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5th



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

City Garden Hotel, Hong Kong

July 6 - 8, 2003

"The Three Legacies - Recovery, Unity, Service"

The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

Statement of Purpose

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

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

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

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



Confidential – full names used

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

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

The Three Legacies - Recovery, Unity, Service

5th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

Hong Kong – SAR

July 6 – 8, 2003

FINAL REPORT



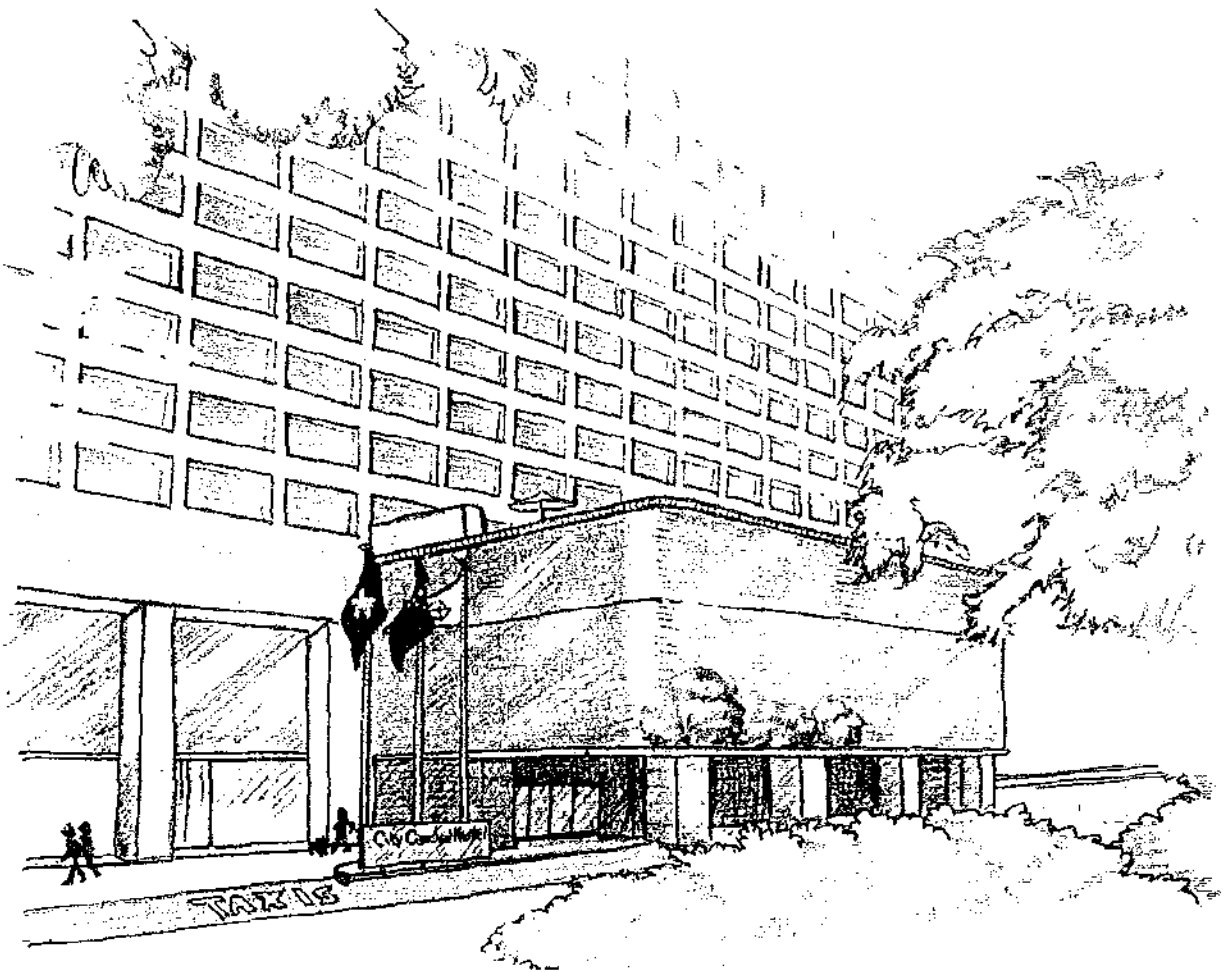
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The Twelve Concepts for World Service (inside back cover)



FIFTH ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING – “THE THREE LEGACIES – RECOVERY, UNITY, SERVICE” -AN OVERVIEW

Hong Kong, a vibrant, colorful city surrounded by immense beauty and breathtaking views, was the host city for the 5th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting. As a gateway to Asia and a crossroads for world travellers it is normally a busy and bustling city. But for many weeks Hong Kong had been devastated by the serious epidemic of SARS sweeping across Asia, and this had created doubt and concern in the hearts of all. At one point it was thought wisest to postpone the AOSM, but, in the last month, the situation began to improve rapidly and the decision was made to place our trust in a loving Higher Power, and proceed.

As 18 delegates from 10 countries gathered at the City Garden Hotel on Hong Kong Island they were given a warm welcome by the Hong Kong fellowship. The earlier arrivals were treated to a cruise around the Hong Kong islands to experience the wonder of the city lights and harbor life among the fishing fleets and ocean-going vessels.

On the following afternoon, Sunday, July 6, the delegates gathered in the hotel's Business centre for registration. There was joy and exultation when the first two members of the new Chinese Fellowship walked in the door accompanied by three volunteer ex-patriate AAs, who had come to provide them with translation and support.

In the traditional AA Meeting the delegates, translators and observers met each other as alcoholics –from Mongolia and Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, China and the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Australia and New Zealand, as well as staff members from the GSO in New York. Hong Kong was indeed a crossroads for these world travellers with the one Primary Purpose – to carry the same message to the suffering alcoholic.

The Hong Kong Fellowship welcomed everyone with a dinner in true Chinese style and an address by Dominic, Chairman of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Group.

Kevin B. [REDACTED], the AOSM Chairman, welcomed the delegates and presented Mark B. [REDACTED] of the Host Committee, with an engraved plaque of appreciation from the AOSM for display in the HKAA home group venue.

Hiroiyuki N. [REDACTED] second-term delegate from Japan, spoke of his own personal experiences when he delivered the Keynote Address on the AOSM's theme, *"The Three Legacies - Recovery, Unity, Service"*. After describing his long and painful struggle to find sobriety in Japan, at a time when the AA program was facing a similar struggle, he finally found the true Alcoholics Anonymous with the Three Legacies. Having involved himself in many forms of service to AA his experience led him to realise that: *"In these activities I know that no member can keep his or her sobriety without carrying the message to suffering alcoholics. Recovery is impossible without Service. And AA members must unite with each other"*.

Next morning, Monday July 7, saw the formal Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer and a reading of the AOSM Statement of Purpose by Wayne W. [REDACTED] of Cambodia. Delegates introduced themselves with first-term delegates giving a brief description of their service experiences, before the Report of the 4th AOSM in Seoul, Korea, in 2001, was reviewed and accepted by the meeting.

Reports from each of the attending countries were presented and highlighted. It was particularly interesting to hear for the first time of the difficulties facing new countries such as Mongolia and China, which, in many ways, reflected the early days of AA when the need for Traditions was realised. Another aspect emerging was that of inter-country co-operation to help one another to reach more alcoholics, e.g. Hong Kong and China, Australia and Cambodia.

Adrienne B. [REDACTED] Staff member from the GSO New York, gave a valuable and illuminating presentation on *"Setting up and Expanding AA in New and Smaller Countries"*. She described several fascinating accounts of how AA's message has been carried into new areas. Studies of the various ways that the AA message spreads show that Literature in the local language is still the essential tool as it was in the beginning with the Big Book. The four most effective ways are

1. One alcoholic reaching out to another.
2. Our co-operation with professionals in this field
3. Countries sponsoring other countries and
4. The Zonal Service Meetings such as the AOSM.

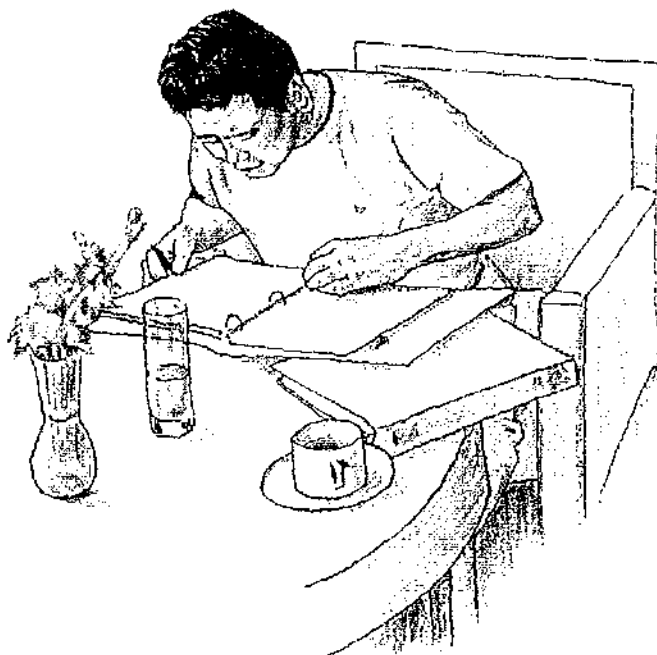
Following the lunch break the delegates looked at reports from the Chairman, Secretary and the new Working Committee on the activities of the intervening years since 2001. The AOSM finances were examined and the need for support from more countries was recognised. Various recommendations from the

Working Committee were accepted and adopted for the future conduct of the AOSM. Among these were:

1. Four standing committees were established to involve all delegates in the running of the AOSM, its finances, its agenda and directions.
2. The AOSM prudent reserve was formalised
3. Development of an AOSM Website
4. A committee system for choosing future venues, with countries bidding for it.

During a workshop on *"International Sponsorship"* all the delegates, in groups, shared together on ways their countries could help one another. This gave everyone the opportunity to voice their needs and concerns about trying to reach the alcoholics in their countries and opened many new and valuable lines of communication. Delegates unanimously agreed that this was probably the most helpful session of all.

During the evening a report on the World Service Meeting in Spain in 2002 was given by Allan K. [REDACTED] first-term delegate from Australia. Many Asia-Oceania countries, because they are not yet structured or large enough, are not eligible to attend this world meeting where so much experience and strength is shared. At the Zonal Meetings the larger countries pass on the WSM messages to these smaller countries to assist them to grow - by building structures and developing their group consciences.



The second day began with reports from the workshop groups on International Sponsorship, which revealed the many needs across the Zone and ways that countries are willing to help one another to deal with them.

Literature was of concern for several countries and, following the reports, Wayne from Cambodia presented a detailed story of his country's efforts to obtain the Big Book in the Khmer language. Linda from Indonesia shared a similar story but one in which the Indonesian

Big Book translation process was experiencing difficulty.

Greg M., general manager from the GSO in New York, outlined the requirements and proper procedures which have been decided by the Group Conscience of AA worldwide to protect the spirit, unity and historical nature of Bill W's writings. His talk, and the discussion that followed, answered all the delegates' questions and inspired them with the determination that these legal procedures should always be followed.

It was exciting to see the actual final draft of the Khmer big book, which Greg had brought to show us all.

The delegates had brought items of literature from their various countries so that everyone could see what is now available in the languages of the Asia-Oceania Zone. These had been laid out on a display table and made an impressive sight.

Many other topics were discussed, such as the difficulties of reaching across barriers of culture and language, and the personal growth in spirituality that results from active service in AA.

Attention was then given to the 6th AOSM to take place in July, 2005. As no bids had been received but Australia had expressed an ability to be available, the

Meeting asked Australia to host the next AOSM. China expressed willingness to be the standby venue with help from Hong Kong. Lynne H. was elected to be its Chairperson with Mr Ma of China as her Alternate.

The theme for the 6th AOSM was chosen: "Sponsorship – Unity in Ever-widening Circles" and it was agreed that Masaru Imai, first-term delegate from Japan, would present a report of this AOSM to the next World Service Meeting in New York, in 2004.

In their closing remarks all the delegates expressed their gratitude to the Hong Kong Fellowship for their generosity and service. Many were the expressions of thanksgiving for the privilege of attending such an important and spiritual AA event and of serving our Fellowship. The two Chinese delegates especially described their wonder at the support and loving embrace they'd received from the rest of AA, which had surely given them inspiration, a sense of the Unity of AA and strength to their personal recovery.

The Meeting closed with the delegates standing, holding hands in a united circle and saying the Serenity Prayer first in Chinese, then Mongolian, Korean, Japanese and English in turn and finally in unison. It was truly a moving experience of deep spiritual significance to all present, which we nurtured within us as we travelled back to our distant homes.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

On Sunday evening at a traditional Chinese dinner, hosted by the Hong Kong Fellowship, Dominic, the Chairman of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Group, welcomed all the AOSM guests.

On behalf of the Hong Kong & Kowloon Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, I would like to welcome to Hong Kong the AOSM committee members, delegates and observers, and our guests from the General Service Office in New York.

It is a pleasure for Hong Kong to act as host to the 5th Asia Oceania Service Meeting. Thanks to the grace of a higher power, and your patience and determination, SARS was unable to derail the AOSM meeting.

As a major business destination and cross roads in Asia, Hong Kong AA meets visiting alcoholics from around the world, which adds much richness to the recovery experience in Hong Kong.

Acting as host country, coupled with our participation in previous AOSM meetings, especially the 4th AOSM in Korea, has helped raise our group's awareness of opportunities to be of unity and service with other groups and countries in the region.

Since Korea, we have attempted to become more actively involved in reaching out to groups and loners in mainland China. And while we can take no credit for

the blossoming of AA among the mainland Chinese community, we are especially pleased to welcome the delegates from China.

Without unity and service there cannot be recovery, and just as AA functions by one alcoholic sharing their experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic, so too can AA groups learn from the experience of other groups in other countries. We hope that the 5th AOSM will continue the progress in carrying the message to suffering alcoholics throughout the region and facilitate even closer unity and service among the groups and countries in the region.

Thank you for attending the 5th AOSM and we hope you enjoy your stay in Hong Kong.

Dominic – Chairman, Hong Kong Fellowship

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The theme of this meeting is "The Three Legacies - Recovery, Unity and Service"

It is one of the greatest privileges of my life to welcome you wonderful servants of this life saving fellowship. You have all suffered the ravages of a devastating disease. You have all experienced the miracle of the Higher Power's healing grace and now in gratitude you meet here in Hong Kong to serve the AA fellowship

and to do your part in carrying the AA message to those who continue to suffer from the disease of alcoholism.

Thank you all for giving of your time to share with us and please pass on our sincere thanks to the AA structure in your country. Without their help your attendance here in Hong Kong may not have been possible.

I would also like to welcome our special guests from New York. Your encouragement and wisdom enables us to grow as an autonomous group but as a group with a vast database of knowledge upon which to draw.

Many experienced AA members have witnessed the growth of the AOSM since the first meeting in Tokyo in 1995 and this applies particularly to some of our observers here today. Their service to the AOSM during the earlier years has contributed immensely to what we have today. I would like to welcome all observers and I invite you to share your experiences with us over the next two days.

When we last met in Korea the chairman drew our attention to sponsorship and the need to consider a prudent reserve. His comments prompted delegates to raise other administration issues that arise as any group begins to mature. In recognition of this the delegates appointed a working committee to research the experience of more established Zonal meetings and to report their findings and recommendations to you here in Hong Kong.

There have been some wonderful reports prepared which you will have had an opportunity to review. The working committee has made some suggestions and you will have an opportunity to discuss these

recommendations in your committee work later in our meeting.

For me one of the most significant aspects of this meeting in Hong Kong is that our secretary, Anne, is to rotate off service after completion of the final report. I was in Sydney in March 1999 when the need for a secretariat was born. Anne was present at that meeting as an observer and in the true spirit of AA Anne volunteered to become the first secretary of the newly founded secretariat.

Anne's professionalism and commitment can be seen in the work that she has done since that time. It is a tribute to her experience and wisdom that the AOSM has grown and flourished. I would like to formally thank Anne for the superb work that she has done on our behalf and in particular I would like to express my gratitude for the help and encouragement that she has given me in my capacity as chairman. Without this help our road to Hong Kong would have been a much greater struggle.

In closing, it seems inconceivable that throughout our zone there may be millions of suffering alcoholics who do not yet know of Alcoholics Anonymous, yet it is true. There is no greater reason than this for us to dedicate our lives to our primary purpose. We depend upon God our provider and upon the three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service to carry this vital message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic.

Thank you for being here and thank you for being such a wonderful part of my recovery.

Kevin B. [REDACTED] - Chairman (New Zealand)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

"The Three Legacies - Recovery, Unity, Service"

Following a presentation to the Hong Kong Fellowship in appreciation of their hospitality, Hiroyuki N. [REDACTED] second-term delegate for Japan, delivered the Keynote Address

Hello everyone, my name is Hiroyuki and I am an alcoholic. I come from Japan. I thank you and the Higher Power for the opportunity of this Keynote Address. I feel this is a great honor for me. And welcome, new delegates of Mongolia. We are very glad to see you. Enjoy your stay in Hong Kong. This meeting will be a wonderful experience for you.

Before writing this Address, I read "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age" again, and found the following passage by Bill W.,

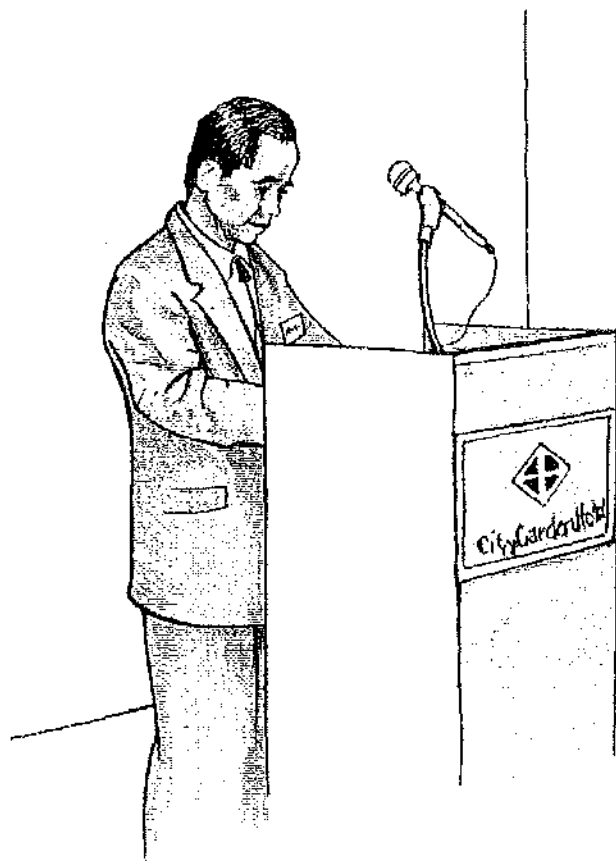
"It is traditional in Alcoholics Anonymous that we do not make speeches; we just talk about our own experiences and about the experiences of those around us. My talk will be no exception."

Encouraged by this passage, I'd like to talk about my own experiences and the history of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Japan from its beginning up to the present time briefly.

I am 73 now. I began drinking in my high school days. I was 16. That school was far from my house, so I stayed in its dormitory. One evening, a classmate of mine said to me, "Why don't we go for a drink?" At that time I felt I had become grown-up a little, so I went with him to a bar in the neighborhood and drank whisky for the first time in my life. It was not so good. Its taste was hot. But I was able to drink another cup, and kept on drinking. It was strange. I've got drunk heavily, and didn't remember anything except that I went to another friend's house after that. Thus I experienced a blackout on that evening when I took the first drink.

Since then, I drank a few times in my high school and college days and committed some failures. But I was a poor student, so I couldn't drink as much as I wanted.

After the graduation from Tokyo University, I got a job with a big cotton-spinning company, and I began to drink every day. Soon I noticed I had drunk only for the purpose of intoxication. I got married to a beautiful girl a few years later. And she also noticed that my drinking was abnormal. She consulted a doctor. He said it's better for me to be taken into a mental hospital. But my mother opposed it. So I didn't go to any hospital. When I was 30, it was certain that I had become an alcoholic, but I didn't know that. I did the job in the company with much difficulty.



In 1963, when I was 33, I had a stomach ulcer from heavy drinking. I had to have an operation on my stomach. During the time I was in hospital, I thought I must change my way of life. Already, in 1957, a doctor of Mukogawa mental hospital in Hyogo Prefecture had heard of the success of A.A. in the States, and he made a group for the treatment of his alcoholic patients. It was called Mukogawa A.A. Group. In 1958, Danshukai also started in Kochi Prefecture. Danshukai is a fellowship to stop drinking like A.A., it was made imitating A.A.'s example and followed the pattern of A.A. meetings. It exists only in Japan. But I didn't know about these two groups.

So I decided to be baptized in a Catholic Church in my neighborhood to change my drinking pattern and way of life. I had an interest in Christianity since my college days and read a lot of books on this belief. And I thought maybe I could stop my drinking if I became a Christian. But such a miracle was not performed. Now I think at that time I felt already my powerlessness over alcohol and that I couldn't stop drinking by myself.

Anyway, I couldn't stop even though I was baptized. And there were not any alcoholics in that church.

In 1965, when I was 40, I drank heavily and went looking for someone to assault. Fortunately I didn't succeed. But after this unsuccessful event I began to think seriously to go to a self-help group to stop my drinking. One day I read about Mukogawa A.A. group and Danshukai in a paper. And I decided to go to a group of Mukogawa A.A., because it was held in a Catholic church. Since then I went to the meetings of this Mukogawa A.A. once a week for about 10 years. But I couldn't stay sober for a long time. I slipped again and again. The longest period that I stayed sober was one year. I know the reason now. Because we didn't carry the message.

Mukogawa A.A. was called A.A., but it was different from the true A.A. First of all, it depended on the doctor who had begun this group. Sometimes he attended the meeting and made a speech, and gave orders. I think this was against Tradition 2 or 4, but we didn't know about the 12 Traditions. The "12 steps" were translated. But this translation was bad and difficult to understand. The Big Book was not yet translated. Members were all mostly the patients of this doctor. I was the only exception. However, we thought we belonged to the true A.A. I heard that this group vanished after this doctor died in 1990's.

Four years later it was suggested I should go to the Far East Roundup of Alcoholics Anonymous in Tokyo. This was the Roundup, which had been held by American A.A. members in Japan for a few years. They were mostly American soldiers and businessmen. And this was the true A.A. My Japanese friend and I were welcomed by them heartily. The atmosphere was very warm. So we determined to come to this Roundup again.

The next year, in 1975, we both went there and met an American priest and some Japanese people. They were the first Japanese A.A. members in Tokyo, and the American priest was an alcoholic himself. He had come back to Japan from New York the previous year to carry the A.A. message to Japanese alcoholics, and after much trouble he started this A.A. group in Tokyo with some Japanese alcoholics. At first this group was not called A.A., but was called "Today Club". Anyway, it was the first A.A. group in Japan.

In this way A.A. in Japan started in Tokyo, but the message was not yet carried to Kansai Area at the same time. I was in Mukogawa group still after that Roundup, and slipped frequently. Five years later, in 1980, A.A. in Kansai started. I was advised to attend the new A.A. meeting by a friend of mine of Mukogawa group. This new meeting was the true A.A., which I participated in six years before. I had arrived at my goal at last. And that friend became my sponsor recently.

But this is not the end of my story. To make a long story short, I slipped many times even after I came to this A.A., and at last decided to stop going to meetings in

1984. Actually I hadn't gone for about two years. It was my darkest days.

One evening I went to a bar with my colleague, and wounded him on his forehead. I didn't know it. I was heavily drunk. I heard about this incident the following day. After this incident I made up my mind to go to an A.A. meeting again. And I phoned my friend in A.A. He took me to a meeting and said, "Go to a meeting every night for 90 days." And I followed his advice faithfully. Thanks to his advice and the Higher Power, I have been sober for 17 years and one month since that night.

A few years later I was elected as one of the District Committee Members, then a member of the Steering Committee of the Kansai Area Central Office, and a delegate to Japan's General Service Conference. And now I am talking to you here as the delegate from Japan. Meanwhile I'd continued carrying the message to

a mental hospital for a couple of years, and translated some A.A. literature into Japanese. In these activities I know that no member can keep his or her sobriety without carrying the message to suffering alcoholics. RECOVERY is impossible without SERVICE. And A.A. members must unite with each other.

I have met a lot of foreign members at the WSM and the AOSM. They have the same disease as mine. Their talks were very beneficial for us. And I thought the A.A. message is without borders. This is the Unity of A.A. RECOVERY, SERVICE, and UNITY are three. But I think these THREE LEGACIES are one as symbolized in the A.A. TRIANGLE. These LEGACIES are indispensable for us to live in the 21st century. And A.A. is the shining star of hope everywhere in the world. Thank you.

Hiroyuki N. [redacted] - Delegate, Japan

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNTRY REPORTS

AUSTRALIA

Australia was the first overseas country to import Alcoholics Anonymous from its birthplace in North America. In 1945 in Sydney groups started, often deviating from the original concept, until alcohol forced adherence to the principles. Over time, the AA message began to spread sporadically, first to other capital cities, then to rural and regional areas. Growth was slow due to the vastness of the country.

In 1970, the Fellowship formally adopted a service structure, based on the US/Canada Service Manual, although many groups still do not follow it. We now have about 1800 functioning groups, with possibly 10,000 members. Approximately one third of groups contribute financially though more than 50% are registered with our National Office. Growth is slow partly through lack of group structure and a commitment to service in the membership.

Australians are beginning to realise the great need to carry the message to professionals - a practice long-neglected. Active groups are now approaching doctors, police, magistrates, solicitors, schools, etc. in their local communities. At Central Office, District and Area levels more formal approaches are made to management and staff of treatment and correctional facilities to improve awareness of, and co-operation with, AA. In many cases this has resulted in AA meetings within these facilities.

One Area recently provided an AA presentation at a large national symposium on alcohol and drug dependence. Another example is the Sydney City Office, which contacted the Archbishop of Sydney and arranged for an AA member to speak to him. Since then there have been a lot of calls from Catholic Schools.

At the most recent National Public Information Forum it was proposed that a national PI Co-ordinator be appointed. A PI newsletter, reporting current activities to the fellowship and encouraging more action is a regular addition to our newsletter "AA Around Australia".

Public Awareness meetings, to which professionals are regularly invited, are part of the programs of many conventions throughout the country. Our Class A [non-alcoholic] Trustees have been invaluable as speakers and as our conduit to the print and electronic media. There is still much to be done, however, and Public Information literature has proved very useful.

Recent surveys have shown that most people come to AA as a result of contact with another member. This stresses the importance of face-to-face carrying of the message, but it does reveal that our efforts to reach the sick alcoholic via professionals and the general public need to be greatly intensified.

Mail contacts have proved ineffective. Personal approaches work best, e.g. going to see the Doctor and talking to him about AA rather than sending him some AA pamphlets or invitations to Public Awareness Meetings. However, there are not enough members willing to do the work.

Our web site attracts a lot of enquiries and interest from around the world. Our web site address is www.aa.org.au. Communication by email is a regular practice in general service and central service activities.

People from non-English speaking cultures, generally try to deal with their own alcohol problems within their communities rather than approach AA. When approaches are made they are English speaking only e.g. when Russian speakers were needed, a group with

members who spoke a variety of different languages were able to accommodate this type of request. Australia, being a multicultural society, has a variety of cultures such as Middle East, Spanish, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Chinese, Czechoslovakian, Russian, etc. In general, we seem to have the capacity to communicate with these when necessary but welcome any helpful suggestions others can provide.

The lack of commitment by members to structured home groups affects our twelfth step capacity in a variety of ways. Members who "float" from meeting to meeting without participating in a group unfortunately have little opportunity to be aware of "Our Primary Purpose" and small chance of contributing meaningfully towards it. Additionally, as it is the structured groups that contribute to AA services, the more we can encourage members to join groups, the greater will be our level of contributions, and the better we can carry our message both here and to our neighboring countries.

Our recent focus has been working with Cambodia. Our aim is to respond to the requests for assistance from the AAs in Phnom Penh in establishing local Khmer-speaking groups to reach the alcoholics in the Khmer community. We are planning PI activities in Cambodia itself, combined with a variety of approaches to inform the local professional community and enlist their support. A qualified delegation from Australia will attend including AA members and professional friends of AA – possibly non-alcoholic trustees – who can share knowledge of alcoholism and AA with Cambodian professionals. This we hope will take place next year in conjunction with the launch of the Khmer AA Big Book.

Also, we are continuously aware of our fellow AAs in neighboring countries through email and other contacts and we try to maintain this communication flow, responding when needed.

In addition Australia has sponsored delegates from other countries to attend the last Asia Oceania Service Meeting in South Korea and will continue to do so for future AOSMs with the funds allocated for this purpose.

An annual collection for international sponsorship through the Founders Day International Sponsorship Fund, replacing collection for the International Literature Fund, is generally well supported by the fellowship. Last year's contribution was below average due to confusion surrounding the change of name and purpose.

All our Conference approved translations of AA literature are available at AAWS, New York.

The English literature most in demand is the flyer "AA at a Glance" and pamphlets "Message to Teenagers" and "Is AA for You?". Foreign titles most in demand

are "This is AA" and the "Big Book" in Spanish and "This is AA" in Chinese.

There are very few enquiries received about aboriginal or foreign language literature. However, a variety of English literature was sent to Saipan and New Guinea some time ago.

Multilingual members frequently purchase foreign language literature for individual twelfth step or PI work in non-English communities, in particular, our active Spanish groups.

Recently, we heard of a lady in Adelaide who works with alcoholics in India and wishes to acquire as much printed AA material as possible before returning there. Some members have donated Big Books and other literature to her. She also provided us with a contact in Nepal who holds meetings there and wishes to tap into our experience here and we have responded to this.

Australia's aborigines, have no aboriginal language literature available because of the vast number of dialects (over 200). However, there has been success in working with aboriginals particularly in the northern areas, through face-to-face twelfth-stepping.



CAMBODIA

(Website: www.aacambodia.org)

Since the 4th AOSM, we have learned that Alcoholics Anonymous got its start in Cambodia much earlier than its 1992 expatriate-only beginnings. When Cambodians began to fill refugee camps along the Thai border a US aid worker with a brother in AA in New York, noticed the alcoholism that affected many living in the camp. Aware of a solution, she ordered and translated some literature. They had a meeting everyday with up to sixty people in regular attendance. With the close of the camp, the meeting disappeared.

Our membership fluctuates and currently, we have nine members in Phnom Penh Group and one loner in Kampong Som where there was a group for a time until a member moved to another country. At present, one of our members has one week and another now has two weeks (and this is his first time). Two of our members celebrated a year in January. Four of our members have over ten years in the program. However, they are only in Phnom Penh half of the year. Almost all of our members had no experience with service beyond the group level. We do get tourists or visits from members in neighboring countries.

In the Phnom Penh Group, all were ex-pats until about a year ago. Then a Cambodian arrived after his family called us for help. Now we had a newcomer but no shared language.

Three things "coincidentally" came together that provided some hope:

1. We had already translated a draft of the Big Book into Khmer (the Language of Cambodia) over a year prior to his arrival;
2. A Khmer U.S. citizen, sober for some time, visited Cambodia and talked with our newcomer who had stopped coming. He then recommenced regular meetings; and
3. The U.S. began deporting Cambodians that had committed a crime back to Cambodia. Our meeting's landlord provided a transition home for the deportees ("Returnees") thus providing us with a convenient and continuous supply of interpreters.

Additionally, we often invited the Returnees to meetings and one who had been to AA in the U.S came back. At first he preferred doing it alone until recently another Returnee, an AA from Hawaii, arrived and attracted him back. This is an exciting time for us.

Since the 4th AOSM, AA Cambodia has formed closer and more formalized relationships with its neighbors. AA Cambodia hosted a workshop on "Carrying the Message to the Indigenous Population" at two Thai Roundups, which were attended by international members. The workshops were well attended and many interesting ideas were raised, e.g. how to get the literature translated, and to obtain stories on tape, in the local language.

Our first meeting on setting up a regional Service Structure was well attended and the subject hotly debated at the 2002 Thai Roundup. The impetus for this meeting came from discussions at the 4th AOSM followed by email communications with the AOSM Secretary and an Australian delegate. A "Thai Intergroup" that includes Cambodia, with some interest from Vietnam, was formed through the persistence of some Cambodian members. Though this may not be the ideal vehicle, it is a start and we have had two meetings so far this year.

There are many that don't see the need for a connection to AA beyond the group level. But Bill Archer's visit to the Bangkok Group of AA helped many people to

become interested. I cannot stress enough the value of experience with the Traditions and the Concepts to those of us scattered across the region.

It is important to mention Australia's Sponsorship of AA Cambodia. Australia AA has lent us experience which is greatly needed and appreciated. They have also given us some financial support making it possible for us to attend the 4th AOSM. Our coming project with Australia is most exciting. We are planning to have a Delegation from Australia AA come to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to increase public information and co-operation with the professional community with the ultimate aim of getting a local Khmer speaking meeting started and growing for the suffering alcoholic.

CHINA

After the 2000 Minnesota world conference, two doctors, Dr. Guo Song and Dr. Li Bing, came back with the AA program to help alcoholics stop drinking. Several months later we held our first AA meeting at the Anding Hospital. We named that meeting the Double Sobriety Group. The first meeting was held in July of 2000. The second meeting was established in October 2000 at the Beijing #6 University Hospital and named the Xue Zhi Group. The third meeting was established outside the hospitals with the help of Beijing Foreign Friends and that was named the Bi-Lingual Group. This group was important in helping to pass on the foreign "old-timers" experience to our new membership.

At this point we have three years of Chinese AA history in the People's Republic of China and have introduced the AA program to more than 50 potential members. We currently have more than ten Chinese relative old-timers who attend meetings on a regular basis.

In August of 2001 the Anding Hospital doctors Guo Song and doctor Sheng, along with some foreign AAs, carried the message to the Tianjin Treatment centre, about two hours drive south east of Beijing. This was the fourth Chinese meeting established in Mainland China. One year later we managed to get official government recognition for the Tianjin Group.

All of the groups mentioned are going through a growth transition. At times, some meetings consist of only two members. But more recently we have had as many as 16 members attend a meeting.

Up until the SARS outbreak, all meetings have been held in either hospitals or at a foreign residence. But SARS has forced us to find our own clubhouse about two weeks ago. We now even have our own phone. In this respect, SARS has been a blessing in disguise.

We now have 5 meetings a week in our clubhouse. This includes a Big-Book Study, Step Study, Tradition Meeting, open speaker meeting. If you add the two soon-to-be-resumed hospital 12th step meetings, this will bring the number of meetings in Beijing up to 7.

The Tianjin Group, about 2 hours from Beijing, currently holds 4 meetings every week with approximately 14 members in attendance.

We are happy to report that outreach efforts have been made to several other cities including Shi Jia Zhuang, Shanghai, Jilin and, 2 days ago, to Guangzhou. It should be noted that all of these are cities of several million people so there are a great number of potential people in need of help.

There are no specific success stories to report so far, and one of our main concerns is how to effectively follow up these initial contacts more successfully, especially with respect to encouraging new groups to follow the traditions.

The foreign expat group has provided valuable support to our young group. Several of our foreign alcoholic friends regularly attend our meetings to share their experience, strength and hope as well as provide patient guidance on sponsorship, steps and traditions. For this support we are very, very grateful. We would not be as far along in the program without their generous support.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the GSO office in NY for translating the big book into simplified Chinese Characters, as well as the 12x12, and several pamphlets.

We would like to also thank members of Beijing fledging Al-Anon group who have provided translation and other support to the bilingual group.

The AA program has already provided invaluable relief to the problem of alcoholism by restoring individual families and lives within our society.

HONG KONG

AA has been in Hong Kong for 34 years. There is one AA group in Hong Kong with 28 meetings in eight locations, the main location being permanent rooms in Borrett Road procured from the Hong Kong Government. The group holds monthly business meetings where Group Committee members and meeting secretaries discuss aspects of business and twelfth-step work in Hong Kong. We have two committees, which report to the monthly business meeting. These are the "Hospitals, Institutions and Public Information" Committee and the "AOSM hosting" committee. We follow the Service Manual Guidelines with regards to sharing of responsibilities including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Literature.

For contacting AA, we have a 24-hour a day phone answering service at 852-2522-5665 and a web page - <http://hkaa.homestead.com/> - has been set up that includes a list of all meetings in Hong Kong. Our e-mail address is hk_aa@hotmail.com. We have also updated the information in the AA International Directory to list more of the meetings in Hong Kong.

Since the 4th AOSM, our group has attempted to organise a round-up for China covering Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou but the response was minimal so this was abandoned. However, we have made satisfactory progress in our contacts with AA groups in mainland China. We have established a list of English-speaking meetings within the PRC and a list of telephone/e-mail contacts for representatives of the Beijing and Shanghai groups as well as contacts for 8 loners in 6 other Chinese cities. This list is published on the Shanghai website <http://www.aashanghai.com>.



For anonymity reasons HKAA has decided not to publish it on our website. However, it is provided to people visiting China and seeking contacts through HKAA. This was largely accomplished through visits made to these groups by individual members. Also, members of mainland groups visit Hong Kong from time-to-time and are able to give us news of developments there.

During the year, our group purchased from AA in Taiwan, 50 copies of the simplified Chinese translation of the 12 & 12. A copy of the 12 & 12 as well as the traditional Chinese Big Book were recently mailed to a loner who was visiting PRC for several months and trying to carry the message to the Chinese community.

We were visited by Alex P, a trustee of AA in Canada as well as Bill A of the GSO International Desk. Both of these visitors shared their experience, strength and hope with our committee members and other interested AA group members.

The Hospitals, Institutions and Public Information Committee of this group has been consolidating the work done last year in contacting the appropriate Department Heads of all Public and Private Hospitals as well as schools, clergy and penal institutions. Our database is being updated ready for another mail out in September of the AA Starter Pack which includes the pamphlet "What is AA?". This year, the mailing will include a questionnaire seeking more details of the treatment and education programs offered in Hong Kong as well as expressions of interest in knowing more about AA and whether a visit by our members would be of value. Experience of other groups in the region in this regard is most welcome.

Within this group there is one bilingual meeting, involving Cantonese and English and one Chinese (Cantonese) speaking meeting. The Chinese meeting takes place in Castle Peak hospital with an average attendance of about 10. At any one time there may be 20 members on an on-and-off basis. We now have 3 members with 2 years sobriety, 1 with 1 year and 2 with 6 months and a critical mass of members is slowly being achieved.

The fellowship today still mainly comprises British, North American and Australian members with a small number of local Chinese members and other Asians. In addition to the numbers mentioned in connection with the Chinese meeting, there are nearly 100 members on the English speaking phone list. However, Hong Kong is a transient city for the non-local community and we have a number of short-term members and other members, often former Hong Kong members who revisit us on a regular basis. Including new comers and Chinese speaking members, the membership at any one time is greater than the phone list suggests.

INDONESIA

Our first meeting started in Ubud twelve years ago and then spread to Kuta and Sanur. The membership was small, one to five members in the Ubud group and three

or four in Seminyak. They stayed quite small for a time consisting of tourists passing through, but now we have a membership of about 30 to 40 Indonesians and around 50 ex-pats who live in and pass through Bali.

Indonesia has a population of 260 million, 60% are students and 30% of these students are alcoholics or drug addicts. There is a lot of work to do here, as there are 1730 islands and much alcoholism

Jakarta has about 6 members, with one Indonesian. There is no Bahasa meeting although this group has been in existence for a number of years. No message is being carried to the locals, and there are many alcoholics in Jakarta. Monardo is also in a terrible state with a lot of the local lads running riot and sleeping in the streets. We have one member up there pleading for support to start a meeting. In Sumba and in Surabaya in Java, with much alcoholism, there is no meeting, no information, no detox, no help offered.

Our convention in Bali over the last 2 years has brought many visitors. We have an intergroup structure, with Indonesian delegates. The Indonesian fellowship is still very new but has grown fast over the past 2 years.

Meetings in Bahasa Indonesian have started, which bring in a lot of local Indonesians. We have a translated big book, so the message can be spread.

Neither the Indonesians nor the English-speaking members understand the fundamental basics of A.A. structure. Service pamphlets in Bahasa Indonesian would help develop this understanding.

There is no relationship of professionals with A.A. The doctors know little about detoxing from alcohol and deaths occur as a result. There is a hospital meeting in Sangla and one in the jail in Bali. An Indonesian public service announcement for TV on A.A would be valuable.

It has only been in recent times that Indonesians have been able to meet in public as it was forbidden under previous governments. This is enabling the Indonesian's fellowship to grow. The Indonesian fellowship struggles to cover costs and the ex-pat fellowship does help. They do not have the finances for things like translations, printing, P.I. publications etc.

We have been communicating and working with Australia, through our AOSM delegates. Our Indonesian members are informed that Australia is our sponsor country and are full of hope regarding the future spread of the fellowship throughout Indonesia.

We have the Big Book already translated but the current edition is not approved or copyrighted. We do not have "12 x 12" in Indonesian nor any P.I. literature translated. We need more translation done and help with printing and distributing the Big Book in Indonesia.

As yet we do not have any approved literature, except for the previously copyrighted Big Book, which is not finalised or yet fully accepted.

The fellowship is very interested in getting literature, having personal visits of professional people, invitations to conferences/forums, and with assisted travel for future delegates.

JAPAN

In 2003, General Service in Japan encountered financial difficulties. The General Service Board revealed that the expected income would not be able to cover the plans in the original budget, and a reduction in service responsibilities to fit the income was not acceptable. The Board decided to recommend to the annual Conference that money be taken from the Fund for important literature translation and be used for general operations.

The group conscience expressed by the Conference was remarkable – the recommendation was approved and the delegates reported the situation back to the fellowship. This has created a more active group conscience in the country and produced warm-hearted contributions from many more groups. It was a valuable experience in realising the presence of our Higher Power.

We have to seek effective service leaders continuously in order to keep the general service structure functioning soundly. This year when we confronted a difficult situation – an area could not elect a delegate – the conference, through its Agenda Committee, realised the importance of sponsorship between areas and the responsibility of the Committee to make sure that reports are carried to the areas. As a result the “Conference Report meeting” in that area was held with some Conference Agenda Committee members attending immediately after the Conference. The area then realised and understood the importance of taking responsibility for general service and elected a delegate.

One area held a “GSR Orientation Meeting” led by the area delegates to stimulate enthusiasm and understanding of the importance of general service and of service leaders in rotation.

Our annual national Service Forum, started four years ago, has gradually become an opportunity to share our experience, strength, and hope in service.

The year of 2003 is the eighth year since the general service conference structure was organized in Japan. The long outstanding tasks, establishment of both Conference Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board, and application as a non-profit organization, are in their final stage and are expected to be achieved within a year or two.

In September 2002, the Public Information Committee of the Board held a “Public Relation and Treatment Facility Forum” in Shiga-prefecture where the AA population had been very small. The keynote addresses were presented by two Class A trustees and about one hundred professionals attended for the first time.

In recent years, various TV stations have frequently reported Alcoholics Anonymous in Japan with those reports focussing more and more on the recovery of young alcoholics and women alcoholics.

The main activities of an area's PI Committee are to respond to the offers from the local junior high schools, high schools, medical technical colleges, and other psychiatric health care organizations. Members in that area are enthusiastically carrying the message to those institutions.

Although correctional facilities have increasingly learned about AA, the message is not carried by AAs themselves because of legal restriction. But we are successfully carrying the message into the correctional rehabilitation facilities ourselves. One of them has a well-established A.A. meeting.

The website of A.A. in Japan is guided by the PI Committee of the Board. The Committee is reviewing the legal and copyright responsibilities of the website this year. Communications with central offices, general service committees, etc., are now maintained mainly by using email.

In February 2003, the first email was received from the Mongolian A.A. office. The General Service Board decided to help a delegate from Mongolia attend the 5th AOSM, financially in co-operation with the AOSM Secretariat.

In Japan, the International Co-operation Committee was set up. A.A. in Japan has collected contributions for international co-operation during June each year since the World Service Meeting established the International Co-operation Fund. We have encouraged all of the three hundred and ninety-seven groups in Japan to contribute to this Fund. Last year the General Service Conference decided to use this contribution for sponsorship in Asia/Oceania Zone, as well as for the WSM International Literature Fund.

This fund was used to bring five delegates from Korea. Their sharing was a great help towards the progress of the general service structure in Japan. Relationship between Korea and Japan is very friendly and I hope we will create a stronger sponsorship.

The Japanese Big Book with twelve Japanese members' stories in hardcover was published in October, 2002. Japanese-translated “As Bill Sees It” will be published in July, 2003.

The following are the new publications since the 4th AOSM.

“Letter to a Woman Alcoholic”(Japanese translation)
“Welcome to A.A.”(Japanese original pamphlet with illustration, pilot edition)

“AA in Japan Public Information Material” (Japanese Version of “Fact File”)

“The AA Service Manual”(Japanese translation of “The AA Service Manual” 2001-2002 Edition)

KOREA

In 1982 an Irish Catholic Father who was an A.A. member started A.A. with a halfway -house meeting in Sang Gye-dong, Seoul. Later the message was carried at a Catholic treatment facility and meetings began to spread remarkably till the General Service Office was raised through holding 4th ASOM at Seoul, Korea in 2001.

There has been slow growth recently compared with rapid growth over the past 10 years. There are 74 registered groups now with about 1,500 members throughout South Korea. Currently, we have two Area committees, the Metropolitan Area Committee and Pusan-Kyungnam Area Committee, and another two Area Committees will be organized in the near future. Some of the small regional groups, such as Kangwon province and Cheju Island province, are receiving special help to carry the message.

Each group is structured and sends representatives to the monthly area committee meeting and quarterly National committee meeting and also the annual conference. The conference elects the service members of the National Committee with a two-year term.

Recently, more women and young people are seeking help and some women's meetings have been started although women members are few as yet.

We've been requested increasingly to co-operate with the professional community through hospitals, treatment facilities, educational institutes, etc. In parallel with growing demand, many of our members are committing to study alcoholism theoretically in order to co-operate with professional community efficiently. In fact, 25 members are registered to learn about Alcoholism and other addictions academically in a leading Alcohol & Drug abuse-related educational institute.

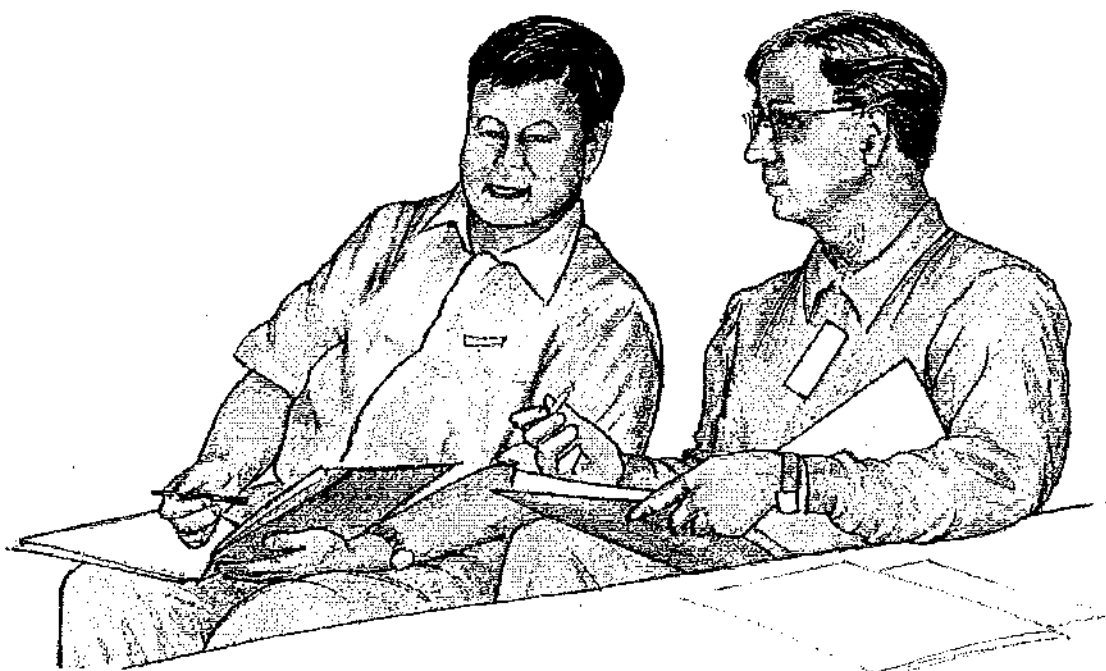
An active Hospital's committee carries the message regularly every week into hospitals and discusses the best ways to co-operate with treatment facilities. But, we have some of difficulties in carrying the message to still-suffering alcoholics. Firstly, only a few members participate in carrying the message because many members do not recognize the importance of carrying the message as the basic reason of our existence and are short of time and expenses.

Secondly, we could point out the imbalance of carrying the message by regional groups, which means some regional groups are excessive and not regulated in carrying the message. However, most of groups are still lukewarm in performing the basic reason of our existence. We will have to strengthen our activity of carrying the message in spite of encountering difficulties, which is the best way to maintain our sobriety.

We have co-operated with Japan AA for many years. Last February, some of our members attended Japan AA's annual conference and shared in their activities and systems. Japanese members have visited Korea AA frequently and participated in the Korean Convention regularly in order to exchange shared experiences and international sponsorship.

Our members have visited North-East China biannually, where many Korean-Chinese people live, in order to deliver AA literature and carry the message to still-suffering Korean-Chinese alcoholics.

In 1985 the 'Big Book' was translated into Korean, followed by "12 & 12", "Living Sober", "As Bill Sees It", and many other pamphlets. The 'Big Book' and "12 & 12" are just revised. More items of literature are being translated by A.A. volunteer members and will be published in due order to meet the needs of treatment facilities, professional community, educational institute, etc.



Each committee (T.F.C., P.I. and C.P.C) is working efficiently with workbooks and guidelines, which are also translated. We are very glad to have started the publication of our monthly newsletter (Box 1415) approx. one year ago.

Lastly, Korea AA has already come of age and just risen to a General Service Office. So, we are sensible of our responsibility for playing a suitable role in the AA Asia-Oceania zone. We are convinced that the future of Korea AA is bright because all of our members are trying to develop our activities and structures through fulfilling our AA principles.

MONGOLIA

In 1993 treatment on the Minnesota model was implemented with the assistance of a Narcological Centre and an International Organisation JCS.

On November 26, 1998, an AA meeting was started with two people through the Minnesota model of treatment and doctors from the Narcological Centre. From this time on the work of carrying information of this AA meeting became a public movement throughout Mongolia. It led to some difficulties such as not following the Primary Purpose and the AA principles and conflicted with the 12 Traditions. There was some misunderstanding between the Narcological Centre and the AA members because of some AA members participating in the training and advertising.

In April 2001 the AA members, according to their Primary Purpose, established the GSO of AA, and started to set up meetings according to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. During this period there were some conflicts with the 12 Steps when some members made career and property their main focus. In some meetings one member was treated as a "guru" and when this "guru" picked up a drink the other members lost their trust in the program and the meeting closed.

After 2001 the GSO of AA encouraged meetings to practise the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions and today the meetings conform to the traditions. Today there are 28 registered groups with closed, open and speaker meetings available. There are 1600 members in recovery. Although the meetings are held in accordance with the 12 Traditions some country groups have conflicts with the traditions. Some outside organisations use the name of AA in some cases and this creates problems that hurt AA.

In December 2002, in our efforts to persuade the country meetings to practise the traditions the GSO requested and accepted some financial assistance from the Mongolian Government.

The Mongolian General Service Office was established on April 3, 2001. The Staff is composed of Board members, Chairman, Secretary and Office manager. We have close contacts with AA in Japan, Korea, Poland, India, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Czech, the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting and the East European AA

Service Meeting. GSO in New York helps us with Big Books in Mongolian, which were sent to us in 2001.

Our main problems are these. In order to encourage the practice of the 12 traditions a Mongolian Conference needs to be organised, but we need to solve the financial problem of this. We also need to solve the problem of ways to raise funds and we need help to print AA literature in the Mongolian language.

NEW ZEALAND

AA came to New Zealand in 1946 when Ian McE. wrote to New York after reading about AA in the Readers Digest, but the AA service structure was not fully established until the first National Conference was held in Palmerston North in 1964.

The General Service Conference meets biannually in Wellington and is composed of nine class B trustees (three from each area assembly), up to four Class A trustees and a Conference Chairman who must have served previously as a delegate to Conference. The two World Service Delegates attend as invited guests, are free to speak but do not have voting rights. A Conference Secretary and the office general manager also attend conference.

We estimate that at present 4000-5000 members attend AA in this country on a regular basis. There are some 500 meetings, a figure that has been stable for 7-8 years.

Our indigenous community is integrated into modern society and AA is available to them like anyone else. Some meetings are attended wholly by Maori or Samoan members.

We have an active *National Hospitals, Institutions and Professionals* Committee but this is to be replaced by a PI Committee carrying out the same functions. We write to doctors, and all medical students in NZ currently attend an AA meeting as part of their training. We could do better, however. The major challenge is probably the attitude of the professionals in the alcohol and drugs field and those responsible for finance. AA is seen in some quarters as (a) amateur in a professional world and (b) out of date.

We have been trying to establish some link or contact with alcoholics in the Pacific region but as yet have merely scratched the surface. We're finding people, not necessarily alcoholic themselves, wanting our guidance. At our recent Conference the idea for AA groups in our country adopting a small country in the AOSM area with a view to sponsoring that country, was put forward.

Our literature needs are met. We have translated some literature into Maori and six Pacific Island languages. We print the Serenity Prayer and the Steps in our monthly magazine "*Mainstay*" and have also printed the banners in Maori.

We have pamphlets in Maori, Cook Island Maori, Fijian, Nuian. Samoan, Tongan. We have a small but steady demand for Croatian "Big Books" for the Dalmatian population in Auckland and the North.

The finances of AA in New Zealand remain healthy. This has been made possible through controlled and prudent management and has enabled the fellowship to establish and maintain a prudent reserve. Our recent conference voted to reduce the prudent reserve because the money is needed to carry the message and donations are slow when a reserve is too healthy.

We are considering reaching out to possible alcoholics languishing in the prisons of the countries in the AOSM area. We contacted an organisation called Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators and obtained addresses for prison administrators in these countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Vietnam. We have written to these places and are

waiting for replies, hoping this will open up some communication.

A survey will be made of AA in New Zealand next year. New Zealand has now developed a website that we believe will be the envy of every AA country.

PHILIPPINES

There are a few locals that are able to attend the AOSM, but the interest is not there. Any growth or development in the Philippines is directly proportional to the foreigner/ex-pat participation. The annual conventions generate enough interest to allow sending money to the GSO in NY. On a monthly basis, however, none of the intergroups are financially able to contribute. Interest in service, structure or participation in AA affairs is very low among the Filipino membership.

Cultural differences between ex-patriate and Filipino members makes sharing difficult and delicate. The need for AA is real, the growth slow because of this.

Specifically literature in Tagalog and English is just hard to get. Some new groups have started in Baguio since the last report but, otherwise, little changes.

PRESENTATION

"Setting Up and Expanding Alcoholics Anonymous In New and Small Countries"

Good morning, my name is Adrienne, I am an alcoholic and a member of the "We Can" Group of Alcoholics Anonymous in Brooklyn, New York. We meet on Monday and Wednesday at 7:00pm and on Saturday mornings at 10:00am. If you are ever in Brooklyn I hope that you will visit my home group.

The staff members at the General Service Office in New York rotate to different assignments every two years. Rotation occurred last week and I now have the privilege of serving on the International desk. I am responsible for all overseas correspondence and for co-ordinating the 18th World Service Meeting, which will take place in New York in the fall of 2004. The theme will be "One Message—Many Languages—One Fellowship."



As some of you may know, Bill A., my immediate predecessor on the International assignment, is battling cancer and several staff members have stepped up to assist with the correspondence received from A.A. members and groups from across the world. We thank you for your patience and kind thoughts. Bill sends his love and gratitude for your expressions of support during this difficult period in his life. We ask that you keep him and his family in your prayers.

Now, I would like to thank Anne for the loving invitation to share with you some of our experiences in setting up and expanding A.A. in new and small countries. The collected experience at

GSO New York indicates that there are four key elements that are vital to setting up and expanding AA:

1. First, one alcoholic sharing the life-changing message of Alcoholics Anonymous with another alcoholic.
2. Co-operating with non-alcoholic professionals.
3. Country-to-country sponsorship.
4. Zonal Service Meetings.

It has been almost 70 years since Ebby T. took the subway to that distant outer borough of Brooklyn and called on his old friend, Bill W., at his home at 182 Clinton Street. While Bill sipped his gin, Ebby became the paradigm for Bill's later actions, which have come to ensure our individual sobrieties and the very life of our Fellowship. That autumn day in 1934 Ebby laid out the way in which we transcend the alcoholic's isolation—he was carrying the message to another alcoholic.

Sometime later, we realised that we needed to have literature in order to reach more people than we could on a one-to-one or group basis. We wrote a book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and we were able not only to carry the message, but we could carry or send the book that contained the message. Within a few short years, we were asking the question, "How would AA work in the growing number of AA communities outside of the United States and Canada?"

Reflecting on AA's growth, it is apparent that AA began spreading to other countries, not as the result of a decision by some faceless executive in a headquarters office, but rather by concerned and caring alcoholics, sober in AA, reaching out to help suffering alcoholics elsewhere in the world. AA members in the armed services during World War II carried the message. Seagoing AAs or "Internationalists" as they came to be called, carried it, and members employed in overseas countries, the early "Loners," all helped to spread A.A.'s message around the globe.

In a letter to GSO New York dated December 24, 1947, Captain Jack, an early "Internationalist," shared the following: "In a general way, I have talked about AA with several people in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Most of them had read the articles in the *Reader's Digest*, but I believe I was the first member they had come in contact with. One of the junior executives of Standard Vacuum in Shanghai borrowed the book. He is a young man, about thirty, a rather heavy drinker but not yet alcoholic, in my opinion. Anyway, he was interested in reading what it was all about.

"Only this afternoon, a young Chinese came in my room selling silk kimonos and somehow the question of drinking came up. Recently, he had been put in jail for drinking and was commencing to have blackouts. You may hear from him later on. I gave him literature and told him my story."

Today, most English-speaking countries around the world, from Europe to the nations fondly known as

those "down under" and South Africa, all have long histories of AA success. Norway was one of the first non-English speaking countries that had the Fellowship take root, soon followed by Mexico where AA enjoys and especially vibrant and every growing Fellowship.

In the late 1980s, as Eastern Europe began the long road back from the Soviet experience, the question for AA lay in whether A.A. would work for those alcoholics who have lived through a system which seemed opposed to AA's spiritual principles. Happily our fears were unfounded and the Fellowship is now anchored in Eastern Europe by Poland and Russia. They are both working hard at aiding the development of AA from the Baltic to the Balkans.

Whenever AA has grown and flourished around the world, the availability of literature has been crucial to the process. One of the topics of discussion at the recently held first Sub-Saharan Africa Zonal Meeting (you will hear more about that incredible experience later during this presentation) was having literature available in indigenous African languages. In Sub-Saharan Africa, many people use English to communicate and interact with the various language groups in the region. But those attending the meeting agreed that having the message available in their own language would better communicate that this is neither a problem nor a program that is solely European in nature. It is a universal problem with a solution in AA that is also universal.

The challenge of filling the need for literature in various languages is complex. In smaller or emerging countries, there are often one or two official languages, along with a large number of dialects. In some countries, there is a large rate of illiteracy, and we know that some of these languages are oral, rather than written. While the challenges may be cultural, linguistic or technological, I am confident that we will find the resources and creativity that is necessary to meet them.

In November 2002, Elaine McDowell, chair of the General Service Board US/Canada, and Bill A., GSO staff member, visited the burgeoning A.A. community in Cameroon, West Africa. The Fellowship began there five years ago, when an alcoholic Chief Prison Guard in a small rural centre awoke from a drunken sleep to find a French-language A.A. pamphlet on his bedside table. He wrote to the address in Paris and was sent some complimentary literature and encouraged to work with other alcoholics. Being a desperate yet resourceful fellow, our friend Donatien, started a meeting in his own prison where they knew that he had what you may call a 'captive audience.' Soon after, a Loner in the capital city of Yaounde became AA.#2 and the two pioneers were successful in establishing approximately a dozen groups and have found great support from non-A.A. professionals in Cameroon and our friends in France.

Regarding the visit, Bill related the following story, "We attended a meeting in prison and were overwhelmed by the vibrancy of the AA group. Close to

70 members attend this meeting and have but a few battered photocopies of pamphlets and no other literature. What they did have was hope for a better life through AA. If there were ever a place where hopeless would breed, this prison would be it. Instead, they had heard the message and had created a community of hope. They opened the meeting with a song about how A.A. can save us from death by alcohol. We are in the process of sending literature and service material to the newly formed General Service Board in Cameroon for distribution to this and all the other groups in this country and hope that in the future their experience can help the surrounding French-speaking AA communities to flourish, as our friends in Cameroon have."

In addition to one alcoholic sharing with another alcoholic, experience has indicated that non-alcoholic professionals have been instrumental in helping AA to get started around the world. In St. Louis, Father Ed, a Jesuit priest who became our co-founder Bill W.'s spiritual advisor, helped drunks get sober in AA. A social worker in Holland helped start the first group there. A temperance worker in Toronto passed the Big Book to the first Canadian to find sobriety through AA and, in 1942, an Australian psychiatrist became a proponent of AA's methods and helped alcoholics to find sobriety in his country.

In a letter to John D. Rockefeller, which was forwarded to GSO New York in February 1948, an early friend of AA from New Zealand wrote,

"Please excuse my writing to you as I know you are an extremely busy man, but I understand that you are interested in Alcoholics Anonymous. I have personally done a lot of work to try and get men and women off the drink, and I feel after what I have read regarding AA that their book "Alcoholics Anonymous" would help me very considerably in my work against the drinking man. I tried to send for copies. One for the Salvation Army home, whose job it is to cure drunks. One for the local library. One for the YMCA library, and a copy for myself to lend out to people. Our government would not allow the money to go out as America is on the dollar exchange and they (our government) do not want to get further in debt to your country. I appeal to you sir, to send me a copy, and if there is anything I can send you in exchange for it, please let me know. I feel I could do such a lot of work with the book but I am keen to secure even one copy. I want to help drunks to become sober and useful citizens."

In the July 1965 Grapevine magazine, Bill W. asked AA members to look at their attitudes toward professional involved in alcoholism research, education, and rehabilitation. He suggested that "we should very seriously ask ourselves how many alcoholics have gone on drinking simply because we have failed to co-operate in good spirit with these agencies—whether they be good, bad, or indifferent. No alcoholic should go mad or die because he did not come straight to AA at the beginning."

In the summer of 2000, two non-alcoholic doctors—Li Bing of the Institute of Mental Health, Beijing Medical University; and Guo Song, of the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, An Ding Hospital, along with two of their colleagues, came as observers to AA's International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Chinese physicians quickly learned that the growth of the Fellowship in the US could not have been accomplished without the help of AA's concerned non-alcoholic friends. They also came to see that the real impetus for recovery in A.A. eventually must come from the alcoholics themselves. Once back home in Beijing, Dr. Guo Song started the first AA meeting in the An Ding Hospital, and several months later, Dr. Li Bing followed suit at her treatment facility.

In 2001, three of A.A.'s trusted servants—Class A (non-alcoholic) trustee George Valliant, M.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School and Senior Physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital; Greg M., GSO manager, and Eva S., GSO staff member, then on the International assignment, flew to northeast China for a week of activities hosted by Dr. Li Bing and Dr. Guo Song. They attended open AA meetings, Public Information meetings and professional seminars.



Since the 2001 visit to China, we have translated the books *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and several pamphlets into Simplified Chinese. Today we know of three groups that meet in a hospital in Beijing and another group that meets in a neighbouring province.

Dr. Valliant returned to China with Bill A. in 2002. As a non-alcoholic trustee, free of the AA member's need to maintain anonymity at the public level, Dr. Valliant has often served as a link between AA and the medical community. Through professionals, alcoholics may be reached who might otherwise never find the program. In large and small countries, informed non-alcoholic professionals have helped many still-suffering alcoholics find AA a little sooner. Co-operation with our professional friends has played an important role in helping AA reach alcoholics around the world.

At the 16th World Service Meeting, Tomás G., a delegate from Mexico, described his country's efforts in carrying the message into Cuba. In 1992, the first AA group was started in that country. Using the shared experience of their Mexican AA friends, Cuban AAs formed Co-operation With the Professional Community, Public Information and Institution service communities. By the year 2000, there were 130 AA groups in Cuba and first Cuban General Service Conference was held. Tomás concluded his remarks at that meeting by emphasising the importance of country-to-country sponsorship with this comment:

"I hope that this sharing may be of service to countries that are interested in sponsoring other countries in order that our beloved fellowship may grow. It must be mentioned that costs are high in these efforts, but saving a life is beyond cost. Millions of human beings are dying, victims of the terrible disease of alcoholism, and the hand of AA should always be there. And for this, we are all responsible."

Subsequently, the 17th World Service Meeting recommended, "That AA World Services consider the development of materials that might be useful to assisting the growth of AA worldwide. The pamphlet or guideline should contain shared experience on efforts that did or did not work well and information on resources that are available to help carry the AA message to new and developing countries."

Bill A. wrote to all GSOs in May and I am personally requesting that each of you aid us in this task by furnishing us with reports on your activities in creating country-to-country sponsorship. We are seeking experience from the worldwide Fellowship of AA and not relying solely on the experience of our structure or those structures that have already formulated reports on this issue. We encourage you to relate your country's experiences (history, successes and challenges) in either offering or receiving country-to-country sponsorship. Please forward any shared experience on this subject to my attention at GSO New York before October 1, 2003, and we ask that any reports concerning country-to-

country sponsorship from this Asia-Oceania Service Meeting be received by January 1, 2004.

From your own experiences, I hope that you know how essential Zonal Meetings are to the growth of AA in new and small countries. Recently, I had the privilege of witnessing the historic gathering of 17 delegates from nine countries as they met to examine regional problems and share ideas from June 6-8, 2003 during the first Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting (SSASM) at the Willow Park Conference Centre near Johannesburg, South Africa. For most of the delegates, nearly all with small and struggling A.A. communities, this was their first opportunity to talk and spend time with AAs from other countries and over the next three days, participants rediscovered the universal AA reality that two or more alcoholics can do what would be impossible for one.

The concept for an African conference originated in the early 1980s when the World Service Meeting delegate from South Africa suggested that South Africa begin establishing links with other nearby countries. However, at the time, it was not possible because of the political climate. After many years of discussion, the "Into Africa" project was initiated and the Boards of US/Canada and Great Britain agreed to support the South African structure in organising the meeting and committed to funding the travel and lodging for all delegates who could attend.

Those countries most accessible to South Africa were invited to send up to two delegates, and Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe were all represented. Observers from non-African countries included Wilhelm V., member of GSB Great Britain, Greg M., general manager GSO New York, and Adrienne B., GSO staff member.

Friday night, after the keynote address, delegate's reports on the state of AA in each country revealed numerous similarities and sparked lively discussion of mutual problems. On Saturday, Greg M. answered questions about existing literature and explained the process of translations and publication of new materials. After the literature presentation and discussion, the participants split into two working groups, each of which discussed several topics.

As the delegates related their unique experiences and ideas for the future, the principle challenges became clear and the meeting agreed to the following action plan:

1. Countries will form Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional Community committees drawn from all existing groups to provide information about AA to the general public and to professionals in their communities.
2. Each country will endeavour to form a service centre with a telephone in order to distribute literature, provide information, and form a

focal point for communication between groups and the public.

3. GSO New York will send, together with literature packets, other information on how AA groups and service entities can begin taking responsibility for their finances.
4. Each country will share information about what they are doing with all other countries represented at the Sub-Saharan African Service Meeting. This will be done by means of reports in the proposed quarterly newsletter.
5. All of the delegates agreed that they should help groups to embrace the Traditions.

In addition to a plan of action for the individual countries, delegates developed a statement of purpose and recommended that further zonal meetings be held every two years. Each country in the region will be eligible to send two delegates, each country will take financial responsibility for its own participation, and sponsorship will be available, if needed. South Africa will host the 2005 meeting once again.

The delegates left that meeting, as I pray that each of you will leave this one, with a renewed sense of commitment, feeling good about what they could do, rather than discouraged by what they had not yet accomplished.

In *AA Today*, a special publication by the AA Grapevine commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous, Bill W. wrote:

"Our fellowship has been permitted to achieve—those still in miniature—the 'one world' dream of philosophers. Ours is a world in which we can hotly differ, yet never think of schism or conflict as a solution. As a fellowship, we ask nothing of wealth or power. As we better use the 'language of the heart,' our communications grow apace: already we find ourselves in safe passage through all those barriers of distance and language, of social distinction, nationality and creed that so divide the world of our time.

"For so long as we remain sure that our 'one world of AA' is God's gift rather than any virtue earned or created by ourselves; and for so long as our 'one world' continues to be evermore inclusive of those in need; and for so long as we speak and try to perfect the language

of love—for just so long may we count upon making whatever rendezvous with destiny that God would have us."

It is an honor to be in your presence, and I hope that you have found this presentation helpful as you continue setting up and expanding AA in new and small countries. Thank you for your attention.

Adrienne B. — International Desk, GSO New York

Following this Presentation was a general sharing session on the challenges of carrying the message and of setting up a new structure.

Responding to questions Greg (GSO NY) shared these experiences of carrying the AA message into a new country, Azerbaijan in far-eastern Europe:

When the GSO delegation visited Azerbaijan and spoke to the professionals they very simply explained what AA is and what it is not, giving the simple story of AA. The questions were quite poignant and of the usual style: How is it possible for a Muslim country to have a problem of alcoholism and how could the "Christian" version of AA be embraced by Muslims? We shared the experience of other Muslim countries around the world that have transcended these difficulties and embraced the AA way of life.

We saw the first step of the birth of AA in a country and it's going to happen through non-alcoholic professionals — the usual, very typical story of how AA grows in places.

Although Russian is widely spoken they've now requested information in Azerbaijani. Eventually pamphlets will be translated and given to the professionals and a process will start as it has been done ever since Bill visited Norway in 1950. We just explain what AA is and what it's not, reinforcing that we do not practise medicine, we have no opinions and no agenda other than to be a resource to professionals and to help alcoholics to find a solution to their drinking problem.

The experience of the Azerbaijan story is very similar to that of China, i.e. the professionals got the message about AA first through other organisations, professional



associations, their meetings and periodicals. Frustrated by their inability to treat alcoholism, they began researching and came across the success rates of Alcoholics Anonymous. Since it is really through the professionals sharing with each other, we realise the importance of befriending one's own physician and of letting them know about ourselves. This has a tremendous rippling effect and the message can spread like wildfire.

In the US/Canada the CPC Committees exhibit at professional association meetings – last year there were over 45 of these meetings. The exhibit booth, together with a supply of literature, is sent to the local AA committee so they can man the booth among all the other booths of the association and answer the professionals' questions.

In this Asia-Oceania Zone it is the non-alcoholic professional friends that will open the door to changing Society's attitudes. In the US/Canada, once the medical profession proclaimed that Alcoholism was an illness and that there was a solution in abstinence, then Society's attitude changed from one of seeing the alcoholic as a degenerate to one having an illness that can be arrested. Our experience is – changing Society's attitudes is one of the fastest ways to create growth in AA communities.

Often the first changes are wrought by the change that occurs in family members, a change that astonishes the professionals. They then become advocates, especially when the family member is also a professional. These converts then need education on **what AA is and what it is not**. One of the professional's biggest fears is that AA wants to be professional, to express an opinion about religion, about medicine or treatment. But that's the last thing we want, we have no opinions and we only want to co-operate and make it known that AA is available in the community. There is a lot of work we can do in our communities with our non-alcoholic professionals.

John (Hong Kong) described the challenge HKAA faces when the professionals state that there is no problem of alcoholism in the community. Allan (Australia) shared that the doctors and nurses of his community receive no education about solutions to alcoholism, only about the effects of alcohol on the body. Goldie (New Zealand) shared that some medical schools in his country require their students to attend AA meetings during their medical courses. Greg then described further US/Canada experience:

One US/Canada Class A Trustee, Dr Bill Flynn, a teaching psychiatrist at Georgetown University, developed a program, which included AA members giving presentations to first-year medical students on "What AA is and What it is Not". The third-years studied alcoholics in rehab centres and again AA members gave the presentation on AA. Each student was assigned to two AA members who took their student to AA meetings, picking them up first and taking them for coffee afterwards to explain what they had experienced and answer their questions. Many medical

schools require attendance at AA meetings as a condition for graduation.

If this model is overlaid onto Law and Nursing schools, etc., while the students are in a state of growth, they are most receptive to new ideas and the number of alcoholics they'll face in their careers is staggering. It is a wonderful opportunity to paint a good picture of AA and very important to choose AA presenters who know what they're talking about, that they explain What AA is and What AA is Not – it is important to carry the Right message. This has been a very successful model which many countries have discovered in trying to bridge the gap between the professionals and AA.

For AAs having difficulty in answering the professionals' questions it is important to use the specially designed literature, such as the Fact File and other CPC and PI literature. These enable the non-professional AA to paraphrase and recite the best words. AA has no opinion on teaching doctors or other resources and only states what is in the literature, for that is what AA says, and it makes it a lot easier to explain to professionals.

"Harm Minimization" is a new professional treatment model which says "If we insist upon abstinence we're going to lose a lot of people, so we'll reduce their use and find other ways to encourage sober living"..... AA has no opinion on that – we know that we're there when things don't work. We're the "last train out", we always have been and always will be. If "Harm Minimization" works that's great – and we help drunks when all else fails.

The Chinese delegates shared that they have found the media particularly helpful and have had coverage in several publications, daily and local newspapers and TV interviews (maintaining anonymity). These have helped change the perception of what alcoholism is and has shown Society that there is a way out.

In trying to carry the message to small Pacific countries New Zealand is working, through a newsletter, etc., to develop the awareness of the whole fellowship, encouraging groups to develop relationships with loners and groups in the region. Travelling AAs are encouraged to visit these isolated members and some groups are starting to sponsor with literature, etc.

Wayne (Cambodia) described the efforts in starting a new structure in South-east Asia:

After the 4th AOSM he spoke with the people in Thailand and they discussed developing communication between groups. There had been some resentment and resistance to sharing with other groups, particularly in the organisation of the Thai Round-up. Larger, older groups didn't want to change and include newer, smaller groups.

Cambodia was welcomed at the planning meetings and organised a special meeting on setting up some structure. Much discussion followed on the various

merits of a District or Intergroup form. Later an Intergroup was formed and further discussions are being carried out while members try to decide on the Intergroup's functions, role and activities. Members are studying the AA service literature and seeking experience from New York but many members are

fearful of the changes that growth brings. The recent visit by Bill A [redacted] (international desk - GSO NY) was very helpful, but more visits by experienced AAs would be most welcome.



WORKSHOP - "International Sponsorship"

All the delegates divided into three groups to share their experiences on this topic. Group leaders gave the following reports back to the whole meeting:

As a smaller or newer country, how do you think a sponsoring country could best assist you ?

The general agreement regarding most effective types of sponsorship were those involving person-to-person visits - both to and from the smaller country. Another key factor to effective assistance is the development of communication links between the people of each country so that a true picture of the needs of the small country can be established. This is a two-way responsibility by both countries.

With literature and PI material

- PI literature, such as posters for local doctors' clinics would be especially helpful. If the small country provided the translated text, the sponsor country could help with the printed supplies.
- For the launch of the newly translated Big Book, small items of PI literature and flyers with information on AA would be very useful for reaching the professional community in advance.

- Simple informative literature such as the AA Fact File, "A Brief Guide to AA" and "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" would be very useful if translated by small country and printed by sponsor country.
- Sponsor countries can help by supporting the WSM's International Literature Fund and by providing information about this to the smaller countries.
- Sponsor countries can also help by making sure that the smaller countries are informed about the correct procedures for obtaining translated and properly copyrighted literature
- All countries can help by sharing news of their own activities in the PI and CPC fields with their neighboring countries.

With personal visits

- Sponsors need to encourage travelling members to contact loners and visit groups in the other countries, to share their experience on how to do PI and how groups can be structured to communicate with each other.
- Both Mongolia and China, in particular, expressed the need for personal visits by members and for the opportunity to visit other countries to find out how things are done in AA.

- Visits by non-alcoholic professionals are important to establish a professional understanding both of alcoholism and of AA with the professional community of the smaller country. This is an important step and cannot be achieved on the medical level by AA members.
- Communication thrives better when personal, face-to-face contact has been made.
- Sponsoring countries might send delegates to smaller countries to assist them to establish contacts with hospitals, treatment facilities, etc.
- Personal visits help to develop a better perspective with an awareness and understanding of the other country's culture and particular challenges in carrying the message.

With invitations to Forums, Conferences and Conventions

- Whenever a convention is being held in a small country it is strongly recommended that workshops and symposiums are included on the program and that visiting AAs be invited to participate. In this way the local AA community can gather much experience and information on AA activities such as PI, working with professionals (CPC) and establishing proper AA structures.
- Whenever such events (forums and conventions) are being held in a sponsoring country, it was recommended that invitations to members in new AA countries be invited to participate in special workshops. They might also be assisted to visit group meetings locally.
- Small countries need to actively seek to attract experienced AAs from larger countries to their conventions. This needs to be part of the planning for the convention. The Philippines is especially interested in having Australians visit to share at workshops about the structure and Group Conscience of AA.
- Sponsorship may involve assisting small countries with travel expenses to attend forums, etc.

With assisted travel to the AOSM

- Attendance at the AOSM makes an immense difference to a small country's development so that assisted travel is vitally important.
- The communication that occurs between countries at the AOSM is essential, and sponsoring countries need to assist with travel expenses whenever possible.

Use of the Internet, Email

- It was agreed that the World Wide Web is a very important medium for providing information about AA, what it does and what it does not do.
- Information about AA in other languages is very valuable and could be provided by each country in its own language
- It is important to realise that downloading and printing AA literature from the web will damage

our copyright and endanger our ownership of our own literature. When a group needs the material they see on the web, they should email to GSO New York and it will be sent by overnight mail. This will protect our ownership and provide more and better supplies.

- Email contact with members in other countries has proved to be an excellent and invaluable form of communication, which has brought many countries together. Sponsoring countries need to maintain constant, on-going relationships with their sponsee countries through this medium.
- International mentorship is made possible by the use of email and delegates are encouraged to follow this activity by continuing an on-going email relationship with newer delegates.

What are the first steps or priorities in setting up a service structure in a country where AA is small?

- The first steps would be to establish a group conscience through discussions and workshops
- Setting up a group's structure is important to enable each group to have a voice
- Reaching out for help from the literature and experience of others
- Hosting workshops to enable all concerned to discuss the topic
- Establishing first an office and then a Board

How do you establish contacts in countries where there is no AA? Co-operation with professionals, Public Information, etc.

- Reaching out through correspondence, literature and visits through churches, welfare organisations, hospitals, correctional administrations and the local media
- Perhaps by providing an on-screen interview with a recovering alcoholic, to create the awareness that there is such a thing as a sober alcoholic
- Working through the Loners/Internationalists Meeting

How do you carry the message to indigenous people or ethnic groups in your own country?

- Developing illustrated forms of the twelve Steps and other literature to be used on banners and in pamphlets as some groups have no written language
- Production of audio and video tapes that share personal stories in the language of the group

How does your country maintain a balance between providing local services and helping emerging countries?

- By always ensuring that our country is fully represented at the AOSM

- By encouraging the local fellowship to provide the contributions to fill the needs that arise – carrying the message at home is important
- By allocating the financial resources according to needs expressed.

When carrying the message and/or distributing literature what difficulties, if any, do you encounter because of governmental restriction?

- Different policies such as "Harm Minimization" and the denial of the WHO declaration that "alcoholism is an illness" causes difficulties in some countries.
- Lack of government funding has caused the closure of several treatment facilities in some places, which takes away some opportunities for carrying the message.

- The Privacy Act in some countries makes contact difficult
- Tighter security measures in correctional facilities, which require screening of AA visitors to prisons, can restrict these visits.
- In those countries where there is a denial of any alcohol problems (e.g. in Muslim countries sometimes) the distribution of literature is difficult or even prohibited.

Summary

"Communication is the Key". Bill W. saw world service meetings as necessary to protect the Fellowship against "dilution or change of Principles". "Our weakest point", he said, "is communication".

The AOSM gives us the vehicle to communicate face-to-face and continue to build our relationships, thus ensuring we carry the Message of AA.

PRESENTATION - *"Cambodia Big Book Translation"*

Wayne W. [REDACTED] – Second-term Delegate, Cambodia

In late 2000, our AA group in Cambodia consisted of only expats (foreigners who live outside their country). We had discussed having the Big Book translated. Someone had told us that there was a translation around somewhere, but that it had disappeared during the mass-exodus of foreigners after the 1997 coup. We tried for a while to query those that might know. Eventually, in the beginning of 2001, one of our members, Curtis W., who worked at a local newspaper, made a deal with their translator to translate the Big Book for us. We had almost enough 7th tradition money to cover the cost (about \$250). The translator, Pin Sisavoth, was a well-respected translator and he took on the project with gusto. He would often comment to us, sincerely, that Cambodians really needed this book.

A few months later, with most of the first 164 pages completed, we asked GSO New York to guide us into the correct procedure:

Eva S., who headed up the International Desk, was excited to hear from us and wrote back, told us the procedure and suggested that we contact Vinnie McCarthy at the Publications Department on the translation. She also suggested that we should be in contact with the AOSM Secretary

We then contacted Vinnie who instructed us to send a small file of our translation, perhaps one page, to a translation firm used by the Publications Department. She gave us a specific person to contact and then explained that normally New York suggests that a couple of chapters are done first and sent to New York for assessment. Then, if it seems to be a smooth and faithful translation, she would advise us whether or not to proceed.

We already had most of the first 164 pages completed, but we just sent off a few chapters to the Firm. They wanted to see if our work could be electronically adapted/converted to their word processing system – so that they would not have to retype everything that our translator had already done. They asked for our Forward and Chapters 1 and 2 in particular.

About a month later, we heard back from Vinnie regarding the results of the assessment of our translator, Pin's, translation of the Big Book, telling us that our translation was much too literal. Vinnie went on to say, though, that they would try to get a translation done by the Firm in New York and that she, Greg and Eva from GSO would seek approval for this undertaking from the board of directors.

We were concerned about the negative assessment of our translation. We wrote to Vinnie. We wanted to have our translator try one chapter and have the Firm's translator try the same chapter and then have them compared and evaluated locally:

We all were feeling bad for Pin (the translator). Our group felt it would be a good idea to give him another shot at one chapter as well and we would pay him for that. What was important, though, was the big picture - Cambodia needed AA and a Big Book in Khmer. Our Group Conscience felt strongly about that. We asked Vinnie what would be involved with New York's proceeding, its time span and costs to the Cambodian group.

Vinnie explained further the exact nature of the Firm's assessment and what makes for a good translation – that it should read as though it were

originally written in Cambodian in a fluent and fluid style. It must reflect the content and tone of the English and must be accurate. If it's too literal it ends up being difficult to understand. She gave us several examples of certain omissions and misinterpretations in our translator's text and confirmed that she would go forward with having the Firm do a translation of a chapter for us to assess:

Even though New York GSO was concerned that the integrity of the Big Book be preserved when translated, it is important to note that Vinnie and New York GSO were always giving us a choice in how we dealt with the translation. We were full participants:

About a month later, we received some sample chapters from the Firm. Only one member knew which of the chapters were done by the Firm and which our translator, Pin, did. That member distributed two sets of copies to each of the members and it was their job to each find a Cambodian to compare the chapters. After a few weeks, it became apparent that none of us could find anyone that was willing to do the comparison. One of the members then decided to pay someone to do the comparison and he soon came back with the results.

He was informed by the paid reviewer that one translation was good and one was not. One of them he found difficult to read and confusing. The other, he had made a few minor corrections on. From Vinnie's relay to us of the Firm's assessment of Pin's work, we all were expecting that the "good one" would be the Firm's. To our amazement, it was not.

We then set up weekly meetings for members to go over Pin's translation with him. We had these marathon sessions where we got together to try to explain what the Big Book meant. Sentence by sentence. Word by word. It took an hour just to get through a page or two. Arguments and resentments broke out left and right. At this rate, it would take years to finish. It was frustrating to say the least.

Part of the problem was that we had started with the Forwards. Try reading the Forward to the First Edition some time and explain it to someone that doesn't use English as his first language. We stuck to it though. And, we gave each other a hug after each session.

In the midst of this, at the end of October, the 4th AOSM occurred in Korea. With the help of Australia, Cambodia sent a delegate. GSO New York was also present. It was there that Greg M. suggested that we let New York handle the translation so that we can get the book finished. Then, he suggested, after some Cambodian's get sober, they can do a new translation and that one can be published.

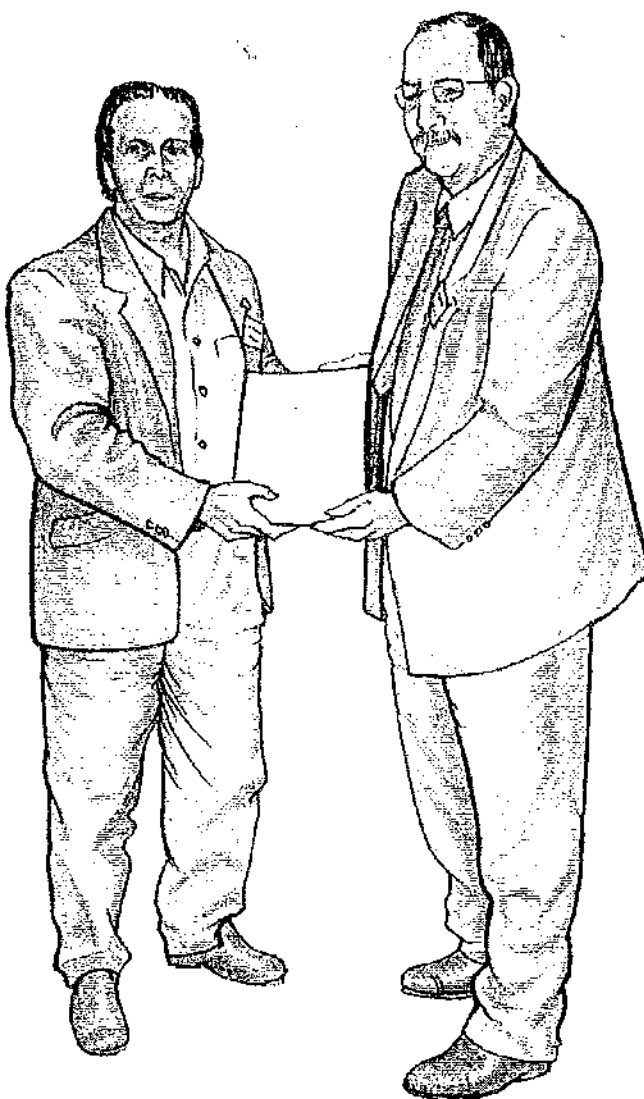
After the conclusion of AOSM, the Delegate took that suggestion back to the group in Cambodia. It was decided in our group conscience that we would let New York handle the translation and that we would

explain that to Pin. We also decided that we would have Pin translate a few simpler projects for us - like, "The 12 Steps Illustrated." We told Pin a few days later. He agreed, but it was hard for us. Hard for him too. He really cared about this project. He didn't do it for the money. The money was nothing. We all agreed, though, that the alcoholic that still suffered needed the Big Book and we gave that news to New York. We explained what our group conscience had decided and why.

Now that the decision had been made, we expected that we would have the Big Book in our hands relatively quickly. Back in July, Vinnie had written us that once we moved forward on the Big Book, it would take about six months for the translation and printing.

We did not know, though, that tragedy struck the day before our email was sent. On December 14, we heard from GSO New York that Vinnie had died suddenly and unexpectedly.

Like everyone, we were shocked and saddened. We did not know what to do other than pray for Vinnie and her family. Still, we knew that the message was badly needed in Cambodia. A month later, we wrote and asked New York what we should do now.



In the midst of their suffering, New York explained that they were reviewing all Vinnie's projects and hoped to let us know very soon an update of the situation.

For several months, we did not communicate with New York. We know they had an adjustment to make and we wanted to give them time. In August, New York's Publication Assistant, Elizabeth L. [redacted] emailed us to let us know we could expect the Cambodian Big Book in November.

In October, we wanted to know when we might expect delivery and Elizabeth thought it might be in a few months. She also sent us Chapter Five and asked for our comments:

Elizabeth went on to write that they would welcome our comments on the translation.

Since AOSM, we had been keeping the AOSM Secretary and Delegates informed on the progress of the translation. It was suggested that we should check the translation to make sure it is readable by the locals. Apparently there were complaints about professional translations that were inadequate in other locations. We wrote to New York expressing our concern that we still had the same difficulty with outdated language.

At a group conscience, the issue was raised as to whether we wanted to just let New York finish the translation or if we wanted to get back into it. The group decided to have the Firm's Chapter Five compared to Pin's Chapter Five by a respected local teacher. We also decided that we did not want to slow down New York while we had this done. That was relayed to Elizabeth on November 12.

On December 19, we got the results back from our assessment of the two Chapter Five translations and we relayed that information to New York. We explained how the local reviewer had found the New York translation difficult to read and used hard words while the local translation with colloquialisms was better to use.

At this point we were not sure what to do. We now had a Cambodian coming to meetings. We gave New York all the information and asked them to help us decide what to do.

It was the holiday season in the U.S and for a few weeks, we did not hear anything. On January 28, we wrote again to New York. We needed an answer because we had asked AA Australia to help us carry the message by bringing a Delegation to Cambodia to speak to professionals and others about what AA is. We wanted to have the Delegation come when the Cambodia Big Book was ready to be released in Cambodia.

We got an immediate response from Greg M. [redacted] GSO New York, to our inquiry, explaining that Bill Archer on the International Desk had developed cancer but that the translation was proceeding.

Another shock. Someone else involved in our project was taken ill. We prayed for Bill. Elizabeth also responded after talking with Greg confirming that the translation was proceeding.

Looks like our Higher Power made the decision regarding which translation we would use. And it looked like we had a finish date coming up. We did want to make sure that the book was easy for us to use to work with Khmer newcomers. We had noticed that, when we used drafts of the translation with the newcomer and his family, it was hard to show them chapters and sections to look at. So, we made the suggestions that the Chapter headings were numbered with English characters and that the chapter names have the English as a sub-title.

Elizabeth responded positively and also asked us how many copies we would like, giving us the choice of 500 or 1000 for the first run. Being Alcoholics, our answer should have been obvious. Elizabeth let us know that she thought 1,000 should be fine and that we were nearing completion:

Elizabeth had some bad news for us as well. Once again, illness had struck this project – the translator in New York had become terminally ill and was trying desperately to get the project finished.

We did not know what to think at this point. We asked Elizabeth to convey our best to the translator and we waited. Meanwhile, a few more Cambodians came to our meetings. They could speak English, though, because they grew up in America. They were recently deported to Cambodia. They speak Khmer, but do not read it or write it. We have still been using Pin's translation while waiting for the translation from New York. It has been an interesting journey and we are not sure what path we would tell others to take. This is just our experience.

As we get ready for the 5th AOSM, we have gotten the latest email from Elizabeth regarding the status of the Cambodian Big Book:

"The translation is completed and we are in the final stages. I will get blues today for some polishing up and expect the Big Book to go to press on Monday

.....
Hope this news is as exciting for all of you as it is for us! I wish you and all a wonderful encounter at the AOSM. Will be in touch as soon as that first book becomes available."



PRESENTATION – “A.A. Literature/Copyrights”

- Greg M■■■ – General Manager, GSO New York

Translations

The Big Book is currently available in 49 languages and we are working on seven others (Cambodian, Urdu, Indonesian, Czech, Hebrew, Zulu and Latvian). In the year 2002, A.A.W.S. furnished over 50,000 pieces of translated materials in more than 15 different languages. The translation of our AA literature is a vital service, which is facilitated, in part, through the generous assistance of the WSM International Literature Assistance Fund.

Translations came about in two basic fashions. Occasionally, we are asked by professionals or small AA groups in other countries to translate materials for them, as was the case in our previous trip to the People's Republic of China. More commonly, bilingual local AA's begin the task of translating vital AA materials such as the Preamble -The Twelve Steps -The Twelve Traditions and other key recovery materials. They then move on to larger projects, such as our basic texts. Many of the countries here at this meeting have gone through or are going through this experience.

Before local AA's or anyone else begins translating any copyrighted materials, they need to contact our Publications Department to request permission to translate our copyrighted works. We usually ask that the pamphlet or a few sample chapters of a book be submitted so that we can have them checked for clarity and their adherence to the sense and spirit of the original work. It is a better idea to have this done before

a lot of effort is expended on something, which will not be acceptable to the Fellowship in the long run.

If the translation does not adequately reflect the original materials or is of uneven quality, we will undertake the translation with our own professional translators. The accuracy of translation is especially important when it comes to the writings of Bill W.

Translations of our Basic Texts (*Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*) and other works by Bill W. must capture the tone and spirit of Bill's original works. Sometimes this is difficult for AA members who read the translation in another language. The language sometimes seems archaic and some may feel that it is not relevant to the average reader of that language. I can assure that this is not unheard of in the US/Canada in regards to the original English version. Our Conference has instructed us that both the integral portion of the Big Book and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* remain as they were originally written by our co-founder. This governs how we approach all translations of his works. We try to have the translations reflect the original words as closely as possible.

We do not proof read or copy-edit all the material that we receive from other countries. This is the responsibility of the country producing the translation. We see our role as more advisory in nature. The final

verification of locally translated materials is best accomplished by a translation committee of locals who are familiar with AA and, hopefully, bilingual members who have read the original text. Before going to press, we will furnish the licensee with the page containing the Copyright Notice. This will insure that all the necessary permission requirements are in place, assuring that there will not be any problem with the Copyright protection afforded this translated material.

We have come to understand that translation is more of an art than a science. Different translators will choose different words or expressions to express the original concept. Usually, each translator is convinced that theirs is the best. The decision rests with the group conscience of the country, usually delegated to a Translations Committee. Sometimes, individuals are

so convinced that they are right that they go against the group conscience and create an alternative text. A.A.W.S., of course, can grant only one license and we always accept the group conscience.

Copyrights

A.A. World Services Inc. currently holds more than 650 copyrights on AA literature. These include literature prepared by A.A.W.S. plus those copyrights assigned to us by other General Service Offices and license holders. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc. is the owner of the copyrights (in most of the world) for Bill W's writings and for literature approved by the General Service Conference of the U.S./ Canada, and has the responsibility for licensing service structures outside of the United States and Canada with permission to translate and publish this copyrighted material.

Historically, A.A.W.S. has guarded the copyrighted material in order to protect the integrity of the AA message as expressed in this literature and to enable established A.A. service structures to control the publication and distribution in their own country. Since services structures other than the US/ Canada first began publishing this literature, our policy has been to grant exclusive license to only one established service entity per country. There are many reasons for this policy, including the desire to ensure the accuracy of the translations and to help newly formed General Service Boards in their efforts to achieve unity and offer services in their countries.

This exclusive license policy authorises the service entity that has been given the license (the licensee) to protect the copyright and their license in their own country. Prior to 1986 the licensing policy was rather informal and not always terribly consistent. Since that time our Conference has reaffirmed this policy on several occasions.

In the late 1980's we developed a standard licensing form and copyright assignment form. It is critical that those countries doing translation fill out these forms. Our license agreements are good for ten years, after which time, a new agreement needs to be executed. In addition, these agreement forms need to be renewed every time a translation is updated or reprinted. The copyright notice on reprinted materials needs to have the date of the original copyright and not the date of the reprint.

The importance of having these agreements in order is critical, not only protecting the integrity of the AA message, but as we have seen it is critical in the development of unified AA structures.

We are always available to assist you in these procedures and encourage every one who is working on or considering translations to contact the Publications Department of A.A.W.S. We also hope that the current license holders keep us apprised of all changes and reprints, as any change needs to be filed on our behalf. You also need to file updated registrations in your own countries.

In conclusion, having noted the importance of translations to the effectiveness of carrying out our primary purpose, it follows that we need to do everything required to make sure that this process is carried out to the letter. In doing so, we are protecting the integrity of the message and preserving the unity of our beloved Fellowship.

Translators used by GSO

In response to a question from the Indonesian delegate, Greg explained that the GSO has access to many professional translation services based in New York. Because the United Nations and many world Literary Corporations are based in this city these translation services work for publishers and UN dignitaries and do the best and most professional work as we require it.

NOTE:

The Appendix of this Report contains a full outline of the Policies governing translations, publication and licensing, together with a Flow Chart showing the step-by-step process and the forms to be submitted before embarking on this process.

REPORT ON 17th WORLD SERVICE MEETING

Oviedo, Spain, October 6-10, 2002

Theme: "The AA Message – A Message without Borders"

Allan K. [REDACTED] - Australia

The Concept of World Service

In January, 1968, Bill Wilson presented a position paper to the General Service Board in New York during which he said:

"Let me distinguish between local services and general or world services. While AA is a loosely knit society we do know, nevertheless, that properly authorized and organized AA services are necessary to enable groups, local areas and AA as a whole to function. In no other way can we carry our message to the alcoholics who still suffer..."

Bill went on to say: *"Early as 1938 it was recognized that AA must have top international leadership and that this leadership would have to create those vital services that could not be provided locally on a haphazard basis..."*

His complete presentation can be found in *"The History and Recommendations of World Service Meetings, 1969-2002"* but it is of importance to us as we meet today that he also said:

"It became apparent that New York could not forever provide complete general service to all AA countries... if continued, growing centralization would tend to make New York and its service leadership the 'world capital' of AA. Psychologically, such a concentration would be most unwise..."

Thirteen countries enthusiastically responded to the invitation to join the United States and Canada at the 1st World Service Meeting in New York in 1969, including two countries from what is now the Asia Oceania Zone, Australia and New Zealand.

In a letter welcoming the delegates Bill again set the target:

"We shall try to get a clearer insight into the question of AA's leadership for the future... we shall try to see more clearly what AA's world responsibilities really are and how these can be better met.

"To me, these questions will always be crucial to the survival and the unity of our world society. Every new generation of AA will have to face them. Nothing can be taken for granted. Constant vigilance, keen foresight, immense dedication, plus an abiding faith – these will be the requirements if we are to fulfill AA's destiny."

AA now estimates it has a presence in more than 150 countries and that there are at least 53 general service offices throughout the world. More are popping up all the time – one recent example being Mongolia, which

has quite suddenly emerged in our Zone with a strongly developing service structure.

At Oviedo we learned through discussion sessions just how the WSM has played an important role in this growth and also in fostering the growth of the Zonal meetings which now encompass virtually the whole world.

The idea for Zonal meetings emerged from the 1978 WSM in Finland. The Meeting of the Americas and the European Service Meeting were quickly formed, followed by Asia Oceania and more recently the Eastern European Service Meeting.

Now the Africa Zone is being structured. May I take the opportunity here to pass on a heartfelt request from the South Africa General Service Office to all AA members who may be traveling through Africa to send the office any information gained on AA Groups or Loners. Their email address is: gso@compute.co.za

Oviedo, 2002.

Forty-one delegates representing 34 countries, zones or regions where AA has national offices met at the Hotel La Reconquista in Oviedo, Spain. Their primary purpose – as it is here at this Asia Oceania Service Meeting -- was to ensure that the AA message of recovery is carried to alcoholics who still suffer, wherever they may be and whatever language they speak.

The WSM is held every two years with the site alternating between New York and a city outside the US/Canada structure, chosen by the WSM's own site selection committee. Simultaneous translations between English and Spanish are provided at all official sessions.

During the four days of the Service Meeting there were five presentation or discussion sessions during which 13 presentations were given covering the following themes: "The Newcomer into AA Service", "Carrying the AA Message through Electronic Media", "How can we make the AA Message accessible to the Member with Physical Incapacities?", "Sharing Experience on Sponsoring Other Countries", "How Can We Better Carry the Message in a Changing World", and "Sponsorship Country-to-Country".

I was asked to contribute a presentation on "Reaching the Suffering Alcoholic with Special Needs" which I found extraordinarily interesting to prepare and during

which I greatly enlarged my personal knowledge of what was required and also just how much help was already out in our Fellowship to be tapped. I'm sure all of you who have been asked to prepare presentations have had a similar experience and found it immensely rewarding.

There were three structured workshops: "Long Timers in Service – Utilized or Discarded?", "Problems other than Alcohol", and "Communication between Countries" as well as one unstructured workshop. General sharing sessions with the theme "What's on your mind" were also held during the meeting. Four committees met several times during the four days:

1. Agenda,
2. Literature/Publishing,
3. Policy/Admissions/Finance and
4. Working with Others.

I was elected chairman of the Literature/Publishing committee. My deputy is Jose Antonio Ortiz Silva from Peru.

Of particular interest to Asia Oceania Service Meeting delegates would be the two presentations on "Sharing Experience on Sponsoring Other Countries".

Ernesto P. [redacted] the initial delegate from Cuba, which was making its first appearance at a WSM, discussed the sponsorship that Cuba has received, saying: "In all of these country-to-country relations, our sponsors have always shown great respect and exquisite tact. They tell us that they are not there to supervise but to lend us assistance".

Leonia D. [redacted] delegate for German-speaking Europe, shared her experience of watching structures that Germany had supported in their early years now coming of age and helping the newer developing countries in the Eastern Europe zone. Parenthetically, I believe our new member Mongolia was helped this way, through Russian sponsorship.

These presentations – and all others given at Oviedo – are available in the "Final Report of the WSM", from New York General Service Office.

A full afternoon was devoted to two reports from Greg M. [redacted] general manager of the General Service Office in New York, on "The International Literature Fund", and "AA Literature – Copyrights and Licensing".

Of particular interest to the Asia Oceania Zone was the emphasis Greg placed on the importance of protecting the integrity of the AA message in any translation. He also highlighted the importance of protecting the copyright of AA materials. Delegates were informed of the proper procedures, which are, of course, readily available in detailed guidelines from GSO.

Greg's reports disclosed that the International Literature Fund is in a very healthy state – and boosted further at

Oviedo by a generous US\$50,000 donation from Ireland, which is in the unique position among AA countries worldwide of seeming to be awash with members' contributions.

Some brief items of interest.

Income from most countries still relies – sometimes heavily – on literature and magazine sales, with the outstanding exception of Ireland. Most countries seem to balance income roughly 50/50 between contributions and sales but Poland says it relies 95% from literature sales. Many GSOs, especially in Eastern Europe, have volunteer staff.

Several countries, including Denmark, Iceland and Italy, are engaged in producing histories of AA in their countries for upcoming anniversaries.

The majority of countries that have their own editions of the Big Book are now publishing, or plan to publish, local stories. World wide, the Big Book is now published in 48 countries – Cambodia being the latest – with several more 'in the works', in the process of being translated.

Many countries claim that AA started in their countries in 1946 or 1947, following a Readers Digest article that resulted in contact being made with New York. Iceland says it has 1 AA member for every 1000 of general population.

When the Brazil World Service delegate, Anamarie, was an Area delegate, she had to travel by boat eight days up the Amazon to visit one of her Groups!

Bill W saw the World Service meeting as necessary to protect the Fellowship against "dilution" or "change of principles". "Our weakest point," he said, "is communication."

Conclusion

I'd like to conclude this report with the thoughts of the delegate from Ireland, Paul M. [redacted] in his keynote speech. "Where I come from we are well used to the word 'borders'. Ireland has a border, dividing North from South. We have two governments, two legal systems, two health care systems, two education boards, two currencies. We even have two national football teams. My home town of Belfast has borders dividing people of different religions and politics – but one thing we do have in Ireland is one, single AA – and a message without borders."

The 18th World Service Meeting will be held in New York City, October 24-28, 2004. The theme is "One Message – Many languages – One Fellowship".

REPORT ON THE SECRETARIAT

Anne O. [REDACTED] - AOSM Secretary

Since the 4th AOSM in Korea there were 3 issues of the Directory and newsletter mailed out to an average contact list of 120. These continue to be very useful tools for developing communication links, for spreading the awareness of the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting and for assisting alcoholics to find one another in this vast Zone.

The focus of the Newsletter has been the AOSM itself and the impact it's having on carrying the message. Besides the major report on the 4th AOSM in Seoul and on preparations for Hong Kong, stories have featured the new Intergroup structure in SE-Asia, the sponsorship activities between Australia and Cambodia and the help given through the AOSM to small countries translating literature. Also featured were articles on the first, very successful Indonesian Convention, and the Fellowship in Hong Kong.

It is hoped that, in the near future, our newsletter will be made available to many more people through an AOSM website.

Besides the regular mailout 87 extra directories have been provided on request without charge, but generally a donation has been received to cover costs. This system was established to save taxation complications.

Several queries for contacts have been received via email, and it is recommended that an AOSM website would be valuable in providing, not a list of groups and meetings, but a list of main contacts in each country. Enquirers say they first searched the web for their information and found nothing about the AOSM.

4th AOSM FINAL REPORT

Seventy-four copies of the 4th AOSM Final Report were distributed to all our A/O countries as well as to GSO New York, GSO UK and REDELA. We'll now need to include the new EESM and the SSASM. Over the next few months another 84 copies were provided on request. The Report was modelled on that of the World Service Meeting Report, so that all facets of the Meeting were reported under categories to enable easy reference later on. This was in preference to simple Minutes.

ARCHIVES

The history of our AOSM is being recorded and stored in a way that will make it easy to pass on to each succeeding Secretary or office. Newsletters are stored on paper in a bound folder, as well as on CD-ROM. Final Reports of the first three AOSMs are bound into a book, as is the fourth, which is also on disk, and all computer files of significance are also being placed on disks for future reference. An ongoing story of our

development is being maintained, summarising the main features of our Meetings and how they began.

ROTATION

Following the last AOSM the position of AOSM Secretary/Treasurer was advertised in all the A/O countries via the GSOs and AOSM delegates. Two responses were received and the Chairman selected Bob P. who was the first Chairman of our AOSM and has a great understanding of its role and a deep interest in its development.

Over the last year a two-year Plan of Action which sets out a guide for the work of the Secretary and Chairman, month by month was prepared to assist the new trusted servants.

I have gradually passed on to Bob step-by-step descriptions of the different tasks, e.g. directory, together with significant computer files, to give him an opportunity to examine these and ask questions. I believe he will be an excellent secretary and will serve our Higher Power and the AOSM very well.

SELF-SUPPORTING ?

The AOSM has been supported from a rather narrow base since the 4th AOSM with only two Asia-Oceania countries making regular contributions, as well as US/Canada who maintains their wonderful support to help us grow. Three Thai Groups regularly send contributions, although I have recommended to each one that they consider first sending delegates to this Meeting. Most other funds have come from individuals in Australia, due to a greater awareness caused by the AOSM Secretariat being situated in their country. With the move to another country, this source may very well dissipate.

The method of funding we follow - each country funding its own delegates while the host country provides the conference venue - also depends on each participating country contributing to the AOSM Secretariat. These funds are used in two main ways - to cover the travel/accommodation expenses of the Chairman and Secretary, and to produce and distribute the biannual newsletter and directory. If we are to maintain this system, each country needs to be aware of its responsibility to assist in whatever way it can, after taking care of its delegates' expenses.

PRUDENT RESERVE

At this stage we are just beginning to build a prudent reserve. The last AOSM suggested setting aside A\$500 each two-year period; however, we need to increase this

and it's recommended that a minimum amount of A\$1000 be added to the Reserve this time.

SPONSORSHIP

The Secretariat has helped with sponsoring some delegates for this AOSM. After consultation with the Chairman and the Board of Japan, it was agreed that the Secretariat might share in the sponsoring of our new friends from Mongolia. We have been very pleased to be part of enabling them to attend this Meeting.

On each occasion when need for some financial assistance was expressed, the relevant sponsoring country has been approached to see if they could provide the funds. Always I have found a willingness to do whatever was possible. When funds were not available the Secretariat has been willing to assist if there were sufficient funds to do so and after consultation with the Chairman.

(Note: As this Meeting unfolded the Secretariat was also in the position to assist with the expenses of the two new delegates from the People's Republic of China who had been able to reach Hong Kong.)

FINANCES

The Financial Statement and AOSM Budget for the next two years can be seen on pages !!!!

FINALLY:

With rotation about to take place I wish to express my deep appreciation for the enormous privilege and trust given to me over the four and a half years, and for the support I've received from every quarter. Nothing in my life, other than the gift of life and sobriety, could ever be as exciting or fulfilling and I shall treasure its memories and its friendships always.

Like all service positions in AA it has pushed me to my limits and demanded that I reach deeper into my spiritual program and closer to my Loving God to be able to carry it out. As the result I have had to grow in ways for which I am immensely grateful and I have realised many times the truth in that expression: "It is in giving that we receive".

I thank you, every one, and I only ask that you give Bob all the support you have given me - I know he will give excellent service to the AOSM.

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE AOSM AND ITS SECRETARIAT

At the 4th AOSM in Seoul, Korea, a Working Committee was formed to review and research several features of the structure and functions of the Secretariat and the AOSM itself. After much consultation and discussion the committee made several recommendations which were then put before the delegates of the Fifth AOSM.

With some minor clarifying alterations these recommendations were approved and adopted by the Group Conscience of the Meeting. The final decisions were as follows:

AOSM Committees

- Four committees shall be established:
 1. Agenda/Policy/Admissions/Finance
 2. Literature/Publishing/Website
 3. Working with others (Including sponsorship)
 4. Site selection
- The Secretariat shall appoint delegates to each committee, until their rotation, and the committees shall meet in Hong Kong to appoint a chairperson. The committees should thereafter prepare a schedule of responsibilities for approval at the 2005 AOSM.

Prudent Reserve

- The AOSM funding system shall continue as it is, that is, each country takes responsibility for its own

delegates' travel and accommodation expenses, the host country provides the cost of the conference facilities in place of travel expenses and each country contributes to the expenses of the Secretariat when possible.

- Supervision of AOSM finances shall be the responsibility of a Finance committee and this committee shall ensure the establishment of a prudent reserve to cover the costs of operating the AOSM for two years, including the expenses of one AOSM. This will be done gradually by setting aside an amount, recommended at each AOSM, until the reserve is achieved. The amount for this AOSM period shall be AUD\$1000.

AOSM Agenda

- A specifically appointed committee shall prepare the agenda for each meeting and shall plan a specific timetable to ensure timeliness and completeness of the meeting agenda. The committee, meeting during the AOSM, shall recommend themes for the next Meeting, topics for discussion, workshops and presentations.

Hosting AOSM Meetings

- The biennial AOSM shall be hosted in turn by those countries, which can demonstrate :

1. their capacity to provide the necessary funds for the conference facilities and
2. their ability to satisfy the needs of the AOSM as described in the Bid Questionnaire.

- A site selection committee shall be established to encourage and assist countries to bid, to review bids and make recommendations on them to the AOSM. In the case of an urgent need to move the site of an AOSM, this committee will establish contingency procedures and assist the Chairman and Secretariat with the change.

AOSM Website

- The Secretariat, with the overview and input of a website sub-committee and using assistance from New York if necessary, shall establish a web site to assist the workings of the AOSM. The website is to be reviewed and approved by the AOSM in 2005.
- The website shall be specifically confined to the role and work of the AOSM itself and its content shall be governed by the Group Conscience of the Secretariat and the AOSM website committee. The contents shall initially include:
 1. An explanation of the AOSM, together with its Guidelines, Statement of Purpose and History
 2. The AOSM Newsletter (downloadable), current edition and possibly past editions, with any full names and confidential items removed
 3. Information on the next AOSM – site, dates, theme and agenda, contact details for Secretariat, and other details to enable delegates to plan
 4. How to contact AA in each country – the main addresses, postal, phone, fax, websites, taking care to make appropriate disclaimers where links are provided.
 5. Lists of literature in languages of the Zone and where they can be obtained within the Asia-Oceania Zone
 6. A calendar of national and regional conventions in the Zone.
- An independent domain name shall be obtained, that is free from all connection to outside organisations, e.g. www.aosm.org
- It shall be managed by the Secretariat, with the services of a webmaster who is responsible to the AOSM through the Secretary.

AOSM Dates

- The AOSM shall be held during July in each odd-numbered year, commencing July 2003. The meeting should commence on a Friday afternoon

and conclude on Sunday afternoon until such time as delegates elect to extend the meeting dates.

Delegate Qualifications

- Neither delegate qualification nor country structure shall be considered relevant as the criteria to be applied when considering attendance at the AOSM. However, when sponsorship is involved the following guidelines should apply:
 1. The candidate for sponsorship should be endorsed by at least two AA Groups where there is not yet an established structure in the delegate's country
 2. The candidate should have a minimum of three year's service experience as an elected representative beyond group level.
- The "Working With Others (Sponsorship)" committee should closely monitor these recommendations.

Report to WSM 2004

- The delegates chose Masaru Imai, first-term delegate from Japan, to give the Report of this Meeting to the World Service Meeting in New York in 2004.

6th AOSM

- Following the Third Legacy procedure for elections outlined in the AA Service Manual the delegates chose Lynne H. [redacted] second-term delegate from Australia, to chair the Sixth Asia-Oceania Service Meeting in July, 2005, and Ma Q. [redacted] first-term delegate from China, to be Alternate Chairperson.
- No bids had been received to host the 6th AOSM but it was reported to the Meeting that Australia had expressed a willingness to stand by, if needed, and had already researched some venues. The Meeting asked Australia if they would accept the task of hosting the 6th AOSM and this was agreed to, subject to the acceptance by the Australian fellowship.
- The delegates accepted the proposal that Beijing, with the Hong Kong fellowship assisting the Chinese fellowship, should be the standby site in case of unforeseen difficulties arising.
- The Theme for the next AOSM was chosen by vote from several suggestions. It shall be:

**"Sponsorship –
Unity in Ever-widening Circles"**

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER, 2001 – JULY, 2003

INCLUDES 5TH ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING*

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Balance at 1.12.01	\$8,287.43 (Carried Forward)	Directory/News	\$318.92
Contributions:		(3 issues)	
	\$2,400.00 GSO Australia	Final Report '01:	\$410.40
	\$2,190.55 GSO Japan	Postage:	\$1,263.20
	\$853.01 GSO US/Canada	P.O. Box	\$104.00
	\$391.05 Chiang Mai Group Thailand	Stationery:	\$92.30
	\$185.00 Phuket Group Thailand	Fax:	\$3.56
	\$553.75 Pattaya Group Thailand	Bank Charges:	\$10.00
	\$150.00 AVFY Group Australia	Literature	\$146.30
	\$222.00 Flemington Group Australia		
	\$75.00 Nth Melb. Group Australia	AOSM Expenses:	
	\$50.00 Peninsula District Australia	Travel Costs	\$3,496.64
	\$82.00 Area Information Day Aust.	Accommodation	\$1,418.16
	\$1,444.87 Individual Contributions	Meeting Banner	\$117.64
Bank Interest	\$40.20	Gift Plaque	\$48.00
		Delegate folders	\$147.05
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,924.86	Sponsorship:	
Less EXPENSES:	(\$9,781.82)	China	\$606.13
		Mongolia	\$1,599.52
BALANCE	\$7,143.04	TOTAL	
(at July 15, 2003)		EXPENSES **	\$9,781.82
		(at July 15, 2003)	

* This Report does not include the cost of producing or posting the Final Report for the 5th AOSM, which shall be in the next Report. The costs for the 4th AOSM Final Report *are* included.

** These figures have been updated since they were reported at the AOSM in order to include the final costs for travel, accommodation, sponsorship and expenses incurred during the Meeting.

ALL AMOUNTS ARE IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS

AOSM BUDGET
FOR THE PERIOD
JULY 2003 – JUNE 2005

<i>Item</i>	Budget 01 - 03	Actual Expenses	Budget 03 - 05
Final Report, including postage*	\$500	\$767.83	\$500
Directories/Newsletters*	\$600	\$318.90	\$450
Postage	\$1,800	\$913.87	\$1,200
P.O. Box	\$100	\$104.00	\$100
Incidental Stationery	\$100	\$92.30	\$100
Bank Charges	\$100	\$10.00	\$50
Literature	\$100	\$146.30	\$100
AOSM Expenses			
Travel/Accommodation	\$5,000	\$4,914.80	\$5,500
Delegates' Folders	\$200	\$147.05	\$200
Taping*	\$500	no charge	\$1,000
Sponsorship*	Nil	\$2,205.65	\$1,500
Meeting Banner		\$117.64	Nil
Prudent Reserve	\$500	\$500.00	\$1,000
	\$9,500	\$10,238.34	\$11,700

This budget has been updated to include final actual expenses of the Meeting

NOTES:

1. 72 Final Reports were sent out initially. A further 85 were sent on request with most recipients making a contribution to cover costs. This arrangement was made to save taxation complications that would occur if Reports and Directories were sold for a set price.
2. Only three issues of the Directory and Newsletter were sent out since the last AOSM, while six issues were made in the previous budget period. Normally there will be 4 issues in each AOSM budget period with the average cost being \$80 production and \$240 postage each time.
3. Previous budgets allowed \$500 for taping, which was based on the 3rd AOSM cost. The taping costs of both the 4th and 5th AOSMs were contributed generously by the host fellowship.
4. This amount includes the costs of assisting the Chinese delegates to attend, and a part share of the costs of the Mongolian delegates' expenses.

ALL AMOUNTS ARE IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS

ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING COMMITTEES

2003 – 2005

AGENDA / POLICY / ADMISSIONS / FINANCE

Steve P [redacted] (New Zealand) Chairperson
John B [redacted] (Hong Kong) Alternate Chairperson
Lynne H [redacted] (Australia)
Won K [redacted] (Korea)
Ma Q [redacted] (Peoples' Republic of China)

LITERATURE / PUBLISHING / WEBSITE

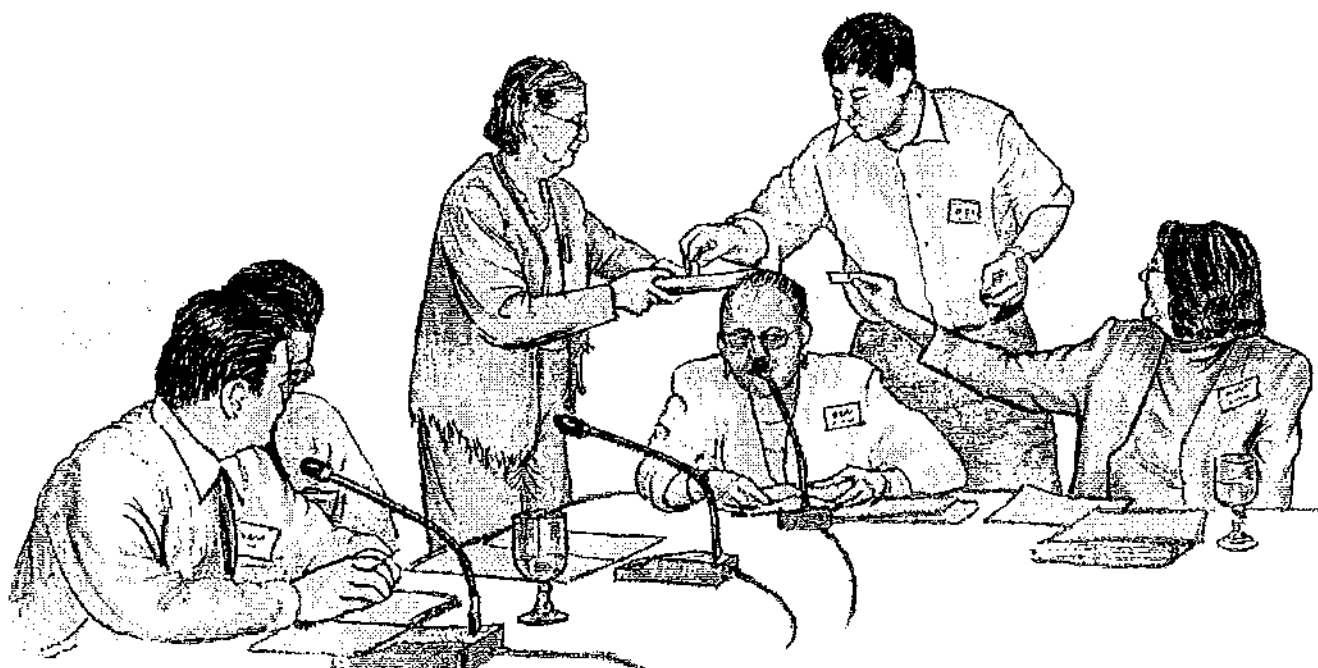
Linda B [redacted] (Indonesia) Chairperson
Goldie M [redacted] (New Zealand) Alternate Chairperson
Allan K [redacted] (Australia)
O. G [redacted] (Mongolia)
Mr C [redacted] (Peoples' Republic of China)

WORKING WITH OTHERS

Bill G [redacted] (Philippines) Chairperson
Hiroyuki N [redacted] (Japan) Alternate Chairperson
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D. E [redacted] (Mongolia)

SITE SELECTION

Masaru I [redacted] (Japan) Chairperson
Donald C [redacted] (Philippines) Alternate Chairperson
Deborah L [redacted] (Hong Kong)



UNSTRUCTURED SHARING

On the final afternoon the delegates shared on two topics that had been requested at the 4th AOSM in Korea. Two delegates, Masaru I. (Japan) and Lynne H-W (Australia), were asked to introduce the subjects. Then further sharing on these followed.

A. Overcoming cultural barriers

Masaru I. (Japan):

There is a passage in the Big Book on page 160 in the Chapter "A Vision For You" which describes the universal attraction of the AA fellowship:

"Many a man, yet dazed from his hospital experience, has stepped over the threshold of that home into freedom. Many an alcoholic who entered there came away with an answer. He succumbed to that gay crowd inside, who laughed at their own misfortunes and understood his. Impressed by those who visited him at the hospital, he capitulated entirely when, later, in an upper room of this house he heard the story of some man whose experience closely tallied with his own. The expression on the faces of the women, that indefinable something in the eyes of the men, the stimulating and electric atmosphere of the place, conspired to let him know that here was haven at last.

The very practical approach to his problems, the absence of intolerance of any kind, the genuine democracy, the uncanny understanding which these people had were irresistible...."

AA started in America and although Japan is a very different country, an island country, where almost no AA member speaks English, there is a Fellowship of over 4000 recovered alcoholics. I believe this is because of that atmosphere described on page 160, because of the democracy AA provides and its truly attractive program.

AA began in Japan with seven people who were members of another organisation, Danshukai. It was similar to those first members in America who had begun as members of the Oxford Groups. When these seven saw AA at the American airbases for the first time, they saw that same very relaxed atmosphere. Although they couldn't understand each other's words, they knew there was something there, something different and they jumped into it and that is when their true sobriety began. They got drunk on AA, you might say.

These seven had very little money but whatever they had they used travelling throughout Japan trying to carry the message wherever they went. Our Big Book talks about our dependency on alcohol, and then we change and become dependent on AA.

When they were sober ten years they made an important decision – to adopt the 3rd Legacy procedure of voting. The only members and groups at that time were in the Tokyo area but they knew that they had to care for and

protect our AA principles, and so they did not become the "bosses". Although they didn't understand it they got together in a group to translate the Service Manual - our service history began with this group – and it was an important choice. Although it was very complicated for us we persisted in struggling through it. The importance of electing General Service Representatives, of maintaining our unity among our Districts and Areas, and by adopting it stage by stage we gradually came to understand the twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

In Japan it's often said that we have over 800 Gods that watch over Japan, so AAs from other countries were concerned that we wouldn't be able to cope with the notion of having a Higher Power. But we had no intention of changing that at all – it's a Higher Power, it's different from a God – and this is very strongly believed by our AA members. We just use the term "Higher Power" which is the best way we could portray this concept.

One other important thing was that we should create a solid service structure. When I was two and a half years sober I was elected to chair the Area Assembly and we were requested to elect a World Service Meeting Delegate. I wanted to be sure to properly gather the Group Conscience where even the smallest group would have one equal vote. The vote was carried out by mail and went very well. We continued to collect the Group Conscience on one matter after another and although we couldn't move through this process quickly and our growth was slow, it was consistent and sure.

In the sharing that followed, Anne (AOSM Secretary) described a personal experience of struggle, which involved detachment from an extensive Christian education to discover the concept of a Higher Power not related to any religious doctrines or rituals. This Higher Power is one of personal experience and can be found initially, as the early Japanese members discovered, in the AA meetings and the love and service expressed between sober alcoholics. This is most evident in the spiritual bond so strongly felt at this AOSM gathering of alcoholics from many varied cultures.

Goldie (New Zealand) described how the Maori culture has many similarities with that of Japan, and had adopted the same concept of spirituality as that described by Masaru I. Many Maori had converted to the Christian Faith and had formed their own Maori church. But ten years ago the Alcohol & Drug professionals established a Maori program at the main treatment centres to teach a different concept of recovery. While in the treatment program many of these people rediscovered their lost spirituality when introduced to the Twelve Steps, just as alcoholics of European background have done so.

Linda (Indonesia) explained that the Balinese community included Hindus, Christians, Muslims and

agnostics. Her experience is that when they embrace their 12 Step program, they all seem to embrace the Higher Power concept as something separate from their religion. The meetings in Bali are very spiritual with the focus on the program, on surrendering all to a Higher Power, rather than the "drunkalogue". She described the effect that the Bali Bombing by terrorists had had on the community there. It brought a spiritual resurgence and unity among the people, love for one another, introspection rather than revenge, and it taught her a lot about herself. It was after this that she began attending Intergroup meetings as a GSR. She has encountered aggression and conflict among some but by working with an older, spiritual member she has felt the spirituality growing in her.

B. Growth of One's Spirituality as the Result of One's Service Work

Lynne H. (Australia):

Nineteen years ago, when I came into AA, my life had been dominated by alcohol, all positive relationships were destroyed and I was filled with fear, paranoia, resentment and self-pity. I had always wanted to live a good life and be a good mother, wife and friend but was unable. Through a spiritual experience in which I was given a sudden clear realisation of the truth of my situation, I was brought into AA.

An AA woman, together with her sponsor, took charge of me, helping me to learn about AA and guiding me to the literature, the Big Book and 12 Steps and encouraging me to share in the beginnings of a new group. There I learned about Group Conscience, taking my turn to do the group chores in spite of my fears. I was willing to do anything the Group Conscience chose for me. I accepted roles of secretary, treasurer and chairperson in turn and, in that way, I learned there was no status, no differing levels of importance in any of these roles. But I also learned, as the result of being chairperson, that I was just as equal as other members, something I'd had difficulty believing before. I was also freed from the fear I had of being expelled from AA because of my shameful past. I was reassured that no one can cancel my membership except me.

Fear has been a constant companion in my life and for my first two years I shook all over. Even so I dealt with my challenges and responsibilities by praying and then doing what must be done. I am always willing to put my name in the hat for AA service tasks. By standing firm

and working in service I've been able to grow and develop my character and, in particular, my dependence on and closeness to God.

As an Area delegate attending the Conference I learned a lot and grew, hanging in through the rough times and growing in gratitude. Then as Area Chairperson, Regional Trustee on the General Service Board and now as AOSM Delegate, service has always been a priority.

Today the positive feelings far outweigh the negative that once filled my life. My relationship with God is very important but also is the attitude of giving rather than taking, selflessness rather than selfishness. These principles of AA I practise in all areas of my life as I try to be a living example of AA to people around me.

Allan (Australia) then shared a story of his spiritual development in the AA program of service to others, which had begun from a base of no spirituality at all, but rather an outlook that was paranoid, fearful, resentful and a very low self esteem. Encouraged by an older member to take on service commitments, he became very heavily involved and developed a taste for a service life. He stayed sober this way and was grateful to be doing it. He found that AA service developed in him a desire for giving and he appreciated that. Following a brief but sudden spiritual experience he felt lifted up and at peace with himself. Continuing in service he finds stability and a liking and appreciation for people which comes from beginning to appreciate himself. As he said: "Life is changing, and I am changing through not shirking responsibilities and facing new challenges with gratitude."

Kevin (Chairman) believed it to be important to gain some good recovery before taking up a service position outside the group level. In his early service experience he was stunned by the aggressive and loud behavior of some "servants of AA" at some Area Assemblies and was quite repelled by it. After witnessing similar behavior at his first Conference he was surprised to see two protagonists sharing together amicably over a coffee later. He learned from this that it's OK to voice strong opinions so long as we do not retain the anger, nor let it drive us away nor to undermine AA by it. Spirituality in service has come to mean for him the ability to serve AA while recognising that our own petty whims are not important.

SPONSORSHIP AREAS

The delegates were asked to share thoughts on the arrangement made at the 3rd AOSM for each large structured country to take responsibility for set sponsorship areas.

New Zealand described their efforts to communicate by mail, visits and email with contacts and groups throughout Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. So far

there has been minimal success and probably an inventory on these activities needs to be undertaken.

Australia pointed to their assistance to the Indonesian and Cambodian delegates to attend the AOSM, and their ongoing communication with both countries. In response to a question from Greg, GSO NY, it was admitted that, although there are both Conference and Board International Committees, most of the sponsoring

activity is undertaken by the AOSM delegates personally. The Conference International Committee, in particular, is barely active or aware of the work to be done.

Japan: When the New Zealanders first proposed the AOSM to Japan in 1994-5 it was agreed to share in the work and the Japanese Fellowship was encouraged to be involved. One New Zealand visitor was a judge who helped Japan with programs of carrying the message into correctional facilities as well as to the government officials responsible for them.

Japan has had a lot of interaction with Korea through Round-ups and conventions, and they are excited by the new co-operation with Mongolia. They are also very willing to give whatever support they can to China. An International Committee was established but has not had much work to do. This will hopefully change with all the new ideas taken back by the AOSM delegates.

Anne (AOSM Secretary) recommended that the boundaries of sponsorship areas be not considered so rigid, rather to practise the principle that where there is a need let it be filled by whichever country can do it.

All AOSM countries need to be aware of the large section of this Zone not yet participating, namely India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, and make efforts to communicate with them. It is important to realise that the excitement that's generated by sponsorship activity spreads throughout the Fellowship and results in greater health, growth and unity.

The Chinese delegates expressed an interest in being linked with areas of similar language, e.g. Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Chinese-speaking members in Australia. Linda (Hong Kong Alternate delegate) told the meeting that Hong Kong is interested particularly in sponsoring and assisting the rest of China and will be working soon on several activities with them.

CLOSING REMARKS

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

Firstly Greg M. spoke on behalf of Adrienne and himself and the General Service Board of US/Canada:

I'd like to express our gratitude for the courageous work done over the last couple of days, the very profound work that has changed the entire structure of how you do your business. It was amazing to see how this was done so easily through the practice of AA Principles. We have observed AA leaders, all responsive to the Group Conscience in your own countries, come with little or no vision of where you were going or what you were going to be called upon to do. And yet all have stepped up to the plate and have assumed world-wide responsibility for Alcoholics Anonymous and for that, as an alcoholic, I am extremely grateful.

The theme was the Three Legacies – Recovery, Unity, Service, encircled with AA love, that embody the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship that saved my life, and I've heard you share how it's saved your lives. Together in unity we sit at this table responsible for saving the life of the yet-unborn alcoholic that one day will come in search of us. It's that responsibility that has been entrusted to us – to ensure that the hand of AA will be there outstretched, that our meetings will be open and inclusive, that we will welcome all that have a problem of alcoholism. No matter where, no matter what language, cultural, demographic, political or religious boundaries may be perceived, our spiritual Fellowship, our message will transcend that because of what you have done this week.

More than anything else in AA, as exhibited over these couple of days, the important overriding principle is all

of us making sacrifices. Our Twelfth Tradition reminds us that Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, and Anonymity is expressed through Humility, that sacrificial spirit that says that we are all the same at the AA table. There are no differences amongst us – we are all alcoholic and we are all committed to the furtherance of AA. So I congratulate you, I thank you for allowing Adrienne and myself to observe these proceedings. I will leave here knowing that that yet-unborn alcoholic in this part of the world can be assured that AA will be here waiting for him with the solution for their lives.

Go with God, do your work and I look forward to seeing all of you on the broad highway, and if there is anything that GSO can do to help you in your desire to carry the message, please just ask.

Deep was the gratitude that all the delegates expressed, one by one, in their closing remarks, particularly those that had been assisted financially by others to be able to attend - delegates from Mongolia, Indonesia, Cambodia and China. This assistance made an important impression, as Mr Cheng (PRC) explained:

"We would like to thank the AOSM for the help and support for our participation. I have felt very deeply about how AA gives support and how recovery and service works through this support. It has made a very deep impression on me about the importance of communication in service work and I have been able to experience the reality of the presence of the Higher Power. This has been a real encouragement for the Chinese members' participation in AA."

Ganbat (Mongolia): I am really gratified by the warm welcome from the Hong Kong hosts and all the AOSM delegates. This meeting is very warm and I really thank you very much."

Also mentioned was the realisation that the effect of the AOSM would not end here but would go on and on in each country in these comments:

Wayne (Cambodia): "This bringing people together is so valuable, getting a chance to talk things over. I really appreciated the workshop – the face-to-face sharing. This is not the end but the beginning, Chapter One of the Book. I shall go away from here and continue the work and hope the relationships begun here will continue and will grow."

Masaru (Japan): "In North America AA is so well established it seems not interesting any more. I think an upcoming, vibrant AA is going to be in this Asia-Oceania Zone. Seeing something start up like this really energizes me – what's so attractive is not the AA that's been in existence so long but this new AA that's just being born in front of our very own eyes."

Choi (Korea): "We in Korea have grown much more since the last AOSM and now I have learned much more of value for us, and I will convey these sincere messages to the AA members in Korea."

Linda (Indonesia): "I will be working really hard to carry this message back home, to Java and all around Indonesia."

Bill (Philippines) spoke for all of the delegates in thanking Greg and Adrienne from GSO New York for their attendance and wisdom: "I believe we have

solved our literature problems, so a special thanks to Greg."

In his final remarks, Kevin thanked everyone for the opportunity and privilege of serving the Fellowship as chairman and told how he will treasure the friendships made during the AOSM. He predicted exciting times ahead with the growth in Mongolia and China as well as other countries, and recommended that all delegates should study their service manuals and develop their communication links to find ways to carry the message to those who need it.

Anne, who was rotating out of the Secretariat, expressed thanks for the great privilege of being entrusted with the development of the Secretariat, from the beginning when Yukie and the Japanese GSO looked after the secretarial work to the present time. She described the wonderful contributions of the Hong Kong members who had worked so hard to produce such a setting and facilities for this meeting, and thanked them for their warm and generous hospitality. She also described this 5th AOSM as "the most exciting I've known, because of the growth that has occurred here and because of the desperate desire that people have shown in their efforts to be present. It is going to be a milestone in the growth of AA in this part of the world. It was obvious that the Higher Power was with us in all in the miracles that happened leading up to this meeting – the SARS epidemic, the lifting of travel advisories in time, the emergence of the Mongolians and finally the moment the Chinese delegates walked in the door on the first day."

DELEGATES' REVIEW OF AOSM AGENDA

(There were eight respondents to this questionnaire)

Which agenda item/s did you find most helpful and why?

The majority of delegates described the items on International Sponsorship and Translation and Publishing of Literature as the most helpful and gave the following comments:

International Sponsorship Workshop

- Allowed sponsor and sponsee countries to discuss their needs
- Provided opportunity for new ideas
- Country to country sponsorship is most important to the AOSM
- Enabled better face-to-face communication

Translation/Publishing process

- Gave a greater awareness of the struggles of non-English-speaking countries
- Presentations were factual and informative
- GSO inputs were invaluable
- Informed everyone of the importance of copyright and the value of our written message

Many comments expressed gratitude for the input of the GSO staff, as their sharing of experience of message-carrying was extremely helpful.

Two delegates expressed appreciation for the Country Reports, and the sharing session on spiritual growth and the cultural differences in relation to the Higher Power. Both of these items were considered informative and mind-opening.

One delegate mentioned that the story of early beginnings of AA in Japan was particularly informative.

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

Several delegates expressed the desire for more workshops or a structured format for the General Sharing session on "Cultural Difficulties", rather than the unstructured form. It was suggested that workshops enable every delegate to participate better and more points can be brought forward for sharing.

Other comments mentioned that

- Country Reports might contain specific facts such

as size of fellowship and details on service structure

- The AA meeting is not so important
- The Sunday program would have been more valuable if it was a full day
- Structured "Sharing Sessions", as outlined in the AA Service Manual, would have been a helpful format to enable more delegate sharing, with the delegates having time beforehand to prepare their two-minute talks.

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

Most delegates requested that the agenda provide for more sharing from delegates, particularly through structured discussions. Topics recommended were:

- International Sponsorship
- Communication with the Professional Community
- Literature Translation with International Co-operation

- Overcoming Cultural, Religious and Language Barriers
- Mentorship

Any other comments?

- More small group workshops are needed for participation
- The presence of the GSO general manager and the International Staff member were a huge boost
- The meeting would benefit by being extended to include at least an extra half-day on the formal agenda, particularly with the new committees needing time for their committee sessions.
- Some PI action would be valuable, such as a media statement announcing that this AOSM event is happening, especially if we are in a country new to AA, e.g. PRC.
- Gratitude to the Hong Kong fellowship, the Chairman and Secretary



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GUIDELINES

FOR THE CONDUCT OF

THE ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

APPENDIX

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Request That AAWS Undertake A Translation

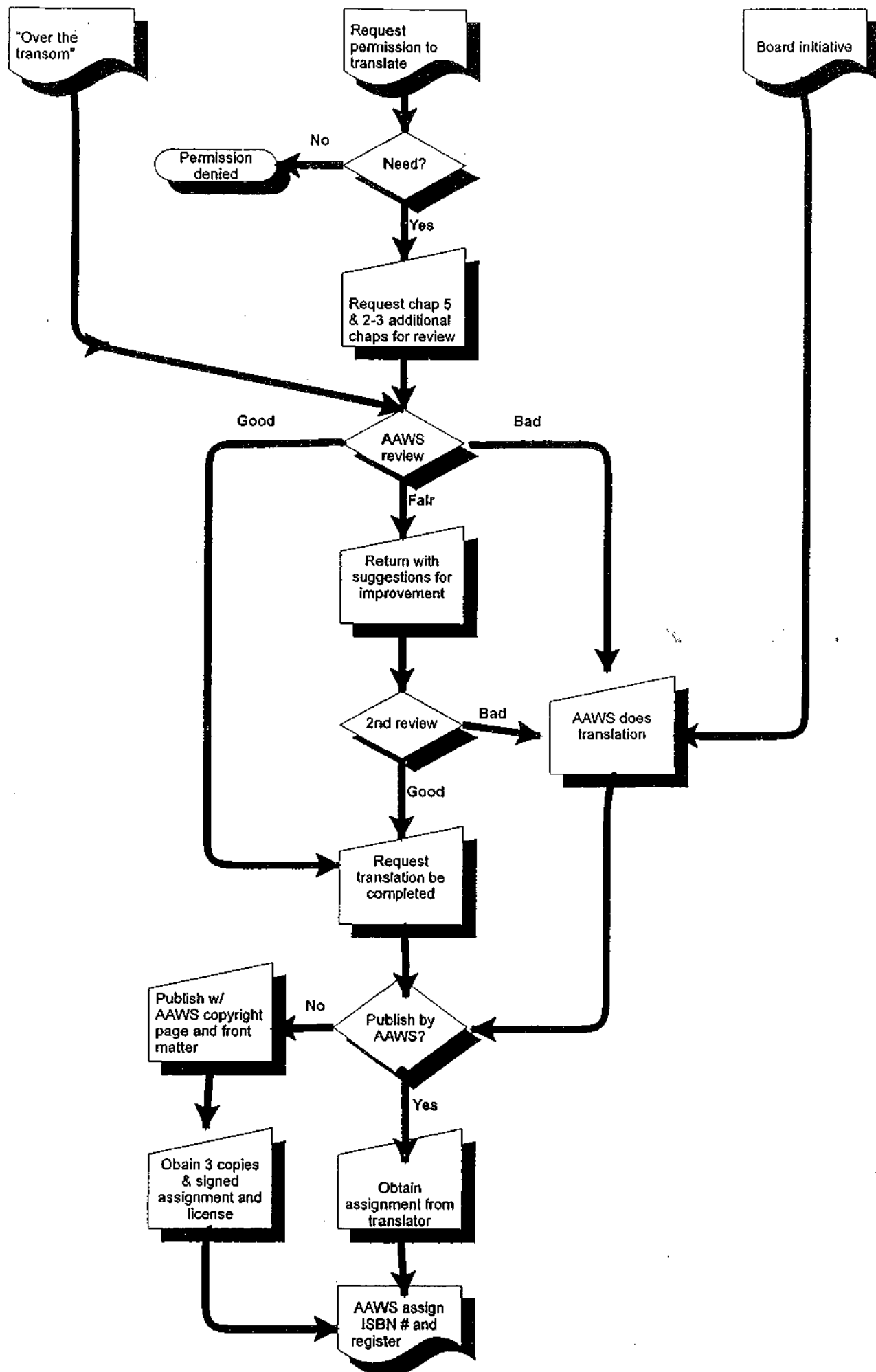
1. From time to time, AAWS will receive an external request (i.e., outside of the three corporate boards) to translate (usually, including a request to publish) a piece of literature. Based on input from the Staff member on the Overseas Assignment, the Staff generally, and the Publications Department,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

C. Translations Completed Without Prior Board Permission

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

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

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



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)

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

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

1. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that A.A.W.S. is the sole owner of all U.S. and foreign copyrights in the above identified copyrighted work and that such copyrights are valid and in force.
2. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant a non-exclusive license to translate the Work into the language specified above, provided said Translation is submitted to A.A.W.S. for review and approval.
3. Applicant agrees and hereby does assign all copyright in the licensed Work to A.A.W.S., as evidenced on the attached Assignment of Copyright form (Exhibit A), signed by Applicant.
4. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant a license to reproduce and distribute the Translation in the exact form in which it was submitted to A.A.W.S. and approved by A.A.W.S. ONLY, in the country identified above ONLY.
5. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant the right to enforce the copyright in the Translation in Applicant's own name in the country identified above, including the right to file suit for infringement in Applicant's own name. Applicant agrees to notify A.A.W.S. in writing of any infringement of said copyright in the country identified above as such infringement comes to the attention of Applicant.
6. A.A.W.S. will provide applicant with the copyright notice page, for inclusion in the translations of books, pamphlets, and other written and/or text materials. The applicant shall include the copyright notice page in the translations of books, pamphlets, and other written materials, and applicant agrees that *all* copies of the Licensed Work *shall* include an exact duplicate of the copyright notice page, as provided by A.A.W.S.,

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

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

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

Signature of Applicant _____

Name (typed) _____

Address _____

AGREED TO this _____ day of _____, 20____.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC.

By: _____

Name _____

Title _____

The Twelve Concepts

1. The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

2. When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference-excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

3. As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

4. Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

5. Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

6. On behalf of AA as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

7. The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness.

8. The trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

9. Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority - the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description, or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

11. While the trustees hold final responsibility for AA's world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

12. General Warranties of the Conference: In all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.