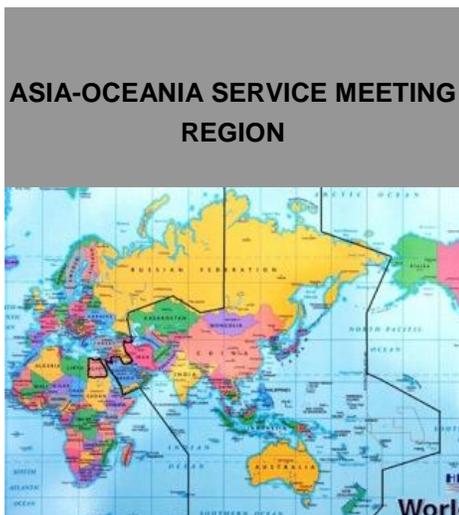


# Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM)

June 2014

AOSM Update #2



## Message from the Chair

Welcome to the second of our AOSM progress updates.

Preparations are already underway for our 11th AOSM which will be held in Dubai in the UAE from 4pm Thursday 29th October through to Sunday 1st November 2015.

The various committees are all to be thanked for their work to date. Details will be published in the next Newsletter and posted on the AOSM website.

The primary purpose of the AOSM is to carry the message...the message contained in our Big Book, that there is hope of recovery from the disease of alcoholism for those that "thoroughly" follow the path laid out.

Our challenge is to firstly bring awareness of AA to those who need it AND to those who might be in a position to influence those who need it.

Great to see the AA members in Hong Kong actively doing just that in July – organizing the trip to Mongolia mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please you are urged to let us know of any other examples, of actual ways that members have been able to "carry the message" in this vast region covered by the AOSM.

Developing relationships with non-alcoholics so that they become 'friends of AA' is a very powerful strategy in helping to carry the message. Remember that the journalist Jack Alexander that played such a big part in getting AA into the minds and hearts of alcoholics in the early days of AA was not himself an alcoholic. This is what is meant by the term 'friend of AA'.

So let us continue to encourage one another in this vital challenge of carrying the message.

John L – Australia  
Chair AOSM 2014 - 2015

## Asia Oceania Service Meeting – Statement of Purpose

The primary purpose of the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting seeks ways to accomplish this goal by providing a forum for the delegates to share the experience, strength and hope of the countries they represent and who come together from all parts of Asia and Oceania.

It can also represent an expression of the Group Conscience throughout the region and provide a link to the World Service Meeting for countries unable to be represented there.

Experience has shown that a sound service structure enables the message to be delivered more effectively. The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting encourages the planning of sound structures suited to the needs of the individual countries and the expansion of AA services to reach the alcoholic through the spoken word, literature and institutions work.

The AOSM recognises that it has no authority over any AA service or Group. The only decisions to be made by the AOSM are those which affect the meeting itself.

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# Working with others - carrying the message

June 2014

AOSM Update #2

## Snap shots - Carrying the message

### Hong Kong

The main area of focus for country-to-country sponsorship has been the number of Hong Kong AA members who are working hard to support the upcoming trip to Mongolia in July and Sept. They have had great support from other local AA members who are working to design step and tradition workshops to carry the message of recovery to Mongolia.

Their Intergroup was contacted recently by an individual in the Philippines who stated a need for financial support to help them buy literature. That request was passed by the HK Intergroup onto one of the local AA groups for follow up. That local AA groups has also been reaching out to other groups and individual AA members in the Philippines, Liberia, Sri Lanka primarily to lend their financial support to their efforts of carrying the message in those countries.

They are not 100% sure if that has been conducted through their local Intergroup or service structure, or if they have instead passed the funds to individual groups or individual AA members there, but the spirit of giving is certainly present in that work.

### Individuals can help too...

Scott from Samoa shared about a gentleman in his 80s living on Norfolk Island. He told him he moved there 30 years ago, and 25 years ago went to Australia for detox/treatment (for 9 months) and then returned to Norfolk Island with a Big Book and a 24-hour-a-day book and has been sober for 25+ years! He was joined by another AAers a few years later. He tells me a couple new arrivals to the rooms has their meeting at 5 or so. When I again ask him about email, he says "nah... maybe if I were 20 years younger." Anyone travelling to Norfolk please contact Scott for more information.

Supplied by Steve S. New Zealand

## Carrying the message, Country to Country

### New Zealand and Samoa

New Zealand is in regular contact with Samoa. Samoa now has a lunchtime meeting on Monday, Tuesday and a Friday night meeting. Auckland has the Samoan and Maori connection with Samoa enabling a cultural connection that has created a basis for ongoing support and an enduring relationship that opens the way for AA to work in new ways.

Samoa AA has also gone live with SYPE meetings every Friday - the details and logistics contact Scott A, email- [solarnaut@yahoo.com](mailto:solarnaut@yahoo.com)

A skype ID of "aainsamoa" (Apia, Samoa) has been opened and in which, if people connect to, they can be invited to their voice-only skype conference call AA meeting.

Local AA in Samoa had been taking a meeting into the prisons, but were stopped recently as there was a literal "changing of the guards".

Local AAs continue to take a meeting to the probation office (they were doing it once a week, but have scaled back to once a month). It sounds great (all in samoan), with perhaps 15/20 people many of who very much "identify". A few from prison have apparently later showed up at the probation meeting... nobody has yet shown up "on their own" at an evening meeting.

Samoa will again be hosting the 3rd Annual Samoa AA Roundup /Retreat: June 13th, 14th & 15th, in Lotofaga, on the island of Upolu.

Two years ago four from American Samoa joined six Samoans; last year 17 New Zealanders, including Samoan and Maori joined them. This year they hope more will join them. Contact email: [samoaroundup@gmail.com](mailto:samoaroundup@gmail.com)

You may reach AA in Samoa, cell number: (685) 758-9689; (skype as "aainSamoa" (Apia, Samoa)

DO YOU THINK YOUR COUNTRY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING OR JOINING THE AOSM?

CONTACT THE AOSM SECRETARY TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR COUNTRY MAY PARTICIPATE.

OR

GO TO

[WWW.AOSM-AA.ORG](http://WWW.AOSM-AA.ORG)

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AOSM AND ITS WORK.

# Work of the AOSM

June 2014

AOSM Update #2

## Planning for AOSM 2015

Due to the extreme weather conditions in Dubai and the fact that the World Convention will be held in July in Atlanta in 2015, the 11th AOSM will be held in Dubai outside of the traditional month of July.

The Dubai hosting team have been working hard planning the 11th AOSM and can now confirm the date will be from Thursday 29th October from 4pm through to Sun 1 November 2015.

The theme for 2015 is still to be confirmed. With a slight adjustment to the theme, simply to clarify/focus the theme. The original as agreed at the AOSM was:

“Carrying the Message through Public Information / Cooperating with Professional Community”.

Work is underway on the agenda for the 11th AOSM. The Committee is working with the AOSM Chair, Secretary and the Dubai Hosting team to produce a draft outline of the timing (i.e. start and finish), and possibilities for sessions to be held in between.

AOSM committee members have also been busy on improving the AOSM operating processes and forms to assist with the smooth running of the AOSMs. The teams have drafted new forms:

- AOSM Host Bidding Form
- AOSM Delegate Registration Form
- AOSM Delegate Hotel Reservation Form

We will keep you all posted on this work, and get your input as we go along!

Joanne S  
Chair Site Selection and Agenda Committee and  
Tony A Chair of the Policy, Admissions & Finance  
Committee.

## Website

Work continues on the AOSM website. It can be viewed at [www.aosm-aa.org](http://www.aosm-aa.org). The site can now be searched. Using AOSM as a search term will ensure people end up at our site.

## AOSM Finance

The work of the AOSM cannot be undertaken without financial support.

Although costs for the AOSM are minimal we'd like to thank all those that have supported us in the past and continue to do so. In particular we'd like to thank Australia, Chang Mai Group Thailand, Mongolia, New Zealand, Japan. and Russia for their much appreciated and ongoing support.

**Want to make a contribution to AOSM? Want to understand how the finances of the AOSM work? or just have a question?**

Ask the AOSM Treasurer David G @ [davidtg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davidtg@xtra.co.nz)

**“REMEMBER, WE RECOVER BY THE STEPS WE TAKE NOT THE MEETINGS WE MAKE!”**

To hear more from Ebby T follow this link to the audio files:

[HTTP://WWW.MEDIAFIRE.COM/?NWEYZFYMRWN](http://www.mediafire.com/?NWEYZFYMRWN)

## Coming up 'round the Region

- ✚ 2014 Hong Kong International Convention (date to be confirmed)
- ✚ Steppe Expedition Workshop, Ulanbatar, Mongolia. Workshop 1 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Workshop 2 Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014. For more information email: [steppeworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:steppeworkshops@gmail.com)
- ✚ Bangalore National Convention Aug 14 to Aug 17 2014 [www.aabangalore2014.in/](http://www.aabangalore2014.in/)
- ✚ Solomon Islands 1st Anniversary Celebration September 2014 (to be confirmed)
- ✚ AA Penang Malaysia Lighthouse Convention, 5 – 7 September 2014. [aapenang@gmail.com](mailto:aapenang@gmail.com)
- ✚ Round Up Angeles City 10-12 October 2014 Maharajah Hotel, Angeles City, Pampanga Philippines Email:roundupangelescocity@yahoo.com.ph
- ✚ 53<sup>rd</sup> New Zealand National Convention January 2015 Kingsgate Hotel, Wellington, New Zealand. [www.aaconvention.org.nz/](http://www.aaconvention.org.nz/)

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**Today's Paper » NATIONAL » NEW DELHI**

NEW DELHI, January 19, 2013

## New drive by Alcoholics Anonymous

Staff Reporter

Reaching out and trying to help Indian women fight alcohol addiction and abuse, an 80-member women's delegation from Australia is currently in Delhi to talk and encourage Indian women alcoholics to speak out and seek professional help.

Speaking about this bold new initiative by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), India, Hillary (who is heading the women's delegation) said: "India is seeing the same situation that Australia saw 50 years ago in terms of women who abuse alcohol coming out and seeking help. Social norms, family honour and the stigma attached to alcoholic women do not allow them to easily own up and seek help for their problem. This delegation from Australia is here mainly to tell the India women that she is not alone."

### Helpline number

Now several decades after Alcoholics Anonymous first established itself in India, the unit is aggressively reaching out to women in the country by launching a helpline number (9971255335) for women with alcohol addiction seeking help.

"Alcoholics Anonymous India currently has 30,000 members but the per cent of women using AA is dismally low," said Alcoholics Anonymous co-ordinator (India) Mr. Chand.

"It is the stigma attached to the gender that prevents alcoholic women and their family members from accessing help. In India, women rather die than admit alcohol abuse. Understanding this problem AA decided to make 'help' gender neutral and tell the Indian women that assistance is now only a phone call away," said AA member Mr. Gupta.

*\*(As requested by Alcoholics Anonymous members their real names are not used in the article). More In: [NEW DELHI](#) | [NATIONAL](#)*