



## The Annual Report of the Asia Pacific Baptist Aid

(For the year ended Dec.31, 2011)

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Overall co-ordination of APBAid works carried out by Kabi Gangmei, Director and Les Fussell, Chair of APBAid Committee

Greetings! Praise and honour to God for his provision and guidance to sustain us through the year 2011. We express thanks to all the donors and Churches who contributed generously to APBAid ministry to continue. Once more it's privilege for me to present report on APBAid activities during the year.

### **Staff, office and official travels**

We are glad to have a new staff member, Feraz Legita, former Director of Development ministries in CPBC, Philippines, who joined us as Associate Director from Sept 1, 2011. Since her appointment she has been working hard to get involved in relief and development initiatives in her country, and she had attended training under Micah Network in Sri Lanka.

We, as a relief & development organization, had an exciting consultation on Sep 23-26, 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. Not only did we have warm fellowship among the staff, we were led through to review and develop the APBAid strategic document which will guide us in our tasks over the next three years. It is good that we conduct such consultation from time to time so that we sharpen our focus.

During the year, I spent 85 days on official travels – mostly on project visits and planning sessions with the partners, relief initiatives, trainings and consultancy work. I had the opportunity to attend the BWA Annual Gathering in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 4-9, 2011. I met with several leaders of Baptist Churches from different countries and was refreshed by the issues and new initiatives raised. Sushil, my colleague also spent 94 days on official travel. He attended a training - 'Agriculture & Community Development' - on Oct 3-7, 2011 conducted by ECHO-Asia and supervised projects in India and Myanmar.

### **Finance**

I would like to thank Allan Smith, the APBAid Treasurer, who has been looking after the accounts and helping the office in receiving and disbursing the funds. He has prepared the details of the financial report separately. APBAid total receipt for the year was US \$364,255 and we spent \$389,340. A quarter of the total receipt was for Japan tsunami relief. By the end of 2011 we had a balance of \$285.651 against varied heads of accounts (along with the balance from the previous years).

### **Interactive website for APBAid**

We have been working with WebCom, Guwahati (India) on the development of interactive website for APBAid. By year-end, the website development was near completed and our staff met WebCom in-charge to finalize the launch-out. With a good communication system we'll be able to constantly interact with the partners.

## **Emergency Reliefs**

In 2010 we started the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) with the objective of helping Churches in the region respond to the need arising out of disasters. We continued this good effort and in 2011 we were able to help over 2000 families. The followings are the reliefs and emergency situations for which APBAid supported projects:-

1. BBCF Flood Relief, Bangladesh with estimated costs of \$9,000: Bangladesh experienced extensive damages from monsoon flood, and BWAid & APBAid granted \$6,000 and \$3,000 respectively to help 1050 families with foodstuff.
2. LCSBC Typhoon Megi Relief, Philippines with \$22,100: With the grants from APBAid and BWAid (\$7,000 and \$15,100 respectively) a crops assistance scheme was launched to help 44 farmers with rice seed and fertilizers.
3. Kachin IDPs with \$8,500: On June 9, 2011 violence between Government forces and Kachin rebels resumed and about 45,000 people were displaced. APBAid gave \$4000 from its own ERF while ABC granted the rest to help those internal displaced persons (IDPs) with foodstuff distribution in 3 temporary camps.
4. Cyclone Giri Relief Response with \$22,000: This relief was the continuation from 2010. Some 5832 persons in 12 villages (Rakhine state of Myanmar) were helped with foodstuff distribution and water & sanitation schemes. APBAid gave \$4000 while BWAid and ABC granted the rest.
5. Eastern Shan State earthquake relief, Myanmar with \$5000: This relief was the continuation from 2010, and APBAid joined multiple donors to help Mekong Minority Foundation (MMF) to cover 1328 people in 26 villages.

## **Japan earthquake and tsunami relief**

Japan's earthquake & tsunami on March 11th swept over 125,000 homes and some 20,425 lives were lost or missing. The disaster aftermath became complicated with difficulty arising out of radiation leak from the Fukushima power plant. APBAid worked hard with the leaders of Japan Baptist Convention and Japan Baptist Union who did their best in responding to the need on the ground. APBAid received a total of \$124,086, of which \$80,000 was sent to JBC and JBU. We were also able to organize Baptist Roundtable Summit on Sept 30-Oct 1, 2011 in Tokyo, in which 34 delegates from different Baptist bodies from around the world attended it.

## **DRM – Capacity Building**

A 3-day DRM training was conducted in Ho Chi Minh City for the benefit of Baptists in Vietnam, a country that experiences an annual cycle of floods, typhoon and tidal waves. Fifty Church leaders from Baptist Churches of Vietnam (BCV) and Vietnam Baptist Convention (VBC) attended the training. There were 6 women delegates and also 3 delegates from the minority communities, i.e., Jarai and Hmong. The training was supported with a grant of \$5000 from BMS.

## **Project Activities**

### **1. Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar**

After completion of the first group of 4 projects there was a review conducted with the representatives of MBC-CSSDD and partners on Aug 8, 2011. It was decided that a 2nd

group of 4 projects with estimated costs of \$100,000 be implemented. Accordingly APBAid and ABC supported one project each while BWAid supported 2 projects. Fifty percent of the funds required for the projects has been released to the partners in Myanmar.

## **2. Emerald Hope Project, Andaman**

A joint project of APBAid and NBCC, and funded by BWAid, EHP-II was formulated as the second phase of tsunami related effort to improve the economic status of the poor women in Andaman Islands. The project kick started in June 2010 and now it has entered into the 2nd year of the 3 year of project. With the estimated costs of \$116,906 the project is working among 180 women through 20 SHGs. Already 7 trainings in capacity building of the groups in such areas as account keeping, livestock rearing, pickle making have been done.

## **3. Orissa Relief**

APBAid initiated recovery-cum-development project in Orissa after the violence against Christians in August 2008 through support from BWAA, BMS, Five-Ten Foundation (Korea) and nine Baptist Churches in North East India. The initial relief effort of foodstuff, clothes and blankets covered over 1800 families in 90 villages with. Other outcomes of the project were - 7 ring wells and 1 water pipe system at Lailai to cover over affected 1000 families; 11 community halls-cum-churches for 225 households; and roofing materials to 21 village churches. A Legal Aid and Counselling Seminar was conducted for 56 pastors, leaders, village elders and social workers, and finally an interfaith meet was organized in which 30 representatives from various religious groups (Vishwa Hindu Parishad, RSS, Brahma Samaj, Sikh, Tribal Community, Islam and Baptist groups) attended it.

## **4. Typhoon-Ondoy Recovery II, Philippines**

In September 2009, three typhoons wrecked havoc to the northern parts of Philippines, APBAid with LCSBC lunched out a recovery project worth \$30,000. It built a typhoon shelter, reconstructs 30 homes and assisted 80 farmers to replant their crops. The project was near completed, then on October 29, 2010 typhoon Megi struck the same area again and those farmer beneficiaries suffered again the same destruction of crop. In order to help the farmers APBAid with LCSBC initiated a fresh crop assistance scheme to help 44 farmers with rice seed and fertilizers. Funding was provided by APBAid (\$7,000) and BWAid (\$15,100).

## **5. Sumatra Earthquake Recovery, Indonesia**

In September, 2009 a powerful earthquake struck West Sumatra and caused liquefaction of soils resulting in destruction of 115,000 homes and 1,117 lost their lives. In response to the need APBAid working with UIBC launched a recovery project costing \$89,537 (of which BWAid contributed \$52,537, APBAid shared \$17,000 and CBF \$7,500) to build 2 schools and conduct DRR programs. While the implementation was in progress another earthquake struck the same area on Oct 25, 2010 leaving behind 154 deaths, 400 missing and 4000 families homeless. The project was revised and a proposal has been re-submitted.

## **Partnership with Baptist bodies**

1. We continue to assist BWAid in assessing and monitoring relief and development projects in India and South East Asia.

2. We, as consultants assist Baptist Union of Norway (BUN) in monitoring Lydia Project in Mizoram. The project focuses on to help Chin migrants by developing SHGs and credit scheme.
3. We assist European Baptist Mission (EBM) as a Regional Representative to help supervise some 48 projects they support in India. In doing so I attended and conducted a Partners' meeting on January 11-12, 2011 at Nellore, South India.
4. Other partnership: we are actively engaging with IMB-ABC, CBF and BMS.

### **Conclusion**

We were able to link up with the Churches in Vietnam through DRM, and through relief we deepen relationship with Churches in Japan and Philippines. It has been great challenge to work with Churches across the region. Doing that I learnt a great deal.

I remain thankful to the support and encouragement of Les Fussell, Bonny Resu and Allan Smith in the APBAid Committee who give every support in the work. I would also express thanks to my colleagues Sushil and Feraz who continue to work hard with me to achieve the task given to us.

Rev. Kabi Gangmei  
Director, APBAid

Date: Jan 17, 2012