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SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR HOLLY RANSOM TO KEYNOTE IAVE'S 8TH WORLD YOUTH VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Holly Ransom, who in 2012 became the world's youngest Rotary President, is a full-time economics-law student and runs a public speaking consultancy and a company set up to develop leadership skills in young people. A year earlier, she travelled to Kenya where she worked on a micro-financing project to train 22 Kenyan women to run their own businesses.

We are pleased that she will be keynote speaker at IAVE's 8th World Youth Volunteer Conference in Gold Coast, Australia, September 15-17, immediately prior to this year's IAVE World Volunteer Conference.

She is known for her big picture thinking and as a "challenge strategist," bringing a global perspective to the most crucial challenges facing leadership teams today. She looks forward to engaging participants in considering how human skill and capital cannot just be used to its fullest, but how the talent, capacity, and capability of young volunteers especially can help solve the most urgent challenges faced by leaders across the volunteer movement today.

In 2012 Holly was named both Western Australian of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year. She also represented Australia at the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit in Moscow and has been appointed by the Prime Minister of Australia to Chair the 2014 G20 Youth Summit in Australia.

She will be joined at the Youth Conference by presenters for the meeting from twenty regions across the world. Currently scheduled are presentations from Russia, UK, Colombia, Taiwan, Philippines, Romania, USA, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. They will be addressing a broad range of topics – Disaster and Emergency Management, Technology, Partnerships with Governments and Corporations, Project Management, and Social Innovation.

Conference delegates also will be invited to take part in a volunteer beach/land regeneration programme.

For more information on both the Youth Conference and the World Conference, please go to www.iave2014.org.

HELP US UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON VOLUNTEERING AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

IAVE's Latin American Corporate Volunteering Network (Red/e - IAVE) is proud to collaborate with Telefonica Vivo Foundation in Brazil in their study on the impact of technology on volunteering and social mobilization, including issues of hyper-connectivity, networking, Internet activism and their influence in the new models of mobilization and volunteering as an expression of solidarity.

For example: Are we better volunteers now? Is it easier to be generous? Do we do more and better actions for others because we are connected? Has connectivity had negative impacts on our volunteering? Are there any risks still unknown?

What is "digital volunteering" and what is it for?

Your opinion will be very valuable to complement the vision of specialists on the subject. Click [here](#) to be among the first to respond and add your voice to this discussion!

DON'T FORGET – NOMINATE NOW FOR THE IAVE GLOBAL CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

Applications are now being accepted for IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Program Award and Inspiring Practice Award! All global companies are encouraged to consider applying at <http://iave.org/content/iaves-global-corporate-volunteering-awards>. The deadline for applications is May 12.

2ND IAVE ARAB NATIONS REGIONAL VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE PHOTOS PUBLISHED

Thanks to our photographers at the 2nd IAVE Arab Nations Regional Volunteer Conference we have now published a collection of photo highlights from the successful event that took place between 24 - 26 November 2013, in Muscat, Oman. Click [here](#) to see the photos!

NEWS FROM IAVE MEMBERS

INTRODUCING THE GLOBAL CORPORATE VOLUNTEER COUNCIL MEMBERS: STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

[This article was provided by Sarah Hayes who manages IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council with a big "thank you" to Ai Nakagawa from Standard Chartered for the background information.]

Few crises have affected human health and threatened national, social and economic progress in the same way that HIV and AIDS have. Since the start of the epidemic, around 75 million people have become infected with HIV and an estimated 36 million people have died of AIDS-related illnesses. Today, fewer people are dying of AIDS and there has been a significant stabilisation of the virus' impact due to increased access to, and use of, antiretroviral treatment.

Despite this, AIDS-related deaths remain the world's sixth biggest killer, responsible for 1.6 million deaths in 2012. Currently an estimated 35 million people are living with HIV and every day more than 6,000 people become newly infected with the virus.

Standard Chartered Bank believes that by running their operations well, standing by their clients and customers and investing in local communities, that they can be a powerful force for good. Operating in some of the world's most dynamic markets, the bank saw HIV and AIDS affect the lives of their staff, their customers and clients, and across their communities. As a direct business response to the gravity, impact and devastation they took action and launched Living with HIV in 1999.

The cornerstone of the Bank's approach is a focus on prevention, practical awareness and behaviour change. They believe that through information and education, being informed and aware, knowing the facts, understanding the risks and adopting safer behaviors can help avoid infection in the first place or prevent passing it on if someone is already HIV positive. Awareness also helps tackle misconceptions which themselves fuel the virus through fear, discrimination and stigma. Complementing this, the bank also looks to support and protect their employees through the introduction of their HIV and AIDS Procedures. These aim to ensure a non-discriminatory/non-disclosure environment and also encourage confidential testing and access to free treatment where necessary.

Although initiated to focus on the workplace, the Bank took a pioneering decision to share their education with others for free as part of a commitment with the Clinton Global Initiative in 2006. Over the years, the bank's education has been shared with multinationals, SMEs, Government ministries, schools, prisons, hill tribe villages and police academies touching over a million people.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering commitment, passion and dedication of staff volunteers at SCB, Living with HIV Champions, who become trained to share HIV prevention education with others.

Now, in 2014, the Bank will celebrate its 15 year anniversary of the Living with HIV programme marking a milestone in their leadership and commitment to the corporate response to HIV and AIDS.

IAVE is proud to have a GVC member company with such compassion and willingness to address serious and not always popular issues. Giving back to the community is an integral component of Standard Chartered's commitment to their brand promise "Here for good".

You also can [watch a video](https://www.sc.com/en/sustainability/investing-in-communities/living-with-hiv.html) about Standard Chartered's Living with HIV programme at <https://www.sc.com/en/sustainability/investing-in-communities/living-with-hiv.html>

IAVE NIGERIA CELEBRATES NATIONAL GOOD DEEDS DAY

[Thanks to Elezuo O. Elezuo, IAVE National Representative from Nigeria, for this article.]

IAVE Nigeria joined millions worldwide to celebrate and participate in the 2014 'National Good Deeds Day' on the 9th of March, 2014. We started with announcements on Vision Africa Radio station about the programme, all through the week, in order to sensitive listeners.

Since the importance of a clean and healthy environment cannot be overemphasized, IAVE Nigeria decided to embark on an activity that will impact on the health of residents and improve the aesthetics of Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria. IAVE members therefore came out en-masse for the environmental sanitation activities which we decided to embark on for the National Good Deeds Day.

IAVE members swept and cleaned up the road and surroundings of the Broadcasting Corporation of Abia State (BCA) at Government Station Layout, Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria.

Members equally carried out another clean up exercise at the IAVE Nigeria National office where they opened up the blocked drainage canal opposite the IAVE office. They also used the opportunity to talk to people about volunteering and the need to perform a good deed no matter how insignificant it might seem.

Based on the success of the programme, IAVE Nigeria executive were invited by the Broadcasting Corporation of Abia State (Nigeria), on the 12th of March for a live interview, to speak more about IAVE as a voluntary organization.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES SPOTLIGHT: AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE HONG KONG

[This article, one of a series about IAVE's National Representatives, was prepared by Ramona Dragomir, our Manager for Network Development who is with us as an Atlas Corps Fellow from Romania.]

As a great example of a leadership organization when it comes to the practice, promotion and development of volunteering, this month we are highlighting the efforts IAVE's National Representative in Hong Kong. We are, of course, referring to the Agency for Volunteer Service, represented by their Chief Executive Officer – Ms. Flora Chung.

"Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS) established in 1970, is a non-profit organization with charity status dedicated to playing a proactive and pivotal role in the promotion and development of sustainable volunteerism for building a caring society. We motivated, mobilized and facilitates volunteering through partnership with all sectors of the community," Ms. Chung explained about the organization she leads.

To foster a volunteering culture in Hong Kong, AVS has been using the catchword "I Volunteer, I Live." hoping that volunteering becomes part of everyday life.

With a team of 40 paid staff and around 80 volunteers, AVS works on the following program areas: matching volunteers with the needs of service organizations, promotion of good practices and quality in volunteering, volunteer recognition and international networking and volunteer exchanges.

A longtime leader in the volunteer community in the Asia – Pacific region and a supporter of IAVE, Ms. Chung reflected on being a member of and representing IAVE in Hong Kong, saying "it gives me an opportunity to build my network of contacts and obtain greater exposure to the global volunteer community. I feel proud of part of the IAVE family to promote and build awareness of the work of IAVE in Hong Kong."

She also mentioned some benefits she has gained from being an IAVE NR: "I can learn and share ideas and experiences, challenges, opportunities and achievements on volunteering development with my counterparts."

Besides the positive aspects, Ms. Chung also mentioned that, in her role as an IAVE NR, it is sometimes difficult to allot adequate time, energy and resources to IAVE and she wishes IAVE's membership base increased.

Ms. Chung is constantly motivated to continue working for the development of volunteering in Hong Kong, confessing "I witnessed the change brought about by volunteer effort to many under-privileged groups and to the volunteers themselves. The growth of volunteering in Hong Kong during the past decade is very encouraging and gives me a sense of achievement and satisfaction."

IAVE would like to thank Ms. Chung for taking time and sharing some of her thoughts with us. Make sure you check out www.avs.org.hk to find out more information about AVS and their work!

NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

REGISTER YOUR PROJECT FOR GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

Are you participating in Global Youth Service Day, April 11-13? If so, you are urged to register your project at www.gysd.org.

As of April 9, 1,918 projects from 110 countries have been registered. Don't miss out! Add yours to the total TODAY!!

BE PART OF THE CIVICUS "GLOBAL DAY OF CITIZEN ACTION"

[This article comes to us from our colleagues at CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation that is based in Johannesburg and works globally to advocate and improve conditions for citizen engagement. IAVE and CIVICUS have worked closely together in the past. We are pleased to share this information and encourage your consideration of participation.]

As part of a global campaign to raise awareness about civic space and threats to freedom of expression, association and assembly we will be coordinating a 'Global Day of Citizen Action'.

As you may know, **in many countries around the world civic space has been threatened.** These threats have come in many forms including: legislation that has placed restrictions on the freedom of assembly, freedom of association, and freedom of expression; the surveillance of civil society and activists; and restricting the formation and funding of civil society groups through increasingly complicated registration processes.

The plan is to have a series of events around the world on the same day: **7 June 2014.** Organisations who participate will gather in a well-known public space within their town or city where there they will be able to maximise their exposure to passers-by.

With the materials provided, organisations will prompt individuals on the street asking them one simple question, **"Are you free to: speak out / organize / take action?"** Individuals will be asked to put their answer on a board and the organizers will then take a photo of the individual holding the board. The photo will be uploaded online and shared through Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #BeTheChange.

Individuals will be offered a flyer that explains their right to speak out, organise and take action, and how government legislation in many countries is limiting these rights. Only by raising awareness about these rights and their importance can we assure that they remain protected.

The Global Day of Citizen Action is important in all countries, not just ones that are affected by restrictive government legislation. We hope that in countries where people are able to exercise their freedom of expression, association and assembly the Global Day of Citizen Action will be a day of celebration.

The rationale for this action is that it is **simple and directly engages with individuals around the issue of civic space and civic freedoms.** All material will be translated and the idea is easily replicable, which will allow us to raise awareness about the issue with members of the public in many countries around the world.

Other potential activities are optional but could include inviting a public speaker to the event to speak about civil society, civic space or the importance of citizen action; a march or demonstration; a petition (both online and offline); or the screening of a film about citizen action.

HOW PARTICIPATION BENEFITS YOU

- It provides you with the opportunity to participate in a global event that raises awareness about freedom of expression, association and assembly.
- Your organisation will receive recognition through media coverage as well as through social media and campaign promotion.
- It will help to inspire and celebrate citizen action and raise awareness about the importance of civic space – the ability of organizations and individuals to organise, speak out and take action.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Email us at bethechange@civicus.org and let us know that you are interested in participating in our Global Day of Citizen Action. In the following weeks we will email you and provide you with details on how to register an event, download our tool kit and access resources that can be used on June 7th.
- Log on to our online platform www.youcanbethechange.com, share your story and read about other campaigns around the world! There may also be some ideas for how you can participate in the Global Day of Citizen Action!

Should you have any questions or require further information before making your decision, please feel free to contact us at bethechange@civicus.org and we will happily respond to your enquires.

THE LAST WORD

Dr. Lee Visits China

Dr. Kang Hyun Lee, IAVE's World President, is in the final stages of a major trip through China and Southeast Asia on behalf of IAVE. Here is what he had to say about his visit to Shenzhen, China.

"The reaction to my visit the cities of Guanzhou, Zhonshan, and Shenzhen was very positive.

"Shenzhen is a young planned city with 14 million people. It is very clean and covered with trees.

People are bright and very kind. The city established the first volunteer center in 1989 in China and are proud of their role as a window of China to outside world. I enjoyed their food a lot!

"I met the president of the Shenzhen Communist Youth Union which is in charge of volunteering. He would like to expand their international volunteering and establish connection with international volunteer organizations. The Shenzhen Volunteer Union has almost 1 million registered volunteers. The volunteer leaders that I met at the round table talk were very eager to hear about current trends of volunteering especially about international volunteering and disaster volunteering.

"This morning I will give a lecture and have a roundtable talk after a visit to a volunteer organization. The only inconvenience is that they give me the schedule only one day ahead of time. Until then I do not know where I am going and what I will do. Yet, it is very fun!"