

Message from Mr Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development and Patron, NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni



The future of Singapore and its continued peace and prosperity lies in the quality of our people. It is of utmost importance that we groom the young people of today to maximise their potential to the fullest whilst developing a sense of responsibility to the nation and a desire to contribute effectively to society.

The NYAA Gold Award holders are one such group of young people. They come from all walks of life and professions but share one thing in common - a passion for helping others. Over the years, the NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni has contributed significantly to numerous projects and activities both locally and internationally and have touched the lives of a diverse group of needy people, young and old. They have done much to give back to society and have benefited many through their hard work and dedication.

I wish to congratulate GAHA on the

first issue of its newsletter, GAHA Grapevine. It is important to connect Gold Award holders who share the common link of having successfully gone through the NYAA Gold Award Programme and desire to continue serving beyond Gold. The newsletter will keep Gold Award holders connected and part of the GAHA community as they are kept up to date on the latest GAHA news and activities, and learn how they can get involved.

I wish GAHA members every success in their activities and mission in the year 2008.

Message from Terence Chia, Chairman, NYAA GAHA

MIND YOUR P'S

You'd be surprised how significant the letter "P" is.

PRINTING PRESS: Those of you who read history at some point or the other will remember the name Gutenberg. A German Goldsmith in the 15th Century, Johan Gutenberg assembled what would be the world's first printing press in 1436. Gutenberg's creation and its successors are what make this piece of paper you hold in your hands possible.

PROGRAMME FOR THE YOUNG: And centuries later, in 1965 HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, started what all of us know to be the premiere Award Programme for young people, a programme that would spread across the globe and come to Singapore in 1992, where I would begin my journey a few years later, culminating in my joining the Gold Award Holders' Alumni of Singapore in 1998.

PEOPLE: But besides the seemingly casual link between the Printing Press and the Award Programme, as epitomised in this newsletter you hold in your hands, I'd like to draw your attention to what, in my view, is the most important "P" of all - PEOPLE. You see, Gutenberg's Printing Press and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme share this in common, they serve to develop and connect people. The advent of mass printing allowed the spread of knowledge, and

gave People the chance to transmit their thoughts and ideas en masse to one another. And the creation of the Award Programme not only gave young People the opportunity to develop themselves, but also started and created a worldwide network of like-minded Persons that would not only do good for themselves, but for the community-at-large.

So perhaps it is fitting that in our very first Gold Award Holders' Alumni newsletter, we link the Ps of Printing and the Award Programme, to connect People: Gold Award holders not just in Singapore, but all around the world. While we are 1,000 strong in Singapore, many of our Gold Award holders are spread across the globe studying at universities like Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford and Harvard, or working in multi-national corporations. And of course, there are the many more Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Award holders across the continents, all sharing the same purpose and the same vision - to leave a meaningful and lasting impact on society-at-large.

PASSION: Most importantly, this newsletter gives us a flavour of one final "P" - the PASSIONS of our youth. A passion for self-development, improvement, service and adventure. Thus it is appropriate

that this newsletter is entitled GAHA Grapevine. The title symbolises the connections all of us have to one another, across the different vintages of GAHA.

So, as you read through the articles which give brief snapshots of the life of GAHA Singapore, ranging from projects with the local community like Health Works@Bukit Purmei where youth-elderly integration takes the centrestage, to international representations at APEC and the United Nations, we hope you will be able to get a sense of the broad spectrum of activities the NYAA and Gold Award Programme prepare Young People for. And just as we see our GAHA serving beyond Gold, so too do we avail training opportunities for youths after they have completed their Gold Award. 2007 saw the launch of the first Gold Award Holders' orientation, where a carefully structured programme of team-building and skills development gave our latest batch of Gold Award recipients a chance to learn from and bond with one-another. In house training programmes on etiquette like a recent wine appreciation course also help prepare our young leaders for the real world.

But perhaps, most exciting of all are the activities and programmes that will be coming up in 2008. Even



APEC Summit 2007
Page 2



Singapore-Switzerland
Youth Exchange
Page 4



GAHA Orientation
Page 4



GAHA Union
Page 8

as Beijing will host the Olympic Games in 2008, we in Singapore are hoping that our bid for the first Youth Olympic Games in 2010 will be successful. Thus, we have organised a Forum to tap on the passions and ideas of young people to spread the Olympic Spirit. And the proposed GAHA Union will provide Gold Award holders all around the world many more opportunities to connect, collaborate and co-create benefits for society.

And now, as any person mindful of his "P"s and "Q"s, I shall allow you, dear reader, to carry on reading the rest of this Publication.

Voices of the Future, APEC Sydney 2007

Terence Chia



Over 80 youths from 12 different economies gathered in Sydney at the APEC Summit 2007, for a youth programme: “Voices of the Future” to learn about and discuss global economic co-operation. Selected for their knowledge and interest in politics, international affairs, youth affairs and the environment, the youth convened a number of working groups including a “Youth News Crew” responsible for interviewing the leaders and attending both the APEC and ABAC Summits.



• Singapore NYAA delegation with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the APEC Summit in Sydney, Australia.

The NYAA Council selected three young people (Terence Chia, Peter Lee, Ng PeiRu) from the Gold Award Holder’s Alumni (GAHA) to represent Singapore at Voices, where they had the opportunity to interact and engage young people from The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (Australia, Indonesia, Japan), environmental organisation OzGREEN, the Virtual Trade Mission (VTM) International, Prepa TEC Santa Catarina Campus Mexico and other APEC economies: Canada, Vietnam, New Zealand, Philippines, Peru and China.

The three Singaporean youth worked together with multi-national teams throughout the duration of Voices. Kelvin Lee, from GAHA Singapore, was selected to attend Voices as part of the Japanese delegation and provided invaluable interpretation and translation services over and above his role as a delegate.

The following is a personal account from Terence:

And what a week it was. Over 80 youth from 12 different economies in APEC, selected for their knowledge and interest in politics, international affairs, youth affairs and the environment, gathered during Voices to learn about and discuss global economic cooperation. From Singapore, the National Youth Achievement Award

(NYAA) Council selected three young people, including myself, from the Gold Award Holder’s Alumni (GAHA), to be part of Voices.

Young people and global economic cooperation may seem at first glance to be strange bedfellows. After all, aren’t the young more concerned with their network of friends on Facebook, their computer games and their mp3s than they are about APEC? But then again, it is precisely the facilitation of trade and the building of capabilities supported by APEC that have allowed e-commerce, play-stations, Wiis, iPods, Zens and all the other good stuff that make being a young person exciting to happen.

Besides making our world more vibrant, the driving forces that form the backdrop of global economic cooperation will forever change the world we as young people inherit. Take climate change and the environment. During our week in Australia, we got to see firsthand how climate change and environmental pressures left a lasting impact on local communities. This point was not lost on Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper who asserted that “economic growth and prosperity have to be balanced with careful

environmental stewardship” and urged all at the APEC Business Summit to seize the “unprecedented opportunity to lead the way to a better, cleaner, healthier world.”

Talk about preaching to the converted. Even before the APEC Business Summit, the youth at APEC had been seizing the many unprecedented opportunities, on climate change and other issues that had come our way. We interviewed and conversed with APEC leaders on wide-ranging topics. We went to Town Hall, Parliament House and government departments to see how the machinery of governance worked. We formed a news crew and shared the perspectives of youth at APEC to media around the world. We made resolutions at a Youth Forum on Climate Change and Water Crisis and the Singaporeans shared how Singapore’s Public Utilities Board had worked closely in partnership with the people and private sectors to turn Singapore’s water situation into a strategic advantage. In short, we took action.

And then the week ended.

We had done so much in seven days, but what would be our lasting contribution to APEC? What was the role of youth in APEC? The answer

came to us when we interviewed Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday 7 September, the last day of Voices. Prime Minister Lee noted that “[people to people connections are] very useful, and these are connections that we should develop amongst the young, particularly, because when you are adventurous, you are keen to travel, you are keen to make new friends, you are ready to absorb new impressions, new places, what it is like, and new opportunities.”

And indeed, as we went our separate ways after APEC 2007, we would still never really be apart, because of the bonds we had formed in our week at Sydney, and because, we could always contact each other on Facebook, or any of the other media made possible by technology and cooperation.

So the answer to the challenges of APEC might not lie in just the deliberation of business leaders and political leaders, but also in the hand of young people willing to add each other as friends.

World

GAHA Members Represent Singapore at East Asia Youth Leadership Forum

Amanda Vanderput

Two NYAA Gold Award holders, Elson Lee and Ian Cai represented Singapore and the NYAA at the East Asia Youth Leadership Forum in Bangkok, Thailand from 25 November to 1 December 2007. The programme proposed by Thailand was endorsed at the 10th ASEAN +3 Director-General Meeting in Singapore from 22 to 23 August 2007.

The objective of the forum was to foster awareness among ASEAN +3 youth on East Asian community building and to build a more

tolerant society through learning of each other's cultural diversity and promoting mutual understanding of East Asia's commonality in modern arts and youth culture. The project also established the network of ASEAN +3 youth.

The Singapore Youth Delegation was headed by Ian Cai, NYAA Gold Award holder and GAHA Exco Member. During their visit to Thailand, the Singapore Youth Delegation met the Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nitya Pibulsonggram, and Minister for Education, Wijit Srisa-arn. They



• East Asia Youth Leadership Forum participants with Thai Prime Minister, Surayud Chulanont, and government officials.

also attended a keynote speech by the incoming Secretary General of

ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

World

UNEP and NYAA Council Organise Youth Conference on Climate Change

Amanda Vanderput



• SEAYEN participants from the ASEAN members countries with Marcus Yim, Managing Director, Bayer South East Asia, Surendra Shrestha, UNEP Regional Director, James Soh, NYAA Executive Director, and Dr Raman Letchumanan, Head of Environment and Disaster Management Unit, ASEAN Secretariat, at the SEAYEN Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

The NYAA Council and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly organised the UNEP South East Asia Youth Environment Network (SEAYEN) Conference on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia from 9 to 12 December 2007.

The conference was held in conjunction with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Bali. Thirty selected young environmentalists from the ASEAN member countries were selected to represent their countries at the UNEP SEAYEN conference. The conference provided the young environmentalists with a platform to discuss how young people can

contribute and provide support in combating climate change in their respective countries through their youth networks.

The UNEP SEAYEN will be based at the NYAA Council Secretariat in Singapore in 2008 as established in an MOU signed between UNEP and the NYAA Council in Bangkok on 7 November 2007, and is in line with UNEP's Tunza youth engagement strategy, its programme to work with youth at sub-regional levels. These activities will mobilise youth to collaborate on sustainable development issues in South East Asia and promote youth participation to influence decision-making at the national and regional levels.

World

TUNZA International Youth Conference 2007

Ramanathan S/O Thurairajoo



• Ramanathan presenting the book 'To Singapore with Love' to UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director, H.E. Achim Steiner.

A diverse and international group of 150 young delegates from countries all over the world participated in the Tunza International Youth Conference

2007. Ramanathan Thurairajoo, a member of the NYAA GAHA Executive Committee, represented NYAA and GAHA at the prestigious conference. The conference, which

was held in Leverkusen, Germany, at the headquarters of UNEP's long-term partner Bayer AG, took place from 26-31 August 2007. The theme of the conference was on Technology in Service of the Environment. Here is Rama's account:

The opening ceremony of TUNZA 2007 was graced by German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel, UNEP Executive Director H.E. Achim Steiner, North Rhine-Westphalia State Premier Jürgen Rutgers and Werner Wenning, CEO and Chairman, Bayer. The most looked forward to event also witnessed the revelation of the new logo for UNEP's programme for youth and children, which depicts the four elements fire, water, earth

and air. The new Tunza song, "Time for Action", was also officially performed for the first time at the opening ceremony.

During the excursion to the Rheinland Group's Photovoltaic test laboratory and Mont Cenis Energy Park in Herne, I learnt about the industrial application of solar power, an area of great potential for sunny Singapore.

The conference was also a good occasion to network with other counterparts, hear about their culture and share our experiences.

NYAA Gold Award Orientation

Ian Cai Xusheng

The first ever Gold Award Orientation was held at the Singapore Polytechnic Guild House on 22nd September 2007. It was a great opportunity for the more than 40 youths from the latest batch of Gold Award holders to congregate and know more about what is in store for them as members of GAHA. The day started with an inspiring speech by then Deputy Chairman of GAHA, Terence Chia. He touched on the mission and objectives of GAHA and encouraged members to take GAHA as a platform to initiate more projects to serve the community.

James Soh, the Executive Director of NYAA, also gave a presentation on the working partnership between the NYAA Council and GAHA. He shared the history of NYAA Singapore and reminded us of the importance of new members' participation, ensuring NYAA stays vibrant and relevant.

A series of challenging and fun games were organised by current GAHA members with the objective of instilling various qualities, including teamwork and perseverance.

The fun filled afternoon concluded with a sumptuous poolside buffet in the evening where members continued their meaningful interactions in the midst of great food.

Through this Orientation, members were given a glimpse of the opportunities presented to them to make a greater impact towards community building. This pioneer event was so successful that it will now be an annual feature!

Singapore-Switzerland Youth Exchange

Ian Cai Xusheng



• Singapore youth delegation to Switzerland at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva.

A team of ten youths were selected by NYAA Council to represent Singapore in the 11th Singapore-Switzerland Bilateral Youth Exchange Programme 2007.

Spending nearly two weeks there, the team was privileged to learn more about Switzerland by traveling to different parts of Switzerland and experiencing its unique culture and environment.

While the team had made preparations prior to the trip, through reading up on Switzerland, meeting up with past delegation members, and even spending an evening with the Swiss Ambassador to Singapore, His Excellency Dr. Daniel Woker, at his residence, this still proved to be an eye-opening experience.

Visits to the various education and political institutions exposed them

to the unique systems in Switzerland that are the very reasons for its success as an economic powerhouse.

Their visits to the different campuses of the University of Applied Sciences introduced them to the impressive Swiss education system. It caters to the various learning styles and learning paces that an individual may choose to adopt via three main routes. They have technical (equivalent to our university degrees), practical (similar to our Institutes of Technical Education), and hybrid approaches provided by the Universities of Applied Sciences. All these welcome students of all entry levels, whether they have taken a break from studying to work, or have conscientiously stuck with academia. What is similar to Singapore though, is that primary education is compulsory for all. In view of Singapore having its Fourth University, the flexibility of their

system is worth exploring.

Some of the interesting aspects the team found out about Switzerland include their policies on capital punishment. The Swiss do not believe in the death penalty as they hold human rights in high regard. The worst punishment that one can be subject to is "life imprisonment", which usually lasts for 15-20 years.

The greatest takeaways for the team were the friendships formed both with the Swiss and amongst the team, and a deep experiential understanding of Swiss culture and their values.

The team is very appreciative to the NYAA Council, Boncafé and the Embassy of Switzerland for organising and sponsoring the trip.

Gold Award Presentation Ceremony

Ong Ying Shya & Rumya Ananthan



• President S R Nathan presenting the Gold Award.

One hundred and twenty six Gold Award recipients received their Awards at the presentation ceremony held on 4th October 2007 at the Nanyang Polytechnic, which

was graced by His Excellency President S R Nathan.

The Executive Committee for 07/09 also received their appointment

certificates from Minister Mah Bow Tan, Chairman of the NYAA Advisory Board. Terence Chia, took over as the Chairman of GAHA from Dr. Ken Ong, who will continue to serve as an advisor to GAHA.

A heartfelt speech was given by Rumya Ananthan, a Gold Award recipient, who shared her experience of self discovery and the numerous opportunities given to her throughout her NYAA journey.

"I will certainly put in all the necessary effort to continue contributing towards the benefit of our youth, the community and our nation," said Rumya.

Service Beyond Gold!

Home

National Youth Sector Conference 2007

Natalie Morris

What is the definition of youth mentoring? How can participating youths and adults be actively engaged? What should Singapore's Mentoring Model look like? These were some of the questions tackled by the presentations and the public consultation during the National Youth Sector Conference 2007 (World) held at the Suntec Convention Auditorium on 4 August 2007.

David White, Chairperson of the Australian Youth Mentoring Network, one of the guest speakers at the conference, gave a presentation on the Big Brothers Big Sisters programme. This mentoring initiative has been successfully conducted in Australia since 1985. In keeping with its focus on effective practices in mentoring, conference participants were encouraged to

think about adapting the programme to the Singapore context. Later in the afternoon, conference participants were divided into groups to attend workshops on various aspects of mentoring. Three NYAA GAHA participants attended a workshop by Charis Shir-Boon on designing and planning mentoring programmes.

Home

SKM 10th Anniversary Appreciation Dinner

Regina Oon Shu Jun

On 15th November 2007, the Singapore Kindness Movement (SKM) celebrated its 10th anniversary with a dinner at the Olive Ristorante, Labrador Park. The Guest-of-Honour for the event was Dr. Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communication and the Arts (MICA) and Arts Advisor to the SKM. Among the invitees were SKM's partners and supporters, including the NYAA, as well as members of the World Kindness Movement (WKM) from overseas. Eight NYAA GAHA members (Kum Kin Meng Adrian, Choo Pui Shan, Goh Yao Xing, Jameson Koh, Chee Ka Mung, Lim Mei Yee Joanna, Regina Oon and Teo Shu Li) represented the NYAA Council at the event, and assisted in ushering the guests.

The evening kicked off with a video documentary that provided insights into what kindness means to individual Singaporeans. This was followed by a welcome address by Noel Hon, Chairman of the SKM, and a speech by the GOH. Minister Lee spoke on the increasing importance of fostering values of kindness and graciousness in our society and the crucial role SKM and its partners and supporters play in advancing this cause. Minister Lee commented, "As Singapore continues to progress and globalise, the core values of care, compassion and kindness will be even more vital in holding our social fabric together. I am confident that with the continued efforts of SKM and its partners and supporters, we can make progress as a kind and gracious society."

In recognition of their efforts, tokens of appreciation were presented to the partners and supporters, including James Soh, Executive Director of the NYAA Council, who served as a SKM council member for 10 years. He also received an award on behalf of the NYAA Council for being a partner of the SKM. After the presentation, the attendees proceeded to a sit-down buffet dinner featuring music and singing group performances.

The dinner ended with a video slideshow that highlighted the numerous SKM initiatives promoting kindness and graciousness over the years. The specially commissioned slideshow was developed by two NYAA/GAHA members, Regina Oon and Terence Chia.

Coming up

HSBC Spotighting Project

Ramanathan S/O Thurairajoo

The National Parks Board (NParks) with the support of HSBC has launched a research project to assess the likely impact of climate change on biodiversity in Singapore. Six NYAA Gold Award holders and participants have been selected to be actively involved in terms of leadership and participation in the project.

The project, starting from February 2008, and spanning over three years, will involve data collection on mammals and reptiles in the MacRitchie Nature Reserve area. The characterisation and documentation of the research will go towards a better understanding of how biodiversity and climate change are interlinked.

Home

National Uniformed Group Conference 2007

Cliff Koh Zhixing

Sixteen of us arrived, each with a presentation in mind. These 16 GAHA members are from different walks of life; students, others working and some just completed their national service. But they all have one thing in common – all were from the various uniformed groups earlier in their lives. And that's the idea behind this Uniformed Group Conference – to bring participants of all the various uniformed groups together to foster friendship, interaction, and most importantly, to envisage a common future for all uniformed groups in Singapore.

Our role then, was to share with these 300 odd participants our understanding of different topics of interest such as environment, globalisation, influence of media, etc. Each of us presented a different topic. I, as one of the presenters, initially thought that it was going to be a dry session with me doing all the talking. However, I was taken aback by the pro-activity of the participants in voicing queries, different viewpoints, challenging the assumptions and so on.

Young as they might be, their thoughts are definitely not.

Home

2007 NATIONAL DAY AWARD CEREMONY



• NYAA GAHA congratulates Prof Leo Tan, Chairman, NYAA Council, for being conferred the Public Administration Medal (Gold) (Bar) 2007 National Day Award, by the President of the Republic of Singapore.



• NYAA GAHA congratulates James Soh, Executive Director, NYAA Council, for being conferred the Public Service Medal 2007 National Day Award, by the President of the Republic of Singapore.

Home

Visit by SSEAYP to Singapore

Kenneth Wong Chong Wai



• GAHA youths interacting with the SSEAYP participants.

The Ship for South East Asia Youth Programme (SSEAYP) is an annual programme organised by Japan that ASEAN countries are invited to participate in. This time, there were some 384 participants in total. They live on board a ship for 52 days, visiting and learning from the various countries that they stop at.

On 9th November 2007, the NYAA GAHA hosted a team of youth delegates as a part of their institutional visits in Singapore. The 43-member team that we hosted was from the Youth Development subgroup. Upon arrival of the delegation at RELC International Hotel, a video was screened to the delegates, showing what NYAA and GAHA had done over the past 15 years.

Cliff Koh, Deputy Chairman, GAHA Exco 07/09 gave a presentation on

the mission and objectives of NYAA and GAHA as well as what we seek to contribute to the youth development scene in Singapore in the coming years. To better engage and share our experiences with the delegates, the delegates were subsequently split into smaller groups. Sharing sessions then commenced, facilitated by two to three GAHA members assigned to each group. These short sharing sessions gave us a great opportunity to interact with the foreign delegates and get to know more about their youth development and volunteerism scenes in their own respective countries.

As one of the participants expressed it, "It's been a very fruitful and enjoyable session to mingle with our ASEAN and Japanese delegates. I truly understand the importance of appreciating one another's strengths and to also better cherish the small things that we have."

Home

ASEAN Young Photographers' Award

Andass Teu Choon Kiat



• Guest-of-Honour Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, viewing an exhibition on the winning entries.

The ASEAN Young Photographers' Award Ceremony cum Photography Forum was held on 16 November 2007 to commemorate ASEAN's 40th anniversary. National winners from the 10 ASEAN member countries received their awards from Dr. Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, who was the Guest-of-Honour for the ceremony. The Forum was organised by the NYAA Council, with the support of City Developments Limited.

Coming Up

Health Works @ Bukit Purmei

Choo Peiling



• NYAA volunteers conducting health screening on an elderly resident.

Passionate about healthcare and the elderly? Health Works @ Bukit Purmei might be your calling!

NYAA and GAHA, in collaboration with Radin Mas Community Centre and Nanyang Polytechnic, have embarked on this new youth-elderly integration project. Bridging the inter-generational gap, this project is all about educating the elderly on health issues and encouraging health-promoting activities.

A fall assessment was held late October 2007 and has benefited 32 elderly people. Simple but significant health screening tests were also done.

The project is maturing into the second phase and the emphasis will be moving towards the promotion of movement and functional ability through various activities.

Stay tuned!

Home

Youth Olympic Games 2010 Open Space Forum

Regina Oon Shu Jun



• Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development, speaking to youth at the Open Space Forum. With him are Teo Ser Luck, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Ng Ser Miang, Vice-President of the Singapore National Olympic Council.

Together with PAYM Youth Groups in Tampines GRC, NYAA GAHA jointly held an Open Space Forum on 12 January 2008 at the National Library. “Open Space” is a form of dialogue where, under the guidance of a trained facilitator, the participants themselves set the agenda by identifying key topics of their interest and concern, and then generated discussions on these topics. The forum, with its theme, “Ignite the Flame: Creating the Spirit of our Youth Olympic Games: Issues and Opportunities”,

saw 300 participants from youth sector organisations, schools and tertiary institutions share and explore how we can “Ignite the Flame” in Singaporeans; and keep that flame burning long after the Games have come and gone.

Among those who attended the event were Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development and Chairman, NYAA Advisory Board, as the Guest-of-Honour; Teo Ser Luck, Chairman National Youth Council, as the Special Guest and

Ng Ser Miang, Vice-President of the Singapore National Olympic Council, as one of the panelists. Also present, were Lee Wung Yew, a competitive trap shooter who has represented Singapore twice in the Olympics in Atlanta and Athens and will do so again at the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games 2008. He shared with the participants his experiences at the previous Olympics and the importance of sportsmanship and hospitality at such international events.

The NYAA Council congratulates the new GAHA Exco.

NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni Executive Committee 2007/2009

Chairperson:

Mr Terence Chia

Immediate Past Chairperson:

Dr Ken Ong

Deputy Chairpersons:

Ms Natalie Morris

Mr Cliff Koh

Ms Angela Lee

Secretary:

Ms Ong Ying Shya

EXCO members:

Ms Ananthan Rumya

Mr Ian Cai

Ms Chee Ka Mung

Ms Choo Pei Ling

Ms Dai Li Yan

Ms Denise He

Mr Mustafa Izzuddin

Mr Ng Choon Ta

Ms Ng Pei Ru

Ms Regina Oon

Mr Jason Pan

Mr Charles Phua

Ms Amy Quek

Mr Gary Shen

Mr Tang Wey Lin

Mr Andass Teu

Mr Ramanathan Thurairajoo

Mr Bruce Tom

Mr Kenneth Wong

World

Presentation of Youth Health Charter at the United Nations

Ananthan Rumya



• NYAA Gold Award holder, Rumya Ananthan (extreme right) and youth delegates with UN Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki Moon and UN officials at the UN Headquarters in New York.

In October 2007, New York saw four delegates from India, USA and Singapore coming together to represent Youth For Health and present the Youth Health Charter to United Nations Secretary General

Ban Ki Moon and Special Adviser Rachel Mayanja to ask for their support and recognition.

Youth for Health (Y4H) is an international global health advocacy

network launched on a vibrant note at the closing ceremony of the first Global Youth Meet on Health (GYM 2006). GYM 2006 was an innovative global youth conclave, which provided an interactive platform to 280 youth delegates from 35 countries of the world to learn from the eminent global youth and development experts and to share their experiences. Y4H is working towards facilitating concerted actions for introducing and implementing health promoting policies and collectively campaigning on pressing health concerns for youth at the global level.

As part of the Y4H efforts, the Y4H charter on Global Youth Promotion for youth, endorsed by 225,000 signatures worldwide, was presented at the United Nations. The aim of the meeting was to solicit support for

health promoting policies from the governments of the member states of the United Nations representing Singapore was Rumya Ananthan, a NYAA Gold Award holder.

“Being at the office of His Excellency Ban Ki Moon and presenting the Charter to him was very inspiring.”

Meetings were held over two days and a favourable response was received. Upcoming projects will mainly focus on gender issues and prevention of the spread of HIV.

During her weeklong stay in New York, the NYAA had also arranged for Rumya to pay a courtesy call to Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon at the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations.

Coming Up

Proposed GAHA Union

Terence Chia



• His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Chairman, International Council, speaking to James Soh, NYAA Executive Director, in London on the proposed GAHA Union.

At the IC meeting held in London from 1 to 2 November 2007, NYAA Singapore, with support from Youth Forum Representatives Sanjana Mahapatra (India), Dr. Falah Amawi (Jordan) and Alexander Natrtey (Ghana), decided to establish a Gold Award Holders' Union.

The GAHA Union will serve as a platform for GAHA worldwide to network, exchange ideas, share experiences and organise joint-youth community projects.

The proposal was tabled at the IC Meeting on 2 November 2007 and was unanimously supported by members of the International Council.

GAHA Union will be led by NYAA Singapore and officially launched at the IGE '08 in Kenya.

The proposed Guest-of-Honour for the launch will be His Royal Highness Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex KG KCVO, Chairman, International Council, and International Trustee.

World

NYAA and UN Environment Programme Sign MOU

Amanda Vanderput



Surentra Shrestha, Regional Director, UNEP and James Soh, Executive Director, NYAA Council, signing the MOU at the UNEP office in Bangkok.

The NYAA Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 7 November 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. The NYAA Singapore was represented by James Soh, Executive Director, NYAA Council, and UNEP was represented by Surentra Shrestha, Regional Director, UNEP and UNEP Representative for Asia Pacific.

As part of the MOU, the UNEP South East Asia Youth Environment Network's (SEAYEN) secretariat will

be based at the NYAA Council. Mr Soh has been appointed by the UNEP as Honorary Advisor for UNEP SEAYEN and the NYAA Council will assist UNEP in coordinating youth environmental activities with ASEAN member countries.

The MOU will benefit young people who will be exposed to environmental projects on the international and regional levels. Already, the NYAA Council coordinated the United Nations World Conference on Climate Change Youth Forum held in Bali,

Indonesia from 10 to 13 December 2007. The NYAA Singapore assisted UNEP in the selection of youth representatives from the 10 ASEAN member countries who attended the conference held in conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Climate Change attended by officials from all over the world. The youth discussed issues and potential solutions to climate change problems, which was presented in a paper to the UN Conference on Climate Change through the UNEP.

Espirito

Wine Appreciation

Ng PeiRu

What do you get when you pair good wine with great company? The GAHA pioneers wine appreciation session was conducted by our own connoisseur, Denise He, GAHA Exco 07/09.

More than a mere social gathering, 25th August 2007 was a session of fine wine tasting and etiquette grooming. A brief history and the art of wine tasting were elaborated upon, and participants also had the opportunity to taste six types of wine.

A participant, Regina, said "The workshop made me realise that wine appreciation is not just about swirling and sniffing wine but also about understanding this beverage within a larger framework of its variety, heritage and complexity. But more than that, what was particularly memorable to me was learning how to verbalise the taste of this highly complex beverage with a conceptual repertoire of words. I never knew that wines can be described to be like 'roasted fruit', 'foxy' or 'woody'!

Through the session, GAHA members also got better acquainted with each other. It was indeed a relaxing afternoon where learning and enjoyment blended well.