



International
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Effort

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2014 WORLD VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

[Thanks to Dorothy Harding, writing on behalf of the conference organizing team, for this article.]

The official announcement of the 23rd IAVE World Volunteer Conference took place in Sydney, Australia on March 27. Launching the Conference website, www.iave2014.org, was part of the celebration hosted by the New South Wales state government for over 100 guests who represented leading corporations, NGOs and government agencies.

Volunteering Australia, the conference host organization, held a lunch following the official proceedings to welcome key business, government and community leaders. Guests were introduced to the Conference theme – VOLUNTEERING TODAY'S IMPERATIVE.

We were delighted to have Kathi Dennis, IAVE Executive Director, and Kylee Bates, IAVE Vice President, present at both functions. Kathi addressed the guests at the launch, speaking with excited anticipation of what is expected to unfold in the coming months; while Kylee spoke to the lunch, participants inviting them to be named among the significant conference supporters.

The Conference will take place on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia's premier tourist location with beautiful beaches surrounding the Conference venue. Held in mid-September, Australia's spring weather is conducive to a productive working environment.

The Conference website will be updated on a regular basis and potential delegates are encouraged to visit the site to keep abreast of the developments. The Conference dates are: The World Youth Conference, September 15 – 16, 2014 and the World Conference dates are 17 – 20, 2014.

IAVE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

As a volunteer-based and volunteer-driven organization, IAVE relies on its elected and appointed leaders and members to help us promote, strengthen and celebrate volunteering around the world. Our 52 National Representatives are a key part of that network.

This month we begin regular reports about them and their work. Our first National Representative in the spotlight is Vanisa Dhiru, Chief Executive at Volunteering New Zealand, IAVE's National Representative for New Zealand.

Q. Can you tell us a little about Volunteering New Zealand? What programs/activities does the organization have?

A. Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ) is the national volunteer centre in New Zealand, a country of 4.5 million people, one-third of whom volunteer. We look after the interests of over 100 member organizations that either involve volunteers or support volunteering.

Our mission is to promote, support and advocate for volunteering. We do this by running a number of programs / work streams:

- Managers and Leaders of Volunteers including developing best practice for volunteer involving organizations, highlighting and creating pathways for managers of volunteers, developing competencies for managers of volunteers and leading conversations about impact measurement;
- Training and consulting with those that work with or facilitate volunteering in the community, government and corporate sector;
- Promoting volunteering through leading National Volunteer Week and creating annual themes, profiling and supporting international celebrations like International Volunteer Managers Day, International Volunteer Day and Global Pro Bono Week and running biennial national conferences;
- Advocating for volunteering at national and local government and supporting collective views around changes or issues affecting the volunteering and wider community sectors.

Q. You're a National Representative of IAVE for New Zealand. What does mean to you? What are some activities you engage in as a National Representative?

A. Being a National Representative is a privilege. I was lucky to attend the IAVE World Volunteering Conference in London last December, which has let me understand what other country representatives do and what we should be doing for volunteering in our countries and regions. To be a National Representatives gives me the right to be a spokesperson for volunteering celebrations and issues in New Zealand. As a National Representative, I am involved in a number of advisory groups and represent New Zealand at IAVE regional and global meetings.

Q. Are there any challenges you face as a National Representative?

A. There are many challenges in work and life - but I believe it is about how you move these into opportunities! I often feel like my national role is not focused enough, or VNZ is struggling with funding, and that I do not have enough time in the day to get things done. However - I think of the brighter side of life working at VNZ - I have an overview of the complex environment that volunteering is apart of for society, that money is not everything and people with time are key to creating real change in the world, and I am so busy that this keeps me out of trouble and my mind thinking.

Q. What makes you passionate about working in the nonprofit sector, especially for the development of volunteering?

A. Eight years ago when I was 24, I was working in the government and corporate sectors. I was volunteering in governance roles for local charities and involved in key decisions that effected people and my community through program design and advocacy work.

I developed a real love for the work in the community sector and built an understanding of the contribution that civil society plays in our world. I knew at one point I needed to move to work in this sector that supported people, so set my target high - to be a leader in a national NGO/charity in New Zealand before the age of 30.

I wanted to ensure I was in a role that was influential, supporting and encouraging people to be the best they can be, and to offer skills, connections, advice and passion to things that mattered most to them in their communities. I found the CEO role at VNZ advertised and knew it would fulfill this ambition of mine, and allow me to help using my communications skills, be a connector, share advice and inspire people to give.

Two years later in this role, I believe I continue to do this in the best way I can with support of people across the globe. I encourage you to keep me inspired and connect with me on Facebook, Twitter or on Linked In. LinkedIn: Find me at www.facebook.com/vanisa.dhiru @vanisadhiru and let us together develop effective volunteering across all of our communities.

IAVE would like to thank Vanisa for agreeing to start off the series of conversations with our National Representatives. If you want to get in touch with Vanisa, she can be reached at vanisa@volunteeringnz.org.nz and make sure to visit Volunteering New Zealand website – www.volunteeringnz.org.nz to keep up with their work.

[This article was prepared by Ramona Dragomir, IAVE's Atlas Corps Fellow serving in our Secretariat.]

IN MEMORIAM

We were very sorry to learn of the death, in March from colon cancer, of **Deline Van Boom**, former director of the Volunteer Centre of Cape Town, South Africa.

Deline was a friend of IAVE who most recently participated in our 2011 meeting in Kenya of volunteer leaders from throughout Africa. Remembering that, IAVE World President Dr Kang Hyun Lee wrote, "Deline was a really nice lady with remarkable leadership skills that helped make our Nairobi meeting a success."

We were very moved by this statement which appeared on the Volunteer Centre's Facebook page:

"We at Volunteer Centre know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. Deline will continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make here at Volunteer Centre.

"Her love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared her love and compassion.

"We will forever remember you a remarkable woman, who touched so many lives."

NEWS FROM OUR PEOPLE

Dacil Acevedo, Regional Representative for Latin America to the IAVE Board of Directors has been invited to be keynote speaker in the first Social Entrepreneurship Congress in Latin America in Costa Rica in June.

David Fong, staff member at the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre in Singapore – who played a major role in the success of the 2011 World Volunteer Conference there and who represented NVPC at the London conference last December – leaves his job there at the end of April to become COO at the Singapore Cancer Society. He can be reached at fongdavidmatthew@yahoo.com.

Akiko Seto, National Representative for Japan, is spending the last week of April as a volunteer in the Tohoku disaster areas for cherry-tree planting activities.

Marcel Umesi, Regional Representative for Africa to the IAVE Board of Directors, has written of preparations for celebration of Global Youth Service Day in Nigeria. "As I write, the youths which I lead have fully mobilized for this event going into partnership with Vision Africa Radio Volunteer Team, VARVOT. Our jingles are on air for the past six day with volunteers calling from other states willing to volunteer. We have up our campaign by visiting many stakeholders. The wife of the state governor of Abia who also is a member, and virtually all the media houses around, which have pledged their support for what we are doing and in subsequent programs. All hands are on deck to make this a success."

GCVC WELCOMES NEW MEMBER AXA

The AXA Group, a leading global insurance and asset management company, headquartered in Paris, France, is one of the newest members of IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council (GCVC). We are pleased to introduce them.

From its birth in 1817 as a French company, AXA has had a history of community involvement. Under the leadership of Claude Bébéar, AXA grew into a global conglomerate of related

companies with a sustained commitment to corporate social responsibility and community engagement.

AXA's Hearts in Action program, their employee volunteering program, is based in their Community Investment Team. More than 1,100 NGOs around the world have been supported through the efforts of this program, with some 60,000 hours of volunteer time recorded during working hours. Officially this program began in France, Belgium and Luxembourg in 1991. Now, 22 years later, the program is carried out in 54 countries, with 25% of AXA's staff participating.

AXA's Hearts in Action program's primary focus areas are on people suffering from exclusion, protecting the environment and providing risk education.

AXA's senior leadership decided that risk education was a focus that could tie the company together, be visibly identified with them, and build on the company's expertise and global reach. All entities within the AXA family are expected to develop a CSR plan that includes risk education. AXA partners with CARE, the international humanitarian agency, to help prepare vulnerable communities to confront risks by raising awareness on disaster prevention and preparation. AXA companies also work in partnership with local NGOs to help communities reduce other types of risk.

AXA engages in skills-based volunteering and offers volunteer opportunities designed for employees' professional development. With their holistic approach, AXA is a wonderful model of a company that utilizes their special expertise, meets the interests of their employees, and targets real issues on the ground in the places where they do business around the world.

[Thanks to Sarah Hayes, consultant director for IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council, for providing this.]

IAVE ON THE ROAD: IRELAND (NORTH AND SOUTH)

THE WORK

Three members of IAVE's Secretariat team were in Ireland during the week of April 15 – Kathi Dennis, IAVE executive director; Sarah Hayes, consultant director of IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council; and, Kenn Allen, senior consultant to IAVE.

The primary purpose was to participate in the first 2013 symposium of the European Volunteer Centre, a special training on corporate volunteering for CEV members, NGOs and companies that led to the launch of EVEN, CEV's new "Employee Volunteering European Network." Sarah chaired a session on developing professional skills through employee volunteering that included Sue Gammons from GCVC member GSK and Gareth Davies from the consultancy Emerging World. Kenn and Lucila Ballarino of Fundacion Telefonica in Madrid teamed on a session that looked at both how to prepare employees to volunteer and how to develop skills through volunteering.

Kathi had the opportunity to meet with CEV leaders, national volunteer centers from throughout Europe, several IAVE National Representatives and colleagues from United Nations Volunteers. Following the conference, she went to Belfast to work with our board member, Wendy Osborne, on plans for our new Global National Volunteer Center Network.

For Sarah, Dublin was the first stop on a two week business trip that is taking her to London, Paris, Lisbon and Copenhagen. She will be visiting with current and prospective members of our Global Corporate Volunteer Council.

Prior to arriving in Dublin, Kenn was in Belfast at the invitation of Wendy Osborne, in her role as CEO of Volunteer Now, the national volunteer center for Northern Ireland. He did a presentation based on his book, *The Big Tent: Corporate Volunteering in the Global Age*, at a breakfast co-hosted by Volunteer Now and Business in the Community (BITC) for companies and NGOs. It was the first event in BITC's Responsible Business Week.

VISITING IRELAND: A REFLECTION BY KENN ALLEN

It has been rare for me to take advantage of business travel for IAVE to extend it into personal vacation time. But when your wife is named Maureen Shea, who can trace her paternal roots back several generations to Ireland, it is too good an opportunity to pass up. We spent a bit more than two days in the Belfast area, four days in Dublin and four more visiting Kilkenny and surrounding towns in southeast Ireland.

While we were immersed in Irish history, museums, ruins, castles and abbeys, we were overwhelmed by how warm, welcoming and helpful were the people we met. On sunny days, we were greeted by total strangers on the street with "Beautiful day, isn't it." People we had never seen before would spontaneously approach us to make suggestions for places we should visit in their community or where to get a good meal. We were there when the bombings happened in Boston and were deeply touched by the number of people who expressed their concern and their prayers for the victims.

We saw the panorama of Irish history – from the people who 5000 years ago built the "passage tombs" near the river Boyne through Anglo-Norman invasions to the Great Famine and mass emigration of the mid-19th century to the early 20th century revolts, the civil war and the "troubles" and their most recent aftermath.

Throughout, we saw the power of individuals and the communities, associations and voluntary organizations they created. Some, like those prehistoric tomb-builders, lived in communities where mutual assistance were matters of survival. Others created associations to keep alive their language and culture. Still others made service an expected and routine part of community life, whether delivering services to the starving masses during the famine or organizing to fight for social justice and equal rights.

There likely was not a single place we visited where we could not see this heritage of active citizenship, volunteering and individual and collective voluntary action. It gave us great insight into the power of the Irish people, whether in the north or the south or in the diaspora, to care for one another and to sustain strong communities.

VOLUNTEER VOICES

In December 2010, VSB, the Voluntary Service Bureau in Belfast, launched "Volunteer Voices," a publication and exhibition celebrating the stories of Belfast's "Creative Extremists." This social history project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, recorded and preserved the story of volunteering in Belfast during the forty years: 1967 to 2007.

One of those voices was that of Wendy Osborne, now CEO of Volunteer Now, the national volunteer center of Northern Ireland and representative of national volunteer centers on IAVE's Board of Directors. What follows are excerpts of her story. We are grateful to Wendy and to her husband, Bill, director of VSB, for permission to share her reflections with our members.

“In 1974, I was 20. VSB was holding summer schemes across the city and was looking for volunteers for the summer months. I applied...[and]...was placed in the Ormeau Road [neighborhood]. At that time the place was full of bricked up houses – two up, two down. There were community tensions, it was the height of the troubles.

“There was tension between the Provos and Officials – inner tension and outer tension. It put pressure on the community – there was nothing for anyone to do – not even a playground.

“ There was no such thing as health and safety; I remember us kicking open a bricked up house. We wanted a community house so we could run a summer scheme. We didn’t have any money but we had to find space. I knew nothing about Belfast at that time, it was a defining experience. Yet because it was a fresh experience, that led to it being a success.

“That summer, in my mind, every day was sunny. We had no money so we had to use our imagination; we went to shops and asked for things, we went round and asked for ten tins of beans to take the kids camping. People got involved, even the shopkeepers.

“I’ve never forgotten it, it was a volunteer experience that can change your life – because it was outside your own personal experience, you begin to understand what a community can feel like under pressure. My experience in the Lower Ormeau Road has stayed with me all my life.

“There was a vibrancy around those volunteer schemes, but they were of their time. There was tremendous inventiveness, energy – but things move on. Yet it really worked at the time, it worked for the volunteers and the communities.

“There was a sense of camaraderie during the summer schemes, and there was a sense of loss when it finished. It was such a strong experience, it stays with you.

“You meet so many people through volunteering that you wouldn’t meet if you didn’t get involved.”

NEWS FROM IAVE MEMBERS

HE TĀNGATA, HE TĀNGATA, HE TĀNGATA!

[Information for this article came from the e-newsletter of Volunteering New Zealand, IAVE’s National Representative for New Zealand.]

Volunteering New Zealand has announced the theme for this year’s National Volunteer Week (NVW), June 16-22. It is:

“He tāngata, He tāngata, He tāngata!”

Translated as “It is people, it is people, it is people!” the theme has been chosen to acknowledge and remind us that volunteering is all about people. It’s unique also as it’s a strong, truly Aotearoa New Zealand response.

The translation of the NVW theme into Maori for the first time recognizes the desire to acknowledge Maori and the many other ethnicities in New Zealand who are volunteers. Tūao is a Maori word that describes volunteering and captures the spirit of giving time for a cause.

Tikanga (behavior guidelines) is important in the use and cultivation of harakeke (New Zealand flax). Several tikanga surrounding harakeke emphasizes the importance of sustainable use and

growth of the plant. The people's connection to nature was shown through these whakataukī (proverbs):

*"Hutia te rito o te harakeke -- If the heart of harakeke was removed,
Kei whea te kōmako e kō? -- Where would the bellbird sing?
Kī mai ki ahau; -- If I was asked
He aha te mea nui o te Ao? -- What is the most important thing in the world?"
Māku e kī atu -- I would say
He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata." -- It is people, it is people, it is people.*

Volunteer-involving organizations are encouraged to use the whakataukī to promote an aspect of volunteering that links to the specific work in their area.

NVW 2013 is New Zealand's largest celebration of volunteering and civic participation.

By celebrating the people involved in volunteering we are acknowledging the efforts of a vast humming web of connections, opportunities and community spirit.

A NEW HONOR FOR MORGAN & MORGAN

Last month, IAVE member Morgan & Morgan, a law firm in Panama City, contributed an article on volunteering in Panama. Now, this month, we are pleased to share the news that their pro bono program has been recognized by the British publication *Latin Lawyer* and the Cyrus Vance Center of New York as "LEADING LIGHTS" in the Latin American region.

Morgan & Morgan is the only Panamanian firm so honored. It is the first and, so far, only Panamanian firm to subscribe to the Pro Bono Declaration of the Americas, an initiative promoted by "The Cyrus Vance Center for International Justice".

Since their pro bono program was created in 2011, the firm has completed more than 700 pro bono hours with the active participation of 40 lawyers who have donated not only their knowledge but also their free time during the "Free Legal Guidance Days." In 2013 they have increased the number of these community events to twice per month.

For more information, contact Pablo Nunez at pablo.nunez@morimor.com.

U.S. CONFERENCE ON VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE COMING UP IN JUNE

Convened by Points of Light, the Conference on Volunteering and Service is the world's premier event for nonprofit, government, corporate, education and faith-based organizations.

This year's Conference, sponsored by Chase, will be held in Washington, D.C., June 19-22, 2013.

During the Conference, we'll explore the power of service to unite, and the values we share as citizens that are more powerful than the issues that divide us. This Conference will be about the power of service to bridge differences and bring people together to do what people the world over do best – help one another.

Learn more and register at www.volunteeringandservice.org

NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

CODESPA ANNOUNCES A NEW RESOURCE FOR CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Fundación CODESPA in Spain has published “Global Corporate Volunteering: A Strategic Tool for Business and Development.” It focuses primarily on corporate efforts designed to support employees’ contributions to poverty alleviation projects in developing countries through use of their professional knowledge and skills.

This book includes a series of essays, interviews, and case studies that present good practices of companies from all over the world.

The book is available in English and Spanish for free download at http://www.codespa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=23&Itemid=24. Hard copies can be requested by emailing innovacion@codespa.org. There is no charge for the book but those who order must pay the shipping costs.

For more information, please write Silvia Loro in CODESPA’s Research and Social Innovation Department at sloro@codespa.org.

THE FINAL WORD...

We were very pleased to receive this greeting from Volunteer Aid Nepal in recognition of the celebration of their New Year in mid-April.

Change is the way of life. Challenge is the aim of life. This New Year take up the challenge to bring about great changes in the world you are living. Volunteer Aid Nepal wish you a happy and prosperous Nepalese New Year 2070.

Happy New Year from IAVE to all volunteers in Nepal!

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