

A report on the 6th East Asia Meeting

Masahiro Nishiyama AC, East Asia

Date: 5 ~ 7 November, 2010

Venue: Chientan Youth Activity Center, Taipei, Taiwan

Attendants: 67 members

※ 39 (Taiwan) 13 (Korea) 6 (Japan) 5 (Malaysia)
2 (US) 1 (France) 1 (Costa Rica)

The 6th area meeting of East Asia was held on 5 to 7, November, 2010, at the Chientan Youth Activity Center in Taipei City, Taiwan. As many as 67 members attended it including 9 guests from countries other than East Asian countries. Thanks to a good team work of the Taiwan members the meeting ended successfully.

Day 1: Friday, November 5, 2010

On the evening of 5 Saturday, a welcome party was held at a restaurant downtown. We had a very delicious dinner, enjoyed conversation and interesting performances. Taiwanese members entertained all the participants with a folksong and bamboo flutes. Korean members sang in chorus "Arirang," a popular folk song, while Japanese danced to a coalminer's song. Mr. K.T., NS, Japan, delighted us with a solo reciting of a Chinese poem. This preliminary program worked as a good step to the smooth discussion on the following day.

Day 2: Saturday, November 6, 2010

For breakfast we were seated at six tables arranged by Taiwanese members and enjoyed conversation eating a tasty food. Then we moved to a hall for our discussion.

At 9 o'clock the meeting started with a greeting by Serena Tang, NS, Taiwan. She expressed her hearty welcome to the congregation and introduced guests. They are:

Mr. R.A., NS, US and Mrs B.A.

Ms. K.Y.T., NS, Malaysia and four other Malaysian members

Ms. M.M., France

Ms. D.O.

At 9:20 Masahiro Nishiyama., Area Coordinator for East Asia, said a word as follows.

- 1) Big thanks to Servas Taiwan and hosts
- 2) 2009 was the 60th anniversary of Servas International and a lot of events were held in various countries. In East Asia Korea's activities were remarkable.
- 3) At the General Assembly in Argentine in September 2009 Taiwan was added to a Member Country.
- 4) Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong had new NSs.

After AC's report was over, each National Secretary made a presentation about their activities in 2009 as well as problems they face and new projects, etc.

Korea, Mr. S.D.W.

- 1) Divided in 11 regions, 196 members are enrolled.
- 2) 61 travelers visited and stayed with Korean members.
- 3) 34 members went abroad as a traveler.
- 4) Website is available for members and non-members.
- 5) Korea Country Pilgrimage in February, as an event for SI's 60th Anniversary
Bicycle Tour de Kyushu in August, 2010, as an event for SI's 60th Anniversary
Sent 2 young members to attend SYLE program.
- 6) Young members wanted!

Japan, Mr. K.T.

- 1) Divided in 7 regions, 310 members are enlisted.
- 2) 187 travelers visited Japan but the actual number is hard to count. Maybe more.
- 3) 60 members went abroad as a traveler.
- 4) A scholarship project for students from overseas is under construction by a region.
- 5) Want to recruit retired citizens to Servas.

Taiwan, Ms S.T.

- 1) Divided in 19 regions, there are 145 members enrolled. Most of them are young.
- 2) 15 travelers came to Taiwan.
- 3) 15 members went abroad. One attended the SI 60th anniversary meeting India.
- 4) A board of trustees is needed for Servas Taiwan.

China, Dr. C.Y. < a report sent to AC

- 1) Divided in 9 regions, 22 members are on the list.
- 2) 10 travelers visited China.
- 3) Only 2 members went abroad as a traveler.
- 4) Compiled a host list with regional maps in color.
- 5) Set up an on-line mailing system and formulated an interview process.
- 6) More members wanted in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai.
- 7) To be recognized as an NGO by the government is desired.

Hong Kong, Ms V.X. < a report sent to AC

- 1) There are 22 members on the list.
- 2) 10 travelers came to Hong Kong.
- 3) Only 1 member went abroad. She visited Mongolia.
- 4) Had 2 gatherings at ex-NS's house attended by 6-10 members.
- 5) Want to call for regular gatherings more often.
- 6) J. K. resigned as NS in May. Dr. A.H. took him over but resigned in August for her transfer to Korea. A troika executive committee was temporarily established by 3 members.
- 7) Every member is too busy to gather and act for Servas. Advise us what to do.
- 8) More young members are wanted.

Mongolia, Ms H.S. < a report sent to AC

- 1) Only 1 member exists now.
- 2) 1 traveler came in 2008, and 3 came in 2009. 2010 already saw 2 travelers from Israel.
- 3) Want to recruit new members. Want also to set up a website in the near future.
- 4) Members from overseas are most welcome!
- 5) Interested in hosting East Asia Meeting in the near future.

After NS's report was over, guests from US, Malaysia, France, and Costa Rica made a short presentation about their country. Each one was interesting and instructive, to which we are all thankful. The US National Secretary and his wife were on a trip to Taiwan. So were the Malaysian National Secretary and four other members. The French member was also on her long stay in Taiwan. Ms D.O., Costa Rica, was on training in Taiwan. She was a university student.

Several Q-As about NS reports and guests' talk:

Q: Mr. S., tell us about your plan to exchange with Servas Kyushu, Japan.

A: Servas Korea had a pleasant and fruitful exchange with Servas Kyushu last year. We want to go on with it as long as possible.

Q: Tell us more about the scholarship program of Servas Japan, Mr. K.T.

A: We are trying to approach university students from abroad in Tokyo. If possible, we'd like to choose 3 students and give each 30,000 yen for a Servas traveling.

Q: Ms S., what caused so many new members to join Servas Taiwan?

A: M.W. published a book in 2006 and introduced SERVAS. She even invited some new members to her TV show. As a result we had a lot of new members. The magnetic power of TV is great!

Q: Ms M., what do you think of spreading Servas?

A: As a matter of fact, there are so many organizations introduced on the internet. It is so hard to choose, isn't it? Wherever I go, I make it a rule to introduce Servas to people I meet.

Q: Ms K., what do you do in Malaysia?

A: We meet about 4 times a year. We try to invite young members and enjoy a picnic together. We are thinking of visiting neighboring countries in a group in the near future, too.

Q: Mr. A., what's your idea of Servas activity in US?

A: We think it important to give more opportunities to young members. Inside US they can travel anywhere without an LOI. An interview is very important but young people do not like a lengthy one, so we try to make it as short and concise as possible. And we had better to make a Servas gathering as enjoyable as we can. For instance, why not call it a Servas party, not a meeting?

Q: Ms. O., please tell us something more about Costa Rica.

A: We want to send young members to Canada next year. I think a mouth-to-mouth PR is effective for us to attract new members to Servas.

We also discussed how to promote more exchanges among our area and even SI General Assembly. After the Q-A session was over, we enjoyed watching a DVD show to introduce the Taipei Flora Expo which is to open on today at the Dajia Riverside in Yuanshan.

A discussion about the topics proposed by Taiwan

After lunch S.T., NS, proposed topics as membership / annual fee and the executive committee. Taiwan has more than 140 members now but up to 2006 it was only 10 or so. Most of the responsibility was on the shoulders of S.T., the present NS who used to be the Main Contact.

As to the membership fee, S.T. explained about Taiwan's situation:

- 1) When someone wants to be a Servas host, I interview him / her and ask 30 USD as a membership fee.
- 2) If a host wants to go abroad, I interview him / her and issue an LOI with a stamp on it. I tell him / her that its validity lasts one year since that day. I do not request any fee from him / her. If he / she wants to go abroad again after one year, I interview him / her and ask him / her to pay 30 USD.
- 3) There is no annual fee for Servas Taiwan.

As to the executive organ of Servas Taiwan, Serena, NS, said as follows:

- 1) Right now only National Secretary exists as an officer.
- 2) For the 6th East Asia meeting I organized an executive committee and asked Ms M.W. to serve as Executive director. I also asked Mr. S.Y. to support her.

Mr. S.D.W., Korean NS, and Mr. K.T., Japanese NS, explained their membership procedures and executive organs. Then the guests also explained their countries' systems, too. When a chart of each country's system was seen on the board like a membership fee and an annual fee, we had a talk about its merits.

We cannot force Servas Taiwan to do anything but we suggested Serena that they discuss these points and set up an executive committee and improve their membership / annual fee as well. To which Serena, NS, said that they will do so to develop Taiwan.

Where do we hold our next East Asia Meeting?

It was about 16:30 when we discussed this subject. We agreed that we meet in Guangzhou, China, in 2013 because SI General Assembly is scheduled in the previous year.

At 17:30 we went to a Mongolian Restaurant to enjoy our last banquet. It was also very good.

Day 3: Sunday, November 7, 2010

After breakfast some of the participants went on a bus tour, and others went to see the Taipei International Flora Expo.

Thanks to S.T., NS, Mei Wang, S.Y. and all the other members involved in the meeting, we had a really good time in Taiwan. Our gratitude also goes to those who accepted us as a host in their houses.

Something extra really special!

After the meeting was over, the executive members had a reflective meeting and I was told such a delightful news. They discussed a possibility of holding next SI General Assembly in Taiwan!

When they told me their interest, I said that we had better wait till the GA 2012 is over. I suggested that they hold Youth Forum in Taiwan instead. I told them that P. C. in charge of YF had asked me if we can hold one in Asia in the near future. I also told them that we should send Taiwanese members to the coming GA to see what it is like and then we can raise our hand as a host for GA.

To my suggestion they agreed, while I sent a mail to P. about our plan to hold YF in Taiwan. He gave me a positive answer right away. As Area Coordinator, I know nothing more delightful. I had an impression that the torch has been handed to them.