has suggested incorporating some of the visuals into a brochure.

Please send any inquiries to Rachelle Reeg, PIP, by e-mail to < rrrstl9573@sbcglobal.net > or by mail to 4822 Moccasin Dr., St. Louis, MO 63123, USA.

*Rachelle Reeg, Past International President*

*Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need*

## YMCA Youth Development Officer

At the last Australian Regional Convention member clubs agreed to assist in part funding the salary of a Youth Development Officer working with the Bendigo Regional YMCA. The aim of this appointment is to develop a Y Youth Service Club in Bendigo as well as to develop the skills and talents of young people so that they are able to participate more successfully in the community. It is anticipated that a 'Model Programme' will evolve which can then be used in other locations for the formation of Youth Clubs.

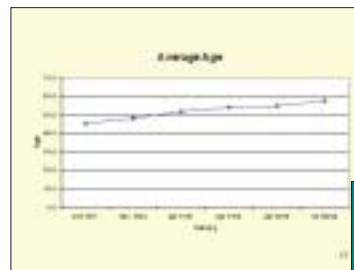
In accepting the offer of the Australian Region to fund 50% of the salary for one year the CEO of the Bendigo Regional YMCA, Peter Krenz, stated that it has been a long-term desire of his to have an active Y Youth Club in Bendigo. He believes a Y Youth Club will enhance the outstanding work of the Y Service Clubs in the city and in addition it will provide a source of volunteers for both the Y Service Clubs and the YMCA.

The successful applicant, Paul Johns, has considerable experience in youth involvement and it is hoped that a group of potential members will shortly be meeting to plan their future club. Paul commenced his duties in January 2006.

*Bill Schmidt, Area President, South Pacific Area*

## Facts and Figures

From time to time Headquarters conducts surveys to check trends in membership, programmes, contributions and other relevant subjects. There is a review of surveys from 1977 to 2004 available as a PowerPoint presentation by digital projector or overhead projector together with a text explanation of the slides. They tell an interesting story of the development of Y'sdom and would provoke discussion if used as a subject for a club meeting. Go to 'Downloads' on the IHQ web site at <www.ysmen.org>. Two sample slides are reproduced here to give a flavour of the information available.



## Y's Menette News



We Y's Menettes are moving forward with our ANTI-AIDS campaign. Our offer of 2,700 US\$ support to Russia from Y's Menettes International project fund has brought much delight to Y's Men and Y's Menettes in that country. They have held competitions for teenagers drawing and painting the problems of drug and AIDS and they have different plans for the future too. I take this opportunity of congratulating Olga Azarian of Ekaterinburg Y's Men's Club, Russia for her informative article in YMW (page-14, issue No.1- 05/ 06). The club plans to print and distribute posters and booklets on the menace of AIDS.

The Indian project in Kuttanellur, providing opportunities of employment to twenty families, mainly women, is gathering momentum. The local club in Kuttanellur is ready to implement the project. The first instalment of 4,000 US\$ from Y's Menettes International Project Fund is now released. Fabric cutters, tailors and embroidery workers as well as helpers will be trained and equipment and fabric will be bought. The project is for one year. I wish Kuttanellur Y's Menettes good luck and God-speed.

We have yet another HIV/AIDS awareness project mooted in Uganda. There are certain problems in implementing the project and efforts are on to sort it out in consultation with the YMCA in Uganda. Hopefully, there will be a positive outcome soon.

Issuing Charters to Y's Menettes Clubs continues to be one of our priorities. Last year only a few Y's Menettes Clubs, mostly Indian, requested the issue of Charters to their clubs and 'Charter Documents' have been dispatched to them as a New Year's Gift. I invite more and more Y's Menettes Clubs to apply for charter and our numbers should increase. It needs motivation by Y's Men first, Y's Menettes next. Area Directors in particular, in charge of Y's Menettes, should act and work at it for success. I have a special request to all the Area Presidents to help us in the matter and write about it in their news bulletins. It's a question of our identity as Y's Menettes.

Yw. Mary Kuruvila, our International Project Coordinator, is doing a great job in coordinating our projects. She is likely to be back from Malaysia soon and resume her work. Our Past International Director Yw. Brenda Berry, who is now coordinating programmes of Sister Club relations, is also at her best. While expressing my heartfelt thanks to both them for their good job, I am looking forward to a result oriented performance in both the two important fields.

With lots of love and warm wishes,  
Yours sincerely in Y's Service,  
Shanti Panigrahi

## Messengers for Peace

Since 1976 Y's Menettes of Nagoya and Nagoya-Tokai have been supporting 'Messengers for Peace: Christmas card contest' of Nagoya YMCA. This contest has continued almost 30 years, encouraging the participants to care for others and to promote peace in the world. The participants are classified into groups of infants, elementary school children (lower, middle and upper), junior high, and senior high school students, and adults. This last year there were 2,277 applications with fine and heart-warming pictures. The biggest group was from small children, while the oldest applicant was 74 years of age.



The most excellent works were awarded and exhibited at Nagoya Citizen's Gallery during the Christmas week. They were also printed as greeting cards and sent to YMCAs in and out of Japan. The two Y's Menettes Clubs serve the contest by making the arrangements, funding and offering awards. They wish that these cards convey love and peace in this cold world.

*Nagoya and Nagoya-Tokai Y's Menettes Clubs, Japan West Region  
(Translated from Japanese by Kazu Aoki, Assistant Editor, Japan)*

## International Cooperation

In 1984 Trivandrum YMCA of India started a sewing class for rural girls to get vocational training for their self support. The then General Secretary, John Thomas, requested Fujisan District of Japan for financial aid as a symbol of cooperation between the two countries. Y's Men of Fujisan District sent six sewing machines for the first 25 girl trainees. Since then there have been constant exchanges of letters.

Later in 2004, prior to Kochi International Convention, 17 members from Fujisan visited Trivandrum, and donated 17 hand sewing machines and 3 electric ones with some fund for their maintenance. Recently we heard that 15 girls graduated from the class each of whom was given a machine for her independent life. We shall be sustaining this project for the less privileged youths to find their feet.



*Shintaro Ida, District Governor of Fujisan District, Japan  
(Translated from Japanese by Kazu Aoki, Assistant Editor, Japan)*

## Transforming Lives

Pathanamthitta Central Y's Men's Club in the South West India Region is touching and transforming the lives of the disadvantaged groups in the society through the dedicated implementation of the Unified Global Project on HIV/AIDS and the Regional Project 'Care the Less Cared'. The club has tied up with PLANET (People Living With AIDS Network) to provide nutritional and psychological support to the HIV/AIDS victims who still live in fear of the stigma and the incapacity to work. The club is also conducting public awareness programmes on AIDS with due publicity.



The club organises regular visits to destitute homes and geriatric centres and spends time with the residents. The Y's Menettes Club also actively takes part in the implementation of the projects and has contributed to the fund raising activities for the charitable projects. Thousands of rupees have already been spent for social service projects and the active involvement of the club has generated wide publicity and accolades from the public. Impressed by the efficient work, the District Government authorities now consult the club in the implementation of projects like AIDS and mentally challenged persons.

*Philip Thengumcheril, Pathanamthitta Y's Men's Club, India*

## Cash and Public Relations



Every year the Charlottetown Y's Men's Club creates a parking lot and parks cars at the provincial exhibition during Old Home Week (OHW) and the Gold Cup & Saucer Parade and Race (sulky horse racing). It is one of our more lucrative fundraising events with 2,200 C\$ profit this year. All monies raised go to youth sporting or scholastic events.

The event is also a wonderful way to get our name and image before the public.

*David Ing, Assistant Editor, Canada*

*Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need*

## Children Learning with Pleasure

Osaka Tosabori Club, Japan has been developing a series of activities for children in the community. The programmes are mostly done outdoors in a neighbourhood park and sometimes in the YMCA classroom. They aim to provide people with 'cultural exchange' with children, to help children think and discover by themselves and also to offer opportunities of voluntary service, especially to office workers.

Examples of activities are: making a sundial to know time by the sun (July), making a screw rocket at the Summer Festival (August), experiments of capillary action and surface tension (September), old games such as quoits and mimic fishing, etc. (October), dyeing leaves with colours, (November). Many voluntary groups including some other Y's Men's Clubs, NGOs and companies in the community support these activities.

*Tokio Okuda, President of Osaka Tosabori Y's Men's Club, Japan  
(Translated from Japanese by Kazu Aoki, Assistant Editor, Japan)*

## Our Annual Christmas Tree Sale

I know that lots of clubs do this for a fundraiser, but it is never wrong to give a good idea publicity! We have a trailer painted red and green and have the Y's Men's motto and logo attached to the side of the trailer for all to see. We all wear nametags saying we are a Y's Man volunteer, because some have asked if we were paid by the YMCA - we have been doing this for 45 years.

This year we received over 850 trees and 19 dozen wreaths and were sold out on the Saturday before Christmas, which gave all of our hard-working members and friends a week to catch up and be ready for our personal celebrations. We received fewer trees this year but made more money! Some of our helpers included members of the Youth in Government group at the YMCA, and some 5th and 6th graders from one of the local schools who are required to do some community service projects each year.

Articles in the local paper said "These Y's Men are ready to help you find the perfect tree and wreath for your Christmas celebration." Proceeds from this annual sale provide scholarships for children who would not otherwise be able to attend the YMCA summer camp and other Y programmes, provide financial resources to purchase equipment for Camp Wakanda and the Y, support the Citizen's Scholarship Foundation, and programmes for youth in the Wakefield community. The Wakefield Y's Men's Club is the oldest active Y's Men's Club in the United States.

*Editor's thanks to Wakefield Club for providing the front page picture.*

*Norman Campbell, Wakefield Y's Men's Club, USA*

## Building on past Time of Fast Success

The Y's Men's Club of Trivandrum North is actively involved in the National Association for the Blind (NAB) since India has the largest number of visually impaired people in the world. Indians have many other disabilities as well; 10% of the population is disabled. The NAB wishes to expand its present downtown facilities to reach 50,000 people with all kinds of disabilities.

The current facilities were created many years ago and received a Time of Fast grant in 1995 to set up the support for the local blind. NAB has provided an excellent service but is overstretched to meet the needs of the community. A further TOF grant was made in 2004 to extend the building and services. An upper floor is being added to the existing building to double the present area of 140 sq.m.

Units to be added to the programme include: (1) counselling (2) vocational rehabilitation for economic independence (3) prevention of blindness and disability (4) client services (5) children with multiple disabilities (the first unit of its kind in Kerala). Planned programmes include individual and family counselling, training unimpaired people (teachers, police, etc.) in meeting the needs of the impaired, medical checkups of school children to prevent disease and identify malnourishment.

The International President Elect Choi Han-ki, inaugurated the Building on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The members of Trivandrum North Club and the staff of the National Association for the Blind gave him a traditional welcome. The blind trainees of NAB played the welcome band. After a brief talk with the blind trainees of NAB, IP Choi Han-ki opened the building amid great applause. After lighting the traditional lamp he remembered the services rendered by the late P. George whose dream was to set up this centre and said that it was really great to see the centre shape up as per his dream.



Josey Joseph, Trivandrum North Y's Men's Club, India

## New Money for Time of Fast

In connection with the European Area Convention 2005 in Västerås, Sweden a new way of raising money for our Time of Fast Fund was tested. A concert was arranged where all expenses were covered by a part of the convention fees. In that way all money from the ticket sales went directly to the fund without any reduction.

To attract an audience with a wide musical taste, we arranged for musicians of different styles. First, the famous Swedish saxophonist Johan Stengård together with Andreas Landegren at the piano. They have performed in many different countries with a wide range of popular music. On some occasions, they have performed when the Swedish Royal Family have made official visits to other countries. Secondly, a young pianist from



Västerås, Henrik Måwe, who has been studying for five years at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. He chose to play music by Frederic Chopin at the concert.

The concert was a wonderful success and the artists were given great ovations for their performances. 42,400 SEK (5,600 US\$) has been given to our Time of Fast Fund from the Area Europe Convention as a result of the concert.

Torbjørn Sjøqvist, Assistant Editor Europe

### Did You Know?

The IHQ web site at  
<[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)>  
has a lot of information on Time of Fast Projects

There you can find:  
A brief Time of Fast history.  
Guidelines for the Time of Fast Programme.  
One-page flyers.  
Progress reports.  
The Time of Fast Awareness Calendar.

Why not have a look?

## *God's Plan*

*'When one member suffers all the members suffer with it and when one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it.'*

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12 Verses, 26-27*

One of the facts with which we must come to terms is that we depend on one another. We may speak of people of independent means but there are people who work for them to make the dividend from which they draw income. There is no life that is independent and no life that is private.

It is very essential that we get on with one another but the world today needs a far deeper and stronger basis and understanding. Life without love, a love that means tolerance and endless goodwill is going to be hell. The world today has fallen into this hell. It is high time that we learnt to live together. No one in this age can deny this truth. It seems a grim fact that if we are not moved by Christian love to share our wellbeing with the unfortunate, they will share their misfortunes with us.

Christianity has always taught that God's plan for the world is to make one great family. It envisages all nations bringing the treasure to the Kingdom of God where the assets of one are shared by all and give joy to all. The liabilities of any are the concern and burden of all. God's wish is that each must serve the welfare of all. We must love our neighbours and all men are our neighbours. The Christian Lord's Prayer must be said with greater sincerity. It does not say 'I' or 'me' but Our Father give us our daily bread. Forgive us our sins and deliver us from evil.

Let us follow the instruction of our active leader IP Benson to take off our hats to the past and remove our coats, roll up our sleeves and go out to do the noble work of sowing the seeds to bring about perfect fulfilment of His Holy Will into every heart following in earnest the lovely prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that  
I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console  
Not so much to be understood as to understand  
Not so much to be loved as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive  
For it is in forgiving that we are forgiven  
It is in dying that we wake to eternal life

*V.M. John, International Service Director, Christian Emphasis*

*Be Y's Men in Deed not Y's Men in Need*

## *Thoughts on Financial Management*

For any organisation Financial Management is an important aspect and its efficiency and effectiveness largely affects the well being of the organisation. This essentially involves three components *viz:* Cash management, Accounting and Auditing. Each aspect is important. Even though there are certain laid down procedures and practices in respect of each of this, in many places this is not being followed.

As regards Cash Management the importance of budgetary control cannot be underestimated. In accounting, standards are available such as International Accounting Standards, standards laid down by accounting institutes etc. In the matter of auditing also, International Auditing Standards as well as standards prescribed by some of the Supreme Auditing Institutions are available and in some cases, these are mandatory also. Once the report of the Auditors is finalised, there must be a machinery to examine and pursue their report. Only when all these different aspects are synchronised and followed, it can be said that there is a good system of financial management.

One of the important things to remember when public money is being handled is that the person who pays the money has the right to know how it is spent. This requires detailed accounts and its presentation in time along with the Auditor's Report. Any lapse or delay in this matter will have adverse impact. Similarly, financial propriety demands that the person who spends public money should exercise the same care and precaution as if he is spending his own money in the given situation.

As such there is the need for strict financial discipline at every level especially at the club level, since this is lacking at some places. The financial indiscipline may even affect the very existence of the club. There should be proper system of cash management, accounting and auditing at every level. The present system of training of club officers and others should include this aspect also. In places where training is not imparted it would be better if we could start this at least to the club offices, so that a strong foundation could be set up in the matter of finance and accounts.



*Rajan Panicker, Trivandrum Y's Men's Club, India*

## Development through Endowment

The Endowment Fund is a major source of money for the expansion of Y'sdom through Special Development Support. On behalf of the Endowment Fund Trustees: Bob Daniels, USA; Kazuyoshi Aoki, Japan; Arvid Malme, Norway; P. Sukumaran, India; Alan Ballard, Australia; and myself, thank you to all the Y's Men's Clubs, Y Service Clubs and individuals who contributed to the Endowment Fund during the past year (2004/5).

I am happy to announce that because of your wonderful support, the International goal of 60,955 US\$ was exceeded by raising 85,674 US\$. Three areas: Asia, Europe and India are recognised for exceeding their area goals.

One of the methods to contribute to the Endowment Fund is the Honour Roll Member. When an individual contributes 1,000 US\$ or more, or includes the Endowment Fund with an amount of 1,000 US\$ or more in their will, trust fund, insurance, stocks, bonds, etc., and notifies the Endowment ISD and IHQ in writing of this, he/she will be listed on the Honour Roll Member page in the Golden Book. An Iceberg memento will be given to the honour roll member with his/her name on the plaque to proudly display in their home or office. An honour roll member pin will be given to wear proudly. If a husband and wife contribute, both names are on the plaque and each receives a pin. If someone contributes more than once, his/her name will be listed with an asterisk and the words 2nd, 3rd.....

The International Goal for year 2005/6 is set at 69,028 US\$. Let's try for 100% of the areas exceeding their area goals so that the enlarged Endowment Fund can feed more money from the interest back into the development of Y'sdom.

*Harold Spilde, ISD Endowment Fund*

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## A Good Servant of Y'sdom

Past ISG Jerry Heyl passed away in October 2005. We in the Mid East Region, US Area were privileged to have Jerry with us for the last years of his life and especially we at Melrose Y's Men's and Women's Service Club are proud that Jerry was a member of our club and served as the club treasurer, for at least 5 years. Our organization today is vibrant because of Jerry's insight and leadership as International Secretary General from 1963 to 1973. During his time as ISG a new headquarters for Y's Men International was built at Oak Brook Illinois in 1967/8. When IHQ moved from Oak Brook to Geneva in 1973 this building was sold with the proceeds going to the Endowment Fund.

*Bernie Marshall, past ICM 1983-85 US Area*

## Who'll Raise the Bid for the ASF?

The Alexander Scholarship Fund was named after the founder of Y's Men International, and the purpose of ASF is to promote the training of YMCA staff and/or those seeking to become YMCA staff members. Its aim is to alleviate the desperate shortage of YMCA professionals. ASF was in the limelight at a January dinner meeting of the Summerside Y Service Club, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Each member brought two or three articles from home for an 'in-house' auction, a tradition in the club for many years to fund-raise for ASF. There were various items of interest, lamps, floor mats, a collectible bubble gum dispenser, a handsome clock, baskets of homemade jams, jellies, a small Wedgwood dish, an original painting, etc. Something for everyone. Early in the evening bids were made by placing a



slip under the item as a 'silent auction', then after dinner the Y's Man auctioneer started the calls for bids based on the highest of the slips under each item. This is an evening of fun, hearty humour and camaraderie. As 'tis said, the place 'rocked' with laughter. Over

600 C\$ was raised for the Alexander Scholarship Fund. Judge Paul William would have been happy.

*Marilynn Linkletter, Summerside Y Service Club, P E I, Canada*

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## 3,000 Parcels of Joy

The kids in the city of Montebello always get excited waiting for December 24<sup>th</sup>. This is the day they will be treated like royalty. The Montebello YMCA gives out about 3,000 toys to those kids who will be coming with their parents. The owner of the Quiet Cannon Banquet provides them with an excellent brunch decorated with balloons on the table. Among those who participate in this annual event are the members of the YMCA Board, the City Mayor, Chairperson of the City Council, the Police Chief and many other distinguished leaders in town.

The most exciting time for kids is when they are handed a free Christmas gift in a bag following their meal. This is when the volunteer member of the East Valley Y's Men's Club see with pride the results of their sweat.

*Erick Kim, East Valley Y's Men's Club, Montebello, USA*

## *Extension Efforts in a New Country*

During November 2005, we had the opportunity to visit the YMCAs in Ecuador and Costa Rica, as part of the extension program in Latin America. Both YMCAs are young but very active. Even though no Y's Men's Clubs exist in either location they have received Time of Fast contributions for different local projects.

In the case of Costa Rica's YMCA, with Xinia Brenes as Executive Director, it was a great satisfaction to visit the Purral Centre of Community Development, being the first of these projects in this country. It was also satisfying to be able to take part in an Open Lecture on the project of 'Awareness and Training of Youth for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS', second of the efforts supported by TOF in that beautiful country.



The process of formation of the first Costa Rica Y's Men's Club, in the hands of Mr. Luis Chavarría, executive of the YMCA, will take place at the YMCAs Annual Assembly, February 28<sup>th</sup>,

which will at the same time celebrate their 30th anniversary.

*Omar Poseiro, AP Latin America/Caribbean*

## *Time of Fast Support for Immigrants*

Costa Rica has been for a long time a stable democracy in a troubled region of Central America. Due to this it has the highest number of immigrants from adjacent countries who are fleeing political and economic conditions in their native lands. Most of these are young people, 20-29 years old, who come from Nicaragua. The increasing birth rate among these immigrants shows that they are becoming part of the social fabric of the country but as 40% are in the metropolitan area of San José they are not taking up agricultural activities as they used to in the past. In Goicoechea, a suburb of San José, the YMCA (ACJ of Costa Rica) maintains a community development centre.

The Costa Rican YMCA has provided job training for Nicaraguan refugees for many years. In 2002 it developed a pilot project offering technical training in a bakery, as beauticians and office clerks. Evaluation of the results of training 53 people showed that 70% were able to obtain permanent jobs. However, it was noted that these immigrants still have difficulty finding acceptance.

The Time of Fast Project is aimed at providing further skill training sessions, combined with learning computer skills, led by 20 young volunteers with support from 5 other YMCA volunteers. There will be at least annual courses in labour training with a total of 50 participants, 70% from Nicaragua and 30% from Costa Rica, with 4 workshops on human development and intercultural respect, and one management course for 3 hours a week over 2 months for all participants. Day childcare is being provided for women participants. There will also be campaigns against racism and xenophobia and a community theatre presentation that shows the suffering of Nicaraguans who are rejected and exploited.



Participation with churches, 5 governmental institutions, 3 NGOs, 2 community organizations, 2 national universities and two United Nations organizations tries to bring Costa Ricans and Nicaraguans together within a framework of intercultural respect, gender and age equality to help the immigrants to integrate more fully into their communities. Annual events such as 'Immigrant Week' and 'Mayo Di/verso' will be supplemented by a handicraft fair and/or a photography exhibition. Each planned activity will be evaluated at the time, and an overall evaluation at the end of each year will involve all participants.

### ***Did You Know?***

The Editor is always looking for short items of interest to fill a small space like this one!

Has YOUR club something to share?



**Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL  
67th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
BUSAN, KOREA  
AUGUST 3~6 2006**



**Welcome to the  
Land of Wonders**

**Host Committee Office**  
**Chairman Choi Han-ki**  
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Busan 600-082, Korea  
Email: [goldseven1@naver.com](mailto:goldseven1@naver.com)  
Web site: [www.ysmenic2006.com](http://www.ysmenic2006.com)

**Convention Dates and Venue**

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Date: August 3 - 6, 2006**

**Venue: Lotte Hotel & BEXCO**

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING (ICM)**

**Date: July 30 - August 2, 2006**

**YOUTH CONVOCATION**

**Date: July 31 - August 6, 2006**