

## **Liaison Report at the 73<sup>rd</sup> International Convention of YMI at Yeosu, Korea ( Forum Participants about 100-120)**

held on August 10, 2018 from 10:30 to 12:00

Reported by Kohei Yamada (ISD Liaison)

### Presenters

1. Kohei Yamada from Japan ISD Liaison to YMCA

Explained the plan for 2022, YMI 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. One goal is to strengthen the partnership between YMI and YMCA on the global, Area, National or Regional level and also in each local YMCA. For this goal, finding a liaison person at each level is a very important factor for its accomplishment. The IC18 was a good start since through IC we identified 22 liaison persons from 11 countries (Areas) including Y Europe, Brazil, Australia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, India, Japan, and Korea. In addition, YMI USA former YMCA staff members were also present.

2. Nam Boo Won from APAY GS of APAY

APAY from 2013, had a partnership meeting between the two organizations and made MOU and Principle of Partnership Agreement between APAY and its 4 Areas (Pacific, India, Korea and Asia Areas). He explained the nature of the agreement and it was decided to encourage such discussion on various levels of YMCA-YMI. The copy of the agreement will be distributed to all 7 Areas. He also suggested to conduct joint study on the history of both organizations, starting with joint communication on the National level, then local levels.

3. Lee Samp-noon from Yeosu GS of Yeosu YMCA, Korea

There are 11 regions in Korea Area with over 5000 members in YMI Korea. One of the strongest partnership models is carried out in Yeosu region. He explained how the two organizations have built up strong partnership to conduct local project as well as international projects.

4. Coordinated by Jin Tak Kim YMI Daegu, Professor of Keimyung Univ.

He pointed out the results of the forum as follows;

- Both YMCA and YMI had the same roots and same mission together. But YMCA has become bigger with various people involved and YMI members have aged. Therefore, the relationship has become weakened.
- Gradually YMI's Mission to serve YMCA has become weaker and we need to find out why that is.
- YMCA should be ready to receive the YMI cooperation.
- YMI members should become YMCA members and volunteers of YMCA programs.
- ASF (Scholarship) should be revived strongly to train YMCA young staff.
- True transformation requires a new road for the future. Yes, we can change!
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There was a session held voluntarily in the afternoon. The following is a brief report from each group. August 10, 2018 from 12:30 to 15:00

Given themes of Discussion groups (English speaking and Korean speaking groups)

1. How some joint projects between Y MCA and YMI could be conducted.
2. How YMCA could help YMI Extension
3. What kind of International or Area wide joint goals could be conducted

### **English Speaking Group point of discussion**

How to help YMI Extension

1. Outreach

YMCA should explain about YMI Movement in YMCA board, AGM, Alumni groups and Youth groups. Other service groups are commonly losing their membership, Face to Face Meetings, and Sense of Serving others are important to society. Strong

passion and remaining good connection with young people are important. The joint efforts of the YMCA/YMI are the important message to relate and appeal.

2. Business Model of YMI

What is the business model of YMI? YMCA members become YMI members? Branding is important. For example, India model of YMI is that one becomes a YMI member and the spouse and children are given spaces for interaction among each other, which attract young families. “Service to Community” or “Service to YMCA”? YMCA lacks community service where youth empowerment can be done.

3. Title of Y’s Men’s Club

The name of Y’s Men or Y’s Mennets could turn off the feelings of many women in some countries. Therefore it may become a barrier for YMI Extension.

#### Youth Work by the YMI

1. Platform

YMI should use existing programs of YMCA, such as Hi Y or Uni Y, youth clubs for IYC (International Youth Convocation) to benefit YMCA as leadership building. Those platforms should be built in YMCA.

2. Roles of YMCA and YMI

The theme of IC18 was “Change”. What do we change and how? There are many NGOs in many cities. YMCA and YMI both need to identify the roles of their organizations clearly.

3. MOU

Clear MOU (memorandum of understandings) on the nature of partnership should be exchanged. TOF (Time of Fast conducted by YMI) and World Challenge (conducted by World YMCA) could be seen as common ground.

### **Korea YMCA staff discussion report in Yeosu**

#### **1. Programs/projects both Y's Men and YMCA could plan and implement together:**

There most probably will be tasks and agendas in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for both Y’s Men and YMCA to cooperate with in addressing those issues. How to contribute to making our world more sustainable, including combatting climate change, could be a common task both Y’s Men and YMCA can work together. For example, resource recycling campaign such as Not-Use-Plastic campaign could be a relevant item for a joint project. The wastes issue has already become global environmental issues. Among them, plastic waste is now very serious. Both organizations can jointly tackle the issue in a global scale in such a way – Not-Use-Paper cup campaign, a campaign to increase the recycling rate of paper cup and milk pack.

#### **2. How YMCA can support/assist Y’s Men’s growth**

As a way of strengthening Y’s Men, there is strong need for collaboration on a common agenda. One of the common agendas could be on peace-building, particularly in the Korean Peninsula and East Asia as peace in this region is inseparable from world peace.

As there are already Y’s Men clubs in the USA and Japan, the establishment of Y’s Men in China and Russia will contribute to peace building in this region including the Korean Peninsula. We need to intentionally organize a network among those Y’s Men in these four countries just like Sino-Japan-Korea YMCA Peace Forum that has contribute greatly to the people-to-people initiatives for peace building in the region.

In the eye of YMCA, Y’s Men’s service is somewhat limited to a simple, first-hand volunteer work, and also much concerned only with expansion of Y’s Men, not serious about the quality and relevancy of its social service program. We hope Y’s Men will make efforts to improve and innovate on its quality of social service trying to reach root-causes faced by

community/society. It seems that Y's Men is losing its attraction from the good-hearted people/citizens who want to serve their community. We, YMCA staff, hope that Y's Men will transform themselves towards more socially relevant service organization in the coming future.

In the city of Gimhae, Korea, a Cooperation Committee has been and is active where the leaders of both Y's Men and YMCA meet regularly to coordinate cooperation and collaboration. For the past eight years, Gimhae YMCA has provided a program called "Y's Men Academy" with a view of leadership development of Y's Men members and potential members. Now it has become an unwritten law that new Y's Men members should go through the Y's Men Academy provided by YMCA.

YMCA has responsibility to provide leadership development of Y's Men. And Y's Men must be YMCA member, and one Y's Men club should be able to be, supportive of and partner with, one YMCA project/program in many possible ways including financial support. YMCA should not be indifferent of Y's Men's activities in the same community. YMCA should be able to play a partnering role with Y's Men, so that Y's Men could do better service in the community through collaboration with YMCA. In short, both Y's Men and YMCA should be able to extend a "good and positive influence" towards their community.

We, YMCA staff, highly expect Y's Men will go back to its original mission and objectives written beautifully in its constitution and history. We suggest that there should be a periodical meeting between the leaders of the two organizations to continue to discuss ways of more effective and relevant social service and action plans.