



girls worldwide say



## Asia Pacific Region

World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts  
Association mondiale des Guides et des Eclaireuses  
Asociación Mundial de las Guías Scouts

# Asia Pacific Link News

## Thailand shares Regional Summit experiences

Two young women from Thailand write about their experiences at the Regional Summit:

Witchada Techasawatwit writes "I was very happy and proud to be one of the young women representatives from Thailand to



attend this AP Summit. I learned new things and had greater understanding of the Guiding Movement through the exchange of experiences among friends from other countries as well as joining in various activities. Furthermore, I was inspired with the positive perspectives of Girl Guiding, including the motivation to work more for the benefit of the public and community.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the auditorium. Prior to that, the two young women from Thailand i.e. Parinyaporn and I, together with another young woman from Hong Kong, were assigned to sing short songs to attract the participants before the official ceremony. We were rather nervous, because we have never sang in front of large groups before. We were also anxious about our

English language skills. However, we got assistance from the team, who gave suggestions and encouragement, until we were able to successfully handle the task. I felt that I had more courage and self-confidence through the support and assistance received. Upon completion of the assignment I felt proud of myself, although it was only a small task.

Being in a small group for some of discussions gave me the chance to learn from various perspectives – the similarities and differences in culture and society of each country. Anyway, exchanging opinions and sharing experiences were what made us felt closer to each other.

Each of us feels very proud and fortunate to have had the chance to attend this summit. We listened and gathered experiences from the discussions and Q&A. However, there were some topics rather sophisticated, which were more difficult to understand.

From the four days of summit, I learned that to have efficient strategies in developing the organization successfully, we need to brain storm, exchange and share opinions as well as listen to each other. Members should be able to explore the pros and cons, and accept ideas from each other, reaching agreement rationally and, more importantly, to caution each other or help each other in various ways. This will reduce misunderstanding and conflict."

Miss Parinyaporn Ditprasert reported: "We had the opportunity to discuss with other young members about the problems of Girl Guides in each country and look at how these problems could be solved. I had the opportunity to learn what Guides in other countries were doing, for example Singapore showed us their Guiding website, which contained very interesting information; Taiwan shared their handicrafts in making rings, which I found very impressive; the Philippines, the host country, showed off the mascot dressed in the Guiding uniform, which I found very cute. I promised myself that one thing I will never forget about this trip to the Philippines is the warm hospitality and nice, friendly smiles."

## International Women's Day 2010

Serena Hotel Islamabad organized Women's week from 8 to 12 March 2010 in relation to International Women's Day. **Pakistan Girl**



Guides Association organized an awareness stall during the exhibition. Senior Guides and Leaders from the Federal and Model Colleges, together with staff of PGGGA and ICT branches participated in this event. Women's Day was also celebrated by the Open Ismailia District on 13 March 2010 at the community centre Islamabad. A competition was held between Girl Guides and female volunteers who arranged different stalls displaying Afghan and Pakistani culture and food. The Guide Company from Rawalpindi won the competition.

The **Sri Lanka** Girl Guides Association (SLGGA) commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day by organizing a panel discussion on the 'Role of women in challenging professions' for G.C.E. O'level and A' level students in the Homagama Zone of the Western Province. The panel

discussion was designed to give the students an opportunity to look at the difficulties and challenges faced by women in traditionally male-dominated professions, and the difference Girl Guiding have made in terms of empowering women. Over 700 students attended the two-hour panel discussion held on 9 March at Homagama Central College.

The eminent panellists who took part in the discussion included Professor Savitri Goonesekera (former Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo), Mrs Sharmini Ratwatte (Board Member of MAS Holdings), Mrs Linda Speldewinde (Founder and Managing Director of the Academy of Design) and Ms Nihara Jayatilleke (Managing Director of Asian Aviation Centre (Pvt) Ltd).

Mrs Ratwatte stated that only about 35 per cent of Sri Lankan women are following professional careers and invited the students to think about why this couldn't be raised to 50 per cent. Mrs Speldewinde said: "Every woman had the right to a career and students should not feel that, as women, they are restricted from following certain careers." She gave her own career path as an example, and explained how she had started her Academy. Despite a lack of support from those around her, she was determined to go ahead with her plans, and is today considered to be an extremely successful individual. Mrs Jayatilleke stated that 100 per cent commitment was needed to succeed in any job. She said that women could not hold down jobs expecting promotions to come their way automatically, and that women have to work hard, with determination and commitment, and prove themselves worthy of the promotion.

The four panellists kept their audience enthralled and it was with difficulty that the discussion was brought to a close. It was no surprise that once the event was concluded the panellists were inundated with requests for autographs by the students!

## Why do I volunteer

Miranda Cummings from Australia writes on her volunteer experience at Our Chalet

"My experience at Our Chalet has been, in a word, fulfilling.

### Full of Guiding Spirit

– Before I arrived at Our Chalet, I had many people ask me: "aren't you nervous about going to Switzerland to live with strangers for three months?". And I could honestly answer: "No, because I'm going to stay with Guides". I expected Our Chalet to embody the Guiding spirit, and I was so glad to find that it does. People are enthusiastic, helpful, and ready to pitch in and lend a hand in any situation. That is not to say, however, that it is living among angels. Chalet staff are human too, but humans who aim to always do their best.



**Full of Challenges** – Being at Our Chalet has given me the opportunity to challenge myself in many different ways. The most obvious challenge is, of course, the Staff Challenge, which provided a focus for pushing yourself to do crazy and unimaginable things such as oven-climbing, dryer-climbing and sleeping in cramped and uncomfortable spaces. The challenges of hiking mountains are numerous, but the rewards of beautiful panoramic views and a huge sense of achievement far outweighed any pain. Living in a German-speaking area in Switzerland provided linguistic challenges when out and about beyond the safety of the Chalet boundaries, but a smile and some hand gestures really did work wonders.

**Full of Friendship** – I found that the most impressive example of the strength of Chalet friendships came from those who attended the former staff reunion.

Some of these women had been at the Chalet 40 or 50 years ago, and had remained friends with those they worked with despite not reuniting until now. I can only hope that the friendships I have made will be as enduring. Those friendships are obviously strongest with other volunteers and staff, but it has been lovely to also make friends with the guests who stay at Our Chalet.

**Full of Inspiration** – I leave Our Chalet having been inspired in a myriad of different ways. My Guiding self has been inspired by gaining an understanding of the immensity of Guiding, to feel so proud to be one in 10 million. My Guide Leader self has been inspired by the songs and games and activities I have learned, and I want to teach my Brownies and Guides everything I learned. My travelling self has been inspired by hearing the stories of people from many other countries, and their offers of accommodation and hospitality. My volunteer self has been inspired by hearing of the craziness of massive girl-aged events in summer and winter, to want to come back to the Chalet again, and to encourage my Guides to come as well.

**Full of Learning** – The variety of things that I have learned while at Our Chalet has been truly staggering. Of course, there are the practical outdoor skills such as hiking, timing lunch stops while hiking, how to drag trees down forested mountain slopes and eis-stocking. Then the indoor household skills are just as important – such as using Wendy, how to scrub bathroom ceilings and really old wooden floors, using a bread-slicer and organizing a program cellar. And my Guiding knowledge and skills have definitely increased in the areas of knot-tying, campfire-singing, game-playing and WAGGGS understanding. Perhaps the thing I have enjoyed most, however, is hearing and learning snippets of German, French, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Slovenia and Swahili (and American).

**Full of Fun** -When I look back on overall my Chalet experience, the one thing that really stands out is how much

I have laughed over the past three months. I have just had so much sheer fun, and being with similarly silly and crazy-minded people has enhanced the experience ten-fold. The organized frivolity of ice-blocking, eis-stocking and the staff day out has of course been a LOT of fun, but it amazes me how often even clearing up after dinner can result in so much laughter. If nothing else, I'm sure my stomach muscles have benefited from me being a volunteer at Our Chalet.

### Sri Lanka JLS participant runs beach clean-up project

Chathurangi De Silva, member of the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association writes on a project she set up following her attendance at the Juliette Low Seminar in Kenya.



"The JLS offers an opportunity for young women to develop international friendships, understanding and leadership. I had the great opportunity of attending JLS 2009, which was held in Kenya, and for the first time in Africa. It most definitely was a **'Safari in Leadership'**. Each JLS participant had to do a personal project of any nature, once they got back home, which would aim to achieve at least one Millennium Development Goal. This was to be our next safari. As my Juliette Low Personal Project, I decided to conduct a beach clean-up campaign, which would address MDGs 7 and 8.

The Girl Guides held hands with the Scouts, Leos, Rotaractors, International Climate Champions of the British Council and members of the World University Service, University of Moratuwa – a total of 130 – in order to make **'Cleaner Coast 2010'**, a five-day camp and clean-up campaign, successful.

The camp was held at a major government school, Siri Dhamma Vidyalaya, Labuduwa, Sri Lanka, from

13 to 17 January, and we are very much thankful to the Principal for providing all the necessary domestic requirements. We donated six huge garbage bins to the school as a mark of appreciation, and also to make waste management at the school more efficient. The Chief Commissioner and all other Commissioners and Directors of Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association and the Commissioners of the Galle District gave immense support for the success of Cleaner Coast. A special note of thank you also goes out to the Chief Minister of Southern Province, the Mayor and the Municipal Council of Galle for all the support, assistance and participation in this project.

We got together with different groups, organizations and the community because we wanted different perspectives and these organizations to carry forward the project. If we really do want to make a change, we need to be able to continue with the project and get the community involved.

During these few days, the participants learned not just about solid waste management and 3R, but a lot about leadership, working together and building partnerships, and more importantly they enjoyed themselves and had loads of fun."

## WAGGGS' goals

### Goal 1 – Leadership Development

#### Australian Guide named Citizen of Year

At just 19 years of age, Karina Judd recently earned the Young Citizen of the Year Award from Dubbo City Council. The award, which was announced on Australia Day this year, recognizes



the difference Karina has made in her local community. And it's all thanks to Guiding, she says!

"I joined Guides when I was about seven and since then, I've been involved through the Youth Programme, as well as being a Junior Leader and now an Assistant Leader," she said. "As a Guide, I have been involved in everything from organizing visits to the local retirement village, to picking up rubbish in local parks as part of Clean up Australia Day, not to mention all the outdoor adventures".

"As part of my Queen's Guide Award, I also became involved with the Dubbo City Youth Council, where I worked with a team of young people to advise the Council on all things youth-related, from skate parks to events. I was elected Chairperson in 2009 because of my extensive skill set – most of which I gained through Girl Guides.

"Guiding has not only given me great leadership and advocacy skills, it's also given me extra confidence, an understanding and appreciation of others' values, and a great peer network to support me in whatever I choose to pursue. It's all about being your best!"

Karina has also been involved in Guiding at an international level, and recently attended the WAGGGS Leadership Development Programme Seminar at Sangam, India, where she met with over 30 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from 21 countries, including all five regions.

She urged local youths to get involved in the community and not to be afraid to ask for help if they need it.

Karina has taken part in projects including national youth week activities, youth consultation surveys and the youth café. She achieved the Queen's Guide Award, which required her to complete challenges in leadership, teamwork, outdoors, international awareness, Guiding history and active service to the community.

"Guiding has opened up so many doors and introduced me to so many inspirational young women from around the world," Karina said. "Since returning home from Sangam, I have started to work on developing a one-day seminar programme to introduce Australian Guides and their leaders to the Global Action Theme (GAT) curriculum. Over the next 12 months, I plan to develop some fun activities which will enthuse Guides on the GAT curriculum and provide them with an inspirational introduction to this important initiative."

### **Hong Kong participates in "Youth uniformed groups organic farming award project"**

As part of the "FarmFest 2010" - organized by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department,



Vegetable Marketing Organization and Fish Marketing Organization, Girl Guides from Hong Kong Girl Guides Association and five other uniformed groups were invited to participate in the 'Youth uniformed groups organic farming award project'.

This project ran from October 2009 to January 2010. Twenty-three Girl Guides and one Guider from 5 EK Coy and 84 EK Coy represented the Association in the competition. During the project, girls visited the organic farm every Saturday to carry out agricultural work such as watering, weed picking, and fertilizing etc. They grew tomatoes, cauliflowers and lettuces. After three months of hard work, the Guides had a good harvest, which went on sale at Fa Hui Park, Mongkok on 23 January. The vegetables were sold out within one hour.

### **Japan cultural exchange programme with UK Guiders**

A total of 18 Guiders from the UK visited Japan between 26 November to 9 December 2009 to participate in a cultural exchange programme with

Japanese Girl Scouts. This year, young leaders of Chiba Council acted as the planning committee and organized the programme. The theme was WAGGGS Global Action Theme (GAT): **girls worldwide say "together we can change our world"**, and the sub-theme was "Discover our CHIBA". Participants from the UK and Japan focused on education for sustainable development. They had opportunities to consider what they can do to achieve the GAT together. They also visited Mr Kensaku Morita, the prefectural governor of Chiba, and Mr Masaharu Nakagawa, the vice minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. They reported their achievements and further understanding of the Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting.

## Goal 2 – Strong and Growing Member Organizations

### Hong Kong Girl Guides Association wins the Highest Service Hour Award 2008



Every year, the Social Welfare Department's Steering Committee on the Promotion of Volunteer Service organizes the

Hong Kong Volunteer Award Presentation Ceremony to recognize the contribution of volunteers. With a total of 3,825,885 service hours, the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association was champion of the Highest Service Hour Award in 2008 (Public Organizations), which was presented by Mrs Selina Tsang, the wife of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR and also President of HKGGA. The ceremony was held on 5 December, 2009 at Jockey Club Auditorium, Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

### Girl Scouts of Japan's 90th Anniversary Event

On 20 February 2010, 'Joint Event of Girl Scouts of Japan's (GSJ) second Honour Lecture was held at Girl Scout House in Tokyo.

There were 27 participants, including Girl Scout members. This event was held in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of Social Action Forum and International Zonta. The theme was 'Social action you can do – how to provide an effective assistance'. There were lectures by the organizations: Social Welfare Corporation, Carillon Children Center, Women's Net, Saya-Saya and Shinagawa Child Line, which are working for children and women who suffer from abuse, DV, neglect, bullying etc.

Participants learned how they can engage social contributions. The event enabled participants to exchange information and expand their networks.

### Thailand runs youth advocacy campaign

Under the theme 'together we can change our world', the Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) Association of



Thailand has encouraged Senior Guides and almost 5,500 girls of 170 groups all over the country, to survey healthy and risky areas within 5 kilometers of the school and community. They were looking for things that might be harmful to health – physically, emotionally and socially.

Participants analyzed survey results to seek out the most suitable areas for the children and the community and then compared their results with others.

After the survey, a map was drawn, defining areas which are good, risky, almost good and almost bad. The girls

would propose the results and share among their friends, teachers, parents and their communities in order to help find a solution. Some of the solutions included garbage collecting, encouraging the separation of garbage, pulling out the grasses in the bushes, developing unused land into a small agriculture field for growing herbs and plants, other areas can be used as sports fields, improving children's playgrounds, libraries, shelters and the toilets in the schools etc.

Some of the girls also taught the younger girls in nearby schools. Around 2,000 girls paraded to present the results of the survey to the public, provincial governor and higher authorities to seek further action.

## Goal 3 - The Voice of Girls and Young Women

### Hong Kong runs reduction of electricity consumption campaign

The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association and The Rotary Club are co-organizing an electricity saving project named the '**Ten Percent Campaign**'. It aims to increase awareness of members on the importance and ways of energy saving, and to encourage members and their families to save energy and live an energy-efficient life.

The project takes place in March to June 2010. Members are encouraged to reduce their household electricity consumption by at least 10 per cent compared to the same period last year. Bronze, silver and gold badges will be awarded to those that achieve 10 per cent, 20 per cent and 30 per cent reductions respectively. Other awards in individual, units and division levels will also be presented to encourage participation.

The campaign is supported by organizations including the Environmental Campaign Committee,

China Light and Power Company Ltd, Hongkong Electric Holdings Limited, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Business Environmental Council and the Tai Po Environmental Association.

A joint declaration and a kick-off ceremony were held on 1 February and 8 March 2010 respectively. Girl Guides were invited to share their energy-saving tips.

### Girl Scouts of Japan prized an incentive award of 'Heart Nurturing Activity'

The Girl Scouts of Japan's Peace Pack Project received the 2009 Incentive Award of Heart Nurturing Activity from a national organization named Heart Nurturing General Forum. On 13 February, Teruko Wada, the President of GSJ attended the symposium of Heart Nurturing General Forum held in Tokyo and received the award. The judge said: "It provided an opportunity for children nationwide to learn about peace and preciousness of life, as well as participating in international cooperation." The judge valued GSJ's 15-year continuous cooperation with non-members of local communities.



GSJ received the award and an extra prize from Atsuko Toyama, the President of Panasonic Education Foundation and ex-Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

### Singapore represented at WLDP Seminar Sangam



Suganthi R Shunmugalingam from Girl Guides of Singapore attended the WLDP Seminar at Sangam from 7 to 13 February 2010.

She writes: "Participants from different parts of the world started arriving at Sangam from 6 February. Everyone came with a single aim: to gain leadership skills. However, by the end of the seminar not only did we gain leadership skills, we also gained new friendships and the love of Indian culture and food.

The first few days of the seminar were focused on the participants improving our weaknesses. Workshops on self-esteem, self-confidence and motivation were conducted. It is true that most successful leaders have very healthy self-esteem and are good motivators. Not only did we learn about how self-confidence and self-esteem affected a leader, seminars on effective listening, inquiry appreciation and many other useful workshops were conducted to equip us with the tools of becoming an effective leader. Most of the learning that we did was through the form of games rather than presentations. It was one of the most effective ways of engaging the participants as every single person was involved in the activities.

One of the activities that stood out in almost every participants' mind was the community visits. The participants were given an option of three places to visit: Mobile Crèches, Nyanti and Zenat and doorstep school. These community services were a part of the volunteer work that some of the staff at Sangam were carrying out. I had volunteered to spend some time at the Mobile Crèches site at Nyanti. Some of us were surprised to see that a one-room building constructed with bricks and a zinc rooftop was filled with children aged between six months to 16 years of age. All of them were trying to get some form of after/before-school education. The children started off the day with gruel and songs and were later broken up into small groups to do some form of work. The volunteers would teach the children English through songs or games. They would then have their lunch break and the informal English lessons would continue. One of the most recurrent comments that the volunteers had was that it was difficult to keep track of the

children coming and going from the mobile crèches as these places were normally set up for the children of construction workers. The parents would withdraw their children from the school whenever their work required them to move to another location. This, however, is the unfortunate reality that the children of lower income families are currently facing.

The most fun part of the seminar was the last night, when we had an Indian feast and an international night. It was a time for us to let loose after a whole week of seminars and have fun. We were treated to a lovely dramatization of Gandhi's life by the children from one of the projects near Sangam. Following the dramatization, the international night was held. This was a time for all the participants to share a little bit of their countries cultures, traditions and most of all food! It was a good end to a wonderful time spent learning from the trainers and other participants."

### **Girl Scouts Philippines outreach activity**

In the spirit of giving and sharing, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines National Headquarters held an



outreach activity, in lieu of an annual Christmas party, on 16 December 2009 at Pedro Guevarra Memorial National High School open court in Barangay Bubuka, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. More than 190 children from 103 families benefited from the Christmas gifts which included backpacks, school supplies, toys and food items donated by the members of the Asia Pacific Region, Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS (FAPW) and other GSP supporters during the Asia Pacific Regional Summit held last November in the Philippines.

The group, headed by Dr. Salud A. Bagalso, National President, Mrs Ma. Dolores T. Santiago, National Executive

Director and Miss Gloria E Calotes, Asst. National Executive Director, was joined by Dr. Esmeralda E. De Castro, School Principal and Hon. Florindo Damitan, Barangay Chairman in welcoming the children.

There were games and dance presentations by the children during the programme. All the children and their families left the venue with smiles on their faces.

### Thailand run 'To teach life skills for living a meaningful life' project

The Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) Association of Thailand, Northern Training Center, Chiang Mai Province, received funds from the UNWG-Geneva for the 'To teach life skills in living a meaningful life' project during the summer vacation in April–May 2010 at Sub-Northern Training Center (Rural Young Women Development Center), Wieng PaPao, Chiang Rai province. The funds were received with assistance from Mrs Yvonne Ismail-Urfer, Former President, The United Nations Women's Guild, Geneva (UNWG-Geneva). This project gives about 40 teenagers, aged 12 to 18 years old from very poor villages in North Thailand with limited access to higher education, an opportunity to start their own small business and generate income to help support the family and become an example or leader for fellow villagers.

The activities included Guiding activities, activities to supplement occupation (to promote sewing with machine, by hand, embroidery and painting), activities promoting basic weaving, supplement agricultural knowledge, home economics, food and dessert preparation, household duties and hygiene. Mrs Yvonne Ismail-Urfer also helped in teaching Basic English conversation for 25 girls aged 5 – 12 years old at the summer camp from 8 to 19 March 2010 at the Northern Training Center, Chiang Mai province.

The United Nations Women's Guild, Geneva (UNWG-Geneva) has helped fund the Girl Guides (Girl Scouts)

Association of Thailand, Northern Training Center, Chiang Mai Province to run various projects since 2007.

### Thinking Day celebrations

The Girl Guides Association of Malaysia celebrated and launched their World Thinking Day event on Sunday 28 February under the theme '**Together we can end poverty and hunger**'. The Honourable Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Bte Mansor, President of GGAM, graced the occasion and launched the celebration at the Girl Guide's headquarters, witnessed by about 200 distinguished guests and members.

The Girl Guides Association of Malaysia helped three of its members from around the Klang Valley by donating basic items such as bags of rice, sugar, biscuits, cooking oil, toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap. The three families, who are Indian, Malay and Chinese – the main indigenous groups in West Malaysia – will be receiving these basic necessities throughout the year.

The President in her speech emphasized that the association should reach out to the community and ensure that they render service to one and all at every given opportunity.



Over 500 Boy Scout and Girl Scout participants celebrated World Thinking Day in a joint

celebration between three councils of Tainan County, Chayi City and Chayi County, Girl Scouts of **Taiwan**. The event focused on the theme, which inspired everyone to make contributions to help others living with starvation or poor conditions. Mrs Huang, Shin-Hua, Chief Commissioner of Tainan County Council, made a speech encouraging girls to learn from nature and do a good turn every day. Members had various programmes including experiencing hunger, planting trees and community service. After the closing ceremony,

each one gathered at the playground and formed a shape of "100" to celebrate 100 years of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement.

## Centenary update

### Message for centenary

Dr Nighat Arshad, member of the Asia Pacific Committee shares a message sent by her daughter, Saman Arif, who was a Girl Guide during her school years and is now a fashion designer and mother of two sons.

Saman writes: "While the centenary is starting for Girl Guides all over the world, for me it's the beginning of a new era! While we watch the world in turmoil, natural disasters and man-made disasters, Girl Guiding for me has bought some sense to the world. While people create their own spaces, it is the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts that bring with them a message of selflessness and the spirit of giving. I may not be an active Girl Guide anymore, maybe because of lack of time, but as life pushes its responsibilities on my shoulders with family life, I still at heart feel like a Girl Guide. I still feel the intense sense of helping others, which I learned while we gathered relief packages for the people affected by floods in the 1990's.

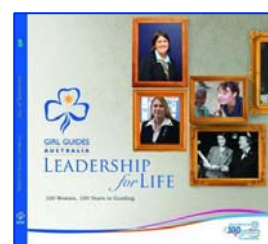
At heart I want to reach out to the less fortunate any time. I can donate my time or my resources. At heart I am still a Girl Guide, I learned to face a little of the world in the Guiding camps, in Murree in Pakistan, and also at the pirates camp in Devon, England. I believe that I learned so much from meeting other girls my age and older, from all sorts of backgrounds and races. I was in touch with my hostess Rosny from Exeter for a very long time, and I met friends from Greece, England, and other parts of the world. I would call it a 'real' experience, while seeing and meeting so many like myself.

I still feel like a Girl Guide at heart, as I use the knowledge that I learned while earning my badges. From tying ropes to

learning to cook outdoors to learning how to do batik and tie dye on fabric, I have learned a lot and while I try to give back as much as I can, I still feel like a little girl on a journey. I still feel like a little girl, ambitious about learning new things, ambitious about making friends from just about everywhere, ambitious about just 'learning'. This ambition has been instilled in me because I was, and always will be a Girl Guide at heart! Best of luck for the next 100 years!"

### Australia Girl Guides celebrate centenary

Girl Guides spanning four generations celebrated the centenary of the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement in



Australia at a reception at Admiralty House in Sydney on 28 February 2010. Governor General Quentin Bryce, a former Brownie, launched a book celebrating the milestone, **Leadership for Life - 100 Women 100 years**.

The book is a collection of profiles on current, former and deceased Girl Guides who have made a difference to Australia. The Governor General, who is now patron of Girl Guides Australia, shared fond memories of taking the Brownie pledge to do her best for her country and her King. Ms Bryce recalled learning life skills during her time in the Guides.

Girl Guides Australia Chief Commissioner Lynne Price said: "*Leadership for Life* is a testament to the strength, resilience and determination of 100 inspiring Australian women from a range of diverse backgrounds and walks of life.

"Some of the women featured are deceased, while others are still active Guiding volunteers and paid professionals in law, medicine, the community and public sectors and the performing arts. Collectively, their stories reflect the strength, self-

confidence, skills, and passions that Guiding has provided them."

Women featured in the book range from Australian humourist and writer Wendy Harmer, to Margaret Fulton (OAM) the internationally acclaimed, award-winning author of best-selling cookbooks. The book also profiles women who have made a commitment to Guiding globally including Linden Edgell, who became a decision maker for Guiding worldwide when she was elected as Deputy Chair of the World Board of WAGGGS in 2008.

"From the well known to the not so well known, all of the women featured in this coffee-table style book are unsung heroes," Lynne said.

"As you read through their stories, there is a rich sense of history and a strong sense of evolution. Giving girls and young women new experiences, new challenges and new ways to grow has been our focus for 100 years and we will continue to transform girls' lives for the next 100 years," Lynne added.

Minister for the Status of Women Tanya Plibersek also attended the launch and described the book as an inspiration to all women who aspired to take up leadership roles. "For 100 years the Guiding movement in Australia has supported girls and young women to grow into confident and inspirational women," Ms Plibersek said.

*Leadership for Life – 100 women – 100 years of Guiding* is only \$29.95 (AUD) and is available through local state and territory Girl Guides retail outlets. Information and order forms are also available online at [www.girlguides.org.au](http://www.girlguides.org.au)

### **Pakistan launches Centenary Celebrations during Thinking Day Rally**

The Pakistan Girl Guides Association, Lahore Branch, celebrated World Thinking Day on 22 February 2010 at the Provincial Headquarter, 5 Habibullah Road, Lahore. The theme for World

Thinking Day was "end poverty and hunger", and a banner with the GAT badge themes was also displayed. The Education Minister Mian Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman was the Chief Guest at the rally. More than six districts of the Punjab were represented at the rally, and there was a large gathering of junior Guides, Guides and Senior Guides.

The centenary celebrations were marked by the start of the 'Young entrepreneurs' program. The young



entrepreneurs made handicrafts, cards, food and sold them after the rally. This taught them how to run a business and how to keep accounts. The programme, which aims to help end poverty and hunger, will be continued throughout the centenary 2010-2012 in schools to empower girls and encourage them to become self-reliant. The event was a huge success.

### **Thailand celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women's Day**

On 5 March 2010, GGAT President and four board members attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women's Day Celebration, organized by the National Council of Women of Thailand (NCWT) with eight other co-hosts at the JW Marriott Hotel, Bangkok. The theme: "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All".

The opening speech was by Dr Pimpen Vejjajiva, Prime Minister's First Lady of Thailand. She said women can contribute a great deal to society. Thailand, as a member of CEDAW, is committed to end discrimination against women. All the participants shared their opinion by posting their ideas on the board "A century of women's voices". The Thai First Lady also posted her opinion on the board, saying: "a woman's success is a combination of the success in her life, her family and her career".

The commemoration of International Women's Day on 8 March was marked with special fervour this year. Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is the third of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are anti-poverty targets that world leaders have pledged to attain by 2015.

The keynote speech was made by Dr. Jean D' Cunha, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM. Her speech on gender equality considered the progress, which comprises achievements, challenges, and recommendations.

### **ACE 2010 – Centenary celebration in Australia**

Nearly 2,500 guiding members from across Australia and 10



nations gathered at the Marcus Oldham Agricultural College on the outskirts of Geelong in Victoria, Australia, for a week of centenary celebration. We welcomed 198 international guests, of whom 131 were from the Asia Pacific nations of Cambodia, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan and Thailand.

Chief Commissioner of Australia, Mrs Lynne Price, opened the camp in a moving and inspiring opening ceremony in a huge horse arena. Celebrating 100 years of our international Movement, the opening set the scene for the next six days.

The camp was designed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with the girls camped in large dome tents each sleeping a patrol of eight girls. Activities included: bungee trampolining, rock climbing and abseiling, dancing, financial literacy, swimming with the dolphins, sailing, faith activities, environmental activities, horse riding, bike riding, cooking, fishing, craft, the camp of the future, archery, wide games and much, much more.

But we didn't forget our history and heritage as we explored an old-fashioned camp, delved into the archives, participated in international activities, sang all our old favourites at the fabulous campfire and celebrated our beginnings and our history at a moving Guides' Own on the beach. And no visit to Victoria is complete without a visit to the Fairy Penguins on Phillip Island. All 2,500 of us travelled down to Phillip Island for an evening treat watching the penguins come back after collecting food for their chicks at sea. A truly moving and amazing experience for everyone.

We turned Geelong pink on the day we all went on the ACE Race around the city with all the girls in their pink ACE shirts – everyone noticed us!

On the Wednesday our numbers swelled to over 4,700 as family and friends visited the camp and enjoyed activities, caught up with their girls, attended the fashion parade of old uniforms and witnessed the unveiling of the new Australian uniforms.

We finished with a disco and a film night, and then a closing ceremony the next morning where we all vowed to be at the next big Australian camp in Tasmania in 2013.

### **Girl Guides Singapore's World Thinking Day Celebration 2010**

Girl Guides Singapore celebrated World Thinking Day on 20 February 2010 at the



Singapore Indoor Stadium. More than 8,000 members and guests (with over 200 Girl Guides, Girl Scouts and friends from Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, UK and USA) joined us on this occasion. And this year's World Thinking Day Rally was even more special than usual as we launched the centenary celebrations of the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement.

The Rally took the form of a pageant delineating the history and spread of our Movement which included the enactment of the scene at Crystal Palace where a handful of girls who called themselves "Girl Scouts" gate-crashed the Boy Scout Rally in 1909 and lobbied for a place for girls. It also traced how our Movement had grown from strength to strength to more than 10 million members around the world today and how Guiding will develop in the next 100 years!

We also had a celebratory cake ceremony with 100 Trefoil cup cakes (specially designed and baked by our very own members), forming the shape of "100" with sparklers all around!

It was indeed gratifying to see, for the first time, so many members (with more than 1,000 performers and backstage personnel) from various units in all the divisions across Singapore come together at this pageant. It was truly a meaningful and grand celebration befitting the centenary of our Movement.

### **Sri Lanka runs centenary quiz**

The Guide Branch of the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association (SLGGA) held a centenary quiz for Girl Guides on 20 March 2010 at Girl Guide Headquarters in Colombo. The Centenary Quiz featured questions on the SLGGA's educational programme and the hundred-year history of WAGGGS. Girl Guides from seven provinces of the island, excluding the North and East, participated in this event. The Chief Guest on this memorable occasion was Mr Mohan Samaranayake, a well-known media personality and UN Information Officer. Prizes for the contestants were donated by Sarasavi Bookshop.

## **Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS**

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Every effort is being made to have a country co-ordinator appointed in each

country of the AP Region. This goal is progressively being achieved, making contact between countries and FAPW very simple, as well as providing a local contact for potential new members within the country. The country co-ordinator is the person who will have the latest information on FAPW and will keep the national administration informed of FAPW activities and their country's involvement.

### **FAPW Taiwan 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The FAPW Taiwan 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration took place from 25 to 29

March 2010. A total of 110 participants attended the Event, including 11 members



from Korea, four from Japan, four from Malaysia and three from Hong Kong. Ms I-An Hsu, co-ordinator of FAPW Taiwan, with her terrific 20-strong working team, arranged many exciting activities and provided the celebration brochure in four languages, English, Japanese, Korean and Chinese.

The overseas participants arrived on 25 March and visited the Taiwan Girl Scouts Headquarters in the afternoon. Afterwards, the Chief Commissioner and Chairman of FAPW Taiwan, Mrs Ming-Luan Kao Chang, greeted the participants at the welcome dinner.

On the second day, participants travelled to the Great Root Resort Hotel, Sanxia, Taipei County where the FAPW briefing and the sharing were held. In the evening there was a Celebration Dinner, where Mrs Kao Chang and her husband, and members of the Taiwan Girl Scouts National Board also attended. During the dinner, representatives from every country gave wonderful performances. One of the highlights during the evening was the fundraising auction for FAPW Taiwan. I-An is a very professional auctioneer and the auction was very

successful, with all items sold with good prices. Besides enjoying the natural scenery, participants were also able to take soothing and skin-pampering soaks in the local carbonic hot springs.

On 28 March, participants travelled by train to Hualien County to see the Taroko Gorge. They visited Bethesda Home for Handicapped Children and Tzu Chi Foundation Headquarters. A welcome dinner was prepared by the local Huey-Chi Girl Scouts at Hualien County Building. The Hualien County Commissioner Mr Kun-chi Fu and his wife came to address the Girl Scouts gathering.

In summary, this was a very successful event. Membership as a Friend of Asia Pacific is like a Passport to the FAPW functions, I-An said, and as a result she has already recruited over 10 new members just this time. So this is a very good idea for recruiting new members!

## World Centres update

### Spring Greetings from Our Chalet, Switzerland!

As one of four World Centres of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), we would like to invite your young adult members to join us for a WAGGGS International Event or volunteer opportunity.

### High Adventure Week - 25 August – 1 September 2010 'Lead your way'

High Adventure Week is a week of hiking and outdoor adventure for those who want to experience all Our Chalet and Adelboden have to offer. There is the opportunity to develop leadership skills through learning by doing: guide hikes, lead programme activities and learn map reading and outdoor leadership.

The Adult Event is open to members of WAGGGS/WOSM over 18 years old. The participant fee is CHF 630, and financial assistance may be available through the

application to the World Centre manager).

### Volunteer Opportunities: Our Chalet Assistant

Volunteering at a WAGGGS World Centre will give you the chance to get professional experience in areas such as event management, training and personal development in the areas of leadership and cultural awareness.

At Our Chalet, seasonal volunteers assist with the day to day operations of running an activities and accommodation centre for Guides and Scouts. Work areas are a combination of guest services, programme, grounds and maintenance tasks and projects and provide rewarding training, learning and development opportunities.

Volunteering opportunities are open to members of WAGGGS/WOSM over 18 years old. Accommodation and food provided free of charge during your volunteer experience, and financial travel assistance may be available through the application to the World Centre Manager.

We look forward to meeting some of you at the upcoming Regional Conference to assist promoting the WAGGGS World Centres in your national association and home country.

In the mean time, for more information about Events and Opportunities please check the Our Chalet website [www.ourchalet.ch](http://www.ourchalet.ch) or email [info@ourchalet.ch](mailto:info@ourchalet.ch).

## Announcements

### Submitting news

Members can now submit news and events of your Member Organizations at the AP micro site (<http://asia.wagggsworld.org>). Just click "Submit your news" or "Submit your events" on the Events page to advertise your upcoming events. For enquiries on this, please contact Grace at [grace.t@wagggsworld.org](mailto:grace.t@wagggsworld.org)

## **Book on History of Asia Pacific Region**

Following the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations last year, it was decided that Asia Pacific Region will produce a book on the **History of the Asia Pacific Region**. Jan MacIntyre, former Asia Pacific Field Executive Trainer, has offered to do this project, and she may contact Member Organizations to seek information. We would very much appreciate it if you could share with us some photos or other materials, similar to what you brought to the Regional Summit last year.

You might want to bring these to the Regional Conference in order to save on postage. Should you have anything to contribute to this historical piece, please contact Grace at [grace.t@wagggsworld.org](mailto:grace.t@wagggsworld.org).