



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

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e-IAVE

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

You may note that this issue is shorter than normal. That just means that we need to hear more from our members – let us know what is happening in your country! News should be sent to kenn@civilsocietyconsulting.com. Thanks!

EDITOR'S NOTE FROM SINGAPORE

I am writing this on a very long plane ride back to Washington DC from Singapore where I participated in the annual conference of the National Volunteer and Philanthropy (NVPC) Centre which is led by IAVE board member Tan Chee Koon – but that gives me a chance to get it into this issue as “latest news”!!

It was quite an impressive conference – over 400 people from nonprofits, business and government – that brought together the worlds of philanthropy, volunteerism and corporate social responsibility for two days of very substantive conference sessions and celebrations. Among the highlights:

- A report on the progress made in distributing the US\$60 million contributed by Singaporeans for tsunami relief. Over 75 projects have been funded through a rigorous process of proposals, review, development and full accountability and transparency.
- NVPC launched its new Board Match service that will bring together nonprofit organizations seeking new board members with high-skilled individuals seeking board placements.
- Two tracks – one primarily for nonprofits with a primary focus on fund-raising and volunteer mobilization and management and one primarily for businesses on corporate social responsibility – with shared plenary sessions, including a keynote speech by Dr. Jane Goodall.

We will look forward to a more complete report from Tan Chee Koon and her excellent staff team in an upcoming E-IAVE.

Kenn Allen

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A REMINDER: DATES AND DEADLINES

Here are some important IAVE dates and deadlines:

November 15 – Deadline for submitting nominations of candidates for election to IAVE board of directors

November 30 – Deadline to renew membership in order to vote in the November election for IAVE board

December 1 – Deadline for submission of workshop proposals for 20th World Volunteer Conference in Panama (April 2-5, 2008)

December 7-10 – The IAVE Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Nagoya, Japan

December 31 – Deadline for submission of bids to host the 2010 World Conference

December 31 – Deadline for early registration for the 20th World Volunteer Conference in Panama (April 2-5, 2008)

Additional information on all of these will be found on www.iave.org.

IAVE.ORG CONTINUES TO GROW

Anthony Carlisle, director of IAVE's international resource center which is responsible for development of www.iave.org reminds us that new documents are being added weekly. Please make it a habit to visit these sections:

IAVE News at <http://www.iave.org/newslist.asp>

News from the Sector at <http://www.iave.org/Newslist.asp?SectorNews=1>

Global Corporate Volunteer Council FIRST “GATHERING” HELD IN BONN, GERMANY

[This report comes to us from Anthony Carlisle, director of IAVE's international resource center in Taiwan. Individual presentations from this meeting can be found at www.iave.org.]

IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council (GCVC) held a gathering for members and invited guests at the headquarters of United Nations Volunteers in Bonn, Germany on October 4-5, 2007.

Organized in partnership with United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the meeting was attended by UNV officials; members of the GCVC - including representatives from Citi, Disney, Vale do Rio Doce, Marriott Hotels, BD, and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer; as well as specially invited experts from the Danish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and UNICEF.

The program of panels, presentations and group discussions covered a wide range of issues on global corporate volunteering, including structure and implementation, impact measurement, performance indicators, partnership with international aid agencies, nationwide promotion of

volunteerism, cooperation with key national organizations, and visions for the future and links to papers and presentations.

The GCVC gathering was a chance for participants to hear about the interesting work taking place throughout the world, contribute their own experiences and knowledge, and network together in the unique setting of the UNV headquarters in Bonn.

IAVE SIGNS AGREEMENT ON SERVICE LEARNING IN TAIWAN

IAVE, IAVE-Taiwan and the National Kaohsiung First University of Science and Technology (NKFUST) signed a joint agreement on Friday, September 28, to pave the way for future international exchanges in service-learning. The "I Volunteer" agreement outlines a framework for NKFUST students to help translate content on the IAVE and IAVE-Taiwan websites.

The university will appoint students with foreign language competence to translate IAVE's web site into Chinese and IAVE-Taiwan's website into English. IAVE-Taiwan will also provide service-learning opportunities for students, including reception, interpretation, and public relations at international conferences, exhibitions and contests. Students who attain enough hours of service will receive international volunteer service certificates.

The agreement aims to promote service learning, encourage youth participation in international volunteering and build the capacity of young people to create a caring multicultural society.

NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

KUMI NAIDOO ON VOLUNTEERING AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM

[The following commentary by Kumi Naidoo appeared in the October 3 issue of E-CIVICUS.]

Dear active citizens,

What is the relationship of volunteers and volunteering to social activism?

Just last week, Rieky Stuart, a CIVICUS board member, raised this question at the 2007 International Forum on Volunteer Cooperation (**IVCO**), which I also attended as a speaker. Surely, not all activism can be considered volunteering. Nevertheless, I think it is critical for our collective work to strengthen citizen participation that we understand, more precisely, how volunteers currently contribute to social activism and the potential to realise even greater volunteer contributions to social change.

And while popular perception tends to associate social activism with young people taking on the establishment, through this column CIVICUS would also like to pay tribute to one of the major constituencies of volunteers today: the growing number of older men and women across the world.

To read more on the column, please see www.civicus.org/new/content/deskoftheseecretarygeneral83.htm

CIVICUS Poll on Volunteering and Social Activism

In the October 3 issue of E-CIVICUS this poll question appeared: "Are volunteers crucial for social activism?" Over 85% of respondents answered "Yes" while 10% said "No" and 3% said "Don't Know."

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CENTRE

[The September and October issues of CEV News were filled with a series of interesting articles. Here is a brief summary that reports on the work of this increasingly visible and important organization.]

New CEV President Elected

Marijke Steenberg, Chief Executive officer of MOVISIE, the Netherlands centre for social development, and formerly CEV Vice President, has been elected new CEV President to succeed Christopher Spence, Chief executive of Volunteering England, who had to decide to retire from his functions in September 2007 on medical advice following a recent illness.

Next CEV General Assembly Scheduled

The next General Assembly will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 17-19 April (dates to be confirmed). CEV members will discuss the controversial question about the economic value of volunteering, the possibilities to measure the contribution of volunteering to the Gross Domestic Product of our economies – and will develop a CEV policy on this issue. We will be collaborating with Johns Hopkins University and the International Labor Organization ILO for this conference who both have expertise and interest in (economic) statistics on volunteering. The General Assembly will be hosted by Slovene Philanthropy in Ljubljana. You can contact Tereza Novak, executive director on info@www.filantropija.org.

CEV Recruits Celebrity Ambassadors

In its efforts to find personalities that agree to publicly associate their name with CEV and our mission, the Board of Directors has made very good progress: Our first two Ambassadors are Elton John and Márta Sebestyén. We are particularly happy to have two musicians as our first Ambassadors as we consider music and volunteering having at least two common features: They bring people together on a common purpose – and they are about bringing joy to peoples' lives!

Those of you who attended the Budapest General Assembly have had the opportunity to meet Márta Sebestyén...is one of Hungary's most celebrated music stars who gained a wider international audience when two of her songs were used on the soundtrack to *The English Patient*, the 1996 Academy Award-winning film. Ms Sebestyén has been a performer with Muzsikás, Hungary's best-known folk music ensemble, since the early 1980s.

UK Experts Say: Volunteering Boosts Community Happiness

Volunteering may hold the key to happiness in the community- new research suggests today. Experts surveyed 101 randomly selected district authorities, and across a range of volunteer projects, and found that those areas with the best quality of life had high levels of informal voluntary activity: People living in areas where many citizens gave up their time for others enjoyed better health, suffered less crime, and claimed to be "very satisfied" with their lives. Students from these communities also achieved higher GCSE grades. Professor Paul Whiteley, from the University of Essex in Colchester, whose team produced the findings, said: "The research has revealed an interesting link between helping others and enjoying a good quality of life. It seems that when we focus on the needs of others, we may also reap benefits ourselves. It means that voluntary activity in the community is associated with better health, lower crime, improved educational performance and greater life satisfaction."

You can read more on these findings here:

<http://www.volunteermanagers.org.uk/stressing-volunteering>

Volunteering Research on Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the UK

The latest report from the Volunteering and Asylum Project is based on case studies of 10 organizations across the UK that are all outside the refugee sector, and that are all successfully involving refugees and asylum seekers as volunteers. The report is for policy makers, volunteer managers and others wanting to encourage and develop diversity in volunteering.

These three reports about volunteering and refugees and asylum seekers

- “A Part of Society: Refugees and Asylum Seekers Volunteering in the UK”
- “Managing Volunteers in Refugee Community Organizations”
- “Refugee Women – From Volunteers to Employees

are available for free to download at

http://www.volunteeringmerseyside.org.uk/hub/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=666&Itemid=61

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

[The following three items came from the July issue of “VNZ Update,” the newsletter of Volunteering New Zealand. Thanks to Tim Burns, VNZ executive director, for passing it along.]

VNZ National Conference Planned

The conference will be on the 8 and 9 November 2007 at Te Papa, Wellington and is being organised by Volunteering New Zealand with support from SPARC and IHC.

It is expected that the participants will include those with key roles in determining the future development of volunteer services - those who determine volunteering service policies, are involved in providing resources required for effective volunteering and those directly involved in managing volunteer services. There will be a limit of a maximum 120 places at the conference.

The conference themes will include:

- the issues and trends confronting volunteering in the 21st century;
- corporate social responsibility, community support and volunteering;
- resourcing volunteering into the future,
- innovation in volunteer management practice;
- volunteering and major events
- leaving a legacy for volunteering in 2032.

Volunteering NZ to Facilitate a Pacific Research Project

Special project funding has been received from the Support for Volunteering Fund to enable Volunteering NZ to facilitate a research project to identify what resources would be required to aid the development of volunteering within the Pacific communities and how best such resources might be provided.

VNZ will be working with a Pacific consultancy service and will be seeking input from leaders from the different Pacific communities to discuss volunteering within their communities, how it might be further developed and what resources would assist such further development. The project will be taking place over the next eight months.

Survey of Volunteers' Personal/Out of Pocket Expenses Underway

A Victoria University Honours student, supported by a senior lecturer and Volunteering New Zealand, is shortly to initiate a survey to gain a measure of the extent of personal expenses incurred by volunteers.

It will be similar to a survey undertaken by Volunteering Australia and will seek responses both from individual volunteers and the organisations they volunteer for. The questions asked will cover costs such as transport, training, uniform/clothing, child minding, the use of own equipment etc. It will also ask about reimbursements.

The survey questionnaire will be accessible online and VNZ will shortly be informing organisations with volunteer involvement that the survey is underway and providing the link to the questionnaire, which will be available through the VNZ website.

MUSLIMS SHARING SKILLS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHES WEBSITE

[This article came to us from Verona S. Marohombsar who writes, "As part of the making for this website, I'm proud to say that I am one of those Muslim Volunteer who wants to have and spread Peace and Development not only in the Philippines also in the whole world." Veronica's email is girlbloom_214@yahoo.com if you are interested in learning more.]

Muslims Sharing Skills for Peace and Development(KAPAMAGOGOPA) Inc. the first institutionalized Muslim volunteer sending organization in the Philippines has launched their website. Feel free to browse and know the works of our Muslim Volunteer brothers and sisters, especially our Muslim youth volunteers for the development of peace, development and unity in the Philippines between and amongst Muslim and non-Muslim communities. The making of this website is a joint effort of our Executive Director Mariam Barandia, Project Officer Haslaida Abubacar, RM Coordinator Abd Nasser Mendoza, RM Adviser Nicole van Zurk, and KI Volunteer Office base Verona Marohombsar with the participation of our BOT-Chairman Musa Sanguila. Check our website at <http://www.ki-volunteer.com>.

RESOURCES YOU CAN USE TODAY

CEV has recently published four documents that are available for download from CEV's website – www.cev.be:

Bibliography on Volunteering Research in Europe (with 200 references from all over Europe)

YOU::VOL Project Report on Youth Volunteering Policies in Europe, seminar organized in March 2007 in Skopje, Macedonia)

Volunteering as a Route (Back) to Employment" General Assembly Paris Report, March 2007

MOVE – Mutual Recognition of Skills and Competences Gained through Volunteering: Towards a European Debate Final Conference and Project Report, May 2007

Also newly available is the **ENGAGE Toolkit to Improve Employee Volunteering**

A group of companies recently launched the **ENGAGE Toolkit**, a comprehensive guide to internationalize employee engagement for companies and NGOs. The toolkit features a discussion on the business case for Employee Community Engagement demonstrating the benefits of working with community partners and advice on how to internationalize employee community engagement strategy, key steps, a checklist in designing programs and numerous case studies demonstrating other successful examples and has been designed to build capacity within the business and NGO sectors – providing a unique opportunity to deliver sustainable corporate social responsibility (CSR) opportunities in Europe.

For more information, click on this Web link

http://www.wcva.org.uk/news/dsp_news.cfm?newsid=965&display_sitedeptid=21