



Asia Pacific Region

World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses

Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts

ASIA PACIFIC LINK NEWS

AP and Arab Regions Unite for Training of Trainers Workshop

For the first time ever, the Asia Pacific and Arab Regions jointly organized a Training for Trainers Workshop, and Malaysia was given the honour of hosting the event. Some 100 seasoned and potential trainers from 32 countries across the Asia Pacific and Arab regions participated in the 1st Joint Asia Pacific-Arab Regional Training of Trainers Workshop. The event took place from 29 November to 2 December 2011 at the Grand Blue Wave Hotel in Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia.

Girl Guides Malaysia's Training Commissioner, Tek Mohamad Nor, noted that the workshop, with the theme of "T=C³" (Trainers= Create, Challenge, Change) focused on the latest training methods that can benefit young girls and women in the 21st century. *"The Association feels very lucky to be chosen as host for this historic event,"* said Tek.

The event not only forged a closer relationship between the two regions, but the training and



discussions during the workshop proved to be most beneficial for Member Organizations when they build partnerships.

The international event also saw the Prime Minister's wife, who is also the Malaysian Girl Guides Association President, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, deliver the keynote speech which launched the four-day programme.

Outcome 1:
**Strengthened the quality of
GGGS**

National Camps run by Japan

The National Senior Girl Scout Camp was held at the Togakushi Girl Scout Centre from 5-8 August 2011, based on the theme, *"Test my Strength - Discover my Strength"*. 325 Senior Girl Scouts participated in the camp. The participants were divided into three groups, Happy, Lucky and

Suteki (cute), for the four-day camp.

On the first day, after the Opening Ceremony, the girls pitched their tents. The on-site activities the next day included camp crafts and eco-cooking. On the third day the girls went hiking along the Togakushi Kodo trail and enjoyed a campfire in the evening. The girls all spent a fulfilling and enriching four days.

Meanwhile, the 4th Young Leaders National Camp was held from 17-19 September at the Amino Campsite in Kyoto prefecture. 52 young leaders

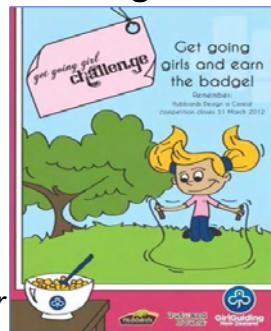
gathered from all over the country for the three-day camp. The campsite was located in a pine forest but lacked utilities such as electricity



and water, and the participants had to build their own cooking fires, washing areas and toilets. Planned and run by the young leaders themselves, the event followed previous camps held in Togakushi, Shizuoka and Chiba. The next camp will be held in Yamanashi prefecture. It is hoped that the camp will continue to serve as a place for young leaders to gather and rediscover the fun of Girl Scouting.

Healthy Lifestyle feature of Challenge

The emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing of girls is extremely important to GirlGuiding New Zealand which has introduced the Get Going Girl Challenge.



"We want to make sure that our girls and young women are nurtured, supported and safe at the most important time of their personal and social development," says GirlGuiding New Zealand's Chief Executive, Ruth Teasdale.

The focus of the Get Going Girl Challenge is for girls to feel good about themselves through living a healthy lifestyle including eating nutritional food, exercising, and developing an understanding of how to cope with challenges.

"The personal skills and knowledge gained through the fun activities of Get Going Girl will last a lifetime," says Ruth.

All girls, from Pippins through to Rangers, will take part in the competition with their involvement based on their age. At Pippins level they will discuss typical ingredients in cereals, taste existing cereals and create their own version, including the ingredients and a name.

Rangers will be involved in designing packaging and creating an advertisement for their favourite recipe, and also look at potential careers involving food.

The Get Going Girl Challenge relates to the key action "Together We can Change our World" from WAGGGS. *"The challenge looks at "our world" at a personal level and by educating girls we contribute to GirlGuiding New Zealand's role as influencers,"* says Ruth.

Other WAGGGS goals that relate to New Zealand's Get Going Girl Challenge include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. *"Being healthy, in all its meanings, is integral to these international goals. We hope that everyone will support and undertake our Get Going Girl challenge and find it to be both fun and informative."*

Pre-Celebration Activity of the Girl Scout Week successfully launched in the Philippines

To kick off the celebration of the Girl Scout Week on 18-24 September 2011, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines launched the GSP Special, a Pre-Celebration Activity, on 10 September 2011 at the Manila Ocean Park. The WAGGGS campaign "Stop the Violence. Speak Out for Girls' Rights." is the fitting theme of the celebration.

Around 1,700 Girl Scouts, Troop Leaders, Council, Regional and National Staff from 25 Councils of Northern Luzon, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon Regions participated.



A short video presentation of the WAGGGS campaign complemented by video clips of Girl Scouts from six Philippine regions reinforced GSP's support for the campaign. The ceremonial signing at the campaign wall "From a whisper to a shout" also earned much attention and prompted girls to write meaningful messages:

- 1) Let's find the voice to create global

movement to end violence. 2) Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities for a better society. 3) Every girl in every nation deserves respect!



After the official programme, the girls explored the Manila Ocean Park. They savoured every moment as they rode the Glass Bottom Ride, went to the Fish Spa, viewed the Oceanarium, watched the Bird Show and marvelled at the Daytime Fountain Show.

The afternoon was made more meaningful as the girls participated in a hands-on training on Emergency Preparedness and Management at the nearby Quirino Grandstand. Headed by Prof. Allan Camacho from the Philippine Public Safety College and his team, the girls were oriented on Disaster Preparedness complete with mock exercises, psychological first aid handling and basic fire suppression. It was a day filled with fun, laughter, camaraderie and special training - a day just fit for our Girl Scouts.

Outcome 2:
Built leadership capacity at every level

WLDP to be held in Tokyo

A WLDP event will be held this year in Tokyo, Japan, from 4- 8 October 2012. Until now, this programme has mainly been held at one of the World Centres with participants from all over the world. The aim of holding it in Japan is to enhance the leadership capacity of young leaders who will lead the next generation and to publicize Girl Scouting widely among society. Details will be available at a future date in documents that will be issued by WAGGGS.

Korea holds IT Girl Career Exploration Camp 2011

The IT Girl Career Exploration Camp 2011 was conducted at the International Youth Center, Seoul, Korea from 22- 23 October 2011, with the participation of 59 Senior Girl Scouts and Young leaders. This Camp was based on self-directed career exploration by visiting persons working in their respective fields



For career exploration, there were a lot of camp activities which were divided into three major areas: Internet/IT area, Science/Aerospace area; and the Broadcast/Entertainment area. Camp participants met Senior Girl Scouts who majored in related departments of university. These Senior Girl Scouts served as the campers' career mentors. The participants developed their potential and shared friendship through this camp.

Sri Lanka runs Leadership Development Programme 2011

26 participants attended the Iris Blacker Leadership Development Programme (IBLD) 2011 from 4 to 6 November 2011 at NTC Kadawatha, Sri Lanka. The programme included all theoretical and practical knowledge to enhance the leadership qualities of young leaders.

The aim of the Iris Blacker Leadership is to draw out the potential of young leaders. The IBLDP was named as such in honour of Mrs. Iris Blacker, the first training commissioner and commonwealth trainer.

The award is specifically aimed at young leaders who can be considered as the future of the association. IBLDP was inaugurated in 2010 with 23 participants as a centenary activity with the aim

of creating wholesome personalities with the ability of facing challenges which they may encounter in their lives. Previous JLS and WLDP participants took the main responsibility of planning the sessions, sharing the knowledge they have acquired at international level and tallying these with local needs.

"It was a great experience I have never had before. I met many friends from every part of the country and we had a great time. We were given a lot of knowledge as well as practical knowledge. I think the IBLDP programme is one of the most valuable programmes youth can ever have."

- Smart Samurghi

"Simply I can say that IBLDP was awesome. The days I spent with my new friends at IBLDP made me so much thrilled. And those lovely memories will last forever. Experiences I gained from IBLDP stand as a new beginning and a remarkable turning point in my life"

- Jovial Jayathi.

Pax Lodge volunteers from the Asia Pacific Region



Pax Lodge is very lucky to have 3 guides from the Asia Pacific Region: Rameen from Pakistan, Eunyoung from Korea, and Maori from Japan. Read on to learn what these three volunteers have to say about their experiences:

Rameen from Pakistan:

Hi my name is Rameen, and I am from Pakistan Punjab Lahore. I am 20 years old, and I have been involved in Girl Guiding since I was nine.

I started as a Junior Guide, and I am now working as a young leader with the Pakistan Girl Guide Association. Guiding is very dear to me because it completely changed me from a shy girl to a confident young woman. I love camping and participating in the different activities of Girl Guiding. I have attended many provincial, national, and international camps.

Through my passion and spirit towards Girl Guiding, I was honoured as a Fatima Jinnah Medallist. I am always eager to learn new things, observe and meet new people, and learn about new places and traditions. I am really happy to be a part of the team at our Girl Guiding World Centre, Pax Lodge. I am working here as a resident volunteer, and it has been a really great opportunity for me to live and work with people from various cultures. Through working as a volunteer, my advocacy, interpersonal, communication and leadership skills have been polished. I am ready to face every new challenge, and I am excited to be a part of the World Centre family. At Pax Lodge, I have the opportunity to share my ideas and experiences with people from all over the world.

Maori from Japan:

My name is Maori, and I am from Japan. I learned about volunteering in London on the Pax Lodge website. I wanted to meet people from all over the world and learn more about WAGGGS. I also wanted to learn more about other cultures, customs, and Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in other countries.

I have been here one month, and I am still getting accustomed to my new surroundings. Everything is different from my country and some of my jobs are completely new to me. Sometimes work is hard, but I am really enjoying my volunteer experience and getting to know the other volunteers and staff. My favourite part of my job is assisting in evening programmes. These are great opportunities to get to know the guests and learn new games, songs, and activities from other countries. I cannot wait to share everything I have learned with the Girl Scouts of Japan.

Eunyoung from Korea:

I am Eunyoung from Korea, and I serve as a resident volunteer at Pax Lodge for five months. I decided to volunteer at Pax Lodge to meet new friends from different countries and be able to travel abroad.

I am very involved with the Girl Scouts of Korea, so I am excited to work with other Girl Scouts from all over the world, because I know the other girls will teach me new things that I can take home to my organization. I want to help with the programme development of the Girl Scouts of Korea when I return.

I have really enjoyed meeting so many people from different countries and sharing our cultures with each other. Meal times and evening programmes provide an excellent opportunity to talk and share about our cultures, traditions, and personal experiences. My favourite experience at Pax Lodge has been living with my roommate, Michaela from Canada. I enjoy talking to her and listening to her play the keyboard in our room. She is such a sweet and cheerful person, and I enjoy spending time with her. She has made my experience at Pax Lodge very special.

Young Leader from Thailand attends GSUSA convention

Korrapin Lertkittisuk, a young Leader of the Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) Association of Thailand writes about her experience:



"I had a great opportunity to attend the GSUSA 52nd National Convention on 10-13 November 2011 in Houston, Texas, USA. I volunteered as chaperone and member of the Girl Scout Leadership Institute Support Team. The convention had more than 10,000 participants. The convention was huge and had plenty of activities.

Examples of activities offered were the Girl Scout Leadership Institute, Girl Scouts University at the Convention, National Young Women of Distinction, Girl Scouts Forever Green, Hall of Exhibits, Global Lounge, Conversation Pits and Center Stage by famous speakers, WAGGGS and many more. The activities discussed leadership, empowerment of girls and young women, human rights, volunteering, management, environment, technology, sciences, creation and international experiences. I'm glad I had the opportunity to meet Nadine El Achy, Chairman of the WAGGGS World Board and Mary McPhail, Chief Executive of WAGGGS, and the WAGGGS team. I also met Mariko Asano, President of Girl Scouts of Japan. Countries in Asia Pacific Region that were invited to the convention were Japan and Australia. I am very thankful to Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting for enabling me to get fabulous experiences such as this."

Outcome 3:
Improved Image and Visibility of GGGGS every level

Ms. Lea Salonga brings cheer and inspiration to Girl Scouts of the Philippines' Chief Girl Scout Medalists

505 Senior and Cadet Girl Scouts from all over the Philippines who have completed various development projects resulting in a positive impact on their community were awarded the Chief Girl Scout Medal on 14 November 2011 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City. Internationally acclaimed artist, Ms. Lea Salonga, was the guest of honour and speaker. She personally handed over the Chief Girl Scout medals and certificates to each awardee. She was joined on stage by the

National President, Dr. Salud Bagalzo, 1st National Vice President and Program Committee Chairman, Susan Locsin, National Executive Director, Ma. Dolores Santiago and the six Regional Chairmen of GSP.



In her speech, Ms. Salonga revealed that the Girl Scouts played a significant part when she was just starting her career in theater. While auditioning for Repertory Philippines' *"The King and I"* at age seven, the director asked her to recite a poem or any nursery rhyme but Lea instantly remembered the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and that was what she recited.

Lea instantly won the hearts of the Girl Scouts knowing that she was once a girl in green. She challenged each girl to dream her own dream, live it, and own it. She said that no one should live in someone else's dream or ambition. Everyone should identify her own aspirations in life and should not just imitate someone else's and one should work hard to achieve it.

The Chief Girl Scout Medal Presentation Ceremony commenced the year-long project implementation, stiff evaluation and months of tedious preparation of the awardees.

FM Radio Programme Promotes Nepal Scouting

On 16 September 2011, 2 Girl Scouts were interviewed by an FM Radio programme called *Scout Darshan*.

One of the Girl Scouts interviewed was Prerana Shakya who works at the Nepal Scouts as a coordinator in the Finland-Nepal Partnership Project (F-NPP). She is also Nepal's centenary ambassador. The other Girl Scout interviewed was Vilma Westerlund from the Finland Scouts, who works as a volunteer in Nepal Scouts on the same project.

F-NPP is a project of Nepal Scouts funded by the Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the Finnish Scouts and Nepal Scouts. The pilot project was originally planned for two years. The main goal of the project in the long run is to promote participation of children and youth, as well as of the civil society, in developing local communities by strengthening the capacity of Nepal Scouts. The other objectives cover leadership development, community development, and educational methods development. Similarly, the project has completed its five Regional Strategic Plan and Leadership Development Trainings and Latrine Construction in Rasuwa District (on the way to BP Peak).

Scout Darshan is an FM programme which is a youth-focused programme broadcasting since 2006. Each Friday morning, Youth FM provides an hour for a Scout programme entitled Scout Darshan. The DJ, Mr. Mani Malla, runs this program voluntarily. He is one of the active scout leaders in the Kathmandu District and is the National Community Development Commissioner of Nepal Scouts.



The issues discussed during the interview covered the Finland-Nepal Partnership Project, personal experiences, learning and feedback for improvement.

Vilma shared about scouting in Finland and the activities they run. She also shared her experiences of working on the project with the Nepal Scouts. She feels very proud about Scouting in Nepal and that F-NPP has been very effective. One of her dreams is also to see more international activities and participate in a jamboree in Nepal.

On the other hand, Prerana shared her experiences working on the project and her experiences in scouting. Before the interview, she attended the 34th WAGGGS World Conference in Edinburgh which was an extraordinary experience for her. She attended the conference as a Young WAGGGS Representative (Centenary Ambassador) and shared the centenary celebration in Nepal. She has also been a volunteer at Pax Lodge for five months. She has been professionally working for Nepal Scouts for a year now.

Both of the interviewees were very positive towards the future of the project and Nepal Scouts.

Thailand holds Guiding Centenary Camp

The Guiding Centenary Camp to Celebrate His Majesty the King of Thailand's 84th Birthday in Chiang Mai, Thailand was held from 11-15 November 2011 with great success.



Amidst the flood situation in Bangkok and many other provinces, the Girl Guides (Girl Scouts)

Association of Thailand organized several relief efforts for the victims e.g. collecting donations from the skytrain station in front of GGAT's headquarters, preparing ready-to-eat meals from their canteen to flood relief centres and providing accommodation to their staff whose homes were flooded.

The camp activities also concentrated on MDG1 (Eradication of hunger), MDG7 (Environment) and MDG8 (Peace).

Malaysia: *"On behalf of the Malaysian contingent, I would like to thank the Girl Guides of Thailand for inviting us to the Guiding Centenary Camp to Celebrate His Majesty the King of Thailand 84th Birthday. We had a great time and enjoyed ourselves tremendously. The activities were interesting and we gained a lot of experiences especially in the learning of Thai culture. We also had a chance to learn other languages such as Thai and Tagalog. We also made new friends from other countries. The food was delicious and made us feel at home. We collected 1,600 Baht from our Bazaar night and would like to donate it to the flood victims of Thailand."*

Pakistan: *"It's an amazing experience being among you. Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity of learning. Thai culture and customs are as beautiful as Thai people. We heartily appreciate your hospitality. All we have learnt here will always be beneficial for us. All the trainers and resource persons were fully skilled and competent. We also want to thank the other participants in the camp for being very accommodating and friendly."*

Philippines: *"On behalf of the Philippine' delegation, this Guiding Centenary Camp to celebrate the 84th Birthday of His Majesty the King of Thailand leaves a place in our heart. We are very glad and thankful to all the people behind this success. The camp is surprisingly full of activities that made us enjoy and at the same time tired. Everything on camp seemed so perfect. Lastly, we the girls and the leaders are able to develop friendship and inculcate true camaraderie despite of cultural differences, from the culture of Thailand, Malaysia, Laos to Pakistan. It is true that Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting bridge the gap and "Together we can change the World".*

Outcome 4:
Increased Funding

Project WALK by Singapore's St. Anthony's Canossian Guides

The Girl Guides of St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School initiated Project WALK - Walkers in Action for Love and Kindness – in 2005 in an attempt to inculcate in the Singaporean Guides the spirit of our motto, "Be Prepared". As part of this initiative, Girl Guides learn to be prepared to give, to be prepared to respond to any circumstances along the journey; to be prepared, and to let those whom they serve change their lives. The project allows the Girl Guides to adopt a charity and raise funds for its work.



This year, the Girl Guides adopted the Spastic Children's Association as its beneficiary. To meet their goal of helping the charity, the Girl Guides actively volunteered their services at the Cerebral Palsy Centre and sold magnetic bookmarks, not only to raise funds but also to raise awareness of these groups of people with special needs. To date, the Girl Guides have raised more than \$2,800.

Clearly, Project WALK 2011 has been a tremendous success, not solely because of the amount raised but as indicated by how the guiding unit bonded across different patrols and levels during the walks. Indeed, the words of Lord Baden Powell rings true: "The sport in (Girl Guiding) is to find the good in every (girl) and develop it."

Outcome 5:
Increased and Diversified Membership

New Zealand's initiative to increase diversity

An innovative project to encourage girls from refugee families started in the Manawatu district. The initiative developed from discussions about how the region could fulfil one of GirlGuiding New Zealand's goals to encourage and support diversity within their membership and local community.

Outdoor Team Leader Sue Arnold and Regional Co-ordinator Kathy O'Neill were part of that discussion and were excited about its potential. Sue then contacted the local Refugee Services. "Refugee Services were very keen to work in partnership with GirlGuiding and provide these girls with something as simple as opportunities to meet and play with girls their own age," says Sue.

The group then applied for funding from the Newman's Own Foundation, received \$7,500, and the Manawatu Refugee Integration Project came into being at the beginning of this year.



“Guiding is a safe way for these girls to be involved in the Palmerston North community and immerse themselves in New Zealand life and to try new things and achieve new challenges”, Kathy says. “The project is all about embracing diversity and ending isolation. All our girls benefit by experiencing and interacting with girls of a different culture, which expands their horizons and encourages understanding.”

The project has focused on Bhutanese, Burmese and Congolese girls as an initial starting point.

Although the project is still in its early phase, Sue says she has already seen the confidence of the six regular members grow, as they mix with the other girls and enjoy the huge range of activities that are being offered. Future plans for the Refugee Integration Project in the Manawatu include extending the involvement to Brownies and Pippins and to other nationalities.

Japanese Girl Scouts meet Aung San Suu Kyi

A delegation of Girl Scouts from Osaka, Japan met with activist Aung San Suu Kyi and Myanmar government officials to discuss how to help Myanmar’s girls and women.

The Girl Scouts asked Ms. Suu Kyi’s advice on how best to support girls and women in Myanmar. She answered: “It is very important to increase the education level. Literate children can share their knowledge, which makes children progress to the next stage.”

She also advised the Girl Scouts to give “heartfelt smiles” to children in developing countries.

Kuniko Tatamitani, chairperson of Girl Scouts of Japan’s Osaka Council, also met with U Htay Oo, secretary general of the Myanmar government’s Union Solidarity and Development Party. They discussed how to improve welfare and education in Myanmar through cooperation.

Aung San Suu Kyi has a personal connection to Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting as her mother was once a chief commissioner of the Union of Burma Girl Guides Association before it disbanded in the 1960s. At her meeting with the Japanese Girl Scouts, Ms Suu Kyi expressed a wish for Girl Guiding to return to Myanmar.



Girl Scouts of Japan has now sent Peace Messengers to Myanmar 5 times since 2008. The Peace Messenger project won the Olave Award at last year’s WAGGGS World Conference. This visit allowed Girl Scouts of Japan to deepen its existing connections with girls and women in Myanmar.

Outcome 6:
Influenced Issues that affect girls and young women

54th Jamboree On The Air and the 15th Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA/JOTI)

Living in an era marred by a number of natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, floods and volcanic ash clouds, Girl Guides across Australia joined their counterparts in the US, England, Canada, Germany and Nigeria and gained much from participating in the 54th Jamboree On The Air and the 15th Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA/JOTI) on 15-16 October 2011 with the theme of Peace, Environment and Natural Disasters.

The largest activity in World Scouting, annual JOTA/JOTI events enable Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all corners of the globe to connect with each other in their various time zones by means of amateur radio and the internet. This provided an excellent opportunity for Girl Guides to make friends, exchange stories, develop survival skills, experience different cultures and have fun.



This year's theme focused on ways to prepare ourselves for emergency situations, how to act quickly and support others. Girl Guides took part in a variety of activities including setting up "portable" radio stations supervised by amateur radio operators and learning how to use the equipment in order to contact their peers.

"I liked talking to people across the world and Australia as it is fun learning about other people," said Madeleine Hennessey, aged 12.

Scouting Australia, in conjunction with clubs that included the Coffs Harbour and District Amateur Radio Club and the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club, Girl Guides were provided opportunities to take part in JOTA/JOTI.

JOTA/JOTI weekend programmes included first-aid response training where local fire brigades and other local authorities who handle emergencies demonstrated their tactics and talked about their experiences. The Winston Hills and Kellyville Girl Guides were shown emergency preparedness techniques. The Hills branch of the State Emergency Service spoke to them about natural disasters and safety issues. Winston Hills Girl Guide Leader Lorraine O'Hare said that the girls enjoyed making morse code bead bracelets and Braille name tags using lentils.

Launch of UN Women's flagship report

On 1 September 2011, Dr. Lucy Tan-atichat, the incoming WAGGGS ECOSOC Liaison Person (WELP), who succeeded Ms. Valaikorn Phromyothi on 1 January 2012, attended the East and Southeast Asia Regional launch of UN Women's flagship report, "*2011-2012 Progress of the World's Women: in Pursuit of Justice*".

The keynote address was given by Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women). A panel discussion followed with high-level panelists representing various circles working on justice for women.

In the effort to 'Stop the Violence' against women and children, Thailand is very honoured to have Princess Bajrakitiyabha, a Ph.D. graduate in law from Cornell Law School in New York State strongly advocating on this issue. Her Royal Highness is also UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador.

The event also yielded the '10 Recommendations to Make Justice Systems Work for Women', aimed to spread awareness and give encouragement for everyone to continue with the effort to "Stop the Violence" in their respective countries:

1. Support Women's legal organizations.
2. Support one-stop shops and specialized services to reduce attrition in the justice chain.
3. Implement gender-sensitive law reform.
4. Use quotas to boost the number of women legislators.
5. Put women on the front line of law enforcement.
6. Train judges and monitor decisions.
7. Increase women's access to courts and trust commission during and after conflict.
8. Implement gender-responsive reparations programmes.
9. Invest in women's access to justice.
10. Put gender equality at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals.

Girl Guides New South Wales, Australia Act and Get Heartistic

In the lead up to Universal Children's Day on 26th October 2011, Girl Guides NSW & ACT took part in a card design competition to help raise awareness about children living in poverty. The designs were set around the Millennium Development Goals. Winning Designs by Maija Tan (Woollich Junior Guides), Ellen Wildey (Lindfield Guides), Leesa Abrams (Lane Cove Senior Guides) & Claudia Ho (Lindfield Junior



Guides) were selected for the exclusive UNICEF Australia gift card pack. Funds raised will go towards UNICEF's life-saving assistance in 150 countries around the world.

The project provided an exciting opportunity for Girl Guides to use art to send a positive message about ways on how to help children affected by poverty. It opened the girls to new perspectives and possible ways to change our world.

Springwood-Winmalee District Girl Guide Annabelle Gibbons was chosen as Runner-up by the artist and UNICEF Ambassador Ken Done and was presented with an award by Blue Mountains Mayor Daniel Myles (pictured).

Special Summer Camp for Children in Affected Areas by the Higashi-nihon Earthquake

The Girl Scouts of Japan (GSJ) held a Special Summer Camp for children in areas affected by the Higashi-nihon earthquake from 14-16 August 2011, at the National Hanayama Youth Outdoor

Center in Miyagi Prefecture. This camp was the first project of the "Girl's Power Unite Project" by GSJ and was a huge success with participation from 100 children.



GSJ members, including Ranger Girl Scouts who are high school students, supported the participants. Before the camp, all staff members learned psychological support for affected children as it is important to care about their mental health. One of the camp's aims is to give the affected children opportunities to feel free and in the midst of nature. They enjoyed outdoor activities, learned outdoor skills and built campfires. The children especially loved roasting marshmallows on sticks, and some ate many marshmallows. They also enjoyed learning First Aid, knots and lashing.

Sliding along grassy slopes using cardboard boxes also proved to be fun, and campers appreciated what nature has to offer while lying on the grass or crawling around. Ranger Girl Scouts went all out to make the children happy. All the staff were happy to see smiles and the shining eyes of the children during the camp.



The expenses of this camp were covered by the goodwill donations from Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world. GSJ strongly believes that camping makes people energetic, so planning the next camp for children in affected areas is now in the works.

Announcements

Funding opportunity for young women: the Anne Scott Fund

The Olave-Baden Powell Society (OB-PS) is pleased to welcome applications for funding of projects under the Anne Scott Fund.

Named after a former OB-PS President, the fund seeks to support projects aimed towards the realization of WAGGGS mission and goals. In particular, the fund is keen to support projects run by young women under the age of 30. Grants up to a maximum amount of £400 are available.

Applications may be submitted at anytime. Application forms and other related documents may be requested from obps@wagggsworld.org. Information is also available at the OB-PS website, www.ob-ps.org.

Farewell Message from the WAGGGS ECOSOC Representative

Outgoing WELP Valaikorn Phromyothi writes:

“Girl Guiding has given me opportunities to do and work for something which may seem impossible for me. My service as the WAGGGS ECOSOC Liaison Person (WELP) since 2006 has been a real challenge, meeting people from different countries with diverse professions and culture in different events.

It was with this opportunity as WELP that I was able to express myself and interact with people coming from different backgrounds. There are many interesting events hosted by UN agencies yearly, for example, International Women’s Day commemorated by the United Nations yearly under the regional theme. This includes keynote presentations, a dialogue with practitioners on the diverse impacts of the crisis on women and required responses as well as short films and also inter-agency exhibitions.



As my term ends, I would like to extend my appreciation to WAGGGS who has given me the opportunity to serve in this challenging role. My successor, Dr. Lucy Tan-atichat, who is experienced in the corporate world and other voluntary organizations will immensely contribute her knowledge and experience towards the role of WELP.

I want to drop a few lines for our girls in Guiding: ‘Don’t ever be afraid to try the IMPOSSIBLE, no matter what others may think. Remember, you are UNIQUE in your own special way. Don’t ever stop wanting what’s right for you!’”

Update on Membership Development Resource team

Morwenna Moseley, Global Operations Coordinator, has supported the Global Operations team for a number of years. In January 2012 the Global Operations department will change its name to Membership Development.

The term Membership Development better reflects the nature of the work the department does in supporting Member Organizations and more accurately describes the department’s work to external agencies and funders. Morwenna’s role supports WAGGGS’ work across the five regions with more specific support for the Africa Region where she uses her French. Morwenna also works closely with the Asia Pacific Region in providing support to Friends of Asia Pacific within WAGGGS and producing the quarterly Asia Pacific Link News. Further support for the Asia Pacific Region is provided by the Resource team within the Membership Development team.

Morwenna is a great fan of the Asia Pacific Region and has visited Japan, Malaysia and Thailand on a number of occasions.

Ariana Chamberlain also recently joined the Membership Development Resource team. Ariana has been working for an NGO in Uganda for the past 12 months and brings development and grassroots experiences. Ariana has joint Spanish and British nationality. She has a degree from Bristol University and we welcome her to the team. Ariana's role will be to support all of the Membership Development Team, working closely with Morwenna across the spectrum of the department's work.

Happy World Thinking Day!

With World Thinking Day just around the corner, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest greetings, our fondest thoughts, and our best wishes to all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over Asia Pacific and the World.

We hope you will make the most out of this event. We suggest that you download a copy of the Fundraising Ideas Sheet and the Activity Pack. Both documents are available at the WAGGGS website, at this address:

<http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/fundraising>

Have fun, and do not forget to share your stories and experiences with us!