



Friends World Committee  
for Consultation

ASIA WEST PACIFIC SECTION

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**Editorial:** Greetings from your new Executive Secretary. I am in a period of visitation following the Dublin Triennial, but hope to keep the work of the Section going whilst I am on the road via email. For news of the Triennial, log onto [www.fwccworld.blogspot.com/](http://www.fwccworld.blogspot.com/)

It was such a rich experience over 8 days, with full representation from most parts of the Quaker World. We looked for and found our prophetic voice during worship and business session alike.

In our Clerk's report, Dilawar Chetsingh reminded us of our visions for the Section: to expand the Section website, to improve our finances through fund raising efforts and to encourage increased involvement by Young Adult Friends in the life of our Section. He reminded us of our visions, articulated at the Seoul Gathering, to seek to understand conflict situations and work towards mitigation of oppression, and promotion of social justice.

Intervisitation is one way we can learn directly of the situation of Friends, especially in the developing world. Apart from the Bhopal Section Gathering in November 6-12 2008, the next FWCC world event is a conference for around 1,000 Friends in Nairobi in 2012. This will help Friends everywhere to learn about the Africa Section, and benefits are sure to flow on to Meetings and projects in that place. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

*Valerie Joy*, Executive Secretary AWPS

### **Front cover picture**

Sachiko Yamamoto, Naomi Kamimura, and a South American Friend.

### **Reflections from AWPS Friends on the Dublin Triennial:**

"It had been over 20 years since I attended the last FWCC event. The theme really spoke to me at a time of need for a more spiritual focus in my everyday life.

I always try to find 'meanings' in actions I take, but much of my time has been spent on tasks without spiritual focus. After this week, I think I will see my daily life in the light I experienced during the Triennial. I found the Section Meeting very useful and uplifting and I'm looking forward to meeting Naomi Kamimura, Japan YM again in Bhopal.

The incredible value of being together and experiencing the diversity among us and realizing the meaning in our name CONSULTATION - the willingness to find ways of accepting, working with and understanding the 'whys' behind the differences, making FWCC a

prophetic organization as a model for all humankind and life on earth.  
*Veronica Maxey, Aotearoa New Zealand YM*

## **MINUTES OF AWPS MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS, held on 12 AND 17 AUGUST 2007 AT KING'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL, DUBLIN**

Twenty seven Friends were in attendance at both Meetings. Greetings were received from Kenneth Co, and Linley and Clare Gregory. We will send back greetings.

### **2007/1 Remembrance of Friends who have died**

We give thanks for the lives of the following AWPS Friends:

Dr Stephen Yang, Chengdu, PRC, Michi Nakamura and Akio Watanabe Japan YM, Kamala Kanswar, GCFI, Henry Roberts and Brown Titus, Mid India YM and also Laurie Baker and S.K De, Friends with an international focus.

### **2007/2 Reports**

We had already received and published reports from Bundelkhand YM, GCFI, and Seoul MM

- Aotearoa/NZ- presented by Patricia Macgregor
- Mid India- presented by Christopher Lall
- Bhopal YM- presented by Arvind Iliazer
- Japan YM- presented by Naomi Kamimura
- AYM- presented by Alan Clayton and Hannah Chapman Searle
- Hong Kong- presented by Julian Stargardt

We received these reports, with some of the details to be included in the September AWPS Newsletter.

### **2007/3 Business arising from the Minutes of the November 2005 Section meeting**

- a) The Secretary's honorarium has been paid in full (Minute 12)
- b) Fund Raising committee- covered later (Minute 12)
- c) Handbook Revision, May 2007 - copies of the updated Handbook, with inclusions by the Treasurer on Financial matters was circulated. (Minute 14) It is also on the AWPS website.
- d) Opening of Account in Hong Kong - this had to be opened in the names of the Secretary and Associate Treasurer. (Minute 15)
- e) Grievance Procedures and Right Relationships (Minute 16): This was intended to provide guidelines on employer-employee relationships - which is work in progress. Ronis Chapman has offered

a portion on “right relationships”, which will be edited and included in the matter to be added to the Handbook.

f) Venue for 2008 Gathering (Minute 19): The arrangements with Sohagpur Friends Girls Higher Secondary School did not eventuate. With the approval of the Section Committee, Bhopal YM was approached to host the Section Gathering. Bhopal YM has agreed. A Catholic Training Centre has been booked, which offers comfortable sleeping, dining and meeting room facilities.

g) QUNO representatives (Minute 20): The new procedure for appointing Section representatives through the International Nominations Committee has been extended to the QUNO Geneva Committee.

h) Appointment of Associate Treasurer (Minute 21): After approval by the Section committee, Julian Stargardt HKMM, was appointed as Associate Treasurer, for the term of the then Secretary’s appointment.

i) Appointment of general members of Section Committee (Minute 23) - the following names were brought forward following the Seoul Gathering: Patricia Macgregor, Aotearoa/NZYM, Bong Soo Kwag, Seoul MM, and Naomi Kamimura, JYM. Further, the Associate Secretary and later the Associate Treasurer were co-opted to the Section Committee.

j) Our Minute 25, on Human Rights has been included on the Triennial Agenda, introduced by Julian Stargardt at the Working Group.

#### **2007/4 Clerk’s Report**

Dilawar Chetsingh, in his report asked us whether we are following up on the Seoul Gathering, and seeking to understand conflict situations and reduce tensions and injustice. How well are we interacting with and understanding the different flavours of Quakerism? This report was accepted (some details will be included in the next AWPS Newsletter).

#### **2007/5 Secretary’s and Associate Secretary’s Reports**

This joint report covered Kenneth Co’s visit to The Philippines YM to discuss possible affiliation with FWCC. The report also covered the article on AWPS in the September Friend’s Journal, visitation in India and Africa, (a report on the African visit is available from Valerie Joy) arrangements for the Bhopal Gathering including production of a Study Booklet, participation in the Christian Peacemaker’s Team in Palestine along with Christina Gibb and Mary Rose from Aotearoa, and attendance at CEC meetings, This report was approved.

## **2007/6 Treasurer and Associate Treasurer's Reports**

The Treasurer, Topsy Evans presented the 2004/5 and the 2005/6 accounts, as well as a draft budget for 2007. The following was approved:

- a) That the Administration and the Gathering Funds continue to be separated - the latter is a notional reserve fund.
- b) That the Section meeting endorses the Section committee decision to register the AWPS in Hong Kong, due to the Secretary being viewed as an employee, leading to financial and legal obligations.
- c) We are asked to consider ways to improve our financial position through fundraising. It was agreed that interested Friends should meet on 14 August at 19.30 hours.
- d) That in future, before appointment of a Secretary, we are informed of the legal implications of their employment in a particular country.
- e) We note that bank interest is likely to be AUD\$4,720 in 2007. We will explore investing with ethical investments, in line with FWCC World Office guidelines.

Associate Treasurer's Financial Report: Julian Stargardt presented the expenditure which has taken place in Hong Kong and includes the payment of the Secretary's honorarium and expenses for production of the Newsletter.

The meeting approved all of the financial reports.

## **2007/7 Nominations committee report**

At this time, Dilawar Chetsingh and Valerie Joy withdrew, whilst this item was being discussed. Based on the recommendations of the Nominations Committee, the following appointments were made: Dilawar Chetsingh to serve as Clerk from the conclusion of the Dublin Section meeting, until 31/12/2010. Valerie Joy to serve as Secretary from 1/09/07 to 31/12/08.

## **2007/8 The Minutes 2007/1-7**

were accepted at the reconvened Section Meeting on 17 August.

## **2007/9 Secretary's Expenses**

The new Secretary does not wish to be paid an honorarium. She wishes to claim expenses incurred in the work of both administration and some intervisitation. A decision was taken to allow an additional

AUD2,000 to be made available until 31/12/07. This is in addition to Newsletter printing and postage costs.

### **2007/10 Future Finance and Fund Raising Report**

A special meeting was held on Tuesday 13 August to discuss our vision for the Section and ways of raising the funds which will be necessary to strengthen the work of the Section. We were pleased to welcome Roger Sturge, Treasurer of FWCC and Margaret Fraser, Secretary of the Section of the Americas, for these discussions. Roger clarified the work and financial arrangements of the other Sections, and Margaret advised us on fund raising strategies - the first step being to develop our plans and a precise fund raising target to enable these.

Our discussions covered website development and translations, Section Gatherings, Young Friends, participation in World Gatherings, and thematic events, intervisitation by FWCC officers between YM Gatherings, contact with other Sections and support for scattered Friends in the Section. We also recognise the possibility of work and witness in the fields of ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, peace work, social justice work, input to QUNO and linking with Quaker aid and development projects in the region.

Sources of Income - Yearly Meetings, Individual Friends, Grants (Trusts) for specifics, bank interest, ? other ways.

We welcome and approve this report.

### **2007/11 International Finance Committee (IFC)**

Helen Bayes reported on her involvement with the IFC, which has been useful in her broad understanding of FWCC finances. She will lay down her involvement at the end of 2007. Topsy Evans is also a member of the IFC in her capacity as Treasurer of AWPS.

### **2007/12 QUNO Report**

Topsy Evans reported on activities of both the Geneva and New York committees. We uphold both of these committees - particularly QUNO/NY, which has been plagued with difficulties during 2007. Topsy and Linley have both served as Co-chairs and we thank them both for their work - and approve this report.