



NATIONAL SCOUT AND GUIDE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA

(Formally known as Australian Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides)

Administered by a National Joint Council for Australian Trefoil Guild, Baden-Powell Guild of Australia, and St George's Guilds in Australia Inc.

Trip Report

2nd Asia Pacific ISGF Committee Meeting

1st & 2nd February 2014

Manila, Philippines

Delegate: Richard Stuart-Smith – Treasurer, National Scout and Guide Fellowship of Australia.



Location: Manila, Philippines

Participants

Position	Name	Photo
Chairman	Mr Satish R. Khanna (India)	
Secretary	Mr Mazhar Ali Khan Mecci (India)	
Treasurer	Mr T. Gunaseelan (Malaysia)	
Committee Member	Mr Richard Stuart-Smith (Australia)	

Also:

- Mr Brian Jackson (Australia)
- Mr Brett Grant (Australia)
- Mr Abdullah Rasheed (Maldives)
- Mr Mohammed Ali Khalid (India)
- Dr Mukhuyuddin (Malaysia)
- Mr Wendal E. Avisado – Boy Scouts of the Philippines (Our host)
- Mr Rizal C. Pangilinan – Director of WOSM Philippines
- Various BSP Regional Team members Imelda Samson, Jesus F., Yasser F. Farona, Bienvenidos Toledo

(Note: Mohammed is a very popular given name and is often written as MD.)

Apologies:

- Mr Abdul Khaleque (Bangladesh)
- Munira Misry (India)
- Mr S. K. Akbar Reza (Bangladesh)

Day 1

1. **Mr Satish R. Khanna opened the meeting.** He is a founding member of India ISGF. Meetings of Asia-Pacific Region members have taken place in Bangladesh, India and now the Philippines. In keeping with the "Once a scout or guide, Always a scout or guide" the "formerly" (e.g. AFOFSAG – Australian Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides) has been moved away from. ASPAC Region should be seen worldwide and we need to promote ourselves.
2. **Address by Mr Rizal C. Pangilinan** – Director of WOSM Philippines – Asia-Pacific Region. Pleased to see representatives from India, Malaysia, Australia, the Maldives and the Philippines (apologies from Bangladesh). Change is necessary and inevitable. Partnership amongst the region is essential to success. All must strive to participate in activities and be visible in the Region and Internationally. WOSM have Vision 2023 and the key aim is to grow the organisation.
3. Mr Mecci stressed that **WAGGGS is also extremely important to ISGF.**
4. **Mr Wendal Avisado – Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP).** There are 118 local councils in the Philippines. Acknowledge the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) also. Bigger results can be achieved working together with the GSP. The B-P International Hotel aims to provide good accommodation at a reasonable price. USD\$10 to \$15 per night. There are 42 members elected to the National Board of BSP and it is enshrined in Philippines Legislation (Act 111). BSP also run the Scout Shop. Scouting started November 15th, 1914 in the Philippines.
5. **Message from Vice President of the Philippines, Mr Binnay.** It is a privilege to serve and help to give life to others. It's not just scouting, its humanity. We must constantly ask ourselves 'is it enough; can we do more?'. We must do our "fullest" (utmost) to teach the young. As Mother Theresa said "we gift of ourselves and our substance".
6. Notice that **Mr Eric Koo from the World Committee has died.** A minute's silence.
7. **ISGF News.** 102 Countries in the ISGF. Learning by doing is lifelong learning. Nepal has been receiving support from the Australia Trefoil Guild, as have the Flying Doctor's Service. 350 Kilos of toys donated to refugee children. Australia indicated challenges in getting toys to the destination. Stamp Bank is still operating. 8 Booklets in a sleeve are being produced to outline the ISGF History and Objectives. A softcopy will also be available. UNHCR acknowledged 6 years of ISGF assistance to help children. 25th October 2013 – 60th Anniversary of ISGF – Light the Lamp initiative was very well received and many joined in activities around the region. Cambodia is opening an ISGF branch. Myanmar (formerly Burma) is a work in progress to open an ISGF branch. 22nd February 2013 saw Founders Day celebrations. Twinning with another ISGF branch is still available. Ms Munira Misry attended the WAGGGS Conference in Japan on behalf of ISGF.
8. Nepal and Indonesia – No support to become an ISGF member at the National Level at present in these countries.
9. **Annual Fees** – remain at USD\$100 for each ASPAC Regional Member. (Australia paid USD\$100 to Mr Mecci at the meeting, thus avoiding additional Bank Fees).
10. The ASPAC committee is still keen to present (about 20 mins) at the World Conference in Sydney.
11. **Maldives, Malé ISGF** – Mr Abdullah Rasheed – The Maldives Scout and Guide Fellowship (Government Regulated) was made official on 15th April 2002 with 70 members (13 women and 57 men). One of the first events was a Photo Exhibition of Scouting and Guiding activities which included a quiz for kids. What is young people's reality? Explore with Trefoil and Baden-Powell Guilds. Scouts and Guides must work together as a linked team. ISGF is an Adult organisation and must support young people – not train leaders or children directly. Maldives first program was called "Clean Environment – Healthy Life". As a good turn, members collected garbage along the artificial beach. Awareness sessions are conducted to inform people about ISGF Maldives. In November 2011 a new badge was designed (when part of Central Branch). Initially the ISGF logo was in Maldives Flag colours, but as this was not suitable, it has been slightly re-designed to have the regular ISGF coloured symbol, which has been approved by the World Committee. On 8th February 2014 the badge and Constitution will be formally adopted by the Maldives membership. On 22nd February 2014, at the executive meeting, the Philippines will vote to become an ISGF member. It now has 163 members of which 35 are women (125 members required to become a full ISGF member). On 31st March 2014 it is anticipated that the ISGF will recognise that the Maldives has a full membership application.
12. **27th ISGF World Conference- Sydney, Australia.** Mr Brian Jackson presented on the conference being held 10th to 16th October 2014. 563 attended in Delhi, so Australia is hoping

for a similar attendance. It has only been in Australia once in 53 years. Business Events Sydney has helped to arrange.

Brief History of recent ASPAC and World Conferences / Gatherings:

- 2000 – Australia initiated, but Asian Flu forced cancellation
- 2002 – Vancouver, Canada
- 2005 – Lillehammer
- 2008 – Vienna
- 2009 – Kuala Lumpur
- 2011 – Bangladesh

Scarf will be dark / bottle green with a yellow woggle (green and gold Wattle tree colours of Australia). The Badge is a White background with an indigenous design of a map of Australia and a boomerang with the ISGF logo on Australia.

The pavilion will be used by the Rotary Club in June prior to ISGF use in October.

Food. There will be Kangaroo and Crocodile steaks as well as vegetarian and Halal meals available. Food is served buffet style. **Strict quarantine** laws exist in Australia and these were highlighted. **Airport greeters** will meet people arriving from overseas and see them to a bus. Hotels are in walking distance from the venue. **Harbour Cruise** will be on the Bella Vista and will go along the Parramatta River and will include dinner. The Cumberland Gang Show will provide some entertainment. The World Committee has asked for Sunday night to be a Fellowship Night. Tuesday will be the farewell dinner. Wednesday day tours will commence. Australia is doing 4 days of Conference and 1 day of tours to save the cost of the venue and equipment hire. A new promotional video was played.

Conference IDs / Tags

- Red – World Committee
- Green – Organising Committee
- Yellow – Delegate
- Purple – Volunteer

Round Dot Stickers on Conference IDs / Tags

- Red – English speaking
- Blue – French speaking
- Yellow – Multi-lingual

Note that the second page of the application is for people accompanying the attendees. This has proven a little confusing to some. **Cost is AUD\$650.** Already some fraudulent requests have been received from Ghana (people typically arrive under the auspices of attending and then abscond). **Applications must be approved by your country's ISGF secretary.**

India indicated that a business Visa has been suggested for the World Conference. Brian Jackson will look into this. Should only require a normal holiday Visa.

13. **Funding for the 12th Asia-Pacific Gathering** – Bangladesh are wanting to confirm that the €500 (Ringgit 15,000.00) has been paid back.
14. **Treasurer** – Mr Guna. No formal budget at this time as we are starting up. Virtually no expenses to date (everyone seem to be covering their own costs for administration etc. – special thanks to Mr Mecci for being so frugal. ISGF could fund a project – but project would need to be decided upon by the ASPAC Committee. There have been discussions about selling caps, badges and scarves, but these would only raise a few dollars. Mr Khanna suggested Golf fundraising days around the region and approaching successful businessmen and businesswomen that were former scouts and guides for donations.
15. Mr Rizal C. Pangilinan invited attendees to a dinner on Sunday.

Day 2

1. **Finance Update** – Mr Guna. Annual Accounts to be prepared. Will make financial matters transparent to all. He will engage a professional to review the books at no charge to the region.
2. **Foundation**. A charitable foundation is proposed as a possibility. Mr Mecci, Mr Guna and Mr Stuart-Smith to discuss and see if this is something that would be of benefit at the ASPAC Regional level – by 26 Oct 2014. To be a joint Regional decision of what to fund.
3. **Summary Mr Satish R. Khanna**. 65 Years a member and still learning from scouting. A great reception in the Philippines. Sufficient funds are needed in the Region to be able to move quickly when needed to provide financial support to the Region.
4. **Summary Mr Rizal C. Pangilinan**. Important to support by attending regional events. There will be a Regional Scout Conference in Korea the first week (3rd) of November 2014.
5. **Summary Mr Abdullah Rasheed**. Raising support for the Asia-Pacific Region in the Maldives. Japan 2015 – it would help if attendees would wear their ISGF scarves and jackets for visibility. People will come up and ask about ISGF. The ISGF website should have up to date links to the Regional websites. To be suggested. 2017 Asia-Pacific Jamboree being planned.
6. **Constitution**. Must be simple, flexible and functional. Suggested that Mecci, Rasheed, Brian and a Trefoil representative work on the constitution further. Should aim to adopt in 2015. Ideas should be contributed for the ASPAC constitution.

Notes of Constitution Discussion:

- ASPAC Support Fund to be defined along with its purpose.
- Add that if in doubt – refer to the ISGF Constitution and By-laws.
- Networking (Item 5 is a duplicate of Item 3 bullet 9).
- The Vice Chairman **must be** an NSGF Chairman
- There must be a minimum number of ASPAC Regional Members, otherwise the Regional Committee must close down. Suggest 4 countries minimum.
- Add rules to suspend or cancel a country and what if a country is to resign.
- 3 Months advice of meetings and voting is sufficient for the region (not 6 months)
- Invitations to be issued 12 months minimum before an event (not 24 months)
- Review funding by “.or division of Regional Expenses to each NSGF based on membership”. This may not be seen as fair or the best way to share the cost (item 11).
- Add that an annual financial statement to be prepared.
- Funds to be disbursed back to countries if ASPAC Region ever dismantled (not paid up to World level – as the countries gathered and raised the funds).

*** *Barbara Dean from Australia Trefoil Guild would like to volunteer to be on this sub-committee.*

7. **2014 World Committee Elections**. In 1996 India hosted the World Conference, but had no representation on the World Committee. ASPAC should nominate candidates for the world committee. Especially India & Australia to try and find candidates. Nominations are needed in the coming months (by 14th May 2014). Europe has more countries and more funds. 4 votes per country. Satish Khanna & Brian Jackson nominated last time. Regions presently represented by 2 Arabs, 1 German, 1 Curacao (island north of Venezuela / south of USA – Dutch colony). Africa find it hard to offer a delegate. The delegate from Libya retires at this upcoming world conference. ASPAC Region does not seem to have received any support or funding from the World Committee in the past year. 4 Positions will be available at the next World Conference elections. Australia perhaps has a better chance of winning a position as hosts of the World Conference. Ideally each Region should have the chance to speak at the World Conference. Request to be put to the World Committee. Would be good to hear of the success of the World Committee Chairman from the last year? What has been achieved? Countries visited? Progress made?
8. **2015 – Bangalore, India – 14th Asia-Pacific ISGF Gathering**. Dates – 20th to 24th September
Venue – Clarks Exotica Resort and Spa – Bangalore. 5 Star. 20 minutes from Bangalore Airport. About 1 hour from the city of Bangalore. 5 ½ days for USD\$325. Secretary Ms Munira Misry. Theme “Bridging Gaps and Melting Borders”. Suggested that organisers consider offering lunch only, so that attendees can choose cost and type of breakfast and dinner. 6 Dinners and 5 lunches at present. Perhaps one dinner can be sponsored? Venue website is <http://www.clarksexotica.com/>
9. **Networking with WAGGS**. There is an Australian Girl Guides Representative (Jane) that is heavily involved in the World Guide Centre in Sangam, India. They have suggested the best

way for ISGF to assist would be to sponsor 2 girls from Myanmar / Cambodia / Bangladesh / Vietnam for training. Flights and home-stay in India. Cost would be around USD\$800 or IR50,000 for each girl.

WAGGGS have an event in Hong Kong in September 2014 and Ms Munira Misry will attend. Mrs Brenda Kaur will also attend (Mr Guna's wife).

10. **New & Existing ASPAC NSGFs.** New Zealand – Mr Mike Crane – Concern over cost to attend in person. Mr Guna indicated that signs in Singapore for a Guild are encouraging, but no Trefoil contact at this time. Nepal – Contact made with a Mr Shriram – challenges at present. Sri Lanka – “done”. Indonesia – Mr Guna will follow-up. Philippines – WIP. Hong Kong – WIP. Taiwan – WIP. Maldives – 21st Feb 2014. Pakistan – WIP. Korea – no contact.
11. **Vision for ISGF.** Brett Grant mentioned leadership training was funded by ISGF - \$5,000. Support smaller countries in the Region with challenges in financing and establishment. Mr Mohammed Ali Khalid, Mr Mecci and Mr Khanna to follow-up ASPAC countries and encourage them to join.
12. **Calendar.**
 - World Jamboree – Japan
 - October 2014 – 27th ISGF World Conference Sydney, Australia
 - November 2014 – Asia- Pacific Conference – Korea (2 ASPAC committee members to attend)
 - February / March 2015 – ASPAC Committee Meeting – Singapore. Look at having Skype as well. (Malaysia possible alternative to Singapore).
 - September 2015 – 14th Asia-Pacific ISGF Gathering Bangalore, India
13. **Other Matters.** Address by Dr Mukhuyuddin – Malaysia. We need to “market” that there is something after Scouting and Guiding. A diagram helps to explain it best – the present structure can be confusing to new comers. In Malaysia, the organisation is enshrined in legislation (in the constitution). King Scouts are under the NSGF.
Mr Abdullah Rasheed mentioned that the Trefoil Guild now also recruits men and boys into the Trefoil Organisation in his country.
 The Baden-Powell Guild is part of the ISGF. The Australian Scout Fellowship is for former scouts only. There are 2283 Trefoil Guild members, 548 Baden-Powell Guild members and 21 St George Guild members that make up the NSGF(Australia), so Trefoil considerations are paramount.
14. **Closing Thank-you by Mr Satish R. Khanna.** Visit planned to the Coconut Palace on 3rd February to invite Vice President Binnay of the Philippines to the 27th World Conference.

Actions:

Action	Who	When
A charitable foundation is proposed as a possibility. Mr Mecci, Mr Guna and Mr Stuart-Smith to discuss and see if this is something that would be of benefit at the ASPAC Regional level	Mecci, Guna, Richard (NJC)	26-Oct-2014
Candidates for World Committee. To ASPAC by end March. Applications in by 14-May-2014.	NJC (Richard)	31-Mar / 14-May
Quarterly Updates. Send to aspac.sgf@gmail.com Continue	Committee Members of each country	10 th of the Months APR, JUL, OCT, JAN
Committee Member Updates. Send to aspac.sgf@gmail.com Continue	Committee Members of each country	8 th of the month