



THE 6TH WSPU GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUSION

SEOUL, KOREA, 1-4 NOVEMBER, 2010

Summary of the 6th World Scout Parliamentary Union General Assembly

The 6th General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU) was held in Seoul Korea from 1-4 November 2010. A total of 168 participants from 38 countries deliberated on various agenda items.

Opening Ceremony and Constituent Assembly

The Opening Ceremony of the WSPU General Assembly was led by the current President of WSPU, Hon. Abdourahmane Sow of Senegal. He recalled the past history of the organization, including the role that Korea played in its formalization in 1991. He discussed the extensive work that was done by Korea with the collaboration of many of his colleagues from 1991 to 2005. The last Assembly in Cairo made great efforts with the brothers of the Arab region and he recalled the subsequent efforts to convene the assembly. Hon. Sow also recalled the Executive Committee decision to recommend the need for a registration fee for the operation of the WSPU secretariat, an amount of EUR 1.000 per country in addition to the voluntary contributions that may be made by other countries.

Hon. Sow recalled the efforts of his Korean colleagues who, with great courage, revitalized the organization and of the work of the World Scout Bureau. He stated "After a lapse of three years when the Executive Committee could not be functional, I am much relieved". He acknowledged the lapse in the continuity of the organization since 2006.

He then highlighted the need to adopt a special Rules of Procedures to reconstitute the bodies of WSPU and submitted the Special Procedures for the consideration of the Assembly. The proposed Special Rules of Procedure for the 6th General Assembly of WSPU and the Agenda of the Assembly were adopted by the majority of the assembly.

It was also recommended in the Special Rules of Procedure that the 6th General Assembly constitute a new Executive Committee and the following members were then introduced by the President of WSPU. The recommended honorable delegates of the new Executive Committee as follows were duly recognized.

- President of WSPU: Hon. CHUNG Ui Hwa, Korea
- Vice President: Hon. Ryu SHIONOYA, Japan
- Vice President: Hon. Ewa THALÉN FINNÉ, Sweden
- Treasurer: Hon. Eugene WAMALWA, Kenya
- Hon. Nappres MANDACHITRA, Thailand
- Hon. Nikola NOVAKOVIC, Serbia
- Hon. Moussa DIAO, Senegal
- Hon Jaouad HAMDOUN, Morocco
- Mr. Luc PANISSOD, WOSM Secretary General
- Hon. KIM Chong Hoh, WSPU Founder & President Emeritus

The Assembly also appointed two delegates as Rapporteurs of the 6th General Assembly. They were Hon. Marija Lugaric of Croatia and Hon. Vasantha Senanayke of Sri Lanka. The Assembly also appointed Mr. Hong, of the Korea Scout Association, as the Secretary General of WSPU.

The new Constituent Executive Committee was endorsed by the General Assembly. The plenary then adjourned for a coffee break while the Executive Committee convened for the election of the President, and two Vice Presidents for the new term.

After the Assembly reconvened, the President Hon. Abdourahmane Sow declared the election of Hon. Chung Ui Hwa, Vice-Speaker of the Korean Parliament and President of the Korea Scout Parliamentary Association as the new President of WSPU. This was graciously accepted by the Assembly. Hon. Shionoya Ryu was elected as the first Vice President and Hon. Eva Thalen Finne was elected as the second Vice

Secretariat, World Scout Parliamentary Union

Rm.115, National Assembly Members' Bldg, 1 Yeouido-dong, Youngdeungpo-gu, Seoul 150-702, Korea

Tel. +82 2 786 4491~2 / Fax. +82 2 780 1703 / E-mail: wspu@scout.or.kr / wspu@assembly.go.kr / Website: www.wspu.info



President. Hon. Eugene Wamalwa of Kenya was appointed as Treasurer.

The new President of the Assembly, Hon. Chung Ui Hwa, then delivered his acceptance speech and acknowledged the values of scouting for his own achievements in life. He said even today many children in the world do not enjoy some of the very basic benefits of life. They are deprived of any education, live with diseases and even face exploitation. We should never turn a blind eye to these children and scouting should support them. He said nothing is better than scouting for youth to develop leadership qualifications.

Hon. Chung Ui Hwa stated that his first priority will be on expanding opportunities so that the young people from around the world can participate in scouting activities. He will also work for more legislation for young people. He believes that the spirit of scouting includes commitment, service and philanthropy. This is the reason why the World Scout Parliamentary Union was originally established.

The president expressed his deep appreciation to the outgoing President, Hon. Abdourahmane Sow, to the members of the new Executive Committee and to all the delegates for the confidence for the trust that they have placed upon him to lead WSPU in the coming years and to be a driving force for scouting activities to bring about the Scouts Renaissance era again.

He assured the Assembly that he will do all that is possible on his part to revitalize WSPU. He added that he will do everything to bring back WSPU to the important role that it should play.

All countries must put their hands together, he said, and work together because only then we can achieve success. WSPU must achieve success in this endeavor. Let us make life brighter for the children of the future with the help of WSPU. Hon. Chung Ui Hwa also welcomed all of the delegates and other observers and acknowledged his invitation to attend the 6th General Assembly in Korea.

It was also a rare occasion to hear the special welcome message of the Secretary General of United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon. He welcomed the delegates to Korea and expressed his own appreciation to the Korea Scout Parliamentary Association for convening the WSPU Assembly. He recalled the work being done by the UN and the work needed for the Millennium Goals. He also personally recalled his own days as a scout, the camping life, the challenges and adventure, which he enjoyed, and said he still derives many values and courage from scouting in his own life today.

Plenary Session I

The plenary session started after the break with special remarks from His Excellency, Hon. Dr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Vice President and Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Kenya. He said that it was a pleasure to be back in Seoul to revitalize WSPU and gave thanks for the Korean hospitality. He congratulated the new WSPU

President Hon. Chung and stated that he was happy to be part of this great assembly. He said scouting has become the most common convergence of youth around the world and that it is the best forum for youth. Today's challenges, such as climate change, face everyone, including young people. He said that as parliamentarians, we will be very instrumental in supporting over 30 million scouts that will face the world's challenges.

More of his comments included that we are here to celebrate again in Korea to revitalize the WSPU with Hon. Kim, the Founder and President Emeritus and Hon. Chung the new President. He called upon the modernization of WSPU and said that he has all the confidence in the new President and the two new Vice-Presidents to take WSPU to its right place. He concluded by saying "Let's keep the Scout Promise"!

The WOSM Secretary General, Mr. Luc Panissod, also expressed the gratitude of WOSM and of the World Scout Committee to the Vice President of Kenya for his extensive support of scouting and especially for the successful conclusion of the last World Scout Rover Moot, the first ever World Scout Youth Event held in Africa.

He added that this event could not have taken place without Hon. Musyoka's support and that of his Government. One of the key speakers of the first plenary session who focused on the topic, the role of

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parliamentarians to support the scout movement and youth, was Hon. Ryu Shionoya of Japan. He recalled the role that the Japan Scout Parliamentary Union plays and the role it has for the promotion of Scouting and the development of leadership. He stressed the importance of the national chapters playing a big role in the development of scouting, whether it is at a national jamboree or scouting activities for the disabled and that they have a role to support them together with the Government. He said that in Japan, youth memberships have dropped including those in scouting and in many other youth organizations due to a drop in demography and that itself makes it difficult to organize activities.

The agency that can play the central role among the youth is obviously scouting and it is basically for this reason that scouting should nurture leadership because of its long tradition and deep social awareness. Current society is in confusion and therefore scouting plays a role to bring back past achievements and countries need to work together. The problems of youth are not for Japan alone. Let the world know about the outstanding characteristics of scouting. He added that for this, the National Scout Associations must have very clear visions based on the current reality of the world.

We are global in nature now and more children want to be more independent. We must respond to the environment and must know what needs to change. He also said that in 2015, the World Scout Jamboree will be held in Japan and all youth in Japan must participate. Japan Scouting can contribute to world peace. The Japan Scout Parliamentary Association will do everything possible to support this Jamboree and he asked everyone to support the Jamboree. In conclusion, he once again thanked the new President Hon. Chung for hosting this assembly.

Hosting the Next General Assembly

In Hon. Ryu Shionoya's address, he expressed his intention to host the next General Assembly in 2013 in Japan. This proposal was endorsed by the assembly. He was followed by the President of the Arab Scout Parliamentary Union, Dr. Duajj Al-Shammary. Dr. Al-Shammary began by thanking the new President, the new Executive Committee and the outgoing President and everyone who helped reorganize this assembly. He brought greetings from the Arab Union, which was established in 1993. He recalled the work of the Arab Union since its establishment and stated that it has six General Assemblies.

A Handbook was produced to help parliamentarians develop necessary youth legislations. The Union also met many heads of states, encouraging them to establish their own National Scout Parliamentary Associations. He urged for the assembly to come up with strong recommendations to support Scouting and also for the other regions to establish similar regional bodies in support of WSPU. The Arab Union has been discussing the issues and challenges of developing scouting in the Arab Scout Region and in the various National Scout Organizations.

He highlighted many of the activities undertaken by the Arab union. The last key speaker on the topic was Hon. Lee Ju Young of Korea. In his remarks, he highlighted the legislation activities that the Korea Scout Parliamentary Association (KSPA) has introduced in support of youth. He also noted the law on the promotion of scout activities that was established in 1969 and discussed continuing efforts to expand the support of the Government on Scouting through various revisions, including the last revision in May of this year. KSPA also is playing a key role for many kinds of legislation to solve youth problems through supporting budgets and policies.

He highlighted the need to work with UN-MDG's to achieve its goals by 2015. Since 2007, KSPA also has instigated a program of collecting money from overseas tourists for a poverty emergency fund. The Scout Associations must work together with such UN agencies as UNICEF and WFP. In conclusion he called for a clear vision of WSPU that should focus on giving youth a sound mind and energetic nurturing. Hon. Lee Ju Young urged that we enforce the bond between each other and enjoy a happy meeting.

The future direction of WOSM and the relation with WSPU

The first speaker of this topic was a member of the World Scout Committee, Mrs. Therese Bermingham. She recalled the time when scouting was introduced in 1907, the situation of the world then and the emergence of subsequent world wars. She also recalled the time when she was a young person when scouting

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prevailed irrespective of all the cultural contrasts and other differences. Scouting is now in its second century and fundamentals of scouting must prevail. She said the work of scouting is to sustain the efforts for peace and one good example is the World Scout Jamboree. Youth participation in the decision-making process is crucial, including planning and managing affairs to learn the benefits of working together. This will help scouts to develop themselves.

Our over 30 million voices should uphold the Scout Promise. Some of the voices are not heard and we need the support of the members of this assembly to make that happen. Young people want to be understood. After a video presentation of what scouting is about, there was an opportunity for a young person to speak to the parliamentarians. Mr. Jae Min Choi, one of the youth advisors to the World Scout Committee, highlighted the most recent Jamboree-On-The-Air and Jamboree-On-The-Internet, which took place during the third weekend in October.

This Jamboree also focused on the rights of children and there were some pertinent questions asked. Some participants requested that people not condemn them but rather, understand them. Some of them said that they know some of the rights of children and the things they want to change. For example one of them said that if they had the chance, they would make the entire world green.

The last speaker for the morning session, Mr. Luc Panissod, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement presented his remarks. He expressed his gratitude to Korea on behalf of the World Organization for organizing the assembly, conveyed his appreciation to the outgoing President, and welcomed the new Committee. He stated that scouting is a worldwide movement and it is at the grass root levels in all countries. He also mentioned the thing that makes scouting so different and recalled the mission of the Scout movement. Scouting is not a substitute for family education or any other form of education but it supplements all of them. Scouting is not blind to itself and it recognizes that it should not operate in the isolation of society.

He urged that we recognize the responsibility to meet the challenges of the youth of today. The movement has strategies to support such challenges. WSPU is an important tool to inform the parliamentarians about their roles and bring the message to their own country's parliaments. Working together with WSPU, the messages of WOSM have been brought to the attention of many government high levels and parliaments.

WOSM has always had a very special working relationship with WSPU and today is the time for the revival of WSPU. This is an opportunity to re-enforce the development of scouting. There are many ways in which the National Scout Parliamentary Associations and WSPU can usefully contribute and the conclusions of the past assembly stated in the assembly booklet are well explained. He reminded the members of WSPU of their role dealing with national parliamentary associations and regional establishments. National chapters should be established where they do not now exist. The support of national organizations in the development of scouting is something that the WSPU and national chapters could promote.

In conclusion, Mr. Panissod acknowledged UNICEF, its presence in the assembly and the partnership role it has with WOSM. WOSM, together with other main youth organizations, work with 100 million young people all over the world. For instance, the JOTA-JOTI, assembled over 500 thousand young people at once.

He called upon the parliamentarians to have their National Scout Organizations training systems to be recognized by means of accreditation from the respective national educational authorities, as it has been done in Australia and in Hong Kong. He said:
"We need your support to involve youth in decision making in our countries. Do you recall your days as young members and as scouts? Today you can speak for the young people and you can influence legislations for the betterment of the youth. Let not the legislation block the way we can improve the status of the youth".

Plenary Session II

Investing in youth

The afternoon session started with the remarks of Hon. Chin Soo Hee, Minister of Health and Welfare of the

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Republic of Korea. She said that she is what she is today thanks to what her family has done for her. She expressed the need for all the participants to support youth in order to develop them. There are demographic changes taking place and these are challenging and as a result some children do not have the chance to be supported. This is why poverty keeps growing. The gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow. The number of underprivileged children should not grow, therefore good public health care is becoming crucial and preventive health is the focus of today. Everywhere children face obesity and at the same time does not have good health. Investment in young children is important as they will become the leaders of tomorrow. We are providing various types of support so that we can remove poverty and help parents. The poverty rate of children of a single parent is greater than children who have two parents. Equal importance is also being given by the government to physical fitness and various measures are already in place for the school systems in Korea.

Even internet addicted children need to be identified early so that necessary care can be given. On the topic of youth participation in the democratic process, Hon. Marija Lugarić from Croatia said that youth participation, especially for women, does not come easy, even though human rights are guaranteed for all citizens. How we perceive youth differs in many ways. For some roles, young people are considered as inexperienced.

Empowerment is the key word for enabling youth participation and this includes the creation of entry points, followed by availability of opportunity in institutional structures. Instead of full youth participation, some are assigned to limited playgrounds.

Globalization is affecting everyone and young people are facing various challenges. Participation in a political system appears remote in a real sense and many are taken in nature. Girls and young women are especially less privileged and have a very different perceived role in society. The Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), through its resolutions, has called upon Governments and Parliaments to improve many aspects of youth participation. We need to take action for youth participation, as they want to make a better life for themselves. They cannot wait until other things change. Over 200 million are in a state of poverty living on less than one dollar a day and these are the leaders of tomorrow. They are the voices of tomorrow but they need to be heard today.

Hon. Eva Thalen Finne discussed investing in youth in Sweden and that is why we are doing a lot for the coming Jamboree next year in Sweden. Investing in youth means investing in various youth activities like scouting. She said that scouting is the most valued youth activity where everyone who participates is important. There is an active role in scouting for everyone to play and no one has to sit on the sidelines.

The Swedish Government is investing in the social sector to make various NGO's work with youth and support these civic societies. But these organizations should be democratic, involve training and have equal gender equality in all aspects, including participation on all management boards and activities. Youth activities should be run by youth.

Scouting also needs to find more roles for young people to play. We need to change our attitudes towards children, she said. Scouts also need to place more effort towards preventing abuse. The same emphasis will be given at the coming Jamboree and there will be follow up web based training on keeping children from harm. She also emphasized five aspects about keeping children from harm.

Conclusions

We, as parliamentarians gathered together during the 6th General Assembly and agreed:

- To strongly support the re-launch of the World Scout Parliamentary Union
- To encourage parliamentarians to form National Scout parliamentary Associations in countries where they do not yet exist
- To support the Youth
- To support the Scout Movement worldwide
- To support the strong partnership between the World Scout Parliamentary Union and the World Organization of the Scout Movement

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- To support the legislation activities, budget and policies aimed at supporting youth
- To support equal education and equal access to education for Youth and recognize the role of non-formal education, such as Scouting
- To strongly encourage Youth participation in decision making processes in order to make better decisions, commitment to and understanding of human rights, promoting the well-being of young people and their skills and empowerment of young people
- To support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which include the eradication of poverty, elimination of diseases, exploitation and human trafficking of youth.

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