



YMIWORLD

"TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY THAT ACCOMPANIES EVERY RIGHT"

Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

AUGUST 2026



Y's Men International celebrates century-long YMCA partnership at the 21st World Council in Toronto.

CONTENTS

Content in this publication is contributed by dedicated YMI club members and officers, to whom we extend our sincere thanks. From time to time, articles or messages from external sources may also be included and those contributors will be recognised accordingly.

	Page
IP Message <i>Mr Johan Vilhelm Eltvik - International President</i>	3
IHQ News <i>Mr Jose Varghese - International Secretary General</i>	4
YMCA World Council 2026	5
Strategy 2032 <i>Mr Hank Walther- Strategy 2032 Team Chair</i>	6
Blue Music Campfire Story <i>Y's Men's Club of Chiangmai</i>	7
ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2026 & UN Days <i>Mr Thomas (Sibi) David , YMI UN Representative 2025/26</i>	8
Club President Manual <i>The Manual Review Committee</i>	9
Area Africa News <i>Ms Joan Mati - News Editor of Area Africa</i>	10
Area Asia Pacific News <i>Mrs Keiko Tonegawa - News Editor of Area Asia Pacific</i>	12
Area Europe News <i>Mrs Birgit Jakobsen - News Editor of Area Europe</i>	14
Area India News <i>Mr Joseph Varghese - News Editor of Area India</i>	15
Area Korea News <i>Mr Kim Jin-ku - News Editor of Area Korea</i>	18
IYC 2026 Registration	20
Area Latin America News <i>Ms Edilene Laura Gonçalves - Past Area President of Area Latin America</i>	21
Area US News <i>Ms Melanie Kaaihue-Yoshida - News Editor of Area United States</i>	22
The God of Wine Dionysus and the Wedding at Cana! <i>Mr Villy Mølgaard - International Service Director for Christian Emphasis</i>	23

Editor's note

Please contact the editor to share your thoughts and ideas for *YMI World*.

September Emphasis will be on
Extension & Membership Conservation
& 100-Day Membership Campaign

Click to submit your
impact story before
15 August 2026.

Contact Editor



THE BLUE MUSIC

IP Johan Vilhelm Eltvik



Why are strategies so boring?

I fully understand that to build a house or construct a roadway, you need a solid work plan—a blueprint detailing finances, measurements, materials, and resources of all kinds. This is necessary, but it is boring stuff for anybody except the engineers and the economists.

On the other hand, engineers and economists often know little about organisations and human relationships.

When we are building our organisation, we are building a living house, full of relationships, emotions, values, and smiling faces.

My good friend, Rachan Maneekarn from Chiang Mai, sent me a report today from their first club meeting this summer. It was organised as a Blue Music campfire for renewal. This meeting was all about relationships, not formalities; good conversations, not long speeches; emotional stories instead of statistics and reports.

This is exactly my point. This is not boring anymore. It is exciting; it is fascinating. Because, in this setting of creativity and positive emotions, change and renewal can happen.

And that is what we are seeking as we look ahead to 2032. To reach our goals of more members, more clubs, more countries, and greater support for our global programmes, we need to bring other dimensions of human life into action.

This is the Blue Music. It is our values, our relationships, our consideration and empathy. It is goodness in action.

When building an organisation, these are the tools we need to enable us to grow and flourish. Please read the report from the Blue Music for Renewal campfire in Chiang Mai on page 7 and be inspired to renew and strengthen your local club in the same way.

By using the strategic tools of Blue Music, we will achieve the numbers, as well. We will have more clubs and more members because people will feel the goodness shining through Y's Men International!



This month, our attention turns to Strategy 2032, the long-term roadmap guiding Y's Men International towards sustainable growth, greater impact and organisational renewal. A dedicated task force is reviewing the progress achieved since the Strategy's launch in 2022 and identifying priorities for the next five years.

This review will help ensure that our programmes, structures and resources remain responsive to the changing needs of our members, communities and YMCA partners. Y's Men International was prominently represented at the recently concluded 21st YMCA World Council in Toronto by a delegation that included International President Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, International Secretary General Jose Varghese and YMI liaison to the YMCA (YL) Philips K. Cherian.

Our engagement included the International President's address during the Opening Ceremony, facilitation of the Solution Studio titled *"YMI: Empowering Lives Through Fellowship, Leadership and Service,"* and active YL participation in the Executive Committee and throughout the Council. YMI also maintained a promotional booth during the event, enabling meaningful interaction with YMCA leaders and delegates from around the world.

The Closing Ceremony also marked a proud milestone as Y's Men International received the World YMCA's special award, celebrating over 100 years of partnership and service.

During July, IHQ also successfully concluded the annual audit with positive results. A special virtual meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Representatives was held on 31 July to transact urgent organisational matters.

Registration for the 2026 International Convention has now closed. More than 520 participants from around the world will gather in Penang for either the International Convention or the International Youth Convocation. The final meeting of the IC 26 Planning Committee will be held in Penang in mid-August to finalise preparations and ensure everything is in place for these much-anticipated global events.

It is also heart warming to note that more than 200 leaders have joined the Blue Music Ambassadors Programme. Area-level training and orientation will begin this month, equipping the Ambassadors to share the Blue Music vision and inspire transformation through fellowship, leadership and service.

We are excited about these new transformative initiatives and look forward to moving ahead together—awakening the sleeping giant, empowering lives and building a stronger YMI for the future.

YMCA World Council 2026: *Transform Through Partnerships*

The 21st YMCA World Council brought together more than 1,300 delegates and guests from over 100 countries in Toronto, Canada, from 19 to 25 July 2026. Hosted by YMCA Canada in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Toronto, the Council was held under the theme “*Transform.*” World YMCA President Soheila Hayek and Secretary General Carlos Sanvee provided leadership for this major global gathering. The Council provided opportunities for governance, dialogue, learning, fellowship and collective action towards achieving YMCA Vision 2030. Christopher Lewis of Australia was elected World YMCA President for 2026–2030. Emma Osmundsen-White of England and Wales was elected Deputy President, while Laurie Lynn Skinner of Canada was elected Treasurer.

Another significant event was the graduation of the sixth cohort of YMCA Change Agents. Seventy-nine young leaders representing 44 countries completed the programme, demonstrating the YMCA’s strong commitment to youth empowerment and leadership development. Y’s Men International maintained an active and visible presence throughout the Council. The YMI delegation was led by International President Rev. Dr Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, International Secretary General Jose Varghese and YMI Liaison to the YMCA Philips K. Cherian.

Addressing the Opening Ceremony, International President Johan Vilhelm Eltvik spoke about the role of YMI in modern times and its plans for renewal through the Blue Music vision. He congratulated the World YMCA for its leadership in youth empowerment and particularly commended the Change Agents programme. He reaffirmed YMI’s continued support for the worldwide YMCA movement and encouraged local and national YMCAs to support the establishment of new Y Service Clubs and the recruitment of new members.

YMI also facilitated a Solution Studio titled “*Empower Lives Through Fellowship, Leadership and Service.*” The session explored how fellowship can address loneliness, how leadership can inspire action and how service can transform communities. Participants included YMI Historian Debbie Redmond, Area President Jared Musima, National General Secretary Dorina Luka, YMCA of Fredericton President and CEO Darcy Delaney, YMCA Archivist Ryan Bean, Past International Youth Representative Dwight Tomlinson and Ronald Yam.

An exhibition booth operated throughout the Council, providing delegates with information about YMI, its service clubs and global programmes. YMI’s brand was also prominently displayed across the conference venue in recognition of its role as a longstanding partner and sponsor of the YMCA.

The Closing Ceremony provided a truly historic moment for Y’s Men International. The World YMCA presented a special award to YMI in recognition of more than 100 years of partnership, service and steadfast support for the worldwide YMCA movement, as well as its impact on communities around the world. Carlos Sanvee presented the award to Jose Varghese, International Secretary General of Y’s Men International. The recognition honours generations of Y’s Men, Y’s Women and Y’s Youth, and Y’s Menettes, as well as the worldwide network of service clubs that have supported YMCAs and communities for more than a century.

The Toronto World Council strengthened the historic partnership between the YMCA and YMI and opened new opportunities for collaboration in youth empowerment, leadership development, community service and membership growth. It was truly a historic milestone for both movements.

YMI Strategy 2032 News

*By Mr Hank Walther, Santa Monica AM Club (USA)
& Strategy 2032 Team Chair*

The Strategy 2032 Team is honoured to contribute this article to the *YMI World* magazine for the August Emphasis Month. Our goal, as YMI club members, is to ensure that the YMI movement remains relevant for the next hundred years, with a focus on families, membership growth and delivering unique, impactful projects. The Strategy 2032 ten-year blueprint outlines how we can build YMI into a distinctive, community-based brand that champions health, education and the environment, while strengthening our partnership with the YMCA as our global mission partner. Strategy 2032 focuses on YMI developing a strong identity through a brand that is inclusive of cultural, gender, inter-generational diversity and religious values, while remaining rooted in the philosophy and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our team meets quarterly through Zoom. In 2026/27, we hope to develop specific and measurable target parameters that challenge clubs and YMI at various levels to achieve goals in the following five areas:



First Strategy 2032 Team meeting of the year

Fellowship

- Strengthen family, youth and cultural fellowship at the club level by creating a welcoming and supportive environment.
- Promote inter-club gatherings, International Brother Club relationships and build meaningful fellowship.
- Commit to the International/Area/Regional/District fellowship within YMI.

Leadership

- Enhance opportunities for the personal and professional development of club members.
- Develop next-generation leaders with training opportunities based on awareness of the legacy, ethos and mission of YMI.
- Emphasise passion, integrity and activism in leadership.

Community Impact

- Implement projects in the areas of health, education and environment.
- Interact collaboratively with the YMCA as a mission partner.
- Create relationships with local businesses and other organisations sharing resources to increase areas of influence.
- Share and communicate successful initiatives and their impact.

- Conduct advocacy campaigns on issues related to health, education and environment.
- Fundraise for YMI's core international programmes such as the Alexander Support Fund, Building Fellowship, the Endowment Fund, Roll Back Malaria and Time of Fast.
- Support and engage in YMI's international projects.

When we look back to 2022, when the Team was formed and YMI entered its second century of service, our efforts were focused on understanding the priorities of the younger generation, recognising the realities of today's world, while continuing to respect and embrace the passions and commitments of our traditional and longstanding members.

Our key challenge for 2026/27 is to prepare a five-year progress report on the worldwide implementation of Strategy 2032. We will share the Team's recommendations to inspire our leaders in developing a roadmap that guides us towards achieving our movement's goals. Your participation in this process is vital, and you are warmly invited to share your understanding of Strategy 2032, along with your activities, outcomes and future plans, with us. Together, we can rejuvenate the YMI movement by working collectively towards a stronger and more impactful future.

Blue Music Campfire Story

Where Change Begins

The Y's Men's Club of Chiang Mai, Thailand, began its new Y's year on 6 July 2026 with a meaningful Blue Music Campfire for Change, inspired by International President Johan Vilhelm Eltvik. Instead of a formal meeting, 20 participants—including members, spouses, senior friends and four prospective young members—gathered around homemade food, music and shared stories.



Senior members spoke about their journeys in YMI, memorable YMCA experiences, service and lifelong friendships. Young participants shared their dreams and desire to belong to a purposeful movement. The Club reflected on nearly three decades of community service, YMCA partnership, international fellowship and leadership development. Participants then envisioned the Club's future, asking: "What kind of Y's Men's Club do we want to become by our 30th anniversary in 2028?"

***"Friendship before Formality.
Participation before Presentation.
Stories before Statistics.
Change through Fellowship"***

As rain fell outside, a symbolic indoor campfire brought everyone together. Accompanied by an acoustic guitar, participants sang songs spanning generations. Music became a language of friendship, belonging and freedom from loneliness.

Each participant completed the sentence, "This year I will...", making personal commitments to membership growth, mentoring, YMCA support and community service. Chiang Mai reminds us that meaningful change begins when people gather, listen, share and dream together.





ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2026: *Accelerating Partnerships for Clean Water and Sanitation*

By Mr Thomas (Sibi) David, YMI UN Representative 2025/26



YMI was honoured to be represented at the 2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum at UN Headquarters in New York by Thomas (Sibi) David, YMI's UN Representative in New York. Held on 27 January 2026, the Forum brought together governments, UN agencies, civil society, academia, youth organisations, and the private sector to advance the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDG 6 Action Segment focused on ensuring access to safe water and sanitation for all by 2030. Participants emphasised that water is essential to health, education, food security, economic development, gender equality, and climate resilience.

Key priorities included expanding affordable water and sanitation services, strengthening partnerships, promoting innovative technologies, increasing sustainable financing, improving resilience to droughts, floods, and water scarcity, and empowering women, youth, and local communities in water governance.



The session reaffirmed that no single organisation or government can achieve SDG 6 alone. Equity, innovation, collaboration, and urgent action are essential. The discussions contributed to recommendations for future UN initiatives, including the 2026 High-Level Political Forum, and reinforced the need for measurable, people-centred solutions that ensure clean water and sanitation for everyone.

19 August: World Humanitarian Day *Inspiring Action Through Compassion and Service*

On 19 August, the world observes World Humanitarian Day, established to commemorate the humanitarian workers who lost their lives in the 2003 bombing of the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq. The day continues to honour all humanitarian workers who step forward during times of crisis and reminds us of the courage, compassion and dedication required to serve others. By observing World Humanitarian Day, we stand in solidarity with millions of people affected by conflict, disasters and hardship, while recognising our shared responsibility to protect human dignity and support those who serve humanity.

The humanitarian challenges facing our world continue to grow, with communities impacted by conflict, climate change, natural disasters and social inequalities. The United Nations calls on everyone to #ActForHumanity by supporting efforts that protect lives, uphold dignity and strengthen global solidarity.

This humanitarian spirit strongly reflects the vision of YMI and the goals of Strategy 2032, which is our focus during August. As a movement committed to service, fellowship and community impact, YMI seeks to inspire members to continue responding to community needs through meaningful initiatives, with a current focus on projects in education, the environment and health.

As we place emphasis on forward planning and our Strategy 2032 goals during August, let us also remember the legacy of humanitarian engagement that has been the foundation and driving force of YMI since its establishment. Through continued compassion, collaboration and service, YMI members can help transform communities. Every act of kindness contributes to building a more caring and inclusive world.

This section highlights United Nations observance days that resonate with YMI's values and mission. For a full list of UN Days and more information about them, readers are encouraged to visit the [UN's official calendar](#).

YMI Resources Reminder

A monthly update from *the Manual Review Committee*

The Manual Review Committee (MRC) ensures YMI's manuals and policies remain current, practical, and aligned with the movement's needs. In the past YMI year, eleven documents were reviewed. As part of this ongoing work—and in support of IP Johan's Blue Music Challenge—the MRC is pleased to highlight some of the latest updates now available on the YMI website.

Club President Manual – A Must-Read for Every Club Leader

The club is the heart of Y's Men International. Every service project, every new member, every partnership with the YMCA, and every act of fellowship begins at the club level. The future of our movement—and our ability to build a better world—depends largely on the strength of our clubs and the leadership of their club president.

The Club President Manual is much more than an administrative guide. It offers practical advice on leading a successful club, covering leadership, team building, membership development, goal setting, budgeting, decision-making, and succession planning. It also provides an overview of YMI's mission, organisational structure, Strategy 2032 (the focus of August's emphasis), and international programmes—all to help presidents better understand their club's role within the worldwide movement. The manual also includes practical tools such as job descriptions, model meeting agendas, an annual calendar, sample goals and budgets, and project ideas that can be applied immediately.

Every club president should read this manual before taking office and keep it close at hand throughout the year. Club officers and members will also benefit from understanding how a well-led club strengthens YMI and can make a lasting difference in its community and beyond.

We invite you to visit the YMI website and explore the updated [***Club President Manual***](#). It is there to support your success—so make the most of it.

Happy reading and stay tuned for next month's update.

Diving into YMI Downloads

A wealth of Y's Men International resources is available on the [**YMI website**](#). Simply click "Downloads" on the top menu bar to access manuals, policies, brochures, promotional materials, templates, and much more—all conveniently organised by category to help you find what you need quickly.

AREA AFRICA

Ms Joan Mati - News Editor of Area Africa

Kenya District

Kenya District Installs New District Governor

Over 100 YMI and Y's Youth members gathered at YMCA Nairobi on 4 July 2026 for the installation of Jenifer Kimuli as Kenya District Governor for 2026/27. A charter member and Past Club President of the Y Service Club of Kitui, Jenifer was installed by Africa AP Jared Musima, assisted by PDG Nicholas Wambua. The ceremony welcomed guests from Tanzania and the United Kingdom. It featured new member inductions and leadership installations, including Morris Kimuli as RDE Africa Southeast Region.



The District honoured outgoing DG Esther Mbaabu and recognised outstanding service contributions from PDG Joan Mati, IPCP Elisha Ongoya and PCP Juliet Kimotho. The keynote address was delivered by communications specialist Dr Ezekiel Mutua.

Y's Men's Club of Kampala



New Leadership and Growth at Kampala Y's Men Club

The Y's Men's Club of Kampala installed Solomon Mutesasura as Club President on 10 July 2026, succeeding Nelson Mpagi, during a leadership transition ceremony at Backyard Bistro Restaurant, Kampala. The event brought together more than 40 members, Y's Youth, Y'slings and guests, including Regional and District leaders. In his inaugural address, CP Mutesasura highlighted membership growth, youth empowerment, support for YMCA initiatives and impactful community service as key priorities.

Nine new members were inducted, while young ambassadors shared their ongoing girl-child hygiene awareness campaign, which has reached schools and health centres across Uganda.

Y Service Club of Kitui

TOF Newborn Unit Brings Hope to Kitui

Members of the Y Service Club of Kitui held their fellowship and CP installation ceremony on 10 July 2026 at the site of the Paul W. Alexander Newborn Unit, a TOF-supported project at Mulango AIC Health Centre. The project is already creating community impact by providing employment opportunities for local residents. One beneficiary shared how income from supplying materials to the project helped support her children's education. The installation and training of new leaders was conducted by District Governor Jenifer Kimuli.



Y Service Club of Nairobi Metro



Nairobi Metro Welcomes New Leadership

The Y Service Club of Nairobi Metro welcomed a new leadership team on 9 July 2026 at YMCA Central, Nairobi. IPCP Martha Wangunyu handed over leadership to CP Carol Magina, marking a new chapter of service and fellowship. The ceremony also saw the transition of Y's Youth leadership, with John Mtanashati taking over as club president from Alosi Ronaldo, reflecting the club's commitment to developing future leaders.



Kakamega Y's Men Champion Compassion, Justice and Servant Leadership

The Y Service Club of Kakamega continues to demonstrate the power of service through impactful initiatives that promote dignity, compassion and community transformation. The club donated ICT equipment valued at KES 196,000 (USD 1,519) to Kakamega Main Prison, helping improve inmates' access to justice through online court sessions. An additional KES 20,200 (USD 157) donation supported vulnerable inmates, including children living with their mothers in the women's prison facility.

The club also extended support to members and the wider YMI family, raising KES 102,500 (USD 795) to assist Y's Man Felix Mugalitsi and his family during bereavement, while Y's Youth members contributed KES 33,000 (USD 256) towards medical support for fellow member Tonny Mugambi Munene, who is awaiting a kidney transplant.



Celebrating a new chapter of leadership, the club held its Leadership Transition Dinner on 11 July 2026, installing Maureen Odeck as Club President. The event reflected Kakamega Y's Men's continued commitment to servant leadership, fellowship and meaningful service to humanity.



Nigeria District

Nigeria District Welcomes New District Governor

Arumosoye Adebayo was officially installed as District Governor of Nigeria District during a grand investiture ceremony held on 30 May 2026 at YMCA Romney Hall, Lagos.

The event brought together YMI members, YMCA leaders, guests and families to celebrate leadership, humanitarian service and community impact. The ceremony included the presentation of Humanitarian Service Awards, fundraising for District initiatives and the induction of 30 new members, strengthening the District's commitment to growth and service.



AREA ASIA PACIFIC

Mrs Keiko Tonegawa - News Editor of Area Asia Pacific

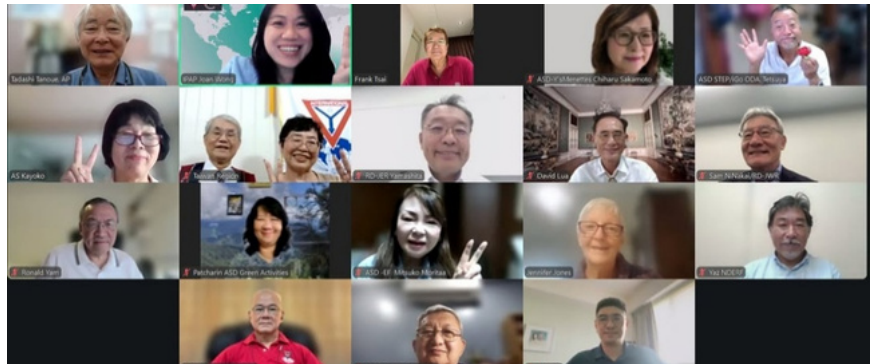
Another IBC Partnership



The Y's Men and Women's Club of Incheon Namdong in South Korea and the Y's Men's Club of Kyoto Wings in the Japan West Region held a ceremony in Korea in June to sign an IBC agreement. Established in August 1987, the Kyoto Wings Club is one of the most active clubs in the Region. We look forward to meaningful exchanges and a strong partnership between the two clubs.

Final Area Council Meeting

On 20 June 2026, the Asia Pacific Area reviewed and celebrated its achievements for YMI year 2025/26 during its final Area Council meeting. The meeting also highlighted the outlook and priorities for YMI year 2026/27.



Japan East

Y's Men's Club of Tokyo-Machida-Cosmos celebrated its 30th anniversary. The club was chartered as Tokyo-Cosmos Y's Men's Club on 20 May 1996. Later, when it merged with the founding host, the Tokyo-Machida Y's Men's Club, the name was changed to the current one, keeping 'Machida' in it.



The members are determined to remember the anniversary day as they relaunch, cherishing the joy of creating blessings together with the people they live with, continuing the traditions of the Y's Men's club. They also wish to connect throughout the Asia Pacific Area and the world, while rediscovering the happiness of contributing in service to the lives of people and saving the natural environment.

Japan West



Rokkoku District Council was held and the participants engaged in an active discussion about the next YMI year.

Southeast Asia Region



Hong Kong District hosted a joint installation ceremony on 11 July 2026 with over 280 members and guests attending.

Sri Lanka Region



The **Y's Men's Club of Mahanuwara, Sri Lanka Region** and Lions International Penguin Excellence Club together conducted a timely project: *"Awareness to the Public on how to Prevent Contracting Dengue Fever from Mosquitoes,"* and the importance of keeping the environment clean.



Alpha Chapter Singapore Congratulations! CP Daniel Ng was inducted by DG Wayne Soo. IPIP Edward Ong witnessed the moment.

Taiwan Region



50th Anniversary Celebration, the Region celebrated its 50th Anniversary on 8 June 2026, with IPIP Edward Ong as the guest of honour.

Home Protection Project for Vulnerable People

The Y's Men's Club of Yilan offered free and huge help together with Yilan Charity & Care Association & Shou-Shan Volunteer Group in renovating a century-old single-story house for a pair of siblings—one disabled brother with a wheelchair in his seventies living with his younger sister with an intellectual disability who cannot support daily living by herself.

The siblings have been struggling and face great hardship living in the house, battling heavy roof leaks daily, facing a severe termite infestation that has seriously damaged the structure, and navigating many steep stairs that create obstacles.

The renovation took just 72 hours to complete. This is not just about renovating a house; it's about restoring a family's hope for life. Now, the siblings can stay in a safe, dignified, and warm home.



台灣大真蹟 宜蘭新聞 三善團扶助弱勢 修繕漏水房屋好安居



Y Service Club of Armenia Strengthens Future Projects and Leadership

The Y's Service Club of Armenia held its club meeting on 28 June 2026 at Kataro Winery, Dzoraghbyur village, bringing together members to review ongoing initiatives, future opportunities and club development plans. The meeting also welcomed Syuzanna Galstyan as a new club member. Club members discussed the next phase of Generation Next Community Development initiatives, supported by a budget of EUR 5,000 over the coming six months. The projects will be implemented by YMCA Scholarship holders with support from the Y's Service Club Alumni Network. The club also reviewed opportunities through the BftW Connect Steering Committee and the YMI Alexander Support Fund, which could further strengthen youth-focused programmes.

Looking ahead, the club identified opportunities to support larger YMCA initiatives, including Roots for Peace and Generation Next, while exploring income-generation activities through platforms such as Rootsmade. Club members also agreed to organise a charity auction featuring handmade products from war-affected artisans as a potential first step in developing sustainable club activities.

The meeting included important leadership updates, with Vardan Hambardzumyan confirmed as club president. Haykuhi Karapetyan was elected vice president with responsibility for expanding the Y's Men movement in Armenia, while Marina Babayan and Regina Grigoryan assumed the roles of club secretary and treasurer respectively.

The club also agreed on a regular meeting schedule and encouraged members to participate in upcoming YMI international activities, while continuing to strengthen engagement among younger members and future leaders.



Small steps towards a greener future at Y's Men Region Denmark Conference



The green transition does not always require major investments or complex solutions. To avoid disposable tableware and unnecessary purchases for the 700-participant Regional Convention, the volunteer team sourced plates, cups and cutlery from local thrift shops. The mismatched pieces, which might otherwise have remained unused or ended up as waste, were given a new purpose at one of the organisation's largest events.

The sustainability message continued beyond the dinner tables. Each participant found a tote bag on their chair, initially assumed to be for conference materials. Instead, after dinner, attendees were invited to take home their plate, cup and cutlery as a personal souvenir and a reminder that small everyday choices can make a difference. The initiative was warmly received, reducing waste while giving second-hand items a new lease of life. Every piece of tableware will now continue to be used in private homes rather than being discarded.

AREA INDIA

Mr Joseph Varghese - News Editor of Area India

Central Travancore Region (CTR)

RD & DG Installations

The Central Travancore Region installed Leela Gopeekrishna as Regional Director on 5 July 2026 at the historic Great Hall, CMS College, Kottayam. The ceremony was inaugurated by Shri Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, and officiated by International President Elect V. S. Radhakrishnan. The CTR Handbook and Directory was released, regional projects were inaugurated, and around 450 members attended. The Region also installed three District Governors: Sanoj Varghese (District 2), Rahul S. Kumar (District 3) and G. Thankachen (District 4), marking the beginning of another year of leadership and service.



Central India Region (CIR)



Speaker's Meet & Community Service

The Speaker's Meet, jointly hosted by the Y's Men Clubs of Vizag Jazz, Vizag Steel, and Nirmal Hruday, brought together nearly 60 members for an inspiring evening of fellowship and learning. The keynote address by Suyash Chavan was both engaging and thought-provoking, while Betsy Williams warmly welcomed the gathering. Motivational messages from senior Y's Men leaders further enriched the programme, making the event a memorable and meaningful experience for all attendees.

Middle East Region (MER)

Regional Convention & Installation 2026/27

The 5th MER Regional Convention and 6th Annual Installation Ceremony were held on 12 July 2026 at Seven Seas Hotel, Dubai. International President Elect V. S. Radhakrishnan attended as Chief Guest, with India Area Secretary Joseph Varghese and Bulletin Editor Jobi Jousha as Guests of Honour. The event included the Regional Convention, Awards Ceremony, installation of the 2026/27 team led by Regional Director Manoj P. Nair, and the release of the Annual Bulletin compiled by Sony Abraham.



Zone-1 Installation

The MER Zone-1 Installation and Zonal Conference were held on 20 June 2026 at Dhe Swagath, Al Qusais, UAE. Leni Abraham was installed as Lieutenant Regional Director by Regional Director Manoj P. Nair. The event celebrated leadership, fellowship and commitment under the theme "Together We Rise, Together We Share."



Mid-West India Region (MWIR)

Club Growth & Leadership Installations

The Y's Men Club of Fort Kochi celebrated its Charter Night on 15 July 2026, inducting 15 new members and installing its leadership team. The Region also installed Lieutenant Regional Directors Santosh Thomas Kanadan (Zone 1) and Terry Thomas (Zone 4). The Zone 1 ceremony included the dedication of a dialysis machine to Lourdes Hospital as part of the Region's service initiatives.



The Y's Lings Club of Adimaly supported the Adimaly Government High School Football Team by sponsoring jerseys for their tournament participation.

South Central India Region (SCIR)



Eye Care Service Projects

The Y's Men Club of Virudhunagar successfully conducted its 75th Free Eye Camp, screening 138 patients, facilitating 60 cataract surgeries and providing 57 free spectacles. Over 75 camps, the Club has screened 7,179 people, supported 2,714 cataract surgeries and distributed 1,924 spectacles.

The Y's Men Club of Hosur, together with The Eye Foundation and Crystal Engineering Systems Pvt Ltd, conducted an Employee Eye Camp, providing free eye screening for 214 employees.

South India Region (SIR)



Community Service & Growth Initiatives

The Y's Men Club of Kovai Green City launched several service projects, including sports uniforms for tribal school children in Masinakudi, a daily nutritious food programme for tribal elders in Anaikatti, and medical assistance for a physically challenged mother.

Book Donation

The Y's Women's Club of Sathyamangalam Sheroes donated 50 books to a village library in Pudhukkaadu Village, supporting literacy and community development. The Y's Men Club of Karaikudi expanded its membership by inducting 30 new members and launching service projects valued at INR 250,000, supporting education, public service recognition and community welfare.



South West India Region (SWIR)

Leadership, Training & Service

The First Regional Council Meeting of 2026/27 was held on 11 July 2026 at Hotel Karthika Residency. The Regional Bulletin “Golden Spark” was released, and training was provided for Regional Service Directors.



The Toofan Warriors Campaign

The Toofan Warriors Campaign, organised with the Kerala Police Narcotic Cell, was launched on 12 July 2026 to raise awareness against drug abuse. The campaign included an anti-drug pledge led by ACP Robert Johny.



Care of the Aged

District IX implemented the Regional Project “Care the Aged” by providing essential bedding items to a senior citizen during the installation ceremony of District Governor P. K. Varghese.



West India Region (WIR)



Regional Leadership & Training

Mathew Vattoth was installed as Regional Director of the West India Region in a ceremony inaugurated by Shri Sunny Joseph, Honourable Minister for Electricity, Government of Kerala.

PST Training

The Region also conducted PST Training in Kannur under the leadership of Area LTOD Francis P. S., equipping Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers with essential leadership and administrative skills for an effective YMI year.



AREA KOREA

Mr Kim Jin-ku - News Editor of Area Korea

Korea Area launches the 2026/27 term



On 11 July, the Korea Area (AP Ji Seong-eun) officially launched the 2026/27 term by holding its first Executive Council Meeting and 16th General Assembly in Jeonju, Korea. Area leaders reviewed the achievements of the previous year, approved the revised budget, and presented strategic priorities for the new term. Regional Directors and Area Service Directors introduced their action plans, reaffirming their commitment to membership growth, leadership development, and community service. The Korea Area also announced that the YMI International Medical Service Team will conduct a medical mission in Cambodia from 14–17 August.

Korea Daegu-Gyeongbuk Region



On 16 May, Korea Daegu-Gyeongbuk Region held its 67th Regional Convention and leadership installation ceremony at the Grand Hotel in Daegu. Area leaders, Past Area Presidents, and overseas guests joined members in celebrating the new term. Awards recognising outstanding service and long-term membership were presented, while a special leadership lecture encouraged members to pursue continued growth.

Incoming Regional Director Lee Myung-kil pledged to strengthen fellowship and “*build a better world*” by fostering a culture of respect, encouragement, and service throughout the Region.

Korea South Region

Korea South Region (RD Park Jong-heon) strengthened its partnership with the Gwangju YMCA by holding a policy meeting on 2 July, where both organisations agreed to expand cooperation in youth development, environmental protection, community service, and leadership development.



On 15 July, the Region also signed a cooperation agreement with the Gwangju Environment Corporation to promote ecological restoration of the Gwangju Stream through environmental campaigns and citizen participation. These initiatives reflect the Region's commitment to sustainable community partnerships.

Korea West Region



On 17 July, Korea West Region (RD Jeong Moon-ja) organised a joint community service project in Gongju, Korea, bringing together members from the Southern Chungnam and Northwestern Districts with professors and students from Baekseok Culture University. The project was carried out in cooperation with the University's RISE (Regional Innovation System & Education) Programme, a government initiative that promotes collaboration between universities and local communities for Regional development. Volunteers helped improve the living conditions of elderly residents living alone by replacing LED lighting and organising household necessities. The project demonstrated how partnerships among Y's Men, universities, and local communities can create meaningful and sustainable community service.

Jeonnam Region

On 4 July, members of Yeosu District (DG Kim Min-seong), Korea Jeonnam Region (RD Kim Jae-jung), launched one of the Region's largest international service projects by preparing two 40-foot containers of relief supplies for Manila, Philippines. The shipment includes school desks, educational equipment, medicines, clothing, and other essential supplies for disadvantaged communities. In late August, a volunteer team will travel to Manila to conduct educational support, medical service, meal distribution, and children's cultural programmes in cooperation with local partners.



Korea Chonbuk Region



On 8 July, members of Korea Chonbuk Region's (RD Kim Gyeong-mo) Jeongeup Club responded immediately to assist a family whose home had been destroyed by fire in Jeongeup, Korea. Volunteers removed damaged household belongings and debris while members provided heavy equipment and waste containers to speed up the recovery process. The project demonstrated the Y's Men's spirit of compassionate service by helping the family begin rebuilding their lives after the disaster.

Korea Jeju Region

Korea Jeju Region (RD Jung Jin-ho) began the 2026/27 term with leadership installation ceremonies across all clubs, marking a strong and enthusiastic start to the new year. As newly installed Club Presidents assumed office, the Region reaffirmed its commitment to membership growth and community service. Clubs have already resumed a wide range of volunteer activities, including environmental clean-up projects and service at local welfare facilities, demonstrating the Region's determination to strengthen both fellowship and community engagement.



Korea Gyeonggi Region



Korea Gyeonggi Region (RD Chu Yi-ho) continues to expand its long-standing community service programmes under the slogan *"Deepening Fellowship, Expanding Service."* Members provide monthly meal service for homeless people at Suwon Station, support low-income families through donations of fuel briquettes and daily necessities, and organise community flea markets promoting recycling and environmental awareness. Proceeds from the markets are donated to assist people in need, reflecting the Region's commitment to sustainable service and social responsibility.

Korea Seoul Region

On 13 June, Korea Seoul Region held its 67th Regional Convention at the Seoul YMCA under the theme *"Y's Men Together."* The highlight of the conference was Ukraine Peace Concert 2, organised as part of the Strategy 2032 Peace Project. Volunteer musicians and a peace choir performed in support of peace in Ukraine, and funds raised during the concert were donated to the newly established Ukraine Y Service Club, expressing international friendship and solidarity through music.



IYC26

Penang, Malaysia
7 - 13 September 2026

Registration subsidies are available!
Secure your spot before applications
close on 7 August 2026.

Apply now!



20th International Youth Convocation

AREA LATIN AMERICA

Mrs Edilene Laura Gonçalves - Past Area President



Summary of the 35th District Conference & 35th Regional Convention – Brazil Region

The Brazil Region successfully held its 35th District Conference and 35th Regional Convention, bringing together leaders, club members, and guests for a day of fellowship, accountability, and renewed commitment to the mission of Y's Men International.

During the District Conference, the District Governors presented reports highlighting the major activities and achievements of the 2025/26 term. The event also included the installation ceremony for the incoming District Governors, Club Presidents, and new members, as well as a special tribute to the outgoing leaders in recognition of their dedicated service and outstanding contributions.



The Regional Convention featured the presentation and approval of the Brazil Region's Annual and Financial Reports, reaffirming the Region's commitment to transparency, good governance, and responsible leadership. Inspiring messages were delivered by Regional and Area leaders, the incoming Regional Director, the Youth Representative, and the Area President, emphasising the importance of service, leadership, fellowship, and international cooperation.

The event concluded in an atmosphere of gratitude, friendship, and celebration, renewing the participants' commitment to the Brazil Region's motto: *"Be Y's Men by desire, not by necessity."*

The programme concluded with a fellowship luncheon, where participants celebrated the success of the Convention and strengthened the bonds of friendship and unity that are the hallmarks of YMI.

AREA UNITED STATES

Ms Melanie Kaaihue-Yoshida - News Editor of Area United States

First Y's Men's Club Established in South Florida, USA



The chartering ceremony of the Y's Men's Club of South Florida, the first Y's Men's club in that part of the state, was held with great celebration on 27 June in Coral Springs, Florida, USA. Joseph Kanjamala, United States Area President, formally presented the club charter and administered the oath of office to the newly elected office bearers. The meeting was presided over by George K. John, Regional Director of the North Atlantic Region. The club was established under the leadership of the North Atlantic Region with the sponsorship of the Y Service Club of New York–Westchester.

The chief guest, Rev. Fr Dr Isaac Arickappalil, CMI, addressed the members and emphasised the importance of service and humanitarian values. Several YMI leaders, distinguished personalities from the social and cultural sectors, family members and friends also attended the ceremony. Thomas George assumed office as Charter President. Mathew Valloor Kurian was installed as Vice President, Abraham Kalathil as Secretary, Jose Sebastian as Treasurer, Sebastian Vayalinkal as Joint Secretary, and Dr Baby George as Joint Treasurer. A Board of Directors was also appointed, and all club members were formally inducted. Guided by the ideals of Y's Men's International—friendship, fellowship, service, leadership development and social responsibility—the club aims to serve the South Florida community through charitable initiatives, educational assistance programmes, youth development activities, and health and community service projects, the office bearers said. The office bearers expressed their sincere gratitude to the distinguished guests, Y's Men's International leaders, the sponsoring club, members, family members, and everyone who offered prayers, encouragement and support for the formation of the club.

Y's Men's "Blue Music" Comes Alive at Eisenhower Park

The Y Service Club of New York–Long Island launched the Blue Music initiative with a fellowship picnic at Eisenhower Park, Long Island. Club members and their families came together to prepare and serve a homemade breakfast followed by a barbecue lunch. Throughout the day, members enjoyed games and activities that promoted teamwork, friendship, laughter and fellowship.

The event embraced International President Johan Vilhelm Eltvik's theme for the 2026/27 administrative year, *"Waking the Sleeping Giant with Blue Music."* Through shared meals, fellowship and service, members reflected the values of love, care, hope, freedom and empathy that underpin the initiative. The gathering provided an encouraging start to the new YMI year and demonstrated how simple acts of fellowship and service can strengthen club life while bringing the Blue Music theme to life. The club hopes the initiative will inspire other clubs across the Area and Region to promote the spirit of Blue Music through meaningful service, lasting friendships under the IP's slogan *"YMI – Empowering Life."*





The God of Wine Dionysus & the Wedding at Cana!

by Mr Villy Mølgaard, ISD Christian Emphasis

(Read John 2:1–11)

The Gospel of John has a special structure. First, there is a simple surface story that everyone can immediately understand and retell. Secondly, there is a wealth of meaning for those who study it more thoroughly.

First, a little about the “*surface story*”.

It is a village wedding to which both Jesus and his mother are invited. Mary plays a very active role, and there are many indications that she is involved in the practical arrangements. She is concerned when the wine runs out, and she has enough authority to tell the servants to do whatever Jesus asks of them. According to John’s Gospel, it was at this wedding feast in Cana that Jesus performed his first miracle, transforming water into wine.

It may seem a strange miracle, since Jesus’ other signs were performed to help those in need. Yet in Israel hospitality was a sacred duty, and to run out of wine at a wedding would have brought deep humiliation upon the bride, the groom, and their families. Wine was an essential part of Jewish celebration. As the rabbis said, “Without wine there is no merriment.” This did not encourage drunkenness, which was considered disgraceful, but recognised wine as a natural part of joyful fellowship. Jesus intervenes so that the celebration may continue without shame.

If we stop here, we have heard a fine Gospel story that reminds us Jesus cares about ordinary people and every aspect of human life. Yet John almost certainly intends us to see much more.

We have so far overlooked the many questions the passage raises.

- Why are both Jesus and his disciples invited when he is not yet publicly known?
- How does Mary know that Jesus can and will turn water into wine?
- Why do the servants know what has happened while the master of the banquet does not?
- How did the disciples find out?
- Why weren’t they outraged as many in the Christian temperance movement might have been?
- Why are the unusually large purification jars emphasised?
- Why does only John record this remarkable event?

These questions suggest that John is inviting us to look beneath the surface. Throughout his Gospel he uses symbolism. We see this in Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman about living water and in his declaration that he is the light of the world. The miracle at Cana is not simply about Jesus’ power to perform miracles, but about what the miracle reveals.

Some scholars suggest that the wedding at Cana symbolically replaces both the Jewish purification festival and the Gentile celebrations honouring Dionysus, the Greek god of wine, which took place at about the same time. Just as Christmas came to replace the midwinter festivals of northern Europe, John may be presenting Jesus as replacing both old religious traditions. Whether or not this is John’s intention, the message is clear: Jesus brings something greater. The abundant wine and the oversized purification jars point beyond themselves to the surpassing glory of Christ. John wants his readers to recognise that Jesus is the Son of God.



The six stone jars are also significant. In Jewish symbolism, seven represents perfection, while six suggests what is incomplete. The six purification jars, therefore, point to the limitations of the law. Jesus fills what is incomplete. He does not merely improve what existed before; he fulfils it.

Jesus transformed more than 400 litres of water into wine. Since wine was normally diluted with water, this amounted to an astonishing quantity—far more than any wedding could consume. John's point is not extravagance for its own sake, but the boundless abundance of Christ's grace. No human need can exhaust it. Through Jesus, what was incomplete has become complete. Grace is inexhaustible, and in him God's kingdom has drawn near.

John's message through the wedding at Cana is that if we are to share in the new joy, the good news, and the fullness of life, we too must experience a transformation as profound as water being turned into wine.

2026 PENANG



FESTIVAL OF DREAMS

