



DECEMBER 2020, VOLUME 1. ISSUE 3

# Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL ASIA PACIFIC AREA MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

THEME: MAKE A DIFFERENCE SLOGAN: INSPIRE



The Charter Presentation Ceremony of Chiba-West Club's was held at Asakusabashi Huli Conference Hall, Tokyo, on October 3, 2020. This new Club was born as part of the Japan East Region "Change! 2022" project.

*Full story turn to page 9*

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The Y Service Club of Bendigo is very active in raising funds like Christmas Trees Sale. Ken Morrison (left photo) who at 90+ years old has been organizing the Christmas Trees fund raising project for about 20 years.



## MESSAGE FROM AREA PRESIDENT

**We are coming to the end of 2020. As we reflect on the disruptions caused by the pandemic to personal lives and to the economy over the past 10 months, let us always remember to give thanks to God for giving us the strength to overcome as we look forward to the New Year with much hope.**

December is the month of gift giving and a season for celebration. The young look forward to receiving the expected longed-for gift. In celebrating the birth of Jesus, Christians rejoice in God's gift of His only Son, born of a virgin to be the Savior of the world. Jesus gives hope of eternal life to those who believe in Him. He gives us the strength and courage to surmount the challenges of this broken and conflict-ridden world.

In Y'sdom, we seek to make the world a better place. We implement activities that make for a better tomorrow. We translate the teachings of Jesus Christ, by sharing His love, caring for and doing good to others, extending a helping hand to the marginalized and those in need. Y's Men and Women, regardless of their persuasions, have unified to offer acts of love in giving financial aid and the distribution of face masks, rice, cooking oil and many other basic needs wherever possible. As the COVID-19 scenario may continue for an unpredictable length of time, clubs need to adjust their approaches in community service activities.

The pandemic has resulted in restrictions imposed on international travels. Sadly, the International Convention planned for August 2020 in Odense, Denmark which many were looking forward to, had to be cancelled. Likewise, many regional conventions and meetings which offer opportunities for building friendships, have been postponed or cancelled, otherwise held via video conferencing. Despite all these, Y's Men and Women from all over the world have been able to meet and fellowship, albeit on ZOOM.

We must continue to meet and "ponder how to spur one another to love and good works..... encouraging all the more ...." (Hebrews 10:24-25), especially in the present problematic situation.

Let us "Trust in the River of Life" a very appropriate slogan IP Jacob Kristensen quoted from the Book of Revelations 22:1, the River that gives life wherever it flows. In the Book of John 4:14b, Jesus declares "The water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." This is the greatest gift of Christmas. It gives hope to all.

Looking ahead to the New Year 2021, let us continue to galvanize our members to remain active so that we may give rays of hope to the communities where we live and truly "Make a Difference."

In the spirit of Christmas and for the year ahead, I extend my immeasurable and profound gratitude to all the men and women of Y's Men International, especially in the Asia Pacific Area. The tremendous work achieved could not have been made possible without your active involvement and support. Let us join hands towards building resilient clubs, keeping the Hope Alive as we continue to do good in service.

A Blessed Christmas and a Fulfilling New Year to us all, and each of our families.

AP David Lua

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

We have made a good start thanks to a very good Bulletin Team. Last month the focus was on Region Australia. This month the focus is on Japan East Region, hence some information about its history and current projects. Next Area Bulletin (February 2021) the focus will be on Japan West, so we invite Region leaders and clubs to provide articles and photos to highlight their activities.

There will be no Area Bulletin in January 2021. January 2021 is emphasis month for Week4You and Endowment Fund (EF). February 2021 is emphasis month for Time of Fast (ToF) and Short Term Exchange Programme.

Please send relevant articles and photos for inclusion in the Bulletin. Please check out the ASP Area Facebook page, its another way we can share stories and photos about our activities.

**THIS BULLETIN CAN BE READ FROM THE SCREEN - NO NEED TO PRINT.**

**- Colin Lambie, Bulletin Editor**

# JAPAN EAST REGION; YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

BY: RD, JAPAN EAST REGION, TETSUYA ITAMURA

It has been 23 years since Japan East Region was established. Here is a brief history, characteristics of our Region and some of our ongoing projects. Face-to-face interaction is currently difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are continuing our activities utilizing a new method such as Zoom.

The current situation of membership of our Region is shown in the table below, and our biggest challenge at present is to increase our membership. Because the number of members has been decreasing, and members are aging since the establishment of the Region, we are working on the "Change! 2022" campaign to increase the number of members to 1,246 by the end of 2022.

We are also studying the incorporation of the Region in the hope that it will improve our credibility, visibility and governance, which will also lead to an increase in membership. We and our environment are constantly changing. We want to contribute to the development of YMI by adapting to and anticipating "Changes".  
"Let's Enjoy Changes."



District	Club	Membership
Hokkaido	4	46
Hokutobu	11	132
Kantotobu	10	132
Toshin	7	88
Azusa	10	166
Syonan-Okinawa	9	101
Fuisan	9	165
<b>JER Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>830</b>

## HISTORY OF JAPAN EAST REGION

Japan East Region was established on July 1, 1997, geographically dividing the Japan Region into the Japan East and the Japan West Regions. This idea of the division emerged as the solution to the problems with organizational growth such as rigidification and poor communication during the development of Y'sdom in Japan in the 1970s and afterwards.

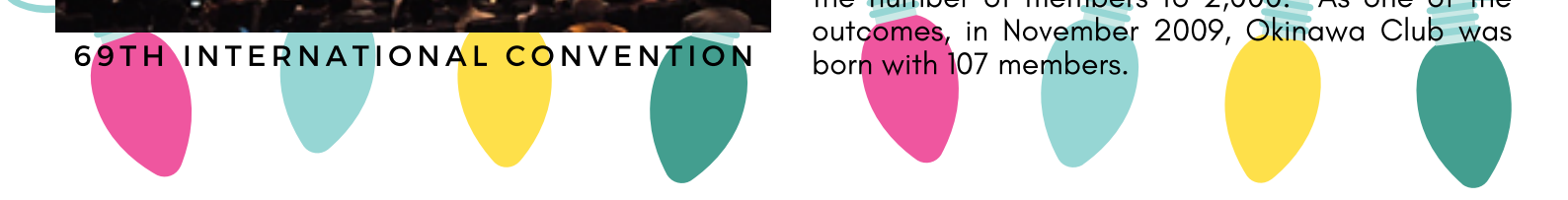
The Regional Council Meeting in 1987 approved the establishment of the District Divisional Review Committee, and preparations for the division began, with the establishment of the East and West sub-Districts in 1993. In January 1995, amidst the embers of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the Regional Council finally approved the division.

The basic policy of the newly born Japan East Region was to focus on the empowerment of the Districts. To cut costs, the Region scaled down to a "small cabinet," making the District Governor's role and responsibilities comparable to those of the Regional Director until then.

When Japan East Region established in 1997, there were seven Districts, 57 Clubs with 1,246 members. Since then, the number of Clubs increased slightly, but the membership continued to decline. Feeling the sense of crisis about it, the Region launched the "2000 Project" campaign in 2008 to increase the number of members to 2,000. As one of the outcomes, in November 2009, Okinawa Club was born with 107 members.



69TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



In 2010, Japan East Region hosted the 69th International Convention in Yokohama with 1,275 participants and adopted the "Yokohama Declaration" aiming for YMI to become carbon neutral.

On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck the Tohoku area (the northeastern part of Japan East Region). It caused the most devastating damage in Japanese natural disaster history, including the collapse of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant due to the tsunami, a seismic sea wave.

Japan East Region immediately set up the Support and Countermeasures Office and started support activities for the affected areas together with the YMCA. This support activity led to the establishment of Greater Ishinomaki Club in 2016 in Miyagi Prefecture, one of the severely affected prefectures. Nearly ten years have passed from then. We continue to provide close support to the affected areas.



**In July 2019, Japan East Region hosted the 28th Asia Pacific Area Convention in Sendai, the capital of Miyagi Prefecture, where 811 participants learned a lot about the threats of the earthquake and tsunami as well as the challenges of reconstruction.**

A major project for the Region in recent years was the revision of the Regional Constitution. It was revised once in 2003 after the establishment, but in 2014 a working team was set up to review to make it more in line with the changing times and to make it compatible with previous amendments of the International Constitution. It was discussed in each District, approved by the Regional Council meeting, reviewed by the YMI's Constitution Review Committee, and approved by the International Council Meeting. The revised Constitution came into effect in July 2018.

The first Area Presidents from Japan East Region since the Region was established was Akihiko Nara (Tokyo-Hachioji YMC) from 1999 to 2000, and, during his term, the 18th Asia Area Convention was held in Tokachi, Hokkaido.

The following Area Presidents from the Region were Hirotohi Fujii (Tokyo-Koto YMC) from 2007 to 2008, Kazuhiko Takata (Then Yokohama YMC, now Chiba West YMC) from 2010 to 2011, and Hiroyuki Tanaka (Then Tokyo YMC, now Tokyo-Tama-Minami YMC) from 2018 to 2020. Fujii also served as International President in 2010-2011.

The current state of Japan East Region as of November 1, 2020, is 61 Clubs with 847 members. The "Change! 2022" campaign has been implemented to increase membership to 1,246 by December 2022, which is the number of members at the time of the establishment of Japan East Region.

## VITALITY IN THE FUNDRAISING

One of the distinctive Club activities in the Japan East Region is the creation of a Club fund through the sales of local products. Tokachi Club which was chartered in 1977, inspired by the fact that Tokachi area is a major producer of potatoes, started the "Potato Fund" to sell potatoes to the Clubs around the country and use the profit to support CS activities and YMCA. This year it shipped 137 tons of potatoes and 21 tons of pumpkins to 51 Clubs country wide and churches. The unique feature of this fund is that the clubs that buy the potatoes and pumpkins in large lots can resell them and turn them into a fund for their Club activities.

Matsumoto Club sells the shaddock and gives the profit to the winners of speech contest to support privately funded students from Asia as scholarships. This year is the 22nd year of this activity. So far, various other Clubs have sold local products, including salmon, apples, cherries, honey, wine, sweet potatoes, pears, tea, dried horse mackerel, etc., making it look like "Y's Men's Department Store". It can be said that these items have been enriching the dining table of Y's Men's family.



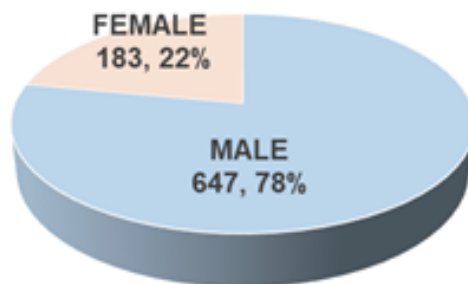
# THE ACTIVE ROLE OF FEMALE MEMBERS

Women's membership in Y's Men International was admitted in 1974. Incidentally, women's membership in Lions Club and Rotary Club, which are also international service organizations, was recognized in 1987 and 1989, respectively, which means that YMI accepted women more than ten years earlier than those organizations. The first female member in Japan was inducted in 1974. The number of female members seems to be increasing gradually, not only in Japan but also in other countries. Looking at the success of women members in Japan East Region, three women have served as RD in the 24 years since the Region was established.

According to the data at the start of this term, in six clubs, the majority of members are women, and about 22% of the entire Japan East Region is female members. Incidentally, the percentage of female members is steadily increasing, as it was 17.4% in 2011-2012. Besides, Y's Menettes are also active, supporting Y's Men's Club activities in each Club and District. As one of the Regional projects of Y's Menettes, they have been offering picture books to YMCA's early childhood education facilities.

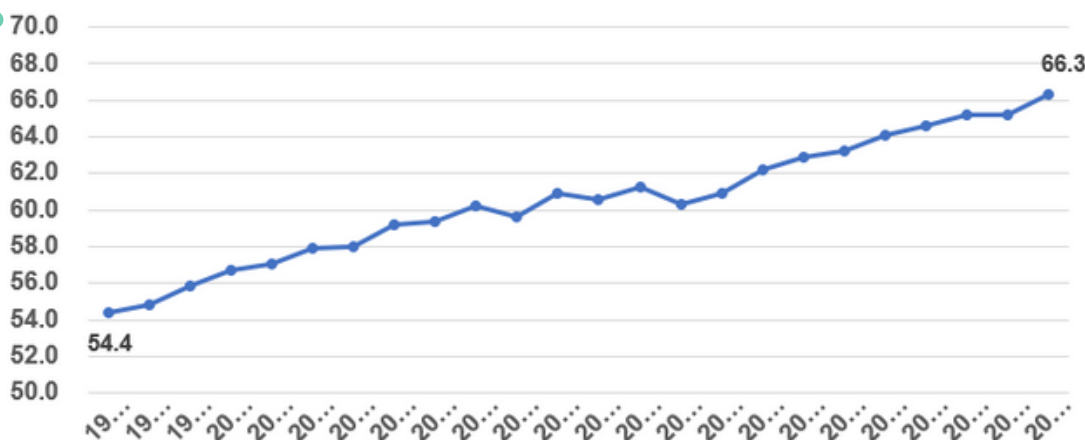
Also, 15 women have served as District Governor, and 12 women have served as Regional Board Officers. The 2013-2014 fiscal year, in particular, was a year in which three of the seven DGs and three of four RSDs were women. In May 2003, the all-women's club "Tokyo Tampopo Y Service Club" was born, and in 2006, "Yokohama-Tsuzuki Y's Men & Women's Club" was born.

Gender of JER

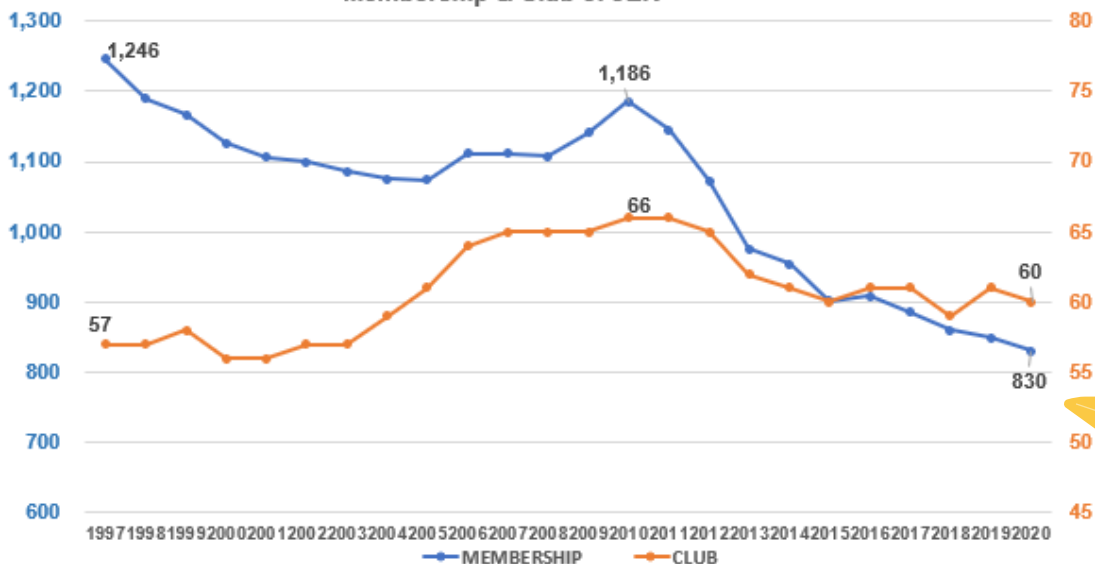


## MEMBERSHIP DATA FROM JAPAN EAST REGION

Average Age of JER



Membership & Club of JER



## MUSIC-LOVING JAPAN EAST REGION

In addition to the "Y's Men's Hymn" which we sing at the beginning of various Y's gatherings, in our Region, four of the seven Districts have a "District Song" which they sing at District Convention or District Council Meetings. Some clubs also have a Club Song or a favorite song and sing it at the end of their meetings.

Some clubs have a "**Singing Gathering**" for the elderly people in the community where they sing, under a song leader, nursery rhymes that they sang in their childhood.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, some clubs have been delivering the programs to nursing homes in the affected areas. Some clubs hold a charity concert every year. Tokyo-Machida-Smiling Club and Yokohama-Tsurumi Club, both chartered in 2019, were founded by many music-loving members and are engaged in music-related service activities.



## WITH THE YOUTH

The "**Youth Volunteer Leaders Forum**" began in 1987 as a joint program of three Districts in what is now Japan East Region. It was welcomed at that time because there was no opportunity for youth leaders active in each YMCA to communicate and educate each other with leaders of other YMCAs.

In 1997, when Japan East Region started, it became all-District joint sponsorship and became a forum covering the entire Region. Currently, it is hosted by Japan East Region for two nights and three days, with lectures, hands-on experience and group discussions planned and organized by YMCA staff. Y's Men and Women also have time to make a speech. About 30 youth leaders participate every year, and all the clubs of the Region provide financial support for this forum.

Also, we cooperated with the youth club's activity to collect pull-tabs of aluminum beverage cans to obtain wheelchairs, which we took over as a Regional project and donated wheelchairs to welfare facilities every year. Since 2011, the "Open Forum Y" has been held. It is a forum for the youth who have various needs such as domestic and international cooperation, humanitarian aid, NGOs, and social entrepreneurship to learn from each other, to make friends to realize their dreams together, and to think about concrete ways to do so.



# SOON TO BE TEN YEARS SINCE THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

## SUMMARY OF THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

The earthquake that struck off the southeast coast of the Oshika Peninsula in Miyagi Prefecture on March 11, 2011, caused a massive tsunami. Both the earthquake and tsunami caused enormous damage in recorded history around Japan.

The earthquake and tsunami caused catastrophic damage to the Pacific coast of the Tohoku and Kanto regions, which was accompanied by the collapse of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant No.1. The number of victims is 15,899 dead, 2,528 missing, and 3,739 earthquake-related deaths (as of November 30, 2020, as announced by the government).

## STATUS OF RECONSTRUCTION

Public infrastructure restoration work is mostly completed in the earthquake and tsunami-affected areas, and people are moving out of temporary housing and into permanent housing such as public housing. The local population is declining and aging, and new community problems are emerging.

In the nuclear disaster-affected areas of Fukushima, most of the evacuation orders have been lifted except for the difficult areas to return to, and the government is implementing various policies for the reconstruction and revitalization of the areas. However, the number of returning residents is still less than 5% of the pre-disaster number in many places.



Reconstruction project site of Kadowaki and Minamihama area, Ishinomaki City's largest disaster area.

## RECONSTRUCTION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES OF YMCA AND Y'S MEN'S CLUBS

Immediately after the earthquake, YMCA set up three volunteer support centers in Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture, Ishinomaki City and Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, and YMCA and Y's Men's Clubs sent a total of 15,000 volunteers to the center and continued its support activities. We appreciate very much the support and encouragement from YMCAs and Y's Men's Clubs around the world until now.

## FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OUR EFFORTS

At present, less than 10% of the volunteer organizations working in the affected areas are active compared to at its peak. Many people in the affected areas are still reeling from the disaster's physical and emotional distress.

While the memories of the disaster are fading, some children have grown up not remembering the tragedy. And now, the COVID-19 pandemic has a tremendous impact on local small to medium enterprises.



STORYTELLING AT "3.11 CHILDREN'S LIBRARY"

We will continue to work with YMCA to give something back to those who lost their lives in the disaster and minimize the damage caused by the various natural disasters around the world by telling our real situation in the affected areas, at home and abroad.

# CLUB SERVICE ACTIVITIES UNDER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Activities at various Clubs have been limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Club regular meetings have been held in multiple ways; meeting in small groups, in large groups for a short time without food, on Zoom or hybrid platform.

In previous years, CS events such as ski camps, sports events, walks, speech contests, and concerts have been held, but this year these events have been cancelled or are under consideration.

Some points must be noted when performing CS activities under the pandemic; child support, poverty issues, youth/international student/senior support, disaster area support, and YMCA services.

As to child support, a lot of attention was paid to sporting events, truancy support, placement support, and children's cafeterias before the pandemic. Now, problems of needy households became apparent little by little. The problem is that, apparently, disadvantaged families cannot be identified. Some Clubs have begun to work with YMCA and other organizations to support children in difficulty.

As to youth and international student support, some Clubs made and distributed hand-made masks by volunteers, and other Clubs provided food assistance under the pandemic.

For senior support, we used to provide singing gathering and exercise opportunities, but many Clubs have been inactive due to the pandemic. Some Clubs are exploring new ways of delivering services using the Zoom platform or online system, while other Clubs have resumed their walking programs in the autumn.

Some Clubs have also started support YMCAs utilizing online systems such as crowdfunding application to support youth leaders, in addition to the traditional fundraising and participation in collaborative projects.

As to the newly started "Week4Waste" campaign, we cannot get together as a Club, but the Region is encouraging environmental beautification on an individual basis, which we would like to connect to the upcoming YMI Cleanup Week in April 2021.

## WAI-WAI DINING ROOM FOR CHILDREN (KAWAGOE CLUB)



## HANDMADE MASK NAMED "TSUNAGARIMASUKU (SYONAN-OKINAWA DISTRICT)



## SOWING BRUSSELS SPROUTS (TOKYO-KOTO CLUB)





## CHARTER PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF CHIBA-WEST CLUB

The Charter Presentation Ceremony of Chiba-West Club's was held at Asakusabashi Hulic Conference Hall, Tokyo, on October 3, 2020. This new Club was born as part of the Japan East Region "Change! 2022" project.

The Ceremony was held on the occasion of the District Convention of Kantotobu District convened by DG Keiki Kakinuma with 66 participants. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the participants to wash their hands to disinfect and wear masks as a preventive measure against infection. The number of participants was limited to 50% of the seating capacity, and the seats were arranged in the checkerboard pattern to avoid denseness.

A hand-maid splash-proof transparent vinyl curtain was installed for MC, two microphones were prepared for greeting guests, each of which was disinfected after every use, and clean paper microphone covers were replaced every time. Banquet was held back, and only an individual lunch box was served. The Club was inaugurated with eight charter members (CP: Kazuhiko Takata, PAP) to become the 61st Club in the Region and the 11th Club in the District.



## INCORPORATION OF THE REGION

The study of the incorporation of the Japan Region under Japanese law began in 1992. However, in 1997 the Region was divided into Japan East and Japan West Regions, and the study was carried over to the respective Regions.

Japan East Region resumed the study in 2012-2013, which continued for several years but was suspended. A committee to research the incorporation was set up in March 2019, and, after a series of detailed studies, it proposed incorporation of the Region as a 'General Incorporated Association' without altering the present Regional Constitution.

In response to this, a Special Committee mainly consisting of Regional Board Officers to deal with the preparation of the incorporation was newly set up at Regional Board Meeting in November 2020, aiming legal register after the approval at Regional Council Meeting which will be held in June 2021.

We expect our social credibility and recognition will increase by having a corporate status, making it easier to carry out activities that meet the needs of society and community, and leading to membership increase. We also expect the improvement of transparency and governance of our organization by meeting the legal requirements.

# CHANGE! 2022 PROJECT



In 2018, the Regional Board of Japan East Region adopted a plan to “develop a mid-term membership drive to be completed in 2022.” The project will run until December 2022, and the target number of members is **1,246**, which is the number at the time of the establishment of Japan East Region in 1997. RSD-EMC recruited new members for the project, and a mid-term membership development project, named after a public application in the Region, “**Change! 2022**” started.

Japan East Y's Men's Fund (JEF) provided USD 27,000 for the activity. Also, "Expanded Extension Committee" was organized, and its project plan was prepared with the participation of the Extension Committee Chairperson of each District and DSDs-MC.

## OUTLINE OF “CHANGE! 2022” PROJECT

- Promotion of chartering new Clubs with five or more members. Building a new Y's Men's Club image
- Support for the establishment of new Clubs through the activities of the District Extension Committee
- Dissemination of information through Social Networking Service (currently about 30 Clubs have set up their Facebook Page)
- Creation of brochure for the establishment of new Clubs
- Publication of monthly “Change! 2022 News”
- EMC questionnaire for Clubs and members
- EMC Symposium

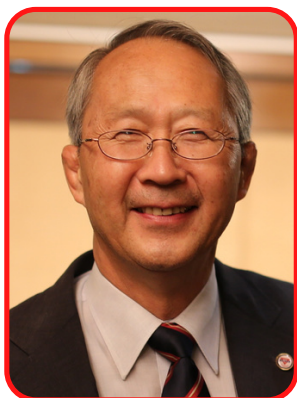


EMC SYMPOSIUM (GROUP DISCUSSION)

The answer to one of the EMC questionnaires, “What is it that you want from Y's Men's Club?” showed that 90% of the members want services, 50% socializing, 40% self-improvement, 29% where they feel like belonging and 9% social status. The challenges facing us were: declining membership, aging members, low recognition, the financial burden on members, uncomfortable meeting programs, unattractive meetings, and lack of attractive CS activities. After considering these issues, “Change! 2022 Action Plan” was made.

This Action Plan and “Activity Report” of Kofu 21 Club, the most active Club in the Region, were used as subjects for group discussion at the EMC Symposium held in February 2020 to raise awareness about EMC. Currently, not only Club regular meetings but also the Y' Men's Clubs' activities themselves are almost impossible to carry out due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this situation, we have made “Action Plan II”. And also, we have introduced meetings by Zoom, a grant program for establishing new Clubs (to new and sponsoring Clubs), and an “Anniversary Present Plan” to introduce prospective members who live near the Clubs celebrating their anniversary by 2022.

The project to incorporate the Region has also begun. We must keep good communication among our members so that low motivation under the COVID-19 pandemic does not lead to a decrease in membership.



## HOW CAN WE BUILD STRONGER PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN YMCA AND Y'S MEN'S CLUBS?

BY: ASD YL KOHEI YAMADA

In October 2017 a special committee was formed to strengthen the partnership between YMCA and Y's Men's Clubs in Japan. Since then, we have met twice a year for discussion on how to strengthen the partnership between YMCA and Y's Men's Clubs.

The members include six Y's Men leaders from Japan East and Japan West Regions, and three leaders from National YMCA and myself as a Y's Men liaison to YMCA. We meet twice a year, for two days each time and discuss openly about partnership building. However, I feel that there is a stumbling block somewhere because whatever we discussed for an action plan did not make any progress in reality. Why not? I wonder.

This year, because of Covid19, we have decided to meet through zoom, maybe every 2 or 3 months instead of face to face meetings twice a year. In this process, we came to understand that many YMCAs in Japan also have difficult issues due to the financial problems caused by Covid19 pandemic. At that time we realized that YMCA should focus on the "Post Corona" issues in their own community.

Because YMCAs, especially in big cities & local YMCAs have faced a huge loss financially during the period of Covid19 it is too difficult for them to think of doing anything new. Many of the big YMCAs or unstable YMCAs were in this position, even before the Corona crisis in Japan.

YMCAs which were focusing on child care facilities, after school program, camps and welfare programs for the frail elderly, should see this moment as an opportunity to shift the services and programs toward more fitting and suitable needs of the vulnerable population.

The YMCAs may need to change their working style and work more closely with local government, local organizations and companies as well as seeking more collaboration with other similar service organizations. Here Y's Men's Clubs could be a partner for the community with YMCA.

Y's Men's Clubs now see this as an opportunity to offer the voluntary time and financial assistance for the community through YMCAs.

This is a time to discuss the new community programs jointly by YMCA and Y's Men's Clubs.

Through this shift, both organizations will find new roles in the changing community.





## HISTORY AS A LEADERSHIP TOOL

BY: ASD - HISTORIAN RAMONA U.J. MORALES, M.D.

**History, is one among the many Service Areas of our organization. However, it apparently is afforded the least of cognizance. Explaining its value here, may History be appreciated and given due importance.**

**We are the only service organization who has a special partnership with the world's longest serving and largest youth organization - the YMCA.**

Our mission is anchored on Christ's teachings. We serve selflessly. These facts should be reasons enough to be proud as Y's Men.

Nearly a hundred years since 1922, our organization has grown remarkably; from a meager fifteen, led by our founder, Judge Paul William Alexander to today's around 26,000 membership. Along with this growth however, comes the challenge to adapt to the changing global atmosphere amid an alarming pandemic.

Yes, we hear comments that **"there's no need to dwell on the past; what matters is the future."** Yet, as time evolves, only documented History as a reference tool, can tell us how we have moved along and how we may do better; it helps us determine how we shall move forward.

**The question now is** - how much attention have we given to our History or how mindful are we to **the need of consolidating our Area records?**

In her 12 September 2020 Memo, ISD/PAP Debbie Redmond disclosed that *"many people complained about the History book written for the 75th Anniversary since they didn't think it was Global; yet not enough information had been provided to make it more Global". So, she echoed an appeal; that "any significant dates, any photos (past and present) and additional information would be greatly appreciated"*.

I do not doubt that the ASP Area has many good stories to tell and voluminous achievements to pride ourselves through the years. Noting the importance of History, AP David Lua is determined to have the history of our Asia Pacific Area documented.

The use of history explains how an organization can utilize its past; showing us how previous generations of leaders confronted and responded to challenges and opportunities.

**The job of leaders, is to inspire and devise smart strategies for the future.**

**Great leaders respect and honor the basic truth that to lead with a sense of history and to acknowledge its power is not to be a slave to the past. While they may not view themselves as historians, they find it useful to reminisce the past; doing so, establish a place in history.**

The great historian of business strategy and organization Alfred D. Chandler Jr. was never tired of asking his colleagues, "How can you know where you're going if you don't know where you've been?" In other words, "Look Back to Plan Forward".

I challenge every member of this team - be active in sharing your Region's legacy and let the "aha moment" of your work this year be a part of history; it could help provide a guiding pathway for our Area in generations to come.

# THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST

BY: TAIWAN REGION RSD-CE MARK LIN



**The Mission of the International Association of Y's Men Club is to unite people of all faiths, coming together in mutual respect, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and with a common loyalty to the Young Men's Christian Association..... to build a better society for all.**

**What, are "the teachings of Jesus Christ"? Are these "Christian moral doctrines" or "religious dogmas"? Christians probably have the answers to these questions, but how about the non-Christians among us? Are they clear about the Teachings of Jesus Christ in the Bible? How could we help our fellow members to understand these teachings?**

We could find clear explanation in the Constitution and Guidelines of the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs. It stated that "based on the Teachings of Jesus Christ" means that club members acknowledge what Jesus Christ has taught, and are willing to live out those teachings. This should guide members in their decisions on the operation model of Y's men's projects to build a better society.

As Taiwanese, we often think of "Instruction" when we talk about "Teaching". However, the International Constitution and Guidelines, refers to teachings not only about instructions in a passive manner, but includes action. Let me share three "Teachings of Jesus Christ" in the Bible.

## 1. Serve others with humility

The story of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples is an excellent example of servant leadership. Jesus said to his disciples: "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave -just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20: 26- 28, NIV).

Jesus did what he taught. He knelt down and washed his disciples' feet. This was the example of serving people. He teaches us to be humble, speak with gentleness and kindness, to love and to build up one another.

## 2. Forgiveness

During crucifixion, when Jesus was insulted, mocked and humiliated, He said, "Father, forgive them! Because they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

## 3. Love your neighbor and your enemies

Jesus taught us not to respond with "Eye for an eye, and tooth for a tooth". He said: "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let them have your cloak as well; if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles; give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you". (Matthew 5:38-42). He also not only taught us to love our neighbors, but also our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

Jesus inspired us to be the doers of His Word, not only hearers. The mission of Y's Men's Clubs is to encourage members to make Jesus' teachings alive. These fundamental principles are to guide fellow Y's Men in decision-making, project implementation and be a living witness through the individual's life.

I sincerely invite all veteran Y's Men to affirm Jesus' Teachings to bless others in our service as Y's Men. I hope that together, this Y's Men Movement will make our society a better one.

# "CHRISTIAN EMPHASIS IS NOT CHRISTIANITY."

BY: ASD-CE REV HIROSUKE SHIBUYA



**I sincerely hope that this will be an opportunity to reflect with you on the Christian emphasis that guides our work.**

## 1. "Emphasis before the Christian Emphasis"

We live in a multicultural society. Based on human history, culture, and religion developed in various parts of the world, human rights, gender and environmental factors have been added since modern times.

While the former values are often found in groups (communities) such as families, ethnic groups, and nations, the latter values are found in more fragmented individuals. First, it is important to emphasize that we are a social service organization rooted in these diverse values.

We are also a social service organization and an action organization at the same time. Specifically, we are an action organization that supports the YMCA movement and works to realize its ideals through its support. The emphasis on Christianity is not an inherent value of Y's Men's Clubs, but rather a value rooted in the YMCA movement. Hence, its support group, Y's Men's Clubs, will also need to have an understanding of this. The second point to be emphasized is that the reason for the Christian emphasis amid diverse values is the values held by the YMCA.

## 2. "Christian Emphasis - Christianity, Human History, and the Reformation"

The Christian emphasis is to learn the values that Christianity has created with the development of humanity and adapt them to today. For example, the calendar we use in our daily life is the western calendar. The calendar counts the birth of Christ as the initial year. Whether you are a Christian or not, humans have already accumulated 2,000 years of history using the popularized western calendar to count the years.

In the nearly 1,500 years leading up to Luther's Reformation, Europe grew up in a culture with the Catholic Church as the state religion. The Protestant churches that emerged after the Reformation meant that the churches were formed by people who issued protestations (= Protestatio) against the Catholic Church. This is not an internal schism within Christianity. It was a movement that goes back to the establishment of Christianity, or to reclaim the original Christianity.

The situation in Europe just before the Reformation had been heightened by disease, conflict, and unstable politics, including a plague epidemic and a church schism with two popes a century or so earlier, which caused people to be unsettled. It was a time when even those who lived peaceful lives did not know when they might suddenly lose their livelihood and, in the worst case, die.

The indirect solution to this anxiety, which could not be resolved directly, was the letter of redemption. People bought it, hoping to save the souls of their dead relatives, hoping that eventually they too would be saved from the misery of this world. But the root of the anxiety is not resolved. In a situation where the value of human beings, their valuable lives, was neglected, even if the system was excellent, it could not fundamentally raise the value of human beings and give them a valuable life. The Reformation, hoping for the return of the era in which Jesus lived, reshaped the valuable life that early Christianity had given people. Just as Jesus reconstructed the Jewish teachings, traditions, and culture of his time to help people discover a life of value.

## 3. "Christian Emphasis: A Look at Founder George Williams"

The reason I wrote about the Reformation is to make the connection here. George Williams was first baptized in the Church of England and became a Christian. Later he converted to the Congregational Church. The Congregational Church is the Reformation in England. The Congregational Church is characterized by political independence from worldly authorities, such as kingship, and self-government by individual believers in a collegial system. Independence and autonomy are the decision-making tools of a mature individual who is responsible for his or her own well-thought-out decisions. The Bible describes this value system as freedom. Thus, it embodies the values of early Christianity.

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#### 4. "Christian emphasis is not Christianity"

The definition of Jesus' teachings of love fully means respect for the individual and that unknown individuals who have become known for their value because of their appeal to Jesus are connected through him. The YMCA movement started by George Williams is not a gathering of Christians of different faiths, but rather a group of Christians who have come to know a valuable life through Jesus and are united in the values embodied by Jesus beyond their faith to realize a valuable life.

#### 5. About the Christian Emphasis Project in the Asia Pacific Region

I will be filming and publishing a video from a sermon I give at my home church, and I will also be writing a column on Christianity as well as this one in the Area Bulletin.

#### 6. The Christian Emphasis Project of Y's Men International

There is news by the International Service Director for Christian Emphasis about the International Projects with an emphasis on Christianity. Luther's Reformation is mentioned. I will share it with you as soon as possible.



## WEEK OF PRAYER - SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION

BY: RSD-CE REV. DR. P. J. JOHN

The South East Asia Region participated in the World YWCA-World YMCA Week of Prayer 8 -14 November 2020 with daily one-hour praise and worship on ZOOM Meeting platform starting from 9 November.

There was encouraging participation, ranging from 10 to 20 each day from the Southeast Asian countries of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Nepal and the Philippines. Following closely to the reflections in the WWOP Booklet, the praise and worship sessions were led by leaders from the Region which were followed by a time of fervent prayers for all Y's Men and Women, that God will protect them and keep them safe from the pandemic.

Prayers were offered for God's wisdom and guidance upon our leadership, especially RD Joan Wong and AP David Lua. During two of the sessions, Vocalist Y's Lady Valerie Lau from the newly chartered Y Service Club of Johor Eagles, champion of Pop Star Malaysia 2012, led in the singing of the hymns, "Still, 安静", and "Reckless Love". Participants enjoyed her beautiful singing and melodious voice. It was a wonderful and edifying time of praise and worship with prayer and fellowship as we reflect on the "Rays of Hope" that Jesus gives to all who believe in Him.

Encouraged and inspired by the response of this inaugural prayer and worship session, the Regional CE Team consisting of RSD-CE Rev Dr PJ John, Y Eagles' CP Desmond Lee, RD Joan Wong, and RSD-YL Rachan Maneekarn from Chiangmai, Thailand agreed to organize a monthly prayer fellowship every first Saturday of the month starting from December 2020. Shalom!

## APAY Y GREEN AMBASSADOR TRAINING

BY COLIN LAMBIE, ASD GREEN ACTIVITIES

The Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) started a 'Green Team' or environment committee in 2009. I have been a member of the APAY Green Team since it started. The APAY Green Team addressed the APAY General Assembly in 2011 to determine what the YMCA staff & supporters required. The overwhelming need was training, hence training has been conducted every year since. The training, called Y Green Ambassador training, covers several areas related to the environment and climate change, including: what are greenhouse gases and where they come from; how to calculate the carbon

footprint of a facility, eg a YMCA building; how to reduce a facilities carbon footprint, including how to plan to become 'carbon neutral' by 2030. I usually conduct the training about calculating carbon footprint and, more recently how to plan to become 'carbon neutral' by 2030.

The partnership between YMI and YMCAs can be strengthened by helping each other in this important work, ie taking responsibility for contribution to the cause of climate change. This could be at club level, Region level and Area level. The YMI Green Team, which I also Chair, enhances the partnership between YMI & YMCAs at international level, refer [www.ysmen.org/our-work/environment](http://www.ysmen.org/our-work/environment)

## NEW INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD CLUB!

### ASD-IBC HIRO TANAKA

On November 14th, the IBC signing ceremony between Adelaide Y Service Club of Australia Region and Kofu 21 Y's Men's Club of Japan East Region was successfully held. Kofu21 gathered with many guests from other Clubs including ISD-IBC/AS Keiko Tonegawa, ASD-IBC/IPAP Hiro Tanaka and RD Tetsuya Itamura on the occasion of the Club's 30th-anniversary party.

Adelaide Club gathered at the home of PAP Russell and IPIP Jennifer Jones, who are the members of the Club, and the signing ceremony took place connecting them by Zoom. Also, Murray Stevens, the editor of YMI IBC Directory who recently received Harry M. Ballantyne Award, joined from his place at Ballarat, Australia.



IBC PARTNERSHIP SIGNING CEREMONY

Utilization of Zoom was an indication of the great potential for IBC activities, including signing ceremonies and the occasional IBC meetings under the current COVID-19 pandemic and even in the future when things are back to normal. This IBC signing was the first by the Clubs from the former Asia Area and South Pacific Area since the merger of the two Areas in August 2016. We hope this will deepen our solidarity within our new Asia Pacific Area. Many more IBCs are currently underway, and we look forward to the realization by the end of this term.

## Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER IN AUSTRALIA

**Maddie Jordan from Hobart was the winner of the 2019 IC Howard / YMI Scholarship.**

This is a \$5,000 scholarship for the furthering of the education of Y staff. The scholarship is proudly sponsored by the Y Service Clubs of Australia. The scholarship is not intended as a reward for past service but as a benefit for the future. Maddie is the Swim School Executive Officer at the Y's Clarence Aquatic Centre, and has grown their swim school businesses from less than 500 to over 700 students. She is committed to providing a safe and high quality program and shows great potential for future opportunities within the Y.

Maddie won the scholarship to fund her study with a Certificate IV Leadership Management TAFE course, to enable her to help improve her day-to-day administrative tasks, as well as furthering her skill set with practical finance skills, etc., to assist with the annual budget and planning of Swim School. Maddie is on track to finish by the end of 2020.

"What the scholarship did for me was more than fund the leadership management course, I feel as though it's set me on the right path. I never used to enjoy study, but now I know that I can actually do it. It's motivated me to do a Cert VI Business course or possibly a Diploma course next, which I would never have dreamed of doing before" - Maddie Jordan.



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST FOR IC 2022 IN HAWAII

Submit expression of interest to AP David Lua & AS Keiko Tonegawa

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.ysmenap2020.site/>  
**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/aspysmen>

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