

9th

ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



Hotel North Park

Chandigarh, India

July 22 -24, 2011

Theme:
“SINGLENES OF PURPOSE”

Final Report

CONFIDENTIAL

THE AOSM 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 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 encourage 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 recognizes 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.

**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. Regional Structure.
5. The AOSM Chairperson shall rotate after each meeting.
6. The Secretariat shall be rotated after two AOSMs.
7. Each country/regional Structure shall be eligible to send up to two delegates.
8. The meeting shall be of least two days duration
9. Observers shall be welcome, with no voting rights, and with participation only at the discretion of the Chairperson.

These Guidelines were reviewed at the 2005, 2007, 2009 AOSMs and remain unchanged.

*** Reviewed again at the 9th AOSM in 2011 –proposed change to be noted;
“Each Delegate can attend no more than two AOSM’s in the role of Delegate”

Attention; Policy and Admissions Committee 2013

Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement of membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our Primary Purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

.....

A Declaration of Unity

I AM RESPONSIBLE,
WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE,
REACHES OUT FOR HELP,
I WANT THE HAND OF A.A
ALWAYS TO BE THERE
AND FOR THAT..I AM RESPONSIBLE

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Welcome Address / Chairman's Report

9th ASIA-OCEANIC SERVICE MEETING 2011

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome, my name is Ian C.

I would like to welcome all delegates and observers to the 9th meeting of the Asia-Oceanic Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. I would also like to welcome our representatives from the USA/Canada general service office. We also have with us special guests from the Australian and Japanese GSO's, two of the countries that were instrumental in the formation of AOSM. Because the meeting will be conducted in English, we also have with us some translators in order for us to gain the vast experience of some of our non-English speaking delegates.

I would also like to acknowledge Shirley, (secretary) without whom this meeting would not be possible. And her timeless efforts and in pushing and prodding of delegates and myself to get things done.

The Indian delegation has also worked hand in hand to bring this meeting to fruition and we will hear from them over the weekend.

The theme of the 9th AOSM is: "SINGLENES OF PURPOSE"

In this day and age there is perhaps controversy about this and, whilst not wanting to engage in this, a statement made by Bill Wilson in a 1958 Grapevine article perhaps best sums it up:

"Sobriety –freedom from alcohol-through the teaching and practice of The Twelve Steps is the sole purpose of an AA group. We have to confine our membership to Alcoholics and we have to confine AA groups to a single purpose. If we don't stick to these principles we shall surely collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone."

AOSM is a relatively new organisation within Alcoholics Anonymous and has struggled to see its purpose and ways of working towards it. I would suggest that our purpose is just the same as any other part of AA, which is "**To help other alcoholics ACHIEVE SOBRIETY**"

When this was written, it did not just mean the alcoholic next door or the alcoholic at work, it meant alcoholics everywhere and therefore the purpose of AOSM must be to make ourselves better able to fulfil this purpose by gathering information, not only from each other but from each other's countries, combining our ideas and strategies to make AA in our region better able to cope with achieving our "**singleness of purpose.**"

Nowadays it would seem that the impact of "face-to-face" in 12 step work is lessening, with people preferring to sit in front of a computer to carry the message. But we must remember that not everyone has a computer or even a TV. So that in some countries that I have visited in my former role of International Delegate, getting out there and spreading AA's message to those who want it is still the best way.

In AOSM the same changes are happening and it is sometimes very difficult to achieve communication between countries (as Shirley will no doubt testify). It would seem that

delegates, with some exceptions, feel that all work can be achieved at the Bi-Annual meeting and nothing needs to be done in between. I would suggest this not to be the case as can be evidenced by the work put in by countries like Japan, India, Australia and New Zealand, who are attaining great heights by their sponsorship and work in other countries.

Some of you may find this meeting very different from other types of AA meetings you have attended and may struggle to grasp the significance of AOSM and find its formalities strange. **You are not alone!** In fact, after my first AOSM meeting as a delegate I wrote a scathing report to our General Service Conference. But then I also had some scathing comments to make about some of the first AA meetings I attended, before I learned that AA was to save my life and become the greatest organisation I have had the privilege to belong to.

Please share your countries' experiences with us. It has been said that:
"None of us knows more than all of us"

AOSM and the still suffering Alcoholic will surely benefit from the efforts **YOU** put into it and I hope that your sobriety will be enhanced by the experience over this weekend and that you carry back to your country a wealth of knowledge to further our:

"SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE"

IAN C. (chair)

“SINGLENES OF PURPOSE” -An Overview of the 9th AOSM

The 9th AOSM was held at the North Park Hotel, Chandigarh, India from Friday the 22nd July until Sunday the 24th of July, 2011. There were 20 Delegates present from around the Asia/Oceania Zone. Also in attendance was Doug R. from GSO New York along with Valerie M. GSO Australia, who were the invited guests. Observers were in attendance also, these varied in numbers. Countries that were unable to be represented were, China and Mongolia.

The AOSM sessions began on the Friday morning and took the form of a new Delegates Orientation introduction to the AOSM way of doing things. This session was welcomed by all, especially the newcomers to the table since it ‘broke the ice’ someone commented, and made the whole occasion a little less frightening. The 9th AOSM Host Committee are to be congratulated on the venue that was provided, along with the excellent tape recordings that will prove invaluable to the new Secretary Brenda H. (previous World Service Meeting Delegate from New Zealand) and to the Archives of future AOSM’s.

A Workshop entitled Reaching Out was conducted during this orientation morning. The Delegates split into three groups, coming back to the table later to report their findings. The report-backs were very informative and enlightening, too numerous to mention here, however. Further on in this report, I have used a separate page to record some of the answers to the questions posed. The Workshop paper itself is also replicated for your information. Further information can be obtained from Secretary to AOSM Brenda.h@xtra.co.nz

Doug R’s Keynote Address SINGLENES OF PURPOSE was welcomed and applauded by all present as was his Presentation included on the Sunday session entitled OUR AA LITERATURE IN MANY LANGUAGES. Queries and questions regarding copyright responsibilities, translation requests etc, were competently fielded by Doug. The responses seemed to bring on even more enquiries, which seemed to suggest that this is a field of information that may need a pamphlet produced, to help those countries who are seeking answers. Doug made a note of this suggestion for future reference.

To sum up the whole weekend would take telling until the next one to be held in Irkutsk Russia in 2013. There were two contenders for the privilege of hosting the 2013 AOSM, Australia and Russia. Both Bids were carefully considered, and on a show of hands, the Russian venue was selected. Valery, the Delegate from that country, was obviously delighted with this decision!!

This overview would not be complete without our grateful thanks to the hardworking Host Committee lead by Arun and his band of willing workers who seemed to be everywhere and anywhere at anytime! They also provided excellent meals that were indigenous to their country, along with numerous cups of tea and coffee and cakes. On the Saturday evening, we were enthralled by the presentation of the Punjab Dancers brought in especially for this event. Our many thanks go to those who organized this along with all the evening AA meetings that were on offer to everyone. They were most appreciated!!

In conclusion, a great time seemed to be had by all,

Shirley C. – Past AOSM Secretary. 2007-2011.

The new Secretary of the AOSM to take over from Shirley C. and serve for the 2013 and 2015 AOSMs is Ms. Brenda Hamlyn,
Unit 25/2 Onslow Road, KHANDALLA WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND
Telephone; + 64 4 473 1215
Cell; 0274075807
E mail; Brenda.h@xtra.co.nz

Steve T., The 2nd term Australian World Service delegate was elected alternate secretary.

Keynote Address

My name is Doug Richardson and I am an alcoholic. It is a privilege to be asked to give the Keynote Address at the 9th Asia Oceana Service Meeting on the topic "Singleness of Purpose." Such a topic often sparks lively debate. We A.A.s can be creatures of extremes and you mention the subject of singleness of purpose and those extremes seem to boil to the surface.

In a February 1958 Grapevine article, Bill W. wrote, "Many early A.A.s had the almost comical notion that they were pure alcoholics — guzzlers only, no other serious problems at all. When alcoholic ex-cons and drug users first turned up, there was much pious indignation. 'What will people think?' chanted the pure alcoholics. Happily, this foolishness has long since evaporated." The article was "Problems Other Than Alcohol" and nine years later the General Service Conference of the U.S. and Canada asked the A.A. Grapevine for permission to produce that article as a pamphlet. It is still widely circulated and translated. It stands the test of time as one of our more definitive pieces on singleness of purpose.

Also, in this pamphlet, there is a very clear definition of the purpose of an A.A. group and I quote Bill: "Sobriety, freedom from alcohol, through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps is the sole purpose of an A.A. group." The "sole" purpose — there is no equivocation indicating that the A.A. group has any other purpose. The phrase, "Sobriety — freedom from alcohol" is clear as to what A.A. addresses.

When I first came to A.A., I believed myself to be very unique. No one had experienced the same things I had experienced; no one was as sensitive or as deep and special as me. I didn't really understand that I was an alcoholic or what that word meant. I came to A.A. because I suspected alcohol played a role in how badly I felt, and I just wanted to stop hurting. It was a great relief to learn that A.A. was for people like me who had a problem with alcohol. It is interesting to note that nowhere do we say our program is for people whose *only* problem is alcohol but alcoholism is the common bond that all of us as A.A. members share.

For me, one of the most profound things about the A.A. program is that it is a program of identification. If you say that you are an alcoholic and are an A.A. member — I identify with you. I know you. Oh, I may know nothing about the individual details of your life but I know you have been to alcoholic hell and survived to tell your story. I know that, like me, you are more than likely self-centered in the extreme; I know you are striving like me to place your life and your will into the care of a higher power no matter what that power is for you. I know that your primary purpose in life is to stay sober and help another alcoholic achieve sobriety — all this I know about you and I may not even know your name. I identify with your alcoholism, and I identify with your recovery utilizing the principles of the A.A. program.

Bill W. often said that one of A.A.'s greatest strengths is its single-minded focus on one thing and one thing only. By limiting our primary purpose to carrying the message to alcoholics and avoiding all other activities, A.A. is able to do one thing supremely well. The atmosphere of identification is preserved by that purity of focus, and alcoholics get help.

Tradition Five states that, "Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers". Isn't this also a very clear statement? It tells us to whom we carry the A.A. message of hope. Not the world — not to those who are addicted to anything, be it drugs, food, sex or gambling etc. We carry the message to the *alcoholic* who still suffers. Not everyone needs Alcoholics Anonymous. Alcoholics may indeed struggle with any number of other addictions, but all addicts are not alcoholics; all overeaters or gamblers are not alcoholics. Only alcoholics need Alcoholics Anonymous.

Because we concern ourselves with one problem there are no distractions, and we are free to work at carrying the message of recovery from alcoholism to the best of our ability. In

another of our pamphlets, "The A.A. Group," it states that, "It is misleading to hint or give the impression that Alcoholics Anonymous solves other problems or knows what to do about addiction to drugs."

Referring back to the pamphlet, "Problems Other Than Alcohol," Bill writes, "Groups have repeatedly tried other activities, and they have always failed. It has also been learned that there is no way to make non-alcoholics into A.A. members. We have to confine our membership to alcoholics, and we have to confine our A.A. groups to a single purpose. If we don't stick to these principles, we shall almost certainly collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone."

A past, non-alcoholic trustee on our General Service Board, U.S./Canada, Dr. Vincent Dole, who was an eminent pioneer in the field of methadone maintenance, was quoted in our newsletter for professionals, "About A.A.," he said: "The source of strength in A.A. is its single-mindedness. The mission of A.A. is to help alcoholics. A.A. limits what it is demanding, of itself and its associates, and the program's success lies in its limited target. To believe that the process that is successful in one line guarantees success for another would be a very serious mistake."

Of course, some people will argue that A.A.'s own Traditions and literature opens the door for anyone, even those without an alcohol problem, to claim membership. For instance, the Short Form of the Third Tradition says that the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. However, in the beginning of the Long Form of the Third Tradition is the statement: "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from *alcoholism*. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover." This statement is very inclusive. So long as an individual has a desire to deal with his drinking problem, it does not matter what other problems he suffers from. It does not matter what race, background or circumstances he comes from. A.A. welcomes him.

The disputers also quote the line in the *Twelve and Twelve* that says, "You are an A.A. member if *you* say so," not noting that the line before it states that it is talking to "every serious *drinker*." There are some parameters to membership in A.A.

It is the effectiveness of our Traditions that binds us together. As we are all aware, our Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is one of love, sharing and caring. Someone with a serious drinking problem is a member of A.A. as long as they say they are a member of A.A.. And, in order to keep this loving Fellowship cohesive and functioning, we need the Traditions which are our guidelines. These Traditions provide for the unity of the group and, therefore, ultimately protect each individual member's sobriety. In A.A., the common welfare of the group comes first. Our Traditions, rather than proclaiming an individual's right to act in any way he or she pleases, confirm the spirit of self-sacrifice—restraining our own desires when they conflict with the good of the group. Which leads me back to the purpose of an A.A. group - "Sobriety, freedom from alcohol, through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps is the sole purpose of an A.A. group."

Singleness of purpose isn't a drugs-versus-alcohol issue – a we-against-them matter. In our very real world, addicts of all kinds are visible to us and they are the ones that come to mind when we talk about singleness of purpose. I do not minimize any of the other problems. Our job as members of Alcoholics Anonymous is to keep the focus on the one thing we do well – staying sober ourselves and helping others to achieve sobriety - we do this through strong sponsorship, through Traditions' workshops, in our group business meetings and A.A. service events and in our personal inventories.

I came to A.A. with a host of problems in addition to my alcoholism. There was only the slightest glimmer of hope left in me that the darkness that was my existence might be lifted. One of the first things I heard that sent a shiver down my spine was that I did not have to drink – my brain reeled – but-but-but – I went – look at how horrible this is – look at how bad that is – look at what a sorry human being I am – but-but-but. I have to say that no one argued with me about how bad things were – they simply repeated that no matter how awful

my life was or appeared to be in my muddled brain, there was truly no real reason to take that first drink. I was astounded that I understood what they were saying and a little light crept into the bleak landscape of my soul. Then someone asked me to hold out my hands – they asked me to imagine my alcoholism and A.A. in my right hand and all my other problems in my left hand – my left hand felt very heavy. Then, they said, that if I focused on my right hand – on vigilance with regard to staying away from one drink of alcohol, one day at a time, and I followed the suggestions made to me regarding the A.A. program – going to meetings on a weekly basis, getting and calling a sponsor, talking with other alcoholics, reading the literature and working the Steps – I would be in a position to take care of the problems weighing me down in my left hand. That right hand/left hand demonstration has always been for me an example of the essence of A.A.'s single purpose – if I focus on recovery from my alcoholism and on the program of A.A. – I am in a position to deal with all my other problems. And as for my other problems, many of them were resolved as I moved through the 12 Steps and attended meetings but, with some, I needed additional help, and, for some, I was directed to other 12 Step programs that also had their own singleness of purpose.

In A.A. we make every effort to speak the language of the heart and to walk in the sunlight of the spirit – these are no mere clichés but spiritual goals that our founders set for themselves and for us. They evolved because of the clear focus the founders had on our singleness of purpose. The only similar thing we are guaranteed in A.A. to have in common is our alcoholism. At one of our Conferences a few years ago, a delegate stated that, “If we focus on our similarities, we can stay strong as a Fellowship. If we focus on what makes us different, we run the risk of becoming fragile and divided – our common bond may then be broken.”

All of us, I am certain, want to pass on this lifesaving torch of hope and recovery to others who suffer. We want the doors of A.A. to be as wide opened as possible; we want to be as inclusive as possible and as free as possible. To achieve this, each of us has a responsibility to do our best to keep the focus on our primary purpose – our single purpose.

Report to the AOSM on the 21st World Service Meeting

Mexico City October 16 – 21, 2010

by second-term Australian World Service Delegate Steve T.

There were 53 delegates from 32 countries at the 21st World Service meeting held at the Hotel Camino Real in Mexico City. The theme for this WSM was “Sponsorship: our responsibility.”

Discussion topics included: Women in AA, Young people and AA, General Service Trustees, the Internet, the Seventh Tradition and preserving AA's identity.

There were several matters discussed in workshops and committee meetings which yielded some interesting statistics:

- What percentage of groups donate to each country's GSO?

The percentage of groups contributing to the GSO in each country ranged from 5% in Trinidad to 80% in Denmark. The average for the 15 countries surveyed was 44%.

- What percentage of each country's budget comes from donations?

The percentage of each country's budget coming from donations (rather than literature sales) ranged from 1% in Malta to 60% in Australia. The average was 40%.

- Are 12th Step calls increasing or decreasing?

Most of the countries reported a decline in the number of phone calls they were receiving but an increase in contacts from email and websites. In many cases the switch to online contacts was dramatic.

- What are countries doing with community service announcements (CSAs)

Several countries are using CSAs some of them very sophisticated. India told of a mobile phone SMS campaign that brought 100 newcomers on the first day.

- What limits are imposed on donations and bequests?

In Australia we limit members' donations to \$6050 in any one year and limit bequests to \$14,850. In the US the maximum donation or bequest is only \$3000. Is Australia way out of line? I surveyed 15 other countries and found only one country, Italy, which allowed a donation higher than ours, whereas the other countries were much lower than ours. The average maximum donation was less than \$3,000.

Online developments

There is enormous concern in most countries about anonymity breaks on Facebook but the most knowledgeable members indicated that social media was the future of electronic communications and that we needed to work with it rather than against it.

Many countries, particularly in Europe, have online groups as a normal part of their group lists.

GSO New York is experimenting with online literature sales and online donations. There have been problems with both and they have learned these are areas which have to be taken slowly.

7th tradition talk

I was asked to deliver a talk on the 7th Tradition to the WSM. This went over well and the Indian delegates asked permission to reprint it in India. In the talk I mentioned the outstanding financial performance of AA in Ireland. At the previous WSM I had drawn attention to Ireland's extraordinary contributions to the International Literature Fund. Again

this year—despite a very poor economy— Ireland had donated \$111,000 to the ILF. That's ten to twenty times as much as other countries.

We believe their outstanding performance is due in large part to the fact they issue a Treasurer's Notebook to every group in Ireland to help manage the group's accounts. We have copied Ireland and now have a similar book on our service website as does South Africa, Germany and Italy. Several countries asked me for copies of the printed form of the Australian Treasurer's account book and the spreadsheet version of it.

In my talk I pointed out that members are far more willing to donate when they are told in detail on how their money will be used to help carry the message. The delegates from Denmark endorsed this idea by showing a small report they sent out to groups. They said this report with little pie charts increased donations by 50 per cent.

Country Reports

Australia

Carrying the message within Australia:

New radio and TV ads. One of our Class A trustees approached a number of advertising agencies and found two that were keen to produce some new radio and TV ads for AA. The agencies were prepared to do the ads for free because they get the benefit of winning industry awards and they get their staff to stretch themselves with non-commercial work. The ads are a series of 15 second TV spots that are of outstanding quality. We have been getting them run for free because Australian TV and radio stations are required to do this as part of their licence requirements. We have also developed some new billboard ads.

Collected experience of PI&CPC. We wanted to ensure that the wisdom and experience gained in doing PI&CPC isn't lost but can be accessed by as many members as possible. The original plan was to develop a "kit" of printed resources but we decided that would be too expensive and would be difficult to keep updated. Instead, we have collected a huge amount of experience on what works and what doesn't work when we take the message to schools, courts, hospitals, etc. It can be accessed on the Australian AA Service Website: www.aaservice.org.au. You will need to create a username and password to log into the site. The information can be found in the section marked PI&CPC.

Videos for young people. We have put some great new videos from GSO New York on the Australian website. There are five videos for young people with an average length of six minutes at <http://www.aa.org.au/new-to-aa/message-for-young-people.php>.

There is also an excellent 16-minute video for new members at

at <http://www.aa.org.au/new-to-aa/what-is-aa.php>

The videos are being put on the video sharing website, Vimeo. This costs \$60 a year but it is free of ads and it means we won't have to pay our ISP for the greatly increased bandwidth that videos require.

Qualities needed in trustees. It's important that we get people with



At the Australian Annual Convention held in Perth this year, the two World Service Delegates displayed a wide range of literature in languages other than English. Many members from other countries came to talk about the display. A new pull-up banner had a translation of the Serenity Prayer in Pijin and showed how we raise money for foreign literature through the "Brown Paper Bag Collection".

the right qualities to be trustees on the General Service Board. To help in making a choice for a trustee we have a presentation on the Australian AA service website at www.aaservice.org.au. You will need to create a username and password to log into the site. The presentation can be found by clicking on “How to” in the left hand navigation bar. The scroll down to “What qualities do we need in a trustee.”

Carrying the message outside Australia:

We have printed three translations of AA pamphlets into the Samoan language and have another two in the pipeline. We have also reprinted a pamphlet in Fijian that had originally been translated by GSO New Zealand in 1978. We have also translated the Steps, Traditions and Serenity Prayer banners into Samoan and Solomon Islands Pijin.

A great deal of English literature and banners have been provided to various Pacific Islands, Bhutan, Mizoram, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Literature in Hindi was provided to Fiji with the help of GSO India and a magnificent Steps banner in Hindi was provided for Hindi speakers in Fiji by a member in Bangalore.

Funding for this is provided by the Australian International Sponsorship Fund. This Fund also provided travelling and accommodation costs to bring a member from the Solomon Islands to the Australian Annual Convention in Coffs Harbour in 2010 and a Samoan from American Samoa to the Annual Convention in Perth this year.

These Funds are raised each year in the Week of Founders Day by collections in a bottle-sized brown paper bag (to remind us what it used to be like). One quarter of the money collected goes to the International Literature Fund in New York and the rest goes to the Australian International Sponsorship Fund.

Statistics and structure of AA in Australia

There are 1800 AA meetings each week in Australia and the last survey of membership in 2005 estimated the membership at 20,000.

Australian AA uses the General Service Structure. We have a National Office (our GSO) in Sydney and then there are six Regions roughly equivalent to our states. Each Region is divided into a number of Areas and the Areas are often divided into Districts.

Policy is decided at the Annual General Service Conference and carried out by our General Service Board and National Office.



An AA pamphlet printed in the Fijian language. This was an update of a NZ pamphlet printed in 1978.

Butan

For 9th AOSM, Chandigarh, India July 22-24, 2011

BHUTAN: COUNTRY REPORT

Problem of *alcohol* in Bhutan

Alcohol is widely accepted as an essential component in any major or minor events in both urban and rural areas of Bhutan. Alcoholism is therefore deceptively rooted in our tradition and culture and with the advent of new alcohol brands/drinks in the country the number of Bhutanese alcohol consumers has also drastically increased. The current population of Bhutan is approximately 700,000.

Alcoholism in Bhutan is also considered as the highest killer disease and the rates are alarmingly high as per the past records kept in the Jigme Dorje Wangchuck National Referral Hospital, (JDWNRH) Thimphu, Bhutan. Alcohol abuse is one of the major causes of non-communicable diseases in the country where 27 percent of all inpatient attendance and 58 percent of all inpatient mortality in the hospitals are alcohol-related. Apart from the home-brewed alcohol, there are thousands of licensed bars in the country selling industrial alcohol, which translates into roughly one bar for every 250 citizens.

According to National Statistics Bureau (NSB), alcohol liver disease was the second highest cause of indoor hospital mortality. Researchers say that Bhutan has perhaps one of the highest per capita alcohol consumption in the developing world. It is estimated that there are close to 10 bottles (7.5 litres) of alcohol available for every man, woman and child in Bhutan in a year. A prevalence study in the country has shown that as much as 50 percent of the population drink. It is higher in the east with 58 percent and nearly 20 percent drink regularly with an average of five bottles (3.75 litres) a week. This constitutes a whopping 195 litres in a year.

Fortunately, alcoholism and its allied problems have now been recognized as one of the forefront issues and the government is gradually trying to put some measures to curb them. For example in June 2011 the government has announced increase in tax on all alcoholic drinks including the dealership license fees. Over the years Bhutan has also come up with various initiatives to reduce alcohol related issues. Some of these include:

- **Detox Center:** A well monitored detox center is established within the psychiatric ward of the JDWNRH. People are treated for ADS (Alcohol dependency syndrome) and alcohol related illness in this center as a first step help.
- **New Rehab:** A Rehab center for males and females were established separately in 2009 and 2010 respectively at Serbithang on the outskirts of the capital city by the Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency (BNCA) and Youth Development Fund (YDF). BNCA provides training while the centre is managed by YDF. These establishments had made sending an abuser to the rehabilitation here in the country cheaper than sending them outside the country. YDF is

charging a nominal price of Nu 1,500 (US\$ 34) per month compared to the Nu 60,000 (US\$ 1333) for six months outside the country.

- **Education and Awareness Programs:** The information on the adverse impact of alcohol abuse is disseminated nationwide through various media, by conducting stakeholders meetings, hosting live shows and also by distributing numerous pamphlets containing information and advices on alcohol related issues. **Few people credited the government for launching several programs to educate people about its ban on alcohol sales to people less than 18 years old, and about the danger of drunk driving. The country observes Tuesdays as dry days. However most feel these measures are still inadequate.**

According to Wangmo Tshering, 45, a Buddhist nun who looks after orphans in Thimpu, regrets that alcohol-related diseases and deaths have affected families. "Mothers often find [new] husbands, but it is very difficult to integrate the fatherless children in new families," she said. Tshering, has helped about 30 children orphaned as a result of alcoholism in the past five years (source: <http://www.buddhistchannel.tv/index.php?index>).

AA Bhutan/Thimphu

The AA Bhutan (based in the capital Thimphu) is still in the state of infancy and it comprises of the following basic structure:

1. Chairperson
2. Group Service representative
3. Counselors

The chairperson's position is occasionally rotated among senior recovering members to encourage active participations. The meetings of around 30-40 odd members take place thrice in a week as per the following schedule:

- Tuesday: Open Meeting (Family Anonymous)
- Thursday: Closed meetings
- Saturday : Twelve Step discussion

The venues of meetings are conveniently chosen at the following locations:

- a. Drop-In Centers, Thimphu (established by the government to help abusers of alcohol and drugs)
- b. Psychiatric ward
- c. Jigme Dorje Wangchuck National Library, Thimphu

The recovering group comprises of people from diverse backgrounds such as civil servants, monks, businesspersons, unemployed youths, housewives, military personnel etc. The senior members have around 5-7 years sobriety.

Some constraints faced by AA Bhutan

AA Bhutan is still too young and structurally not much has been established since its formation, a few years ago. It is still evolving with support from the government and recovering members but lots still need to be done. Some of the basic problems faced are:

- a. **Insufficient literature:** Although we were gifted with numerous literatures from established organizations from Australia, Singapore and other visitors from abroad, the literatures required for recovery programs are still insufficient.
- b. **No stable working place:** AA Bhutan does not have any place/structure of its own to carry out its activities independently.
- c. **No permanent employee:** AA Bhutan does not have a single permanent employee.
- d. **No public spokesperson:** There is also no spokesperson for AA Bhutan, especially for the media.
- e. **No official website:** AA Bhutan does not have a website, which could have otherwise made easier to reach or gained wider attractions from the alcoholics who need help.

Acknowledgement

However, AA Bhutan is constantly growing and has the potential to deliver enormous help to the recovering alcoholics. AA Bhutan would like to offer its heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Shirley, the Secretary to AOSM for bringing this small landlocked country to **the light of recovery**. Such a support and sponsorship to a new group like AA Bhutan would go a long way in helping Bhutanese alcoholics. AA Bhutan would also like to offer its deep appreciation and thanks to the organizers and all those involved in hosting this 9th AOSM in Chandigarh, India from July 22-24, 2011. We would like to work hard in a right direction to bring light to the suffering alcoholics in Bhutan and in doing so would like to seek assistance and cooperation from all the groups/organizations present here today in carrying out our mission.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

TASHI DELEK

Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a city of approx. 7.5 million – 95 % of the population is Chinese with the balance a mix of different nationalities. Cantonese is the local dialect; English is the main language of the expatriate community.

Meetings

There are currently 30 English Speaking Meetings per week servicing the largely expatriate membership of AA in HK (see attached list). The facilities at 12 Borrett Road and St. Joseph's Church (both on HK Island), are the two main venues for daily meetings.

There are also weekly meetings in the expatriate enclaves of Sai Kung, Stanley, Lamma, & Tung Chung Islands.

Chinese speaking meetings, which fall under the auspices of the Hong Kong & Kowloon (HK&K) Group, are held Mondays and Fridays at the Kowloon Union Church in Jordan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui and on Thursday evenings at Castle Peak Hospital in New Territories.

Groups

The Hong Kong/Kowloon Groups

This is the largest group in Hong Kong, it runs 12 meetings at the Borrett Road facility as well as the Chinese meetings, Sai Kung and 3 meetings on outlying islands.

The Morning Group has recently adopted a new format to reinforce the home group concept by initiating a "Hell or High Water" home group meeting on Wednesday. The remaining weekday meetings are currently service meetings. Being the first meeting of the day during the week, The Morning Group historically was well attended by newcomers and visiting fellows from other countries.

The Monday Women's Group continues to grow and possibly looks at expansion of physical space for meetings at St. Joseph's. Success of the Monday Women's Group is attributed to emphasis on structure and service as well as the establishment of their meeting as a home group.

The Lunch Bunch is Hong Kong AA's second largest group; meetings continue to grow in attendance. With a one hour meetings 5 days a week at St Joseph's Church (close to the CBD) the meeting works well for those with a busy business schedule.

Chinese AA (part of Hong Kong/Kowloon Group) maintains regular contacts with Hospitals and Social Works Organizations. Regular talks were conducted for doctors and nurses (including student nurses) in two hospitals specializing in mental healthcare. Meetings with social workers, medical social workers were made in due course in the last 2 years.

In Years 2009 and 2010, Chinese speaking AA spiritual workshops were held with active participation of AA members and their families. 12 steps, 12 traditions and service works were highlighted as topics in the workshops.

Hong Kong Chinese AA celebrated 20 years anniversary last year (based on Hong Kong Chinese AA No. 2's AA Birthday 20 years ago.). All Chinese AA members (2 Chinese Group) and the family members joint together to celebrate with gratitude

Sponsorship was active among Chinese AA members and their families. Progress could be seen in members' sober lives.

District Committee & Intergroup

The Hong Kong AA District Committee (formed in 2005) continues to provide support with the active participation of the various groups including The Morning Group (TMG), The Lunch Bunch (TLB), The Stanley Group (TSG), The Monday Women's Group, Lamma Island Group and HK&K Group.

There was a hand over of the DCM from Hardeep G. to Shaun B in the service position of DCM. Andrew N has taken the Intergroup Manager role as a paid position.

There have been changes and growth in the overall structure of AA in Hong Kong in the last two years, particularly in how the groups work together.

As the largest group in Hong Kong, **Hong Kong and Kowloon group** which runs over 15 meetings a week, was the historic Intergroup for Hong Kong prior to the current District Committee being formed in 2005.

Around 2005 new, autonomous groups began to form for the first time. These include the Lunch Bunch , The Morning Group The Women's Group , Lamma Island and Stanley Groups These groups are registered with the GSO and function separately from the Hong Kong/Kowloon group and they started their own District Committee.

The structure for how the groups work together is continually evolving and currently it is as follows:

Support

Groups that are autonomous use a portion of their 7th Tradition to support the Hong Kong District Committee.

Meetings that remain part of the Hong Kong/Kowloon Group send a portion of their 7th Tradition to the Hong Kong/Kowloon Group.

GSRs

Every autonomous group has a GSR, they meet monthly at the Hong Kong District Committee. This includes: The Morning Group, Stanley Group, The Women's Group, Lamma Group and the Hong Kong/Kowloon Group.

Intergroup

Traditional Intergroup functions are currently shared between the Hong Kong District Committee (DCM) and the Hong Kong Kowloon Group (HK/AA).

DCM:

24 hour AA hotline

Fellowship Gatherings: Unity Day, Christmas Open House, New Year's Open House

Open House Topic Discussions: Sponsorship, Home Groups, 5th Tradition

Workshops , which are planned to continue on a monthly basis to promote fellowship and discussion amongst the groups.

Public Information – annual ads appear in weekly and monthly publications in HK

HK&K Group:

AA Hong Kong website (www.aa-hk.org)

Barrett Road facility

Chinese Language Meeting Support

Public Information:* newspaper ads, research to supply Big Books to libraries

*There is currently a motion out to the groups to create a PI Committee made up of representatives from each group.

Challenges

As with any transition, the development of group autonomy in Hong Kong has brought challenges that all of Hong Kong AA continues to work through. Some of the more contentious issues include:

- The Borret Road facility lease is in the name of AA and is charged at a nominal \$1 per year. This raises questions of whether AA is acting as a landlord.
- The Hong Kong & Kowloon Group is one group made up of many meetings that do not hold individual group consciences but come together at their monthly combined group conscience. This is similar to the Morning Group and Lunch Bunch meetings in Hong Kong. This raises questions of whether HK/K is being fairly represented at the district level.
- Historical politics surrounding the forming of the Hong Kong District Committee and personalities involved

Solutions

Despite the ups and downs of this recent growth period Hong Kong AA has a core membership that is committed to carrying the message.

Some recent initiatives include:

- HK/K Group has elected a sub-committee responsible for the Borret Road facility, removing those issues from regular group business meetings
- The Morning Group, which meets 5 days a week, has instituted a "Hell or High Water Day" on Wednesdays, when all members agreed to be at the same meeting. The group voted that Wednesday morning would be the Home Group and Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri would operate as service meetings.
- Strong attendance at fellowship events and committee meetings indicates that most members of AA are willing to work together to grow and find new solutions

India

Beginning:

Canadian, Charlie Marshall was posted in the Canadian Embassy in New Delhi. He 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.

Gradually the message reached in various towns of the country. Today the concentration of AA in the western and southern part is more than that of the rest of India. Out of approximately 1,000 total groups with estimated membership of more than 30,000 members. 400 are in the south, 400 in the western India and the rest of India which constitutes 65% of the population has 200 groups. Our fellowship in recent past is stressing on reaching the areas where AA was not at all present and we got encouraging results. The North Indian fellowship has taken charge and the driving force from the present fellowship has managed to overcome the hurdles of the varied heritage, language living styles and physical presence of India.

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 8 Class-A and 16 Class-B trustees. The functioning of GSB is effectively enhanced by the involvement of non-alcoholic class 'A' Trustees like Padmshree Fr. Joe, who is internationally recognized for his extensive work with alcoholics in India and abroad and has firsthand experience with alcoholics and alcoholism as he is in charge of 53 Rehabs in India. He has been awarded Padamshree for his exceptional work with alcoholics in India by Government of India.

Eminent personalities like Shri Dr S T Ramesh who is serving the Indian Police Force as Director General & Inspector General of Police having an effective say in the law enforcing agencies in India has joined our GSB this year. Inclusion of Dr. Vedprakash Mishra, an eminent academician and vice chancellor of University in Nagpur have added to the experience in the GSB from different professions.

The Working Trustees including the Chairman of the Board are Class-B trustees. 54 delegates represent all parts of country. We have had 41 Conferences so far. We still do not have District Committees and Area Assemblies even though adopted by the Conference in 2004; however, recently in few regions implementation is started. Group services are largely provided through 54 Inter-Groups across the country.

We have in print 39 A. A. books and 107 pamphlets. Of these, 15 books and 45 pamphlets are in English and 24 books and 62 pamphlets in 14 regional languages – all under license from AAWS. The Big Book alone is published in 11 languages! Translations of literature in regional languages are done by regions and as per last years WSM report about 50% of translations approved were from Indian fellowship We publish a monthly GSO India newsletter and an independent bi-monthly magazine, "The 12th Step". 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.16,00,000 during the last financial year..

Financially, Alcoholics Anonymous in India is still in its infancy. Only 26% 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. GSO I 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 10 to March 11) contributions amounted to nearly Rs.1.4 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:

Defence: AA has made an entry into the Indian Defence services. Recently, A.A. India was invited at PSYCHON 2011 an annual meet of Psychiatrists attached to command hospitals across the country. This has opened a new arena for carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic with yet another background.

Treatment Facilities: After a Seminar, where authorities from Rehab and Major hospitals participated in October 2006, fellowship got entry into more Treatment Facilities and local fellowships are helping discharged alcoholic to meetings. During GSC 2010 a conference committee was formed for TFs. Now for carrying the message in Areas where AA does not exist, TFs are proving to be helpful.

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.

State Transports: Informative stickers portraying message "Do you have Drinking Problem? For a free help contact... .." was displayed in buses of State Transports. This activity created a lot of awareness and influx of frantic calls by alcoholic and their relatives was handled by volunteers in few states. This campaign proved to be cost effective at the same time ensured unity within fellowship.

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.

International Convention: In Nov. 2010 fellowship arranged an International Convention at Goa. Participation exceeded 1,700 in number from various countries and nearly all states across India. The event helped in creating awareness of A.A. as a resource to combat alcoholism in every nook and corner of Goa.

Reaching Where A.A. is not there: In the year 2010, efforts were started for carrying the message to alcoholics in areas where A.A. does not exist. Towns were selected on the basis of population, local recoveries – either migrated from other areas or discharged from Treatment Facilities, Number of Rehabs, support available from nearby existing fellowship. Since, then towns like Ujjain, Lucknow, Rajkot, Indore and Roorkee have been covered and A. A. meetings have been started.

Challenges: Perhaps the greatest challenges facing A.A. in India are the social stigma surrounding alcoholism and the concept of woman alcoholics. Due to changing social conditions there is a stiff increase in number of women alcoholic in India and women from all strata of society are falling prey to the alcoholism. At present there are only five women's groups in India and it remains a major worry for fellowship to approach them with the message.

Youth in India now a days gets introduced to alcohol at the age of 14, which is very alarming situation. Fellowship is trying to make inroads in schools, colleges for awareness, makes available Big Book in libraries etc. however, changing lifestyles of young ones are obstacles in reaching alcoholic among them.

India is seen by its neighbouring countries as an A.A. resource. We sincerely want to be of help to China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, etc. We are trying to assist them with our experience in translation of literature in local languages, service structure etc. We informed them of AOSM and tried to motivate for participation. Sri Lanka fellowship has confirmed participation at this AOSM

The major challenge still remains of reaching the Northern and Eastern states where 65% of the population resides and the fellowship has virtually no existence. Many alcoholic still die

for want of message. With the collective efforts we are sure that fellowship will reach those areas.

Thank you,
Shrikanth

Japan

As of 2011, A.A. in Japan has more than 510 groups in seven regions and over 5000 members. A.A. growth is very gradual in Japan.

In 1981 the Japan General Service Office, known as JSO, was established in Tokyo. At first it was the only A.A. office, so it also functioned as a central office for the Kanto-Koshinetsu area (Tokyo and nearby prefectures).

In 1993 a central office for Kanto area was established. Now all seven regions of Japan have their own central offices. JSO mainly serves our general service needs, and the local central offices meet local service needs. JSO now has three paid staff members. One is the general manager, one is in charge of group services, and the other handles publications and international affairs.

Many newcomers get to know A.A. through the internet nowadays. Five out of 7 central offices have their own homepage and they provide information, such as meeting lists and a calendar of events. As for the other areas, you can find their meeting lists on JSO's regularly updated website: www.aajapan.org.

Our monthly magazine Box 916 is our "meeting-in-print" just like the Grapevine. Of the 3,800 copies, ?? copies go to members and the others go to friends of A.A. About 30% of our annual incomes comes from the sale of this magazine.

Four thousand copies of our monthly JSO and the General Service Board newsletter are issued. One copy per groups is free of charge, and we charged 70 yen for additional copies for members.

Main highlights of 2010-2011:

AA Japan is celebrating its 35 year anniversary. Our International Convention is held every 5 years, and the last one was in March, 2010 for 3 days in Nagoya City. The theme was "Let's bring a message of joy and Hope." The invited participants included one Class A and one class B trustee from U.S./Canada. Attendees came from 17 different countries and regions such as Korea, Mongolia, Lithuania, and Los Angeles. We had many regular and special AA meetings such as "Sharing the AA experience with professionals" given by Dr. Clark of Harvard Medical School and Dr. Ookawara, a psychiatrist specializing in alcoholism. This was followed by a wonderful discussion and sharing opportunity for over 60 experts from hospitals and penitentiaries.

We held our 15th General Service Conference in February 2010. Additionally, we held seven regional forums for medical professionals. Approximately 100 attended each two day forum. Having now visited all seven areas, future forums will be held upon request.

While CPC in Japan is not as advanced as in the U.S., due to increased drunk driving and other crimes involving alcohol, the Japanese Ministry of Justice has finally begun a nationwide education program in the newer penitentiaries where it is easier for AA to gain access.

We have also begun holding a full scale AA National Forum for Correctional and Rehabilitation Institutions every year since 2007, moving from Tokyo to Hamada and Kyoto. As a result, over the last three years, the AA message has begun to spread to the alcoholic who still suffers, in the prisons nationwide. This is the most important benefit of AA unity.

The 15th General Service Conference in 2010 produced our first corrections related Class A Trustee as apposed to the traditional medical professional. Dr. Junko Fujioka, Ph.D. is currently faculty of educational psychology at a national graduate university. She is formerly a guidance officer at a juvenile correctional facility, so we are very thankful for her ability to

reach out to and connect with corrections and rehabilitation professionals during our national forums.

All 42 personal stories in the fourth edition of the Big Book have been roughly translated into Japanese, but due to the large number of pages, they will be published in several volumes, the first of which containing six carefully translated stories has already been printed in January of last year. These personal stories mainly concerned with spirituality are being well received, resulting in many book study meetings.

After four years of effort, in 2008, we published comic books for young people. For men, we created "What happened to me – Is your drinking normal?" about an ordinary working person and his family. For women, we created "It happens to everybody - alcohol, consolation, and conversion..." about a housewife, her husband, and young child. We use these two comic books as a set for publicity. We also publish CDs and DVDs and are frequently invited to speak in social work classes at Universities.

On 3/11, a massive earthquake and tsunami struck eastern Japan. We have received many letters of concern from our fellow AA organizations around the world, and our hearts are truly warmed with gratitude of your love. We have also conveying these messages of love and hope to our members who have been affected.

In return, some expressed a desire for me to convey their experience, strength and hope to you. Specifically, they asked that I share with you a local meeting guideline they created called "Group Response to Disasters and Other Emergencies" containing four major points :

1. In the event of a disaster, the group secretary should put personal safety ahead of holding a meeting.
2. First find out if there is a way to get home, then check if the meeting facility is available.
3. Participation is a personal choice and responsibility.
4. No contributions to JSO for the foreseeable future.

They will be most pleased to know that this tragedy, by sharing their experience, strength, and hope with you, may contribute to the better preparedness of fellow AOSM countries.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yasuo Niimura, 1st term delegate Japan

Korean Intergroup in Japan

Korean Intergroup in Japan (KIG in JP) roots in Nagoya International Group of Japan, which was originated in 1990 by an US expatriate, Brian H.

8 years later in 1998, Bill A (Canada) who later was assigned as a trustee at the international desk, GSO New York, happened to chair the Sunday meeting that day and granted a Korean alcoholic a green 24 hours chip. The happy destiny played a vital role to carry our recovery message of hope to Korean expatriates.

In 2001, we came to give birth to Tokyo Korean Group (TKG), with respect to the strong suggestion from a Nagoya International Group old timer, Clark C (Cleveland, OH) for Korean sobriety and autonomy on alcoholism.

In 2006, another new meeting, Saitama Korean Group came to bloom for the purpose of serving descendants of Goguryeo (37 BC to 668 AD) and newcomers from the continental Korea.

February 8th Autonomy Declaration Statement in 2008, which was sent to AOSM delegates then and to GSOs via email opened a new era for Korean members from March 1st so as to be fully autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

From north Hokkaido to south Kyushu end, wherever Koreans are, we carry our recovery message of hope in our language.

There are one million expatriates and 60% of them is the permanent residents.

2005 Australian AOSM in Surfer's Paradise inspired us through Russian delegate Sergei S (Irkutsk) that there are Korean alcoholics in Sakhalin Island, which we have approximately 40,000 expatriates and they are wanting to contact with us, so we are trying to reach them out with suggestion to create their own intergroup in Russia

(KIG in RU).

Anytime we come to meetings we would like to see you all in our recovering crowd of fellowship.

May God bless you and keep you until then.

Komab Seumnida (Thank you.)
Kamsa Hamnida (Appreciate it.)

MERCCA

MERCAA REPORT ON AA IN THE ARABIAN GULF (MIDDLE EAST)

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. This website has proved to be useful to those traveling in the Gulf region. Recently we have been asked up add additional meetings to the website which include remote areas such as Khartoum in Sudan, US military bases, and such like.

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.

The Committee generally meets one time per year to update on progress in each of the countries at the annual Gulf Convention (GC) which is hosted in rotation in differing countries.

ANNUAL GULF CONVENTION 2007: (GC) IS BEING HELD IN OMAN IN NOVEMBER.

The first GC was held in Dubai in 2001 and these annual conventions have become a very important event in the calendar of the AA membership in the Middle East. The GC is formally announced through world wide service of AA and notice is sent to every email address in the International Directory.

Updates on activities from the various countries are:

Saudi Arabia

An excerpt from the GrapeVine of May 1950 shows :

"In Saudi Arabia, a few men have got together and have organized a group. They are cut off from all AA contacts except by mail and the occasional ship which might have an AA aboard. If anyone cares to write to them, letters may addressed to The AA Grapevine, we will forward them."

In the Grapevine of October 77, another AA member described:

"The meetings were held almost sotto voce, since we stayed in the lobby for good reason. We had to worry about anonymity even more than usual, because of the Saudi laws forbidding meetings of any kind. Clubs were illegal. Even so, how could we have explained AA to officials who legally and officially were non-drinking Muslims? We dared not risk expulsion from the country. We wanted to be accessible, to attract other alcoholics. So we stayed in the lobby. And we were careful. Sometimes all of us were present. Sometimes only one. But there was a "meeting" every week."

Today whilst the emphasis on anonymity is still 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.

Meetings are on the Saudi Aramco compound and have been held there for the past 15 years. Saudi Aramco is an oil company who recognizes the value of the AA support group. PI work is handled discreetly through the psychologists and other health care professionals.

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 sufferers of addiction'.

However most of the group members are expatriates and are not Saudi nationals.

Recently AA had a 'PI Stand' at the Saudi Aramco Employment Education day, which was a great success.

AA tends to unite with NA there as the local community seems to understand the concept of drug related problems more than alcohol and AA uses this unity to try and get their message through to nationals

There are two new meetings in Saudi which are in their embryonic stages : (i) an Arabic speaking meeting which opened 3 months ago and (ii) a 'woman's only' meeting which opened about 4 months ago. This was driven by nationals who had traveled external to Saudi and who had joined a 12 step program and who due to the concern on anonymity in the region, opened this group. These are professional woman returning back to their home country.

Kuwait

In Kuwait we also keep a low profile as it is supposed to be a 'dry' state. We found when trying to do PI work that even if we used the words 'alcohol' or 'drugs' we sometimes offended people and caused some fairly strong and strange reactions... you know like wanting to call the police !!

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.

Last year we held the 6th Annual Gulf Convention in Kuwait and we were very nervous about this as we felt we could be shut down at any point during the convention by the authorities. We invited members of the public to visit with us from the local 'rehab' center and from the medical profession. We were encouraged by the response of these individuals who seemed genuinely interested in the disease concept of alcoholism and also the support that AA provides to anyone fellow suffer.

We do have PI brochures which are distributed to the health care facilities and to the embassies. We have spoken about approaching schools to get the information through to the younger generation. Having said that Kuwait is a very small country and everyone knows everyone – so to speak – hence in the essence of anonymity we will probably invite a special speaker to handle this incentive for us.

We also have a 'Woman's' only meeting one day a week in a fellowship member's house.

Kuwait will celebrate its 25th anniversary on 22nd October 2007.

Abu Dhabi

For many years AA has existed in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi with four meetings a week in the capital city and two in Al Ain. Initially membership was small and consisted mainly of expatriate members however, thanks to the careful fostering of relationships with the Health Services, meetings have recently been started at a local half-way house and AA visits the National Rehabilitation Centre on a bi-weekly basis.

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.

Dubai

Dubai celebrated its 30th anniversary on the 18th of May 2007.

AA started in Dubai just like AA did in most countries. A few founding member met as early as 1977. Mainly meeting in each others homes. Over the years the Dubai fellowship continued to grow and meetings moved into public venues.

The First Intergroup in the Middle East was formed in Dubai in January 2003. Dubai has hosted a number of conventions and now has meetings every day at several different venues throughout the Emirate.

Dubai hosted a radio talk show to get the message out to the public .. it was a great success ...

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 groups Dubai has hosted a number of conventions. The latest convention was held at Dubai metropolitan hotel on Friday the 13th of APRIL with AL ANON participation ,The theme was "KEEP IT SIMPLE "There were over 90 members in attendance ,and 10 Al anon members ,It was a great success.....AA in Dubai has grown considerably over the past few years and now has meetings every day at several different venues throughout the Emirate. There is also a lunchtime meeting at 13.00hrs on a Sunday which is well attended by about 15 members. And a women only meeting at 7.00 on a Tuesday.....

Meetings are also held in Sharjah with a new Traditions meeting on a Saturday Evening..

Al Ain

Before 1998, there were no meetings in the small desert city of Al-Ain, in the Abu Dhabi Emirate. Two newcomers living in Al-Ain happened to meet at the Sunday night meeting at American Hospital, Dubai. Both were driving an hour and a half each way to make > a meeting twice a week in Dubai. So in February of 1998 they decided to form a Tuesday night meeting in Al-Ain. By November of 1998 there were 5 members and, by the Grace of God, 2 AA members with many years of sobriety arrived in Al-Ain and provided some

strength and experience to the fledgling group. The Al-Ain Group still meets every Tuesday night at the Oasis Hospital and added a second meeting on Saturday nights. In the past 9 years, many newcomers and old-timers alike have found refuge and sobriety in the Al Ain Group.

Bahrain

AA in Bahrain started in 1964 with the support of John Peter, a staff member of the American Mission Hospital. He was not a member of AA but a well wisher of Alcoholics Anonymous to the extent where the first meetings were held at his apartment. By 1983-84, AA meetings were regular at the American Mission Hospital. And included local nationals as well as expatriate alcoholics in recovery.

Bahrain has been hosting an Annual Public Information event since May 2005. At the last event were present: the Minister of Health, the Head of Bahrain Prisons and one of the top religious leaders. 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 hosted a 12 Step Workshop in April which was attended by 50 members from the region.

Qatar

AA was started in Qatar by an indian member John L from Goa in 1988. In the initial stages the new members were ex-pat workers who had already found the message in their home countries. Ian C and Laurrie together with Edwin and Lorraine (our 1st woman member) were all sober when they landed in Doha. Pacific and Freddie were the first residents of Doha to get the message here. Soon after Marie began attending meetings and later Ian S and Bill. Malcolm W arrived from the UK at about the same time.

In the beginning we had two meetings per week - Tuesday and Friday. The first meetings were held in the homes of the membership and it was not until 1989 that the Doha College kindly gave us a meeting room. We met there until 1995. At that time we went back to hosting the meetings in the homes of the members.

Sadly in 1997 Laurrie was our first member to pass away. Laurrie had undergone heart surgery in the Hamad Hospital but died as a result of complications. He died sober. In 2002 Fr John, the parish priest in Qatar, and a great friend of AA was generous enough to give us a meeting room in the Parish Centre. We met there every Friday for several years. When a two Qatari members Khalid and Abdulla started attending meetings we were obliged to find alternative accommodation because of political/religious reasons.

As the population and country expanded so too did our membership. In 2003 we started meeting number three - a Steps Meeting. We are extremely grateful for all the members who opened up their homes for the meetings over the years - Freddie, Pacific, Laurrie, Bill, Ian S, Marie, Wendy and her husband Kevin, Barbara, Debbie, Malcolm, Abdulla, Khalid, Knut and Steve. However it became clear that we needed to find a new home for our group. Due to the hard work of Bob T we were soon able to meet at the Sofitel Hotel (2002) and not long after the Qatar Red Crescent Society (2003). Later on we moved to the Psychiatric Ward of the Hamad Hospital (2004) where our meetings now take place. Drs A/.Aziz and Shaloot have to be commended for their warm hospitality there. Jihad our Bahraini member was also instrumental in finding this venue. Bob T was also responsible for

getting a 24-hour AA hotline number and having the number printed daily in the Gulf Times. Of course we are grateful to that newspaper for their generosity and understanding.

In 2004 we started a Jail meeting 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 we 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.

We also have permission to start a Hospital meeting soon. Again this will be in Arabic. In 2005 a fourth meeting - an 11th Step meeting - was started in the Club House of Riveria Gardens compound. This meeting was hosted by David and Maree until they left Doha in December 2006. Now we currently have three meetings per week.

There are approximately 20-25 members in Qatar.

Oman

AA formally began in Oman in October 11, 1974 at the American Mission, and was registered by the GSO, New York several months later. Meetings continued at the American Mission in Muscat and other groups formed in the 1980s, holding meetings in several churches in the Ruwi area of Muscat. By 1991 attendance at the various groups had greatly decreased and the fellowships re-formed into a single group and moved to a clinic in the Madinat Al Sultan Al Qaboos area of greater Muscat. This meeting of the Oasis Group continues today. Four years ago a second group, the Candlelight Group was established in Al Azaibah. Currently AA holds 6 meetings weekly (none on Friday). We have a single member in Salalah who maintains contact with the Muscat groups.

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.

Approximately 12-15 persons attend meetings in Muscat.

Iran

Unfortunately we in Iran do not have access to the history of AA here, due to lack of continuous relations with foreign countries, especially U.S. whose citizens use to live in Iran in considerable numbers pre Islamic revolution of 1979. It is hard to believe that AA did not exist then at least for ex-pats, given that Alcohol was legal in the country at the time and had been for quite a while.

That been said; the more recent history can be traced back to the first meeting held in a fellow AAs home (Alex) in May 1993. This meeting was attended by four Iranian members - Affi, Alex, Ali and Mahdad from Honolulu, Los Angeles and San Diego, all of whom had gotten sober in the U.S. and happened to have found each other in Iran, most after years of absence from their country during the revolution and war years. Their chance meeting can be credited to the fellowship. It was by word of mouth in meetings they attended on route to Iran; in London and L.A. that they found out about each other. (Affi the only woman present at that meeting could have gotten lashings for being in the presence of men she was not related to).

The interesting part was that as it turned out they mostly knew each other as youngsters while attending boarding schools in Europe prior to becoming alcoholics (while perfecting their respective step one)! During their short stay in Iran they held about 3 or 4 meetings where they shared informally in English about the difficulty of being where there was no meetings and lots of underground gatherings the focus of which was often the drink.

In 1994 again Affi and Ali met in Iran this time with another member who had gotten sober in AA in Canada Amir-Hossein and Omid from L.A. again they had a few home meeting in English, however this time after Affi's departure the other three members stayed in Iran and continued to have meetings by themselves on Sunday afternoons, and they started to venture out and try to introduce AA to government agencies dealing with addiction of any sort. However at the time giving information on AA as a fellowship of alcoholics for alcoholics to a dry, very anti west and closed country was not an easy prospect. At the time in Iran addicts were being locked up in camps in the middle of the desert and left to die and any one caught drinking alcohol would get lashings. Needless to say they did not have much success but a few agency heads in government social programs took notice. Soon after another member who had been sober longer and was the person who had translated the AA book into Farsi earlier for use in the Los Angeles Farsi speaking meeting arrived --- in April 1994 and with Ali and Amir-Hossein this new member Foroohar started to get permission to take AA to camps. This can maybe be marked as the informal start of N.A. in Iran, as they were ordered to introduce themselves as addicts and since all of them were also addicts and that was the only way to carry the message they did so.

However, even though they all owed their lives to AA and had their starts in AA, they soon realized that AA can not take hold in Iran and so Foroohar translated the N.A. book and the four initial AA members residing in Iran by group conscience decided to to change from English speaking AA meetings to Farsi speaking NA meetings.

This marks the end of AA at this point in Iran and the beginning of a thriving NA fellowship, which today has 80,000 members the largest NA NGO anywhere in the world. Since then Ali has remained active in NA and is one of the trustees in Iran. Foroohar has started re-birth organization a chain of well managed camps for detox where some twelve step principles and religious principles are used to help addicts recover. Amir-Hossein has since moved back to the Americas.

In 2004 Alex and Affi now married return to Iran to find a fledgling AA having gotten started again a year prior to their arrival. Some Iranian AA members from U.S. had traveled to Iran and had been asked to speak at NA meetings and since they had all gotten sober in AA, they shared about it in their pitch and some NA members liked their sharing and understood the AA Big Book better, so they decided to start AA meetings. This started the second time AA has been given a go in Iran. At first a lot of literature was poorly translated, with out coordination with GSO. Certain of AA pamphlets where translated that were really not needed for a new AA. However about 15 groups through out Iran had sprung up and they had tried to have a monthly inter-group meeting but it was mostly consumed by personalities and controversies. Since then with the help of the two arrivals from U.S. who understand service structure and with the help of GSO, several new comer brochures have been correctly translated, and work is being done on the 12 & 12. There are now about 30 meetings in about 10 provinces with a membership of about 300; however the future of AA is still shaky in Iran. This time from both outside and inside. What do we mean by that?

While lately AA has met with government officials and has gotten good response vis a vis the work they do, they are still met with a lot of resistance. They have been told to change the name Alcoholics Anonymous as both alcohol is against "Sharia" in Islam and

anonymous is the title given to martyrs of war. The Big Book which has gotten a limited permit for print has also been edited by government sensors and might face the same name change request. We have been told that we need to get officially registered as a non profit organization and as such we would automatically fall under a government agency that deals with Islamic charities, this creates a great problem vis a vis traditions. It is very difficult to get meeting places, and there is great animosity between AA and NA. Since most AA members are ex NA members with personal issues and reasons for leaving NA. These are the outside problems. The inside problems has to do with the make-up of the membership. While tradition three says you are an alcoholic if you say you are; it had not been foreseen that people who had never drank in large numbers would try to form AA meetings. The net result is that every once in a while when someone with a real alcohol problem shows up to meetings, they can not stay, the message is obscured and tradition five is all but not existent. Even-though traditions

workshop have been conducted, members still manipulate meetings and entire groups, and even introduce themselves defiantly as addicts and present the program to the outside agency as a better NA or the mother program to NA. There is always the association and the tone of approval or disapproval of outside issues. Maybe this time too the time is not right for AA in Iran and there is no primary purpose for it yet.

We wish we had ex-pats and small home meetings here too, like so many other Arab countries, so that members here would get the experience of AA first hand from old timers. It is a pity that alcoholics here still continue to die since there is such political stigma and fear. We are going through some new talks with government and groups are experiencing some growing pains as is inevitable when principles are not given their rightful importance. So more will be revealed. lets see what great events will come to pass.

A.A. Nepal

1. Achievements:

- Now, we have four regular meetings.
Two Nepali and two English speaking
Both open meetings.
- Translated "Is AA for You" in Nepali language and other materials that we received from UK-AA
- Have our own web site- www.aanegal.org
- Members are growing compared to previous years.
New members who are getting message from other members are increasing.
More members are staying sober from the meetings!!

2. Biggest obstacles AA Nepal facing:

- Lack of Literature (both in English and Nepali)
- Our Nepali group (Deep Jyoti) facing difficulties running meeting because of the facility not receiving proper message of AA or not interested in AA as a whole.
- Unable to use and collect funds.(7" Tradition)
- No sub-committees as such. (Lack of PI and H&I)
- Lack of service members.
- No conventions, camp-outs, workshops held till now.

3. Things we would like to discuss

- How we can get AA literature
- Translation of AA literature
-

Thank you

New Zealand

Background

A.A. has been in New Zealand since 1946, when our founder, Ian McEwan read an article in the *Readers Digest*, and wrote to GSO New York, seeking help. The A.A. Service Structure was initially established in 1964 at a National Conference in Palmerston North.

General Service Conference

The General Service Conference meets biannually and is composed of 9 alcoholic delegates, up to four non A.A. delegates and a Conference Chairperson. The two World Service Delegates and Board Chairperson attend as invited guests and although they do not have voting rights, they are free to speak at any time, and their experience provides a valuable contribution to Conference. Also in attendance are the, General Service Office Manager and Conference Secretary.

Service Committees

Conference currently has three sub committees: Hospitals and Institutions Committee, Public Information Committee and International Committee. Conference also has the power to establish other committees, if required.

The International Committee is made up of the two World Service Delegates, the Chairperson of the General Service Board, the Chairperson of Conference, a Class A Trustee and the employee of the General Service office. The committee is chaired by the 2nd term World Service Delegate and the objective of the committee is to ensure New Zealand participates in international affairs in an efficient, practical and ongoing manner.

General Service Office

Our GSO is located in Wellington, New Zealand's capital city, and is staffed by two paid employees, who are assisted by voluntary A.A. members. The office services a New Zealand fellowship of an estimated 5,000 members, within 425 registered groups.

The office is open daily from Monday to Friday: outside these hours, a telephone answering service operates.

General Service Board and Office

The New Zealand General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Inc, was incorporated on October 7, 1991. This Incorporation provides a legal safety net under NZ law that protects individual office bearers from punitive action. The early days of the Board were largely procedural, merely adopting Financial Statements and the like. However over the last few years the Board has been re-vitalised and now carries out all the "material work" as per Conference Advisory Action recommendations.

The sole objective and purpose of the Board is to aid and assist the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Board consists of 10 men and women trustees: eight Alcoholics (Class B) and two Non Alcoholics (Class A)

Members of the Board are approved by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous after receiving recommendations from the Board.

The General Service Board has four working committees, Finance and Administration, Audit and Risk, Group Services and Communications. An IT Development Committee is a subcommittee of the Communications Committee and the *Mainstay*, our national magazine also comes under the communications committee.

The Board also has the power to establish committees, as required. For example, the annual Convention Committee, which is set up for each convention and is a separate committee and is formed and dissolved each year.

Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM)

New Zealand's involvement with the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting is a major commitment with New Zealand pledging an annual financial contribution as well as, at times, sponsoring countries to attend. The World Service Delegates are appointed by the New Zealand General Service Conference and have the dual role of delegates to the World Service Meeting and to the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting.

Convention

A national convention is held in January each year. It rotates around the three areas and attracts around three hundred AA and AI anon members, with many overseas visitors.

Literature

New Zealand publishes a bi-monthly meeting in print, titled *Mainstay*. A regular newsletter is also sent out to the fellowship, advising of any decisions made by conference and any other general information.

Public Information

New Zealand has Public Information Committees at all levels, Conference, Area and district. These groups organise and conduct public awareness campaigns, which include Public A.A. Meetings, radio and TV advertising and ongoing speaking in schools, service clubs and other interested groups.

The Board assists by allocating funding and co-ordinating at a National level along with significant mail outs of information, media kits etc.

Website

New Zealand has a web site (www.aa.org.nz) that has been adapted for local conditions, and includes a NZ meeting directory along with a members site.

Currently

As a fellowship we are experiencing a number of problems, which do not seem to be unique to New Zealand. We are facing declining contributions and a general apathy towards service.

We are also in a state of transition with regard to the establishment of the relationship between our General Service Board and General Service Conference. I believe we are experiencing the growing pains associated with the establishment of our board, where they learn to function under the collective group conscience, which is our conference. Also, conference is learning to let go of some of its old functions in order to allow the board the autonomy to function.

Eastern Russia

It would like to begin the report with saying that I am the delegate of the first term and I represent the Asian part of Alcoholics Anonymous of Russia. There have been lots of significant changes in our community with AOSM since 2009. Since 2009, the number of groups of our region has grown from 40 up to 46 registered groups, and that's only as far as Eastern Siberia and the Far East are concerned.

Also our regional committee of servicing Alcoholics Anonymous continues to work, with assemblies in Skipe which take place on Thursdays and which can attend not only members of committee, but also observers from other cities. The latest meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous which has been held this year in June has bespoken a steady growth of our community. The meeting took place in Krasnoyarsk. A delegate from Yakutsk, a delegate from a Vanino where one group works now arrived for the first time. There is a rotation of the delegates and the members of the committee, the new members take over the place of those who have already completed their time.

The fact of opening a regional office of service about which wrote Alexey, the delegate of the VII AOSM, is still being discussed. The members of Alcoholics Anonymous from Irkutsk asked about allocating a premise which has been allotted by the city-hall. The reparation works are being carried out by Alcoholics Anonymous of the city. The question of opening an office has been put up at the regional assembly and has met with support by the simple majority of delegates.

The regional structure of service which unites our region, by virtue of its big territory and remoteness of the cities has brought about the necessity of establishing districts. With us for the reasons told above, everything occurred on the contrary, first the regional committee appeared which comprises now the majority of the cities of our region, so now we should work locally in the provinces, for that we need to form districts. Gradually we start to understand the necessity of it though at first many of us thought we were losing our unity. But the necessity to work in the field brought home to us the necessity to create local structures of service. For it is certainly easier for the members of the city community to inform on the ideas of AA in their district than as it happened earlier when the members of AA representing other cities traveled back to get across our ideas. The districts are being created already in Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk regions.

The literature is published by the head office of AA in Russia and delivered to our region by mail, the cost of transferring the literature makes from 20 up to 30 % from the nominal cost of the literature, it's expensive the opening of the regional office is most likely to enable the edition of the literature in the field, so there won't be the necessity to transfer.

All the AA structures of service of the Asian part of Russia have their web sites where one can find necessary information on the community of Anonymous Alcoholics, the groups, the time of holding meetings. Every city and region making part of the Eastern Siberia Region and the Far East have their page on the regional site <http://aa-sib-dv.narod.ru/>

In informing still suffering alcoholics on our ideas our community uses various forms of work. They are: the website, announcements in newspapers, visiting hospitals, performances on the radio and TV, automobile races. The banners question still remains in abeyance though we already have the experience of distributing the information on parking lots. Also we work with religious organizations and deliver discourses in universities. The problem is that we decline in popularity at the governmental level so it's now one of the lines of our work.

The work of the Altai committee of service where has been initially created a district, is intended now to join the Omsk district. The local work which was carried up in these districts resulted in creating a stably working structure of service. In the Altai district work 16 groups of AA, in Omsk district – 10 groups.

The work done by our committee, and then by the Yenisei committee of service, and also the work of the two AA members from Barnaul for two years in Tuva led at last to the creation of AA group in the Kyzyl city where the lie of matters with alcoholism is poor. The automobile race which has been held this year and in which participated 35 persons from different cities of Russia, and also the AA member from Australia with the wife, and the AA member from Canada has got through the cities of the Krasnoyarsk region, Khacassia and Tuva. There were many meetings with the population, performances in the hospitals and the administrations.

The exchange of experience is now in progress with AA in Mongolia, they arrived to the forums of our region two years in succession. Also last year our community participated in the AA forum in Mongolia. The periodic collaborative information meetings are held in the boundary settlement Kyakhta in Buryatiya. The work of reporting our ideas to the cities of Magadan and Vanino is being done. Four delegates and the two members of the Russian Service Council representing our region participate in the AA conference Russia in Moscow.

Since the delegates from our region began to attend the AOSM, we have felt involved into the world commonwealth, only after that Greg M. Dug R from the world office has arrived, and also this year the AA members from Australia and Canada have visited us.

The problem of our region is certainly great distances and vast territory with a relatively small population which is basically concentrated in the large cities, but with the God's help, we manage, sometimes slowly, to solve these questions.

Thanks to you all!

Yours faithfully, the AOSM delegate from Russia, Valeriy. The Contact address is teplouhov_v@list.ru

Singapore

Alcoholics Anonymous Singapore originated in 1957. According to the GSO website, Dick D. wrote in March 1958 that the Singapore Group, founded in 1957, then had 12 members and 2 likely prospects. In 1959, there were: 1 Scotsman (11 years in Malaya), 1 Eurasian man (Anglo Malayan), 2 women (1 U.S. dependant, 1 visitor) and 1 Indian man (traveler). In March 1961, the meetings were held in the 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, groups have expanded and at present we have the following groups:

- Damien Hall @ Blessed Sacrament Church - 15 meetings a week
- Novena Church – 11th step meeting
- Alexandra Day Centre - one meeting a week
- First Things First @ East Coast- two meetings a week
- Raffles Day Break @ OUB Centre - six meetings a week
- Serenity Sisters @ OUB Centre – women's meeting
- Men's Group @ Starbucks Orchard – one meeting a week

Currently we have step meetings, speaker meetings, Big Book meetings, women's meetings, a men's meeting, an As Bill Sees It meeting, but no Chinese or foreign language meetings. We also have a Step Workshop meeting.

There are about 150 members in Singapore (out of 4.8 million in population). Some groups have group conscience meetings every month. We have many expat members but recently have seen the number of locals and women increasing a great deal, and have a number of Chinese and Indian members. Some of our members are referred by local institutions.

We have just recently established the Singapore AA Intergroup service office to carry out certain functions common to many A.A. Groups in the Singapore community. Operating under the guidelines of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, the Singapore Intergroup is maintained, supervised, and supported by the local Singapore A.A. groups. The primary purpose of Singapore Intergroup is to aid the individual A.A. groups in their common purpose to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Some of the items Intergroup is working on are: coordinating twelfth step calls; maintaining the telephone answering system, website, and meeting list; providing public information; carrying the message in hospitals and institutions; cooperation with the professional community; organizing local AA events; providing information exchange among local groups via regular meetings and a newsletter; and ordering literature. The following is an update on our H and I and PI work-

In December we started talks once a week at IMH (Institute of Mental Health). 4 Members usually go along on a Thursday night and share their experience strength and hopewith the patients. We donate books and pamphlets to them. When we donate books and pamphlets we give them out in Mandarin, Tamil and English. So far as we know, 4 patients have come into AA. We have done talks at 2 other hospitals- Alexandra and Changi Hospitals. One talk to professionals, and the other to social workers.

We have done talks to students at the Polytechnic who approached us for information on AA.

Many students from different institutions have called our AA hotline and asked to attend meetings. Because of the overwhelming numbers, we have organized an information session and workshop for professionals in November. We have booked a venue, sent out e-mails, and ordered books and pamphlets. The responses to our invitations have been overwhelming.

Singapore AA has in the past liaised with prisons, but at present this has ceased due to outside political issues. We hope to change this in the future.

Having discovered that Singapore AA was 52 years old, we celebrated its 50th anniversary by organizing a local AA event in September 2009. Our fellowship is growing with participation in service positions increasing at intergroup level.

Sri Lanka

We from the fellowship of Sri Lanka wish to participate at above mentioned meet. Our membership is few in numbers, and when we collectively assessed reasons; one of them was a very little interaction with the fellowships of other countries. Due to this there is no literature in local languages, any proper understanding and implementation of 7th Tradition and no proper service structure.

A.A. in Sri Lanka started around 40 years and there were only five – six groups, which were operating in English until about five years ago. The Sinhala /Tamil groups started very recently and now out number the English groups.

A few members have been able to get some Big Books and Twelve X Twelve both, in English and Sinhala however this is very much insufficient compared to the required number. We are about 1600 members and around 45 groups in total. (7English 28 Sinhala and 10 Tamil) There are many members who are who are sober ranging 1-20 years who have not even seen a big book Some of them are still in the camps in the northern war torn Sri Lanka even though the war is finished they are still awaiting resettlement and hence they do not have the ware with all even if the literature were available for sale.

It is estimated that the Number of Alcoholics in Sri Lanka is around 900.000 which is almost 5% of the total population. (a very high Percentage in my view).

It is our responsibility now to spread the message of recovery to those who are still suffering by creating awareness in the society, among the medical fraternity, Prisons and other Government Agencies.

Recently we formed a national intergroup to improve on these conditions and to reach still suffering alcoholics in the country. We felt that participation at AOSM will help us in carrying the message effectively as we will have experience of other fellowship regarding development of literature, 7th Tradition and Proper General Service Structure.

In Service,

Intergroup of A.A. Srilanka

Thailand

Since the 8th A.O.S.M. held in Bangkok there have been many changes in the A.A. service structure in Thailand. In October of 2009 the first Area Assembly was held in Bangkok. There were elections of officers (chair, treasurer and secretary) and Committee Chairs (Web Services, Hotline, Translation and Meeting Schedule) and AOSM delegate and Newsletter editor were also elected. The By Laws and Constitution were adopted and it was agreed to conduct A.A. information exchange via a Yahoo Groups Mailer.

There were 13 G.S.R.'s (General Service Representatives) from all over the country present, including both English and Thai language meetings.

There were D.C.M.'s (District Committee Members) from (4) districts. The Central Thailand District which includes Bangkok and surrounding areas, the Phuket District which has included other meetings in the South of Thailand as well as all the meetings in Phuket, the Northern District which includes Chiang Mai and surrounding areas and the E-saan District which includes all of Northeastern Thailand.

The second Area Assembly was held in 2010 and all 4 Districts were represented by their D.C.M.'s. There were also 12 G.S.R.'s from around the country. One issue discussed was the lack of interest in general service work and participation in the service structure. There are currently groups or meetings held in 44 different locations around Thailand. There are 127 meetings for English, Thai, Finnish, German and Scandinavian Languages on a weekly basis. Yet participation at Area is from members of only 12-13 groups. Another issue discussed and approved was the translation into Thai of two A.A. pamphlets, *The Twelve Steps Illustrated* and *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*.

Central Thailand District

The Central Thailand District consists of Bangkok (11 Groups/Meeting sites) with 30 meetings, Hua Hin (2 groups) with 8 meetings, Jomtien/Pattaya (5 Groups/Meeting sites) with 29 meetings. They have an active CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) which participates in the yearly Bangkok Fair and does outreach both within the district and to other districts. In Hua Hin they have an advert with meeting information and phone contacts running in a local free newspaper; and they are in the embryonic stage in assisting Thai nationals to join AA.

E-Saan District

The E-Saan District is the newest district and consists of Khon Kaen (3 Groups/Meeting sites) with 9 meetings, Mukdahan, Nong Kai, Sakon Nakhon all with 1 group and 1 meeting a week and Udon Thani (3 Groups/Meeting site) with 3 meetings.

Northern District

The Northern District consists of Chiang Mai with (8 Groups/Meeting sites) with 26 meetings, Chiang Rai with (1 Groups/Meeting sites) with 2 meetings and Fang 1 group with daily meetings. They have formed a district and are working on adopting a charter and bylaws. The district officers are currently working to integrate fragmented groups within the district, and they are striving to become connected to A.A. as a whole.

Their mission this year is to have in place a good district service structure, to carry the message to Thais, and to encourage involvement in A.A. service.

Phuket District

The Phuket District consists of Phuket with (6 Groups/ Meeting sites) with 13 meetings and Kao Lak with 1 Group and 1 meeting. It has adopted a Charter and Bylaws holds quarterly meetings and has Committee Chairs for Web Service, Meeting Schedules, Literature and PI (Public Information) committees. There is an A.A. phone number published in two different English language newspapers and an advert on the online version as well. The A.A. number is also in the English phone directory. Three local hospitals are supplied with A.A. pamphlets and meeting schedules which have maps and directions in Thai.

A.A. Round Up

This year the Thailand Roundup will be held for the 16th year. There has been an increased attendance every year. The last few years have seen a Thai speaker and simultaneously translation into Thai of the main speakers. The Thai A.A. community hold meetings and workshops concurrently and there is a mingling of both Thai and non Thai A.A. members throughout the Roundup.

A.A. In the Thai Community

There are regularly scheduled meetings in 12 different locations around Thailand (Bangkok, Chiang Mai and E-saan). Some locations hold meetings a few times a week others only once a month. There has been tremendous growth in A.A. membership within the Thai national community. There are one and two day workshops held in Bangkok, Khon Kaen, and Chiang Mai throughout the year. The Khon Kaen Roundup will be held for the 7th consecutive year and Bangkok had its first Roundup this year. The Medical community along with Thai Health Promotion Foundation has greatly assisted in getting A.A. known in Thailand. (Thai Health was established in 2001 under the Health Promotion Foundation Act, the first organization of its kind in Asia. It is an autonomous state agency outside the formal structure of government.)

Thailand A.A. reaching out to other countries

Thailand A.A. has had the meeting schedule of Cambodia both on the hard copy of its Meeting Schedule and also on the website. The website also has links to A.A.W.S., A.A. Grapevine, Arabia, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam.

There have been efforts by various A.A. members in Thailand to give support to meetings in Myanmar and Laos. New Life House in Laos has sent sober members (now staff) to Khon Kaen to attend A.A. meetings at the treatment center. The E-saan fellowship has been at the ready to help get the seeds of A.A. planted in Laos. There has been a three year connection along with USA based Jeff H. of Impact Laos to encourage A.A. participation in Laos. The fellowship in Thailand is strong and mobile and has a desire to assist neighboring countries wherever possible. Individual A.A. members have traveled to Myanmar to bring A.A. meetings and literature. The Myanmar members join the Thailand members at the hotels of the visitors for A.A. meetings.

Translating AA literature

by: Doug Richardson

Our A.A. Literature in Many Languages An Overview of Translations, Copyrights and Licensing

My name is Doug Richardson, an alcoholic who is grateful to have found sobriety in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am deeply honored to be the Director of Staff Services at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York, serving the A.A. groups in U.S. and Canada.

As members and representatives of AA in your countries, you inspire me and others to participate in sharing A.A.'s solution for the malady of alcoholism and to extend the hand of hope to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Members of our General Service Board, A.A. World Services and Grapevine Boards, as well as Staff and employees of G.S.O. and the Grapevine office extend deep gratitude to each of you for service dedicated to A.A.'s primary purpose—carrying our message to each alcoholic who seeks our help.

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 hope for despairing alcoholics.

I've been asked to share on a subject vital to each of us— A.A. literature and translations of books and pamphlets that contain the fundamentals of how A.A. works to lead people like you and me to sobriety and the importance of copyrights and proper licensing

A.A.'s beloved co-founder, Bill W., who often called the influence of A.A. literature "incalculable," wrote the following in May 1964:

"Suppose, for instance, that during the last twenty-five years A.A. had never published any basic literature...no books, no pamphlets. We need little imagination to see that by now our message would be hopelessly garbled. Our relations with medicine and religion would have become a shamble. To alcoholics...we would today be a joke and the public would have thought us a riddle. Without its literature, A.A. would certainly have bogged down in a welter of controversy and disunity."

In the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous, as it is in the present, the A.A. message of recovery from alcoholism was carried by one alcoholic talking to another – one human being to another. However, since 1939 and the publication of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, our literature has played an important role in spreading A.A.'s message worldwide.

By imparting information about A.A. and its Twelve Steps, A.A. literature truly helps to widen the door of hope and recovery from alcoholism – a new or potential member walking into an A.A. meeting for the first time or an alcoholic reaching out for help may be given some basic A.A. literature along with local A.A. meeting information.

Today, our Big Book is available in 62 languages and there is an assortment of other A.A. books and pamphlets that have been translated or are in progress. 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 A.A. literature are an essential service facilitated, in part, through the generous assistance of the International Literature Assistance Fund established by the World Service Meeting. Translations come about in two ways: (1) Occasionally, professionals or A.A. groups in countries where A.A. is new ask that we translate a basic book or pamphlet for their use, 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 and/or boards move on to larger projects, such as the Big Book or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

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 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 some of the terms or words written that may seem outdated or irrelevant. Our General Service Conference, which represents the group conscience of A.A. in U.S. and Canada 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.

Now, concerning the publishing of A.A. literature, I want to convey the importance placed on licensing and copyright protection of A.A. literature. As you may be aware, A.A. World Services, Inc. has been assigned the operational responsibility for preserving and protecting literature, a valuable Fellowship resource. A.A. literature conveys the A.A. message – a message always freely given. Infringement or misuse

of our literature, even within the Fellowship, might lead to a great deal of confusion particularly with our friends outside the Fellowship and more importantly with the newcomer; our copyright interest might be diluted and the precious A.A. message of recovery might be distorted. For these reasons, A.A.W.S. through the G.S.O. has established procedures for licensing and copyright protection of A.A. 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 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

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 the U.S. and Canada. The A.A.W.S. Board is responsible for licensing service structures outside of the U.S. and Canada, 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 A.A. 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 have affirmed the policy on several occasions. It is 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.

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.

Recently, A.A.W.S. 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 A.A. entity/License holder can write to our Publications Director 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 am confident that you will join in making certain that the process is carried out as described today. Thus we come together in the spirit of love and service to protect the integrity of A.A.'s message in print and to preserve the unity of our beloved Fellowship.

With gratitude,

Doug Richardson

Director of Staff Services

GSO New York

Attachment: Requesting Literature Translations —An Overview

Requesting Literature Translations — An Overview

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. Once an acceptable version of the translation is received by our Publications Department, an executed License Agreement will be issued.
10. 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.
1. *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 the License Agreement.

For translation information, permission to translate, renew licenses, web postings, please contact:

Chris Cavanaugh, Publications Director General Service Office
475 Riverside Drive, 11th floor
New York, NY 10115
(212) 870-3052
PubDir

Workshop 1 – Reaching Out

The term Reaching Out suggests we get into Action. Reaching out is also a part of our I Am Responsible code ... when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help ... That means the AA hand be extended, maybe by Public Information or other means, to those professionals who work in the field of alcoholism, and also to our fellow alcoholics within the Fellowship who are just starting out on the journey of Sobriety seeking to serve. So this workshop is designed to determine the ways and means of more effectively, of passing on the message of hope to those who don't know where we are yet.

Note: If you have difficulty in writing your responses to some or all of these questions, please ask your groups' recorder to help you with them. Thank you.

NAME OF YOUR COUNTRY.....

Note; If you don't belong to a group- go to question 2.

1. In your country-If you belong to a Group, what is your group doing to pass the message to both the indigenous and non- indigenous professionals for example the Clergy, Doctors, Social Workers, etc.? What about Public Information, using posters, radio, the Web?
 - a) What type of feedback do you usually get. Written word, spoken word, no response at all? Please describe.
 - b) When reaching out to the individual professional person, what is the greatest barrier to helping someone in your country; Language, lack of literature, distance, poor communications or other? Please describe.
 - c) Are there any other ways that you use to get a response? What are they?

2. In your country -If you don't belong to a group, or don't have a group to belong to, what do you see as your individual responsibility to try and help others who are still suffering? For example,
 - a) Do you leave your telephone number somewhere as a contact?
 - b) Do you stay in touch with the newcomer by telephone or e mail?
 - c) Do you travel very far to help someone?
 - d) Is language a concern? If it is, what do you think can be done about it?
 - e) Would it be possible to start a group yourself? If not, what are your alternatives?
 - f) What else do you do?

3. In your country - If translated Conference Approved Literature were more readily available, would this make your job of reaching out and carrying the message easier and more effective? In what way, please describe.
 - a) In your opinion, does word of mouth carry the message just as well as our literature? If it does, please describe.
 - b) Which pamphlets or literature is the most suitable for your country? Please list them.

4. In your Country does our concept of Anonymity sometimes restrict you from carrying the message to both non-professional and professional people?
 - a) In what way? Please state.

- b) Do you have any thoughts or ideas on a more effective way of carrying the message to those professional people or workers in the field of alcoholism who have not been reached yet, keeping in mind possible Anonymity concerns? Please list those things.
 - c) What do you think can be done to lessen any concerns regarding Anonymity at any level? Please describe.
5. As an individual, or as a part of your group, what do you feel is the largest problem in reaching out to others?
- a. Lack of Literature
 - b. Not enough money to do the job.
 - c. Language problems
 - d. Distance
 - e. Other
6. Do you use any other way of reaching out to others that has not been mentioned so far? If so in what way do you do this? Please describe.

Thank you for your attention, time and patience in being involved in this workshop it is most appreciated.

Your AOSM Team.

Workshop 1 Responses

9TH AOSM, CHANDIGARH,INDIA- WORKSHOP 1 RESPONSES

REACHING OUT.

* Collective Report-Back – (From Written notes provided)

. Group 1 –Chair- John L.Thailand – Participants; Australia, India, New Zealand,Russia, Kuwait, Thailand, Nepal.

* Strong structure in Australia/India and New Zealand- better reaching out facilities, using Web Sites etc. Smaller countries have greater difficulty due to the language barrier.

* Russia has a much larger area to cover. Translations are important.

* Non-approved literature being used in some smaller countries.

* AA approved literature was also a concern for all countries where AA is relatively young.

Anonymity

* Not much of a problem except in the smaller countries. There are few places where the doctors are AA focused.

* Noted that workshops are held regularly in India the Indian approach was a ‘pleasing effort’. Distances in Russia is again, a problem.

Group 2 – Chair Sharmini (Singapore) Participants; Dubai – India- Bhutan.

Spreading the Message

* Literature the key. India has 11 languages. Singapore mostly word-of-mouth. Arabia - literature translations have been halted. –Bhutan struggles.

* Suggestions from Dubai- maybe assign temporary sponsors.
Bhutan – Newcomers are coming – and going.
Arab countries find it culturally difficult.
India – has meeting schedules in a ‘ Meeting in a Pocket.’

Group 3. James N (NZ) -Japan – Sri Lanka –Thailand –N.Zealand. Australia.

* The importance of trying to reach out to countries-between meetings stressed.

India commented that they have travelling forums –Class A+ B Trustees go along too.

* Australia and New Zealand set goals of reaching certain countries within the Pacific.- a successful result of the AOSM!

The important part of the AOSM is the 2 years between the meetings when work must be done and communication must continue.

* Thailand reported that it was reaching out to neighboring countries in the ethnic communities rather than to the ex-pats who are often catered to.

Sri-Lanka AA is 46 years old, no expansion much. This is now changing and it is reported that there are meeting all across the country in all 3 languages. Varying cultures and a lack of literature translation creates great difficulty as it does in trying to work with a organized service structure.

Japan AA reports that it is now 37 years old with some 16 GSC's. Many Japanese have never heard of AA. A Travelling Pl. Forum has been established to try and create awareness. Radio and TV has been of limited use. There is a great misunderstanding of what Anonymity means and is often interpreted as 'secrecy'. They (Japan) are fortunate to have only one language to deal with, but this creates a problem in dealing with other languages. Japan is divided into 7 Regions, and each region will ask the travelling forum to visit them, it has taken 6 years to travel to every region. Class A + B Trustees from Conference participate in the forums as Class A Trustees are often doctors.

Thailand reported that it is very keen to have experience of how to take AA message into the prison system.

Finally – this group ends its 4 page report-back by recording that;

...The perception of Service is not that exciting - and benefits to not only the suffering alcoholic –but to those who serve – is not well known

* Both Sri Lanka and Thailand reported that they need to " share their experiences'(referring to Web sites)

2. * Websites will be important in the future.

* Japan reported that they respond to the media requests. " A higher profile is needed At this level.

On the subject of Web Sites, Steve T.(Australia) responded to Sharmini ' queries.Steve explained the purposes of the Web site. The access name of www. aosm-aa.org is being investigated at this time.' Steve also suggested that ' we do not want to encourage the use of search engines – due to anonymity concerns'.

Note; On the subject of the Web site- most comments and input will be referred to the Agenda/Site Selection Committee.

Further Collective Comments from the Report backs;

Singapore reported that they have literature inTamil as well

Middle East- Kuwait –Oman has two meetings a week.
U.A.E – Dubai,Abu Dhabi have 40 meetings a week.They reach out to the Media-Clergy-Schools and Labour Camps. of nearly 1 million people.

Muslim Country –Islamic- not recognizing AA.

There are a lot of ex-pats in UAE, they hold Step Workshops, contact Media using E Mail, Websites, Hotline. They also reported that Rehabilitation Centres have strict rules.

Secretaries Note; I have relied on written notes here so any queries re clarification of these report-backs should be directed to the Chair of each group please since some of the notes are very cryptic and lacking in detail.

ShirleyC.-Past Secretary to AOSM.

SATURDAY WORKSHOP # 2
CHANDIGARH 2011. REPORT BACK.

3 Groups Workshop -

- Q. 1 Do you think the Committee System is working.
Should we change the type of Committee?
Should Committee chairs be more involved in setting the Agenda?
Should we scrap it?
- Q2. How can we get Delegates involved between meetings?
Should we change the length of Term?
Can we encourage countries to elect Delegates sooner to allow Delegates to become more informed earlier?
How can we encourage delegates to communicate with AOSM?
- Q3. Should the role of Secretary and Chair be changed?
- Q4. Should workshop themes be chosen at AOSM for next meeting?
- Q5. Is the sponsorship system working, what can be done to improve it?
- Q6. Is AOSM fulfilling its Primary Purpose?
What can improve?

Any suggestions?

Comments from Report Backs;

It was generally felt that the AOSM Committee system was working OK, but that more communication from the AOSM Delegates was needed.

On question 2 ; It was generally felt that the term of 2 x 2 year term should remain as is- no changes were suggested. To change this would possibly conflict with the rotation of World Service Delegates. It was noted that countries without a WSD would like to see a extended term.

Others noted that there was a big gap in communications and material for the Agenda for the AOSM. And that this should be circulated earlier. Interaction and communication needs to be improved it was felt. It was felt that have no service structure, be encouraged to elect their representatives as soon as possible after this meeting.

It was also suggested that a 'job description for new Delegates be drawn up which would spell out that this is a requirement of their role. (*refer Policy & Admissions Comm*)

* Ian C. Chairman for the 9th AOSM pointed out on several occasions that any changes that needed to be implemented were to be up to the responsibility of the AOSM Delegates themselves.

The Theme for the next AOSM should be chosen at this one

. * This has been the case in the past, not recorded at this one yet. (Secretary) It is impossible to record all the wonderful positive comments that have been handed over lack of personal identification in some cases there is no indication to whom the comments belong .(Secretary.)

The Theme for the next 10th AOSM should be selected by Policy and Admissions Committee. And voted on by all Delegates eligible to attend.*****

Secretary's Report

ASIA/OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING REPORT TO 9TH AOSM.

Dear friends,

Since I have almost come to the end of my term as your Secretary, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your participation in my sobriety.

I thought I would like to re-cap a couple of things that span over the past four years – and beyond.

Firstly, at the very first AOSM meeting held in Tokyo, Japan in 1995, Bob P, and the then Chairperson wrote that;

“...At this meeting we will be sharing our experiences in dealing with problems that arise in our own countries; problems than can divert us from our Primary Purpose; problems with our 7th Traditions of self-support; problems with Anonymity; problems with other types of recovery programs- this is the place for us to share our knowledge gained from experience with each other. In doing this we retain our unity and our simplicity – our unity that is necessary for our lasting recovery, and the simplicity that is basic in the preservation of our personal sobriety...”

Bob's words keep me focused on the Primary Purpose of our AOSM. Over the past four years, I have endeavored to the best of my ability, to be of Service to you all. I have needed to curb my impatience and my quick to criticism as I have come to realize that I am just only a link, perhaps the weakest one, in the chains of events that crop up ,mostly on my e mails!!

Technically, much has changed in the past four years of my term. Our Directory and Newsletter now go out in both forms, e mailed and posted. E mailing has cut down the cost of postage somewhat, but it should be remembered that there are still a lot of members who for one reason or the other, cannot either attend meetings or who are very limited in their attendance. I think that a mail their hands are worth two on the Web! The list is still growing.

During the past two years, I have had the privilege of working with Ian C, our Chairman, who has supported me when I needed it and continues to be the power of example I saw when I went to my very first AA meeting. My sincere thanks to Ian.

Just before last Christmas, our Fellowship lost a previous Chairman to the AOSM, Bob J, who served both the Second and Third AOSM's. I personally shall miss him greatly, but am grateful that he passed along to me the mentoring needed to keep this arm of Service going.

Your Secretariat is very grateful to those countries and a few individuals who have financially supported our AOSM, namely Australia, New Zealand and Japan, without their financial input, I would not be attending this AOSM. Please see the Financial Statement for details.

ARCHIVES

At your request, we now have all 8 previous AOSM's on disc, recorded for all time! Hopefully, we can add this 9th to our collection for a later date. I shall be passing on any relevant paper or disc archives to Brenda for her safe keeping.

Finally, I would like to give a very warm welcome to our incoming Secretary Brenda H. from New Zealand. Brenda is a Past World Service Meeting Delegate, and attended both the 7th and the 8th AOSM previously. I hope that you will afford Brenda the same courtesy and AA love that I have received. I will try and help as much as I can to see that Brenda settles into this very rewarding job.

I would like to thank all of our Delegates who have afforded me encouragement and support. My thanks to all members who have had input and belief that our AOSM is a vital link in the chain of the AA structure – and the belief too- that this show should go on!!

In Service,

Shirley C
Secretary to AOSM
2007-2011

Financial Statements

INCOME AOSM 1/7/2009—30/6/2011 (Australian Dollars)

Date	Details	Amount
15/07/09	NZ Secretariat transfer	1169.06
3/08/09	Residual Bangkok (adv repayment)	2000.00
3/08/09	Russia (donation)	57.85
6/10/09	Residual Bangkok (adv repayment)	138.62
20/10/09	KOH Song Bom (donation)	50.00
10/11/09	Ann (donation)	100.00
2/12/09	Japan GSO	1828.65
9/12/09	Jutta (donation)	15.00
9/12/09	Peter (donation)	10.00
9/12/09	Donation	60.00
15/12/09	Australian GSO	2000.00
5/03/10	Shirley (donation)	50.00
13/04/10	Deposited in error	54.00
10/05/10	KOH Song Bom	50.00
31/05/10	Bank Interest	67.97
5/08/10	Chang Mai Group	250.00
22/09/10	Martin (donation)	50.00
14/10/10	Jutta (donation)	20.00
25/11/10	Japan GSO	1775.55
29/11/10	Chang Mai Group	50.33
27/01/11	Australian SGO	2000.00
18/02/11	Jutta (donation)	10.00
11/03/11	Power Saver a/c transfer	1178.09
11/03/11	interest Power Saver	44.73
7/04/11	Chang Mai Group	320.84
26/05/11	Donation	10.00
25/06/11	Jutta (donation)	15.00
31/05/11	Bank Interest	133.30
TOTAL	from bank statement transactions	\$ 13508.99
	Transfer from Power Saver account	(1178.09)
	Bangkok advance acquitted (repaid)	(2138.62)
	Total Net income	\$10192.28

Note: The Total Net income amount represents actual income received.

9th AOSM EXPENSES – CHANDIGARH 2011

Accommodation – Chandigarh and Delhi	2096.53	
6 Nights Chandigarh x 2 persons		
1 Night Delhi x 1 person		
Food for extra time stayed x 2 persons		100.00
Ian Comrie Reimbursement –Expenses	1000.00	
Stationary for AOSM Meeting	41.00	
Extra Exp.AOSM	94.50	
Minor Travel Exp.	309.50	
Total Expenses	3641.51	
<u>Less previous Balance</u>	<u>3000.00</u>	
Reimbursement	\$641.51	

Notes; 1. Tips were not claimed as expenses

Private funds were used for tipping

2. I was advanced \$3000 which was used for Chandigarh, however additional expenses of \$641.51 were incurred.
3. Cheque # 51 for \$641.51 was issued as the reimbursement.

Shirley Chaplin

Past Secretary/Treasurer. (as at) August 31/8/2011

Committees

Final Committees For The 9th AOSM ...Chandigarh 2011.

TO 30/6/2011; Revised 30/8/2011.

AGENDA/WEB/SITE SELECTION

Chairman	Shrikanth S.	2 nd Term	India
	Steve T	2 nd Term	Australia
	Kuniko I.	2 nd Term	Japan
	Yasuo N.	1 st Term	Japan
	Val H.	1 st Term	New Zealand

POLICY/ADMISSIONS/FINANCE

Chairman	Beer L.	2 nd Term	Thailand
	Francisco N.	1 st Term	India
	Nathan	1 st Term	Singapore

LITERATURE & PUBLISHING

Chairman	John L.	1 st Term	Australia
	Dawa T	2 nd Term	Bhutan
	Sharmini W.	1 st Term	Singapore
	Kunal B	1 st Term	Mercca

WORKING WITH OTHERS

Chairman	James N	2 nd Term	New Zealand
	Valeriy T	1 st Term	Russia
	Jeremy D	1 st Term	Sri Lanka
	John M	1 st Term	Thailand
	Celia J	1 st Term	Hong Kong
	Marie T	1 st Term	Hong Kong
	Anne De V.	2 nd Term	Mercca

Chairman	Ian Comrie	iancomrie@hotmail.com
Secretary	Shirley Chaplin	schaplin@lm.net.au

Please note; Some of these Delegates were re-shuffled to other Committees on the day.
The Delegate from Nepal - Abishek-was also included later.

Report of SSAW Committee

Shrikanth, India
Kuniko, Japan
Yasuo, Japan
Val, New Zealand
Steve, Australia
Ian, Australia - observer

1. Site selection

We compared quotes for the Darwin in Australia and Irkutsk in Russia. There are many things we still need to find out to make a definite choice but there won't be time to do that. Therefore we put the following choices to the delegates:

- a. Darwin, Australia. Approx cost for each delegate is \$1500. But this is in first class hotels with excellent conference facilities and each delegate can have a single room or double room at that same cost.
- b. Irkutsk, Russia. Approx cost per delegate \$200. However we are uncertain of the quality of the hotel and the numbers of local AA members who can handle the situation. Flights to Irkutsk aren't mentioned in the bid.

The committee recommends that the delegates chose the next location by ballot.

2. What should we do with the AOSM directory, leave as is or put on the Web?

Currently this is printed and posted to delegates and others. It is expensive to do this and the moment the Directory is printed it is out of date. We recommend, printing of the Directory should finish and be moved onto the AOSM website. This raises problems with anonymity because some entries in the Directory have to have personal details. This problem can be solved by several means on the website.

A draft website has been set up at www.aosm-aa.org. This will pay careful attention to maintaining the anonymity of delegates and other participants. Steve T. will be continuing to develop this. A password system will be introduced to ensure only AOSM people can access private information although all AA members will be able to access the directory.

3. Should we hold the Red Ball session?

This is a process of tossing a ball and the catcher can say whatever is on their mind. It was introduced because in the early years of the AOSM because many delegates wanted to share during the AOSM meetings. The Red Ball session gave them an opportunity to share without it interfering with general business. The committee recommends that we keep the Red Ball Session.

4. How well did the Internal Communications Google Group work?

This was set up at the 8th AOSM in Bangkok but wasn't used by any delegates and fell into disuse.

5. New site selection form, should it detail the type of visa required for entry into the selected country?

The committee recommends that this doesn't happen. Visa requirements are very complicated and are best left to be worked out by the host committee and individual delegates.

6. Should travelling time be included and listed in the package deal for attending the AOSM? (Some delegates need to arrive before the day the AOSM starts.) At the moment only three days are allowed for, with delegates needing to pay extra to coincide with their arrival and departure dates.

The committee recommends that the package for the AOSM needs delegates to stay four nights (AOSM will still be only three days.)

7. Choose an archivist.

The committee recommends that the archives be kept in digital form on the AOSM website. After each AOSM the secretary adds the report to the archives on the website.

8. Do we need sound recording of the AOSM?

The committee recommends that sound recording be continued. Because recording is so important this may be a good time to once again urge delegates to speak slowly and clearly.

9. Do we need a plan for the next two years?

The committee believes we definitely need a plan for the next two years otherwise the important work we need to do won't be done. A plan is vital. However the 8th AOSM decided a plan was needed and asked Ian and Steve from Australia to do it and send to all delegates for their approval and input. The plan was duly written and emailed out but not one delegate bothered to reply. Will this happen again.

10. Next chairman

The committee elected Val from New Zealand as the Chairman of the SSAW committee for the 10th AOSM.

BID QUESTIONNAIRE
10th ASIA/OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING-

JULY 2013

PLEASE RETURN

BY; **APRIL 30TH 2011**

Bid Submitted by; **Teploukhov Valery, Russia.**
 (Country Delegate)

...**Irkutsk**.....
 (Bid City/Town)

Here are the specifications for an Asia/Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Meeting consists of representatives from 10 to 15 countries, with an attendance of 25-35 people. (* This may vary from one AOSM to another*)

Pattern; Friday afternoon through to Sunday

Dates; To be set in July 2013

Attendance; 25 to 35 people

Accommodation; All guest rooms to be either single or double occupancy

Meals Required;	Fri-Sun	3 days	Dinner
	Sat-Sun	2 days	Lunch
	Sat-Sun	2 days	Breakfast
	Sat-Sun	2 days	Coffee Breaks

Hotel/Conference Centre Facilities required;

Fri-Sat-Sun	One General Session Room 35-40 people <i>(28 people-hollow square;12 people-around room Or at rear; Translation area with table to one side; Sound system with microphones for each Delegate, Taping equipment, display table and white-board)</i>
Sat-Sun	3 Committee rooms 10 people each <i>(Conference table and chairs)</i>
Fri-Sun	1 Room for Dinner 25-35 people
Sat-Sun	1 Room for Lunch 25-35 people
Fri.Evening	1 Meeting Room 35-40 people <i>(With sound system)</i>

1.

TRANSPORTATION;

How far is the Conference Venue from A MAIN CITY International Airport? **60**
Km.

Airports' Name? **Irkutsk International**

What transportation, airport to venue, is available? **Cars**

Cost of airport shuttle, per person US\$ **0**.

Which MAJOR airlines service your airport? Aeroflot, J7, Transaero, China and Mongolian lines.

.....
.....

HOST COUNTRY

Approximate AA population in country or Zone? **5000** AA members in country, **1000** AA members in Zone.

Has your bid been endorsed by your Fellowship? **YES** (please circle)

Which of the following (those relevant to your country) can be relied upon for support?

General Service Board **General Service Conference** **General Service Office**

Intergroup Committee

Intergroup Office

District Committee

Other(please describe) **Region Committee** .

Will local AA members volunteer to serve on a host committee to be available for routine help as needed (e.g. as transport drivers, photocopying and collating material, setting up literature displays, looking after delegates' spouses etc) ? - **YES**

HOTEL/CONFERENCE CENTRE ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES

Describe the general layout and accommodation facilities of hotel or conference centre. Attach any relevant brochures and floor plans. Include website address, if any.

Hotel «Pribaikalskaja» www.pribaikalskaja.ru

.....
.....

2.

Does it provide all the required facilities listed on page one? **YES** NO

Total number of meeting rooms is; **3**

Comments: **Travel by the ship on Baikal after AOSM at the expense of host committee**

COSTS (Please quote all costs in US Dollars)

Average cost per hotel room (2013)

Single; **57**.

Double; **76**.

2010 group rate single/double; **50/70**

Estimated cost of meals per person for a group of 25-35;

Breakfast	0	per person
Lunch	15	per person
Dinner	15	per person

Planning on two breaks per day, estimate the cost of coffee /tea, soft drinks for 30-40
Cost per break ...**3,5**.

*

Approximate cost per Delegate for 3 days - 165 (Last dinner at the expense of host committee).

Cost of Conference Facilities;

Total cost of meeting rooms (as described on page 1) for 2-day conference: **775** for big hall on 2 days/ Cost includes rent of the screen, flipchart (+1 notebooks), 2 marker board (+ markers), microphones.,
35\$/hour or **258** \$/day– small hall,
22 \$/hour – Meeting room.

Does this include the sound system and taping equipment? **YES** NO (circle)

If not, estimate total cost of equipment for 2 day conference;

Please describe microphone system, and any audiovisual and display equipment available;
.....
.....
.....

Conference –services

The price-list for 2010/2011 years

Small conference hall

Capacity 35-40 men

Rent of a premise(room) within a working day (8 hours) – 258\$.

Rent of a premise(room) (hourly payment) - 35,5\$.

* Not includes cost of the presentation equipment. The microphones and faculty can be given (provided that they are not engaged!)

The large conference hall

Capacity up to 100 men

Rent of a premise(room) within a working day (8 hours) – 387\$.

Rent of a premise(room) (hourly payment) 48,5\$.

* Includes rent of the screen, flipchart (+1 notebooks), 2 marker board (+ markers), microphones.

Room of negotiation (restaurant "Panorama", 6 floors)

Capacity up to 9 men

Rent of a premise(room) within a working day (8 hours) 113\$.

Rent of a premise(room) (hourly payment) 22,5\$.

Rent of the additional equipment

Within a working day

Rent multimedia projector 64,5\$.

Rent of the screen 10\$.

Rent of marker board with a marker 11\$.

Rent flipchart (with 1 notebook of a paper) 21\$.

Services of the engineer (technical support) 48\$.

Characteristics multimedia projector SANYO-PLC SU 50 S:

The size image - from 40 up to 300 inches (101,6-752,0ñi) on a diagonal; projective distances - from 1,0 up to 7,7 m.; the terminal Computer Input 1 - socket DVI-1 (digital / analog), terminal Computer Input 2/Computer input/Monitor Output - one switched terminal DB 15 (VGA), adjustment of a rule(situation) with the help - from 0 up to 11,8 degrees.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Present:	Beer L.	2 nd term	Thailand	Chairman
	Ann D.	2 nd term	MERCAA	
	Francisco N.	1 st term		India
	Marie T.	1 st term		Hong Kong
	Nathan	1 st term		Singapore
	Abishek	1 st term		Nepal
	Valerie	?	Australia	

The following points were discussed and agreements taken:

Duration of Future AOSM'S:

Due to the importance of issues being discussed, we requested that 3 full working days be allocated to future AOSM's i.e. 4 nights. This particular Committee could have done with more time to complete their discussions, which they felt were uncomfortably rushed. Perhaps the orientation could be handled on the preceding evening (i.e. Thursday evening in this case). This was noted, to be kept in mind for future AOSM meetings.

Term of Delegate:

We recommend that for those countries that wish to, (i.e. the smaller countries) they may extend their delegates to a 3rd term. This was not agreed to as it would be changing the by-laws of the AOSM.

New Delegate Pack:

We requested that the Secretary be tasked with preparing and circulating a 'new delegate pack' to all delegates so that any future incoming 1st term delegates can hit the ground running by having a full understanding of what the AOSM's objectives are and what the meeting expectations will be. It was felt that this was particularly important for those smaller countries where the population was very transient and where out-going delegates often left no hand-over .

It was agreed that this item must be managed at country level and that the information currently circulated by the secretary should be sufficient.

Sponsorship:

From what we were told, several countries were unable to send delegates to this AOSM due to lack of funds. Therefore we recommend that countries be informed that they can request sponsorship, should they absolutely need it; that they should send this information to the AOSM secretary, who in turn would be responsible for circulating the request for sponsorship volunteers. We recommend that this should be included for delegates and translators. This request was acknowledged but no formal agreement was put in place to action this. It was left that individual countries could offer sponsorship to other countries if they wished.

Job Descriptions and Competencies:

We recommended that a Job Description, together with competencies for the position of Chair person, Secretary and Treasurer be developed to bring clarity to the roles. AnnD from MERCAA offered to draft these for circulation and review. This proposal was agreed to and accepted.

Future Nominations:

We recommended that the selection of the Secretary and Treasurer be done during the AOSM – the same as a Chair person. This was agreed to.

We also recommended adding an alternative secretary position. This was agreed to.

AOSM Fees :

We wished to restate our agreement that there should be no changes made to the policy that there should be no set fees established for any countries wishing to participate with the AOSM; that this should remain on purely a voluntary basis.

We did suggest however that each country develop their own Outreach (Brown Bag) program so that their home groups may be encouraged to provide contributions to AOSM.

Communications between the Secretary and Delegates:

As it was evident that there were cyber-snafu's everywhere and due to the importance of all AOSM communications, we suggested that the Secretary add a 'read receipt' on each email being circulated.

This was agreed for implementation.

New Chair Person is CISCO (India)

Alternate Chair Person is Marie (Hong Kong)

Minutes and Report of the 9th AOSM Literature & Publishing Committee

The Committee met in Chandigarh India July 2011 and Kunal (MERCA) made an oral report of its deliberations on the committee's behalf to the full body of AOSM delegates.

This is the written report/minutes of that meeting and a subsequent one held virtually via the internet (Skype).

Members of the committee

John L (Australia) 1st term Chairman

Dawa (Bhutan) 2nd Term

Sharmini (Singapore) 1st Term (subsequently elected Chairman)

Kunal (MERCA) 1st Term

Celia (Hong Kong) 1st Term (subsequently elected Alt Chairman)

Meeting opened with election of chairperson, Serenity Prayer, and discussion on Traditions and the formalities of decision making. It was decided that a "sense of the meeting" would be the guideline used.

Minutes of 8th AOSM Literature & Publishing Committee were provided by Dawa (the only 2nd term delegate on the committee) and were reviewed.

Matters arising

It was noted that Singapore had made contributions of literature to Bhutan.

The committee decided to further consider and discuss these topics as **New Business**.

Acquisition, distribution and sale of AA literature.

Financial Support and/or other support than can be offered in respect of AA literature to certain AA groups in (neighbouring) countries/regions in need of and requesting such support.

Translation of AA literature (especially understanding the process required by World Services)

The experience of committee member countries/regions, other than Australia, is that the purchase and sale of literature is a cost not revenue. Sale is usually at a small margin to cover courier/shipment costs. In Australia these sales are a source of revenue for the fellowship.

Singapore 'gives away' the BB and some other literature (to neighbouring countries and newcomers) and this is funded by the intergroup within Singapore.

Bhutan lends the literature (big book) but the experience has been that the books do not come back.

The committee fully appreciated that what each group and region does is a matter of autonomy but discussed the various practices so as to be informed of those practices.

There was a consensus on the committee that the practice of purchasing AA literature through the traditional AA sources like the GSO continue without forgetting that in this matter groups/regions are autonomous. The practice of giving newcomers and institutional bodies such as hospitals was noted.

The committee discussed the advisability of having a service position designated as "literature person" at various levels. The experience of committee members was that this practice was helpful in addressing the literature needs.

Translation services

The desire for a new translation of certain AA literature in both Bhutan and the Arabic countries within MERCA was discussed.

The translation services of AA World Services (and the guidelines & process to be followed) were discussed and Doug R from the North American GSO office also subsequently addressed this in detail.

The Australian experience in assisting with some translations for the Solomon Islands was also discussed. (See Australian Country Report for details).

Both John L and Sharmini agreed to assist Dawa (Bhutan) in putting together a Project Plan in accordance with the AAWS Guidelines.

To enable communication about this and related matters the Committee decided to use the Internet to communicate (roughly every 3 months). The first of such meetings took place on Saturday 3rd Sept using the Skype VOIP system.

Kunal (MERCA) also agreed to assist with this project plan for Bhutan, indicating that a similar process (project plan to be submitted to AAWS) would be followed in that region.

MERCA are scheduled to meet in November and this Committee agreed to meet again (electronically, via Skype) the following week after the MERCA meeting.

The committee was informed that decisions will be made in the respective regions (MERCA and Bhutan) as to the specific literature items that are to be included in this Project Plan. The basic intent of working on this project plan is to assist in the process of following the published guidelines. These guidelines were distributed by Doug at the AOSM meeting and are attached as a record for the future.

We will create a private free repository (in the 'cloud' on the internet) for the working documents created by this committee so that they will be available for future reference. In due course it is anticipated that these documents, when finalised will be posted on the AOSM website.

The Committee would like to place on record its appreciation for the valuable contribution to its deliberations made by Doug R and the assistance of AAWS in general.

In terms of the future:

Sharmini (Singapore) 1st Term (elected Chairman)

Celia (Hong Kong) 1st Term (elected Alt Chairman)

My thanks to all and especially to Kunal, who was our recorder, for taking the notes of our deliberations.

John L
Chairman 9th AOSM Literature & Publishing Committee

Working with Others Committee Report

Present: James Neylon, Chairperson, Second Term, New Zealand, John, Secretary, Thailand, First Term, Jeremy, Sri Lanka, First Term, Valeriy, Russia, First Term

The committee reviewed

- scope and recommended no changes
- Procedure recommended removing point 8 vote on next meeting

Matters arising from 8th AOSM in Bangkok; discussed Adopt a Country initiative and how New Zealand had been progressing with it in the Pacific Islands.

Correspondence; only correspondence was from Thailand.

New Business: discussion centred on reaching out to indigenous people in the AOSM region. Thailand are endeavouring to carry the message to Thai's by expats supported by the service structure, as well as by individuals.

Russia has groups trying to reach out to indigenous people in their region. New Zealand and Australia have been trying to carry the message into the South Pacific.

The Adopt A Country initiative was discussed and it was felt by the committee that it had merit and was worth the AOSM pursuing. James is to supply background on initiative and template letter that has been used (attached to this report).

Thailand wish to reach out to Malaysia, with the support being more spiritual than financial. Jeremy related how Sri Lanka was brought to the AOSM by India reaching out. He also shared how Sri Lanka reaches out to the poorer members of their country, how the new intergroup has been established and how more knowledge of the traditions is coming about. Communication between committee members from now until next AOSM was discussed. It was resolved to investigate the use of Skype and Yahoo Groups. Mike to advise committee on use of and setting up a Yahoo Group.

Discussion was had about larger countries contacting service agencies, courts or medical professionals in smaller countries and then if a favourable response, refer them to existing members in those countries.

Jeremy said that some of those agencies in Sri Lanka would give more credibility to a foreign contact than one from within the country.

Mike was elected chairperson.

The Adopt A Country strategy was brought back by the World Service/AOSM delegates in the late nineties or early two thousands. The idea was that each country willing and able to participate would have an "area of responsibility" in their region.

They would appoint someone, usually a World Service or AOSM Delegate to coordinate the effort.

The coordinator would ask for groups willing to participate to contact them and they would assign a country to that group, where A.A. was either non existent or in an emerging state.

The groups would then do some research on their country and find contact addresses for potential friends of A.A. in such areas as medicine, psychiatry, religion, judiciary, social welfare, corrections etc. If A.A. was in existence in the country or region then the group would make contact with the members or member there to see what assistance they could give.

Where A.A. was not in existence we sent out the following letter (this example is of one we sent to a doctor the Solomon Islands ten years ago), with some pamphlets and hoped that we got a favourable response.

A decade further on, we thought if we do get interest, we could try to get the potential friend of A.A. to organise a speaker meeting, should any of our fellowship be willing to travel there, as our past chairperson did to the Solomon Islands.

We thought that the same could happen, should a suitable member be travelling to these countries on holiday.

Therefore, it would take a lot more communication by the countries of the AOSM, so all of this can be coordinated on an ongoing basis, but a beginning can be made by any country willing to participate.

To whom it may concern,

We, of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in New Zealand would like to offer information about A.A., through you, to any of your patients who may have a drinking problem, and wish to do something about it. We know that you are in a unique position to have contact with, and help the active alcoholic.

If you have any questions about A.A., a member would be glad to correspond with you. He or she is also available to provide some AA literature for your facility, or your patients, should it be required. This offer carries no obligation whatsoever, to you or your patients.

Our only wish is to be helpful to the alcoholic who is yet to find an answer to their problem. Just as help was offered to us when we felt hopeless, we wish to offer hope to the still suffering alcoholic in the Solomon Islands.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution. Does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

If we can be of any further assistance please contact us at the address below. We want you to know that the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous of New Zealand is here to be of service to you.

Sincerely,

History Of The AOSM To July 2011

- 1978-1993 First proposed at 1978 Helsinki WSM, discussed in Australia 1982. Again proposed 1985 New York with some discussion in New Zealand. 1992 New York WSM informal discussions among Delegates
- 199? Conference New Zealand approved the go ahead, followed by research, discussions and planning with GSO Japan.
- 1994 Informal meeting held in Tokyo between members of both Japanese and New Zealand Fellowships to discuss Pan Pacific Zonal Meeting.
- 1995 1st Asian-Oceania Service Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan. Attended by Hong Kong, Vanuatu, Korea, Japan and New Zealand, with GSO New York. Theme: "Twelve Stepping your Neighbour Country".
- 1997 2nd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Auckland, New Zealand. Attended by Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Australia and Japan with GSO New York. Theme: "Friends we have not Met".
- 1999 3rd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Sydney, Australia. Attended by Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Indonesia with GSO New York. Theme: "Our Primary Purpose".
- 2001 4th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Seoul, Korea. Attended by Japan, Korea, Russian Federation, Philippines, Cambodia, Malaysia, East Timor, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia with GSO New York. Theme: "The Growing AA Family".
- 2003 5th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Hong Kong. Attended by Hong Kong, Japan, People's Republic of China, Mongolia, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Australia and New Zealand with GSO New York. Theme: "The Three Legacies-Recovery, Unity, Service".
- 2005 6th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Surfers Paradise, Australia. Attended by Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand with GSO New York. Theme: "Sponsorship — Unity In Ever Widening Circles"
- 2007 7th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Saitama Japan. Attended by Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mercaa, Mongolia, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and New York. Theme: "Global Growth through Structured Groups".
- 2009 8th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. In Attendance; Australia; Bhutan; Hong Kong; India; Japan; New Zealand; Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Thailand. Theme: "Reaching Out".
- 2011 9th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Chandigarh, India –In attendance were: Australia; Bhutan; Hong Kong; India; Japan; Mercca; Nepal, New Zealand; Russia; Singapore; Sri Lanka; and Thailand. THEME: SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE

AOSM DELEGATES REVIEW OF THE 9TH AOSM, CHANDIGARH

INDIA 2011

There were 7 responses from the 20 Delegates present.

Q.1. Which Agenda item did you find the most helpful and why?

Doug. R's Presentation on the Singleness of Purpose.

The country Reports and "what's on your mind"

Doug's. two addresses –very informative and interesting.

The whole program was excellent-lots of practical ideas were shared that could be adopted by other countries.

Country Reports -for follow up and reference assistance.

Workshop # 1 –Committee Meetings –group conscience was observed

Presentation by Doug. R.clarified issues with translations.

Q2. Which Agenda items did you find the least helpful and why?

All were important

Committee Meetings-not enough background or information for proper discussion. Scope could be improved.

Q3. Is there any other topic you would like to see on the Agenda next time?

More details on the Service Structure-what worked-what did not.

A workshop on the various countries Service structures. Helpful to the smaller countries.

How best we can help smaller countries

How to enforce inclusion of other countries that are not present;eg Philippines,Indonesia,Malaysia,China,Korea etc.

Communication/Country Sponsorship/Adoption

Q 4. Have you any comments regarding the meeting room facilities or accommodation?

The air conditioner was too loud, difficult to hear. Nicer with a round table set-up

Meeting room excellent-Accommodation adequate only.

It was good. All was fine/we could do better.

Insufficient hotel staff-electricity and internet issues –no internet- No variety of food.(but still good)!

Some hygiene could be improved –no Wi-Fi.....

Dining hall or a place we could all sit together for our meals.

Q5 Any other Comments?

Food was great-host Committee went to a lot of trouble.

Accommodation could have been better, but that's not why I came Therefore it was not important!!

On-going communications with each other vital, and with the new Secretary in the 2 years before the next AOSM.

We need to improve on our Communications and Interaction during the next two years.

Keep trying to carry our message of hope,AOSM gives me tremendous hope – continuity and co-operation are the key.

Thank you Shirley!!

2011 9th AOSM CHANDIGARH INDIA

DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE AT THE 9TH AOSM-CHANDIGARH

Shrikanth S	India	info@aabangalore.org (Chair 2013)
Steve T	Aust.	steve@ibis4.com (Rotating off)
Kuniko I	Japan	kuniko@f-systm.co.jp (Rotating off)
Yasuo N	Japan	jn-yasuo@wing.ocn.ne.jp
Val H	New Zealand	val.hibbert@xtra.co.nz
Beer L	Thailand	lookpetch@hotmail.com (Rotating off)
Fransisco N	India	ciscoa2003@yahoo.com
Nathan	Singapore	hiiamnathan@hotmail.com (Rotating off)
John L	Aust.	Fairgo4all@gmail.com
Dawa T	Bhutan	dawatamang91@yahoo.com (Rotating off)
Sharmini W.	Singapore	sharmuni@hotmail.com
Kunal B.	Mercca	kunalbiswas@gmail.com
James N	N.Zealand	rule62@nettel.net.nz (Rotating off)
Valery T	Russia	teplouhov_v@list.ru
Jeremy D	Sri Lanka	jeremydiaz@gmail.com
John M	Thailand	phuketjohn24@yahoo.com
Celia J	Hong Kong	jaxnhk@netvigator.com
Marie T	Hong Kong	N/A
Anne De V.	Mercca	anndoch@gmail.com (Rotating off)
Abishek s.	Nepal	aghoriuthekoatgodswill@yahoo.com
Ian C.	Chairman – Rotated off	
Shirley C	Secretary-Rotated off.	

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*

* 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.

Anonymous), so that the translation might be reviewed by a professional translation service for its consistency with the original text. The requesting party will also be asked to defer further work until the sample has been checked, and will be advised that, in any case, in order to obtain permission to proceed with the translation, the copyright in the translation project would have to be assigned to AAWS.

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

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

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

B. Request That AAWS Undertake A Translation

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

C. Translations Completed Without Prior Board Permission

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

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

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

**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 Alcoholic 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 notice page in the translations of books, pamphlets, and other written materials, and applicant agrees that all copies of the Licensed Work shall include an exact duplicate of the copyright notice page, as provided by A.A.W.S., without modification, and that no copies of the work shall be published, produced or distributed without said A.A.W.S. provided copyright notice page. A.A.W.S. will also provide applicant with the copyright notice information, and

with directions regarding how and/or where, to place and/or use such information, in connection with translations of audio, video, audio/video works, or computer programs. The applicant shall include the copyright notice information, as provided by A.A.W.S., and placed as directed by A.A.W.S., in connection with translations of audio, video, audio/video works, or computer programs, and applicant agrees that all copies of such Licensed Work shall include an exact duplicate of the copyright notice information, as provided by A.A.W.S., and placed and/or used as directed by A.A.W.S., without modification, and that no copies of the work shall be published, produced or distributed without said A.A.W.S provided copyright notice information.

7. Applicant agrees to send three copies of the Licensed Work in the form in which it is published, including the notices described in Paragraph 5 above, to A.A.W.S. within two weeks of the publication date. Applicant agrees to simultaneously notify A.A.W.S. of (a) the publication date and (b) the year the Translation was completed.
8. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that this license may be revoked by A.A.W.S. at any time for any reason, upon 30 days written notice. Unless revoked, the duration of this Agreement shall be ten years from the date of A.A.W.S.'s signature hereto.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Signature of Applicant _____

Name
(typed) _____

Address _____

—

AGREED TO this ____ day of _____, 20__.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC.

By _____

Name _____

Title _____

(REVISED 8/05)

Assignment Of Copyright

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc (hereinafter referred to as "A.A.W.S.") is the owner of all copyright interests, throughout the world, in the work entitled _____ ("the Work") and all translations and other derivative works based thereon.

In consideration of its permission to translate the work into the _____ language, granted to me by A.A.W.S., I hereby assign all copyright interests in the said translation to A.A.W.S.

I acknowledge that said permission is not exclusive, and that A.A.W.S. may grant similar permission to others; that A.A.W.S. may itself make any modifications to the translation or request that I make any such modifications to the translation which, in its sole judgment, it determines ought to be made; and that A.A.W.S. retains all rights to the publication and distribution of the translation; and the right to license same; and that A.A.W.S. is not obligated to publish, distribute, or otherwise use the translation, or to permit anyone else to do so.

Date: _____ By: _____

(signature)

Name: _____

(print)

Title: _____

On _____ Behalf Of: _____

(name of organization if applicable)

Exhibit A

*GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY
TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE
COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN
AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.*

Thank you all for your attendance at this 9th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting.

We wish you all a safe journey home to your country, and in particular we wish for you

A healthy, happy life one day at a time " as you trudge the Road of Happy

Destiny."(Big Book page 164)

Ian C.

Chairman for this AOSM

And

Shirley C
Secretary/Treasurer