

6<sup>th</sup>

 **ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING**  
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

**GOLD COAST INTERNATIONAL HOTEL**  
**SURFERS PARADISE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.**

**August 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005.**

**“Sponsorship – Unity in Ever Widening Circles”**

# The Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## Statement of Purpose.

The primary purpose of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The Asia Oceania Service Meeting seeks ways to accomplish this goal by providing a forum for the delegates to share the experience, strength and hope of the countries they represent and who come together from all parts of Asia and Oceania

It can also represent an expression of the Group Conscience throughout the region and provide a link to the World Service Meeting for countries unable to be represented there.

Experience has shown that a sound service structure enables the message to be delivered more effectively. The Asia Oceania Service Meeting encourages the planning of sound structures suited to the needs of the individual countries and the expansion of AA services to reach the alcoholic through the spoken word, literature and institutions work. The AOSM recognises that it has no authority over any AA service or Group. The only decisions to be made by the AOSM are those which affect the meeting itself.



### **Confidential – full names used.**

Since this report is a *confidential* document, for members only, it contains members' full names and addresses just as AA directories do.

This usage – to facilitate communications within the Fellowship – is with the approval of the Asia Oceania Meeting. Such confidential use does not, of course, violate in any way our Tradition of anonymity in *public* communications media (press, radio, TV, etc)

*SPONSORSHIP - UNITY IN EVER  
WIDENING CIRCLES.*

**6<sup>th</sup> Asia Oceania Service Meeting  
of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia.**

**August 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005.**

# **FINAL REPORT**

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## SIXTH ASIA OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING.



### “SPONSORSHIP-UNITY IN EVER WIDENING CIRCLES”. AN OVERVIEW

The city of Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia served as the site for the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Oceania Service Meeting, when 19 delegates from 12 countries meet at the Gold Coast International Hotel, the venue for this meeting.

It was a moving moment to greet new member country delegates as Vietnam, India and Singapore were present for the first time. Thailand were also represented for the first time by delegates elected by the Groups in their country. It was unfortunate that the Peoples' Republic of China, Mongolia and Korea all three of whom were present in Hong Kong in 2003 were unable to attend,

On the morning of Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> the delegates gathered in the Gallery Room at the hotel for registration and a get-together to renew friendships and make new ones. There were also observers present too who had in some cases travelled long distances to be at the meeting to listen.

After lunch the delegates, observers, translator, and office staff participated in a traditional AA meeting with the theme of “Acceptance”. Following this the formal meeting commenced after afternoon tea. This was a change of format but it was felt that with the introduction of the four committees more time than the two days was required. The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer, the reading of the AOSM Statement of Purpose and a welcome address by the Chairperson, Lynne Head-Weir of Australia.

The delegates introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their service experience. The Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> AOSM in Hong Kong followed and it was received and approved. The Chairperson's Report followed and as a result of this report a decision was made to change the structure of the four working committees. The Site Selection committee had Agenda and Website added to it. The reason for this alteration was to even the amount of work for each committee. The session concluded with the Secretariat Report, the Financial Statement and the Budget for 2005-2007.

In the evening a dinner was hosted by the Australian General Service Board, a delightful buffet meal. David Holdsworth, the GSB Chairman, welcomed all present. David said “It is probably fair to say that despite AA being established fairly early in Australia and New Zealand, our region has not developed as fast as some others and that makes this meeting all the

*more important”*

That evening after the meal was concluded the World Service Meeting Report for New York 2004 was given by Trevor Housley first term delegate from Australia This was followed by Question Time as many countries at the AOSM are not yet structured enough to be eligible to attend the World Service Meeting where there is so much experience and strength shared.

Monday August 15<sup>th</sup> began with the first meetings of the four new committees, Policy, Admissions and Finance; Publishing and Literature; Working with Others; and Agenda, Website and Site Selection. This was new for all the delegates and armed with a list of suggestions for each committee, their own knowledge and thoughts on how their various committees should be structured and what they should be dealing with, the four committees came up with impressive reports and recommendations.

This was followed by the Country Reports with delegates speaking to them, highlighting various points and answering questions. It was very interesting to hear for the first time the problems of countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore. It also showed the how country co-operation with sponsorship really worked.

In the afternoon session Doug Richardson, from the International Desk at the General Service Office New York, gave the Keynote Address on “*Sponsorship-Unity in Ever Widening Circles*”. He said he had found it a fascinating topic to contemplate and write about. “*I imagined a pebble thrown into a pond and the ripples expanding out until they reached every shoreline. This image is a metaphor applicable to our history, to sponsorship and unity. Bill tossed the “pebble” of his experience achieving and staying sober into the pool of Dr. Bob’s life, and the ripples from that action are still spreading around the world. In terms of ever widening circles, each and every one of us here today has essentially been sponsored by Bill and Dr. Bob.*”

Doug also quoted Bill as saying “*The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has*”. Following Doug's Keynote Address the meeting held a workshop on the theme of “*Sponsorship-Unity in Ever Widening Circles*”.

The afternoon finished with a workshop on the theme of “*Many Nations-One Fellowship*” Goldie May, the

2<sup>nd</sup> term delegate from New Zealand presented a paper on the theme. He quoted Bill W. who stated "*We are a Fellowship that has been able to achieve the 'One-World Dream of Philosophers'*". Goldie also said "*That the message we give is totally undiluted and that we are forever aware of our singleness of purpose in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers*".

Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup> began with a workshop on "*Communication and Co-operation with the Professional Community*". The meeting divided into groups to discuss the topic then reported back to the full meeting for further discussion. There were many questions and some answers on this important subject and, depending on the "newness" of the country AA wise was the method used to approach the professional community. This again stressed the importance of communication between countries themselves to share relevant information and actions.

The final workshop "*Literature Translation with International Co-operation*" started by a presentation by Greg Muth, General Manager of GSO New York. Greg said that the Big Book, "Alcoholics Anonymous" is currently published in 52 languages, and several other translations are underway. AA World Services Inc. (AAWS) holds more than 700 copyrights on AA literature, including the Big Book-copyrights held in trust for AA as a whole. Greg also outlined the requirements and proper procedures which have been decided by the Group Conscience of AA world-wide to protect the spirit, unity and historical nature of Bill W's writings. "*Thus we join together to protect the integrity of AA's message in print and preserve the unity of our beloved Fellowship*".

In the afternoon the four committees presented their reports and recommendations for the whole meeting to consider. This was a first and a step forward for greater delegate participation in the running and decision making of the AOSM

The site for the 7<sup>th</sup> AOSM was discussed and Japan indicated that they would offer to host the 2007 meeting subject to approval by their Board. Goldie May, New Zealand was elected by Third Legacy vote to be the Chairman and Masaru Imai, Japan, the Alternate Chairman

After much discussion and a Third Legacy vote, the theme for the 7<sup>th</sup> AOSM was chosen "*Global Growth with Structured Groups*". It was also agreed that Val Kiel, first term delegate from New Zealand, would present a report of this AOSM to the next World Service Meeting in Ireland in 2006.

In closing remarks delegates expressed their thanks to the Australian General Service Board for hosting the meeting and for their generosity, and to the local Host Committee their appreciation of the work that they had done. Many delegates, particularly new delegates from new delegates, gave thanks too for being present at such a meeting where they began to really realise the value of AA service.

The Chairperson, Lynne Head-Weir, thanked all present for being there, the delegates, the observers, the people taping the meeting and those that helped.

The meeting closed with all standing, holding hands, and saying the Serenity Prayer.

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## WELCOMING ADDRESS.

*On Sunday evening during the dinner hosted by the Australian GSB, David Holdsworth, the Board Chairman welcomed all present.*

; I am an alcoholic and Good evening everyone. My name is David Holdsworth today I'm sober thanks to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and our 12 Step program of recovery. I am a regional trustee member of the Australian General Service Board which I currently have the privilege of chairing.

On behalf of the Board and the Australian Fellowship I would like to extend a warm Australian welcome to our overseas guests and everyone participating in, the sixth Asia Oceania Service Meeting, we are delighted to be able to host this meeting. I would also like to thank the

AOSM Secretariat for the invitation to participate with you in this important regional service event as we consider Sponsorship-Unity in Ever Widening Circles.

Many of you may not know that Australia was the first country outside the USA where AA took hold. So, this year, as our Fellowship celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Australia is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> and it is timely that this year the Asia Oceania Service Meeting reaches its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During AA's 20<sup>th</sup> year, at a time when worldwide membership was estimated at something over 150,000, the second edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous was published. The last paragraph of the Foreword to that book reads as follows: *At present our membership is increasing at a rate of about seven percent per year. So far, upon the total problem of several million actual*

*alcoholics in the world we have made only a scratch. In all probability, we shall never be able to reach more than a fair fraction of the alcohol problem in all its ramifications. Upon therapy for the alcoholic himself we have no monopoly. Yet it is our great hope that all who as yet found no answer may begin to find one in the pages of this book and will presently join us on the highroad to freedom.*

It is my hope that this meeting, focused around unity and sponsorship, will help us to make at least another scratch on the problem of alcoholism in our region.

It is probably fair to say that despite AA being established fairly early in Australia and New Zealand our region has not developed as fast as some others and that makes this meeting all the more important.

At the first AOSM only five countries participated: Hong Kong, Vanuatu, Korea, Japan and New Zealand with representation from GSO New York. Since then Thailand, Australia, Taiwan, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Philippines, Malaysia, East Timor, Peoples' Republic of China, Cambodia and Mongolia have participated. It was thrilling to hear that last year

Mongolia held its first National Convention.

As a result of the commitment, enthusiasm and effort of you and your predecessors, it is very gratifying and encouraging that this year thirteen countries will be represented. In particular, I'd like to mention Vietnam and Thailand who will be represented by members of their own for the first time. Encouraging though this is, we know that real challenges still exist to carry our message to more countries and communities and to see AA firmly established and accepted by the indigenous people. The Australian General Service Board is aware of some developments in this area and has, recently, been able to provide direct financial assistance to some Indonesian members to attend a service meeting.

In closing let me thank you for travelling the considerable distance to Australia to share your experience, strength and hope with your fellow alcoholics at this 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Oceania Service Meeting. Just as experience has taught us that one alcoholic working with another alcoholic is vital to permanent recovery, I look forward to working with you as we consider Sponsorship – Unity in Ever Widening Circles.

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## CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS.

Hi, I am Lynne and I'm an alcoholic.

Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Oceania Service Meeting in Australia. Know that your coming here brings great pleasure. Speaking in one voice for all of the countries whose delegates represent them here today, I would like to thank our Australian hosts for their enormous generosity and warm hospitality and for all the service work and preparations beforehand that have made this meeting possible in this beautiful venue. Thank you very much for the welcoming address by David Holdsworth, the Chairman of the General Service Board of Australia, and Valerie Martin, the Manager of the National Office Australia, for her assistance and presence. I would like to thank the AA member volunteers on the local Host committee who have been and still are working hard behind the scenes as a welcoming committee and contributing towards the smooth running of this AOSM meeting.

Thank you to all the delegates for your service commitment by attending this meeting and warm gratitude to your respective countries for supporting this essential AA activity that connects all us AA members in the Asia Oceania Zone. As the newcomer is an important person in AA so is the newcomer to the AOSM an important person, our special welcome goes to the new delegates and new country representatives here today. Thank you very much for joining us on this part of the broad highway. Please feel free to ask for clarity at any time if needed. Everyone of you is very important and very welcome and I look forward to

working together with you and getting to know you more during our group conscience and fellowship times. If only I could welcome you all in your particular language, I would be most happy. However, this is not entirely possible at the present but by the end of the AOSM I hope to have learnt (with your assistance!) how to say "thank you" to all of you in your individual language.

Our special guests from the General Service Office in New York, Greg Muth, the General Manager and Doug Richardson who is serving on the International Desk, are especially thanked from the bottom of our hearts for their attendance and the assistance that their country's generous membership has provided to countries in the Asia Oceania Zone. Your very valued encouragement and wisdom- experience, strength and hope- contributes greatly towards making all of this AOSM possible.

Welcome to all observers, we look forward to sharing our experience with you and welcome your experience that you have brought which hopefully may be shared during fellowship times over the next few days.

Finally but by no means least, I would like to thank Bob Preston our AOSM Secretary for his vast experience, wisdom, hard work and tireless effort over the past two years in ensuring that everything is in place for a smooth running and successful AOSM. It would not have been able to happen without you.

Thank you so much.

This is my third attendance at the AOSM which I am really excited about. The two previous times at South Korea and Hong Kong were an absolutely incredible experience that I will never forget. There is something so special about everyone extending themselves and overcoming all obstacles to come together in order to stay sober and help each other pass the AA message on into countries where it is needed. I hope that this AOSM is similarly enjoyable and beneficial to further the development and strength of AA. Prior to being an Asia Oceania Service Meeting Delegate for Australia, I had always held position in general service such as Area Delegate, Area Chairperson and Regional Trustee which included chairing the 1999 International Australian AA Convention. I enjoy trying to foster equality and group conscience principles and am grateful for yet another opportunity to do this.

The countries in the Asia Oceania Zone are Japan, China, Hong Kong, Philippines, South Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Australia, New Zealand, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Brunei,

Cook Islands, French Polynesia, (Tahiti), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Sapiens), Midway Island, Nauru, New Caledonia, Nauru, Mariana Island, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Island, Russia, Western Samoa, Solomon Island, Tonga, Tukulau, and Wake Island. Our loving thoughts go to those countries that were unable to be represented here at this AOSM. Over the last two years, some AA members and unknown potential members of AA in the countries within the Asia Oceania Zone have experienced extreme hardship due to issues outside AA such as the Tsunami and other devastations. Our sympathy and warm prayers and wishes are with you.

In making the best of what we have I look forward to the language of the heart that permeates the spirit in all AA communication with one alcoholic to another. We are not just alcoholics. We are AA members coming together to stay sober and carry the AA message to those who still suffer. What a glorious fellowship to be part of.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

In the fellowship of love and service.

Lynne Head-Weir,  
6<sup>th</sup> Asia Oceania Service Meeting Chairman.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNTRY REPORTS.

### AUSTRALIA.

Our Fellowship celebrated 60 years in Australia during Founders' Week, June 6-12, sparking off meetings, both organised and spontaneous, throughout the country. All in all, we estimate that there are up to 18,000 members of AA in about 1800 Groups in Australia.

Founders' Week is also when we have, since 1995, asked all AA Groups to contribute surplus cash from one meeting to our International Sponsorship Fund, with 75% of the money collected going toward helping struggling Alcoholics Anonymous activities in the Asia Oceania Region. The remaining 25% is sent to New York for the International Literature Fund, which helps AA Groups worldwide.

During the past ten years the Australian fellowship has helped delegates from East Timor, Cambodia and Malaysia to attend AOSMs. We have also supplied AA literature to Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and some other Asian fellowships. Last year we helped fund an Indonesian national forum in Bali which has begun the process of developing a fully developed, structured fellowship. In the same period, the fund has

contributed more than A\$50,000 toward the international literature in New York.

The past year has been busy with a number of projects, following a significant recovery of our financial position during the past two years.

The Australian Service Manual has finally been completed after about ten years work and is now up on our website, [www.aa.com.au](http://www.aa.com.au). A major reason for the extended review was the necessity to marry the Fellowship's traditions and ideals with corporate law, a problem being experienced in many other countries. Some indication of our success is that our new manual is being used as a model by others.

We have begun publicising much more aggressively this year the work of Alcoholics Anonymous and how we can reach out the hand of recovery to those still suffering. Some activities include:

- A Street Vision advertisement running on the Sydney underground railway which appears to have resulted in a steep increase in the number of visits to our website. The trial cost \$7000

for ten weeks of 30 spots. Street Vision has an estimated reach of 2.46 million people a week.

- Trial cinema advertising in Adelaide.
- The production of videos and DVDs, made from the filming of two Sydney meetings in May. We plan to use these DVDs and videos to aid the Fellowship's work in reaching to the professional community as well as for use in detox units, etc. They will also be available for general media and public relations use, as well as when working with sick alcoholics.
- In addition, Districts have at last been forming in the Sydney metropolitan area and are functioning well. Districts have been in place for some years in other States and in rural NSW.
- Our third PI & CPC Forum was held in Adelaide last September and the fourth will be held in Melbourne next month. These have become an effective forum for allowing groups, districts and areas to share their experiences which, we hope, will improve the effectiveness of PI activities.

At the World Service Meeting in New York last October I chaired the Literature/Publishing Committee which examined a report we had asked for two years before on "Country to Country Sponsorship". Val Kiel, the first term delegate from New Zealand, was elected to replace me as chairman for the next term.

Following our recommendation to AA World Service, this 2500-word report has now been published under the title "Country-to-Country Sponsorship-How to Carry the AA Message Around the World". It is a suggested guideline for the type of sponsorship has become a world wide phenomenon as members of our Fellowship help carry the message to new and developing countries.

It has, of course, particular relevance to the Asia Oceania Service Zone and copies of the report were ordered by the Australian National Office once it became available for use by AOSM delegates. We hope it will provide discussion here during the next few days.

At the WSM in Oviedo in 2002 the theme was "World Without Borders" and in my report to the AOSM in Hong Kong the following year I referred to the keynote speech at the WSM by the delegate from Ireland, Paul McCuster. It is worth repeating here, I think. He said: "Where I come from we are well used to the word 'borders'. Ireland has a border, dividing North from South. We have two governments, two legal systems, two health care systems, two education boards, two currencies> We even have two national football teams. My home Town of Belfast has borders dividing people of

different religions and politics-but one thing we do have in Ireland is one, single AA-and a message without borders"

We in Australia believe that, in our work at the Asia Oceania Service Meeting, Alcoholics Anonymous has no borders.

## CAMBODIA.

AA in Cambodia is growing at a modest pace. Since we last met, AA in Cambodia has tripled in reach. Cambodia now has two well-established groups, Conscience Connection Cambodia (started last year)-meets two times a week in three locations simultaneously and is connected by conference-call cell phones from anywhere in Cambodia (or the world), The older group, Phnom Penh Group, has meetings three times a week. We had 3700 visits to our AA Cambodia web site.

We have not had much success with the spread of AA into the local community. We have had three Khmer members, but they have not achieved continued sobriety yet. We are hampered by language. Both groups have brought in translators when it was known that a Khmer would be in attendance.

With basic National structure the Conscience Connection Cambodia is very active in the Thai Intergroup. In fact, two of our members helped start the Thai Intergroup. At most Intergroup meetings in Bangkok, we have 2 members in attendance. One member, Wayne Weightman, is serving as the treasurer as well as running a popular workshop on "Carrying the message to the Indigenous Population". And, for the first time this year, the Workshop was held in English and Thai with 5 members from the Khon Kahn group participating in Thai. This workshop was the birthing ground for the Carry the Message Committee which is a combined CPC, PI and H&I at the Thai Intergroup. Wayne brought the idea of this workshop back from the AOSM in Korea. A Highlight this year was Patrick from China sharing on the fact that Chinese meetings are springing up without help from the expat community. He pointed out 3 main points for this success.

1. Get support from the medical community.
2. get a local speaker sober ie Indian Jim.
3. Get the local speaker and the local Dr. Silkworths to regional meetings so that the fellowship is a real thing for them and that they have seen and touched for themselves.

The medical community in Cambodia so far has been unresponsive to the limited attempts at communication with them. The atmosphere in professional Cambodia is totally focused to making

money. If the Doctors see no profit that can be personally gained they are not going to put forth any effort, regardless of the cause.

We are now trying a new track. We are generating an email the NGO's (Non Governmental Organisations) that are in Cambodia. Letting them know that AA is a resource they can turn to for help with clients that are Alcoholic. Many of the poor rely on and trust NGO's for basic medical and social care, which in western communities traditionally would be handled by the local government. Overtures towards NGO's so far have generated high interest and several Big Books have been dispersed. One NGO worker told a very poignant story of an area that is mostly rice farmers that are suffering a drought because of the lack of rain. There was nothing for the farmers to do, so they sit around and drink rice wine all day. One of the farmers, a usually placid and friendly man that she knew personally, raped his young daughter after violently beating his wife. Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident of violence associated with alcohol in Cambodia.

The major challenges in carrying the message are such as minority groups, government restrictions and finances. In Cambodia, we don't have any government interference like they have in Viet Nam. Mostly just apathy, and many of us don't see this changing anytime soon. Another area that we have begun to try with little success is reaching out to the Buddhist Monks. Language is the biggest stumbling block here. Also, because we have a small fellowship, our funds are very limited.

Another obstacle we feel is a lack of understanding of the AA process from some AA members in Cambodia, they wish to focus only locally. Australia was fairly far along the path of planning a trip to Cambodia to help us bring the message to doctors, NGOs and the government. Initially, this was to coincide with the release of the Khmer Big Book. This trip had to be cancelled as the support in Cambodia fellowship for the trip disappeared at the last minute.

With regard to other countries in the AOSM zone we have been in contact with the groups in Hanoi as well as Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) offering them support including the directions to contact AOSM and to participate at the Thailand Convention. Vietnam has some special challenges similar to those that China had- mostly from their government's policies in general concerning public and private meetings.

Since the last AOSM we have received the Big Book in Khmer from New York. We have been giving them away at every opportunity and have just a few left. There was a little dissension at first in that some members felt that the translation could have been better.

We were blessed this year with a contribution from

an Australian group- "A Vision For You" group in Mornington- that is being used to translate "The Home Group" and "To the Professional Community". We also have the new "What About Joe" sent to New York for printing. We are looking to place a literature order with GSO soon for Vietnamese and French literature.

One of our members self-elected himself as GVR and has ordered a subscription and back issues of the Grapevine, with the idea of placing "our meeting in print" with meeting and contact information into the hands of any members, particularly newcomers, that come to our meetings.

AA in Cambodia is right where it should be and we look forward to continued growth opportunities personally and as a Country.

## HONG KONG.

AA has been in Hong Kong for thirty six years now. There is one main AA group in Hong Kong with thirty meetings in different locations (including some in the remoter outlying islands). The main location being the permanent rooms at the Borrett Road which is procured from the government. The group holds monthly business meetings where group committee members and meeting secretaries discuss the various aspects of business, service and how to better improve the 12 step work in Hong Kong. We follow the service manual guidelines with regards to the sharing of responsibilities including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Literature.

As for contacting AA in Hong Kong, we have a 24 hour phone answering service at 852-2522-5665 (English speaking) and 852-2578-9822 (Chinese speaking). We also have a web page that has been set up at <http://www.aa-hk.org>, and it includes a list of all the meetings in Hong Kong. Our Email address is [help@aa-hk.org](mailto:help@aa-hk.org) for people who wish to contact us through this medium.

Many of our members travel regularly to different areas of China carrying the message, whilst we in return receive a few visitors doing the same from the mainland, and who update us in regards to new developments there.

The Hospitals and Institutions committee have been very busy this year following up the mail out that we normally do each year to the various schools, hospitals, doctors, penal institutions and the clergy. As a result, a number of our fellowship have been out and about "carrying the message".

Within our Hong Kong group, there is a bi-lingual (English/Cantonese) meeting at Borrett Road, and one Cantonese meeting that takes place at Castle Peak Hospital, with attendance at meetings being 10 or more each week. At any one time there may be in

Excess of twenty members on an off-and-on basis. We now have 3 members with 4 years sobriety, one with 3 years and quite a few with more than six months under their belts. The success of the Chinese speaking AA is down to a small core of dedicated "Cantonese speakers".

Three members of our Fellowship (one Hindi/Nepali speaker and two English speakers) tried for 18 months to carry the message into the Indian and Nepali communities, but this had to stop due to the unfortunate death of Ram P. our resident Hindi/Nepali speaker. We are all cheered by the fact that Ram crossed the finish line sober.

The AA Fellowship of Hong Kong today still consists of British, American and Australians. We are also blessed with visitors of all nationalities passing through Hong Kong who are on it too pleased to share their "Experience, Strength and Hope".

In addition to the members already mentioned in connection with the local Chinese members, there are nearly 100 members on the English speaking phone list. Hong Kong is a transient city for the non local community, and we have a number of short term members and other former Hong Kong members who come back and visit us on a regular basis, so our total membership is often greater than the phone list suggests.

This year we are saddened by the loss of some of our members who over the years have done some sterling service work, especially on the various committees and the all important 12 step work. However, as we bid them goodbye and good luck we must remember the newer members who will step up to the plate and take over the service work.

## INDIA.

Greetings to all participating countries at the AOSM from India, from General Service Board, General Service Office, 35 Inter Groups and about 800 Groups that are the Service Representatives of almost 30,000 sober alcoholics throughout India.

First and foremost we would like to place our sincere thanks to Doug R. for stressing the need for participation from India at the AOSM; Bob P. for his co-operation and Valerie without whose help our representation may not have become possible. And finally, Greg M. the best friend of Indian AA whose continued encouragement is leading us surely.

As per the history of Alcoholics Anonymous the first message was given to an Indian farmer way back in 1939 by a priest from Southern India. The man remained sober but AA failed to grow.

In the year 1957, a Canadian named Charlie M. was

posted at Canadian Embassy in New Delhi. Before coming to India, he contacted GSO NY for contacts in India and he was handed over names of 2 sober alcoholics Sylvia M. & Supatti M. who were treated by Dr. Nitto attached to Indian Navy. Charlie in his efforts to stay sober released a small advertisement in the Hindustan Times, a leading newspaper in Delhi. In response to that a school teacher from Bombay named Harry M. met Charlie at Delhi and sobered up immediately. The date was 5<sup>th</sup> May 1957 which is treated as foundation day of AA in India. The earlier records indicate that the first group in Mumbai started functioning in November 1957 and by 1958 the membership grew to 23.

As with other developing AA countries India had many pioneers in the early days. These members travelled the area as roving ambassadors and helped the fellowship grow, in some places quickly and slower in other places. Also assisting were dedicated non-alcoholics friends, doctors, the clergy and members of the general public. Their help was wide and varied.

In 1967 the 1<sup>st</sup> successful Intergroup was started. The resolutions adopted at this historic meeting, comprising a single sheet became the guidelines of Intergroup Mumbai and were subsequently enlarged in 1975. AA groups slowly started in cities such as Mangalore, Madras, Delhi, Bangalore, and many neighbouring areas. The demands on the Mumbai Intergroup were heavy and a need was felt in 1986 to form a General Service Office and General Service Board in India. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1987, exactly 30 years after AA's beginning in India the GSO and GSB were created and the responsibility for national service was placed on them. The first General Service Conference was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May 1987 at Mumbai. Since then 35 General Service Conferences have been held and have contributed to the structured growth of the Fellowship. GSO has been largely responsible for the creation, translation and printing of literature.

Indian service structure differed from that of the US/Canada in that it grew in the form of Intergroups. Even the delegates are sent by Intergroups to conference. The conference did not function on the committee system until the General Manager and the International staff member from GSO New York visited India in early 2001. Since then we have 5 committees of delegates and trustees.

- Public Information.
- Literature and Publications.
- Budget and Finance.
- Conference Agenda.
- Charter and Reports.

Over the last two years we have been identifying the need to modify our service structure and finally a unique one was adopted in December 2004 allowing introduction of committees at district and area level. The first District committees are about to be formed

in Mumbai. The last 5 years have witnessed a sea of change in the working of AA in India, and the results are most heart warming. The first 43 years of AA in India saw 400 groups and about 8 to 10,000 sober members with about 18 Intergroups, but in the last 5 years groups have doubled to more than 800, Intergroups to 35 and the membership to over 21,000. The same period saw many steps towards the organising of AA service activity.

There have been many important achievements such as centralised printing and standardisation of literature; price equalisation policy; Public Service announcements released; printing of most literature in English; infusion of unity of direction and singleness of purpose; state conventions and regional forums; a major Public Awareness campaign in press and radio during a visit by the Chairperson and General Manager of GSO New York.

Disappointments have also been there. These consist of many things ranging from the multiplicity of languages with regard to literature; illiteracy in many areas with regard to the use of literature; lack of service awareness among members; few contributing groups(16%); lack of awareness of Self Support Tradition; non co-operative regions; limitation of pricing of literature in the interest of the average member; concentric development near major cities only; many unrepresented states; insufficient support of TV stations for carrying the PSA's.

With regard to service opportunities there are many and these vary from the problem of no penetration among women alcoholics to creating awareness among a population of more than 1 billion people. There is a need to implement revised service structures at District and Area level. Armed Forces, Correctional Facilities, Prisons and Treatment centres offer tremendous possibilities. We need to create awareness among young alcoholics and reach out to cities bordering 2 states speaking multiple languages. We also need to reach out to our unrepresented states and neighbouring countries.

Our problems are varied from lack of involvement in service, disproportionate contribution to our service needs, lack of interest in literature, monotonous meetings driving away the old-timers, accumulation of funds in excess of a prudent reserve at both group and service level, the one man show, clash of interests in service bodies to lack of honor, appreciation and support to those who are already in service.

Our vision is to translate all available literature in regional languages with Audio versions for the illiterate audiences at an affordable cost, to provide GSO with appropriate premises, technology and staff, to present new service opportunities to all including those who have rotated, to encourage wider participation by non alcoholic Trustees and friends on a national level and to co-operate with

other Government or non-government bodies working in the field of alcoholism. This vision is the result of observing that though there is a general apathy about service members are generally enthused by tasks. We propose to line up the various escalating towards 2007 when the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AA in India will be celebrated.

## INDONESIA.

After the AOSM in Hong Kong was reported to AA in Bali a grass roots committee was agreed to and ten enthusiastic Indonesians members attended. and formed such a committee. It was decided to ask the Intergroup for support to print public information material which could be distributed to the public through health outlets, local councils etc.. This activity was seen as an informative way to alert public facilities to alcoholism and problems associated with it, therefore contacting the still suffering alcoholic. This way we thought would help in starting new meetings and with public information we hoped to set the process in motion to enable a successful launch for our new Indonesian Big Book, which we all thought would be finished with translation in the near future. However, after the first meeting nothing was done.

Most of the Indonesians fellowship is dual addicted and are committed to working with NA and other awareness programs so needed here to deal with such as the prevention of the spread of HIV, while others work in service in the drug rehabilitation centre. They therefore found the commitment too heavy, and bearing this in mind, I also realised that the lack of structure and knowledge of traditions and service experience is a big factor to the inability to continue a committee. Someone with this knowledge needed to be here to help the process as the members were alone and unaided. I continued to communicate with New York regarding the progress of the Indonesian Big book translation and was assured it was coming along.

In August 2004 a group in the Fellowship from Jakarta came to Bali to join with the Bali Fellowship, in an attempt to look at what the AA Fellowship should be doing to better spread the message throughout Indonesia. The result of that meeting was the development of a plan addressing Bahasa Indonesia literature, expanding meetings, supporting loners, handling communications in Bahasa Indonesia, and programs to reach out to hospitals and institutions. To execute this plan, an Indonesian National Service Group (an interim Indonesia GSO so to speak) was selected and committees created.

Unfortunately it failed to anticipate real life circumstances, changing job demands, family crises, difficulty in working at a distance, as a result, the Fellowship had little support from the interim GSO.

After taking a more practical view of what can realistically be expected, the GSO is now recommitting to stay in regular communication, distribute a quarterly newsletter, and pursue carrying the message.

Jakarta has Bahasa and bi-lingual AA meetings every week, Bali has two Bahasa speaking AA meetings and some loners have been identified in Bandung, Surabaya, South Sumarata, Palembang, Manado and Medan..

It was thought that we would receive a copy of the latest translation of the Indonesian Big Book from AA World Services in New York in September 2004. . A team of reviewers was organised and we planned to complete the review and give our comments and requests to AAWS by the end of the year.. Unfortunately the soft copy was not received until Ramadan had begun, and this affected the make-up of the team of reviewers. However, a new team has been created to complete this task.

The AA Indonesian Newsletter of May 2005 raised the following questions

- Indonesia Group Conscience
- How do we determine it?

The creation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Indonesian national service committee occurred in August 2004 at a conference in Bali. While the conference attendees were confident that the results of the conference reflected the group conscience of AA members in Indonesia, the national service committee (GSO) was considered interim in recognition that a more formal and routine method needs to be established to ensure that all AA members have an opportunity to participate in determining the country's group conscience. For example, there are a number of items that Indonesia needs to decide.

- On what services should GSO be concentrating?
- How should GSO members be selected?
- Should Indonesia be represented at WSM and AOSM?
- How should GSO raise funds?

The interim Indonesia GSO believes that all of these and more should be determined by an expression of the group conscience. The GSO suggests that the group conscience should be expressed through the individual meeting groups using a process that is similar to other areas of the world. In this way each group is linked to the local and Indonesian GSO structure and is part of the group conscience of AA Indonesia.

Groups are electing GSRs who will act as a two-way information channels and shared experiences. Through the GSR participating in the local group he or she can communicate the group conscience on important matters of policy considered by AA. The

GSRs should nominate and elect the national service committee members ideally at an annual General Service meeting. Practically speaking this annual meeting may initially need to be held over the phone or via e-mail.. In the next few weeks a group of AA members in Bali will be attending all meetings to try to identify with other alcoholics. A new meeting is being initiated by some Indonesian members in Ubud. It is always a hit or miss situation in the attempt to build a new fellowship and I feel amiss in not being able to facilitate all things better, but it is moving along and I have learnt so much by being able to attend the AOSM meetings.

This coming year my term is over, however, I will do my best to support and give all I have learned to the Indonesian members so that they may continue to work the AA principles and service. It has been a privilege to have been a delegate to the AOSM.

## JAPAN.

In 2005 AA is composed of over 439 groups with 4,000 members.. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> this year AA Japan is having celebration for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Fukuoka after the very first Step-meeting in Kamata, Tokyo in 1975.

In 1981, GSO Japan has been established in Tokyo and reported to New York GSO. AA Japan has asked professionals who have been cooperating with AA message activities at that time to install as the Class A Trustees, as New York GSOI has suggested that Non-Alcoholics cooperation is integral for managing General Service Office. After that manner, General Service Board has begun with finance, literature and cooperation with the professional community. Since then, AA's primary purpose "Carrying the message to who still suffer" has been understood by professionals in local communities. Therefore, alcoholics have started to recover in their local area. In 2005, there are Central Offices in seven areas, keep carrying the message to local communities as AA message activities.

March 1985 was the time when AA Japan started to make full-scale structure after ten years later when its founding. We held the tenth anniversary celebration in Tokyo. During this celebration there was a National Meeting for General Service Representatives from all over the country who had been elected and sent by each group for the first time. The GSR attending this meeting agreed through the Third Legacy Procedure that the National Meeting for GSR was the supreme decision-making body of the group conscience in Japan and Kanto Area General Service Board would take care of some practical parts of general service. And another important decision was made at the same time; the election of a delegate for World Service Meeting. The delegate participated in the

fiftieth Anniversary Convention in Montreal in 1985 and also the ninth World Service Meeting in Guatemala which was held in September 1986. The delegate did his best to meet our expectations, with great success. As soon as he came back he reported to GSB that a basic national structure for general service was vital for healthy and strong growth of AA Japan. Furthermore, he started travelling groups around the country for carrying message about necessity of establishing a general service structure.

In 1987, the first General Service Meeting was held. This was the predecessor of General Service Conference, which was composed of delegates each of whom was elected by his/her own area, after we decided to divide all of the country into seven areas. And finally, in 1985, we held the first National Meeting of GSR during the twentieth anniversary celebration of AA Japan and it agreed a general plan to make a General Service Board. It was when a transitional stage in the development of general service in Japan marked an end and we finished establishing the current Conference Structure. In 2004, Japan's Conference Charter was approved with two years experimental period at the annual Conference Meeting.

We took an inventory of our general service structure at the 2005 Conference Meeting, and there a special committee, which responsibility was to arrange agenda concerning reform plan for functional improvement of the structure toward next Conference Meeting in 2006, was made.

AA Japan's long-sought issue of legal approval of GSO as a non-profit organisation was finally achieved in 2003. This means that AA Japan is now recognised as one of the social resources in name and reality.

October 23 2004, Ojiya-shi Niigata prefecture where located northern Japan has been hit by an earthquake measuring over 6. Therefore, so many of residents have been forced to live as evacuees since that day. Consequently, alcoholics increased. However there is no AA in the town, so we held a public information forum for the local healthcare professionals, Doctors, social workers and their families. Manager of the local healthcare center described "We just saw a light in the darkness of the disease Alcoholism and expect the quality of our Healthcare system in this town can be better by knowing AA" As he said, we do have responsibility that the hand of AA always to be there. Therefore, to develop cooperative relationship with those professionals is very important.

We try to carry the message to Alcoholism wards, Facilities, Local Healthcare professionals, universities and High schools. For the first time in a century, Japan has a revision of the prison law, therefore prison has been obligated to have educational program to prisoners. We expect that

there will be more opportunities to carry the message to related correctional facilities. Our future issue is to develop of public relations activity to the mass media. Concrete approach is under active consideration in General Service Board.

We are holding an international Workshop at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Celebration in September 2005, and are inviting delegates of China, Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Australia to have a workshop. NY GSO relegated GSO Japan a great opportunity to support Mongolia related to AA literature. Some AA members will participate the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Convention in Mongolia and also participate Korea Convention every year to share experience, strength and hope.

General Service Conference gets so many subjects to discuss from AA members every year GSO Japan Literature Department has a policy to translate and publish all AA literature. We have so far published over 60 different conference approved literature books, booklets, pamphlets and audio in Japanese.

## MONGOLIA.

The Mongolian first AA meeting was started in mental health center in the Ulaanbaatar city. This was 6 years and 6 months ago. We have been new registered in last year. There are registered 21 groups in Mongolia. But we have not registered some groups. Because they are located treatment centres. We cannot contact them. In Mongolia 30 private and government alcohol and drug treatment facilities are working here. We hear that the treatment centres organised AA meetings in there. We think about it is over 15 groups in treatment centre.

Last year, there were started 2 AA meetings in prison, Mongolia. Two times our GSO staff visited these in prisons. We sent some AA literatures to the prisoners. We have been organised the Mongolian 1<sup>st</sup> National Convention in last year. There was about 70 participants each groups of Mongolia and general manager of GSO NY, Trustee of USA/Canada and Japanese GSO staffs. The convention's after we have been starting contributions from all groups.

Now we are not spread of AA into the local community. The Mongolian newspapers have been writing about us. Sometimes medical doctors and nurses told about AA on televisions.

We have made a basic national structure or developments forward a structure. We have:

- Board members; 6 alcoholics, 1 non-alcoholic.
- GSO staffs are; General manager, office manager.
- 5 Areas: Eastern, Western, Northern,

Southern, and Central regions.

We are working within the relation some addiction centres and hospitals. And the General Court Department has requested to cooperate with us. They would like to meet in the prisons with prisoners. We are going to prisons for 3 months 1 time.

We are working to cooperate with the GSO NY, AOSM, Japan, Korea, Australia, India, Poland, New Zealand, Russia, Czech and other countries. Mongolian GSO has been receiving Asia Oceania AA news and AA directory Asian Oceania zone from AOSM. GSO NY sent us about world AA's information. It will be continue in the future..

At the 5<sup>th</sup> AOSM held in Hong Kong, July 2003, 2 delegates attended from Mongolia. The Japanese GSO and AOSM helped of the financial support to our 2 delegates. Japanese GSO invited 1 delegate from Mongolia, which will be held to the 30<sup>th</sup> Japanese convention, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> September 2005. They will be paying our delegate cost. Relationship between Japan and Mongolia is now very friendly and we hope we will create a stronger sponsorship.

GSO, NY really helps us with AA books and pamphlets, which are sent us from New York in November 2004. We have been requested for license to translate and reproduce and distribute copyrights to the New York. GSO of Mongolia have been made website. It is Mongolian and English. Byut we have not located in the links. We are waiting from New York agreed for the literatures copyrights. The following have been translated into Mongolian: This is AA; 44 Questions; Is AA for you?; A brief guide to Alcoholics Anonymous; AA legacy of service; Big Book; 12 step and 12 tradition.

## NEW ZEALAND.

Aa BEGAN IN New Zealand in 1946 as a result of an article in the Readers' Digest and Ian McEwen writing to New York for more information. Our Service Structure was not fully established until 1964 when the first National conference was held in Palmerston North. Since then it has continued to flourish and grow and today in 2005 we have a General Service Conference that meets twice a year (in April and October) in Wellington our country's capital city, and is composed of nine Class B trustees (three from each Area Assembly) and up to 4 Class A trustees (non AA delegates), and a Conference Chairperson who must have served previously as a delegate to Conference. The two World Service Delegates attend as invited guests of Conference, are free to speak but do not have any voting rights. A conference Secretary and the Office Manager also attend conference. In March 2004 there was a survey of AA in New Zealand, Some of

The demographics that showed up in that survey identified that an estimate of members in New Zealand is between 4600 and 5400 attending at least 1 meeting a year. The best estimate that could be obtained of the count of AA members attending meetings in a "typical" week was between 3800 and 4000. The mean meeting size for all groups was estimated at between 13 and 14.6 people and approximately 40% were female.

The average age was 46 years and roughly 60% of AA members were between 35 and 54 years old. The most common first influence (for 25% of members) in coming to AA was another AA member, but this has been decreasing over time and for those members who have been sober less than two years, the most common first influence was advice from a treatment centre. The survey did show that AA had a higher proportion of New Zealander/pakeha (82.4%) followed by Maori (11.6%) then British (2.3%) and all other ethnic groups showed less than 0.8%. A subcommittee has been formed to disseminate this information and to store it electronically the intention is to facilitate ways to use the survey's information to strengthen AA's ability to carry the message. The response overall to the survey was very positive.

New Zealand has developed a new website system with a list of all meetings in New Zealand. There is a very competent, dedicated and hardworking group of people doing an excellent job with a medium that has proven to be frustrating at times. For both practical and legal reasons it was recommended that the administrative functions of this site be restricted and managed by a smaller number of very responsible members. The website seems to be a very well used medium especially from overseas visitors looking for a meeting.

In brief:

- Our relations with the professional community continue through the work of our Hospitals and Institutions Committee and our Public Relations Committee. We recently ran a series of ads on the Nationwide TV and have had a positive response as a result. Local areas also hold functions to mark AA awareness week eg dances, radio spots, public meetings. AA also has a group of very dedicated members that do a lot of work in the prisons throughout the country.
- NZ is watching with interest the developments in Scotland specifically the new guidelines GP's are receiving on treating alcohol dependence, as deaths in Scotland from alcohol misuse treble. From the last conference a small group is going to look at a NZ parallel to this world wide problem.
- NZ is looking at its present structure. We

have Conference and the Board and then we have a Management Committee that is responsible for the hands on running of our General Service Office. Changes are possible in the interests of the fellowship and a better communication system.

- The finances of our fellowship are healthy and stable at this time and as a result NZ Conference approved sponsoring 2 delegates from Thailand to the 2005 Asia Oceania Service Meeting.

## PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

AA China has developed from nothing until it is today through the combined effort and help of AA World General Service Office (GSO) in New York, Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM), Foreign AA Members, Medical Facilities in China and the smooth Public Relations. Looking back at the development of AA China we have great honour to witness and take part in the activities of AA groups with the local AA members and foreign AA members in the cities such as Beijing, TianJin, ShiJiaZhuang, HengShui, YanJi, GuangZhou, ShangHai, ChangSha, XiaMen etc all over China.

AA China started from hospital under the directions of doctors. Now it has developed and more and more alcoholics have recovered by following AA program. These recovered alcoholics have walked out from both mental and physical trauma and sufferings, back into the arms of their families and society. Many of these alcoholics have harmonised their families and improved their financial statuses from the former broken families and bankruptcy. But at the same time we are aware that some former AA participants who had left AA for the varied reasons are back into drinking again. Furthermore we have great concern for those alcoholics who wish to quit drinking but due to some communication barrier are still suffering from their habitual drinking.

The establishment of China AA Service Office is a significant and historic milestone in the history of AA China. It was the result of suggestions from the various AA Groups and members in China. China AA Service to help more alcoholics to keep sober. Office will follow the 12 Traditions, the Rules of the Service Office, the spirit of "Recovery, Unity and Service".

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2002, ShuangSheng AA group was established in TianJin Recovery centre from Alcoholism. Other groups celebrated birthdays such as Yanji in 2005 had its 9<sup>th</sup> birthday supported by the Yanji City Brain Special Hospital with applause and candle lights. A bilingual AA Group (Chinese and English) started in June 2003. In April 2002 with the help of the AA members and the medical organisation the AA Alanon meeting in Beijing was established. In July 2003 AA China members participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> AOSM for the first time with the help of Beijing AA

English Group and foreign AA members. It took an active effect on the communication between China AA, World GSO and the AOSM.

In 2003 the Chinese draft of "Daily Reflections" was completed with the combined effort of AA members, families and volunteers. It has already been handed up to World GSO for the request of circulation. In November 2003 the China AA Service Office held its first meeting. The chairman and secretary were elected and a permanent location was set up. AA China 24 hours service hotline began too. This was followed in 2004 by the AA China Website on the Internet. In October of that year the 2<sup>nd</sup> AA Service Office with chairman and secretary began. Members of the Office actively participated in the various activities of AA groups in other cities even paying for their own costs..

Under the guidance of China Service Office, AA members periodically visit alcoholics in the hospitals, actively hold meetings in the hospitals, effectively communicate and share the spirit of AA with the alcoholics in the hospitals.

In 2005 AA China and its members took part in the Toronto World Convention. It was the first time for AA China to take part in such an event and it was achieved by the help of AA China members, Beijing AA English Group and the donation from AA members in the United States. It is a significant and important milestone in the AA China history. On the 11<sup>th</sup> July the members of GSO New York met with the members of China AA Service Office for the first time. GSO fully approved all the services provided by China AA Service Office and it justified the existence of the China Service Office.. In the meeting GSO granted the China office the right to translate the various AA books, documents and other material into Chinese. Upon the approval of the director of the GSO Publishing Department an agreement has been signed which entitles China AA Service Office to translate three books, "Daily Reflections", "As Bill Sees It", "Living Sober" into Chinese.

This year, following AA spirit, China AA Service Office, all the AA Groups in China and the members of AA China had an overall discussion about the past, the present and the future of AA China. The discussion was held to correct the shortcomings in the development of AA China and also to serve the development of AA China in the future.

In regards of the difficulties that still remain unresolved in June we listed our works as follows:

1. Plan to enhance the AA China Website on the Internet.
2. Publish internal Chinese AA publications to improve communications and carry the AA message to more alcoholics.
3. Set up a Sobriety Forum to smooth public relations and to create public awareness of healthy drinking habits compared to those that will lead to alcoholism.

4. Operate the 24 hours' service hotline in a more efficient way to help more alcoholics.
5. Improve our communication with New York GSO, foreign AA Groups, and promote more translated and published AA materials in Chinese.
6. Actively organise, participate in Group activities all over the country and establish more AA Groups in China.

The above will need special workers and funding to run properly to provide better quality of service.

China is a developing, vigorous country with multi-nations and long culture. It is always ready to accept everything that is beautiful. China is also a country that is suffering deeply from alcoholism. Domestic violence and society unsteadiness that result from alcoholism are increasing. As alcoholics we are fortunate to become AA members. We more and more realise the importance of harmonious society environment and family life. We think we re responsible for carrying the spirits, experiences, power and hope of AA to more and more alcoholics who have the willingness to keep sober but are still drinking.

For the systematic development of AA China we wish for your support, your care and smoother, deeper communication with you.

### PHILIPPINES.

There are about 200 members in the Philippines, most of them are foreigners like myself. The need is great among the locals and ex-pats. One of the biggest problems we have is too many teachers and not enough students. I guess that's the case in most places. One of our members is mostly responsible for holding AA together, and keeping in touch with the outside world, that would be Don C.. My gratitude to him for having a place to go to AA when I arrived. We have an Alano club house in Angeles city, where I live, as far as I know it's the only one in the Philippines.

There are two conventions, one in Daveo city in February I think. The other is a round-up in Angeles city in the middle weekend in October. This year will be the 10<sup>th</sup>. The dates will be October.14,15, and 16<sup>th</sup>. It's growing every year, we hope to reach 200 this year, equal to the number of members living in our country. The cost is cheap, 1500 pesos, (less than US\$30). You can call the Alano club house at 63-45-892-4258, or email at [danvan@philwebinc.com](mailto:danvan@philwebinc.com) or contact me by email at [vernfoosum@yahoo.com](mailto:vernfoosum@yahoo.com) Philippines is a great vacation spot where everything is inexpensive with much to offer after the Convention.

I look forward to coming to Australia and meeting my fellow AAs and sharing what we can do to give back what was so freely given to us.

### RUSSIA.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time the Russian Federation has participated in the AOSM. At the present there are up to 300 AA groups who meet regularly in more than 100 cities and localities of Russia including Far East and Siberia. Internet Russian-speaking AA group has been working for 6 years. Russian GSO of AA serves Russian-speaking groups in Belarus, Baltic countries, Moldova, Ukraine, Israel (Haifa), USA (LA and NYC) are strengthening and developing. In 2001 the General Service Foundation of AA in Russia was legally registered in Moscow. This non-commercial organisation represents Russian AA at our Government and International legal level. Its activity is primarily aimed to serve the Russian-speaking AA groups and to help in carrying our Message by various means.

Our regional AA services, committees and central offices continue to form. Today we have 8 general service structures in various cities and regions of Russia including Eastern Siberia and Altay. As for Far East Region we have AA groups there in many cities

One of the important tasks within Russian AA is to carry the rich experience to regions where AA is at the early development stages. This is done by different methods. There are special teams who conduct workshops, All-Russian Conventions are held in different cities and there is the "Forum On The Wheels" This is an automobile Convention where members drive along pre-determined routes where AA does or does not exist to spread the message. Prison work is widening and groups meet regularly in prisons, three of these are in Siberia.

Our General Service Conference consists of delegates from all of Groups, Intergroups/Regional Services, plus 11 members from the GSB GSO General Manager and Editor of our magazine "Dozen". The Conference meets annually in Moscow. Due to expenses most groups can't afford to attend so it is mainly the Service Boards and Intergroups that attend. The Conference also elects the GSB of AA Russia and this consists of 11 members who can serve 2 terms for 2 years each at maximum. Traditionally 6 are from the Moscow Region and 5 from other AA Regions. The Board meets monthly in Moscow.

At present the main aim of our literature activity is the preserving of AA Traditions and Principles while carrying the Message. For the last 7 years we have been publishing our needs here in Russia. Today we publish in Russian the Big Book, 12 & 12, Living Sober, Came To Believe, Daily Reflections and up to 40 pamphlets and other AA materials. The book, As Bill Sees It, is practically ready for publishing. We have our magazine, and

a newsletter called P.O.BOX 33.

GSO of Russia is located in Moscow and provides operative connections between GSB, its committees and services, and all AA groups, and Regional Services/Intergroups, giving them oncoming updated information. We have a data of all groups registered at our GSO. The scope of the GSO's functions has grown largely due to the publishing of AA literature in the Russian language.

We have contacts with many countries on a regular basis both at personal and service structure's levels. We visit conventions and Round-Ups in other countries, including the World Conventions in USA/Canada. We also receive invitations for our delegates to the WSM, AOSM ESM, and EESM. Today owing to great support of AOIC, AA of Australia, New Zealand, US/Canada we have an opportunity to participate in AOSM'05. May I express on behalf of our GSB and AA our greatest gratitude to all of them.

In 1990-91 the 12 Step missions of AAs from the US started the development of AA Fellowship in Asian part of Russia (Siberia). Groups of 10-15 people have visited cities such as Irkutsk, Omsk and Vladivostok and started groups. But distances are so vast in Siberia and those isles of AA for a long time were so scattered, small and isolated from the outer AA world. It made it difficult for members to attend conferences. Internal travel is the same as International travel for other countries. But visits from AA members from other countries eg USA, Finland and Poland prevented these small AA outgrowths from disappearing.

We now have some Siberian cities with their own service structures, for example Omsk with 8 groups and an Intergroup. This has resulted in delegates from Siberia attending the GSC on a more regular basis. Joint AA events have played a big role in speeding up the regional service structures. In West Siberia these were the All-Russian Convention held in Omsk and Annual Conventions on the Wheels in Altay. Altay groups have doubled as a result of the Wheels Conventions. In 2006 this will extend to the border cities of Kazakhstan.

In Eastern Siberia the traditional AA Round-Ups at Lake Baikal became the uniting AA event in this area. AAs from Irkutsk using the opportunities of living near the unique lake managed to make it the place of annual gathering for AA members from regions ranging from Krasnoyarsk to Pacific Ocean. This event and the Altay annual Convention On Wheels will be combined in 2007 to make them more one meeting.

In 2004 at the IV Baikal Round-Up groups from cities with established service structure and those

just starting combined in a group consciousness to make a decision to form the GSB of AA in Siberia and Far East (GSB of AA in ES&FE). Today 23 groups are registered by this Regional Board. This GSB started its own 12 Step work based on the American system. We arranged 12 Step meetings with alcoholics in hospital and Narcology clinics and gave interviews to local newspapers and radio. During this period of time the awareness of the need to start local service structures came. Now delegates to the Area Conference will be sent from these structures rather than from groups. The activities and functions of local and regional AA structures were separated, thus a 2 level area service structure was created. Now the need for a Central Office in the Asian part of Russia is realised. A further GSB for Western Siberia has arisen. GSB of AA Altay publishes its magazine "Spring" and GSB of AA in ES&FE its Regional Newsletter.

Approaching the 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its existence since August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1987, AA in Russia continuously grows and develops in spite of all difficulties. And one of the signs that it is coming of age is that just recently AAWS has laid upon us the responsibility (though temporary) to publish in Russian for AA around the world.

## THAILAND.

Alcoholics Anonymous in Thailand dates back as far as the 1950s, but current old-timer knowledge has AA beginning in Bangkok in the early 1970s, when 2 alcoholics were joined by a third and the Bangkok Group was formed. Nationwide membership for the past decade has remained steady at about 250 to 300. Most of the AAs are English-speaking expatriates, though there are some meetings held in Scandinavian and German languages.

Despite some hard work over the years by many AAs, the fellowship did not make solid inroads into the local community until July 2004, when a meeting was started at a treatment centre in Khon Kaen. There is now a steady core of four sober Thais. Using a combination of basic Thai, some translated literature and "karaoke" Thai, Johnny who started the meeting, was able to set it up. In Bangkok, for many years there has been a handful of bilingual Thai AAs who got sober through the English-language fellowship.

Not much need for a national service structure in Thailand was seen until 2002, when the Bangkok Group sought help from other groups in funding a 24 hour helpline and newspaper ad to attract callers. Then at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Thailand Roundup in February 2003, the Intergroup was formed out of a workshop that was led by the current Intergroup chairman Bruce C. A PI committee was

next together with a Carrying the Message committee. This committee includes work with the Thai section of the community. As there is no CPC committee that work is carried out by the PI and Carrying the Message committees.

Thais are starting to carry the message. In March 2005 ahead of the Thai New Year celebrations a local television talk show contacted AA through the Thai helpline. Two Thai AAs went on the show and seated behind an opaque screen and with aliases they were questioned by the talk-show hostess and shared their experience, strength and hope as well as the Thai helpline number. It is hoped there will be more activity along these lines, which is how AA will finally start to see some growth in the local community.

With regard to CPC work we look again to Johnny in Khon Kaen, where the meetings were started in a government Treatment Centre. It is hoped that staff there will network with other professionals and put AA in contact with them. In Bangkok at Bumrungrad Hospital an annual community fair is held which puts AAs face to face contact with many professionals, physicians, counsellors, nurses and educators.

A meeting was started last year in a Buddhist temple, Wat Bowon. Two AAs were keen to start a meeting and were able to develop a special relationship with the temple's abbot who has become a big supporter of the 12 Steps. It's thought to be the first such meeting in Asia and could prove to be very useful in carrying the AA message to the Thais, most of whom are Buddhists.

One of the problems is the language, but this can be overcome through persistence and hard work. The cultural difference is another big problem. The "God thing" was thought to be a big problem, as the Thai translation of the Big Book the Higher Power referred to is seen to be the Christian God. But what alcoholic hasn't had a problem with the Higher power? As it turned out this hasn't proved to be as big a hump to get over after all. The problem down the road might be the mixing of classes but first they have to be got into the room.

Thailand's Intergroup is grappling with the infrastructure problems. Because AA Thailand consists mainly of foreigners and is "not organised as such", it is not a "legal" entity. For example finances are held in bank accounts under the names of individuals. A lack of experience and understanding of Thai law means a lot of fear when it comes to getting registered. As long as AA has remained informal there has been no problem with the government. But if it wants to go "official", the walls will go up we fear. The present government is extremely wary of non-

governmental organisations, even those that have no opinion about politics.

It's hard to break folks into service in Thailand. Basic jobs, like washing cups etc are handled by housekeeping staff at the hospitals and churches. The hard work of organising committees, roundups, hospital visits etc are taken on by a handful of members. Who often double up on commitments with little or no hope of relief, rotation or support. The transient nature of the expat community in Thailand also affects getting people into service positions. Getting Thais into service also has proven difficult. In some cases eg Khon Kaen the Thai members are still working the steps, while in Bangkok where there are bi-lingual Thais with more experience and sobriety, the difficulties are financial for some.

With regard to other countries Damian S., of the Intergroup's PI committee, maintains a list of meetings and AA contacts and loners. This includes Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Singapore, China, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, India and the Philippines. The list is distributed among Thailand AAs for use by travellers looking for meetings in other places.

This year, Thailand asked for sponsorship and funding help from New Zealand, so it could send 2 delegates to AOSM. Country sponsorship is a new concept that Thailand is dealing with, so it'll be interesting to see where this relationship takes AA in the two countries. AA Thailand would like to thank the New Zealand General Service Conference and its Chairman Tony O. for making it possible for us to be present.

AAWS issued the Thai Big Book in 1993. It consists of the first 164 pages plus Dr. Bob's Nightmare. The writing seems unnatural to most Thais that have tried to read it, making the concepts difficult to grasp. Much easier to read are the 4 pamphlets: This is AA: 44 Questions: Is AA for You?: A Newcomer Asks: plus the leaflet, The AA Fact Sheet. Work has begun on the comic book "What Happened To Joe?" into Thai as comic books are very popular in Thailand. Efforts are being made to ask AAWS for a Thai translation of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. There is also interest in obtaining a license to publish the Big Book in Thailand.

## VIET NAM.

AA has been in Viet Nam for over twelve years now. There are two groups: one in Ha Noi and one in Sai Gon. In Sai Gon the meetings are held in a coffee shop in the centre of town and in Ha Noi, there is not yet a permanent meeting location. The Ha Noi group is a closed meeting that is held twice a week, consisting of a few local ex-pat members

and an occasional traveller. The service structure remains almost non-existent. The Sai Gon group meets three times per week, also consisting of a few local ex-pats and travellers passing through. Two open meetings are held at the Landmark building and one Big Book study at Ca Phe Young Thang.

Sai Gon has had the occasional Vietnamese, and an effort is being made to get the local government to allow AA meetings to be recognised and legitimised. When this is accomplished, we will then move AA into treatment centres and help the Vietnamese create their own meeting. As of now, the groups have been attended intermittently by any Vietnamese.

Recently, efforts are being made to ensure that meetings in Viet Nam are more easily accessible to members and the alcoholic who still suffers. This is being made possible with the help from members in other countries and keeping the contact information current. There is concern amongst some of us here regarding government laws on assembly, as any group that meets in a private location and is not registered with the government is considered illegal. Members in both Ha Noi and Sai Gon are currently searching for the best way to go about becoming legitimised, thus enabling the groups to be of service to all who wish to recover.. .

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## THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

### *“Sponsorship- Unity in Ever Widening Circles”.*

Hi, my name is Doug; I'm an alcoholic and I have the privilege of working for the General Service Office U.S./Canada. My home group is the Oxford Group in New York City. This group was named by the oldtimers 47 years ago in honour of the rather seedy hotel in which they met- they thought it would be funny to name the group the same as the Oxford Group which Bill and Dr. Bob attended and from which many of our principles in Alcoholics Anonymous have come. If you come to New York, please visit us-we meet on Monday and Wednesday at 7.30pm on West 84<sup>th</sup> Street.

The following statement was issued in line with the theme of the fifth International Convention in Maimi in 1970, “this we owe to AA's future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on AA Unity depends our lives, and the lives of those to come”.

“Sponsorship – Unity in Ever Widening Circles”, has been a fascinating topic to contemplate and write about. It brought to mind the logo for the 2005 International Convention – the symbolism of this loop, the world floating on expanding circles, represents our world of AA and the ever widening circles of growth and of the love and service necessary to continue to carry the AA message for which each of us is responsible.

I imagined a pebble thrown into a pond and the ripples expanding out until they reached every shoreline. This image is a metaphor applicable to our history, to sponsorship and to unity. Bill tossed the “pebble” of his experience achieving and staying sober into the pool of Dr. Bob's life, and the ripples from that action are still spreading around the world. In terms of ever widening circles, each and every one of us here today has essentially been sponsored by Bill and Dr. Bob.

Personally, I had no idea when I walked into AA what unity meant – I knew there was a group of people with whom I identified – I didn't know how they were organised nor did I care at first. I was desperate not to drink and they held the “secret” of how I could stay sober a day at a time. I also had no idea about sponsorship. Was a sponsor someone who was going to pay my rent or function as a psychiatrist or be the ideal father figure in my life?

I had hoped to select a sponsor worthy of my uniqueness but was assigned a sponsor when one of the elder stateswomen in my home group grew impatient with my procrastination in choosing one. The loving sponsor she chose introduced me to the Big Book, the Steps, and the AA Traditions. He shared his experience with staying sober – he passed on to me what had been passed onto him by his sponsor. Once I had some sober time under my belt, he clearly let me know that my sobriety was my responsibility. I was responsible for reaching out of my isolation, calling him, welcoming newcomers, working the Steps of recovery into my daily life and doing something called “service” in my home group.

He also took me to those wonderful AA group business meetings. He told me that I would see that strong home groups had regular business meetings. In those business meetings, I learned about the principle of unity and that unity does not necessarily imply agreement. He explained that the group was seeking unanimity on important matters – this was my first introduction to the Twelve Concepts for World Service. There was a thing called the “minority voice” to be heard which struck me as very odd. Even stranger was when the minority voice changed everybody's mind, and the whole issue at hand that seemed to go one way

Was entirely reversed, and that, rather than create a break-up of the group, people who had opposed one another on an issue, seemed to show the most harmonious and friendly feelings towards each other at the end of it all. One delegate to our General Service Conference once shared that in music, the word “harmony” means a blending of different notes into a chord. He discovered that unity in AA was very similar. Each individual has a right to free thoughts, speech and actions. Unity – the harmony in our Fellowship – occurs when different points of view even after disagreements, are blended.

I admit to being a slow learner – it took me a long time to realise that the Twelve Traditions were not just words on a page to be read at the beginning of some meeting, but were really a part of my recovery and, like the Steps, a way of life.

In terms of ever widening circles, it was sometime after I had been sober when I learned that my home group was but a small part of a greater whole. There were members in what was called a “service structure”, and this structure was doing for the good of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York City and around the U.S. and Canada, what my sponsor had encouraged me to do for my home group. My sponsor explained to me that a strong home group participates in the wider world of AA service. And just as he had guided me in the essentials of recovery in AA, I saw that there were members readily available to help provide information and guidance in service in the larger world of AA.

When I came to GSO as a staff member, I encountered members from all over the world in “service” working together for the good of Alcoholics Anonymous. There were members worldwide seeking ways to help better carry our precious message of hope. There was “country to country” sponsorship – members in one country helping members in another country to carry our message not only to the suffering alcoholic but to professionals in such fields as medicine, corrections and the media. Guidance was also given on using the Traditions and, most importantly, encouragement given to building strong home groups as a basis for developing vital and dynamic service structures. There was a gathering called a World Service Meeting. Three in which I have had the privilege of participating. And there were Zonal meetings like the one we are experiencing today. All circles of AA love and service representing a growing international unity of which I had but been dimly aware when I stumbled through the AA doors.

One of the meanings of unity is “to join for a purpose”. Bill and Dr. Bob not only needed each other to hold onto their individual sobriety, they also realised they needed to help other alcoholics

or else what they had discovered would vanish and they might drink again. Together, they joined in unity for the purpose of carrying the message of hope so that others might recover. And they didn’t just do it once – they did it over and over again – they did it intensely – continuously. They set the standard of active 12 Step work, sponsorship and unity of purpose. As AA grows, this purpose still remains essential for all of us – one alcoholic helping another – individual to individual, group to group, area to area, region to region and country to country – working intensely and continuously.

It also occurred to me that sponsorship and unity imply sacrifice, as do most of the principles and activities in Alcoholics Anonymous. It is through sacrifice and humility that we maintain our spiritual condition in order to protect ourselves from active alcoholism. All of our Traditions asks us as individuals to sacrifice self, to let go of our inclinations for recognition, power, and prestige, to get some insight into our limitations and to put the welfare of the whole ahead of our own wants. This can be a challenging effort for an individual and for service entities. Everyone in this room, I’m sure, recognises that as active alcoholics or even sober alcoholics we could not and cannot go it alone. We’ve needed others to guide us through the Steps, Traditions and Concepts and to share AA experience in recovery as well as in service. As the circle of AA growth around the world widens, the importance of sharing our Legacies with other countries where AA is emerging also calls for sacrifice. Your being here at this meeting is a sacrifice for that purpose – you have sacrificed precious time at work or with family; your country’s service structure or perhaps a sponsoring country has sacrificed funds for you to be here. Our main goal is, of course, to share together how better to carry the AA message and, also, to share some of the mechanics of service, but I believe unity is the major purpose of our gathering. If we were to sit here for three days and not say one word to each other but simply be in each other’s presence, I am quite certain that we would leave here unified in a feeling that AA was alive and well.

In his text in the first Tradition in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, Bill writes, “The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or AA dies. Without unity, the heart of AA would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly.

All of us are charged with the responsibility of working together in this spirit of unity. The sense of unity and the need for unity is ideally passed on through sponsorship from one member to another just as sharing the experience of recovery through

the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous is passed from one member to the next creating ever widening circles of sobriety and changed lives and if we do this consistently and intensely, the ripples of recovery, unity and service will continue to reach every shore where there is a suffering alcoholic...

*Following this Keynote Address by Doug Richardson, New York GSO International Desk a Workshop was held on this theme of Sponsorship – Unity in Ever Widening Circles”.*

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In the discussion that followed the presentation each delegate was given an opportunity to share.

Throughout the workshop two or three points kept coming up from different countries. One was that as well as literature and sponsorship emerging would appreciate visits by members from well established countries with an emphasis on AA members who are either involved, or have been involved in service particularly service at a national or international and non-AA people who deal with the recovery, both medically or in a 12 Step programme.

Greg Muth, General Manager of GSO New York made a very important statement when he said the following: *“When setting up a Service Structure many countries try to grow too quickly. The country must create strong groups over and over again. If there isn’t a group then start one and advertise it. Groups when they are strong will create boards and services, not vice versa. You need a committee to reach indigenous and you must balance between local and outside work To balance it properly you must budget wisely.”.*

With most of the countries their most basic requirement was literature particularly translated literature. Sometimes the translated literature from AAWS New York is not well received and in the case of Japan they found that a locally produced comic proved very popular. Masaru Imai from Japan said that the comic called “Welcome to AA” is produced in an Asian style and should be very useful to other countries.

Doug Hamilton, International Desk New York GSO, said that country to country sponsorship is important and this has been noted at the World Service Meeting, but it must be remembered that even the well established countries have their own problems. This is the case where there is indigenous people. Australia has the same problem with the Aborigine people especially with regard to language. There are pockets of expertise in the Aboriginal areas with many being members of AA.

The same problem with the local people occurs in Thailand, but here it works both ways. The Thai people find some of the translated literature hard to

follow. In the translated Big Book they cannot relate to the stories in the book and it is suggested that a translated Big Book would probably do better with some local stories in it. The western expats are sometimes a little scared of involvement with the local Thai people, Curtis Winston of Thailand said. He thought it might be the language barrier that caused it.

Goldie May of New Zealand also stated that not to forget that charity starts at home and in New Zealand they have Special Needs groups that they deal with. These groups include blind groups and deaf groups. New Zealand made a Sign Language video but unfortunately the Sign Language is not a universal one so the video is slightly limited in its use in other countries. Goldie went on to say that they had to be careful, as has already been said, that they got the correct balance between the AA work at home in New Zealand and the assistance given abroad.

Time was spent on the merits of the future use of the Internet and e-mail. Doug pointed out that 705 of the registrations for the World Convention in Toronto were done on-line so that is a sign of the future. Russia uses the Internet and e-mail for the simple reason that they have to deal with vast distances between cities. In Russia a domestic flight between two cities sometimes equates to an international flight with most other countries, but still Russia sponsors other countries. This form of communication is ideal in most circumstances but Fred Tittle from Cambodia sounded a warning when he said that the Indigenous people are not conversant with this form of conversing with each other and it can be a deterrent.

It is obvious that countries are learning from each other and nowhere more so than in dealing with prisons and the correctional facilities. Countries are using the lessons learnt by more established countries to put into practice programmes in their own countries. Japan is now being asked by the prisons for AA people to visit the prisons but there is a problem in that there are other Asians there which creates a language problem. Goldie gave some interesting facts with regard to this in that as a WSM delegate he wrote to 41 different Corrections facilities in the Asia Oceania countries and only received two replies. The letter from Fiji expressed delight that he had offered help while the letter from Macau said that they had no one in their prison system who had a problem with alcohol.

This topic is certainly an important in the Asia Oceania region and will continue to be a discussion point at future AOSMs. But when dealing with new fledging countries as Bhalla from India said “First explain what AA is and is not”.

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## WORKSHOPS.

### Theme. "MANY NATIONS—ONE FELLOWSHIP".

*Presented by Goldie May 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Delegate New Zealand.*

Alcoholics Anonymous has been since inception based on 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of World service. The very fact that the 12 Concepts of World service was introduced to us all so long ago emphasises the wisdom of the founders who could see the Global implications of our fellowship and the fact that our membership would in time embrace many cultures and languages from many countries.

Lately the themes of the World service Meetings have been set around this. The theme for the 17<sup>th</sup> World Service Meeting in Oviedo, Spain, in 2002 was "The AA Message Without Borders" and the theme for the 18<sup>th</sup> World service Meeting in New York was "One Message-Many Languages-One Fellowship"; and here we are discussing "Many Nations-One Fellowship".

At Oviedo, Paul McCusker of Ireland in giving the Keynote Address stated that it was quite ironic that he be asked to give the address, stating that Ireland had a border, dividing North from South; two governments, two legal systems, two educational boards, two different currencies, two national football teams, two major religious sects; yet the one thing they had was a single Alcoholics Anonymous and a message without borders. Paul finished his address by quoting Bernard B. Smith, former non alcoholic chairperson of our New York board of trustees speaking in 1954:- "We need to ensure that the doors of the halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need to ensure that AA never asks of anyone who needs us, what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is".

In New York, Elaine McDowell chairwoman of the US/Canada General Service Board stated "AA is a fellowship without borders and lives up to our WSM theme, "One Message-Many Languages-One Fellowship"; it is inspiring and encouraging to learn how the international AA community, general service boards and offices in many of your countries are helping to carry the message to new areas in the face of formidable challenges such as language, culture and geography. By sharing your experience, strength and hope with developing AA service structures in neighbouring nations, the hand of AA has been extended to places where alcoholics previously were without hope".

Bill W. stated, "we are a fellowship that has been

able to achieve the 'one-world dream of philosophers'  
" and Elaine said that she believed that even Bill W.

would be amazed at the extent to which the fellowship has reached the suffering alcoholics all over the world. The growth of AA in developing countries is phenomenal. Delegates in New York were told That AA has a presence in more than 180 countries; that we have an estimated total of 104,589 groups and more than 2 million members worldwide. Once again I quote Bill W., who initiated the first World Service Meeting in 1969, "from the beginning, communication in AA has been no ordinary transmission of helpful ideas and attitudes. Because of our kinship in suffering, and because our common means of deliverance are effective for ourselves only when constantly carried to others, our channels of contact have always been charged with the language of the heart". Today I believe that we owe an enormous amount of gratitude to those who went before us and led the way, and it is our duty to ensure that in years to come the fellowship of the day will believe that we have done our work well.

To achieve this we must ensure that the simple message we give is that we are of many nations yet of only one fellowship. And that the message we give is totally undiluted and that we are forever aware of our singleness of purpose in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The World Service Meeting is set up for those countries that have a structured service structure and we should be indebted to those who had the wisdom to set up Zonal meetings for the countries who have not yet reached that goal and for some who may never reach that goal. The zonal meetings such as the one we are attending are now essential to the ever growing development of this fellowship in many nations. In New York papers were presented on reaching Ethnic Communities in the Asia Oceania, the Americas, Europe and Africa; an enormous task worldwide and an ongoing one for us all here today to ensure that the fellowship in our countries do not become complacent.

If we can go away from this workshop with some new ideas on how to carry out old ideas that have been around for some time yet find themselves in the "too hard basket", we will have spent our time wisely and well. Our Asia Oceania directory lists 40 countries with contact addresses; would it not be marvellous if all countries represented here

today could ensure that at the next Asia Oceania Service Meeting, they were responsible for the attendance of a delegate or at least an observer from another country.

- What challenges has your country faced in sponsoring another country?
- How do you balance providing local services with aiding emerging countries?
- How is attendance at this zonal meeting of benefit to your country?
- How valuable is e-mail and even fax to your communications with other countries?
- Do we keep our secretary informed so he can inform us through the newsletter?
- Do you have a special sub committee to deal with "country to country sponsorship"?

I put these questions in line with our overall theme of "Sponsorship-Unity in Ever Widening Circles".

The International Literature Fund is without doubt the most effective way of helping carry the message, if direct country to country sponsorship is out of the question; and it never ceases to amaze me the amount of work put in by so many devoted to ensure that the message gets carried: that it has been possible to translate, print and distribute literature in over 70 languages worldwide.

We are indeed "Many Nations-One Fellowship".

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*Following this presentation the delegates divided into four groups to share their experiences on this topic. Group leaders gave the following reports back to the full meeting.*

The groups approached the topic from different positions. The first group drew up some points and discussed them.

**Sponsorship Challenges.** The first problem is financial. The 60-30-10 plan of allocating financial resources could be a solution to helping in this field. There is also a difficulty in convincing AAs of the need for a global outlook and this means fighting apathy and the "Bleeding deacons"

**Comic Books,** This is a useful tool in carrying the AA message. Thailand is attempting to translate the text of "What Happened to Joe?" as well as the Japanese comic "Welcome to AA". Indonesia expressed interest in creating comics from scratch for the Javanese and Balinese population.

**Translations.** Some translations are perceived as being inflexible and unreadable so must be literal "God" is translated as the Christian God, rather than a "Higher Power" and this can be a problem Workshops on this topic could be held to overcome this bias.

**Websites.** Groups in the region should share links with each other on their websites.

**Treatment Centres.** It is important that once newcomers leave the centre where the meetings are held they are encouraged to keep coming back If necessary they

should start meetings in their hometown. The singleness of purpose must be stressed when starting a meeting.

GSOs and groups should be encouraged to develop correspondence with other GSOs and groups. Sometimes a lot of AAs don't want to know about service but by exposure to such meetings could attract more to participate.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> group also found that finance is a problem and countries need to budget wisely so they can continue to help with sponsorship of other countries.

The group said that more indigenous people need to be encouraged to take part in AA and hopefully will become interested in service up to AOSM level. It would help to invite them to participate in AA celebrations such as Conventions where the service structure can be explained to them. They can mix and talk to delegates on these occasions too.

There needs to be more spreading of information about what is happening in the Asia Oceania zone and this can be done by sending such information to the Secretary for publication in the Newsletter. Some countries do send out their own newsletter but still more could be done. This would include Round-ups, Conventions, Intergroup meetings and Workshops.

This group also stressed the importance of websites, e-mails and faxes, all forms of electronic communication.

The third group stressed that the primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. It is one fellowship so that all nations where possible should help In the Asia Oceania region there are emerging countries that need help as they haven't got the resources, finance and experience. Countries should remember that experience, strength and hope are needed too and can be taken straight to groups. These countries even though they need help can find it difficult to ask for any form of help. They hear others say "We are self supporting" and they take this literally. Not realising that this does not apply to help from AA in another country. When AA tourists come and put money in the hat it is alright to accept it. As one delegate said "The Fellowship is one".

The fourth group concentrated on two points. First how to carry the message to neighbouring countries and to the minorities of their own countries where applicable. Secondly they considered how to provide audio stories from AAs in relevant languages/dialects. The first method was to get stories from those in the fellowship of countries where AA is established, where there are people who speak the Language/dialects of their neighbours who have small or next to no fellowship. For example Japan can provide Korean tapes or Hong Kong for various parts of China. Countries who have ethnic minorities in their fellowships could provide audios in their own language for distribution eg native Australian for Aboriginal peoples. Countries such as the UK, US/Canada who have many minorities in their fellowships could be asked to do audio tapes in their languages for relevant countries that need help.

## WORKSHOP.

### *Theme: "COMMUNICATION and CO-OPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY".*

*The meeting divided into four groups for discussion of the theme and then reported back to the full AOSM meeting.*

The result of the discussions in the various groups was varied and very informative. The emerging countries were meeting the problems that the more established countries had had to deal with in their earlier days. This reinforced the benefits of a meeting such as this AOSM and the ability to share information, to help each other, to "sponsor" each other with experience, strength and hope.

We have to remember that these professional, no matter what field they work in, need to be "Friends of AA" as Masaru from Japan said. He also said that this is very important and has helped Japan AA establish itself. These friends of AA are important to new areas particularly and they need to be found.

Goldie, New Zealand presented a sample letter to professionals, a letter which originated from the AAWS International Desk in New York. It is essentially the AA Preamble, but with a different flavour.

- *Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who have found a solution to their drinking problem. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking and there are no dues or fees; our members ought to include those who suffer from alcoholism. AA is self-supporting by voluntary contributions of its members and groups; does not seek or accept outside funding. AA does not endorse or provide financial assistance to other causes, no matter how worthy. AA is not affiliated with any government, religion, philosophy, club, treatment facility or other organisation. As a group, we are non-professional and do not engage in education, prevention or research of alcoholism. AA has no opinion on outside issues and is unrelated to any form of treatment or therapy. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help another alcoholic achieve sobriety through the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.*

Fred (Cambodia) said that as a newer AA area they had experienced problems when contacting Government organisations with responses to date rather negative. Their current plans are to e-mail non-Government organisations to forge links with the non-professional communities. This would include organisations such as Red Cross. In some cases it is a lack of knowledge about AA and what it does, and as a

result, there is a need for education. In many Asian countries people simply don't know what AA is. In Thailand, two AAs made a television appearance and talked about AA. The presenter repeatedly expressed amazement, saying she'd never heard of AA. Thailand also has a problem with some doctors in that they didn't care for the drunken patient, handing out many pills, but no other treatment. The attitude has not been helpful and the doctors are generally unwilling to "listen". There is an attitude of superiority that is difficult to deal with.

India found that it had a similar problem, that the doctors had a fear of "competition" from the 12 Step programmes. AA approached the GPs organisation and stated that there was "no competition" and offered helpful support for those that relapse. This interested the doctors and now visits to individual GPs from sober members of AA.

In New Zealand medical students must attend five AA meetings in order to pass their certification. Sometimes it seems that the professionals aren't really interested in their patients' recovery, but are more interested in making money through prescribing medication and having the patients come back to them. Fortunately this is a minority view. This emphasises the need to "educate" the professional with information and pamphlets, with lunches to meet these professionals.

#### **H&I Committees.**

Hong Kong has an "H&I" committee (Hospitals and Institutions) which has sent out to various schools, hospitals, and correctional departments packages regarding AA together with Questionnaires to be filled in by the recipients and returned to AA. A further follow-up is to have visits by AA members to these institutions. This has resulted in visits to schools, hospitals and the Government Drug Awareness & Alcohol Centre. This includes talks and workshops with teachers, students and requests for meetings on alcoholism with doctors. This work is not aggressive but rather "attraction not promotion". Unfortunately in the Chinese community there is no attempt to seek professional help as it comes mostly from the courts.

#### **P.I. Committees.**

Australia has a national "PI" conference each year with delegates from areas around the country. The conference produces a quarterly Newsletter on PI work.

There is a folder available from GSO Australia with

guidelines to encourage groups to set up such committees. The PI conference also:-

- Organises luncheons for professionals such as Police, Magistrates, Doctors, Psychiatrists. At these luncheons there are AA members present to talk about AA..
- Organises prison visits.
- Contact is also made with treatment centres.
- Arranges speakers for professional lunches or dinners.. This type of meeting will include correctional services.

It is suggested that for newly established areas, keynote speakers from "sponsorship" countries be sent to give talks and lead workshops on this very important topic. Other established countries also operate on the same lines with their PI Committees. It could be said the PI and CPC committees are working the 12<sup>th</sup> Step, and it is just like carrying the message to another alcoholic. Some new countries are at the early stage finding it easier to work with Treatment centres rather than

directly with the doctors. Often with these countries too it is the lack of finance that restricts the setting up of the necessary committee structure.

In India contact is made with companies and industry. Due to the fact that the workers are protected from dismissal by the unions AA is welcomed and AA is available to hold meetings at the company to explain AA. This is done by Class A Trustees (usually a priest).

This workshop certainly provided a wide range of discussion points and was of great value not only to the emerging countries but also the well established countries. The latter were shown what still needs to be done, the assistance they can offer both practical and financial, and that a meeting such as this AOSM is invaluable.

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## PRESENTATION.

### *LITERATURE TRANSLATION WITH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.*

*Presented by Greg Muth General Manager General Service Office, New York, USA.*

My Name is Greg. I'm an alcoholic who found sobriety- freedom from alcohol- in Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm General Manager of the general Service Office (GSO) in New York that serves the AA groups in Canada and the United States. You, the Delegates representing AA in countries within the Asia Oceania region, inspire others to participate in sharing AA's solution for the illness of alcoholism and to extend the hand of hope to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Members of our General Service Board, AA World Services and Grapevine Boards, as well Staff and employees of GSO and the Grapevine office extend deep gratitude to each of you for your service devoted to AA's primary purpose- carrying our message to each alcoholic stumbling in the darkness of alcoholism. Your service is given freely without expectation of personal recognition, a principle by which Alcoholics Anonymous has spread across the world as a beacon of light for despairing alcoholics.

I've been asked to share on a subject vital to each of us- translations of AA literature, books and pamphlets that contain the fundamentals of how AA works to lead people like you and me to sobriety. The cooperation of international AA boards, committees and offices is essential to preserve the integrity of our message in print. Today I will

only one Alcoholics Anonymous and you and more than 2,000,000 sober members around the world are the Fellowship. Together we have assumed leadership responsibilities for the AA Fellowship's future passed on by our Founders, Dr. Bob and Bill address "why" and "how" approved translations are achieved.

W. We are here to share experience, strength and hope so that each of us can turn toward the alcoholic woman or man in our community who is unaware that AA exists and offers a lifesaving solution to her or him. In Unity, we work together in cooperation to provide AA's message in languages understood by everyone, everywhere.

#### **Translations.**

The Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous is currently published in 52 languages, and several other translations are underway. AA World Services, Inc. (AAWS) holds more than 700 copyrights on AA literature, including the Big Book- copyrights held in trust for AA as a whole

In 2004, AAWS provided over 50,000 pieces of AA literature in more than 40 languages. Translations of AA literature are an essential service facilitated, in part, through the generous assistance of the International Literature Assistance Fund established

by the World Service Meeting (WSM) to which some of your countries have contributed.

1. Occasionally, professionals or AA groups in lands where AA is new ask that we translate a basic book or pamphlet for their use, as was the case when we visited the People's Republic of China; and,
2. More frequently, bilingual local members where AA has taken root begin translating AA materials such as the Preamble, The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and other recovery literature.

Eventually, local AA groups/boards move on to larger projects, such as the Big Book or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. Many of you represent AA in countries that have gone through or are moving forward in the process of achieving approved translations.

**Please Note:** Before anyone- AA group, board or member- begins translating AA's copyrighted literature, they must first request permission to translate by contacting the Publications Department in GSO New York.

On receipt of a request for permission to translate an AA title, our Publications Department usually asks that a translation of the pamphlet or a few chapters of the book be submitted for review. The proposed new translation is checked by professionals to assure clarity and adherence to the sense and spirit of the original English work. It is always best to follow this method before applying effort to a translation which may not be acceptable in the long run.

If the translation does not adequately reflect the original material or is of uneven quality, the AAWS Board will consider authorizing that the work be done through our professional translators. Accuracy and integrity are especially important for translations of Bill W's writings such as *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, as well as other works by Bill W. Each translation must reflect the tone and spirit of Bill's original work.

At times, it's difficult for AA members who read a translation in another language to accept terms and usage that may seem outdated or irrelevant. I want you to know that this sort of reaction has occurred in Canada/US with regard to the original English versions of our basic books. After thorough consideration, our General Service Conference established the policy that the basic text of the Big Book, as well as the text of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* remain as written by Bill W. The policy governs our approach to each translation of Bill's works -- we strive for each translation to reflect the original text as closely as possible.

We do not proofread or copy-edit all material received from AA offices/boards in other countries, as those are the responsibilities of the board/committee that produces the approved translation. Experience indicates that final verification of approved translations is best accomplished by a committee of local members who are

Translations come about in two ways: familiar with AA, and include a few bilingual members who are fully familiar with the original text.

Before an approved translation is published, a licence to publish the AA book or pamphlet is granted, and we furnish the licensee with the Copyright Notice to be printed in the new publication. This assures that all necessary permission requirements are in place and prevents problems with the Copyright protection afforded the translated AA book, pamphlet or other material.

We understand that translations are more an art than a science. Several translators may choose different words or terminology to express the original concept, and each translator is convinced that his or her interpretation is most accurate. The final decision rests with the group conscience of AA in each country, often delegated to a Translation Committee. Occasionally, a few members are so certain they have the best translation that they ignore the group Conscience and create an alternative text. AAWS grants **only one licence per country or structure**, and always abides by the group conscience.

#### Copyrights.

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc. (AAWS) is the owner of the copyrights in most of the world on Bill W's writings, as well as copyrights on literature approved by the General Service Conference of Canada/US. The AAWS board is responsible for licensing service structures outside of Canada and the United States, and for reviewing and/or granting permission to translate and publish copyrighted material.

Earlier I mentioned that AAWS currently holds more than 700 copyrights on AA literature, including literature published by other General Service Offices and licence holders who assign copyrights to AAWS. **Each copyright is held in trust by AAWS for the worldwide AA Fellowship.**

Over the years, AAWS has safeguarded AA's copyrighted material to protect the integrity of the AA message. Since the time that service structures outside of Canada/US were first licensed to publish copyrighted literature, the policy has been to grant exclusive licence(s) to one established service entity per country or service structure. The policy is based on the need to insure accuracy of approved translations, and to assist newer General Service Structures to achieve unity and provide services to AA groups in their respective lands.

The policy of granting an exclusive licence to one service entity/board/committee (the licensee) per structure or country authorises the licensee to protect the copyright and licence in their country. Prior to 1986 the licensing policy was less formal and occasionally

inconsistent. Since that time our General Service Conference and the World Service Meeting (WSM) have affirmed the policy on several occasions.

In the late 1980s, we developed standard licensing and copyright assignment forms, and it's critical that any board/office/committee intending to translate a copyrighted work provide completed forms to AAWS in care of our Publications Department.

A Licence agreement is good for ten years, after which a new agreement needs to be executed. Additionally, a Licence agreement needs to be renewed **each** time an approved translation is *updated, revised or reprinted*. The copyright notice contained in reprints or revised translations should contain the date of the **original** copyright rather than the date of reprint or revision. Assuring that these agreements are in order is critical to protect the integrity of the AA message, and to the development of AA structures in unity.

We are available to assist you with these procedures, and encourage everyone contemplating or working on translations of AA literature to contact our Publications Department, the agent for AAWS. We ask current licence holders to appraise us of all changes and/or reprints as each change needs to be filed on our behalf. Updated registrations also need to be filed in your country.

**Together, let's review vital facets of this subject:**

1. To begin translation of literature copyrighted by AAWS, first complete in duplicate the form, *Request for License to Translate and/or Reproduce and Distribute Copyrighted Work*, and send original and duplicate to our Publications Department, at the address shown at the end of this presentation.
2. When the request has been approved, the AA entity (board/office/committee) will be notified and asked to proceed as described in the following steps.
3. A few translated chapters of the AA book or pamphlet must be submitted to our Publications Department along with the completed form, *Assignment of Copyright*. We will have the translated manuscript checked for accuracy and integrity.
4. The professional assessment of the proposed translation will be returned, along with any suggestions for improvement. If necessary, the corrected manuscript will be reviewed again.
5. Once an acceptable version of the translation is received by our Publications Department, an executed License Agreement will be issued.
6. On behalf of AAWS, we provide a copyright notice page *exactly* as it is to be printed in the translation approved for publication, and described in the License Agreement, item 6.
7. As soon as an approved translation is published, AAWS, in care of our Publications Department,

should be sent three (3) copies of the licensed work, as well as the date translation was completed and the publication date, as described in item 7 of the License Agreement.

Recently, AAWS began granting permission to General Service Offices and other AA Service entities the opportunity to post translated literature on their web sites, with the exception of English, French and Spanish titles which we post. The license agreement now includes a section that may be used to request permission to post a translation on the website.

For Licences granted prior to 2004, the AA entity/Licence holder can write to our Publications Department Chris Cavanaugh indicating their wish to post translated literature on the web. An amendment to the original licence will be prepared unless the subject translation is already available on the web. Each translation must be licensed for posting on the World Wide Web; we cannot grant broad or unlimited permission.

I trust that we agree on the immense importance of translations to our primary purpose. I'm confident that you will join in making certain that the process is carried out exactly as described today and outlined in the document titled "AAWS Policy re: Translations of AA Literature, including Publications and Licensing Considerations". Thus we join together to protect the integrity of AA's message in print and preserve the unity of our beloved Fellowship.

In love and service,

Greg Muth.

For permission to translate, renew licences, web postings, please contact:

Publications Department  
Chris Cavanaugh, Director  
General Service Office  
475 Riverside Drive, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York,  
New York 10115.  
U.S.A.

(212) 870-3052  
[PubDir@aa.org](mailto:PubDir@aa.org)  
Chris Cavanaugh, Director  
General Service Office  
475 Riverside Drive, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York,  
New York 10115.  
U.S.A.

(212) 870-3052  
[PubDir@aa.org](mailto:PubDir@aa.org)

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## NOTE:

### 18<sup>th</sup> WORLD SERVICE MEETING NEW YORK, USA, OCTOBER 24-28 2004

Theme: "ONE MESSAGE -MANY LANGUAGES – ONE FELLOWSHIP".

The report by Trevor Housley, Australia, on the 18<sup>th</sup> WSM will not be reproduced, due to its extreme length, in this AOSM Final Report. Copies of the WSM Report may be obtained from the General Service Office Australia, 48 Firth Street, Arncliffe, NSW 2205, Australia. Email [gsoaust@aa.org.au](mailto:gsoaust@aa.org.au)

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT.

The theme for this weekend is "Sponsorship- Unity in Ever Widening Circles".

Over the past two years, there has been wonderful evidence of Sponsorship assistance to AA members and delegates in different countries creating unity in ever widening circles transcending the isolation of alcoholism, distance, finances, language and culture.

Over this time, Bob has done an amazing job as Secretary. Some things he does include handling all correspondence, finances, AOSM Directory updates and publications, newsletters and publications, distributions, contact with the delegates and host committee and venue and in touch with me regularly. I will leave it up to Bob to elaborate more on what has been achieved over the past two years with the AOSM since the last AOSM as this was mainly his responsibility as Secretary.

I see the Chairman's role as a unifying one being available for consultation, maintaining overview and providing leadership.

1. In between AOSMs the chairman could
  - Assist with developing a preliminary agenda.
  - Develop the meeting timetable and format.
  - Submit articles in AOSM newsletters.
  - Liaise with the Secretary to facilitate the chairman's communication with delegates when necessary.
  - Consider contact through teleconferences or email chat lines with committee chairmen and AOSM Secretary (with interpreters if required) at regular intervals to maintain interest and activity. The more e

connect, the more we strengthen the bond between us.

- Consider attending AA conventions and AA weekends in the Asia Oceania Zone when possible.
- With the Secretary assistance continue to prepare final reports..

### 2. During AOSM time –

- Welcoming address.
- Chairman's report.
- To keep order during the AOSM when chairing.
- To ensure the meeting flows smoothly while encouraging participation.
- Meet and talk informally with delegates, observers and guests as much as possible (getting to know you).

I am not saying that I was/am able to achieve all of this but I thought it would be useful to articulate this after learning and reflecting about my experience and what I would like to have been able to accomplish. I believe that the Chairman needs to be more active in the two years in between AOSMs and wish that I had attained more in this area.

In order for a loving God to be expressed in our group conscience, we need to be aware of the following points.

- Members should be fully informed on the issue under discussion.
- A decision need not be hurriedly arrived at- it can if necessary be deferred until substantial unanimity is arrived at.
- Substantial unanimity is usually regarded as two thirds in favour of the motion.

- A minority including a silent minority should be invited and welcomed to share its views.
- Compromises granted by the majority may help the meeting arrive at a decision which sits well with all or nearly all of the participants.
- A forceful advocate is not always right.

It would be appreciated if during the AOSM plenary sessions the following meeting procedure could be observed.

- One person speak at a time (except for interpreters).
- Raise their hand to speak through the chair.
- Share again only after everyone else has shared.
- Keep sharing brief and to the point.
- When we need to make a group conscience decision, could AOSM delegates move a motion which could be seconded and then discussed 'for' and "against" before a vote is taken. Discussion should always follow a motion, not precede it.
- Only Asia Oceania Service Meeting Delegates are voting members. Although observers have no voting rights there may be opportunities for participation during the AOSM when invited.

As you are aware, there are currently four Asia Oceania Service Meeting Committees..

1. Agenda/Policy/Admissions/Finance.
2. Literature/Publishing/Website.
3. Working with Others.
4. Site Selection.

What Bob and I would like to suggest to you is that the Site Selection Committee have the Website or Agenda responsibilities attached to it. The benefit of this would mean that there would be a sharing of the work load more fairly as the Site Selection Committee has a less onerous work load than the other committees.

This is a matter that needs to be discussed, considered and decided on now by the group conscience process before we proceed. Because this is a major change to the committee structure, it is appropriate that it be achieved by a motion to this effect which if seconded is discussed for and against.

I would like to encourage you to preplan for your designated committee meeting tomorrow by giving serious thought to the role and structure of that particular committee, its aims and objectives and how we best work together so that these may be achieved in between AOSMs and during the AOSMs. I would hope that each committee would emerge from its deliberations with some basic guidelines for future direction.

I look forward to a bonanza of experience, strength and hope emerging from our time together over these few days being with each other. Our total contributions can not fail to help further our primary purpose in this vast part of the world.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

In the fellowship of love and service.

Lynne Head-Weir.  
6th Asia Oceania Service Meeting Chairman.

## Committee Reports.

Due to a decision taken by the Meeting the Site Selection became the Agenda/Site Selection/Website Committee.

### Policy/Admission/Finance Committee.

The committee decided that as they were meeting for the first time it would be the time to draw up an agenda that will apply to future meetings of this committee. They approved the following agenda:

1. Open with Serenity Prayer and Tradition
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of last meeting.
4. Matters arising.
5. Correspondence.
6. New Business.
7. Other Business.
8. Date of next meeting

The committee then discussed Definition of Policy, Admission and Finance. Action was deferred until further resources are available.

The AOSM Guidelines were reviewed as they concern this committee. Guideline 7 in particular needed review as this meeting is of three days duration in contradiction to the 2 days in the current Guideline. As a result the committee's Recommendation/Motion was to change the Guidelines to read as follows:

Guideline 7. "The meeting shall be of at least two days duration".

**At the full meeting of the AOSM this recommendation was passed.**

Guideline 6 was then reviewed, and there was concern over the phrase "Country/AA regional structure". Questions asked included:

What is a structure?

Some small European countries join with a larger country to represent them, but they do have their own structure.

The possible problems with China, Taiwan and Hong Kong are political.

Sometimes it isn't about nationality.

We aren't interested in government but in structure.

Regardless, a delegate must represent a group conscience.

Recommendation/Motion: Take back to AOSM meeting for clarification of the term "AA Regional Structure".

**The AOSM meeting clarified this matter by discussion saying that for example a Regional Structure could be only three groups in a country that had no other service structure.**

Guideline 3: "Finance shall be the responsibility of each participating country/AA regional structure".

The committee in discussion said that there is a need to have in writing that each country endeavour to try to contribute to the AOSM fee, using the principle of Self Support. The World Service Meeting and the European Service Meeting are guaranteed by respectively US/Canada GSO and UK GSO. No country in the AOSM region is able to guarantee funds, eliminating the possibility of setting a fee that would cover expenses. The AOSM is unique among Zonal meetings in distances travelled, and populations of member countries don't have the funds. These distances in the AOSM result in more costs than in other zonal meetings. As a result we have to accept that there is now no backup for our finances. This means there is a need to consider finances through the two year interim. The finances have been handled in the past by the Chair and the Secretary.

Recommendation/Motion.:

"The Finance Committee Chair work with the Secretariat and Chair during the interim years on finances, and look at ways to raise funds for sponsorship arrangements. The Finance committee Chair be available to communicate with the Chair and Secretariat by E-mail and teleconference if needed".

**This Recommendation/Motion was passed at the full AOSM meeting.**

The Committee elect Val Kiel of New Zealand as the new Chair of the Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee.

The report from the committee was accepted by the AOSM meeting.

of recovery do have access to AA literature to take back to their own villages – and that these people also take part in an extra six months programme after rehabilitation before returning to their home villages.

## Literature/Publishing Committee.

The committee developed a topic for discussion and this was "develop a policy that helps new countries with literature translations and the costs of such translations". The committee went on to say that the words "new countries" means "new fellowships", and that to help these groups, they needed to show them how to go about getting translations going. The secretary suggested that new countries meant a country that had just started developing AA, into groups and needed to be shown how to build a service structure.

The committee then drew up a list of suggestions. The first one was to make up an information kit with particularly pamphlets all AAWS approved which explains the process a new fellowship has to adopt to translate all information requested by the fellowship in that country.

The next suggestion was to contact their sponsor country for directions and support and where applicable to use the AOSM Secretariat. The third one was that all presented information is a literal translation of Bill W's writings and must include all footnotes, glossaries and appendices to be used to explain the written word so that it is fully applicable to its intended audience. Greg Muth had already drafted a memo that explains everything. There is already a procedure written, it just has to be formalised and presented to the AOSM.

The information has yet to be tabled here. The last suggestion was to ask how countries can licence the printing of their own material. They asked what is the procedure to do this, i.e., licensing the AA literature in one's own country. The committee expressed the wish that this be worked on after Greg's presentation. Goldie said that at future AOSMs maybe the Agenda could be so planned that committee meetings could come after such presentations. It was pointed out that this could have problems as there is a need to write a report on the committee meetings to be given to delegates to study before the meeting to receive their recommendations. It was then suggested that all AOSM countries be notified on available literature about translation procedures.

Curtis, from Thailand, said that when a request was made Of AAWS New York for assistance to translate comic books they were told to do it themselves. When asked who would do this translation Curtis said a bilingual person would do it.

Linda, Indonesia, suggested that people in early stages

The following recommendation was then discussed at length. It read "That a translating committee in the country translate chapters 1 and 2 of the Big Book – get the O.K. of their Conscience Group/Literacy Committee, then send it to New York for their approval, and if accepted – proceed". Greg pointed out

that there is much information regarding translation of literature to be found on the website: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

The secretary then said that in the final report as a result of the presentation by Greg, there will be, in the appendix, copies of the necessary forms and instructions on how to translate copyrighted AA literature..

The committee elected Curtis Winston of Thailand as the new Chairman of the Literature/Publishing Committee with Song Bom Koh, Singapore, as the alternate Chairman.

The report from the committee was accepted by the meeting.

### **Working with Others Committee.**

The meeting opened with the Serenity prayer. The committee considered two things to start with and that was: "What is this committee about?" and "What does "Working with Others" mean?"

Johnny from Thailand said he thought it was 12 Step work, carrying the message, working with other countries, and dealing with professionals both medical and religious. Bhalla, India, said firstly it was carrying the message to the sick and suffering alcoholic; secondly, working with people who deal directly with alcoholics i.e. doctors, priests, union leaders and company managers; and lastly, the Media- to be friendly with the media, electronic, print, radio or agencies with social responsibilities. Serget, Russia, said that their best experience is working with radio as they have successful advertising on the radio every week. Yudi, Indonesia, said that working with others is about not only working with individuals but also working with professionals.

The committee then established three areas to cover.

#### **1. What does the "Working with Others" Committee do/mean?**

- Countries working with countries-sharing experiences.
- Taking inventory of ourselves.
- Take the AOSM to countries that cannot afford to set it up themselves.
- 12 Stepping other countries.
- Focus is on the AA community.

#### **2. What is the goal/purpose of this committee?**

- For the experienced countries to help inexperienced countries.
- Communication:
  - i. Using Yahoo groups.
  - ii. Consider Translation issues-overcoming language barriers within the AOSM..
- Reaching out.
- Inventory- how well are we doing the job?

- Help organise regional offices for other countries.
- Finding the means to reach out to other countries.
- Information Clearing house.
- Have input on future AOSM agendas.
  - i. Come up with ideas for workshops at the AOSM.
  - ii. Using the Internet.

#### **3. How do we achieve that purpose?**

##### **a. Communication.**

- i. Email group communication.
- ii. look at other means of communication.
  - 1. Conference call
  - 2. Internet phone.
  - 3. Translation programmes available.
- iii. Telephone
- iv. Internet
  - 1. Internet telephony.
  - 2. Internet meetings are held once a week in Russia.
  - 3. Use Internet chat to communicate
- v. Coming up with the best ways to communicate.

Form this discussion the committee came up with the following recommendations.:

1. That the AOSM establish means of communication between AOSM countries to work through issues and further the goals of the AOSM between AOSM meetings.

**This recommendation was passed at the full AOSM meeting.**

There was then a discussion on various ways to implement this recommendation. Suggestions were :

- a. Establish Internet Yahoo group email listserver with membership open to AOSM delegates with the potential to expand and also to include other zones, GSO New York, and the World Service Meeting.
- b. Using internet chat.
- c. Establish Chat meetings with guidelines e.g. one hour with a specific focus
- d. Recommendations that it be conducted in English.

The second recommendation was that the AOSM reach out to countries that are not present. **It was pointed out at the full AOSM meeting that this was covered in the Statement of Purpose**

3. That this committee put forward recommendations for topics to the Agenda committee.

**This recommendation was passed by the full AOSM meeting.**

4. That the AOSM do an inventory of itself every two years.

**This recommendation was passed by the full AOSM meeting.**

5. That the AOSM encourage inter-country communication through delegations and visits..

**This recommendation was passed by the full AOSM meeting.**

The committee elected Sergey Soldatov, Russia as the new Chairman of the "Working with Others", and that Satander Bhalla, India, be the alternate chairman.

The report from the committee was accepted by the meeting.

### **Site Selection/Agenda/Website Committee.**

The meeting opened with a moments silence.

Much of the time was taken up with discussion on the Website, resulting in the following points.

1. There was much discussion on limits, guidelines and structure. The committee reviewed the guidelines and the suggestions from the last AOSM, as prepared by Goldie May.
2. The Website committee should be governed by the spirit of the 12 Traditions.
3. The website should contain AOSM general information, mailing list, committees, upload/download capabilities and individual committee member e-mail exchange.

The following recommendations were brought forward.

- Make available AOSM committee communications
- Stay within the scope of Unity and Service.
- Get URL and RPFs.
- Make AOSM information available and update regularly.
- Start up funds estimated at Aus\$600-1500.
- Explore the need for a provider that is expandable to handle future needs and allow the site to be built on.

**The committee moved the following motion;**

**" That the Website be created with basic steps to be taken in line with the 12 Traditions"**

**This motion was passed at the full AOSM meeting.**

**The committee also recommended that " The new Chair of the Committee will act as Webmaster and seek consensus with the AOSM Chair and Secretary before moving forward with new pages on the website"**

**This motion was also passed at the full AOSM meeting.**

In further discussion it was decided that there should be 3 sections on the website.

First section should be internal communication and available to all. The second section would need a password and the third section would be for future capabilities.

With regard to the Agenda it was agreed to continue with the same format and update it as required. It was decided that the theme for the next AOSM should be a decision of the AOSM body.

When dealing with the Site Selection it was felt that due to the lack of a site bid we will have an open bidding season. It was decided to encourage countries with a strong desire to host the AOSM to make a bid for 2007, with India expressing interest. At this stage Japan offered to host the AOSM in July 2007 subject to Board approval. It would be an advantage too to have a backup bid possibly from a newer AOSM country member. Going forward the site selection committee members should receive summaries of costs associated with prior AOSMs. It was also decided to stay with July as the optimum month for the 2007 AOSM.

At this point Trevor Housley, Australia, moved the following motion with regard to the Agenda:

**"That the Agenda Committee work over the next year to eighteen months to set the agenda for the next AOSM. This would be done by identifying the burning issues in each country, and in discussion with the AOSM Chair, structure an agenda that addresses these issues as best as possible. The agenda therefore would include where appropriate topics for discussion in the various committees and workshops"**

**This motion was passed at the full AOSM meeting.**

Masaru, Japan, said that each committee should work toward helping with the agenda (there are only three agenda committee members), and that the committee chairmen should communicate with the AOSM Chair and Secretary and the Agenda Committee.

Japan then moved that "Japan offered to host the 7<sup>th</sup> AOSM in July 2007, contingent on approval of the Japanese Service Board".

**This motion was passed at the full AOSM meeting.**

# ASIA OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING COMMITTEES.

2005-2007

## POLICY/ADMISSIONS/FINANCE.

Val Kiel (New Zealand) *Chairperson.*  
Koichi Kaneta (Japan).  
Landon Nabb (Vietnam)  
John Bucks (Hong Kong)  
Geoff Lee-Martin (Australia)

## LITERATURE/PUBLISHING.

Curtis Winston (Thailand) *Chairman*  
Song Bom Koh (Singapore) *Alternate Chairman*  
Vern Fossum (Philippines)  
Linda Buller (Indonesia)

## WORKING WITH OTHERS

Sergey Soldatov (Russia) *Chairman*  
Satander Bhalla (India) *Alternate Chairman*  
Yudi Aramadhani (Indonesia)  
John Reid Thailand  
Wayne Weightman (Cambodia)

## AGENDA/WEBSITE/SITE SELECTION.

Fred Tittle (Cambodia) *Chairman*  
Peter Olsen (Hong Kong)  
Trevor Housley (Australia)  
Masaru Imai (Japan)



## REPORT ON THE SECRETARIAT 2003-2005.

In the nearly two years since the meeting in Hong Kong the main activity has been the changeover of the secretary's position. Anne has been most helpful with answering requests for information and assistance and I thank her for that. It has been a learning experience and at the same time a rewarding experience.

My main activity has been the production of the 6 monthly Newsletter and the Directory with the preparation work for the 6<sup>th</sup> AOSM also. I thank members for their tolerance during this period.

### THE NEWSLETTER.

This is an important part of carrying the message to all parts of our region. There have been four newsletters produced during this period. There was the report on the 5<sup>th</sup> AOSM in Hong Kong and notices of the preparation for the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Other stories have included two reports on the Thailand annual Roundup, and a report on the first Mongolian National Convention held in July 2004. Loners' Internationalists Meeting had an article explaining how it works. At the same time there was an Indonesian Conference held in Bali, this featuring in the same newsletter.

There was also a letter to the secretary from a loner in the Russian Federation published with the writer's permission and this gave quite an insight into the world of the Loners. A report was published this year on the effects of the Tsunami in Thailand. It showed how the programme can help so much in such dreadful times.

It is hoped that such articles and reports will continue to be sent to the Secretariat for publication in the newsletter.

### THE DIRECTORY.

I continue to receive up-dates of group meetings held throughout the region and for that I am grateful. It is very important that the directory is kept as up-to-date as possible. I receive requests from GSOs on behalf of members in their region, from individuals and from members outside our zone for group contact information. I also receive corrections from travellers who are using our directory and find changes such as people have shifted, groups have gone into recess or shifted their meeting place. All this is helpful to give the best service we can.

I get requests for more directories and like the previous secretary, Anne, I do not charge but usually there is a donation sent to the Secretariat. It is to be hoped that the subject of an AOSM website is discussed here with the view of giving main contacts in each country.

### ARCHIVES.

The history of our AOSM continues to be recorded and stored on a CD-ROM. This will make it easier to pass on to each succeeding secretary or to an office. Newsletters are stored on paper as well as on a CD-ROM. Final Reports are stored in book form, while all computer files of significance are also being placed on disks for future reference. The history is in each delegate's folder.

### CHANGE-OVER.

Prior to the last AOSM Anne has passed on the information and files I required in a step by step process. This method has been of great help to me and allowed me to try and absorb the material gradually. Even after I officially took over I have been able to call on Anne's expertise and for this I am extremely grateful. I have also found that in this Fellowship if I ask for help there is always someone there with the knowledge to assist me.

### FINANCES.

The Statement for this period still shows that only two Asia Oceania countries make regular contributions. However there is sponsorship support from other countries. The US/Canada continue to help both financially and with advice. Two Thailand Groups contribute regularly. There is still a flow of contributions from individuals in Australia even though the Secretariat has moved to New Zealand.

### SELF SUPPORT SYSTEM.

We are still using this form of funding and I will reiterate Anne's comments in her 2003 report that "If we are to maintain this system, each country needs to be aware of its responsibility to assist in whatever way it can, after taking care of its delegates' expenses".

### SPONSORSHIP.

The Secretariat has again helped with some sponsorship of delegates for this AOSM. After consultation with the Chairperson and with help from US/Canada the Secretariat has agreed to help the 2 delegates from Vietnam attend for the first time. It is also very pleasing to see 2 delegates from Thailand attend for the first time This is the first time that resident members are representing Thailand. When a need is seen for financial assistance for these countries a relevant country helps out with sponsorship. Sponsorship by the Secretariat is considered as a "last resort".

## STATEMENT FOR AUGUST 12, 2003—JUNE 30, 2005.

INCOME		EXPENSES.
Transferred from Australia	\$7428-16	
Contributions:		
GSO Australia	\$2618-40	PO Box
GSO Japan	\$3018-39	Postage
Pattaya Group Thailand	\$950-05	Stationery
Chaing Mai Group Thailand	\$531-91	Telephone
J Doherty Australia	\$117-07	Newsletter
D Grude USA	\$74-50	Directory
Barbara B. Australia	\$21-97	Cheque Duty
R. Bush USA	\$28-49	Transfer Prudent Reserve
A O'Connor Australia	\$89-46	
P. Martin Australia	\$20-72	<b>AOSM Expenses</b>
M. Wallem Thailand	\$34-48	Travel Costs
N. Banks Australia	\$21-12	\$612-20
GSO New Zealand	\$3000-00	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>
Bank Interest	\$219-04	\$5415-23
		(to June 30, 2005)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$18,173-76	
<b>LESS EXPENSES</b>	\$5415-23	
<b>BALANCE</b>	\$12,758-53	
	( as at June 30, 2005 )	

### PRUDENT RESERVE

Prudent Reserve	\$1,500-00
Bank Interest	\$23-38
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,528-38

This report does not include the cost of producing or posting the Final Report for the 6<sup>th</sup> AOSM, which shall be in the next Report.

**ALL AMOUNTS ARE IN NEW ZEALAND DOLLARS.**

## PROPOSED BUDGET 2005-2007.

Item	Actual Expenses 2003-2005	Budget 2005-2007
Final Report	\$ 486-01	\$1050-00
Directories/Newsletters	\$ 995-00	\$1200-00
Postage	\$1322-77	\$1600-00
PO Box	\$ 250-00	\$ 250-00
Stationery	\$ 0-00	\$ 200-00
Telephone	\$ 75-50	\$ 150-00

### AOSM Expenses.

Travel/Accommodation		\$7,000-00
Delegates Folders		\$ 300-00
Taping		\$1,500-00
Sponsorship		\$2,000-00
Banner		\$ 200-00
Prudent Reserve		\$1,000-00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$2013-77	\$16,700-00

### Notes

1. There are no figures for the AOSM expenses in the period 2003-2005 as they occurred prior to my taking over the position of Secretary.
2. I have allowed for 100 Final Reports to be printed.
3. Postage is not included with the Final Reports.

**ALL AMOUNTS ARE IN NEW ZEALAND DOLLARS.**

### STATEMENT FOR PERIOD June 16-August 11,2003.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
<b>Balance at 15-6-03</b>	\$7143-04		
PO Box Refund	\$25-65	Transferred to New Zealand	\$6773-00
Banner Refund	\$112-54	Bank Charges	\$20-00
Interest	\$3-04	Final Reports	\$491-27
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$7284-27</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7284-27</b>
<b>Less EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7284-27</b>		
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$0-0</u></b>		

( New Zealand Dollars )

## GENERAL BUSINESS.

The meeting Began with a review of the AOSM Guidelines. It was decided to amend Guideline number Seven by adding the words “ **at least** “ so that it would read “**The meeting shall be of at least two days duration** “.

Guideline Four was amended to read “ **The AOSM Chairperson shall rotate after each meeting** “. After further discussion it was decided to state in the Final Report when the Guidelines were reviewed and/or amended. This would be added at the foot of the Guidelines.

The meeting by Third Legacy voting appointed Val Kiel, New Zealand, to present the AOSM Report to the World Service Meeting to be held in Ireland in 2006

Masaru Imai, Japan , Said that Japan would offer to host the 7<sup>th</sup> AOSM in July 2007. This would be subject to approval by the General Service Board of Japan.

There was a vigorous discussion on the Theme for the next meeting with several suggestions being put forward eg “World without Borders”, “Global Growth with Structured Groups”, “Many Languages- One Voice”, “United We Stand”, “ United We Expand”, “Our Singleness of Purpose in Structured Groups “.

The meeting decided that the theme for the 7<sup>th</sup> AOSM would be : “ **Global Growth with Structured Groups**”.

All second term delegates names went forward for selection to chair the Seventh Asia Oceania Service Meeting in July 2007. Again, following Third Legacy procedure for such elections, the meeting elected Goldie May, New Zealand< as Chairman and Masaru Imai, Japan, as the Alternate Chairman.

The delegates were asked by the Secretary to fill in the AOSM questionnaire, which reviewed the current AOSM, and the comments and suggestions would be printed in the Final Report.

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## CLOSING REMARKS .

*As the meeting drew to a close all the participants shared their thoughts about their experience of attending this AOSM.*

*Wayne (Cambodia) said that it had been a long journey as this was his third AOSM but it was most rewarding He gave thanks to the country, Australia, for its sponsorship of less structured such as Cambodia, and this had enabled him to be present at all three meetings..*

*Fred (Cambodia) Said that when he got sober he never dreamed that he would be present at a meeting such as this and he had realised that service is so rewarding.*

*Curtis (Thailand) also thanked New Zealand for their sponsorship of the two delegates from Thailand. He had meet people who had previously been only an Email contact, and it is a pity that the people in Thailand could not see this and then they would understand what it was all about.*

*Johnny (Thailand) said that it had been a humbling experience as he knew nothing about such meetings as this and it had been an “eye opener”. He had thought that service work was just a 12 Step call and had only begun to realise all the work that was done behind the scenes.*

*Peter (Hong Kong), commented on the wonderful experience this meeting had been. He said that when he got sober he was told that he should work the programme, go to meetings, get a sponsor do 12 Step work and life would be better than even before alcoholism. He said he knew that the Higher Power was present at this meeting because he was sober, he was doing service and as a result of this service he had regained his self esteem.*

*Masaru (Japan) said he had started his service work by cleaning the meeting room for his group He recounted how the AOSM had started when 4 people from New Zealand had decided to come to Japan and “knock” on their door and maybe something would be established. As a result it was decided to try and start the AOSM and this today is a result of that decision to try and harvest the seeds that New Zealand had spread at that visit. He then commented that this meeting had opened a new door on the AOSM It had helped us go forward from “crawling to walking on our feet”. We now have working committees and they had held their first meetings. We had had a good agenda at this meeting and with our determination we had made it work. He looked forward to holding the next meeting in Japan in 2007 and that he had the drive to make it the best.*

*Doug (New York GSO) was grateful to be present and sat in awe of those at the meeting and what they did as it enriches him. There is a strong sense of AA present He told the delegates to go home and have strong home group structures.*

*Greg (New York GSO General Manager) said that those just finishing were just moving on to another 12 Step job. He also added that ut was a privilege to be present at Zonal and World Service Meetings, to see countries bonding, a “sponsor” talking to a “sponsee” and that sponsorship is reaching out to others.*

*Bob (Secretary) said to take it quietly, it will happen as the Higher power looks after you.*

*Lynne (Chairperson) said the 3<sup>rd</sup> AOSM was a privilege to chair and thank you in all languages.*

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## DELEGATES' REVIEW OF THE ASOM.

*There were fourteen respondents to this questionnaire.*

### **Q. Which agenda item/s did you find most helpful and why?**

A. The most popular response to this question was the presentation by Greg Muth on "Literature Translation with International Cooperation"

The reasons varied with one delegate saying that it clarified all matters relating to literature while another answer was that it showed where to go to get literature and how to pass it out. In the case of Thailand it showed what was needed to cover topics eg translating into Thai language, that that country wanted to know, as translating AA material is of great concern locally.

"Communication and Cooperation with the Professional Community" was considered important. It was thought to be most interesting as it is so relevant, and gave many new ideas to take back to the home country.

The remainder of the replies were spread over several. One delegate commented that he found the History of the AOSM excellent when reading it in his folder as it gave a sense of "belonging". Two delegates said that the Country Reports gave insight and knowledge of AA in other countries. The "Working with Others" committee helped as it gave out new innovative ideas for support to new fellowships eg "Chat on the Internet". Sponsorship was mentioned by one delegate as of most importance to him. Another delegate said that the AOSM is on a new stage and that every single Agenda item was just wonderful.

### **Q. Which agenda item/s did you find least helpful and why?**

A. Several delegates did not answer this question which suggests that they were satisfied with the agenda. Of those who did answer three said that the working committees were not organised and did not know what to do or talk about which could have been caused by the lack of a committee agenda.

One delegate did not like opening with an AA meeting and then a service type meeting. Another delegate said it was all helpful but some notice of topics was needed so that they, the delegates, could be better prepared for the work to be done.

### **Q. Is there any topic that you would like to see on the agenda next time?**

A. The answers here varied from person to person and nearly all had something to offer. The first request was for more Public Information ideas with delegates providing examples of "home grown" PI literature and advertisements used to attract new members.

Another delegate wanted more topics to do with service while there was a request for work on service sponsorship, and in this case he would send his ideas to the relevant committee chair. A follow-up on the

effects of communication with the professional community was put forward. One delegate commented that the agenda this time was good.

Another delegate made the following suggestions which were: To identify some "burning issues" that apply to more than one country and develop discussion points" To circulate the details in advance so that the delegates can be prepared by researching the issues in their own countries.

A delegate asked for workshops on Hospitals and Institutions with information being given on Asia Oceania zonal conventions and workshops. (*If countries would send such information to the Secretariat then it can be published in the AOSM Newsletter—Secretary*)

There is also a need to strengthen groups in the countries where the service structure is underdeveloped and a workshop on this would be appreciated. Finally there was a request for a workshop on Gratitude and Honesty.

### **Q. Have you any comments regarding the meeting room facilities or accommodation?**

A. The comments here were that it was, to use the words of one delegate, "A wonderful meeting in a wonderful hotel". Another delegate said that he was worried about the costs but it was worth it. A further comment was to thank those of the Host Committee who met the delegates at the airport and either transported them to the hotel or directed them, and all the other tasks that the committee did. The remaining comments were organisational problems such as the positioning of the lectern and the coolness of the meeting room when sitting near the large windows.

### **Q. Any other comments?**

A. There was a lack of organisation in the opening committee meetings but as this was a first time this will be overcome with experience. There should be no reading of the Country Reports but just a 3 minute talk on key points. There could also be more community AA meetings.

There is a need to identify committee members in advance and send them an agenda so they can prepare for their committee meetings. Knowing the topics allows delegates to do research and be properly prepared as their own knowledge is not enough when participating.

Finally there was a request for a workshop for the first term delegates.

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## 6<sup>TH</sup> AOSM CONTACT DETAILS.

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# GUIDELINES

## FOR THE CONDUCT OF

### THE ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING

### OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

1. The AOSM shall meet every two years, alternating with the WSM.
2. Each country/AA regional Structure shall choose its own representatives.
3. Finance shall be the responsibility of each participating country/AA regional Structure.
4. The AOSM Chairperson shall rotate after each meeting.
5. The Secretariat shall be rotated after two AOSMs.
6. Each country/AA regional Structure shall be eligible to send up to two delegates.
7. The meeting shall be of at least two days duration.
8. Observers shall be welcome, with no voting rights, and with participation only at the discretion of the Chairperson.

**Guidelines reviewed and amended August 16<sup>th</sup> 2005.**



# APPENDIX

**REQUEST FOR LICENSE TO TRANSLATE AND/OR  
REPRODUCE  
AND DISTRIBUTE COPYRIGHTED WORK**

ENTITLED \_\_\_\_\_ (“the  
Work”)  
(English Title)

The undersigned Applicant hereby requests permission to

Translate the work into \_\_\_\_\_ (“the  
Translation”).  
(identify language)

Reproduce the Translation.

Distribute the Translation in

\_\_\_\_\_  
(country)

Post the translated work on single  
website \_\_\_\_\_

(website address)

Applicant’s signature below constitutes an acknowledgment of an agreement to comply with all of the terms set out below. This application must be executed in duplicate and returned to Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

The Assignment of Copyright form attached as Exhibit A, must also be signed and returned with this Application. A.A.W.S.’s consent to this request will be effective on the date of A.A.W.S.’s signature. One signed copy will be returned to Applicant.

1. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that A.A.W.S. is the sole owner of all U.S. and foreign copyrights in the above identified copyrighted work and that such copyrights are valid and in force.
2. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant a non-exclusive license to translate the Work into the language specified above, provided said Translation is submitted to A.A.W.S. for review and approval.
3. Applicant agrees and hereby does assign all copyright in the licensed Work to A.A.W.S., as evidenced on the attached Assignment of Copyright form (Exhibit A), signed by Applicant.
4. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant a license to reproduce and distribute the Translation in the exact form in which it was submitted to A.A.W.S. and approved by A.A.W.S. ONLY, in the country identified above ONLY.
5. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant the right to enforce the copyright in the Translation in Applicant’s own name in the country identified above, including the right to file suit for infringement in Applicant’s own name. Applicant agrees to notify A.A.W.S. in writing of any infringement of said copyright in the country identified above as such infringement comes to the attention of Applicant.

6. A.A.W.S. will provide applicant with the copyright notice page, for inclusion in the translations of books, pamphlets, and other written and/or text materials. The applicant shall include the copyright notice page in the translations of books, pamphlets, and other written materials, and applicant agrees that *all* copies of the Licensed Work *shall* include an exact duplicate of the copyright notice page, as provided by A.A.W.S., without modification, and that no copies of the work shall be published, produced or distributed without said A.A.W.S provided copyright notice page. A.A.W.S. will also provide applicant with the copyright notice information, and with directions regarding how and/or where, to place and/or use such information, in connection with translations of audio, video, audio/video works, or computer programs. The applicant shall include the copyright notice information, as provided by A.A.W.S., and placed as directed by A.A.W.S., in connection with translations of audio, video, audio/video works, or computer programs, and applicant agrees that *all* copies of such Licensed Work *shall* include an exact duplicate of the copyright notice information, as provided by A.A.W.S., and placed and/or used as directed by A.A.W.S., without modification, and that no copies of the work shall be published, produced or distributed without said A.A.W.S provided copyright notice information.
7. Applicant agrees to send three copies of the Licensed Work in the form in which it is published, including the notices described in Paragraph 5 above, to A.A.W.S. within two weeks of the publication date. Applicant agrees to simultaneously notify A.A.W.S. of (a) the publication date and (b) the year the Translation was completed.
8. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that this license may be revoked by A.A.W.S. at any time for any reason, upon 30 days written notice. Unless revoked, the duration of this Agreement shall be ten years from the date of A.A.W.S.'s signature hereto.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Name (typed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

AGREED TO this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

## AAWS POLICY RE: TRANSLATIONS OF A.A. LITERATURE, INCLUDING PUBLICATION AND LICENSING CONSIDERATIONS:

### I. General Considerations

- A. A translation of copyrighted text constitutes a derivative work, and, as such, permission of the copyright owner is required prior to undertaking the translation.
- B. The AAWS policy regarding licensing and publication of AA material is based on, and guided by, the provisions of the Current Conference Charter: "*In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the general Service Board of that country.*"
- C. AAWS has a policy of long-standing whereby, at the request of another General Service Structure, financial assistance for the publication of a piece of literature is provided, where appropriate (see "'Foreign Aid'---literature carries the message," *The Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous*, 1984, pg 16-17). Historically, such assistance has taken the following form: AAWS will advance the money for the publication of a particular piece of (usually, translated) literature. AAWS will retain title to the inventory, but the requesting Structure will be permitted to sell off the inventory, using a portion of the sale price to repay AAWS, and reserving a portion to finance the next printing of the piece.
- D. All translations shall be made from the most recent, English language version of the work.
- E. In order to be considered complete, all translations of *Alcoholics Anonymous* (the *Big Book*), regardless of how initiated, shall contain all of the front matter appearing in the U.S./Canada English language version, including The Doctor's Opinion, and the Forewords and Preface; the basic text appearing on pages 1-164; and Dr. Bob's Nightmare and the appendices, which are presented in the rear of the book. Whether any other material, which does not appear in the original, will be permitted to be included in the translation shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. Permission to include such additional material, where the material is in conflict with the message conveyed by the *Big Book*, will not be granted.\*

### II. Translations

#### A. Request For Permission To Translate

1. When AAWS receives a request from someone wishing to translate AA literature on his/her own initiative, the Publications Department will determine if there is an existing, authorized translation in the U.S. or overseas. If such a translation

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\* Note: although the personal stories in the Spanish translation were circulated for approval, it is likely that such approval occurred because AAWS publishes the Spanish translation for use in the US/Canada. It does not appear that personal stories appearing in other translations of the *Big Book* were the subject of AAWS approval. The caveat regarding additional material is more concerned with the addition of text that tends to amend, or otherwise modify, the substance of the basic text. For example, there was some discussion by AAWS concerning additional, explanatory text that was added to the Russian translation. The additional text was ultimately approved.

exists, the request will be denied. If a translation does not exist, the requesting party will be asked to translate some representative portions of the work (e.g., Chapter 5, plus an additional chapter or two in *Alcoholics Anonymous*), so that the translation might be reviewed by a professional translation service for its consistency with the original text. The requesting party will also be asked to defer further work until the sample has been checked, and will be advised that, in any case, in order to obtain permission to proceed with the translation, the copyright in the translation project would have to be assigned to AAWS.

2. Once checked, and there has been agreement to assign the copyright to AAWS, the sample will be returned to the requesting party with either permission to proceed with the translation, or with recommendations for changes. In the latter case, the party will be requested to make further submissions until a satisfactory translation is achieved.

Upon receipt of an acceptable version of the translation, the general policies regarding possible licensing, publication, and distribution of the translation, will apply, including a determination regarding the applicability of overseas literature publication assistance.

If, after several submissions, the translator is unable to provide an acceptable translation, then the Board will consider whether any further assistance can be given in the matter. That is, based on input from the Staff member on the Overseas Assignment, the Staff generally, and the Publications Department, the Board will determine if there is a present, compelling need for the translation; and will further determine if the budget will accommodate the expense of a translation by AAWS. If the answer is "yes" to both these questions, then the Publications Department will schedule the preparation of such a translation.

#### B. Request That AAWS Undertake A Translation

1. From time to time, AAWS will receive an external request (i.e., outside of the three corporate boards) to translate (usually, including a request to publish) a piece of literature. Based on input from the Staff member on the Overseas Assignment, the Staff generally, and the Publications Department, the Board will determine if there is a present, compelling need for the translation; and will further determine if the budget will accommodate the expense of a translation by AAWS. If the answer is "yes" to both these questions, then the Publications Department will schedule the preparation of such a translation.
2. AAWS may initiate - or, initiate upon the request of the General Service Board - the development of a translation, within its own discretion. In the exercise of its discretion, all relevant factors, including need, cost, publication, pricing, distribution, and the applicability of overseas literature assistance, will be considered by the AAWS board.
3. On other occasions, between Board meetings, the General Manager, the Overseas Desk, or the Publications Department may receive a request to create a translation where the need is readily apparent, and where the expense involved will not meaningfully impact the budget. In such instances, General Manager may direct the Publications Department to begin development of the requested translation.

C. Translations Completed Without Prior Board Permission

1. When AAWS receives a translation of A.A. literature that was developed without prior permission, the Publications Department will determine whether an approved translation already exists in the U.S. or overseas. If such a translation exists, the party submitting the translation will be informed, and will be asked to refrain from any further activity regarding the translation. If a translation does not exist, the party submitting the translation will be advised that the translation must be reviewed by a professional translation service for its consistency with the original text. The party will also be asked to defer any further activity regarding the translation until it has been checked; and will be advised that the copyright in the translation will have to be assigned to AAWS.
2. Once checked, and there has been agreement to assign the copyright to AAWS, the translation will be returned to the party submitting it with recommendations for changes, and the party will be requested to make further submissions until a satisfactory translation is achieved.

Upon receipt of an acceptable version of the translation, the general policies regarding possible licensing, publication, and distribution of the translation, will apply, including a determination regarding the applicability of overseas literature publication assistance.

If, after several submissions, the translator is unable to provide an acceptable translation, the party submitting the translation will be asked to discontinue further translation efforts, and to refrain from any further activity with respect to the translation. The Board will then consider whether any further assistance can be given in the matter. That is, based on input from the Staff member on the Overseas Assignment, the Staff generally, and the Publications Department, the Board will determine if there is a present, compelling need for the translation; and will further determine if the budget will accommodate the expense of a translation by AAWS. If the answer is "yes" to both these questions, then the Publications Department will schedule the preparation of such a translation.

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**REQUEST FOR LICENSE TO REPRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE COPYRIGHTED WORK  
(By an Overseas G.S.O.)**

The undersigned Applicant hereby requests permission to reproduce and distribute the work entitled:  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the English language in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title) (Identify Country)

Applicant's signature below constitutes an acknowledgment of an agreement to comply with all of the terms set out below. This application must be executed in duplicate and returned to Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

1. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that A.A.W.S. is the sole owner of all U.S. and foreign copyrights in the above identified copyrighted work and that such copyrights are valid and in force.
2. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant a non-exclusive license to reproduce and distribute the Licensed Work in the exact form in which it was submitted to A.A.W.S. ONLY, in the country identified above ONLY.
3. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant the right to enforce the copyright in the Licensed Work in Applicant's own name in the country identified above, including the right to file suit for infringement in Applicant's own name. Applicant agrees to notify A.A.W.S. in writing of any infringement of said copyright in the country identified above as soon as such infringement comes to the attention of Applicant. A.A.W.S.'s right to enforce said copyright shall in no way be diminished hereby.
4. Applicant agrees that all copies of the Licensed Work will bear the following notices on the inside cover page in English:

*©20\_\_ Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. All rights reserved.  
Reproduced with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.  
Copyright in the English language version of this work is owned by A.A.W.S., New York NY*

5. Applicant agrees to send 3 copies of the Licensed Work in the form in which it is published to A.A.W.S. within two weeks of the publication date. Applicant agrees to simultaneously notify A.A.W.S. of the publication date.
6. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that this license may be revoked by A.A.W.S. at any time for any reason, upon 30 days written notice. Unless revoked, the duration of this Agreement shall be ten years from the date of A.A.W.S.'s signature hereto.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Name (typed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

AGREED TO this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

## ***The Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)***

Service Material from the General Service Office

The Twelve Concepts for World Service were written by A.A.'s co-founder Bill W., and were adopted by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1962. The Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure as it emerged through A.A.'s early history and experience. The short form of the Concepts reads:

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.
3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."
4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5. Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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