



# UN

# Volunteers

## inspiration in action

VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE

### Special Edition for October- November 2013

### Volunteerism—*The force behind the success of the 2013 Global South-South Development Expo in Kenya*



Above photo @ UNV Chief of Peace and Development Mr. Kevin Gilroy in red tie officially launching the UNV booth during the Global South to South Development Expo In Nairobi.

If you ever doubted the power of **volunteerism** then you are wrong, a team of 40 volunteers recruited by UNV and UNEP brought the success

of the 2013 Global South -South Development Expo in Nairobi . This team worked under three National UNVs

*Continued on page 2*

#### In this issue:

- ⇒ Volunteerism—*The force behind the success of 2013 Global South-South Development Expo .*
- ⇒ Promoting Youth Volunteerism in Universities.
- ⇒ Volunteer Managers day launched in Kenya.
- ⇒ Kenya UN Volunteers share experiences during the 2013 retreat.

# UNV Kenya



Above photo @ (left) participants during the Youth Partnership Forum .

(GSSD Expo )Communications volunteers updating the Expo social sites

who were recruited as coordinators for the Expo which was slated from 28th October to 1st November 2013. The UNV also opened up opportunities for [Online volunteers](#) to help in disseminating and sharing the Expo proceedings and solutions via social media. It was the first time for the Expo to be hosted by Africa and more so in Nairobi– Kenya.

The (GSSD Expo) volunteers were engaged in various capacities, 14 of them served as content support volunteers, 12 as logistics and hospitality volunteers while 14 of them as communication volunteers.

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**The Youth Partnership forum** was one of the most interesting events during the 2013 (GSSD Expo) The forum was particularly tailored for the youth with well-known world changers as panelists who included: **Mr. Kevin Gilroy, UNV Chief of Peace and Development Division, Dr. Manu Chandaria, Patron Global Peace Foundation & Chair-Comcraft Group of Companies, Nairobi County deputy governor Mr. Jonathan Mueke, Dr. Jinmi Adisa from the African Union, Ms. Joyce Sang, UNEP SCPI Programme Officer, Mr. Raphael Obonyo from UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board and Ms. Yvonne Maingey from TUNZA.** Over five hundred youth attended the session, while thousands more followed it via Social Media platforms as Twitter, Facebook and Meeting Words.

Continued on page 3

While volunteering with the Global South - South Development Expo 2013 ,I learnt that the United Nations through its Environmental Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) had identified the voices of the youth and that is why my volunteerism was deemed important. In as far as sustainable development in the 21st century is concerned my views and those of university students were listened to by the UN during the Youth and Partnership forum.

Indeed, the international expo was a fantastic event not just because I was a part of it but because I had a chance to network with people, organizations and research institutions.

**Ngusale Imali –(GSSD Expo) Communications Volunteer**



From page 2

The much anticipated forum commenced with remarks from The UNV chief of peace and development Mr. Kevin Gilroy. Who encouraged the youth who he described as the vast majority, to develop their skills and expertise through volunteerism.

Find more on this via ; <http://www.unv.org/en/what-we-do/countries-and-territories/kenya/doc/youth-volunteerism-to-boost/print.html>

## Promoting Youth Volunteerism in Universities.

The third annual university symposium took place on the 22nd November 2013 at the United States International University. The theme of this year’s symposium was *Young Active Inspired*.

Every year the UNV Kenya partners with a University to host the symposium. Last year the event took place at the University of Nairobi.

Over two hundred participants of whom from Kenyatta University, Mount Kenya University , Change Mind Change Future, Jomo Kenyatta University and



Above photo @ former (GSSD Expo) Volunteer Mr. Joseph Ongoro distributing UNV leaflets at Kenyatta University .



Above photo @ UNDP Kenya Country Director Ms. Maria-Threase Keating while giving her speech at the student symposium at USIU– Nairobi.

the host United States International University attended the event. We too had delegations from Youth TV Kenya plus from African Conference on Volunteer Action for Peace and Development.

The event was graced by **UNDP Kenya Country Director Ms. Maria-Threase Keating** who gave her speech and later launched the new UNV Kenya E-recruitment system. Young people and especially applicants can access all UNV Kenya national vacancies via <http://recruit.unvke.org/>

Prior to the symposium the UNV Kenya had made visits and meet up with students from Kenyatta University during the Inner Peace initiative organized by the Universities' Peace club. Find more stories and pictures via; <http://www.peacerevolution.net/chill-news/topic-99991880/the-training-on-inner-peace-development-and-leadership-initiative-at-kenyatta-university-business-centre-kenya>

You may find more on University outreach during the UN4U day at Technical University of Kenya; <http://www.unicnairobi.org/un4u2013.asp>

*“In these tough economic times it is only through Youth Volunteerism that we can gainfully harness the potential and energy in Youth.”*

**UNDP Kenya Country Director– Ms. Maria-Threase Keating.**

## *International Volunteer Managers Day Launched in Kenya.*

UNV programme in Kenya initiated and joined other stakeholders, Government, academia, volunteer involving organizations, student volunteer initiatives to launch the first ever celebration of the International Volunteer Managers Day in Kenya. The theme of the event was ***Young; Peaceful; Inspired!***

**The International Volunteer Managers Day (IVM Day)** was first founded and observed in 1999. It is celebrated globally every 5th of November. IVM Day serves to bring recognition to individual Managers of Volunteer Resources and to promote a greater awareness of the catalytic role that volunteer managers play in the mobilization and support of the world's volunteers.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013, UNV Kenya gathered with partners at the St. Paul's Children's Centre, to appreciate the role of **Volunteer Managers** and **Volunteers** in the promotion of peace and development through volunteer actions. The event was driven by a joint celebration of the day with Volunteer Managers and youth volunteers in the St. Paul's Children's Centre, enjoying the activities with children and presenting their donations.

**UNV Programme Officer** did officially launch this day together with government officials, delegates,



Above photo @ Kenyatta University students presenting their donations.



Above photo @ UNV Kenya programme officer Mr. Dmitry Frischin giving the UNV Kenya donations to Ms. Jayne Mutahi. – the director of the Home.

deans, students and volunteers, represented from VSO Jitolee, Kenya Red Cross, the President's Award Kenya, the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Mount Kenya University, Technical University of Kenya, United States International University, Change Mind Change Future, Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme, Youth TV Kenya, the host, St. Paul's Children's home and officials from Karen area.

The institution also received donations and encouragement from the volunteer managers, volunteers and students who had come to support and paint a smile on the children's face.

*"I appreciate your presence, donations and more so your volunteer work to this nation. Our home has been in existence for 30 years and we purely offer ourselves as volunteer teachers and guardians to give these children an opportunity to have a home. It is a challenge but with such initiatives the task is a bit lighter, let God bless your work and organizations. "*

**Ms. Jayne Mutahi - The director of the Children's home.**



## Kenya UN Volunteers share Experience during the Annual UNV Retreat in Voi

The 2013 UNV Kenya retreat took place in Voi from 27th –30th November near the Tsavo national Park of Kenya. After a long year of volunteers service the UNVs met to share their stories to learn from others and to celebrate this years UNV of the year.



Above Kenya UN Volunteers are joined by Somalia UN Volunteers to plant trees during the annual retreat .

*“I have had an opportunity in one sitting to know all of us. Being only one month old in the UNV family I have been motivated by the team spirit and the volunteer spirit in us as UN Volunteers.”*

**Priscilla Muisyo –**  
**UNV Programme Associate**  
**UNDP -DRR &R**

The activity brought together 125 volunteers serving in different agencies , civil societies and government of Kenya . The UNV Somalia team also joined us to learn from us and equally share their experiences.

The UNVs engaged in a number of team building sessions most of all being the Pre-IVD activity where they planted over 300 trees as a way to give back to society ,commitment to Volunteerism as well as to contribute to the conservation of nature. The activity was led and graced by

**UNDP Kenya Country Director-Ms. Maria-Threse Keating** who motivated the volunteers to remain committed towards conservation of our environment.

The annual exemplary volunteer awards were ceremoniously awarded during the retreat **with Sarah Laisney UNV - Land and Housing Coordination Officer at UN-HABITAT** bagging the 2013 UN Volunteer Kenya award. Other winners were UNV of the Agencies; **Abdulrasul Muhamedbai- UNV -I CT Associate –UNDP , Rana Sohel UNV- Urban planning & Design Officer at UN-HABITAT,**



Above photo @ Sarah Laisney on the Right receive the Kenya UNV of the Year 2013 plaque from the Joy Maina (right) - the UNV of the Year 2012

*Continued on page 6*



## facebook

*"It takes more than biceps, more than courage to give away our best to the bitterness of our community. Being a member of this tribe 'Young and strong'. It is our duty to volunteer."*

**Mawira Peter.** Southern Eastern University of Kenya.

*"Volunteering has really changed my way of thinking. When I became a Global South to South Development Expo Volunteer I interacted with other volunteers as well as UN Volunteers, I realized my potential and passion for community development. I thank UNV Kenya for this lifetime opportunity."*

**Joseph Bonke Ongoro.**



Above photo @ UNV Volunteers engaging in a team building Exercise during the 2013 retreat

From page 5....

**and Tomoya Soejima UNV–Intercommunity Youth Relationship Officer -UNHCR .**

While awarding the Volunteers the **UNV Kenya Programme Officer ,Mr. Dmitry Frischin** appreciated the work done by all the UN Volunteers. He went ahead to encourage them to perform their tasks and assignments well and to remain committed to volunteerism.

**CHANGE THE WORLD**  
BY VOLUNTEERING OVER THE INTERNET

[www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org)



[www.ke.undp.org/un-volunteers](http://www.ke.undp.org/un-volunteers)



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**For more information on this Newsletter, the UNV programme or to submit stories of your volunteer work, contact the UNV Communications Officer in Kenya Kelvin Keya on**

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