



希望の鐘 *The Bell of Hope*



The Y's Men's Club of Kawagoe
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Kawagoe Y's men's Bulletin

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President Goshiro Yamamoto

CP's Theme: "Learn about the past and gain new ideas

Vice President Atsuko Matsukawa

and knowledge from it. Meet new people for tomorrow!"

Treasurer Kimiyo Yoshida

IP Ulrik Lauridsen (Denmark)

Secretary Katsusaburo Yoshino

Theme: "Let Your Light Shine"

AP Keiko Tonegawa (Kawagoe)

Theme: "Be the light for change"

Japan East Regional Director Kohei Yamada (Utsunomiya)

Theme: "Learn and discover now for the future! For the future,
develop confidence and encounter true joy!"

Kantotobu District Governor Masao Nagao (Chiba West)

Theme: "YMCA and Y's Collaborate to Aim for Serving the
Community!"

November Scripture

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace,
goodwill toward men!"

Luke: Chapter 2, Verse 14

[November attendance](#)

Participants 8 Rate 89%

Preface

「Peace on Earth」

President of Kawagoe Y's Men's Club
Goshiro Yamamoto

It is truly heartbreaking to hear the news that the war between Israel and Palestine has not stopped, and many people are injured and dying. From the Israeli (Jewish) side, it is important to build and defend the country that has been their long-cherished dream for 2000 years, ever since they were driven out of their country by the Roman Empire. In addition, this time, Hamas, on the Palestinian side, launched the war first using terrorist attacks. On the other hand, the Palestinian side has been suffering from the British triple-talk diplomacy, which has deprived them of the Palestinian land they had settled for a long time and forced them into what is said to be a prison with no ceiling, as well as economic

oppression for many years. From a military point of view, the Palestinian side is overwhelmingly at a disadvantage. They have been thoroughly beaten, both in terms of missiles and ground fighting and it is the Palestinians who have suffered many deaths. Both sides have their own arguments, and the situation remains untenable, but we hope that peace will return soon.

Now, at the call of the World YMCA, the Japan YMCA Alliance is also raising funds for Palestinian emergency relief. 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to whomsoever He wills. Peace on earth to whom He wills.' That is what we hope for.

[November Monthly Report](#)

Katsusaburo Yoshino

The November meeting was the annual participation in the Saitama YMCA Charity Run. This time, it was 24th event on 3 November (Friday, holiday). Next year, we will celebrate our 25th quarter century.

On that day, most of the members of the Kawagoe Club were in Hong Kong to participate in the 30th Asia-Pacific Area Convention, so from the Kawagoe Club, it was just me (and the Menettes) and Kyoko Kawai!

The weather was fine, and the newly elected Mayor of Tokorozawa, Katsutoshi Onozuka, gave a speech at the opening ceremony and signaled the start of the race. Mayor Onozuka is a Tokorozawa Y's Men's Club member. I have met him several times.

Former Minister of Education, Culture, Sports,

Science and Technology, Masahiko Shibayama also attended the closing ceremony.

For more information, see the YMCA Report.

30th Asia-Pacific Area Convention (Hong Kong)

Goshiro Yamamoto

The Y's Men's Clubs International 30th Asia-Pacific Area Convention was held in Hong Kong from 3rd to 5th November 2023. Around 360 participants got to know each other in the first physical area convention in four years. As Keiko Tonegawa is the President of the Asia-Pacific Area this time, five members from Kawagoe Y's Men's Club, Taro Tonegawa, Kimiyo Yoshida, Miki Oikawa, and Goshiro Yamamoto, as well as Keiko Tonegawa's sister and her husband (Hisayo and Kenji Arai) also participated.

The first day of the convention started at 17:30, so we boarded a bus from the hotel at 16:00 and headed for the venue, but there was some hustle and bustle as the guide dropped us off at the wrong place. The opening ceremony started with a banner ceremony, followed by the Y's song. What felt a little strange was that the Chinese national anthem was sung at one point. Anyway, the banquet was very exciting as a post-Corona convention, with fun performances such as Chinese lion dance, kung fu, and Bian Lian.

On the second day of the convention, the excursions were divided into three courses, and I took part in Course A, the Lantau Island tour. We first went to a fishing village called Tai O, where we visited a place that still retains an atmosphere of traditional life, made sweets, and had lunch. We then visited the Great Buddha of Tiantan and returned to our hotel. The Great Buddha of Tian Dan is a giant at 34 meters high, but it looked much bigger because the Buddha itself is built on an elevated platform at the top of a staircase with 268 steps. And so, it was to the dinner on the second day of the convention, and as the second day's dinner was a culture night, I attended in kimono. Each region had its own entertainment on the day, with the Japan East region performing a lion dance by Mr. Suzuki of the Tokyo Koto Club and everyone singing a song together. I was impressed by the direction taken by the Japan West region, who performed a parody of Sumo wrestling to get laughs. At the end of the day, everyone danced to the "YMCA."

On the convention's third day, the location was moved to the Hong Kong Chinese YMCA Kowloon Centre for worship, followed by a program in the gymnasium. The Kawagoe Club, and Tokorozawa Club conducted the IBC signing ceremony with the Pangasinan Club in the Philippines. The fun three days ended with an appeal for the next Asia-Pacific Area Convention to be held in Kumamoto in 2025, followed by the closing ceremony.

There are many other things to do, but hopefully we will have a debriefing session.



Asia-Pacific AP and Asia-Pacific AP-Elect

From the International Stage "Keiko's Monthly Briefing of YMI/ASP"

Keiko Tonegawa

Keiko Tonegawa, International Council Member and Asia-Pacific Area President

The 30th Asia-Pacific Area Convention was held in Hong Kong from Friday, November 3rd to Saturday, November 5th. I had already held the position of Asia-Pacific Area President since July 1st, but I was officially installed in front of the members at the convention. The ceremony was presided over by International President-Elect Charming Shen. Together with Asia-Pacific Area President-Elect Joan Wong, we expressed our determination to take on this important responsibility. (Photo 1)

The convention was attended by Kawagoe Club President Goshiro Yamamoto, Yoshida Kimiyo Y's and Miki Oikawa Y's whom they gave us a boost. In addition to my husband, Taro Tonegawa, who witnessed the ceremony, my sister, and her husband (Hisayo and Kenji Arai) were also at the venue to watch over us, making this a memorable convention. Photo 2 shows me wearing my mother's hand-me-down kimono that I wore with the help of my sister, as I advocate ethnic dress as much as possible at the culture night banquet on the second day. It's not as good as President Yamamoto's well-established kimono (?). I am grateful to my sister for her support. (Photo 2)

This Convention was the first time in four years that members and stakeholders from the Asia Pacific Area had the opportunity to meet in person, as face-to-face meetings had only been possible just now due to the coronavirus disaster. Three hundred sixty (360) people attended, 185 from overseas and 175 from Hong Kong. There were 52 participants from the Japan East Region and 31 from the Japan West Region, bringing the total number of Japanese participants to 83. I cannot thank them enough. We also had participants from the Asia Pacific Area, South Korea, India, Africa (Kenya) and the US region, making it a convention with a rich international flavor.

Another important program was the Triangle IBC signing ceremony between the Pangasinan Y's Men's Club and the Tokorozawa-Kawagoe Clubs. At

the same time, the IBC signing ceremony between Sendai Aobajo Club and Lumbini Club (Nepal) was also held, adding to the convention's success. In the future, it will be essential to consider collaborative projects with Tokorozawa-Kawagoe Clubs and Pangasinan Club. We hope that our wisdom and manpower will advance international goodwill and contribution. (Photo 3)

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that Mr. Chou Wing Ping (Hong Kong Club), who came to Kawagoe 25 years ago as the +89/* President when the Kawagoe Club was established and held its Charter Night, is still alive and was present during the three days of the Convention. When we told him that the Kawagoe Club was celebrating its 25th anniversary, he said he would love to visit us again. (Photo 4)

Other convention programs included the appointment of the Asia-Pacific Area Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Area Service Directors for the same, area reports, YMI reports, AYC reports and excursions.

The next Asia-Pacific Area Convention will be held in Kumamoto in August 2025, with the AYC taking place simultaneously. We will now look forward to the DBC exchange with the Kitakyushu Club and the IBC exchange with the Pangasinan Club.



IBC signing ceremony (Photo 3)



With Past Asia President Chou Wing Ping (Photo 4)

YMCA Report

Street fundraising

The Kawagoe Centre held four days of street fundraising for the 3 November charity run.

Some people said to us, "Good luck!" Some people waved to us and said, "It's the YMCA!" A person came and said, 'Wait for me, I don't have any money at the moment', and returned with their wallets.

We also received a lot of support from people who came to donate daily, when we tried to give them leaflets, they said, "I got one yesterday, so I'm fine".

Every one of the YMCA program members, leaders, OGOBs, and YMCA officials were particularly impressive.



Inauguration ceremony (Photo 1)



Cheering group from the Kawagoe Club at the culture night (Photo 2).



Through this fundraising campaign, we hope that as many people in the community as possible will become aware of the work of the YMCA.

We will continue to value our connections with the local community and strive to do our best to respond to your kindness.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who helped with the street donations for remembering

this and giving us their thoughts (Haruna Kinoshita).

Charity Run

【 The 24th Saitama YMCA Charity Run 】

The 24th Saitama YMCA Charity Run was held on 3 November under sunny skies.

We would like to thank the Kawagoe Y's Men's Club again this year for providing many sponsorship items.



The donation of JPY 753,671 will be used for programs for children with disabilities and support for those in need due to disasters and other causes. We appreciate your cooperation.



Saitama YMCA Festival will be held.

The Saitama YMCA Festival and Membership Convention will be held at the Tokorozawa Centre on 23 November (Thursday, national holiday) from 10:00 to 15:30. The Kawagoe Centre will have a stall, the Kawagoe Mask Factory, which has been very popular in the past. Please invite your family and acquaintances and come along.

Proceeds from the festival will be used for volunteer leader training and community service activities.

(Editor's Note)

I would like to congratulate the Asia-Pacific Area on successfully holding the Convention in Hong Kong. We believe that the work of Area President Keiko Tonegawa will contribute to the progress of Y's movement and YMCA activities not only in the Asia-Pacific Area but also in the world, and we will continue to provide whatever support we can as Kawagoe Club.

This month, the Saitama YMCA will host the YMCA Festival and Membership Convention - face-to-face on the 23rd November, following the Charity Run. The Kawagoe Club will present re-reading used books, simulating the old people, selling coffee and sweet potato sweets. We hope that everyone will join in to make the meeting more exciting and that we can meet new people as the president's theme of this term, "Meet new people for tomorrow." (KY)