

Focus on Friends

the newsletter of

Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS



January 2015

2nd Australian FAPW Gathering

Members from 10 countries - Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines and Taiwan – attended the 2nd Australian FAPW Gathering which was held in Melbourne from 30 November to 4 December. The event ran parallel with the Asia Pacific Region Conference for Leaders of Girls and shared the theme “AP - Anything’s Possible”. FAPW members joined the conference participants for the Opening Ceremony and the International Night.



Regional Director of Asia Pacific Region Ching Ching Wee Ong, FAPW Founder Dato Dr Juseon Byun and our Patron, HRH Princess Azizah at the Opening Ceremony of the AP Region Conference for Leaders of Girls

Our Patron, HRH Princess Azizah presented membership pins to 40 new and upgrading members, including four Major Donors, all of whom were warmly congratulated by our Founder, Dato Dr Juseon Byun. In all, there were one Crystal, 18 Silver, 11 Gold, 4 Diamond and 2 Platinum members and the 4 Major Donors. During the Membership Ceremony and later at the Gala Dinner, members were entertained by the girls of the Girl Guides Victoria Choir.

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Focus on Friends is published twice yearly, in January and July. We welcome articles from all member countries of FAPW. Share news of what your FAPW is doing, how the 30% benefit is being used by your national association.....

Deadlines for submission of articles will be 1 December and 15 June. Send articles to Helen at helenharg@westnet.com.au

Participants in the 2nd Australian FAPW Gathering enjoyed outings which allowed them to explore Melbourne, or take a river cruise to Williamstown, or visit Cranbourne Gardens to walk or ride through the 15 hectares of Australian flora and different gardens and landscapes, or meet the unique Australian birds and animals at Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary. And many enjoyed the shopping opportunities in the city!



Some of the participants in the 2nd Australian FAPW Gathering in Melbourne

FAPW Awards



At the 2nd Australian FAPW Gathering, the Working Group was pleased to present, for the first time, some very special awards. The FAPW Silver Award and the FAPW Gold Award are presented in recognition and appreciation of continued donations totalling more than GBP 3,000 and more than GBP 5,000, respectively.



FAPW Working Group Chairman Susan Locsin presented FAPW Silver Awards to Junko Sato (Japan) and to Annette Woo (Hong Kong) and FAPW Gold Awards to HRH Princess Azizah and to Dato Dr Juseon Byun.



Mrs Doris Reihm, a longtime FAPW supporter from USA, was not present at the gathering, but will also receive the FAPW Gold Award as soon as this can be arranged.

The Working Group wishes to give special recognition and thanks for the great support given to FAPW by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, the Queen of Brunei.

Susan Locsin, Dr Juseon Byun and HRH Princess Azizah after the presentation of the FAPW Gold Awards

2014 General Assembly of FAPW Korea

FAPW Korea held its 2014 General Assembly, in November, at the President Hotel in Seoul, Korea. About 60 members attended the event.

Dato Dr Juseon Byun, Founder of FAPW presented pins and certificates to 14 new members and 2 upgrading members. Among the new and upgrading members were 6 Major Donors, 2 of whom upgraded from Gold and 4 who became Major Donors through the new FAPW / OB-PS Partnership. Recognition of FAPW Korea's first 6 Crystal members was a special feature of this event. With this as a beginning, FAPW Korea will try to increase Crystal membership in the future. The meeting was a significant and joyful event during which a summary report of the promotion of membership and activity details for 2014 was presented.

Publication of 4th Newsletter of FAPW Korea

FAPW Korea published its 4th Newsletter early in November. Activity details for 2011 to 2014 were reported and information, including how to contribute donations to FAPW and how to join international events for members, was given in this Newsletter. The first Newsletter was published in 2004 and this 4th edition was distributed to all 446 members throughout the country.

FAPW Scarf

We have for some time, been searching for a suitable scarf to denote a common identity for FAPW members. We have at last been successful. Thirty beautiful hand-dyed pure silk scarves were produced in Tasmania in time for the Gathering in Melbourne. These were long scarves (26 x 135 cm) but the artist has said she can also make square head-scarves for us. The long scarves sold at AUD 35 each but the square scarves are likely to be a little more expensive. Scarves will be available for purchase at most Gatherings.



FAPW Vests

Vests are commonly worn by Friends country groups and some groups have their own design. FAPW Philippines has kindly offered to take orders from FAPW groups (no individual orders) for the vests. They have supplied a design and costing. Please contact your Country Co-ordinator to place an order.

Leaders' Training in Myanmar

I am glad to have had the opportunity to be involved in the Training for Leaders who will lead future Myanmar Girl Guiding in August 2013 and in January 2014. I am grateful to have had such a precious experience as well as realizing the responsibility.

The Training in August was conducted to find the best way of training. Every night, we had a meeting to discuss what kind of training we should provide for the Myanmar leaders meeting their needs. To provide better training, the main staff asked appropriate assistance from our Osaka Support Team. To work there, the solid foundation of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting skills and knowledge and leadership were necessary.



For the following training in January, the same main staff members gathered again. As we have already had the common view, planning and preparation for each session was done without problem and we could share lots of information before the training. We focused on the Patrol System of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting and provided learning by doing sessions. That makes it easy for the participants to understand and we could see smiles on Myanmar leaders' faces while they experienced the activities.

The most important thing I realized through the training is the language skill. To work with the leaders from other country, communication in English is necessary. Also, it is a pity that we cannot share our thoughts with Girl Guide/Girl Scout sisters around the world.

As I was an assistant, I had no opportunity to work directly with Myanmar Girl Guides. However, I am interested in their Girl Guiding and would like to see their usual activities as they are very well organized and respect their leaders.



Myanmar leaders are always smiling and kind, and learning with enthusiasm. I always remember their smiles. However, sometimes it seemed like some leaders did not fully understand the Patrol System. I think we should continue the training on Patrol System to learn both of leadership and teamwork. Also, it would be good to provide more opportunities for each to express their own idea and to listen to others, such as the World Café.

As a link country of Myanmar, we have a wonderful opportunity to work together with Myanmar Girl Guides to construct further Girl Guiding in Myanmar and to tackle with issues in Myanmar. I would like to ask more young leaders to be involved, not only Ranger Girl Scouts.

It is the leader who could develop girls through the usual meetings and activities. If the leader realized how Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting is fun and incredible, it would be reflected to the girls without words. I learnt a lot of things through the trainings in Myanmar, and realized the greatness of international Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting again. I would like to deliver my experiences to the girls and young leaders of my troop, and suggest and support their challenge.

Fumi Murakami
Leader, Girl Scouts of Japan

30% Incentive

The primary means of fundraising by FAPW is through new and upgraded memberships. For every GBP 6,000 raised by an FAPW country group, GBP 1,800 (30%) will be returned to the Member Organization (MO) of that country, for use in a project approved by the APR Committee.

Our membership, and therefore our fundraising is continuing to increase. This means that more MOs are receiving the 30% payment. In 2013, 8 projects were approved – 3 for Korea, 2 for Japan and one each for Brunei, Australia, Hong Kong and Philippines. In 2014, three projects were approved - 1 for Australia and 2 for Japan.

Increasing our membership and fundraising capacity not only benefits Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting throughout the Asia Pacific Region but can bring extra benefits to your own MO. Do take every opportunity to let people know about FAPW, so that they will want to join us in supporting the girls and young women of our Region.

A Helping Hand for a Friend in Need

On behalf of Girl Scouts of the Philippines, FAPW Chairman Susan Locsin wishes to thank Dot Dalglish of FAPW Australia and the girls of Kenmore Girl Guides, Queensland, for their donations of USD 360 to the Girl Scouts of the Philippines Disaster Relief Fund.

News from the Working Group

A decision was made to discontinue the presentation of plaques to Major Donors. Instead, it is proposed that a special Selangor pewter pin will be presented.

Changes to the Friends of Asia Pacific, WAGGGS Manual, Chapter 7 Country Co-ordinator and a new document "Guidelines for the organizers of Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS Gatherings" will be circulated to Country Co-ordinators after the Asia Pacific Region Committee meeting in March. From that date, all new guidelines will apply.

Coming Events

To date we have received notification of the following events:

- FAPW Taiwan 15th Anniversary event March 2015
- AP Training of Trainers event in the Philippines October 2015
- FAPW HK will celebrate its 15th Anniversary in 2016, the same year as the 100th anniversary of HKGGA
- FAPW 5th General Assembly early in 2017

Many thanks to

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for articles, information and photos