

Worlds of experience



No. 21 (February 2010)

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Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 21st issue of "Worlds of Experience", dedicated to the "Youth and the Disabled".

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted on 13 December 2006 and entered into force on 3 May 2008. It is the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century with an explicit social development dimension. According to UN statistics there are an estimated 650 million persons living with disabilities in the world today. If one includes the members of their families, there are approximately 2 billion persons who are directly affected by disability, representing almost a third of the world's population.

Volunteers' Voices provides eye-opening stories from young volunteers' experiences in working with and for persons with disabilities. A volunteer from Uganda in Switzerland has learnt so much from her experience that "my future plan is to start a home for people with disabilities in my country"; a German volunteer in New Zealand found a new family in community with able-bodied and disabled and has been enjoying each day, while a qualified young Indian nurse working at a centre of the Leonard Cheshire Disability describes an exciting day with the residents.

A Swiss volunteer in Ecuador realised that lack of sympathy and disrespect for disabled people is found both in the Ecuadorian and Swiss societies and hopes that we will learn "to face this people not as disabled, but as people with other abilities" and applies this lesson to the intercultural process "...Only if we are open ourselves to different people or people who see the world with other eyes, we are able to expand our own horizon." A young Ugandan in the UK, working in a centre supporting disabled people in their homes reports on the importance of the UN Convention and recalls the Commonwealth Disabled Peoples' Conference, held in Kampala, Uganda, in 2007, reminding all of us that Remember: "Disability is not Inability". Finally, a German volunteer, with no previous experience, working with kids with severe disabilities in CRI, describes how she reacted at the beginning and says that after having spent half a year in her project, now she "could not be happier"!

News from Int'l Organisations feature, among others: the Marking of the IYV+10 in 2011 which aims to showcase the diversity, breadth and depth of volunteering worldwide; the 2010-European Year for combating Poverty and Social exclusion; and the declaration of the 2010-2011 International Year of Youth on Dialogue and Mutual Understanding.

News from NGOs reports on: the upcoming Global Youth Service Day on 23-25 April 2010; The 5th World Youth Congress (Istanbul, Turkey) on Youth and Development, 31 July- 13 August 2010; and the recently launched global competition for original songs by young musicians on the theme of anti-corruption and good governance.

ICYE Programme News, amongst others, feature: the ICYE 60th Anniversary celebration at the General Assembly held in New Zealand; the results of the Federation's ongoing evaluation that shows a high degree of satisfaction from ICYE participants; initiatives to reduce CO2 emissions caused by ICYE's distinct activities; the final evaluation of the EVS project in EU, Moldova and Russia on "Youth volunteering in social welfare"; and two publications stemming from the EVS project involving 35 volunteers from European, African and Asian countries on "Youth and Children Rights" and "Youth and the environment".

In hope that you'll find the reading interesting and enjoyable, we would like to encourage readers to send us their articles and pictures for the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", which will be dedicated to "Youth and Development" and will be published at the end of June 2010.

Please send your contributions to icye@icye.org, before 31 May 2010.

Warmest wishes!
ICYE International Office

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

VOLUNTEERS VOICES

“I Have a Passion For Social Work”

I am Yvonne Nanyonjo, a volunteer from Uganda, East Africa. I started the ICYE one-year volunteer programme in Switzerland in August 2009.

I work in a project called Muri Roth-Haus and I work with people with disabilities. I am very privileged to do this voluntary work because I like to help people and I have a passion for social work. I work for around 34/35 hours a week and my work involves cleaning and bathing the disabled people, helping to dress them up, feeding them, giving them



medication, singing with them, helping them in tasks like handiwork, which involves making decorations. I also take them for walks and I help to guide them as they carry out different daily activities.

I work with a good team and my boss is very nice and helpful. I really enjoy my work and I have learnt a lot from this project. My future plan is to start a home for people with disabilities in my country (Uganda). This will require a lot of funding but with time, my dream will come to pass. My boss is very willing to help me and offer advice about how to set up this project. In case anyone is interested in helping me set up this project just approach ICYE Switzerland and they will be able to reach me.

My advise to any young people out there who want to realize their career path is to do an exchange program in another country with ICYE. During this one year you are able to get exposure and usually the project that you are given gives you a chance to get to know your abilities. Personally, my project has helped me realize that I would like to continue doing social work specifically with disabled people.

During this exchange year you also meet so many youth from different countries so this makes it a very interesting program. I would also want to thank the ICYE committee members in Switzerland for making our stay here very comfortable.

*Yvonne Nanyonjo
Ugandan Volunteer in Switzerland*

“My New Family at Mount Tabor”

My name is Michael Graupner, a German volunteer in New Zealand. I work at the Mount Tabor Trust, a community, in a little town called Helensville, which is 50 km north of Auckland, in which mentally disabled and non-disabled people share their lives together. All together Mt Tabor accommodates about 34 core and 30 support people, who live mainly. Before I came as a volunteer to Mt Tabor I never had any contact with



disabled people, I was excited and a bit frightened; I had no idea what I could expect. When we arrived in Helensville, I was introduced to “my core people”: the twins Ron and Roy, now seventy-eight years old and both deaf (they have a low level of mental disability as well). They weren’t really interested in the newcomer; their focus laid on the puzzle. I met then my next-door neighbour Agnes, who is sixty-three years old and has a low level of autism. She told me her name and asked straight if I’m a vegetarian, I denied. Her next question: whether I’m from West or East Germany, my response: “I’m from former East Germany. “Are you a communist?” I denied again. She kept asking the same questions during dinner, and for the next three days, after which she changed the question. My daily tasks are: sometimes prepare breakfast, after breakfast I have to clean usually two of our three bathrooms and do some other works to keep the household clean. Some days I have to drive our core people with the van to dancing or cooking with other disabled people, not just from Mt Tabor. In the afternoon (often I have to prepare lunch), three times a week we go to a place where they do some artwork. What I really like is that each day is different from the other, of course, there is a daily routine, but it is never boring, the days are going very fast. Well, I have to admit that my first week did not go so fast. Everything was new for me, especially the core people; they smell, the way how they speak, how they are doing things. My first week was quite hard, I almost thought of changing my project. But fortunately, I’m still here and happy that I did not follow my thoughts after seven days Mt Tabor.

*Michael Graupner
German Volunteer in Uganda*

A Great Day Out!

My name is Eshwar Manimegalai. I am a qualified nurse, married with one daughter from southeast India. Since September 1st 2009, I am volunteering with ICYE at Dan y Bryn Cheshire Home Radyr, in Wales, UK.

Dan y Bryn is a registered care home and is part of Leonard Cheshire Disability. The Home currently provides housing and support for 33 people with a wide range of physical, sensory and learning difficulties. Situated in the middle of Radyr in an original Edwardian house, this was the home of Sir Lewis Lougher, a local industrialist and politician until his death in 1955.

I am happy to work in such a caring environment. We spend a lot of time taking residents on short trips and these are very exciting.

On October 13th we had a fantastic day out at Roath Park with Catrin Edwards, Marian Everett, Stephen Perkins and Christopher Jones. It was a beautiful autumn morning with a bright sky, colourful leaves around with crisp air. It is a truly beautiful and amazing place with wooded walkways surrounded by trees and bushes showing their autumn colours and the fine building of the Lighthouse in the middle of the lake. We took our residents in wheel chairs around the lake to explore the beauty of this man made park. The park is wonderful with numerous types of birds, so many that I don't even know their names. We enjoyed feeding them with bread, some of them sat on our hands to grab the food, swans and ducks followed us for the bread, these birds were very friendly and the wild life was fabulous, the best I've seen in my life. We had a marvellous time and I could see Christopher smiling, Stephen and Marian enjoying feeding the birds and Catrin watching and gaining so much pleasure. We enjoyed ice creams under warm weather, taking photographs of our residents and the birds. This park was a great place to relax.

A great day out!



*Eshwar Manimegalai
Indian Volunteer in Wales, UK*

An Ecuadorian Experience

My name is Jacqueline Douniama - I am from Switzerland and have volunteered in, Quito, Ecuador in the organisation "Fundacion Integrar" for disabled children.

The Foundation provides education and a lot of activities for disabled children, especially those with cerebral palsy, down syndrome and autism.

They also offer physiotherapy

mainly for those who suffer from cerebral palsy. The team, which consisted of the head, a teacher, a physiotherapist, a psychologist and some volunteers, satisfies all the special needs of the children very well.

The main program is quite varied: in the mornings the children learn educational basics such as how to read and write, adapted to the different disabilities, and carry out also some physically-based activities like doing sports or dancing to different kinds of

music. The project offers also special activities like horse-therapy, swimming, painting. Painting is very popular - the centre participated in some



painting-competitions and once they painted a wall in the airport of Quito. The horse-therapy was the activity that I liked best because on one hand it gave me the

chance to get out of the noisy city Quito and work in a beautiful nature with pure air. On the other hand, you really feel how the children enjoyed this kind of therapy. Some of them, especially the little ones, needed a lot of help, while others are completely self-reliant when riding the horse.

In general, I have to say that I really liked the atmosphere of this project. It was my first experience with disabled children. The project's workers were very patient, affectionate and loved their job. In my volunteering time, I learned a lot from them and also from the children. Unfortunately, most people in the Ecuadorian society don't have that much sympathy for disabled people. Also, in Europe, they often react in the same way like in Ecuador when they see disabled people: depreciating, amusing. All in all it is important to face this people not as disabled, but as people with other abilities. This lesson I learnt I would like to apply it to cultural differences: only if we are open ourselves to different people or people who see the world with other eyes, we are able to expand our own horizon.

*Jacqueline Douniama
Swiss Volunteer in Ecuador*

Disability is Not Inability

My name is Geoffrey Kaweesa – I am from Uganda, journalist by profession, and currently volunteering with ICYE in the United Kingdom. I work at Carers Support Bexley where I support disabled people in their homes.

The 61st United Nations Assembly adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, which proved that disabled persons are among the poorest of the poor and the most socially excluded.

A lot still needs to be done to support the disabled to discover their potential, and thus enjoy their human rights, just like any body else.

In some cultures especially in Asia and Africa where disability are regarded as a curse, children with disabilities are excluded and excommunicated from society, leaving them to suffer from trauma, anger, hunger, lack of self esteem, etc...

Meanwhile, research indicates that in countries with high HIV prevalence rates, persons with disabilities, more so the youth are always at a higher risk of infection because they are excluded from the prevention campaigns due to their little or lack of access to information.

In 2007, at the Commonwealth Disabled Peoples' Conference, held in Kampala, Uganda, persons with disabilities from Commonwealth nations appealed to the Commonwealth Secretariat to involve them in its activities, by creating a 'People with Disabilities Forum'.

They felt that it was unfair that the Commonwealth has got a number of for a, for example "The Peoples' Forum", "Business Forum", "Youth Forum", but nothing for disabled. The chairperson of the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda Mr. Francis Kinuubi said the forum will help them highlight their challenges thus, advocate for possible solutions.

In view of the above, there is a great need to recognise disability as a cross cutting issue that should be mainstreamed in domestic policy and planning and prioritised in International co-operation. Governments need to develop disability policies and programmes to cater for the concerns of people with disabilities, in line with article 32 of the UN convention.

Meanwhile, credit should be awarded to NGOs that do whatever they can to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities through their developmental programmes and projects, despite less and, some times no funding at all from the state. Their efforts need to be supported to full capacity and in so doing, we will make the world a better place to live in for our most vulnerable colleagues. Remember: 'Disability is not Inability'

*Geoffrey Kaweesa
Ugandan Volunteer in the UK*

After Half a Year ...I Could Not Be Happier

My name is Merle Hagelüken, I am from Germany and I am volunteering in Costa Rica.

I thought I had a clear idea of my voluntary work abroad: working and sharing time with children. When I found out that I would be working with children with disabilities I felt insecure and confused because I had no previous experience whatsoever. Nevertheless, I was willing to accept this new challenge in my life and started the first day without any further expectations. The project I work in is a shelter for 17 highly disabled kids aged from five months to twenty years of age. To be quite frank, the first day I came to the project I was shocked and confused because I did not expect these kids to be so disadvantaged. Most of the kids that I am now taking care of are disabled due to violence they suffered from their parents after birth. None of the kids can eat by themselves and have to be fed. Some are so sick that they need to be fed through a stomach tube, which was one of the hardest things I had to see. After having spent half a year in my project, I have to admit that I could not be happier.



I have gotten to know each one of the kids and realized that each one has his or her own special personality: some prefer to be alone all day, others need

somebody who sings to them and yet others are simply happy when being bathed or fed. They even get mad at me when I do something wrong or make me feel good when I please them.

When I arrive in the morning, I start by bathing and dressing the babies. Then I help cleaning the rooms, changing the sheets of the bed or washing clothes in the laundry room. Additionally, I help feeding the kids and change their diapers. If there is time, I love to sit down with the kids and read to them or listen to music with them. Others love to sit with me in the sun and listen to the sound of nature.

Being in this project has taught me so much. I have learned a lot about how to treat kids with special needs and learned that they are not as different as I expected. They enjoy and call for the same things that anyone would. I have learned to be tolerant and patient because sometimes my little ones react in a very different way and their moods can vary a lot. Besides, I enjoy spending time with my co-workers because they explain a lot to me, not only about the kids but also about the Costa Rican culture.

I am sad when I think that I have to leave all these wonderful people in half a year. But one thing is for certain: I will return home with lots of new experiences that will accompany me all my life.

*Merle Hagelüken
German Volunteer in Costa Rica*

Making Steady Progress All These Years

My name is Vincent – a German volunteering at the Derry Trust in Wellington, New Zealand.

The Derry Trust runs a day-stay centre and individual care to persons with disabilities. It provides an amazing life quality to a man named Alan, who lives with severe disabilities and needs 24/7 care. Alan turned 30 just a couple of months ago and was born with disabilities. Thanks to early diagnosis and quick preventive surgery, he is able to mostly walk by himself, which is unusual for people with these syndromes. He doesn't talk (except for some indistinct verbalizing) and needs assistance with most household tasks (cooking, cleaning, showering, toileting, etc.). While it is often a great challenge to motivate him to do certain things, it's very rewarding to see the slow but steady progress he still makes after all these years.



I learned that approaching this work as less of a caregiver but rather a friend to Alan, made life a lot easier. He has his own car that we can take for outings and we generally anticipate that Alan is capable to do anything that we can do too.

I usually take him to the landfill where we recycle trash from our house and we go shopping or have an occasional hot chocolate somewhere. His Foster parents are very supportive and motivate one to always try new things. It can, however, happen that Alan is in a rather bad mood and you can't really accomplish anything. Some scars will always remind me that this job can be very painful.

However, I'm very happy in my placement with all the challenges and rewards that come with it and I'm looking forward to working here for another half year.

When not at Alan's house I work at a day-stay-centre in town twice a week where I assist with classes in the mornings and afternoons. I don't really get included in the schedules there, but it's still a welcome distraction from the work with Alan because when working with him you have to focus on him one hundred and ten percent all the time, which is really tiring.

*Vincent C. Zettl
German Volunteer in New Zealand*

More on "Youth and Disability"



Leonard Cheshire Disability operate in all parts of the UK and is the largest voluntary sector provider of care and support services for disabled people. It exists to change attitudes to disability and to serve disabled people around the world.

Young Voices on Disability

Young Voices brings together groups of young people with disabilities from 18 different countries around the world. It gives an opportunity for them to share their experiences, learn about the UN Convention and their human rights. It gives them training in campaigning, advocacy and media skills to help them hold their governments to their obligations under the UN Convention.

With groups of young people with disabilities formed or developed in the following 18 countries: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Namibia, Swaziland, Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, China, Guyana, South Africa, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, the groups have been telling their stories through film.

Leonard Cheshire Disability together with Volunteer Development Agency in Northern Ireland, produced a series of resource materials for young volunteers with disabilities, such as "Just Go For It!

Volunteering For People With Disabilities .pdf " and "Tapping Into Untapped Resources - Involving People With Disabilities As Volunteers.pdf". For more information and to download the publications please visit:



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http://www.volunteering-ni.org/what_we_do/publications/#Volunteering

News From International Organizations



Marking IYV+10

The year 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) 2001. Opportunity exists for activities throughout 2011 that will showcase the diversity, breadth and depth of volunteering worldwide and offer the chance to raise the profile of volunteering and mobilize many more volunteers. On International Volunteer Day, 05 December, 2009, a Global Call for Action was extended to all stakeholders to engage in activities that mark the tenth anniversary of International Year of Volunteers. All stakeholders are invited to join the global effort to mark IYV+10 and to reinvigorate the spirit of the International Year of Volunteers and its four pillars:

- Further promote recognition of the contributions of volunteers to society, and peace and development
- Promote better understanding of how volunteerism can change the nature and pace of development beyond the Millennium Development Goals
- Provide a platform for continued advocacy and policy development
- Facilitate linkages and cooperation with and among Volunteer Involving Organisations in the public, private and civil society sectors.

The premise underlying IYV 2001 was that voluntary service makes an essential contribution in addressing problems in areas of social, economic, cultural, humanitarian and peace-building. For this to happen, there was a need for greater recognition and facilitation of volunteer work, more vigorous promotion of voluntary service, and networks to facilitate a drawing upon – the “best practice” – of volunteers. According to the General Assembly report:

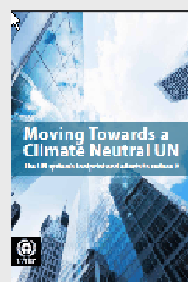
“A major outcome of the Year (2001) has been a collective recognition by Governments of the role and contribution of voluntary action and of the need to adopt strategic approaches to enhancing the environment for such action to flourish. Global trends towards greater self-help, decentralization, participatory democracy and networking are all having an impact on citizen participation, and volunteerism is one defining characteristic. The challenge now is to consolidate successes attained, build on the momentum created by the Year and move the volunteer agenda forward.”



2010: European Year for combating Poverty and Social exclusion

On 21st January, the European Commission and the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, launched the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Madrid. For that, an informative website has been created including news (subscription to a newsletter), agenda of events and a media gallery. It offers also the opportunity to find partners and to express yourself to **STOP POVERTY NOW!** To read more:

<http://www.2010againstpoverty.eu/?langid=en>



Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN: The UN System's Footprint and Efforts to Reduce It

Today the United Nations Environmental Management Group (EMG) launched Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN: The UN system's footprint and efforts to reduce it during the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. This new report shows the greenhouse gas footprint of the United Nations, including its headquarters and major centres, regional economic commissions, specialized agencies as well as peacekeeping and field offices, and highlights that the “biggest international body is emitting the equivalent of 1.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, of which approximately 1 million tonnes comes from peacekeeping operations.” Knowing the size of emissions, the United Nations aims with this report to further progress in! making the UN system a climate-friendly body and to decrease its emissions.



Youth and the United Nations
www.un.org/youth

**International Year of Youth:
Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
(12 August 2010 -11 August 2011)**

On 18 December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the year commencing on 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The Year will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the first International Youth Year in 1985 on the theme Participation, Development and Peace. The International Year will promote actions aimed at disseminating among youth the ideals of peace, freedom, progress, solidarity and dedication to the objectives and goals of progress and development, including the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations Focal Point on Youth, and the entire United Nations Programme on Youth hopes that you will join us in celebrating the Year. Please visit: <http://www.un.org/youth> and send your ideas and activities for the International Year to youth@un.org



Beijing at 15 – Online Discussions

Do you want to influence how the world works and stop discrimination and violence against girls? The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will meet on 1-12 March 2010 in New York, bringing together government delegations, UN agencies and NGOs to review what progress has been made on women's and girls' rights since 1995 when the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted. You can contribute to this process by participating in the discussion and voicing your thoughts and ideas. For more information please visit:

<http://www.unicef.org/voy>

News From NGOs



23-25 of April 2010: Global Youth Service Day

The Global Youth Service Day is a time in the year to come together to focus the world's attention on what young people are contributing every single day. During Global Youth Service Day, millions of youth around the world organize community service projects to address the needs of their local communities through service, to be recognized for their contributions, and to be a part of a global youth service movement.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.gysd.org>



31 of July- 13 of August 2010: The 5th World Youth Congress (Istanbul, Turkey)

The 5th in the series of World Youth Congresses on Youth and Development will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2010. Turkey will welcome 1000 young people from around the world to meet during Istanbul's year as the European Capital of Culture. The participants will decide, train, perform, discover, volunteer, present and represent in the featured campus of Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul. For more information please visit:

www.turkiye2010.org/en.html



Global Anti-Corruption Youth Music Competition

Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI) and the World Bank Institute are pleased to announce the launch **1 February 2010** of [Fair Play - Anti-Corruption Youth Voices](#), a competition for original songs by young musicians on the theme of **anti-corruption** and **good governance**. The competition is an initiative of the Global Anti-Corruption Youth Network, a worldwide network of civil society organizations with the specific agenda of fighting corruption. Winners of Fair Play - Anti-Corruption Youth Voices will be invited to perform at the group's **international summit Spring 2010 in Brussels, Belgium**.

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

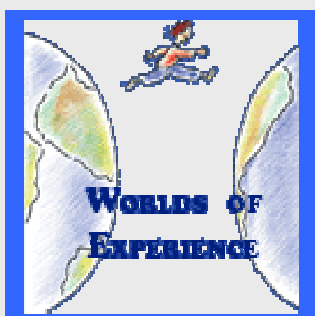
XXVI General Assembly (GA) of the ICYE Federation

The XXVI General Assembly (GA) of the ICYE Federation was held from 23 thru 29 November 2009 in Tauranga, New Zealand, and was attended by 60 participants, representing 40 different countries. Highlights: celebration of ICYE 60th Anniversary; acceptance of new Associate Members in Ecuador and South Africa; development of cooperation with ICYE partner organisations in Indonesia, Perú, The Philippines, Tanzania, Uruguay, and Vietnam; and adoption of long-term development strategies for training and quality assurance. For more information about the XXVI ICYE General Assembly please contact the ICYE International Office at icye@icye.org.



High degree of Satisfaction from ICYE Participants

ONLINE EVALUATION
CLICK HERE



The (ongoing) evaluation involving hundreds of ICYE participants of the 2008-2009 programme year confirmed the high degree of our international volunteers' satisfaction with regard to the programme educational aims and services. The high standards of programme delivery were not only maintained but also exceeded in many aspects.

Of the participants that filled in the evaluation questionnaires, 98 % (97% in 2007-08) were satisfied with the preparation provided by ICYE for their year abroad – notably, of these, 82 % rated the preparation between excellent and good. The long-term volunteer experience abroad itself was rated by 96% (94% in 2007-08) as overall positive – of these 84% rated it between excellent and good!

At the last ICYE General Assembly, the Federation's quality assessment and assurance system was further articulated and improved to ensure that the ICYE programme quality standards are met across the board and in all member countries. Striving towards a comprehensive quality management system - soliciting also feedback from the host voluntary service projects - is the upcoming and exciting challenge.

The **online Evaluation Forms** to be filled in by the ICYE programme participants – after the on-arrival orientation, mid term and final evaluation seminars – have been tested and launched at the beginning of the 2009-10 programme year. The ICYE National Committee Peer-Evaluation - whose goal is to showcase & share excellent practices or standards, as well as provide constructive comments to address challenges or weaknesses - will go live before summer 2010.

Greening UP / ICYE

The 2009 General Assembly firmed up and strengthened its commitment to contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions caused by its activities.

The example of ICYE US / United Planet (UP) was presented. UP recently produced two online documents for their volunteers: one on how to lower their carbon footprint, and the other on how to travel responsibly and sustainably during their volunteering period. As part of result of UP's 1st phase of the "Greening UP" process, please visit the following page, which went live in December 2009:

<http://www.unitedplanet.org/responsible-travel-and-sustainability/index.html> .

Another idea that UP would like to pursue is to have UP pay the carbon off-set prices for the ICYE volunteers out of their program fee.

It was also decided to make a (token) contribution to offset the CO2 emissions caused by the international flights of GA participants to the NGO **Atmosfair** that runs projects in developing countries where these emissions will be saved - the money is invested in solar, hydropower, biomass, or energy-efficiency projects (<http://www.atmosfair.de/en>).



ICYE NCs have been also encouraged to use **Ecosia**, an independent, non-profit search engine / website. At least 80% of the search income goes to a rainforest protection program run by WWF, which uses this money for the sustainable protection of rainforests. Read more at: www.ecosia.org

Youth Volunteering in Social Welfare

EVS project in EU, Moldova and Russia

On 1 – 4 February 2010 a final evaluation meeting took place in Berlin for the ICYE /EVS volunteers of the EU - Moldova and Russia Project on Youth Volunteering in Social Welfare, financially supported by the European Union. This project aimed at fostering intercultural dialogue and contributing to a better understanding between the EU and the countries of Eastern Europe, as well as among varied social, ethnic and other civil society organisations working with disabled, elderly, migrants and refugees. Besides fostering intercultural learning, the involvement of international volunteers in these projects resulted in increased awareness about the European Union and enabled an exchange of experiences around working in social welfare projects in EU and Eastern European Countries. At the meeting the volunteers had the opportunity to meet again and share experiences, to engage in thematic discussions as well as to make suggestions to the organizers on how future projects in this field should/could look like.



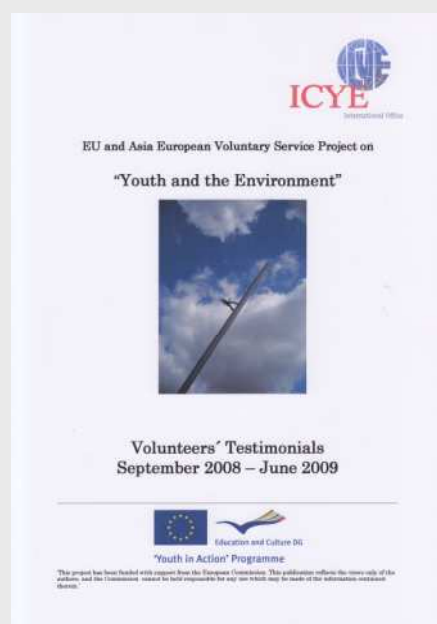
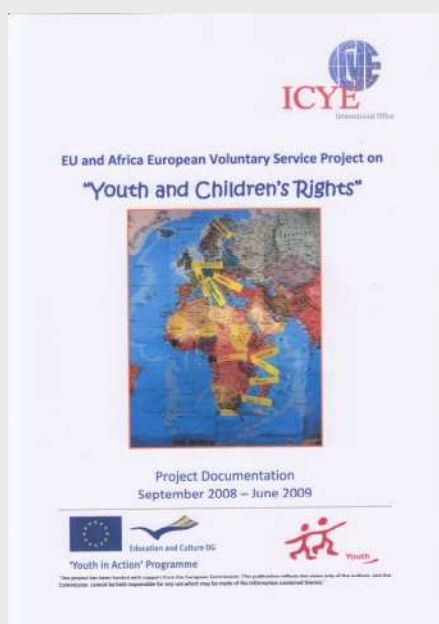
ICYE / EVS Volunteers' Testimonials

From Sept 2008 thru June 2009, 35 young volunteers from Africa, Asia and Europe participated in the EVS theme-related long-term projects on "Youth and Children Rights" and "Youth and the environment", financially supported by the European Union.

The projects have been documented to chart the intercultural journey of all volunteers through their voluntary service period and their experiences of living and working in a different culture and country.

The EVS projects comprised of joint initial training and final evaluation activities focussing on intercultural learning, addressing the themes of identity, culture and cultural diversity, the cultural adaptation process, prejudices, communication, conflicts and their resolution. These meetings also included sharing of experiences and discussion groups on the concept of volunteerism and the themes "Youth and Children Rights" in the EU - African and "Youth and the Environment" in the EU - Asian context.

We believe that these documents make interesting and inspiring reading and are useful preparation material for international long-term volunteering programmes. The documents can be downloaded from the ICYE web site: http://www.icye.org/eng/res_publications.html



ICYE STAFF NEWS

New ICYE National Correspondents

- Ecuador – Gina Cicerone (Ms)
- South Africa – Deline Van Boom (Ms)