



**27th Asia-Pacific Regional
Scout Conference**
15-21 February 2022

*Adapting to a
Changing World*

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**Welcome Address by Chairman,
APR Scout Committee**

Welcome Message at Opening Ceremony
Ahmad Rusdi
Chairman, Regional Scout Committee

Greetings to Scouts and Leaders who are joining us as delegates, observers, guests, world and regional committee members, World Scout Bureau staff – and to those joining us through livestreaming.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 27th APR Scout Conference! After months of preparing for this event, we are finally opening the Conference. Today, we welcome 30 NSOs represented at this Conference.

It is gratifying to mention that many NSOs have heeded the call to include young people under 30 in their delegations. More female participants are also part of the delegations. This shows much improvement in opening our conference doors for more balance in age and gender, and to be as diverse and inclusive as possible.

We acknowledge our colleagues from the World Scout Committee who, for some, may be attending the APR Conference for the first time. Our experience from the World Scout Conference last year gave us practical learnings especially in using digital platforms to connect and make decisions at this conference.

We thank our colleagues at the World Scout Bureau/ Global Support Centre for their guidance and strong support in providing training in using the digital platforms. We thank our volunteers who have devoted time to prepare the delivery of this conference – the presiding officers, Resolutions Committee, Conference Tellers and emcees. And of course, the representatives from National Scout Organizations who joined the orientation on using the eVoting system.

So let's bear in mind that we have different roles at this conference and we are adjusting to this new system of delivery – technically and in terms of program content and procedures. We are having very good attendance via zoom. We remain strong, united and engaged despite the health challenge that is physically separating us.

The recently concluded 10th APR Youth Forum is full of inspiration and aspiration. Youth Forum participants delivered recommendations on how to make youth engagement and participation more meaningful and useful. They also discussed about youth leadership, environmental sustainability and rebranding of Scouting.

This only shows that we have a lot to aspire for in the next triennium. There is always work to do, improvements to make, and we must do this with open mindedness and willingness build on from one triennium to another.

At this conference, there will be sessions to encourage sharing and learning from best practices and challenges, and to always aspire for a better future of Scouting.

I welcome you all and together, let's have a meaningful conference!