

# Worlds of experience



No. 16 (July 2008)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the sixteenth issue of "Worlds of Experience", dedicated to "Youth Volunteering and Environmental Protection".

As the global community grapples with the challenges of climate change, rising energy and food prices, volunteers' voices provides interesting and refreshing insights into "stories of delicate ecosystems, annual flooding, deforestation and of impoverished communities trying to forge an existence in environmentally delicate areas." Despite the availability of unlimited and real time connectivity, as an English volunteer working with an environmental organisation in Honduras admits: "For all I have known of the issues of deforestation and sustainable farming I can't say I have begun to understand the complexities of them until I came to live here. In Europe, when we speak of environmental issues such as deforestation and sustainable farming we do so as a matter of environmental responsibility and rarely as a matter of survival."

Another German volunteer working at a marine park off the Colombian coast testifies that : "to make sure that such great places (coral reefs) will not be destroyed, we all should work on their protection!... and not just as volunteers but in our everyday life ..., but " we are still for the most part unable to make the smallest of concessions and changes in our lives."

This said, volunteering for the protection of the environment can make a difference and be rewarding: "as a volunteer I have a unique opportunity to change hearts and minds as through the process of cultural exchange we are able to provide contrast, present different ways of doing things and foster new ideas about life"

Volunteers' voices is followed by other awareness raising activities for children and youth, such as the UNEP support Tunza Children's Environment Conference, and Youth Version of Human Development Report 07/08 and the International Youth Day - 12 August 2008 , both dedicated to "Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action".

News from "Int'l Organisations" feature: UNICEF – Junior 8 Summit 2008 being held in Japan., the forthcoming Annual Youth Assembly at the UN on the MDGs, UN HABITAT – World Urban Youth Forum, and the Youth Priority Areas for World Programme of Action for Youth. News from NGOs, features, among others, the results of studies and initiatives: to measure the impact of youth volunteer programmes (ICP & World Bank); to bridge the gap between Volunteering and Social Activism (UNV/CIVICUS & IAVE); and researching innovation in volunteering (V).

ICYE programme news features: ICYE at the 20th IAVE World Conference; results of two ICYE International training seminar in intercultural learning held respectively in South Africa and India; three EVS final evaluation seminars and the launching of new short-term EVS project promoting youth volunteering in HIV-AIDS prevention and care projects in Africa, Asia.

Hope you'll enjoy the Newsletter! Please note that the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", will focus on „ Youth against Violence ", and will be published at the end of October 2008. We would like to encourage readers to send us their contributions, in form of articles/pictures to [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org) before 30 September 2008.

Warmest regards!  
ICYE International Office

This and previous issues of "Worlds of Experience" can be viewed and downloaded from: [www.icye.org](http://www.icye.org)

## “Youth Volunteering and Environmental Protection”

### VOLUNTEERS VOICES



#### “Environmental Protection is a question of choice”

My name is Laura Knight and in January of this year I came to Honduras with ICYE-UK to volunteer for Guaruma, an environmental organisation working in the valley of the Cangreal River just outside of La Ceiba, Honduras.

The project works with the rural communities dotted along the edge of Pico Bonito National Park –an area that spans a vast 107,300 hectares of land and the second largest protected area in Honduras. Comprising of 20 river systems and dense unexplored jungles and cloud forests it is thought that the park is home to species of animals rarely found in other parts of Honduras.

As an organisation we run a number of community education projects. Predominantly we work with children and through photography, environmental and computer classes the students are encouraged to tell powerful stories about their lives and the stories are there to be told in abundance. Stories of delicate ecosystems, annual flooding, deforestation and of impoverished communities trying to forge an existence in this environmentally delicate area.

For all I have known of the issues of deforestation and sustainable farming I can't say I have begun to understand the complexities of them until I came to live here. In Europe, when we speak of environmental issues such as deforestation and sustainable farming we do so as a matter of environmental responsibility and rarely as a matter of survival.

Here in Honduras the forests are disappearing at a rate of 3.6% each year. Honduras is an extremely poor country, consistently hindered by large amounts of international debt and corruption. 80% of the people of Honduras live below the poverty line. Nearly half the workforce survive by

working the land although a large % of land remaining in the hands of either the government or large foreign fruit companies. Here we see a pattern that repeats the world over, one that highlights how in many developing nations the lands rarely lies in the hands, and to the benefit of those who so desperately need it.

As I live and work in El Pital, one of the many communities in the valley, I become more closely acquainted and implicated with these issues. At night we hear whispers of 'burnings,' men leave at the break of day to hike steep trails to burn stretches of forest. Two weeks ago a student took us on a hike up a trail at the back of the village high up the hillside to a bare and stretch of hillside sporting a few tomato plants. I can guess that the tomatoes I will buy tomorrow in my local pulperia were probably farmed this way. These sharp hillsides in the valley often represent the only choices for local people trying to feed themselves and their families. Very soon the rains and the villages become impassable mudslides as water runs off deforested hillsides. My neighbour lost his wife two years ago when a huge amount of mud slid down the hillside and buried his house.

The message of Environmental Protection has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and the span of issues is vast and rapidly expanding. More recently environmental protection has taken on a new life as the global community gears up to meet the challenges of 'climate change.' It is very easy for us to feel the challenges of Environmental Protection intellectually, but as we fill our media with images of dying animals, deforested hillsides and rising waters how do we really engage with the problems and understand our part in it?

Since coming here I having the opportunity to participate in cultural exchange I have come to see that for many in the developed world, environmental protection is a question of choice. We benefit from societies, governments and economies that are able to support and facilitate these choices and with so much freedom and so many choices laid before us, we are still for the most part unable to make the smallest of concessions and changes in our lives.

My time volunteering here has strengthened my conviction that for many in the world there are simply fewer choices. As a volunteer from Europe it is easy for me to come to Honduras and educate children on the choices that need to be made to benefit the environment, but how easy is it for the

people here to make and live with those choices? As a volunteer I have a unique opportunity to change hearts and minds as through the process of cultural exchange we are able to provide contrast, present different ways of doing things and foster new ideas about life.

In a way it's very easy. Where I often find myself stuck is how to effect change in the systems that allow these huge gaps to prevail. Living and working in a community such as this I see the huge gap between their expectations of the world and mine, between what they have to do to survive and what I have had to do. As a volunteer I often think about my own choices, my choice to come here and do what I am doing but also the choices I made in life before I lived here. As people of developed nations we need to make bigger choices about our part in the exploitation of less developed nations. We need to consider what part we are going to play in environmental protection but also we need to consider the huge responsibilities that we are currently asking of people who have so fewer choices to take.



*Laura Night - United Kingdom  
Volunteer in Honduras.*

**Working in the park is hard  
but rewarding".**

We are Markus Pichler and Rikke Olsen, volunteers from Germany and Denmark working together at the McLaren Falls Park, 20 km south of Tauranga in the Kaimai Region. We stay in a hostel in the middle of the park.

The park is next to Lake McLaren, a reservoir lake of Trust Power. There are good spots for camping and many walking tracks through all the various areas of the park.

We start our work at 8:00 am and finish at 5:00 pm. Our job here is to help the park rangers maintain the park. Most of our time is spent scrub cutting banks, tracks, around

trees and any other place the big mover can't go. We also get the odd job around the park now and then. A few examples would be: digging drains, fixing a gate, building a gate, searching for a runaway pig, clearing unauthorised fireplaces, helping the local tree-society or simply picking up branches. Almost all of the work in the park is outside work so we depend a lot on the weather. If it is raining cats and dogs the park rangers give us inside work like cleaning the office or tidying up the tool shed. The various BBQ's, toilets and longdrops around the park also need to be cleaned twice a week. This is, to be honest, not the nicest one of our jobs but it needs to be done. The work here can get a bit monotonous, but it is quite rewarding to drive past places in the park where you just spent hours working and see that it looks better.. We also help with the preparations for events in the park like horse races, concerts or the Kaimai Classics competition. The project is actually an environmental protection project, but it's more about keeping a park in a good condition for all the visitors and not about protecting native species. But it is still rewarding to see visitors enjoying the nature in the park, no matter if the trees around them are native or not. When people hear that we are volunteers, they really acknowledge the fact that we just get food and accommodation for our work. The fall colours have really come out now and on a day like today where the sun is shining from a clear sky the park is amazing, and the work seems so much easier. We really appreciate that we stay in the park with all the weekend tourists strolling around in it, because it gives us the feeling that we are on holidays too. The nice view of the park with all the colourful trees (for all outside New Zealand: now it's autumn here!) rewards us often even if the work is rather hard.

*Markus Richler and Rikke Olsen-  
Germany-Denmark. Volunteers in New  
Zealand.*



**"It is shocking to see how the delicate reef is dying off"**

My name is Simon Vogt, a German volunteer in Colombia. As part of my experience I have had the privilege to work for one month at the Colombian national park called "Corales del Rosario y San Bernardo". My stay was part of a program of the ministry of the environment of the Republic of Colombia especially for volunteers who want to spend some time in one of the over 50 national parks of Colombia.

The national park is located offshore the Caribbean coast of Colombia, close to Cartagena de Indias. It includes numerous small islands, under water reefs, mangrove forests and breeding grounds of birds. The extension of the park counts over 120.000 hectare of which the greatest part is under water. Therefore the protection of the environmental underwater world is the most important task.

As there are two domiciles of the park administration on the Islands I spent the first two weeks in the main domicile on "Isla Grande" and the second part on a remote island called "Isla Tesoro".

The park administration has an office in Cartagena where I planned my stay on the Islands. With a motor-boat it takes around two hours to get to "Isla Grande".

On Isla Grande there are seven or eight hotels which have restrictions concerning constructions. To assure the adherence of these restrictions, one of my first tasks was to accompany one of the functionaries in an inspection of the hotels. The main conveyance on the Islands is the motor-boat, which is fun.

And even to clean this boat was fun: with two colleagues we snorkeled around and below the boat while cleaning it – so to say a warm Caribbean bath included in work.

Another day we were equipped with a scraper and our fins and each one dropped off next to a buoy to remove sea shells. The boat would pick us up every 5 minutes to take us to the next buoy. We spent long hours in the water; some days looking for the anchorages of buoys lost in a storm. Additionally one could enjoy the breathtaking underwater world.

The time we didn't spend in the water we spent on the boat. Various times I helped out with patrols we carried out to check on the amount and kind of fish the local fishermen had in there tiny boats. I learned a lot about local life of the island's population.

As I mentioned before, the park administration has a domicile on "Isla Grande" which consists of five cabins. Most of the nights, I slept in my hammock. The main cabin includes a "lounge" and the kitchen for everyone. Everyone, that is: 3-5 functionaries (employees of the park administration) and 3 volunteers. We spent a marvelous time together, both working and in our free time.

It is shocking to see how the delicate reef is dying off. Partly due to the heating of the water but also due to irresponsible use of yachts, diving and spear fishing activities...



The contrast to what the reef is like when there is no human encroachment I experienced in my last two weeks on the remote island "Isla Tesoro" – I even came across a reef shark while I was snorkeling.

It is impressive how much better the condition of the reef is out there, where no humans are.

The access to that island is restricted to the staff of the national park. No tourist or anybody else enters. On that island there are constantly 2 people: one functionary and one volunteer. The main reason is to make sure that no one enters the islands territory. Besides that, my work included the collection of trash being washed up the island and the monitoring of breeding birds. In the morning they leave all together, there are thousands of them. That makes it impossible to count in the morning. But in the afternoon they come back in groups of 5-20. While I have been there, most of the breeding bird were Ibis.

Living on "Isla Tesoro" was a great experience. No light, no internet – far away from modern everyday life. Just you and the see and the nature. Pure nature. (and a lot of time to read and write and think). Probably it was one of the greatest experiences of my life.

To make sure that such great places will not be destroyed, we all should work on their protection. This doesn't necessarily mean such a voluntary work (although it is a great opportunity to do so), but can be expressed in our everyday life.

*Simon Voght-Germany  
Volunteer in Colombia.*



**"Markus at Widecast"**

My name is Markus and I am an ICYE Volunteer working at the Widecast turtle conservation programme based in the Central Valley in Heredia, Costa Rica.

I am taking part of a one-year program and I have been in that project already for six months, now. My main duties are everything that has to do with

volunteers. Widecast receives volunteers who work in the outposts on Costa Rica's coastline collecting turtle eggs or cleaning the beach. From the first e-mail that arrives at Widecast, over the pick-up service at the airport and the transportation to the beaches and the money transfers, I usually organizes everything. I appreciate the discipline I have gain working there although it is burdened with a lots of responsibility which often implies that I have to exceed my work schedule when there is more things to do. Even though it is an ecological project and one could expect to spend a lot of time outdoors by far the lion's share is working in the office sitting in front of the computer or talking on the phone. Anyway, I describe the time I have spent working in nature so far as a great experience. Until now, I am in "Cahuita" and "Gandoca" for three weeks (southern Caribbean), as well as one week on the "Peninsula de Osa" (Pacific Side). "I will remember this my whole life" I quote.



**Markus and his office**

Another very pleasant feature about working at Widecast, is getting to know a lot of people from all over the world. The other side of the coin is that at work I am mainly speaking English so it is more difficult to improve my Spanish skills.

If the unlikely case of too little work occurs there are still things top do for me such as distributing flyers in the streets. Drawing a conclusion of my experience, I can say: "It is motivating for me to see the work the volunteers are doing in the project. It shows what my work in the office is for. Although I have to admit that after a long day in the office I am a bit jealous of them."

*Markus Herbst-Germany  
Volunteer in Costa Rica*

## More on “Youth volunteering and Environmental Protection”



### UN Children's Environment Conference

One of the largest international children's conferences in the world, the biannual Tunza International Children's Conference, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), took place in Stavanger, Norway on 17-21 June, on the theme 'Creating Change'. This year, in partnership with the UN Children's Fund UNICEF, UNEP showed the inspiring initiatives of dozens of children from around the world through 'My Story', a series of short video clips that will be posted on the UNEP website [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org). The Tunza International Children's Conference takes place every two years to increase children's environmental awareness and equip them with skills to promote environmental projects in their communities. Children from an unprecedented 106 countries took part in this year's conference. The aim was to increase their environmental awareness and equip them with skills to promote environmental projects in their communities. To read more, go to:

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=538&ArticleID=5838&l=en>



### Youth Version of Human Development Report 07/08

Peace Child International, a charity for youth education about development, human rights and the environment, whose latest project is to convert the United Nations Human Development Report into a format accessible to young people. This is especially crucial because this year's theme is climate change, the greatest challenge to our generation. You can become involved!

We are looking for contributions to the publication from young people all over the world. These can range from articles and stories to poems and pictures. To read more about this project go to:

<http://www.peacechild.org/www/pci/index.php?id=134>



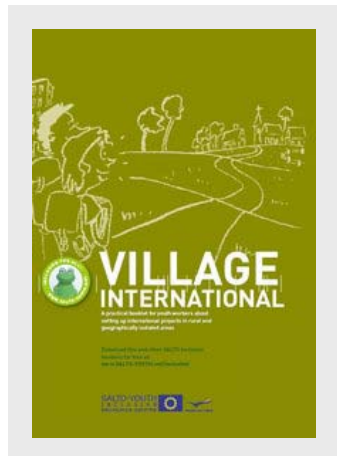
Youth at the United Nations  
[www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)

### International Youth Day - 12 August 2008

This year's theme is “**Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action**”. The Day provides a great opportunity to rally support and get key actors - Governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, businesses, and young people - to act on climate change. Email your plans so that we can showcase ideas on how partnering with Governments, organizations and communities can lead to change. For information on previous IYDs:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm>

## More on “Youth volunteering in rural areas”



With reference to the theme of the last issue of “Worlds of Experience”, we’d like to draw your attention to a very valuable resource on how to set up international projects in rural and geographically isolated areas, called Village International. This practical youth worker manual – with lots of tips and tricks on how to create opportunities in rural areas through international projects, so that young people do not leave the villages and go to the cities - was published by SALTO-YOUTH, a support network for international youth projects in Europe ( [www.salto-youth.net/inclusion](http://www.salto-youth.net/inclusion) ). You can download this publication free of charge from our website

[www.salto-youth.net/villageinternational](http://www.salto-youth.net/villageinternational)

or order a paper copy online from

[tony@salto-youth.net](mailto:tony@salto-youth.net) .

## News From International Organizations



### UNICEF - Junior 8 Summit 2008 in Japan.

Junior 8 Summit 2008 will be held parallel to the G8 summit of world leaders in Tokyo and will take place on the island of Hokkaido from 2 to 9 July 2008. The J8 Summit will be attended by

G8 country and 7 from developing countries, who will take part in workshops, round table discussions and exercises with the issues on. The topics for this year’s J8 are:

- Climate change and global warming
- Global health: Child survival, infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS
- Poverty and development

Children and young people will present their stories, findings, observations, hopes and recommendations to the G8 leaders. For more information, please see:

[http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_4043.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_4043.html)

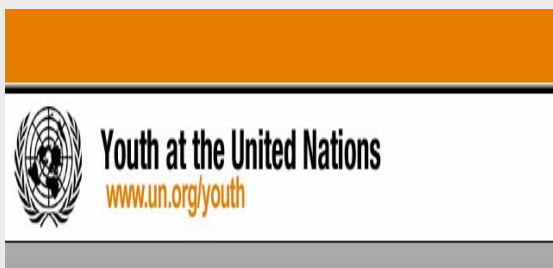


## Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations

### "STEP UP: Taking Plans Into Action" UN Headquarters, New York, August 11-14, 2008.

The Youth Assembly is an annual gathering of hundreds of young people from around the world who seek practical ways to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, global networking and social entrepreneurship skills as well as meeting with and contributing to civil society formally affiliated with the United Nations. This year's event is titled: "STEP UP: Taking Plans Into Action": Practical help is shared on how to start NGOs, administer and manage campaigns, networking that identifies existing work by governments, the UN, or civil society at home or abroad, and the implications for social entrepreneurship on MDG success from the for profit world, outside of civil society. Registration is now open for the free events (after initial application fee and acceptance) at the UN. For more information go to:

[www.faf.org/programs/unyouthassembly/ya\\_home.htm](http://www.faf.org/programs/unyouthassembly/ya_home.htm)



### World Programme of Action for Youth - Youth Priority Areas.

An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Goals and Targets for the World Programme of Action for Youth: "Youth in Civil Society" and "Youth and their

Well-being" was held in New York from 19-21 May 2008. The EGM worked to develop a set of goals and targets for the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) priority areas: Environment, Leisure-time activities, Participation in decision-making, Intergenerational issues, Information and Communication Technology, Health, HIV/AIDS, Drug abuse, Juvenile Delinquency, Girls and Young Women, and Armed Conflict. Participants included experts in the eleven priority areas, as well as representatives of Member States, UN system offices, youth and youth organizations. To read more:

[www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/egm\\_unhq\\_may08.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/egm_unhq_may08.htm)



### UNHABITAT - World Urban Youth Forum

The World Urban Youth Forum (WUYF) will be held from 31 October to 2 November 2008 prior to the 4th World Urban Forum. Young people will participate in discussions on how to deal with growing poverty in cities, rapid urbanization, unemployment, disasters and the scourge of climate change. Young people will also explore how different generational interests in an urban context can be reconciled, particularly how the interest of youth and older generations can contribute towards harmonious urbanization. The World Urban Forum will be held in Nanjing, China, from 3-7 November. For more information, go to:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=535&cid=5581>



## News From NGOs



### Measuring the Impact of Youth Voluntary Service Programs

Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP) and the World Bank recently partnered to host an international experts meeting on measuring the impact of youth voluntary service programs. The meeting, held on May 8-9, 2008 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, brought together over 50 researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from the fields of civic engagement, youth development, and impact evaluation to examine existing evidence on the impact of voluntary service on the program participants, explore different evaluation methods and challenges, identify gaps in the research, and develop a research agenda to address these gaps. To read more:

<http://www.iccp.org/ht/d/sp/i/2974/pid/2974#WB>



### How to Measure the Immeasurable?

On April 18-19, the European Volunteer Centre (CEV) held a conference, "Putting Volunteering on the Economic Map of Europe," organised in co-

participants from 24 countries, from more than 50 local, regional, national and international organisations as well as universities, local authorities and Slovenian ministries. To highlight the contribution of the voluntary sector and volunteering to national economies and their Gross Domestic Product ( GDP ), a call was made upon CEV Members and the volunteer movement to contact their national statistics offices to call for the inclusion of volunteering into the economic statistics of Europe. For more information on the workshops and discussions, click here:

[http://www.cev.be/77-2008\\_april\\_\(ljubljana\\_slovenia\)\\_putting\\_volunteering\\_on\\_the\\_economic\\_map\\_of\\_europe-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/77-2008_april_(ljubljana_slovenia)_putting_volunteering_on_the_economic_map_of_europe-EN.html)



### Volunteering and Social Activism: Pathways for participation in human development.

At this year's CIVICUS World Assembly, leaders of the three partner organisations UNV, IAVE, and CIVICUS came together to preview the forthcoming publication, which discusses the commonalities and synergies between volunteering and social activism, within the broader context of development. The study shows that central to an understanding of volunteering and social activism is the notion of people's participation, which expresses solidarity, fosters social cohesion and promotes participatory development. For more information, click here: <http://www.civicus.org/new/content/e-CIVICUS-Volunteering-SocialActivism.htm>



### Innovations in international youth volunteering.

V is the first letter in volunteering. It's also the name of the independent charity championing youth volunteering in England. V is keen to understand why young people volunteer, what they are passionate about and what could be done to make volunteering easier to get into and more closely related to young people's interests. V published a research innovation in youth-led volunteering from around the world. The 22 case studies accompanying the report demonstrate that empowering young people – not just the usual suspects, but young people who are themselves marginalised and excluded – is the most important factor for innovation in youth volunteering. More information and research report at:

[www.wearev.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=94&Itemid](http://www.wearev.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=94&Itemid)

and religious divides. The AoC will only fund projects that are entirely managed by youth for the benefit of youth. The age definition used by the AoC is persons between 18 and 30 years old. For more information and the full application form:

<http://www.unaoc.org/content/view/93/128/lang,english>



### Open Lines to Intercultural Dialogue: have your say!

In April 2008, LabForCulture launched an online participatory project called Open Lines to intercultural dialogue, which invites people from around the world to share their perspectives on intercultural dialogue. The project looks at visualising language and explores differences and similarities between people's interpretations of intercultural dialogue. Everyone is invited to contribute in English or in their own language and can even add an audio clip. The convergence of ideas, artistic perspectives and technology is a key element of the work done by LabForCulture to stimulate cultural collaboration and facilitate intercultural dialogue during the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. To read more, go to:

[www.labforculture.org](http://www.labforculture.org)  
and  
<http://openlines.labforculture.org>.



### Alliance of Civilizations Youth Solidarity Fundation

To support youth-led initiatives that promote long-term constructive relationships between young people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) has launched a Youth Solidarity Fund. The Fund will provide seed funding to outstanding youth-led projects to promote intercultural and inter-religious exchanges, youth leadership training, and youth voices in the media. The AoC is placing great emphasis on funding projects that have long-term outcomes and that connect youth from previously unconnected communities with a view to overcoming perceived or real cultural



### ICYE at 20th IAVE Conference

David Baires, Director of ICYE Honduras and Coordinator of the ICYE PanAmerican Region represented the ICYE Federation at the 20th IAVE World Volunteer Conference, held in Panama City, Panama on April 2-5, 2008. 400 people from over 40 countries in all regions of the world attended the Conference. Workshops were organised on Corporate Volunteering, Volunteer Centres, Ethics and Values in the Practice of Volunteerism, Senior Volunteering, Volunteering and the Role of Government, Research in Volunteering, International and Youth Volunteering. The new IAVE president is Dr. Kang Hyun Lee, who announced the venue of the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference, which will be held in Singapore at the beginning of 2011, marking the start of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10). To read more go to:

<http://www.iave.org/NewsView.asp?newsID=181>



### Volunteering with the Red Cross in Costa Rica

This article has been written by Janek Sommer, an ICYE volunteer in Costa Rica

who visited Margaux Seigland, a French volunteer working as an emergency medical technician (EMT) in Heredia in the central valley. When Margaux first came to Costa Rica with ACI in August she started assisting teachers in class in a local school. In January she changed her schedule so that she still could work half-time in the Red Cross. Since she liked that new job a lot Margaux soon started studying to become a real EMT and as well began working full time for the Red Cross.

Margaux became an important member of the Red Cross in San Isidro de Heredia. And she likes being an EMT, so much that she spends almost all her days and nights there in stand-by duties, up to the full 168 hours per week with little breaks only to go and get breakfast, lunch or dinner. None of the other EMTs, who are all volunteers and have jobs besides working for the Red Cross can spend as much time there as Margaux does. Thus, it is hard to imagine for her and for the staff that she will have to leave in a few months.

Unlike lots of other volunteers who have a rather defined schedule and know at what time they have to give class or when it is time for lunch, Margaux has to be prepared to leave with the ambulance whenever there is a 911 call coming in. Many times, the team has to deliver sick people from their houses to the nearest hospital. The more exciting part however says Margaux is the traffic accidents. It is these cases in which the first aid knowledge is put into practise, people who would die without the EMT's help. Except for syringes and the heart defibrillator, Margaux is permitted to use all the equipment in the ambulance. Anyway, it won't be over with the life saving when Margaux is back. The



auxiliary fire brigade in France is already waiting for her to return.  
For more pictures, visit:  
[www.aci-intercambios.blogspot.com](http://www.aci-intercambios.blogspot.com)



### ICYE EU-AFRICA Training Seminar in Cape Town, SA

In cooperation with the Volunteer Centre Cape Town, the ICYE International Office organised a training course, from the 10th – 15th March 2008, within the capacity building project “Promoting Interethnic Dialogue and Intercultural Learning – Training for EVS sending and host organisations in EU, African and Asian countries”, funded by the European Commission Youth in Action Programme. Within the larger framework of the “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008”, the training course brought together 8 experienced trainers and 18 youth workers involved in sending and hosting EVS volunteers under the EC “Youth in Action” programme from Europe (Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy and the UK), Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, and South Africa) and Asia (India).

The programme included inputs from Intercultural experts, discussion groups and workshops on Intercultural Learning training methods.

The key note speakers featured Dr Kumi Naidoo of CIVICUS, Dr Sam Kareithi (VSO Consultant) and Mr David Stephens (Red Cross South Africa). For more information about this training and its final report, please email [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org)



### ICYE EU-ASIA Training Seminar in Bangalore, India

Along the lines of the seminar in South Africa, the ICYE International Office in Cooperation with ICDE-India organised an EU-ASIA Training Seminar on Intercultural Learning – funded by the EU Youth in Action Programme - in Bangalore, India from the 20th thru 25th of April 2008. This training project enhanced the skills of the participants giving them fresh inputs, to reinvigorate their work with youth towards achieving greater understanding and respect in a globalising world. It also provided insights into the cultural, social and political dynamics to be considered in working with volunteers from different cultures and countries, particularly between EU and Asian countries. Furthermore, the tools and methods introduced during the trainings gave participants the expertise to infuse intercultural learning concepts in their own work with youth, and thus act as multipliers.



### EVS Evaluation Seminars

Between mid-May and mid-June 2008, three evaluation meetings took place in Berlin, respectively of the EVS EU-Africa, Asia and Latin America volunteer exchanges, supported by the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme of the European Community. Most of the 46 young

volunteers from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, after 9 months abroad, gathered together for three days to share and reflect on their experiences around the three project themes: Social Inclusion (EU-Africa), Intercultural Dialogue (EU-Asia) and Youth Participation (EU-Latin America).

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 soon uploaded on the ICYE Federation's web site ([www.icye.org](http://www.icye.org))



### "Youth + Awareness" Short-Term EVS on HIV-AIDS

A three-day pre-departure training took place in Berlin, Germany for 16 EU volunteers who will work for three months in Africa and Asia with youth voluntary service organisations in the field of HIV and AIDS education, prevention and care.

The project's outcomes on good practice in volunteering in HIV-AIDS will be documented and published with a view to further promoting the concept of youth volunteering in HIV/AIDS prevention.

## ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

### New ICYE National Correspondents

- Belgium – Maarten Keulemans (Mr)
- Brazil – Rafael Menezes (Mr)
- Denmark - Micha Mertz (Ms)
- Japan – Tomoko Ukaji (Ms)
- Russia – Marina Nikiforova (Ms) & Diana Simkovich (Ms)
- Sweden - Maja Jacobsson (Ms)

## ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 5–8 Sept. 08 :** Pre-departure Training of 9-month EU-LA EVS Multilateral Project on "United Against Violence"- Berlin
- 16-19 Sept. 08 :** Pre-departure Training of 9-month EU-Asia EVS Multilateral Project on "Youth and the Environment "- Berlin
- 29 Sept-2 Oct. 08 :** Pre-departure Training of 9-month EVS EU-Africa Multilateral Project on "Children and Youth Rights" - Berlin
- 12-19 Oct. 08 :** "Pan-American Capacity Building cum Planning Seminar" i.e. on short-term, intra-American exchanges - Central America.