



# UN

# Volunteers

## inspiration in action

VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE.

September 2013 Newsletter.

### *UN Volunteers Commemorate the International Day of Peace*



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*PHOTO @ UNV's Isabel Njihia in Spectacles and Oliver Madara pose for a photo on the International day of Peace.*

# UNV Kenya

*From page 1.*

September 20 marks the International Day of Peace. This day is commemorated worldwide, in Kenya the day was marked at the UN headquarters at Gigiri in Nairobi.

UN Volunteers serving in the peace unit as well as other UNVs attached to other agencies joined the rest of UN Staff to mark the day. The day was observed and inaugurated by UN Resident Representative Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas. The event pulled attendance from UN headquarters, the government of Kenya, the private sector, Universities, secondary and primary schools.

The climax of the event was the signing of the peace clothe by guests and staff. Our UNVs were not left out of this; among them was Rammit Basu who said,

*"I feel so honored to sign this peace of clothe, it is my commitment to remain peaceful and a peace ambassador in Kenya and my country."*



*Above photo @IUNV Ramit Basu signing the peace clothe.*

***UNVs-Kenya go through a Gender in Humanitarian Action Training .***



*Above photo @ UNVs pose for a photo with UNDP Country director*

The UNV training on Gender in Humanitarian Action was held on September 24, 2013 at the UN Women Conference room, it was successfully attended by 30 UNV's from diverse backgrounds and organizations like UNHCR, UNDP, and UN Women. Ms. Maria Threase-Keating (Country Director, UNDP Kenya) and Ms. Tina Stoum (Gender Specialist, UNDP Kenya) launched the full day training seminar on the importance of mainstreaming gender in humanitarian response efforts.

*"Although women are largely the victims in humanitarian action, they are also usually the first ones in recovery which highlights the important role of women in humanitarian action efforts."*

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

Ms. Maria also encouraged UNV's stating that she did respect and uphold the good work done by UNVs in their various agencies and that more opportunities .....*See page 3,*



would open up through the “*Delivery As One*” Approach.

The training was facilitated with insightful, interactive and provoking presentations from ;Ms. Kavutha Mutuvi -Gender Advisor, UN Women & Beatrice Alukonya - UNV National Programme Officer -UN Women .The training covered ; *gender analysis, gender based violence and HIV/AIDS in humanitarian responses*.

Although this training was attended solely by UNV’s, it is the hope that the experiences and insights shared and learned will be dispersed within and throughout our respective agencies/organizations so we may effectively target and combat gender inequalities in humanitarian efforts on the ground and at the societal level.

### *UNV Kenya at the Heart of 2013 Social Good Summit at Strathmore University*

**#2013NOW** was the tweet of the day on 24 November 2013 during this year’s Social Good Summit ,which took place at Strathmore University . The event was attended by over 200 participants, over 20 companies and 16 panelists who came to showcase and contribute on how social media could be used to create a positive impact in the development of the world. The summit was also attended by the UN

Resident representative **Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas** and UNDP Country director **Ms. Maria-Threase Keating**

UNV Kenya was equally represented by its Partnership and Communication specialist—Mr. Kelvin Keya who joined in the digital lounge to tweet and share the proceedings of panelists .

You may follow the discussions through #2013NOW or through our twitter;@unvkenya.

*“It is a pleasure to be here to witness the mighty ideas that are real solutions coming from these young people through technology and internet.*

*We should continue investing in technology and research as it provides cheap and alternative solutions to community challenges”*

**Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas.**



*Above from left is James Ochweri –UNV Multimedia Officer –UNDP and UNV Partnerships & Communications Specialist –second left*

## Meet the first ever United Nations University Volunteer in Kenya

### *My first week Experience in Kenya .*

“Since I’ve just been to two countries, (Netherlands and Belgium) this 6 months stay in Nairobi is my very first time to come to Africa. “Seeing is believing” this is what I felt on my first week in Kenya.

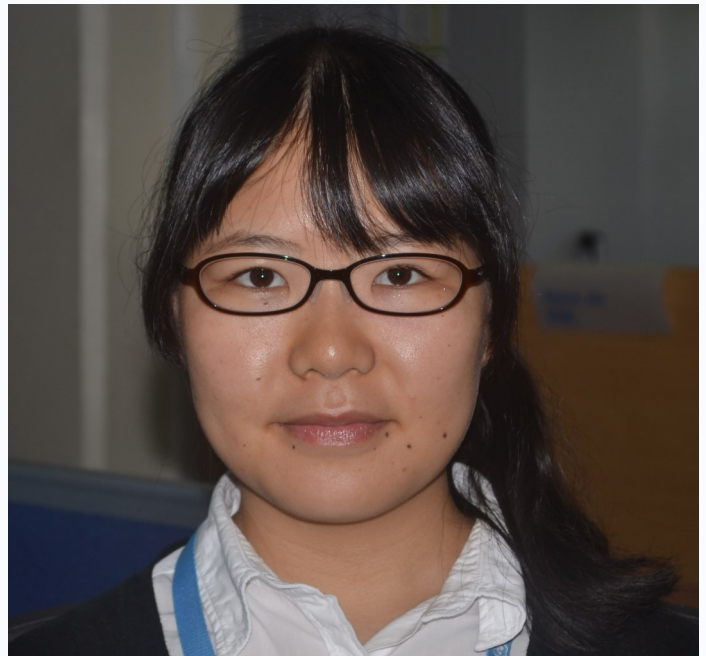
I found hope in the friendliness and youngness of Kenyan people. In Japan, we seldom talk to strangers, one of the reason Japanese tend to feel lonely and in the end commit suicide. I hear ‘Hi, how are you?’ from most of people I come across.

Contrary to Japanese old society, where 24% of the population is over 60 years with a 1.3% of birthrate, in Kenya about 42% people are under 14 years with 82% of the population a working-age. About 40% of this youthful population is unemployed, what if this large number of young people would be encouraged to volunteer to develop their own loving country? I’m excited to work in Kenya.”

### **Masae Ochai– UN Youth Volunteer in Kenya.**

#### **UN HABITAT.**

Meet the first ever United Nations University Volunteer to be assigned to Kenya and attached to UN Habitat. On the nineteenth day of September our long awaited guest from Japan landed in Nairobi. She was ably welcomed and guided by UNV Field Unit in Kenya with whom helped her access and attain all she needed to settle down and work in Kenya at the UN-Habitat.



*Above Photo @ Masae Ochai.*

Masae has been very excited each day with the unfolding events both within the UN headquarters and in Nairobi. She was very lucky to have been briefed on security precautions therefore, was safe from the terrorist attack at Nakumatt Westgate which took place on the 25th of September 2013 in Nairobi .

Masae is only 19 years old but has been very responsible, despite the change of location and country she has adapted quite easily ,made friends in Kenya who call her “Maasai” ,a Kenyan name for the Maasai community.

We wish her all the best in her work and stay in Kenya.



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## QUOTES FROM KENYA UNVS.

*"People never learn anything by being told, they have to find out for themselves."*

This is what I have discovered during the period I have volunteered at National Aids Control Council (NACC) as UNV M&E database administrator seconded by UNAIDS. I have learnt a lot in the M&E and MIS divisions and being a busy organization I have been forced to find out how to do many things on my own.

Evans Ogondi- UNV M&E Database Administrator.

UNAIDS- National Aids Control Council.



Photo@ Kelvin Keya right, with Poppin Misoi of Kenya youth empowerment programme.

### *Striking Partnerships..*

*UNV Kenya continues to expand and maintain its networks and partners. In September the partnership and communication specialist reached was approached by Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme, National Youth Council, Brand Kenya and Mount Kenya University to join the Grand Interuniversity peace programme. The programme will be spearheaded by University Student Volunteers in Kenya from January 2014.*

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



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



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UNVKenya

**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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