



## Welcome to the June IP NEWS

This IP NEWS letter is to keep YMI club members informed through the articles and updates each month with a variety of contributors throughout the year. When you receive this issue I hope you will pass it on to as many other people as possible. Better that you receive two copies than none.

### Dear Club Member,

Welcome to the June issue of IP NEWS. In this edition, you can read about YL – YMCA Liaison, IPE Kim’s plans for next year, News from IHQ, ‘Tell a Good Story’ and the IP Discretionary Fund.

It will soon be time to look back at the club year 2020-21. Should the club year just be put away? Was it the year which just disappeared? Absolutely not. YMI has not been asleep. Early in the pandemic we decided that activity should be as high as possible at all levels. It has spawned a lot of virtual meetings across the board. I have personally attended over 100 meetings. Yes, we have managed to keep the flag flying and tell each other that even as COVID-19 rages, we will continue all our activities to the best of our ability.

One of my goals for this year was to minimise the distance between international level and club level. I hope with the IP NEWS every month, you have received news and good stories that has given you a feeling of being part of the movement.

The special International Council Meeting on 8 May gave ISG Jose Varghese, IEOs and EF Trustees permission to identify and negotiate the purchase of suitable office space for IHQ in Geneva. Now it is time to put extra focus on the PWA Legacy Fund for money donations for this purpose.

The COVID-19 situation is extremely bad in India and we hope and pray for those who are suffering and are in need without oxygen, hospital facilities and help. Money collected through the [India Covid-19 Emergency Appeal](#) will be used to support Indian clubs and YMCAs helping hospitals and frontline health centres.



*Jacob Kristensen*

Jacob Kristensen  
International President 2020/21

Thank you.

### IHQ NEWS - JUNE 2021

We had a special meeting of the International Council on 8 May 2021, and key decisions were taken. These were recorded and circulated to those receiving ICM minutes.

Based on the recommendation of the IC2022 Host Committee, United States Area and Hawaii Region, the International Convention, which was scheduled to be held in August 2022, has been postponed to August 2023 due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions.

The Council also decided to close the YEPP programme with immediate effect and gave approval for a new programme called IGo (Internships 4 Global Outreach). [Details about IGo are available on our website here.](#)

June is the month when we conduct an annual review of our activities. It is heart-warming to report that by the end of the year around 80 clubs will have been formed despite the adverse situation. This month we are celebrating the chartering of four new clubs in Myanmar through the support of the YMCA there. Meanwhile Burundi has been added as the 73rd country in the YMI family.

Our long-cherished wish to have a member orientation manual was realised under the great leadership of the Manual Review Committee.

[The Member Orientation Guide can be downloaded here.](#)

This year, the installation of International President 2021/22 will be held as a hybrid event, hosted from Korea on 3 July 2021. The details will be announced soon.

**ISG Jose Varghese**



*Be ready to 'Heal the World with Love and Dignity'*  
*IPE Kim Sang-chaе*



Dear Y's Men and Women around the world.

As the incoming International President, I am deeply honoured and privileged to address you through the IP News of our International President Jacob Kristensen. I would like to thank IP Jacob for his outstanding leadership and guidance for the movement over the last year and to his wife Randi for her patience and support. It was one of the most difficult years in the history of our movement but we have succeeded in keeping the fire of Y's Men alive across the world. It was only because of the untiring efforts of our leaders at all levels of the organisation and I salute you all from the bottom of my heart.

2022 is the centenary year of Y's Men International. I look forward to a year of fellowship, celebration and doing good in our community and around the world. The whole world is fragmented due to the pandemic that threatens the lives of people everywhere. There are people dying, there are people suffering and it is the time for us to be with the world. I have chosen 'Y's Men with the World' as our theme for the year with the slogan 'Heal the World with Love and Dignity'.

I truly believe that through enhancing fun, fellowship and festivity in our club life we can overcome our loneliness and anxiety, and strengthen the mental health of our club members, and become resilient in this unprecedented time. I also believe that the world will overcome this challenge collectively soon. I urge Y's Men around the world to be prepared to journey together to heal the world with love and compassion to make this world a better place to live for everyone.

Dear leaders, you have one year to build our centennial dream and celebrate Y'sdom that will endure forever, not carved in granite or marble, but in the lives and hearts of the generations to come. This is our time. It will not come again. Let us grasp it. Let us celebrate it. All of you have been given so many talents by our living God, and now you have this wonderful opportunity. Bring all your talents, all your energies, all you have for a year and proclaim our theme, 'Y's Men with the World' to serve the world and support our partner the YMCA.

*Kim sc 28.*

### **Team Work**

Preparing the IP NEWS is not the work of a single person. My name appears as the editor but this is only the tip of the iceberg. IP, ISG and staff at IHQ provide valuable information. The ISDs articles for Emphasis Months and items for 'Tell a Good Story' are received. Once an English edition is prepared it goes to **Mike Bendrey**, England and **James Olle**, Geneva for a final proof read. At this point a pdf is created and 'sealed' and the next stage can start for the creation of the other ten languages.

Text is extracted from the issue and sent to a team of translators who send back text versions of the articles in their languages to replace the English text in each edition.

This is the system for the 'western' languages but the Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages are too difficult for me to handle so I send all text and pictures to three excellent contacts who prepare the full pdf version in their languages. Final pdfs are sent to IHQ for publication at the start of each month. **My grateful thanks go to the translation team.**

Chinese – **Maggie Yu**

Danish – **Bjarne Soenderskov**

French – **François Müntzer**

German – **Lothar Riebling**

Japanese – **Hiroyuki Tanaka**

Korean – **Jin Chung**

Portuguese - **Wiliston Gaeti**

Slovakian – **Anna Rašiová**

Spanish – **Silvya Reyes**

and a small Russian team of **Olga Vozchikova, Marina Makarova, Irina Mamaeva, Tatyana Piskuryova and Olya Wallington** who share the task.

*Wally*

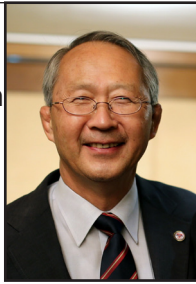


*"To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right"*



**June Emphasis Month -  
YMCA Liaison (YL)**

This is the month of YMCA Liaison and I want to give myself as an example. I worked as a YMCA Secretary for nearly 40 years.



When I was working in a small YMCA in a local city of Japan, I became aware of a group of business men and women who gathered once a month in our YMCA. That was the Y's Men's Club. I became a member in 1984. Since then, those members and their families have become close friends of mine, my wife and three children. Their support I received in my job and in my personal life has been very much appreciated.

When I had a dream of making a nursing home for the elderly in Japan, they were the ones who supported my ideas and helped the YMCA by fundraising. A huge donation from not only within the club, but also from many other Y's Men's Clubs in Japan, as well as various businesses related to individual Y's Men, were received for the first nursing home building by the YMCA.

I served my career in the YMCA at several places in Japan and abroad, too. Whenever I moved to a different city or country, I became a member of the Y's Men's club in the area I was working. There I always found the friendship and support I needed. For me, a Y's Men's Club is the best partner of the YMCA and I feel this is my role to make this relationship and partnership stronger.

Towards the end of 2020, the World Alliance of YMCAs proposed a project called 'Youth Led Solution'. YMCA's idea of youth empowerment could be actualised by youth challenging a project of various issues along the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals in their own communities. A number of young people can challenge a pilot project to solve community issues such as environmental issues. In order to complete their projects, they need good strategies and some seed money for effective and sustainable approaches. The funds could be arranged by YMCA and Y's Men to support some selected projects or introduce some companies to support the projects. This is one example of partnership work we could challenge with young people, by YMCA and Y's Men's Clubs jointly.

**Kohei Yamada, ISD YL**

**IP Discretionary Fund**

The International President has at his disposal a small fund he can use in emergency situations. We are living in difficult times and, unusually, the IP has had to exercise this option twice in quick succession.

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**India COVID-19 Emergency Appeal**

Following the announcement of CHF 20,000 in funding from the IP Discretionary Fund and Korea Area to support community health initiatives by clubs in India to serve and care for the recent upsurge of COVID-19 patients, IHQ received many enquiries about how clubs and individuals could further contribute and assist this urgent situation.

Considering the extreme evolution of COVID-19 in India recently and the proactive response of our clubs there, Y's Men International has launched an emergency appeal to provide urgent relief in India through its 'Heal the World' programme.

Money collected through the appeal will be used to support Indian clubs and the YMCA in their activities as a matching fund for helping hospitals and frontline health centres. Several club members and relatives in India have lost their lives to the virus, and many are infected and fighting to recover. Please continue to pray for people suffering all over the world and extend all possible support in your neighbourhood.

**>> India COVID-19 Emergency Appeal <<**

Donations can be made directly to IHQ by credit card or bank transfer through the website:

<http://www.ysmen.org/appeals/india-covid-19-emergency-appeal/>

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**Myanmar**

The challenging situation in Myanmar continues and we express our solidarity and support to our club members and YMCAs there. CHF 5,000 has been granted from the IP Discretionary Fund to assist their urgent relief work.



### Week4Waste Report

We now have a Week4Waste Facebook page, [you can visit it from here](#) and through this I have received reports from 30 clubs who between them have collected 12 tonnes of litter. I am sure there are many more clubs who worked during the week but have not reported. Please visit the pages and tell the world of your efforts. Many of the posts mention the good public relation results from members doing the clean-up work and showing yellow waistcoats with the YMI logo displayed. I would remind you that 18 September 2021 is the World Cleanup Day and I would ask Y's Men to show the yellow YMI waistcoats while working. We will be having a Week4Waste in 2022 in early April but I am sure many who took part in this year's effort will keep thinking of Mother Earth and collecting at all times until then.

A video about our Week4Waste activities has been created and can be viewed [here](#)

**Ulrik Lauridsen, Chairman of Week4Waste**

### Tell a Good Story.



### Support during the Pandemic

Hong Kong District of Southeast Asia Region has been busy during the pandemic. Although the pandemic disturbed many club meetings, two thirds of clubs committed to providing COVID-19 relief programmes by working with YMCAs for distribution of blessings bags, food, sanitisers, face masks and other required items. We appreciated the clubs' persistence with community service. Examples include **Hong Kong club** who donated 15,500 face masks to the Chinese YMCA for distribution to different people in need. **Island South club** warmly donated a small 'Poon Chai' (a traditional Chinese festival meal composed of many layers of food) to 130 home-alone elderly before the eve of Chinese Lunar Year, in collaboration with the Chinese YMCA Kwai Shing Centre. **Lumbini club** successfully applied for CHF 1,000 from the YMI COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund in June 2020 to organise relief and education and awareness programmes in Nepal. Over 200 low income migrant families benefited. **New Territories club** donated mooncakes and fruit to a Chinese YMCA elderly centre in the Mid-Autumn Festival.

**DG Joan Wong, Hong Kong District**



**Kosovo**



**Nairobi**



**Chiang Mai**



**Taiwan**



**Hong Kong Club**



**Island South Club**



**Lumbini Club**



**New Territories Club**