



12th Asia Pacific
Regional Conference
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WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS
NEPAL
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ARP Newsletter Report 2016

When Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from the Asia Pacific Region of WAGGGS come together they really know how to party – Gangnam Style. (Well, think about it, this Korean pop tune comes from our region, after all.)

But its not our dance moves that set our region apart, it's our impressive membership growth figures, cross-country collaboration and program initiatives that stand out.

Girl Guides Australia was one of the 26 Guiding and Scouting organisations of the Asia Pacific Region at its 12th triennial conference, hosted by Nepal Scouts in Kathmandu during the first week of September. The five-day conference was a display of diverse cultures and models of Guiding delivery, and an opportunity for Girl Guides Australia to learn, share and participate in setting down a plan to support the region's 3.6 million girls and women over the coming years.

Sister organisations shared success stories of their growth. Myanmar – a country Girl Guides Australia has aided by way of leader training – has grown since its re-emergence in 2014 to more than 30,000 members. India continues to grow at a steady pace, making up almost a third of our entire region's Guides and Scouts.

Girl Guides Australia was able to share its work to review and revitalise the Australian Guide Program (AGP) through consultations with Guides, leaders, parents and the wider community.

Most importantly, all Guiding and Scouting countries in our region were able to review and comment on the future strategies of WAGGGS at a global level and the impact of these global strategies on our region. Key to these strategies is the need to keep growing our membership. The target is to grow from our current 10 million members, worldwide, to 12 million. It's an exciting and ambitious target with the Asia Pacific Region showing the way with many countries boasting solid membership growth.

Among the many exciting projects in place to aid our global growth target are new global and regional programs and international Guiding opportunities.

Girl Guides Australia learned about the second stage of the popular Free Being Me partnership, with Dove, and the diverse ways global programs like Stop The Violence and Surf Smart are being used across the region.

While at the conference, the new World Thinking Day Activity Pack launched and are available for download from the www.wagggs.org. The pack's exciting activities are designed to enthuse leaders, girls and the wider community about Girl Guides, with the theme #letsgrow

Girl Guides Australia contingent members saw and applauded a new direction to 'sell' Guiding. With the help of marketing and brand professionals, WAGGGS will launch a new look on the International Day of the Girl Child, October 11. Look out for it on the WAGGGS website, Facebook page and Twitter account. For Olaves, older Guides and leaders, a new initiative called Project Reach Out, offers a small grant to develop a program, event or project that encourages an exchange between two or more Member Organisations within the Asia Pacific Region. Guidelines exist for the initiative and projects will be funded up to about \$4500 (or GBP2500).

With conference sessions, done for the day, contingent members socialised with their peers and enjoyed the conference dinners and bazaar. All our donated Kendall Koalas sold out, and the money we raised paid the WAGGGS membership fee for our Pacific sister Kiribati.

A huge thank you to all the units and Trefoil Guilds that made Kendall Koala felt toys. They were a very popular bazaar night item.

The next Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held in Sri Lanka in 2019. Will you be ready to apply when contingent members are called for in late 2018?