

The Link



St John
International

Sharing news from St John International

Hello,

Welcome to our winter newsletter.

As we approach the end of 2014, we are delighted to say St John has had an outstanding year. Please read on for an update of what has been happening over the past couple of months.

From everyone at St John International, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and successful new year!

The Installation of the Lord Prior - The Honorable Dr Neil Conn AO

On Wednesday 5th November, Dr Neil Conn AO was installed as the 17th Lord Prior by the Grand Prior His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester. The Lord Prior is the third most senior individual within the Order, under the Sovereign Head the Queen, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

The Installation took place in the Priory Church of the Order of St John in London in the presence of representatives from St John priories and associations from around the world.

In his address to the congregation, Dr Conn spoke of the notion of One St John which will represent the international federation of groups, individuals, paid staff, members, and volunteers who work in synergy in the service of humanity and to help those in need. Dr Conn also pledged to lead, protect, and build One St John in the coming years, in order for our organisation to reach and help more people.



Installation of Dr Neil Conn AO

To read more, hear Dr Conn's speech and to watch the coverage, visit:

<http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/the-installation-of-our-new-lord-prior>

St John Fiji celebrates 75th anniversary

In late October, over 200 St John Fiji cadets from the Central Division attended the 75th anniversary celebrations including Chief Guest President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau which he says he is proud to be a patron of the St John Fiji.



President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau cutting cake

He mentions: *"St John's Fiji has had a distinguished history and today I make the challenge to you, the current and future St John members to make the next 25 years as historic or even more memorable than the last 75 years."*

"I also call on the St John's Fiji to strengthen your ties with all stakeholders including government in order to consolidate all our efforts and to share resources so that we can collectively achieve a greater impact in the provision of services to all Fijians."

The celebration started with a march from the Suva Flea Market and finished in Albert Park where the celebration service was held.

Mother and Baby Programme gives hope to thousands of lives in Africa



St John Malawi volunteers

We are delighted to announce the Mother and Baby Programme (Mama na Mwana) was launched in November. With a grant of £257,365 awarded from the Big Lottery Fund to support the programme starting in Malawi and Zambia.

This low cost, high impact programme relies on community volunteers and will help to improve community healthcare especially for mothers and babies in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Volunteers will be trained in topics such as basic hygiene, planning for birth, danger signs during pregnancy, maintaining temperature in newborns, cord care, post natal care needs and risks. With the acquired knowledge and skills, the volunteers will carry out home visits to thousands of households to educate and give advice to women as well as men about the importance of maternal and newborn health.

The issues surrounding maternal and newborn health is one of the key priorities in the meeting in the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015.

"The reduction of the horrendous death rates amongst Mothers and Babies was set as a Millennium Goal. Huge strides have been made and the St John programme will be another significant step along the way," said Sir Paul Lambert, Secretary General of St John International.



Sir Paul Lambert with nurses

To read the full coverage, visit: <http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/the-mother-and-baby-programme>

Helping those in need of first aid during protest

During October, Hong Kong has experienced serious protests at some major sites in Hong Kong where thousands of protesters have blocked the roads and paralyse traffic in these areas.

Some of the protests have not been without violence occurring, and Hong Kong St John Ambulance Brigade has set up first aid station in Mongkok, Kowloon. Volunteers have dedicated their time to helping people who are injured and in need of first aid.

An Order of St John spokesperson said:

"St John has a reputation around the world for treating anyone in need without any discrimination. St John Hong Kong is applauded for conducting its work in the most difficult of circumstances."



A very warm welcome to our new Programme Officer

Sylvia Chopamba has recently moved to London to join St John International as the new Programme Officer. Before this, she worked for 7 years for Afya Mzuri, an NGO whose mission is to contribute to the Zambian national health response through empowering people and communities. At Afya Mzuri, Sylvia worked in different posts both in the field and the Lusaka office, and most recently she was the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager. So from everyone at St John International, we like to welcome Sylvia!

Australian International St John Cadet Camp

One of the highlights of 2014 was the International Cadet Camp (ICC) hosted in Sydney Australia in January. The event was attended by representatives from Wales, Singapore, South Africa, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Canada, and from the regions of Australia.



As well as having a competitive element, the camp was also an opportunity for international cooperation, and a chance to share knowledge and develop the St John family. Cadets were split into teams and assessed on their abilities in clinical simulations, drilling exercises, and also their presentation and verbal communication skills.

Activities included delivering a presentation on how St John operates within the cadet's country, guiding a blindfolded person through the undertaking of day to day tasks, a television interview with ICC Chief Operating Officer Paul Compton, and most importantly first aid simulation exercises.

Speaking about the ICC 2014, South African Cadet Kim said *"My Australia trip was one of the best experiences of my life where I have learnt so much and made new friends. I learnt about delivering first aid and homecare 'Aussie Style', and am also now a more confident public speaker. I am thankful to St John for giving me such a great opportunity."*

The event host, Mr Paul Compton said: *"It was an absolute pleasure to host the countries that were involved in ICC 2014. For months prior to the event names in my address book were just my fellow St John people; but now those names have got faces put them, and they are now friends."*

ICC 2014 Australia was a real accomplishment in international collaboration. This success will serve as a catalyst for the development of young St John people around the world, and for the development of future ICC events, including ICC 2016 Hong Kong.

To express an interest in participating in ICC 2016 Hong Kong contact the St John Hong Kong Youth Secretary by emailing: ys@stjohn.org.hk

St John Ambulance Jamaica marks 115 years of service



Earl Jarrett, Chairman (centre) and Alison Christie Binger, Executive Director of St John Ambulance Jamaica with British High Commissioner to Jamaica HE, David Fitton.

Last month, St John Ambulance Jamaica celebrated its 115th anniversary. They have had a very proud record of service providing people with first aid knowledge and skills, and rendering aid especially in times of national disasters and even aiding some of the Caribbean neighbours during their times of distress.

Chairman Earl Jarrett, noted St John Jamaica will be undertaking a range of initiatives. These include the upgrading of the fleet of ambulances, the expansion of its volunteer corps and the number of emergency medical technicians; first aid training interventions, and a range of outreach programmes to assist vulnerable, marginalised and at risk groups and communities especially children and the elderly.

"We are serious about creating safer homes, schools, roads work, and other public places. We plan to make a considerable dent on the spiraling medical and infrastructural expenses caused as a result of accidents and medical emergencies by equipping our people with the requisite first aid and home nursing care knowledge and skills so they can better help themselves and or render assistance to others as needed," said Mr Jarrett.

Jamaica is listed among the countries with the highest road crash rates and fatalities in the Caribbean region with over 220 fatalities recorded since the start of the year. Mr Jarrett added that St John Jamaica will be working more closely with the National Road Safety Council and the Jamaica Automobile Association to promote road safety and potentially save lives.

Youth Exchange Programme between St John Ambulance New Zealand and Malaysia

In August, more than 30 cadets and St John leaders from Malaysia attended the Youth Exchange Programme held in Nelson, New Zealand.

The programme was an opportunity to exchange knowledge and skills about first aid and home nursing, management of youth development department, and allowed the young cadets from Malaysia to experience New Zealand's culture.



Ryan Chong, a teacher/adviser and area secretary for St John in Kuantan, said New Zealand had a very good ambulance service, and it was a "wonderful place".

Similar to St John New Zealand, St John Malaysia also teach first aid skills to people aged 13 to 16 and ambulance duties for those aged 17 and over. The country has a "huge" volunteer network, Chong said.

St John district youth manager, Lorna Evans said the visit was part of a planned exchange programme she hoped would lead to a reciprocal visit by New Zealand cadets to Malaysia.

"It's the first time we have hosted them. I was approached about it at the end of last year. "It's our hope that a contingent from here will go to Malaysia," Evans said. She said the guests were happy to learn from St John in New Zealand, and how it handled training.

To read more, visit: <http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/youth-exchange-programme>

A Christmas message from the Lord Prior - Dr Neil Conn AO

As we come to the end of the year, we reflect on the many achievements throughout 2014.

The biggest achievement is St John around the world having treated over 1 and half million people in 41 countries.

So we like to say thank you to all staff and volunteers and wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Visit <http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/a-christmas-message-from-the-lord-prior> to see the video.

Upcoming Event Dates

24th February - OHAC
Investiture and Installation of the Chancellor (London)

26th February - Steering Committee

1st March - Inauguration of Hong Kong Priory

2nd -3rd March - Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (Hong Kong)

21st March - Committee on the Orders of St John (London)

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in the Link newsletter or you would like information on any of the news featured in this edition, please email Chiao at:
chiao.kwan@orderofstjohn.org



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