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A REPORT TO OUR MEMBERS FROM THE WORLD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I extend to you my best wishes for the New Year and wish to take this opportunity to report to you on the work of IAVE in 2011 and our plans for the year ahead.

Our Work in 2011

I wish you all had as great a year as IAVE did in 2011!

In January we convened in Singapore our 21st World Volunteer Conference, an unparalleled record of conferences dating back to 1970. It was, we believe, the first major NGO-driven global event of this 10th anniversary year, just as our conference in Amsterdam was in January 2001 to kick-off the International Year of Volunteers.

In partnership with the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre and with active support of the Government of Singapore and of major global corporations, we convened volunteer leaders from some fifty countries from all regions of the world.

We stood together in solidarity, outside whatever differences might separate our countries, unified in our belief in the inherent value of volunteering:

- as a way to address the world's most pressing human, social and environmental challenges;
- as a way to empower and enable people to lead healthy, fulfilling and productive lives; and,
- as a way to reinforce the ongoing quest for peace and justice for all people.

The momentum created in Singapore carried IAVE and our members in 70 countries through a series of activities designed to celebrate this 10th anniversary year. These included:

- our first ever regional volunteer conference in the Arab Nations;
- a significant gathering of volunteer leaders in Africa to consider how the story of Africans volunteering to build strong, sustainable communities can be shared with the rest of the world;

- our 13th biennial Asia-Pacific regional volunteer conference; and,
- completion of our landmark research project on corporate volunteering, the first global research on how global companies are encouraging and supporting the volunteer involvement of their workers in their communities.

It also was our great honor to participate in the planning and conduct of the Global Volunteering Conference in Budapest, working in support of our sponsoring colleagues, UNV and the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent.

We were active participants in the Assembly meetings and seminars of the European Volunteer Centre and the 64th UN/DPI NGO conference. We were invited to the 66/67th UN General assembly and the 10th Anniversary of IYV program where I shared the stage with Flavia Pansieri, Executive Coordinator UNV, and Maria Luisa Chavez, Chief of the NGO Relations-UNDPI to reflect on the impact of IYV+10.

Finally, at year's end, we sponsored, in partnership with Partners of the Americas, the second World Youth Volunteer Summit in Barranquilla, Colombia – just as, ten years ago, we ended the International Year of Volunteers with the first youth summit in Tokyo. In a bit of audacious forward planning, we even announced our intention to organize the third youth volunteer summit ten years from now, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of IYV!

I am grateful to all of the many people who made this work possible. They include:

- **Tan Chee Koon** of Singapore, former IAVE board member, for her dedicated leadership for the 21st World Volunteer Conference;
- **Patricia Nabti**, our regional representative board member, for the first Arab Nations regional IAVE conference;
- **Dr. Tuesday Gichuki and Agnetta Nyalita** of NAVNET in Kenya for their excellent work in organizing the African regional meeting and producing a comprehensive report from it;
- **Yoonae Park** of Volunteer 21 in Korea for her leadership for the 13th IAVE Asia-Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference;
- **Mark Molloy and Daniel Buritica**, our two youth board members, for their work in support of the 2nd IAVE World Youth Volunteer Summit;
- **Sam Santiago** of American Airlines, our corporate representative on the board, for his leadership of the Global Corporate Volunteer Council.

Partners of the Americas and, particularly, Matt Clausen, Vice President for Partnerships and Programs, were excellent partners with which to do the World Youth Volunteer Summit. They brought us to Barranquilla, Colombia and into partnership with UNINORTE, one of Colombia's leading universities, for a tremendously successful event.

We are deeply grateful for the support we received from our corporate partners, listed below, that supported our programs throughout the year. It is absolutely true that we could not have achieved so much without not only their financial support but also their active participation.

I also want to thank our the staff consultants – Kathi Dennis, Sarah Hayes, Anthony Carlisle and Kenn Allen. Without their dedication, all of our effort could not have produced such great results.

Looking Ahead to 2012

The IAVE board of directors, a diverse group of volunteer leaders from fifteen countries, representing every region of the world, is currently completing development of a new strategic plan for the next three years.

Central to that plan is our commitment to carry forward the work that we began in 2011:

- We will continue our commitment to convene the World Volunteer Conference every two years as well as regional conferences and youth volunteer gatherings.
- In 2012, we will launch a new network of National Volunteer Centers, offering them a new way to work together and learn from and support one another.
- Continuing our work with Partners of the Americas, we will launch RED2021, a new virtual network to enable youth volunteer leaders and their organizations to connect with one another.
- Building on the Global Corporate Volunteer Research Project, we will expand our roles as knowledge leader and as connective tissue for companies committed to engaging their employees as volunteers in the community.
- We will sustain our commitment to work in partnership with Dr. Lester Salamon at Johns Hopkins University in promoting adoption by governments of the ILO manual on measurement of the amount, type and value of volunteering in their countries.
- We will seek partners and sponsors to work with us to develop a global volunteer awards scheme to recognize the enormous contributions made by volunteers and the organizations they serve, thus sustaining the visibility given to volunteering by IYV and by this 10th anniversary celebration.
- We look forward to continuing our active, mutually beneficial partnership with UNV and, through it, with the broader United Nations, supporting their efforts to gain the attention and commitment of all governments, calling on them to make the investment required to ensure the health and vitality of volunteering in their countries.

The Importance of What We Do

One of the primary conclusions of our Global Corporate Volunteering Research Project was that there is no single “best way” that corporate volunteering happens.

Rather, it described corporate volunteering as a “big tent,” drawing on the image of a circus that has many acts, many specialties, many skills all happening within the same broad framework.

Exactly the same thing can be said about volunteering. Think of what all of us do, what we are joined in doing by our colleague organizations throughout the world, what is done by the millions of people who volunteer every day.

That work is a reflection of the diversity of humanity. It is work done in response to both the most local and most global of problems. It is work motivated by our spiritual and political beliefs, by the values of our culture and our families, by our seeking for greater fulfillment in our lives, by our desire to connect with one another and to exercise our power to make a difference in the lives of others.

In that diversity is our strength. We share in common a belief in the power of volunteering to change lives, solve problems and build a better future for all. But we translate that shared belief into a myriad of actions that, like the small rivulets that run together to create mighty rivers, collectively are changing the world.

Working with a distinctive global perspective, IAVE is the connective tissue through which volunteer leaders worldwide can share their experiences, challenges and innovations, drawing inspiration and support for their work.

Together, with you, we are the global network that promotes, supports and celebrates volunteering in all of the many ways it happens throughout the world.

Thank you for your work and for being part of IAVE. I wish you a Happy New Year.



Kang-Hyun Lee, Ph.D.

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION...

...we say "Thank You!" to our corporate sponsors and funders who generously supported our work in 2011 – the World Volunteer Conference, the World Summit for Youth Volunteering, the Global Corporate Volunteering Research Project.

American Airlines
BD
C&A
GE
Kraft Foods
Lilly
Motorola Mobility
Pfizer
Samsung
SK Telecom
Standard Chartered Bank
State Street
Telefonica
UBS
UPS
Vale

Special thanks to UPS for being our lead corporate sponsor in 2011 and to the UPS Foundation for its capacity-building grant for our work in strengthening our global network.

THE 2ND WORLD SUMMIT FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERING UNITING YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

[Thanks to Matt Clausen and colleagues at Partners of the Americas for this great summary of the World Summit for Youth Volunteering. To learn more about the Summit, to read press reports, or to find out how you can get involved in the new youth initiative announced at the Summit, RED2021, visit www.partners.net/worldsummit.]

Nearly 900 youth from all over the world celebrated the 2nd World Summit for Youth Volunteering November 3-5 in Barranquilla, Colombia. Attendees from almost 50 different countries and 29 of the 32 departments states in Colombia were represented.

The Summit kicked off with pre-activities on November 2. More than 300 volunteers traveled to the community of Manatí in the southern part of Atlántico state – an area that was heavily impacted by some

of the worst flooding in Colombian history last winter. Volunteers helped to run a health project and gather clothing in addition to activities designed to boost the spirits of beleaguered residents.

Another group of Summit attendees spent that day in the Corporate Youth Volunteer Roundtable. Sam Santiago of American Airlines and a member of the IAVE board of directors facilitated the session that offered a diverse group of organizations the opportunity to talk about their methods of using volunteering as a tool to engage employees in meaningful service to their communities.

The Summit kicked off in full on the morning of November 3, with the presence of Colombian government leaders, UNINORTE officials, and IAVE board members. Mark Molloy, an IAVE Youth Board member, talked about the first world summit in 2001 and the path leading up to this year's celebration. The day's keynote speaker was Hugh Evans, CEO of the Global Poverty Project, whose message set an inspiring and exiting tone that lasted for the whole of the event.

Following an afternoon of breakout panels and working groups, participants caught Caribbean fever and erupted in a conga line during a performance of typical Colombian music.

A major highlight of the Summit was the speech of Michael Teoh who won an international competition titled "Your Big Year" out of more than 60,000 applicants, earning the right to travel around the globe as a volunteer.

That evening, in a flurry of green balloons, Partners of the Americas, IAVE and UNINORTE launched a new initiative called RED2021, which aims to unite young volunteers the world over to share their service commitments and support each other through the exchange of resources.

The 2nd World Summit benefitted greatly from the sponsorship support of American Airlines, Motorola Mobility Foundation, State Street Bank, and UPS, all members of IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council (GCVC). Also supporting the Summit were various entities of the Colombian government, along with United Nations Volunteers, international student organizations like AIESEC, and numerous others.

THE JOURNEY FROM TOKYO TO BARRANQUILLA

[Mark Molloy of Scotland, youth member of the IAVE board of directors, spoke at the opening session of the Summit. We are pleased to share his remarks with you as we thank him for his tremendous service to IAVE through his leadership for youth involvement in IAVE. Mark can be reached at markmolloy2@gmail.com,]

Ten years ago this month, as a 16 year old, I went on a journey from Scotland in the United Kingdom to Tokyo in Japan. That journey changed my life forever and has made me the person I am today.

That journey was as a result of me being selected to represent Scotland at the IAVE World Youth Volunteer Summit that took place in December 2001 to close the International Year of the Volunteer.

That journey changed my outlook on life and changed what I was about and my views of the world. It resulted in me having a globalist view of the world that brings me here to Barranquilla in Colombia 10 years later. I am certain that I would not have had that view if I hadn't had the opportunity to connect with other similar and likeminded volunteers from different countries.

This is the true difference global meetings of young people have – they change your life.

2001 was designated by the United Nations as the UN International Year of the Volunteer (IYV). During this time, leading up to and during the year, the importance of youth volunteering grew globally.

At the IAVE World Conference which kicked off IYV, the first day was dedicated to engaging youth in a conversation about youth volunteering and officially launched “IAVE Youth.”

Through a partnership with IAVE Japan, the 1st World Youth Volunteer Summit was held in Tokyo, Japan in December 2001. This event brought together over 1200 young volunteers from across the world to discuss, debate and plan ahead how youth could change the world for the better, using volunteering as a positive catalyst for change.

The youth summit produced a declaration that was agreed and signed by all 1200 young people attending. The declaration, which is similar to other youth declarations at subsequent IAVE youth conferences, read:

“This year in Japan we celebrate more than just the coming together of youths with a passion for volunteering and service. This summit has special significance as it closes the United Nations International Year Of the Volunteer. It is significant that it is a youth event that is closing the year.

Today all 1200 of us from over 50 countries have gathered and discussed the challenges we have and looked together as global community at how we overcome these.

- *The problems that plague us today cannot be solved by the solitary acts of a single national or individual and must instead be tackled together as global community*
- *We must strive to connect with people from all around the world and work in unison as global body of volunteers*
- *We must work toward the millennium development goals and ensure people know the importance of meeting these.*
- *In order to change the world we must have the view that service is a long term commitment and initiate change that is sustainable.*
- *The young volunteers of this Summit challenged the United Nations, IAVE and other global leaders to continue to work tirelessly in the cause of young volunteers.*
- *Together as global leaders along with us as the youth of today and the youth of the future let us change the world together.”*

To create a legacy from the 1st World Youth Summit and take forward a youth volunteering component, the IAVE Board dedicated two board seats to youth members. These positions on the IAVE Board of Directors have equal status to all other board positions. These board members had a mandate to advance the youth volunteering agenda worldwide.

2002 was the beginning of an IAVE Youth Volunteer Conference being included as part of each IAVE world conference in Seoul, Barcelona, Delhi, Panama and Singapore.

At the IAVE board meeting in Singapore the board re-affirmed its commitment to youth volunteering as a key priority area for the organization and established a task group comprising of board members and staff to develop a proposal on the way forward for the youth component of IAVE.

Today as we sit here in Colombia as a group of young people volunteers we have a constant challenge to get the value of youth volunteering recognized and for people to start seeing the status of youth volunteering as a sustainable service and solution to some of the world problems.

Its important we work together to build a new and better future for youth volunteering at the heart of our overall vision for young people globally.

In the current climate its important that we also become each other’s critical friend. The quality of youth volunteering is patchy and not only because of inadequate resources. We have to raise standards of

individual and organizational performance. We must ensure that opportunities to serve are relevant to the needs and preferences of today's young people. We must seize the opportunities presented by the development of a new youth vision within IAVE and the developments globally to reassert the value and status of youth volunteering.

Youth volunteers are not the victims of change. By their very nature they should be the vanguard of change.

Since coming to IAVE I have witnessed at first hand how quality youth volunteering in different countries is making a real difference to the lives of young people in many parts of the world

Youth volunteering is very important to me. Throughout my life I have seen the difference that high quality youth volunteering can make to young people and communities. I am a product of youth volunteering and of IAVE, where I was actively involved from a young age. I can clearly articulate how being involved in IAVE has got me to where I am today.

I would ask that during this Summit you get out of your comfort zone and get to know other people – speak to people you wouldn't normally speak to. I am proud to say that if you do that, you can make friends for life and have truly global connections that will make a huge difference to your life in the many years ahead as it has done to my life.

Our hosts here in Barranquilla have given us the platform to make those connections so please use this opportunity so that some of you will be in the position I am in now where you can attend the 3rd Global Youth Summit in 2021!

VOICES FROM THE SUMMIT

Nothing speaks more profoundly than the voices of those young people who have made volunteering an integral part of their lives. Here are comments from three participants at the Summit.

Ismail Abu Arafah - Palestine

Please allow me to express my sincere gratitude [for the opportunity] to participate in the World Summit on Volunteerism early this month. Immediately after the World Summit, I attended a youth regional conference organized by USAID, and it was amazing to see the potential and spirit of the participants, especially with the ongoing Arab Spring in the region.

I am now back in Palestine, re-adapting to the work flow after three weeks being abroad. I am delighted that I had the chance to participate in the World Summit in Colombia, with an issue that is dear to me and I am passionate about. I think the summit was a great event to share experiences, ideas, and recommendations that advance volunteerism worldwide.

I was very happy to meet youngsters from around the globe, and to listen about their experiences in volunteerism, what works well and what challenges they faced. It is very interesting that, despite cultural and social differences between countries, the issues facing youth volunteerism are similar to a large extent. When I gave my presentation about the Youth Shadow Local Councils, I was happy to hear from peers that while the circumstances and political conditions are different in Palestine, the challenges I raised about promoting youth volunteerism are the same from their experiences.

I would love to remain connected with IAVE, and potentially establish or at least promote its work in Palestine. I hope we remain in touch with the hope to advance volunteerism and active youth engagement worldwide!

Phoebe Powell – Communications Coordinator, Volunteer Canada

Walking into a room packed with more than 800 young people from across the globe is an overwhelming experience. People run around, making introductions and claiming seats. Others shout to friends in a variety of languages, and the excitement is palpable.

When I first walked into the World Youth Summit on Volunteering in Barranquilla, Colombia, I knew none of the young people gathered to discuss youth volunteerism. By the end of the three-day conference, I had spoken with dozens of young people from around the world who shared the challenges and triumphs they'd experienced as volunteers, and discussed their own ideas for getting more youth engaged in communities worldwide.

The theme of the Summit was *You Make it Happen* – an empowering message of the impact youth can have on the health and well-being of society. Speakers stressed that all types of volunteer involvement are meaningful and necessary. Youth have a wide range of motivations, interests, and skills that affect their level of engagement as volunteers. It's important to let young people know that all types of volunteering are valuable and all contributions make a difference. From signing and promoting online petitions to adopting a leadership role within organizational governance, volunteering helps create healthy communities.

Summit speakers also stated that youth shouldn't feel the need to sit back and wait for the perfect volunteer opportunity to present itself –if they have a great idea for a volunteer project or a specific cause they wish to support, young people should be able to develop volunteer roles for themselves.

Voluntary organizations, as much as possible, should work collaboratively with youth to create projects that serve both the organization's mission and the youth's interests and talents. Giving guidance and mentorship to youth can help set them on a path of lifelong engagement.

It was inspiring to see that despite differences of race, culture, and language, the value of volunteering is deeply entrenched in young people from all corners of the world. Youth from countries at various stages of development all stressed the importance of giving back to the community.

Everyone had a story to tell that highlighted the tremendous impact volunteers made, both locally and globally. At the Summit, youth shared with their peers from around the world how volunteers in their own countries addressed specific community problems. And they shared how their own learnings could be applied to similar problems in other nations.

This was a great strength of the World Youth Summit – the exchange of ideas and knowledge young people have gained through their own experiences. Throughout my three days in Barranquilla, I witnessed collaborative problem solving at its best. A young person from Ireland explained to someone from Colombia how youth leadership is fostered in her country. A girl from Russia shared how youth apathy is being combated in her community, and how this strategy could be applied to other settings.

Youth were actively addressing the barriers to their own engagement, and working in the spirit of collaboration to overcome challenges and promote volunteering on a global scale. The 800 young people gathered at the World Youth Summit truly were making it happen –they recognized the great potential of youth to solve the problems affecting global communities through volunteering, in order to create a more vibrant society for the future.

Mohit Jain – United States

[Mohit, 17, is a member of the National Youth Advisory Council at **generationOn**, the youth enterprise of the **Points of Light** Institute. This article first appeared as a guest blog on The White House Blog. <http://m.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/11/10/win-next-greatest-generation.>]

It is said that Colombians do not walk from place to place, but rather, they dance. This past week, I traveled to the World Summit for Volunteering and Service in Barranquilla, Colombia for a weekend full of music, service, and adventure. My fellow member of the generationOn Youth Advisory Council, **Clay Hurdle**, and I had a unique cultural experience that was not only about presenting a workshop at an international conference on volunteering and service, but also a call to fulfill our duties as global citizens and to help us continue to make our mark on the world.

Globally, there are divisions that are caused by ethnic, racial, and gender differences, but after meeting youth from Somalia, China, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Ghana, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela, France, Russia, and Germany (just to name a few) it has become evident that there is at least one idea that still remains a cohesive and binding factor regardless of the origins of the individual - the desire to serve and the fact that service learning is a natural human instinct.

We are the service generation. The same ideas of service learning that are found in my community in Omaha, Nebraska or in Clay's community in Lake Park, Georgia, are also found in youth around the world.

Each day the summit had a fresh set of faces, each open to discussion and conversation, and each person had a fascinating story. Though I could not speak the native language of Colombia –Spanish– I was able to understand their work through their actions. Even with locational, lingual, and cultural differences, I was able to connect with a diverse group of youth because we had one common trait – the understanding of service learning and the role that service learning plays in our lives.

I discovered the power that youth can have in making changes in their community, both locally and internationally, through examples and inspiration. The summit hosted more than eight hundred participants from across the world, all with a unique story. The role that each participant played in his or her community, whether big or small, was inspirational because they formed a global system of volunteers.

As young people, we all play a role in forming a global society, and as global citizens we owe it to ourselves and our peers to take action. The conference stressed a theme - “You make it happen!” and it was clear that we, as youth, are the change that we would like to see in our communities.

It is up to us to understand the issue at hand and take the leadership to make change happen. The work of others has inspired me to explore the opportunity to volunteer abroad and one day set up programs internationally.

As the summit ended with music and festivities, we could not hold back without joining the traditional dance of Colombia, the Cumbian. As I danced (not very well I might add) I began to understand that in order to make our mark on the world, we have to branch outside of our local community and be change makers around the world, whether that means doing projects locally (such as writing letters for our troops overseas) or traveling for week-long trips to build houses abroad for victims of natural disaster.

The initial steps to influence change are seated in the ideals of this summit; music, service, and adventure. First, using something like music, to bring people together. Second, using service as a medium to help the community and help people bond.

Finally, using service as a sense of adventure to discover yourself. It is with these steps that we can move towards a global community of cooperation and peace.

From the Editor:

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR E-IAVE IN 2012

This issue is the first of two that you will be receiving in January. The next, to be sent on January 21, will report on the 13th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference and on activities of IAVE members in recognition of IYV+10. If you wish to have your activities included, **please email brief reports by January 16 to kenn@civilsocietyconsulting.com.**

Our regular schedule will resume with the February issue on February 17.

We have four significant goals for 2012:

- to convert E-IAVE to an online newsletter, integrating it with our overall online presence;
- to have translated versions in languages other than English;
- to expand the amount of content that comes from you, our members; and,
- to get and keep ourselves on a regular monthly schedule.

So, watch for big changes ahead!

E-IAVE is here as a way for our members to share stories of their work and news of volunteering in their countries. But it only works when we hear from you! Please help us by sending material – please, 400 words or less – to kenn@civilsocietyconsulting.com.

Thanks!