



## 10<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree Golden Anniversary Reunion

The 10<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree was held in 1959 and was hosted by the Philippines at Mt. Makiling, Los Banos, Laguna. It was the first world jamboree in the Far East and was attended by over 12,000 Scouts from 44 countries. In those old days it was a golden opportunity for Scouts all over the world to gather together and at the same it represented an event of the East meeting the West. The Boy Scout Association, Hong Kong Branch sent a strong contingent of 62 members led by Mr. TSE Ping-fui, District Commissioner (Victoria). The Contingent consisted of 38 youth members and 24 adult leaders and I was one of the young leaders. The 10-days (17-26 July) fun filled, exciting and impressive camp life was too soon over and we returned home with a lot of life time memories.

After 50 long years, it happened that the 26<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Jamboree was held on the same site as the 10<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree. So the Asia Pacific Regional Director and the Boy Scout of Philippines Secretary General jointly organized a Jamboree Reunion for the 10<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in 1959 at Mt. Makiling to celebrate its golden anniversary on 29 December 2009. The Scout Association of Hong Kong appointed TSE Ping-fui as the Reunion Contingent leader again. He was assisted by myself and the International Commissioner Mr. Alex WONG. We had tried very hard to locate as many as possible Scouts and leaders who had participated the 10<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree. As a result, some 20 people were contacted but only 7 were able to attend. They were TSE Ping-fui, LEE Kui-nang, Oswald LIM, James CHAN Yick-chung, Patrick WONG Woon-cheung, Peter CHOW Charm-chiu and WONG Shiu-kwong. However, the Reunion members are now in their 70s and 80s and there should be accompanying persons to take care of them. After negotiating with the Jamboree Authority by Alex, our contingent consisted of a total of 19 members.

We arrived in the Philippines on 27 December and were greeted by the Jamboree staff at Manila International Airport. We were taken to the Grand Villa Resort nestled in a luxurious natural park and not far away from the Jamboree site. A shuttle bus was there at our disposal. We enjoyed the rest of the day and the next morning at leisure. In the afternoon we attended the opening ceremony of the 26<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Scout Jamboree. The whole ceremony was conducted



by the youth members of the BSP. One youth member from each contingent came up to the stage to address the crowd on behalf of his/her own Scout Association. The opening ceremony ended with the display of beautiful firework. The Camp Chief, Hon. Jejomar C. Binay, Chairman, APR Committee and Mayor of the City of Makati hosted a welcome dinner for all the reunion participants

The Golden Anniversary Reunion activities started on 29 December 2009 at 10 a.m. in the newly built administrative building in Mt. Makiling Scout Camp Centre. The reunion party consisted of 36 but only 19 were Jamboree participants. They came all the way from Japan, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and including the Philippines despite their old age which varied from 70 to 90 years. The ceremony was simple but meaningful and memorable. It started with a short film show of the activities of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree which brought us back to the memory lane 50 years ago. It provided us with a forum to talk about our good old days in Makiling. Then the presentation and exchange souvenirs followed by signing the names of all the Jamboree participants on a jamboree program banner of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree and sang the Jamboree Song. We were told that this banner will be placed in the Scout Museum of the BSP. After lunch, we were taken on a tour to visit the old campsites which were completely different from what they used to be. The only site that we could identify was the 10<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree totem pole site where we unveiled the golden anniversary reunion plate with the names of the participants engraved on the memorial stone. We also paid a visit to some of the 26<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Jamboree campsites and were greeted by Scouts from Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Korea, and of course the Philippines. Our reunion program ended with a dinner gathering of



all the Top Achiever Scouts (ATAS) of which Alex is the Director of Membership. In the shuttle bus on our way back to the Grand Villa we sang almost all the familiar Scout songs all the way in high spirit. Although signs of good old age are inevitable, one thing does not change is the Scouting spirit and our love for Scouting.

I would like to thank Alex to offer his excellent service to his seniors. With his good relationship with the BSP and the Asia Pacific Regional Committee, we were treated as honored guests and felt very much at home during the whole period of our stay in the Philippines. ❀