

*2ème*



These Christmas decorative lights are made of bamboo.

**Y'S MEN  
INTERNATIONAL  
ASIA PACIFIC AREA**

**DECEMBER 2023 BULLETIN 2ème**



## From the Editors



Only a few days remain in this year. What kind of year was it for you? Expressing the year with a single kanji character has recently become popular in

Japan. If I were to describe my year 2023 with one Kanji character, it would be "飛". 飛 means to fly or jump. I went abroad several times this year: to Taiwan in March to celebrate YMI's 100th anniversary, then to Korea and Hawaii for private traveling, Korea and Hong Kong for each Area Convention.

I flew a lot.

YMI has already begun to fly into its

next 100 years. The Asia Pacific Area is also making great strides under the leadership of AP Keiko Tonegawa as we continue to take on various challenges. Let us all aim higher and leap forward in our respective capacities. Next year will be a year of even more incredible leaps ahead.



[ctbqr809@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:ctbqr809@yahoo.co.jp)

前田香代子



Osechi ryori is a festive dish eaten during the New Year, written in Chinese characters as 'osechi-ryori' (御節料理). Osechi ryori was originally not only for New Year's Day. To celebrate New Year's

Day, the five Sekku festivals and other festive days, the food offered to the gods and eaten was called 'osechiku'. When this event spread to the general population in the Edo period (1603-1867), the dishes served on New Year's Day, the most important day of the year, came to be called 'osechi-ryori'. Originally, people offered local produce to express their gratitude for the harvest, but as people's lifestyles and culinary culture became richer, it became a feast that included produce from the mountains and the sea, and is said to have been the prototype for today's Osechi-ryori.

## MESSAGE FROM AREA PRESIDENT



### "Empower, Lead and Shine" -The 30th Asia Pacific Area Convention

Asi Pacific Area President  
**KEIKO TONEGAWA**

Handshakes, hugs, exchanging smiles.... Those scenes marked reunion with old friends and encounters with new friends during the 30th Asia Pacific Area Convention held from November 3rd to 5th in Hong Kong under the theme of "Empower, Lead and Shine."

This Convention will remain one of the milestones in the Asia Pacific Area history as the first face-to-face Area Convention after the coronavirus pandemic. We were convinced of the power and strength of the physical meeting in uniting people. This opportunity empowered us to lead and shine in the Club, District, Region, and Area with reaffirmed unity.

Another feature of this Convention was the inauguration of collecting a 10 USD environmental levy per participant. Our keen interest in green environmental activities led us to establish the Area Environmental Fund, and the levies will go into the Fund to increase and enhance environmental projects. Again, we were empowered to lead and shine in our endeavor to make the Earth greener. Furthermore, inspiring and lively cultural and artistic performances made the

Convention empowering, outstanding, and memorable. I must thank the Area Convention Committee chaired by Past Area President, Ym. Hiroyuki Tanaka, and the Host Convention Committee Chair, Past Regional Director, Ym. Alex Chan, and General Secretary, Area President-Elect, Yw. Joan Wong, for the hard work put into planning and conducting the Convention. I also thank the Hong Kong District for its wholehearted support of the Convention. Last but not least, my sincere gratitude goes to the participants who traveled to Hong Kong from inside and outside the Area. Your dedication and commitment are the strength of the Area. You helped empower the Area, and you will lead and shine for the future of the Asia Pacific Area. Thank you so much.

### Sponsor Clubs Wanted!

To charter four new clubs in Nepal, SEA-RD Deepak needs their sponsors clubs. Though sponsor clubs have no financial responsibility, it is expected to render service to a new club until the new club becomes sustainable. Helping a new club is a commitment, but it is a rewarding experience. Let's help RD Deepak to complete his extension endeavor.

Please contact RD Deepak

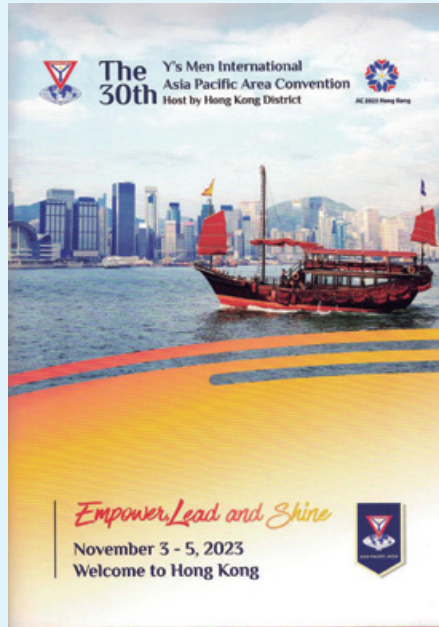
✉ [deepak02004@gmail.com](mailto:deepak02004@gmail.com)

# 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)

## COVER STORY



### Christmas Market Kumamoto

Creating a space that is "uniquely Kumamoto" with bamboo lighting and local production for local consumption

The "Christmas Market" is a German-born event held during the four-week preparation period called "Advent" leading up to Christmas on December 25. Small wooden stalls called "hütte" are lined up around a Christmas tower in the town square, selling Christmas goods such as candles and wreaths, as well as food, hot wine, and sweets, attracting many people.

We would like to hold such a Christmas market in Kumamoto as well! In 2018, six founders established an executive committee with about 100 volunteer citizens. Together with about 100 volunteer citizens, they held the event at HANABATA Plaza, which was the beginning of "Christmas Market Kumamoto".

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Christmas Market Kumamoto



Greetings of the Holy Season with the Peace with Justice.

October 7, 2023 is likely to be a day that will go down in world history. There was a large-scale military operation by Hamas

from the Gaza Strip in Palestine, with many deaths and kidnappings. And in retaliation the terrible bombing has taken place on the city of Gaza by Israel as an expression of hatred and anger. The attacks from Israel are now unfolding and growing.

We must be cautious when facing these world historical events. There is a danger that our words and attitudes will be collected and used as nothing less than "fuel for war." "Adding fuel to the fire" in this case directly leads to an increase in casualties. However, not saying anything or not saying anything will only exacerbate the situation. In fact, each of us has been caught up in and cornered by this incident - I think it is most important to recognize this current situation as fact.

On top of that, we must look at what is happening now, talk about it, and look for what we can do.

What is very important is that this battle is connected to the "Russia-Ukraine War." The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine is perceived by Russia as a "special military operation to wipe out Nazism." And the memory of Nazism is behind Israel's continued horrible attacks that are impeached to be "outrageous" from the world conscience. I believe that we are now in the midst of a huge event that try to bring the 20th century to a close.

On top of that, I would like to keep in mind that

this historical event has been "hijacked." There are "Jews" all over the world. Those people are now scared. This is because the military operations being carried out by the Republic of Israel are extremely cruel. And, by the other side, approximately 20% of the people of the Republic of Israel are Arabs (i.e. Palestinians). Those people must be spending their days holding their breath in the midst of a huge whirlpool of hatred.

Events that define history always unfold based on the political decisions of some "someone." And as if hijacked by these "someone," people in countries and regions are being thrown into chaos. I am painfully reminded that throughout our history, whether it is the issue of "comfort women" or the issue of "Hiroshima and Nagasaki," this has always been the same.

Among these, the existence of YMCA is valuable. This is because it becomes a channel that connects directly to "those who are being hijacked." There are YMCAs in Russia, Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, and "between Israel and Palestine." Since we are currently being hijacked, we are naturally forced into severe inconvenience. However, the channel remains. We can take advantage of this. I believe that the first step towards peace begins only from there. Since we have no freedom, we can only take very small, unassuming steps. But it's a solid step. It's a real step in a different dimension from jumping up and down in your imagination. I am inspired to take a timid but firm step toward peace.

Naoya Kawakami, Rev. Dr., CE Japan East



**To those who attended the Convention :**

As the Area Convention Committee Chairperson, I hope and trust that you had a very satisfying Convention. I hope that you have realised that you are part of an international volunteer organisation, that our organisation is based on fellowship and that the Asia Pacific Area is one. Please, continue to nurture the friendships you made at the Convention. Take the energy and inspiration from the Convention and apply it to your Y's life in the future. Share your experiences with those in your clubs who were unfortunately unable to attend the Convention. Your participation made the Convention a success. Thank you very much.

**To the Host Committee:**

My greatest compliments and thanks to you for organising and running an excellent Convention. We will never forget your generous contribution of effort and financial support.

Please be confident that you have performed your role as host committee very well and I hope that this experience and unity will help Y'sdom in Hong Kong to grow much more. I also hope that the bonds with the YMCA of Hong Kong and the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, which have greatly supported on this occasion, will be strengthened even further.

With thanks to each and every one of you.

The 30th Asia Pacific Area Convention  
Committee Chairperson  
Hiroyuki Tanaka





In the history of the Hong Kong District, no international conference has been held since the International Conference (IC) in Hong Kong in 2000. This time, the 30th Asia-Pacific Area

Convention was of great significance. First of all, it was a physical convention since the pandemic, and it was attended by delegates from all seven Regions. We had an encouraging number of 313 participants overseas and local delegates. Including guests, YMCA volunteers and performers the number was 360.

In addition to the donation of USD 12,820 by the Hong Kong District, each club had representatives to participate in the planning and make great efforts for the organization, whether veteran or young members. I would like to express my gratitude to YMC Island East leading by AT James Kong, PDG Tony Chan, APE Joan Wong for their active overseas promotion and the warm hospitality for overseas delegates during their stay in Hong Kong.

The success of the event was also supported by the YMCA of Hong Kong and the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, offering super discounts on lodging.

I highly appreciate Dr Cheng Cheuk-Sang, President and Mr Karl Lau, General Secretary, both from the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, for their extraordinary support of the Convention, not to mention their staff volunteering for the two- and half-day programmes during the Convention. I also had a special acknowledgment to Ym Ronald Yam, Deputy President of World YMCA, also a member of YMC Hong Kong for his generous sponsor to this event.

Two years later, the Asia Pacific Area Convention will be held in Kumamoto. I hope that the 2025 Host Committee will succeed the experience from Hong Kong and make the event a successful one too. Lastly, I wish all the Asia Pacific Area Y' s Men and Women a happy life and see you again in Japan.

PRD Alexander Chan,  
Host Committee Chairperson  
The 30th Asia Pacific Area Convention



From the left: Ronald Yam, Deputy President of WorldYMCA, PRD Alexander Chan, Host Committee Chairperson, Dr. Cheng Cheuk Sang, President of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, Karl Lau, General Secretary of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong



Under the leadership of Taiwan Region Director YU Tao-sheng, 42 club members/menettes, the highest number among all countries, went to Hong Kong to participate this great event. In addition to the meeting and conference discussion, they actively seized this opportunity to have fellowship with IBC brothers and friends from all over the world. All the joy was fully demonstrated in the gala dinner of the regional performances. I took this opportunity by taking subways and buses to visit the major scenic spots, the monuments, the exhibition, and Victoria night view. In the afternoon of the last day, I lingered in the Hong Kong Palace Museum for Sanxingdui cultural relics exhibition and the antiques of Qing and Ming Dynasty until the radio called for closing, urging the reluctant mind to leave. The memories not only deeply existed in my heart but also had turned into a frame of beautiful photos.

by Milly Luo, Club President of Taipei Union Club  
2023.12.14



Milly

I have been a member of the Y's Men's Club for four years. It was the first time I took part in a convention overseas. In fact, it was also the first time in my life that I travelled abroad.

The exchange with Y's Men from overseas in broken English, delicious food, excursions, and night view of Hong Kong were some precious experiences I could not usually enjoy.

I would definitely like to participate in the next Area Convention in Kumamoto and reunite with the people I made friends with this time.

Japan East Region Tokyo-Tama-Smile YMC  
Takahiro Shiota



SHIROTA

## PARTICIPANTS

6 Observers

**Morris Kimuli**

Africa South East Region

**Rose Yun**

Ex-Area Office Coordinator

**Selina Chan**

District Governor, Hong Kong

**Rev. Dr. Steve Koe**

District Governor-Elect, SMIT

**Edward Ong**

Past Asia Pacific Area President

**Gabriele Lee**

Area Office Coordinator

5/5 Area Executive Officers

**Charming Shen**

Immediate Past Area President (IPAP)  
/ International President – Elect (IPE)

**Keiko Tonegawa** Area President

**Joan Wong**

Area President – Elect

**Mark Eugene Tan** Area Secretary

**James Kong** Area Treasurer

### 5/7 Regional Directors / Quorum

**Kohei Yamada**

Regional Director – Japan East Region

**Satoshi Fukaya**

Regional Director – Japan West Region

**Ranjith Dayarathna**

Regional Director – Sri Lanka Region

**Deepak Bhandari**

Regional Director – Southeast Asia  
Region

**Tao-Sheng Yu**

Regional Director - Taiwan Region

13/27 Area Service Directors

**Yasuharu Hinachi**

ASD – BF Promotion / BF Philatelist

**Kayoko Maeda**

ASD – Bulletin Editor

**Rachan Maneekam**

ASD - Extension and Membership  
Conservation

**Tetsuya Itamura**

ASD - Endowment Fund

**Colin Lambie**

ASD - Green Activities & Environment

**Frank Tsai**

ASD – International Brotherhood Clubs

**Rita Hettiarachi**

ASD – Leadership Training  
and Organizational Development

**Andy Fu**

ASD - Public Relations

**Tadashi Tanoue**

ASD-RBM

**Mitsuko Morita** ASD – Step iGo

**OHNO Ben Tsutomu**

ASD – Time of Fast

**Sam Nakai**

ASD – Y's Extension Support (YES)

**Natsuki Kazama**

ASD - Youth Representative (YR)

### 3/5 Committee Chairs

**David Lua**

Area Development Committee Chair

**Hiroyuki Tanaka**

Finance Committee Chair

**Colin Lambie**

Environmental Committee Chair

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order by AP Keiko Tonegawa
2. Opening Prayer
3. Y's Men Hymn by AVP
4. Roll Call by AS Mark Tan
5. Welcome Remark by AP Keiko Tonegawa
6. Update on YMI Developments by APE Joan Wong
7. To report the result of the e-ballot of 2025 AC & AYC Venue
8. To Adopt the Agenda
9. To Approve the 19 August 2023 ACM Minutes
10. To Approve the Audited Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023
11. To approve the budget for the Financial Year 2023 to 2024
12. To Receive the Reports of AEOs
13. To receive the report and action plans from RDs
14. To receive the report and action plans from ASDs
15. To receive the report and action plans from the Committee Chairs
16. To review and approve the YES Distribution plan
17. Update on the future meetings, trainings and conventions
18. Other Matters
19. Closing Remark
20. Closing Prayer



Motion 1

That the 19 Aug minutes of the meeting should be sent first to be approved.

RD Satoshi Fukaya moved, RD Ranjith Dayarathna seconded. (5 Yes, 2 Absent - Motion Carried)

Motion 2

That AEOs would convene and confirm the amounts of subsidies for corresponding parties to corresponding events.

RD Deepak Bhandari moved, RD Kohei Yamada seconded (5 Yes, 2 Absent - Motion Carried)

Motion 3

That the report ought to have a copy furnished.

RD Kohei Yamada moved, RD Satoshi Fukaya seconded. (5 Yes, 2 Absent - Motion Carried)

Motion 4

That the transfer of office premises of the Asia Pacific Area office in HK starts by December 2023.

RD Deepak Bhandari moved, RD Satoshi Fukaya seconded. (5 Yes, 2 Absent - Motion Carried)

Motion 5

That a vote of thanks to APE Joan Wong and host committee for a successful AC 2023.

AP Keiko Tonegawa moved, RD Deepak second. (4 Yes, 1 went out, 2 Absent - Motion Carried)

Motion 6

That ASD-Green Activities and Environment would explore a financial gateway of collection for environmental fund solely for Asia Pacific Area.

RD Kohei Yamada moved, RD Ranjith Dayarathna seconded. (5 Yes, 2 Absent - Motion Carried)

# AC Day 1 Programme November 3, 2023

Official Programme	Registration
1:00 pm – 3:30 p.m.	Gather at hotel lobby and take shuttle bus to host venue – International Banquet Hall
4:00 pm	Reception (Cocktail with refreshment) & free time for photo taking
4:30 pm	March-in & Flag Ceremony, Y's Men Hymn, Prayer & Devotion
5:30 pm	Welcoming Speech Pre-opening Performance : Lion Dance ( all the distinguished guests on the stage) AP Speech Keynote Speech by Government Official AP Speech / AP & APE Installation/ Officiating Guests including President of Chinese YMCA and YMCA of Hong Kong /APAY Nam Bon Won
7:30 pm	End of Ceremony Break & Fellowship
7:45 pm	Banquet /Speeches and Chinese Cultural Performances
9:45 pm	Shuttle bus to Hotel lobby /Good night



Welcoming address by ACCC/PAP Hiroyuki Tanaka



Address by Nam Boo Won, General Secretary of APAY



Lion Dance



Ronald Yam, Deputy President of World YMCA



Si-Chuan Face-changing Performance



Shaolin Kung Fu Performance



Keynote speaker : Mr. Cheung Kwok-Kwan, SBS, JP Deputy Secretary for Justice, Hong Kong Special Administrative



Hong Kong Children' s Choir

## AC Day 2 Programme November 4, 2023

9:00 am	Gather at YMCA of Hong Kong /The Cityview Hotel Lobby
9:30 am	Departure for Excursion (3 groups)
5:00 pm	Reception (Cocktail with refreshment) & free time for photo taking
6:00 pm	Gala Dinner & Regional Performances & IC Promotion
9:30 pm	Shuttle bus to hotel /Good night



YMI Festival Promotion



Shishimai, Japan East Regional Performance



Sumo, Japan West Regional Performance



Singing, Philippine & Australia Regional Performance





Singing, Taiwan Regional Performance



Dancing, Southeast Asia & Sri Lanka Regional Performance

## AC Day 3 Programme November 5, 2023

8:30 am	Gather at the lobby of YMCA of Hong Kong or The Cityview/ Shuttle Bus to Host Venue – Chinese YMCA Kowloon Centre
9:15 am	Thanksgiving Service
10:00 am	YMI Session by IPE Charming Shen /Area Session by AP /AS /ASDs
11:15 am	AYC report
11:45 am	Speech by HCC /Handover AC to next host committee / Closing prayer / Fellowship moment Lunch Buffet
2:00 pm	Shuttle bus to YMCA of Hong Kong/Departure



AP Keiko Tonegawa and Area Team 2023 to 2024



Presentation about ASP Area by AS Mark Tan



Fund Raising Appeal for Green Activities



AYC Reports





YSC Lumbini, Nepal & Sendai-Aobajoh, Japan Signing IBC



YMC Tokorozawa & Kawagoe, Japan and YMC Pangasinang, Philippine Signing IBC



Korea Area President Han II-Wook with his Delegates



AC2025 Kumamoto, Japan Promotion

# Y's Men International The 30th Asia Pacific Area Convention





Put Taro to sleep and snow on his roof.  
Put Jiro to sleep, and snow will fall on Jiro's roof.  
Tatsuji MIYOSHI "SNOW"

Take a picture of your Christmas and email it to me.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a glorious New Year.



[ctbqr809@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:ctbqr809@yahoo.co.jp)



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