



International  
Association for  
Volunteer  
Effort

# E-IAVE

**October-November 2013**

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## **A COMBINED ISSUE**

It seems that once a year the workload becomes too heavy for your small but dedicated Secretariat team to keep E-IAVE up to date. That time arrived in October this year as we were faced with three regional conferences and the annual in-person meeting of the Board of Directors in the space of just nine weeks.

As a result, this is a combined issue for October and November. But it is a great one, with a special report on the Latin American Regional Conference as well as all of our regular features. We are aiming to have the December issue out the week of December 16, in advance of the Christmas and year-end holidays. It will include results of our election of new Board members plus reports from both the Arab Nations and Asia Pacific regional conferences and the November meeting of the Board of Directors.

Thanks for your understanding.

## THE DISASTER IN THE PHILIPPINES

### A Message from the World President...

On November 12, Dr. Lee sent the following message to Dr. Amelita Go, Regional Representative for Asia Pacific from the Philippines, and Marissu Bugante, National Representative from the Philippines.

Dear Dr. Go and Susie Bugante,

It was heart-aching to hear that the typhoon Haiyan caused many casualties and property damage in Philippines. In this appalling disaster and tragedy, I extend my consolation to the Philippine people and especially pray for the casualties and for those who survived in suffering to be comforted by the mercy of God.

I do not know whether how many IAVE members or IAVE Philippines members and their close relatives were directly affected by this disaster. I hope that IAVE Philippines will do what you can do for those members in need of help.

In the meantime, I strongly appeal to those who can help people among IAVE members, including GCVC members, to please do so as fast you can since the timing is very important for the first couple of weeks in rescuing stricken people and to reduce further damage.

I believe in volunteering which may bring an early recovery.

### And the Response...

That same day, Dr. Lee received this response from Ms. Bugante:

On behalf of IAVE-Philippines, I thank you for your words of commiseration. Indeed, a great tragedy has befallen our nation and many volunteers are working very hard right now to bring help to those adversely affected.

Once again, the Philippines is at the center stage of volunteer work in action! Our conference topics in Macau, now being applied. It is a gargantuan task to bring relief to the victims and later on to help in the rehabilitation work. Our challenge at IAVE-Philippines is to encourage volunteer-engaging organizations to sustain their volunteer efforts.

We are very grateful to the community of nations who have sent out help in many ways. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you! Many thanks too, for your prayers and kind thoughts. May you be richly blessed.

### IAVE and Disasters

Members of the Board of Directors and Secretariat team were reminded of the global realities of natural and man-made disasters during our first days in Muscat, Oman for the Board meeting and Arab Nations regional conference. Unusually severe thunderstorms with heavy rain and hail – the first such rains in two years in Oman – caused at least three deaths and damaged both homes and businesses. During one conference discussion, our colleagues from Saudi

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Arabia remembered how the 2007 flood there resulted in spontaneous volunteer response from throughout the country.

IAVE's publication, *Leading in the Face of Disaster: Companies and NGOs Volunteering Together*, the report of our Global Dialogue on Corporate-NGO Partnerships Related to Disasters, is now available at no cost online at [http://iave.org/content/disaster\\_dialogue\\_report](http://iave.org/content/disaster_dialogue_report). IAVE's work in this area is continuing and new initiatives will be announced in January 2014.

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## **THE IAVE LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE: A SPECIAL REPORT**

### **The 6<sup>th</sup> IAVE Latin America Regional Conference Guayaquil, Ecuador, October 14-16**

"I was very happy and pleased to be with fellow travelers, and have had very enriching learning moments inside and outside the Conference. I realize that the true strength of shared experiences is to make us reflect and to inspire us, instead of making us reproduce what we see. With that, I believe that the conference fulfilled its mission to inspire us all to think differently our realities."

Flavio Seixas, Project Coordinator, Camargo Correa Institute, Brazil

### **OLE FOR ECUADOR!**

[This article was written by Kathi Dennis, IAVE's Executive Director.]

The Latin America Regional Conference was done in partnership with ACORVOL, the host organization. This regional conference was the first time that ACORVOL has been involved in such a large event. ACORVOL is a volunteer driven organization with very few paid staff. Volunteers had travelled throughout Ecuador encouraging volunteers and NGOs to attend the conference. Many volunteers learned a great deal about corporate volunteering and how to work collaboratively with business beyond asking only for a financial resources.

IAVE is deeply grateful to ACORVOL – and particularly to Rina Garces, the conference manager.

More than 350 people participated in the regional and youth conferences. The mayor, Jaime Nebot, opened the conference, describing Guayaquil as a premier volunteer city.

The theme of the conference, "Volunteering as an Expression of Social Participation" drew speakers representing NGOs, business and government from 14 countries from throughout Latin America and beyond. Our GCVC members contributing to the program included Fundacion Telefonica, HSBC, and EMC. Many of the workshops included presentations about collaboration between NGOs and companies. Many other companies from throughout Latin America also presented, including Direct TV, Santander, Carmargo Correo, Holcim, and Morgan & Morgan.

Universidad del Norte, one of IAVE's partners in the 2011 World Youth Volunteer Summit, also came to talk about students who volunteer through their Univoluntarios program. Government speakers discussed policy and laws to support volunteering in Ecuador.

IAVE National Representatives from Guatemala, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, and Mexico participated. Thanks to Board members Dacil Acevedo (Panama), Silvia Landers (Bolivia) and Daniel Buritica (Colombia). Special thanks to Gladys De Franco who has been the IAVE National Representative in Ecuador for the past 15+ years.

## **A REFLECTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE**

[This reflection was prepared by Dacil Acevedo of Panama, IAVE Regional Representative for Latin America and member of its Board of Directors.]

In the last decade, the Latin American region has been very active in the IAVE community. In 2008, the 20<sup>th</sup> World Volunteer Conference was held in Panama City (Panama) with the theme "Volunteering for Human Development: More Solidarity, Less Poverty." In 2010, Bogota, Colombia hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> IAVE Latin American Regional Conference with the theme "Volunteering: essence of social responsibility".

This year, Guayaquil, Ecuador, was the venue for the 6<sup>th</sup> Latin American conference, done in partnership with ACORVOL with the theme "Volunteering as expression of social participation".

The themes of these conferences have been fully aligned with the reality of this region, one very rich in human and natural resources, but being the most unequal region of the world where the gap between the richest and the poorest is the worst globally.

In this context, volunteering has played a key role in the region supporting strategies for fighting against poverty and promoting sustainable development, with greater inclusion of its citizens. Volunteering in Latin America has been progressively leaving the philanthropic approach to one of social transformation with co-responsibility from all of the development stakeholders: NGOs, governments, companies, universities, international organizations and very specially, the volunteers. In a very diverse region, the volunteering movement has been moving to the promotion of strategic partnerships and synergies, with an intergenerational, gender and cultural diversity perspective.

From October 14 to 16, Guayaquil was the Latin American capital of solidarity, convening the leaders of all sectors, among 300 participants shared their inspiring practices and lessons learnt. There was a special program for youth whom at the end of the conference shared with all the audience their priorities, needs and recommendations.

Two regional dialogues were held, following up the global dialogues started in the IAVE World Conference last December in London, one focused on partnership between companies-NGOs-volunteers in disasters and the other focused in youth, volunteering and employment supported by Telefonica Foundation. The conference itself had 2 tracks, one on social change and transformation and the other a corporate track where leading companies – global, regional and national ones – shared their inspiring practices. Also, IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council held one of its annual face to face meetings.

On the occasion of this regional gathering, I was pleased to present, in the opening ceremony, a special recognition to Maria Teresa Gnecco (former Latin American Director) and Gladys de Franco (current NR in Ecuador) for their contributions to volunteering in Latin America and Ecuador respectively.

In the closing ceremony, I announced the launch of a Latin American Center for Volunteerism that I will lead with the Honorary Presidency of Dr. Bernardo Kliksberg, CSR pioneer in the region and father of social management, and a very prestigious group of men and women on the board. It will be located at the City of Knowledge and affiliated to IAVE. The regional center for volunteerism will be formally launched on the celebrations on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Panama that will take place at the City of Knowledge and will start formal operations during 2014.

The VI IAVE Latin American conference was a success and no doubt will be a “before and after moment” for the volunteering movement both in Ecuador and in the region as well.

## THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

[This article came from Raaida Mannaa, Colombia, of the IAVE Secretariat team who has responsibility for implementing our youth volunteering strategy.]

Parallel to our Latin American Regional Volunteer Conference in Guayaquil more than 150 youth volunteers gathered to celebrate the first-ever volunteering event for youth that has taken place in Guayaquil.

Youth from organizations such as the Red Cross, the Scouts and the Firemen of Guayaquil, met to discuss successful practices on volunteering, as well to participate in a series of workshops led by youth volunteers from Colombia, Chile and Ecuador.

As part of the Youth Conference, Telefónica sponsored the second part of the Dialogue on Youth Volunteering and Employment, an activity that we started in our Global Conference in London last December.

In this occasion, the Dialogue grouped youth volunteers, NGOs and corporate representatives, as well as local government deputies, all of which actively participated in a conversation about volunteering as a tool to fight the global unemployment crisis, concentrating in the case of Latin America.

## AN UNEXPECTED MOMENT

It was a surprise.

For everybody.

Even for IAVE Board and Secretariat members sitting in the plenary room.

The last three minutes before the official closing of the Guayaquil Conference, the big screen showed images of a magazine.

Photos showing Latin American people and treasures of the rich arts and crafts of several countries of the region. **But also, unexpectedly, appeared nicely designed texts of all the**

**conferences presentations, panels and round tables that had just occurred up until just several minutes before.**

For the first time, perhaps ever, in the world of conferences, the e-book with the contents shared in the former three days was delivered at the very end of the event.

This was an homage to all the speakers and a great service to participants, who could browse it in the airport, in their way back home.

It was a combined effort of IAVE Secretariat team member Mónica Galiano, who acted as editor and organizer of texts previously received from the authors, and Ivan Zumalde, from MyMag Company, the publisher of this 280 pages e-book. They had the support of Marcos Paulo dos Reis, the Brazilian volunteer who translated the Portuguese speeches into Spanish.

It compiles the knowledge and practices of 47 speakers from 13 countries from the region during the conference. The e-book is divided in 4 major sections: (1) Volunteering Today; (2) Communications, Networking and Technology; (3) Corporate Volunteering; (4) Inspiring Experiences: Actions that Transform. It is available in Spanish at [http://issuu.com/editoramymag/docs/reflexiones\\_del\\_voluntariado](http://issuu.com/editoramymag/docs/reflexiones_del_voluntariado).

Conference photos are available at <http://voluntariadoecuador2013.com/442-2/>

## NEWS FROM IAVE

### WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE 2014 IAVE WORLD VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

[This update comes to us from Kylee Bates, IAVE Vice President and Member Steering Committee, 23<sup>rd</sup> IAVE World Volunteer Conference/]

In early September I was able to attend Volunteering Australia's national conference in the South Australian city of Adelaide and was reminded once again of the diversity of volunteering and the many way in which Australians engage in their communities and with the world around us.

Next year's national conference will make way for the 23<sup>rd</sup> IAVE World Volunteer Conference that will be held on the Gold Coast.

Hosted by Volunteering Australia, the next IAVE World Volunteer Conference promises to be a showcase for volunteering both in Australia and worldwide and I, along with IAVE's Australian members and friends, will be excited to welcome you at both the IAVE Youth Conference and World Conference in September 2014.

The conference steering committee, led by Margaret Bell who is known to many of you as a former IAVE World President, is working hard to secure an excellent program of speakers, as well as funding to support a number of scholarships for international delegates.

The second (and final) call for abstracts is now open and I encourage IAVE members to make submission and encourage those in your networks to do also. The five key themes offer

something for all stakeholders and will provide an important framework as we consider *Volunteering, Today's Imperative*.

The World Volunteer Conference in 2014 is expected to see innovations in how we use technology to make it easier, faster and better for conference delegates to exchange information, ideas and translate information.

Importantly, the outcomes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> IAVE World Conference will feed directly into the C20 – the platform for civil society to engage with G20 world leaders who will meet in Brisbane, Australia in November 2014, placing volunteering firmly on the world stage with political leaders.

The deadline for abstracts is **16 December 2013** - <http://iave2014.org/speakers/> and registrations are OPEN! Visit [www.iave2014.org](http://www.iave2014.org) to find out more.

See you on the Gold Coast in September 2014.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST GCVC MEMBERS

IAVE is pleased to welcome three of our newest GCVC members to our thriving network.

**Baxter International** is a global diversified company that manufactures and markets products that save and sustain the lives of people with hemophilia, immune disorders, infectious diseases, kidney disease, trauma, and other chronic and acute medical conditions. Baxter is based in the Chicago area but has a significant presence in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America. They have more than 50,000 employees. Baxter demonstrates their commitment to community through a variety of grant, contributions and employee volunteering programs.

**Swiss Re**, a leading global reinsurer based in Zurich, but with locations in several regions. Fifty years old this year, Swiss Re is celebrating through local community initiatives and special fundraising activities. They have a special commitment to climate change, and the Foundation addresses societal and humanitarian problems worldwide.

**Wells Fargo** has more than 275,000 employees and 7 million customers in more than 35 countries. The famous Wells Fargo Stagecoach image is recognized as part of the American story itself. Wells Fargo's focus areas include Community Investment, Environmental Stewardship, Strengthening Communities and Financial Education.

We are happy to have these fine companies on board and look forward to sharing more information about their volunteer efforts.

[This article was written by Sarah Hayes, Consultant Director of IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council.]