
GISELLA GRUBER: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. We'd like to welcome everyone on today's APRALO leadership preparation call for Singapore on Tuesday, the 24th of November at 04:30 UTC.

On today's call, we have Bikram Shrestha, Satish Babu, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, and Siranush Vardanyan.

We have apologies noted from Maureen Hilyard and Holly Raiche.

From staff, we have Silvia Vivanco, Ariel Liang, Heidi Ullrich, Kelvin Wong; and myself, Gisella Gruber.

If I could also please remind everyone to state their names when speaking for transcript purposes. Also, the APRALO monthly call will start in 25 minutes, so if you can just bear that in mind when we do end the call. Thank you. Over to you, Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Gisella. Can I just check who is [inaudible], if this is the same person in Adobe space?

GISELLA GRUBER: Siranush, sorry to interrupt. We have the interpreters who have already logged in and who are on the audio line ready to start the next call.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, thank you very much. Just checking. Welcome to this very morning for me session. We are going to discuss our showcase for 25 minutes. I will start with good news that, based on this indication which Kuek sent to the [inaudible], it's called. The name of the school I guess. We'll check through Heidi.

It is in Malaysia and they agreed to send their [troupe] for dikir barat performance and they will cover all their expenses, so we will put this in our budget as [co-chair] from the school. So this is good news.

The second good news just received in from [Pavan], who [inaudible] for joining this morning's call but he will join to the monthly call, that like last year's Singapore showcase, .asia also will be ready to support for our [inaudible]. So this is two good news.

Let's move forward with the items which Ariel posted. There are a couple of very good stuff there, and we need to come up with the final decision what we want to have a giveaway and come up with the final numbers for budget. Yes, and also received the [inaudible] budget from Gisella. Thank you, Gisella, for sending this out.

Any suggestions on the promotional items? I counted the budget in the Wiki space, and in general, if we take lanyards, [gold chips], [talismans], red lanterns and also the Chinese telegraphy demonstration workshop, then also – no, if we have red envelopes with edging gold paint patterns, lanyards, [gold chips], [talismans] and Chinese calligraphy this workshop, then all together we will need \$1913 US dollars. That's not bad. Yes, I'm joining [Silvia] and thank Ariel for this lovely search and information.

Any suggestions from people in the calls? What are the preferences for? And also, we need to come up with we want the scheduling for 60 people or for 100 people to count our final budget.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: This is Cheryl here. Sorry I'm not in the Adobe room. Put in me the queue, please. I'll go back on mute.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Cheryl, please move forward because no one is raising his hand.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Okay. Under those circumstances, I'll come back off mute then. I actually quite like the lineup that you described with the selections or from the selections that Ariel very kindly sourced for us.

I wanted to ask, though, with the catering, so I'm very comfortable with [inaudible] things. Particularly the knotted lanyards. I think that knotting is of some particular significance that I find would be not only noteworthy but a conversation piece in its own right. So if we're going to do the lanyards, I would actually prefer to do the knotted lanyards, [inaudible], not the least of which I really don't need yet another red APRALO lanyard that looks like all the other APRALO lanyards, indeed looks like my NomCom lanyards, unless you read the fine print. So I think the knotted one has that distinct different look, which gets my support.

I just wanted to ask, though, I thought last time we did cater for – was it 80? I don't think we did 100, but I could be wrong. Could [Silvia] tell us how many we catered for last time? Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Last time we had 200, and this time we also count 200 with the lanyard design which has this goat on it. It is \$50 US dollars for 200 lanyards.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Sure. The pieces are fine on 200. That makes sense. I wanted to know about the catering. What was the head number we catered for last time?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Gisella, I can't hear you.

GISELLA GRUBER: Can you hear me, Siranush?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, yes.

GISELLA GRUBER: Sorry. I'm just double checking how many people we catered for and I'll get back to you. According to the latest budget, it was 100 but let me just confirm that with you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: While we're checking the [inaudible].

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Siranush. I think setting at the same level as we did before would be wiser. If we did 100 before, I would propose that we do 100 again.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I agree, because last time it was just the numbering we needed. While Gisella is coming back to this, answering to the question how many ALSes will come. I didn't send the information yet to the whole list, but I checked with a couple of people that Yannis and Alan will be there, and yes Satish, there will be unfortunately no funding this time for ALSes to come.

I'm just trying to find out how much money we need, what is the budget to move forward with this stuff and then go back by the end of December to the ALSes to find out how many of them will come, because I assume that many ALSes will come on their own to Singapore like it was last time. But I didn't check to have the exact number.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Just a couple of things. Firstly, I've noticed that you're saying likely to be 100 people per catering, yet you're also saying that for the promotional items, I thought I heard you say 200, to purchase 200. So there's just a disconnect there. How many people do you expect to have?

Then on the point on the lanyards, I agree with Cheryl that the knotted ones are beautiful, but we just wanted to point out, as Ariel noted in the chat, that because they are so thin – I believe they’re made out of silk – that there would not be any space for any text on there. So we just wanted to make that clear as well.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah. I just saw what Ariel said. Thank you, Heidi. And I think that if this is the case, then we don’t need any additional lanyards, as we do already have our red lanyards and can bring it to Singapore with us. So we can skip this lanyard publication for the second [time].

Why I’m mentioning 200 copies? Because last time we also had 200 copies for some giveaway, and they were more than 100 people coming. The catering was enough, but the promotional items, there were just a couple left I assume. My memory goes back to this [inaudible], so I think we gave away a lot of them and we published about 200.

Yes, Silvia, it could be checked to see if this is a big enough number – 200 – then we can just have 150 and that’s it. It will be [inaudible], that will be good.

Yes, Cheryl? Okay, you are entering the Adobe space. Is Gisella back?

GISELLA GRUBER: Siranush, I will confirm via e-mail, but from the information I have, it was 100.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay. So if this was 100, then I think that we will need to have the same number, like Cheryl said, for this time as I assume that many people will come. This was a really good number. Cheryl, anything to update for this table stuff, [inaudible] table? I think Cheryl is muted.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: There we are. There are so many mute buttons for me to work through. I finally found the one that responded.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Welcome back, Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Oh no, I haven't left you. I just couldn't be heard. Maureen and I have been drowning, not waving, in the last little while since our last meeting. We have not progressed that, but trust us, we will.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, we trust you. I think that I will do some updated – we have only ten minutes before our monthly call, so I will just give some updates related on this to ALSes who will participate on our call. We have potential – we need to come up with the items, exact number of items and exact names of items for us to prepare the final budget.

I will prepare the final list of the names and we will just vote among our leadership team. We'll vote what we want, then we will share this with APRALO ALSes to see if there are any additional ideas.

Before that, is there anything, Ariel, you need to find out still? The cost or something? I don't remember in the space if there is anything you also [inaudible]. I assume also you were talking to find out something on that. Yes?

ARIEL LIANG:

Thank you, Siranush. Yes, I do have a few updates and also FYI too. I contacted one of each vendors for those promotional items, so just be aware that there's one promotional item. It's the gold-shaped [UFC]. It's the [UFC] that looks like [gold and white]. That one I can't order it from overseas, because the vendor doesn't have sufficient credit. So that is the one that we may not be able to get. Also, it's the most expensive promotional item there.

I did contact some other vendor. They can do overseas shipping as well. So if we want to have an accurate budget, we need to factor that in, if it's appropriate.

I found out the shipping fee is about \$9 per 500 grams, so it's fairly cheap. For example, if we order 200 [UFC], it's another type of [UFC] with a traditional design. 200 of them is about six kilograms. So for that, we will probably spend about \$18, divided by six. So that's \$100 for shipping – I'm sorry, [inaudible].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah. It's expensive to get those [USBs]. Anyway, they are more than \$4 for each, so I think we may not go for that.

ARIEL LIANG: Okay, that's fine. Then for the [talisman], it's pretty [light] and I contacted the vendor. She can definitely do 100 or 150 or 200 with no problem. The total weight won't be that much either, so for shipping it will be okay.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, good.

ARIEL LIANG: Regarding [inaudible] Gisella and I and [Milani], we are collaborating on that. [Milani], she is contacting the hotel venue just to find out whether it's allowed to make dumplings. Maybe there are some health concerns they may have and maybe we won't be able to do that. So we're just waiting to get the response from the hotel.

Then for the others, if we can make it and we can still eat it, Gisella has the breakdown there. So that's the update regarding dumplings.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Regarding the Chinese calligraphy demonstration, are we okay with them? If we order, this is \$450 per two-hour session and we can have a two-hour session for our showcase asking them to come, if this can be done.

ARIEL LIANG:

Thank you, Siranush. Yes. Actually, we call it demonstration and the instructor will write actually a performance, and the instructor can write down the Chinese names for each participant, if the participant wants to know how his or her Chinese name is like. Then they can take the name back home as a souvenir. So that two-hour session will be like that. It won't be like a workshop that the instructor will teach everybody how to write Chinese characters in a very detailed manner, but still you will have a chance to try out on your own. It just won't be like a class or workshop. Then the instructor can have a booth in the venue in the room, and people can just go to her and she can teach you and you can learn how to write calligraphy in a very casual manner.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Okay. So yes, I agree that time will be an issue and I don't think that we will have the time to have official demonstration time for this calligraphy, but we can have a booth for all participants to come and to take their own names to pass through this booth without any official demonstration, without having time for official demonstration for all, because we will have the performance there.

I assume that we may talk, that this performance can be, in the beginning and at the end, so this is also the issue of discussion. But to have the small demonstration booth will work better.

Silvia, I'm sorry. Yes, you have the floor. Yes, I agree, Cheryl. This takes away – this piece will be fine. Yes, thank you, Silvia. Sorry.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes. Just very quickly, I know we don't have much time to discuss [inaudible]. I just wanted to ask Kelvin if he is able to give us some clarification regarding this performance, the dikir barat performance. As I understood it, he found a great offer from a school that they will do it for free, but there is another [performer] as well, which would be paid. So I think if he's able to explain that we have two possibilities to have the artistic performance.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay. Kelvin?

KELVIN WONG: Yes. Thanks, Silvia. So I found out that the local group is charging us \$770 US dollars. That's for 10 minutes of performance and 10 minutes of demonstration or interactive element. But the other option I think Siranush has already mentioned, which is the Malaysian school and they are offering to do it for free, [all] expenses paid under them. So can I just confirm that we are using the Malaysian school instead?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I think if we have this Malaysian school agree to come on their own expense and make this performance, I assume this is a quite good performance based on their international – being known and having international [traits]. I think that we will move forward with having the school kids there instead of ordering and spending about \$800 for 10 minutes.

Any objections on that?

KELVIN WONG: I think that's fine for me. I'm just closing the loop on the cost. So I think we'll go ahead then with the replying back [inaudible]. I'll just need to get more details on the dates of the showcase, and then we'll just send a reply, an affirmative reply, to the Malaysian school.

There's one more thing that I understood was discussed last time. We talked about the opera. I was wondering if there was any update on this about the opera, with the links to Mary Wong's mom? The Chinese opera, that's right.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Ariel posted something on Chinese opera, but we didn't come back to that. Yes, Ariel?

ARIEL LIANG: Thank you, Siranush. I did check with Mary Wong and she hasn't gotten back to me about the price, but she proposed we can do a very short performance, including introduction and a performance and [inaudible] ten minutes, or a ten-minute work-shopping that Mary Wong's mom will explain the costume, the makeup, without the actual singing. That's the two options we may have. I'm still waiting for her about the pricing for this type of session.

If we're interested, I will keep following up and make sure we understand how much that will cost.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please, Ariel, if you can follow up for us to [understand]. If this is affordable for us and we can move forward with that, then we may think about these options.

If you can, put both options – I assume they are already on the Wiki. Just mention which two options you mean and put the prices there. That would be great.

Just one question to Heidi. Do we know exactly when will be our showcase, the day? Timing I assume it will be 6:00 to 8:00, but the day?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Siranush, no, we do not yet. We're still trying to confirm if there is going to be a gala. So I would suggest that it would likely be either Monday or Wednesday. As for timing, I would also suggest, just given past showcases, that it begin at 6:30, because if there is a meeting that goes up to 6pm, then that will not allow us sufficient time to set things up. So if you could start at 6:30 and go for two hours.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, Heidi. Thank you. Just please come back to us when the date will be finalized.

We will have a hard stop here and we will move smoothly to our APRALO monthly call.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]