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How a Scout project built and sent children to school

Primary education is free for all children in Bangladesh from grades one through five. However, access to education remains a challenge for vulnerable groups, particularly working children, disabled children, indigenous children and those in remote areas or living in extreme poverty.

According to UNICEF Bangladesh, only half of the children living in slums attend school, a rate 18 percent lower than the national average.

The Crystal Open Scouts of Bangladesh wanted to change that.

were generally known as among the most poverty-ridden villages in the country.

These villages had no access to education due to its remote location. There were no developed roads, no access to electricity and no medical facility. Sanitation was a problem. Incidents of early child marriage were high. Maternal and infant mortality were higher.

In 2010, a group of Rover Scouts went to the villages and held a 3-day community development camp. As part of the projects of the camp, they constructed the village's only primary school and named it 'Smrity Roy



In 2009, Crystal Open Scouts travelled across the county to search for a potential location for a community development project. They found three villages in Lalmonirhat district - Char Folimari, Nagadtari Char and Osman Tanti Char – home to 232 families. Char is the Bangla word for silted landmass rising out of a riverbed. They were located in sandbars in the middle of the river Dharla, and people were living in extreme poverty. The villages

Crystal Scout Primary School.' Students were taught about science, mathematics, health and basic information and communications technology.

At that time, the school only had one teacher and 17 students.

With the help of external donors, four more classrooms were built by the Rover Scouts in order to

accommodate the growing number of students. More teachers volunteered every year. Rover Scouts also volunteered 5 to 6 times a year to teach the students on specific areas and to do other community development projects.

The Smrity Roy Crystal Scout Primary School eventually became a fully functional primary school with over 135 students, and four full-time teachers. Consistently, the passing rate of the students is at 100%, besting many other schools in the district.

Parents who were reluctant at first to send their children to school eventually saw the worth in what the Scouts were doing – equipping their children with life skills, preparing them for the real world. More than that, they realised that there's more for their children; they began to dream big for their family,

materials, uniforms and they even receive monthly stipends. This was made possible thru the 'Sponsor a Child' initiative of the Crystal Open Scouts, sourcing out donations from sponsors, donors, relatives and friends. Even after primary school, the children still get some financial support to continue their education thru high school.

The project eventually gained support from the national leadership of the Bangladesh Scouts. The number of volunteers and donors increased.

On top the schools, Rover Scouts from Bangladesh also engaged in different initiatives and projects for the villages. Artesian wells [tube wells] were constructed, giving the villagers access to clean and safe water. Medical missions are also constantly being conducted, tending to the medical needs of



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they began to see the bright future ahead.

In 2014, 5th Grade students passed the Primary School Certification Examination administered by the government of Bangladesh. These were the first students from the villages to finish primary school.

The cost of education at the Smrity Roy Crystal Scout Primary School is free – from educational

the villagers. Livelihood programs are flourishing; parents are also given orientation-seminars about health and sanitation, environmental protection and income generation.

The villages from Char Folimari, Nagadtari Char and Osman Tantir Char have begun calling their villages as "Scout et Char" or translated as 'The Scout Village.'

The children from these villages were taught like Scouts, to become principal agents of their development as committed, responsible, self-reliant and supportive persons.

(With reports from Sarwar Mohammad Shahriar, National Commissioner for Public Relations and Marketing of the Bangladesh Scouts.)

Integrating people in society through Scouting



Diversity and Inclusion
Scouting should reflect the societies in which it exists, and actively work to welcome all individuals without distinction. This diversity should not only be reflected in the membership, but also the methods and programmes used within the Movement.

The Asia-Pacific Region, of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, has successfully rolled out the promotion of diversity and inclusion, convening key Scout Leaders in Manila for a 5-day workshop to establish a common understanding of the principles of diversity and inclusion and further develop the operational framework that will be used by all National Scout Organizations in the region.

More than sixty key Scout leaders from 26 countries across Asia met in Manila on 22 to 26 June 2018 for the APR Workshop on Diversity and Inclusion.

"This workshop is the first of its kind in the region and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines is extremely honoured for this opportunity. This is also timely as we are scheduled to host the 26th APR Scout Conference this October. Over the week, we shall let you experience the authentic Filipino hospitality," said Wendel E. Avisado, National President of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and 1st Vice Chairperson of the APR Scout Committee.

In his address to the participants, Paul D. Parkinson, Chairman of the APR Scout Committee expressed how delighted he was with the sheer

magnitude of the participation for the workshop, and how APR marked another milestone towards making the Scout Movement accessible to more young people.

"Your efforts during this workshop will enable the Scout Movement to reach more young people around the Asia-Pacific Region and give them an opportunity to grow and to build the kind of friendship that is unique in Scouting, one that unites us in our diversity," he stressed further.

The countries who were represented during the workshop included the following: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei,



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*Paul D. Parkinson, OAM
APR Scout Committee*

Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Afghanistan, Vietnam and Portugal.

The workshop was spearheaded by the World Scout Bureau Asia-Pacific Support Centre as part of the project ‘Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in the Asia-Pacific Scout Region’ under the auspices of the Messengers of Peace Support Fund.

It was hosted by the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.



Addressing impact through branding and partnerships

“ The more stories that we tell about the bravery and the incredible work of young people, the more they will see our young people as agents of change, and somebody needs to tell them.

Ahmad Alhendawi
WOSM Secretary General

”



The Asia-Pacific Support Centre of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) has successfully held the APR Workshop on Creating Impact through Brand Positioning and Advocacy to address prevalent challenges being faced by National Scout Organizations (NSOs) on how to effectively showcase the greater influence of Scouting in the lives of the young people, its impact, and on how to communicate Scouting stories through various media.

Around 50 Scout Leaders from 15 National Scout Organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region gathered in Kuala Lumpur on 7-10 May 2018 for a 4-day workshop – volunteer leaders and professional staff from the NSOs who are responsible for communications, media, partnership and advocacy.

Addressing the participants of the workshop, Ahmad Alhendawi, WOSM Secretary General emphasised on the four elements of the WOSM vision -- Growth, Impact, Unity and Influence are important to drive the changes we want to see in the world.

“This training is about bringing more influence in the world. The more stories that we tell about the bravery and the incredible work of young people,



the more they will see our young people as agents of change, and somebody needs to tell them,” he stressed further.

Telling the story of Scouting has become one the Scout Movement’s thrusts in recent years. Efforts have been made to reach out and further engage with communication managers, stakeholders and external partners. The workshop covered various ways of creating impact through brand positioning, partnership and advocacy, Scout programme and humanitarian actions.

Scouts to be equipped how to respond, and recover from disaster

A total of thirty-one Scout Leaders across Asia met in South Korea for the APR Seminar on Disaster Management to address and to identify the best preventive methods in disaster management, and to equip each National Scout Organization on how to best prepare for, response to and recover from disasters.

The participating Scout Leaders met on 21-25 June 2018. They came from 13 National Scout Organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region, all of which are responsible for disaster management and emergency services in their respective NSOs. Participating countries were Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

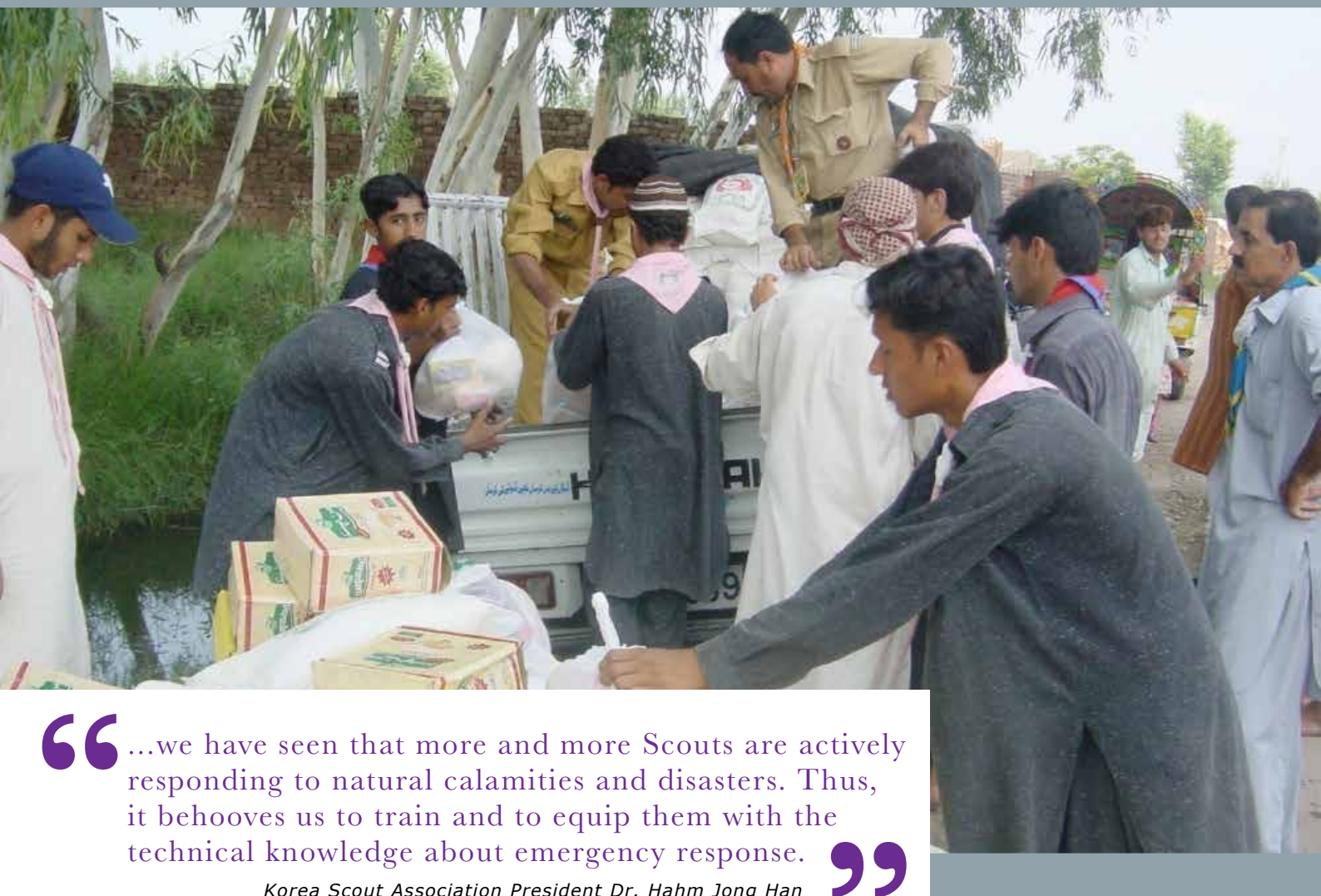
In his message, Dr. Hahm Jong Han, President of the Korea Scout Association called on Scouts

and Scout Leaders to be more actively involved in their communities.

"The Korea Scout Association is very much elated to host the APR Seminar on Disaster Management. In recent history, we have seen that more and more Scouts are actively responding to natural calamities and disasters. Thus, it behooves us to train and to equip them with the technical knowledge about emergency response," he stated further.

The venue of the seminar was at Jeollabuk-do Province, the same place where the 25th World Scout Jamboree will be held in 2023. It will be hosted by the Korea Scout Association.

(With reports from S. Prassanna Shrivastava and Cecille Grethchen M. Tan of the World Scout Bureau Asia-Pacific Support Centre)



“...we have seen that more and more Scouts are actively responding to natural calamities and disasters. Thus, it behooves us to train and to equip them with the technical knowledge about emergency response.”

Korea Scout Association President Dr. Hahm Jong Han

Fiji Scouts organise relief operations for flood victims

Following the devastation on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu brought about by Tropical Cyclone Keni on 10 April 2018, the Fiji Scout Association has launched a nationwide relief operation.

The Fiji Scout Association has tapped all its Messengers of Peace (MoP) district coordinators to simultaneously organise relief operations across the country to aid the residents who were devastated during the onslaught of tropical cyclone Keni. Responding to the call, Scouts all over Fiji gathered in their districts to provide aid to the residents and to the authorities – providing help in clearing out debris, assisting in the construction of temporary shelters and reconstruction efforts. They have also began sourcing out monetary donations, grocery packs, clothing, drinking water and other essential items.

As part of the reconstruction and relief efforts, the Fiji Scout Association has partnered with the United Fiji Community (UFC) in Sydney, Australia and the Yaadein Vision Fiji. Both groups are known in Fiji for their enormous contribution in helping less fortunate families, the medically challenged and the disabled.

They have also been assisting rehabilitation efforts for communities who have been affected

by natural disasters.

The UFC and the Yaadein Vision Fiji have been continuously providing logistical support required at the ground, including the distribution of household items and school stationery, while Scouts and Scout leaders are providing the needed human resources.

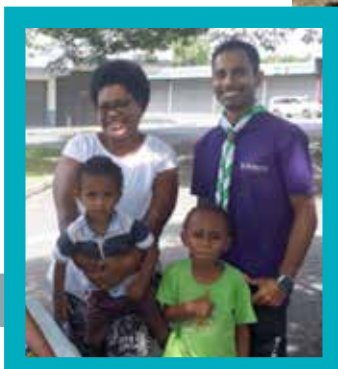
An appeal for monetary support has also been initiated by the National MoP Team thru the Scout Donation Platform. They intend to gather US \$5,000.00 to finance their relief efforts. To date, they gathered a meagre amount of US\$ 42.00. Monetary donations may be directed at bit.ly/2J0CjSZ.

Scouts and non-Scouts are actively helping in the relief and rehabilitation efforts on the ground.

Earlier in the week, Fiji's disaster management authorities have been warning people in flood prone areas to move to evacuation centres ahead of cyclone Keni, since several parts of the country were already water-logged due to a prior flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone Josie.

(With reports from Kailash Pillay, MoP NSO Coordinator of the Fiji Scouts Association)

Responding to the call, Scouts all over Fiji gathered in their districts - providing help in clearing out debris, assisting in the construction of temporary shelters and reconstruction efforts.



Scouts from Fiji and USA help a community gain access to clean drinking water

Clean water is essential for survival. It is a basic requirement. It connects and gives to sustenance to every aspect of human life.

Access to clean and safe water not only ushers improved health for families across the world, but also turns problems into potentials. Unfortunately, over 2.1 billion people in the world lacks access to safe, readily available water at home and over 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation, according to the WHO and UNICEF.

The Scouts in Fiji are doing their fair share, little steps with lasting impact to the community. Scouts, under the flagship of the Messengers of Peace (MoP) Programme are constantly doing and initiating community development projects in rural areas in Fiji, focusing on giving access to clean and safe water for those who have less or no access to such.

Historically, Fiji has a tremendous need for water filtration; almost 50% of the Fijian population do not have access to clean water. Furthermore, the country of Fiji is relatively small and the prospect of contributing towards solving the country's water problems is very much tangible.

As part of the efforts of the National Team of the MoP programme of the Fiji Scouts Association to reach out to more rural communities without or with less access to clean and safe drinking water, they started a community development initiative entitled 'Give Clean Water Project.' With the help of Ethan Banks, a Scout from the Boy Scouts of America, they partnered with Give Clean Water (GCW), a US-based non-profit organisation focused on bringing clean water systems to families, schools and nursing stations in rural Fiji.

They started with four villages in Sabeto in the district of Nadi where the villagers had no access to clean and safe drinking water. The villagers drink unfiltered and unsafe water directly taken from a river. Thus, resulting to high rate of malnutrition and diarrhea, other related medical conditions and high cost for medical intervention.

The project gathered several Scouts and Scout leaders from different districts all over Fiji. They walked for several kilometres to reach the remote settlement in the villages and distributed water filters and water buckets. During the visit, they taught the villagers how to use the water filters, how to set it up, including follow ups. They were also taught how to record the data in the



geographical information system (GIS) in order to collect and analyse data on household level.

The people learned quickly and are now using the water filtration system which were provided to them for free.

The small villages in Sabeto now have access to clean, safe and sustainable drinking water. Little by little, the scout movement is improving the quality of life of other people – or in this case, the people of the villages in Sabeto.

With the overwhelming success of the first project, the MoP Team from Fiji are now looking to expand its partnership with Give Clean Water in order to cover other rural areas and remote settlements in the country.

Goal 6 of UN's Sustainable Development Goals seeks to ensure access to water and sanitation for all. By 2030, it targets to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

(With reports from Kailash Pillay, MoP NSO Coordinator, Fiji Scouts Association.)

Pakistan is strengthening youth participation in decision-making



“ The youth can be a creative force in decision-making in Scouting. They are a vibrant source of innovations, and they contribute towards making our programmes more responsive and more attuned to the call of the times. ”

Pakistan Boy Scouts Association Secretary General Zahid Mahboob

“Scouting is a Movement of young people, supported by adults; it is not a Movement for young people managed by adults only. Thus, Scouting offers the potential for a learning community of young people and adults, working together in a partnership of enthusiasm and experience.” (Policy on the Involvement of Young Members in Decision-Making adopted by the World Scout Conference thru Resolution 2/93)

The Pakistan Boy Scouts Association is finally involving its young people in decision-making. On 26 September 2017, in a historic decision of its highest policy-making body, the National Executive Committee has approved the creation of the National Youth Council.

According to the PBSA Headquarters, the National Youth Council is a body of the National Executive Committee directly under its general supervision. It is composed of 35 Scouts aged between 15 to 25 years old, who serve as representatives of their respective provincial Scout associations.

“The youth can be a creative force in decision-making in Scouting. They are a vibrant source of innovations, and they contribute towards making our programmes more responsive and more attuned to the call of the times,” said Zahid Mahboob, Secretary General of the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association during the briefing of the members of the NYC.

The NYC was organised to provide a platform for the Scouts to explore their talents and potentials. More importantly, it serves as an avenue to directly involve young people in the decision-making processes. Its creation is premised on the idea that effective youth

participation is always about creating continuous learning opportunities for young people to be involved in influencing, shaping, designing and contributing to policy and the development of services and programmes. This brings forth the potential for a learning community of young people and adults, working together in a partnership of enthusiasm and experience.

Less than six months after its creation, the PBSA Headquarters has convened the National Youth Council for its 1st Gathering on the 20th until the 22nd of February 2018. The gathering was attended by a total of 29 out of its 35 members. Under the guidance of the senior leadership of the PBSA, the NYC drafted and eventually approved its rules of procedures to govern the conduct of its gathering and operations.

The PBSA is also looking at institutionalising youth councils in all its provincial branches, ensuring the inclusion of the young people in decision-making in all levels of organisational processes. They are catapulting on the ability of the young people to contribute to the achievement of its overall goals – focusing on enabling young Scouts and Scout Leaders to become active leaders in national, regional and global efforts to achieve sustainable human development as a long-term investment.

To run the affairs of the National Youth Council, the representatives elected its first set of officers for a period of 2 years. Shakir Ullah (KP BSA) was elected as its very chairman. Raja Noman Waheed (AJK BSA) and M. Shiraz Ahmed (Punjab BSA) was elected as vice chairman and secretary respectively.

(With reports from Pakistan Boy Scouts Association Secretary General Zahid Mahboob.)

Scouts lead gift-giving project: Clothe the Globe

The Rover Scouts also conducted an orientation about the Scout Movement and the programmes of Scouting, as well as some Scout games and challenges.



A group of Senior and Rover Scouts from Rizal Province in the Philippines, south of capital Manila, spearheaded a gift-giving project for 146 kids in a far-flung school in the province. The Scouts had to hike for several hours and cross two rivers to reach the school.

Dubbed as Clothe the Globe and Walk the World, the projects gathered school supplies and several teaching supplies for the teachers, textbooks and magazines from Bato Balani Foundation, and some sports equipment for the school to be regularly used by the students. They also collected old clothes and distributed the same to the children. Since the school was located in a far-flung village, they also donated brand new slippers to the children to be used every day and as a way of protecting their feet.

On the other hand, 146 children also received pre-loved toys, hygiene kits and some colouring books.

Apart from the gift-giving project, the Rover Scouts also conducted an orientation about the



Scout Movement and the programs of Scouting, as well as some Scout games and challenges.

The project was organised by the Scout Movement of Roosevelt College Rodriguez thru Mr. Karl Lyel B. Lim, in partnership with their school's teaching and non-teaching personnel, the Interact Club, Badminton Club and the Art Club.

(With reports from Boy Scouts of the Philippines National MoP Team member Karl Lyel B. Lim.)

24th World Scout Jamboree

22 JULY-
2 AUGUST 2019
WEST VIRGINIA,
USA

The 24th World Scout Jamboree will bring together Scouts from around the globe to experience new adventures, cultures, and friendships.

THEME

The theme for the 24th World Scout Jamboree is **Unlock a New World** and was developed by the youth bid team, also known as the Dream Team. This theme speaks to the new adventures, cultures, and friendships that will be shared by Scouts from around the world during the 12-day event in North America, a continent often referenced as a "New World."



VENUE

The Summit Bechtel Reserve is a world class and sustainable Jamboree site and will host the 24th World Scout Jamboree. The Summit Bechtel Reserve is located in West Virginia, USA, and is comprised of more than 14,000 acres (5,667 ha) of beautiful forested mountains adjacent to more than 70,000 acres (28,328 ha) of national park in the scenic New River Gorge area of West Virginia.



WEATHER

The month of July is characterized by warm weather, with daily high temperatures around 79 degrees F/ 26.1 degrees C and daily low temperatures around 62 degrees F/ 16.6 degrees C, and moderate to high humidity. The site typically experiences partly cloudy conditions during the month with the possibility of thunderstorms and rain showers.



2019 *events*

JANUARY

Orientation and Induction of the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee and Sub Committees

25-28 January
Bangkok, Thailand



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REGIONAL SUPPORT TEAM

J. Rizal C. Pangilinan

Regional Director

Luz Taray

Director, Communication & Partnerships

Theresa E. Quine

Assistant, Comm. & Partnerships

Kenny Ralph S. Fernando

Special Project Officer, Communications

Neil Christian C. Bolandrina

Assistant, Communication & IS

MEDIA CHANNELS



+63 2 818-0984



asia-pacific@scout.org



www.scout.org/asia-pacific



@ScoutinginAPR

FEBRUARY

3rd International Peace Camp

6-14 January
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Founder's Day

22 February
Worldwide

APRIL

Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee Meeting

World Scout Committee Meeting

MAY

APR Training for WOSM Consultants

1-5 May

APR Scout Foundation Dinner

26 May
Kagoshima, Japan

JULY

24th World Scout Jamboree

22 July - 2 August
Virginia, USA

AUGUST

International Scarf Day

1 August

International Youth Day

12 August

SEPTEMBER

International Day of Peace

21 September, worldwide

World Scout Committee Meeting

27-29 September
Egypt

OCTOBER

JOTA/JOTI

Regional Scout Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER

World Children's Day

DECEMBER

International Volunteer's Day

5 December

3rd World Scout Education Congress

7-10 December
Brazil



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