



**THE BOYS' BRIGADE  
ASIA**

# Bringing You BB News From **Across Asia**

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Issue: 2014/1 (January – April 2014)



4 climbers from Malaysia, Hong Kong and Philippines successfully arrive the 2,922m summit of Mt. Pulag, Philippines, raising funds for BB Asia & BB Philippines on 22-23 March 2014.

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- Extending The Boys' Brigade: Some Considerations For Development Work
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- To make your document look professionally produced

## Do Our Part, God Will Do His Part – Ong Teong Hoon, BB Asia President



As I look back at recent years, I am filled with awe and thanksgivings for His faithfulness. We see the numbers in Philippines growing in just 3 years and more Indonesian cities embracing the BB. As I write this, discussions are taking place to start the BB in Batam while 2 more churches in Cambodia's northern provinces are interested in starting the BB (thanks to the BB Thailand's efforts). At the same time, the 1st Phnom Penh will be celebrating their 5th anniversary next year. And next year, in a very difficult country, we are about to re-introduce BB again. Not only are our "tents being enlarged" to include more countries embracing the BB, existing supporters remain faithful even as we welcome new donors too. All these remind me of the portion of the scriptures in Mathew 17:24-27, especially this part: "Jesus said to [Peter], "...Go to the sea and

cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to [the tax collectors] for me and for yourself."

I personally experienced this in 1983 during the Centenary Celebrations, where a few of us, including Mr. Lim K Tham, organised a Band Tour for our Boys to tour Australia in 30 days. We started only with the idea of giving the Boys an experience of a lifetime - going to Australia. But we had no budgets, no money – only a lot of faith. *(Continued on page 2)*

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### Across Asia:

**Join our mailing list** to receive Across Asia notifications by email. Send your name & email address to [AcrossAsia@bbasia.org](mailto:AcrossAsia@bbasia.org).

**Submit content or volunteer with Across Asia!** We welcome comments, news, prayer items, articles, photographs & more. We are always in need of editors, field reporters and layout designers. BB Asia reserves the right to edit or not to publish any contribution deemed unsuitable.

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of The Boys' Brigade Asia.



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ASIA

## BB Asia Updates

DO OUR PART, GOD WILL DO HIS PART

(Continued from page 1)

Less than a month after we were praying, a colleague of mine in a bank donated a few hundred portable washing machines to us. His bank's customer who imported the machines was unable to pay for them and the bank was incurring warehousing charges. I thanked him - but then, I still had to pay for the warehousing costs. Again, praise God: It turns out that the warehouse manager was the BB Singapore President, who gave me 3 months rental for free!

Expecting more miracles, I did very little selling. By the end of the second month, only a few units were sold and I started to panic. I recall telling God that "Miraculously, You gave these to me. Now, how can I be stuck with them?" Then, I read William Barclay's commentary on this passage: God performs miracles, but He wants us to take part in His miracles. Jesus could have produced the shekel out of thin air, but he asked Peter to catch fish to pay taxes. He wanted Peter to "DO HIS PART", so that He will "DO HIS PART" too! I started to make many phone calls to customers and friends. Soon, the entire stock of portable washing machines were sold, all within the closing weeks of 3 months! We raised enough funds to send 30 Boys on a band tour for one month, starting without funds, but lots of faith. It was a lesson in partnering God that I never forgot.

Let us now continue to do OUR part so that God will do HIS part in advancing His kingdom through the Boys' Brigade ministry, one that has brought hundreds and thousands of us into His kingdom when we were kids. Let's be strong and courageous and bring the BB into more territories Asia in the coming years. Onward to His Glory!

"ACROSS ASIA" E-NEWSLETTER IS BACK!



After a slight hiatus, we're very glad to announce that the "Across Asia" BB Asia e-newsletter is back! With the e-newsletter back, we're on the lookout for articles and news to share across the BB world.

In each issue, you will find:

- **BB Asia Updates**, with the latest events and news from the Secretariat.
- **News From across Asia** – where we feature the latest happenings from all our member countries!
- **Asia Voices**, which will be an open forum for testimonies or articles from members or Officers throughout BB Asia.
- **Prayer Items**, so that we can all stand in prayer with you for your needs and concerns.
- **Upcoming highlights** – which will be a calendar of upcoming events that you might want to participate in.

### Help us with Across Asia!

We need your help to make Across Asia successful by:

- Volunteering to be a **field reporter** for your country – being the **contact point** to collect stories, pictures and testimonies for Across Asia for your country.
- Serving as **editors** to proofread newsletter contents as well as **layout designers** to put the newsletter together for publication.
- **Submitting your stories, articles or pictures** to be published in Across Asia.
- **Give us your feedback** – we'd love to hear from you. We gladly welcome your comments and feedback to help us improve.

Just email us at [AcrossAsia@bbasia.org](mailto:AcrossAsia@bbasia.org)

### HAVE YOU JOINED THE BB ASIA CIRCLE FACEBOOK GROUP?



Are you on Facebook? Want to fellowship with over 6,000 BB Members from across Asia? Want to see the latest pictures and activities of the Boys Brigade in other countries? Well, come and join us in the BB Asia Circle Facebook Group!

Log in to your Facebook account, go to: [www.facebook.com/groups/BBAsiaCircle](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BBAsiaCircle) and request to join. If you are a BB (current or former) member, you will be added to the group.



## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SCHEDULE: MAY-AUGUST 2014

- **May 1, 4:** On leave
- **June 5-8:** BB Asia EXCO meeting in Malaysia
- **August 7-13:** Hong Kong & Macau working visit
- **August 16-17:** On leave

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S WORKING DESK



25 January 2014 – Facilitated a session with the BB Philippines EXCO, during their meeting on their 3-Year Development Plans 2014-2016.



22-23 March 2014 - BB Asia-BB Philippines Fund Raising Climb to Mt. Pulag. 4 climbers from Malaysia, Hong Kong and Philippines successfully arrive at the summit at 2,922m!



20 March 2014 - Meeting Mr Hans Dee of the Philippines Christian Sports Ministry to discuss future collaboration and fundraising ideas.

## WELCOMING BB ASIA'S NEW TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE – HO HEE MANG!

### Tell us more about yourself, Hee Mang.

I am 44 years old and a husband to Terry, whom I met in the Brigade when we were 9 years old! She is a Consultant Pediatrician and a Lieutenant in 2nd Kota Kinabalu BB Company ("2nd KK"), in Malaysia, where we serve together. I joined 2nd KK at the age of 8 and received my Founder's Award in 1989, the same year my wife received her Pioneer Pin from The Girls' Brigade. Since then, I have served in 2nd KK in various capacities, including as its Captain. God blessed my wife and I with two beautiful children, Abigail (15) and Aaron (11).

My career path has taken me across different roles in various industries. I love the outdoors, having mostly being influenced by BB. My dream was to be an "outdoor guy" working either as a diver or an OBS instructor. However, my mother wisely advised me to further my education, so I spent two years studying accounting and another three years in Computer Engineering. I then took on various roles in IT companies, before spending four years at my childhood dream job: working with Outward Bound School ("OBS") in Sabah, Malaysia. The highlight of my job was the opportunity to work with Mark Burnett, to bring the famous reality show "Survivor" and EcoChallenge to Sabah. I also had the opportunity to meet Prince Philip, the Patron of OBS International in Buckingham Palace, United Kingdom. After OBS, I became a Youth Pastor for 7 years. Since then, I have been self-employed because it gave me the flexibility to spend quality time with my children.

### What will you be doing in BB Asia?

I will manage several areas, namely **training** – providing training support in emerging BB countries and plan BB Asia training programs for officers and members, including the BB Asia Academy and International Brigade School; **development** - of resources to promote BB Asia awareness as well as international exchanges and programs, including encouraging participation in BB Asia member countries National camps e.g. BBM Pesta, BBI Camp Bersama, BBS Camp Temasek, BBHK International Camp, BBT Discovery Tour etc.; and other duties such as overseeing the **BB Asia Adventure Club** - adventure-related activities to promote awareness or for fundraising.

### Why BB Asia?

As a young BB Boy then, I always felt a strong calling to serve full-time in the BB. It has always been my passion to reach out to children and youths for the Gospel and I always believe that BB ministry is one of the best vehicles to do so.

### How can we get in touch with you, Hee Mang?

Please feel free to email me at: [hoheemang@bbasia.org](mailto:hoheemang@bbasia.org)! I'm also active in the BB Asia Circle Facebook group!



## EXTENDING THE BOYS' BRIGADE: SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT WORK

- LIM K THAM, GENERAL SECRETARY, BB ASIA

It is disappointing that after being in continuous and active existence for more than a hundred years The Boys' Brigade remains largely unknown in many parts of the world. In the whole of teeming Asia, less than ten countries have a BB presence. Clearly, not enough is being done to spread the BB worldwide, and sadly, present efforts at development are dismally sporadic.

### Why Development?

Yet, there are compelling reasons for wanting to extend The Boys' Brigade internationally and globally. The mandate that the gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached everywhere is our basic underlying motivation, for the BB has been a tried and proven means of making the good news effectively known. Every unit of the BB is, theoretically at least, a centre of pervasive outreach for Christ's Kingdom. Another reason has all to do with being altruistic: having found the BB Method of great value we seek to pass it on, to introduce it to others. The European pioneers who brought the BB to the Far East were convinced that the BB was a good idea and had no hesitation in "exporting" it. Today we can hardly thank God enough for men like James Fraser, Robert Davis and Arthur Gamble; for if they had not taken pains to introduce the BB to Singapore, Malaysia and China respectively, none of us would be here! Last but not least --- and this reason may surprise some --- we need to develop the BB widely because if we don't we will not survive as a movement. Any movement must move to stay in good health, and ours is no exception. It is an irony of life that it is when we give that we receive. As we venture out to serve others we are challenged, humbled and enriched. Over the years I had gone out to many places to teach, to train; the truth is, I was the one taught.

### Guiding Principles

Development work of a pioneering nature is, however, far from easy. There is no prescribed formula or pattern for success. Indeed, there had been many false starts and outright failures, out of which, fortunately, important lessons can be learned. In what follows I propose and outline some of the principles for guiding our present and future efforts in extending The Boys' Brigade. (I have taken some of the points from "*Why A World Conference?*" an address given by Leslie Rawson, 23 Aug 1983)

### Priority is Meeting Need

Firstly, the mission we are concerned to carry out must relate to the wholeness of the individual and the wholeness of society. This is to say the need of the young people to whom we wish to introduce the BB has precedence over other concerns, including organisational ones such as name, structure, uniforms, etc. Do what we offer meet real needs or is our concern merely the kingdom of The Boys' Brigade? The Kingdom of God is always liberating and is concerned with needs being met and fulfilled through Christ.

### A Partnership

The second principle has been long acknowledged by the churches. It is that we can no longer think of mission in terms of the donor/recipient relationship. As Rawson rightly says, "The whole family has grown up." The talents, maturity and full humanity of all peoples must be affirmed even as we seek to share the BB method. Therefore, the whole enterprise is to be conceived as a partnership, a joint venture in which efforts are concerted to meet human, not organisational, needs, and local views and preferences are respected. Furthermore, those in receipt of grant aids are as much responsible for mission as those who are fortunate to give them.

### Only an Instrument

Thirdly, there must be the recognition of the fact that The Boys' Brigade is only an instrument, a tool if you like. It is completely at the disposal of the church to use or discard. As such it has no right to a life of its own apart from the church. In this connection, the criticism targeted at Western missionary organisations today by the author of the book *The End of an Era* is instructive:

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To assume that they are the only way God will ever use to continue the mission of Jesus Christ among men is to identify the instrument with the purpose which it serves which is a form of idolatry. So we are not called to maintain our organisations as such at all costs but rather to ask what we can learn in present circumstances about the ways in which God wants the mission of Jesus Christ to be carried on tomorrow.

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### Not Sacrosanct

It follows (from the admission that we are only an instrument) that nothing about our organisation is to be regarded as sacrosanct. Not even the fact that we are a Boys-only organisation, for historically, William Smith had only to meet the challenge of Boyhood. For this reason, we can and should be open to allowing various practices and conventions even if time-honoured to be changed to suit the requirements that operate in a culture different from ours.

### An Indigenous Movement

Finally, as much as the BB is an extension from one country to another, the ultimate goal is for the new work to be developed as a truly indigenous, national and autonomous movement. Only as the local community accepts ownership of and responsibility for the work will it survive in the long term. The donor/recipient model of which we had disavowed fails because the dependency induced will hinder such maturation. Thus, in the giving of financial help the principle is always to encourage self-help as grants are gradually reduced over time.





### THAILAND: CAMP SAWASDEE III

Camp Sawasdee III was held on 25-28 Mar 2014 in conjunction with BB Thailand's 20th anniversary celebration.

Some highlights of the Camp were the Bible Challenge, Futsal Competition, International Junior Team Games and BB Amazing Race. Participants also had an enriching visit to the "Reduce Global Warming Centre" in the beautiful Nong Nooch Tropical Garden where the Camp was held.

Full collection of photos here: <http://goo.gl/aPP6Ua>



### MALAYSIA: 1<sup>ST</sup> KUALA LUMPUR'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



1st Kuala Lumpur Company ("1stKL") celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year! The inspiration for our Anniversary Logo came from Isaiah 60:1: "*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*"

Isaiah 60:1 picks up the story of God's people who, after a long struggle and severe opposition, were finally returned to their homeland. The returned exiles faced severe problems and were struggling to see whether God was still with them. In chapter 60, God speaks through prophet Isaiah and renews the promises of a new day for His people. He assures the people that God has not forgotten them and that their mission as a light to the world has not changed. The new events transpiring mark the beginning of God's new day for His people.

The advent of a post-modern, millennial and digital generation has challenged many to wonder if the BB is still relevant today. But like God's message to His people through Isaiah, we are reminded that God has not forgotten the mission He has called us to. He remains the anchor of our souls, both sure and steadfast. His call to us to change and impact young people has not changed. After 60 years of doing this, 1st KL is emboldened to go forth for another 60 years – taking Christ and the training of the Brigade in our lives... to go shine.

More info: [www.1stKLBB.org.my](http://www.1stKLBB.org.my) & [www.facebook.com/1stklbb](https://www.facebook.com/1stklbb)



## THAILAND: THE INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM GAMES

The International Junior Team Games is a yearly event co-organized by the Global Fellowship, Boys' Brigade UK & Republic of Ireland. BB members between 8-12 years olds in groups of 6 will complete 6 different games, record the result and see how they compare with other groups around the world.

This is the first year that BB Thailand has taken part in this international event.

More pics at: <http://goo.gl/jWpmWj>

INDONESIA: ESTABLISHING 1<sup>ST</sup> SOLO COMPANY

(L-R: Saud Tanamassa, Pak Yohanes & Pdt Matius)

BB Indonesia recently concluded a Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") between with Sekolah Pelita Nusantara Kasih, SOLO to establish the 1st SOLO COMPANY.

## CAMBODIA: VISIT BY HWA CHONG INSTITUTION



16 km away from Siem Reap, The BB Learning Center ("BBLC") is where youth come to learn English as well as the right values in life and to give back to the community. From 5-11 January this year, Hwa Chong Institution students visited the BBLC and helped out at the center. More pics of the visit: <http://goo.gl/XXtpJb>.

Find out more about the BBLC: <http://bbcambodia.org/our-work/bblc/>

## SINGAPORE: THE BB ADVENTURE QUEST (JUNIORS PROGRAMME)

On 22 Mar 2014, 449 boys from 41 Companies gathered at Sembawang Park for The BB Adventure Quest (Juniors Programme). This year, Boys had to choose the stations they wanted to attempt and to take ownership and responsibility for their own decisions. They were required to attempt a minimum of 8 stations to complete in this race, out of the 16 they could choose from, with each station testing the Team on their hard skills such as BB Knowledge, Drill, First Aid, Outdoor Cooking, and teamwork.

Full story and more pics available at: <http://goo.gl/Cg5MRb>





## MALAYSIA: SARAWAK STATE COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

by James TC Wong, 4th Miri Coy



The Sarawak State Council of The Boys' Brigade in Malaysia, consisting of 35 companies, conducted its 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Mar 15. Prior to the AGM, breakout sessions were conducted, which covered topics including the Junior Workbook syllabus, best practice sharing, resources, the upcoming 2014 Pesta in Kampar, and extension of works to the indigenous groups.

In addition, Lim K Tham, BB Asia Secretary-General, shared an overview of the BB and the role of BB Asia. He bemoaned the general decline of the Boys' Brigade membership especially in the United Kingdom in contrast with Asia, "In Hong Kong alone, there are 241 Coys with more than 11,000 Boys and Girls. We are already in Cambodia and Macau." Sounding out a call, he said, "Together we grow. Get connected to the [BB Asia Facebook](#). Volunteer your services. Attend the BB Academy and support us with your prayers and gifts."

In his welcome message, BB Sarawak State Commissioner Lo Hoi Fook spoke about Dreaming versus Doing. He said the BB Sarawak is often praised as a role model in terms of membership, full-time staff, depot and property building. "But ultimately it is the action part that produces results," Lo remarked. "I am a dreamer and I dream of more advancement of God's kingdom especially in the newly-proposed extension of works to the indigenous groups in Sarawak," Lo concluded.

After the AGM, 1st Limbang Company hosted their 10th Anniversary dinner at a local restaurant. Gracing the occasion was Rev. Wong Sing Tiong who initiated the Company and Rev. Phoebe Kiu, Pastor-in-charge of Ling Kwong Methodist, the sponsoring authority. A thanksgiving Sunday Worship was held at Ling Kwong Methodist Church the following morning.

## HONG KONG: BBHK CELEBRATES 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



The BB in Hong Kong celebrates its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Its celebration programs included: a launch ceremony at its training center, a thanksgiving service, an open day, and more. BBHK is thankful for all guests, trainers, players, parents and volunteers! More pics: <https://www.facebook.com/BoysBrigadeHK>

## INDONESIA: BB ASIA ARCHERY INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Recently in March, several representatives of BB Indonesia participated in the BB Asia Archery Instructor Course from 3-5 March 2014. Special thanks to Mr. Raymond Tan who served as the trainer, as well as Mr. Ong Teong Hoon and Mr. Francis Chiong from BB Asia for the support. More pics at: <http://goo.gl/U0nsff>





## BB HELPED ME WITH MY FAMILY – CAROLYN ABELLA, BB PHILIPPINES



My name is Carolyn Abella. I joined the BB in 2011. Before joining, my relationship with God needed help. Likewise, my relationship with my parents were not great either. Our family was going through problems and because of this, my respect for my parents lessened each day. My dad was also very strict with me because I am the only girl in the family; which made me more rebellious.

When I joined BB, I came to know Christ. I accepted Him in my life and in my heart. That was when I started to find interest in attending church - something that I've never thought of doing in the past! Little by little, God has been transforming my life without me knowing it. This transformation was in the spiritual, physical, emotional and social aspects of my life. I learned to read the Bible and to socialize with friends, learning to treat others nicely. I also learned to choose the right friends and developed discipline through drill. BB also helped me in my academics. Now, I have the confidence to join different activities in my school.

Not only that, the longer I stayed in BB, the more I found my relationship with God and my respect for my parents improving. I am with the BB for 2 years now and have become one of the leaders in my company. I'm also part of our cultural dance troupe and volunteer to teach drill to preschool students in VOH Christian school every Friday. I learned to be my best in all that I do, wherever I am - as a BB member and child of God.



### ASIA

- Wisdom & volunteers to support the BB work in the region.

### BRUNEI

- Members from rank and file to answer His calling to serve as leaders in BB Brunei.

### CAMBODIA

- Pray for God's provision for the BB Learning Centre in ministry to Cambodia

### HONG KONG

- BB HK is praying for a new HQ – that God guide them to the right place and for fundraising.

### INDONESIA

- To raise more leaders to expand the work in Jakarta, Blora, Semarang, Bandung and Surabaya.

### MACAU

- Continuous growth and development in the existing companies

### MALAYSIA

- To raise to the challenge to serve as full time staff in BBM HQ.

### PHILIPPINES

- Churches and schools leaders to organize and implement the BB program.

### SINGAPORE

- To provide leadership and manpower for the expansion work in the Asia region.

### THAILAND

- Pray for the preparation for the BB Thailand Discovery Tour 2014 on 1-6 December 2014.



# Coming Up Next



## “DREAM HIGH” BOYS BRIGADE MALAYSIA 21ST NATIONAL PESTA & CONVENTION

**Date: 7-11 June 2014**

More info: [www.pesta2014.blogspot.com](http://www.pesta2014.blogspot.com)

The National Pesta and Convention (also commonly known as 'Pesta') began as the National Review and Display in 1966. It is one of the biggest events unique to the Boys' Brigade in Malaysia. Participation is open to all current members of the Boys' Brigade in Malaysia, as well as members of overseas Boys' Brigade companies.



## BB HONG KONG – BB SABAH EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2014

**Date: 25-31 July 2014**

For more info, please contact Mr. Donald Soh, [don9m6su@gmail.com](mailto:don9m6su@gmail.com)

Exchange program between BBHK and Sabah State Council, Malaysia with visits to local BB companies, churches, and places of interests; joining the 2nd Kota Kinabalu Company's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations; and more.



## BB THAILAND DISCOVERY TOUR 2014

**Date: 1-6 December 2014**

For more info, please contact BB Thailand, [bb.thailand@windowlive.com](mailto:bb.thailand@windowlive.com)

In conjunction with its 20th anniversary celebration, BB Thailand is organizing the “BB Thailand Discovery Tour” on 1-6 December 2014 to allow participants to tour the central region of Thailand and to learn more about the works of the Boys' Brigade in Thailand.



## BB ASIA 8<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Date: 30 December 2014**

To register, please contact Mr. Francis Chiong, [francis.chiong@bbasia.org](mailto:francis.chiong@bbasia.org)

If you would like to attend, please register with BB Asia through Mr. Francis Chiong. The meeting will be held in Hong Kong.



## BB HONG KONG 55TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL CAMP

**Date: 30 December 2014 - 2 January 2015**

For more info, please contact Mr. Kelvin Tsang, [tszfung\\_tsang@bbhk.org.hk](mailto:tszfung_tsang@bbhk.org.hk)

Registration is now open and costs only US\$120 per person. Closing date for registration is 1 August 2014. Register early before seats run out.

To highlight your event, please send details to [AcrossAsia@bbasia.org](mailto:AcrossAsia@bbasia.org), including an image with the event title, date, and contact details for more information. Your event details should reach us by 15 February, 15 June, or 15 October.