

Worlds of experience



No. 8 (JUNE/JULY 2005)

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Dear Friends,

With this issue ICYE would like to contribute with its own experiences to the debate of what is "Best Practice and Quality in International Volunteering Programme" - a debate mostly led by policy makers and practitioners, often with little involvement by the participants themselves.

We hope that the views expressed by the ICYE volunteers, provide good food for thought - beyond lip service and wishful thinking – on what does make a difference, and is valued as a enriching life experience for young people, who wish to serve and learn about themselves and the world they live in.

The volunteers insights into what matters in youth non-formal education and mobility programmes are candidly described and best captured in the recognition that long-term volunteering can be "A turning point in my life"; can help to realise that it is "Better to give than Receive"; and that eventually experience is always about "Their lives and mine", or as the poet Rimbaud said "I am the Other"!

This thematic session concludes with an account of the first results of the ICYE Federation's "Quality Assessment and Assurance" process. The acknowledgment that quality is a dynamic concept, and that ensuring quality is about recognizing and meeting needs, has helped ICYE to act as a learning organisation, which constantly needs to focus on change, and to solicit and be open to critical assessment of its work by volunteers and hosts.

News from International Organisations opens with a brief report by the Director of ICYE Nigeria on the Hearings of the United Nations General Assembly with NGOs, Civil Societies and Private Sector, held at the UN HQs on 23-24 June 2005.

News about the UNESCO Youth Forum, the International Youth Day, and online youth news services of the UN system, are followed by NGOs news on the MDGs Youth Guide and Card Games, and youth events such as the Young Words Happening and the Travelling Seminar on Int'l Youth Movements.

The ICYE programme news feature a brief description of APAI, ICYE's new member in Portugal, the partnership established with FEVI in Ecuador, as well as briefings on a youth seminar on "Gender based violence" and ICYE India Tsunami Camp.

While we wish you a good and interesting read, please note that the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", to be published at the end of October 2005, will focus on "[Young Volunteers working with Children and Youth](#)". Please email your contributions, in form of articles/pictures, to icye@icye.org before 30 September 2005.

Kindest regards!

ICYE International Office

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

"Best Practice of International Volunteering"

VOLUNTEERS' VOICES

"TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE"

Hi, my Name is Stephen Bwete, ICYE exchangee from Uganda (East- Africa). I am 22 years old and I work as a volunteer with Foundation d'Auteuil Picardie, (Northern France), a network of organisations that receives children from difficult economic, social and family backgrounds.

I am very excited about, and fond of my project experience. It amazes me that what seemed to be a programme for personal benefits, has turned to be an experience, which has generated my interest for the plight of children.

In fact, before the arrival, the cardinal goal was just to learn, develop and improve my personal skills, but when I evaluate my objectives now, it's more about personal effectiveness and the sharing of my life and love with children who have been denied love and hope for a better life.

This programme has enabled me to go beyond my personal interests, which is not easy. Just like any other youth who has fresh ambitions and has to take social and career decisions. I acclaim ICYE for such program that enables youth to be part of community, to look at oneself as a potential resource for the people we should serve. We can all contribute to a better World for all.

Discipline, but more importantly, flexibility and willingness to accept new challenges are paramount in international volunteering.

I have learnt to treat everyday as an opportunity to learn something new, and gain new experiences. I have achieved this by having a mature, independent mind and a free will to learn.

Being flexible I have learnt to appreciate all kinds of emotional and psychological behaviours from children.

I hope that my relations with the children has helped them to take personal responsibilities and to evaluate the consequences of their actions.

In spite of my weak French, sincere expression of concern and acceptance has helped to build a warm relationship with the kids in my project.

The year has been a unique experience, a turning point in my life.

It has impacted my life and I hope that the skills and experience will be relevant to making a positive difference into the Children of Uganda and Africa.

A big thank to ICYE of opening up such a door into a great world of social experience to me.

Stephen Bwete
Volunteer from Uganda to France

"AN ENGLISH TEACHER IN HONDURAS"

I was told what my project was going to be. I am going to teach English in a public school in a little village named Taulabe and also teach computing skills with ACJ, a local section of YMCA. This was not what I had expected but when I learned more I realised that this was a useful project and that the children in the school would gain a lot from this.

I was teaching fifth and sixth grade who are roughly the same age as primary six and seven in the British system. For most of my classes trying to catch their enthusiasm is not too hard as they enjoy learning English but a little rivalry always gets the children going.

We have also been doing some interviews with the local youth and it seems promising as many of them are interested in learning computing. I started classes in the computing school after and my pupils were eager to learn. They are allowed to visit and use the computers in their free time if I am not teaching classes. They are there all the time, admittedly most of them spend their time playing the simple games or drawing pictures but even this is good for practice.

The culture is rich and vibrant from the singing and guitar - playing to the different styles of dancing. I have yet to teach them ceildh dancing although many people are interested in this and also in kilts or as they put it here, "you are the men who wear skirts?"

I was so just busy working at things or exploring all the time that I did not even notice how long it had been.

Maurice McHugh
Volunteer from UK to Honduras



**Matilda and Sophie
at a party**

"BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE"

On the long flight nearly 20 hours from my hometown, Taiwan, to London, I failed to fall asleep and felt anxious for an uncertain life of being a volunteer on 10th October 2004. No matter how many times I read the details of allocated placement, I couldn't exactly understand what kind of people I would be meeting and which type of environment I would be staying in the coming year.

I'm working in a residential and community care charity for people with a learning disability in south London. This organisation provide a caring, homely and therapeutic setting, in which disabled people can enhance and develop their social skills as an aid to greater independence and to enable them to live as normal a life as possible.

To be honest, I had no concrete conception of social care or learning disability while I was in my country. The house manager, Angela, makes arrangements for my training as well as she can. I learn lots of handy theories during every session and useful experiences from many people's discussion. A learning disability is a lifelong condition—acquired before, during or soon after birth—which affects an individual's ability to learn. As a result, some need support with everyday practical skills such as getting dressed or cooking, or social skills like holding a conversation. I firmly appreciate that everyone values people with a learning disability as individuals with unique personalities, likes and dislikes, goals and aspirations, because they're treated with respect, dignity here.

Instead of labelling a volunteer as a slave, I'm encouraged to use my own ideas/initiative and make my choices to enable the residents to carry

on their daily lives as independently as they can. Over the past 8 months, we have created lots of invaluable memories together. The fantastic experience of playing football game against an agency is so unforgettable. We have so many activities in the daily life, such as going to cinema, shopping in the supermarket, travelling on the bus, dancing in the club, drinking in the pub, sharing meals together, cooking in the class, doing washing and ironing, talking about soaps, enjoying every party we had, running urgently during fire alarm and realizing that's just a drill, singing HAPPY BIRTHDAY and cheering each other up by warm hugging or amusing acting... Oh, you're lovely angels, you know?

I also deeply thank god that I could meet so many nice people. Most importantly, my colleagues are always around to guide and advise me when occasionally residents become challenging and verbally abusive. Their friendship and support helps me through times when I'm feeling anxious or homesick. I feel very lucky that my placement brought me here to Avalon house. In both English and Mandarin, there goes a saying that it is better to give than receive, because I gain more from everyone's feeding back to me as well.

*Matilda Chang
Volunteer from Taiwan in UK*



The nice foot ball game we had..

"THEIR LIVES AND MINE"

I have worked (from September 2004 to April 2005) in a host voluntary placement called "Forjadoras de Sueños" ("Forgers of Dreams"), located in Bogotá.

It is an emergency centre for street kids, which welcomes and gives respite for children (under 18 years) caught by the police in the streets of

Bogotá. The main aim of the centre is to help these children to go back to their families or to place them in institutions, which cater for their needs. This depends on each child's situation (abuse, mistreatment, drug-addiction, missing from home, etc.)

Depending on each case, the educators, psychologists, social worker discuss what would be the most suitable solution for each child. When the children stay at the centre, they attend different workshops on education, personal support, dance and music.

I have been involved in these workshops and have provided support to the educators and the kids. I have run various manual and creative activities, such as painting, drawing, French classes and sports.

These have been very special 8 months and have made a very interesting and unique experience. I sincerely hope that these children one day will also have the opportunity to get to know other foreigners with another culture and other points of view of life and the world.

My work with the children has been very enriching. I have unforgettable memories of the time I spent with them, talking about their lives and mine. I have enjoyed very much working with the children and my colleagues - the educators. I am going home with many new things inside and a very special life experience.

Olivo Pascal
Exchangee from France to Colombia

"EVS CHALLENGES"

Dear Friends from all over the world! I am very happy that through this newspaper I have the possibility to tell you about my wonderful long-term EVS experience with ICYE, which I will never, ever forget!

The whole project was a very life-enriching experience for me. Reflecting back, even now, when everything is finished and when I am back home, I realise how amazing everything was. And it has definitely overcome my expectations, because I couldn't even imagine that it will be so much fun.

I was, of course, very confused at the beginning, I had no idea what I should expect, what will happen, and honestly, there were moments when I was asking myself: What am I doing? But it only made it a bigger challenge.



So, I found myself in Vienna. It is such a beautiful city! I was enchanted by its beauty! I also liked my "work" a lot, since I was working with children of refugee families. The responsible people from my work told me what I should do, but still left me some space in order for me to find myself in the job and to do it the way I think the best. That was also great for me, because I had the opportunity to leave my individual mark to what I was doing.

It was great fun to just be with these children and to be their friend, because they were constantly complaining. They don't feel very comfortable in their new home country, because they have the feeling that no one likes them and nobody wants to be their friend just because they don't speak the language, or because they are poor. So, what I tried to do was to just be there for them.

Even now, that my project is finished, I can best see how much have I changed and how much have I actually learned. I learned so much not only about the country where I stayed, but also about myself.

It was a bit difficult at the beginning to just leave everything and go to a new country, where you don't know anyone, you don't know the language and you don't understand what everyone around you is saying, but it was definitely worth it.

I wouldn't change anything if I could go back. Also, one of the most enriching aspects of the experience was the chance to meet so many people with different backgrounds, and just being able to talk to them about different issues, made me more aware of the many differences and similarities that exist among us.

I definitely would recommend it to all of my friends as an incredible chance in life.

Neda Ahchieva
ICYE/EVS volunteer from Macedonia to Austria

MORE ON BEST PRACTICE - QUALITY OF VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMMES

ICYE QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND ASSURANCE PROCESS

Although the ICYE Federation's concern about quality standards dates back to 1983, year in which the first set of programme Minimum Standards were adopted, since 1999 the Federation has been involved in an ongoing process which aims to assess and ensure quality in all aspects of its long-term voluntary service exchange programme. The acknowledgment that quality is a dynamic concept, and that quality is about recognizing and meeting needs, has helped ICYE to internalise a number of vital lessons. Along these lines, ICYE needs:

- to focus on change
- to solicit and be open to critical assessment of its work by volunteers and hosts
- to prioritise initial and in-service training for its staff and co-workers,
- to provide uniform quality programme services while respecting the rich cultural differences within our organization.

In March 2005 the first report on this process has been published, focussing on its following key-elements:

- Assessment tools
- Analysis and interpretation of findings on the compliance with ICYE programme Minimal Conditions
- Assurance system: "sanctions", appeal system & support system

A total of 231 Exchangees Final Evaluation Forms (filled in by 163 female and 68 male exchangees) have been received and assessed. These forms correspond to 45 % of 513, total number of 2003-04 ICYE long-term volunteers.

The average age of volunteers who have replied is 24,4 years.

Main findings

- 72% rated good & excellent the preparation received before the beginning of the exchange programme
- 68 % rated as good and excellent the support received from hosting committee
- 89% rated the exchange experience as good and excellent

While the overall rating of ICYE National Committees' performance is positive and encouraging, the results of the first assessment show that ICYE still has a long way to go to ensure that minimal levels of quality is guaranteed in all aspects of the exchange programme.

Remembering that the lasting values of a programme like ours lies in what happens in the lives of young people directly or indirectly involved in it, with commitment and confidence, we look forward to the results of the next quality assessment round for the 2004-05-programme year.

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE INFORMAL HEARINGS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH NGOS, CIVIL SOCIETIES AND PRIVATE SECTOR JUNE 23-24, 2005.

As representative of ICYE Nigeria, I had the honour of attending the Hearings of the United Nations General Assembly with NGOs, Civil Societies and Private Sector, held at the UN HQs on 23-24 June 2005.

The purpose of these Hearings was to hold discussions on the reform package submitted by the Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan,

titled '*In larger freedom: Towards development, security and human rights for all*' of the United Nations".

The Hearings were an integral part of the preparatory process of the GA Summit in September 2005, which will review the implementation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted by Member states in 2000.

Of the four discussion sessions, I attended "Freedom to live in Dignity" and "The Imperative for Collective Action: Strengthening the United Nations" – the other two being "Freedom from Want" and "Freedom from Fear".

Freedom to Live in Dignity: The three core areas of this cluster were Rule of Law, Human Rights and Democracy. Participants stressed the importance of gender equality, being women's right synonymous with promotions of development, security and Human Rights. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of the Rule of Law at both national and international levels and the need to strengthen the Peer Review Mechanism of the Human Rights Council.

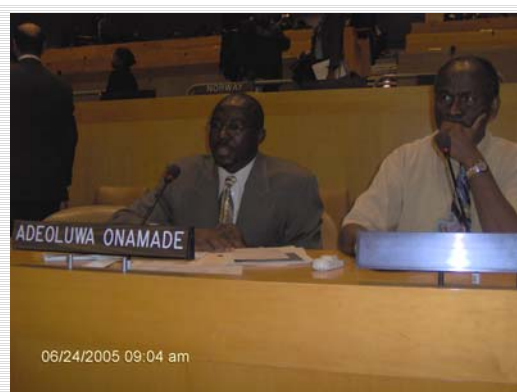
The Imperative for Collective Action: Strengthening the United Nations: This session was deemed important because of the multilateral framework of the United Nations. Suggestions were made to: support three councils that interact meaningfully with each other; make the IMF and World Bank more accountable to the global Government; and include more young people and parliamentarians in the member delegations to the UN.

There was consensus that the MDGs are interrelated and cannot be achieved in isolation. In his closing speech Mr. Kofi Annan thanked all participants for their interventions and role as 'essential partners' and advocates of the UN. The UN Member countries' delegations said that they had gained a great deal in preparations for the September Summit. Finally, participants encouraged the UN member states to maintain and further articulate the dialogue with NGOs and CSOs, so as to make their voices heard in the September Summit.

This has been a totally new and enriching experience and I would like to express my gratitude to the Task force for having selected me to represent ICYE Nigeria. Thanks also go to the Governments of Canada, Finland and Norway for their generous contributions to support the participation of civil society representatives from developing countries.

For more details and the full report, please contact the ICYE International Office at: icye@icye.org.

*Adeolu Onamade
Lagos, Nigeria.*



VOLUNTEER VOICES

Each volunteer has a story to tell, meaning UN Volunteers has nearly 5,000 stories each year alone. Volunteer Voices section is the place where UN Volunteers share their experiences as part of peace and development efforts worldwide. Go and take a look:

<http://www.unv.org/volunteers/voices/index.htm>



UNESCO YOUTH FORUM

The 4th UNESCO Youth Forum will be held from 30 September - 2 October 2005 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This year's theme will be *'Young people and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples - Ideas for action in education, the sciences, culture and communication'*.

Four key activity areas have been designated:

- Education, including 'Education for all' and efforts to promote quality education
- Sciences and technologies, including the role of traditional and local knowledge systems
- Cultural diversity in all its dimensions, including world heritage
- Media and ICT

The Forum will be composed of youth delegates (under 30s) from all Member States, the majority of whom are active members of youth organizations. The final report containing young people's proposals and ideas for action will be presented to the opening session of the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO.

For more information please check:

http://portal.unesco.org/unesco/ev.php?URL_ID=21069&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201&reload=1105960886



Youth at the United Nations

UN YOUTH FLASH

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the UN Programme on Youth, keeping you up to date on the youth agenda of the UN and partnering youth organizations around the world.

To read the UN Youth Flash, visit:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/fl_ashapril05f.pdf



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 12 AUGUST

How you can celebrate the day

Team up! It is a great opportunity to rally support and get key actors involved - Governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, businesses, and young people - to focus on what has been done to further the [World Programme of Action for Youth](#)

Organize! Hold forums, public discussions and information campaigns in support of young people focusing on youth issues and how they can be addressed.

Celebrate! Plan and organize performances everywhere to showcase - and celebrate - the fact that youth contribute to the societies in which they live. Convene exchanges and dialogues focusing on the rich and varied skills, interests and aspirations of young people.

Take action! A major focus of the Day is practical action to further encourage the empowerment and participation of youth in the processes and decisions that affect their lives.

For more information please check:
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthday.htm>

2007 TO BE "EUROPEAN YEAR OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL"

The European Commission has designated 2007 as

"European Year of Equal Opportunities for All"

as part of a concerted effort to promote equality and non-discrimination in the EU.

The four core themes of the European Year proposed by the Commission are:

- Rights - raising awareness of the right to equality and non-discrimination;
- Representation - stimulating a debate to increase the participation of under-represented groups in society;
- Recognition - celebrating and accommodating diversity;
- Respect and tolerance - promoting a more cohesive society.

Read more please check:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/news/news_en.htm

NEWS FROM NGOs



MDGs YOUTH ACTION GUIDE ONLY WITH YOUR VOICE

The year 2015 could be the first time in history that humankind ends poverty. Whether the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) signed by 189 Heads of States in 2000 can be reached will very much depend on the political will to make them a reality.

'ONLY WITH YOUR VOICE' - an MDG Action Guide for young people developed by the UN Millennium Campaign, TakingITGlobal and the Global Youth Action Network, aims at mobilising

young people's energies and visions to work together and take action against global poverty.

The action guide was created by young people and provides anyone who wants to join efforts in realizing the MDGs with the information and various tools needed to raise awareness, lobby political decision-makers and develop local youth-led projects contributing to the MDGs. It also contains a list of helpful resources and links as well as promotional material (stickers, postcards, posters) on the MDGs.

For the kit (available in four languages) please consult
http://www.takingitglobal.org/themes/mdg/campaign_kit.html

The Millennium Campaign hosts a special website aimed at informing, inspiring and involving young people in action to reach the MDGs at www.millenniumcampaign.org/youth.



MDGS CARD GAME

Do you want to learn more about the MDGs in a fun way? Or do you think you already know everything there is to know about them? Then test your knowledge while playing our MDG Card Game! Match the cards, answer the trivia questions, and based on your speed and accuracy, accumulate the most points to be eligible for one of our prize packs.

Website:

<http://www.takingitglobal.org/themes/mdg/game/index.html>



INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD (2001-2010)

The culture of peace is advancing, according to accounts from all regions of the world. This is the conclusion from information submitted by almost 700 organizations available on the information board of this site. A summary report is being submitted to the UN Secretary General for the plenary session of the UN General Assembly devoted to the midpoint of the culture of peace decade in Fall, 2005.

This report provides the first comprehensive view of the progress of the global movement for a culture of peace, since it was called for in 1999 by United Nations Resolution A/53/243. The assessments of progress and obstacles are summarized by region: International NGOs (two pages), Africa, Arab States, Latin America, Asia, Europe, North America and the Caribbean. This website will remain open during the second half of the Decade from 2006-2010 in order to promote the further development of the global movement for a culture of peace. It is sponsored by the Fundación Cultura de Paz and its President, Federico Mayor, former Director-General of UNESCO.

For further information, please e-mail: decade@decade-culture-of-peace.org

TRAVELING SEMINARS OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENTS

Are you interested in other cultures and nationalities? Are you interested in social change? Do you want to better understand the work of NGOs and social movements around the world? Do you want to see and understand the participation of young people in these groups? The world is home to thousands of youth NGOs and groups of great diversity, from protest movements to social programs of trans-national corporations. Some of these projects have little impact while others are transformational. How is it possible to know which is which? How can one understand the reality of these groups without being part of the movement itself?

GYAN is developing a travelling program starting in June of this year to help you meet new youth movements, to help make the distance between the global south and the global north a little bit smaller, and to help everyone better understand the political, ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity of youth in the world. Most trips will last between 5 and 14 days, will visit 2 or 3 cities, and connect with dozens of diverse groups.

For more information please check: <http://www.youthlink.org/tours/>



YOUNG WORDS HAPPENING

The City of Torino is proud to invite you to the "Young Words Happening" event to be held in Torino, Italy, from the 22nd to the 24th of September 2005. The event will involve 2,000 young people from all around the world.

"Young Words Happening" is open to young people between the ages of 18 and 35 and represents a unique opportunity to actively listen, tolerate and dialogue with diverse cultures. Please circulate this invitation throughout your network of contacts.

For additional information, please contact us at: young.words@comune.torino.it



LESSON FOR LIFE 2005 MATERIALS

The 2005 Lesson for Life materials in English have been recently published. The Spanish and French versions are available on www.gmfc.org/hiv aids. A Portuguese and Arabic versions will be available in August.

This material should be promoted in schools and non-formal education settings in your country.

At international level, UNAIDS and UNESCO are fully supporting it and have written to their counterparts in your country (ministries of Education and Health, NGOs, field office, etc.) to invite them to join.

For more information visit: www.gmfc.org/hiv aids

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS



NEW MEMBER IN PORTUGAL - APAI

After over 6 years of cooperation with ICYE at European level, APAI has recently been accepted as new member of the ICYE Federation in Portugal. APAI is a national youth association, founded in March 1993 and recognized by the Portuguese Youth Institute and a member of RNAJ, National Register of Youth Associations. APAI is represented in 12 of the 18 Districts of Portugal by 16 Local Chapters and 69 CAI's (Club of Intercultural Awareness). APAI's aims are to develop a better knowledge and understanding of the Portuguese culture through the promotion of youth exchange and international volunteering programmes and activities that stimulate and develop intercultural awareness.

For more information visit: <http://apai.planetaclix.pt>

Through its short and long term placements, FEVI provides volunteer service support for elderly people, children, women, indigenous groups, human rights organizations, hospitals, schools, traditional farms, etc.

To find out more about FEVI and its programme, please visit its web site at: www.fevi.org or contact Maria Barragan, FEVI's Director at: info@fevi.org

ICYE - CULTURAL & VOLUNTEER IMMERSION PROGRAM



ECUADOR - A PLACE TO SERVE, STUDY, AND EXPLORE

The ICYE Federation has recently started a partnership with FEVI - Fund for International Education and Volunteer Service, a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Quito, Ecuador, whose aim is to promote international education and volunteer service, to foster intercultural learning, and to prevent social exclusion.

The second ICYE-CVIP planning meeting was held in Wengchang, Hainan, in the People's Republic of China, on 10-17 April 2005. The representatives of China, Nepal and Thailand further elaborated the blue print for a short-term exchange program offering volunteering and cultural exposure opportunities for young people. The program consists of various Volunteering and Cultural exposure activities, Language Classes, Study Courses, Rural Home Stays, and Travel modules, which can be combined and tailored to meet the participants needs in discovering and appreciating the uniqueness of the host countries. Although for the time being this program is offered only by a few ICYE

member and partner organizations in Asia, we hope that soon more Asian countries as well as countries from other regions will follow suit.

For more information, please visit the web site (still under construction!) at: www.icye-cvip.org

"WELCOME TO A WORLD OF VOLUNTEERING" NEW ICYE FEDERATION'S WEB SITE

The new ICYE web site has been officially launched. Please visit it at www.icye.org ! Any comments, suggestions for changes and other possible inputs are most welcome! Please email them to Mauricio Fallas, ICYE web master at email: webmaster@icye.org

AFSAI SEMINAR ON "GENDER BASED VIOLENCE" SORRENTO ITALY

"Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms... In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture."

--Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, paragraph 112

As representative of the ICYE International Office in Berlin I attended the seminar on "Gender based Violence"; organised by AFSAI/ICYE Italy on 13 – 18 June, Massa Lubrense near Sorrento/Neaples.

The participants of the above-mentioned seminar came from organizations across Europe, which work with women, but also people that were just interested in this subject. Every day we had working groups with a mix of different participants, so that a broader view could be achieved.

We learned that gender-based violence encompasses a wide range of human rights violations, including sexual abuse of children, rape, domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, trafficking of women and girls, as well as several harmful traditional practices. All of these abuses can leave deep psychological scars, damage the health of women and girls, including their reproductive and sexual health, and in some instances, can lead to death.

For me it was a great opportunity to learn something about this theme, and for that I want to thank AFSAI/ ICYE Italy.

The report of the seminar will soon be published on www.afsai.it

*Anselm Cojaniz
Intern at the ICYE IO*



EU-SEE TRAINING COURSE ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION



From 8 to 13 June 2005 in Berlin representatives of youth organisations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Austria, France, Finland Italy Lithuania, Spain and UK participated in a training course on fostering positive youth action and partnership between EU and SEE countries.

The main aim of this course was to enhance young people's participation, leadership skills and their engagement in civil society in EU and SEE countries, for example by implementing multilateral long-term volunteer exchange projects involving as host and sending organisations youth associations and public institutions running youth participation and civic education programmes.

The programme included opportunities to exchange experiences on different participatory practices, and developing strategies and activities fostering positive youth action within the framework of the EU YOUTH programme.

EU-LA EVS MULTILATERAL PROJECT

Long-term volunteering project in EU and Latin American countries – June 2005 through March 2006

This EU-LA multilateral project is a reciprocal exchange project involving 6 young people from EU countries to engage in voluntary service projects in Colombia, Honduras and Mexico and 4 young people from these Latin American countries to acquire experience by living and working in Spain, Lithuania and Austria.

The young volunteers will engage in a variety of local hosting projects dealing with youth civic education and active citizenship programmes, ranging from youth clubs and youth initiated networks to community development and social work projects, offering a rich sample of civil society where volunteerism will definitely bring an added value to the respective local communities.



ICYE INDIA TSUNAMI CAMP VEILLANKANI 03-10 APRIL 2005



15 European volunteers participated this Tsunami camp with ICYE India, in Veillankani, Tamil Nadu, on 3-10 April 2005. Until then all the volunteers had only seen the impact of the Tsunami only through the media.

The main aim of the camp was to counsel the children who were affected most by the Tsunami disaster. During the one-week stay, volunteers have visited many places like Mother Teresa's Orphanage, temporary shelters, schools, and NGOs such as the South Asian People's Initiative. In addition visits were paid to fishermen and flower farmers, and the beaches where thousands of people died. Everyone was very happy to have participated in the camp. Especially being with the children and bringing smiles on their faces, as many volunteers wrote, was seen as the most positive thing. It helped them to get a much deeper understanding of Tsunami and the effects it had on the people and how the current situation is. All the volunteers were very thankful to ICYE India for making the camp possible and Father Masilmani and the sister who had helped during that week.

For the full report, please email ICYE India at icyeblr@vsnl.com

ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

New ICYE National Correspondents:

- India: Raghu SIVARAMAN (Mr)
- New Zealand: Micelle BATEMAN (Ms)
- Portugal: Joao Carlos SILVEIRA (Mr)
- UK: Andy BROCK-DOYLE (Mr)

ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

23-27 September 2005: Training course for co-workers of ICYE Ghana and Nigeria on ICYE Programme and Intercultural Learning - Accra, Ghana

3-10 October 2005: General Assembly of the ICYE Association in Europe, Oxford, England

20-26 November 2005: XXIV ICYE Federation's General Assembly, Parc d'Ohlain, Arras, France