

# MAKE A GREAT IMPACT

## Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL ASIA PACIFIC AREA



**Chief Editor**  
ASD-BE Ranjith Dayarathna

**Editor**  
AS Kayoko Maeda

**Advisor**  
AP Joan Wong



**5TH NEWSLETTER**  
**APRIL 2025**

# AREA PRESIDENT MESSAGE



Dear all fellow Y's Men & Y's Ladies,

Happy Labour Day to you all !

Unconsciously, we have entered the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2025. That means we only have 3 months left to the end of the term.

Stepping into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, I began starting my journey to Asia Pacific. My first visit was the Executive Committee Meeting of Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) in Penang from April 4 to 7, 2025. World YMCAs are our close partnership with Y's Men International. Likewise, APAY is a close partnership with Asia Pacific Area. The meeting was so precious. I was so excited that I had a chance to demonstrate how YMI supported YMCAs and promoted Y's Men International to all Presidents and General Secretaries. I also had chance to talk with some executives on the possibility on starting new club in new country within our Area. With the help of YMCAs, we trust we can establish more clubs in different countries and ultimately ASP and APAY can mutually support with each other. This will be a Win Win outcome.

Last month, we deeply sad about the unprecedented earthquake in Myanmar. Since the earthquake happened, the Asia Pacific Area promptly responded and the NDERF committee decided to fund USD 5,000 to YMCA of Mandalay and Y's Men's Club of Loikaw for immediate relief work in Myanmar. In the meantime, the Area launched a fundraising program to provide continuous humanitarian support. Here, I expressed my heartfelt thanks to all Regional Directors making their greatest efforts to call for fundraising.

May and June are the busiest months for organizing Regional Conference. I know every RDs are working very hard now. I am very much looking forward to meet with all of you in the conference and I wish you all RCs are successful.

Yours' Y'sly

Joan Wong  
Area President



A cheque presentation to APAY for ASP support to the operation of Jeju Office & APAY Advanced Studied Programme



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

"Remember that you will find your treasure wherever your heart is" . Some opportunities make us feel alive, engaged, connected, and fulfilled.

I was writing an article for my page when I got the idea of being an Editor for our Asia Pacific Area news Bulletin. I wanted to reach beyond the lines that have become too familiar and easy for me.



**ASD - BE**  
**Ranjith Dayarathna**

This Editorial journey made me feel that I met the next and improved version of myself. Being the Editor, one of the most important values I learned was maintaining individuality while working in a team. We all are the same but at the same time, we all are unique. When we were able to collaborate on the uniqueness of every team member, it was the moment when we brought out the most astonishing results. This opportunity made me respect the tremendous hard work and dedication every member has put forward. With constant efforts, we are able to bring the most unique and worth-reading piece of articles to the newsletter. I can proudly say, I have learned something new. And I believe all the readers will definitely get inspired by these stories and will be able to follow their heart to find the most beautiful treasure, the "Passion" ."

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**This a a kind reminder that the International Community Service Award will be closed for application on June 15 to 30, 2025. There are two categories of awards:**

- Independent
  - for community service coordinated and executed by a single club
- Collective
  - for community service involving multiple clubs at the District, Region or Area level.

Applications must:

1. Include at least one photo or video of the community service project in progress
2. Represent one project or activity
3. Directly assist or serve a marginalised population
4. Be coordinated and executed primarily by the applicant
5. Count at least 20 or more direct beneficiaries
6. Involve at least 20% of the implementing club members in some capacity

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the IEOs with the cooperation of the ISD Community Service between 15 June and 30 June each year. Results will be announced in conjunction with Legislative Assembly Representative.



**ASD - CS**  
**Kevin Su**

## APRIL EMPHASIS - ROLL BACK MALRIA

Mosquito Golf Cup Tournament in Taiwan Region was held on March 13, 2025. It has been held continuously for more than 10 years in Taiwan. The main purpose of the event is to collect RBM funds to help people those who are in need to prevent from the diseases caused by mosquitoes, it's one of the most important projects for Y's international movement.

It was raining on that day but everyone was happy to enjoy attending this golf tournament and finally finished 18 holes game. We also combined Taiwan Regional Director's Golf competition and prepared a lot of prizes for all the participants.

During the dinner party, we have collected a total of NTD110,000 donations. In addition, every Y's member pays NTD200 for International RBM project. There are 519 paid members in Taiwan Region that makes NTD103,800 in total. Finally, Taiwan Region successfully collected USD6,600.

Taiwan Regional head office will submit this donation to the International head quarter in due course.

As an Area Service Director (ASD-RBM), I wish to share this successful experience with all of Y's members to make more contributions for International RBM project. There will be a RBM golf tournament in coming AC 2025 Kumamoto. I would like to encourage all the participants to share your love with more donations to help more people in need, I am sure that you will get more happiness in your life.



**ASD - RBM  
Frank Tsai**





# NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

## HELP!

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. [Bible : 1 Corinthians 12, 26]

As it is said in the Bible we are all parts of a body and we suffer when one part of the body suffers.

Asia Pacific Area reserves a fund named Natural Disaster Emergency Relief Fund and each member contributes to the fund USD 2 for every year along with the area due. The fund has been very important source of financial contribution for future use of emergency relief project when a disaster hit local areas. Regional Director is responsible for conducting contribution to support local projects delivered by either local YMCA, YMC or both. We have numerous numbers of experience before in cooperation together with local YMCAs and YMCs on giving hands to leach out for people in need in emergency situations such as big earthquakes, typhoons and tsunamis.

It is time for us once again to get our hands together to give our thoughts and extend our solidarity to our friends and family in Myanmar in helping their effort for recovering from major earthquake.

I would like to ask each one of you to join the team in a big body of Y's Men International suffering from disaster wound and help each other to rejoice a heal of the wound.



**PAP Okano Yaz**  
Chairman of NDERF  
Committee



## Myanmar Earthquake Relief Appeal



Make a donation to Myanmar Y's Men's Clubs in collaboration with YMCAs working on relief efforts. All individual or clubs donation will be duly acknowledged. Please contact your Region.

### Donation Details

Name of account: Y's Men International  
Asia Pacific Area Office  
Bank: HSBC  
Address: No 1, Queen's Road, Central,  
Hong Kong  
Swift code: HSBCHKHHHKH  
Account number: 098-363245-838



# MAY EMPHASIS - LEADERSHIP TRAINING & ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT



## What We Need Now

May is the month of emphasis for the “Leadership Training & Organisation Development” (LTOD).

ASD-LTOD/PAP  
Hiroyuki Tanaka

LTOD has always been an essential part of our movement, but Leadership Trainings are especially encouraged at this time for new leaders in clubs, Districts and Regions as we head into the new YMI year. I want each training session to go beyond simply acquiring knowledge; It should also involve understanding each organisation's current situation and challenges, and sharing the policies and plans for the coming year.

### RDE Training 2024/25 of the ASP Area

The training was organised by Zoom on 9 March. AP Joan Wong gave presentations on the current status and challenges of the ASP Area, ASD-LTOD Hiro Tanaka on the role and responsibilities of RD & RDEs, APE Tadashi Tanoue on theme, visions and plans for 2025-26, and each participating RDE presented their action plans and were commented on by the APE. AS Kayoko Maeda gave a presentation on administrative procedures and calendars for RD & RDEs and promotions and updates for AC/ AYC 2025. It was a proper training, but it was unfortunate that three out of seven RDEs in the Area did not participate.



### Training at the Region

I am pleased that many Regional-level training sessions have already been conducted. I encourage those who have not yet done so to do so. I would also like to encourage the District-level and club-level training to be held.

This time we invite the speakers below

**DG & RSDs Training**

**MARCH 1, 2025 (SAT)**

11:00 am (Singapore)  
Malaysia/Hong Kong )  
10:00 am (Thailand)  
9:30 am (Myanmar)  
8:45 am (Nepal)

All Members are welcome to join!

Meeting ID: 702 929 6019  
Passcode: SEA2025

IP Vision for 2025 to 2026  
RFE Edward Ong

Highlights on RDE Summit 2025  
RDE Tony Chan

The Importance of EMC  
Kazuhiko Maekawa  
ASD-EMC/PRO

BF Exchange Programme & TOF Promotion  
Kayoko Maeda  
ISO-BF & ASD-TOF

Here are some photos of the recent Regional-level trainings held this year that have been reported by the RDs. Add a little bit of body text

### SEA Region: The 2nd DG & RSD Training 1 March, 17 participants





## MAY EMPHASIS - LEADERSHIP TRAINING & ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT (CON'T...)

**Japan East Region: CPE & District Leader-Elect Training**  
8-9 March, 72 participants



**Japan West Region: CPE & DSDE Training**  
1 March, 124 participants



**Taiwan Region: RSDE, DGE & Club Officers-Elect Training**  
12-13 April, 80 participants



Materials to be referenced and utilised

The YMI website contains various information and documents that may be useful to you. Please visit and take a look.

Manuals & Brochures <https://www.ysmen.org/downloads/manuals-brochures/>

Training Materials <https://www.ysmen.org/training/>

Historical Data <https://www.ysmen.org/downloads/historical-data/>

# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT YOUTH ACTIONS IN JAPAN



**RD Kohei Yamada**  
**Japan East Region**

As one of the Youth Empowerment projects, both Y's Men Japan West and Japan East and all Japan YMCAs gathered and started the new project, called Youth Action. There are 34 YMCAs and 72 YM clubs in Japan West and 51 clubs in Japan East Regions. The first Youth Action was held in 2022-23 with 10 actions groups of young people, and we have just completed the second Youth Actions of 10 groups in 2024-25. The second projects were completed and they made the final reporting session by Zoom in March 2025. All those projects were proposed by youth groups for improving the SDGs (UN Sustainable Development Goals) in their communities. (picture below)

## The 36th Youth Volunteer Leaders` Forum

This activity was created in 1998 and youth leaders of YMCAs were invited in September for three days in YMCA campsite near Mt. Fuji. This was started to support youth volunteers of YMCAs. The main theme was to learn what we could do for Futohko students (who do not attend schools for some reasons). This issue has been a growing concern for many Grade and Middle schools in Japan. A new project proposal was submitted to the TOF funds in March 2024 and was funded as a three year plan of actions in Japan East Region for developing new projects for Futohko students. It was started in two YMCAs so far, Yamanashi YMCA and Tochigi YMCA.

## Encouraging Community Service projects

In order to increase new members of Y's Men's Clubs, we need to clearly show our purposes of the YM movement. Encouraging the Community Service Activities by 51 clubs, 7 Districts and Japan East Region could be one way to do so. Actually, some clubs have conducted very impressive CS activities for 10-20 years continuously. However, these activities need to be more known to their communities. One action was to introduce and discuss those impressive activities by conducting Night Forums introducing 9 main activities in three months. Over 100 people had watched those activities through zoom.

## Confronting the realities of Y's Men movement of Japan East Region

This is the time of shifting our movement as many other Social Organizations are also facing in the last few decades. Society has been changing and our future directions of the YMI movement should be readjusted to attract younger men and women in each area. We have been discussing many issues structures and purposes of our activities.

The Morioka YMCA Youth, challenging to the Youth Action in 24-25 was awarded for the best practice in Japan YMCA Conference. Their theme was teaching Human Right to children by playing a traditional card game.





# Regional News

## Southeast Asia Region

AP Joan Wong and RD Helena Cheah had a meeting with the support staff of YMCA who are motivated to start a new Y's Men's Club in YMCA Penang on 7th April 2025.



AP Joan Wong and RD Helena Cheah had a fellowship dinner at Little Hunan Restaurant in Penang with Y's Men's from Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, Hong Kong and Malaysia on 5th April 2025.



Silver State Y Service Club Ipoh, Malaysia welcomed AP Joan Wong on her 1<sup>st</sup> visit to Ipoh with a scrumptious dinner attended by club members (Right picture).



To deliver fortune bag to the single living elderly in Tung Chung District by Y's Men's Club of Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong. (Left picture)

Y's Men's Club of Island South, Hong Kong sponsored a Chinese new year celebration programme organized by an elderly centre, Chinese YMCA. The programme offered a Canton Dim Sum meal for the elderly who are disabilities.



Malang Club from Indonesia gave away free sweet dessert called Takjil following breaking fast during the month of Ramadan. Selamat Buka Puasa!



# Regional News (Con't...)

## Sri Lanka Region

### Eradication of hunger

Camilla Scholl is a place where differently able children are sheltered. School provided training to the children recognizing their talents. Y's men club of Young Moratuwa provided breakfast dinner and lunch for them on three days.



### PROJECT FROM YOUNG MORATUWA

Ceremony was start with a prayer to the almighty God by YL Lilanthi Gibson at 3.00 PM. PAP Rita Hettiarachchi the Chief Guest, YM Godfrey Francis President of the YMCA, and the Manger DFCC Bank Mount Lavinia was invited to the Head Table. On the request of PRD Mahen Fernandopulle of Y's Men club of Colombo , the Mass Holdings a leading Company manufacturing garments for exports donated 500 under garments to distribute among the girl students in schools who are under privileged. The Young Moratuwa accepted the task of finding students who really need the requirement, and with the recommendations of the school Principals, the project chairperson decided to call a teacher and two prefects from each school to accept the donation without embarrassing the girls' recipients. Accordingly, 100 pack of under pants to each school distributed among the above-mentioned five schools.



PAP Rita Hettiarachchi gave a brief interdiction of Y's Men Movement whereas Manager DFCC bank explained the gravity of having savings in future to the gathering.

### Bottle Water Distribution

Y's Men's Club of Senkadagala and Mahanuvara jointly distributed 2500 Water bottles to the peoples who were in queue to see the Lord Buddhas tooth Relic in Kandy on 24th April 2025.





# Regional News (Con't...)

## Japan West Region

### Kumamoto Area Convention 2025 Visit Tour

PAP David Lua, Chairman of Area Convention , APE Tadashi Tanoue, Host Committee Chairman, Secretary General /AS Kayoko Maeda, PAP Hiroyuki Tanaka and Kumamoto Y's Men met with Kazufumi Onishi, the Mayor of Kumamoto on March 17, 2025 in Mayor's office. The Host Committee conducted a site visit to AYC venue - ASO YMCA Village as well.



## International Exchange Japan-USA Regional Meet

Japan-USA Regional Meet - North Atlantic Region of US Area and Japan's West Region organized an Inter Regional meeting at Osaka's Art Hotel on April 29, 2025. The meeting fostered a meaningful exchange of ideas and fellowship between the two regions, leaving a lasting impact on the movement. PAP Ben Ohno, RD Tsuyoshi Uniya, Nao Obuchi, and Sam Nakai put for their efforts in making this meeting possible. The North Atlantic Region organized another meeting with Japan East Region in Tokyo on April 24, 2025 with the presence of IPAP Keiko Tonegawa , Y's Man Asaba and others.











Hosted by  
Kumamoto YMCA

# Y's Men International Asia Pacific Area Youth Convocation

# AYC2025 ~PEACE~

## Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?

In 2024, more than 150,000 lives were lost in Ukraine, and many children also lost their lives in Gaza.

There are children living under attack, unable even to dream.  
Aren't we treating that reality as something distant and unrelated to us?

Every time we watch the news, our hearts sink.  
We think, "This can't be right," yet we feel powerless to act.  
Even now, there are people in the world who are silenced, denied education, and forced to live amid discrimination and violence.  
And there are young people who feel lost, asking themselves, "What can I do?"

"Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person."  
— Mother Teresa

Don't wait for a leader—start with yourself.  
A small act of kindness can become someone's hope.  
By talking and sharing, the world can begin to change.

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."  
— Malala Yousafzai

One voice has the power to move the world.  
So let's speak, connect, and begin.

*We are the beginning of peace.*

# 7/30~8/3

wed sun

@Kumamoto YMCA Aso Campsite

Entry : ¥40,000

contact : [ayc2025.aso@gmail.com](mailto:ayc2025.aso@gmail.com)

\*Of the 40,000 yen participation fee, 10,000 yen will be subsidized by YMI Asia Pacific Area.



Please register using this form.