



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

E-IAVE

October-November 2014

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NEWS FROM IAVE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WORLD PRESIDENT

'Ebola volunteers' - conduct a simple internet search under news using your browser and you won't have to scroll far before finding an article that speaks of the desperate need for volunteers in Ebola affected countries or a call from someone as influential as the head of the World Bank calling for more volunteers to help. However in this time of critical need, there is also no shortage of stories about the difficulties experienced by many who have offered to volunteer to provide medical and humanitarian support to help those affected and help combat the spread of the disease.

Reported experiences have included not knowing which agencies to contact to offer help to, non-responsiveness of humanitarian agencies to inquiries, delays in sending volunteers who are otherwise packed and ready to go, prolonged training requirements that delay deployment into the field and add to the challenge of volunteers being able to take extended time away from paid employment and their families.

As well, many governments have expressed concerns about how to protect their citizens who volunteer in affected areas as well as their wider citizenry when those volunteers return home.

These in turn have led to often contentious debate about what support should be provided by governments to enable those of their citizens wishing to volunteer and what safeguards such as restriction of freedom of movement or mandatory quarantining should be applied when their work is complete so as to prevent further spread of the disease.

This gives rise to the question of whether these factors – alone or collectively – will stop people from volunteering when, and where, it is needed the most?

To ensure that they do not, the global community must find ways to resolve the challenges of deploying sufficient numbers of trained volunteers quickly and effectively to arrest the spread of a disease with an average fatality rate of 51 percent (www.who.org). While at the same time it must explore safeguards to protect those populations that are unaffected in ways that do not undermine human dignity or community cohesion due to uninformed and unfounded fears.

Public health crises such as that generated by the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa serve to highlight the critically important role that volunteers play in human development and the health of our societies. The human tragedy of estimated 4,818 deaths from the disease (www.who.org as at 2/11/14) and the role of volunteers in its care and prevention are further support for IAVE's position that volunteering must be recognised as a strategic asset in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

You cannot save those who are reported to have already died from the disease, you may not be able to travel to West Africa to volunteer in Ebola-affected areas and you may not be able to give funds to support humanitarian agencies working on the frontline of the disease. But there are two things you CAN do.

First, you CAN **show** your support to IAVE's campaign to have volunteering recognised as a strategic asset in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by adding your voice to our [petition](#).

Second, you CAN renew your membership to IAVE and recruit new members to continue to strengthen IAVE's role as the global voice on volunteering that continues to promote, strengthen and celebrate volunteering in all its forms – no matter how difficult the challenge facing us.

Kylee Bates

HAVE YOU SIGNED THE SDG PETITION? DO IT NOW!

[At its meeting in Australia in September, the IAVE Board of Directors issued a "call to action" to build support for recognition of volunteering as a strategic asset to achieve the upcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Susan Danish, IAVE National Representative for the U.S. and CEO of the Association of Junior Leagues International, wrote this article for the [Huffington Post](#) online newspaper to build interest in that event.]

I spend a lot of time working with volunteers, so I am never surprised when I hear stories of what they can accomplish, and I heard many great stories at the 2014 world conference in Broadbeach, Australia of [IAVE](#) -- the International Association for Volunteer Effort.

But the core discussion at this meeting of the only global volunteer network was much more ambitious: IAVE's [call to action](#) to the United Nations for the volunteer sector to be an integral part in the development of the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030.

Specific SDGs have yet to be articulated, but will follow a truly ambitious set of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000 that included promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health.

What IAVE is calling for is nothing less than a seat at the table for the volunteer sector as an integral part of all global, national and local action plans supporting the SDGs and looking at volunteering, in all of the myriad ways it happens throughout the world, as an essential strategic asset to achieve those goals.

Because promoting voluntarism is an essential component of The Junior League Mission -- and understood as such by our more than 150,000 members in four countries -- I couldn't be happier!

But IAVE's call to action also carries a message for anyone who is committed to creating positive change in our communities, our nations and the world...the role of the volunteer, both as individuals and as members of organizations, is as important in its way as that of governments, businesses and NGOs.

In case you don't know it, IAVE is a great -- and valuable -- organization founded in 1970 by a group of volunteers from around the world who saw in volunteering a means of making connections across countries and cultures. It has grown into a global network of volunteers, volunteer organizations, national representatives and volunteer centers, with members in over 70 countries.

Here's what you can do to help. Go to IAVE's website and sign a [petition](#) supporting the call to action. It's a small step on the way to an important objective!

To learn more about the SDG petition, <http://iave.org/SDGcalltoaction>

THE REGIONAL CHALLENGE

In March, we issued a challenge to the Regional Representatives to IAVE's Board of Directors: Can you provide us with an article from your region for each E-IAVE through the end of 2014? They responded affirmatively and the challenge is underway. After taking a breather in the last issue for the IAVE World Volunteer Conference, the challenge returns this month, stronger than ever.

From Africa

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY REPORT FROM LOME, TOGO

[We welcome this article from Kokjou Douwoissi of Mission De Jeunes (MDJ) in Togo.]

Mission Des Jeunes (MDJ), a voluntary organization based in Lome, Togo, has been involved in several activities the past years.

In January 2014, Mission Des Jeunes (MDJ), in partnership with an association called “Go To Togo” (in Paris Dauphine University), began working on a construction project of a new school – and this happens to be the fifth school being launched since its 10 years collaboration. The entire project (four classes with a library) is estimated to cost 30,000 Euros. It is currently on-going in Davedi Village (Southern Togo).

In February 2014, Mission Des Jeunes carried out membership drive and registration of new volunteers.

In March 2014, MDJ held a meeting with members of CAVO (Collectif des Associations de Volontariat) which focused on planning volunteer activities.

Furthermore, in the month of April 2014, the association (MDJ) had an Academic project with the students of Paris Est [Established] Design School which was on agriculture and water.

The project focused on:

- How to facilitate and enhance the farming of pineapple in Gbave Village (this village is about 40km from Lome, Togo).
- How to stock pure [clean] water during the rainy season for use at the dry season.

Eight students from France and six volunteers from Mission Des Jeunes took part in this project which lasted two weeks.

During these months, the school construction continued with the participation of other volunteers of our Mission Des Jeunes (MDJ); and dissemination of Information about the various summer projects or work-camps equally continued (which included school construction; educational support in the village of Davedi; Social and cultural work-camp in the village of Sevexo; farming and water storage in the village of Gbave).
From Africa

KENYA MAKES PROGRESS ON THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM POLICY

[Thanks to Agnette Nyalita of Kenya, Youth Representative to IAVE’s Board of Directors, for this article.]

Kenya has moved a mile ahead in development of the National Volunteer Policy. In Late October, VSO engaged Agnetta as a consultant to support in the finalization of the policy development process. This is following her participation from the initiation stage and her exposure on volunteer and policy development matters across Africa and beyond.

Working with the Government ministry in charge of volunteerism, the UNV, Red Cross and other Volunteer Involving Organisations, countrywide public dissemination forums were held. This was in line with the constitutional requirement. Key issues on the regulations, engagement, transition and motivation of volunteers were raised.

We are now moving to the next level of presentation of the policy to Key stakeholders on November 20 for comments and also to get a buy in. The next processes involve public validation workshops and then the launch and approval of the Final Copy of the policy by the Cabinet Secretary on the International Volunteer Day (December 5). The policy document will go through the parliament for debate and approval.

The government, corporate and NGOs in the voluntary sector have been very positive and cooperative through-out the process. There is great support ranging from Financial to technical by these institutions and the volunteers themselves.

From the Arab Nations

VOLUNTEER FIELDWORK AT SCHOOLS IN THE NORTHERN STATE OF SUDAN

[This article is from Osama Mustafa Suliman of the Sudanese Red Crescent, IAVE National Representative for Sudan. Osama can be reached at osama_sud@hotmail.com.]

This initiative has come in the context of mobilizing volunteers and benefitting from their presence during First Aid training courses. The objective is to assure the impact of Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC) activities within communities as a result of training with clear outcomes from these programs. The idea is focusing on preparing volunteers and correcting the concept of volunteering for community based services delivery. The aim of the training program within SRC is to work with the community and mobilize them to participate in developing their areas. After the completion of the courses and a session about volunteering conducted by the IAVE National Representative in Sudan, volunteers are asked to implement at least one community based activity (rehabilitation, health education, sanitation, ... etc) with participation and support from the community as a condition for obtaining an SRC certificate.

The objectives are:

- ✓ Spotighting volunteers and their work
- ✓ Highlighting the role of volunteer contributions in community development and take advantage of their presence within the community.
- ✓ Training of volunteers in field activities.
- ✓ Coordination and integration of roles between the volunteers and the community
- ✓ Changing the volunteers' perceptions of volunteerism

These are the key implementation steps for the community-based activities:

1. After the completion of the course the trainer notifies volunteers that they must carry out community based field work as a condition for certification.
2. The volunteers communicate with community leaders and determine the work required in accordance with community needs.
3. The volunteers document their work with photos and write a report at the end of the work.
4. After receiving the report, the volunteer coordinator approves the report and gives the green light to start preparation for the graduation ceremony and certification.

Community based activities include sanitation campaigns in the fight against malaria; home visits for health education; knowledge dissemination through exhibitions; and maintenance of public facilities such as hospitals, schools and health centers.

There are four primary strengths to this program:

1. Impact is clear within the communities that have been implementing the program.
2. The program contributes to change perceptions of the community and volunteers toward the Red Crescent and its role in positive change.

3. It improves the image of the Sudanese Red Crescent.
4. The large number of activities contributes to recruiting new volunteers for the Sudanese Red Crescent.

The primary challenges are how to provide meaningful work in different communities; and, how to support and motivate volunteers to encourage them to repeat and continue doing such activities.

So far about 33,000 volunteers from three different areas of the Northern State have been trained and 3,000 have received their certificates.

From Asia Pacific

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON YOUTH VOLUNTEERING IN ASIA-PACIFIC

[Thanks to Dong Hoon Lee of Korea, the University of Seoul and the Seoul Volunteer Center for this report on two conferences on youth volunteering.]

Youth Forum 2014 – Policies and Development Strategies for Youth Volunteering in the Asia-Pacific Region

On October 25, dozens of experts on youth volunteering gathered in Macau to discuss youth volunteering. The official title of the event was “Youth Forum 2014- Policies and Development Strategies for Youth Volunteering in the Asia-Pacific Region” held by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau of Macau government.

Macau, a city well known for its title ‘Las Vegas of South East Asia,’ is making a lot of effort to promote volunteering. Currently, one of the problems that Macau government is confronting is lack of motivation in learning among youth. Due to the big gambling industry, according to the Macau government, it is relatively easy to find jobs in Macau and living an ordinary life does not necessarily require special skills or knowledge. Studying and going to college is no longer meaningful to the youth who can make easy money by working at hotels and casinos. To cope with the issue, the Macau government is focusing on volunteering. They believe volunteering could deal with lack of motivations in youth and bring about change.

Professors and experts from China, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia delivered their findings and focuses to the audience, comprised mostly of Macau youth and government officials. Upon the end of presentations, a discussion session was held so that panels and audiences could ask questions.

Asia Pacific Forum on Youth Volunteerism To Promote Participation Development and Peace

Following the forum in Macau, there was another forum in Bangkok on October 28 entitled “Asia Pacific Forum on Youth Volunteerism to Promote Participation Development and Peace” co-convened by UNESCAP, UNESCO, Global Peace Foundation and other partners.

Under seven themes: Health, Environment, Disaster response, Peace and Development, Entrepreneurship, and Education, 40 speakers around the world gathered to share their experiences and thought.

IAVE was represented by former World President Dr. Kang Hyun Lee; Yoonae Park, Regional Representative for Asia-Pacific from Korea; Kathi Dennis, IAVE Executive Director; and IAVE National Representatives Win Mektripop of Thailand, Shew Zin from Myanmar, and Md Ghani Ibrahim from Malaysia.

Throughout the forum session, rapporteurs worked to develop a conference statement, which was deliberately written under a series of discussion by attendees.

Throughout my journey to Macau and Bangkok I've learned a lot of things. It was quite new for me to learn about the issues that the Macau government is concerned with and to find out that volunteering could be an effective solution to motivating youth. In Bangkok, apart from the forum itself, being able to chat with youth delegates across the globe about the future of our generation was a big privilege for me. The discussions held during lunch, tea time and sessions gave me a big insight and really acted as a stimulus to become a truly civilized member of our society. From two conferences I've attended I was assured that our future is bright with support and actions taken by the young leaders around the world.

From Europe

SAVE THE DATE: 15 MARCH 2015

[This article comes to us from Kaynan Rabino, of Ruach Tova and IAVE National Representative from Israel.]

Join IAVE members and hundreds of thousands worldwide from 50 countries on Good Deeds Day, the pinnacle day of doing good. The idea is simple idea: every single person can do something good, be it large or small, for the benefit of others and the planet.

Through participating in Good Deeds Day you can increase year round volunteering engagement, connections with local NGOs, strengthen current projects and partner with similar volunteering organizations worldwide. Good Deeds Day can mobilize your community to take action, on March 15 and year round.

It's easy to take part! Save the date (March 15, 2015) in your calendar and spread the word to your network. View our [online toolkit](#) for project ideas and check out our [NEW Media Materials section](#) on our website for customizable Save the Date cards, graphics, posters and more.

Register your center, get ideas, and assistance by contacting Hannah Wojno (Hannah@good-deeds-day.org).

We invite all IAVE members worldwide to join us for Good Deeds Day 2015 and help us reach our goal of 1 million volunteers. Together we can unite the global volunteering movement. Visit our [Website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

From Latin America

HUB FOR SOLIDARITY LAUNCHED IN LATIN AMERICA

[This article comes from Dacil Acevedo, former Regional Representative for Latin America to IAVE's Board of Directors and now CEO of CELAV. For more information, please contact her at dacil.acevedo@gmail.com.

The Centro Latinoamericano de Voluntariado (CELAV) held its public launch in August at the Convention Center Ciudad del Saber, in Panama as a true hub of solidarity for Latin American.

The CELAV, which offices are located in Ciudad del Saber, is a member of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE), and has strategic alliances with the University for International Cooperation (UCI), Advertising Without Borders and Morgan & Morgan CSR.

As indicated by its CEO, Dacil Acevedo, "CELAV will serve from Panama to the region, with the mission to strengthen solidarity in Latin America through advocacy, mobilization, generation and access to the knowledge of volunteering in all its expressions." We emphasize that Dacil Acevedo was the Representative for Latin America at the IAVE Board for 2011-2013 and from CELAV she will continue supporting IAVE and its strategy in Latin America.

This is a pioneer initiative in Latin America, undertaken by the Honorary Chairmanship of Dr. Kliksberg (Leader of social management, pioneer of CSR in Latin America and creator of the concept of ethics for development) and a Board of Directors formed with key business, social and academic leaders which include Mr. Federico Humbert (Chairman of the General Bank), Juan David Morgan (Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ciudad del Saber and CEO of Morgan & Morgan), Jorge Quijano (Administrator of the Panama Canal) and others, male and women who are very prominent in their field and highly engaged with others at national and regional level.

During the launch the University for International Cooperation (UCI), through its Project Director Maripaz Vindas, presented the results of an exploratory study conducted through a survey that was made to volunteer leaders in Latin America. In the study was noted that 83% of respondents believe that volunteering is developing in the region. Also, 52% of respondents felt that the best word that describes volunteering in Latin America is "solidarity" and that the main contributions of volunteerism to society are generating a culture of solidarity and fighting against poverty.

Monica Galiano, IAVE consultant for corporate volunteering in Latin America announced in that under their cooperation agreement CELAV and IAVE will create a Regional Corporate Volunteer Council, comprised of companies with operations in several countries in Latin America that have corporate volunteer programs.

Over 300 people gathered for this event, including important personalities of the national and regional government, private sector, civil society, universities, international organizations and media.

From North America

NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO OF VOLUNTEER CANADA SELECTED

Paula Speevak has been named as the new president and CEO of Volunteer Canada.

With over 25 years of experience in the charitable and non-profit sector, Paula's roots are in the volunteer center movement. She joined Volunteer Canada in 2010 to develop a robust research program and to create capacity-building tools on volunteer engagement. The 2012 Screening Handbook, Skills-Plus, and the recently released primer on employer-supported volunteering continue to be our most popular resources.

Paula's direct experience in the sector and strong connections with key players has helped Volunteer Canada to convene several dynamic public policy dialogues. Dialogues that focus on

the role that volunteering plays in helping Canadians and communities reach their potential.

In 2013, Paula was Acting CEO at Volunteer Canada for 7 months. During that time she laid the foundation to create a more sustainable model for the organization. Today, Volunteer Canada is well positioned to continue to provide leadership. Specifically in the areas of strengthening our country's volunteering network, as well as increasing the rate, quality and diversity of volunteering in Canada.

"Looking ahead to pursuing the many opportunities before us, I am energized by working with our dynamic leadership team, dedicated board of directors, diverse network of more than 200 community volunteer centres, and all of Volunteer Canada's key partners. This includes our long-standing colleagues in the government, education, non-profit and business sectors," says Paula.

Volunteer Canada's board of directors is enthusiastic about the future. "Under Paula's leadership, Volunteer Canada will continue to strengthen the charitable and non-profit sector by facilitating the promotion, celebration and recognition of volunteers, along with building capacity through new tools and research," says Lawrie Portigal, Board Chair. "Our work impacts Canadians from coast to coast and helps them to build healthy and resilient communities."

THE LAST WORD

THE DANGER OF AN ACT OF KINDNESS

[This month, The Last Word comes from Bill Osborne of Northern Ireland. This is his blog post about Alan Henning, British taxicab driver-turned-volunteer humanitarian aid worker whose killing by Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) in October was reported worldwide. Bill can be reached at billosborne@vsb.org.uk]

The apparent death of Alan Henning brings home the reality of the personal risk volunteers take when undertaking an act of kindness.

At...[the IAVE World Volunteer Conference]... a minute of silence was observed by the 700 delegates to hope that the life of Alan Henning would be spared. Sadly this was not to be. The moment of reflection was a timely pause to be reminded of the personal risks that many individuals across the world face when they engage in voluntary action to improve the common good.

His family and friends have lost someone they love and cherish and are no doubt in the midst of their pain grappling with the question why? Alan, after all was bringing aid, helping those in need, showing kindness and love to his fellow human beings in another part of the world why kill him and in such a horrific and degrading manner. There is of course no simple answer to the question nor indeed a quick fix solution to prevent it happening again and again and again. Man once again continues to demonstrate that there are no limits to the depravity and pain we will inflict on our fellow human beings as we journey on this short life together.

Dispirited and pessimistic as I may be about the state of humanity and the lack of reason and kindness that seems to prevail in our world, Alan Henning's death is a call to action, not violent action or retribution, but to **acts of kindness**.

Acts of kindness are danger to those who foster fear and ignorance.
Acts of kindness brings hope.

Acts of kindness build relationships based on respect and importantly create bonds of friendships.

Act of kindness such as the volunteering of Alan Henning, despite the associated personal danger, are powerful acts.

His death was the ultimate sacrifice in exercising one's freedom to help others in our world to have a better life. It might seem a hopeless and futile task but as A C Grayling states in *The Mystery of Things*,

"And yet it remains the sole true hope for the future, which is why some of us - like the pianist still keep playing as the ship sinks - will not give up the theme. And we know one thing: that even if in the end the argument for reason and kindness fails, it will in the meantime have made a little bit of difference in the direction of the good."

Alan Henning "did not give up the theme." His actions have made a "difference in the direction of the good."