



UNV Newsletter

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS IN INDIA

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ban Ki-moon

MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

5 December 2013

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On International Volunteer Day (IVD) we recognize the contribution of volunteers to peace and development worldwide. Today, we are highlighting the millions of young volunteers around the world who are acting globally for social change.

There are more than 1.2 billion youth in the world today, with incredible potential to tackle challenges and act as agents of change. When young people volunteer, the opportunity provides them with valuable life and job skills; it strengthens their capacity to lead and become engaged in their communities and global society.

I am especially grateful to the nearly 1,000 young UN Volunteers who are supporting the work of the United Nations for peace, sustainable development and human rights. UN Volunteers work alongside UN staff to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable populations in the world. They will continue to play a key role in accelerating our work for the Millennium Development Goals, combating climate change and shaping and implementing the post-2015 development agenda.

Volunteerism is a two-way street. Even as volunteers help generate positive change for others, their own lives are often transformed by the act of volunteering itself. On this International Volunteer Day, let us renew our commitment to offering young people diverse and meaningful volunteer opportunities to become active and confident contributors to global change.



CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2013 was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm in many parts of India. A number of events were organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in celebrating the spirit of volunteerism through its network all over India. United Nations Development Programme organized an event in Odisha and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme in New Delhi to mark the occasion.



IVD 2013 celebrations in New Delhi

The United Nations Volunteers Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized an event in New Delhi to recognize volunteerism and pay special tribute to the contribution of youth volunteers.

“Volunteering supports a greater sense of self-worth and is one of the best ways to harness the energy and creativity of youth towards peace, eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion”, said Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Secretary, Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports speaking at the event in New Delhi. Mr. Gupta further said, “Volunteerism needs a fresh impetus and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is privileged to partner with UNV in celebrating the spirit of volunteerism through its network.”

Congratulating the country on an ambitious draft National Youth Policy (2013), Ms. Lise Grande, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative said, “Young people in India participated in large numbers in national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. They identified good education, better healthcare and better job opportunities as their top priorities. These concerns resonate strongly with the new draft National Youth Policy.”

Ms. Grande read the UN Secretary General’s message on INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY and felicitated the UNV Online Volunteers award winners, 2013 from India. Every year, UNV connects more than 11,000 online volunteers with development organizations across the globe through its Online Volunteering service (www.onlinevolunteering.org). Through this service volunteers can take action for sustainable human development by supporting the activities of development organizations over the Internet.

Ms. Alexandra Solovieva, Deputy Country Director, UNDP; Mr. Srikant Suryanarayan, MD Tradelinks Ventures Pvt Ltd and CII National Chairman Young Indians (Yi); Capt. Indraani Singh, CEO Literacy India and Ms. Shreya Goyal, a NSS Youth volunteer also addressed the gathering of volunteers, policy makers and representatives from the government, civil society, UN agencies, private sector and media. Standaes showcasing the contribution of volunteers to development at the grassroots were also on display.





IVD 2013 Celebrations in Odisha



The stellar contribution of volunteers to social and environmental development, and natural disasters was recognized at the IVD event held at Bhubaneswar organized by UNDP/UNV, CYSD, RCDC and Bakul foundation. Representatives of these organizations including Mr. Ambika Nanda, UNDP; Mr. P K Sahoo, CYSD; Mr. Kailash Chandra Mishra, RCDC; Mr. Sujit Mahapatra BAKUL foundation; Mr. Madhusudan Das, NYP; Mr. Akash Das Nayak, an Oriya film actor; Ms Sneha Mishra, Aaina attended and addressed the gathering. More than 450 young volunteers also joined the celebrations.

Ten Volunteers were felicitated on the occasion, six of these for their work in the post- Phailin relief and restoration efforts. Volunteering experiences and volunteer mobilization at the time of disasters, particularly the Super Cyclone was also shared with audience. It was highlighted that volunteers from Odisha during the Super cyclone of 1999 are now being acknowledged as disaster management experts at the national and international level reflecting the great work volunteers do.

International Volunteer Day (IVD) - (December 5) is an international observance designated by the United Nations since 1985. It offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions - at local, national and international levels - to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON YOUTH VOLUNTEERISM



On 12 November 2013, more than 120 people across 21 states of India came together to have a discussion on a Plan of Action for implementing the draft National Youth Policy (2013) and developing a National Youth Volunteer Programme for India, considering the 12th Five Year Plan and recommendations of the post-2015 development agenda.

The consultation was organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV). Participants included representatives of MoYAS, Planning Commission, Government of India

Youth Programmes – National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and the Private sector.

“Volunteering represents an important form and manifestation of youth participation across the globe. A National Youth Volunteer programme would provide a major step in that direction.”

- Ms. Alexandra Solovieva, Deputy Country Director, UNDP India





Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Secretary, Youth Affairs, MoYAS, Ms. Alexandra Solovieva, Deputy Country Director (DCD), UNDP India and Ms. Vandana Kumari Jena, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission addressed the gathering during the inaugural session. Delivering the keynote address, Ms. Solovieva congratulated the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on the new draft National Youth Policy (2013) and offered collaboration of UNV/UNDP to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, NSS, NYKS and RGNIYD and other partners including the Planning Commission, in promoting youth and volunteerism.



“A national volunteering programme that is visibly active on the ground, has wider outreach and provides diverse opportunities for youth volunteers will truly promote the spirit of volunteerism and nation building.”

- Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Secretary, Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

In his inaugural address, Mr. Gupta underlined the scope of the National Youth Programmes, the challenges and way forward. Endorsing the suggestion of Ms. Alexandra Solovieva, he noted, *“A national volunteering programme for youth will truly promote the spirit of volunteerism and nation building.”* Ms. Jena emphasized the need to involve youth, especially from marginalized groups, in entrepreneurship development and employment generation. *“There is a need to continue national*

integration programmes that build bridges between young people from different parts of the country and foster a feeling of oneness,” she further added.

The inaugural session was followed by two panel discussions. The first panel focused on the theme **Draft National Youth Policy (2013) and Plan of Action for Youth Volunteerism**. Mr. Lalit Kumar Gupta, Joint Secretary, MoYAS, chaired this session. The second panel focused on the discussions on **National Youth Volunteer Programme** in light of 12th Five Year Plan priorities for youth and volunteerism, Draft National Youth Policy (2013) and post 2015 development agenda and existing Volunteering Schemes of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Mr. Lalit Kumar Gupta, Joint Secretary, MoYAS and Ms. Alexandra Solovieva, DCD, UNDP chaired this session. For more information on the consultation, visit: <http://bit.ly/19YoeTw>

BONN BULLETIN

UNV Executive Coordinator publicly releases UNV Youth Volunteering Strategy, states, “We cannot let the idealism and energy of youth go to waste”



20 September 2013

New York, USA: Richard Dictus, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, joined a distinguished group of speakers at the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) roundtable in New York, where he publicly released the UNV Youth Volunteering Strategy for 2014-2017.

The UNV Youth Volunteering Strategy aims to facilitate the engagement of youth in global peace and sustainable human development through volunteerism, bringing the voice of youth into the development discourse and helping young people to realize their full social, economic and human potential.

Mr. Dictus encouraged wide-ranging support for harnessing the power and innovation of young people, emphasizing that *“we cannot let the idealism and energy of youth go to waste.”*

During his remarks, UNV Executive Coordinator Richard Dictus (fourth from left) emphasized that volunteerism is a two-way street and has a transformational effect on young people.



The roundtable audience comprised around 100 organizations, members of the United Nation's Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and United Nations Member States, and was moderated by the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi.

For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1lluABf>

UNV PANEL AT SOCIAL GOOD SUMMIT: Volunteers use new idea to create innovative solutions

New York, United States: "Volunteerism is a universal concept – the largest expression of global solidarity you can find," United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme Executive Coordinator (EC) Richard Dictus told a live audience of hundreds gathered in New York City, while countless virtual attendees tuned in around the world. The head of UNV was taking part in UNV's panel "Changing the World in 2.0: Volunteerism" on Sunday, 22 September 2013, the opening day of Social Good Summit, where his words seemed to strike a chord with listeners.



UNV Executive Coordinator Richard Dictus (2nd from right) promoted volunteering, particularly online volunteering, to the live and virtual audiences following UNV's panel "Changing the World 2.0" at the Social Good Summit held in New York 22-24 September.

The Social Good Summit is a three-day conference where, according to its organizers, "big ideas meet new media to create innovative solutions". Held during the week before the start of UN General Assembly meeting in September, the summit unites a dynamic community of global leaders to discuss a big idea: the power of innovative thinking and technology to solve the world's greatest challenges.

Watch Richard Dictus, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme Executive Coordinator and other panelists talk about the value addition volunteers bring for community development at the 2013 Social Good Summit: Changing the World 2.0: Volunteerism!: <http://bit.ly/16TMORb>

UNV Executive Coordinator presents the MY World Volunteerism Award



On 25 September, United Nations representatives, Goodwill Ambassadors, members of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and representatives of civil society organizations from around the world gathered in New York to publicly announce the winners of the MY World Partner Recognition Awards.

Richard Dictus, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, presented the award to the winner of the volunteerism category: the Peace Gong Kashmir Bureau, a children's newspaper run by dedicated volunteers in India.

Richard emphasized that "[...] volunteerism is instrumental in generating civic engagement. Volunteerism has enabled people and organizations to find a voice".

Peace Gong volunteers have collected several hundred votes for the MY World survey from different regions and communities in India, often travelling extensively to remote areas, and reaching out to many people, including marginalized and poor households, tribal communities, slum areas, and youth.

For more information on UNV support to My World, click: <http://bit.ly/18GC76h>



MY WORLD SURVEY

UNV Supports the My World Survey

MY World is a global survey by the UN asking people what they want for a better future. The survey allows making 6 choices out of 16 options of issues that “would make the biggest difference to your world.” Collected data is disaggregated based on the profile of the voter (origin, age, sex, level of formal education).

UNV has been supporting the survey through the support of its Field Units across the world through the online and offline survey rollout —online by driving traffic to the website and general promotion and awareness raising events and offline by mobilizing volunteers to reach out to rural communities, ask people in remote areas who don’t have internet access to fill paper ballots and then to consolidate the votes and upload them into the web database.



UNV Field Unit in India mobilized thousands of Indians to vote for the My World Survey between March-August 2013. Where internet or mobile options were not available, UNV’s partners at the grassroots level supported the offline survey reaching out to people from all walks of life—including youth, women, tribal, marginalized and poor— so that their opinions could be taken into consideration at the highest levels to make their future free of poverty and more equitable.

More than 15,000 votes from 11 Indian states covering all the four regions were collected through our partners’ support. Of the total votes, more than 11,000 have been collected “offline” through paper ballots. About 200 volunteers joined the initiative and contributed approximately 2300 hours to distribute and discuss the survey with respondents in most remote communities.

This exercise also proved to be a great step to sensitize young minds to different social challenges and encourage them to volunteer for social change. Many participants and volunteers strongly feel that the survey exercise and discussions inculcated in them the sense of social and civic responsibility. As one of the young survey participant said, “This survey exercise gives me the hope, encouragement and realization that I do have a role to contribute towards My World I Always Dream Of.”

UNV would like to express its gratitude to organizations and volunteers who stepped forward to support the My World survey and institutes who agreed to get the survey organized in their premises including:

AFRC India, Kerala	Anant Vikas Trust, Maharashtra
Belgaun Integrated Rural Development Society, Karnataka	Desh Bhagat University, Punjab
People’s Institute for Development and Training, New Delhi	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth development, Tamil Nadu
SUROVI Shishu Panchayat, Assam	The Peace Gong Bureau, India
Youth for Human Rights International Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu	



NEW COLLEAGUES

Mr. Abhishek Joseph	Project Associate	New Delhi
Ms. Sugandha Nagar	Communications and Coordinator Associate	New Delhi
Mr. Saket Ambarkhane	Research and Documentation Associate	New Delhi
Mr. Dipanshu Roy	Communications and Coordinator Associate	New Delhi
Mr. Preetam Sengupta	Communication and Coordinator Associate	New Delhi
Ms. Neha Pai	Project Associate	New Delhi
Ms. Iciar Santamaria	State Project Coordinator	Nagpur
Ms. Kaylie Lalrokim	School Administrator	Manipur
Ms. Margaret Hmangte	Speech Therapist	Manipur
Mr. Shakeeb Khan	Physiotherapist	Manipur

ONLINE VOLUNTEERING AWARDS 2013: Winners from India

Following online volunteers from India are amongst the ten online volunteers or teams of online volunteers who won the [UNV Online Volunteering Award 2013](#):

Abhishek N., Aruna Babu, Arundhathi Harikrishna, Debjani Sengupta, Deepa Chandrashekar, Deepa Kumar, Pavithra S., Pavithra Rajan, Renganayaki Nambi, Rahul Muralidhara

“Online volunteers from across the globe have been developing and teaching daily online classes in various subjects to around 200 children with visual or hearing disabilities across 8 cities in India for Ann Foundation. The U.S.-based NGO is a volunteer organization dedicated to educating and empowering economically and socially marginalized children and youth with disabilities through projects in India, Ukraine, Cameroon and Egypt. With the support of hundreds of UN Online Volunteers who have collaborated with the organization over the past years, Ann Foundation has empowered over 2,000 children.”

Kirthi Jayakumar, Hamsini Srinivasan, Nidhi Modani, Prasad Ramachandran, Sharique Hassan Manazir

“A global team of 48 online volunteers carried out research on the entrepreneurial environment in African countries and produced an e-book and articles for the Association of African Entrepreneurs (AAE). The final product titled “Hopes and Mirages” is intended to serve as a guide for anyone who wishes to embark on a business enterprise in the region.”

Ashwinkumar Dakshinamurthi, Neha Jain, Sangeeta Pandey

“Four online volunteers joined forces with Global Civil Initiatives, Inc. (GCI), an NGO based in Kyrgyzstan, to develop a project proposal on low-carbon technologies for sustainable energy generation, poverty alleviation and climate change adaptability in the Issyk-Kul region. The proposal aims at enabling the rural population in regions with no access to electricity to gain increased benefits from the use of sustainable, low carbon technology. The project also aims at facilitating livelihood generation and increase community engagement in sustainable energy solutions in the region.”

Kirthi Jayakumar, Suman George, Usha Shenoy

“A team of online volunteers produced a monthly e-zine, supported a campaign to open the first school in Okojorogu village, and drafted an eye-care plan that serves several villages in rural Nigeria. They supported Delta Women, the U.S.-based NGO working to empower women in Delta state, Nigeria, and worldwide.”



Mridula Bhat

“Online volunteer Mridula Bhat, an Australian national originally from India, has played a key role in making the educational programme of The People's Open Access Education Initiative smooth and student-oriented. The UK-registered charity offers online education and capacity building in Public Health for developing countries. A number of students have already obtained postgraduate qualifications through this initiative.”

SUBMIT YOUR STORIES ON VOLUNTEERING

UNV is interested to know about your stories on volunteering. Please submit your stories in 500 words and high resolution photos to unv.india@undp.org

For further queries:

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