

Thank you very much everyone

4<sup>ème</sup>



Bon Dancing

**Y'S MEN  
INTERNATIONAL  
ASIA PACIFIC AREA  
JULY 2024 BULLETIN 4<sup>ème</sup>**



### From the Editors



#### Greetings from the editor,

As we present the final issue of the Bulletin for this term, we also mark the beginning of a new chapter and the start of a fresh term.

What was the 2023-24 term like for you?

There was a lot to remember: many young people attended the AYC in Kathmandu, Nepal in August. They had a wonderful time spending a few days with their peers in a program they devised. What are they doing now after that? Are they moving forward with their goals?

The 30th Asia Pacific Regional Convention was held in Hong Kong in November. Many Y's Men and Menettes were able to have a time of ex-

change. The cultural exchange, the fantastic night view, and the warm hospitality of the Host Convention Committee are unforgettable memories.

Although our role in this Bulletin is to provide you with as much news as possible, I am disappointed that I could not introduce enough due to the schedule and the space available.

We also wanted to cover topics that are happening in each Region daily. We look forward to next year's Bulletin issue. Thank you for reading our four issues of Bulletin over the past year.



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前田香代子

*Monotype Corsiva Regular 12pt*

## MESSAGE FROM AREA PRESIDENT



### Farewell to my term

Asia Pacific Area President  
**KEIKO TONEGAWA**

My Area President term ended on June 30th, 2024. Looking back on my two-year term, I feel both joy and frustration at not having done enough. It was a challenging journey, but one that I am proud to have undertaken and grown from.

During my term, I had the privilege of visiting all the Regions twice, with the exception of Taiwan, where I visited once due to a scheduling conflict with the Japan East Region's Convention. These visits were a testament to my commitment to 'Shine and empower through fellowship.' I am particularly proud of the two new clubs that were chartered in the Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia Regions each towards the end of my term. These clubs are significant in that they were chartered in the new areas of Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Another highlight of my term was the successful Asia-Pacific Area Youth Convocation in Nepal and the Asia Pacific

Area Convention in Hong Kong. These events were made possible by the outstanding work of the Southeast Asia Region, particularly the Hong Kong District.

I am thrilled to see that the three centennial Area projects are not just surviving but thriving. The Songfest Book songs are being used at various meetings worldwide. The Makati YMCA Solar Panel Project is generating the expected annual profits, which will be repaid to the Area. The e-Cookbook continues to be a wonderful tool for exploring foreign countries' recipes and exposing our members to multicultural experiences.

As I conclude my presidency term, I am deeply grateful to each and every one of the AEOs, RDs, and ASDs for their unwavering support and invaluable assistance.

In the new Y's year, AP Joan is fully prepared to lead the Area. I extend my best wishes to her and want to assure her that I will provide any assistance she may need in my role as Immediate Past Area President.



# Area Executive Officers

## 2023-2024 Area Executive Officers



Immediate Past Area President  
**CHARMING SHEN**  
(Taiwan Region)



Area President-Elect  
**JOAN WONG**  
(Southeast Asia Region)



Area Secretary  
**MARK EUGEN TANG**  
(Philippine Region)



Area Treasurer  
**JAMES KONG**  
(Southeast Asia Region)

*Thank you very much everyone*



## COVER STORY

# Bon Dancing

Originally, Bon Dancing is an event to comfort the spirits of ancestors who have returned during the Bon Festival. The "Odori Nenbutsu" (dance with emphasis on the Buddhist prayer), which was started by Kuya Shonin in the Heian period (794-1185) and spread throughout Japan by Ippen Shonin in the Kamakura period (1192-1333), developed into the "Nenbutsu Odori" (dance with emphasis on the Buddhist prayer), which incorporated various folk customs from the Muromachi to Edo periods (1333-1573), and became associated with Urabon-e (Bon festival), an event to comfort and send off the spirits. It became an event to comfort and send off the spirits of the dead in conjunction with the so-called Bon Festival. This is the reason why Bon Odori is held on the evening of the 15th and the spirits are sent off on the 16th in many areas.

From [HP/allabout.co.jp](http://HP/allabout.co.jp)

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Saying goodbye until we meet again.

## 50th Anniversary of Manila Downtown Y's Menette's Club



Anniversary Celebration chairperson/ Susana de Jesus

On May 18, 2024, the Manila Downtown Y's Menettes Club marked a remarkable milestone with a grand celebration of its 50th Anniversary. This significant event led by Club President Shirley Tiujanco and Anniversary Celebration Chairperson Susana de Jesus, held at the plush Gloriamaris Seafood Restaurant in Mall of Asia, was a tribute to half a century of unwavering commitment to community service and empowerment.

The highlight of the evening was a

stirring address by Asia Pacific Area President Keiko Tonegawa. AP Keiko Tonegawa imparted the history of the Ys Men and Ys Menettes to the attendees. Her insights into the Y's Menettes' role in fostering local development and enhancing societal welfare resonated deeply with the attendees, illustrating the profound impact of their decades-long efforts.

Established in 1974, the Manila Downtown Y's Menettes Club has long been a beacon of altruism and

dedication. Over the years, the club has orchestrated numerous projects focused on education, health, and social welfare, significantly improving the lives of countless individuals. One of the highlights of the day was the contribution of the scholarship fund to the principal of the Philippine Sun Yat Sen High School Dr. William Lee. This will be to support the 20 scholar students of the school.

The 50th Anniversary celebration of the Manila Downtown Y' s Menettes Club was further elevated by a heartwarming and symbolic performance that united both the Manila Downtown Y' s Men and Y' s Menettes in a shared act of camaraderie and celebration. The two groups collaborated on a special medley song performance arranged by the master composer and arranger of Manila Downtown Ys Men' s Club Mr. Romeo Limsin. This joint performance not only entertained the audience but also underscored the strong, collaborative bond between the Y' s Men and Y' s Menettes, reflecting their shared values and mutual support. The touching tribute, set against the backdrop of the golden jubilee, served as a testament to the enduring spirit of

teamwork and the powerful impact of their combined efforts in bettering their community.

With the theme of Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future, the golden anniversary celebration honored all the past presidents of the club. It was also graced by the Y' s Men of Atami led by President Tatsuya Murakami. With Past President Zenaida Yao and Y' s Men PP Mark Tan as the emcees of the night, the family and guests witnessed a dance number by Past President Henry Lee Chun with Menette Carolyn Magos and Sherin Magos, a song number by Miss Camille Chang, 50 raffle prizes given away and souvenir 50th Anniversary bags for all attendees.

As the Manila Downtown Y' s Menettes Club looks to the future, the 50th Anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of their enduring legacy and continued dedication to service. The evening' s festivities, marked by camaraderie and celebration, reaffirmed the club' s commitment to making a positive difference in the community for many more years to come.



Contribution of the scholarship fund



With IBC fellow, Atami-Club, Japan



CP Shirley Tiujanco



AP Keiko Tonegawa



In a gold dress in honor of the Golden Anniversary

# Climate Change Webinar on 25 May 2024

ASD for Green Activities & Environment, Colin Lambie

32 members of YMI and/or YMCA participated in the online workshop about Climate Change on 25 May 2024. The training was conducted by ASD for Green Activities Colin Lambie. Examples of action taken were provided by Narupacha from Sao Hin YMCA Thailand and by Magda Gana from Makati YMCA Philippines.



ASD Colin explained what gases contribute to the Greenhouse Effect, the cause of the global warming or climate change. The main source of greenhouse gases is from human activities, in particular the burning of fossil fuels, for example coal, oil and gas.

So we know the cause of the problem – its us!  
We also know how to fix the problem – stop burning fossil fuels.

We are not going to stop immediately, but we can take steps that will make our home, planet earth liveable for our children & grandchildren.

Examples of action to reduce greenhouse gases include: installing LED lighting to reduce amount of electricity used and installing solar PV panels reduces the amount of electricity coming from coal burning power stations. The amount of

greenhouse gases we create is called our 'carbon footprint'. This varies from about 2 tonnes per year to 20 tonnes per year per person.

Narupacha from Sao Hin YMCA Thailand described the training about climate change that Sao Hin YMCA have conducted over many years. YMI have funded LED lighting upgrades and solar PV at YMCAs in Chiangmai, Thailand. Below, Narupacha is demonstrating how solar PV converts light to electricity.



Magda Gana from Makati YMCA, Philippines

Magda Gana from Makati YMCA, Philippines described the many environmental projects that Makati YMCA lead, including recycling, reducing waste, reducing consumption generally

YMI Green Fund & Asia-Pacific Area Y's Men contributed funds to the 57kW solar system Makati YMCA purchased. This is a great example of YMI & YMCAs working in partnership to take action on climate change.



the 57kW solar system Makati YMCA purchased



"Re-earth" Shoshiro Yokoyama

# Regional Convention Photos

Asia Pacific Area President  
**KEIKO TONEGAWA**

Hopping the Regional Conventions  
in the Area

My husband and I were privileged to visit four Regional Conventions in June. Each convention was profoundly moving, as the characteristics of the Regions were evident. It was also an opportunity to truly experience my motto, "Shine and gain strength through fellowship. The opportunity for participants to enjoy each other's company and to think about the future of the Y's movement and their respective Regions was genuinely empowering, both for the Region and for the individual. It is my great pleasure to introduce each convention with a snapshot for you to capture what I mean about the differences.



Sri Lanka Region June 14th



Japan West Region June 8th at Nagoya



Japan East Region June 1st at Tokachi Hokkaido

## Regional Convention Photos

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Asia Pacific Area President Elect  
**JOAN WONG**



The 90th Anniversary Southeast Asia Regional Conference was held from June 21 to 22, 2024 at the Metropolitan YMCA Hotel. The installation of Regional & District Officers was successful. This year, the Southeast Asia

Anniversary Cake

Regional Conference stepped into 90th. Over 50 delegates and guests celebrated the anniversary together.



Southeast Asia Regional Conference  
June 21-22,2024      Singapore

## Regional Convention Photos

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The 48th Taiwan Regional Conference was successfully held at Sherton Hotel in Peng Hu Island. APE Joan Wong installed Pai-Hsun Mike Su as Regional Director Congratulations to the successful handover in Taiwan Region.



Taiwan Regional Conference  
June 1st Taiwan

## CPE Institute for the future of YMI

Hiro Tanaka

PAP, Member of CPE Institute



In September 2022, YMI launched the CPE Institute.

The heart of our movement is our clubs, and we must improve the quality of our clubs and CPs to become a

more vital organisation and do better work and service worldwide. To achieve this, we have decided to hold advanced training sessions, mainly for Cub President-Elect (CPE), tailored to the needs of CPEs. The differences from previous training sessions are as follows.

1. In addition to knowledge acquisition, emphasis is placed on motivation.
2. The YMI organises training sessions as a model and expects the participants to become trainers in their Regions or Districts.
3. Invite external speakers when necessary.
4. Organise the training materials and house them online so everyone can access them.

The Institute comprises elected members from Areas who organise and run the training sessions, including PAP Rita Hettiarachchi and myself from the ASP Area.

So far, the following four pilot sessions have been held, with many participants from the ASP Area. PAP Edward, IPAS Kayoko Maeda, and RDE JER Makoto Yamashita have also been speakers from the ASP Area.

1. 5 June 2023  
General Session (Understanding YMI, Club Leadership, Membership Development etc.)
2. 3 February 2024  
Theme: 'Membership Engagement' and introduction of Google Classroom e-learning platform
3. 8 April 2024  
Theme: 'Club Fundraising'
4. 11 May 2024  
Theme: 'Communicating YMI'

6-8 August, we will see the first in-person training prior to the International Convention in Chiang Mai. We hope that the meeting will be fruitful and that participants will make use of what they have learnt at the meeting in their Regions and Districts.

今日の日はさようなら

金子 詔一

いつまでも 絶えることなく

友だちでいよう

明日の日を夢みて

希望の道を

空を飛ぶ 鳥のように

自由に生きる

今日の日はさようなら

また会う日まで

信じ合う よろこびを

大切にしよう

今日の日はさようなら

また会う日まで

また会う日まで

Let's say goodbye to today's day

Syoichi Kaneko

Forever and ever

Let's be friends

Dreaming of tomorrow's day

On the road of hope

Like a bird soaring in the sky

Live freely

Farewell to today's day

Until we meet again

Let's cherish the joy of believing in  
each other

Farewell to this day

Until we meet again

Until we meet again



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