



World Scout Parliamentary Union

Find out more about WSPU, it's activities over the past year and some success stories from the member National Scout Parliamentary Associations

Official Newsletter

Issue n°1 - Winter 2011

WSPU Related Events in 2011

Presentation of 2011's main events of WSPU, including the Executive Committee Meeting, Youth Exchange Program and Preparation meeting for the 7th GA

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Latest Publications

A non-exhaustive list of the latest publications may be found on

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Message from the President of WSPU

Hon. Chung Ui Hwa, reflects on the past accomplishments and lays out his plans and wishes for the year to come. Still a lot of work to do.

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WSPU Executive Committee Membership

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Main feature: Success stories

Discover how other National Scout Parliamentary Associations are contributing to Scouting, through legislation, financing and other activities.

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News stories

For the latest news, please check our website at

<http://www.wspu.info>



2011: A year of firsts

It has been a successful year following the 6th General Assembly of WSPU, busy with many firsts.

The 1st Meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee took place in July 2011, at the same time as the launch of new Youth Exchange Programme, which involved 31 Scouts from five different countries.

Moreover, a brand new website of WSPU (found at <http://www.wspu.info>) was also launched and many of the stories that you will find included in this newsletter, may also be found directly online,

including the documentation, which is linked in this Winter edition newsletter.



WSPU's new online home

<http://www.wspu.info>

This 1st Edition of the Newsletter of WSPU, will hopefully also be the first of many. We hope it will provide a good format, to provide all of the pertinent and newsworthy information in a single convenient package.

Of course, your feedback is welcome and appreciated.

Thank you for reading.

National Scout Parliamentary Association Survey

WSPU is currently conducting a survey aimed at having a better understanding of the current ties between parliamentarians (or National Scout Parliamentary Associations) and the National Scout Organizations (NSOs).

This survey was sent out to all NSOs in October, with the Final Report of the 6th General Assembly.

This survey is a quick and easy way of helping us. It is aimed at offering a better understanding of the situation in every country and helping us "reconnect the dots" so we may contact the appropriate people and offer better legislative support to Scouting throughout the world, such as your National Scout Organization.

Please take part in the survey, you may [view and download it here](#). Please send it to us before the



The current leadership of the WSPU's Executive Committee (from left to right: Hon. Shionoya, Hon. Chung and Hon. Thalén Finné)

WSPU Secretariat Team

Deadline: 15th January 2012



1st WSPU Executive Committee Meeting

28 July 2011 – Kristianstad, Sweden, at the Bäckaskogs Castle

The first Executive Committee Meeting took place in Sweden, in a venue close to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree site.

It was the first meeting following the 6th General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union, which took place in Seoul, Rep. of Korea in November 2010. During the meeting, the President Hon. Chung presented the Final Report of this past General Assembly, which contains detailed information about the event, including speeches, participating member countries, budget, photos and much more.

The report was very well received by the Executive Committee members, who all agreed that it was a good way of showing that WSPU is alive.

Other subjects on the agenda included redeveloping the network of National Scout Parliamentary Associations, the launch of the new website of WSPU, the WSPU Youth Exchange Program as well as other subjects.

Following the meeting, the participants had the opportunity of visiting the World Scout Jamboree site and attending the Opening Ceremony.

A summary of the Executive Committee Meeting containing some photos of this event may be found in the document found [here](#), which can also be downloaded [here](#).

1st WSPU Youth Exchange Programme

From the 20th to 27th July 2011, 31 Scouts from Cambodia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Philippines, and Thailand participated in the 2nd KUDU Jamborette, which took place in Sangju, Korea.

During this event, they participated in various on-site activities, practicing various crafts, such as making knots, making fire, building tents, pioneering, archery and many others. There were also off-site activities, which offered some cultural and educational tours in Sangju city and its surroundings, but more importantly there were plenty of opportunities to meet and make new friends with the 1,500 other participants, which



included Korean Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Leaders.

Following the event, the international group travelled to Gyeongju to discover some of the historical treasures of Korea during the Shilla Kingdom era, by touring the Buddhist temples, tombs and other remnants of this period.

During this cultural exchange program, the group of Scouts took part in a group discussion centered on questions about youth participation in the decision making process in their respective countries.

Here are some of the outcomes of the group discussion:

Question: Can you imagine a better system to encourage youth participation so that parliamentarians listen to young people and hear their opinion and ideas?

Some of the answers were quite imaginative, such as:

One group of participants suggested the idea of building an Internet forum for youth, to discuss current social issues of their country. The forum could be built by joining the intranet of the secondary schools together to make a big network. However, they noted that promotion of this Internet platform would be needed and that the government should post advertisement on famous web sites, such as Google, Yahoo or Facebook.

Many participants agreed that it was very important that before any policy that concerns youth is adopted, that the youth should have the opportunity of being informed about it, understand how it may affect them and have the possibility of providing some feedback.

One group suggested that at the 18th birthday of each citizen, (or birthday of voting age in country) that the government send a birthday card to the new voter encouraging him/her to vote, while explaining why it is important.

Question: Do you think that Scouting is a good way of preparing young people to take an active part in their society? If yes why?

Most groups agreed that Scouting was a good way for the preparation of young people, because Scouting gives them confidence, responsibility, it teaches them many skills which they felt will be beneficial to them in society. Some said that Scouts are different from common civilians because they can help their society in a better manner.



The full outcomes of the group discussion are available [here](#) and you may browse the photo gallery [here](#).

Preparation Meeting for the 7th GA in Japan in 2013

Seoul, Korea - 27 Oct. 2011

Representatives of the Scout Association of Japan (SAJ) came to Korea to discuss preparations of the 7th General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU), which is due to take place in Japan in 2013.

The SAJ representatives met with representatives of Korea Scout Association (KSA), as well as members of its sister organization, the Korea Scout Parliamentary Association (KSPA), which acts as the Secretariat of WSPU.

The main purpose of the meeting was to share information for the organization of the 7th General Assembly, which is expected to gather many Scout parliamentarians from around the world for discussions centered around the topics of Scouting and Youth, such as national youth legislation and youth participation in the decision-making process, among others.

The experience gained by KSA and KSPA during the preparation of the 6th GA, included various areas, such as planning, logistics and marketing. However, participants of the meeting also eagerly discussed the best structure and composition of the event organization committee, as well as budget and sponsorship matters.

This meeting will certainly mark the beginning of a close partnership, in order to ensure the smooth preparation of this next General Assembly.

SAJ will also be the host of the next (23rd) World Scout Jamboree, which will take place in July-August 2015. In anticipation of this huge event, a Pre-23rd WSJ will be organized in 2013, as part of the 30th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree and the 16th Nippon (National) Jamboree.

More information about SAJ and the 23rd WSJ can be found respectively [here](#) and [here](#).

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What National Scout Parliamentary Associations can do to contribute to Scouting



“We never fail when we try to do our duty, we always fail when we neglect to do it”.

— Lord Baden-Powell

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Sweden: The Swedish Scout Parliamentary Union

Event Financing, Planning and Facilitating

The Swedish Scout Parliamentary Union is a group of about 25 Members of Parliament, which has been highly involved in the Jamboree project, both during the campaign to bring it to Sweden and in the planning process by ensuring government grants and official status to the event. The group also helped by offering guidance and support regarding practicalities like visa issues etcetera.

Educational Activities on Democracy



22nd World Scout Jamboree Sweden 2011
22nd Jamboree Scout Mondial Suède 2011

During the Jamboree, members of SSPU were onsite and hosted an activity about democracy, as part of the Global Development Village.

General Financing of Activities

The Swedish parliament has always been supportive of NGOs, which work with youth, by providing them with grants. Grants are given with few restrictions. However, the parliament demands that the organizations that receive the grants

are democratic and open to everyone, as one of their most important objectives is the democratic training and education for young people.

They also strongly believe that youth organizations should be run by youth, for youth. This does not mean that Scouting, with its tradition of adults supporting children and young people, is excluded from the

keeping them safe from harm.

Sweden was the first country to adopt legislation against child abuse, in 1979, something that they are of course very proud about. This legislation is important but what is more important is the change in attitude towards raising children that they have observed throughout the past decades in Sweden. That has been a parallel process with the

3. Good health
4. Participation, and
5. Culture and free time activities.

And as “a leading star” for all these to work together, the Swedish Parliament sees the following values as necessities in this endeavor: democracy, gender equality and the right for young people to be met as individuals, with both rights and obligations.



Scout activities require a strong legislative framework, which allows young people to safely participate in fun educational activities in beautiful natural environments

grant system, but they do have to work on finding more young people ready to take on leadership positions in national boards etcetera. A challenge that they are living up well to!

Keeping Young People Safe From Harm

Another important issue in supporting youth and young is

implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, where children nowadays are seen much more as individuals with rights and needs of their own.

Investing in youth for the Swedish government and Swedish Parliament have five goals for young people:

1. Education and learning
2. Work and income

Switzerland: The Swiss Inter-Parliamentary Scout Group

Even at a cantonal level, Swiss Parliamentarians have setup some parliamentary Scout groups. For instance, they setup a group in the Canton of Bern, which is composed of representatives of all parties who are members of the cantonal or federal levels, as well as the governments of the local districts and town. They invite this group to meet twice a year, to discuss one or more specific subjects. It offers them the possibility to have an impact on laws or regulations, which are related to youth. There are many opportunities and the themes of the agenda are varied: forest management, hunting regulations, promotion of youth, subventions to sport funds or to lottery, etc.



“Let us make a beautiful world where the world’s youth can fulfill their dreams and hopes to the greatest extent possible through WSPU”.

— Hon. Chung, Ui Hwa, President of WSPU

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Japan: Japanese Scout Parliamentary Union

Main goal

“One of its goals is to encourage support and help the growth of the Scout Association of Japan with the help of the government, to ensure the raising of a sound and healthy minded youth so that they may play a constructive role in society.”

Consulting/advising

Hon. Ryu Shionoya (Vice-President of JSPA) explains: “I have the chance to meet leaders or committee members and we discuss which are the best ways to secure and train leaders. I also advise them about advertising Scouting to others, having secure finances to manage the troop, and so on. In that way, I act in an advisory capacity.”

Financing

JSPA also plays an important role in requesting the government to secure finances for important events planned by the Scout Association of Japan. For example, we did so for the Nippon National Jamboree, the Japan Agunari (Jamboree for Scouts with disabilities). We also secure funds to repair campsites or any

outdoor places where Scouting takes place.

Biggest challenges

Hon. Shionoya points at the diminishing membership (especially in Japan, with a



United Kingdom: The All-Party Parliamentary Scout Group

A few years ago, the United Kingdom’s government wanted to introduce a system, which would affect all “youth related” workers (teacher, educator, coach etc.), by requiring them to go through a screening procedure at Scotland Yard, for keeping children safe from

way to guarantee that potential staff and volunteers, who were going to work with young people, would go through a police check.

Instead of creating a bottleneck, by having all of the applicants go through a background check at Scotland Yard, the UK Scout Association offered to form a six person team, composed of two full-time professionals and four volunteers, working 8 hours a day to check, with the help of the local police and Scotland Yard, the records of volunteers working in Scouting.

This custom and more effective solution was made possible through close cooperation between the Scout Association and the All-Party Parliamentary Scout Group (NSPA). This case clearly illustrates the advantages of working more closely with the legislators to benefit from, as well better support them, especially when youth related topics are on the agenda of the parliament.



“Education is a life-long process which enables the continuous development of a person’s capabilities as an individual and as a member of society”.

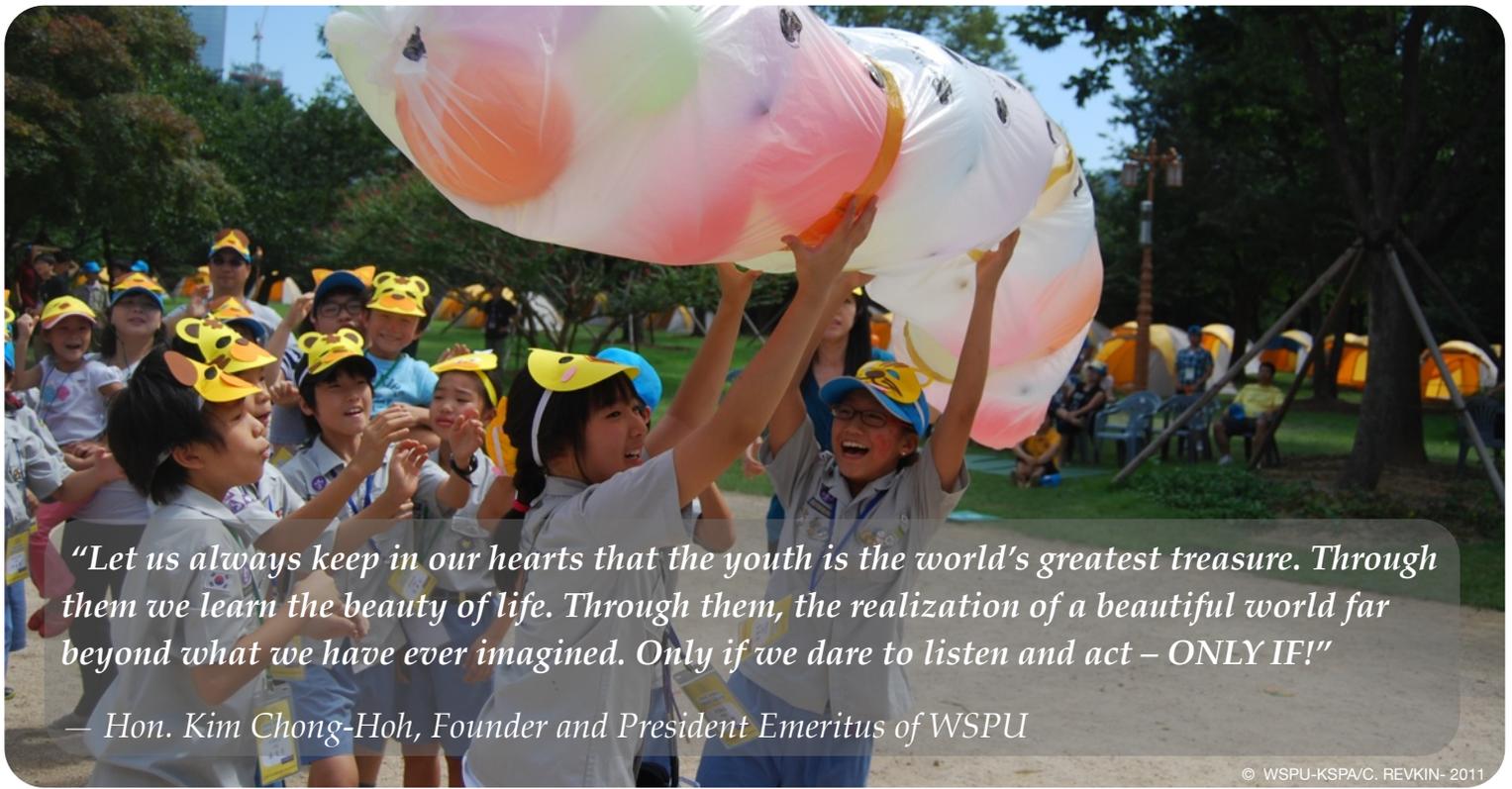
diminishing population) as one of the greatest challenges that Scouting faces.

“I strongly think that now it’s the time to get back to where it started and show how wonderful and fabulous Scouting is. So that we continue to obtain support and that our mission be better understood.”

harm. Although, a good initiative for ensuring the safety of young people, the procedure was considered slow, costly and discouraged volunteering. It also seriously affected the Scout Association of UK’s capacity of providing enough volunteers to help run Scout activities.

A movement was therefore formed, led by UK Scouting, to negotiate with the government to find another

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“Let us always keep in our hearts that the youth is the world’s greatest treasure. Through them we learn the beauty of life. Through them, the realization of a beautiful world far beyond what we have ever imagined. Only if we dare to listen and act – ONLY IF!”

— Hon. Kim Chong-Hoh, Founder and President Emeritus of WSPU

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국회스카우트의원연맹
Korea Scout Parliamentary Association

Rep. of Korea: The Korea Scout Parliamentary Association

The Korea Scout Parliamentary Association is one of the founding associations of the World Scout Parliamentary Union.

Funding

KSPA supports the work of the Korea Scout Association through funding for big events such as Conferences, General Assemblies, Jamborees and other events.

Organizing Seminars and raising awareness of Youth Related Topics

KSPA organizes seminars to present the latest studies and discussions on youth, in order to ensure the development of better youth policies.

KSPA also oversees the organization of Scout activities related to the National Assembly. In particular, they invite Scouts to the National Assembly, by organizing a Scout Camp in the National Assembly grounds. Scouts and Leaders have the opportunity to meet some of the parliamentarians and learning a bit more about their roles in the legislative body.

For the first time in 2011, KSPA hosted a Youth Exchange Programme, inviting Scouts and leaders from Cambodia, Philippines and Thailand to come discover Korean culture, a Korean Jamboree and discuss youth participation in the decision making process.

Offering Support and Recognizing Scouts and Scout Leaders

KSPA recently visited the Jamboree site in Sweden to offer encouragement, as well as show appreciation to the Scouts and Scouts leaders representing the Korean contingent, for their hard work and volunteering

KSPA also give out a “Youth prize” which is helpful not only for the young person who receives it, but also has a positive impact on the student’s record, which may benefit him for college admissions or job interviews.

Scout leader prize: similar to the Youth prize. This prize may be also good for Scout leaders who are schoolteachers for possible promotion.

Youth-related legislation

KSPA Member Lee Ju-Young, chairman of the Special Committee on Budget and Accounts of the National Assembly, specified that in Korea, the “law on promoting scout activities” was enacted in 1969 and revised in May 2010.

He added that KSPA is playing a key role for all kinds of legislative initiatives to solve youth problems and supporting youth-related budgets and policies. KSPA also helps by reinforcing the bonds between Scouts and the government.

Scout Parliamentarians are also proud to participate in Scout events by opening camping contests, as well as regularly inviting young Scouts to Parliament for them to experience a mock assembly or follow parliamentary debates.

Special assistance for International Scout Events

Having won the bid to host the 17th World Scout Jamboree, the Korea Scout Association required some financial and logistical help from the Korean government.

From the very beginning, Hon. Kim Chong-Oh was the driving force for ensuring the preparation of the World Scout Jamboree in Korea in 1991. With the help of other KSPA members, he convinced members of the parliament of the importance of the Jamboree.

From March 1989 to April 1991, Hon. Kim Chong Oh was the Chairperson of the Special Committee on the 17th World Scout Jamboree in National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. He was President of KSPA and now is WSPU Founder and President Emeritus.

Thanks to his dedication and work, the government provided a generous budget, which in a large part made the event possible. Additionally, thanks also to the work of KSPA members, some budget was also provided to develop the express highway from Seoul to Chuncheon in the Gangwon-Province, in order to facilitate access to the World Scout Jamboree site. This Jamboree road’s official name is ring-road, as it circles around Chuncheon city. Of course, this highway was not only useful for the event and is a clear benefit for the Province today.

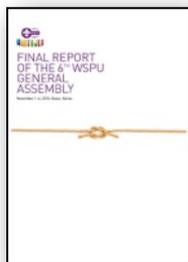
KSPA’s support also led to expansion work of the Kangreng city airport located in Gangwon-Province and drainage work at the airport in order to ensure the success of the Jamboree.

Finally, thanks to their lobbying effort, KSPA managed to preserve the Jamboree site as permanent campsite, by preventing it to become a golf course or private business site by passing a resolution from the National Assembly.



Latest Publications

Please find here below, the latest publications from the World Scout Parliamentary Union. Please click the links to download the PDF versions or to read these documents online. Further publications may be found in the [documents sections](#) of our website. Most documents are available in English and French.



Final Report of the 6th General Assembly

contains many interesting speeches on youth participation in the decision-making process, the right of youth, as well as many other youth related subjects. This Report also serves as a guide to organize similar General Assemblies. It contains detailed information regarding the budget, work process and organizational structure around this event.

Read it online [here](#).



WSPU Executive Committee Meeting Summary

This meeting took place in Kristianstad, Sweden near the site of the 22nd World Scout Jamboree.

Read it online [here](#).
Also available in [French](#).



Presentation Booklet of the World Scout Parliamentary Union

explains how WSPU works, gives an overview of the structure of WSPU, presents the current and past Executive Committees, as well as contains a brief history of the Organization.

Read it online [here](#).
Also available in [French](#).



WSPU Youth Exchange Group Discussion Outcomes

This 6-page report gives a short summary of the outcomes of the group discussion which took place on 25th July 2011 in Gyeongju with 31 young participants from Cambodia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand.

Read it online [here](#).
Also available in [French](#).

MESSAGE & CONTACT INFO

Message from WSPU President



Dear Fellow Scouts and Parliamentarians,

As you can see, much has been achieved in the last year. It has been a busy year following the 6th General Assembly themed "Let's keep the Scout Promise!", which aim was to revitalize the Organization and rebuild the network of National Scout Parliamentary Associations.

It is the WSPU's Executive Committee's hope, that through these efforts and this network, Scout Parliamentarians will have an open channel of communication, in order to collaborate, once again, on the development of better youth policies, in accordance with the conclusions of the 6th General Assembly of WSPU.

Every day through Scouting, young people learn new things, make new friends, gain new leadership skills, become ever more responsible citizens and discover the beauty and value of the wonderful nature which surrounds us. This is all made possible, through the tried and true "Scout Method" and all of the volunteers, which generously donate their time and skills to educate these young people and provide them with unforgettable experiences.

However, to support the realization of its noble mission, Scouting needs the help of parliamentarians, through the development of legislation, which give it the necessary financial, operational or organizational support. For example, by setting up a legal framework which allows and even encourages volunteering and recognizes its value, both in terms of economic benefits and capacity building. In other instances, National Scout Organizations may need help and assistance of parliamentarians, to identify and raise legal barriers, which hinder Scout activities.

We hope that you will soon join us in our efforts to achieve better Scouting for more young people.

Thank you for your attention.

Hon. Chung Ui Hwa, President of WSPU

WSPU Executive Committee Members

Hon. CHUNG Ui Hwa — President — REP. OF KOREA
Hon. Ryu SHIONOYA — Vice-President — JAPAN
Hon. Ewa THALÉN-FINNÉ — Vice-President — SWEDEN
Hon. Eugene WAMALWA — Treasurer — KENYA

Hon. Moussa DIAO (SENEGAL), Hon. Jaouad HAMDOUN (MOROCCO), Hon. Nappres MANDACHITRA (THAILAND), Hon. Nikola NOVAKOVIC (REP. OF SERBIA), Mr. Luc PANISSOD (WOSM), Hon. KIM Chong Hoh (WSPU Founder and President Emeritus) and Mr. Danny Seung Soo HONG (Secretary General of WSPU).

Contact information

Please feel free to contact us, should you have any questions or comments:

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