

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM

Aotearoa New Zealand - Australia - Bahrain - Cambodia - China - Guam - Hawaii
India - Indonesia - Iran - Japan - Kuwait - Malaysia - Maldives - Nepal - NERF - Pakistan
Philippines - Saudi Arabia - Singapore - South Korea - Thailand - Viet Nam



Asia Pacific Forum Newsletter

36th Edition April 2010

APF Statement of Purpose

The Asia Pacific Forum is made up of the NA Communities from the Asia Pacific Zone. These guidelines are devised to facilitate the agreed purposes of this service body. The following is the stated purpose of the Asia Pacific Forum, which these guidelines honor:

- 1) We the NA Regions and communities of Asia Pacific, have joined to discuss issues of mutual concern, address our common needs, exchange ideas and share experiences to further our primary purpose.
- 2) This forum is intended to complement the existing service structure of NA. Goals to Encourage develop and support NA in this part of the world:
 - a) To encourage and support translations of NA literature into our languages.
 - b) Encourage and support Outreach, H&I and Public Information efforts within Asia Pacific.
 - c) Encourage, maintain and support communication among NA members, communities and Regions within this part of the world.
 - d) To continue working with NA World Services in our efforts.

APF Vision Statement:

Our Vision is that one day:

- a) Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;
- b) NA communities worldwide, NA world services and the APF work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery;
- c) Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

Message from the Editor

Salam Pemulihan!

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Adit, I am an addict from Bandung, Indonesia. I was elected as the new Newsletter Chair at the APF 2010 in Kolkatta. Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who had trusted me in taking this position. I know it is not an easy job, as an addict, I have a lot of problem with responsibility. However, I know that if WE do it together, WE can. With the love that I have found in NA, I humbly ask for your support throughout this two-year service term as the Newsletter Chair.

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A Network of  Communities

Your humble Newsletter Chair,
Adit



With Love from Kolkatta, India.

"Before I came, the host promised to bring a smile on our face and love in our heart. It was for real! It was my second APF and I found the love that I longing to find. NA community in my home town is very small. APF has again, given me the strength to keep carrying the message and never give up five minutes before the miracle happens. And it happened. Just a few weeks after I came back from the APF, my home group with only 5 regular attendees, had 20 recovering addicts sat at the meeting. God works in a very mysterious way." – RD NA Indonesia.

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Asia Pacific Forum 2010, Kolkatta – India.

The meeting took place on 23-26 February 2010. It was attended by 21 communities, including Bangladesh and Bhutan. It was Bhutan's first participation and a come-back from Bangladesh. It would not have happened without the support from the APF and NAWS who made it possible. However, there were some communities who could not make it to attend the APF. Their absence was missed.

Full report of the minutes from APF 2010 in Kolkatta will be available soon in our website.

Here are some stories and experience from some delegates who attended APF 2010 in Kolkatta:

“Attending the APF has been a milestone in my recovery, spiritually and as part of my growth.”

Roy B – RD Aotearoa New Zealand

As this was my first ever APF and first time carrying the conscience of my Region as RD I was a bit apprehensive. I arrived in Kolkatta in the middle of the night and as I had decided to go early was not met by anyone at the airport. I eventually made my way into the middle of town to a guesthouse I had booked on the phone the night before. This accommodation was a bit dodgy so I had to find something better the next morning.

After finding somewhere good to stay I phoned the NA help line. It was wonderful to have someone answer the phone that was an NA member and spoke English. He told me of an H&I/Web meeting that was taking place that afternoon 10 minutes walk from my Hotel. When I attended this meeting I met addicts from the local fellowship who really made me feel at home. They were also able to help me attend an NA Unity day the next day, which was a wonderful experience. This love and support offered to me by the Kolkatta fellowship is something I am very grateful for and will never forget. As it worked out members from the Bangladesh fellowship were staying in a Hotel across the road and I was able to connect with them also. These experiences really gave me the feeling that addicts have similarities wherever they are from and as a recovering addict I don't have to be alone anywhere in the world.

By the time I got to the Landmark Hotel I was already feeling connected to the fellowship. The APF itself was amazing. I met lots of recovering addicts from really interesting places and was able to connect with most of them. I was a bit nervous when I was the first RD to present my

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report in front of so many people but because I was treated with so much love and respect it went well. The presentations and workshops were of a very high standard and it was a real honor to be part of it. It made me feel proud that our fellowship could help to support this forum and particularly proud when one of our members got voted in as chairperson, especially as Mark is a personal friend of mine.

Attending the APF has been a milestone in my recovery, spiritually and as part of my growth. I am very excited about attending the WSC and reconnecting with some of the friends I have met in Kolkatta. Kolkatta will always hold a place in my heart through the people I have met and had fun with.

Yours in service

Roy B

RD Aotearoa New Zealand

“the meeting always had the ever present integrity of caring, of love constantly being put into action”

Tom C. RD Hawaii

Aloha/Namaste,

I am Tom C. the delegate representing the Hawaiian Islands. I want to share about my experience while attending the APF February of 2010 in Kolkata, India. To really understand what words cannot completely convey, you must read between the lines; let your heart decipher the real meaning of my encounter of being with the many delegates that gathered together for the four days we met.

I awake early every morning to practice our 11th step. Being jet lagged it came easily to get up before dawn, as I sat in the silence the sound of people banging clothes on the shore of the Ganges found its way to my ears. The beautiful chanting over a microphone in these early hours led to the feeling of another world. I left my room and found my way down the two floors below me where the meeting would be held within the next few hours. The tables were set up with country name cards in front of each seat; I quickly looked for Hawaii and found myself in between Bahrain and Indonesia. I felt electricity flowing through my body as I wandered around the table viewing the names of all the countries that would be present, the thought that came to mind was NA is bringing peace to the planet, this thought stayed with me the whole week. It

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became so clear to me that we are a part of one of the most powerful spiritual movements of modern times.

This harmony continued as the week went on, long days of sitting and listening, the meeting always had the ever present integrity of caring, of love constantly being put into action, the harmony continued no matter how tired we became, always being guided by principles before personalities.

Thank you everyone, it was a privilege to serve with you, you touched my heart deeply.

Love All Serve All

Namaste

Tom

Messages from APF Local Host

This was my 2nd experience of APF in our city. I have pleasant memories of the 1st. (1998) one. I had made friends with some of them .It was my first exposure to NA Fellowship outside of our region.

I was very proud that APF was happening in our city again.
Like always, it is a privilege to be part of any NA event.

The most important lesson I learnt from APF is that its solution oriented.
APF reinforced me that it is a programme for action. I experienced that consensus was taken on the table.

The delegation concept blew me away. The delegates were empowered to take decisions on the table which helped them to go ahead with prompt action. The FD issue was such an eye opener. And yet, not all decisions were made on the table. There were discussions and decisions pending for the next table.

This does not happen in our Area or Region. We almost always have to take it all back to the Groups/Area and by the time its come back the focus shifted to something else.

It really felt good to be part of the event. All the workshops & discussions at APF were open to everyone.

All one needed was a desire to participate. I felt part of it all & it left me with a very good feeling inside.

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I noticed that apart from the main service meetings there were other meetings with NA communities even during meal times.

There was also a meeting with our local LTC meet.

We say that the newcomer is the most important person in any meeting....it has been proved once more for regions like Bangladesh, Bhutan. They have been given extra time apart from the APF meeting time, this thing was open to anybody, be it an individual member, community or subcommittee, all were given time to discuss and move forward.

The appreciation and recognition to the volunteers was another lesson I hope not to forget in a hurry.

The total perspective has changed in our local NA fellowship. If some of us can carry the message we learnt in APF then it is huge. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to be of service.

In loving service

Joydeep.M (Kolkata,India)

I was looking forward to being part of APF which was happening in Kolkata.

It is always humbling to be of NA Service. I had an idea that APF was a part of NA Service structure which is for the development of new Areas & Regions. I was not very clear where the APF fits into the NAWS-Region-Area-Group NA Service. I am still not clear.

I, as always, get passionate with anything to do with NA. I am unable to be as involved as I would like to be with NA due to my professional life. I could happily do the designing in my time without sitting in meetings.

All the confirmations were sent by mail. No stress. Sheer Joy.

All the pickups from Airport on my schedule were late nights and that also great. Solid connection with couple of members. Not enough time for fellow shipping as everybody was busy at the table.

My only regret that APF event happened during work days. I could only attend 2 days. Although I am glad that I could make it for the other 2 days. I really missed the workshops.

I wish we had better communications so the APF event could be followed by a Convention or Camp out.

We missed out on a great opportunity to share the experiences of so many members from so

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many countries.

Hope we will have one again in Kolkata and make it better.

Thank you,
Shamik

According to me APF is one of the most brilliant, insightful and revealing descriptions of the Narcotics Anonymous service I have ever experienced in this decade. Personally I have had a tremendous enlightenment spiritually. I used to like seeing service from the oldies who have been into service since long. Day before yesterday I motivated 3 newcomers (in service) to serve. I now want to create a enabling environment for the new people to serve without fear of being condemned. NA Kolkata will definitely benefit from the workshops & the excellence the APF delegates have shown during the event. The event APF is not just a thing that happened to me. That was a materialized experience formed by me, according to my own expectations and beliefs. This does not mean that effort is not required, and determination. It does mean that I am not powerless to change events; and that we, regardless of our positions, status, circumstances or physical conditions, is in control of our own personal experiences. I wish & personally ensure better service in future. All the best & keep coming back.

With Service,
Sutirtho

APF - I was looking forward to experience NA members from different countries. And I did. This APF has made me thirsty for more. Workshops were great. It didn't matter that I was not a Delegate. I could take part in all of them. APF was very spiritual .Principles of mercy, compassion and love was everywhere. I have a better understanding of NA Service. And that also happened in our Area.

With Gratitude,
Dang

Update by H&I / FD Co-coordinator

This is no excuse but the post-APF-Kolkata 2010 month has been an extremely hectic one for me. My term as Area RCM ended 10 days after the APF conference and I was occupied until then with my other local NA responsibilities as well.

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Immediately after my area service term was over, I left for Bhutan to attend a 3-day Camp-Out & make meetings in NA Thimphu. This was a private trip already reported to Admin. My meeting with the NA Bhutan fellowship over the 6 days I spent there was terrific. During the open-discussion meeting held for the benefit of the Bhutan FD, the attendance was a record 25+ local NA members, including 4 women addicts.

A week after I returned from Bhutan, the NA Thimphu fellowship formed an interim-ASC. This is a brilliant beginning by God's grace. Honestly, I am astonished by this impromptu development. Two weeks later, the APF Chairperson Mark, the ex-Treasurer Anindita & I gave PI /PR presentation over Skype to the Bhutanese Government official who is helping us with our FD efforts in Thimphu. In short, the Bhutan FD ball is rolling & we hope to fulfill the mandate within the 6 month dead-line.

I wished to give thanks to you guys for electing me FD Coordinator at the Kolkata table but could not do so till today. I am overwhelmed by the faith & trust placed by you in my ability to be of service to APF. Personally for me NA service continues to be an unconditional *labor of love*. I am humbled by the fact that you guys consider me worthy of service. I would like to thank all the APF Community's for giving me this honor & privilege. I shall endeavor to serve you to the best of my ability as your H&I / FD guy. My heartfelt thanks to all!!

In gratitude,

Bablu
H&I Resource/FD Coordinator

What Happens after APF 2010

Dear all

Hope you are fine. It's not very long since we met in APF 2010 at Kolkata.

A significant growth has taken place in Bangladesh after that. We did a very successful campout with 120 participants. In that campout many fellows were interested about NA and subsequently we got 4 new NA groups in Dhaka. Now we have total 9 NA Groups with 11 meetings in a week which covers all days of a week.

Another significant momentum for Bangladesh Region is that we have arranged our first PR Information Booth at Dhanmondi on 14th April. 14th April is a very big festive for Bangladesh

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which is actually the first day of Bengali New Year. We got a lot of crowd in the PR stall and expecting to get a great result from upcoming days.

We are trying our best to share what we have learned in APF 2010.

In Service
Reza A.
Chair
Dhaka Area Service Committee
Bangladesh

Upcoming Events in Asia Pacific Region

There are many other events going on within the Asia Pacific Region that are not listed on our website. In order to get the information, please visit each region's website on <http://www.apfna.org/pages/communities.htm>.

10th Annual Bali Area Convention of Narcotics Anonymous - "Never Sendiri" (Never Alone) June 18th - 20th 2010 - Bali, Indonesia

On behalf of the NA Bali convention committee, we hope you can come and join the party this year! The convention venue is the Puri Saron hotel, Seminyak.

Please [download this low resolution flyer](#) with date, venue, accommodation and contact information. We have a higher resolution flyer available at our website www.na-bali.org/english/events/en_bali_convention.htm from where there is alternative hotel info available as well.

6th Japan Regional Convention 2010 - "Recovery = Discovery" August 20th - 22nd 2010, - Yokohama, Japan

NA Japan is proud to announce the 6th Japan Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, and it will be held in Yokohama from 1pm, 20th August to 4pm, 22nd August 2010. More information to follow soon...

3th Darjeeling Area Convention 2010

November 19th - 21nd 2010, - Merik, Darjeeling, India

Darjeeling Area has come into function and has decided to host its area convention. We have come together hand in hand with the theme chosen one.

For more information on this camp, including registration, venue, accommodation and contacts, [please download this flyer](#).