



Address by the New Chairperson **of the World Scout Committee**

Simon Hang-Bock RHEE, Chairman of the World Scout Committee (January 14th, 2011)

Dear Scout sisters and brothers,

I stand before you as a Scout. I stand before you as the newly elected Chairman of the World Scout Committee.

1. Word of Appreciation

As a Scout, I would first like to pay my respect and appreciation to the Scout Leaders of every troop in our global community, who volunteer without pay or reward, and are committed to develop leading global citizens of our future. Without your dedication, the Scout Movement is a weak cause. You are what makes the Scout cause possible today.

I would also like to express my appreciation to those who have chosen to see me as your Chairman today. I thank and congratulate each national delegate and every participant at this conference, for being a witness to the formation of a great new committee.

I should mention a special thanks to our out-going Chairman, Rick Cronk, as well as every member of this past World Scout Committee, who have shared the endeavor to strengthen our Movement these past 3 years. Not to be forgotten, I express gratitude to our 6 Regional Chairmen, 5 Youth Advisors, our Secretary General Luc Pannissod, as well as each and every professional staff, most especially our 6 Regional Directors.

Mostly, I am grateful to the World Scout Foundation for their active Scouting in collaboration with WOSM, the efforts by the 5 Regional Scout Foundations, Kandersteg International Scout Center, and the 8 Consultative Status Organizations.

Thank you.

2. Rebuilding the WOSM Bridge

At this point, we should mention our former Chairman, Rick Cronk's dedication once again.

During his term as Chairman, Rick succeeded in creating a new foundation for Scouting. With the now famous upside-down pyramid structure, he has succeeded in re-defining the roles of those who work for each scout and troop leader in our global community. The responsibilities of the Regional Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau's Regional office stand clear. And at the bottom of the pyramid, the duties of the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau are also clear.

Rick also adopted a more transparent procedure to select the secretary general, by asking for the opinion of our 160 member countries, and involving all NSOs to appoint the most suitable person out of the 79 candidates. This procedure shall be carried out with appropriate efficiency and transparency in the future.

The list would be endless if I were to state all contributions by this past committee led by Rick, and the efforts by the Bureau led by Luc. Including a practical solution to the Picarquin situation, they have achieved specific results in the last 3 years.

But most importantly, Rick and his team have rebuilt the WOSM bridge between the governing bodies of Scouting. A multitude of bridges exist between the World Scout Committee, the World Scout Bureau, the 6 Regional Offices, and all NSOs. In particular, a democratic and sturdy bridge exists with the World Scout Foundation. It is a circular bridge that connects each and every one of us on this same path.

3. A Pledge for Transparency and Action

- Relocation Study for Our Central Office

In light of the successes and ordeals mentioned, our new committee should pledge to first solve one unfinished business of the past committee. I insist that our new governing body will get down to action as soon as possible. The Movement calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act.

The new committee shall re-embark on an official 'relocation study' of the World Scout Bureau's central office. As reported by our friend Luc, this shall be executed under proper consultation from outside professionals. A formal Request for Proposal shall be sent to each country and 5 to 6 candidate cities shall be nominated on an application basis. If agreed upon within the World Scout Committee, our committee meetings shall be held at these candidate cities over the next 3 years. The committee plans on experiencing first-hand, the feasibility of each nomination and shall report back our results at the next Conference in Slovenia.

We shall of course, study the pros and cons of moving the Geneva office, as well as the benefits and doubts of constructing a new World Scout Center. For I promise you, that our member countries shall witness exemplary transparency throughout these actions.

4. The New Committee's Challenge - Communication is Key

In the next three and a half years, I challenge my team and you all to be more transparent through communication and sharing. I challenge you all to work closely with the whole committee, all of whom are assets of their own culture, tradition, and Scouting experience.

I intend to have my own secretariat communicate regularly with a periodic letter, the 'Chairman's Update'. Join me to ensure effective communication is a two way street. If not myself, regularly contact the 6 Regional Chairpersons, Youth Advisors, and Regional Directors.

I assure you I will work very closely with the Secretary General, to expand the bureau's capacity, initially in the regions and at the central level, in order to serve the Movement better. The question we ask today is not who the Movement is run by, but whether it works efficiently enough. I understand the current over-taxing of our professional staff. I challenge myself to find ways in close collaboration with the Secretary General to seek an efficient solution to this managerial problem.

I challenge the new committee to find better working arrangements for our volunteer committee members by establishing more professional and corporate-like structures that can better serve the needs and growth of the Movement. This structure should be linked to their counter parts in

the region that have and feel the pulse of the Movement. To serve efficiently and transparently, close communication is a must.

5. Customization - An Innovative Answer to Efficiency.

Let us assess our current state. Is the Scouting Movement today, truly more successful in implementing and spreading its core values, in comparison to ten years ago, fifty years ago, and when Lord Baden Powell first inaugurated Scouting?

As conceived by Baden Powell's Scout Promise and Law, today's Scouting should be developed in the culture appropriate to the situation of each NSO. I believe the utmost crucial element to mature and succeed lies in actual development and application of programs that are wanted by our youths, programs yearned for from their hearts. I am sure in the next few years, we will reap success in a more efficient manner by applying valuable lessons learned from actively developed countries of Scouting, to countries with relatively lower "Gross National Scouting." The world has changed, and we must change with it. Remember that we are Leaders of Innovation.

In order to do so, more NSOs should engage themselves in even more active and openly communicated Scout Exchange Programs. And for this, the World Scout Committee shall continue our efforts to develop programs that are more customized, and thus more efficient and effective for each country.

6. Join Me. Be Active. Be A Proud Scout.

Our challenges are real. There are many obstacles to overcome. But know this, my fellow brothers and sisters in Scouting, they will be met. The core Scouting strength still persists. The solution lies within the determination of you all. We must proudly continue, and advance the work to grow the Scout Movement.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of International Volunteers' Year. Your dedication inspires many. Your inspiration changes lives every day. We are ready to work once more. What is required now is a new era of efficiency and communication. As your new Chairman, I ask of you to 'Paddle Your Own Canoe'; but we can paddle together.

Thanks to the previous committee, we have our tasks defined. Thanks to the resolutions of earlier this morning, we have guidelines to further develop the Cause, the Strategy, the Leadership, Educational Method, Scouting Profile and external relationships.

I am humbled by the task before me, grateful for the trust you have given me, and mindful of the values set before me by the Founder of the Scout Movement. Your decision has given me and our new committee duties to fulfill and we will act.

We have struggled for better Scouting. We saw the Scout Movement as bigger than the sum of our individual parts and national aspirations; greater than all the difference of our cultures. Today we continue this journey. The World Organization of the Scout Movement remains the most recognized voluntary, non-partisan educational movement for young people. We have witnessed even within this conference, noble and worthy support of leaders like you, who can make a difference to this Movement. On behalf of the World Scout Committee, I thank you for your efforts in this global Movement. We thank you for the real contributions to creating a better world. We ask of you fellow brothers and sisters in Scouting to join us. Join us as true Scouts. Communicate more, share more, and open up a transparent clear future for our younger generations. We challenge you to become an active messenger of peace, a delegate of your country to our new committee. We challenge you to more action. We expect to hear from you, and listen to each and every one of you before Slovenia.

I stand before you as the new Chairman of the World Scout Committee. I stand before you as a Scout. Join me as true and proud Scouts in creating a better world for our young people.

Thank you and may God bless you all.