

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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2001 NSD Annual Council

held in Ilsan, Korea

The 2001 Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Annual council was held on November 1-4, 2001 at the division office in Ilsan, Korea. More than 37 division executive committee members attended the meetings. There were three representatives from the General Conference: Leo S Ranzolin, General Vice President; Claude Sabot, Associate Secretary; and Donald E Robinson, Associate Treasurer.

Before the Annual Council, there were pre-council meetings: Officers and Departmental Directors Interview (October 29), Division/Union Officers Council, and the Presidents/Secretaries/Treasurers Council (October 30); and the Advisory Council on Evangelism and Witness (October 31).

On the opening day of the Annual Council, according to the President's report, God's blessings have been evident

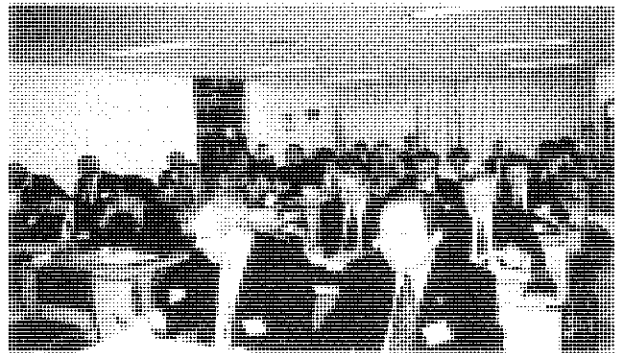


The Presiding Officers: Stanley Ng, P.D. Chun & Martin Moores (from left)

in many places and in many areas in the division territories. The NSD has obtained the approval for the establishment of its legal corporation as of October 17, 2001. We heard also the remarkable growth of Mongolia church and the expansion of Language School programs in Korea.

The statistics show that as of June 30, 2001, the world SDA church membership has reached 12,035,811. This is one Seventh-day Adventist for every 510 people now living in the world. For Northern Asia-Pacific Division, we have 483,481 church members as of September 30, 2001. This is a ratio of one Seventh-day Adventist for every 3,111 people living in this division territory. Our challenge is great.

This year, the Annual Council agenda were divided into three parts; namely, the general items, the policy items, and the recommendations from the 2001 departmental advisories. I would like to highlight some of the major actions taken from the council as follows:



The Participants of the NSD Annual Council

A. General Items

1. To approve the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Strategic Issues and Action Plans for the 2002 to 2005. The NSD, in response to the mission of Christ, is placing emphasis on three strategic issues: Quality of Life, Unity, and Growth. These three values are not new to Seventh-day Adventists. They are profoundly Adventist and simply define what is the core of Adventism. This new direction for the Seventh-day Adventist Church is much more than an administrative roadmap. Rather, it affirms the vital role of every church member in defining the church's identity and participation in its mission.

2. It was recommended that the status of the Taiwan Mission be changed from conference candidacy status to mission status. Taiwan Mission has been granted conference candidacy status for more than seven years and has not been able to achieve the necessary requirements to be granted full

conference status. The division had appointed a review committee to evaluate its status before making this recommendation to the Annual Council.

3. It was recommended to approve the NSD Executive Committee Elective Members for 2002 and 2003 as follows:
Chinese Union Mission - Jack Liang, Liao Ming Hui
Japan Union Conference - Yoshikazu Watanabe, Naoko Tamura
Korean Union Conference - Cho Chul Soo, Yeon Kyung Sil

B. Policy items: It was voted to approve the amendment of the NSD working policy V-n 1005, Support of Worldwide Work. The policy amendment further reduces the income of the Division in the coming years. It means that a 2% reduction in the Tithes funds to the Division is made. This reduction will be for the benefit of the local conferences and missions. Also, the tithe percentage that flows to the Unions shall be redistributed to the local conferences/missions considering the financial strength and needs of the local fields.

C. Departmental Recommendations: The Annual Council voted to approve many recommendations from the departmental advisories. One of them is the adoption of the "GO ONE MILLION" initiative.

VOTED, To adopt a new initiative for the world church to prepare one million members who actively lead their friends and neighbors to Christ. It is hoped that at least 100,000 members in the NSD territories can be trained by all departmental directors at every level and every local pastor. All "Go One Million" candidates will receive resource materials in the form of a missionary kit and many can be trained through Sabbath School Action Units.

Further, that 15,000 laity who are making disciples be identified and equipped during 2002. This number will double each year to become 120,000 through 2005 by:

1. Training laity using Sabbath School Action Units as laboratories.
2. Training pastors to conduct coaching events for "Go One Million" candidates.
3. Teaching ASI leaders how to coordinate church-based regional Festivals of the Laity for every district per year.
4. Requesting that every seminar conducted by the NSD, Union, and Conference leaders provide a mechanism for attendees to register as "Go One Million" candidates.
5. Request local conferences to provide a secretary to keep accurate records and provide vital information for candidates and equippers while coordinating "Go One Million."
6. Making sure kits are provided and funding is in place to meet demand.
7. Including "Go One Million" thinking into the elementary, secondary, and college curricular in every NSD school.
8. Including "Go One Million" thinking into every NSD

Health Care Institution.

9. Developing a credential for volunteer ministers who participate in "Go One Million."

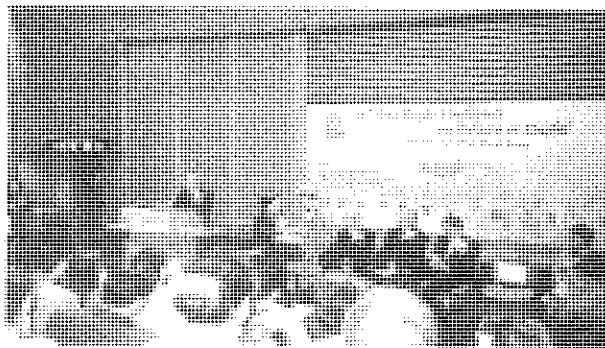
10. Teach every person who is baptized that it is expected that he/she will help at least one person become a Seventh-day Adventist each year.

Stanley Ng, *Secretary*

Anti Tobacco Conference in Hong Kong

The 6th Asia Pacific Conference on Tobacco or Health was held on October 26 - 29, 2001 in Hong Kong and there were more than 470 attendees from 34 countries and territories.

The organizer of the conference was the Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Disease Association and the meeting place was the Hong Kong Hospital Authority Building. The participants were professionals including medical doctors, health educators, nurses, government officials and NGO representatives from Australia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, U.S.A., and others.



Harley Stanton from WHO (center of 1st row)

The theme of the conference was "Youth Fight Back." Since one of the serious problems in our current Asian societies is smoking by young people, the delegates focused on protecting youth from tobacco in lectures, workshops, discussions, poster presentations, etc. There was an encouraging presentation from the delegates of China. Some Chinese academy students with a young medical doctor gave a presentation on how they protect themselves from tobacco.

Among the delegates there were several Seventh-day

Adventists playing important roles in the anti smoking campaign. For example, the most honorable guest for the conference was Dr. Harley Stanton from the Western Pacific Regional Office, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations. He is a scientist from the Tobacco Free Initiative. He was the former Associate Director of the Health Department of the South Pacific Division.



**Kyoichi Miyazaki from Japan
(3rd from the left on 3rd row)**

Mr. Kyoichi Miyazaki is Health Director of the Japan Union Conference and Chairman of the Japan Temperance Association (Japan Anti Tobacco and Alcohol Association). He led 15 Japanese representatives to the meeting and commented, "This conference was intended to stop the big tobacco companies including those in America and Japan invading the Asian markets. The government of Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand is enthusiastic in promoting a tobacco free society. In contrast, Japan is far behind."

Pastor Philip Bohyun Yun is an Adventist health educator and vice president of the Korean Headquarters of International Temperance Association. He took 22 delegates from Korea and showed many kinds of posters and brochures of anti tobacco campaigns in the country. Yun said, "This conference confirmed our need to protect our young generation from the damage of tobacco. To fulfill this goal, we agreed to work for the government to control tobacco, to provide more full time health educators, to develop more materials to teach young people about the harm of tobacco, etc."

The next Asia Pacific Conference on Tobacco or Health will be held in Korea in 2004.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL/Publishing/SOP/ATN Director*

Afghanistan Relief Activities involving ADRA Japan

There are a lot of refugees at the border of Afghanistan. They are very poor, and in a difficult situation for this winter. Winter is coming soon, or it has already come.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Japan board voted to ask a US\$10,000 donation from the Japan Union Conference (JUC) and to make a request to the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) for a subsidy so that ADRA Japan may participate in the Afghanistan relief project in Central Asia, especially Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. I hope that ADRA Japan can provide this assistance on behalf of NSD church members.

We are going to send a Japanese, Mr. Sanaki, Kenji, as the acting director of ADRA Tajikistan for one year. He is an Adventist who was baptized in Turkey. He studied in Russia, so he speaks Russian, Turkish and many Central Asian languages very well. He is married to a Moldovan lady. He has worked with ADRA Turkey as a logistic director at the time of the recent earthquake in the country. The ADRA Euro-Asia Division (ESD) will contract him for the job officially. ADRA Japan and JUC will supply the fund for ADRA ESD.

The ADRA headquarters located in the U. S. A. has sent 10 containers of winter clothes, and 7 of them are for Tajikistan and 3 for the Uzbekistan. Mr. Sanaki will take care of the distribution of the relief supplies to refugees to help them weather the winter months. He will also try to get the fund from the Japan Embassy in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Since Japan has had good relationships with the Central Asian countries, the government will be happy and cooperative in finding a Japanese worker to help the refugees of Afghanistan.

I have already started negotiating with the Japanese government. We are expecting US\$180,000 each for Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; and I have submitted the proposal to the Japan Platform Fund (Japanese Government Fund) for the emergency relief of around US\$85,000. ADRA Japan has to raise 10-20% of the fund of administration cost of every Japanese Government Fund. We have started a fund raising campaign with a target of 10,000,000 Japanese yen (about US\$83,333) within 3 months.

In the meantime, we have started a US\$10 million project in Kosovo for the shelter and school reconstruction in cooperation with the United Nations. Because of this big project by ADRA Japan, the Japanese government has shown a great deal of interest in working with us for the Afghanistan relief project.

We want to solicit your prayer and support. Thank you very much.

Stephano Tsukamoto, *Director of ADRA Japan*

Yang Ming Shan Christian School in Taipei, Taiwan (Part 2)

Teachers take seriously the mission of Yang Ming Shan Christian School of spreading the gospel and planting seeds in the hearts and minds of our lovely students. Not one current student is SDA. All come from non-SDA background. They include Buddhists, Christians, or no-religion. 50% of the students have USA passports which means they will eventually go back to the USA or to another western country for their higher education. The majority of our students are Chinese that have foreign passports. Currently we have 15 countries represented in our student body. We welcome the opportunity to spread the gospel to this high class of families that will eventually spread out to many different parts of the world. Most parents are very well educated and well to do. We have found the best advertisement is word of mouth; happy parents spreading the news about our school to others. We have green grass and fresh air, which most schools in Taipei do not have.



Munsey's 3rd and 4th grade students learning how to make bean soup

We truly are a mission school. All students learn to pray and trust in Jesus as their best friend. Many parents want to know more about Jesus as a result of what their children bring and teach them at home. One family is taking Bible studies this year.

After the recent floods in Taiwan we took our students in Grades 3-8 down to two local SDA churches to help clean out their flooded basements. It was amazing to see our students working without complaint when they were involved in very messy, dirty clean up tasks. When

the children were told the day before that they were going to go help others after the floods, one boy (who is from a non-Christian family) piped up and said, "We are Christians, we should be doing this!"

Two years ago, Mr. Lafever had the privilege of baptizing one of his Eighth students at the end of the school year. Morning worship and Bible curriculum are held on a daily basis. Pictures of Jesus are prominently displayed in the halls and classrooms.

In the fall of 2001 we built a covered play area to protect the students from rain. We have done some major repairs and upkeep to the school, which include putting on a new roof, new front doors, new windows, new grass with a sprinkler system, and a new fire alarm system. In the spring of 2000 we remodeled a junk room upstairs into a nice ESL classroom.

We praise the Lord for His goodness and grace to us. The time is here to tell others on a daily basis about Jesus. We are doing that at Yang Ming Shan Christian School in Taipei, Taiwan.

JoAnne Lafever, *Principal of Yang Ming Shan Christian School*

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NEWS & VIEWS

Editor	Tadaomi Shinmyo
Assistant to Editor	Sung Sub Song

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Editor
 Northern Asia-Pacific Division
 Sam Hee Plaza (5th floor),
 66 Chuyop-Dong, Ilsan-Gu,
 Koyang City, Kyonggi-Do,
 Republic of Korea 411-370
 E-mail shinmyo@kornet.net
 TEL (82)(31)910-1500
 FAX (82)(31)919-4412
 Web Site
<http://www.sdansd.org>