

AsianVoices

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Editors:
Nurul Syahida, Hanae, Maria

Service Civil International

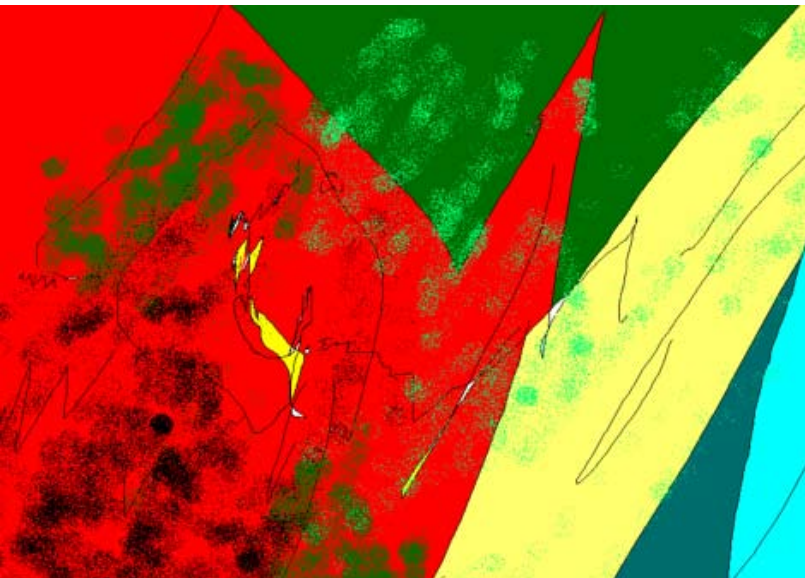


Hi Everybody! Welcome back to The second year of AV!

For this issue theme, we would like to focus on Motivation and Dream of 2010. We received wonderful piece from the branches and hope we could all share and learn this wonderful aspiration, dream and goal with all SCI branches around the world. This issue we would also like to portray wonderful drawing from the children of the Blue Rose in Sri Lanka. To our new ADC chair 2010, Mr Jayaprasad of SCI India, the AV's editors would like to wish you all the best! The AV editorial team also would like to welcome Maria Nah of SCI Malaysia, as the AV creative consultant.

SCI will be celebrating its 90th birthday. We hope that all the branches keep up the good work, good spirit, keep on motivating youth and community in spreading the wonderful world of PEACE!

Best wishes & regards: Nurul Syahida Ahmad Said, Hanae Tsujimoto & Maria Nah
The AV Team 2010



This is by Chameera



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Motivation and dream of 2010

AUSTRALIA

Contribution by International Volunteer for Peace Australia by Richard Hord

Our goals for 2010 are to get more people involved in volunteering for peace, and to help our management committee to become a more dynamic group. Why are these things so important?

Over the past few years the number of new and renewing members of IVP has steadily declined. In 2009 we had 64 new and renewing memberships, compared to 70 memberships in 2008 and 84 memberships in 2007.

In 2009 for the first time in almost the entire history of IVP we did not have a workcamp within Australia, although we were very happy to actively support the fourth successive workcamp in Vanuatu.

At this time the main energies of IVP are going into making the Asia-Pacific Peace Education Seminar (APPES) in July a success. There is now a working group, a project manager and a dedicated website for organising and promoting this event, and a prep-team for developing and running the program. There will also be a 10-day workcamp held immediately after the seminar. We also need to face the uncomfortable reality that volunteering in a management committee can be difficult, especially in maintaining the level of enthusiasm and energy that we start out with. My personal fear as coordinator of IVP over the past few years is that we set up the committee to fail each year because we aren't able to give each person a clear idea of their responsibilities or encourage and facilitate them in matching their enthusiasm and willingness to contribute with something concrete to do.

So what will we do? It is very important that as an organisation IVP capitalise on interest shown in the seminar by Australians with a view to increasing membership of IVP, participation in workcamps, and the development of new Australian workcamps. It is also vital that we all raise our voice and tell people and organisations who we are and what we do. Some of our main action



areas will be:

- Continue to support local groups of IVP in Melbourne and Brisbane (IVP is a national organisation but based in Sydney)
- Produce and distribute information to prospective volunteers and potential partner organisations (for future workcamps)
- Participate in/organise marketing/publicity activities
 - Passive activities, eg. flyers and brochures at distribution points
 - Programmed activities, eg. information nights
 - Opportunistic activities, eg. guest speaker opportunities, networking

We must strengthen the management committee and administration. Activities for this include:

- Improved processes and information for recruiting and engaging prospective volunteers.
- An orientation workshop for the 2010 committee, covering expected roles and responsibilities, planning of new and ongoing activities, and team work in a voluntary environment. The particular objective is to encourage and facilitate committee members in matching their enthusiasm and willingness to contribute with something concrete to do.
- Making progress in getting more people involved in volunteering for peace, but also to
 - be aware of the resources that we already have
 - take small calculated bites of the elephant
 - celebrate every step taken in spreading the word!

Finally we must secure IVP financially by attracting more members and workcamp participants, and through fund raising activities.



MALAYSIA



Contributed by Sona Ammasi, an active volunteer since 1997, participated in the Asia-Europe Exchange Programme (AEEP) in Italy & France in 2002

Dreams are visions for the future that keeps us moving forward. Most of the dreams are to be better than what we are now and we plan to make the dream a reality. This drive to move forward towards making the dream become a reality gives us strength and come out of any difficulties or problems that we have in our branch as one day, the problems we have faced and solved in running the branch will be the guidance in meeting forth coming challenges in making the dream a reality.

What are the dreams that I have in making it a reality for my SCI branch? Well, first and foremost, I want my branch to be the most organized and well structured in the region. To be well organized, it needs good leadership, good team players i.e. members with the same vision and mission and of course this comes along with good team spirit and determination. Being a non-governmental organization, we have to work hard for whatever we want to ensure the progress and stability of the branch including funds.



Secondly, my branch must have sufficient fund or more funds in order to organize much better work camps and also to meet the expenses of the branch. More fund raising activities must be held and members must have a target to meet as far as fundraising is concerned. This will ensure the stability of the branch and ease of mind when coming to organizing meetings, workcamps or any other related activities.

To ensure stability and a good structure, there must be enough

manpower to man the same. There must be more members. My third dream is for the public to approach us to be a member of SCI and be a family of SCI for a long period. The public must see the benefit they will get by joining SCI. Therefore, more benefits must be created within SCI in order for the public to be ever willing or

volunteer to join us. Some of the benefits could be small study loans (from the fundraising done), certificate from Official Departments certifying students who have performed certain man hours of voluntary work that will carry weight when applying for jobs and other similar benefits.

My next dream is to link SCI with all the higher learning institute, colleges etc so that the Administrators and Students are aware of the existence of such a organisation like SCI that can arrange volunteer and intercultural exchange program and workcamps where they are able to travel overseas and expose them to the outside world. This will make the students better in understanding problems not only in our country but also the outside world and this 'adventure' will assist in assimilating themselves naturally in any environment, culture or society. This should make them better problem solvers in the future which is much needed for the progress of the country.

For now, SCI Malaysia only has two branches i.e. SCI Penang and KL. My dream is for more branches all over Malaysia which is self-sufficient and operates independently however with a coordinating HQ. All the branches to meet up once a year to celebrate SCI day which is held in a carnival-like funfair mode with games and introduction of SCI to newcomers or visitors to the event. The staff of these branches could be volunteers however consideration for paid staff is important to ensure continuity.

And my final dream is to link up with all the other Non Governmental Organisation in Malaysia in having one purpose and sharing the same dreams, the main purpose being "Peace" oriented. There must be meeting of the minds that people from diverse backgrounds and organizations meet up once a year, 'NGO Peace Meeting' or for the "Volunteer Day" or for the "International Day of Peace", to create more activities and share ideas to make our country a more peaceful and caring country with activities that are shared by all.



BANGLADESH

Joint programme of SCI Japan and Bangladesh
for the Project of SCI Asia



Tropical Cyclone 'SIDR' has stricken in 2007 which has left harrowing tales in more than 28 districts (almost half of Bangladesh) affecting at least 31 million people. The hurricane traumatized the people caught in its wake. As per official estimate more than two thousand five hundred people have died. According to International Agencies like the Red Crescent Society the figure is likely to exceed 10,000. Crops which would have been harvested in a couple of weeks had been washed away by the tidal surge.

People who survived the hurricane were fighting to just stay alive with hardly any food or shelter. Most houses had been swept to the ground including primary schools, the only educational institution in the remote coastal area and livestock washed away. Thousands of people were spending nights under the open sky. Various government and non-government organizations, voluntary groups had come forward to extend their hands in rescue operations, relief and rehabilitation work.

In such a dismal time of national disaster the volunteers of SCI Bangladesh expressed their solidarity and contributed their voluntary service to start the relief operations and rehabilitation work immediately and also organised several international work camps with kind support (Moral and financial) and active role of namely SCI IS, SCI Japan, SCI Croatia, SCI IVS GB, AUI France (who

sent their volunteers) and other SCI Branches worldwide.

Its now almost 2 year passed after the cyclone SIDR, the affected poor people has just turned to their normal course of life to survive. Under the circumstances, SCI Japan and Bangladesh jointly conducted a base line survey regarding the need of the affected area. The one month long work was done by 2 volunteers from Japan and one from Bangladesh. The result of the survey says that there is a huge need of cyclone shelter in the affected area. There are very few number of cyclone shelters, and they are very few in terms of actual number required.

In this circumstance SCI Japan and Bangladesh jointly decided to build cyclone relief shelters in the affected area. In this connection we jointly decided to arrange a International design competition around the world for the cyclone relief shelters. It would be the

project of SCI Asia. It would be the multipurpose cyclone shelter. During the cyclone people of the community take shelter and other time shelter would be used for the school or the community Clinic or Community activities.

Recently Toyoda san and Fujimaki san from Japan has visited the site from February 28 to March 06, 2010. Two volunteers from SCI Bangladesh were also with them. During the visit Toyada san and Fumaki san also had a meeting with the local Govt. Engineering department , local District Administrator where they discussed about the technical matters and sought for the cooperation of the local community including government support. Toyoda san also had a meeting with the senior member of SCI BD.

We all need the support and cooperation from all corners of SCI world to materialize this project which is initiated jointly by SCI Japan and Bangladesh. This project would be a permanent SCI Asian project where volunteers from all over the world can come and take initiative for the social good causes.



South view from proposed building location.



North view to proposed building location from the opposite side of the pond in the property.



Looking at proposed building site at south-west corner



Looking at proposed building site at south-east corner



A view around project property



A typical existing cyclone shelter

NEPAL

SCI Nepal has been busy – organising and participating in several activities... We held a very successful Blood Donation drive at the historic Dattatraya Square where in just 4 hours we had 87 donors. Together too with Rotary Bhaktaour we organised a cleaning and gardening program in public place which is much appreciated by the local government and community. By this too we are helping to instil a love for nature and cleanliness for the community. During the 17 to the 22nd March – we were actively involved in a National event with the Small Earth Nepal and other partner organisations in holding a Photo Exhibition to promote and show case the beauty of our heritage and culture.



JAPAN

Our MOTIVATION for 2010 summer, we will organize 3 workcamps in Japan and we support Hong Kong team's 2nd workcamp in Hong Kong. For recent several years, SCI Japan could have organized 2 workcamps in summer, but this year is one step forward with three workcamps. And as you remember the last year, we could do Hong Kong summer workcamp with Ms. Pat (Hong Kong member) and Sameera (SCI Sri Lanka). It was successful. This time, Ms. Pat already set up the workcamp schedule in Hong Kong! We will (very) welcome the participants from abroad for our 2nd Hong Kong camp!



Rice planting with the community

Not only the summer workcamps, we will organize weekend workcamps in Japan.

Now, how we ensure the camp leaders for our activities???

For several years we have passed the knowledge how to lead the camp for each time when the newer members try to be the camp leaders. But this year, our one of the big event is to organize camp-leader training camp! It will take place in the beginning of May with newer members and quite experienced members. As one of the prep-team, I am enjoying the meetings for the preparation. So we have DREAM that through the leadership training camp, more newer members will be motivated to be active in the SCI activities in the world!!!

And another big DREAM is to reactivate the SCI movement in other part of Japan. For recent years, we had our activities mostly in the East Japan. But from this year, we hope some members get together in the West Japan and start activities little by little. Although all of us have work or study, we think we can do something if we get together.

These are the Dreams and Motivation for 2010 from SCI Japan. We will send you our news how our Dreams come true through the Asian Voices!

Wishing your branch/groups' dreams come true, too!

Amities



Making rice cakes at Leaders Camp last May

MAURITIUS



This 12 March 2010, Mauritius will be celebrating its 42 years of its accession to the status of an Independent State obtained in 1968. Mauritius was also proclaimed as a Republic 24 years later bringing an end to the colonial days. It is for this reason that we will also be celebrating our 18 years as a Republic on that same occasion. An evaluation of the evolution of our mentality as a young Nation is well indicated these days to know exactly of what we are about to celebrate.

Mauritius has signed a number of United Nations Convention and is fully a Democratic State as its citizens fully enjoy freedom of movement and speech. There are also clear parameters between the Legislative, the Executive and the Judiciary in the Constitution. The Welfare State policies adopted by successive governments have greatly helped to install a climate of peace in Society. One of the reasons for Mauritius to have successfully surfed well during the present World Economic and Financial crisis is its adaptability to changes and its propensity to innovation.

There is however no guarantee that the main dangers facing our little paradise are over as we are getting more and more entangled in the global net-work. The religious and cultural values are being eroded and the neo colonial mentality is gaining momentum. The Common Good, Human Dignity has no meaning to satisfy the greedy appetite of Consortiums that do not hesitate to grab Cultural heritage and ignore Ecological threats to go ahead and make easy money. Having no consideration for others and no limits to enrich one-self i.e., "Craz cor, plein tank" mentality will definitely endanger our species.

Empowerment programme and Awareness Campaign has so far failed to give the desired result, the cunning strategy of divide and rule taking control of the situation. The War Lords seems to be still in command in many places of the world. Politicians have always been using them to reach their ends. There should be proper forum to address the questions of reserved Seats based on ethnical representation, the language issue "Creole" and recently, Abortion and Death Penalty. Some fundamental rights should not be ignored and any major change in the constitution should be preceded by a referendum.

The 50th Anniversary of SVI is an excellent opportunity to promote more deeply the Peace Culture that was initiated by the IVS Volunteers over here during the years of Pre-Independence and Post- Independence of Mauritius. It culminated last year in the organisation of the 69th International Committee Meeting (ICM-2009) at Pointe Aux Sables in Mauritius with participants from 35 member organisations. Pacifist Voluntary Projects have spread all over the world since the creation of Service Civil International in 1920. The "Peace Education Caravan" will be our major project this year.

As we proceed to celebrate these four anniversaries, we will no doubt cast a special thought to Pierre Ceresole, Edwin de Robillard and Parsiven (Kadress) Chengapen who are no longer among us. Their peace message to stop: "C C P T" remains vivid in our minds and we are confident that all the "Peace Messengers" over the world will continue to draw their inspiration from their actions.

Loveetah

This 11th March 2010
(President)



KOREA



Weekend service of SCI-Korea [Title : Working bees]
2010 Spring Program – April 3 ~4th
Place In Ganghwa-do, Incheon City, South Korea

- The Work
- Removal of plastic waste in fields.
 - Cleaning the old doors in the house.
 - Picking out the industrial waste from a pile of stones.
 - Cleaning all rooms and furniture in the house
 - Painting the wall & bricks
 - Moving stones for making stone wall
 - Carrying log

No of Volunteers 30

We performed a Weekend Service in April, and we did our best of course. The activities and works of this camp compared on others were varied so we felt it was much harder than other works.

We were needed to be cleaned inside and outside of the house. In the first day, participants have to move some stones, picked out the industrial waste from a pile of stones and removed the plastic waste in fields. Although the work was very hard, all the volunteers had fun and did their service diligently and successfully.

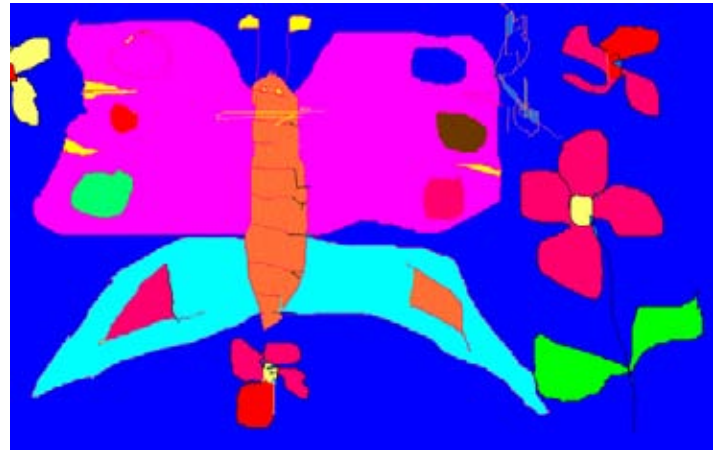
In the second (and also last) day, the camp leader divided us into two groups so we could work at different work site. We painted the wall and bricks, carrying log and stones, and washing equipments from the other works. When completed we had two lovely clean rooms in the house. We wish we can make better and more clean house in the next occassion.

“The weather was getting hotter, all the more our passion increased”

Publisher : Hyejin HONG



SRI LANKA



Asian Voice,

The year 2010 is a very significant year to SCI – Sri Lanka because it's our 50th anniversary. THE GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR...

This is what Thedy Vonfellenberg, one time International Secretary, says about his visit to Sri Lanka as the first SCI volunteer to visit the Island: “Now to my first visit of SL with the first international team of SCI in spring 1960: When arriving as a young LTV in Bombay, I was welcomed by the then Indian secretary Devinder and sent immediately to Madras; then a few weeks later with the American couple Barry and Arleene Davis to Sri Lanka. I remember how I was impressed after the dry, hot, difficult south of India by the lavish tropical green palm.

The train to Colombo full of white clad, very peaceful people. No beggars, no poverty it seemed to me. I was welcomed by D.A. Abeysekera and brought to the house of A.T. Aryaratne, at this time an unknown you teacher. I was then put up in Kusala's Abayewardana's house at Chitra Lane. We were like “honorable guests”, shown around “on a silver plate in all the rich homes of Colombo”

We are proud that SCI has survived in the country over the fifty years and has been active throughout-of course with several ups and downs – as in any other voluntary organization

Several projects and programmes have been lined up to mark the Golden Jubilee. Among them are:

1. Publication of the Golden Jubilee Souvenir – tracing the history and our achievements.
2. Deployment of fifty “Peace Messengers” to take the message of SCI to different parts of the country.
3. Week-ends work camps covering fifty days of manual work.
4. Short Term International Work Camps covering fifty working days.
5. Printing of 50th anniversary T shirts, caps, banners, stationery etc.
6. Photographic Exhibition – depicting our work over the years.
7. International Gathering of SCI Activists & work camp

Most of these activities have already commenced and are in progress and we are confident that we would be able to achieve our target. The bitter and tragic ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, which lasted for nearly 30 years, has been brought to an end. A conducive climate, for peace work, is prevailing in the country.

SCI – Sri Lanka wishes to exploit this situation and take the message of peace to every nook and corner of the country to the best of our ability. This we hope to do through our work camps, training programmes, inter-cultural activities and exchange of volunteers. We are glad that several foreign volunteers have decided to come to Sri Lanka, after a lapse of several years. We already have Flora from Netherlands and Per Boyson from Denmark. Megumi from Japan is expected to arrive in mid April and would be with us for three months. Ana Carpenter from Belgium would also arrive in mid April and would help us in our office with administration. Svit from Slovenia is scheduled to come in May; Johannes from Germany would join in September and would stay for one year – depending on his visa approval. One more from Germany and two more from Switzerland are also inquiring – all these mean that we would have a hectic time and a full agenda.

Right from the start 2010 has been full of activities:

1. On 9th and 10th of January

We started our first weekend workcamp in Blue Rose training centre in Kandy as a sign for a prosperous year 2010. There were some SCI volunteers with blue rose children.

2. On 15th, 16th and 17th of January

We expanded our work camp concept to the Eastern province as a result of spreading the message of peace all over the world. SCI Sri Lanka held its 2nd weekend workcamp in Ampara which was struggling with the ethnic war as well as victims of the Tsunami tragedy.



3. On 10th and 11th of February

SCI Sri Lanka organized its first training program for year 2010 on Funding, Fundraising and Financial Management. The program was held at SCI Sri Lanka secretariat at

Kandy, Sri Lanka. The program was conducted by very experienced trainer Mr: Bogdan Imre who came from Rumania. There were nearly 25 participants who represented SCI Sri Lanka, Other International non governmental organizations, local communities as well as some state institutes.



4. On 14th of February

Our 3rd weekend workcamp was held in Daulagala, which is nearly 13 Km far away from Kandy. The SCI Sri Lanka is doing an Environmental work as a long term project and we have been working there since 2006. The aim of this is to create a green space while conserving the environment. This workcamp was held mainly with the cooperation of the local community in the area.

5. On 24th of February

Have a back up program to improve and implement the knowledge we gained from the Funding, Fundraising and Financial Management which held on 10th and 11th of February.

6. On 6th & 7th of March

The forth weekend workcamp was held very recently in Baticaloa in Alminhaj Muslim School. The work what needed to be done was mainly focused on to renovate the school play ground.

7. On 15th of March

To introduce a new profile to SCI Sri Lanka we launched a logo competition advertising through news papers and emails. As a result of this we received a considerable amount of entries from all over the world and the members of the selective committee gathered to select the most creative and innovative submission which represent SCI vision & mission.

We need the active support and cooperation of all our branches and groups to realize our dreams—very specially the Asian Branches and their participation.

INDIA



The recent development in SCI-India are though not much noticeable, but all the five state groups were asked to follow the common minimum program. This has resulted in proper planning and taking up of activities like week ends.

In the recent Central working Committee Meeting that took place in Kolkata. The major decisions taken were:

- To improve the quality of the work camps.
- To have training for Work Camp coordinator for each group.
- To have more week end activities to involve more volunteers.
- Collect articles for 90 Years of Voluntarism from members.
- To have a core funding to sustain the two long term projects.

The activities taken up by the State Groups were:

Tamil Nadu Group:

The Group organised two work camps at Guild of Service for (Mental illness and Handicapped Children) at Anna Nagar. The main activities of the work camp was Gardening, Cleaning the Play Ground and Playing with the Children.

Further the Group has arranged employment opportunity to 10 No. of Jobs in three different organization with the salary of Rs.4000/- to Rs.5000/-for the Youths who completed 10th Standard from the under privileged Community.

The Group participated AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM & AIDS DAY organized by the Indian Community Welfare Organisation in Chennai.



Karnataka Group:

Visit to So-Care, Subramanyanagar: A short visit was organized by the group on 20-12-2009, to So-Care, Subramanyanagar, Bangalore, home for orphan and parents convicted Children. Sweets

were distributed to all the children on the occasion. 5 members were present.

West Bengal Group:

Week end activities were held at Indira Sishu Udyan where different types of saplings were planted and a seminar was organized on environment.

A seminar on street children were organized at Sister Margaret Foundation.

The group has planned to organize Awareness camp on health and Communal Harmony in the coming months. They would also be visiting the nearby colleges to motivate volunteers to join the work camps. They would be encouraging the villagers to utilize their own resources to improve their socio-economic conditions through income generation activities. There would be an orientation camp at Mankundu apart from the regular week end camps.

Maharashtra Group:

Weekend Camps - at 'M.N. Banaji Industrial Home for Blind', Jogeshwari. Reading to visually impaired students and prepare them for their examinations.

Slum project at Vasai to teach the unprivileged children are being planned. The Peace Cells formed in the colleges are being channelised.

Delhi Group:

The group has undertaken the major repairing work of the Nanloi Project and has completed. This project will cater to the locals to learn the art of drawing mehendi for women, mobile repairing to the young and computer classes are being planned as income generating.

Summer work Camps:

Three work camps are being planned in the July/August by SCI-India. The first two will take place in Bangalore and Kanyakumari. The second one will take place in Kolkata. All the details are uploaded on the website. Volunteers from the Asian countries are most welcome to participate.



END NOTE

Our 1st issue of Asian Voices 2010 is with a full of Dreams from 9branches/groups! We hope you enjoy it very much and will get power from us. “Asia-Pacific Peace Education Seminer” and APM in Australia is just around the corner. We are excited about this activity since it is rare chance for us in this region to develop our skills/cooperation, since we are far each other geographically. So this opportunity will enhance Asian- Pacific and Mauritius branches/groups more and enhance our cooperation as well.

Wishing all of your branches/groups’ active summer work-camp season!!!

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from Asian Voices co-editors