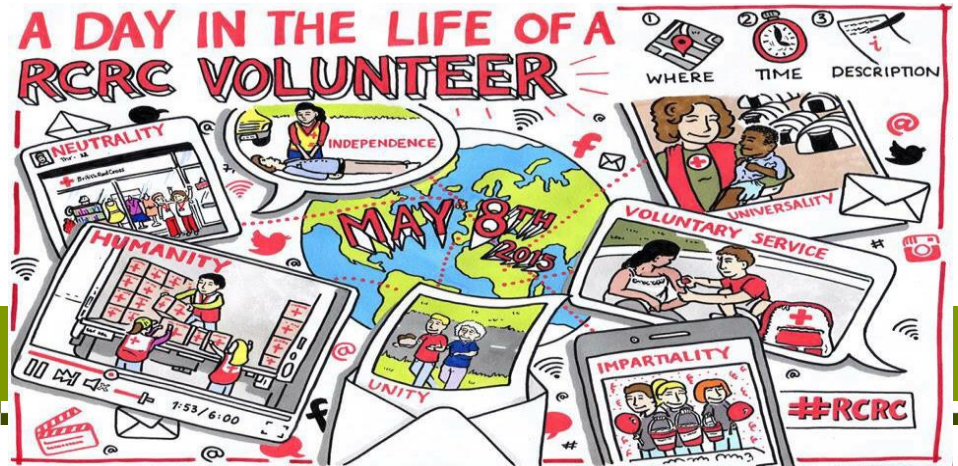




# Southeast Asia **RCRC** Youth Trends

Issue 2, 2015



## World Red Cross Red Crescent Day May the Eighth, the Dawn of Faith

Beyond another normal day on the calendar, the eighth day of every May serves to remind us all of a revolution. It is not a revolution spurred by realization of differences, but one set aflame by acknowledgment of similarities. The recognition of our common humanity. May 8th is the birthdate of Henry Dunant, the Father of today's Red Cross and Red Crescent movement worldwide.

Dunant was a Swiss businessman whose inspiration for the movement emerged from the harsh reality of the Battle of Solferino in 1859. Although he himself was born in the year 1828 and the International Committee of the Red Cross was established in 1863, the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Red Crescent movement were officially proclaimed in 1965. This makes May 8th, 2015, a very special day in history, as it marks the 50th anniversary of these principles. Fifty years ago, faith in humanity once again heightened.

Upon the arrival of this day, each National Society and its respective chapters prepared different celebrations in remembrance of all the acts of compassion in the past. This year, from north to south and east to west, National Societies unite to show their commitments to the principles through the hashtag, #ourprinciplesinaction. Using this hashtag, members of the Red Cross Red Crescent family are able to recall great volunteering moments or share ongoing celebrations.

Among the variety of experiences shared, the actions of youth in Southeast Asia are without doubt worth mentioning. For example, local chapters of the Thai Red Cross Society and the Philippines Red Cross created a mass blood donation movement, setting up several locations to be as accessible as possible for blood donors. True to the action plan of the Southeast Asia Youth Network, these National Societies are stepping up in the world of technology and social media to reach out to more donors.

**Read more to find out what SEA RC Youths do for this special occasion in Page 2!**

**Contributors:** Myanmar Red Cross Society, Philippines Red Cross Society, Singapore Red Cross Society, Thailand Red Cross Society  
**Editors:** Mohammad Zaidi Bin Ariffin (Singapore Red Cross Society), Sasinat Chindapol (Thailand Red Cross Society)

## Youth Speaks!

*Our opinions out loud*

### Youth Empowerment in Myanmar



#### YABC Peer Educator Training

YABC (Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change) Peer Educator Training was successfully carried from 5th to 9th April in Mawlamyine tsp, Mon State. 29 Red Cross youth leaders from Kachin, Kayah, Mon, Shan (South), Yangon (including SBDRR project) where most of the Red Cross humanitarian works of Community based projects implementing attended this training. YABC focus on the development of interpersonal skills to apply and live RCRC Fundamental Principles & covering themes of Personal Resilience, Empathy, Non-discrimination & respect for diversity, Social Inclusion, Non-violent communication, Gender, Critical thinking, non-judgmental & dropping bias, Collaborative negotiation, intercultural dialogue, Violence Prevention, mitigation & response.

#### Youth Leadership Training

Youth Leadership training was conducted from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Maungmaken village, Laung Lone Township, Thanitharyi Region funded by American Red Cross Society. 31 participants (Male- 16, Female-15) from Thanitharyi Region participated in this Youth Leadership Training.



### May the Eighth, the Dawn of Faith



In addition to the blood donation program, the Philippines Red Cross Youth in different branches also offered many other activities. While youth volunteers in Muntinlupa recited the Fundamental Principles to commemorate the memories of Red Cross Red Crescent and Henry Dunant, youth instructors from the Iligan Chapter provided demonstration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and recruited new members. In Cebu, youth promoted the wellbeing of individuals in the Philippines Red Cross' livelihood programs by showcasing their unique indigenous handcrafts.

On the other hand, in Davao City, Philippines, youth unite to display their trust in each other through the organization of a sports festival. The lively atmosphere strengthens their collaboration needed for their work as volunteers and as fellow humans. In a similar manner, the Singapore Red Cross hosts a magnificent carnival with the theme of "Celebrating the Spirit of Humanity." Peppered with lighthearted activities such as games, arts and crafts, dance performances, and photo booths, the carnival exudes a festive air while also highlighting the pride of being a youth volunteer. Amidst the entertainment, a moment of gravity is also brought upon by the Directors' Award, awarded to recognize a member for all their exemplary actions and contribution.

It is important to note that these are just a few examples of how some National Societies in the SEAYN and their youth expressed their gratefulness for the Seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Red Crescent movement. May 8th is truly a revolution, one inspired by the realization that we are all the same despite our perceived differences, and one that have inspired the redefinition of humanity. As long as we still remember these principles and the love it has provided us, faith in humanity will remain. After all, May the Eighth is the dawn of faith.



## Youth Leads!

*Youth taking the lead*

### The Thai Red Cross Youths Leaders



The Red Cross Youth Bureau of the Thai Red Cross Society hosted its Training for Trainers on June 23 - 25, 2015 at the Baiyoke Sky Hotel, Bangkok, with its director, Mrs. Sununtha Sornanusin, chairing the opening ceremony. The trainers participated in activities that provided them a deeper understanding of the Red Cross and the International Humanitarian Law.



During the past few months, there were also multiple training camps for youth leaders across the different provinces in Thailand. These camps aimed to strengthen the youth's knowledge on the Red Cross, the Thai Red Cross Society, the Youth Bureau and their respective origins. Through engaging in collaborative exercises, the youth becomes more familiar to the organization's bigger picture. To show that their leadership and volunteer spirit extends beyond training, the youth volunteers from the Nong Bua Lamphu province marched to raise awareness of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.



In addition, there had been a selection program for youth leaders who will represent the Thai Red Cross Society in future international exchange programs. It was held on June 12, 2015, at the National Blood Center, the Thai Red Cross Society, Bangkok.



Want to know more about SEA RCRC Youth activities and events?



## Youth Acts!

*Youth taking actions*

### Singapore Red Cross rallies youth and schools to organise 50 bloodmobile sessions this year



On 11 April 2015, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) organised A Relay to Save Lives where 50 torchbearers ran a relay to promote blood donation amongst the youth. Their efforts hope to encourage all pre-tertiary and tertiary institutions in Singapore to organise 50 bloodmobile drives throughout 2015, targeting to collect 5,000 units of blood.

Red Cross Youth (RCY), the youth arm of SRC as well as the Youth Donor Club (YDC), a youth programme under the SRC' National Blood Donor Recruitment Programme collaborated on the event to raise awareness on the importance of voluntary blood donation amongst Singaporean youths, and to encourage them to take action and donate blood.

“Blood donation is the social responsibility of each and every one of us, so it is very heartening to see youths play their part in supporting this national cause. I commend all the youths who have channeled their passion and energy into organising and supporting this initiative. I’m confident that with their drive, we will be able to collect 5,000 units of blood from pre-tertiary and tertiary institutions this year,” said Mr Benjamin William, Secretary General of SRC.

The relay was kicked off at Bloodbank@HSA by ASEAN Para games athlete, 25-year-old Suhaimi Bin Sudar. The Singapore Cerebral Palsy Football Team defender, who together with his team most recently clinched a Silver Medal at the 7th ASEAN Para Games in 2014, is an active member of YDC, serving as a blood donor, donor recruiter and bloodmobile organiser. Amongst the runners, was a delegation of SRC staff.

The relay saw the torchbearers visit Red Cross House and Bloodbank@ DhobyGhaut before culminating at Bloodbank@Woodlands where educational activities and exhibition booths were set up.

