



# Asia Pacific Newsletter

July - 2016 #40



# Asia Pacific Forum



*Latest News  
In this issue*



*We keep what we have only with  
vigilance, and just as freedom for the  
individual comes from the Twelve  
Steps, so freedom for the group  
springs from our traditions.*



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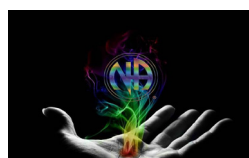
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# 2016 Unity Day Summary



The 2016 APF Unity Day was held at the same venue as the APF meeting on the 20th of February 2016. This event was held in partnership with NAWS who assisted the APF with funding for the event. The following account of the day's events could never do justice to the emotion, spirituality, unity and love that filled the room that day; but here goes anyway:

Long time friend of the APF and former World Board Member Tom Mc assisted the Admin Committee in coordinating the event and facilitated the proceedings.

The event was attended by various Thai members, most of whom are Thai Nationals; the Director of the Princess Mother National Institute on Drug Abuse Treatment Centre and eight of the staff; most of the APF participants including the elected trusted servants; NAWS staff member Uschi and World Board members Tali and MaryEllen; and a plethora of visitors from a wide variety of countries who either specifically came to the APF/were in the Country to attend the Thai Regional convention/ or happened to be passing through Bangkok at that time.

We began with introductions and an outline of the day ahead given by Tom then sharing sessions from some of those involved in the translation. Members, who could not be there, including Vinnie and Neil, were recorded prior to the event and their interviews were displayed on a screen. Those present shared their experience, strength and hope of the process. Some incredibly moving sharing took place including the re-count given by a member of how there was originally two draft versions of the Basic Text and rather than debate which one would

eventually become the official draft version, the members volunteered to let go of their version in favour of putting their collective energy into the version which went on to be the approved version.

Uschi M, the Manager NAWS Translations, gave a presentation of the translated Thai Basic Text and we had a ceremony which included handing out the Thai Basic Text. Fortunately there was a significant amount of Thai National members who assisted in the translation of the Thai Basic Text present. This was such an inspirational moment especially due to the fact that many of those present who were APF participants were from non-English speaking communities that are in desperate need of translations. In my many years of involvement in NA Service and the APF I have never witnessed a more moving moment!

The Unity day broke for lunch and then the agenda was altered to allow the Thai members to have an open sharing forum which included the Director of the Princess Mother National Institute on Drug Abuse Treatment Centre and the staff along with Thai family members. This meeting was held in Thai and involved reading from the Translated Basic Text, Sharing, and lots of laughing/crying/hugging ... in short, Unity at its finest.

As the day came to a close there were great connections made, relationships both built and strengthened, a sense of Unity and hope for the Thai Fellowship, and of course lots of Love. To say the day was a resounding success is an understatement. Many thanks to all involved.



## 2016 APF Meeting Summary

The 2016 APF Meeting was held in Bangkok on February the 16th through to the 19th. Bangkok was chosen due to it being a central location in Thailand which would be accessible to all the NA members in Thailand who would like to attend along with no travel complications for APF participants or visitors, and affordable venues and accommodation. The meeting date was set to start just after the Thai Regional convention in Pattaya to assist members who could support that event. We negotiated with a few different establishments and settled on the IBIS Bangkok Riverside Hotel which had competitive rates, was in a central but quiet location and had very friendly cooperative staff. Many thanks go out to Tom Mc and an anonymous Thai NA member for their assistance in organising the venue.

In attendance were APF Communities Bangladesh; Australia; Thailand; UAE; Indonesia; Iran; Malaysia; India; Oman; Bahrain; Hong Kong; China; Japan; Aotearoa; Nepal; Maldives; Kuwait; Pakistan; Philippines; Singapore; Bhutan; and Nerf. APF Workgroup members: from the Strategic Planning Workgroup Roger, Sue and Reza; Hawai'i elected not to participate in APF this year, however, Phyllis, the Hawai'i RD, chose to come independently as part of the Communications Workgroup; for Afghanistan – Tommy A who presented the report for Afghanistan and attended parts of the meeting. Our office bearers: APF Merchandising Chair – Carrie; APF Legend – Paolo (filling in as Treasurer); APF FD Chair – Mahmoud; APF Secretary – Tim; and the APF Chair – Hammed. From the World Board we had Tali and Mary Ellen; and Uschi M from NAWS.

The APF meeting was a resounding success! The focus was on strategic planning for both the short and long term. The Strategic planning Workgroup held 4 sessions - the specific and realistic strategies we can create for the coming year; Communications and what

specific strategies we can create for the upcoming year; What specific financial strategies can we create for the coming year; and External Planning. This culminated in the final formation and acceptance of the Strategic Plan for 2016 which was passed by consensus in New Business on day 5. This document can be found on the APF Web-site for those interested.

NAWS facilitated 3 sessions – the NAWS Introduction and Update; a session focussed on our traditions and Literature; and an Open forum facilitation session which began with Uschi giving a translations presentation. NAWS also participated actively in all the sessions.

There was an FD workshop which was facilitated by the current FD Chair Mahmoud along with former Chair and APF legend Paolo with help for others. For our Building Strong Home Groups workshop we had three of our experienced RD's; Jackie, Sumeet and Eshan; facilitate the session. This was a huge success.

The final day was New Business and elections. All the positions were filled. A full summary of the New Business is available in the minutes on our Web-site. The most incredible aspect of the New Business session was that it was conducted completely by consensuses.

**Acknowledgements:** There were many esteemed visitors throughout the APF meeting. This included, on day three, the Director of Princess Mother National Institute on Drug Abuse Treatment Centre and eight of the staff members who, in partnership with NAWS, we funded to attend the APF meeting and the unity day. Our visitors attended various sessions on days 3 and 4 then attended the Unity day on the 20th. Also we had various APF friends and Members of the Thailand Fellowship.





## ***A Privilege to Serve: an AD Perspective of WSC 2016***

It was a privilege to attend the WSC 2016, I have previously attended the WSC in 2004 so it was an interesting experience being back as an RDA. It is the first time our Region, the Aotearoa NZ Region has funded (travel and accommodation) for an AD so that is a significant achievement for our Region in itself. I found the pre-conference open forum interesting as it seemed to provide an opportunity for questions that members thought mightn't get attended to during the conference. I think this was helpful for some members as they were able to get a response from World Board Members on questions they had. Once the conference opened a real highlight for me was hearing the serenity prayer being said in different languages from around the world. We sing the serenity prayer in Maori (the indigenous people/

language of Aotearoa NZ), I was overwhelmed by the response from some of the conference participants in how moving they found this. It reminds me of 'Why we are here' and the importance of one addict helping another and that language is the key for connecting us. Hence why it is so important that our translations efforts continue. In saying that it is an awesome achievement that we have translations in 89 languages. That is a significant success of our fellowship and has helped contribute to a number of efforts in fellowship development around the world.

Old business and new business continue to be challenging sessions. It is difficult to make sense of competing needs of our regions and NA communities. But the more informed we all are of what those are, the easier it would

be to make decisions. I didn't always feel that there was enough information to be clear about the best decision and there seemed to be some strong pleas for decisions without providing enough information. We have very differing needs across regions and NA communities and how these fit or impact on the rest of the fellowship. Is something that we all need to consider and be part of the decision making process.

There was overwhelming warm throughout the conference with lots of support from the local host committee. This certainly made the long days tolerable as well as multiple handing over and prayer. Connecting up with members from APF, NAWS and committed service members was inspirational. The APF community had a chance to catch up over lunch and it was fantastic to meet fellow brothers and sisters.

Zonal Forums and their role seems to be something that is still trying to be understood from some parts of the world; the role they play, their place in the service structure, what they add or take away. So I am really interested to see how these conversations progress over the next few years and how we can improve representation for our unseated or unrepresented NA communities.

Overall, I continue to feel blessed with serving our fellowship and I look forward to meeting more of you as and when our loving HP makes it possible.

***Yours in loving service  
Deb F  
Alternate Delegate, Aotearoa  
NZ Region***



## *One Member's experience at WSC 2016*

When I first came to NA I never thought of giving service to NA. My only concern was how I am going to get clean and reintegrate with the society. I hardly believed that "common welfare" and "selfless service" would help me directly in my personal recovery. Then, I started believing that miracles do happen when I found myself content with seeing other fellow addicts recovering from the disease of addiction.

Attending WSC 2016 was one of the biggest experiences in the journey of my recovery. It was like a dream come true. When I got involved in NA service and heard the conversation of old timers related to WSC, I started dreaming of visiting WSO and WSC, unlike before (in the past, I used to dream of visiting some famous and publicly known events).

We (delegates) had a tour inside the World services office, saw different departments, NA archives and the translation room. The NA literature translated into Manipuri language hanging around the WSO reminded me of the collective effort in translating our literature into local vernacular work that we are doing in Manipur.

I was overwhelmed with the history of NA;

how it evolved, struggled and expanded throughout the world when the video was being presented during the conference.

I forgot about the contemporary social issues of the world and feel that we, WSC 2016 participants were brought together at the NA world service conference to acquire peace, love and hope of recovery to give it back to the still suffering addicts of the globe.

On the closing night at WSC, I was given a chance to share at the World Speaker Meeting. I was nervous and about to panic wishing I could share a lot when it was my turn. When I was done, actually I felt unsatisfied, but afterwards everyone in the room gave me hugs and told me they appreciated what I had to say.

Now, I have big passion about NA service and feel World Service Office is an "office of life". I am deeply inspired to contribute more for the fellowship and to the society. I feel like I have found a new society and new culture from which I can learn and grow. This kind of awakening is a result of my service to NA.

***Guni, NERF***





# Communications Workgroup Report

The Communications Workgroup has been busy in the 3 months since we met in Bangkok. We have already held 2 skype conference calls, and the next one will take place in June. Workgroup members are spread around the globe, the time zone differences mean we have one member getting out of bed at 4am and another staying up to 11pm in order to be in the calls! Our focus is guided by our new Strategic Plan, with several general areas to address: the newsletter, our external connections and communications generally.

We are working closely with the Newsletter Editor to support the publication of quarterly newsletters, starting with this one in June. It is a new approach in recent years for APF to have a Newsletter Sub-Committee, the core of which is the Newsletter Editor and some members of the Communications Workgroup, and we invited interested members to join us. We are building on the success of last year's newsletter, and have been newly inspired by the newsletter produced by the European

Delegates Meeting. Also new this year is using the newsletter as the way for workgroups to provide their quarterly reports to our communities. Invitations to contribute have been sent to all workgroups, APF trusted servants, RDs who attended WSC, and for various other kinds of newsletter contributions from all our communities. We have lots of ideas, contributions are rolling in, and some are already being kept aside for the September issue.

Communications can be challenging given the diversity of our Zonal Forum. We have begun exploring different communications tools such as WhatsApp, Hangouts, Google Drive, better ways to utilise social media including facebook, and alternatives to skype. There are pros and cons to all of them, our hope is that we can remove as many of the barriers and make our communications as simple as possible.

We have also begun reaching out to other zonal forums, in particular members in the European Delegates Meeting (EDM) and AfriCan Zonal Forum. We will continue developing those contacts and relationships over coming months.

*Yours in service,*

*The Communications Workgroup*



# From the Fellowship Development Workgroup



All the APF communities are eligible to submit their request for FD funding, please send your Communities FD Request Form to the FD Workgroup email list: [apf-fd@nzna.org](mailto:apf-fd@nzna.org) to arrange for FD Trip are required to go through an assessment process conducted by the FD Committee, before a decision will be made on funding.

The third Fellowship Development WG Meeting was held on the 10th June, 2016.

Following are the summary of the whole discussion from the meeting in the exact flow:

The APF FD Budget available utilized fund position US\$ 6,000 out of total approved

budget US\$ 6,000 ! Followings priorities list of countries where FD is required to make upcoming yearly FD calendar plan: (1) South Pakistan at Karachi some-time in 2nd. Week of July, 2016 (after the Holi Ramadan month) that our 2 resource travelers from Iran Maumoud CH. and Ehsan R. ready to go for Pakistan FD Trip and presently Pakistani Visa procedures lead time minimum more than one month also for Iranian citizen as because of their passport needs to be applied via thru Iranian Foreign Ministry submit to the Pakistan Embassy for issuance of visa and due to that we could

not arrange this FD trip before HOLI RAMADAN month, (2) Indonesia- Jakarta some-time during Jakarta NA Area Annual Convention (JNAC '2016) August 19 – 21, 2016, (3) UAE in Dubai some-time in August, 2016- many Iranian member will travel to Dubai for their personal business purpose and if we can arrange FD trip during August, 2016 some-time for them to facilitate it by those FD experienced resource travel will be great and we will have no cost needed to spent for the resource traveler, (4) also anyone community out of we have not rcvd yet the FD request form from the Chairperson NAMEC – IV Convention 4th NA Middle East Convention scheduled



from 11 - 13 November, 2016 venue at Hotel SAFEER Ballroom, Purba lataguri, Jalpaiguri, Oman, Muscat. Moreover we've APF FD plan among- Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia (KualaLumpur), FD Workgroup all members agreed to develop a Guideline for Fellowship Development Subcommittee and submit it to the up-coming APF-2017 annual meeting table for approval. As soon the APF Body approves our Guideline then after we will welcome all willing members from APF community to submit their Resume to serve at FD Chair, FD-Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary and one 3rd member etc. to structure a permanent Fellowship Development Subcommittee.

Moreover, after having long discussion at last three FD Workgroup meetings we focused on to create APF Pool Resume (any willing FD Resource Traveler person are

welcome to submit their FD service Resume thru sending email to the FD Workgroup email list: [apf-fd@nzna.org](mailto:apf-fd@nzna.org)); Also FD Workgroup has created a PPT file in Google Doc for "a new Delegates perspective- What APF is and what it does" a PPT Presentation of which is still in its primary stage and needs everyone's contribution- please be welcome to visit below link of PPT Presentation file:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IKmF2zNaRNX1L0aOUFtqygLbxAXPiQd-fgR-AhQsTNtE/edit#slide=id.g14ddc79899\\_0\\_128](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IKmF2zNaRNX1L0aOUFtqygLbxAXPiQd-fgR-AhQsTNtE/edit#slide=id.g14ddc79899_0_128)

Please just click the link and it will directly take you to the PPT file and feel free to provide your inputs in it.

Fellowship Development Workgroup next 4th Skype Meeting have been scheduled Friday on 8th July, 2016.

Much Love,

**Mahmoud CH.**

**Fellowship Development APF**

## **Aotearoa NZ RD Experience from WSC 2016**

Within about nine weeks of attending the APF I also got to attend the WSC. It's a struggle to find the words that can portray the soul changing experience that these two events were. Both very different, both eye opening, both rewarding and significant. There were around 180 people in attendance at the WSC, significantly higher numbers than the APF and the business is conducted in a very different way. I was proud to be part of the APF community there. I am still trying to put some semblance of order on the things that I learnt or "realized" while there. One things of the many things that came out of WSC 2016 was motion 11 - allowing a representative for non-seated communities and regions to participate in a non-voting role at WSC 2018. It would be good if we begin to put some thought into whether this is something that APF would like to do and if so how we might go about it. There is confusion around this motion from other Regions and so what we come up with might differ from what others come up with, that's ok. My highlights were made up of a range of things including just being there - you all are like rock stars to me, I think everyone that attended was awesome; standing next to Mick Fleetwood (from the band Fleetwood Mac) at Starbucks; feeling the collective conscience at work and the power and passion it contained and the squirrels. I truly hope that for all others who attended your experience was as rewarding and moving as mine.

***Much love to you all my fellow  
APF Community Members,  
Sharon, RD Aotearoa NZ***

# NA Anniversaries



5 June 1991 Tim S.

New WB/Australia The Big 2 5 !!!!

8 June 1992 "Muk" Sharon H

WB/Communications

18 June 2007 Xueli

China/RD

21 June 1979 Phyllis S.

Hawai'i RD/ Communications

25 June 1990 Deb F.

Aotearoa NZ/AD

**June**

**July**

25 July 2004 Sharon K

Aotearoa NZ/RD

24 Aug 2002 "Nam" Noel M

New York City/GSR

**August**

**September**

1 Sept 2002

Pankaj G

Nepal /AD

1 Sept 2002

David T

Australia/AD

12 Sept 2003

Dondee N

Luzon Area/Philippines

26 Sept 2007

Mohit T.

Treasurer- APF



# Upcoming Events



## **Visayas Area Unity Day (Philippine Region)**

*When: July 22, 23 & 24, 2016*

*Where: Hotel Smallville 21, Iloilo City, Philippines*

*Fee: PhP 2,100.00 inclusive of registration and meals (accommodation not included).*

*Contact person: Gerry A.*

*Phone: +63 917 700 0086*

## **India Region Convention:**

*8th, 9th, 10th of September 2016 at Manali Himachal Pradesh. Contact the India RD Rajinder P for registration, Notorious Notorious\_11@yahoo.co.in or +91 964 600 5546*

## **Japan Convention:**

*September 2nd to 4th, 2016*

*Place: Makomanai, Hokkaido. Theme: Spirit of Unity*

*<http://najapan.org/jrcna/english/summary-en/>*



## **First Asia Pacific Forum Convention Events**

MORE WILL BE REVEALED! The Asia Pacific Forum with the co-operation of the Nepal Region is hosting the First Asia Pacific Forum Convention in March 2017, the weekend after the APF meeting. The date will be confirmed ASAP, once hotel arrangements have been confirmed. Save that date in your calendar now!

# A NOTE FROM THE STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKGROUP



APF has been experiencing tremendous positive change since the adoption of Strategic Planning motion in 2014 at Cebu, Philippine. It becomes a dynamic body rather than having just one annual meeting in a year. A lot of Workgroup meetings, Communications, improved service activities are taking place between the annual meetings to achieve our Strategic Planning. Congrats to all of us as we are definitely experiencing progress than that APF has never experienced since its inception.

SP Workgroup becomes a long term Workgroup after we all have approved our Strategic Planning at 2016 in Bangkok. Three meetings have been conducted after the APF meeting. SP Workgroup is primarily tasked with the review and follow-up of the approved Strategic Plan. We are presently studying and reviewing various resources from other Zonal Forum, Service Committees to look more closely about their SP implementation process. In addition, SP Workgroup members are attending other work group meetings and supporting them and

encouraging them to meet regularly and progress on their strategic goals.

To fulfill one of our strategies, we have created a Google doc where we are developing SP Guideline. This Google Doc enables all members to provide their inputs simultaneously to create a combined document.

In addition SP Workgroup started a discussion on the Motion 11 of WSC 2016 as the representation of a delegate from APF to WSC has a strategic importance for APF. This motion allows a delegate to be seated at WSC 2018 as a non-voting participant and the expenses of attendance will be the responsibility of the Zonal Forum.

Lastly from the SP perspective the biggest achievement so far for the SP Workgroup is "The age old issue of lack of communication and service between APF meetings is certainly a thing of past".

*Reza A*

*SP Point person*

*An email list focusing on FD for women is making a humble beginning. This has been growing since the APF in February. Right now it's early days, there is around five women subscribed to the list. We have been talking about what we might do next with some suggestions made of writing a vision for ourselves. If you want to be part of this list we would love to have you join - please email [APF-women@nzna.org](mailto:APF-women@nzna.org) letting us know and you will be subscribed.*

*Regards Sharon.*



# APF Money Matters Workgroup



Welcome to the 1st Quarterly  
Report produced by your  
Money Matters Workgroup.

Earnest request, please send your  
feedback or input to the Money Matters  
Workgroup email list: <apf-money@  
nzna.org>

The third Money Matters WG Meeting  
was held on the 7th May, 2016 at 1pm  
Bangladesh time.

## The meeting covered:-

The APF location at Kathmandu and  
communications with the Nepal  
fellowship. Yellow Pagoda Hotel or the  
Hotel Shanker is the tentative venue for  
upcoming APF'2017 and in addition to  
it- the Nepal RSCs would like to suggest  
revised dates from 6, 7, 8 and 9 March,  
2017 (Monday till Thursday) for APF'2017  
Annual Meeting at Kathmandu, Nepal.  
As soon the venue gets finalized- will  
prepare the Budget for the Annual APF  
meeting 2017. Cost effective APF location,  
hotel, food etc. We discussed exploring  
opportunities to reduce APF meeting  
hosting cost. The Executive Committee  
formation completed for 1st Asia Pacific  
Forum Convention in conjunction with  
APF meeting at Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Money Matters Workgroup would  
like to remind everyone that the APF  
meeting is fast approaching and we  
currently do not have adequate funds to  
hold it financially sound. Nevertheless,  
it seems would be difficult situation for  
APF Treasurer Fund position if it requires  
to provide some start-up funding to the  
APFCNA-I Convention Committee or to  
pay for certain Convention expenses.

Fund flow to the APF from its communities  
is necessary for us to remain viable. In  
other hand, a discussion how it can be  
encourage our APF Communities to be  
self-funded to APF.

## Treasury Report:

The APF Treasurer available fund position  
US\$ 22,112.52 (whereas US\$ 6,000 of FD  
approved budget is included) as of today  
dated on 31st May, 2016.

So, Treasurer available budget for  
APF-2017 Annual Meeting at Kathmandu

present fund position US\$ 16,112.52

## General:

Thanks to everyone for another positive  
Month for the APF. We look forward to  
touching base with you again soon.

4th Skype Meeting of APF Strategic Money  
Matters Workgroup have been scheduled  
to held Saturday on 11th June, 2016 at  
1.00pm Bangladesh local time.

Sincerely yours in loving Service, on  
behalf of the Money Matters Workgroup,  
<apf-money@nzna.org>

**Mohit A.**

**Treasurer APF**