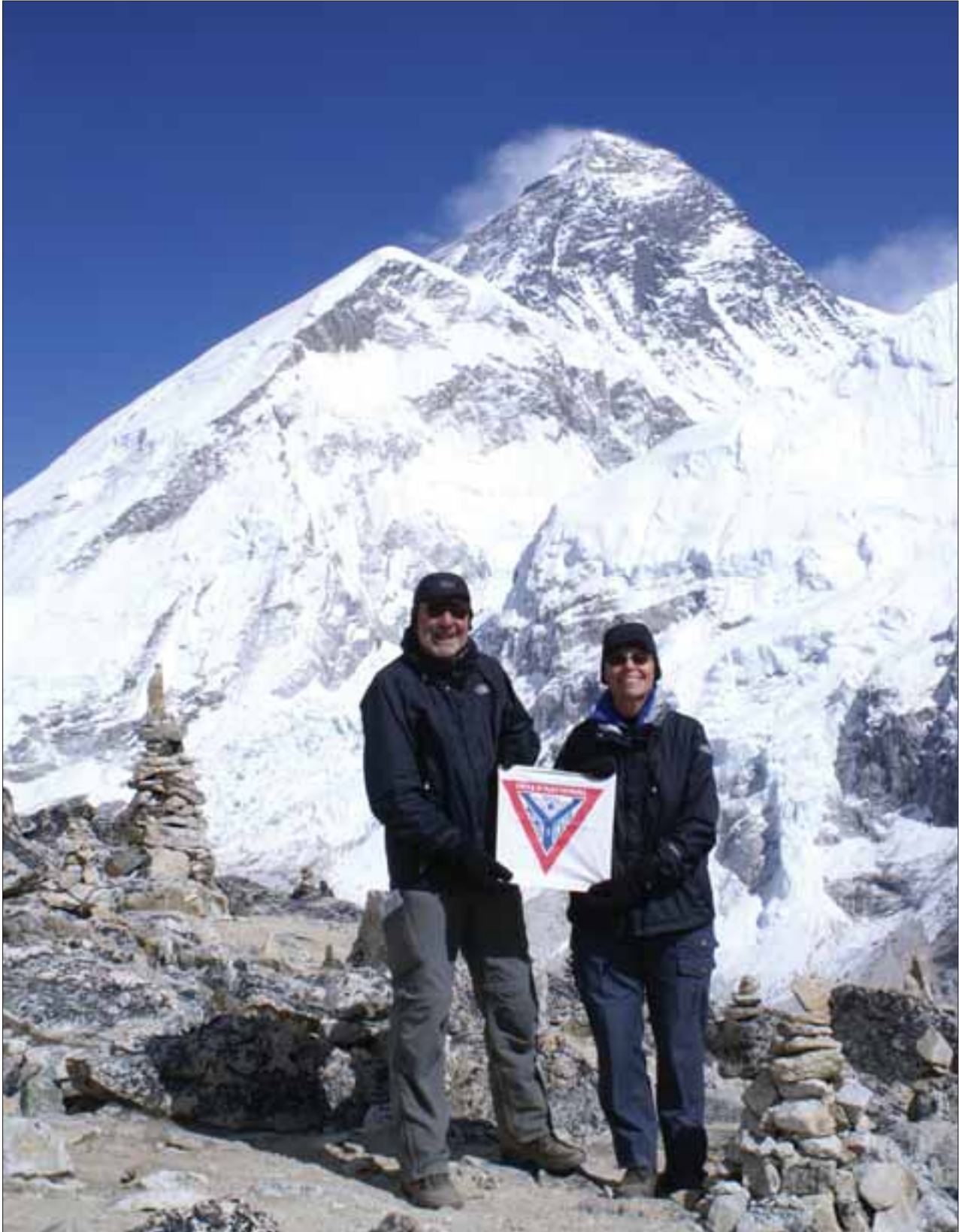


# Y's Men's World



Editorial

Without efficient lubrication any movement, be it a watch or a power station, will eventually grind to a halt. Communication is the oil that lubricates our movement. *Y's Men's World* is unique in being able to reach all members of our organisation and I am privileged to be able to read and select the stories submitted for publication. However not all information can be contained in *YMW*. IHQ sends out regular messages that are not just meant for leaders, they need to be passed on to all members. If you do not receive IHQ information in your Club, District, Region or Area bulletin, then complain to someone!



I have always believed that the function of *Y's Men's World* is to provide Education, Enlightenment and Entertainment, though I am not sure of the correct order. I rely on you, members and readers, to provide the raw material from which I can create a readable magazine, do not let the movement grind to a halt---  
--- communicate.

*Yours in Y'sdom  
Wally*

Election Results



704 valid votes were received in time, with 23 late votes and 77 invalid. Based on a membership as at 1 October 2006 of 1,602 clubs, the valid participation was therefore 44%, but 49% of clubs responded to the call to vote.

V. S. Bashir of India was elected International President Elect 2007/08 and will take office in July 2007.

New International Council Members to serve from 1 July 2007 are:

- Mr Jacob Kristensen (Denmark) for Area Europe
- Mr Peter Villadsen (Denmark) for Area Europe
- Mr Thomas V. John for Area India
- Mr M. Rajan Panicker for Area India

New International Council Member Elect from 1 July 2007 is:

Mrs Sionides dos Reis Uria for Area Latin America/Caribbean

**Y's Men's World**  
N° 3 2006-2007  
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The front page photograph is by Bertil Warrell of the Ulricehamn Y's Men's Club, Sweden. See the article on page 8

**Did You Know?**

We have great problems every issue obtaining a photograph suitable for the front page.

This could be your chance of fame!

An ideal picture has the Y's Men's logo somewhere in view, has a ratio of 1 wide to 1.2 high, shows some action or Y'sdom activity and is a VERY large file size.

For good printing we need 300 dpi and a large sized picture; this is true of all pictures submitted for consideration.

Thank you Bertil for solving the problem this issue

**Deadline for the Editor to receive material for the next issue is August 28th 2007**

## Half Year Evaluation



My theme is  
"Active Participation with Love"

with the slogan  
"Over 30,000 in 06."

However, our membership has decreased by around 1,000, which is a usual phenomenon in the first semester with RDs from Africa

Northwest, the Philippines, and South Atlantic in the U.S.A. failing to submit their October reports to IHQ on time. I hope that this is temporary in the first half of this year. I am optimistic that this is just the right position or posture for our organisation to leap or jump further, with the April report showing a marked increase in membership.

Especially I plan to give international awards to recognise outstanding RDs and APs who have worked hard to increase membership in my term of office.

I attended the Service Club Leaders Convention in Washington, D.C. last November, which was a very good chance to compare ourselves to other international service clubs and gain an understanding of how they work. We learnt some very interesting facts:

- They classify the Organisations into Small, Medium and Large; with YMI being Medium size.
- Average Age - 50-60 years old. ~ Our Average is 57
- Dues/Fees - average 50 US\$ annually/member. ~ Ours are 34 US\$
- HQ Staff - about 20-30 employees for medium-sized organisations. ~ We have three full time, one part time and a Youth Intern.

- Statistical Trend of Members (2005) - Medium size organisation average minus 10% while some organisations had about minus 30%. ~ Our trend has been for a small increase in membership over the same period.
- Membership Conservation and Budget. ~ YMI is above average among other international service clubs.
- Magazine - 4 times a year. ~ We have just increased our publication to this.

Topics during the SCLC were, as follows:

Opening Session:

Importance of Advocacy in Volunteer, Non-profit Organizations

Breakout Sessions:

Preserving the Past, Promoting the Future

How to Effectively Use your Organisation's History

Using Media to Enhance Your Advocacy Work

The IC 06, ICM 06 and Youth Convocation were successfully held in Busan, Korea in July and August last year - my thanks and appreciation for all your help. I have sent my Monthly IP greetings, fortunately more than half responded and I hope to receive more responses in the future. On IP Emergency Fund release, I feel that we should confirm and/or clarify who is the person responsible (RD/DG/etc) for the release/implementation/feedback of the same. I hope to make a detailed guideline or practice on this. I have appointed additional members for the Task Force on PR Material and History/Archives Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your cooperation and dedicated efforts.

Choi Han-ki, International President

## International Treasurer's Plea

The reporting of membership numbers and payment of dues is a continuing problem for the movement. For 2006/07 first semester IHQ received many October Reports too late or incomplete. In many cases reports were changed two, three and even four times. As every club President can imagine, this procedure is creating a lot of extra work, not only at IHQ, but also for DG, RD and AP. It is also hurting the validity of votes, since reported and paid membership of a club is necessary to ensure valid participation in voting.

This situation is despite many, many reminders sent by IHQ. This means the figures on membership reported and paid are not complete and this causes many budgeting problems.

**PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE**

Remember:

Reports are due on April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Payments are due on May 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>

Klaus Dietzel, International Treasurer

## 'Service Without Borders'



It is a great honour and pleasure to have this opportunity to get in touch with all of you and to tell you a little about my Plans, Thoughts and Hopes for 2007/08. I have just returned from the Mid Year Meeting that took place in the beautiful city of Honolulu. We had a fruitful meeting with the AP/Es and there is a great will to cooperate. We had excellent

discussions so - yes- it is a real fine team. This is a good sign for the future and gives me confidence. I am looking forward to working with the members of the International Council.

I think it is imperative that we, as leaders and members, use our opportunities to prepare ourselves for the important jobs we are going to execute in our movement in 2007/08. As leaders and members we have enormous responsibilities – not only for our Club, District, Region and Area, but for the Y's Men's movement, so I think it is appropriate that I share my visions with you for our movement, together with my priorities.

The theme I have chosen is: *Service Without Borders*. When we follow our international purpose: "...to build a better world for mankind" we have to cross borders. We must not look at colour or religion, but give help where it is needed. I believe our potential is better for that kind of service now that the United Nations has recognised us as an 'NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations'. There are many organisations like ours with the same rights at the UN – and the opportunities to find other partners with whom to cooperate will be easier. I know that the Regions are doing well and at the international level we have TOF as a superb programme.

My priorities during my term of office will mirror most of the elements of the Forward Plan.

- **Extension and Membership Conservation**
- **Leadership Training**
- **Public Relations**
- **Community Service**
- **Youth Involvement and Activities**

I will enlarge on these priorities in later editions of *Y's Men's World*.

Y'sly and sincerely

Lasse Bergstedt, International President Elect

## Toys for Tots

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> the City North Y's Men and Women Club sponsored its annual free Christmas Party held at the Monsanto Family YMCA in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. As usual we had over 300 children in attendance. Every child received a hot dog, potato chips, cookies, and a juice drink. Everyone was invited to have seconds, and of course the kids stuffed themselves.



There were many games, entertainment, and the spectacular arrival of Santa Claus (club member John Ditto). The children went absolutely wild when they saw him. Santa and his helpers passed out additional goodie bags to the kids. By the time the last child had sat on Santa's lap, Santa was totally exhausted. But you could see by the twinkle in his eye, he absolutely loved every minute of it.

The distribution of the presents was the final event of the party. Club members Christine Justice, Linda Simms, and Betty Brooks did an excellent job in getting the toys donated. They collaborated with Toys For Tots, a non-profit organization, which donated over 400 toys. The founder of Toys for Tots actually made a visit to our party and seemed very pleased to see so many children enjoying the toys.



As a special note, three of our local TV stations and one local newspaper covered the Christmas party. The publicity was great for our club's image.

For many families this party has become a holiday tradition that moms, dads, and grandparents share with their young ones. Our Christmas party is an extra special event because all children are invited to attend regardless of their economic status. Kids of well-to-do parents play and socialize with children of parents of lesser means. In this way no child is made to feel 'different'. It's a party where kids can just be kids and forget about any problems they may have had before they came.

Jo Ann Gardner, St. Louis City North Y's Men & Women's Club, USA

## *On Target?*

Aloha from Hawai'i!

The Endowment Fund has a goal of 89,000 US\$ for the 2006/07 Y's Men's year. I have received reports to date from four Areas: Asia, South Pacific, United States and Canada plus one Region, Denmark. The combined total for all reports is 8702 US\$ or 10% of our goal. I am pleased to note that IP Choi Han-ki has become an Honor Roll member.

It is always difficult to obtain updates from around the world on a timely basis so I think that the low total is not a major concern. Many Areas have special promotions to raise funds for Endowment that fall at different times during the year and most donations come with the spring semester.

The Endowment Fund is of great importance to our movement because it allows us to assist existing clubs while helping us to expand the reach of Y'sdom in new places around the world. The Trustees allot a certain amount of the interest earned on the Fund for these projects so it is vital to keep adding to the capital through annual donations. The total capital for the fund was 1,636,058 US\$ as of August 2006. Recently funds have been used to extend Y'sdom to the former eastern bloc countries where membership is undergoing enthusiastic and rapid growth.

I am urging the ASDs and RSDs for Endowment to increase their efforts to promote the Fund in their Areas and Regions and I look forward to being able to report 100% success for our 2006/07 goal.

*Phil Sammer, ISD Endowment Fund Promotion*

## *Food for All*

There is a semi-public football league in Koto Ward, Metropolitan Tokyo, but it is only for children above 4<sup>th</sup> grade in primary schools. Y's Men's Club of Tokyo-Koto therefore organises 'The Y's Cup Football Games' twice a year for children of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and below. Every time the club provides them with a ground, kits, prizes, and soup with riceballs for lunch. This time, the 33<sup>rd</sup> one, the games were held at the ground of Marine University. 500 children, together with their parents and younger brothers and sisters, totally more than 1,000 people, took part in this event. In principle the food is for the players and leaders only, but kind Y's Men cannot refuse small brothers and sisters so feed them also. This time, Y's Menettes cooked 700 bowls of Japanese pork soup in huge pots on the stoves. The club will continue this dynamic project for the children in the community.

*Yoshikazu Katori, DG Kanto-Tobu, Japan East Region  
(Translated by Kazu Aoki)*

## *Active Participation With Love*

## *YEEP Surprise*

You will have read in *Y's Men's World* 2005/06 issue 2 (page 8) of the exchange of YEEP students between families from Brazil and Canada. Victor Roman returned to Brazil earlier in 2006 and there met again Alison Hurst who was still staying with his family. A surprise came to them in September when Stephen Hurst and Janet-Rose McBeath, Victor's hosts and Alison's parents, made an unannounced trip to Sao Paulo to see Alison.



Janet-Rose and Stephen took the opportunity to visit a Time of Fast project known as CDC Julian Haranzkyk (at the YMCA Uirapurur - Sao Paulo, Brazil). They were given a very warm welcome by staff and students alike. They were delighted to purchase a beautiful wooden server tray made by the students of the woodworking class who had made excellent progress with the lessons provided at the centre.

*Stephen Hurst, Canada ASD - YEEP/STEP*

## *New Year Fair and Y'sdom Promotion*

On New Year's Eve five Russian Y's Men's Clubs; Apatity, Tietta, Lingua, Vudyavr and Parents' Service; joined to organise a fair in Kirovsk Palace of Culture. We tried to 'kill two birds' - to fundraise and to promote the image of Y'sdom. The walls of the hall were decorated with Y's Men's emblem and symbols. Every customer who bought lovely things made by our Y's Men, was given the booklet *Welcome to Y's Men International*.

At the joint tea party there were some guests - potential members. With great interest they listened to Bible reading and translation of the fresh issue of *Y's Men's World*. Both guests and hosts took an active part in a lottery. The party ended by carol singing and prayer. It's great that we have found new Y's friends. All money raised is to be given to needy people of our community.

*Yulia Sherbakova, Russia, RSD PR/ASF*

## Relationships: Official and Relevant

Y's Men International and the World Alliance of YMCAs can boast of a long-standing official relationship. Representatives of both groups have shared communications and have participated in each other's meetings upon invitation through the years. Official documents listing agreements and support of common projects have been signed often at conventions, meetings



or other official public occasions as visible evidence of cooperation and proposed action for the mutual benefit of both organisations.



The *Principles of Partnership* document of Y's Men International was originally signed at the highest levels in 1981. Most Area, Region, and Club leaders have signed the same document (or one that has the same tenets) in the years since with their respective YMCA leaders. Most recently, the Latin America and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs and Area Latin America and Caribbean Y's Men signed their agreement in November 2006.

How does the 'official' action become relevant? One might have a doubt about the effectiveness of signing such a document. True, if it lies in a file, hangs on a wall unnoticed, or never touches the organisations' members, it becomes a simple exercise. Some action past the signing is required for the document to have meaning for the persons touched by both of our organisations.

The 'proof of the pudding' emerges in joint projects initiated by either entity: local fundraising, projects for youth, programmes emphasising diversity and/or gender equity, health assistance, disaster relief, preschools, tutoring programmes, teen and adult vocational skill development. Equally valuable is the spirit of volunteerism evident in community members who promote YMCA programmes in their locales.

What counts most is what happens 'in the trenches'. Individuals from both the YMCA and Y's Men can make things happen for the mutual benefit of both groups, but more importantly for the benefit of the persons they both serve.

Note: *The Forward Plan of Y's Men International stresses the importance of signing the Principles of Partnership between the paired entities at all levels: YMCAs and Y's Men's Clubs. A sample document is available through IHQ, which may be translated and reworded to suit the needs of the signing entities as long as the spirit of the document remains.*

Rachelle R. Reeg, ISD YMCA Liaison

## YMCA Foundation Home

A delegation of Y's Men from Clubs in SMIT (Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand) District made a special visit to Bangkok to visit the YMCA Foundation Home at Phayao, Chianzrnai, Thailand to see the valuable work they undertake. This home was established 13 years ago to protect children from sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons. These children are from hill tribes, aged 8 years to 19 years consisting of 8 males and 38 females, and they are looked after under 'The quality of life development project'.

Underprivileged children, children from broken families and children impacted by AIDS are brought to this home and are given shelter, education and multi-disciplinary networking. Sustainable livelihood is promoted to affect each child. There are 9 volunteer workers and amongst the outdoor activities are planting of rice and garlic in the nearby fields where they earn some money from it. We enjoyed a short time assisting in the field. YMCAs of Japan, Thailand and Y's Men's Clubs in Bangkok, Chiangmai, Chiangrai and SMIT support the work of the Home.



We also travelled to the YMCA of Chiangrai to attend an Orientation Programme to form a new Y's Men's Club there. Twenty potential members were present. It is a promising start and, God willing, a new Club will be born in early 2007. The event was chaired by the DG of SMIT, Udonchai Sakulvanaporn, with the support of the YMCA President, Mr. Somboon Panyapronks and his committee. RD for SEA, Y's Man Ng Hak Hai of Singapore, made a presentation on Y's Men International and its various activities and programmes. The visit ended with the 2nd Meeting of the SMIT District Council and a Fellowship Dinner, held at YMCA of Chiangmai. Thanks to the wonderful hospitality shown by our Thai counterparts.

K Letchimanan, ISD YEEP

*Forward with a Plan*

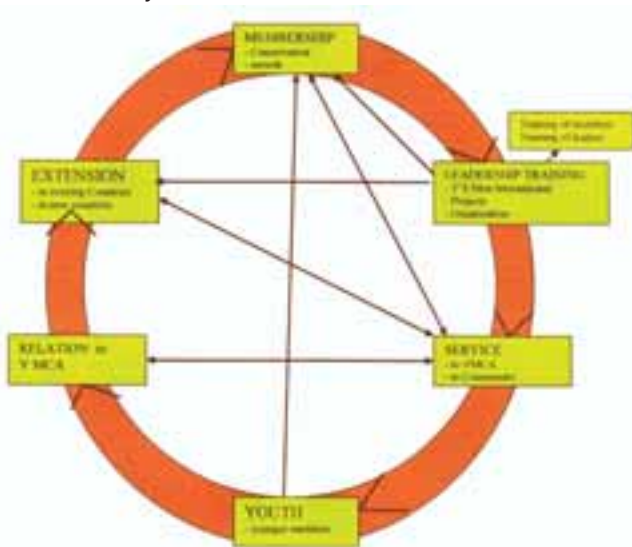
The Forward Plan is a strategic plan of Y's Men International (YMI) covering three years, that is 2005 to 2008. The Forward Plan is a tool for strengthening your club and the movement. Its objectives are:

- to improve your member perception and our international operation in general
- to offer relevant service to the YMCA or your community
- to improve and expand your local Y's Men's image and identify it in your community
- to strengthen Y's Men at local and global level
- to extend Y'sdom in some areas and/or countries declared by Y's Men International

It places emphasis on six programmes identified in 2003/04 as being critical for a new strategic direction, thrust, development, growth and success of Y'sdom. The International Council has agreed that the International Service Directors of these programmes should serve for at least three years to ensure continuity.

The six interrelated programme areas are:

- Relation with YMCA
- Membership Growth
- Y's development in new & economically less developed countries
- Leadership training and organisation development
- Youth involvement
- Community Work

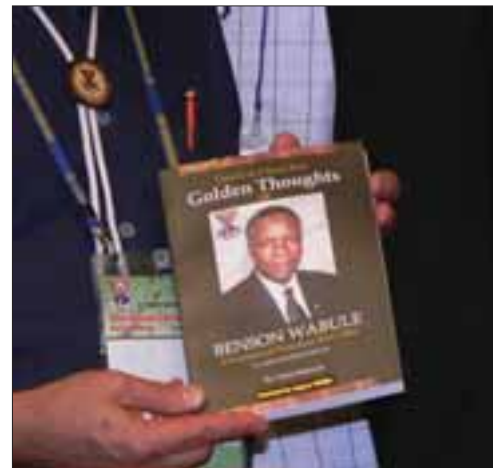


How many leaders and Y's Men now reading this article in Y's Men's World know what the Forward Plan is or have read write ups on the Forward Plan? It is important that all Y's Men, especially Y's leaders, obtain a copy of the Forward Plan and the Forward Plan Workshop Report from the Regional Director or Area President, read them and play their part in the strategic directions YMI is moving.

*Benson Wabule, Immediate Past International President*

*Golden Thoughts*

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya, a simple ceremony took place at the Nairobi Central YMCA. Fifty-five guests were gathered, eighty-five percent of them youth. IPIP Benson & Mary Wabule were at centre stage. The occasion was the launching of *Dawn of a New Era - Golden Thoughts of Benson Wabule* - a book containing messages, letters and thoughts of IPIP Benson Wabule. Special guests were PIP Dale & Jean Fotheringham who were on a Church Mission from Australia to Nakuru, Kenya.



It was indeed a momentous occasion, which re-lived the starting point of Y'sdom in Africa and the peculiar storylines of Benson Wabule's evolution and initiation to Y'sdom way back in Lagos in 1987. This unassuming, pleasant man, was born of peasant parents in Kenya and grew in Y'sdom to become the 80<sup>th</sup> International President of this noble Movement - and the first African to achieve this honour. I have had the singular privilege of putting a book together on this illustrious son of Africa.

The book was introduced in Busan, Korea, during the 67<sup>th</sup> International Convention in August 2006. The Kenya launch was a re-introduction and it is hoped that this book will reach the hands of all Y's Men all over the world because of its invaluable content. The book is not a commercial venture but with a foreword written by PISG Ingvar Wallin and introduction by YMW Editor Alan Wallington the book is recommended to all Y's Men. A copy of the book is available for 10 US\$ and an agreement has already been reached to allocate a percentage of the proceeds to starting an International Youth Fund as a way of adding value to youth development in Y'sdom. Every book sold promotes the Y'sdom youth.

For details of how to get a copy contact:

Tunji Makinde <tunjimakinde@yahoo.com>

*Tunji Makinde, ASD YIA & Assistant Editor YMW (Africa)*

## A Happy Recipe

Many clubs hold Children's Parties but Uirapuru/Cumbica Y's Men's Club, São Paulo, Brazil, believe they have found the recipe for success.

Take a group of smiling organisers...



...add children...

...prepare a lot of food...  
...and drinks...



...mix in music...



...balloons...



...a fancy dress parade...



...and finish with a present for each child.

At the Julian Harancyk Community Centre in Guarulhos the party was pretty great!!! We hosted about 150 children and all morning and part of the afternoon long were filled with a lot of activities like breakfast, plays, dances and at the end they received a gift. The event was supported by local companies, YMCA professionals and youth volunteers. We had help from some students from college who came to join YMCA work in this centre.

Daniela Pires RSD - TOF Brazil, Area Youth Rep LA/CAR

## Celebrating Youth

'Supporting Youth, the YMCA and the Community' is the motto of the Y Service Club of Kangaroo Flat, Australia, and it is precisely this motto that they live by.

Over the past 12 months they have sponsored a number of the youth of Bendigo, Victoria, who have a dream, and the desire to follow that dream. The recipients of the Y Service Club's support come from a range of backgrounds and their dreams are diverse, but they have one aim in common – to be the best they can. Club President Russell Crole has been extremely impressed by these young adults and is quoted as saying, "It is these young adults who will lead us into the future, and if these talented youths are any indication, our future is in great hands." The club is proud that they have helped these young adults, and wish them all the best in achieving their goals.

Emily Jones (a young Bendigo Gymnast), and Jory McDowell (a very talented young diver) dream of competing in the Olympics. The club assisted both Emily and Jory to attend their respective Australian Titles in May 2006.

Bryn Sherwood has just recently been selected for the Victorian Country Hockey Team and will be travelling to Singapore to compete. Currently he is required to travel from Bendigo to Melbourne (150 km) for training. The club's support will help cover some of his expense.

Amy Spark is a young budding astronaut who was selected to represent Australia in the International Space Olympics held in Moscow in October 2006.

Georgina Lane, Sam Dole and Emma Benbow were three of the Australian representatives at the International Y's Men Youth Convocation held in Korea in August 2006. The club helped these young leaders with the cost of attending.

Helen Sharrock, Kangaroo Flat Y Service Club

## Y's Men on Top

Bertil and Margaretha Warell have been Y's Men for over 30 years and have organised treks in various parts of the Himalayas over the last ten years. The couple have seen many of the world's highest mountains and met exciting Tibetans in the most remote areas of this part of the world. In autumn 2006, they guided a Swedish group in the upper and remote area of Solu Khumbu in eastern Nepal, where they also managed to reach the summit of Kala Pattar at 5545m. This mountain is the closest neighbour of the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, 8848m, seen in the picture (on the front page). Of course, a Y's Men's banner was placed on the summit of the mountain.

Bertil Warell, Ulricehamn Y's Men's Club, Sweden

### *Welcome Y's Youth Club of Yokohama-Y3*

The first Charter of a Y's Youth Club was celebrated in January 2007 with the Y's Youth Club of Yokohama-Y3 officially being welcomed into the family of Y'sdom. This is the culmination of many years of great work to establish the Formation Guidelines for Y's Youth Clubs and I would like to congratulate and thank everybody who has been involved with this process. As of 12<sup>th</sup> February, I have received 3 applications for Charter - Yokohama- Y3, Himeji-Y3 and Peace Korea. There are many more Youth working hard at this moment to Charter their Clubs and so I am confident that I will receive many more applications before I sign off here in Geneva.



The Spring 07 edition of *Youth World* was so well supported that I had to add four extra pages! In it you will find many fantastic reports from around the world highlighting some of the exciting activities and projects that are currently taking place. On page 9 you will find details and contacts for Youth Convocations in Area Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, LAC, S Pacific and USA. Tell your youth about them and encourage attendance, it will be a life-changing experience. Enjoy the edition of *Youth World* but don't keep it to yourself - make a copy and pass it onto a friend!



James Olle, Youth Intern, Geneva

### *SYNAPZ is Launched*

The Unified Global Project - prevention of HIV/ AIDS - can be entrusted to youth. The youth can implement it effectively. Interpersonal communication is the best way to give information, education and communication in this project and peer education is the best form of interpersonal communication

Aim of the project: To reach 1 million and impart the AIDS Prevention message to them.

Mode of Action: A quiz questionnaire, designed for this purpose. Copies of this questionnaire can be effectively used in schools and colleges among students. This will trigger a 'chain reaction' of intense discussion and interpersonal talk and peer education for a long time among the students, staff and their households. As a by-product of this project the image of Y's Men International will reach the one million. We also believe evaluation of the answer sheets will yield valuable data regarding the present level of awareness. Based on this, future campaigns can be modulated for effective thrust in the coming years.

The project SYNAPZ was inaugurated in a befitting manner in a grand function at Nila Palace, Kottarakara by India Area President V S Bashir receiving the first questionnaire from Dr Sivanandan Nair, ISD Public Relations. 250 leaders of South West India Region participated in the quiz that day and enthusiastically followed it up with hectic activities.

Y's Men Club of Kazhakkotam Metro has launched the quiz project on the 'AIDS FREE INDIA' website. The response by youth is very encouraging. Youth training camps offered a valuable venue for training and utilisation of participating youth in this activity.

Youth is the time for action - physical, mental and social. Years later they will thank you for giving them the real challenge and proper directions for activities!

P. S. Rakesh, Area Youth Rep, India Area.

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

Y's Youth have their own bulletin  
***Youth World***

Edited by Youth Intern James Olle  
It is an excellent read - not just for youth  
but also an inspiration for older members

Visit the IHQ web site at  
<[www.ysmen.org](http://www.ysmen.org)>  
and download the latest 10 page edition

## Mid Year Meeting 07 - Highlights

MYM 07 took place in the beautiful surroundings of Waikiki, Hawai'i, hosted by the local Y's Men's Club and in particular by the Hawai'i RD and many leaders there. A very friendly atmosphere characterised the six days of meeting (one full day IEOs Meeting, one full day AP/E Training and four days MYM). This atmosphere was also enriched by the enjoyable social and cultural activities offered by local Y's Men leaders during dinners.

Working together in the spirit of Y'sdom was a real bonus in the life of each participant and the deep sense of unity in which the meeting took place made all of us feel that we belong to a world family.

The above is the context in which MYM took place, but the success of any meeting can only be measured by the positive actions taken as a result of the discussions and proposals made. IP Choi Han-ki's theme is 'Active Participation with Love', and he urges us not only to be active but also reminds us that it is very important to care for and love our fellow human beings. IPE Lasse Bergstedt's theme 'Service Without Borders' invites us to serve without barriers, without discrimination; this means also with love for all human beings.

Many important recommendations were made by MYM participants to be presented to ICM 07 for approval. I am not including all of them in this short report - they can be seen in the MYM 07 Minutes - but here I wish to share a few thoughts expressed and recommendations made by MYM participants.

- When discussing and deciding about the power balance in Y's Men International it is very important to clearly discern 'what democracy is' and 'what power is'.
- Y's Men is not a political organisation, it is a service organisation. It is not an organisation to exercise power; it is an organisation to serve.
- When discussing and deciding about the power balance it is important to be aware that we are talking about issues, not personality and/or personal relationships.
- Any proposal for a motion with constitutional impact should be presented in written form to ICMS at least ninety days prior to an International Council Meeting and should include a 'statement of intention' to examine and/or amend certain part(s) of the Constitution. This 'statement of intention' should include 'what is being proposed' and 'why it is being proposed'.
- A new formula to define the Special Dues Consideration was agreed upon by MYM participants and will be recommended to ICM 07 for approval.

- It is expected that the Task Force on Website Improvement will start as soon as possible to modernise the website, with two main objectives: a) as a promotional tool for the public in general and b) for the internal use of our members, leadership and clubs in general, including as much information as possible.
- The inclusion of people of other faiths in our Movement should be an important focus and Y's Men International should have a statement about welcoming people of faiths other than Christian.

The above expressions mark the tone of the meeting and the constructive focus of the discussion, and are an important challenge for the International Council Members during ICM 07.

*Rolando Dalmas, International Secretary General*

## Y's Farm Opens

Last year Kofu Y's Men's Club, Japan, opened a farm making use of 15a (=0.4acre) of land out of cultivation, which was owned by a club member. On this farm the club members grow dozens of different vegetables without using agricultural chemicals.



Last summer they held a 'Y's Men's Cookery Party' with their own crops. A special menu was eggplant curry. In the autumn the club invited children of YMCA Day Nursery and After-School Care together with their parents for sweet-potato digging. At YMCA Bazaar the neighbouring people were happy, finding morning fresh cabbages and Japanese radish direct from their farm at reasonable prices. 'Y's Farm' thus helps the fellowship of club members working together in the field.

*Yasuhiro Sendohda DSD-PR Azusa District, Region Japan East  
(Translated by Kazu Aoki)*

## Racing to Public Recognition

Echuca, Australia, holds 12 horse race meetings a year. Echuca Y Service Club has found a way to capitalise on this. Horses cause a lot of damage to the track as they speed around the course and the club undertakes the track patching, replacing the moved turfs after each race. The club is paid for the work and the efforts of the dedicated members bring a welcome boost to the club fund raising efforts. The races are broadcast on the Sky channel television over a large part of Australia and there is even a race dedicated to Y'sdom once a year, the Y's Men Handicap. Region Australia has recognised this good publicity with a trophy at their annual gathering.

8 Y's Men Handicap		4.05	
2124m \$10,000. Open. Apprentices can claim.			
1	32857 KEHUNGA, 6 (w) Ms L Bonella	R Cartwright	58 5.00
2	35836 DODDY BOY, 9 (lde) D M Noonan	N Rawiler	57.5 6.00
3	07990 AL BORAK, 5 (w) B O Cox	L Nolan	57 11.00
4	06476 HOOFN IT, 7 (w) Ms T Patton	M Gatt	57 15.00
5	90473 SENOR DE LAGO, 10 (jd) Ricky Maund	W Herman (a, 2)	57 5.00
6	00509 LEGEND OF ACE, 4 (tw) M J Cerchi	S Tsalkos	55.5 15.00
7	75226 VIOLET PONDS, 3 (w) J W Lister	J Anstice	55 +4.00
8	04025 ZEPHYR BEAT, 8 (tw) J W Edwards	J Mott (a, nil)	55 13.00
9	39605 PETITE LILLE, 1 (tw) Ms J Bird	A Mallyon (a, 1.5)	54 9.00
10	70540 RAGING RHINO, 2 Ms L Proctor	L Coffey	54 21.00

Brian Wills, Echuca Y Service Club, Australia

## Lumberjack Y's Men



The YMC Katajaiset from Helsinki, Finland, has a very special way of working for the YMCA Scouts in their hometown. The club owns a plot of forest, about 10 acres, 80 km from Helsinki and has been constructing camp houses there for the Scouts. There is no electricity or other modern facilities and the heating must be done by old-fashioned wood burning stoves. So some forest work must be done to secure the winter's warmth in the cottages and winter tents. Every year the club has a couple of working days to prepare the wood for heating. This winter club members stayed two days in the forest and the result was really good.

Esko Vepsä, Katajaiset Y's Men's Club, Finland

## Active Participation With Love

## The Wonder of Words

For the past four years the Palomar Y's Men's Club of California, USA, has been participating in a project to supply each 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student in Rose Elementary School of Escondido with a copy of the Webster's Dictionary for their use in the classroom.



The majority of the students are Latino and many have parents who use Spanish as their only language around the home. We also provide those students with a second dictionary for home use. This dictionary is an English/Spanish and Spanish/English book for their parents. This allows the parents to assist the students with homework. This year we gave out 200 dictionaries to students and 80 books for home use. The club was delighted to receive thank you letters from the children.



June Clark, Palomar Y's Men's Club, USA

## *We are Living in Two Worlds*

One World is for the Rich, the other for the Poor

Most of us enjoy the comfort of our homes, we partake of three meals a day, our children are able to have an education and we have more than adequate clothing. We are the lucky ones who live in a rich world. The other world is where half the world's population survive on \$2 per day and about one billion people survive on \$1 per day. Every single individual has the potential and the right to live a decent life. As Y's Men it is our duty to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ; we must feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

There have been many people who have given a lifetime of caring for the poor throughout the world. One such person is a man from Bangladesh who in 1976 loaned 42 craftsmen the sum of \$27 from his own pocket; his name is Muhammad Yunus. The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize was jointly awarded to him and the Grameen bank in Bangladesh. They were awarded the prize for the Micro Loans that they make to poverty stricken people. Ninety percent of loans are made to women, as they are more capable of making the repayments and make sure that the loan is used for what it was intended.

The struggle against poverty in the world is an endless struggle for survival. The majority of people are poor and most of them are women and children. Over the next few decades poverty will become an overwhelming problem. Every country and nation in the world must contribute to help ease this problem. Society must take the blame for such poverty existing on such a large scale. Many fellow Y's Men have been BF Delegates and have seen first hand the excellent contribution our organisation makes through our Time of Fast Projects.

I would like to suggest that all Y's Men who have access to the Internet go to the website

[www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org)

and read the presentation speech for the winners. I feel sure that it will do your heart good and perhaps encourage us to contribute a little extra to our Time of Fast Programme.

Peter Gilbert, ISD Christian Emphasis

### ***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?

## *The Flower Children of Chiang Mai*

During our recent visit to Chiang Mai, Thailand, Frank and I were privileged to attend the third annual Chiang Mai Y's Men fundraiser, a musical concert to benefit the local YMCA's 'Street Children' project. This project is just one of many of Chiang Mai YMCA programmes and is funded in part by the revenue produced from their YMCA International Hotel and Language Programme. The occasion was especially festive this year as it was also a celebration of the Chiang Mai YMCA's 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The term 'flower child' takes on a whole new meaning in Chiang Mai. Children from 5 to 17 years of age walk the streets night after night selling a single rose for 10 Thai baht. By the end of the evening, if they can gross 300-500 baht, they will take home 20% of their earnings-the equivalent of 1.60-2.60 US\$. Some are children of hill tribe migrant workers, some come from broken homes, some are from families who live far away in the northern mountain regions and some from the border countries of Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.

A highlight of the afternoon featured the children performing a song called "Riang Kwaam Reuang Mae" from the album of the same name by the orphans. The song begins...

*"My teacher asked me to write an essay about my mother" and goes on to say how difficult this is because I don't have a mother. "Dear mother, if you are listening, no matter where you are or who you are I promise I will be a good boy/girl. Please deliver the love back to me".*



At the end of this poignant performance, the children handed out a single rose to members of the audience. The Chiang Mai Y's Men Club, with their local YMCA, work closely with YCARE Int'l and Buddhist

monks in the community to bring basic education to the children wandering the streets and to those living in slum areas on the issues of children's rights, life skills, vocational training and health care. The project strives to prevent and protect street children in severe situations who otherwise would go unnoticed and forgotten.

Beverly Olsen, East Kauai Y's Men, Hawai'i

## Story Update

Ekaterinburg YMC, Russia, was featured in *Y's Men's World* 2005/06 issue 1 with a programme against Drugs and AIDS. We have come a long way since then and have seen many changes.

First of all there are our own experiences and changes in ourselves. Before we had not engaged in public work on such a scale. All of us (organizing committee of this programme) are people of 40-45 years. We have families and we all work, which takes up basic time in our life. We are responsible people and, having taken up obligations under this programme, we could not fail. Many of those people with whom we worked in the past year have offered help to our club on this problem. We have noticed that the management of schools is half-hearted but teachers who work directly with children are more active.

The most interesting example of cooperation is with a cadet school in the city of Sisert. It is small city located 30 kilometers from Ekaterinburg. Here the population lives poorly with many unsuccessful families where parents drink or one parent is in prison. Children from these families have not enough opportunity to develop. Even to go to Ekaterinburg to visit the theatre or to an exhibition is a great problem. The situation in small villages near Sisert is even worse. People here have no place to work, or they work at such enterprises where administration for a long time has given a poor salary. Parents have a greater problem – they have no money to prepare the child for school. Several years ago a school of cadets for children from this area was created in Sisert. Here good teachers work, who care for the pupils. Despite the small salary and set of household problems they actively work with children. They give school free time. The school has created an organisation similar to scouts. There is a large lake at Sisert and they use naval activities as well as classes.

Deputy Director Olga Katysheva told us that in the past year a boy had been noticed using drugs. This boy has difficult conditions in his family. This event has stirred up awareness in the school. Our club has sent to the school our leaflets and posters against drugs. His teacher and the priest from the church had conversations with this teenager. They have surrounded him with strict attention and control. Now Olga Katysheva has told us that he began to prepare for reception in university, and now he does not take drugs. We now collect sports equipment for this school. In November we held a seminar for youth clubs in Ekaterinburg and invited some children from this school to participate in it. Our youth club 'Festival' plans to invite some senior pupils in the summer to work with them in civil work. We trust that a caring attitude, with the attention and vigilance of adults, will help children to avoid living in dependence on drugs.

Olga Azarian, Ekaterinburg Y's Men's Club, Russia

## World AIDS Day

In Alleppey District, India, World AIDS Day was observed by Y's Men International. We elicited the support of the National Association for the Blind, the Public Health Project of the Kerala State AIDS Control Society, the Railway Health Department Alleppey, the Coir City Rotary and other organisations to make a maximum impact.



A one-day awareness programme was held at the Alleppey Railway Station and its surrounding areas. It all started at 8.45 a.m. with a Red Ribbon campaign and Poster Exhibition. Mr. Robinson John, Station Manager of Alleppey Railway

Station presided over the meeting. The Red Ribbon, which is the global symbol to fight against AIDS, was distributed to all passengers alighting and boarding trains from the Alleppey station. This included tourists from other countries. Posters conveying messages on awareness of HIV/AIDS and its prevention were exhibited in the platform. Josey Joseph, Chairman of the TOF Implementation Committee, pinned the symbolic Red Ribbon on the passengers in the Station. The passengers and the participants together took the pledge for combating HIV/AIDS.



Later people from different socio-political and cultural organisations of Alleppey District, formed a Human Chain covering a distance of 1.5 Kms. A candle light vigil commenced at 5.30 p.m. at the Railway station with members from different organisations and NGOs working for HIV/AIDS actively participated in the programme. After the programme all the members, local public and the participants together lit a candle and took the pledge to work to fight against HIV/AIDS. The daylong programme concluded at 6.30 p.m. with a message calling for a massive awareness campaign at various levels in the community to prevent the spread of the infection.

Josey Joseph, ISD International Brother Clubs

## Area Plans and Ambitions

The Mid Year Meeting is held with the purpose of review and planning of the work of the Association. It is also an opportunity for training of the Area Presidents Elect. At the January meeting each AP/E was asked to give a brief statement for their coming term of office.

### Africa

I am very pleased with efforts in extension in the Area and all being well we should charter more clubs within the next six months. We look forward to having a successful Area Convention and Youth Convocation 21-24 June 2007. The Programme also includes training of RDE, ASD and RSD. The first Area Bulletin is in circulation. Extension will go to Zimbabwe and South Africa as well as the awakening of clubs in Egypt.

*Kunle Delano, AP Africa*



### Asia

"Let's join under the Y's Men's flag, raise your flag high and let it soar majestically in the wind." The flag is our ideal. To raise our flag high shows the greatness of our ideal and firm belief in it. The wind we create is our determination. The direction of the wind is the way to realise our ideals.

Let's start or strengthen community service activities and let's create new Y's Men's Clubs in new countries to complete 10,000 membership in our area.

*Hirotohi Fujii, APE Asia*



### USA

US Area is to increase training for all levels of leadership with a particular emphasis on reviving the role of the District Governors. Meetings will be held around the country to help DGs understand their role in Extension, Membership Conservation, Leadership Training and Club Relations. We begin the process of selecting these key leaders now.

*Fred Leonard, APE USA*



### Europe

I want to keep continuity from the past two APs. It is important for Area Europe to keep continuity of direction and go on in a positive way.

My headlines are: Power Centre Extension, Strengthening new Y's Men countries, Extension Membership and Conservation, Region to Region Cooperation, Christian Emphasis and Relationship with the YMCA.

I am very much looking forward to coordinate Area Europe and I want to motivate, give inspiration and look for new opportunities. It is important for me to know the Regions and their leaders and to be known in the Regions.

I look forward to seeing you at the International Convention 2008 in Herning, Denmark

*Anne Marie Hertz-Jensen, APE Europe*



### Canada

My goals for the term 2007/08 are:

Continuing to emphasize membership through new members, the conservation of existing members and the addition of new clubs.

Participating fully in the successful merger of the Caribbean Region into Area Canada.

Stressing leadership training and communication at all levels.

Visiting all Regions during my term.

Producing a monthly bulletin.

*Bill Irwin, APE Canada*



### India

The Area Theme the coming year will be 'Brotherhood in Service'. The emphasis will be in Service, Extension, Brotherhood, Training and Planning.

Area India has a very good record in Community Service at the club level. This, backed up by good training at all levels, has helped in extension of the movement. Strengthening all three – Service, Training and Extension – with good planning will certainly lead to building up a good Brotherhood in Service.

*George Tharakan, APE India*



### Latin America/Caribbean

Our priority is the conservation and increase of the membership, in order to offer more service to the community.

We have developed an intensive communication between the ASDs, RDs and ISDs. In order to overcome the problem of communication, it is advisable to implement the project 'Communication is the Key'.

The Caribbean Region is in process of transfer to Area Canada.

*Adrián A. Flores Konja, AP Latin America/Caribbean*



### South Pacific

The South Pacific Area is chartering the Y Service Club of Honiara, Solomon Islands on 24 February 2007. SOP plans to start more clubs in the South Pacific. SOP will also stimulate interest in forming more Y Service Clubs in New Zealand and Australia.

The development of Youth Y Service Clubs is also underway. The first Youth club to be chartered after many years will be in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. Other locations are expected to be chartered over next few years.

I am particularly interested in promoting Brother Club relationships, Public Relations and Marketing of YMI and promoting our support for youth. SOP has recently re-developed our web site so that all our clubs can access and update their own web pages. We will soon have a web site that potential members will find of interest.

*Colin Lambie, APE South Pacific Area*



## Hosting the Mid Year Meeting

The Y's Men Mid Year Meeting was held this year in Waikiki, Honolulu. It was a hectic but a fun time for about seven days for our RD Phil Sammer and our Metro DG Rick Lau as well as Travel Coordinator RSD Ray Seto. They worked real hard and were very generous with their time in picking up some of the delegates from the airport and also transporting them to and from the nightly dinners. Rick had to cut short his dinner on the last night to take delegate Kunle Delano from Nigeria to the airport. Garret and I were able to help a little with dinner transportation.

The fifteen delegates had their meetings during the day but were able to relax at dinner time. Ray Seto of Ka'imuki Y's Men, and the only Past Area President from Hawai'i, was responsible for coordinating the transportation and some of the events, doing a fantastic job. There were delegates from every Area of the world representing many different professions, including medical doctor, lawyer and teacher; however, at the dinner you wouldn't have known that because all were humble and unassuming. Any Y's Man or Woman who did not take the opportunity to attend one of the functions really missed out on experiencing a United Nations type gathering of intelligent and caring people.

For us one of the highlights of the Mid Year Meeting was the presentation by Mary Wabule of the completed brother club certificate between her home club of Thika, Kenya and the Central Y Service Club at a barbecue held at the Hawai'i Yacht Club. Central Treasurer and Metro DG Rick Lau accepted on behalf of President Reggie Takaki.



Central now has six brother clubs: Northwest Y Service Club, Westchester Y's Men's Club, Kyoto Palace Y's Men's Club, Seoul Y's Men's Club, Bendigo Y Service Club and Thika of which Northwest, Westchester and Bendigo form a quadrangle with Central.

Reggie Takaki, Central Y Service Club, Hawai'i

## Joint Y's Menettes Project Korea / Sri Lanka



Sunshine Camps, conducted for the Differently Abled Youth, have been held for the last 34 years and in August 2006 the Dehiwela YMCA of Sri Lanka, helped by the Y's Menettes Club of Dehiwela, arranged the gathering for almost 500 campers and helpers.



All meals were prepared on the premises by a past YMCA Youth leader and his team including the Y's Menettes. The Y's Men's & Y's Menettes Clubs of Dehiwela played a very active role in

this year's camp as they were responsible for finding sponsors for most of the meals. The breakfast and dinner on Saturday were sponsored by the Youth Club and the Y's Men's Club of Dehiwela respectively. Members of both clubs as well as the youth were present on both days of the camp helping out wherever needed.

A campfire was held on Saturday with many traditional dance items and the grand finale on Sunday was the Fancy Dress Parade with many campers participating. A live band was in attendance and several well-known actors and singers entertained the campers.



The most significant feature was the Joint Project undertaken by the Han-yang Y's Menettes Club in Seoul West District, Korea Center Region and the Y's Menettes Club of Dehiwela, Sri Lanka Region who together sponsored the individual gifts for each camper as well as the gifts for the winners of the Fancy Dress Parade the total cost of which was over Rs. 40,000 (370 US\$). The Han-yang Y's Menettes contributed 75%.

Caryl De Zilwa, RSD Y's Menettes, Sri Lanka Region

## *International Convention 2008 in Herning, Denmark*



“The planning of an International Convention can be likened to doing a jigsaw puzzle. As of now the pieces along the edges of the puzzle are in place and all we have to do is to fit in the 7,000 to 8,000 pieces in the middle.”

These words are from the chairman of the working parties preparing the Convention - Peter Leer of the Fønnesbæk Club - as he gave the latest news of activities. He added that all the clubs in the Storå District are involved in the work through the committees established. During the past year the people involved have been hard at work and everything is running smoothly.

Peter Leer outlined that the meetings will take place in the Convention Centre in Herning and said he was looking forward to the Opening March Past when the flags of all nations will be carried in to clearly illustrate the international solidarity of the Y's Men's movement. He also mentioned that it is 22 years since the International Convention was last held in Denmark. The venue then was Århus - this time it is the centre of Jutland.

The International Convention will take place 31<sup>st</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August during which the delegates will not only attend the meeting but also will have the chance to see and experience Danish culture and the Danish countryside. There will be an International Council Meeting prior to the convention and this will take place in Holstebro. In addition there will be other activities in connection with the Convention, such as the Youth Convocation at Hammerum Agricultural College, adventure treks in the surrounding countryside and a special Y's Men's camping site near the Herning Exhibition Hall. However, the Convention itself will take place in the Convention Centre in Herning within easy walking distance of the city's hotels and the main shopping thoroughfare.

A continuously updated home page is a good member of the team. Already the preparation work can be followed on the International Convention home page at <[www.ic2008.ysmen.dk](http://www.ic2008.ysmen.dk)> Web-master K.E.Hansen from Sunds has started off with a picture of Smøllerup church on the opening page and in the coming months the many chapters shown on the page will be activated one by one so that it will be possible to follow progress and stay up-to-date. During the convention these chapters will be updated daily so that the many Y's Men who for one reason or the other cannot attend in Denmark can follow the progress of the convention. A convention which, hopefully, will be both successful and inspiring.

*Ole Blume, Press Officer, IC2008*



*With an audience of the rest of the Regional management team, Peter Leer gets the International President 2007/08, Lasse Bergstedt, to check his diary*