



The Duke of Edinburgh's
International Award Association

THE GLOBAL AWARD HOLDERS' NETWORK LEADERSHIP CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

16 – 20 August 2012, Singapore



National Youth
Achievement Award Council

A SPECIAL NYAA REPORT ON THE GLOBAL AWARD HOLDERS' NETWORK WORKSHOP

Youth delegates from the four regions of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association (also known as The International Award Association or IAA) – Asia Pacific, Africa, Americas and Europe, Mediterranean & Arab States – arrived at Singapore's Changi International Airport on 16 August 2012 to attend the inaugural Global Award Holders' Network Leadership Capacity-Building Workshop. They were warmly received by National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Gold Award holders and participants.

The youth delegates were transferred from the airport to the National Community Leadership Institute (NACLI) where they were met by members of the NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni of Singapore. Some of the delegates had a chance to go for a nature walk around Kent Ridge Park and this provided them a platform to get to know one another.



Desmond Chong, NYAA Gold Award holder and Deputy Chairman, NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni (GAHA) of Singapore, presenting the NYAA GAHA's mission, goals and 'Service beyond Gold' projects and activities.



Rob Oliphant, Regional Programme Manager, Asia Pacific Office, providing the delegates an overview of the GAHN Workshop Programme.



Prof Leo Tan, Chairman, NYAA Council, addressing the audience at the opening of the Global Award Holders' Network Leadership Capacity-Building Workshop.



Jenny Jacobs, Programme Manager, International Award Association, providing an overview of the support available from the International Award Association.

A brief orientation conducted by Sue Walker, Regional Director, Asia Pacific Office of the IAA, and Dr Ken Ong, NYAA Gold Award holder and member of the NYAA Council, was held at the NACLI Dining Lounge.

Opening Ceremony

Prof Leo Tan, Chairman of NYAA Council, welcomed the Global Award Holders' Network delegates on the morning of 17 August 2012 and reminded them the objective of this special workshop that was organised for them. He urged the delegates to be open and receptive in learning from each other. Prof Tan also highlighted to the delegates that through GAHN, they can collectively make a huge difference not only at their respective countries but also at the international level.

After the welcome address by Prof Leo Tan, Jenny Jacobs, Programme Manager, IAA, who represented the Award's

International Secretariat, gave an overview of IAA/ International Gold Events (IGE) and International Council (IC) Youth Projects and the support available to the Gold Award holders worldwide.

Desmond Chong, NYAA Gold Award holder and Deputy Chairman of NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni (GAHA) Executive Committee, Singapore, presented the NYAA GAHA mission and goals. He shared with delegates on the NYAA GAHA's role in Singapore and how the organisation, with the support of the various government agencies, like-minded partners and the NYAA Council, plays an active role in nation-building and service to the community.



H.E. Antony Phillipson, British High Commissioner to Singapore, welcoming the GAHN delegation at Eden Hall, the official residence of the British High Commissioner.



Ice-breaking session for the GAHN delegates to get to know each other better.

"The onus is now on us to take the experience we got from Singapore and contextualise it into our different dynamics and make our Alumni and networks work more effectively and efficiently."

Olunga Otieno
The President's Award, Kenya



Tea Reception hosted by British High Commissioner at Eden Hall.

Courtesy Call on the British High Commissioner to Singapore

By special arrangement of the NYAA Council, the Global Award Holders' Network delegates attended a Tea Reception at Eden Hall, the official residence of the British High Commissioner to Singapore, H.E. Antony Phillipson. They were warmly received by the British High Commissioner, who was delighted to play host to GAHN and enjoyed the fellowship and interaction with all the delegates.



GAHN delegates pairing up into buddies in an activity that aimed to build trust between them.

The presentation by Desmond gave delegates an overview of what NYAA GAHA is all about, its mission and vision, and how its members together make a difference to the community in Singapore and at the international level where they are represented through the 'Servant Leadership' concept that they embraced.



GAHN delegates with H.E. Antony Phillipson, British High Commissioner to Singapore, at the front porch of Eden Hall.

Presentations & Discussions

Rob Oliphant, Regional Programme Manager, Asia Pacific Regional Office, took the delegates through a presentation on “Beyond Gold” and how Gold Award holders can remain engaged in the Award after receiving the Gold.



Group discussion on how to take GAHN forward.



GAHN delegates exchanging ideas with NYAA Gold Award holders and participants.

The GAHN delegates were joined by young participants of the NYAA Gold Award programme and members of the NYAA Gold Award Holders’ Alumni from the host country. Through a brief introduction session, the foreign delegates and the Singaporean delegates got to know each other very quickly.

The more than 80 youth delegates were then divided into eight groups evenly represented by both GAHN and local delegates to discuss the topic on “Practices and Challenges of Youth Leadership Development and Youth Engagement in the Current Landscape (e.g. New Technology and Media).”

Major-General (NS) Chan Chun Sing, Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Senior Minister of State for Defence in Singapore, came unannounced and went from group to group to hear the delegates’ discussions on the topic.

After the group discussions, the groups were invited to present to the Minister their thoughts and suggestions on the topic.



Brainstroming session for new ideas and solutions.



Sharing experiences on the Award Programme in their respective countries.

The presentation was followed by a lively discussion and delegates were able to benefit from the different perspectives offered by Gold Award holders from the different regions.



Preparing the pointers for presentation by GAHN delegates.



MG (NS) Chan Chun Sing, Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Senior Minister of State for Defence, and James Soh, NYAA Singapore Executive Director and Hon Advisor, Asia Pacific Region, International Award Association, listening to the group discussion.

Ministerial Dialogue Session

The groups' presentations were followed by a Ministerial Dialogue with Minister Chan. The dialogue session was moderated by Natalie Morris, State Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers, NYAA Gold Award holder and Chairman of NYAA GAHA, Singapore.

The Minister then gave his comments on the groups' ideas and shared his input on what leadership is all about. He also gave very useful tips to both foreign and local delegates on how to be an effective leader.

"The learning experience gained from the GAHN Workshop in Singapore was an eye-opener indeed. It provided us a real-life example of what GAHA can do for the community through the 'Servant Leadership' concept."

Sophie Kerstens

The International Award for Young People, The Netherlands Europe, Mediterranean & Arab States Regional Youth Representative in the International Council 2011-2014

In his talk, Minister Chan started off by acknowledging the diversity of the delegates and that their backgrounds and experiences at the developmental stages are very different. He cautioned that leaders should not be judgmental and should embrace the input from all, whether they are young and old. The Minister said that all youth will grow old someday so it is important that they listen to what young people have to say and respect their input and ideas. He also acknowledged the resource constraints faced by many countries represented at the workshop and encouraged the youth not to let this hinder what they want to do.



Minister Chan sharing his thoughts with GAHN delegates during the Dialogue Session.



GAHN delegates with Minister Chan and Mr Soh.

The Minister also put emphasis on the importance of networking and that through interaction with other like-minded youth, the delegates can also be inspired to do a greater thing. He also asked a question, "Why do you want to be leaders? Who empower you?"

In addition, the Minister acknowledged that leadership exists at every level and not just at the top. In the end, he stressed that it is about serving and what can you do to make your community a better place for all."

The sharing was followed by a lively Q & A moderated by Ms Morris. The delegates fielded questions to the Minister, who willingly shared with them his insights and personal experiences from his years of serving in the community and in the government.



GAHN delegates and their Singaporean counterparts with Minister Chan and Mr Soh at the end of the Dialogue Session.

The interaction with the delegates was very well summed up by the Minister, whose inspiring words of encouragement have helped the youth leaders to consolidate their ideas and devise ways to put them into action.

Meet-the-People Sessions

One of the highlights of the workshop was to visit the local housing estate and witness the Meet-the-People Sessions (MPS) conducted by the Members of Parliament for their residents. GAHN delegates were given the special privilege to sit in with the Members of Parliament who attended to their residents' various issues and problems.



Dr Chia Shi-Lu, Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC, explaining his work with the residents to GAHN delegates at the Meet-the-People Session held at a local housing estate.



GAHN delegates with Dr Chia at Tanjong Pagar GRC.

Sam Tan Chin Siong, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, Mayor of Central Singapore District and Member of Parliament for Radin Mas, and Dr Chia Shi-Lu, Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC, took time away from their busy schedules at the MPS to brief GAHN delegates about their constituency work. They usually meet their residents from 8 pm to 1 am, which can sometimes stretch to 3 am, just to help address their problems. These sessions were conducted besides their day job and many other commitments.

The GAHN delegates were given a rare opportunity to see the Members of Parliament in action again through the 'Servant Leadership' concept that is practiced in Singapore. They left the various constituencies with a very deep impression of what 'Servant Leadership' is all about.

After a hectic first day of workshop, the delegates returned to NACLI for a well-deserved rest for the night.



Sam Tan, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Mayor, Central Singapore District, sharing about his Meet-the-People Session with delegates of GAHN.



Mr Tan and Mr Soh with GAHN delegates at Tanjong Pagar GRC.

"NYAA and GAHA Singapore, thank you very much for giving us such a great opportunity to participate and learn a global experience on 'Life after Gold.' It was very valuable and inspiring, especially to have the opportunity to study the systems in Singapore."

Saumya Bandara
National Youth Award Authority, Sri Lanka

A Session on "Servant Leadership"

On 18 August 2012, the delegates attended a keynote address on "Servant Leadership" by Dr Tan Chi Chiu, a well-known community leader both in Singapore and in the international level, a Gastroenterologist and a Member of the NYAA Council.



Dr Tan Chi Chiu, Gastroenterologist and Member of the NYAA Council, discussing the topic of 'Servant Leadership' with the GAHN delegation at NACLI.



A lively discussion among GAHN delegates on what 'Service Leadership' concept means to them.



GAHN delegates with Dr Tan after their engagement session.

Dr Tan, a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program, was able to define the meaning of 'Servant Leadership.' He conducted the session in a very different format, staying away from the rostrum while sharing and engaging with GAHN delegates in a very interactive manner, very often on a one-to-one basis.

Dr Tan was able to draw mixed views from the delegates and conceptualise them into what the topic meant. At the end of the interactive segment with him, the delegates agreed on and embraced the true meaning of what leadership is all about: the willingness to serve and the drive to make it happen.

The Concept of the Global Award Holders' Network

After the very interesting and interactive session with Dr Tan, Katie Hulmes of Australia and Kathleen Hewitt, Regional Communications, Development and Event Coordinator, Asia Pacific Regional Office, presented the Pre-Survey and Overview on the proposed Global Award Holders' Network concept with the delegates.



Katie Hulmes of Australia and Kathleen Hewitt, Regional Communications, Development and Event Coordinator, Asia Pacific Regional Office, sharing the finding of the pre-survey in the proposed Global Award Holders' Network concept.

"I loved everything that was done, how it was organised. It was my first time to participate in an international event and to represent my beloved Brazil. Everything that I learned has given me a greater sense of responsibility."

Kin Hernandez
International Award Brazil



GAHN delegates selecting postcards in an activity that helped develop their critical thinking skills and analytical ability.

The delegates met with their respective group mates and brainstormed on how they can play a role in this new initiative. During their discussions, they also prepared and worked on their presentation paper and discussion agenda for the final day. Five important topics were discussed: *International Award Network and Opportunities, How to Set Up an Alumni Network or Award Holders' Association, Life after Gold and How to Stay Connected with the NAAs, and Advocacy and Community Projects and Activities.*



Visiting the iconic Gardens by the Bay, Singapore's newest attraction.



GAHN delegates at the waterfalls located in one of the three iconic waterfront gardens.

A Visit to Gardens by the Bay

After a hard day's work, the delegates were treated by the NYAA Council to a tour of the newly built Gardens by the Bay and the three iconic waterfront gardens. They enjoyed the evening at the Gardens by the Bay and experienced firsthand a true garden city.



Presentation by GAHN delegates on how to set up an Award Alumni.

Group Presentations on GAHN

On 19 August 2012, the final day of the workshop, GAHN delegates presented their group presentation and ideas. Many sound ideas were brought up during the

presentation and now, the challenge is how to take these ideas and turn them into action.

The groups also met to discuss their reflections on the Leadership Capacity-Building Workshop hosted by the NYAA Council.



Using toilet rolls to form a web during a team-building activity that aimed to strengthen network connections and communication links among the delegates.

Istana Visit

A surprise treat for the GAHN delegates was the visit to the Istana (Presidential Palace) where they witnessed how Singapore celebrated the various festive seasons. The Istana was specially opened for the Hari Raya celebration for the Muslim community. GAHN members saw H.E. Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, at close range and exchanged greetings with him.



A special visit to the Istana (Presidential Palace) during the Hari Raya Open House celebration for the Muslim community.

"The workshop in Singapore couldn't have been better. It was very well organised and conducted. Everything was planned in detail and executed in style with clockwork precision."

Capt Rohit Saxena
The International Award for Young People, India



James Soh addressing the delegates at the Closing Dinner at Spring Court Restaurant.

Closing Programme

The final programme of the day was the Closing Dinner hosted by the NYAA Council at the Spring Court Restaurant, a very famous Cantonese restaurant in Singapore.

At the Closing Dinner, Sue Walker, Regional Director, Asia Pacific Office of the IAA, thanked all the delegates for their enthusiasm, contributions and leadership in making the inaugural GAHN Leadership Capacity-Building Workshop a success.



Jenny Jacobs, Programme Manager, International Award Association, presenting the Certificate of Participation to Jeanne Cheng, Gold Award holder from Hong Kong.

James Soh, Executive Director, NYAA Singapore, delivered the Closing Remarks and thanked members of GAHN for their friendship, willingness to learn and share with their Singaporean counterparts. He expressed his hope that this workshop has helped create a solid foundation to take GAHN forward to greater heights. Mr Soh also shared some words of wisdom with GAHN before Jenny Jacobs,

Programme Manager, IAA, presented the Certificate of Participation to the delegates.

It was a night of celebration with the delegates participating in a Karaoke session, contributing songs and dance numbers that made the Closing Night a memorable event for all.



IC youth representatives taking turns to talk about their reflections on the GAHN Workshop at the Closing Dinner.



GAHN delegates having an enjoyable karaoke session during the Closing Ceremony.

The delegates bid farewell to their friends and members of the Award family on 20 August 2012 as they departed Singapore for their respective countries.

Acknowledgment

The NYAA Council of Singapore would like to thank The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, the IAA Asia Pacific Regional Office, and all delegates of GAHN for the opportunity to play host to an incredible and historic moment in the establishment of the Global Award Holders' Network in Singapore.

Reported by:



NYAA Gold Award Holders' Alumni

Jointly organised by:



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association



National Youth Achievement Award Council

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