



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

E-IAVE

December 2013

In This Issue

Breaking News: WVC 2014 “Web Hot Special” Extended to January 31, 2014

News from IAVE

- **New Members Elected to IAVE Board of Directors**
- **IAVE Launches GNNVC: The Global Network of National Volunteer Centers**
- **IAVE Board Meets in Oman**
- **Recognition of IAVE Leadership Volunteers**
- **First Report from the Asia Pacific Conference**

The IAVE Arab Nations Regional Conference: A Special Report

News from IAVE Members

- **Panama Launches a Regional Hub for Volunteering**

The Last Word: What It Takes to Host an IAVE Regional Conference

BREAKING NEWS – WVC 2014 “WEB HOT SPECIAL” EXTENDED TO JANUARY 31, 2014

Originally planned to expire on December 31, the “Web Hot Special” registration rate for the 2014 IAVE World Volunteer Conference in Gold Coast, Australia has been extended to January 31 to enable people to use their 2014 budgets to register. This is a phenomenal rate for IAVE members – almost \$90 USD lower than the “early bird” rates and \$175 USD lower than standard rates. Check it out NOW at www.iave2014.org/registration.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO IAVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce the results of the recently concluded election for Regional Representatives to the IAVE Board of Directors. They are:

Africa – Elizabeth Okezie, Nigeria (new)

Asia-Pacific – Yoonae Park, Korea (new)

Europe – Eugen Baldas, Germany (re-elected)

Latin America – Iraida Manzanilla, Venezuela (new)

North America – Ruth MacKenzie, Canada (new)

Patricia Nabti, Regional Representative for the Arab Nations, was re-elected to a second term in 2012. All Regional Representatives serve three year terms and are eligible to be re-elected to a second term.

IAVE LAUNCHES GNNVC: THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CENTERS

IAVE is proud to announce it will be extending its global reach with the launch of its newest initiative to help build, promote and develop volunteering worldwide. This effort is called the Global Network of National Volunteer Centers (GNNVC).

The Network was officially launched during the 14th Asia-Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference held in Macao SAR, P.R. China, on December 11. IAVE's goal is to raise the profile of the important role that National Volunteer Centers (NVCs) play in creating a culture of volunteering in their countries.

The purpose of the Global Network is to enhance volunteering worldwide through harnessing and developing the influence, capacity and leadership of organizations at a national level to promote and support volunteering.

“In many countries the infrastructure to promote and support volunteering is well developed while in other countries a small number of often under resourced organizations are working to raise awareness of volunteering and create the appropriate support for their situation. IAVE believes that there is strength in this diversity and therefore is seeking to create a dynamic network of organizations that have the capacity to provide a national focus on volunteering,” says Dr. Kang Hyun Lee, IAVE World President, of this new initiative.

Through its activities the Global Network will provide an avenue to raise awareness about the role national volunteer leadership organizations play in the development of a culture of volunteering in countries around the world. Its work will enable like-minded organizations to share, connect and learn from each other. Members of the Global Network will also help to support the establishment or development of emerging national volunteer centers.

Work on creation of GNNVC began at IAVE's 2012 World Volunteer Conference in London in a special meeting of 40+ National Volunteer Centers funded by Ford Motor Company. Wendy Osborne, CEO of Volunteer Now in Northern Ireland and Volunteer Center Representative on IAVE's Board of Directors, chaired a special working group of NVCs from every region of the world that developed and recommended to the IAVE Board the policy and operational framework for GNNVC,

For more information about the Global Network, please visit www.iave.org/globalnetwork.

IAVE BOARD MEETS IN OMAN

The IAVE Board of Directors meets four times a year – three are “virtual,” via the GoToMeeting online service, and one is in person. This year's in person meeting took place November 22-23 in Muscat, Oman in conjunction with the 2nd IAVE Arab Nations Regional Volunteer Conference.

The Board received, discussed and accepted an extensive report from the Secretariat on IAVE's program activities throughout 2013; reviewed IAVE's current financial status; and evaluated the work of the Secretariat team, confirming continuation of the current 2-year contract with Civil Society Consulting Group in Washington DC. A full annual report for 2013 will be done early in 2014 and shared with all members and other stakeholders.

In addition, the Board:

- Confirmed the results of the 2013 elections
- Confirmed the selection of Vietnam as host for the 2015 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
- Developed a new policy concerning use of IAVE's name by local or national organizations wishing to demonstrate their relationship to IAVE
- Endorsed the "Paris Accord" on international volunteering developed at the recent ICVO conference
- Reviewed and approved a series of internal processes and guidelines to strengthen the operation of the Board itself.

RECOGNITION OF IAVE LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS

At its meeting in Oman, the Board bid farewell to members leaving it with expiration of their terms:

- Honore Sietso, Regional Representative for Africa, Togo
- Dr Amelita Go, Regional Representative for Asia Pacific, Philippines
- Dacil Acevedo, Regional Representative for Latin America, Panama
- David Styers, Regional Representative for North America, U.S.

It also honored Patricia Nabti as "Board Member of the Year," recognizing the work she has done to develop IAVE's network of National Representatives and members in the Arab Nations region, her planning and management of the first two IAVE regional conferences in the region and her service as Secretary of the Board.

Galina Bodrenkova was affirmed as "National Representative of the Year," for her significant leadership in building IAVE's visibility and credibility in Russia and her very successful recruitment of members, now totaling 65 individuals and organizations from throughout Russia, making it one of our largest country memberships. Galina was presented with her award on December 9 in Macau at the IAVE Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

FIRST REPORT FROM THE ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE

The 14th biennial IAVE Asia Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference was held in Macau, SAR, China December 9-12 with 300 participants from 17 countries and the parallel IAVE Asia Pacific Regional Youth Volunteer Conference with 60+ additional participants. A complete report on the conference will be in the January E-IAVE. Great thanks go to the Association for Volunteer Service Macau for serving as host organization and to its CEO, Leo Hung, our National Representative, and Anthony Hoi, President of the Organizing Committee for the conference, for their leadership.

THE IAVE ARAB NATIONS REGIONAL VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE: A SPECIAL REPORT

The 2nd IAVE Arab Nations Regional Conference Muscat, Oman – November 24-26, 2013

[This report was prepared by Dr Patricia Nabti, IAVE Regional Representative for the Arab Nations, from Lebanon.]

The 2nd IAVE Arab Nations Regional Volunteer Conference was held November 24-26 in Muscat, Oman, under the patronage of His Excellency Darwish Ismail bin Ali al-Balushi, Minister Responsible for Financial Affairs. It was hosted by the Oman Association for Consumer Protection, a long-time member of IAVE, and the past host of a number of important training programs on volunteering.

About 300 leaders of volunteering attended the conference from 20 of the 22 Arab countries and 14 non-Arab countries from throughout the world. They came from universities, schools, NGOs, government agencies, and corporations, and they brought with them an amazing diversity of experiences, challenges, and ideas to share.

Conference organizers were very honored that the IAVE Board of Directors had chosen to hold its annual meeting in Muscat two days before the conference, assuring the presence of world leaders of volunteering from countries as diverse as Australia, India, Togo, Germany, Colombia and the United States.

The Arab Federation for Voluntary Activities, an agency of the League of Arab States, was also well-represented at the conference with 19 delegates from 13 Arab countries, including its Secretary General, Mr. Yusuf al-Kazim from Qatar.

True to its objectives, the conference provided a variety of opportunities for participants to learn, share, and network with others in volunteerism from throughout the region and the world.

Plenary Sessions

In addition to the Opening and Closing sessions there were four topical plenaries. In The Scope of Volunteering, IAVE Board members introduced themselves as they gave brief introductions to such topics as family volunteering, corporate volunteering, and voluntourism. It was at this plenary that Salma Al-Rashid of Saudi Arabia, was honored as the first person from the Arab region to become a Certified Volunteer Administrator (CVA).

Another plenary discussed Policies Related to Volunteering both in the Arab World and in other countries and regions. A third discussed the topic of Youth, Volunteering and Employment, based on work IAVE has been doing in on that issue. and introduced the IAVE Initiative of that name.

In both the Youth Track report and the Closing Ceremony, participants presented recommendations for what needs to be done to improve volunteering in the region.

Breakout Sessions

In addition to the plenaries there were four breakout sessions and four tracks:

In Track One, **Training in Volunteer Management**, three specialists from the region provided training of trainers on volunteer basics, project planning and implementation, developing a volunteer program, and developing local volunteer centers.

In Track Two, **Inspiring Practices in Volunteering in the Arab Region**, more than 20 participants gave presentations on their own volunteer programs.

In Track Three, the **Youth Track**, participating youth joined Track One for the two breakout sessions and then met separately to develop their recommendations for youth volunteering in the region.

In Track Four, **Corporate Volunteering**, Kenn Allen, Senior Consultant to IAVE and project director for its landmark Global Corporate Volunteering Project, held a multi-part seminar for companies and NGOs on corporate volunteering and the development of effective corporate-NGO partnerships.

The World of Volunteering Poster Exhibit displayed more than 25 promotional posters of volunteering from around the world, many dating back to International Year of Volunteers in 2001. Many organizations in the region and conference sponsors displayed and distributed their posters, pamphlets, books, T-shirts, and other promotional materials.

The Conference Venues

Conference sessions were held in the Lecture Hall of the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, one of a complex of buildings inaugurated by his majesty Sultan Qaboos in May 2001, featuring a blend of Islamic, Middle Eastern, and Omani architectural styles, and adorned with beautiful mosaics, carpets, and chandeliers. The main prayer hall holds the second largest carpet in the world, woven on site by 600 female weavers from Iran, and has one of the world's largest crystal chandeliers. Because of its location within the mosque complex, the conference had a strict dress code in which all women wore headscarves, long sleeves, and full-length dresses, skirts, or pants.

The Conference Gala Dinner was held at Bait Zubair in Old Muscat, an events center and museum, which displays the Zubair family's collection of artifacts representing Oman's rich heritage and culture.

Site Visits

Participants were able to choose from four different site visits in and around Oman where they learned about volunteer programs. Two of the groups visited programs for youth with special needs: Association for Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities for children from birth through 6 years, and the Oman Association for the Welfare of Handicapped Children for children with disabilities from the age of 6 years upwards. Those who went to Dar Al Atta, not only learned about its programs to serve needy families in Oman, but actually helped fill boxes with books and other supplies for these family. The fourth group visited a nature preserve where they learned of efforts to restore this important natural habitat to its natural state and were given boots to wear and tools to use to actually plant mangroves.

Conference Logo

The Frankincense tree was chosen as the logo of the conference because of the many ways it serves as a true giving tree, symbolizing the many ways that volunteers give of their time and talents to help others and to improve the societies in which they live. The actual logo and banner for the conference were designed by the world-class Omani designer Shadya bint Salim Al Ismailiya, and served as a great example of skills-based volunteering.

A Green Conference

In our efforts to contribute to a sustainable world, free of pollution of our earth, our waters, and our air, organizers strove to make this a “Green Conference.” For example:

- There were no plastic water bottles at the conference. Instead, all participants were given metal water bottles as a practical souvenir to be refilled at water dispensers.
- Conference bags were designed to be reusable as totes and shopping bags
- Printing was done on two sides where possible
- All catering used reusable dishes and cups, and the caterers assured us that excess food would be given to those less fortunate
- One of the site visits was to plant mangroves which served as a carbon offset for at least some of the pollution caused by travel to the conference

Discussions and Recommendations

Finally, the conference held a discussion session in which conference participants formed small focus groups to discuss specific issues related to volunteering and develop recommendations for the conference. These are serving as the basis for inviting participants and others from the region to participate and provide leadership for 16 different committees that can sustain the efforts of the conference during the two years between regional conferences.

Conclusion

In her presentation at the closing session of the conference, IAVE Vice President Kylee Bates summed up the conference with these words:

I judge the success of an IAVE Conference by asking 5 questions:

- *Did I learn something new about volunteering, about the world and its people?*
- *Did I hear other delegates talking about what they were learning and sharing?*
- *Did I observe people from different countries, cultures and languages working and talking together in the common language of volunteering?*
- *Was there a lot of noise, laughter, passion and conversation before and after conference sessions; and*
- *Before the end of the conference are people already asking about where and when the next conference will be?*

How do I answer these questions for the 2nd IAVE Arab Nations Regional Conference?

I answer 5 out of 5 – Yes!

Today at this conference I also want to highlight another indicator of success – that is, we have had 16 new IAVE members who have joined during the conference.

By the time participants left to their various destinations in the region, that number had grown to 26, and the number is still growing as participants begin their plans to attend the world conference in Australia in 2014 and to organize the next regional conference in 2015.

NEWS FROM IAVE MEMBERS

PANAMA LAUNCHES A REGIONAL HUB FOR VOLUNTEERING

The celebration of International Volunteer Day (IVD) on December 5 was the scenario for launching the Latin American Center for Volunteerism, a regional hub for solidarity in the Latin American region, affiliated to the City of Knowledge and IAVE. Developed with leadership of Dacil Acevedo, Regional Representative for Latin America on the IAVE Board, it will start operations in 2014. It will be led by a board of prominent business, social and academic leaders. Its Honorary President will be Dr. Bernardo Kliksberg, a pioneer of corporate social responsibility in Latin America and father of social management who recently wrote a book with Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen called "People First" with a complete chapter on the role of volunteerism in development.

Since 2011, IAVE in Panama has been the convener of a multi-stakeholder coalition to celebrate IVD in Panama. This year the celebration was done in the City of Knowledge, thanks to the sponsorship of the City of Knowledge and United Way of Panama. The members of the Organizing Committee included IAVE; Voluntarios de Panama/Ponte en Algo, the National Volunteer Center in Panama; the regional headquarters of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent; Proyectos con Propósito; the Universidad Tecnológica de Panama; Morgan & Morgan; MEDCOM; the Panama Canal Authority (ACP); and, Telefónica.

Some highlights of the celebration this year:

- Juan Carlos Cordoba, the IAVE National Representative in Panama, reported on the status of the Law of Volunteerism, a citizenship initiative presented at the Congress last October, and also on the Corporate Volunteerism Roundtable in Panama that SUMARSE promotes.
- Telefonica shared the results of the I Central American Corporate Volunteerism Forum held last July with the support of IAVE and the City of Knowledge.
- The #givingtuesday global initiative was launched in Panama.
- Recognitions were given to Thomas Ford as Social Volunteer of the Year and Stanley Motta, the most important businessman in Panama, as Corporate Volunteer of the Year. It was announced that next year, besides these two recognitions, a youth volunteer recognition will be included in the awards.
- A Volunteer Fair was done with the participation of 50 NGOs showcasing their programs and volunteer opportunities and one stand was recognized as the most creative stand won by Fundacion Amaneceres.
- Capacity building workshops were held in 3 tracks: youth volunteerism; corporate volunteerism; volunteer management.

THE LAST WORD: WHAT IT TAKES TO HOST AN IAVE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

[Ever wonder what goes into putting on an IAVE regional conference? Here is an excellent first person report on that by Barka Shahbal al-Bakry, IAVE National Representative of Oman, who took on that task for the 2nd IAVE Arab Nations Regional Volunteer Conference.]

When I was asked by Patricia Nabti (IAVE Regional Representative for the Arab Nations) and Kathi Dennis (IAVE Executive Director) whether I would be willing to organize the second conference for the Arab States in Muscat, I casually accepted without giving the idea a serious thought. Little did I realize the effort and the time required to put the logistics in place including the fund raising. At the time, I was working hard to finish a project I was working on for the past three years, the vocational training center for the blind in Oman that cost R.O.375,000 which is equivalent to almost \$1 million USD. On the other hand, it was a challenge because most other National Representatives of IAVE found the idea overwhelming.

On return to Oman from the IAVE World Conference in London, I realized that I cannot depend on my organization, Al Noor Association for the Blind, to give me the support I needed. They lacked the administrative set up for such an event. The only other NGO which is a member of IAVE in Oman and had the required support is the Oman Association for Consumer Protection (OACP). I did some consultancy work for them in the past so, at the time, they were the only organization that came to mind. A number of NGOs in Muscat would have been pleased to support me, but I did not give it a second thought.

Several meetings were held with H.E. Said Bin Nasser Al Khuseibi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Association for Consumer Protection which had agreed to serve as host organization for the conference, to ensure that he was aware of the burden I was about to put on his staff and office generally. At one of these meetings, he informed me that OACP decided to give scholarships to up to 100 participants. This was to include all expenses to be incurred after arrival in Muscat. I was very pleased with this generosity, which, I am sure, no other region has gone thus far to finance any such IAVE conference.

An MOU was signed between IAVE and OACP on 6 June 2013 and by 17 June, the two organizations held the first joint press conference to announce the event. This was attended by most media companies in Muscat and was spearheaded by Patricia Nabti, who was on her second visit to Oman to discuss conference plans. Initially, I wanted us to engage an event organizing company that will take over the logistics as well as fund raising. Two such enterprises turned the offer down, fearing the load and time that it would take for them to organize the conference. By the end of June, we decided to go ahead and form a committee that would take on the task plus a one-man company that would take care of some of the logistics.

A conference plan was received from Patricia as a guide, in addition to regular direction from her on how to move forward. This included documentation such as conference objectives, structure, speakers, who can attend, logo and the setting up of the website. Based on this information, the organizing committee worked on the budget for the conference. Selecting the venue was another challenge because we were not sure as to how much funds could be raised. At one point it became clear that we would face problems in raising the R.O.73,000/\$190,00 needed to cover the conference expenses. Two hotels that were initially selected had to be abandoned due to high costs. Several options were reviewed including taking the conference to

Nizwa, a city 170 km away from Muscat. Then Sohar was also looked into which is 220km away.

Finally we settled on the beautiful conference hall of Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. The Hall can accommodate up to 300 participants with limited but convenient areas for the workshops.

During the period June to August, the organizing committee met every two weeks, after that we met every week to discuss issues such as website, visas, accommodations, materials for printing, programs, events such as site visits, gala dinner, transport, raising funds, the opening ceremony, and selection of invitees.

Throughout this time, Patricia was working on the technical aspect of the conference such as coordinating with the IAVE Secretariat, drawing the program, selecting topics for the conference, selecting and liaising with speakers and the Board, providing information and guidance to the website designer, identifying and coordinating with the logo designer, and providing material for printing etc.

On the whole, I think the conference went fairly well. No major incidents were faced.

Here are ways in which we benefited from hosting the conference:

- The Omani and regional volunteering community had the opportunity of meeting and exchanging views with others who had the same interests.
- An Omani Association for Voluntary work was announced two days before the conference.
- The Ministry of Social Development was appreciative of the fact that we brought IAVE home and proved that such events of an international nature can be held in the this country.
- The organizing committee gained experience on how to plan, execute and manage such a conference.
- IAVE became better known in Oman and the region on the whole.
- The meeting of the IAVE Board in Oman gave more importance to the conference.
- By hosting participants from different countries of the region, the conference helped/facilitated contacts and networking among volunteers.
- The success of the conference will encourage other countries in the region to host future conferences.
- Personally, I have gained valuable experience.