

Worlds of experience



No. 7 (March 2005)

INDEX

EDITORIAL

**VOLUNTEERS VOICES on
"Youth & the Homeless"**

MORE ON HOMELESSNESS

**TSUNAMI RELIEF ACITIVITIES IN
THAILAND AND INDIA**

AROUND THE WORLD

News From International Organisations

- Youthink – World Bank
- UNESCO Newsletter on Culture
- UNESCO – The 2005 Report
- IJJO Newsletter

News From NGOs

- Celebrate Global Youth Service Day
- Time Bank
- 5th World Social Forum
- International Juvenile Justice Observatory

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

- ICYE Federation's Trainers Pool
- ICYE Cultural & Volunteering Immersion Programme (CVIP)
- EU-SEE Training on Partnership Building and Project Management (Montenegro and Croatia)
- EU-EECA Training course on Youth Programme (Belarus)

NEW ICYE NATIONAL ORRESPONDENTS

ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dear Friends,

A belated but warm welcome to the seventh issue of "Worlds of Experience", dedicated to theme "Youth and the Homeless".

Volunteers Voices features testimonials of young volunteers, who have been involved in a variety of projects working with and for the homeless in France, Germany and Mexico. It is very encouraging to see how young people from different cultural backgrounds are able to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers and provide meaningful material, but most of all, personal and emotional support to people, whose basic need for decent housing and living conditions are not met by the society at large. Since "homelessness is one the most serious manifestation of exclusion" (as stated by the European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless - FEANTSA), the following statement of a Kenyan volunteer in France is an act of faith in human solidarity as a life changing experience: "I came to Emmaus hoping to touch at least one life, to make an influence, any sort of influence. Now I find that it is my life that has been touched."

This issue also includes news about Tsunami relief and reconstruction efforts carried out by ICYE in Thailand and India, with the support and donations received by other member organisations, local and foreign volunteers.

News from International Organisations, namely about the World Bank site "YouThink", and the UNESCO Newsletter on Culture and of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, are followed by NGOs news about initiatives promoting and advocating youth volunteering, and ICYE Brazil report on the V World Social Forum.

ICYE programme news includes the launching of the ICYE Federation's Trainers Pool, and of the ICYE Cultural & Volunteering Immersion Programme, as well as briefings on European Commission supported activities, such as training seminars for youth organisations in South East Europe and in Eastern European and Caucasus.

In line with the Quality Assessment and Assurance Process the ICYE Federation is currently engaged in, please note that the theme of the next issue will be "*Best Practice of International Volunteering*", as seen from the perspective of the volunteers themselves.

Looking forward to receiving your contributions, please send theme related articles and pictures to icye@icye.org, by the 31st of May 2005. Enjoy the reading!

Warmest regards!

ICYE International Office

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

“Youth and the Homeless”

VOLUNTEERS' VOICES

“A NEW POINT OF VIEW”

My name is Wadie Badra and I come from Porto Alegre, Brazil. Despite the image that people have from Brazil as a poor country, I live in a region that has a considerable good standard of living; I for one have studied business in a good university, travelled a lot and never cared about social problems.

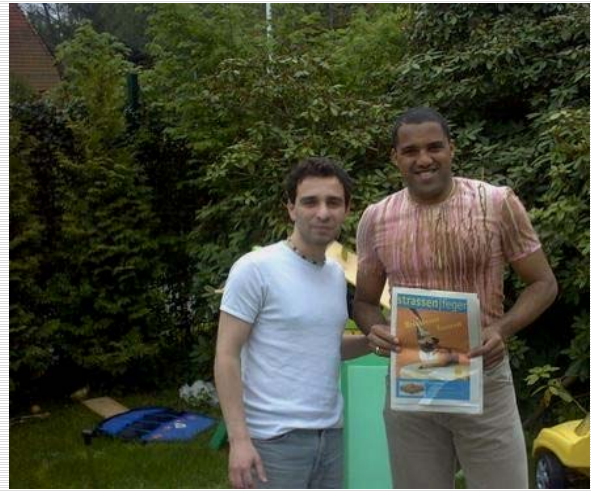
When I chose to spend a year in Germany, I was interested in parties, new cultures and new languages. Sure all my interest became a reality in my year abroad, but the biggest surprise came from my voluntary work.

I worked in MOB e. V, an organization that helps homeless and poor people to start a new life. They have a cheap restaurant, beds for homeless to spend the night, second-hand shop where people can buy cheap furniture, cheap apartments to be rented and a well known newspaper in Berlin, the **Strassenfeger** – “The Street Sweeper”

The newspaper is the main activity and where I got more involved. Poor people sell it in the subway and earn some money with that. My first surprise was to notice that a lot of people buy the newspaper just to help the homeless, something impossible in Brazil.

Another surprise was the restaurant. In my Brazilian mind, I thought that the restaurant would be something terrible, because in my country is unthinkable that a social restaurant can cook something decent. What I can say is that I ate there all the year; I liked the food and never had any problem.

When I examined the beds, I thought they were too comfortable to be free beds. And that's the way my mind worked for half a year, comparing Brazil with Germany. The last thing was the treatment that my boss gave to me. To explain: was working in a project that needed fluent German, so at the beginning my contribution was scarce so I was not expecting to be so well treated. But my boss not only asked if I needed something but also gave me a lot of things that I'd never dared to ask for (as a TV); and then I realised that they help people because they want to do it, not because it is their obligation.



Wadie with Ailton Da Silva, Brazilian football star currently playing with Schalke 04 in Germany

With time I started to worry about the people there, and I became responsible for all homeless that don't speak German. I enjoyed giving them some support, but sometimes I got disappointed because of their behaviour, having the feeling that some of them did not want to help them. One day when a group of Latvian students came to visit the project, I took them around and showed them how it works, and told them about the German and the Brazilian situation. I was happy that at the end of the visit my boss told me he was proud of my knowledge of the project and Germany's social activities.

Now I'm back in my country and I can say that I've a totally different mind. I participate in a group created by a friend of mine (called the Wednesday's movement) to help children, I took part in the World Social Forum (that takes place in my city) and I read about Brazilian social activities (which I found out to be more than I previously expected). I could continue to write more about differences between countries, such but I think that's not the point. The point is that we've to worry about the people that have less than us, regardless of their nationality, age or any other difference.

*Wadie Badra
Brazilian Volunteer in Germany*

"MY LIFE HAS BEEN TOUCHED"

My name is Eunice Owino and I am a volunteer from Kenya working with Emmaus MONTAUBAN in France. I knew that I wanted to work with a project like Emmaus while still in Kenya and I tried to do some research beforehand just to have an idea of what to expect. Having an actual experience at Emmaus now, I find that though what I had read proved a little helpful, the experience of my participation cannot be fully described in words. My first sentiments were that it was isolated and I thought I would probably die from boredom but nothing could be further from the truth. I found out that everyday is full of experiences and events that add a richness to one's life.

From what I had read I expected to live with the homeless, drug addicts, alcoholics, the mentally challenged.... I arrived with a little fear because in my country we tend to distance ourselves from people living in this kind of situations. I arrived expecting to bump into drunkards every single day just because I knew there were people with alcohol problems or to see occurrences of mental instability.... I came with a notion of what I thought an Emmaus community would be like, and now I find that none of the notions I held were true.

Emmaus is about helping people readjust to living within a society. It helps people who feel they have lost all hope in life regain that hope. It gives a chance to people to regain their control over their own lives. An Emmaus community functions by receiving donations from well wishers and then reselling these donations and using the money received to support the people who live in the community. I see that the solidarity is achieved.

Life as a volunteer for me is no different from life as a companion. Indeed I consider myself as a companion. There is always some work to be done at Emmaus, some of the tasks I perform include sorting through knick-knacks to determine which can be sold and at what price, sorting through the clothes donated to determine which are saleable and at what price, doing publicity for Emmaus, cashier, preparing community outings and giving English classes. Though the companions rarely speak of their past experiences, its clear that they still remember how it was to be helpless as they always go out of their way to help those they consider to be in need. One of the profound impressions that I hold of my stay here was Christmas eve where the companions helped organise a Christmas dinner for the homeless on the streets to ensure that these would not spend Christmas alone. In this act, I discovered the

meaning of Christmas. Another remarkable thing about the companions is their incredible sense of humour. People are practically laughing or joking or playing practical jokes on each other all the time. I find it remarkable that despite what problems they might have, they still carry on with life.

When I left my country, I left my family behind but when I leave France, I will have left my French family behind. There is really such companionship among the companions that sometimes I think it's because they have no one else. Whether that is the case or not, it does feel like family. I suppose that that is what they mean by solidarity. I came to Emmaus hoping to touch at least one life, to make an influence, any sort of influence. Now I find that it is my life that has been touched. It is a privilege to participate in a project such as this. I already feel like a different person, thanks to my French family and when I go back home, I'll have plenty to share!!!

*Eunice Owino
Kenyan Volunteer in France*

"AN ASIAN "COMPAGNION" IN FRANCE"

Hi my name is Yi-Ping Tseng, I am from Taiwan and work, together with Eunice, as a volunteer in the Emmaus Project in France.

This is the first time that I had a direct contact with homeless people. In fact, I have been always curious and wanted to find out who and why people help homeless.

At the beginning we were told were told (by former volunteers) to be very careful in asking questions to the homeless in the centre, be careful not to offend them, as many of them have a had a very difficult life.

Now I know that some of them are foreigners/migrants without papers, and some of them will never get easily he residence and the work permit to be able to live and work in France.

People stays that stay at the EMMAÜS community are called "compagnion". Every one who wants to live in our community is welcomed, but the person who wants to come here, has to work with/for the community.

Every day we collect stuff that people gave us, than we select them; we sell the things which are still useful at a reduced/small price, and that's how the community gets an income. In this way, we also protect the earth by recycling used things.

Talking about my job: it's freezing when you work outside. Several times I couldn't feel my fingers!!!! But it's very interesting to find out lots of things that I had never seen in Taiwan!!!! I think that my job is a very good way to know more about a foreign culture.

At first I faced some problems here: I had no idea how to communicate with others. Even if I already spoke some French, I was always scared of talking to them. And sometimes, although I did not want to make them angry, they got upset easily (emotional problems). But after two weeks, I got more skills to talk to them –it was not that as hard as I've imagined. All I have to do is relax and joke with them. And when they got angry I did not think immediately that it was because of me or something I did. When Asian girls' face/see a problem, we often think that we have done something wrong.



Living here is just like living in a big family: We have to share the bathroom, eat together at the same time. It's better for you to eat as quickly as possible because there is always someone waiting to wash the dishes!! (That's his job and he want to finish it as early as possible)

It's not easy to find lots of things in common between us, but since we live together, we have to respect each other.

I learned a lot of things here, such as how to talk to the people with psychological problems without making them angry, try to take things more easily and take myself not too seriously, try to understand that people are here because of a difficult life and we have to respect it.

I think that I will treasure all of these experiences forever.

*Yi-Ping Tseng
Taiwanese Volunteer in France*

"NOT MORE THAN A HUG"

Hi, my name is Nora, I am from Austria and I doing my ICYE volunteer year here in Mexico.

I have been working with girls from the streets for about 5 months now. There are about 30 girls, from 7 to 18 years old and live together in a house, that is funded by the church. But they are also very dependent on donations of clothes and books, donations from individuals and also some from companies.

Some of the girls were drug addicts, others lived on the street, because their parents are in prisons. Another girl ran away from her family, because her mother forced her to work. I also heard about one girl that had to live with her uncles, because her mom was in prison, but they used to hit her and she also ran away to live in the street.

Most of the girls go to school and some (only the older ones) also work besides going to school. For the girls who can't go to school, because they just arrived and have to wait for enrolment, there are always things to do.

For example they can cook, play and carry out sports (e.g. Basketball) with the volunteers who come to the centre every day. I also try to help out and hope that they don't get bored, when I give classes of English and German. There are also a lot of other people who work for the girls. They help them with their homework, cook for them, look for a school, but also provide support in sorting out any problem they may have.

In reality the girls learn there how to take care of themselves. They have to wash their clothes, clean the house, wash the dishes and also help in the kitchen. The people who work there are only to support them, they almost do all the things themselves. Every day there is also a psychologist with whom the girls also can talk, because most of them really have had very bad experiences and can't bear it alone.

One time I heard a girl saying, "I prefer to live on the street than with my family." So many of the girls really have lived in a terrible life till now, with abuse, violence and hunger. We, the people who are working with them, try to give them all the love and support we can. Sometimes they don't want more than a hug, a kiss or a person they can trust and shows that s/he loves them.....

*Nora Batelka
Austrian Volunteer in Mexico*

MORE ON HOMELESSNESS

WHY FOCUS ON WOMEN?



Close to one third of the world's women are homeless or live in inadequate housing and in many countries, a majority of homeless women have escaped from domestic violence. In France alone, six women die every month as a result of domestic violence, while in the US; an estimated 60 per cent of homeless women are escaping domestic violence.

Women in Africa and south Asia, especially, are systematically denied the right to own or inherit land, housing and property. They can only access land and housing through male relatives and their security of tenure is dependent on good marital and family relations.

“Securing tenure for the household does not necessarily secure tenure for women and children. The extension of secure tenure must benefit women and men equally, which will require some fundamental changes to the rights of women.” Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, Implementing the Habitat Agenda. Without implementation of their equal rights to adequate housing, land and property, women cannot enjoy other fundamental human rights.

Read more under:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/programmes/landtenure/women?asn>

“NO PLACE TO CALL HOME” WHY HOMELESSNESS IS THE MOST SERIOUS MANIFESTATION OF EXCLUSION

Decent housing and living conditions are the most basic needs of each individual. Gaining secure access to adequate accommodation is often a pre-requisite for exercising many of the fundamental rights, which form the foundation of all decent societies, and should be enjoyed by everyone. These include the right of access to education, the right to work, the right to social protection, the right to healthcare, the right to personal privacy and to family life, as well as the right of access to basic services such as water and electricity.

To be "homeless" — that is, without access to adequate accommodation — is probably the most serious manifestation of social exclusion. If you are homeless it is almost impossible to realize your potential as an active member of society, such as by getting a job or by raising children. Therefore, ensuring an adequate provision of decent housing is one of the basic foundations for building a society in which everyone can play an active part. In this sense, one can say that access to housing is the principal key to social inclusion.

But the big disasters, which we see through the media, represent only the visible portion of an enormous iceberg in terms of the numbers of homeless people, the amount of poor quality housing, and the levels of overcrowding to be found around the world. Even in countries, which by global standards are relatively rich, there are wide variations in the ability of certain individuals and groups to gain access to housing of an adequate standard

by *Catherine Parmentier*
Secretary General of the
European Federation of National Organizations
Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA),
based in Brussels, Belgium.
For further information, please contact:
E-mail: feantsa@compuserve.com
Internet: www.feantsa.org



FEANTSA Flash!
brings together news
from across Europe
on issues related to
housing and
homelessness.

The Flash is
distributed at the end
of every month.
Subscription is free.

TSUNAMI RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND AND INDIA



Shortly after the Tsunami which hit the western coast of Thailand, Greenway/ICYE Thailand started a series a relief and reconstruction activities in the affected areas of Ranong and Phangnga. Since then Greenway has been involving a growing number of qualified (doctors, and nurses) and non-qualified short-term volunteers, in the following projects:

1. CORAL DOWN
2. BACK TO SCHOOL
3. LAEMSON REVIVE
4. BUILDING BOATS
5. FISCHER'S NETS NOW
6. RANONG RECONSTRUCTION
7. KID'S PLAY FREE TO LEARN
8. STUDENTS RECYCLING
9. PROJECT PLANT
10. WEB INFORMATION

To learn more about Greenway's Tsunami relief activities, to give your contribution and/or send volunteers to Thailand please log on Greenway website:

www.greenwaythailand.org/tsunami/index.htm.

Or write to:

Email: tsunami@greenwaythailand.org



A group of South Korean volunteers had arrived on December 27 for a different short-term project with Greenway, but they ended up working with Naoko and others in cleaning up the district after the disaster.

The buildings were, as you can see in the photos, emptied of everything, although most of the walls remained. The water buffalo that grazed throughout the park apparently ran for the hills and so were not affected, and a beloved cat that lived in the Visitor Center somehow survived as well. Young trees were uprooted, the grass all over the park have withered under the sand, and the mangrove forest and corals surrounding the coast have suffered damage.

The staff have more or less cleaned up the park, and they are currently waiting for the government to allocate a budget for further work."



AFTER THE TSUNAMI IN RANONG

Naoko Yamamoto, ICYE Japan volunteer at the Laemson National Park near Ranong, wrote:

"On December 26, two members of the staff at Laemson National Park were on a nearby island and at a branch office. They were swept away by the Tsunami. The other staff heard about the earthquake and imminent tsunami, closed up the buildings, and evacuated their homes in the park in the nick of time

ICYE TSUNAMI DONATIONS

During the CVIP meeting in Thailand (see on page 11 of this newsletter), the representatives of ICYE Taiwan and Japan, respectively Ms Chen-Hsiu Kuo and Ms Hanako Kimura made a cash donation to Ms Kantiya Suwan, Representative of Greenway/ICYE Thailand towards their relief activities in the Tsunami affected areas.



Chen-Hsiu Kuo, Salvatore Romagna, Kantiya Suwan

VOLUNTEERS IN INDIA HELPING IN TSUNAMI AFFECTED AREAS

When we heard of the disaster caused by the Tsunami we, Ravinder, a former ICYE India volunteer to Switzerland, Anna, volunteer from Germany, and Erik, from Denmark, got together and decided to go to Nagapattinam, which was one of the worst affected areas.

After our arrival, at the office of SNEHA, an NGO coordinating the relief work in the area, told us about the situation in the nearby affected villages. and directed us to one where our help was needed. When we reached the village we saw queues of survivors waiting for donations in front of the temple. Wounded persons were still in need of proper treatment from one of the medical camps. The sight was shocking when we approached the part of the village near the coastline. All the houses were brought to ground level and we were walking over the remains of kitchen utensils, cloths, toys, damaged fishing nets all buried in the broken bricks from houses. Women and elders were mourning at the places where their home and loved ones used to be. The daily life was ruled by fear of another disaster and the hopelessness and worries about their insecure future.

By joining a mixed team of doctors, teachers and other volunteers from Orissa, we started a medical camp in one of the villages. Some of us went through the village, cleaning paths and sewer systems and even repairing those that were ruined. In the beginning it was rather difficult to involve and mobilize the locals in our work but as time went by more and more participated.

For all of us the counseling of the survivors seemed to be the most important thing. By starting games we caught the attention of the children and within a few minutes they played along with an ardor none of us had expected. The adults were influenced by the joy of their children, which encouraged them to join the games.

Besides continuous counseling – very much needed to restore a sense of self-confidence and reliance sanitation and overall reconstruction must continue by involving local people – very proud people who are used to take care of themselves.

Contributions like fishing- boats and nets are also strongly needed since fishing is their only way back to an independent life. Even though they are scared now there will always be some brave fishermen who will dare to go to sea and hopefully inspire the others.

Our days in Nagapattinam have been one of the most rewarding experiences any of us has ever had and we recommend it to anyone who is interested, for their own sake, but more important for the sake of the victims.



For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



CENTRES TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE, EXPLOITATION

New York, 7 January 2005 – UNICEF has set up the first centres to protect children from exploitation and criminal trafficking in the Indonesian province of Aceh.

Estimates suggest that there may be thousands of children in the region who have lost parents or been separated from their families as a result of last month's tsunami and they are particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Five camps have been set up in Aceh and fifteen more are planned where children will be identified and registered with the Indonesian Department of Social Services.

"These centres will provide assistance for children in a holistic way," said UNICEF Child Protection Officer, Amanda Melville. "We provide services like registration and services for parents looking for their children."

One of the first centres established is at a camp located on the grounds of the Indonesian national television station in Aceh. The children who live here are fortunate in that almost all have a relative to take care of them. The notice boards are full of missing and more searchers arrive every day. Read more under:

http://www.unicef.org/emerg/disasterinasia/24615_24783.html

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

"YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE FUTURE THEY ARE ALSO THE PRESENT"

-World Bank President James Wolfensohn



The majority of the world's people are under the age of 25, with a disproportionate number living in the world's poorest countries.

To change this imbalance, the world needs your input, your understanding, your involvement. Together, we face many challenges, including finding and ensuring fair distribution of resources to:

- Reduce poverty
- Improve nutrition
- Increase access to schools and other education opportunities
- Strengthen youth organizations
- Promote youth participation and representation in government & civil service
- Improve health education
- Increase employment opportunities
- Decrease national and regional conflicts
- Decrease risky behavior like drug abuse that can lead to an increase in the number of HIV infected people

The World Bank will work in an integrated way to meet the challenges of young people in developing countries. This means not only working in the area of health and education, but also in areas like agriculture, business development and the reform of the justice system to make sure that views of and challenges for young people are included when decisions are made.

Read more:

<http://youthink.worldbank.org/about/strategy/>

**UNESCO 2005 REPORT:
EDUCATION FOR ALL,
THE QUALITY IMPERATIVE**



November 2, 2004 - Education for all cannot be achieved without dramatic improvements in the quality of learning. Yet in many countries, a large gap exists between the number of students graduating from school and those among them mastering a minimum set of cognitive skills. The key factors that influence quality and strategies to improve teaching and learning in poorer countries.

Download the summary of the new 2005 Report in PDF: English - French - Spanish - Arabic - Russian - Chinese

Go to the full 2005 report:

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=38434&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html



WOMEN: THE OTHER HALF OF THE SKY
3 March 2005



Ardhanarisvaramurti
© Villager from
Mithilda (India)

The March issue of the UNESCO Newsletter on Culture focusses on the recognition of women's contribution to every aspect of existence - personal, social, material, intellectual and spiritual - which has liberated immense forces of production and creation, thereby leading to new balances, dynamics and aspirations.

The rich and varied nature of their approach extends the boundaries of the arts and of intellectual creativity, while the assertion of their role in society enhances the perpetuity of timeless cultural practices that pass down from mother to daughter. The contribution of women to cultural and artistic life is beneficial to all.

Read more under:

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/newsletter-en/2005-3/en-march.htm>



Newsletter No. 11 February, 2005 of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory

- Networking for Children's Rights. A Guide for NGOs [International]
- Living in Fear. Child Soldiers and the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka [Sri Lanka]
- Forgotten Fighters. Child Soldiers in Angola [Angola]
- Abuses Against Child Domestic Workers in El Salvador [El Salvador]
- Stolen children: Abduction and Recruitment in Northern Uganda [Uganda]

Commission of the European Communities
Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions.

Draft joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion [European Union]

For more information about the work of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), please visit: www.oijj.org

NEWS FROM NGOS

**CELEBRATE GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY
APRIL 15-17, 2005!**



On Global Youth Service Day, millions of young people in countries everywhere highlighted and carried out thousands of community improvement projects. GYSD offers a way for local, national, and international organizations to:

- BUILD the capacity of an international network of organizations that promotes youth participation, service, and learning;
- EDUCATE the public, the media, and policy-makers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders around the world;
- MOBILIZE youth and adults to meet the needs of their communities through volunteering; and
- LEARN and share effective practices in youth service, youth voice, and civic engagement in the world today.

More information:

<http://www.gysd.net/home/index.html?width=1024>

**TIMEBANK ADVOCATES VOLUNTEERISM
IN THE U.K.**



Yahoo recently nominated the TimeBank site as one of the top 10 websites of 2004.

TimeBank is a national volunteer campaign with the goal of increasing volunteer service throughout the United Kingdom by allowing individuals to use the database not only to find out about various volunteer opportunities, but also to "bank" their service hours in the website (which keeps in contact with volunteer organizations across the UK. Through the website volunteers are given an easy way to find organizations and projects and log their volunteering hours online.

<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=3971820>
(article on TimeBank, one of Top 10)
<http://www.timebank.org.uk/index.html>
(TimeBank homepage)

**ABIC/ ICYE BRAZIL AT THE
5TH WORLD SOCIAL FORUM
" ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE"**



The 5th World Social Forum took place in the city of Porto Alegre – Brazil from 26th to 31st of January 2005. The World Social Forum is an open meeting place where groups and movements of civil society gather to pursue their thinking, to share their experiences and debate ideas democratically, to formulate proposals and network for effective action. The WSF proposed to debate alternative means of building globalisation, enhancing solidarity, respecting universal human rights and the environment, and supporting democratic international systems and institutions at the service of social justice, equality and sovereignty of all peoples.

ABIC/ICYE Brazil represented the whole ICYE Federation at this event. Its representatives took part in workshops, formal meetings, cultural events, opening and closing marches / demonstrations.

More than 200,000 people took part in the WSF's opening march through Porto Alegre. Around 155,000 participants, from over 135 countries got involved in 2,500 activities and 2,800 volunteers supported the event.



ABIC's members attended work shops dealing with "Diversity, plurality and Identities", "Young People groups and organizations: What are our challenges and possibilities fighting for social challenges", "Youth Exchange as a fundamental element for a regional union (UE, Mercosul...)", "Human Rights and dignity for a just world",

"Partnerships among people from international NGOs and local entities: Experiences and Challenges strengthening Social Activities".

During this event ABIC and Heifer International also organised a gathering and presentation of Brazilian music, at the Brazilian German Cultural Institute in Porto Alegre with the aim of enhancing networking ties between like-minded organisations.

During the WSF we all fought and will keep on fighting for respect and co-operation between different peoples and cultures for a common aim: A better and more just world for all of us!!

Best Regards,

ABIC/ICYE Brazil Team

ICYE FEDERATION'S TRAINERS POOL

The first meeting of the ICYE Federation's Trainers Pool was held in Berlin from 30 November to 5 December 2004.

After having attended a two-day introductory session on Training Essentials, provided by Cecilia Grimaldi, Trainer of the Council of Europe Trainers Pool, 12 selected trainers from ICYE National Committees (NCs) developed training modules/materials and an outline of the Federation's Training Plan to meet "initial" and "in-service" training needs of ICYE National Committees, in the areas of Organisational Management, Intercultural Learning and ICYE Programme Management.

In addition, the trainers outlined the main elements of the Federation's Training Policy and Plan, whose pilot implementation phase will be assessed at the forthcoming General Assembly in November 2005.



ICYE CULTURAL & VOLUNTEERING IMMERSION PROGRAMME

ICYE representatives from Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan, Thailand, France and the International Office met in Ayuttaya, Thailand, on 18 & 19 February 2005, to develop a blue print for the ICYE Cultural & Volunteering Immersion Programme (CVIP).

The discussions revolved around the feasibility and meaningfulness of offering short term structured and individual volunteering and cultural exposure programs, as well as the importance of meeting a set of minimum standards while preserving the cultural specificity

To that end a standard outline of country profiles, including descriptions of volunteering, cultural, study courses, coupled with leisure activities, was adopted. The second CVIP meeting will be held in April 2005, tentatively in Hainan, People's Republic of China.



EU-SEE TRAINING COURSES ON PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT (Montenegro and Croatia)

This Training event consisted of two training projects on the European Commission YOUTH Programme, and aimed at fostering partnership building and project management for the development of voluntary service and youth exchange projects between youth organisations in South Eastern Europe and the European Union.

To ensure effectiveness as well as to stimulate development of cooperation among youth NGO's in these two European regions, the courses were designed to address separately the needs of youth NGOs, respectively in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro, and in Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Kosovo.

12 youth NGOs from the European Union also attended these courses and provided backstopping and support for the transfer of know-how on partnership-building and project management of relevant YOUTH Actions.

At the end of the training, participants felt that they had acquired useful practical skills to foster the development of quality exchange projects between EU and SEE countries, which resulted also in a number of collaborative agreements between participating organisations. The follow-up included activities to develop the existing online documentation of volunteers' experience, and examples of good practice (see: www.seeyouth.info).



Training Course in Vukovar, Croatia, December 2004



Training Course in Sutomore, Serbia and Montenegro, November 2004

EU-EECA TRAINING COURSE ON YOUTH PROGRAMME MINSK, BELARUS

From 3 to 9 March 2005 representatives of youth organisations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, England, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine, participated in a training course on partnership building and project management to further stimulate the development of theme related EU – EECA (Eastern Europe and Caucasus) volunteer and youth exchange projects under the YOUTH Programme of the European Commission.

The course focused on capacity building, transfer of know-how on partnership-building and project management, and cooperation in social inclusion projects, dealing with empowerment of youth with less opportunities.



ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

New ICYE National Correspondents:

- Austria: Elisabeth GAGER (Ms)
- Costa Rica: Mauricio GABERT (Mr)
- India: Ravinder SINGH (Mr)
- Russia: Alina TRESHCHANINA (Ms)
- Asia-Pacific Region: An-Hui LIAO (Ms)
- European Region: Sarah GRAM (Ms)

ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

19 March to 19 December 05 : EVS Multilateral Exchange Projects on Youth Volunteering and Social Inclusion between EU and EECA Countries, and EU and SEE Countries

13-16 April 05: 2nd CVIP Meeting in Hainan, PRC

8 – 13 June 05: EU-SEE Training Course on Youth Active Citizenship – submitted to EC

23 June 05 to 23 March 06 : Youth in Action - EU-Latin America EVS Project - submitted to EC