

Worlds of experience



No. 15 (February 2008)

INDEX

EDITORIAL

VOLUNTEERS VOICES on

"Youth volunteering in rural/isolated areas"

More on :

"Youth volunteering in rural/isolated areas"

News From International Organizations

- UN Newsletter on Human Security
- Languages Matter!
- Join the Online Volunteering Service
- European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) 2008

News From NGOs

- Open Forum on Volunteerism, Activism and the MDGs
- AVSO launches "The Invisible Heroes Campaign"
- Earth Portal
- 2008 CIVICUS Youth Assembly

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

- XXV ICYE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007
- Volunteers at Christmas Bazaar 2007 in Moldova
- International Volunteers Day In Kenya
- TV Documentary on ICYE
- German Volunteers Abroad
- "Weltwärts" - New German Volunteering Programme
- SIJUVE / ICYE Mexico 20th Anniversary
- EU-Africa, Asia and Latin America EVS volunteer exchanges
- Peace Lanterns in Iceland
- Training for EVS sending and host organisations in EU, African and Asian countries

ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 15th issue of the ICYE Federation's Newsletter, focusing on "Youth volunteering in rural/isolated areas" – which is being published with delay due to difficulties in receiving volunteer's contributions on this theme.

The wait was worthwhile! The testimonials of young volunteers from industrialised and developing countries give remarkable insights into the predicaments and advantages of living and volunteering in isolated rural areas. It is interesting to note that living in remote areas, whether in so called predominantly rich or poor countries, presents the same challenges and benefits – i.e. mobility, close-knit society, difficulties in making friends, scarce educational and communication resources, beautiful nature, genuine local culture, etc.

Or as the ICYE volunteers experienced and put it: "There are only 10 or 20 people living in a range of 5 kms"; "You get to know the people very well, but there is a certain lack of secrets"; "Getting around is a big problem"; "We learned to make the most out of the opportunities availableand to listen to the locals"; "The rhythm is very slow but there are no worries"; "I feel isolated also because I can connect to the internet"; "Because we're very isolated we sometimes feel depressed"; "No electricity or water"; "The isolation is made up for by the beautiful scenery"; "I did not expect that there is hardly any public transport"; "I learned to fish and where and which berries to pick"; "I worked in a farm for the first time"; "I day dream of being on another planet"; "The teacher only comes one day per week"; and "Great way to learn very quickly Spanish and to discover the (local) culture".

Contrary to the common belief that life in rural areas can be boring and does not offer learning experiences, as the Kenyan volunteer in Finland wrote: "The list of the exciting things is so long ! Thanks to ICYE!" Complementing and closing this section are the articles on the Rural Program of Foro Juvenil in Uruguay and of "Rural Voices of Youth" in Nigeria.

News from International Organisations features, amongst others: UN Newsletter on Human Security; The UN International Year of Languages; and the UNV Online Volunteering Service.

NGOs News reports on the: Civicus and IAVE Open Forum on Volunteerism, Activism and the MDGs; AVSO's "Invisible Heroes Campaign"; and the Earth Portal.

ICYE news include, amongst others: the 2007 ICYE General Assembly in Taiwan; the celebrations of the IVD in Kenya; the new German Volunteering Programme "Weltwärts"; 3 major EVS volunteer exchanges between Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America; Peace Lanterns in Iceland; and the EU supported Capacity Building and Training project involving European, African and Asian your organisations and voluntary service community organisations.

Enjoy the reading !

Please note that the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", to be published at the end of June 2008, will focus on "Youth Volunteering and Environmental Protection". Please email your contributions, in form of articles/pictures, to icye@icye.org before 31 May 2008.

Warmest regards!

ICYE International Office

“Youth volunteering in rural / isolated areas”

VOLUNTEERS VOICES



“Living in a very rural area!”

We are Rikke from Denmark, Meng from Taiwan and Naomi from Japan, three ICYE volunteers in New Zealand.

In the middle of the North island, there is a town called Taupo with quite a few shops and it is a relatively big town. 45 minutes from Taupo there is a smaller town called Turangi. Turangi with approx. 400 people and shopping possibilities for everyday needs. 5kms from Turangi there is Tokaanu, with its 60 people, a hotel, a lodge and a petrol station. At a 30-minute walking distance Tokaanu there is a small village called Waihe. Outside of this village is the house where we stayed for 5 months.

Living and working in an isolated area ensures that you see the same small number of people everyday. You get to know the people very well, but there is a certain lack of secrets. Everyone knows everything. Though you are around people all the time it can get very lonely. Waihe is a Maori village and it is not a place where you enter without invitation, so that in the house it is just us and the family we live with.

Getting around is a big problem in a place like this. If you don't have a car we can get from our house to our place of work either by bicycle or walk for ½ an hour. The local people are very friendly and do not mind driving you so getting a ride anywhere is not a problem.

The one thing that we learned is to make the most out of the opportunities available, and to listen to the locals who know the ways around and can help you!

Living here is a big difference. You get up and early and you go to bed early. It is quiet and things are done slowly. It can easily get boring. The rhythm and tempo is very slow. The life is relaxing, no worries, but sometimes it gets frustrating. Having a hobby or pursuing an interest really helps to spend the time and forget the isolation.

What fully compensates the loneliness is the indisputable beauty of the surroundings. Lake Taupo with its swans is lovely - the night sky is amazing, and the view from our house on the lakeshore changes all the time. The quietness of this place makes it possible to hear the singing and occasional “Haka” from the village.

Warm regards from Waihe on the other side of the world!

*Rikke Ohlsen – Denmark, Meng Hsiang Su – Taiwan, Naomi Goto – Japan
Volunteers in New Zealand*



“Youth volunteering in rural Germany”

Hello, I'm Silvana from Taiwan. My project is an English helper in school.

I join the 5 and 6 grade English class. My school is a boarding school called “Odenwaldschule”. It 's located in a small town called Heppenheim, a little place between Darmstadt and Heidelberg. I had problem in adjusting as I do not even live in town but in the mountains nearby, and it takes more than one hour to walk to the town. No bus! Only taxi and free ride.

I feel isolated also because although in the school library I can connect to the internet, a lot of websites are under surf control, not to mention msn or skype. I can sue only the e-mail, but can't write on my web blog. Using the phone is also difficult because its use is restricted to office times. The first week in my school was like a nightmare for me. It coincided with the “Wanderwoche” , and all the students were travelling. My school was so dark, and I was alone. No internet, no phone call, no television!!

They gave me a basket of food... Since that week, I became scared of darkness, I can't sleep without light.

I cried everyday... because of being homesick, feel frustrated. I really wanted to change the project at that time, but I told myself, I need to adjust to the environment first, and I knew that I'm only a volunteer this year. I wanted to find out if I could live without internet, without living in a city. I also had problems making friends with the staff and other teachers, who are older than myself.

Life here is completely different from Taiwan. I had a motorcycle, I could go out for 24 hours. All shops are open 24 hours – they are everywhere.... I only needed to walk for 2 minutes.

But there's something that makes feel good and I feel lucky about it: the students at my school are aged from 10 to 20 . I always remember when during my second week at the schools two girls who invited me and went to the Blockhaus where I met other young people and started making friends. After almost two months, I have not only a really good friend, and also have quite good relationship with the kids. I became much happier than before, sometimes we cook Chinese food, we go to town together.

But when I felt everything was settling down nicely, I started to feel depressed without reason. My good friend then told me that because we're very isolated also the students sometimes feel depressed.

Before Christmas holidays, I was considering to ask if I can change my project. Now, I decided to stay, and I think I will be happy to stay I decided to look at the bright side of my experience and enjoy the mountain life.

I would rather to look on the bright side. I like to be with the kids – who sometimes are really crazy . This is a good challenge for me and I want make the most out of this unique experience in Germany!

Yi-Hsien Teng Taiwanese volunteer in Germany.



"People look you in the eyes"

We are two volunteers from Germany - Sebastian & Benedikt – doing our civil service abroad in New Zealand at the Cholmondeley Children's Home, just in the outskirts of Christchurch. At the beginning it was kind of hard to find a connection to young people in the beginning, because there are no sports clubs in Governors Bay and this is how we have always met people of our age before. The only shop in Governors Bay is actually the pub and this didn't usually seem busy either.

Since we live and work with young children at the home, sometimes it is nice to get away from them and speak to grown ups!!! Since there is no public transport, we are lucky that if we want to go out on the weekends or on our days off, we can use the transport of the children's home – otherwise, we would be stuck here the whole time.

We already got to know a lot of people from the local area because people in this country are very friendly. When you are working down the street people say hello and look you in the eyes. The staff are also great and invite us to stay in Christchurch for weekends if we want to.

The work is great and we are enjoying it. We play with the children during our shifts and we help to organize their daily tasks. It's good that it is The isolation of the placement is made up for by the beautiful scenery and the work that we are doing. We feel that we are making a real difference to the children that live here.

in a rural place – we can take the children biking or for other activities and nobody needs to worry about the noise in the playground. We have had great support from our contact person and the staff. We have learnt many things, like how to restrain children without hitting them!

Sebastian Foerst & Benedikt Kerbeck – German Volunteers in New Zealand.



"I am fisherman now!"

My name is Peter Kimani, I am 26 years old and come from Kenya, where I was born and brought up in a rural area. Although for the last 5 years I lived in Nairobi, I know much about farming and the life in rural areas. From the beginning I wanted to learn the Finnish culture and language. I also wanted to experience the Finnish weather, enjoy its beautiful nature and travel to as many places as possible.

When I arrived in Finland, I was picked from the airport, and my first surprise was that I sat on the driver's seat! Then all cars drove with their lights on which was so strange to me. I spent two nights in a very friendly family, where for the first time I tested Finnish food. It was nice but different. We even made "Makkara".

I live in the eastern part of Finland in a small village called Liperi and work at the Siikasalmen Koulu school, a Christian based school with 50 students between the age of 6 and 16 years. I work as a assistant teacher in English, Mathematics, Physics, Information Technology and Physical Education. We also have some extra curriculum activities like farming. The children are very friendly and the staffs are so much helpful.

In Siikasalmen live not more than 70 persons and everyone knows each other and most activities are done as a community. I enjoy very much going to the big sauna next to the lake and I am looking forward to walking on the frozen lake during winter.

I did not expect that there is hardly any public transport – only one bus to the city every hour! I have many new experiences here – when the days were long, we used to go fishing which is something I have never done. I am a fisherman now!! I also like very much to go the woods to pick berries – it was so nice to see the berries which I had seen only in books, pictures or television - finally I know where they come from.

I was impressed by the safety here: you cycle to the centre and need not to lock your bicycle, houses and cars as well are left

unlocked. Try that in Kenya and you learn the hard way.

I love nature: the forests are so beautiful and you just need to look at the sky during sunset while sited on the river side and day dream been in another planet.

I have been able to see and play so many new games. i.e. floor ball and beach volley ball! I have gone to watch an ice hockey game which we don't have in my country. The list of the exciting things is so long ! This is going to be a life changing experience. Thanks to ICYE!

Peter Kimani ,Kenyan Volunteer in Finland.



„We have been very lucky!"

We are Julian & Jan, volunteers from Germany working at the McLaren Falls Park, near Tauranga, New Zealand.

McLaren Falls Park is a weekend and holiday camping and recreation park situated on 70 hectares of land 20 kms outside of Tauranga. This park is owned by the Tauranga City Council and contains a lot of different environmental projects that the council is responsible for. It is half an hours drive to the next shopping centre.

We live in one of the hostels on the park and the only other person that lives at the park is one of the park rangers.

During the winter months there are almost no visitors to the park. The main work that we have been doing is park maintenance involving, cleaning, barbeque maintenance, weeding, mowing, building and general maintenance. We also help with guide work, glow worm tours, tramping and guided tours to the McLaren waterfalls.

It has been really hard to get to know young people of our age group because most of the visitors coming to the park are old people and families, also because there are only about

10 or 20 people living in a range of 5 kms around the park.

We have enjoyed our time here and are happy that two of us have been placed here as we have been able to help each other through the isolation. Most weekends we don't have to work so we made an effort to get out and visit other volunteers and see some of the country.

We feel we have been very lucky as the park rangers have made us very welcome and included us also in outings and events that they have been doing.

Julian Thiele & Jan Steinbach German Volunteers in New Zealand

Volunteering in Rural Areas of Costa Rica. "When is Teacher Carolina Coming?"

My name is Carolina Kreischer, a German volunteer in Costa Rica. I work with children in a rural area, in the Province of Puntarenas, approximately two hours from San José.

I live with a Costa Rican family in a house on the road, which is pretty isolated. My family owns a "soda", a little traditional restaurant. They work a lot, and the place is very welcoming. Sometimes it is difficult for me to meet people because of the isolation. The nearest town called Orotina (half an hour by bus), is where there are more things to do and another German volunteer lives.

My job is with the Cen Cinais, which are places that welcome children from lower classes and provide them with good nutrition, care and basic education. The Cen Cinais belongs to the Health Ministry in Costa Rica.

I also share my time between two places, because one of the Cen Cinai opens only three days per week.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I work at Cen Cinai of Tarcoles, a little village nearby, where the teacher only comes one day per week. The main responsibility is to take care of children. It works like a nursery (there are about ten children) when parents have to work, and to provide the children and parents with at least one meal per day. I also help cooking, serving lunch, assisting with cleaning of the place and taking care of the children. It is difficult to organize activities because these centres do not have a lot of money and they often are in lack of paper, pencils and more materials.

Thursday and Friday I go to the Cen Cinai of Quebrada Ganado. This is another village which is located on the same area, it is a little farther from my house, but it is bigger and

better organized. In that Cen Cinai there are about 30 children, but it is much more like a kinder garden. The relationship with the children is stronger, and I am able to organize some simple workshops like painting, drawing and singing. When I am not there, the children are looking forward to see me again... asking every time: "when is teacher Carolina coming?".

It is very exciting for the children to have a foreign presence in that little village. On the other hand, for me, the fact that nobody speaks English or German, is a great way to learn very quickly Spanish and to discover the Costa Rican culture.

Caroline Kreischer, German volunteer in Costa Rica.



"Children and Staff are my best Friends!"

Hello! My name is Satomi Hatano, an ICYE volunteer from Japan in Kenya since August 2007. I work at the children's home "Child Welfare Society of Kenya". I experienced a lot of things here. I worked in a farm at first. I weeded, harvested, ploughed into furrows, and planted. We grow onion, maize, beans, spinach, and tomato.

But now I'm taking care of three babies. They are abandoned. They are so cute and growing very well.

And I also help the children in the lower grades, with their homework. I give them work and check it.

I have a room for myself in the compound. Sometimes there is no electricity or water. Meals are the same almost every day. Sometimes I got sick.

But I really enjoy this life. People are so nice. Children and staff are my best friends. I want to learn more Kiswahili and to talk more and more. I want to know more about the culture of Kenya. Until I go back to Japan, I'll keep learning and I hope I'll get something which I can't get without coming to Kenya.

Satomi Hatano, Japanese volunteer in Kenya

More on “Youth volunteering in rural areas”

“RURAL YOUTH PROGRAM IN URUGUAY”

Foro Juvenil – a long-standing national youth organisation in Uruguay, with which the ICYE Federation started a partnership in December 2007 - launched the Rural Youth Program in 1987 with the main objective of providing support and development opportunities to rural youth, and to representatives of rural organisations, open to new working proposals for rural youth.

The program is operated in rural Montevideo, whose importance goes beyond its relevance to production and employment for rural workers and their families. This area constitutes a green area in the metropolitan area, playing a mayor role from the environmental and recreational point of view. At the same time it hosts a population with a life style and values of its own. It includes areas of great ecological and environmental importance such as the Rio Santa Lucia, Carrasco and the west coast of El Rio De la Plata.

In the beginning, the program developed socio-cultural development and recreational activities. We started by creating youth groups linked to different youth rural associations like CAF, ANPL and the “Coordinadora de Jóvenes Rurales”. A new sub-program was set up four years ago, aiming at supporting the insertion of rural youth into the labour market, mainly by creating small rural businesses / micro enterprises.

The support consists of:

- training in production techniques
- training in harvest, post-harvest and packing
- management training
- marketing and sale training
- Support for the development of productive projects
- Support in credit management
- Technical assistance
- Support for work induction and insertion

This action is articulated with a number of public and private institutions involved in this area such as the National Support Program Of The Small Agricultural Producers (PRONAPPA), Inter American Institute of Cooperation for agriculture (IICA), and the Agrarian Program of the Work University of Uruguay.

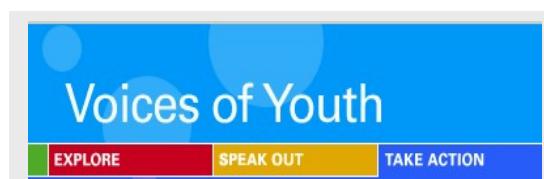
Recently the Rural Program has incorporated three working areas, whose development is considered of high strategic priority.



These are:

- **Sustainable agriculture** - combining traditional agricultural production modes with sustainability concepts and new efficient productive processes.
- **Small Business** - work with youth, combining training with management concepts
- **Professional Training** - development of training modules for qualified work insertion in rural areas.

Since its inception, this Program has always promoted volunteering for young people in the rural areas, where a number of foreign volunteers have been placed. The aim is to open rural peoples, enhance and improve their knowledge and productive capacity. The exchange of experiences, values and life style has always been of great richness for the integration between the different cultures, and more importantly, for the modernization of the rural areas in general. In turn, the volunteers have the opportunity to experience a totally different life and thus open up their horizons significantly.



Reaching Out: Rural Voices of Youth

Oyebisi Oluseyi, a Voices of Youth member, is reaching out to rural young people in Nigeria who do not have internet access. Rural Voices of Youth is a project started by Oyebisi, who travels with volunteers to rural areas in Nigeria to have discussions with young people and record their thoughts and feelings on a given topic. Find out more and read the messages they brought back with them on the following pages, and join in the discussion at:

http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_1115.html

News From International Organizations



UN NEWSLETTER ON HUMAN SECURITY

The Human Security Unit of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has launched a newsletter for civil society entitled 'Human Security at the United Nations.' The aim of the newsletter is to share information with interested members of civil society on human security and related topics at the UN as well as promote partnerships to advance human security amongst civil society, the UN and wider international community. Please find the first issue following the link below: http://www.un-ngls.org/docs/unocha/Newsletter_HS_240807.pdf

To subscribe, please write to humansecurity@un.org

For more information, visit the website of the Human Security Unit of OCHA, <http://ochaonline.un.org/HumanitarianIssues/HumanSecurity/tabid/1287/Default.aspx>



Join the Online Volunteering Service

You need to join the Online Volunteering (OV) service if you want to apply for an online volunteering assignment or if you want to submit an assignment on behalf of your organisation.

The Online Volunteering Team of the Year Award presents an opportunity for both online volunteers and organisations to bring their online volunteering experiences and good practices to the attention of a global audience. For more information, click here:

<http://www.onlinevolunteering.org/membership/join.php>



"LANGUAGES MATTER!"

The year 2008 has been proclaimed International Year of Languages by the United Nations General assembly. UNESCO, which has been entrusted with the task of coordinating activities for the Year, is determined to fulfil its role as lead agency.

Languages are indeed essential to the identity of groups and individuals and to their peaceful coexistence.

However, within the space of a few generations, more than 50% of the 7,000 languages spoken in the world may disappear. However, within the space of a few generations, more than 50% of the 7,000 languages spoken in the world may disappear. Less than a quarter of those languages are currently used in schools and in cyberspace, and most are used only sporadically.

To celebrate the International Year of Languages, UNESCO invites governments, United Nations organizations, civil society organizations, educational institutions, professional associations and all other stakeholders to increase their own activities to promote and protect all languages, particularly endangered languages, in all individual and collective contexts. The goal is to ensure that the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in educational, administrative and legal systems, cultural expressions and the media, cyberspace and trade, is recognized at the national, regional and international levels.

To facilitate partnership and monitoring, a [communication tool kit](#) is available, as well as a [list of possible fields of action](#) and [a list of the projects](#) currently undertaken in the framework of the International Year of Languages. To submit your project to the list, please fill in the [project form](#). To read the complete Message from Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, on the celebration of 2008, International Year of Languages, please visit: http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-url_id=35559&url_do=do_topic&url_section=201.html



European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) 2008

Europe is becoming more culturally diverse. The enlargement of the European Union, deregulation of employment laws and globalisation have increased the multicultural character of many countries, adding to the number of languages, religions, ethnic and cultural backgrounds found on the continent. As a result, intercultural dialogue has an increasingly important role to play in fostering European identity and citizenship.

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) 2008 recognises that Europe's great cultural diversity represents a unique advantage. It will encourage all those living in Europe to explore the benefits of our rich cultural heritage and opportunities to learn from different cultural traditions.

To find out more about the events to be run at EU, Member State and Partners level, visit: <http://www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu>

News From NGOs



OPEN FORUM ON VOLUNTEERISM, ACTIVISM AND THE MDGs

CIVICUS is seeking comments and suggestions on the content of a planned joint publication with the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) and United Nations (UNV) on volunteerism and activism and their contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In the joint agreement, CIVICUS, IAVE and UNV committed to co-publishing a paper which explores the similarities, complementarities and synergies between volunteering and activism, as well as the importance of volunteer action to achieving the MDGs.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.civicus.org/new/media/CIVICUS-IAVE-UNV-joint-publication.doc>



AVSO LAUNCHES THE "INVISIBLE HEROES CAMPAIGN"

Brussels, 5th December 2007: To mark the International Volunteer Day in 2007, the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations – AVSO launches the European "Invisible Heroes" campaign to collect as many photos of serving volunteers as possible during 12 months. The campaign kicks off on the International Volunteer Day of 2007 and runs for twelve months, until the 5th December 2008!

Why we want your photo? If you are a volunteer currently serving, please send us a photo. This visual campaign will help us put a "real-life feel" to our lobbying efforts; it will hopefully demonstrate the magnitude of voluntary service in Europe, showcase the different people who volunteer and the different projects, and convince key decision makers to give the issue more attention.

To find out how to participate and for more information on this campaign please visit: www.avso.org

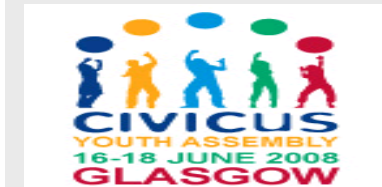
Earth Portal

The Earth Portal is a comprehensive resource for timely, objective, science-based information about the environment. It is a means for the global scientific community to come together to produce the first free, expert-driven, massively scaleable information resource on the environment, and to engage civil society in a public dialogue on the role of environmental issues in human affairs. It contains no commercial advertising and reaches a large global audience.

The Earth Portal has three components:

1. The [Encyclopedia of Earth](#), with over 2,000 articles, is produced and reviewed by 700 scholars from 46 countries.
2. The [EarthForum](#) provides commentary from scholars and discussions with the general public.
3. The [EarthNews](#) offers news stories on environmental issues drawn from many sources.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.earthportal.org>



2008 CIVICUS Youth Assembly

The CIVICUS Youth Assembly takes place from 16-18 June 2008 in Glasgow, Scotland and will build on the fantastic success of the 2007 Youth Assembly, with more extensive participation and even more delegate places. Delegates will again be assisted to attend, with accommodation, food, programme events and CIVICUS delegate fees sponsored.

This year we are also delighted to offer a limited number of travel bursaries. Space is limited, and delegate places will be awarded to the strongest applicants from around the world.

Deadline for applications: 31 March 2008

For more information, click this link :
<http://www.rnw.org.uk/CIVICUS2008.spx>

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

XXV ICYE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007

The XXV General Assembly (GA) of the ICYE Federation was held from 5 thru 10 November 2007 in Taipei, Taiwan, and was attended by 70 participants. Highlights: **new Associate Members in Ecuador, Moldova, India and USA**; representatives from the **Volunteer Centre in South Africa** and **Vietnam Volunteers for Peace** in Vietnam also attended; adoption of guidelines for **new ICYE programs for older volunteers and for short-term volunteering**; and adoption of long-term development **strategies for training and quality assurance**. For more information about the XXV ICYE General Assembly, contact the ICYE International Office at icye@icye.org.





Volunteers at Christmas Bazaar 2007 in Chisinau, Moldova

On December 15, 2007 the European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteers coordinated by ADVIT/ICYE Moldova participated in the Charity Christmas Bazaar 2007 organized by the International Women Club in Moldova, which this year brought together 47 national and international organizations. The EVS volunteers organized their own stand, presenting their voluntary work in Moldova, their countries, culture and offered to the visitors their national food and drinks, handmade souvenirs, national games and gift items specific to their countries. They managed to raise over 2,200 Moldovan Lei that were donated to their voluntary service host placements in Moldova.

International Volunteers Day In Kenya 5 December 2007

The IVD 2007 in Kenya was celebrated in Nairobi by several Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) through three main activities: an Environmental Activity, an Exhibition and a Workshop. ICYE as a member of Voluntary Associations Consortium of Kenya (VASCO) spearheaded one of the activities of the day. VASCO involved volunteers in the rehabilitation of the Nairobi River Basin – an area where also the Ministry of Environment together with 8 other ministries is intervening. About 350 volunteers made up of ICYE members and volunteers from VASCO and other organisations gathered to dig out napier grass, clean the area and plant trees. About 300 trees were planted.



The occasion was graced by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, who was very passionate about the whole project and invited ICYE to join the inter-ministerial committee on the Rehabilitation and Regeneration of the Nairobi River Basin.

Simultaneously the exhibition of Volunteer Organisations was going on at the August 7 Memorial Park to sensitize the general public about the different organisations, and about volunteerism in general. ICYE Kenya had a stand, which was manned by staff, co-workers and exchangees and was visited by more than 400 people that showed interest in our program. It was a very festive occasion, and a very good opportunity to network and exchange information.

Since most Kenyans do not view volunteerism as something to be involved in, or that can be beneficial to them and the community, at the workshops we discussed the way forward for volunteerism and how to re-launch it in Kenya. Unlike other years, most of the Volunteer Involving Organisations were very willing and enthusiastic to do activities jointly.

We hope this spirit will continue into 2008!



Documentary on ICYE German Volunteers Abroad

Zero One Film - an independent film and TV company, based in Berlin, Germany and focusing mainly on social and political issues, will produce a documentary on the story of six German adolescents, spending a year abroad with the International Cultural Youth Exchange programme. The idea is to present the work and experience of these young volunteers in Bolivia, Brazil, India, Mozambique & South Africa.

The Volunteers, their host families, voluntary service work placements, as well as representative of their host communities will be visited three times in the course of the year. Broadcast is scheduled for November/ December 2008

“Weltwärts”

New German Volunteering Programme

On 17 January 2008 ICYE Germany/ICJA attended the official launch of the new German voluntary program “Weltwärts” financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This programme – funded with 70 millions Euro per year - aims at sending annually 10.000 young people to developing countries of the OECD list. During 2008 around 2.000 German young volunteers aged 18 to 28 will volunteer abroad between 6 & 24 months. It is expected that upon return participants will further engage in development and education work and support the dissemination of their experiences. Through „Weltwärts” the financial barriers that existed in the past (especially for young women) will be reduced, and participation of low income youth will be favoured. This new program is a sign of new public acceptance of voluntary service as an important life and learning experience. ICJA Voluntary Exchange worldwide (www.icja.de) is one of the first approved organizations, which has started sending the first “Weltwärts” volunteers. Although it is intended as a sending program only, ICJA will keep hosting around 50-60 international volunteers each year in Germany. ICJA will promote the implementation of a reverse program after the pilot-phase of three years. For further information check: www.weltwaerts.de



EU-Africa, Asia and Latin America EVS volunteer exchanges

With the support of the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme of the European Community, 46 young volunteers from Europe (Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, and United Kingdom), Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, and South Africa), Asia (China, India, Nepal, and Vietnam), and Latin America (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Ecuador) participated in joint pre-departure trainings organised by the ICYE International Office prior to their 9-month EVS voluntary service projects.

On the occasion of European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, these projects revolve around the themes of Social Inclusion (EU-Africa), Intercultural Dialogue (EU-Asia) and Youth Participation (EU-Latin America). Since August 2007, these young volunteers have been engaged in a variety of local hosting projects, ranging from youth clubs and networks to community development and social work projects. The involvement of international volunteers in these projects will stimulate the intercultural learning process, as well as promote volunteerism among the youth in the respective host communities.

Three publications documenting the experiences of the volunteers in the different countries and evaluating the benefits of EVS (intercultural learning and non-formal education) will be published. For more information about these projects, please contact the ICYE Int'l Office at: icye@icye.org



SIIJUVE / ICYE Mexico 20th Anniversary

On January 26 2008 SIIJUVE celebrated its 20th Anniversary in Puebla. Around 60 representatives of host families and projects, ICYE exchangees and SIIJUVE's past and current co-workers from Chiapas, Mexico City, Guadalajara, Toluca and representatives from ICYE Italy and the International Office attended a formal event followed by a social get together which lasted until the early hours of the following day.

**FELIZ ANIVERSARIO SIIJUVE
Hasta los proximos 20 años!!**





Peace Lanterns in Iceland

On 8 February 2008 people from different nations gathered at the Winter Festival (Vetrarhátíð) in Reykjavík - organized by AUS/ICYE Iceland, the Intercultural centers of Reykjavik, Akureyri and Ísafjörður - and lit lanterns (like hot air balloons) which flew into the sky with "PEACE" written on them in many different languages.



"Promoting Interethnic Dialogue and Intercultural Learning - Training for EVS sending and host organisations in EU, African and Asian countries"

This Capacity Building project - supported by the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme of the European Community - started with a "training for trainers" seminar held in Berlin for trainers from EU, African and Asian countries, 12-16 January 2008. Two training modules at regional level will follow respectively in Cape Town, South Africa and Bangalore, India, in March and April 2008. The project will end with an Evaluation and Follow-Up meeting in June 2008.

The main aim is to share training methods, experiences and intercultural learning inputs, and to run distinctive trainings combining on-the-job training cum assessment working sessions for youth workers of EVS sending and host organisations involved in the above mentioned EVS multilateral projects. It is expected that, at the end of the project, participants and trainers will have deepened their knowledge and experience in the field of intercultural learning and will have a better understanding of the cultural, social and political dynamics to be considered in working with volunteers from different cultures and countries. Furthermore, the tools and methods introduced during the trainings will enable participants to infuse intercultural learning concepts in their own work with youth, and thus function as multipliers.

ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

New ICYE National Correspondents

- Ecuador – Gina Cicerone (Ms)
- India – Ravinder Singh (Ms)
- Mexico - Rasijdah Flores (Ms)
- Moldova – Natalia Alexandrov (Ms)
- USA – Theresa Higgs (Ms)

ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 Feb. – 1 March, 2008: | Pre-departure Training of 9-month EU-EECA EVS Multilateral Project on "Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity" - Berlin |
| 10 – 16 March, 2008: | EU-Africa Training for EVS host and sending organisations, Cape Town, SA |
| 20 - 25 April, 2008: | EU-Asia/Pacific Training for EVS host and sending organisations, Bangalore, India |
| 25-28 May, 2008: | Pre-departure Training of 3-month EU-Africa and Asia short term EVS Multilateral Project on "YOUTH PLUS AWARENESS - HIV-AIDS prevention and care" - Berlin |