



Y's MEN INTERNATIONAL PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS' CLUB NEWS LETTER

MARCH 2020

Our Motto: "To acknowledge the Duty that accompanies every Right"

Service Club to the YMCA *

Club de service des UCJG

Service Club fur den CVJM *

Club de Servicio para la ACJ

Contents

- Congratulations to IPEE & ITEE
- From your editor Isaac Palathinkal
- Welcome to IC 2020 in Odense in August!
by PIP Henry J.Grindheim
- Useful tips from previous International
Conventions by PIP Benson Wabule
- My experience with YMI
by PIP Finn Pedersen
- My retired life & News at home
by PISG Takao Nishimura
- News from Area Europe
by AP Ulrik Lauridsen
- News from India Area
by AP V.A.Thankachan

Congratulations



Mr Kim Sang-chaе
(from Area Korea)
International President
Elect for 2020/21



T.M. Jose
(from Area India)
International Treasurer
Elect for 2020/21

Congratulations and good wishes to
IPEE Kim and ITEE Jose

From your editor – PIP Isaac Palathinkal



Dear PIP Club members,

It gives me immense pleasure to bring out the March 2020 issue of our PIP Newsletter.

We are coming to the fag end of 2019-20 activities. Let us pray to The Almighty to continue to give us the

strength and willingness to work for our Movement, within our best capability.

A few of our members fail to respond to our calls for articles for our Newsletter. May be, it is due to unavoidable situations.

I will continue to request articles from everybody in the

PIP Club. Even without asking, you may please send your articles to me for editing and publishing. Kindly send your photo as well as that of your family, along with articles of around 400 words.

Let us move on with prayers.

Thank you all.

PIP Isaac

(Note: Hope you will appreciate that the views expressed in the articles are those of the authors. You may contact them directly, if you need any further information on the article.)

Welcome to IC 2020 in Odense in August! by PIP Henry J.Grindheim



In August, we hope to see many of the PIPs in Odense, Denmark. The 74th International Convention takes place there from 13 to 16 August.

Region Denmark hosted the International Convention in Herning

in 2008. It was very successful. Some of you might be remembering the next International Convention that took place in Stavanger, Norway in 2012. It was also a great experience for all of us who participated.

Now you have the chance to make another visit to Scandinavia in general and to Denmark in special.

Become part of the adventure, as the Danes say. The famous storyteller Hans Christian Andersen was raised in Odense, and his legacy will definitely leave his mark on the convention and on the city.

The Danes have created an attractive website with a lot of information: www.ysmen2020.dk.

Take a look at this site! Here you can learn more about the convention and be inspired to go there. Here you will find all the necessary information about registration, the program, the selection of excursions, and information about various types of accommodation.

Odense is the third largest city in Denmark, very charming and is located about one hour by train from the Danish capital, Copenhagen. Reaching the Copenhagen airport, Kastrup, is easy. There are numerous direct intercontinental flights served by a lot of international airlines, arriving at the Copenhagen airport from all over the world. It is also possible to fly to Billund airport from several European cities and travel by bus from Billund to Odense. This journey takes about one hour.

If you plan to come, which I really hope you will, why not combine the journey with a visit to other parts of Denmark or to the other Scandinavian countries like

Sweden and Norway! To reach Finland or the three Baltic states is also easy. We shall be happy to assist you in planning such a Nordic visit.

To me, as a Norwegian, it has been a great pleasure working together with my very close Danish friends to prepare this wonderful event, showing the best of the Scandinavian Y's dom and culture.

Welcome to memorable and unforgettable days in Odense in August!

Henry J Grindheim
PIP and ICC of the IC 2020



Useful tips from previous International Conventions by PIP Benson Wabule



Dear members of PIPs club,

When PIP Club Chair Isaac Palathinkal requested me for an article for publication in the March 2020 issue of our Newsletter, I felt it may be useful to share with the readers of this PIP Newsletter my thoughts / tips

which I had, sometimes last year, sent to a few Y's Men Leaders. These tips touch on the programme of, and procedures at, International Conventions. Future International and Host Convention Committees may find these tips to be particularly useful.

I always had a pen and a notebook which I used to scribble down anything I felt was worth noting during all the 11 (eleven) International Conventions I attended from 1996 to 2016.

I have decided to share some of these notes, set out below, as you may find several to be useful during International Conventions.

Here are the "Tips":

1) If there is a "Daily Bulletin" during the Convention speak to the Editor and his / her Team including the

photographer to ensure the articles and photographs published in such Bulletin reflect the diversity of participants. In one International Convention it was embarrassing that most articles and photographs were about and for Y's Men from the host country.

2) Try as much as possible to ensure speeches come before or after meals not when meals are being served.

3) Avoid loud music when someone is on the microphone speaking.

4) The Ceremonial Parade" during the opening of the International Convention has always followed the following order and tradition:

A) IPE carrying the Bible and Gavel and leading the procession

B) IPIP carrying the Christian Flag

C) IP carrying the Y's Men's Flag

The lighting of the Candle is done by the IPE signalling a bright future for Y's Men International.

Opening of the Bible is done by the IP.

Declaring the Convention open is done by the IPIP.

5) The Closing Ceremony also follows some tradition which is as follows:

- A) The IPE closes the Bible and extinguishes the Candle.
- B) The IP declares the Convention Closed

6) The Recession Parade is as follows:

- A) The IPE carrying the Bible and Gavel and leading the recession.
- B) The IPIP carrying the Christian Flag
- C) The IP carrying the Y's Men's Flag
- D) The IYR carrying the Candle.

It may be useful and memorable if the Convention is brought to an end by a carefully selected farewell song.

7) The Flag bearing/Parade/ceremony should be conducted in total silence. No clapping, no laughter, no applause. The applause/clapping comes at the end when the last flag reaches its destination/is fitted in its place.

8) Announce in advance the type of meals that will be served. The Chief Marshal can do the announcement. While the Host Committee cannot possibly have the variety of meals to satisfy every delegate, efforts must be made to avoid a delegate or some delegates missing some meals because such delegate(s) are, for some reason, not able to eat what is provided in the main menu.

9) All and each Marshall must be courteous, cheerful, helpful and super active. Ensure some Marshalls are proficient in some languages and identified as such by the attire they are wearing.

10) Try as much as possible so the lighting in the Hall or rooms suits each event (where possible)

11) During short intervals play nice soft music, where possible.

12) Ensure screen displays are tested well in advance and are clear so delegates sitting at the back can clearly follow what is being shown on the screen, if it is only one. Presenters should be asked to be loud and clear

in their presentations so delegates can follow and enjoy the Convention events.

13) On Time Keeping advise all presenters in advance how much time they are allowed and the Time Keeper needs to be strict but courteous so all programmes are covered within the allocated times.

14) Check all the acoustics in advance to ensure they are all working well. Have standby "technicians" to deal with unexpected technical hitches.

15) Y's Men's paraphernalia such as watches, pins, pendants, belts, T-shirts, flags, should be common commodities on sale at International Conventions. These have been somewhat scarce in recent conventions.

16) Y's Men International has, over the years, had peaceful, enjoyable, memorable and incident-free International Conventions. However, the security and safety of each delegate should be a constant concern of the ICC and HCC. No complacency should be allowed and all possible security loopholes must be closed. Vigilance on the part of the ICC, HCC, Leaders, Marshalls and the delegates themselves will ensure we continue to have enjoyable, successful and memorable International Conventions in all the years ahead.

With very best wishes for an enjoyable and successful International Convention,

Y'sly and sincerely,

PIP Benson Wabule



Mary and Benson

My experience with YMI by PIP Finn Pedersen



Dear friends,

I became a member of Y's Men International (YMI) in 1982. My first club was Stavanger St. Svithun Y's Men's Club, which works with Stavanger YMCA-YWCA.

Some years later (in 1985) I became a charter member (Charter President) of Hinna Y's Men's Club. Hinna is a community with a local church in the city of Stavanger, Norway.

We started up as a club for men only, and we still are, like many of the "old" clubs in Norway. Most of the new clubs nowadays are mixed clubs with men and women paying fully members' dues, a development I fully support.

Our (my wife and me) first International Convention in 1988 (Kyoto, Japan) was for me an eye-opener for the international level of YMI. Thereafter, we have attended every convention (except 1 in 2004) up to 2018. Now, we are planning to attend 2020 and 2022 International Conventions.

We found this so interesting that we wanted to make it possible for other members of Y's Men in Norway to have the same experience. Hence I decided to coordinate group travels to International Conventions. Until now, I have taken the initiative to invite and plans group travels to approximately 15 tours and will still encourage members to attend International Conventions in order to get new friends, learn about Y's Men and have the opportunity to visit many different countries (cultural exchange). My vision have always been that "participation create engagement".

People of younger generations (age 40-50) in our part of the world is asking; "what can you do for me if I become a member of Y's Men"? If my answers are "fellowship", "service", "international outlook", "to make a better world...", "to mean something for your community" etc. etc., they are not interested.

In order to get new members, from younger generations (age 40-50) we need to think otherwise. We have to accept the younger generations "needs" and include/involve potential new members to discuss how our Movement should look like in the future. "Service" is no longer a word that the X and Y generations buy. I am happy that YMI has started the discussions about

"2022 and beyond" and it seems that we are about to streamline our Movement on the organizational level. I am not sure how much that means for our local clubs and members. All extensions are on the local level and we have to act from that point of view.

What we are doing on the top level, internationally, does not means much for our clubs and members. May be we shall start asking potential members; "How should YMI be, if you should join our movement?"

Thank you.

PIP Finn A. Pedersen



Ragnhild and Finn

My retired life & News at home by PISG Takao Nishimura



Just a year ago, I handed over my duty to my successor ISG JoseVarghese, which also meant my retirement day had started. However, I did not know what would be my "Retirement" plan and wanted to seek & hear God's plan faithfully and to abide by it accordingly.

Then just a year has passed and two projects seem to be very interesting to me, as I am continuing to serve Y's dom by stationing in Chiang Mai. One is the 'Y-Forest Coffee', which has been produced in Northern Thai Ahka Hill Tribe farm. Part of the proceeds go for supporting the Ahka tribe children dormitory home for schooling under support of Chiang Rai YMCA and the contribution from Kumamoto YMCA for many years. PIP Wichian is also a member of this Coffee Team of Chiang Mai YMCA. Now 3 major YMCAs in Japan (Kumamoto, Kobe & Osaka) are sharing and using this coffee for their fund raising.



Promotion of Y-Forest Coffee with IP Jennifer and PIP Wichian

The other project I am supporting is to set up the YMCA Hostel School in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which is neighbor country to Thailand. Lao is one of the countries which has no YMCA among Asia Pacific Area of YMCA. This project will need a lot of survey and preparation for getting the final school license from Lao, a socialist republic country. But this mission will certainly help young people getting jobs and improving economy of their country as well as becoming a source of quality human resource for the countries abroad, including Japan.



Preparation team including YL Kohei Yamada, PRD Ohno who is Honorary consul of Lao PDR in Kyoto

I never expected to station in Geneva 10 years ago and never thought to move to Chiang Mai where I retired after total 9 years as ISG. Then His plan is to allow me to station here to continue to do something for YMCA as a Y's Man. I go to Japan from time to time but Kumiko stays at home in Japan taking care of her both parents as well as taking care of two

lovely grandchildren. So naturally, she is enjoying her new life with more family members around with regular medical check after her fourth successful surgery. It is also fortunate that I enjoy cooking, washing and cleaning as a Scout and I can also enjoy Golf as a good exercise!

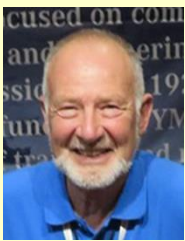
Thanks to PIP Isaac for giving this opportunity to share my new plan & life after retirement. God Bless you all,

Nishi (PISG Takao Nishimura)



*Kumiko and Nishi
at youngest daughter's wedding party*

News from Area Europe by AP Ulrik Lauridsen



I'm glad to inform you that we see progress, though minor, in formation of new clubs in Area Europe. A new club will be chartered in Estonia (Club Diakonia in Pärnu) on 29th February.

We also see a possibility to charter a new club in May in Italy and hopefully re-charter the former club Thessaloniki in Greece.

Portugal is still in our standby list. In addition, RD Wally in Central South is working hard to fulfil a new club in Setubal.

In Denmark and Norway, we are working regularly to establish new clubs, though a bit difficult. Denmark with a population of 5.3 million has 140 clubs. In Europe with a population of 740 million, we have around 250 clubs. Area India has around 350 clubs with 1.2 billion population. On a comparison, though we are doing well, we still want to increase membership in Russia and East Europe.

Central South Europe is a difficult area to form new clubs because already great social work is being done there by the strong church through their congregations. We are still trying our best.

A few of our Y's Men attended 175 years jubilee of the YMCA in London and we have initiated work with a lot of young and elder members of YMCA. Most of them

already know about Y's Men and some of them were positive to form clubs in their territory. We are in regular contact with them, appealing them to form new clubs.

Our ISG Jose Varghese is doing a fantastic job involving his YMCA friends in Europe for extending our Movement.

My motto for the AP year is "Smile and fellowship walk hand in hand". My message to clubs in Europe is 'Find your calendar and set dates for club meetings' and advise them to have more club meetings and feel the fellowship. With good fellowship, members will be more active due to the harmony of being together with Y's Men.

The Youth convocation in Odense has an exciting program. In Denmark, we have raised more than 18.000 dollars for scholarships to European delegates. We hope that around 100 international youth will meet, have fun and exchange good initiatives.

As one of the Regional projects in Denmark, Y's Men are monthly collecting almost 15 tons of used cloth and sending it for recycling.

Thank you and see you all in Odense.

Best regards

Ulrik Lauridsen, AP Europe



*Ulrik and spouse Pia Rix
with their grandchild*

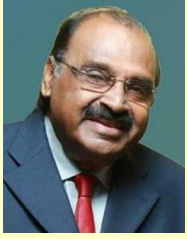


*Ulrik with Y's Men and
YMCA leaders*



*Used cloths collected in Denmark being sent for
recycling*





Dear PIP Ym.Isaac Palathinkal,
CONGRATULATIONS to you for being the Chair of PIP forum and taking much interest in the activities of Areas inculcating them how to get involved in promoting the ideals of our Organization.

As we all know, ours is an Association of people of all faiths working together based on the ethical teachings of Jesus Christ, having loyalty to the YMCA in building a better World for all mankind. The Motto itself proclaims the Duties with respect to the Rights, giving more emphasis from Rights to Duties.

From the very formation of India Area in 1983, it's in the forefront of the Organization in enrolling members as well as supporting the International Projects like TOF, EF (PWAFF, DPWAF and HONOUR ROLL MEMBERS) contributing a major portion, apart from serving the social needs of the local community as and when the situation warrants.

It's the passion of the members to cater the essentials for the common man. Our Area is taking up Service

Projects like Cancer care, Renal care (Dialysis and Kidney transplants), Home for Homeless, Services to the flood victims, Care of the Orphanages and Old age Homes etc. This year our Major Project is 'Cancer and Palliative care' spending more than Rs 30 million. We also do our best in providing financial support for education and in organising Youth development programmes.

I salute all the Members, Presidents, DGs and RDs for their priceless performance in the fields of various community services. Area India is very thankful to them and is very proud of them all.

A few photos are sent herewith, which reflects the various activities in Area India.

We are grateful to all the PIPs for giving us the much needed guidance and help to attain the status we have today and request them to continue the same in future too.

With warm regards,
V.A.THANKACHAN
 President, Area India



Financial help to a flood victim in the presence of IP Jennifer and ISG Jose



Financial help to a cancer patient



Educational assistance to a needy youth



Youth development camp 'Spark'

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries (April to June 2020)

Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Finn Pedersen	24 April	Dale Fotheringham	13 May
Lasse Bergstedt	27 April	Christian Bach Iversen	16 May
Janet McCoy	6 May	Donna Ward	30 June

Couple	Wedding Anniversary
Kazuyoshi Aoki & Kiyoko Aoki	28 April
Isaac Palathinkal and Susan	13 May
Dale Fotheringham & Jean Fotheringham	16 May
Joan Wilson & Stuart Wilson	21 May
Bruce Price and Rosalie Price	30 May
Clare Graham & Nancy Graham	30 May
Christian Bach Iversen and Marie Iversen	8 June

PIP Club members wish all of you many more happy returns of the day.

The PIP Newsletter is a quarterly publication of and for Past International Presidents providing information as well as serving as a vital link between PIPs and Y's Men International.