

E-IAVE

January-February 2015

In This Issue

News from IAVE

- Love of Good and the Neighbor [\(p.1\)](#)
- IAVE Convenes Meeting in DC for UNV Executive Coordinator [\(p.2\)](#)
- Announcement of Arab Nations Regional Conference [\(p.3\)](#)
- Prepare for Global Youth Service Day with IAVE Webinar [\(p.3\)](#)

News from IAVE Members

- Action/2015 Mauritius [\(p.4\)](#)
- Your Home is Our Home [\(p.4\)](#)
- Volunteers in the U.S. Fight Human Trafficking [\(p.5\)](#)
- Is the Future of Volunteering at Risk? [\(p.6\)](#)
- Recognizing Volunteering as a Tool for Development [\(p.7\)](#)
- Panasonic's Eco-Relay Japan for Sustainable Earth [\(p.7\)](#)
- Volunteering in Switzerland [\(p.8\)](#)

News from the Global Volunteer Community

- 2015 Named the European Year for Development [\(p.8\)](#)
- UK's BITC Offers New Initiatives for Corporate Volunteerism [\(p.9\)](#)
- How Are You Celebrating the World Day of Social Justice? [\(p.10\)](#)

Love of Good and the Neighbor

Kylee Bates, IAVE World President

IAVE is a diverse organization. Our membership is drawn from over 80 countries, while our board and Secretariat originate from, and reside in, 16 different countries and speak at least half as many languages between them. This diversity serves to promote understanding among us all so that we may each better serve IAVE's mission to promote, support and celebrate volunteering in all of the many ways it happens throughout the world.

The diversity of volunteering activity and approaches will be more than apparent during 2015 through the work of IAVE, and in particular the

regional conferences that are planned for Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Arab Nations. We are excited by the opportunities that each of these events will provide for IAVE members and friends to meet, exchange knowledge and ideas and share their passion and commitment to volunteering, while together growing our shared knowledge of volunteering and the supports it requires in order for it to flourish throughout the world.

One aspect of diversity among our membership that is less overt, but an important personal motivator for many, is that of faith. With such a diversity of

membership we know that IAVE members are followers of different religions and observe various faith-based practices, many of which have ancient belief systems and deep traditions which, while they differ by name, enshrine common principles of charity and service to others.

World Interfaith Harmony Week was proclaimed by the United Nations in 2010 to be a voluntary observance by nations in February each year. It aims to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said of the initiative that it “is based on the inclusive yet spiritually essential foundation of “Love of God and the Neighbor or Love of Good and the Neighbor.”

Regardless of beliefs or religious persuasion, no IAVE member should disagree with the notion of *Love of Good and the Neighbor* and World Interfaith Harmony week provides an opportunity to increase our personal understanding of the positive messages spread by the world’s different religions and how these can, and do, support and contribute to IAVE’s own goals.

In the words of the UN Secretary General in his 2014 message for World Interfaith Harmony Day “Let us never forget that what divides us is minuscule compared with what unites us.

Links:

http://www.un.org/en/events/interfaithharmonyweek/sg_message.shtml

<http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/about-us/our-aims-objectives/>

IAVE Convenes Meeting in Washington, DC for UNV Executive Coordinator

On January 22, IAVE was pleased to greet Richard Dictus, Executive Coordinator of UNV and Jordi Llopart, Director of UNV’s New York office, in Washington DC. Kathi Dennis, IAVE Executive Director, organized a meeting of leaders from international NGOs, hosted in its offices by Partners of the Americas.

Richard discussed the upcoming transition from focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which “forced people to look at the same issues” – to the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be announced later this year. The draft SDGs now has 17 goals with a framework of 140 indicators of progress.

He stressed the need to push volunteering as one of the “innovative approaches” to implementation. But he cautioned that there is insufficient data to demonstrate the comparative value and impact of volunteers. Rather, discussion is often based on anecdotal evidence and conviction. He asked, “How do we organize volunteering in a way that maximizes impact?” He is hoping for a global research agenda on volunteering, based on linking together research that already is going on but that may be largely invisible at the global level.

He sees the SDGs as a way to reset our collective approach to sustainability and development – and as a way to reset the trajectory of volunteering in society. But that will require a re-branding effort that clearly ties volunteering into the SDGs.



UNV currently is working with member states to develop a 10-year action plan for volunteer mobilization. A key element likely will be the development of more “national platforms for volunteering.”

partnership with UNV, currently focused on ensuring that volunteering is recognized as a strategic asset to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals.

This meeting was a continuation of IAVE’s ongoing

Announcement of Arab Nations Regional Conference

IAVE is pleased to announce that the 3rd IAVE Arab Regional Conference will be held in Bahrain on November 12-14, 2015.

In preparation for the conference meetings were held in Bahrain December 12-14, hosted by Mohammed al-Ansari of 4Shabab, the National Representative for Bahrain. Participants in the meetings included Kathi Dennis, Executive Director of IAVE, Patricia Nabti, Arab Regional Representative, Barka Shahbal, National Representative for Oman, Hammam al-Juraied, National Representative for Saudi Arabia, Salem Aldini, active IAVE member from Saudi Arabia, and volunteers and staff members of 4Shabab. In addition to meetings at the 4Shabab headquarters, the IAVE delegation visited the potential venues for the conference and accommodations. We visited the Good Word Society headquarters and met with Mr. Ahmed Buhaza, the society’s chairman and the Royal Charity Organization where we met with the Secretary General, Mustafa al-Sayyid, Kingdom University. We also met with Fajer Mufeez of Ayadi Relief Organization (see separate article on the Baitkum Baitna project). And we visited a number of historical homes that have been turned into museums. More information will be available for the conference once the conference website is launched.

Save the Date: Global Youth Service Day 2015

Save the Date! This year’s Global Youth Service Day is on April 17-19. IAVE has been involved with GYSD since its conception back in 1988 by Youth Service America. Many of the countries that supported the establishment of this day of service were and still are IAVE members. Hence it is great to see how much GYSD has grown to become the largest service event in the world, and the only day of service dedicated to youth volunteering.

Currently, GYSD is celebrated in more than 135 countries annually. It serves to recognize and mobilize the millions of young volunteers who work to improve their communities daily. During Global Youth Service Day, young people worldwide are encouraged to participate in service projects to address the world’s most critical issues and to make a significant impact on their communities.

Join us at our Global Youth Service Day Webinar on Thursday, February 26th at 7:00am(EST), co-hosted with Youth Service America. Learn about how you can get involved and gain insight on GYSD volunteer projects that are happening in different parts of the world. Presenters from YSA, IAVE, and Youth Colombian Leaders will also be available for a Q & A session at the end of the webinar. This free webinar is open to all IAVE members, so stay tuned to find out how to register.

News from IAVE Members

Action/2015 Mauritius

By **Mahendranath Busgopaul**, Secretary General, Halley Movement in Mauritius, & IAVE National Representative for Mauritius

On January 15, 2015, organizations around the world launched Action/2015. In Mauritius, Halley Movement together with its coalition partners launched Action/2015 Mauritius. This campaign is an initiative of Halley Movement & PAN-Mauritius to form concrete actions and ambitious agreements to tackle the root causes of inequality, injustice, poverty and climate change in 2015.

Action/2015 Mauritius took place at Le Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel in Port Louis. Two state ministers were present to speak to the audience. A video prepared by Halley Movement on Action/2015 Mauritius was projected during the official launch along with an official presentation of awareness materials. The launch event was attended by around 80 participants including fifteen 15 youths under the age of 15. A pledge by one young girl was also part of the official launch.

Deliberations during a workshop, which took place after the launch, discussed various topics of the SDGs and networking to work together for Action/2015 and beyond.

“Your Home is Our Home:” House Renovation and Family Support Project in Bahrain

Dr. Patricia Nabti, Founder and Director, The Association for Volunteer Services, & IAVE Regional Representative (Arab Nations)

The “Your Home is Our Home” (Baitkum Baitna) Project of the youth-led Ayadi Relief Organization combines volunteering, competition, and professional support to renovate homes and support families in need in Bahrain.

Under the slogan of *“Uplifting spirits, Face lifting houses”* four competitive volunteering teams each restore one home during a five-week session.

Ayadi Relief emphasizes the need to deliver assistance in an interactive approach that is not confined to renovating, restoring and repairing the physical elements of the house. It also reaches out to involve the residents of the house in the change process, addressing their problems, and helping them discover talents and areas in their lives that they could build upon to enhance their standard of living and quality of life. This may include assistance in finding jobs and university scholarships, motivational help for students, and professional help for disabled individuals.

The houses are carefully selected with three main criteria:

- 1) The house must be owned by the family living in it.
- 2) The house must not be eligible for the Ministry of Housing’s renovation project.



- 3) The house must be in a safe neighborhood where the teams can visit freely and safely on a daily basis.

Volunteer registration is open for 24-48 hours before the session begins. Potential volunteers (21+ years of age) complete an online application form and then are interviewed and selected on the basis of commitment, flexibility, and team work ethics. Chosen volunteers are grouped into teams of 10-12 people each.

The teams are gathered for an induction meeting that includes a detailed presentation on the competition's rules and requirements, responsibilities, and time frame. The teams are given 500 BD (1326 US\$) as seed money and a startup kit. Each team may collect additional monetary or in-kind donations, but all cash donations not used must be returned to the organization for the next session.

After a week of orientation and planning, the team has four weeks to work on the house, during which time the Baitkum Baitna team introduces 3-4 surprise

elements. For example, the first team to arrive at x location will receive a cash donation of x amount or a new kitchen or bedroom free of charge. On the sixth week, the judges visit the houses and the final ceremony takes place, which includes short video, presentations by the teams, and the announcement of the winning teams in each criterion.

The teams are assessed on:

- Excellence in the performance of the work
- Creativity during the work and in the outcomes
- Technical work
- Media distinction
- Organization and teamwork
- Financial management
- Interior design

Since the project started in 2013, Ayadi Relief Organization has organized five competitive sessions that have resulted in the restoration of 24 houses, engaging more than 500 Bahraini volunteers in all the stages of the project. [Click here](#) for more information and the full project booklet.

Volunteers in the U.S. Fight Human Trafficking

Susan Danish, IAVE
National Representative,
United States of America

January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month in the United States of America. It's a global and complex issue that exists when multiple systems in our society fail; therefore the solutions will necessarily demand the involvement of government and police agencies, legislatures, NGOs and advocacy groups.

But a key element also can be the committed involvement of concerned individuals. And that's where volunteers, whether as members of groups or as individuals, come into the picture.

Picking just one example, let's take a look at what the [Junior Leagues of California State Public Affairs Committee](#), (CalSPAC), which advocates for policies that improve the lives of California women, children and families, has done to fight human trafficking. Because of my role at The Association of Junior Leagues International, I know this group very well, but am using it just as an example. (Junior Leagues are organizations of women volunteers who address community issues. There are 292 Leagues in 4 countries. Eighteen Leagues are in California.)

What this group of women – every one of them a volunteer – has done in a few short years is remarkable. CalSPAC, which has been involved in the fight against human trafficking in California since

2010, has sponsored or supported 13 bills related to human trafficking in the state legislature, of which seven were enacted, resulting in the addition of human trafficking to elementary and high school educational curricula as well as victim protection and criminal penalty augmentation. An important focus has been sealing minor victims' arrest records and building a statewide framework to move toward treating commercially sexually exploited children as victims not criminals.

I don't know if other countries have a Human Trafficking Awareness month, but I salute volunteers and NGOs everywhere that are raising awareness and taking action.

Is the Future of Volunteering at Risk?

Paula Speevak-Sladowski, President & CEO, Volunteer Canada
IAVE National Representative, Canada

Statistics Canada recently released *2013 General Social Survey - Giving, Volunteering and Participating*. This study shows that the volunteer rate in Canada decreased by half a million volunteers since 2010. Findings from the most comprehensive study on giving and volunteering revealed that Canadians continue to be generous by volunteering close to 2 billion hours in 2013. However, the survey also indicates that 12.7 million Canadians volunteered in 2013, compared to 13.3 million in 2010. What does this mean for the future of volunteering in Canada?

According to Paula Speevak, President and CEO of Volunteer Canada, "Although the numbers are down, they provide clarity for organizations and communities. This information sheds light on where organizations need to focus their volunteer engagement strategies." The information also tells us that the volunteer landscape has changed. Youth (15 to 19 years old) are more engaged, with 66% volunteering an average of 110 hours per year. While some youth engagement (20%) is due to mandatory community service, Volunteer Canada believes that youth want to make a difference – which is great for the future of volunteering. They are highly motivated to be active global citizens and often volunteer to gain experience and build skills. While the volunteer rate decreases with age, older adults (55 and over) continue to contribute the most (39%) of all hours. Volunteer Canada

recognizes that these numbers are extremely positive, yet they also raise the question: will subsequent generations be volunteering in the same way given the multiple demands on their time? An opportunity exists to expose people throughout their lifecycle to volunteering in order to ensure healthy and resilient communities into the future.

Notably, the volunteer rate among Canadians between the ages of 35 and 44 saw a 6% drop. This is not a surprise considering that this age group has multiple demands on their time. Many are balancing careers with raising families, and increasingly providing care for elderly parents and other extended family members. A promising practice however that has been growing over the past decade is employer-supported volunteering (ESV). ESV gives employees the opportunity to volunteer through their workplace and often during working hours. In order to promote volunteer participation, Volunteer Canada encourages employers to integrate employer-supported volunteering into their corporate social responsibility strategies.

Volunteer Canada recognizes that community involvement is varied and diverse and does not always fall into the traditional definition of volunteering. Consequently, Canadians are involved in their communities in a multitude of ways that may not be captured in this survey.

Recognizing Volunteering as a Tool for Development

Juan Carlos Cordoba, IAVE National Representative, Panama

Since 2010 IAVE has been promoting public policies on volunteering in Panama. From IAVE's efforts, a committee consisting of several sectors was formed. Its purpose includes annual participation in International Volunteers Day, promoting volunteerism through social networks and media, and developing and proposing a National Volunteer Law in Panama.

In recent years the committee has been strengthened by the support of IAVE in Panama, as well as through the support of private businesses, national government, civil society organizations, and universities. One of the most important achievements in this trial partnership has been the approval of Law No. 006 of 2014 about Volunteering in Panama.

An initiative of IAVE in Panama, the law was based on a comparative study of similar legislations in Latin America and Spain, and was supported by the firm Morgan and Morgan, who wrote the first draft. The first public draft proposal for a Volunteering Law was presented to the Panamanian society in late 2011. The document was reviewed, modified, and finally validated by more than 5 public participation processes, with broad participation of all sectors of the Panamanian society, including members of both the public and private sectors.

The Volunteer Committee led by IAVE, with the support of the Office of the Citizen Participation of the Assembly, presented the citizen proposal draft of the National Volunteer Law to the National Assembly under Honorable Congressman Luis Eduardo Quiroz. All voting members fully supported the proposed bill. As a final part of the process the President of the Republic, Juan Carlos Varela, signed the enactment of the National Volunteer Law. On December 5, 2014, International Volunteer Day, the new law was presented to the Panamanian society, in a ceremony attended by senior officials of the national government, recognized entrepreneurs, volunteers, directors of NGOs, the media, university authorities, and international organizations. In this participatory and consensual way, Panama is now part of the growing list of countries that has a law on volunteerism, which seeks the promotion, strengthening, and recognition of volunteering as a tool for development and social justice.

Steady Effort by Panasonic Eco-Relay Japan for Sustainable Earth

Akiko Seto, President, IAVE Japan, IAVE National Representative for Japan

Panasonic Company (former Matsushita Electric Company) started its green-focused volunteer activities 20 years ago. It was reshaped as "Panasonic ECO RELAY for Sustainable Earth" in 2010, focusing on three key areas: forest improvement, biodiversity conservation, and water quality preservation. As global citizens, Panasonic Group members around the world is engaged in environment protection activities voluntarily by



joining forces with employees, union members, retirees including their family members and local residents. Under the concept of an "eco-relay" which connects people, communities and activities on a global basis and passes on their efforts to the next generation, it is aimed to bring greater benefits to the world.

For example, ECO-RELAY Japan has conducted

nationwide water quality inspection activities at 100 places of rivers, lakes, and ponds in Japan. The outcome is used to select the suitable locations for clean water preservation efforts. It is reported a total of 50 eco-projects are conducted and 4,800 volunteers participated in Japan during the fiscal year of 2013.

Revitalization of nature takes a long time but is most important to pass down a beautiful earth for the future generations. They achieved good results in repopulating rare species of butterflies, frogs, and animals by environmental improvement activities. Eco-education to children is a vital tool to keep society co-existing with nature. Panasonic aims to produce more Eco-challenges for the next several years to come.

Volunteering in Switzerland

Viola Krebs, IAVE National Representative, Switzerland

Volunteer work is an important element for Switzerland. It provides people with opportunities and fills needs to individuals and organizations in the fields of social work, sports, the environment and more. As part of the results of the International Year of Volunteers 2001, the Dossier Bénévolat - Dossier Freiwillig Engagiert -- Dossier Volontariato was developed. [Click here](#) to learn more. This Dossier allows individuals to get their volunteer work tracked and certified. It also includes a range of criteria of what volunteering is all about.

The different linguistic regions (4 national languages) are home to a number of different local volunteer center antennas, with a useful website providing a global overview, called www.benevol-jobs.ch and a so-called bourse du bénévolat, listing different opportunities in various locations of the country. Guidance on how to work with volunteers is further available and published by [Bénévolat Vaud](#), a regional volunteer center in the Vaud / Lausanne region.

The latest statistics available about volunteering in Switzerland are from 2008, with an updated county published by the National Statistics Office. According to statistics approximately 21% of the population participate in volunteer work (26% of women and 15% of men).

News from the Global Volunteer Community

2015 Named the European Year for Development

Ramona Dragomir, Manager, Network Development

With the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fast approaching, the European Union has penned 2015 as the European Year for Development thus placing the topic of European Union's external action high on the public agenda. The European wide efforts are aimed at showcasing to European citizens how EU development aid works and to demonstrate that it makes a real and lasting difference. For more information about the campaign and the

our world
our dignity
our future

upcoming events, please make sure to visit the dedicated [website](#) for #EYD2015.

For development organizations all over Europe it is an unparalleled opportunity to showcase Europe's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide and to inspire more Europeans to get engaged and involved in development. In this sense, a flagship initiative called EU Aid Volunteers was kicked off at the beginning of this year.

Humanitarian volunteers across a variety of profiles, from newcomers to experts, will have the opportunity to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and show European solidarity with people who need it most around the world. Focusing on

humanitarian talent development and capacity building, the initiative will provide training to volunteers who will then be matched with humanitarian organizations for deployment in disaster-affected countries.

To find out more about initiative, visit the [EU Aid Volunteers](#) page or see the [EU Aid Volunteers factsheet](#).

U.K.'s Business in the Community Offers New Corporate Volunteering Initiatives

Sarah Hayes, Consultant Director, IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council

Skills Based Corporate Volunteerism and Education come together in [BITC's Business Class program](#). Business Class provides a systematic framework for businesses to support young people facing social disadvantage by forming long-term partnerships with schools. This program provides a way for these schools to take advantage of the expertise and experience that the business world has to offer. There are currently over 290 Business Class partnerships across the UK, with aims to build 500 partnerships by 2015, positively impacting the lives of over 75,000 young people. Using a detailed needs-assessment process, Head Teachers define the priorities for their business partner across four key areas: Leadership and Governance; The Curriculum; Enterprise and Employability; and Wider Issues. Each school is partnered with a business which will support it over a [minimum three-year period](#).

Business in the Community also offers the [Business](#)

[Connector Program](#). The initiative involves long-term business secondments, and is creating deeper and more effective relationships between business and communities. The knowledge, skills and relationships Business Connectors take back into their seconding company is creating a shift in the culture of how business interacts with the community. To this date, 118 "Business Connectors" – skilled and talented employee volunteers, trained specially by BITC – have worked in [74 of England's communities of greatest need](#).

BITC also hosts the [Give and Gain Day](#), a celebration of the incredible power of employee volunteering. By getting unprecedented numbers of people out volunteering across the globe, BITC is championing the talent, skill and energy found in business and the role it can play in helping communities prosper. The next Give & Gain Day will be on [May 15, 2015](#).

These are just a few of the ways that BITC is making a difference through employee volunteering, in the U.K. and around the world. We encourage our GCVC members (and other companies) that have business operations in the U.K. to see what's new at BITC! Get involved, make a difference.

February 20th: World Day of Social Justice

What are you doing in observance of World Day of Social Justice? How are you advancing social justice in your community?

Share with us your stories at info@iave.org!

February 20th marks the World Day of Social Justice. Social justice is an important underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence in our nations. Social justice is upheld through a myriad of ways, whether is promoting gender equality, protecting the rights of immigrants, or religious tolerance. Social justice aims to remove the barricades and inequalities that people face due to their age, ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, or disability.

In 2007, The United Nations General Assembly declared February 20th as the World Day of Social Justice. Member states are encouraged to dedicate the day to promote nationwide activities that support the objectives of the [World Summit for Social Development](#), such as poverty eradication, promotion decent working conditions and full employment, gender equality, and access to social well being and justice for everyone.