

17th AsPac Gathering

Sari Atar Hotel, Bandung, West Java, Indonesia

15th to 19th September 2025

Highlights

1. The AsPac Constitution will be presented again to the World Bureau for consideration.

2. 18th AsPac Gathering will be held in India in 2028.

Day 1

Monday 15th September 2025

Registration & Flags handed in.

Day 2

Tuesday 16th September 2025

Official Flag Raising

Flags of all present countries were raised in the grounds of the Sari Atar Hotel.

Opening

The opening took place at Government House in the evening. Theme is “Festival of Diversity”.

Ambassador Ahmad Rushdi - Indonesia

Opened with a prayer. Nepal sent an apology. New Zealand allocated their proxy to Australia. Pakistan had planned to attend but have been forced to withdraw due to severe floods.

General Assembly

Minutes of the previous 16th AsPac Gathering in Penang, Malaysia are not available despite many efforts to obtain them. There had been some confusion over the ownership / responsibility for the minutes.

The summary of resolutions was presented by Secretary Sahan Peris from Sri Lanka:

1. The reports for 2018 to 2022 were accepted.
2. The Finance Report was accepted.
3. The report from the Vision 2024 committee was accepted.
4. The Foundation Report – more time was needed to review the report.
5. Constitutional Amendments: (signed by Dr Mariyam Shakeela (Chairperson) and Mr Sahan Peris (Secretary))
 - a. The term of office is extended if a Gathering is not held (this was in view of the COVID-19 pandemic)
 - b. A finance report is to be supplied annually and audited and sent in advance of the Gathering.

The secretarial e-mails and files were not handed over in Jan-2022. A MOTION was made by the current secretary, Sahan Peris, to accept this summary and move forward. Seconded by Maldives & Bangladesh. CARRIED.

AsPac Triennial Report – Dr Mariyam Shakeela

Dr Shakeela has chaired the AsPac region from 2022 in Penang, Malaysia to 2025 in Bandung, Indonesia. Thanks given to the country representatives, including Rose Van Looy of Australia.

It was highlighted that short term regional representatives (e.g. one year), often did not have a good hand-over and therefore lacked understanding of the current situation.

It was highlighted that the Growth Sub-Committee had been given the name “Growth Taskforce”, but this did not change the aims of the participants. This should be no cause for concern.

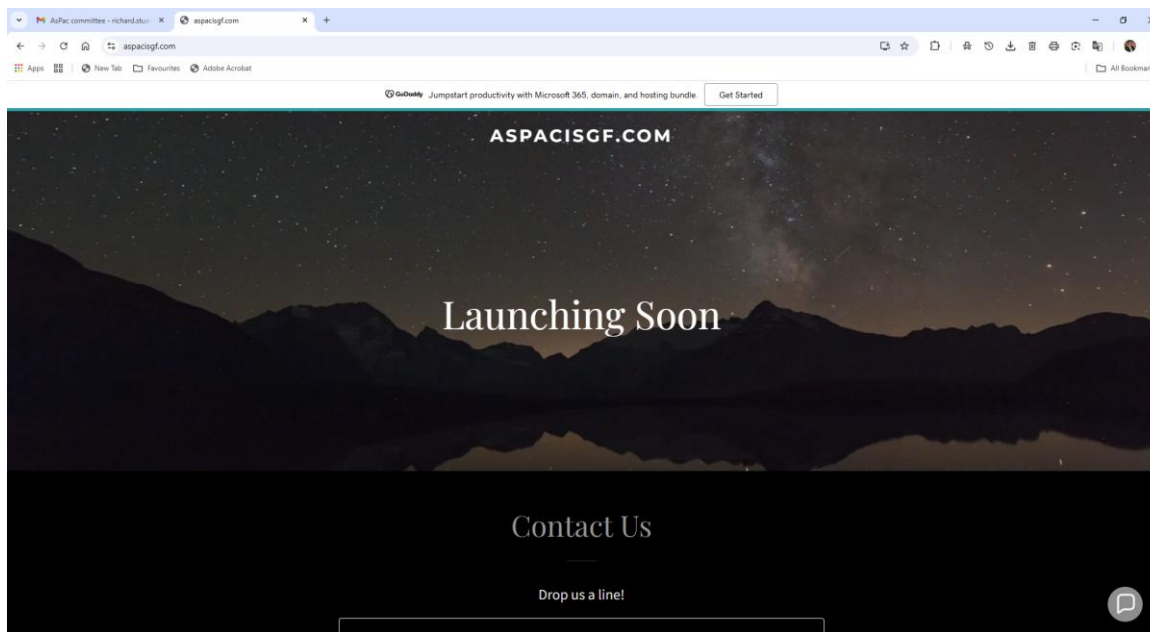
The “International Days” such as Environment Day, Veterans Day, Fellowship Day and Scarf Day Zoom calls have been very successful and promoted AsPac fellowship.

Dr Shakeela has lobbied for Regional Chairpersons to participate in the World Committee meetings, which has been largely adopted although some meetings are still closed.

The initiative by India to produce scarves from recycled plastic bottles has come to fruition and scarves are now available to be ordered. They are ISGF light blue with the AsPac logo printed on the point. The use approximately 1.8 plastic bottles in manufacture. They cost USD\$2.19 and will sell for USD\$2.50.

The official ISGF body to represent Pakistan is presently in discussion as two groups are claiming this right. This is being worked through at the present time. As such, Pakistan is the only member country not to have paid the USD\$100.00 AsPac fees as this issue has not been finalised.

A new website domain has been purchased for the AsPac Region. This is through Go Daddy and is <http://aspacisgf.com>



AsPac Activities

DATE	ACTIVITY	NOTES
09.02.2023	Exco meeting	zoom
22.02.2023	Founders day and Thinking Day Online Jamboree	hosted by Malaysia
1st-6th March 2023	Some members who already purchased tickets visited Nepal in response to study the allegation and matters raised by WB	VC Simon, Greg Davies and Mecci
02.03.2023	Sharyn Smith joined the AsPac committee	As the new Australian delegate to AsPac committee.
3-5 March 2023	Meeting to be held in Kathmandu	Cancelled
24.03.2023	Exco Met WB members	Discussing the issue in Nepal
02.04.2023	Exco discussing future activities and the report to WB	zoom
03.04.2023	Submission of the report regarding Nepal to WB	Zoom
21.4.2023	AsPac Earth Day Webinar	sharing
21.5.2023	Aspac Committee Meeting (AGM)	Zoom Platform (Replacing Nepal Meeting)
04.06.2023	Members joined Virtual Campfire by Indian SGF	Indian ISGF marking Environment Day
6.6.2023	Aspac World Environment Day Webinar : The Recycling of Plastics	Speaker: Kamalnath (Sri Lanka SGF)
2.07.2023	Workshop on Recycling of Plastics	Sri Lanka SGF/Kamalath
08.2023	Some Members attending 25th World Scout Jamboree	Vice Chair Simon facilitated the meeting.
08.2023	Donations of [unclear] and Woggles by VC Simon	To [unclear] meeting members

DATE	ACTIVITY	NOTES
03.09.2023	AsPac ISGF New Logo was finalised	Zoom meeting
3.9.2023	Aspac Committee Meeting	Zoom platform
24.10.2023	A meeting with Sri Lanka SGF to discuss the agenda and other logistics.	Sri Lanka
3.9.2023	Aspac Committee Meeting	Zoom platform
05.10.2023	Chairperson Dr Mariyam Shakeela met Sri Lanka SGF members to discuss a possible face to face meeting in Sri Lanka Their willingness was appreciated.	Sri Lanka
22.10.2023	70 th Anniversary of ISGF was marked by members	Online
24.10.2023	A meeting with Sri Lanka SGF to discuss the agenda and other logistics.	Sri Lanka
26.10.2023	ISGF ASPAC partnered with Australia, and New Zealand and joined the meeting	Organized by Baden-Powell Guild UK Central Branch.
22.12.2023	Muhammad Bilal Mugal has been appointed as International Secretary of Pakistan SGF	Emai from zahidmahboob68@gmail.com
23 rd Jan 2024-26 th Jan 2024	Regional Growth Workshop:	Jaipur Rajasthan
23 – 26 Jan 2024	Aspac Regional Growth Workshop at Ajmer Rajasthan	Hosted by India SGF
04.02.2024	Passing away of brother Paulus from Hipprada Indonesia	
22.02.2024	AsPac ISGF marked Founders Dat/Thinking Day	Via Zoom
2nd March to 4th March 2024	First Quarter Face face meeting I	Sri lanka SGF
March	New Flag was donated by Nanda	
March	Donation of Scarves by Chair	One been damaged

AsPac Chairperson Report – Dr Mariyam Shakeela

We continue to share fellowship. We celebrate friendship, diversity of countries and diversity of communities. With climate change, wars and challenging politics we all face a difficult world. The Guild strives for peace and hope. Baden-Powell said to leave the world a better place than you found it.

Challenges

1. Membership Engagement and Growth

Many fellowships in the region are struggling to attract new members, particularly younger adults, as there are competing demands of work, family and lifestyle, which limit volunteer participation.

2. Bridging Generational Gaps

Senior members hold a wealth of experience, but younger adults often seek more dynamic, flexible and digital forms of engagement. Creating an inclusive environment where both groups thrive, remains a challenge.

3. Resource Constraints

Financial limitations and lack of access to technical support restricts some fellowships from implementing large scale or innovative programs that could expand their visibility and impact.

4. Digital Divide

While some fellowships embrace online platforms, others struggle with limited access to technology and digital literacy, creating unequal opportunities for participants across the region.

5. Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

The Asia Pacific's rich diversity can sometimes pose a challenge for co-ordination, communication and developing unified strategies across national contexts.

6. Visibility and Recognition

Some sections of adult Scouts and Guides are not visible in the broader Scouting and Guiding movements, leading to underestimation of the role in mentoring and community engagement.

7. NSGF Rules on Continuity of Committee Members

Challenges are faced when committee members change as per the rules of the various NGOs. This impacts the continuity of knowledge and learning and the expertise that was built.

8. Lack Of Responses On Time from NSGFs.

9. Challenges of Communication between NSGFs to the general members.

Opportunities

1. Intergenerational Learning

The fellowship provides an ideal platform to bridge generations, where younger members can learn from the wisdom of seniors, while seniors benefit from fresh perspectives and digital skills.

2. Strengthening Regional Solidarity

The Asia Pacific's cultural richness can be harnessed as a unifying force, promoting peace, understanding and friendship across diverse communities.

3. Expanding Community Service Impact

Fellowships can enhance their relevance by aligning service projects with urgent regional priorities such as Climate Action, Disaster Preparedness, Gender Inclusion and peace building.

4. Building Partnerships and Networks

Collaboration with WOSM and WAGGGS, civil society organisations and regional institutions can amplify ISGF's voice and influence both Scouting and Guiding and the broader community development areas.

5. Embracing Digital Transformation

Investing in digital skills and tools can reduce participation barriers, allowing fellowships to host virtual exchanges, training and collaborative projects across borders.

6. Leadership Development for Life

Fellowship can position themselves as life leadership schools, nurturing ethical and service-orientated leaders who are active contributors to society.

The next AsPac committee meeting will be in Feb-2026.

International Day Zooms have been successful and will be organised for 2026.

Finance Report – Greg Davies

As per printed statement.

Bank Balance as at 30-Sep-2025 AUD\$13,139.87

01-Sep-2022 to 15-Aug-2025

AUD\$16,346.34 Income

AUD\$11,009.28 Expenses

All AsPac countries, except Pakistan (which is working out the official representative body) has paid the USD\$100 fees.

MOTION: For the Finance Report to be accepted – Greg Davies (Australia). Second: Sahan Peris (Sri Lanka). **CARRIED.**

Question: Zalilah – Malaysia – If fees are not paid then the country can't vote, correct? Answer: If 2 years fees are not paid, then the country can't vote (Pakistan has not paid for 2019 to 2025).

AsPac Foundation Trustee – Mr M.A.K. Mecci

The foundation aims are to:

- Support Scouting and Guiding.
- Give humanitarian aid.
- Make donations as the Trustees see fit.
- Support the AsPac Region and AsPac National Guild Activities.

The Foundation is registered in India. Brian Jackson is the Chief Trustee (under the India legal regulations, this can't be easily changed). John Booth is a Director. Justice Kalpesh (India) is also a Trustee.

The Foundation was established on 15-Sep-2015 at the 14th AsPac Gathering and, Registered in India DL93468288595000Q in May 2016. Bank Interest is earned and the Foundation is Income Tax Exempt.

100% of the funds are for the aims only.

The Foundation is not under the AsPac Committee.

The Foundation is a separate Incorporated body.

There are 108 members in 6 countries. Different levels of membership are available (USD\$100 / USD\$200 / USD\$500 / USD\$1,000 and USD\$5,000).

There was a 3rd Foundation Dinner held before this Gathering on 14th September 2025, to raise funds. The 2nd Foundation Dinner was held in Kuala Lumpur in 2022.

Support has included USD\$1,000 to the ISGF support centre in Mongolia for the 31st APR Scout Jamboree, USD\$1,000 to a WAGGGS project for BS&G Support (India) and USD\$2,000 towards the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea 2023 (WOSM – India & Malaysia).

The Foundation Financial Year is 01-Apr to 31-Mar each year.

Growth Taskforce – Mr M.A.K. Mecci

Mecci welcomed Mr Eilif Wang from Taiwan. (Presently 40 members and need 125 members to be a full ISGF). Eilif met Mecci in 2019 in Delhi on the way to Afghanistan.

The Taiwan “Evergreen” movement presently has a domestic focus. Ms. Dop Yu Ching attended the Gathering in Spain in 2024.

Zalilah asked what has been happening? Future ISGFs could be from Singapore, Brunei, Thailand and Cambodia. Singapore has been in discussions for some years. There is a good deal of separation between the Scouting and guiding movements. There have yet to be discussions of a national body. Girls may now join Scouts.

Greg Davies said that the challenge is to raise ISGF numbers in all countries. Mariyam Shakeela said that we all need to work together to achieve growth.

Growth Taskforce committee members are Mr M.A.K. Mecci (India), Didi (Maldives), Chentral (Sri Lanka), Eilif (Taiwan) and Richard Stuart-Smith (Australia).

Day 3

Wednesday 17th September 2025

Country Presentations

India

Claim to be the most active ISGF in the AsPac region. 70 Page reports are produced. Social Media and websites are maintained. There are many Indian Gatherings and fund-raising dinners. ISGF India visited Nepal. ATAS (AsPac for Top Achieving Scouts) is a very prestigious award with a growing alumni. It is the 65th year of Scouting in India.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh ISGF (BSGF) was established in 1978 (47 years). Bangladesh has attended the International Days via Zoom and also Social Days via Zoom. There were more than 100 members in 2024, with many attending this Gathering. BSGF is hoping for a peaceful world

Indonesia

198 members with 56% Women and 44% Men (a decrease from 2022).

More capacity building is underway. Community partnerships are being built. Health checks and blood drives are supported. Scouts and Guides are supported. Public relations and partnerships are formed. There is a Facebook Hipprada page. There is only WOSM in Indonesia (no WAGGGS). The aim is to build resilient citizens that will stand up and have a happy life post COVID-19.

Malaysia

The fellowship is called FOFSAG (Fellowship Of Former Scouts And Guides) in Malaysia which was founded in 1985. A St Johns First Aid course in CPR was a significant event run by the FOFSAG. The Trefoil in Malaysia provided food for the needy and started a program to visit senior citizens. The Sarawak Guild donated money to the hospital. The Harmony Walk for blind children was continued. Care was provided for the under privileged. Beaches were cleaned. Orphans and retarded children received home visits. Funds were raised for the needy. Thirteen tents were donated following a monsoon.

Maldives

The Guild was founded in 2002 and became a full member in 2014. The Guild aims are to provide service, fellowship, community, to promote Scouts and Guides and to empower young people. The Guild also planted trees and held stewardship over the plantings. The Maldives Guild hosted the Mental Health Day Zoom and they attended the World Environment Day Zoom. They supported model making amongst the Scouts and Guides. A new Executive Committee has been elected for 2025 to 2028. Care packages were provided for 20 households. Leadership and inclusion is very important in the Maldives. There is an aim to reach more of the atolls and include them. A 2026 to 2028 roadmap is being developed.

Pakistan

Called the Pakistan Scout & Guide Fellowship (PSGF), there is presently a discussion underway to determine which official body will represent Pakistan. One body has 117 members in 7 Guilds as of 31-Mar-2025.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Scout and Guide Fellowship (SLSGF) has 130 members and aims to have 500 members by 2027. Online membership is available. There is a uniform and recently "Little Feet Day Out" was supported. There are singalongs and karaoke as well as international high-teas.

For service, PPE kits were assembled for medical staff. The Columbo Ladies supplied sarees for schoolteachers so that they could continue to teach under the new rules. This was particularly in rural areas. Donations were made to "Differently Abled" children.

Members can join from age 18, which is understood to be the youngest age in the AsPac Region.

South Korea

The South Korea Guild provides leadership training and supported members travelling to India, Vietnam and Mexico for Scouting and Guiding support. 110 People undertook the training in Seoul. 88 People undertook the training in Spatel. 151 People attended the AGM in 2025. A Spring Banquet was held in Tongosa.

Taiwan

The Taiwan Guild is known as Evergreen in the Scout Association. It has been going for 12 years. There are approximately 110 members. Ages are starting from age 50, so senior leaders are encouraged to become members.

Aims of the AsPac Region

1. Acquire more member countries
2. Enlarge the existing membership
3. Work to encourage South Pacific countries, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei, Myanmar & Japan
4. Be visual (be seen – social media & wear our scarves).
5. Perform community service.
6. Report on activities to inspire other Guilds.
7. Some countries have a very large membership. Other countries struggle with increasing membership or even maintaining the minimum membership.

Constitution Changes

No constitutional amendments tabled for this Gathering.

Ari did note that the World Bureau has not ratified the AsPac Constitution. One item is not acceptable to the World Bureau (an amendment or resolution around section 5 or 6). The history so far is that the draft was formed in 2013 and updated in 2018 and was put forward for approval in 2022 (as yet, unapproved).

All countries are encouraged to participate in future International Zooms.

World Committee Report - Sue Page and Greg Davies

Each World Committee member has 2 roles. Sue is Legal and World and Greg is Finance and Projects. The World Committee was elected in Spain in 2024. Each Member has 2 teams. The most significant change has been to involve Regional Chairs in the World Committee meetings. 3,000 Euro is allocated for each approved project. A financial audit took place in 2024, which was the first for 7 years. The World Bureau aims to improve communications with WOSM and WAGGGS. The next meeting will be on 02-Oct-2025.

Zalilah asked if there is a need for an AsPac legal team to represent the AsPac constitution? Sue said that she will take the AsPac constitution back to her World team and that an AsPac Legal team would be unnecessary.

Since the Gathering in Penang, the AsPac region has already agreed to abide by the AsPac constitution, although the World Bureau has yet to review and approve.

Mecci (India) said that the World Bureau must understand and respect the laws of the Asia Pacific countries.

Plastic Scarves – India - Mecci

Scarves made out of fabric produced from recycling plastic bottles have been manufactured by India. The colour is the ISGF light blue and the AsPac logo is colour printed on the peak. Each scarf uses around 1.8 bottles. The material is called rPET. The initiative was supported by Norway, Italy and India. The cost of a scarf is USD\$2.19 and they will sell for USD\$2.50. Express Post can be arranged from India to any country.

Proposals for Hosting the 18th AsPac Gathering in 2028

India

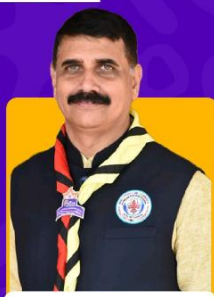
Will take place in India. Details to be provided in the future.

ISGF AsPac Regional Committee 2025 - 2028

ELECTED



CHAIR
Ambassador Ahmad
Rusdi Indonesia



Vice Chair
M A K Mecci India



isgf.aspac X YouTube Instagram

NOMINATED



SECRETARY
Minha Faiz Rashaad
Maldives



TREASURER
Eilif Wang Taiwan



Dr. Mariyam Shakeela
ADVISOR



Simon Hang-bock Rhee
ADVISOR

NSGF'S REPRESENTATIVES



RICHARD STUART-SMITH
AUSTRALIA



BRIG GEN M SAMS A KHAN
(RETD.) BANGLADESH



SEEMA RATHI INDIA



HONG SOON JA (CATHERINE)
REPUBLIC OF KOREA



PUAN SRI ZALLIAH MOHD TAIB
MALAYSIA



HELEN MITCHELL NEW ZEALAND

NOMINATIONS FROM OTHER NSGF'S ARE AWAITED

New AsPac Office Bearers

Chairperson – Ambassador Ahmad Rusdi - Indonesia

Vice Chairperson – Mr M.A.K. Mecci - India

Secretary – Mrs Minha Faiz Rashaad – Maldives

Treasurer – Mr Eilif Wang – Taiwan

Vision 2030 - Mr M.A.K. Mecci - India

Advisor – Dr Mariyam Shakeela

Advisor - Mr Simon Rhee – South Korea

General Committee members

Australia – Richard Stuart-Smith

Bangladesh – Brigadier General Sams A Khan (retired)

India – Seema Rathi

Indonesia – new candidate as Ambassador Rusdi is now Chairman.

South Korea – Catherine Hong

Maldives – new candidate as Mrs Minha is now Secretary.

Nepal – To Be Advised

New Zealand – Helen Mitchell

Pakistan – To Be Advised

Sri Lanka – To Be Advised

Taiwan - new candidate as Mr Eilif Wang is now Treasurer.

Note: India, Indonesia, Maldives & Taiwan may nominate new committee members to represent their country's interests, given the supernumerary position of the current country delegates.

Day 4

Thursday 18th September 2025

Outgoing Chair's Speech - Dr Mariyam Shakeela (Maldives)

Dr Shakeela led a minute's silence for those "Gone Home". Chairman's awards were presented which were based on country nominations for those that were inspirational and motivated others.

Thanked members for the opportunity to serve. The passing years have deepened the Scout and Guide values with her. The world needs more people to serve. The other members of the out-going committee were congratulated. Harmony and peace in the AsPac region is the goal. Digital platforms can help to achieve this goal. There remain challenges, especially communication. None of us are perfect. It is not possible to please all as we all have unique perspectives. She may have fallen short or not made the right decision every time, for which she apologised, but her actions were with sincerity and fellowship in mind. It has been an honour to serve on the AsPac committee and she is now passing the baton with pride and faith. Leadership is not a title or a position, it is creating unity. The flame of fellowship must shine and lead to bonds of fellowship. It is not the hand that holds the torch but the light that shines and spreads from the torch which is important. The vision and mission of the AsPac region must continue and build on previous leadership. As members we must support and lift up the new committee. Fellowship is all being in it together. Share the love, joy and unbreakable connections. There is wisdom in shared stories. Friendship means never being alone. Our voices unite. We must be stronger beacons of peace, kindness and unity. We must shine in hope. God guides us to spread amongst our communities. We can share cultures. Thanks to Sue and Greg for their work on the World Committee (which can be a challenge at times) and thanks to our host Dr Erwina. It has been an honour to serve.

Mecci (India – new Vice Chair) proposed a vote of thanks.

Incoming Chair Speech – Ambassador Ahmad Rusdi (Indonesia)

It is an honour and a responsibility to chair the AsPac region for 2025 to 2028. We will bond together. There is solidarity in a forest of trees. He will support the team and work to strengthen the fellowship, not only in the region, but across the world. We are not just colleagues, but brothers and sisters. We can make a lasting impact on those around us. We will be more united and resilient than ever before with support and dedication. We embark on the future together. We are working towards harmony in the AsPac region and in the ISGF family.

Dr Shakeela (Maldives) and Simon Rhee (South Korea) were invited to be advisors on the new Executive Committee. Both accepted.

Closing Ceremony at Government House

Day 5

Friday 19th September 2025

Transport to airport and post-Gathering tours commenced.

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