

CLERK'S REPORT FOR ASIA WEST PACIFIC SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

HELD AT PISAC, PERU

JANUARY 2016

Tena Koutou Katoa, Konnichiwa, Hwangyong hamnida, Namaste, Neehow, Mabuhay, Salawat Datang, Gud day, Buenos Dias, Hola, Hello and Welcome to this AWPS Business Meeting

You may have read the minutes of the last Section meeting held in Hong Kong a year ago, In my report I asked several questions, I felt we had a challenge to take up, Do we need reminding of that challenge and have the questions been part of discussions in your Worship groups, Monthly Meetings, Quaker Churches and Yearly Meetings.

Amongst some of the challenges we still face, is how are we as Quakers, Members of the Religious Society of Friends, going to move towards the future. What is important to us, our Meetings and Churches, where do we stand in the religious community, what do we stand for, what is our message and what are we doing. What do we answer when we are asked the question "what is a Quaker?" Is it enough to attend Church or Meeting for Worship each Sunday searching for something for ourselves or those close to us, what about the wider community beyond, what do we feel and how do we react when we hear of Quakers and others who are working towards trying to make this world we live in a more fair and just place. How often do you sit quietly and consider the Quaker Testimonies, they are part of our everyday life? They belong to the past 350 years and they are the building blocks of the future.

Ask yourself the question, why am I here today? What is your understanding of your relationship to Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and The Asia West Pacific Section (AWPS)?

You represent Churches, Yearly Meetings and other Quaker organisations. But, why are you really here? Just because there needs to be a representative and there needs to be a report of the Plenary taken back and shared with your Quaker group or does it go deeper than that?

Are you here to build new and vital international Quaker friendships, to understand and experience the diversity and expression of Quaker Spirituality? Are you here to expand your knowledge of Quaker theology, Quaker History, and expand your spiritual horizons? Why are you here? What are you going to take home with you to share with those who were not able to walk in your shoes.

This experience is not yours alone, it does not belong to you. You are the tool by which this experience can be taken and understood by many, many more than those who are present here at Pisac.

Take it, share it, be excited about what you learn and experience, the good and perhaps the not so good, but be present with your eyes open and your hearts full of love.