

11th International Youth Convocation
July 31st – August 6th 2006
Busan, Korea
Youth Report

Action! Make Peace a Reality

Introduction

As we conclude the 11th International Youth Convocation, we are pleased to present the International Youth Convocation 2006 Youth Report. It has been seven exciting days of great discussions and sharing of ideas, rekindling old friendships and memories of past convocations and a new experience for new participants.

We, the Youth of Y's Men International, stand in front of you at the 2006 International Convention in Busan, Korea, the youth who are still making decisions, still planning for the future of our organization and trying to show you how hard we are working for Y'sdom. However, we are feeling the frustration of seeking your approval of similar documents that had been approved 25-30 years ago but which somehow have ceased to exist today. We are ready to work through all this again because we believe in what we are doing, we believe in what you are doing and we believe in working together to achieve our goals.

On the first day, most of the participants arrived for the Convocation. An overview of Y's Men was given to all the participants so that everyone would have a general knowledge of the organisation to enable them to follow the discussions during IYC.

Internal Organisation Workshop

On the second day, delegates were introduced to the Internal Organisation of Y's Men International. The meeting involved a presentation of several proposals for their approval. The responses of the delegates were obtained through a questionnaire and the results were used to form the seven motions to be presented to the ICM.

The motions and recommendations were:

Motion 1: That the International Youth Representative (IYR) candidates must have previously occupied at least one term in an International/Area/Regional position before being eligible to apply for the IYR position.

RECOMMENDATION

The International Youth Representative should be nominated and elected through a secret ballot by the Y's Youth Clubs (YYC) instead of the current process of elections at the International Youth Convocation.

*Pending approval of the YYC Charter documents at the ICM, a **Task Force** on election procedures for the IYR as stated above should be established to conduct a feasibility study.*

Motion 2: That the Area Youth Representative (AYR) Election Procedure be adopted as outlined in the 11th International Youth Convocation Workbook (Section G.2 page 26).

Motion 3: That the Y's Youth Club (YYC) Charter procedures on pages 29 - 33 (Section G.3) of the 11th International Youth Convocation Workbook be amended to reflect the Area Service Director for Youth Involvement and Activities (ASD YIA) being responsible for the charter of a new Y's Youth Club and not the Area Youth Representative (AYR). All references to the AYR to be replaced with ASD YIA.

Motion 4: That the Y's Youth Club (YYC) Charter certificate be signed by the Youth Intern (YI), the International Youth Representative (IYR) and the International Service Director for Youth Involvement and Activities (ISD YIA).

RECOMMENDATION

Create a Task Force in order to study an International Constitution for Y's Youth Clubs.

Motion 5: That the International Y's Youth shall not adopt a different motto but keep the same one as Y's Men International - "**To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right**".

Motion 6: That the age limit for membership of a Y's Youth Club (YYC) should be 18-30 years.

RECOMMENDATION

Youths under 18 years old can take part in the meetings, events, Youth Convocations but they are not officially members of Y's Youth Clubs (YYC) until they become 18 years old. However, they are entitled to participate in the Y's Youth Clubs (YYC) meetings and activities.

Motion 7: That the emblem below, having been selected by the assembled Y's Youth at the 11th International Youth Convocation, be used as a basis to develop a logo for International Y's Youth.



A final draft of the Youth Emblem shall be presented at ICM 2007 for approval by the International Council.

Communication Workshop

The evening workshop addressed the issues associated with maintaining effective communication amongst Y's Youth. Key aspects of effective communication were discussed and the consequences of poor communication were examined. Some causes for not being able to keep communication lines open included:

1. Studies / Job
2. Facilities / Equipment / Supplies
3. Interest / Commitment
4. Language
5. Knowledge / Training
6. No objectives / Lack of final goals

Several ideas for improving this situation emerged during the meeting. Participants recalled the decline of the Yahoo mailing group established after the last Youth Convocation in Kochi and it was agreed that the Youth Intern should be responsible for investigating the establishment of a new mailing group. It should be easily accessible and be found on the Y's Men International website. The Youth Intern will be responsible for moderating the forum and introducing regular themes for discussion. This also led to the conclusion that the Y's Men International website should be better utilised by the Youth. All necessary information relating to Youth should be made available for viewing and downloading.

It was suggested that a new position be created to assist with communication. The Area Youth Communicator would assist the AYR specifically with communication between the International Youth Committee and Y's Youth in that Area.

ICM / Youth Meeting

On Wednesday, 2 August, we had the honour of receiving the International Council Members at our International Youth Convocation venue for a combined ICM/Youth meeting. During this meeting, we presented the motions that resulted from the previous day's meetings. The ICM voted to receive the documents for discussion at the International Council Meeting. That very same evening, the ICM passed all seven motions without amendments.

With these documents approved, a new chapter in the history of youth will commence, as a Youth Database can be created with the information given in the documents. After that, several new procedures can be adopted in order to strengthen the structure of our youth movement, such as a new International Youth Representative Election Procedure similar to the International President's Election Procedure, membership statistics, etc.

Several issues were then discussed, which we will propose to ICM 2007. They are as follows:

- 1 The creation of an International Youth TOF Fund, which will be used to support different projects under the flagship "Build a Culture of Peace"

- 2 The commitment to select an International Youth Project during the International Youth Convocation 2008 under the same flagship.
- 3 Ideas for new exchange programmes, most of them already presented to ICM twenty years ago and which we think can finally be realised.

“Build a Culture of Peace”

We had the honour to have Mr. Yip Kok Choong, Secretary General of the Asia Alliance of YMCAs, as a keynote speaker for our “Build a Culture of Peace” Workshop. During his presentation, issues such as the concept of Peace and Peace-builders were discussed as well as how violence is present in every aspect of life. This presentation was a great motivation for the Youth and the feedback from the group was excellent.

As a consequence of Mr. Yip’s presentation, we had to extend the workshop and two more sessions were scheduled afterwards. Finally, we came up with the following decisions after the last “Build a Culture of Peace” group session:

- Ø The Youth flagship of "Building a Culture of Peace" was further defined and a theme of “Education and Leadership Training” was adopted.
- Ø A recommendation to ICM 07 will be the establishment of a Youth TOF Fund.
- Ø Between now and Denmark 2008, Youth will return home and undertake fundraising projects for Youth TOF.
- Ø It is recommended that one or two BCP projects should be undertaken each year by each Youth Club.
- Ø During this two-year period, proposals for a single International BCP project will be accepted and a final decision will be made in Herning 08, during IYC.

International Youth Programmes

On Thursday 3 August, after a brief introduction to all the Youth Programmes of Y’s Men International (such as YEEP, STEP, Youth TOF, IYC and Youth Internship), a discussion ensued and the Youth examined the possibility of a new exchange program that would send young men and women to work on TOF projects. A Task Force should be established to further explore this option. It was also agreed that Area and Regional Leaders should be encouraged to support YEEP and STEP delegates by subsidising costs and promoting participation in these programs.

International Youth Convocation

The age range of the Youth Convocation was emphasized and once more established. The participants of the International Youth Convocation should be young men and women between 15 to 28 years old. Exemption will be considered for those young men and women who are in between 28 to 30 years who would be able to participate in IYC only as Keynote Speakers, Facilitators, Host Committee Members or Youth Leaders.

Youth Forum

On Friday, 4 August, IPYI Michel, IPIYR Yoriko and YI James attended the Youth Forum at the International Convention venue. It provided a wonderful opportunity to present to the Y's Men what we have been doing and for the Y's Men to ask many questions and share ideas. We would like this forum to continue at future Conventions and encourage Y's Men to attend.

Youth TOF

A Youth Bazaar took place on the last day of the Convention, right after the closing ceremonies. The Youth sold souvenirs and items they brought from their own countries in order to raise money for Youth TOF.

The Bazaar was a complete success as we raised USD 500.00, and with this money, the "Youth BCP Fund" is going to be created within the next month. The Fund will be managed by the International Youth Committee and used to fund BCP projects in accordance with the theme "Education and Leadership Training".

The Y's Youth Clubs should send the money directly to IHQ, specifying that the money is going to the Youth BCP Fund.

Strategic Plan

After revising the Strategic Plan, it was realised that a face-to-face meeting of the International Youth Committee once a year had been outlined in the document. These meetings have yet to take place and Area Youth Representatives have strongly supported the implementation of this particular item. The meetings are essential for the training of our International Leaders and the development of our International Project.

Conclusion

As our Convocation theme is "ACTION! Make Peace a Reality", it's time to stop theorizing and start putting things into practice. We extend this invitation to you, Y's Men, to walk down this path with us, for us the Youth, and for you, Y's Men International.