

Worlds of experience



No. 12 (November 2006)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 12th issue of the ICYE Federation's Newsletter, dedicated to "Youth and Community Service".

Long-term Voluntary Service is often defined as learning and working for the common good. It is carried out : without a profit-making motive; without compulsion by the state; following an agreement between the volunteer and the service organisations involved, and most importantly, from a personal motivation to serve.

Volunteer Voices features experiences of long-term ICYE and EVS volunteers, which well illustrate how working with local communities enhances their sense of responsibility, the recognition of their contributions, and their understanding of local realities. It is very encouraging to note that, regardless of what they do, and with whom they work, young people of all walks of life, are eager to engage in true encounters, to appreciate and value differences, and to develop as individuals.

Although their period of service started a few months ago, the notion of "making a difference" and feelings of gratification are very much present, and are manifested in different ways. It can be a simple thank you for a young Bolivian working with children and families in Switzerland.; the possibility to show how different and yet similar people are for a German volunteer in a community centre in Brazil; the appreciation of the unique culture of indigenous people for a French volunteer in Bolivia; or the importance to feel confident and supportive to make a difference in the life of older persons in Iceland for a German and an English volunteer; or understanding the predicaments of the homeless for a Serbian volunteer in Germany.

News from International Organisations features, among others: the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty; the World Aware Education Award to promote global education; the Culture of Peace Report, and the UNESCO study on "Innovative Practices of Youth Participation in Media". NGOs News reports on the Stand Up Against Poverty - Appeal for Action; the Oxfam International Youth Partnerships 2007-2010; and an initiative to compensate costs for greenhouse gas emissions.

ICYE news starts with a tribute to the late Jun Maruyama-Pirotta and Seth Boama, ICYE leaders in Asia and Africa. It's followed by notes on ICYE's participation at two major events organised by the European Commission, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the EVS programme, and the flagging of projects of excellence promoting Intercultural Dialogue. After brief reports on internships and visits by representatives of new ICYE partners in Moldova, China and Vietnam, it ends with the launching of the web site of new ICYE short term volunteering programmes.

Wishing you an interesting reading, please note that the next issue of "Worlds of Experience" , to be published at the end of February 2007, will focus on " Youth Volunteering and Intercultural Dialogue". Please email your contributions, in form of articles/pictures, to icye@icye.org before 31 January 2007.

Warmest regards!

ICYE International Office

This and previous issues of "Worlds of Experience" can be viewed and downloaded from: www.icye.org

“Youth and Community Service”

VOLUNTEERS' VOICES

“DANKESCHÖN IS ENOUGH!”



Hello, my name is Nicolas Urzagasti, I am Bolivian, and I work as volunteer at the “Familienzentrum Gundeli” (FAZ) in Basel, Switzerland. The FAZ is an organisation that offers different services to parents, at a very low cost. This is only possible thanks to a contribution from the government. Without this contribution, the FAZ could not survive. The FAZ mainly offers two services per day: in the morning, the employees take care of the children from parents who have to work, so it is like a day nursery. In the centre, the children learn to sing (and I learn it, too!) and we make different activities with them. There is also some recreational time. Every day is different: new faces, games, smiling children – a multicultural and multilingual area in which I learn a lot and have fun with the children. In the afternoon, the FAZ is used as a coffee shop. Every second day we bake cakes, and we offer different services. The day nursery is also open in the afternoon. The parents can have a cup of coffee or a slice of cake while we take care of their children so that they have time for themselves and for their work. The persons with whom I work change every day. I have to add that I am the only man, and I am proud of it!



The work is varied and very interesting: we organise discussions for parents and their children, we distribute leaflets about the protection of the environment and we organise special programs throughout the year.

In the beginning, the work was difficult for me, but I like it and I learned a lot. I also have good feelings knowing that what I do is useful to others. This is real gratitude: to know that you do not need to be paid for what you do, that hearing a nice „Danke schön“ (thank you) is enough!

Nicolas Urzagasti
Bolivian volunteer in Switzerland

“HOW DIFFERENT OR SIMILAR THINGS ARE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD”



My name is Sandra, I am from Germany and I am volunteering in Brazil. I work in two different projects in Porto Alegre, in the south of Brazil, and one of them is CESMAR, Centro Social Maristas. CESMAR is a social center that provides alternative education and social opportunities for children and adolescents aged from 7 to 19. The center is settled in a very poor area of the city where the community is composed of low social class people. One of the main aim of the center is to keep the children from the streets while they are not at school, to keep them away from crime, violence and drugs. It is important to show them that there are alternatives to these things that often seem to be the easiest ways for their future.

At the centre they get to know a life with rules and regularity which they often don't have at their homes. CESMAR offers different opportunities and activities for the different age groups: for children up to 14 years, dancing, sports, music and art groups. For the

older ones, there are vocational training classes in manicure, haircutting, informatics, secretary work or carpenter. CESMAR forms a very important part of the community – not only provides education to most children of the neighborhood, but it also provides many jobs: for example, a lot of the teachers and instructors live nearby and where once also educated at CESMAR. Furthermore, the center offers medical help, psychological and social support to everyone in the community. I work together with an instructor in the field of environmental education. There I support a group of adolescents in gardening lessons and in caring for the animals. We plant vegetables and fruits, herbs, some plants for medical use but the students also learn about the greater context of ecological topics. I contribute with my knowledge and experiences from Germany – most children and adolescents have never met someone from Europe before – sometimes ask really funny questions. Mainly, my main contribution is to be there and give them the opportunity to know someone to tell them how different – or in some cases also similar – things are in other parts of the world.

*Sandra Leitte
German Volunteer in Brazil*

„THEY CAN GIVE YOU SO MUCH BACK FOR WHAT YOU GIVE!“



My name is Kathrin, I'm a 22-year old girl from Austria and I work at ARGO TRUST in Wellington, New Zealand. Argo Trust is a home for six mentally and physically disabled adults aged between 24 and 36. We are about 25 staff members who are responsible for the needs of the residents, take care of them and help them to have a good living situation. The work is divided in Argo House and Argo Club. While at the ARGO House we cater for their daily physical needs, between 9am and 4pm we have the Argo Club, where we carry out different activities with the residents. We

are doing lots of art (we had an exhibition two weeks ago at Te Papa with pictures painted by the guys), visiting exhibitions, swimming, going to town for shopping or a coffee, the guys have spas and massages regularly.

We organise lots of outings, such as going to the beach to relax, and other nice places in and around Wellington. The work is very intense - it's a great experience to work with disabled people. Once you found out how they communicate, they can give you so much back for what you give! I'm glad to got the chance to do voluntary work with disabled people because you really can help them to have a good life.

*Kathrin Halaus
Austrian volunteer in New Zealand*

I AM REALLY HAVING A GREAT AND TRUE BOLI VI AN EXPERIENCE!



My name is Anne-Solene, I am a French ICYE volunteer in Bolivia. Since the end of august I have been working in ASARBOLSEM, “Asociacion Artesanal Boliviana “Señor de Mayo”, founded in July 1989, with the support of a former ICYE Japanese volunteer. It is now a self-managed association, economically viable, socially just and environmentally sustainable. The association brings together organised groups of producers from across the Andean region – sells craftwork produced using traditional methods and Andean symbols and design. The products include hand-made knitwear, textile weavings (all 100% Alpaca or sheep wool), embroidery and fashion wear, decorative ceramics and kitchenware, and musical instruments of Andean woodwind. The arts of weaving and dyeing were of major social importance among the Aymara and Quechua nations. Their textiles were of extraordinary quality. To keep alive these traditions for future generations, the members research the origin and use of traditional technologies, and preserve the local knowledge and cultural heritage.

ASARBOLSEM is a private, non-profit association, made up of 390 members (90 per cent of these are women) organised in 16 groups. The annual assembly controls the board of directors, and the production and marketing teams. It is a member of the IFAT (International Fair Trade Association). Products are exported in Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and North America. ASARBOLEM is located in El Alto - a suburb of La Paz, located on the highlands, with a population of 700 000. El Alto is one of the highest cities in the world, up to 4150 meters above sea level - has a cold climate (max 17 Celsius in summer), and is the fastest growing city in Bolivia . 79% of its inhabitants are Aymara, 6% are Quechua and 15% are of European descent. El Alto, also known as La Paz's dormitory, through recent growth of commerce and industry has made local authorities to claim it is "Bolivia's Economic Capital". El Alto has suffered in the so called Bolivian Gas War, during which 70 inhabitants were killed under police repression.

ASARBOLSEM hosts ICYE volunteers almost every year since its creation (all of them girls up to now). They help with the administration, translations, emails, communication and book keeping. Office work is important because lot of people can't write Spanish, as they speak Quechua or Aymara. The volunteers also visit the groups, take part in meetings, attend commercial exhibitions, and help with packaging products for export. They have to quickly improve their Spanish and be patient as it is hard to get into the people coming from the groups. I already got lots of invitations to visit the countryside! The executive director of ASARBOLSEM is my host mother, (she hosted various others ICYE volunteers), so I am also living in El Alto.

ASARBOLSEM is a social initiative, considered by the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) as a model community-based organisation or handcraft in Bolivia.

I am really having a great and true Bolivian experience!

*Anne-Solene Le Danvic
French volunteer in Bolivia*

"THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS JUST TO SMILE"

We, Robert and Rike are two ICYE/EVS volunteers working at Grund for one year. Grund is a home for the elderly (elliheimili) in Reykjavik, Iceland. It is home to 250 residents and almost double that number work as the staff. The staff is made up of many different nationalities so there is opportunity to meet people from all over the world as well as the Icelanders.

Elska mín! The atmosphere in Grund is warm and the staff are close to the residents. From



the first few days you can tell that the residents at Grund are treated well, and their dignity is always preserved even when they are disabled and need support in almost everything they do. The residents have a wide degree of needs and thus it is possible to work in a more nursing environment or a more activity based setting. The staff at Grund are willing to let us specialise in what we feel most comfortable doing. At the beginning of the day we work together – helping out Paulina “the coffee mum” as she and other workers prepare and carry out the mass gathering in the assembly hall. Around 30 residents come to the hall to sing, pray, hear the news read out and of course – drink coffee. Even to give someone the coffee with little bits of Icelandic is rewarding, although new volunteers should be wary that mistakes will happen and there are sometimes embarrassing situations.

We think that the key to success at Grund is just to smile and be a young person who is trying to do their best to help out. We are not just doing the practical side of the staffs work at Grund, but actually interact a lot with the residents, making their lives better on a personal/emotional level.

It is up to the volunteer to start new activities and if you want to make a difference at your



project - like we feel we are doing now – you will need to be confident and independent as well as be able to follow orders from your colleagues.

*Robert Pearson and Rike Eiben
Volunteers from England and Germany in Iceland*

MY COMMUNITY SERVICE

My name is Ivana, I come from Belgrade and I am a part of EVS Multilateral Project in EU and SEE Countries 'Youth Dialogue and Local Development' in association Mob e.V.(make homeless people mobile) in Berlin.

The main aim of this association is not only to support homeless people, but to give them the opportunity to be creative and help themselves. One of the main projects is the street paper "Strassenfeger"- "street sweeper" - is a forum to discuss and publish the most current and urgent social issues. It offers an economic improvement for the sellers and is at the same time a creative tool for salesmen, when they choose to publish own texts or articles. It is published every second week, 26 editions per year, and sold in around 20,000 copies - sold to the vendors for 0,40 € to the vendors, and to the public for 1,20 €.

At Mob e.V. there is also a public meeting point, "**Kaffee Bankrott**". Most guests are vendors, people involved in the association, or guests that stays in the shelter. "Café Bankrupt" is accessible to disabled people, and is open all year, 7 days a week, between 8:00 and 20:00 o'clock and it is open for everyone that comes. There is also a all year round emergency overnight shelter, "Notübernachtung". Originally meant to provide an emergency night shelter for street newspaper vendors, it is now open to everyone in need, and has place for 16 guests. The stay is general limited to 8 weeks, but in exceptional cases extension is possible. During the winter four extra beds are available, in order to welcome as many as possible.

Due to the language barrier, my work at Mob e.V. is still a bit abstract (for now). I can participate in lots of social activities, round tables, discussions and seminars. I like this way of giving those people certain value of their life and makes them feel needed. This working experience is giving me both meaning and understanding of people who experienced homelessness, and put it on a higher level in my fight for fundamental rights of every human being. I'm confident that I will benefit from this programme a lot - it will enable me to further improve my knowledge and to create an excellent basis for my future development in social field. Vive l' EVS!J

*By Ivana Bartulovic
Volunteer from Serbia in Berlin*

COMMUNITY FEELING IN ICELAND



Geysirs? Volcanoes? Icebergs? Hmm... Interesting... That was the first thing that came into my mind when I heard about the possibility of working in Iceland. Immediately afterwards I started thinking about the project. It had to be something like working with people, getting to know the way Icelanders think, learning Icelandic. But it also had to be something useful. After five years of theoretical studies at a university, I wanted to do something more practical, something that would really benefit people.

Briefly said, I needed just a few seconds to decide that I would join in the project for the Salvation Army. And I left, now one month and a half ago. It was a very good decision, though not everything is like I expected it to be. The Salvation Army runs a guesthouse, with an international atmosphere as staff, volunteers and guests come from all over the world. It also runs a Second Hand shop solely on a voluntary basis: this is more than a shop, it has its own community feeling, most are regular customers, free coffee is offered at the shop so many just come here to talk and have contact with other people.

Also at the guesthouse everybody helps around to make it a comfortable place to visit, and less fortunate people can come, have coffee, talk to each others and relax. In the morning my main task is to cook lunch and sometimes I bake cake or bread. It's really a nice and interesting job. I get along with the staff quite well - they are like a big family and often come to the project, even if they have a day off. In the afternoon, I play games and speak with the Icelanders who come to the guesthouse to talk. Although not all Icelanders speak English, and learning Icelandic takes time, all in all I am having more than an interesting experience!

*Kim Wouters
Volunteer from Belgium in Iceland*

News from International Organizations



World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty

" CALL TO ACTION: ENDING EXTREME POVERTY, A ROAD TO PEACE"

In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly recognised October 17th as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, in recognition of the commemorations around this Day that had been taking place since 1987 under the name of World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty. The outcome of the review of the observance of the Day is presented in the UN Secretary General report at:- <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty/poverty.htm>

A "Call to Action: Ending Extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace" to mark the upcoming 20th anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17th, 2007, can be downloaded at: www.oct17.org/site/Call-to-action.html

It can also be signed on line at: www.oct17.org/site/Count-me-in.html
Contact address: hugnette.redegeld@atd-quartmonde.org



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Education for Rural People (ERP)

FAO'S YOUTH PROGRAMME

One of the international agencies that has been addressing the needs of rural youth is the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The FAO launched a programme in January 2000, Youth in Agriculture, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods. The mission of FAO's rural youth development work is to strengthen and expand young people's capacities, knowledge and skills through education and training to enable them to become productive and contributing citizens of their local communities. For more information about the aims and main elements of this programme, visit: http://www.fao.org/sd/erp/ERPRuralYouth_en.htm



World Aware Education Award

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe the call of applications for the *World Aware Education Award*. This Award seeks to recognise and encourage projects which promote global education through formal or non-formal educational practices; display excellence in networking, partnership and coordination for increased and improved global education; bring together different actors and institutions (non governmental development organisations, civil society organisations, ministries, local and regional authorities, educational institutions, etc.). While global education themes will be considered, sustainable development issues and themes related to increasing critical public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals are particularly encouraged. Should you be interested in applying for the WAEA, complete information is available on the website: http://www.coe.int/T/E/North-South_Centre/ through the following link: http://www.coe.int/t/e/north-south_centre/Programmes/3_Global_Education/f_World_Aware_Education_Awards/TopOfPage



'UNESCO ACTING WITH AND FOR YOUTH'

During the celebration of UNESCO's sixtieth anniversary, from August 14 to 18, 2006, a whole week was devoted to exploring UNESCO's action with and for young people. This week, entitled 'Acting with and for Youth' was organized in conjunction with the celebration of International Youth Day (12 August), dedicated this year to the theme 'Tackling Poverty Together.' The main features of the week were:
two photo exhibitions 'World Heritage in young hands' and 'Youth and Heritage: examples of Youth Workshops for World Heritage conservation'
Roundtable 'Young People's Involvement in the Fight Against Poverty'

Roundtable 'Young People and World Heritage'

special website highlighting activities organized around the world to celebrate International Youth Day. The report of the week highlighting the different activities in more detail, is available at: www.unesco.org/youth



CULTURE OF PEACE REPORT

Following the midterm global review of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, prepared by UNESCO, a report on Culture of Peace has been published. Besides reporting on progress related to the decade, the report focuses on the "Promotion of inter religious dialogue and cooperation for peace", and the "Promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation".

The report is available at http://www3.unesco.org/ivcp/uk/uk_sum_refdoc.htm.



' INNOVATIVE PRACTICES OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN MEDIA'

Young people, working with a range of media materials, produce innovative content through dialogue and discussions says a recent UNESCO study on "Innovative Practices of Youth Participation in Media". On the basis of case studies in Ghana, Haiti, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Vietnam, and Zambia, the study examines how youth get involved with an assortment of media including newspaper and magazine, radio, television and video, the Internet, and personal digital assistants.

The book presents several examples that can be adapted and/or replicated by various initiatives as they embark on building youth media programmes around the world.

The UNESCO study is available at: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/fr/files/22831/11593413569UNESCO_Innovative_practices.pdf/UNESCO%2BInnovative%2Bpractices.pdf

NEWS FROM NGO'S



APPEAL FOR ACTION - STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY

Stand Up because:

- Every day 24,000 people die from hunger
- Every day more than 100 million children are denied the chance to go to school
- Every day 1.1 billion people have to drink polluted water
- Every day 8,200 people die due to HIV/AIDS

The Stand Up Against Poverty Campaign is a unique action designed to raise awareness of the importance of the Millennium Development Goals and to demonstrate to policy makers the growing global support for their achievement and for the strengthening of development policies in the countries of both the North and the South. Coordinated by the UN Millennium Campaign and the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), the Stand Up Against Poverty campaign is part of a series of activities organized around International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October).

If you're interested in joining the largest public movement standing up against poverty and for equality and the MDGs, please consult <http://www.standagainstopoverty.org/>



OXFAM INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS 2007-2010

Oxfam International Youth Partnerships is a global network of young people working with their communities to create positive, equitable and sustainable change. If you are working with your community to create a positive future then you can apply to be a part of the Oxfam International Youth Partnerships. Between 2007 and 2010 you will have opportunities to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding and to talk and share with other young people. For more information, see : <http://www.iyp.oxfam.org>
Applications deadline :
31 January 2007



GLOBAL YOUTH SURVEY EXPLORES PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL, CULTURAL IDENTITY

Over 3,000 young people in 100 countries responded to the World Youth Identity and Citizenship Survey, developed by the Our World Alliance. The survey was intended to capture youth thoughts regarding their community and sense of belonging, their political and economic beliefs, and their social and cultural experiences. The survey was coordinated by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) in collaboration with the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York

University and translated into eight languages, with most responses gathered via the Internet. According to the survey, most young people identified themselves as members of a “global community”, citizens of a broader, multicultural world, concerned about the problems of the planet. Respondents were also asked to rank the greatest problems faced by the world today. Most believed the three biggest problems to be *poverty, terrorism, AIDS and other diseases*. Respondents believed that the strongest obstacles to world peace are: world leaders cannot agree with one another, too much inequality in living standards and lack of opportunities for people to get to understand one another. (...) For more information please visit: http://main.edc.org/newsroom/press_releases/global.asp.



Keep on traveling

COMPENSATION COST FOR THE GREENHOUSE GASES

The new youth programme of the European Commission will start soon and Loesje comes with an action to make it even better world wide. Namely we want to reduce the greenhouse gases by compensating them. Even if you don't live in Europe it's worth to join this easy action. On <http://www.keep.loesje.org> you can read about the action and join. Feel free to spread the news and improve the programme and reduce greenhouse gases world wide

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

In Memoriam of Jun Maruyama-Pirotta and Seth Boama

We mourn the loss of two remarkable ICYE leaders in Asia and Africa.



Jun Maruyama-Pirotta passed away on 10 August 2006. Since her exchange year in Sweden in 1973 Jun's long-standing commitment in ICYE has been exemplary and crucial for the consolidation and development of the ICYE Programme in Japan, the Asia Pacific Region, and the whole Federation. Jun will remain forever in our hearts as a wonderful friend and colleague. Her dedication to ICYE has touched many lives and has been a source of inspiration and motivation for many ICYEers for over four decades.

Jun's last wish was, contrary to the usual custom in Japan, not to return half of the cash gifts - known as 'koden' - given to the deceased's family to help with funeral costs, but to use all donations to set up a one-time ICYE support fund for developing countries. Honouring her wish a "**Jun Maruyama-Pirotta's ICYE Fund for Developing Countries**" has been established.



Seth Boama, long standing **Treasurer of ICYE Ghana** passed away on 28 August 2006. In the early 80s, Seth, together with his wife Mary, founded and led ICYE Liberia until the break out of the civil war. Since his return to Ghana, Seth has been a key figure for ICYE in Ghana and the whole African Region. All those who had the pleasure to meet and work with him, will remember his continued commitment to the development of the ICYE Federation, his contagious joviality and wonderful sense of humour. His funeral on 28 October 2006 was attended by many people from every facet of life - it was a glorious moment for Seth ! You will be greatly missed !

"Volunteers in HIV and AIDS education and prevention"



The ICYE International Office, Freshwinds and ICYE UK jointly ran a training course for youth workers in the EU and South East Europe, at Freshwinds Birmingham headquarters, from 23 to 29 September 2006. The course - supported by the Youth Programme of the European Union - aimed at

exploring the potential of volunteers in HIV and AIDS education and prevention, and to prepare representatives of HIV/AIDS prevention and care agencies for their tasks in an upcoming EU-South East Europe multilateral EVS project. The programme included presentations and discussions about HIV and AIDS prevention and care at global level and in the participating countries, particularly in the UK, in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. Besides the visit to three different HIV and AIDS projects in the Birmingham area, the programme included training modules on the practical aspects of developing and managing volunteer exchange projects as well as planning sessions on new project initiatives.

Intercultural Dialogue Conference and Exhibition



22-23 November 2006 - Brussels. The ICYE project "Youth and European Solidarity – EU SEE multilateral EVS project on Refugees, Human Rights and Reconciliation", was chosen as an example of best practice in the field of intercultural dialogue and will be presented at the above mentioned events organised by the DG for Education and

Culture (DG-EAC) of the European Commission. One representative of the ICYE International Office and one of the EVS volunteers who participated in this project will participate both in the conference and the exhibition. The conference will provide a platform for discussions on the best ways to integrate intercultural dialogue into actions at national, regional and European level, for policy makers, education and training practitioners, and, in particular, young people.

From 21 to 24 November, an exhibition of 29 models of best practice supported by the programmes/initiatives of DG EAC, and some other DGs, will show how intercultural dialogue can be integrated throughout society. These events are also seen as introduction to the preparations of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008).

For further information: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/dialogue/index_en.html

"European Voluntary Service – 10 years of solidarity and active citizenship"



27 November 2006 in Brussels

The ICYE International Office (IO) has been invited to participate in the official celebration of 10 Years of EVS. About 180 participants are expected, among them: 100 former EVS volunteers, representatives of EVS host, sending, coordinating organisations, the European Youth Forum, the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations, representatives of the European institutions, national youth ministries and national agencies, etc. The programme will include a solemn plenary meeting with welcome speech of Commissioner Figel, presentations, panel discussions and round tables on different aspects of the EVS programme.

Andreas Schwab of the ICYE I.O. will participate in a round table discussion on the topic "EVS in the daily work of international youth organisations".

Interns from Moldova, China, and Vietnam at the ICYE International Office

From August to October 2006, the ICYE International Office was honoured to host representatives from partner organisations in Moldova, China and Vietnam. These internships and visits have been very useful to firm up and further develop the newly established partnerships.

Ms Natalia Alexandrov, Coordinator of ADVIT "Europe Without Borders" underwent a three-week Practical Training Experience, funded by the YOUTH Programme of the EU. ADVIT is a youth non-profit organization based in Chisinau, Moldova, founded in 2004 by and for young people. Its main activities are: short and long term exchange of volunteers - in the main working with refugees, victims of human traffic, children and young people; organisation of work camps, as well as workshops and other

activities benefiting young people and their local communities.

Mrs Chen Zhu, Vice Director of the Wenchang Overseas Exchange Association (WEOA), from Hainan, China, underwent a two-week internship, as part of the ASEF-CCIVS Europe Asia exchange of youth workers. The WEOA is a semi-governmental association created by the Wenchang Municipality to foster international relations and exchange with like minded official organisations and NGOs. As of January 2007, WEOA will host young volunteers for short and long term placements, ranging from 2 weeks to 12 months. Volunteers will be able to teach in local schools, work with elderly, disabled and in the Wenchang youth centre. Cultural exposure programmes, language courses, rural home stays and responsible travel opportunities will also be available.

Mr Phuong Don Tuan, Director of Volunteers & International Exchange Trust (VIET). Formerly known as Volunteers For Peace-Vietnam, paid a short but intense visit at the end of October. VIET was founded in 2005 as a voluntary non-profit organization with the aim to promote international voluntary service as a means of cultural and educational exchange and as a contribution to local development activities. The office is located in Hanoi and run by two full time staffs. Besides organising work camps, VIET offers short, mid and long term volunteer placements in the social care field (i.e. orphanages and disabled children centres), teaching in schools and universities, editing work at local NGOs, and manual work at organic farms. VIET is a member of Network of Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA), CCIVS, and cooperates with ALLIANCE members.

ICYE STePs' web site

We have the pleasure to announce that, albeit with delay, the web site of new standardised ICYE Short Term Programmes - StePs, will be launched at the end of November 2006 – www.icye-steps.org. The mainstay of STePs are 2-16 weeks volunteering opportunities that can be tailored to meet young people's needs to volunteer, discover and appreciate the uniqueness of distinct countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America.

STePs placements are offered by ICYE member committees and partners in Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda in Africa; in China, India, Nepal, and Vietnam in Asia; and in Bolivia and Ecuador (and soon also in Brazil, Colombia and Mexico) in Latin America. Also a few European countries will join STePs before long.

ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

New ICYE National Correspondents

- Germany: Stephan LANGENBERG (Mr)
- Switzerland: Philipp SCHERER (Mr)

ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

28 November to 1 December 2006: Final Evaluation Meeting of EVS EU-EECA Multilateral Project “Working with Youth and Children in Need”, Berlin, Germany

7 to 13 December 2006: Training Course on “Volunteer Management in International Youth Organisation”, Chisinau, Moldova. Supported by the YOUTH Programme of the European Union

January 2007: ICYE Italy & Latin America National Committees – Training on consolidation and development of “National Civil Service Schemes”, Mexico.

9-15 February 2007: Training Course for youth workers from EU and Latin American countries “Youth United Against Violence”, Antigua, Guatemala. Supported by the YOUTH Programme of the European Union

March – December 2007: EVS EU - SEE multilateral project “Exploring the potential of young volunteers in HIV-AIDS education and prevention”. Supported by the YOUTH Programme of the European Union