

Worlds of experience



No. 27 (February 2012)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 27th edition of "Worlds of Experience" revolving around globalization, more specifically the theme "Volunteers Addressing the Challenges of Globalization in Rural and Urban Development". Globalisation is the buzzword today. Food habits, dress codes and even the choice of leisure time activities of people are becoming increasingly uniform the world over. Facebook, email and skype have eased communication to such an extent that we have never communicated so much with so many people around the world. Nevertheless, there exists only a marginal awareness of globalization's impact and its 'real' implications on the lives of people. Some countries like India have seen its more dramatic effects, having emerged in the recent decades as a global player in the world economy. Rapid growth has given rise to differing changes in urban and rural sectors and corresponding challenges for sustainable development. And although India may be one of globalization's prime candidates, no country or region is really exempt from its effects.

Young volunteers across the world are working in rural and urban community development projects - whether in educational or health services, protecting the environment, with children, etc. In effect, they are addressing the challenges of globalization in their efforts to build a sustainable inclusive society. For this edition's "Volunteers' Voice", volunteers check in from their different destinations to narrate their experiences and points of view on globalization and urban and rural development.

One volunteer in Colombia reports on how globalization affects urban development and her work with Por Amor a Ti, a foundation working in one of the most deprived neighbourhood in the south of Bogotá. Another checks in from Taiwan to report on the work of the Tainan Community University, providing an descriptive overview of the most pressing issues of our times and how the community university takes on these challenges. Also from Colombia is a report on how Corporación Servimos attempts to meet head-on the inequalities resulting from globalization through educational and health services. Last but not least, two volunteers from the Silicon Valley of India, Bangalore, discuss the disparities between social classes in urban and rural India and how globalization influences and affects the local population. Like the newly paved roads in rural India, we remain unknowing of where exactly the path of globalization will take us.

News from International Organisations feature: the State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2011; the UN Resolution on Volunteering; the Un World Youth Report 2012; the recently launched campaign on Rio +20, the Education For All Art Contest for young people; and the World AIDS day 2011. News from NGOs report, among others, on: the Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (P.A.V.E.); how can civic space be broadened thru voluntary action; CIVICUS' study on volunteering in Africa; Plural+ Youth Video Festival; effective use of social media by NGOs to bring about social change; and a gender toolkit for young peace workers.

ICYE Programme News include: the main outcomes of the 27th ICYE General Assembly held in Costa Rica in November 2011; the VOSESA Research reports on IVS in Africa; the KfW Bankengruppe's donation to ICYE; the celebrations of ICYE Mexico's 25th Anniversary and the forthcoming Reunion Party of ICYE Japan.

In hope that you'll find the reading interesting and enjoyable, we would like to encourage readers to send us articles and pictures for the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", which will be dedicated to "Working towards Intergenerational Solidarity" and will be published at the end of June 2012. Please send your contributions to icye@icye.org, before May 31st, 2012.

Warmest regards!

ICYE International Office

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

VOLUNTEERS VOICES

Colombia: A Global Perspective



My name is Marna Motteram, an ICYE UK volunteer and I am working with "Por Amor a Ti", a foundation for children based in Ibagué, Colombia. The foundation is essentially a soup kitchen and most of its main funds and resources go into providing a daily lunch for around 90 children. However, Por Amor a Ti is also a faith organisation and the other main focus of the foundation is sourcing godparents for the children from within the wider community, who can provide both monetary and spiritual assistance: donating money monthly to contribute to the running of the soup kitchen and also by attending a weekly devotional breakfast with the children.

Ibagué is a relatively large city south of Bogotá with a population of around half a million people. The foundation works in one of the more deprived neighbourhoods in the south of the city, close to the centre. In this sense the organisation is an urban one and the majority of the children are part of the urban poor that surround almost every city in Colombia. However, about one fifth of the children are not native to Ibagué but are 'desplazados', people displaced from outlying rural areas by the internal conflict here in Colombia. For many of the children it is this forced move from rural to urban that has led to them and their families being dependent on the foundation, their parents having lost their livelihoods and not having the necessary skills to work in an urban environment. Since I began working here in September 2011, the foundation has admitted six more children from displaced families, two in the last month. Currently the foundation does not have financial problems and has recently found four more godparents to help fund the soup kitchen. However, finding individuals that are willing to donate to the foundation is difficult, and although Por Amor a Ti could potentially provide for another twenty or thirty children, it could not do so indefinitely without further donations or assistance.

The conflict in Colombia is over fifty years old, violent and complicated; however it is in part related to global drug-trafficking, and if we go further back, to the colonization of Colombia (and Latin America as a whole) by the Spanish. Looked at in this way, globalization has impacted negatively on both Colombia and the daily running of Por Amor a Ti, however that is putting it simply and globalization has many positive impacts too,

including making it possible for volunteers like me to contribute skills and knowledge to organisations that need them, explore living in another culture and learn another language.

My official role with Por Amor a Ti is to teach English to the children, as well as to organise various activities and help with preparing and serving the food for the soup kitchen.

Unofficially though I have found myself somewhat of a cultural ambassador for the UK, as I am constantly bombarded by questions from the children regarding anything from the English language to the types of food we eat or the sort of transport we use. In this way I feel simply by my presence in the foundation I am widening the perspectives both of the foundation and the children who rely on it. Personally I have learnt a lot from the children and the staff, all of whom have been incredibly patient with me and very welcoming. Even though I spoke a very basic level of Spanish when I first arrived at Por Amor a Ti, I did not find it difficult to communicate as everybody was so open and friendly; all going out of their way to both make themselves understood and to understand what it was that I was trying to say.



I am the first ICYE volunteer that Por Amor a Ti has hosted, but they have expressed an interest in hosting other ICYE volunteers. So although Por Amor a Ti has some challenges ahead, hopefully this new link with ICYE will help them to address some of the obstacles they face by providing them with the chance to forge international relationships and the opportunity to take advantage of our increasingly global, inter-connected world.

Marna Motteram, UK volunteer in Colombia

"Keeping up with time through life-long learning"

I am Lucy from Germany and the project for which I am serving as an international volunteer is the Tainan Community University in Taiwan (R.O.C). The institution offers various courses for adults, ranging from linguistic to artistic and sportive fields. The aim of this establishment is to promote

the idea of life-long learning and to contribute in this way to the development of the community.

The challenges of globalization include those that refer directly to the human abilities and mind. The worldwide connection of people beyond national borders offers a chance to build relationships and unions. But to achieve this, the foundation of each relation, which is efficient communication between humans, has to be ensured. To do so there has to be a common language and that's why one of the courses taught most often at the Community University is the English language. This helps to prepare people in Tainan for the demands that globalised society poses for them. The way of teaching at the Community University is also one that is not common in academic institutions in Taiwan, where young people are often under great pressure both from their parents and the teachers to get the highest scores. The teachers here try to teach in a more relaxed and casual manner to ensure that students have fun and be in a positive mood when learning.



The growing pressure on academic achievements may also be seen as a result of globalization, as the opening of world markets and the rapid development of science and technology has also unchained harder competition between the nations and their workers. Taiwan, a small island barely accepted by other countries as an independent nation, is in an especially difficult situation, which combined with the mentality of striving towards success to make as much money as possible, results in a rather rigid attitude towards education. Conversely, the Community University helps with its liberal way of teaching to let the students discover the pleasure in gaining new skills and knowledge and thus ensure longer lasting results.

Furthermore the community university counters another negative consequence of globalization: that of the isolation and social disintegration of elderly people that often form a marginal group in modern developed societies. While technology and emancipation keep people of both sexes busy in their employments and leisure pursuits, retired people and elderly in general, who are not used to this new way of living, often find themselves forgotten and neglected, and experience a feeling of uselessness. The Taiwanese government in general takes special care of elders and therefore also supports the community university whose courses offer a lot of attractive possibilities for this social group to occupy themselves sensibly and make new contacts among peers. The classes in the university often develop into a familiar community and I have myself experienced as a student in classes like oriental belly dancing or

mountain climbing that the group transfers a sense of belonging and of being accepted.

The Community University also lives up to other positive challenge of globalization, i.e. the opening of minds to different cultures and ways of thinking that can be found around the world. According to my own experience, Taiwanese people are often very interested in other cultures and foreign customs, especially if it is connected with food, and that's why the cooking course on European traditional dishes are very popular. The course is given by a Taiwanese and a European teacher, and next semester I will be this foreign teacher.

But the community university offers also quite a few courses on traditional Chinese calligraphy, music and songs, as another challenge of globalization is to preserve one's own culture and costumes while being open to new ones. In this way, the university tries to combine the old with the new without neglecting or preferring one over the other.

Finally, the environmental aspect of globalization needs to be considered. Taiwan, with its fast developing industries, has huge problems especially with waste management, i.e. the wide spread use of throw away plastic products mainly used in the food industry. To counter this trend, the Community University has set up a beach clean-up group that once a month collects debris and litter on different beaches around Tainan and records the items found to publish the results on the Internet, raising thus people's awareness and forcing the government to act. Furthermore the environmental protection group organizes field trips to different areas that are very likely to be contaminated with industry poisons and various by-products. The group also publishes their results and studies and try by using the university as a stage for the free expression of opinion to make people sensitive to this urgent issue. The university also cooperates with an environmental protection organization and offers environmental educational programmes on saving energy in the household or teaching about the origins of peoples' food and promotion of organic crops.



To conclude, I dare say that the Community University Tainan does a great deal to help prepare the citizens for the challenges and opportunities of globalization and supports the development of their communities into a modern society that can handle their problems independently.

Lucy Peters, German volunteer in Taiwan

Social work in times of globalization



"Colombia has everything." This statement that we, Paula and Johanna from Germany, have heard oftentimes, refers not only to the very large natural diversity, but also to the diverse culture and society. As Colombia has many diverse natural resources it should actually have a good opportunity to participate successfully in the globalization process, which enforces world trade. Nevertheless we experienced a very big inequality between the economy and society. This is an obstacle that countries participating in globalization need to overcome.

One of the aims of our project, Corporación Servimos, is to reduce these inequalities and offer education and health services to a poor and vulnerable population. This project consists of a public library that offers workshops, language courses and movies - for elderly persons, adults, adolescents but especially for children. They have a reading and computer room where you can get free Internet access. The aim of the project is to bring the people of the neighbourhood closer to literature and to encourage a reading culture.

The foundation has also many other parts and projects which try to create more equality. It has a girls' shelter, where about 30 girls from difficult family situations currently live. They receive accommodation, meals and education. We, on our part organise independent activities like presentations of Germany and group games, and help them with their homework.

There is also a kindergarten for the children of single mothers. The children of the kindergarten get lunch in one of the project's soup kitchens. Our job is to give the children English classes. We teach them easy and basic vocabulary, so they get to know animals, colours and numbers. In the soup kitchen we have an activity called "Postre de Cuentos" (Dessert of Tales). We read short stories to the children who eat there. There are two soup kitchens where people from a lower district can register. They get a well-balanced lunch every day. One soup kitchen is in the building where the kindergarten, the girls shelter "Casa Hogar" and the library are located.

To get to the other soup kitchen you have to cross the "Parque Ricaurte", a park that is also financed by the foundation "Corposer". There you find many people spending their midday break. The "PPP"

(Paradero Para Libros Para Parques), a mobile library where you can sit down, borrow a book to read in the nature or play parlour games, is also located in this park. From time to time we help at the project's bakery where we can learn how to make typical Colombian bakery products that are sold at more affordable prices.



Recently Corporación Servimos opened a shelter where up to forty-eight homeless people can be received, can get food and have a bath. They can also attend different workshops concerning health and hygiene. We tried to do some reading and talking activities with them but this did not work very well. Many times they were too tired or had no motivation to participate. What we will try to do now are some manual workshops.

Through its many projects, the foundation supports the people living in the Ricaurte neighbourhood in their daily life, giving opportunities for free time activities or facilitating information, education and values. Volunteering in this project means learning a lot of things and getting to know a culture from many different points of view. We experience a cultural exchange and even though it is sometimes chaotic we learn from each other - we also get new inspiration, new ideas by living and working in a context that is very different from our own. The communication between people from different cultures and sharing a daily life are unique opportunities to foster tolerance, understanding and also to deal with the process of globalization.

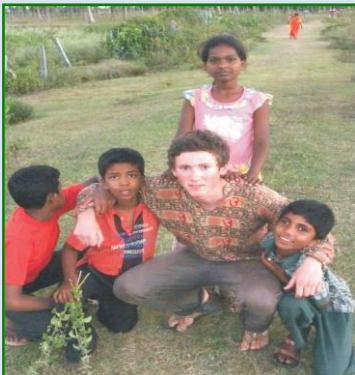
Paula Klimczok and Johanna Figah, German volunteers in Colombia

Where will these roads lead?

India, being a so-called „emerging nation“, is influenced to a vast extent by globalization. Bangalore, for instance, known as the "Silicon Valley of India" with its international businessmen, with its globally operating companies such as "Infosys", its English speaking middle class working in call centres for American companies and its Western lifestyle is a perfect example how globalization takes place in India. But nevertheless, we have to be precise and differentiate between cities and villages.

The so-called upper class in the major cities profits from globalization the most, since they can exploit the cheap working conditions in India. But not only educated rich Indians adjust to globalization by speaking English and adopting certain Western behaviour, even the more underprivileged people

in the cities have to yield to the conditions of a growing market, which wants to compete with markets around the globe. The sellers, for example, who have chosen tourists as their favourite customers, however, have to integrate themselves more into the English-speaking business society if they want to communicate with their customers and make a good deal. A few can even surprise their clients with a sentence in French or German and still we are talking about the small traders in the markets.



But since I work in an Indian village in the vicinity of Mysore, I don't recognise globalization to such an extent as my fellow volunteers living in Bangalore. The villagers are too busy with their local business to be interested in the global market. This is contrary to the inhabitants of the major cities in which international business is important in order to earn money. In our surroundings, the majority are farmers who sell their harvest in the market or on the streets of Mysore. Therefore, they are not dependent on foreign currency. In addition, their English is limited as there is no need for them to improve it. Everybody speaks the local language Kannada and the movies they watch are mainly Indian ones, like Kannada or Tamil films.

Nevertheless, change is taking place. Since the cities provide well-paid jobs with good working conditions there is a rise of commuters that come from the villages to work in the cities. When they return to their villages every day or even only at

the weekends, they enable an exchange of values, which, after a few years, will settle into the minds of the villagers.

In the village around our project, the alternative school "Kaliyuva Mane", accelerates this change. Kaliyuva mane has been hosting international volunteers for four years now. They make a great contribution to the children. As a result, children get in contact with ideas beyond village traditions. Since the volunteer's knowledge of the local language is limited, the kids have to speak English with them in order to communicate. In addition, the volunteers play with the children and teach them English. One closer look at the children and one easily realises that they can be distinguished from the other village children. They watch American television (not exclusively but quite often in their holidays), speak English significantly better and even their behaviour is far more polite than that of the children visiting the government school nearby.



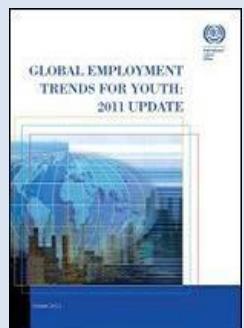
It will need a few years, but the wave of globalization will not spare the way of life in the villages. The first approaches can be identified within 10 minutes of walking out of the neighbour village into the wild. In the nearby land, the government initiated major projects to prevent the overpopulation of Mysore. You can recognise a variety of landmarks and roads, which are sometimes already tarred. These roads are placed somewhere without knowing where they will one day lead...

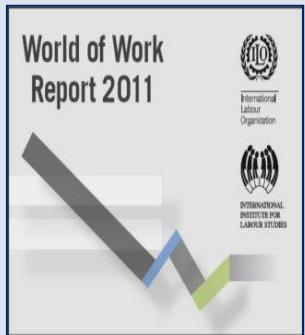
Fynn Niklas Franke and Robin Flack, German volunteers in India.

More on "Challenges/opportunities of globalization for rural and urban development"

Global Employment Trends for Youth: 2011 update

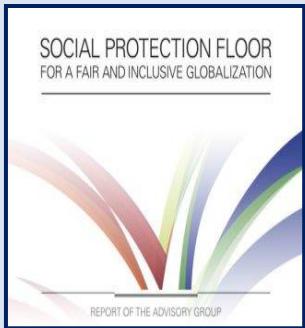
The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the [Global Employment Trends for Youth: 2011 update](#), as a follow-up to the [Global Employment Trends for Youth, August 2010 \(GET Youth 2010\)](#). The latest figures demonstrate both similarities and dissimilarities in youth employment trends among developing and developed economies. On the whole, the figures manifest the stagnant state of the global labour market and the adversities met by the youth in finding and maintaining a decent job.





World of Work Report 2011 - Making markets work for jobs

The global economic outlook continues to be dim, with two-thirds of advanced economies and half of the developing economies struggling with declining employment rates. The International Labour Organization (ILO)'s World of Work Report 2011- Making markets work for jobs presents an in-depth analysis of the global labour market that has been adversely hit by the global economic downturn. Its key recommendations to rectify the crisis centres on: supporting real investment for job creation; building close links between wages and productivity; and strengthening employment programmes funded from a broader tax base. The core argument is that job creation should be "put at the top of the policy agenda – and urgently." [Read more.](#)

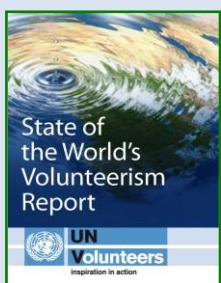


Social protection floor for a fair and inclusive globalization

ILO also recently released the report [Social protection floor for a fair and inclusive globalization](#). Alarmed by the reality that 75% of the world population is not covered by adequate social security, the report advances social protection as indispensable in achieving fair and equal globalization.

News from International Organizations

State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2011 - Universal Values for Global Well-being



The first State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR) by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme was launched at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, United States, on 5 December 2011 and about 80 countries around the world.

The SWVR promotes a better understanding of volunteerism. It demonstrates the universality, scope and reach of volunteerism along with new trends in the twenty-first century. The report examines important contributions in diverse fields such as sustainable livelihoods, social inclusion, social cohesion and disaster risk reduction. By suggesting how volunteerism can be taken forward, the SWVR also provides an alternative vision of a better society.

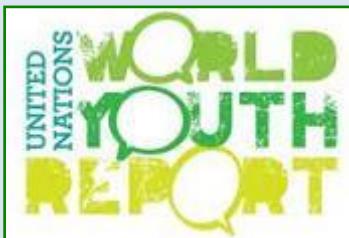
The State of the World's Volunteerism Report shows that, in most societies around the world, volunteers make significant contributions to economic and social development. Through their voluntary actions, millions of people are contributing to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Links to the [Report overview](#) or the [Complete report](#).

UN General Assembly adopts resolution on volunteering



The United Nations General Assembly held two special sessions to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers in December 2011. A Resolution calling for global action on volunteering, facilitated by the governments of Japan and Brazil and co-sponsored by a total of 97 countries, was adopted (Resolution 66/67). [Read the draft resolution here](#) (The final version should be publicly available by March 2012).

UN-DESA: World Youth Report 2012



The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) released the [World Youth Report 2012](#). This year's report focuses on the disproportional rate of unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and working poverty among youth across the globe. The report, produced with inputs from young people and representatives of youth-led organizations, in particular highlights the lack of job opportunities for young people, their vulnerable working conditions, the education-employment gap, and the lack of government initiative as some of the main challenges of the youth labour market.

Equity, Empowerment, and Environmental Sustainability: UNDP's Human Development Report 2011



On 2 November, the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) launched the [2011 Human Development Report](#) (HDR), entitled "Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All." The report shows that environmental degradation can intensify inequality in human development and vice versa; and argues that environmental sustainability can be most fairly achieved by addressing health, education, income, and gender disparities together with the need for global action on energy production and ecosystem protection.

ON THE ROAD TO RIO



DESA

Social Policy and Development Division



UN launches campaign for Rio+20 featuring global conversation on the future we want

The UN launched a new campaign today to promote next June's Rio+20 conference and the need for sustainable development by engaging people in a global conversation on the kind of communities they would like to live in twenty years from now. [Read more](#)

World AIDS Day



On 1 December 2011, the United Nations (UN) observed [World AIDS Day 2011](#). Both at the UN, as well as around the globe, people were advocating for zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. At UN Headquarters (UNHQ), a briefing was organized that specifically addressed the role of youth in the global campaign to eradicate HIV/AIDS. This briefing examined the profound impact of HIV/AIDS on young people and the effects of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination in their educational and other settings. The meeting also looked at how young people can serve as agents of change in preventing and ultimately leading the way to "Getting to Zero" and eradicating the disease.

More information is available [online](#).

GMR Art Contest - Calling young artists!



For the first time, the UNESCO GMR team is organizing an art contest for young people on the theme of youth, skills and work - the focus of our forthcoming 2012 Education for All Global Monitoring Report. The winner's work will be used in the report. The contest is open to those aged 18 to 24, and the deadline is 1 April 2012. The first prize is a trip to Paris to participate in an event publicizing the artwork and meet with the GMR team. The artwork should illustrate ideas linked to youth, education, skills and the world of work. Are young people leaving school with the skills they need to survive and thrive in society? How can we make sure that all young people - especially those who face disadvantages - get a chance to learn job skills?

Feel free to be inspired by these questions and the [Youth, Skills, Work blog](#), where young people are debating these issues. [Full details are available here](#)



PAVE is endorsed by 30 EYV 2011 Alliance members



The objectives of the EYV 2011 Alliance included the development of the Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (P.A.V.E.). The work took place largely in the framework of 6 working groups who met 5 times during 2011. P.A.V.E. was approved at the EYV 2011 Alliance Steering Group meeting in November 2011 and provides recommendations for a more efficient and effective European policy framework to support and promote volunteers, volunteering, volunteer-involving organisations and their partners. The Alliance members presented P.A.V.E to the European Commission at the [4th EYV 2011 Thematic Conference](#) on 1st December 2011 in Warsaw. To view or download P.A.V.E. click [here](#).

Civil society volunteering patterns in Africa



The CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation recently completed a survey on volunteerism around the world. The 2008-2011 CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) presents a comprehensive analysis of civil society in 35 countries, measuring the level of volunteering in each one of them based on people's participation and activism.

Looking specifically at voluntary action and trends in nine countries - Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia - the CSI findings present a picture of volunteering on the African continent that is shaped by cultural, historical, socio-economic and political dynamics. Even though Africa is not a homogeneous entity, across countries and cultures, the study shows that patterns of volunteering are quite similar throughout the continent. With limited documentation specifically on volunteer trends in Africa, these findings have brought to light the value of volunteering in building social capital, its potential to encourage civic activism, and the heavy reliance of organized civil society on voluntary work. [Read more](#)

Broadening civic space through voluntary action: Lessons from 2011



Broadening civic space through voluntary action:
Lessons from 2011



Voluntary citizen participation is an essential part of civil society, which in turn is a key contributor to sustainable development, human rights, good governance and social justice. 2011, the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, saw an upsurge of such action in different forms in many countries around the world.

Looking back on 2011, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and United Nations Volunteers have combined to analyse contemporary trends in voluntary action and make recommendations for policy-makers, civil society, and volunteer involving organisations. [Read more](#)

PLURAL + Youth Video Festival on Media, Diversity and Social Inclusion



Recognising young people as powerful agents of social change in a world often characterised by intolerance and divisions, PLURAL+ supports young people in addressing the key challenges of their communities related to migration, diversity and social inclusion. **Submissions are now open for the 2012 video festival, deadline 1 July 2012.** Watch the [2011 PLURAL+ Winning videos](#).

Socialbrite: Social Tools for Social Change



Socialbrite is a social media consultancy made up of some of the world's leading experts in the use of social media for nonprofits and home to a [leading blog](#) on social media for social good, offering thousands of free resources to the non-profit community.

A few weeks ago the Civil Society and Outreach Unit of the UN's DESA (<http://social.un.org>) hosted a two-hour presentation by Socialbrite on the subject of how to use social media to combat poverty for an audience of over 100 NGOs. Click here for the presentation we gave at the UN: <http://www.socialbrite.org/2012/01/20/how-ngos-can-use-social-media-to-combat-poverty-2/>

Click here for the answers to some of the questions raised at the session:
<http://www.socialbrite.org/2012/01/23/a-day-of-social-media-at-the-united-nations/>

Gender Toolkit: A Manual for Youth Peace Workers



In November 2011, UNOY Peacebuilders published a new edition of the Gender Toolkit. The publication comes along the UNOY's Gender Mainstreaming project, which has been founded with support from European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, and other partners in the Netherlands.
[Read more](#)

Youth Engagement in the U.N. System



Global Youth Help Desk is hosting an eDiscussion on the issue of Youth Engagement in the UN. The forum is open for all to register and to participate. The first event is a general discussion pertaining to youth awareness, participation and development over the course of the International Year of Youth.
[Read more](#).

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

27th ICYE General Assembly 2011



The last biennial General Assembly (GA) of the ICYE Federation took place from 7 to 12 November 2011 in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, and was attended by 70 participants, representing 39 different countries, including partners in Tanzania and Togo. Highlights: acceptance of new Associate Members in Indonesia, Peru and Vietnam; workshops on ICYE's vision and goals for 2020, programme development; adoption of long-term development strategies for training, quality assurance, impact assessment and documentation of the ICYE programme.

Our heartfelt thanks to ICYE/ACI Costa Rica for the excellent preparation and organisation of this unforgettable event! For more information about the 27th ICYE General Assembly please contact the ICYE International Office at icye@icye.org.

VOSESA Research Report on International Voluntary Service in Africa



On International Volunteer Day (December 5th, 2011) Volunteer and Service Enquiry Southern Africa (VOSESA) published a 2011 research report on International Voluntary Service (IVS). The study, supported by Trust Africa and partnered by ICYE, looks at the experience of IVS from the perspective of European volunteers who served in African countries, and host organisations and host communities in Mozambique and Tanzania. For the executive summary, [click here](#). For the full study report, [click here](#). For the report on the volunteer survey only, [click here](#).

KfW Donation to ICYE



We are pleased to announce that at the end of 2011, the ICYE Federation received a donation of € 2.500 from Ms Dr Leibrock, Member of the Board of the German KfW Bankengruppe. The KfW is one of the world's leading promotional banks dedicated to the sustainable improvement of economic, social and ecological living conditions. The donation has been allocated to the ICYE Federation's Training and Programme Development Fund and will thus be of benefit to ICYE youth workers worldwide.

ICYE Japan Great Reunion Party



After a year long preparation, ICYE Japan proudly announces the Reunion Party for all current and former exchangees, staff, co-workers and well-wishers of ICYE Japan. The party will take place at the OAG House in MinatoKu, Tokyo, on Saturday, 7 April 2012. This will be a unique opportunity to celebrate ICYE, recall the memories of the exchange year(s) and to meet old and new friends! For questions, do not hesitate to contact ICYE Japan at : office@icye-japan.com.

HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY SIIJUVE - ICYE Mexico



On 27 January 2012, SIIJUVE A.C – ICYE Mexico proudly celebrated its 25th anniversary in Puebla, Mexico. This celebration was attended by representatives of host projects and families, as well as by co-workers and new & old volunteers. The ICYE Federation's Chairperson, Theresa Higgs (U.S.A.) as guest of honor gave an opening speech, followed by SIIJUVE's Director, Rasjidah Flores, who made a presentation of the accomplishments and statistics of the last 10 years and challenges for the future. During a special ceremony, persons and projects that have meant a lot to SIIJUVE received tokens of recognition for their invaluable contributions to SIIJUVE and its work.

The ceremony ended with a video showcasing the experiences of ICYE volunteers in Mexico and conveying greetings from other ICYE organizations. To view the video click [here](#). After the official ceremony the invited guests had the chance to take a drink and mingle. SIIJUVE A.C would like to thank all the ICYE organizations for your support as well as our other partners, volunteers and friends that help to make our organization what it is.