7th

NATIONAL WOMEN'S EDUCATION CENTRE

RANZAN, SAITAMA, JAPAN

July 6th—8th, 2007

"Global Growth through Structured Groups"

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)

GLOBAL GROWTH THROUGH STRUCTURED GROUPS

7th Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

National Women's Education Centre
Ranzan, Saitama, Japan.

July 6th—8th, 2007

FINAL REPORT

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SEVENTH ASIA OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING.

"GLOBAL GROWTH THROUGH STRUCTURED GROUPS".

An Overview.

The7th AOSM was held at the National Women's Education Centre, Ranzan, Japan from Friday July 6th to Sunday July 8th. There were 18 delegates present and they represented 12 countries. It was a moving moment to greet a new member from Kuwait who was representing the Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous. Unfortunately Indonesia, Korea, Nepal and the Peoples' Republic of China were unable to be present.

On the morning of Friday July 6th the delegates had a choice of a traditional Japanese tea ceremony or a visit to the Maruki Gallery known for its Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb murals.

After lunch the AOSM meeting started with the Serenity Prayer, a moment of silence and then apologies. The AOSM Statement of Purpose was then read, followed by a welcome address by the Chairman, Goldie may of New Zealand. The delegates introduced themselves giving a brief description of their service experience. The 6th AOSM report was presented, received and approved. The Chairman's report was also approved.

After afternoon tea the Keynote Address on "Global Growth through Structured Groups" was given by Trevor Housley 2nd term delegate of Australia. Trevor said "***I have heard it said that the structured group provides the best environment for looking after newcomers to AA. The way we look after newcomers is important because it is not much use to have wonderful systems that attract lots of people if we cannot provide them with an environment that helps*** *to make them want to stay with the Fellowship"*. This presentation was followed by a workshop on the theme of the address.

In the evening a dinner was hosted by the Japanese General Service Board. Yasuhiko Morita, GSB Chairman welcomed all present. He emphasised the importance of country-to-country sponsorship that Japan is now active in and this point was followed by Goldie May, AOSM Chairman, who in his welcome address said that "***the growth of the fellowship and the attendance of delegates to the AOSM has been country-to-country sponsorship****"*. After the meal was concluded Masayo Shima, 1st term WSM delegate from Japan gave the World Service Meeting for Malahide, Ireland 2006. Question time followed this report.

Saturday July 7th started with the 4 AOSM Committee meetings. The committees were allocated a secretary by the Host Committee and this was of considerable help. Country Reports followed with delegates speaking to their reports and answering questions relating to them.

The afternoon session began with a workshop on "Literature Translations" presented by Julio Espaillot, International /desk New York GSO. This workshop was well received as it concerned the newly emerging AA countries with translation needs and problems. There was much discussion by the delegates during question and answer time. The next session was new to the AOSM and was called "What's On Your Mind". After some early discussion among the delegates the Chairman, Goldie< decided that the time could be used to hear a report on a visit to the Solomon Islands by Ian Comrie, 1st term WSM delegate Australia. This visit was in response to a request to the Australian GSO for assistance. The report was of great interest to the delegates.
Afternoon tea was followed by 2 more workshops, the first one was given by Fred Tittle, 2nd term delegate Cambodia, on "Country Sponsorship", a most important topic in this Zone. Fred pointed out *e**" that in Cambodia they don't have any money, the whole of their fellowship is less that the number here at this meeting but they help other countries by sharing their service experience"*. The final workshop for the day was on the theme of "Newcomers and Young People in AA", the presentation given by Val Kiel 2nd term WSM delegate New Zealand. This also was followed by question and answer time.

Saturday evening the delegates met with local AA members for informal discussions in small groups. This was a most rewarding experience.

Sunday July 8th started with a workshop presented by Curtis Winston 2nd term delegate Thailand. The theme was "Communicating the AA message to the Indigenous People in the AOSM Zone". Curtis used Thailand and the progress they are making as the basis of his presentation. This was a most interesting workshop with much discussion by the delegates. The final workshop presented by Greg Muth, General Manager GSO New York was on "Running a General Service Office and a General Service Structure". Greg pointed out that the GSO has "*two primary functions of Publishing AA Literature and Providing Services to AA members and Groups".* The delegates divided into groups for discussion and reported back to the meeting.

After lunch the four committees presented their reports and recommendations for the whole meeting to consider. The site for the 8th AOSM is to be Thailand with the theme to be "*Reaching Out".*

The theme was decided by 3rd Legacy vote by the meeting. The election of chairperson caused some discussion before Val Kiel New Zealand was elected by 3rd Legacy vote.. The AOSM Report to the World Service Meeting 2008 will be presented by Masayo Shima.

In closing remarks delegates expressed their thanks to the Japanese GSB and GSC for their hosting of the meeting and also for their generosity. The Host Committee was also thanked for the excellent job they had done as was the Japan GSO. Delegates gave thanks for being present at this meeting and how it made them realise the value of AA service.

Goldie May, the Chairman thanked all present, the delegates, the observers, the committee secretaries, the Host committee, the GSO, those taping the meeting and those that had helped.

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

WELCOME ADDRESS.

Good evening everyone, My name is Morita, and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as chairperson of the Japanese General Service Board. Thanks to this fellowship and the 12 Steps, I am sober today.

On behalf of the Japanese General Service Board and AA I really want to welcome you all. We are so grateful that Japan is hosting this AOSM. And we really thank the AOSM for giving us the opportunity to consider the theme, "Global Growth through Structured Groups".

Thirty two years have passed since the AA program was introduced to Japan. Two years ago we celebrated Japan AA's 30th anniversary in Fukuoka. We had guests from Mongolia, Korea and GSO New York. It was a very impressive experience for me. AA started in North America in 1935 and 40 years later it was introduced among Japanese. The number of groups in Japan is increasing gradually. As of July 1, we have 470 groups and about 3,000 to 4,000n members.

Twelve years ago, the First AOSM was held in Japan, and in the same year we had our 20-year-anniversary in Omiya.I think it is miraculous that we are hosting the AOSM again. In 1997, the General Service Board was started and the following year the General Service Conference was started. This was a turning point for our service structure, which has become a more effective operation in recent times. This year, our own Conference Charter and General Service Board Bylaws were adopted officially.

Even though we are having many problems at home, we have come of age and are in our prime. ***We try to be more active in country-to-country sponsorship.*** As is well known, we have been closely cooperating with Korea as well as Mongolia for 3 years. Just like in person-to-person sponsorship, our relationship is equal and mutual. It will be neither controlling nor dependent. We look to be helpful, while these other countries seek to become autonomous. I hope we can maintain such relations into the future.

Our volunteer host committee members have held many meetings and made various preparations in selecting a venue and meals and so on. If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact our host committee members. I pray that sharing during this AOSM will be an impressive experience for your sobriety. Please relax and enjoy your stay

Yasuhiko Morita,
Chairperson,
Japan General Service Board.

AOSM CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I can add my welcome to you all as we embark on our sharing of experience, strength and hope during the 7th AOSM, with the theme "*Global Growth Through Structured Groups*". You have heard the welcome from our hosts and I would, on behalf of all the countries represented, thank them for the enormous amount of work that has gone on over the past two years, preparing for this occasion. I welcome all the delegates and observers and would especially add a warm welcome and expression of gratitude to our guests from the General Service Office in New York

The "Global Growth" of our fellowship throughout the AOSM region since the first meeting, attended by five countries, in Tokyo in 1995, has been truly amazing. The second meeting was held in Auckland in 1997 and following on from discussions at that meeting an AOSM Secretariat was established in Sydney, Australia, some two years later. This secretariat was independent of any General Service Office, becoming fully self-supporting, and has remained so ever since. The fact that this has been the case is largely because of the enormous amount of energy and dedication to the fellowship by the Secretaries; firstly Anne O'Connor of Australia and for the last four years Bob Preston of New Zealand.

I believe that the growth has been aided by modern technology, and indeed I am in awe of

the medium "E-mail". It would be impossible for me to count the number of e-mails that have been Cc to me during my term as Chairperson, not only back and forth between the host committee, GSO Japan and the Secretary, but also the constant communication between the Committee Chairpersons and the Secretariat. We really do owe all the people involved a great deal of gratitude.

Another important factor in the growth of the fellowship and the attendance of delegates to the AOSM has been country to country sponsorship and it is to be hoped that this will continue as one country grows and then is able to help the next newcomer country.

The hardworking secretary is also responsible for the publication of the AOSM Newsletter and I would add my thanks to those who have contributed articles for publication as as said previously, communication is essential to our growth.

This is my third and final attendance at the AOSM as a participant (I would love to return as an observer), and I have found previous meetings to be uplifting and inspirational, encouraging me to stay very active in the fellowship in my own country and I believe that each and every one of you will find the same.

At my first AOSM as a delegate from New Zealand I was, along with my fellow delegate, instructed by our General Service Conference, to offer New Zealand as hosts for the next AOSM, only IF no other country offered. We did not need to offer, and the expansion of the AOSM today sees many countries bidding for the right to host our meetings. That tells me that the Fellowship within the AOSM Zone is in very good heart and no doubt Bill and Bob will be very happy as the fellowship continues to grow through God's Grace.

Goldie May,

Chairperson,

New Zealand.

THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS.

"GLOBAL GROWTH THROUGH STRUCTURED GROUPS".

"I have heard it said that the Structured Group provides the best environment for looking after newcomers to AA. The way we look after newcomers is important because it is not much use to have wonderful Public Information (PI) systems that attract lots of people if we cannot provide an environment that helps to make them want to stay with the Fellowship". Australian survey results show that we are losing newcomers at an unprecedented rate in that half of the newcomers stop coming to AA within a few months of their first meeting. I believe this also occurs in the USA and I suspect that it applies to many other countries. At the last two World Service Meetings (New York 2004 and Malahide, Ireland 2006), we conducted an informal poll of participants to ask them whether they thought that AA was growing, steady or declining in their country, These are the results.

2004 Growth 23% Steady 71% Decline 6%
2006 Growth 20% Steady 73% Decline 7%

Certainly, these results have no statistical background as they are based on individual's opinions but, nevertheless, they indicate that, in an overwhelming majority of countries, AA membership is not growing. As growth can only be achieved when new members come to the fellowship and stay, one can say that the absence of growth implies that new members are not staying with the fellowship. Another informal observation based on these figures is that AA seems to grow well in countries where the fellowship has not been established for a long time. However, in those countries where the fellowship has been in existence for 40, 50, 60 or 70 years, the membership seems to have largely flattened out over the last 10 years. This represents a complex

issue and, in this presentation, I am going to look at only one factor that may have an impact on the retention of newcomers.

What is a Structured Group?

A Structured Group is a group which has a number of members who identify with that group and a reasonable number of those members are interested enough to participate in the running of the group in that they are prepared to take up service positions in the group. Positions such as Secretary, Treasurer, Literature Person, Greeter, General Service Representative (GSR) who represents that group in the General Service Structure and Central Service Representative (CSR) who represents that group to the Central Service Office that acts as the focal point for 12th Step Work in the local area. The names of these positions vary from group to group and from country to country and there are AA publications that refer to these various positions. We will look at the function of some of these service positions later in this presentation. In addition, a Structures Group has regular Group Conscience Meetings where the organisation and operation of the group is discussed and problems resolved where necessary. In accordance with AA Traditions, the people who occupy the various service positions rotate in and out of the positions on a regular basis, perhaps every six months.

I have had two attempts at staying sober in AA. The first, in the mid-70s did not last long because I did not belong to a group and I did not like talking to people so I tended to avoid people as much as possible as, therefore, did not learn much about AA and, after six months I left and ended up drinking again.

Some years later, on 3 March 1982, I came back to AA and, as luck would have it, I came to a Structured Group at my first meeting and, I'm pleased to say, I have been sober ever Since. When I appeared at that first meeting, I was met at the door by a person whose job was to identify newcomers. This person, the Greeter. Introduced himself and wrote his name and telephone number on a card and said I could call him at any time. I was introduced to other members of the group who made me feel more comfortable while we waited for the meeting to start. At the end of the meeting, I was able to talk to the people I had met and learned some basic things about AA. *After a few weeks I became a member of that group and I took up my first service position which was sweeping the floor after the meeting. Sweeping the floor was a necessary job because the meeting was held in a room that was used as a Kindergarten during the day.* In those days people smoked in the meetings and often ashed their cigarettes on the floor and some even put them out on the floor so it was important to make sure the room was clean when we left so that the children would not be faced with cigarette ends and ash when they arrived next morning. *In the process of sweeping the floor, I met people who were talking in groups and I had to talk to them in order to ask them to move so that I could sweep that part of the floor. Another positive thing for a newcomer who had difficulty speaking to other people.*

Having a job to do, however small it may seem, helped me to feel that I was, indeed, part of this group. I kept the floor sweeper position for six months which was when I was elected Secretary at a Group Conscience meeting.

During my first months in AA, I went to a lot of different meetings and, from time to time, I would hear people saying such things as :*Look at George over there. He has really grown since he became secretary".* I used to wonder what was going on and I found out after I had been Secretary for six months.

In that group, the Secretary was responsible for the running of the meetings and also conducted the Group Conscience meetings. In fact, the Secretary had to do nearly everything related to setting up the meeting room for the meeting. This meant that the Secretary had to arrive about an hour early and bring the urn for boiling the water to make tea and coffee for the participants. The Secretary would set up the room which meant arranging the tables and chairs in an agreed way and this had to be finished some time before the meeting started. (Most people tended to arrive at the meeting within the last five minutes before the meeting started and they expected everything to be laid out just right!)

The Secretary was also responsible for the providing the supper for the group. In that particular group, that meant making a complete loaf of bread into sandwiches. Some time during the day of the meeting ,I would go and buy the bread and the other ingredients for the sandwiches and I would make them a couple of hours before the meeting, After the meeting they were put out on a table and people would eat them while they stood around talking to other members and, of course, any newcomers that had arrived that night. Usually other members also provided some food for the supper- one member's mother would send along a pecan pie each week and other members would do some baking as well so this group became known as one that provided a very nice supper.

At the end of my term as Secretary, I found that, like the others before me, I had grown considerably as the result of my secretarial activities. The

Literature Person was responsible for making sure that we had a good range of AA Conference Approved literature available for members and newcomers. The Group Conscience would decide the particular pieces of literature that this meeting would stock and a good display was provided at each meeting. The Treasurer would collect the "no dues or fees" donations at the end of each meeting and keep a record of income and expenditure and, when the Group Conscience made a decision, would distribute the surplus funds to the General Service Office and the Central Service Office. Sometimes, the Area or District needs some funds so money may be diverted to these entities from time to time.

The GSR represented that group at the Area level in the General Service Structure and would attend Area meetings and bring back to the group information about what was happening in AA outside the group. At the time, I participated in a lot of meetings that were run with the aim of setting up a new Area in the Northern part of Sydney. I must admit that, at my early stage of sobriety, I did not understand a lot of the things that people spoke about at these meetings but I persisted and kept attending and, eventually, the new Area was formed and has since developed into a very successful and well-run Area with an excellent Central Service Office as an offshoot. The CSO acts as a focus for 12th Step Work in that Area and also stocks a wide range of literature for sale to individuals and groups.

In this group, I found my first Sponsor. I had heard so many people speak about the benefits of sponsorship and, after a few weeks, I decided that I should try this for myself. Having met and spoken to most of the members of the group I picked a man who I could relate to, who seemed to have some strength in his sobriety and who seemed willing to spend some time with me on an ongoing basis. Unfortunately, I do not have time in this presentation to talk about the benefits of sponsorship and I can only say that this turned out to be an extremely beneficial relationship for both of us and was an important plank in my recovery platform. The group conducted a Beginners' Meeting every week. Anyone in their first 12 months of sobriety was classified as a beginner and a 45 minute session was made available to those who were interested during the hour before the normal AA meeting. Typically, there would be four or five beginners and another four or five older members at the meeting and we would be able to discuss topics in some depth. It was at the beginners' meetings that I first came across the concept of praying for anyone against whom I held resentment. As a result of participating in these beginners' meetings I was eventually asked to speak at other beginners groups from time to time. This was a form of service that added another plank to my sobriety platform. Group visits were another group activity. A number of people from our group would go together to visit another group's meeting. Often we would pick a meeting at a Hospital or Rehabilitation Centre. By attending these meetings, I learned that, even in early sobriety, I could be helpful to other recovering alcoholics because there was always someone, somewhere, who had less time in AA than I had and I was able to share my experience, strength and hope, however limited, with other members. Another plank in my recovery platform.

Time has caught up with me and I must finish now but I would like to say that the principles I learned in this group have helped to keep me sober and have helped me to recover and change my life for the better. I am a member of a group, I have participated in service at many levels, I attend meetings regularly, I am involved in sponsorship, I have a Higher Power who continually assists me and I am happy in my own skin which is something that I never was prior to coming to AA. At present about 30% of Australian groups are structured. I suspect that, if we had more, we would have a better record of recovery for newcomers

Trevor Housley,
World Service Delegate, 2nd Term.
Australia.

19th WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPORT.

The 19th World Service Meeting was held in Malahide, a small town close to Dublin, the capital of the Republic of Ireland, from October 15 through 19, 2006. The theme was "*Anonymous But Not Invisible"* Besides this main theme, there were presentations on "*Carrying the Message", "Magazines and Newsletters" "Bridging the Gap"* (between AA and young people, AA and Treatment Facilities, and in ethnic communities), and "*Country to Country Sponsorship"*.

There were three workshops. The topics of these were "*New Media", "Sponsorship into Service",* and *"Communication between Countries"*. All the presentations are contained in the 19th WSM Report. You will be able to obtain an extra copy from NY GSO. During the WSM, there were AA meetings in English and in Spanish every morning.

The 20th WSM will be held from October 25 through 29, 2008, in New York and its theme was decided as "*Service: Gratitude into Action"*. There will also be presentations on the following 6 topics: .1.How do I express my gratitude in service? 2. Ways for young people to identify and feel at home; 3. Growth and change in worldwide; 4. National membership surveys—an effective tool in service; 5. The importance of sharing AA literature; and 6. Online Groups—how are they working? Is anonymity protected? Are Traditions followed?

And the workshop topics are the following: New Media and the Traditions, How General Service Boards and General Service Offices comply with their country's laws, and Concept 10 "*Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with scope of such authority well defined"*.

The 19th WSM was the biggest ever and there were 55 delegates from 34 countries. More countries could participate than before, firstly thanks to the recommendation made at the 17th WSM, which reduced the minimum fee per delegate to US$1,100. Secondly, there was financial sponsorship between countries. I wonder whether it would be possible to hold the WSM in a less costly way in the future so that more countries can participate on their own funding.

I hesitate to call it a "WORLD" service meeting yet. Considering it is said that AA exists in more than 150 countries, 34 countries means only about one-fifth. From Latin America and Western Europe, there are many participants. But from Africa, there was only one delegate from South Africa. And from
our AOSM zone, there were delegates only from Australia, India, New Zealand, and Japan. To be honest, I felt lonely as an Asian. I hope that the coming WSM will be much more universal.

WSM experience has made me realize the need to think about service much more globally. Basically, I am very inactive and excessively self-conscious person and I tend to think about myself, and my home group, or at the most, my district. I know now that there are many still suffering all over the world and there are many things for us to do. I am sure that this AOSM will be another good opportunity to enlarge the perspective of myself and every single participant. Moreover, I was really able to get rid of my Inferiority complex that we are not doing well in Japan. As you may know, AA in Japan has grown little for nearly a decade. By sharing with members fro many countries, I could realize that every country has its own problems. I did not have to be too disappointed with our results.

During the WSM, there was very limited sharing with the local members, though there was a dinner hosted by the General Service Board of Ireland and attendance at local meetings. After this WSM, I travelled another one week in Ireland and attended several very attractive local meetings. To my great regret, very few of the local members knew that the WSM was held in their country. It was a great shame for both the WSM delegates and for Irish members. I think I have learned a lot in these local meetings, too. Even though there were differences in conveying meetings, the spiritual foundation of this program is the same and I renewed my sense of unity. Attending meetings in person was another good experience.

When I came back to Japan, many asked me what AA is like in Ireland. Actually, at all my presentations on the WSM back in Japan, there are many questions on AA in Ireland compared to questions on the WSM itself from members. Japanese Members are generally interested in the actual working of meetings, asking such questions as: How large is the percentage of women? Or Which prayer is recited at the meeting?

As you know, Japan did not think of hosting this AOSM at first, because we are in chronic financial difficulties. Since no other country would be able to host, AA Japan decided to host the AOSM for the second time. In accepting, our conference made a special request that the Japanese members would have a chance to share with the AOSM delegates. Thanks to the understanding of the AOSM secretary, Bob Preston, and our energetic Host Committee members, we will be able to have sharing with the Japanese local members on Saturday night. I hope this new addition to the AOSM program will be a meaningful experience for every one of us.

Masayo Shima
1st Term WSM delegate of Japan.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNTRY REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA.

There are around 1800 groups spread over Australia and since we are a very large country many of them are in isolated areas and only have a few members. Nevertheless these groups successfully carry the message and since the advent of electronic media, communication between groups, areas and national office has become much easier. Our population is at its most dense in coastal areas and our National Office located in Sydney an area which contains our largest portion of population is well placed to aid the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous by the hard work and endeavour of our three full-time workers.

Our general Service conference is held every year with delegates from all over Australia and a monthly management meeting is held which consists of two general service trustees plus office staff. This year because of the difficulty in obtaining a venue in Sydney at reasonable cost our conference will be held at a venue in Tasmania.

Conference last year approved two pamphlets, one for the general aboriginal population and the other designed to reach female aboriginals. Our conference decided after much soul=searching that it would not be appropriate for these pamphlets to be written by anyone other than the AA members of our indigenous community so it was handed over to aboriginal members who wrote and designed the pamphlets which have been very well received.

Conference also approved a video of Sydney meetings (faces not shown). This was the first time meetings in Australia have been filmed and was done in response to the constant question “what happens at an AA meeting”. This video also contained an interview between an Australian TV personality who was also a class A trustee and our board chairperson which highlighted misconceptions that the public may have of AA and explained our traditions. It has since been commended by members of the professional community, distributed free to treatment and correctional facilities and to members of the public enquiring about AA. In an interesting twist it has helped dispel a “them and us” by putting a human face to Board members previously unknown to the general AA populace.

Also approved was production of a book covering the history of AA in Australia and of a new Australian BIG BOOK in which the only variation will be that the stories will be of Australians. Our Board is hosting a gathering of long-time sobers members (40 years plus) during which their stories will be filed and audio recorded to preserve our narrative history. We also now have a new service manual and guideline book and our manual is also available on our website. This will be held at the end of July and has been embraced enthusiastically by our older sober members.

Our National Convention is held annually in different states and this year was held in Sydney at the Hilton hotel. There were a total in the region of 2000 registrations. Members came from far and wide to celebrate sobriety. Next year’s convention will be held in Adelaide.

Australia has a flourishing AA membership but some of the problems we are trying to address include the fact that the number of groups contributing to the National Office is still low and the amount of members participating in service is also low. One of our aims is to rectify this service participation by making members aware of the benefits of enhancing their sobriety by active involvement and to persuade them they will be better equipped to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous if they have the full knowledge of the workings of the Fellowship. A couple of the highlights this year are being asked to carry the message to the Solomon Islands and an Indigenous convention to be held in November to which two inspirational alcoholics who helped turn around an American Indian reservation from 100% drunkenness to 95% sobriety have been invited by our General Service Board to share.

CAMBODIA.

AA in Cambodia has remained stable for the last two years. We have lost one meeting due to a conflict of scheduling when Conscience Connection went to a seven-day-a-week meeting. We are looking forward to a new home group starting in Sihanoukville, this group will be an old-timers meeting by default as the 3 starting members will all have over 20 years of sobriety The attendance at the meeting has gone up, with more and more people moving into Cambodia. We are expecting more expatriates to come and settle in Cambodia that will be leaving Thailand, mainly due to new Visa laws that went into effect in Thailand in October 2006.

The Phnom Penh Group has moved to a location next door to the Goldiana Hotel, for details please go to www.aacambodia.org. They meet on Fridays at 7PM with a Living Sober format and Sunday at 10am which is a Big Book Study. The New Address is 20B, Street 282 call 012 813 731. The Phnom Penh groups website www.aaphnompenh.org is no longer in operation, if you have a link to it please remove as it is a non-AA site now.

We are continually grateful for the Thai Intergroup listing Cambodia meetings, which with the AACambodia org, sends travelling fellows to our meetings on a fairly regular basis. AACambodia.org receives # page views a month.

Speaker meeting on MP3 is a new twist for Conscience Connection Cambodia. We do this meeting on Saturdays. The rest of the week has a different literature based format for each day. We have two newcomers that have crossed the 90-day threshold and are getting active in the steps and service. Our meeting has a loner joining from an interior city in China on Sundays. John a long time member in Thailand, we are very grateful to have him participating with us via Skype.

Wayne and I rotated off the Thai Intergroup in February. Wayne was unable to make the last meeting as treasurer, as he was in Hawaii doing the Bar (he passed, a miracle). I rotated out as GSR/IGR for Conscience Connection as well as the GVR for the Thai Intergroup.

I went to visit in China and was able to get to a few meetings in Beijing. I had hoped to make it to Japan but was cut short for time due to business reasons. I also had the pleasure of visiting Vern and the Angeles City roundup in the Philippines and will be visiting in Malaysia and Singapore before we meet in July.

One of the things that I had heard, and seen in action, was the success they are having in China, the Philippines and now Thailand. I was told by several of the old timers in those countries that they felt the single most important thing that we can do to carry the message to the indigenous population was to learn their language, so that we could share our Experience, Strength and Hope to them. This sentiment was also expressed by the Thais at a workshop at the Thai Round-Up. A priority some of our members are setting is putting more effort to learn Khmer with the hope of being fluent enough to share our language of the heart in Khmer.

HONG KONG.

Hong Kong is a city of approx 7 million – 95 % Chinese with the balance a mix of Western & Asian expatriates. There are currently 25 English Speaking Meetings per week servicing the largely expatriate membership of AA in HK. The rooms at 12 Borrett Road, (is leased to AA at a nominal rate), and St. Joseph's Church (both on HK Island), are the two main venues for daily meetings. There also weekly meetings in the expatriate enclaves of Sai Kung, Stanley, Lamma & Lantau Islands

Cantonese speaking guest Chinese Speaking Meetings fall under the auspices of the Hong Kong & Kowloon (HK&K) Group, (housed at Borrett Road), and are held Mondays and Fridays at the Kowloon Union Church in Jordan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui and Thursday evenings at Castle Peak Hospital in New Territories. The Castle Peak Meeting, which regularly hosts both English & speakers, will be celebrating its Tenth Anniversary this year.

There have been changes and growth in the overall structure of AA in Hong Kong in the last two years. In late 2004 a week-day morning meeting was started called The Morning Group, and when it was clear this meeting could be self supporting, it was decided to register with GSO as an Autonomous Group. In the ensuing months the weekday lunchtime meeting and the weekly Stanley meeting, both of which previously fell under the auspices of The Hong Kong & Kowloon (HK&K) Group, followed suit and are now known as The Lunch Bunch & The Stanley Group.

In October of 2005 the first Hong Kong AA District Committee was formed, and by early 2006 The Morning Group (TMG), The Lunch Bunch (TLB), The Stanley Group (TSG), and HK&K Group were all represented. More recently The Lamma Island Group and the Mui Wo Group on Lantau Island have become autonomous and are now represented at District Committee. The District Committee meets every month and whenever possible DC Meetings are held in venues of different groups offering local members an opportunity to attend, participate and get to know each other better.

In mid 2006 The Hong Kong Intergroup was established – registered under the Societies Ordinance with the Hong Kong Government - and a part-time salaried Intergroup Manager has been appointed, who is also a sitting member on the District Committee. Intergroup does not have permanent premises at this point and will remain 'virtual' until the need arises for leasing office space. The Intergroup Manager's first order of business has been co-ordination of the telephone service. This has involved building a database of members available for service work. Until recently the phone at Borrett Road was the listed number for English speaking callers with the phone 'live' when meetings are happening – 7 evenings a week – and the rest of the time defaulting to an answer-phone that is checked regularly. Intergroup now has a hotline that will be manned – as far as possible – by the Intergroup Manager and volunteers from all Groups.

Also in Mid 2006 we had a visit from a long serving volunteer from the London UK telephone service committee who held an informal workshop and left us with a service manual for volunteers which has been adapted as a FAQ sheet for volunteers along with other info for visitors or newcomers.

An Intergroup Website has been constructed with a view to offering a comprehensive overview of meetings available in Hong Kong, general news on round-ups and conventions and so on, and also a wider Asian perspective. An updated contact list of meetings within China is a priority, given the influx of expats arriving and taking up posts in the hinterland beyond just the key cities. The Intergroup site will have links to the existing HK&K Group site, a HK Chinese language site currently under construction and, hopefully, other AA sites around the region.

This report has so far mainly covered structural changes but obviously while the formalities of establishing website, phone list, voting procedures and so on have been very front of mind these last few months, the underlying aim of all this is to foster better communication amongst groups and individual members and to provide better logistical support for the Primary Purpose of 'Carrying the Message'.

Since the formation of the District Committee each group has been seeking to identify specific Public Information and/or Hospital & Institution areas to adopt at a Group Level. The Morning Group has a history of working with KELY* in supplying speakers to secondary schools, and other groups have chosen, or are in the process of identifying, hospitals or institutions (such as the Medical College, to reach future members of the Medical Profession etc.) to relate to.

The Chinese Group has been active in the last two years on several fronts. In 2005 there was a ten-day exchange of Chinese AA experience between Hong Kong Chinese AA and Beijing Chinese AA held in Beijing. Hong Kong representatives shared experience on how practicing the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and service work in the Chinese community in HK has been carried out.

Within Hong Kong one Chinese member of AA has maintained regular contact with Hospitals, Social Works Organizations, and the key decision-maker of Correctional Facilities. Regular talks have been conducted for doctors and nurses in two hospitals specializing in mental healthcare, for social workers, medical social workers in two Social Works Service Organizations and one Open-Learning Institute for Nurses Training etc. The Primary Purpose of this service work of the Chinese Group is to carry the message into the Chinese Communities.

A comprehensive service database is now being collated to enable free flow of information amongst Groups and also a pool of volunteers to enable members from different groups to be on call to help out with Twelfth Step Calls, Public Information Talks and Hospitals & Institution visits and so on.
Parallel to this call for volunteers The District Committee will form a dedicated Public Information Committee to work with Intergroup for handling all outgoing communications on HKAA and to respond to press enquiries and so on.
HKAA Membership is in the low hundreds – while this recent move towards forming autonomous Groups has led to a **tangible sense of belonging** and the taking on new Group Service responsibilities for members within individual groups, especially newcomers, the monthly District Committee Meetings have proven invaluable in

fostering better communication amongst Group Representatives with the ultimate focus on the fact that **AA Unity is paramount.**

*School talks in the last 12 months: Delia School, Chinese International School, Australian International School, Island School, and Shatin College Secondary School.

INDIA.

It is necessary to provide a little overview about India itself in order to get a clearer understanding of A.A. here. India's complexity and diversity staggers the imagination. The world's largest democracy has a population of over one billion people. Its 35 states speak 20 official languages, and operate independently in terms of their internal functioning and customs.

A.A. came to India by way of a Canadian, Charlie Marshall, who was posted in the Canadian Embassy in New Delhi. Charlie regularly inserted A. A. ads in a leading newspaper. One response to the ad was from a Bombay (now Mumbai) school teacher, Harry Mathias, who met Charlie, sobered up and began spreading the message. May 5, 1957, Harry's date of sobriety, marks the beginning of the fellowship in India. The first AA group began in November of that year.

Over 850 meetings are conducted in the major cities and in small towns. The estimated membership is about 20,000. Interestingly, just six years ago, that number was 400 groups and 8000 members. We are witnessing an exciting period of growth.

Our General Service Office is located in Mumbai and managed by four Working Trustees: Chairman, Chairman-Public Information, Treasurer and Secretary. A General Manager and three assistants manage the office. The General Service Board comprises 7 Class-A and 14 Class-B trustees. The Working Trustees including the Chairman of the Board are Class-B trustees. 49 delegates represent all parts of country. We have had 37 Conferences so far; and recently the periodicity has been reduced from two to one per year. We still do not have District Committees and Area Assemblies even though adopted by the Conference in 2004; however, group services are largely provided through 42 Inter-Groups across the country.

We have in print 28 A. A. books and 81 pamphlets. Of these, 12 books and 45 pamphlets are in English and 16 books and 36 pamphlets in 14 regional languages – all under license from AAWS. The Big Book alone is published in 11 languages! We publish a monthly GSO India newsletter and an independent bi-monthly magazine, "The 12th Step". Several Intergroups also have their own regional magazines. Our website, www.aagsoindia.org is hosted by GSOI (GSO India) and regularly updated. Visitors to the site are mostly researchers and members. Our General Service Conference has approved the publication of a Big Book with Indian stories. Awareness on literature is increasing and we have reached sales of Rs.7,00,000 during the last financial year.

Financially, Alcoholics Anonymous in India is still in its infancy. Only 27% of the groups send their contributions and the margins from sale of literature are insufficient even to protect the meagre cost of running GSO India. GSOI is invariably strapped for cash and unable to meet even its basic needs. All members engaged in service - including trustees - travel at their own cost. Few, if any, Intergroups reimburse the delegates for conference expenses. Participation at national or international events depends on a member's own ability to finance his trip. Deficits are balanced largely through repeated appeals to individual contributors, with the result that budgets are more driven towards recovery of costs rather than proactive ventures like public information. But there is a growing awareness of service in the fellowship, and with that we have a reason to be optimistic. During the last financial year (April 06 to March 07) contributions amounted to nearly Rs.1 million. This is due to awareness of 7th Tradition within the Fellowship.

As said earlier, we are witnessing an exciting and phenomenal period of growth. Across the length and breadth of the country, AA as a resource is becoming known and accepted at various public and private levels. Here is a sample:

Railways: The Indian Railways, the world's largest, today directs problem staff to our meetings. Awareness meetings for the Railway Police Force were conducted on major railway stations and as a result many police personnel are attending the meetings and are sober today.

Defence: AA has made an entry into the Indian Army and Navy. Recently, some Big Books were distributed in the Air force. We are presently trying to spread the message in military hospitals and the initial response is good.

Cinema: Bollywood, as it is popularly known, is the world's largest film industry. New inroads are being made with a double objective of reaching out to the artist community as well as to use Cinema as a medium to show recovery through Alcoholics Anonymous. This may give us a much-needed breakthrough in creating mass awareness. A leading producer/director and an established actress/producer have proclaimed friendship and have shown willingness to go any length with us.

Public Utilities: Municipal corporations, state-run hospitals and police departments have shown keen interest in our program of recovery, and we hope to achieve a dual objective here also - reach the suffering employees within these corporations as well as spread the message to those in contact with these organizations.

Religious Institutions: In this secular state, we have been very fortunate to have the support of Christian churches. All across India, church-run schools double up as AA meeting rooms in the evenings and on holidays, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to these and other institutions.

Media: Another great friend of AA is the media. The print and electronic media have accepted us and are always receptive to our need. Newspapers have been particularly cooperative with us by highlighting various facets of our program and carrying stories of recovering alcoholics in series of articles as and when the need arises.

Treatment Facilities: Rehabilitation centers are sprouting around the country, which is a welcome sight. But many of them operate in isolation, and we are trying to establish a dialogue with these centers and offer AA as a resource in post-discharge maintenance of recovery. In October 2006, we had organized a Seminar where authorities from Rehab and Major hospitals were invited. Likewise, efforts are under way with the hotel industry.

Golden Jubilee: Alcoholics Anonymous in India completed 50 years on 5th May 2007. Throughout the year, celebrations were organized by regions all over the country spurred on by the national P.I. Committee. On 5th & 6th May two events were organized in Mumbai, with well-known friends of A.A. turning up in large numbers.

The Indian Psychiatrists Association, Karnataka Chapter (Karnataka is a state in India) bestowed an award on Alcoholics Anonymous in recognition of its contribution to society. The award carried a cash donation of Rs.50,000. While the award was accepted humbly by an "A" Class Trustee on behalf of A.A., the money was politely declined.

Perhaps the greatest challenges facing A.A. in India are the social stigma surrounding alcoholism and the concept of woman alcoholics. At present there are only three women's groups in India. Our very own land is beset with ignorance and superstition about alcoholism. Our judicial system still regards an alcoholic as a criminal. Our educational system makes little or no mention of alcoholism, despite its widespread prevalence.

India is seen by its neighbouring countries as an A.A. resource. We sincerely want to be of help to Bangladesh, Burma, Pakistan, Tibet and Sri Lanka, etc. In an interesting development, recently Dubai in United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning affiliation with GSO India.

The youth in India today are obtaining higher levels of education, earning big salaries and are adopting a lavish lifestyle. Liquor in this scenario is the in thing; and we are now seeing the emergence of a new social disorder in India – the young problem drinker.

We are planning a Convention scheduled on 27-30 December 2007 in Pune near Mumbai. We are hopeful that many of our international friends from A.A. will be able to attend and share their valuable experience with us.

The road ahead is tough. A.A. in India has few labourers and a mountain to harvest. A recent government survey has indicated that there may be as many as eight million alcoholics in India. While this figure might sound a little far fetched, the task at hand is very large.

INDONESIA.

After returning to Bali from the 6th AOSM in Australia with Yudi, we both gave a report , to the fellowship, at different times, it then it became quiet year for me on the AA service front as I assumed my time as an AA delegate was over. I was still attending our local, Ubud meetings on Sunday and Thursday night, and taking part in service where I could. In 2005 I left Bali, in order to follow a dream I'd always had , I found myself in Athens and Turkey I attended AA meetings there, and couldn't understand a word but a comradness of fellowship was always apparent, and I was so grateful to be a drunk, how brilliant to have meetings all over the world, and at the same time to see your dream unfolding, knowing this could only happen to one with a loving higher power, so I knew I have been must be doing something right.

At the beginning of 2006 I called Yudi he was working very hard and struggling to make time for A.A. commitments, and said that he sadly would have to drop the AOSM delegate position.

We had been waiting to find out about the translating of the Indo big book, a lot of our fellowship in Indonesia lent a hand in reading the proof over and over again until they thought it was perfect and then sent it to head office New York. In January 2007 we finally received the Indonesian big book all translated we were so happy to at last have it in our hands. We also waited the arrival, for quite some time of translated P.I. literature, which we never, ever, did lay our hands on in the end. So the long awaited Indonesian big book was finally was printed ,but there must have been a mix up in the printing office and the same erroneous copy, which everyone had rejected had been reprinted.... much to every drunks critical amazement, so we are all still waiting to finally have in our hands the right copy of the Indonesian Big Book. We had decided to launch the Big Book, but since it's the incorrect one we must put this off for another amount of time. On the bright side, this change of plan will enable us to have plenty of time to make it a bigger and better launch. Despite the lack of our new big book, we have a few Indonesians remaining clean and sober and coming to regular meetings at the "Ruko" on the beach area in Bali. We have a new meeting in Monardo, and meetings in Jakarta. We also have meetings in Surabaya in Java.

Recently we started in Ubud an Indo meeting. We started the meeting with four ex pats and Rama, the only Indonesian attending , even though Rama lives and works in Denpasar he made a full commitment to run the Ubud meeting and drives all the way up every Sunday(usually his only day off) to carry the message. It was decided to hold this new Indonesian meeting at a local man's C's (famous for his drunks) residence , we thought this way, he may come to a meeting or two, and maybe, get it!. Thereby bringing his life of chaos to a close, if this happened we thought, then the whole of the Ubud area will pile into the meetings, because this man, even though most of the time was totally inebriated was well respected in the motor bike and vintage car clubs and this would be brilliant, we thought we'd have hundreds bashing on the door. Well he did attend 3 meetings and the seed seemed to be planted, we haven't seen him for 2 weeks now but we still have hope.

As a rather seeped in culture place Bali it seem is a hard one to carry the message there is an insular pride within the village, to take care of their own. To carry the message we have to go to the elders and talk to them with some authority e.g. a knowledgeable and respected doctor. To carry the message we have to go to the elders and talk to them with some authority e.g. a knowledgeable and respected doctor. We have attempted to go and talks to some of these people, to them give information, there has been nil feed back. It could be that one must go and give information to the king first then it could be that the problem drunks would be directed to AA instead of a jail cell or alternately be grounded inside their family compounds.

On the positive side we have, every year a roundup in June, usually many connection are made within the fellow ship , and quite a few of the ex pat community are working with, and sponsoring Indonesian members, this is great , there is still so much to do for connections within even the local group level.

AA Jakarta has continued to expand its meeting schedule. It now has meetings everyday except Sunday.

In conjunction with AA Bali and the other AA communities, we have continued to support the translation of the Big Book into Bahasa Indonesia. At the moment we are awaiting the final galley of the final edits to the translation. We expect that it can be printed and distributes this year. Membership by the local Indonesian people is still limited. It has not yet reached critical mass sufficient to sustain a regular meeting in Bahasa Indonesia, Jakarta continues to support other areas and loners outside of Jakarta and Bali with material, website pages etc.. There is now AA representation in Bogor, Manado, Surabaya, Yogyakarta, Solo, Bandung and Medan.

We are a young member and so appreciate the help Australia and New Zealand has given to our delegates to allow us to continue to partake in this wonderful meeting which is helping. Even in the smallest way for a better understanding from the bigger ex pat membership, every time we give a report here after an AOSM meeting one

or two members ask questions and show appreciation for the information, and the service which is apparent, and see the struggles within the making of the Indonesian fellowship.

We ask other countries experience on how to launch our big book, when it arrives. We know this could really help in the understanding of the local authorities regarding alcoholism.

JAPAN.

It has been 32 years since the AA program was introduced to Japan. We celebrated our 30th anniversary in September 2005. There was much international sharing between Japanese members, and guests from Korea, Mongolia, and North America. As of April 2007, we have approximately 470 groups registered with JSO with an estimated 5,000 members. (The 4th national membership survey will be conducted from May 28 through June 13.)

First meeting was held in Tokyo in 1975, and there are meetings in every single prefecture around the country now. However, members and groups are mainly concentrated in big cities (Kanto, Chubu & Kansai regions). In some remote areas, there exist only 1 to 3 groups with only 10 members in each prefecture.

12 years have passed since our General Service structure was organized. Our General Service Board consists of 2 non-alcoholic (class A) trustees, 4 General Service trustees, 2 regional trustees, 3 JSO (Japan General Service Office) staff and 2 World Service delegates. Six of the seven areas elect two delegates each; Kanto Area elects 6 delegates, totaling 20 trusted delegates serving at Conference.

This year's General Service Conference was held from February 10–12. After long heated discussions and a 2-year trial period, our Conference Charter and General Service Bylaws were finally adopted. To my great regret, in some areas, delegate seats were vacant, and from some areas, past-delegates were elected as alternate delegates. Past-delegates have started to attend Conference as alternate delegates since 2005 to fill vacancies. A few years ago, one area proposed to change the number of delegates, and every year it is a big problem that we continue to discuss. Whereas, in one area's assembly, an alternate delegate is elected and stands ready to serve if the delegate cannot, and if nothing happens, they are elected as a first-year delegate the next year. He/she also attends conference as an observer to study; his/her costs are covered from the group contributions in the area.

We started an Annual National Service Forum in 2000 in Chubu-Hokuriku area and we have held six so far. This September, the 7th and last National Forum will be held in Kanto-Koshin'etsu Area. Going forward, I believe each area will continue to hold service forums to bring many members together and have meaningful sharing on the importance and significance of service.

Though we cannot be too optimistic about our financial status, love and gratitude of members have sustained service. More than 60% of our income is from the sale of books and publications and less than 40% is from group contributions. Our Trustee responsible for finance continues to ask members for more contributions.

First Japanese version of Big Book was published in August 1979. In February 2000, a revised translation version; in 2002, the revised version including Japanese personal stories; in January 2003, a pocket size revised version, and in November 2006, a large-print version for weak-sighted members were published respectively. We are also planning to make audio CD of the Big Book. "Doctor Bob and the Good Old-Timers" and the video "Hope" (DVD) with Japanese subtitles was newly published. This year, we are planning to publish Japanese original comic leaflet. So many leaflets and booklets have been translated, and for those yet to be translated, we will translate and publish in time. We are trying to grow literature sales, and are also considering sale through internet.

We are now focusing our 12th Step activities on Public Information by sharing our recovery principles to friends in hospitals, institutions, social welfare fields and education, including universities and high schools. However, in local areas, only recently has AA come to be known to the general public.

The Public Information/Hospitals/Institutions committee of the General Service Board started holding PI/H&I forums 5 years ago in Shiga and since then we are having such forums almost every year, which are very promising. There are many friends participating from all over, including our class A trustee. It continues to grow, and will surely have many benefits. It was reported that there were media coverage before and after the forum held in Chubu-Hokuriku last year. The notice through internet home page seemed to be very effective.

General Service Board is in charge of the JSO website. We linked the site to English speaking groups in Japan (Tokyo) and are planning a renewal of our site, and will include English pages as well. There have been 250,000 hits to this site in 7 years, and there are several hundred hits on average in one day. I think the link to the English-speaking group site and future development of an English version of our site will be a great help to traveling AAs and temporary visitors to Japan.

Public Information in the mass media will be our major task from now on. We are now developing a leaflet on Public Information by gathering experiences of cooperating with mass media.

Concerning the message to correctional institutions, Prison Law was amended last year and providing education to the prisoners has become compulsory. Also, privately-run correctional institutions are under construction. In these circumstances, carrying the message to correctional institutions will be requested more. Last year, a forum for correctional institutions was held in Tokyo and we had many participants from the administration side of various institutions. From now on, we would like to hold this kind of forum in other areas upon request. There is currently a big wave of interest in carrying the message into correctional institutions in Japan.

Our International Cooperation Committee of General Service Board asks every group for special contribution during a two-week period around June 10th, the day Dr. Bob started his sober life [Founder's Day]. Every year, so much money is contributed and we send some of it to the WSM, International Literature Fund and AOSM. A certain amount is saved for our International Cooperation Fund. From this Fund, we can pay a part of the cost of delegates from Mongolia and full-cost of a Mongolian-English translator. I believe that through closer sponsorship ties, sharing of mutual experiences with them will be strengthened.

In August of last year, 13 Japanese members, along with Far-East Russian members, American and Canadian members residing Korea, 2 staff from NY GSO and 108 Mongolian members, came together for the 2nd Mongolian National Convention. We shared a lot. The AA message is reaching Asians now.

The World Service Meeting was held in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, from October 15 last year. Two delegates from Japan and one translator attended. From the AOSM zone, there were delegates from Australia, India, New Zealand and Japan. In many countries, the existence of many ethnic peoples and many language barriers give members difficulties in carrying the message. We Japanese should be grateful for blessed with a relatively uniform language system.

KOREA.

We are sorry we have missed you last AOSM meeting in Australia. We look forward seeing you in Japan in July. Since we saw you last in 2001 in Korea, we held our annual convention every year in all parts of Korea; we estimate the members who will come this year will be around 1,000 peoples. I hope you could help us by informing many members in AOSM and visit us in our International convention. This year celebrates 31st year anniversary of A.A. in Korea. We have about 3,000 people who come to A.A. meeting regularly and have about 100 meetings and 6 inter-group area meetings.

At the beginning this year, we elected all new persons in the G.S.O. Korea service and we elected chair-person alternate and delegates to go to international meeting as well. Fortunately our chairman-alternate is a very famous doctor, so expect our work will prosper and get many professional communities involved. We've been working with 91 hospitals and have close contact with Korean alcohol research foundation hospital.

We have published "As Bill sees it" and almost finished translating "Pass it on" and "A.A. comes of age". *We have a lot more women members who come to A.A. and quite a few women group as well*. We hold annual international convention with many foreign members as well. It's bi-lingual and we are working together to find ways how to help each other. At these meeting we have 200 people who gather together. I hope to see many of you in Nov. 2,3,4 International A.A. convention in Chung-Ju

. Our web-site is **www.aakorea.co.kr** and contact e-mail address **office@aakorea.co.kr**

MERCAA.

MERCAA (Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous) was formed in 2005. This formation was facilitated by Doug R. from the International Desk of GSO at the GC in Bahrain. The purpose of MERCAA is to unite the countries in the region to strengthen the work of spreading the word of AA throughout to the suffering alcoholic, taking into consideration the special cultural issues and linguistical challenges

The following Gulf countries are members of MERCCA: Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia,
Qatar, UAE (Dubai + Abu Dhabi + Al Ain); Kuwait and Iran.

Annual Gulf Convention (GC) which is hosted in rotation in differing countries. This year (2007) The Committee generally meets one time per year to update on progress in each of the countries at the Convention is being held in Oman from 7-9th November. The website **'www.aainarabia.com'** was established in 2004 and provides links to all meetings in the countries in the Arabian Gulf, which falls under the Umbrella of the Middle East.

Briefs on activities from the various countries are:

Saudi Arabia An excerpt from the Grapevine of May 1950 shows that AA was alive in Saudi Arabia. Today whilst the emphasis on anonymity is in the forefront more than usual and in particular even as far as PI work is concerned, there are 8 meetings a week in the Eastern Province of Saudi and there are approximately 60 active members – in a ratio of 80 / 20 for expatriates and nationals.

The words 'alcohol' and 'drugs' are never used when doing PI work as these are 'offensive' to the community. The fellowship members concentrate on the using words such as 'disease' and 'community support to disease suffers of addiction'.

Kuwait. In Kuwait we also keep a low profile as it is supposed to be a 'dry' state. We have 3 meetings each week and our group has about 20-25 members. Sunday is a Big Book Meeting, Wednesday a Step Study Meeting and Friday is speaker discussion. Meetings vary in size and in summer months when everyone travels can be reduced to 2 people at a meeting. We do have a hotline and we do advertise the number in the local newspapers. *Kuwait will celebrate its 25th anniversary on 22nd October 2007*.

The United Arab Emirates: (i) Abu Dhabi
For many years AA has existed in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi with four meetings a week. It is exciting to note that the most recently inaugurated meeting (at the halfway house) is conducted on a bilingual basis with translation from Arabic to English and vice-versa, and membership includes locals in secondary treatment.

The membership in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain numbers at least 20 and the local fellowship was well represented at an Addiction Conference run here in March where AA had an information booth which was visited by many professionals working locally in the addiction field.

(ii) Dubai - Dubai celebrated its 30th anniversary on the 18th of May 2007**.**The 1st Intergroup in the Middle East was formed in Dubai in January 2003. Intergroup is a great success and helps to carry the message to the area groups. Dubai is more progressive than the other countries when handling PI work, for example they have had several 'open' round ups where they have invited members of public to attend, plus talk shows. There are daily meetings in Dubai and there are about 50-60 members.

(iii) Al Ain – A smaller emirate where meetings started in 1998. There are two meetings a week and the membership is also fairly small.

Bahrain AA in Bahrain started in 1964 and is a very strong group. Bahrain has been hosting an Annual Public Information event since May 2005. At the most recent event the Minister of Health, the Head of Bahrain Prisons and one of the top religious leaders were present, which is quite remarkable. They were very concerned about Alcoholism in Bahrain and interested in AA and the religious leader spoke extremely positively at the end about what he'd heard, and drew parallels between the AA way and the spiritual path advocated by all religions: Abandon yourself to God, Clean house, and Help others. Bahrain also hosted a 12 Step Workshop in April which was attended by 50 members from the region.

Qatar AA was started in Qatar in 1988. The first meetings were held in the homes of the members. As the population and country expanded so too did the membership. In 2002 public meeting venues were located and the membership as grown now to 20-25. In 2004 a Jail meeting was started on a Monday night. This meeting was in Arabic but English speaking members attended in a "supporting role". The meeting stopped after about 6 months but they have recently made contact with the authorities with a view to starting it once more. Captain Al-Ansari was a most sympathetic and generous host for this meeting. They also have permission to start a Hospital meeting soon. There are currently three meetings per week.

Oman AA formally began in Oman in October 11, 1974. During the past 12 months, the two groups have worked together to establish a greater PI effort and several speakers are going to the Ibn Siena government psychiatric hospital to share their experiences, strength and hope with clients in the drug addiction ward. Recently one member spoke about what AA is and what it is not to a small group of students in nurses training. It appears that an Arabic-speaking meeting for persons newly released from the government hospital and other rehabs is developing some small roots. There are approximately 12-15 members in Muscat.

Iran Unfortunately Iran does not have access to the history of AA due to the transient nature of the western population. The more recent history can be traced back to the first meeting held in a fellow AAs home (Alex) in May 1993. *The life and support of any AA members in Iran was basically non-existent and the government treated all addicts extremely harshly*. Nevertheless, AA has still flourished with the support of members and literature has been translated into Farsi. To date there are in excess of 80,000 members of AA and NA – many with dual addictions.

MONGOLIA.

At present, we have 26 groups around the Mongolia and 3 AA groups in prison. In 2001, GSO Mongolia was established in Ulaanbaatar and registered to the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs it's by the Mongolian law. The GSO has a staff of one AA member as half timer a day. The office is weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and there is a volunteer operated 4 hours telephone service.

Also, this September GSO Mongolia will organize to the 1st National Conference and we hope each group to send 2 delegates this conference.

The following have been translated into Mongolian: "This is AA", "44 questions", "Is AA for you", "A brief guide of Alcoholics Anonymous", "AA legacy of service", "The AA group" and "The twelve steps illustrated", "A newcomer asks", "Big Book", "12 step and 12 tradition". We have begun to carry message of AA it's among the Kazakh people who are addiction professional and alcoholics since 2005. GSO NY sent us and had a translated into Kazakh: "A newcomer asks", "44 questions", "A brief guide of Alcoholics Anonymous", "Is AA for you" and "This is AA".

Last year our 2nd national convention was held in Gorkhi – Terelj tour camp it is situated in a Mongolian National Park. There are 105 attendees were participated and it was greatest gift of God that participation of General Manager of General Service Office Greg M, New York International Desk of General Service Office Doug R, New York, delegate of WSM from Japan Masayo with his 12 Japanese AA friends, delegate of the AOSM of Siberian Region of Russia Sergey with his 9 AA friends, and 3 AA friends from English speaking AA meeting of South Korea.

It was a 3-day convention with "Recovery" as its theme. Members discussed the 12 Steps and shared their experiences on who can be a sponsor. In the meantime, there were meetings of women, youth, and newcomers, who shared their experiences with members from other countries and learnt from each other, which fulfilled and brought the wishes and desires of Mongolian AA members to live healthier.

Next year, we are going to celebrate 10 year anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous of Mongolia. We are inviting our friends from different corners of over the world with our great pleasure.

NEW ZEALAND.

Hello to you all my name is Brenda Hamblyn and I am an alcoholic from Wellington, New Zealand. AA in New Zealand began with our first member, Ian McEwen, who read about the AA programme in a Readers Digest article in 1945. Ian wrote to GSO New York in January 1946 and thus the journey of recovery began in New Zealand. From Ian's initial contact with GSO New York the growth in the Fellowship in New Zealand has continued. Last year our National Convention, held in January, celebrated the start of 60 years of AA in New Zealand with a special meeting of oldtimers who shared their memories of meeting Ian McEwen and the celebrations continued throughout the year.

Figures from our latest survey show New Zealand has a membership of over 5,000 with over 400 registered groups and we continue to grow. Our growth is reflected not only in numbers but also in the changing demographics of our membership. Women for the first time in our history represent over 40% of our AA population and this number is continuing to grow.

The World Service Meeting continues to be strongly supported by New Zealand with our attendance of two members at the 19th World Service Meeting held in Malahide, Ireland last October and our involvement in this, the Asia Oceania Meeting. The impact of this meeting is continuing to be felt as Tony Oliver our Conference Chairperson was invited to travel to Tahiti last December to help them celebrate 20 years of AA in that country.

In New Zealand we continue to adopt technology to help us carry the message of recovery throughout the country. Our use of 0800 number helps us to ensure that all alcoholics who need to reach us, wherever they are in the country, can. Our website continues to develop and grow. A recent addition is the inclusion of links to our Ministry of Health and education databases for New Zealand medical practices and schools to assist Public Information (PI) committees and members around the country to carry the message of recovery to these groups.

Our national magazine "Mainstay", a key communicator within the fellowship of New Zealand since the early 1960's, has undergone a review due to low circulation figures. Although the review made some exciting proposals to revamp and rejuvenate the publication the magazine is now becoming a bi monthly magazine as we seek ways to serve the Fellowship better in New Zealand through this medium.

This year marks a particularly important point in the growth of our service structure of AA in New Zealand. The New Zealand General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous was incorporated in 1991 to reflect the New Zealand government's legal requirements for charitable groups to be legal entities. For many years this Board has had mainly an administrative function only and conference members served as Board members as a temporary measure as we were a small country and we have struggled for years to fill the many positions required at this level of service.

In March our General Service Conference voted in fifteen new members to serve on the Board separate from our Conference membership thereby marking another landmark in New Zealand's growth in service. This also serviced to fulfil the ambition of many, past and present, AA members who for years have attempted to create a structure that will serve New Zealand AA now and in the future and continuing to fulfil Bill W's legacy where he said, "he learned that the temporary or seeming good can often be the deadly enemy of the permanent best. When it comes to survival for AA, nothing short of our very best will be good enough."

PHILIPPINES.

AA still isn't very wide spread in the Philippines. It mostly consists of foreigners. The main problem that l can see is duel dependency with the younger set. l recently went to a NA convention, and meeting and only myself and other Foreigners introduced ourselves as an Alcoholic, I've noticed that at a lot of AA meetings a lot of people introduce themselves as addict alcoholic.
That said l realize that as an Alcoholic my job is to take the actions, and let my higher power worry about the results, and l do see some good things happening here. We have some program people moving here with enthusiasm to spread the AA word. Together with some locals, once a week one of the treatment centers is inviting all the mostly foreign meeting people to speak at their speaker meeting. lts been well received.

All this is going on in Angeles City where l live. The biggest boost AA gets is from the round-up we have once a year, last year was the 11th annual convention, about 150 showed up for that one. lts a good time for one and all.

lt would make a nice vacation for many people. There's many beach resorts in the Philippines, Surfing, and Scuba diving is as good here as any place on earth, and the night life is about as good as it can get. This year the convention will be Oct. 12th, 13th, and 14th.

I've been travelling around the country a little, and I'm not aware of many meetings, or loners around the country. l know there are some meetings in Daveo City in Mendenao, and Cebu City in Cebu. Also some meetings in Manila. l know that Alcoholism is prevalent here in the Philippines, and the work here is only started. With some of the key people moving here, maybe we can get the word out a little more. This is a very poor country, and anything that costs money just doesn't get done, so l just spread the word that there is a solution when l can and hope for the best.

Vern Fossum, AOSM Delegate for the Philippines was not present at the meeting but sent in the Country Report.

RUSSIA.

Since 6th AOSM the consolidation of AA Service Structures in Asian part of Russia has taken place alongside with strengthening of Siberian AA participation in affairs of the whole Russian AA. Two AA Districts have been formed in Western Siberia: in Altay Territory (11 groups with Barnaul city as a center) and in Omsk Province (8 groups with Omsk city as a center). Service Assemblies were held in these cities which elected Delegates to The General Service Conference of AA in Russia who've been taking part in AA general service at the national level on a permanent basis. Yet, unfortunately AA groups of such big cities of Western Siberia like Novosibirsk and Tomsk do not participate in general service at country level, nor they send their delegates to GSC at the moment.

AA Groups of various cities in Eastern Siberia and Far East (ES&FE) proceeded with joining to the Area Service Structure. New groups were started in Yakutia and Kamchatka. Internet communication with AA in Magadan was established. Thus practically all of big cities in Eastern Siberia and Far East have AA groups which are involved in unified AA activities through our Service Structure in spite of a vast distances between them

While in 2005 the membership of ES&FE Service Assembly consisted of delegates from five administrative districts, in 2007 it consisted of seven ones and two districts participated in it by Internet. The AA information exchange took place both in Chat and through e-mail letters. All of it was passed on to GSRs of AA groups and service structures, including the ones from Yakutia and Kamchatka.

Today the number of AA Groups in ES&FE amounts to 26 (Chita Province - 4, Irkutsk Province - 8, Krasnoyarsk Territory - 2, Republic of Buryatia - 1, Republic of Yakutia – 2, Khabarovsk Territory - 2, Sakhalin Province – 2, Kamchatka Province – 2, Vladivostok – 3).

AA members attended with sharing visits the cities of Chita, Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk, Ulan-Ude, Yakutsk, Khabarovsk, Sakhalin Island and Kamchatka. Information supports of these visits was organized as well as of visits of AAs from Moscow and Poland in order to widen AA contacts and sharing of experience.

Delegates from this region and Russian GSB member Sergey S. (Irkutsk) took part in the Annual Meetings of Russian AA General Service Conference. Alexey V. (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk) was elected a Delegate to AOSM and in 2007 he replaced Sergey S. in our GSB after rotation. Representatives of ES&FE AA Service Structure regularly participate as observers at Altay Assemblies in Barnaul and AA representatives of Altay attend Assemblies of ES&FE AA in Irkutsk on a permanent basis.

GSO of AA Mongolia and AA Service Committee of ES&FE jointly organized the visit of 10 Siberian AAs to the 2d National Convention of AA in Mongolia. The US/Canada and Russian GSOs of AA jointly organized the visit of General Manager and head of International Desk of GSO (New York) Greg M. and Doug R. to Russia from Ulan-Baator (Mongolia) to Ulan-Ude, Irkutsk, Kyzyl and Khabarovsk. Members of Service Committee of ES&FE and AAs from to Ulan-Ude, Irkutsk and Khabarovsk took an active part in ensuring this visit. Big AA Meetings were held and talks with administration officials and doctors of high rank were arranged. Special thanks to General Manager of Russian GSO Konstantin K. (AOSM'2001 Delegate) who took an active part in events in Ulan-Ude and Irkutsk not as interpreter only but above all as a representative of official AA structure in Russia.

Also our unity with world AA showed up in cooperation with Polish AA, which member Victor O. visited in 2006 with AA workshops cities of Irkutsk, Vladivostok, Ulan-Ude, Khabarovsk, Nakhodka, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, and shared his 23 years of sobriety and Service everywhere. Two AA magazines are published: *Spring*

in Barnaul (13 issues) and *Camel* in Irkutsk (2 issues). The question about establishing of regional service office in Irkutsk is under consideration.

The Regional AA Convention is held annually. Until now it was traditionally held at the Lake of Baikal. At present a question is raised about rotation of its location in order to give an AA groups from other cities the opportunity to get more experience of conducting general events. In 2007 it was for the first time that foreign AAs attended this Convention from Mongolia.

SINGAPORE.

Alcoholics Anonymous Singapore originated in 1959. There were 1 Scotsman (11yrs. in Malaya), 1 Eurasian man (Anglo Malayan), 2 Women (1 US dependent, 1 visitor), and 1 Indian man (traveller). In March 1961, the meetings were held in a YMCA, with the attendance of 9 people. Chinese and Indians could see only "Ang Mo"s (which means expatriates, Singaporean colloquial). Local members were shy about their use of English, and they did not feel blended in. However, they stayed sober from the 3rd tradition.

In 1987, there were only 3 evening meetings a week. Year by year, they were extended to meetings every evening. Listening to the craving for having meetings in lunch time, we came to have lunch-time meetings from Monday to Friday. Women's meeting, Men's meeting, Chinese (mandarin) speaking meeting also became alternatives. More Singaporean members came to chair meetings and sponsor other people. In 2004, in the causeway city of Johor Bahru (JB), Malaysia, which is only 60 minutes by bus from central Singapore, a new meeting was born, and was supported by Indo-Singaporean members.

Currently, most of the meetings are held in Blessed Sacrament Church (10 mins walk from MRT Commonwealth station) everyday. An 11th step meeting is held in Novena Church (5 mins walk from MRT Novena) every Tuesday. There are about 150 members in Singapore (e.g. 4.15 million in population). We have Group Conscience Meetings every 3 months.

The Institute of Mental Health (national hospital, IMH) has some prominent doctors in addiction, some of them studied in Hazelden. There is a program which is named as Community Addictions Management Programme (CAMP). In most cases, patients are not forthcoming, not honest with doctors; do not follow advice, with blame and denial. So doctors and patients are people who normally would not mix. However, WE Foundation Limited, located in Alexandra Day Centre (5 mins walk from Redhill MRT) also helps patients to get in touch with 12 step programs. WE Foundation Limited provides WE CARE (Centre for Addiction Recovery & Education) with poly-substance & behavioural addictions. WE CARE is an entry point for treatment of addicts & their families. Doctors in IMH suggest addicts & families that they get in touch with WE CARE. And the subconscious AA members who are once suggested that they come to regular alcoholics anonymous meetings are usually picked up by actual members with the suggestion from WE Foundation Limited.

At the community level, alcoholism and alcoholics are not accepted as a medical problem. The population consists of 75% Chinese, 15% Malayan, 8% Indian, and 2% visitors mostly expatriates. Our fellowship consist of nearly 60% expatriates, 30% Indian, and 10% Chinese. English and Mandarin (Chinese), Bahasa Melayu (Malaysian) and Tamil (Indian) are the official languages. Singapore is surrounded by Muslim countries, such as Indonesia and Malaysia. The Koran does not allow alcohol, so that Muslim people tend to be regarded as not being alcoholics. Society is cold for women alcoholics; they can be suggested getting out of their houses if known.

Some of our members share our experience strength and hope in the annual roundups of AA Thailand (Pattaya in February) and of AA Indonesia (Bali in June.) Members stay active coming to these roundups, and they try to recover from our illness as best they can. They try to pass on what they came to get for the ones who still suffer. Thus AA Singapore tries to meet our primary purpose.

THAILAND.

Alcoholics Anonymous has existed in Thailand since at least the 1970s and until recent years has primarily been a fellowship for expatriates and visitors from mainly English-speaking countries. While there were many strong individual groups, little interaction between them was seen until February 2003 when many of the different groups in Thailand helped start the Thailand Intergroup. Through this, the groups have found a way to pool their

resources and share their experiences with each other in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic in Thailand. At the time Intergroup committed to fund and man a 24-hour helpline and pay for a daily newspaper ad in a local English-language newspaper. Now around twenty groups are participating. Under the Intergroup, there are committees for Public Information (PI), Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) and Literature Translation.

CPC and PI have worked together and have brought awareness of AA to hospitals, treatments centers, individual doctors and officials in the government's Ministry of Public Health. The CPC committee in 2006 arranged for a Chinese physician, Dr. Guo Song, to come to Thailand to speak to Thai medical professionals. The public information committee has been active in maintaining a website, www.aathailand.org, compiling a quarterly "where and when" schedule of meetings and organizing a public information booth at a Bangkok hospital's annual community fair. The Translation Committee has worked together with the General Service Office in New York and recently has received a Thai version of the AA comic book, "What Happened to Joe?", as well as a translation of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. The comic book was first translated by some bilingual Thai alcoholics and a rough draft of the completed translation was sent to GSO. We're not sure how much of our translation was used. Also, the first two steps of the 12 and 12 were translated locally and then were sent to GSO. A manuscript has been completed and after a review from our local committee, the translation is much better then any other previous AA-translated literature. The Big Book has been translated by GSO, and there is now discussion among the Thai AAs about trying to re-translate that work to make it more comprehensible.
Especially through the translation committee, Thais have become involved in service and they are starting to feel a part of their own recovery. As this report is being written, so is a Thai Stories Book. Thais are writing their stories, what it was like, what happened and what it is like now. The joy of the alcoholic who feels useful again and has the opportunity to help the suffering alcoholic.

There is an excitement amongst the sober Thais, they have the special feeling the AA gives. The word of hope is being spread. The Thais who speak English have been essential in bridging the gap to the Thais who cannot speak English. The demand on the Thai AA member who speaks English is sometimes high, balancing their new life, meetings and the endless amount of 12-step work out there. Khon Kaen, a city 400 kilometres northeast of Bangkok has been the hub for AA growth for Thai alcoholics. Meetings were started in a treatment center there in 2004 by a Scottish AA and have since flourished under the guidance of the head nurse, Nurse Oy, who has since become a great advocate for AA in the Thai medical community. With the help of some Thai AAs, she has held two public information meetings about AA for medical professionals.

Thai-language AA meetings have also been started in a hospital in the northern Thailand city of Chiang Mai. In Bangkok, there are two weekly Thai meetings, one at a hospital and another at the Malaysia Hotel. The Thai membership nationwide is estimated at around 15 to 25 members.

The English-language fellowship numbers around 300 members. There are six groups in Bangkok holding around 20 meetings per week. There are daily meetings by six groups (one Finnish, one Scandinavian, one German) in the Pattaya-Jomtien Beach area on the Gulf of Thailand. Daily meetings are also held in Chiang Mai, which has two groups; Phuket, which has four groups (including one Scandinavian), and on Koh Samui. Other meetings are held in Hua Hin, which has a growing expatriate fellowship (a roundup is planned for August 3-5), Chiang Rai and Pha Ngan. There are also English-language meetings in the northeastern Thailand cities of Khon Kaen, Maha Sarakham, Mukdahan, Nong Khai, Sakon Nakhon and Udon Thani.

There are two annual gatherings that draw Thais from all over the country along with their families together. The annual Khon Kaen Roundup has grown in size and is adding more sober member as we speak. At workshops and talks about AA for Thais, the initial focus on differences and problems has shifted to similarities and solutions.

At the annual Thailand Roundup, which is mostly geared for expatriates and Western visitors, the Thais from the Khon Kaen treatment center have attended three years in row and you can see in their faces that they are starting to feel a sense of belonging. At the roundup last February the Thais held a workshop "A Thai members view of AA", the workshop was standing room only and many were disappointed that the workshop could not go on longer. This was a powerful meeting. Next year, the Thailand Roundup committee is looking into having a UN Type of transition system so the Thais who cannot speak English can have the full roundup experience and hear what the speakers are saying.

The feelings and activities of what AA Thailand is going through right now mirror the early days of AA. We have a small fellowship surrounded by millions who do not know who we are. Unlike other countries where service structures have been set up and defined, taking on service has new meaning. Throughout AA literature, it

talks about growing pains of the early years and this no different for us. AA uses the words "Experience has shown us…" We do listen and use AA experience, at the same time building up our own experience. The example of how the hopeless alcoholic has gained his life back is helping the Thai fellowship grow.

VIETNAM.

Alcoholics Anonymous has been in Viet Nam for over fourteen years now and consists of two groups: one in Ha Noi, and one in Ho Chi Minh City. In Ho Chi Minh City, the meetings are held in two separate coffee shops in the center of town and in Ha Noi most meetings are still held in member's houses, consisting of a few local ex-pats and a growing number of visitors who often outnumber the local ex-pats at the meetings.

Recently, a Saturday afternoon meeting has started on a rooftop café overlooking one of Ha Noi's famous lakes. The Ho Chi Minh City group has had the occasional Vietnamese, and an effort is being made to get the local government to allow A.A. meetings to be recognized and legitimized. When this is accomplished, we will then move A.A. into treatment centers and help the Vietnamese create their own meeting. As of now, the groups have only been attended intermittently by any Vietnamese.

It is estimated that the fellowship in Viet Nam consists of fewer than twenty members who regularly attend meetings. The service structure remains almost non-existent. Some members here believe that because the groups are so small that a formal A.A. service structure is not needed, while others believe that establishing a service structure would enable the fellowship to grow.

Since the last AOSM, the Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Noi AA groups have created websites to ensure that meetings in Viet Nam are more accessible to members and the alcoholic who still suffers. Since both groups have created websites, attendance by visitors has been on the rise. This creation of the websites has been made possible with the help of members in other countries. Hanoi Aa website: www.aahanoi.com
Ho Chi Minh City AA website: www.aahcma.com

There is still concern amongst some of the members 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 Ho Chi Minh City are currently searching for the best way to go about becoming legitimized, thus enabling the groups to be of service to all who wish to recover from alcoholism.

PRESENTATION.

Theme: *"LITERATURE TRANSLATIONS".*

Presented by Julio Espaillat International Desk GSO New York.

My name is Julio; and I am an alcoholic who found sobriety—freedom from alcohol—in Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm currently assigned to the International Desk at the General Service Office in New York that serves the AA groups in Canada and the United States. You, the members representing AA in Asia and Oceania, 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 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 A.A. literature, books and pamphlets that contain the fundamentals of how A.A. works to lead people like you and me to sobriety. The cooperation of international A.A. boards, committees and offices is essential to preserve the integrity of our message in print. Today I will address "why" and "how" approved translations are achieved.

As with everything in A.A., the basis is <u>we</u>--there is 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 A.A. Fellowship's future passed on by our Founders, Dr. Bob and Bill W. We are here to share experience, strength and hope so that each of us can turn toward to the alcoholic woman or man in our community who is unaware that A.A. exists and offer a lifesaving solution. In Unity, we work together in cooperation to provide A.A.'s message in languages understood by everyone, everywhere.

Translations.

The Big Book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is currently published in 53 languages, and several other translations are underway. A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) holds more than 700 copyrights on A.A. literature, including the Big Book—copyrights held in trust for A.A. as a whole.

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 (W.S.M.) which you may wish to take advantage of in the future as you proceed with your translation activities.

Translations come about in two ways: 1) Occasionally, professionals or A.A. groups in lands where A.A. 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 A.A. has taken root begin translating A.A. materials such as the Preamble, The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and other recovery literature. Eventually, local A.A. groups/boards move on to larger projects, such as the Big Book or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

<u>Please note</u>: Before anyone—A.A. group, board or member--begins translating A.A.'s copyrighted literature, they must first *request permission to translate* by contacting the Publications Department[1] in G.S.O., New York.

On receipt of a request for permission to translate an A.A. 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 A.A.W.S. 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 should reflect the tone and spirit of Bill's original work.

At times, it's difficult for A.A. 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/U.S. 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 familiar with AA, and include a few bilingual members who are fully familiar with the original text.

Now, although it is a bit premature to discuss publishing literature, I want to touch upon it in order to convey the importance placed on licensing and copyright protection of AA Literature.

Before an approved translation is published, a license to publish the A.A. 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

[1] Our Publications Department oversees translations of copyrighted literature and other materials on behalf of A.A.W.S. Contact information can be found on the last page of this presentation.

necessary permission requirements are in place and prevents problems with the Copyright protection afforded the translated A.A. 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 A.A. in each country, often delegated to a Translations Committee. A.A.W.S. grants *only one license per country or structure*, and always abides by the group conscience.

Copyrights.

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc. (A.A.W.S.) 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/U.S. The A.A.W.S. 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 A.A.W.S. currently holds more than 700 copyrights on AA literature, including literature published by other General Service Offices and license holders who assign copyrights to A.A.W.S. *Each copyright is held in trust by A.A.W.S. for the worldwide A.A. Fellowship.*

Over the years, A.A.W.S. has safeguarded A.A.'s copyrighted material to protect the integrity of the A.A. message. Since the time that service structures outside of Canada/U.S. were first licensed to publish copyrighted literature, the policy has been to grant exclusive license(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 A.A. groups in their respective lands.

The policy of granting an exclusive license to one service entity/board/committee (the licensee) per structure or country authorizes the licensee to protect the copyright and license 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 (W.S.M.) have affirmed the policy on several occasions.
In the late 1980's, 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 A.A.W.S. in care of our Publications Department.[2]

A License agreement is good for ten years, after which a new agreement needs to be executed. Additionally, a License 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 A.A. message, and to the development of A.A. structures in unity.

We are available to assist you with these procedures, and encourage everyone contemplating or working on translations of A.A. literature to contact our Publications Department, the agent for A.A.W.S. We ask current license 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. 1. To begin translation of literature copyrighted by A.A.W.S., 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 below.

2. When the request has been approved, the A.A. entity (board/office/committee) will be notified and asked to proceed as described in the following steps.

3. A few translated chapters of the A.A. 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.

[2] See contact information on page 5. Standard license & copyright assignment forms are readily available.

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 A.A.W.S., 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[3], item 6.

7. *As soon as an approved translation is published*, A.A.W.S., 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 A.A. 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 web site.

For Licenses granted prior to 2004, the AA entity/License holder can write to our Publications Director Chris Cavanaugh indicating their wish to post translated literature on the web. An amendment to the original license 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 is making certain that the process is carried out as described today and outlined in the document titled "A.A.W.S. Policy Re: Translations of A.A. Literature, including Publications and Licensing Considerations." Thus we join together to protect the integrity of A.A.'s message in print and preserve the unity of our beloved Fellowship.

In love and service,
Julio Espaillat

Forms and documents available for distribution:

1. Request for License to Translate and/or Reproduce and Distribute Copyrighted Work.

2. A.A.W.S. Policy Re: Translations of A.A. Literature, including Publications and Licensing Considerations.

3. Assignment of Copyright.

For permission to translate, renew licenses, web postings, please contact.

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This presentation was followed by discussion by the delegates with questions asked and explanations given by Julio and also Greg Muth GSO General Managed.

[3] Sample License Agreement forms are available for your review.

The questions were mainly about how to keep the spirit and the sense of the original English version and the time it takes to complete a translation. Sometimes an analogy is used for the sense of the message as was the case in the Greek translation. For "*Self will run riot"* the following was used; "*Self will with a monkey"*.

With the translations Greg said they can take from nine months to three years to complete. The translation usually starts with Chapter Five. The presentation was much appreciated by the delegates.

PRESENTATION.

Theme: *"COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP".*

Presented by Fred Tittle 2nd Term Delegate Cambodia.

Country sponsorship takes many forms from helping new countries make it to international meetings like the AOSM, or the International Convention, to sending literature in the language of the sponsee country, to opening communications up and helping new countries approach their professional communities for the first time with the more established countries being able to talk of the things that they have accomplished, giving credibility to the infant efforts of the new countries when they need it the most. But the simple things like emails phone calls and visiting groups in other countries are just as important. Basically country sponsorship is the same thing we would do with any newcomer; it is offering hope and letting them know they are not alone and that there is a solution just at a different level.

For me my understanding of this concept started very early on. The old timers just knew that I needed help. I don't know if it was my body funk that would knock a buzzard off a garbage truck or that I looked like a skeleton with my clothes literally falling off me but they knew. I needed this thing bad and when I reached out for help they grabbed me and dragged me in literally. You see they started helping me very early in my sobriety which is June 4th 1985. When I was 5 days sober they took me to a Founders' Day celebration with the idea that there would be a countdown and the newest member in the room would get a Big Book which they knew that I would not be able to afford. For the Founders' Day event they had tickets, I did not, so they put an old timer on each of my arms and bull rushed dragged me into the meeting, past the complaining ticket collectors. I would like to say that I was the newest in the room but I wasn't. But whenever I see a countdown I remember back to that 50 year anniversary of AA and smile knowing that every new person with his or her brand new Big Book that their life will never be the same again. For me though those old timers weren't going to give up. They knew that I needed a Big Book so they took me to a meeting that gave Big Books away to newcomers that couldn't afford them. As a newcomer it showed me that someone, really a whole group of someones, cared enough to spend their money on me, someone that they had never meet before and even more unbelievably that they wanted me to keep coming back. It took me a few years before I got in a position to help others but since then I have gratefully paid back that Big Book many times over by giving books to newcomers and I look forward to paying it back even more as gratitude was described to me as a action word. The other thing it showed me is that of you are not successful, keep trying.

Later I spent a lot of times in Alano clubs. I got to see that the Alano clubs would for new meetings give them reduced rents and discounted coffee with the idea that more meetings is better and that if you help a group, when they get on their feet, they in turn will help new groups that come behind them. They wanted these groups to succeed as more groups makes the Alano club stronger by increasing the number of members and new meetings will attract new members that will go to other meetings in the Alano club thus making all stronger at the world level. GSO will produce for the new countries a starter kit of literature. They don't want any money for it and tell the new countries to use this literature to build your groups and sell the books and use the money to do things that you think will make you stronger and when you can later, if you have an opportunity, help and share with new countries to get started in whatever way you can, as the way to pay us back and we will be grateful to you for that.

In Cambodia we don't have any money. The whole of our fellowship is less than are here in this room but yet we have already begun the helping of other countries, not with money or with literature, but by simply sharing what we have learned through participation at AOSM. We encouraged Thailand and Vietnam to come to AOSM and

put them in touch with donor countries. Two years ago I shared to Thailand Intergroup that Myanmar could use some literature and they voted and gave to Myanmar books and pamphlets on the spot. Myanmar is completely devoid of books as the government censers everything and we were able to get them into them. In addition to that Thailand is self-supporting to come to this AOSM and is putting in a bid for AOSM 2009. Sometimes quickly sometimes slowly but if we work for it, it will happen.

At the country level in the AOSM region the established countries like our hosts, Japan, and Australia and New Zealand , in conjunction with GSO in New York help the newer countries to get connected and to provide what ever they can.

However like the early drunks that stayed at both the Wilson's and Smith's houses in the very early days of the Fellowship, they discovered through experience that providing everything to new members is detrimental to the newcomers' program. New countries should be encouraged and allowed to become self supporting as soon as possible, for many reasons, including self respect and the increased value of something when you have to earn it on your own.

We had a workshop some years ago and asked everyone how they originally had the seed planted. It was amazing all the answers that we received; the one that has stuck in my head was the guy that shared that he cleaned cars and this one car came fairly regularly and he had a resentment towards this particular car as there was always a pile of brochures strewn in the back seat area that he needed to clean. One of these pamphlets eventually stuck to him and that was how he received the seed.

For China one of the seeds was the sponsorship from GSO supporting a doctor and some Chinese newcomers to go to Canada to a World Convention. China now has an active Fellowship with over 40 people with 2 years sober and 2 with over 7 years. The doctor, Dr. Goo Song, has since become like Dr. Silkworth of Asia and has been a very vocal supporter of AA in the medical communities in China and then Singapore. Thailand Intergroup flew him to meet with the Thai medical community. So the seeds that were sown through country sponsorship years ago in China are now bearing fruit all through the AOSM region.
For newcomers step studies are important to understand the process. For countries the equivalent would be a regional meeting like the AOSM so that they learn what steps they need to take to create and build a foundation that will in the future hopefully support a general service structure that will someday for a lot of countries become a GSO when they become completely autonomous and self supporting. In the AOSM region Japan Australia New Zealand and India all had help in the beginning and now have become GSOs and they are reaching out and helping new countries and the process continues. Sponsee grows and becomes sponsor and the Fellowship grows.

One of the final gifts that Bill and Bob gave to the Fellowship are the Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. If you think of it as a cake you understand that it is important to have all the ingredients working together for it to be a beautiful tasty cake. Our cake like the cakes and sweets that your mother made you have a secret ingredient of sorts, the active ingredient is love. When we do service we get out of ourselves and do God's work and the more we reach out and do His work the more love we give and receive; it is the ultimate win, win.

We read the Mission Statement of AOSM at the beginning of the meeting. A business book that I've read suggests that with a mission statement the organisations also have a mission mantra. For me I have been seeing it regularly in the AA rooms around the world and I am sure you have seen it as well among many different slogan signs from "Easy Does It" to "This too shall pass" to one of my favourites "Keep It Simple Stupid". There is one that if AOSM had a mission mantra and sums up Country Sponsorship for me, that mantra would be "**Pass It On ".**
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PRESENTATION.

Theme: *"NEWCOMERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA".*

Presented by Val Kiel 2nd Term Delegate New Zealand.

As a newcomer at my very first AA meeting all I wanted was to be at peace with myself – the pain and despair was so great all I wanted was a measure of peace and I did not have any and had not had any for a very long time probably before I began to think for myself. At one of my very first meetings as a newcomer I heard a woman, and I was fortunate it was a Maori woman just like me, she shared her experience as a drunk and I related to it the pain and despair – *but what really caught me was the peace she had, she had definitely been where I was but she was so at peace with herself I wanted that peace desperately – she said if you want what we have and are willing to go to any lengths to get it you do what we do – Don't drink and go to meetings. I thought it was too easy that there was a trick to it – then she added and I swear she looked directly* ***down*** *to me "…***you can do that cant you"** well my ego and damnedness decided I was going to show her – and as you can see I am still showing her even though she passed away a number of years ago now.

Newcomers in AA are the most important person in the room – I have often heard this spoken in meetings and it gives me a twinge and the question flits through my mind for just a moment " are they really ?" how do we define this statement. All that I know of how to treat the newcomer comes from the Oldtimers those that were here before me, **they** showed me how to greet a newcomer to their first meeting – (actually they taught me to greet everyone that walked through the doors of AA) But to the newcomer at an AA meeting I had to walk up to them or meet them at the door and say welcome, I had to put my hand out in a welcoming gesture and shake their hand, I had to say "Welcome, my name is Val"

I still welcome them like that today – actually I make a point of welcoming anyone I don't know who walks through the doors of AA just as I welcome those who regularly attend AA meetings its become part of my recovery. I had to make the newcomer welcome without making them feel like they were punished or expelled. As it says in (Tradition 1…nobody can be punished or expelled). Every time I do this I remember what it was like for me because no one punished or expelled me as much as I did to myself and those Oldtimers made me feel welcome**. I kept coming back because of the way I was made to feel by those Oldtimers. They knew what it was like – just as I know what it is like – today.**

So do we really treat the newcomer like the most important person at a meeting? Do we welcome them and share with them our stories of what it was like, what happened and what it is like now – do we really pass on the message of AA ?

As I said I get a twinge when I hear this statement because too often I have been in a meeting where this does not happen. The Oldtimers taught me to adapt a meeting to benefit the newcomer – to change the topic if it's a topic meeting so that Step 1 or Personal stories is shared - perhaps this is why they are the most important person in the room.

AA has given me so much that I have a responsibility to pass this on to the newcomer – my belief system is pure AA, I believe (…there is but one ultimate authority) Tradition 2, and it has to stay that way – *I believe at an AA meeting we need to pass on the* **AA message** *to the newcomer* - so what is the AA message that you are passing on to the newcomer? This is a question that confronts me every time I share – not just to the newcomer either. I go through this self searching questioning almost daily like Step 10 – (Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it).

So how do we know we are passing on the AA message to the newcomer? What is it that **<u>you do</u>** when a newcomer walks in to a meeting for the first time and **what message do you pass on**? And what about Young People in AA – and I do take it as a literal meaning of young as in age as well as a newcomer – and is the AA message the same for them coming from someone who is not so young anymore. I feel for the young alcoholic – we are seeing more and more the young alcoholic coming in to recovery burdened down with a number of other isms, and for me - from a drug world I don't understand I'm one of the purists here as well – the only drugs I took were prescription ones – mind you I abused them too – but I have only ever had 2 joints in my entire life and that was shared with others so in total probably half a dozen puffs – so can we relate to each other, do we have similarities. My problem was alcohol. I can only share as an alcoholic. It has been my experience though that my story as an alcoholic is all I have – this of course includes my years of recovery. **It is also my experience that the newcomer and young alcoholic do relate and the many similarities are in the "…what it was like" section the feelings and emotions don't age so it is important that I share my story, just as it is important that you share your story**. When I hear you share your story and you start to talk about how you felt – I begin to relate the similarities are there – I too wanted to die, I too tried to just wake up and be someone else I prayed to wake up dead because the alcohol controlled and confused me too – it kept me in a state of powerlessness. **As I listened to the Oldtimers sharing I began to relate as it says in the Big Book near the**

end of The Keys of the Kingdom. First, through mutual pain and despair, later through mutual objectives and new-found faith and hope.

How could it be put any better than how it actually is - the newcomer is the most important person in the room as long as we are in the room too and as long as we are willing to share our experience, strength and hope with them and each other. Sharing our pain and despair and sharing our experience strength and hope is where it strips away the differences because even though it is painful I have found it to be very healing as well the very deep soul searching pain and despair has resulted in a relief that once I did it - as it says in Step 4 and Step 5 – I became amazingly at peace with myself – this was when I knew the mutual pain and despair would turn into mutual objectives and new found faith and hope.

So I continue to do as I was told to do by those Oldtimers in the very beginning—I Don't Drink and I Go To Meetings—this is what I pass on to the newcomer and the young in recovery-- today I still greet the newcomer at a meeting with a handshake and a big welcome, today I still share with the newcomer and the young in sobriety what it was like, what happened and what it is like now – I share my own experience, strength and hope and I know with absoluteness that as long as I continue to do this I will continue to know what peace with myself is.

Like I shared at the beginning as a newcomer and I was still young then all I wanted was a measure of peace in my life – when I was told to not drink and go to meetings I thought it was too easy that there was a trick to it – today a bit down the road I know of a couple of things right now that are the truth for me.

1. It was not easy my recovery was not easy but even if I fell flat on my face and I did many times as long as I didn't pick up that drink at least I was moving forward.
2. I have a measure of peace in my life today that is contingent on me doing what I was told when I first stepped into these rooms just on 20 years ago – Don't drink and go to meetings.

PRESENTATION.

Theme: *COMMUNICATING THE AA MESSAGE TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE AOSM ZONE".*

Presented by Curtis Winston 2nd Term Delegate Thailand.

Sawasdee khrup. Phom chua Curtis, kee mao.

What I just said was, "Hello, my name is Curtis. I am an alcoholic."

That is typically how AAs at Thai meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous introduce themselves. And, actually, there is a bit more to that translation, so I'll break it down a bit, specifically that last part, the "kee mao," which is a colloquialism meaning, literally, and you'll have to pardon the expression, "shit drunk," which is Thai slang for a hopeless alcoholic.

This is the only experience I have with AA in another language, but it has opened my eyes to how the informal traditions and routines of the AA fellowship are adapted by different cultures. I was invited to talk today about carrying the message to Indigenous populations. So, I'll speak a bit about my limited experience with that in Thailand.

In Thailand, members of the fellowship have tried many different ways to attract Thais to AA, and I guess the big lesson for all of us is that when we were trying these various things, most of the time we felt discouraged by the lack of response, as if we weren't doing any good or making a difference

Now, I've been in Thailand for six years, and for the past four years I've seen a concentrated effort at carrying the message. And I think it is making a difference.

Here are some of the things we have done or tried.

- **Talking to doctors and nurses about AA.**
- **Encouraging bi-lingual Thai alcoholics to get involved in service.**
- **Starting up a dedicated Thai-language helpline, supported by a small ad in a major Thai daily newspaper.**
- **Starting Thai-speaking meetings.**
- **Encouraging Thais to attend our annual roundup.**
- **Having literature translated.**

On talking to medical professionals, we've had a lot of success. Some of you probably remember Johnny, who was my co-delegate from Thailand at the Sixth AOSM. Johnny's story is one of those successes. In 2004, having moved from Bangkok to the small provincial city of Khon Kaen in rural north-eastern Thailand, and isolated from the fellowship, he wanted to get involved in AA service. *So he went to a local treatment center, and explained in rudimentary Thai about AA, saying he wanted to start a meeting. Before he could get too far in his explanation, the head nurse at the center, Nurse Oy, stopped him, and told him in English,* **"We've been waiting for you."**

Nurse Oy has become one of AA's biggest advocates in the Thai medical community. In the past year or so, she's organized two public information meetings for medical professionals to tell others about AA and how it works.

Most of the patients that go through the Khon Kaen Treatment center return to their hometowns and likely never go to another meeting of AA. But the seed is planted. There is a small core group of Thai AAs in Khon Kaen who are looking to start their own meeting outside the institution. The Khon Kaen treatment center meetings celebrate their third anniversary this very weekend with their third annual Roundup, which brings together Thai and "farang" – foreigners of European descent – for a weekend of fellowship, meetings and workshops. **Each year, the questions from the Thais about AA and the literature become more pointed and confident, with the Thai AAs asking, "How do I work the Steps?" and, "How can I start a meeting in my hometown?"**

This has been the most encouraging development in Thailand so far. And it comes after probably decades of the English-speaking fellowship sitting around and wishing for it to happen.

This is not to say that no work has been done until just the past four years. No, indeed, the Big Book has been translated into Thai – an effort that was started by some well-meaning farangs. It was completed by AA World Services. At the request of English-speaking AAs in Thailand, four basic pamphlets have been translated as well, "44 Questions", "Is AA for You?", "A Newcomer Asks" and "This Is AA". And just this past year, the comic book, "What Happened to Joe?" was translated, an effort that was a collaboration of Thai- and English-speaking AAs working as a loose translation committee, and then submitting the work to AA World Services. Now, the Twelve and Twelve is in advanced stages of translation. Work was started locally, turned over to AAWS, which completed it, and then the draft was shared and given a cursory review by a local translation committee. It is hoped through these efforts more local input will be given to the AA literature and the Big Book can be retranslated.

Right now, many Thais find the Big Book unacceptable and don't really like to use it. So that's something those of us in the English-language fellowship are encouraging the Thai AAs to work on – finding acceptance, joining in service with the Thailand Intergroup and working with the AA World Services system to reach a compromise that they will be comfortable with, but will also retain the intent, tone and historical accuracy of Bill W.'s writings.

In addition to Khon Kaen, other meetings have been started around Thailand. In Bangkok, at Phra Mongkut Klao Hospital, or the Thai Army Hospital, a weekly Thai meeting has been held for the past year. This is the same location where years before a Thai meeting had been started and supported by a doctor at the hospital, but when the doctor died, interest in continuing the meeting waned. The meeting was restarted by an energetic bilingual Thai AA, a young woman named May. She also started a meeting at a hospital in Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. It began in a locked-down psyche ward, but was shortly moved to an open meeting room in the

hospital. This meeting produced one young man, who upon his release, headed for Pattaya to attend the 12th Thailand Roundup this year.

Back in Bangkok, another Thai meeting has recently been started at the Malaysia Hotel. This was formed out of efforts by Tommy M., a member of the public information committee who wanted to carry the message to the gay community in Thailand. He started out working with a gay organization in Bangkok to set up a public meeting about AA. One thousand invitations were sent out to the organization's members, but not one person showed up. However, the organization's chairman pulled Tommy aside and told him, "I don't know how to tell you this, but nobody wanted to come because of the name of your group." This has opened our eyes to the perceptions of the disease of alcoholism in Thailand, and how the translation of the AA name might not sit well in some cultures.

The name, *Gloom phuu dtit sooraa reuuarang nilanaam*, literally means, "Group of anonymous people with chronic alcoholic disease." Now, I know, in English, that's what Alcoholics Anonymous means, and that alcoholism is a chronic alcoholic disease. Still, there's concern that there is some eloquence lost in the translation. The name of AA itself is scary to some Thais and is keeping them away.

Nonetheless, as a result of the interaction with gay organization, Tommy felt it was important to start a meeting outside an institutional atmosphere. So, for the past six months, the Thailand Intergroup has been sponsoring this new Thai-speaking meeting, open to all. Support has also come from the service of several bilingual Thai alcoholics, a development that we in the English-language fellowship believe is the key to carrying the message – ***Thai*** *alcoholics talking to other Thai alcoholics*. Attendance has been encouraging, and it is hoped that through an ad in a major Thai daily newspaper, the circulation of business-card handouts and dedicated efforts at manning a Thai-language helpline, that more will become of the meeting.

Over the years there have been many attempts in Thailand at carrying the message to the Thais. One thing we have learned is to not get too fragmented or do too much at once, especially in a relatively small fellowship, with an even smaller number of people who are willing and able to give service.

Efforts have become concentrated with the help of workshops at the Thailand Roundup in recent years, presented for several years by Wayne W from Cambodia. And he was carrying a message that he learned in working with others at AOSM. So things are coming full circle, and will continue to go around and around as more Thais get sober through the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

PRESENTATION.

VISIT TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

January 22nd—February 2nd 2007.

Presented by Ian Comrie 1st Term Delegate, Australia.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our **twelfth suggestion:** Carry this message to other alcoholics**!** You can help where no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill.
Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends ---- this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.

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To know that each newcomer with whom I share has the opportunity to experience the relief that I have found in this fellowship fills

me with joy and gratitude. I feel all the things described in AA will come to pass for them, as they have for me, if they seize the opportunity and embrace the program fully.

DAILY REFLECTIONS p.37

Initial contact

Our initial contact was when a lady called Mia, whose husband is an alcoholic, made a request to National Office that since the need for help in the Solomon Islands was great and potential AA members had no understanding or direction, that perhaps some literature and advice could be sent to help start AA.In consultation with Valerie and Trevor, (chairman of the Trustees International Committee) it was concluded that this would be the ideal opportunity to make use of some of the money held as our 75% of International Sponsorship Fund.

My first contact with Mia was in late November 2006 and I told her of the decision to send someone out. This was greeted with enthusiasm and she gave me several other E-mail contacts, including the Catholic Archbishop of Honiara who immediately began plans to facilitate the visit.

It was decided that I should be the person to go and I thought it best to go as soon as possible. The Archbishop intimated that if I could come around mid January there was a meeting of the Council of Churches, (SICA) where I could talk and carry the message of AA. He also made plans for an interview on radio and with the local newspaper. (Solomon Star)With much help from our national office staff, literature was sent ahead and I left Perth on 22nd January with much trepidation and even less knowledge of how to carry AA to a new frontier.

Introduction to the Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands comprises 992 islands, of which 347 are inhabited. The population is estimated to be around 600,000 with 122,000 being on Maliata and around 70,000 on Guadalcanal, the capital of which is Honiara, where I was based.

The Solomon Islands gained independence from Britain in 1978, but since that time has experienced periods of what are commonly known as “tensions”, which amount to civil war. The latest being in April 2006 which resulted in rioting and burning of large parts of Honiara and the evacuation of Chinese, New Zealand and Australian citizens. A succession of governments from the date of independence has failed to stabilise and rebuild the country. The main industries are agriculture and fishing and 75% of its labour force are engaged in these.

As in most countries where the economy has suffered and unemployment is rife, alcohol has been something that the people have turned to. In particular, the young people have discovered alcohol. Young men, who at one point were defending their country, now find there is nothing for them and are producing a local alcoholic drink called “Quaso” and making home brew from a variety of products.

On my arrival in Honiara, Archbishop Adrian Smith, who was at great pains to make AA and myself welcome, met me. He had gone to great lengths to arrange for me to speak to local groups of people and was also adamant that AA should not be seen as affiliated with the Catholic Church, as to do so would exclude many since Catholicism only accounts for 19% of the population, 34%being Anglican and 33% belonging to the Church of Melanesia. I found that churches are an integral part of Solomon Island life and many social occasions are fostered through the various churches. In fact, it was a great surprise to me to see churches of all persuasions bursting at the seams with people. It had been decided that I would stay on church premises rather than in a fancy hotel, since I felt that, when trying to attract drunks to AA it was better to be at the “grass roots”

On my first day I spoke to four different groups of Solomon Islanders, including a group of leaders who were in counselling for trauma caused by the ethnic tensions and a group of priests at a seminary. At this point I would acknowledge the depth contained in our National Office Website, the contents of which were the basis of my talks to outside groups. These talks on AA

were met with great enthusiasm and lots of questions were asked. The literature I had carried with me was snapped up and was promised to be passed on to other islands.

In the following days I continued to carry the message by having a full-page article in the Solomon Star and an interview with the Solomon Island Broadcasting Agency, which was broadcast after the 6pm, 7pm and 9pm news for a period of three days. Radio is the most effective form of advertising in Honiara as, although they have a local TV station, not many people have TV and in fact, I did not see a television set for the entire time I was there!!

The first AA meeting was held at Holy Cross Church on the Thursday night at 7.30pm. Our literature which had been sent from the National Office three weeks before, arrived just two hours before the meeting started which was a real blessing since all the literature I had carried with me was by this time gone. There were 24 people at the first meeting, although I would suggest that not all of them were potential AA members. I had made it plain that it would be an open meeting and anyone could come along. So we had a mixture of potential AA, Alanon members, mothers and wives and some educators.

Unusually, I did not find too much trouble with my accent. I tried to speak slowly and clearly and also did not attempt to swamp them with information. So I would run it as an AA meeting, with the preamble, fifth chapter etc: but stop frequently to ask if there were any questions. I found that I had to adapt as I went along. For instance: At a normal AA meeting, there would be a range of lengths of sobriety and when asked to share, many would be willing. But in this case, there were 24 people who had never been to an AA meeting and were reluctant to share. I found it best to have a short meeting (one hour) and then try to talk to people on an individual basis for about another hour.

Over the following couple of days, I spoke to several other groups, including The Solomon Island Churches Association (SICA), which comprises representatives from all churches in the islands. I passed on The Preamble and 12 Steps and 12 Traditions for possible translation into “Solomon Pidgin” which is basically spoken by everyone, although there are seventy languages spoken, of which English is the official one. No steps will be taken to put this translation (when it comes) into circulation without full consultation with National Office.

Our next meeting was held in Tanagi, which is a village outside Honiara. This time there were 35 people present. Advance publicity had helped. On the previous Sunday I had attended the church in Tanagi and had been allowed to announce the meeting to a packed house. This was also a celebration of “Pioneers” which is an organization run by the church where people “pledge” not to drink for periods of time. Whilst not wanting to associate AA with this organization, in consultation with the church leaders, I recognised that some of its members needed other help such as AA. The celebration was one of the most moving events I have attended and was followed by lunch and entertainment in the form of warrior dances and singing. I was also able to carry the message to Mr Romano Tikotikoca, a Fijian, who was leaving the following day to take up the post of Commissioner of Police in Fiji. The meeting itself was, to my mind, a great success, in that I had even more people sharing and asking questions and I continued to adapt to the unique situation by talking to members on an individual basis. I would also think that the majority were there with the requirement for AA membership “A desire to stop drinking”.

I was then invited to conduct a meeting in Mateneko, which is in the jungle and is a village without electricity or running water. I was accompanied by the parish priest (Appollinara) and after a bus ride followed by a walk of about three miles, we then crossed a river in a boat that had seen better days and leaked profusely. On arrival to a little church surrounded by palm trees and forest I was very surprised to be greeted by men, women and children some of whom had come long distances to hear AA’s message. This was one of the most inspiring AA meetings I have ever been

involved with and I left not only with several addresses but with the certain knowledge that no matter what new ideas we have and how business-orientated we become this is the essence of Alcoholics Anonymous, one alcoholic sharing with another anywhere, at any time, in an attempt to stay sober.

Our final meeting, which I attended, was back at Holy Cross in Honiara where, although there was a lesser amount of people (twelve) I felt we were now down to potential AA members who would run a group. This was proven when after the meeting we had a group conscience meeting and three members agreed to run the meeting every Thursday. One also intimated that he would attempt to open a meeting in his village. I gave them my promise that AA Australia would not desert them and we would be available to answer questions and provide literature until they became self-supporting in every way.

My last act was to place an advertisement in the Solomon Star, which said:

If you have a drinking problem and need help

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday at 7pm at

Holy Cross Church.

The telephone number of a Family Health Centre was included and we tutored them in how to direct people to AA.

Conclusions and Observations.

My thanks go to Archbishop Adrian Smith, who was a rock during my visit and a driving force in organising venues, interviews and groups to address. I was very wary of working with an archbishop but found him to be very committed to the cause and a very down to earth jovial companion.

The national office staff were very supportive and nothing was too much trouble for them. Valerie and I kept in contact via a very slow E-mail café and she kept members in Australia informed of progress. This had the effect of heightening interest throughout Australia and I was able to tell Solomon Island members of this enthusiasm.

As previously said, Honiara has been torn apart by internal strife and many people are experiencing poverty and unemployment. Nevertheless, I found them to be amongst the most friendly and enthusiastic people I have ever met and they were entirely ready to receive the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

AA may not take off in a big way immediately in the Solomon Islands, but as I kept telling people: Once the seed has been planted, AA will grow whether it is now or in five years time. Within my lifetime, I remain sure that the message will infiltrate the majority of islands that are populated.

On a personal note, I would say that this was the experience of a lifetime, although the heat affected me badly and the mosquitoes had a field day! I even woke to an earthquake in the middle of the night: something I had never experienced before.

To have the opportunity to carry AA's message renewed my faith and enhanced the gift I have been given. I would very much like the opportunity to continue this work and will try to return towards the end of the year and possibly visit other parts of the Solomon Islands, using the list of contacts that I have been given. I now have three countries to which I pay allegiance: Scotland, where I was born, Australia, where I am a citizen and the Solomon Islands, where my heart is now.

PRESENTATION.

Theme: "MANAGING A GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE WITHIN THE AA GENERAL SERVICE STRUCTURE.

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

Hello, my name is Greg Muth, I am alcoholic and a grateful A.A. member. I have the pleasure to work for A.A. World Services, Inc, where I am General Manager of the General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York City.

Asia-Oceania Secretary Bob P. asked me to participate in this workshop by sharing my experiences with A.A.'s Third Legacy of Service, while focusing on "Managing a General Service Office." I hope to also highlight the importance of developing a sound structure of service. Some of you may have previous experience as volunteers in local A.A. offices and some are managers of A.A. offices in your countries. We can identify with the challenges that must be met by managers of an A.A. service center. Today I will share from the perspective described in our 8th Tradition, that of a "special worker" in A.A.

All of us have been asked to serve the Fellowship as a trusted servant and thus have a common base from which we can share our experience, strength and hope. My prayer is that many of you will share personal experiences during this Workshop. You have my written presentation along with several charts: (1) G.S.O Organizational Chart; (2) Third Legacy of Service--Structure of A.A. Services; and (3) The General Service Conference Structure, U.S. & Canada. Today I will speak from notes adapted from the presentation before you.

I am grateful to work with talented G.S.O. employees dedicated to the single purpose of giving love and service to the A.A. Fellowship. *The General Service Office conducts two primary functions;* ***Publishing*** *A. A. books, pamphlets and Service Material; and,* ***providing Services*** *to A.A. members and groups within the Canada/US structure, as well as to A.A. in emerging countries around the world.* Currently, G.S.O. has 81 full-time employees and 5 part-time people or students. As Manager, I'm responsible for the effective and efficient operations of the corporation within the Bylaws, policies and budgets approved by the A.A. World Services Board. As General Manager, I am one nine Directors, and also hold the position of President.

Managing any A.A. operation can present significant challenges that on rare occasions may seem overwhelming. While I am consistently on the A.A. front lines, you and I recognize that **none of us function or serve alone.** *We rely on lessons "hammered out on the anvils of experience" as described in our Twelve Traditions, and also utilize the spiritual principles set forth in The Twelve Concepts for World Service.* Thus, we have a path on which we can move ahead with assurance that we will not stray too far from our primary purpose of serving the A.A. groups. Unique to an A.A. operation that requires strength and leadership is the certain knowledge of the presence of a loving God, and our total commitment to the *group conscience* process.

To the outsider, It seems that we can never make a decision. Endless discussion and repetitious points of debate, at times passionate and occasionally including harmful terminology are fundamental to achieving an informed group conscience. Slowly finding God's will for us in a group's conscience, we embrace and accept the decision as an expression of unity, and as a sign of A.A. maturity and good management. *Intricately coupled to the A.A. process is a foundation principle, that of* **rotation**: **a value that's basic to A.A.'s ability to constantly refresh and re-energize our services**. *Without rotation we would invite complacency and stagnation of our services. Even more divisive, we may find ourselves creating pockets of power and prestige.*

The success of our office and service operations will depend squarely on our ability to solicit oversight and encourage constructive participation from Board members and the Fellowship we serve. So, here is one facet of our dilemma: how do we find the patience and courage to embrace the process when the participants--A.A. group representatives and Board members--are consistently rotating service positions? Answers to this question are found within the experience described in our Third Legacy and Twelve Concepts for World Service. There Bill describes the necessary structural relationships and service principles that enable us to function well within our Conference Charter and applicable Bylaws. In particular, I recommend a thorough reading of Concept 9. Many times while reading that essay, I have discovered great solace and a renewed attitude of gratitude.

Today, employees and Staff of our General Service Office furnish services to over 60,000 A.A. Groups and 2,000,000 members. More than 500 Intergroup/Central Offices or Area and District Offices are similarly structured to serve the needs of local A.A. communities. Those offices provide A.A. literature to local A.A. groups and members, maintain Twelfth Step phone services, A.A. group meeting lists, and are resources for the public to obtain information on Alcoholics Anonymous. Some local offices also provide Hospital & Institution services (similar to Treatment Facilities),

Public Information/Cooperation With the Professional Community services, and many interact closely with the local General Service Structure.

All of those services are provided by and for the A.A. Fellowship. In the pamphlet "A.A's Legacy of Service"[4], *Bill W. points out that "Our Twelfth Step--carrying the message--is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action*. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die." To me, Bill's statement serves as a guidepost or "mission statement" for all boards, committees or offices that serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. The direction is clear and focused: asking us to adopt attitudes and actions that require us to exercise care and prudence in selfless good spirit.

Now, a few thoughts on self-support: How do we encourage the groups we serve to support their office and the services they requested to help them do their vital Twelfth Step Work? Bill says that we simply express the need for a given service, and, once it becomes clear the service is necessary, support is forthcoming. To make such a need clear is a matter of education through providing accurate information. Can it be that simple? Yes, simple, consistent and straight-forward communication, lovingly reminds A.A. groups that this is their Office, their services, and that, as members, they are the rightful owners of Alcoholic Anonymous.

We need to remind our members that the future of A.A. rests squarely on each member's right of participation. We cannot shirk this great responsibility; we cannot allow others to decide our destiny by individually and collectively neglecting to assume our world service leadership. This great responsibility comes with our declaration of membership in A.A. **In A.A. we practice a form of "corporate poverty"; a principle found in no other organization**. *We abhor accumulation of funds for no stated A.A. purpose for experience demonstrates that excess money will divert us from our primary purpose. We politely refuse money from non-members and outside organizations. We encourage each member and group to support their service centers through consistent participation and voluntary monetary contributions. We restrict revenue sources to sales of A.A. literature and members' contributions. We do everything possible to minimize expenses.*

It is the groups' responsibility to pay for services through voluntary contributions or through profits derived from literature sales. The groups must determine through an informed group conscience which of the two sources will pay the bills. Last year at our G.S.O., costs of services to A.A. groups were slightly more than $8,000,000, and voluntary contributions came to $6,000,000 for the same period. The $2,000,000 shortfall was made whole by profits from the sale of literature. The annual cost of services to each A.A. group averages $142, or $6.37 per member.

Clear communications are vital, especially so when working with a new man or woman; hope for sobriety and a new life depends on how well we share—communicate--our experience, strength and hope. Similarly, within an A.A. Service Structure, communication is vital to A.A.'s future growth and spiritual prosperity**. A successful communication system originates with the building of strong A.A. groups devoted to helping the alcoholic who is still suffering.** I recommend that you read the handout, "Third Legacy of Service--Service Structures link Spiritual & Material," that I developed for this presentation; it is not an "approved" document emanating from G.S.O.

Tradition 9 explains that "A.A., as such, ought never to be organized; . . ." Everyone in this room has attended an A.A. meeting and experienced the healing, spiritual freedom of being with our fellows, at last. That is A.A. "as such;" never organized, controlled, dictated to, or forced to conform. We know that our common malady has brought us together to achieve release from our alcoholic dilemma, "No human power could have relieved our alcoholism."

The inverted triangle reminds us that A.A. Groups, through their collective group conscience, hold ultimate responsibility for the active maintenance of all services including protection of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Six Warranties of the General Service Conference. The groups recognize that they cannot possibly develop and provide literature and services, such as a national and international public relations policy. Thus, the 9th Tradition continues, ". . ..but we may create service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve."

The linkage between A.A. as such (the spiritual) and Boards and Committees (the material) is balanced and secured by the Conference Charter,[5]

[4] Bill's writing on *A.A.'s Legacy of Service* can be accessed here, http//www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/en_pdfs/en_bm-31_06-07.pdf , and through *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W*, pg 1.

[5] Offered by Bill W. and Adopted at the 20th Anniversary Convention of A.A., in 1955. This resolution authorizes the General Service Conference to act for Alcoholics Anonymous

an agreement, rather than legal document, between the A.A. Groups and the Board of Trustees. In my estimation this document is pivotal, insuring that we shall always remember that our Fellowship is a gift from a Higher Power.

The Boards and Committees that serve AA are fashioned after the corporate business model; however, they are consistently democratic in thought and action. In addition to selfless dedication, the continuing success of our Boards depends on the capabilities of the Trustees and Directors. The health of our service structures depends on the unselfish examples of elected trusted servants. Experience has also shown that executive leadership is an important component of an A.A. office.

I am deeply grateful to each of you for your tireless service to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, insuring that the child born today destined for alcoholism will find an open door leading to a room full of warm and welcoming A.A. members. We have come together this weekend to share our experiences, strengths and hopes for the future. We are trusted servants exploring new ways to serve God and our fellows**. Bernard Smith, a great friend of A.A. and past Chairman of the General Service Board, left us with these words concerning our great responsibilities.**

"But this Third Legacy of Service has a string to it. And the string is that we are granted the use of this legacy for our lifetime upon the condition that we will not only look after it, but increase its spiritual content for the generations that will follow us. Each succeeding generation, as it receives this legacy, must similarly protect it if they wish to employ it, and gain life by it, and pass it on to the next generation with an enriched spiritual content."

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

Val, New Zealand, asked Greg "how was the Prudent Reserve developed?"

Greg replied that US 12 million dollars is held for dire emergencies- i.e. World War 3 coming, disasters etc**.** However, it is very important that there is no loss of focus on carrying the message and that money is not held for anything other than AA's spiritual purpose. Appropriate "Prudent Reserves" need to be held but ALL else needs to be part of the budget for carrying the message. Therefore it needs to be understood that Tradition 7 contributions are there to support Central Office purposes and expenses. Groups need to be tied to and associated with GSO New York. Connectively is most important. That is – prudent reserves are needed but beyond this there should be ZERO balances. This then leads to full disclosure and transparency.

Revenue comes from two sources: Contributions and Literature. Members need to be aware of GSO New York and AOSM services that are provided.
Val mentioned that one of our greatest challenges is our ability to communicate all this and action it.

One group raised the following points for discussion.

- There were six countries in the group with a history of AA in each country from 9-60 years,
- The majority of service structures is reflective of the number of years AA has been in each country.
- India, Mongolia and New Zealand had general Service Offices and Conference and Board structures. (*some countries were not represented on this group hence this answer re service structures).*
- Thailand and Hong Kong run virtual offices and Vietnam has no office.
- Apart from Thailand (95% of funds derived from group/individual donations) almost all countries reported that support from group/individual donations were low with literature sales needed to support the service structure.
- Mongolia is well supported from both Japan and New York and the value of this support is reflected in the fact that Mongolia is holding it's first conference in September.
- All countries emphasise the spiritual principles of the 7th Tradition and keep the funds, beyond their prudent reserve, flowing.

The third group discussed the differences between countries with GSOs versus no GSOs.

The delegate from Singapore explained that there is no such structure in his country so members were active in service and only go to meetings. Most members are expats and are familiar with AA service structure, but see little need for such a structure in Singapore.

India has had a GSO for 40 years and oversees the printing of books and pamphlets. There is it is felt not enough understanding of the Seventh Tradition.

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and to become the successor to our Co-Founders.

Ann (Kuwait) said they had no such structure in Kuwait and Had a Treasurer for the whole Kuwait Fellowship.

In Japan most groups contribute a lot and it is trying to build up a prudent reserve. Anonymity is a very sensitive issue among the membership.

Ian C. said Australia has a well established Office run by 3 full time staff who deal with the work in a calm and professional manner.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Goldie May, Asia Oceania Service Meeting Chairman.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your chairperson for the past two years; since the 6th AOSM on the Gold Coast of Australia. We are still a relatively new concept within the AA structure, but I believe that we are now past the development stage and firmly established as a very important link in the World scene of Alcoholics Anonymous; and that the concepts still are our mandate.

The AOSM started through the wisdom and enthusiasm of a few dedicated servants of this fellowship and if we study the history we will know how simply it started but with a great deal of behind the scenes work.

In order to pay tribute to the founders of firstly AA as a whole and then to the founders of the AOSM, it is up to each and every one of us to ensure that the AOSM will always be there for the alcoholic who is in recovery today and for the alcoholic who is still suffering today

I rotate off service at this level at the end of this meeting, but will never forget the true friendships I have developed or the way that the experience has made me into a devoted member of our fellowship.

No doubt this meeting will also have long-lasting effects on you all and I know that what you share here and learn here will enable you to carry out necessary work for the development of Alcoholics Anonymous in your various countries

The AOSM Secretariat and the Host Committee together with the chairpersons of the various committees have carried out their tasks with diligence and enthusiasm thus ensuring that we have a successful and constructive time while we are together here. We owe a huge debt to Bob P. who has toiled long and hard in making sure that everything is as it should be. I would have been completely lost without his guidance during this period.

The numerous e-mails and other correspondence between individuals involved within the AOSM zone over the last two years have shown me that we are in good hands and the number of contacts from countries wanting to know more about the AOSM and how to be involved is extremely encouraging and indicates a continuing rapid "Global Growth". The latest in a long line of requests comes from MERCAA (Middle East Region of Alcoholics Anonymous) which according to Lisa who contacted the Secretariat, sounds like a grand title but is in fact a very small community covering Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia. I know that the New Zealand General Service Conference plus ourselves (AOSM) have made some funds available and I hope that they will have a representative with us today. It is also our hope that those countries unable to attend the 6th AOSM will be in attendance today.

I have studied the Agenda and believe that we will all have many issues to address and in thanking the Agenda Committee, I would ask that we all show our appreciation of their efforts by thoroughly studying it and coming fully prepared to participate in the discussions.

I thank the host committee and indeed the General Service Conference of Japan for all the hard work that has gone in to the preparation and I sincerely thank those of you who are making presentations at this meeting.

I am at a loss of words in thanking and farewelling Bob P. as he departs from service at this level. His service to this fellowship in this zone is unequalled. He has in the past been the Chairman of the General Service Conference of AA New Zealand; World Service Delegate for New Zealand; Foundation member of the AOSM, Chairperson of the AOSM and finally Secretary of the AOSM; What a service record? Thank you Bob!!. You will elect a new Chairperson at this meeting to work alongside the new secretary, Shirley, from Australia. We wish them all the very best in keeping the workings of the AOSM ticking over smoothly. You all can help.

SECRETARIAT REPORT 2005--2007.

It is hard to believe that it is nearly two years since the 6th AOSM in Queensland, Australia. The time has been mainly devoted to the production of the Final Report in 2003 and the six monthly Newsletter and Directory since then. I must thank members for their tolerance and help during this time. This meeting in 2007 will be the end of my term as Secretary as I rotate off on July 31st 2007. My last task will be the production of the report for the 7th AOSM..

The Newsletter.

Since the 6th AOSM there have been 4 newsletter produced mainly This production has been devoted to reports on the 6th meeting in Australia, articles about new regions in the Zone and the preparation for the 6th AOSM. There have also been reports on regular meetings such as the Thailand Roundup and the Mongolian Conventions held in 2004 and 2006.After the letter from the Loner in the Russian Federation the Secretary published an article about the Loners International Meeting stationed in Australia and the wide area they cover. There has been a report from a new area in the AOSM zone that is the Middle East, which is Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

It is to hoped that articles and reports will continue to be sent to the Secretariat for publication in the newsletter. It would be appreciated if different countries in the Area could send in a brief history of their country or region so that the secretary would a good source of articles for the future.

The Directory.

I would like to thank the GSOs, Intergroups, delegates, and AA members who continue to send in up-dates, corrections and deletions to me. It is important that the directory is as relevant as possible and if there have been any mistakes I apologise for these. I continue to receive requests from all sections of the Fellowship for information on meetings be they travellers who are visiting countries or in their own area. I also receive requests from members outside our region. Travellers are also a valuable source of information for corrections such as groups going into recess, moving to a new address, a new contact number.

I receive requests for more directories and I send these, but there is I notice an increasing demand for soft copies of the directories and this is easily filled.

Archives.

All relevant files are recorded and stored on a CD-ROM. This makes it easier to pass on to each succeeding secretary or to a GSO/Intergroup office. Newsletters and Directories are stored on paper as well as on a CD-ROM. Final Reports are now being stored in book form and on CD-ROM. This also applies to all computer files of significance which are placed on disk.

Finances.

The statement for this period and the proposed budget for the next two years follow this report. There are now three Asia Oceania countries making regular contributions. There are also groups, particularly in Thailand, who send regular contributions.. There is still regular support from individuals in Australia and now the Secretariat is moving back to Australia it is hoped it will continue. The Prudent Reserve is approximately NZ$1600.

Self Support.

The system of self support is still the method employed by the AOSM. As stated in the Finance section there are now three AOSM countries making regular contributions together with much appreciated support from US/Canada and some regular group assistance. Our funding method is that each country funds their delegates and the host country provides the conference venue. It is also expected that participating countries contribute to the AOSM Secretariat. These funds are used to produce and distribute the biannual newsletter and directory, and to cover the travel/accommodation expenses of the Chairman and Secretary. If this system is to be maintained then each country needs to be aware of its responsibility to assist in whatever way it can, after taking care of its delegates.

Committees.

The committee system was introduced at the 6th AOSM but this is really the first time they will have been in operation. I am sure that this system will prove to be a success but will require some time to become fully functional. The Agenda certainly lead the way in making progress and I am sure the other committees will follow suit.

Recommendations.

There is a considerable cost for postage and I think this needs to be considered by the appropriate committee and the AOSM as a whole. I feel that there needs to be only one directory produced a year as I send out soft copies of it to GSOs and Intergroups so that they can print extra copies themselves. With the AOSM website being developed could it be used to help in this field? Corrections as they arise can be sent out to the delegates and GSOs/Intergroups. One directory would mean one post out would be the newsletter only and with a smaller and cheaper envelope postage costs would be much lower. Postage costs the AOSM a considerable amount of money. The account for postage in the period between meetings for the Newsletter, Directory and Final Report came to a total of $1336-00. There would also be a saving in production costs for the directory of approximately $668-00. Postage naturally is out of our hands being government controlled but these are matters we need to consider.

The Mailing List has grown to 140 names and I think needs to be examined. I would ask the AOSM to look at various names on the list and decide whether they should remain. Do we need to send copies to ex-delegates or should we put a time limit on it. I am sure that many of those who receive this are unaware of costs involved and some do send in donations from time to time. A mailing list will be available.

Rotation.

As I rotate off the position of AOSM Secretary I realise the wisdom of our policy of rotation and it only serves to increase my acknowledgement of the wisdom of Bill and Bob. I have been very appreciative of the trust and privilege I have been given over the last four years, the support I have received, the help and advice I have been so freely given and not least the help of my wife with this task. I have enjoyed it as it has been an exciting responsibility, where I have wonderful memories and made many new friendships, Service to me is so important, it opens new fields, it makes me swallow my pride and ask for help when I need it, in other words it makes me grow in the Fellowship and serve our members.

I thank you all and I ask that you support Shirley as you have supported me. Shirley will serve the AOSM well.

Bob Preston,

AOSM Secretary.

Financial Statement.

July 1st, 2005= May 31st, 2007.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance carried Forward	$12,758-63	Transfer Funds to Thailand	$3025-00
Contributions:		Stationery	$86-12
		Postage	$1810-61
GSO Australia	$2740-92	Newsletters	$401-13
GSO Japan	$2465-30	Directory	$1336-72
GSO New Zealand	$3000-00	Telephone	$161-46
AAWS GSO New York	$2808-33	P.O.Box	$250-00
Pattaya Group Thailand	$522-64	Final Report	$291-26
Skaew Morning Bangkok	$149-23		
Sunday Morning Bangkok	$28-57		
Easy Does It Group Kuala Lumpur	$79-11	**AOSM Expenses.**	
Anne O'C. Australia	$104-96	Sponsorship Vietnam	$1511-61
Jutta D. Australia	$45-01	Currency 6th AOSM	$2292-45
Peter M. Australia	$43-22	Currency 7th AOSM	$2279-49
Barbara B. Australia	$79-73	6th AOSM Hotel Expenses	$2129-30
Marie P. Australia	$250-09	7th AOSM Travel Costs	$4511-00
Refund of Currency	$556-76		
Bank Interest	$247-81		
TOTAL INCOME.	**$25,880-21**	**TOTAL EXPENSES.**	**$20,086-18**
LESS EXPENSES	**$20086-18**		
BALANCE	**$5749-03**		
	(as at May 31, 2007)		

PRUDENT RESEERVE.

Prudent Reserve.	$1523-38
Bank Interest	$83-73
TOTAL	$1607-11

This statement does not include the cost of producing the Final Report for the 7th AOSM or the final expenses for the 7th AOSM. These figures will be in the next report.

ALL AMOUNTS ARE IN NEW ZEALAND DOLLARS.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2007—2009.

Item.	Budget 2005-2007	Actual Expenses 2005-2007	Budget 2007-2009
Final Report	$1,050-00	$291-26	$800-00
Directory/Newsletter	$1,200-00	$1,737-85	$1,200-00
Postage	$1,600-00	$1,800-61	$1,800-00
PO Box	$250-00	$250-00	$250-00
Stationery	$200-00	$86-12	$200-00
Telephone.	$150-00	$161-46	$150-00

AOSM Expenses.

Travel/Accommodation	$7,000-00	$6,640-30	$7,000-00
Delegates' Folder.	$300-00	$320-00	$400-00
Taping	$1,500-00	$1,800-00	$1,500-00
Sponsorship	$2,000-00	$1,511-61	$2,000-00
Banner	$200-00	$0-00	$200-00
Prudent Reserve	$1,000-00	$1,500-00	$1,000-00
TOTAL	**$16,400-00**	**$16,099-21**	**$16,500-00**

Notes

1. I have allowed for 50 Final Reports to be printed .
2. Postage is not included with the Final Report.
3. In accordance with the decision at the 4th AOSM the Prudent Reserve is set at, where possible $500-00 be transferred each year from the general Account.

ALL AMOUNTS ARE IN NEW ZEALAND DOLLARS.

ASIA OCEANIA SEERVICE MEETING COMMITTEES.

2005-2007

POLICY/ADMISSION/FINANCE.

Val Kiel (New Zealand) *Chairperson*
Landon Nabb (Vietnam)
Kuniko Imai (Japan)
Ian Comrie (Australia)
Sunil Kumar (India)
Alexey V.(Russia)

LITERATURE/PUBLISHING.

Curtis Winston (Thailand) Chairman.
Koh Song Bom (Singapore)
B. Tumendemberal (Mongolia)
Brenda Hamblyn (New Zealand)

WORKING WITH OTHERS.

Satander Bhalla (India) *Chairman*
Bruce Cohen (Thailand)
Andrew Ng (Hong Kong)
Ann de Villiers (MERCAA)

SITE SELECTION/AGENDA/WEBSITE.

Fred Tittle (Cambodia) *Chairman*
Peter Olsen (Hong Kong)
Trevor Housley (Australia)
Masayo Shima (Japan)

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Policy/Admissions/Finance.

This committee adopted the format that was set at the 2005 AOSM. As the Indonesian delegate was unable to be present this was taken as an apology.
The date of the next Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee will be in 2009. The meeting closed with the serenity Prayer. From matters arising from the minutes the committee recommended the following:

1. "*A recommendation that the minutes from the previous meeting be available to delegates in their folder".*
2. *"That instead of just the chairperson of this committee being a support to the Chairperson and Secretary of the AOSM, that all chairpersons of all committees be part of the support in the interim years".*
At the full meeting of the AOSM these recommendations were passed.

Under new business the committee made three recommendations as follows:

3. *A recommendation that delegates take back to their countries/regional structures to consider a minimal fee as a contribution to AOSM (refer WSM) Our discussion was to begin the process for this recommendation to become part of a future process".*
4. "Review the Mailing List at each AOSM to determine who has rotated out and feed back to the secretary AOSM regarding names to be removed".
5. "Consider alternative methods of providing information etc to those who wish to have it eg email, website, paid subscriptions or have a brief newsletter instead of the full AOSM Final Report"
At the full meeting of the AOSM these recommendations were passed...

Discussion followed on contributions from Countries/Groups/Individuals to the AOSM and the possibility of an automatic pay system being implemented. This was followed by more discussion on setting up a Developing Country's Budget specifically to assist in the development of countries in the AOSM area. Feedback on this from delegates would be appreciated.

6. *"This committee recommends that sponsorship of other countries/regional structures be the responsibility of this committee".*
At the full meeting of the AOSM this recommendation was passed.

This committee nominated/seconded Ian Comrie (Australia) as the new chairperson for the 2009 AOSM and Sunil Ghai (India) as the alternate chairperson. This was carried unanimously.

Literature/Publishing.

After the Serenity Prayer the meeting opened with apologies fro the Indonesian, Korean and Nepalese delegates who were not able to attend.
The Literature/Publishing Preliminary Committee Report was then read aloud and discussed.
There are four books that are given focused attention to ensure the tone and intent of Bill W's writings be accurately in translation.
1. Alcoholics Anonymous aka The Big Book.
2. 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.
3. As Bill Sees It.
4. AA Comes of Age.
These books are translated by GSO in New York.
For countries new to AA that have a strong need for printed literature, AA World Services, in New York provides complementary to emerging countries six pamphlets translated into the requested language:
1. Is AA For You?
2. 44 Questions.
3. This is AA.
4. Information on AA/A brief guide to AA.
5. A Newcomer Asks.

6. AA's Legacy of Service.

Once a country has organised their AA groups to the point of having their own office with a phone and/or a recognised central infrastructure, they may begin to purchase their own literature and create their own translations.
Mongolian GSO found the Mongolian literature translated by AAWS Inc. is too literal, making it difficult to understand. MGSO is prepared to review the translation, and work on corrections. MGSO is also looking into publishing AA material in Mongolia, because it would be more affordable. Guidelines about translations are posted on the www.aa.org website.
Discussion was begun on the anticipated need for translations to be made available in an audio format, as some languages are predominately verbal/spoken languages, hence, printed literature would be of limited use.
Proposed composition, scope and procedure and also agenda seems to be standard for each AOSM committee but might be amended by each committee.
The wording of the Composition, Scope and Procedure for the Literature/Publishing committee is to provide a forum for an exchange of experiences on the translations and publications of the member countries in the AOSM Zone.
The committee elected Brenda Hamblyn, New Zealand as the new Chairperson and B. Tumendemberel, Mongolia, as the Alternate Chairperson.

Working With Others.

The meeting started with the Serenity Prayer.

The committee appointed Bruce Cohen, Thailand, as the next Chairman for the committee and Andrew Ng, Hong Kong, was appointed Alternate Chairman.

The delegate, Andrew, from Hong Kong shared that while most members in Hong Kong have short term sobriety there is a hard core of long term members. The Hong Kong groups have gone autonomous and have created service positions at the level of individual meetings. Due to the busy nature of Hong Kong business people, the number of people volunteering for Hospital and Institution visits is limited but still needs to be coordinated. Intergroup has planned a 24 hour hotline that is manned by volunteers from HK AA under the Intergroup manager. Newcomers are encouraged to enter service and to become secretary of a meeting at six months sobriety.

Externally, each group has adopted an institution and H&I coordinates visits to other schools and hospitals. We actively place advertisements in the English and Chinese print media and hospitals are supplied with beginner information packs in English and Chinese.

We do not have any Class A trustee at this stage and so we have no people who can act as a public spokesperson for AA. We have yet to establish a General Service Board.

Bruce from Thailand shared that their groups have many old time members but that it is difficult to get people interested in service and in business meetings. Intergroup was created five years ago and deals with issues related to structure, class and literature in addition to running the helpline and the PI and CPC committees.

The foundation for service is in existence but the growth of the service structure is slow because we rely on individuals to take the initiative. There is no specific outreach to young people. We have taken the approach of talking to individual doctors where possible and also have approached the Ministry of Health to try to get assistance in making it easier to approach the medical practitioners.

Ann, Kuwait, says they have an AA website. MERCAA is trying to translate basic literature into Arabic. PI is often performed via radio interviews. Rehabs generally do not support AA. Anonymity is a big problem due to the small size of the countries involved.

Bhalla said India has a strong service structure and a GSO was established in 1987. Though one alcoholic carrying the message to another is the most effective tool to spread the message, working with non alcoholic friends of the fellowship is also a very effective method.

Some groups share all three legacies and the Big Book and some basic pamphlets have been translated into many local languages. The concept of Service Sponsorship is catching on. PI and treatment committees are formed at Intergroup level. 15-20% of the members come from Treatment Facilities. India is developing special literature and public service announcements for young people and for female alcoholics.

We have 7 Class A (Non alcoholic) Trustees who are the public face of AA and endorsement from them at public level helps to reduce the stigma surrounding alcoholism and encourages suffering alcoholics to come forward and seek help.

We call for Press Conferences on special occasions such as Anniversaries, Conferences and Regional Conventions. Newspapers carry articles on AA and alcoholism at regular intervals. Talk shows on TV and Radio are broadcast periodically. The effort to carry the message behind walls is being developed.

We work very closely with the neighbouring countries, such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and Dubai and we are constantly providing literature to them. To help with the growth of the fellowship in the region, we are members of WSM and AOSM.

Site Selection/Agenda/Website.

1."That the Agenda, Site Selection and Website Committee be known as the Site Selection/Agenda/ Website Committee.

2.*"When a new member gets appointed to the AOSM they also get appointed to a committee. This committee should have at least four members, from different countries and with an even distribution of first and second term delegates".*
These recommendations were passed at the full meeting of the AOSM.

Site Selection recommendation.
"All members unanimously recommended that Thailand's bid to host the next AOSM be accepted".
This recommendation was passed at the full meeting of the AOSM.

The most compelling reason for this is that Thailand is the only country to submit a formal bid. Some other arguments in favour of Thailand were:

- Bangkok is a major airline hub and inexpensive.
- Thailand is new to the AOSM and there is some resistance to sending people to service events. If they see what happens at AOSM it may change the attitude there and make it easier for delegates.
- Hosting an AOSM typically fires up service workers in the country.
- They get to see 12 Step work at country level.

Resources in Thailand. Thailand has about 300 members many of which are expatriates but Thai groups are starting to get established. Thailand hosts an annual convention which brings them the financial resources necessary to host the AOSM.

There was a lot of discussion regarding India's interest to host the next AOSM but as no advance notice and no formal bid had been received by the deadline it was decided they could not be considered.

It was then recommended the *"Japan be commended on their site selection for the 7th AOSM".*
This recommendation was passed at the full meeting of the AOSM.

Agenda recommendation.
"It is important that the AOSM members set the agenda and that this committee work on it with the AOSM Chairman and AOSM Secretary involved at the invitation of the committee".
This recommendation was passed at the full meeting of the AOSM.

This recommendation came from the discussion that the chairperson was unclear of his authority and the scope of his position within the AOSM.

There was a further recommendation re the Composition, Scope and Procedure (CSP) to be put forward but after the meeting it was discovered that there was already a CSP document for each committee. This committee will

combine the existing CSP with the new CSP that was developed at this AOSM. The new, integrated CSP, will help to guide the Chairperson on an ongoing basis. At each future meeting the CSP should be reviewed to keep it up to date and current as possible.

Website recommendations.
1. *"That Fred Tittle is and will continue to be Websteward when it will be reviewed at 2009".*
2. "It was suggested that the countries in AOSM consider using the following protocol for their URL (Universal Resource Locator) www.AACOUNTRYNAME.org or www.AA-COUNTRYNAME.org
3. "The committee unanimously agreed to accept the current webpage that the Websteward prepared".
These recommendations were passed at the full meeting of the AOSM.

The URL for the AOSM website is www.AA-AOSM.org AOSM is the owner of the URL, and the Websteward is the technical contact for the website. The Websteward agreed to put the links to the other webpages in alphabetical order. The Websteward will find URLs in the area and add them to the website.

Masayo Shima was elected as the new Chairperson

THE REPORTS FROM THE FOUR COMMITTEES WERE ACCEPTED BY THE AOSM MEETING.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

The first matter for consideration was the AOSM Guidelines, and at this stage it was felt that there was no need for any alterations until 2009 when they will be revisited. The meeting was reminded that any alterations would be noted and dated and added at the foot of the Guidelines.

The meeting, using Third Legacy voting, elected Brenda Hamblyn, New Zealand, to present the AOSM Report to the World Service Meeting to be held in New York in 2008.

After considerable discussion on many topics put forward by the meeting it was decided by Third Legacy voting that the theme for the 8th AOSM in 2009 would be **"Reaching Out".**

From the committee meetings there were two motions put forward to the AOSM meeting.
1. *"All files on the AOSM to be put on a soft file for future reference and for website use".*
2. "That the Policy/Admissions/Finance committee formulate an archivist job description and that this committee describe policy and conditions; and look for a suitable/s before the 2009 AOSM".
Both these motions were passed by the AOSM meeting.

When the position of the Chairperson for the 2009 AOSM was called for there was a very vigorous discussion on who was eligible for this. After some debate a motion was put as follows:
"That the AOSM 2009 look at the eligibility for the position of Chairperson and for the voting procedure regarding this and other positions".
The motion was passed by the AOSM meeting.

All second term delegates' names were put forward and all but two withdrew their names, leaving Val Kiel and Fred Tittle. Following a Third Legacy vote Val was elected by the meeting as the Chairperson for the 8th AOSM to be held in Thailand in 2009, with Fred elected as the Alternate Chairperson.

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

CLOSING REMARKS.

As the meeting drew to a close all the participants shared their thoughts about their experiences through attending this AOSM.

The delegates all expressed their gratitude to the Japanese General Service Board and Conference, together with the Host Committee for all the work that they had done to host this meeting and to make it such a wonderful experience.

Ann (MERCAA) said that she did not know how she would fit in with the Asia Oceania region as the countries of MERCAA are isolated But she quickly changed her opinion and learnt a lot. Ann said that attending the AOSM was a spiritual experience for her and she knows that it will have a growth impact on the group/s back in her area.

Andrew (Hong Kong) found it a great learning experience as he did not know what to expect and realised that there is a lot of work to do and aims to accomplish particularly with the Chinese speaking community.

Val (New Zealand said she has watched the evolution of the AOSM and now "*believes in miracles because I am one of them"*. She does service because her first sponsor said "*Do service and it will keep you sober"*.

Curtis (Thailand) found his 1st AOSM in 2005 an emotional meeting as he did not know what to expect but Thailand has made great advances in the two years to 2007 as a result of attending that first meeting.

Trevor (Australia) said it is a privilege to know those in this room and those that have gone before and to be associated with all those that have that have been involved with the AOSM. He has been amazed to see the growth in the AOSM.

Greg (New York GSO) Said to enjoy the spirit and values expressed at this meeting – the love and trust of each other. He said "*I see the AOSM in 12 short years growing into something spectacular. I hope and pray that you continue to exercise collective vision and do not get caught up in the details, as the details will kill you, but expand creatively, remain united and stay together"*.

Bob (New Zealand) said he was both sad and glad at the moment as he was rotating off. He added that he felt that rotation was one of the greatest safeguards in service in Alcoholics Anonymous. He remarked on the tremendous progress the AOSM has made in the 12 years of its existence. He also thanked the Japanese GSO and GSB for hosting the meeting and the Host Committee for the tremendous job they had done.

DELEGATES REVIEW OF THE AOSM.

There were eighteen respondents to this questionnaire.

Q. Which agenda item did you find most helpful and why?

A. The majority of the delegates found the Presentations/Workshops most valuable with more emphasis on some of them. More than one reply found the workshop on "Running a General Service Office " very important for various reasons such as "it is the only way we can grow", and "We are in the process of constructing a GSO in our country".

One delegate replied that he found Country Sponsorship important as it "was relevant to my home group"; Country Reports " extended his general knowledge of AA in the Asia Oceania Zone"; and Newcomers and Young People in AA gave "other countries' views".

The Keynote Address on Structured Groups was very well received and gave all delegates food for thought, with delegates remarking that it was what is needed in their country. The Presentation on "Carrying the Message to the Indigenous People" was also popular as it is very relevant to this zone. and delegates expressed a need for more on this topic. There was a general feeling that the Agenda covered a wide scope so that it seems most topics needed were covered. The meeting on Saturday night with the local members received favourable mention even though it was not part of the official agenda. Delegates found it most informative to be able to talk to these members on a one to one basis and answer questions they may be asked. It seems that as the AOSM grows the agenda covers a wider field to try and cater to all requirements.

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

A. Nearly half of the delegates did not answer this question which suggests that they were satisfied with the agenda items given. "What's on your mind" met some criticism on the grounds it was unstructured and topics raised were not relevant. There was also criticism of the reading of reports that are in the delegate's folder and one suggestion was to give each delegate 3 minutes to , in the case of Country Reports, talk about their country.
One delegate listed the presentation on "Carrying the message to the Indigenous people" but unfortunately did not give a reason.
There was some criticism of lack of knowledge in relation to the committee a delegate was on but in general it seems that the new committee system is working well.

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

A. The answers covered a wide field and nearly all had something to offer. The first request was how best to follow up Country to Country sponsorship and provide help to areas of a country where AA has just begun. Another delegate suggested asking all delegates at the beginning of the meeting for any topic they would like covered before the meeting finishes and then asking the group conscience where the topics could be added.

Delegates felt that unwritten "policies" should be formalised, with a review of the Guidelines particularly in relation to the election of the Chairman. To go with this the method of voting in the election and other matters should be clarified.

There was also some concern about language problems at the AOSM and some thought could be given to this with its related cultural differences. Possibly more interpreters are needed. One delegate raised the problem of sexism in AA, while another wanted more on Carrying the Message with up to a day on this topic. There was also a request for more news about AA from USA, Europe and other non Asia Oceania areas.

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

A. The general comment was that the facilities and accommodation were excellent and reasonably priced. There were a few comments that the meeting could have been held nearer a city where delegates could meet locals and do some sightseeing. Some also felt the range of choices for meals was rather restrictive but they realised that cost was a factor.

Q. Any other comments?

A. The AOSM is growing and developing and is succeeding in most areas and is learning as we go. It was also felt that the the meeting with locals should be encouraged. A general comment was to congratulate Japan on hosting a great event and their kindness and hospitality was appreciated particularly in things such as meeting delegates at the airport and they were always there to help. Special thanks too to the Host Committee.

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GUIDELINES

FOR THE CONDUCT OF

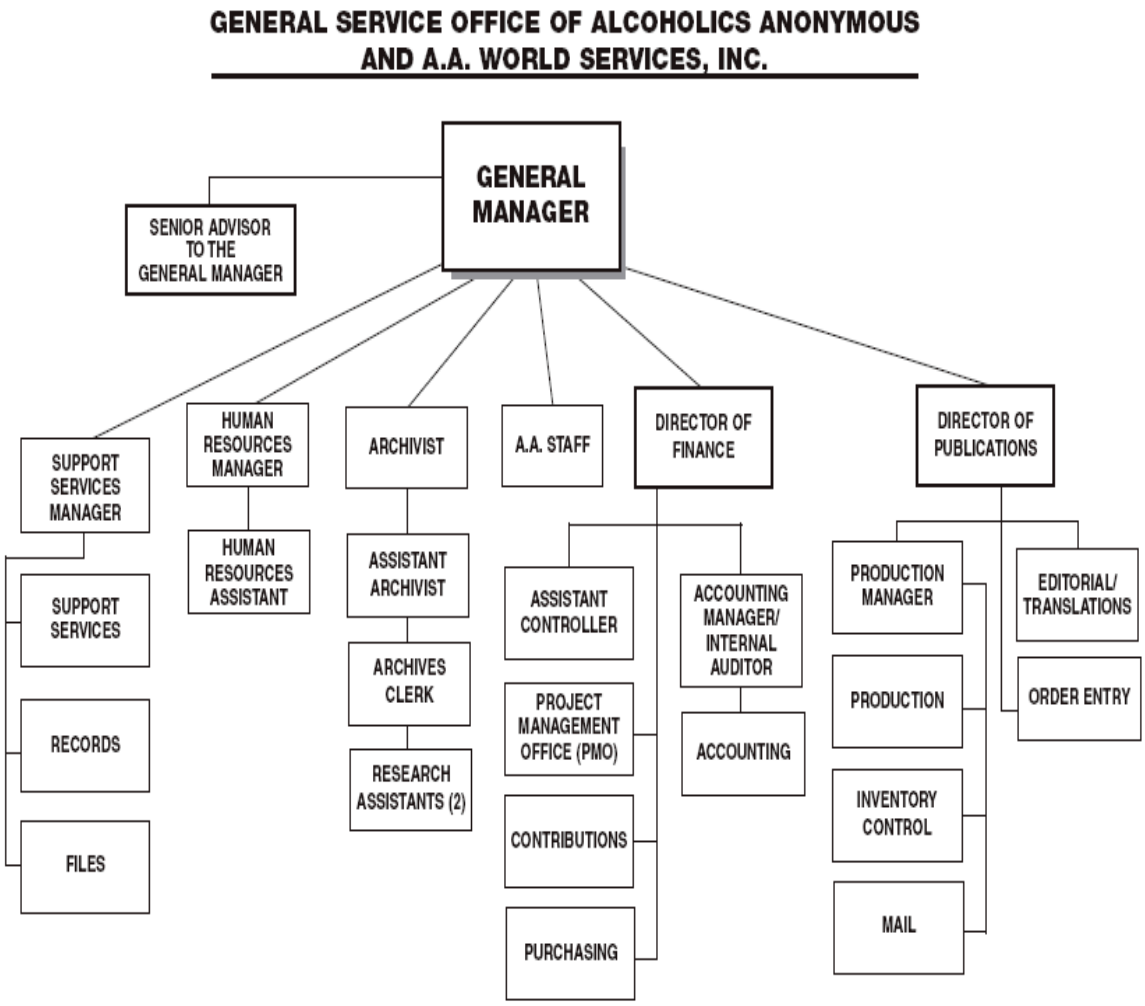
THE ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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.

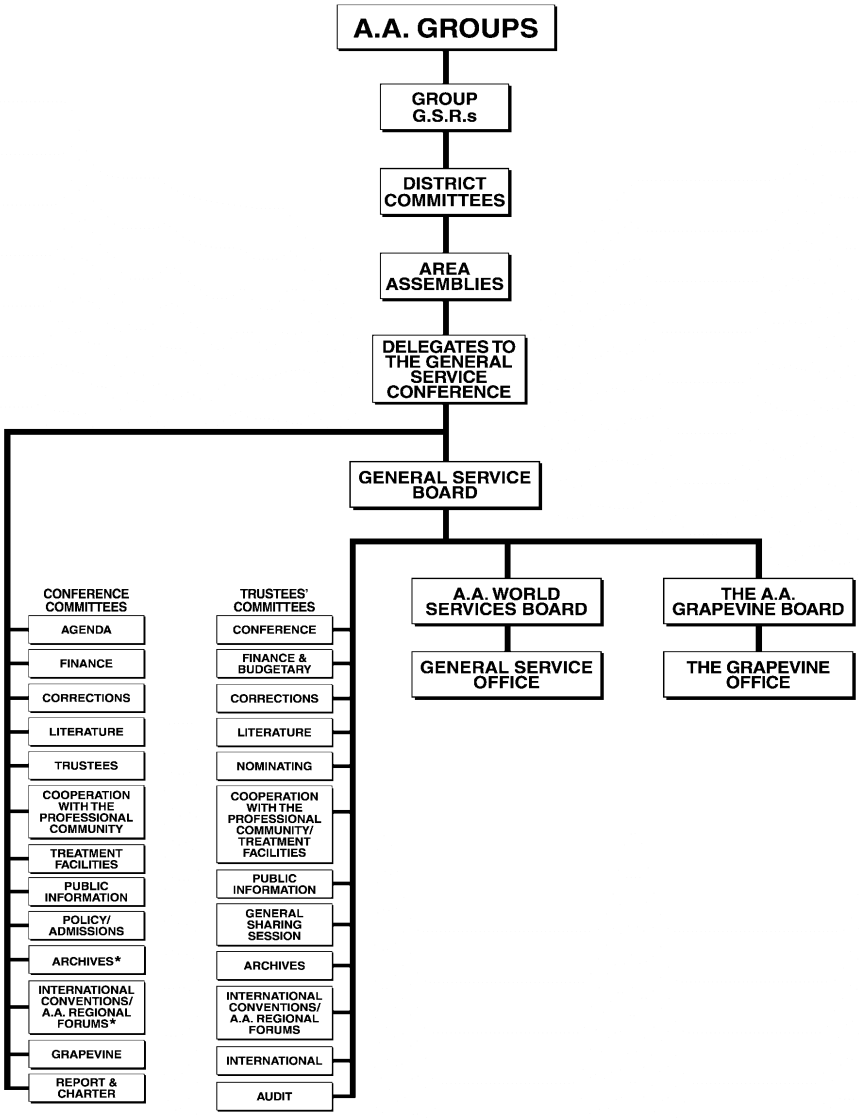
Guidelines reviewed and amended August 16th 2005.

APPENDIX

General Service Office Of AA & AA World Service, Inc



The General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)



*Secondary committee.

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 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

· 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.

translation, will apply, including a determination regarding the applicability of overseas literature publication assistance.

3) 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.

3) 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.

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 by the translator 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

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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.

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By: _____

Name _____

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(REVISED 8/05)

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Exhibit A