

YMCA OBSERVATORY, International Edition

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This publication is 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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- **NEPAL**

Nepal's tragedy and the appeal made by the World Wide Alliance of YMCAs encouraged an immediate solidarity financial answer of Argentine YMCA. Anyway, nothing may mitigate the pain of so many families devastated by the earthquake.

- **MEETING OF NATIONAL SECRETARIES GENERAL**

Summoned by the World Wide Alliance of YMCAs, this international meeting was held in the Mexican YMCA Camohmila Camp, in February. Argentina's YMCA was represented by its secretary general *Norberto Rodriguez*. The hospitality of Mexican brothers and sisters was highly appreciated.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAINEESHIPS**

During 2015, four Argentine YMCA's professionals shall be taking part of international traineeships, namely: *Gustavo Rivanera*, in Mexican YMCA; *Jorge Chiariello*, in Mexican YMCA, too; *Ricardo Rondoletto*, in Peruvian YMCA and *Marcelo Díaz*, in YMCAs of the United States.

It was a pleasure receiving *Laura T. Zambrano Uribe*, young Colombian leader, in Argentina during the 2015 summer season. She worked with particular expertise in YMCA's Tourism Centres and easily incorporated into the community formed by the families, leaders and professionals of our institution.

In turn, during this year Argentine YMCA shall receive *Cristina de la Cruz*, from Mexico's YMCA.

- **POPE FRANCIS**

Argentine YMCA's secretary general, *Norberto Rodríguez*, together with his wife took part of the mass held in the morning of June 26, at the Casa Santa Marta residence in the Vatican, celebrated by *His Holiness Pope Francis*. Such opportunity was a privilege and at the end of the ceremony Mr. Rodríguez could convey YMCA's fraternal greetings to the Holy Father who extended his understanding and encouragement to our institution when he was the Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

- **ARGENTINA'S YMCA AND BID**

Recently the BID (Inter-American Development Bank) published a book exposing the experiences and knowledge gained of civil society organizations for the transition of young people, linking education and work. One of the institutions included there is Argentina's YMCA. The institution showed part of its experience through the centres of professional education located in its Avellaneda and La Matanza bases, respectively, both in the Province of Buenos Aires.

- ***YOUTH PEACE NETWORK***

Once again, in 2015, Argentina's YMCA is taking part in this programme of the YMCA of Vancouver, Canada, always open and generous. The national representative this year is *Lara Gallicchio*, a volunteer leader.

- ***PALESTINE***

Like every year, Argentine YMCA will take part of the programme "Journey for Justice" of the Palestinian YMCA. The institutional representation rests on a young volunteer leader: *Maximiliano Cacace*. For Argentina's YMCA this programme represents a source of learning and an opportunity of exposing adhesion to peace within a frame of justice.

- ***RELATION OF ARGENTINE YMCA WITH EUROPEAN YMCAs***

The relations with European YMCAs are still a priority for Argentina's YMCA. In that sense, the European Alliance of YMCAs' support is essential. In March, we received in Buenos Aires *Noa Leach*, from England, for a short visit. Argentine, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese YMCAs subscribed a quadripartite agreement. During July and part of August, a young volunteer leader of Argentina's YMCA, *Jimena Jáuregui*, shall visit Armenian YMCA for a coaching on camps and work with youngsters. In November, *Mario Cenci*, executive of Leadership and Communications of Argentine YMCA, shall attend the meeting of secretaries general of European YMCAs in Italy. Afterwards, he will visit Portugal's and Spain's YMCAs.

- ***INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE***

During this year, Argentina's YMCA invited the authorities of the Islamic Centre of the Republic of Argentina to a meeting with the Board of Directors. Afterwards, on June 15, the Islamic entity did the same and invited YMCA's authorities to its headquarters where a fraternal lunch was held, and a warm exchange was achieved. A tray with the following inscription was given to the Islamic entity: "To the Islamic Centre of the Republic of Argentina in testimony of friendship and cooperation." From its lay identity, inter-religious dialogue is one of Argentine YMCA's priorities as systematic advocate of open-mindedness, diversity and pluralism in all spheres of human activity. Within this frame, religions and their history occupy nowadays a significant role.

Likewise, on May 4 Argentine YMCA summoned AMIA (Argentine-Israelite Mutual Association)'s authorities and held an important meeting in its head offices. AMIA, an institution that suffered a bloody attack in 1994, in Buenos Aires, was represented by its president, Leonardo Jmelnitzky, its secretary general, Mario Sobol, and its executive director, Daniel Pomerantz. It was a significantly important meeting because of its open-mindedness and warmth and of the density of the subjects presented. Argentine YMCA has and strategic alliance with AMIA in order to develop common programmes aimed at the strengthening of values through specific actions in favour of people.

- ***PRIZE "YMCA: CITIZENSHIP AND VALUES"***

On June 4, within the frame of the 171 anniversary of YMCA at international level, Argentina's YMCA granted its annual award "YMCA: Citizenship and Values", eleventh edition. In 2015 it was awarded to a social organization that works in a very poor shantytown: the "*Margarita Barrientos Foundation*". The price award took place in the auditorium of the Stock Exchange of Buenos Aires and was attended by a numerous audience and representatives of our country's political, social and cultural life, among them, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize, whose "SERPAJ" foundation received the same award in 2014.

