

YMCA OBSERVATORY, International Edition

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This publication sent by e-mail and included in the Internet site: www.ymca.org.ar, intends to share, in short, information and ideas with the broad international world of the Young Men's Christian Association /YMCA. Only ten subjects have been selected to be shared.

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- **THE PHILIPPINES**

The typhoon that struck the Philippines and caused countless victims has saddened the entire world. The Argentine YMCA expressed its condolences to the YMCA of the Philippines and to the Asia and Pacific Alliance. Furthermore, it responded to the appeal made by the World Wide Alliance.

- **INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS AND LEADER EXCHANGE**

For 2014, the YMCA of the Republic of Argentina plans to implement internships for its professionals at the YMCAs of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, U.S.A. and possibly, the World Alliance of YMCAs. In terms of young volunteer leaders, the plan anticipates stays in the YMCAs of Vancouver, Canada, Uruguay, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Palestine. At the same time, leaders from Sao Paulo, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico will be visiting our institution.

- **RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PALESTINIAN YMCA**

Argentina's YMCA who has a strong historic commitment to Palestine is working towards, together with the sister YMCA of East Jerusalem, the strengthening of their relationship through distinctive actions. It includes an exchange of volunteer leadership in the Holy Land over an extended period.

- **MEETING OF NATIONAL SECRETARIES GENERAL IN GERMANY**

Argentine YMCA Secretary General, Norberto Rodríguez, will take part in the meeting to be held in Kassel, Germany, in February of 2014.

- **NATIONAL CONGRESS ON VALUES, CRITICAL THOUGHT AND SOCIAL NETWORK**

Four hundred and thirty (430) people gathered in the XII National Congress on Values, Critical Thought and Social Network organized by Argentina's YMCA on September 26 and 27. Its focal point was: "Meaning of justice for a full democracy". Thirty-two people, all of them important political, cultural, economic, social and religious references of our country took part as speakers. The Congress was closed by the Head of Government of the City of Buenos Aires. This is an activity of intense national impact.

- **ENTRE RÍOS BRANCH**

Argentine YMCA is consolidating its institutional presence in the province of Entre Rios. For 2014, it plans to open an educational centre, and a second branch of the YMCA's Lifeguard School - among other activities- is already operative. Both the community and the municipal authorities of the city of Concordia strongly support us. In 2013 we got a new building in an emblematic place of the city.

- **FEDERAL MEETING OF YMCA's LEADERS**

With the participation of young people from all national headquarters: two from the city of Buenos Aires, three from the Province of Buenos Aires, and also from Entre Rios and Santa Fe, Argentina's YMCA held the Federal Meeting of Leaders on November 2 and 3. It took place in the Province of Salta, the northernmost office of the national geography (1400 km away from the City of Buenos Aires). Forty youngsters, 16 of them from the province of Salta itself, participated in the meeting. It was a huge experience and opened the perspective of a permanent YMCA's presence in this territory.

- **PROGRAMME IN FAVOUR OF DIVERSITY AND AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**

The project "All voices, all experiences" is under way, aimed at promoting the value of diversity and at resisting any form of discrimination. Supported by the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI) -which is the competent Argentine government's agency- YMCA is developing this project in a zone of the Province of Buenos Aires with a high level of social vulnerability whose main population comes from the interior of the country and the neighbouring countries.

- **A TANGO FOR FRANCIS AND GREETING IN THE VATICAN**

Prestigious poets and singers have composed "A tango for Francis" in homage to His Holiness. The presentation ceremony was held on November 6, in one of the oldest and most historic convents of the City of Buenos Aires. YMCA was invited and the secretary general, Norberto Rodriguez, attended the presentation together with authorities and opinion leaders from the public and private spheres.

- **GREETINGS TO POPE FRANCIS IN THE VATICAN**

Luis M. Alman Bornes, Vicepresident of Argentina's YMCA, is the institutional representative of the Argentine chapter of the Religions For Peace Global Youth Network. In that capacity and representing YMCA, he participated in the Assembly of the organization of Religions for Peace held in Vienna on November 22 and 23. Afterwards, on November 27, he formed part of the delegation that was received by Pope Francis in public audience in Saint Peter's Square. On that occasion, he extended YMCA's greetings.
