

E-IAVE

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Message from the World President

Kylee Bates, IAVE World President

Following the release of the United Nations *State of the World's Volunteerism* report that I highlighted last month, *Civicus* has published the *State of Civil Society* Report 2015¹. This year's report offers contributions by 27 guest essayists traverse an array of subjects and themes that highlight the challenges and opportunities for civil society and draw out some common themes.

IAVE is pleased to be among those invited to contribute. *A Reflection on Today's Global Volunteer Community*² the contribution penned by IAVE's Executive Director, Kathi Dennis and Senior Consultant Dr. Kenn Allen draws on inputs from 22 leaders of volunteering from within IAVE's membership network, representing every region of the world across 19 countries.

The essay highlights four key 'disrupters' the authors consider are having an impact on volunteering globally, together with seven key issues that present both challenges and opportunities for volunteering to be recognised as a global force for change. It will make you think. I encourage you to read it.

IAVE is no stranger to change ourselves and at our August meeting, the IAVE Board of Directors will say farewell to

Daniel Buritica, Youth Representative on the IAVE Board. Sam Johnson will take over as Youth Representative from Daniel as announced to members last month.

Daniel joined the IAVE Board in 2009 and leaves after serving two full terms. Many of you will have heard Daniel speak at an IAVE World or Youth Conference or the Global Youth Summit on Volunteering in 2011 where his voice for youth volunteering has been strong and impassioned. You may have been inspired, as I have been, by Daniel's belief in the role that volunteering can play in transforming the lives of young people and enhancing their ability to step into leadership roles in their own communities. In this regard, Daniel has led by example.

As a board member, Daniel has shown a willingness to

bring new ideas to the table, challenge existing paradigms and above all, continue to impress upon his board colleagues the importance of the youth voice – roles that are greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the IAVE Board, Secretariat and membership, I wish Daniel every success in his future as a leader of volunteering. I know that IAVE will never be far from his heart, nor he from ours.

¹ *State of Civil Society Report 2015* -

<http://civicus.org/index.php/en/media-centre-129/reports-and-publications/socs2015>

² *A Reflection on Today's Global Volunteer Community* -

http://civicus.org/images/SOCS2015_ESSAY5_VolunteerCommunity.pdf

A Farewell Message

By Daniel Buriticá, IAVE Youth Representative

Every journey starts inspired by their smiles. All the hard work is worth it. Seventeen children from vulnerable backgrounds have had the best week of their lives at BAKONGO, a yearly summer camp powered by young volunteers. That magic week gives life to all those memories I have from the heroes around the world who have inspired me thanks to IAVE. **Heroes who are called volunteers but I call them friends.**

After four years serving as one of the youth representatives at the IAVE board, it is time to say goodbye. During these years I was part of the team who redesign the youth strategy. It feels like it was yesterday when we were at the youth office in Barcelona or when we create the Colombian Corporate Volunteer Council which inspired similar councils in the region. This important chapter of my life ends but I will always keep every lesson learned and every person I met.

Thanks to all of you for making me feel I am not alone in the challenge of creating a positive difference in the world. I will always be part of the IAVE family and I am pretty sure it will encourage me to empower the new generation of young volunteers around the globe.

This is just the beginning.

Best regards from Bogotá, Colombia,
Daniel Buriticá C

Are you an IAVE Youth Member? Join us in our new Facebook group!

If you are an IAVE Youth Member or if you are looking to become one, please join us in our new [**#IAVEYouth Facebook group**](#). This is an informal space for youth volunteers to share their projects, connecting with other volunteer leaders worldwide and learning about global initiatives and events to join.

Want to learn more about IAVE and participate in our youth activities? Remember, being a Non-Voting Youth Member it's free and it only takes a couple of clicks. Any news you want to share with us? You can mail us at gyvolunteers@iave.org or visit our website at <http://www.iave.org/youth>.

News from IAVE Members

National Youth Rally in Mauritius

By Mahendranath Busgopaul, Halley Movement, IAVE National Representative, Mauritius

In view of celebrating the **UN International Youth Day, action/2015** Mauritius, coordinated by **Halley Movement & PAN-Mauritius**, the Coalition organized a National Youth Rally on August 1, 2015. The National event started at the Halley



Movement headquarters early in the morning. The Youth Rally traveled to more than ten regions and stopped at three different Youth Centers: Rose Belle Youth Center (South Mauritius), Triolet Youth Center (North Mauritius), and Helvetia Youth Center (Central Mauritius).

Launching Ceremony at Rose Belle Youth Center

At the first youth center, the Honorable Minister of Agro Industry and Food Security, Mahen Seeruttun, kicked off the opening ceremony. T-shirts, stickers, pens, and leaflets on the Sustainable Development Goals were distributed to the participants. Young people, village counselors, the police force, and the national television broadcasters were all in attendance for the opening ceremony.

Traveling Through Mauritius

A group of fifty young people traveled to all the different regions of Mauritius and met other youths. The group's primary objective was to spread the message of **Action/2015 Mauritius**. They formed 90-minute advocacy sessions at each location. At the Triolet Youth Center, the group met up with a large group of over 90 young people, along with the



vice president of the district council, Ms. Deeksha Bundhoo.

Youth experts from Halley Movement discussed several different topics during each session:

- Youth in decision-making
- Youth and finance
- Climate change
- The Sustainable Development Goals and other global goals

The awareness sessions demonstrated to the participants (which

included public figures, youth group pioneers, the media, and other young people) that dynamic youth involvement is a successful technique for accomplishing stronger results. The sessions highlighted the advantages of active youth participation in society, as well as the negative impacts of neglecting to get them involved. Four major recommendations were made after the session:

- Fully involving the youth is a human right
- To engage youth in all spheres of life and encouraging them to become responsible, law abiding citizens
- Capacity building must be reinforced in issues such as gender & ICT, food security, and climate change, among others
- Young people should be given the opportunity to take on responsibilities on a higher level so that they can feel a sense of ownership in tasks meant to improve the community

Following the success of the rally, a youth forum will be scheduled for the month of August. It aims to provide answers to some of the questions that have been raised by over 400 youths during the rally.

Learn more: [Facebook](#)/[Website](#)/[Twitter](#)

The Small Development Project in Hama, Syria

By Dr. Patricia Nabti, IAVE Regional Representative, the Arab Nations



The following story is a great example of how a small volunteer project can expand and improve through commitment, collaboration, and recognition. Whether we are the initial visionaries, the recipients of their guidance, the organizations that collaborate, the media that recognizes, the institutions that provide funding, or the groups that are inspired to develop similar projects, we can all help to scale a small volunteer project into something much bigger, better, and more sustainable.

A group of young men and women volunteers in Hama, Syria, organized The Small Development Project initiative. Their goal was to secure jobs for members of families affected by the Syrian crisis through the development of small projects in various fields. As one of their members explained, “We started by bringing those in need, who would normally be consumers, into the production cycle so they can be self-sufficient.” They did this by training people in developing small businesses and helping displaced women to produce food products to be sold in markets in the area. The initiative grew and gained critical support by collaborating with the Social Welfare Association. The program's success attracted the attention of the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), which funded the expansion of the program to not only increase the number of participating women, but also the variety of products, and the number of stores selling their products. The products are sold under the name “Bayt al Mouni” which means House of al-

Mouni (*mouni* is the Arabic word for the food that is dried, canned, pickled, and otherwise preserved for later consumption). UNDP also funded groups from other provinces of Syria to draw inspiration from this experience and implement it in their own regions of Syria.

Khawatir is a TV show based in Saudi Arabia during Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, since 2005. The 2008 season of *Khawatir* was dedicated to volunteering. This year *Khawatir* organized a competition for the best volunteer group in the Arab world. Over 1000 volunteer groups applied and the top 10 were featured on the show in June. Syria's Small Development Project initiative was awarded fifth place in the competition. Ahmad AlShugairi, the host of *Khawatir* noted: “We all know Syria is going through a great crisis and the harder times get, the more volunteer work and the energy from the youth is needed.” It is worth mentioning that Ayadi Relief Organization of Bahrain (Project: *Your House is Our House*), which was featured in an earlier issue of E-IAVE, was awarded fourth place in the *Khawatir* competition.

For more information about The Small Development Project visit the [Facebook page](#).

[Click here](#) to view the *Khawatir* episode honoring the 10 winners of the *Khawatir* competition (in Arabic with English subtitles).

Volunteering Australia Announces New Definition for Volunteering

[Adapted from Volunteering Australia E-bulletin dated July 26, 2015]

Since late 2013 Volunteering Australia has been challenging the concept of ‘what constitutes volunteering in contemporary Australia?’

The new definition follows a review that included the release of an issues paper, national stakeholder information sessions and an online survey to gauge community views. The result is a broader and more inclusive definition that reflects the diversity of volunteering activities undertaken nationally.

The new definition:

Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good without financial gain.

The definition is accompanied by a set of explanatory notes providing clarity on what is in and what is out. That and other background material can be found at <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/policy-and-best-practise/definition-of-volunteering/>.

The supporting explanatory notes for the definition will be re-assessed in six months and annually thereafter.

Brett Williamson, OAM, CEO of Volunteering Australia summarized the work that has been done this way: “We

know that the role of volunteers has changed drastically; our previous definition did not reflect this. For volunteer involving organizations the new definition will assist in workforce planning and bring clarity around what volunteers can do. For volunteers it will allow better support of the work they do.

“Above all things, the new definition will ensure a common understanding of what volunteering is, ultimately supporting the integrity of the work they do.”

Korea Volunteer Center Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

IAVE is pleased to extend congratulations to the Korea Volunteer Center (KVC) on the 20th anniversary of its founding.

KVC is a primary national leadership organization for volunteering throughout Korea, focused on “spreading a friendly volunteer culture for social change” and

“establishing a professional body to support volunteering activities.” It works in close cooperation with and in support of the 245 local volunteer centers in Korea.

KVC is a member of IAVE’s Global Network of National Volunteer Centers and has been an active supporter of IAVE throughout its history.

Hooray for KVC!! May it have 20 more years of productive and high impact leadership!

Spanish Volunteering Platform is working on a project VOL+: Skills acquired through volunteering

By **Beatriz Cedena**, Plataforma del Voluntariado de España, IAVE National Representative, Spain

VOL+ is a certification program of the skills acquired while volunteering, in order to promote, among other things, improvement of employability of those who volunteer. This acquisition is the result of specific situations and actual experiences acquired over time, really necessary for someone to develop or strengthen a certain competence.

Vol+ is a collaborative project with three interrelated agents: institutions, volunteers and tutors, who join through the volunteer program promoted by the involved companies. The heart of the action is the volunteers, but what makes the difference is this triangular partnership.

Seeking broadly useful skills, 7 have been selected that can appear in any type of voluntary activity and, moreover, are closely related to those that anyone can implement in a job.

- Analyze and solve problems
- Ability to lead initiatives
- Interpersonal communication
- Flexibility and innovation
- Initiative and autonomy
- Planning and organization
- Teamwork

Each competence has a stipulated definition and a series of significant experiences that will serve to collect, compose and evaluate the collected information. In Vol+, three possible range levels are considered: Low, intermediate, advanced. This initiative is intended to make visible and highlight the value of social practice from different points of views.

This project started in 2014 with two PVE entities: *Federación de Mujeres Progresistas* and *Coordinadora Aragonesa de Voluntariado*, who served as "pilots". During 2015 the number of institutions and companies that have joined Vol+ expanded. The intention is that the certification of skills becomes a national reference.

For more information please contact: sensibilizacion@plataformavoluntariado.org

Community Solidarity Through Volunteering

By Rina Garces, IAVE National Representative, Ecuador

Volunteering is deeply engrained in the people of Guayaquil, Ecuador and within the city's history itself. Since colonial times, Guayaquil suffered from severe fires, violent pirate attacks, and uncontrollable pests. Faced with a series of misfortunes, the community generated a consistent sense of solidarity with one another, and it is now an essential part of their identity.

The great sense of solidarity in Guayaquil has been a source of great amazement and admiration to outsiders. Volunteering in this city,

which began in the 19th century (some even date it back to the 18th century), is a significant aspect of civic expression of the social groups within the community.

Visitors to the city often admire the volunteering efforts of its people and the amount of assistance and support the city provides to those in need. They say that Guayaquil is one of the oldest dynamic and permanent examples of social solidarity.

ACORVOL is now on its 42nd year of commitment and contribution to the society, bringing together 72 organizations. This iconic institution remains an integral part of Guayaquil's DNA.

The national conference "Challenges of Volunteering in the XXI Century" was a success. It was an opportunity to outline new goals, renew strategies to face old challenges, and to delegate the actions that require the solidarity of active citizenship. It highlighted the fact that volunteering is an important part of civil society. The conference and its agendas were well received and have garnered many supporters.

Hopefully volunteering will continue to be the ultimate expression of social and human solidarity in Guayaquil. Social organizations like ACORVOL highlight the importance of commitment, solidarity, and support amongst the community, especially to those who are underprivileged. This is the reason why ACORVOL is more than just a name or an organization. It has become an emblem of social action and responsibility in Guayaquil.

The Canadian Code for Employer-Supported Volunteering

By Volunteer Canada, IAVE National Representative, Canada

Employer-supported volunteering has gained momentum over the past decade, bringing together players from the private, public and non-profit sectors to build collective community impact.

With 37% of Canada's 12.7 million volunteers reporting some form of support from their employers to volunteer, leaders on Volunteer Canada's [Corporate Council on Volunteering](#) identified the need to articulate values and guiding principles for these multi-sector relationships, and to promote standards of practice for employer-supported volunteering.

Supported by [Cenovus Energy](#), Volunteer Canada recently launched the [Canadian Code for Employer-Supported Volunteering](#) (CCESV). This resource provides guidance to workplaces to develop and enhance their



employer-supported volunteering programs. It has the flexibility to be adapted to the context, language and business objectives of Canadian workplaces of all sizes and within all sectors. The CCESV was designed to align with the [Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement](#), a framework for involving volunteers in all levels of an organization.

The CCESV consists of three elements: the value of employer-supported volunteering, guiding principles for employer-supported volunteering and ten standards of practice that workplaces should consider when developing or reviewing their employer-supported volunteering program.

The following standards of practice are intended to provide guidance, not detailed instructions. Each workplace will have to consider how to implement the standards according to its circumstances, while following

the overall intent of the CCESV:

1. Program Strategy
2. Human Resources
3. Program Infrastructure
4. Leadership
5. Evaluation: Tracking, Measuring and Reporting on Impact
6. Employee Engagement
7. Risk Management
8. Screening
9. Communication and Technology
10. Recognition

To learn more about the CCESV, click [here](#).

Addressing Human Trafficking with AJLI and United Way Worldwide

By Susan Danish, The Association of Junior Leagues International, IAVE National Representative, United States of America

United Way Worldwide launched a major commitment to address the global issue of “human trafficking.” (United Way has a network of nearly 1,800 United Ways in 41 countries and territories.) A two-day summit was held June 22 and 23 at their headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. At the Summit, United Way announced the establishment of its [United Way Center on Human Trafficking and Slavery](#).

One of their goals is to create powerful coalitions of faith-based and other nonprofits to work together on the issue.

It is estimated that more than 20 million people worldwide are victims. The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) was one of nearly 100 organizations who gathered together to talk about increased victim identification, expanded survivor services, working effectively with law enforcement, reducing slavery in supply chains, more effective prevention programs and programs to reduce demand.

AJLI chapters have been addressing human trafficking in the United States since 2004 partnering with other organizations to provide services for victims, supporting legislation to establish hotlines and stiffer punishment for those who seek to exploit others, and developing outreach programs to increase awareness of the issue.

Leading Companies Join Forces to Launch the Latin America Corporate Volunteer Council

The founding meeting of the Latin American Corporate Volunteer Council (CLAVE, for its initials in Spanish) was held on July 29th in San Jose, Costa Rica. CLAVE is an initiative of the Latin American Center for Volunteering (CELAV) with the institutional and technical support of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE). Companies with regional scope, recognition in their work with corporate social responsibility, and strong leadership and innovation in corporate volunteering were invited to be founders of CLAVE. The five founding companies are Disney, Telefónica Foundation, BAC Credomatic, Banco General, and DirecTV.

CLAVE "is a space of innovation and collaborative creation in corporate volunteering for the sustainable development in Latin America." Its public launch took place in the II Central American Forum for Corporate Volunteer, which was organized by Telefónica

Foundation with the support of IAVE, and was celebrated in the Campus of INCAE in Costa Rica on July 30th.

Kathi Dennis, Executive Director of IAVE, highlighted that the organization is "Pleased to support the development and launch of the regional council of corporate volunteering. We are confident that CLAVE will advance the discussion of corporate volunteering in Latin America with innovations that will impact the world."

According to Ana Victoria Riano, Director of Fundación Telefónica in Central America, stated "For Telefónica, corporate volunteering is a key element of the business strategy and therefore we join other leading companies in this effort to contribute to the sustainable development of Latin America from corporate volunteering."

Sandro Mesquita, Director of Corporate Citizenship and Sustainability of DIRECTV Latin America commented, "For DIRECTV this partnership with CELAV and IAVE serves to reward the volunteering of excellence and a challenge to continue building solutions with the most precious thing we have: the hands of our employees and customers."

Jacqueline Souter, CSR and Communications Manager of General Bank expressed "Supporting this initiative, we seek to share best practices, learn from others and invite more companies to this form of participation in the community."

Belén Urbaneja, Director of Corporate Citizenship of The Walt Disney Company Latin America said, "It is an honor for our company to participate in the founding of the Latin American Corporate Volunteer Council



(CLAVE) in order to share the learning acquired in these years and collaborate with other organizations in the ideation of increasingly innovative actions, with far-reaching and transforming power."

Roxana Viquez, Regional Manager of CSR of BAC Credomatic, stated that "We are very pleased and honored for the opportunity given to us today, to share knowledge and experience accumulated through the new Latin American Corporate Volunteer Council. We hope that this group is a new means to further promote social and economic development our countries."

The founding companies of CLAVE defined an action plan for the next 18 months, including--virtual working sessions, webinars for volunteer managers in their companies, a pilot project in innovation and the next in person meeting to be held in November 2016 in the framework of the IAVE World Volunteering Conference to be held in Mexico City.

News from the Global Volunteer Community

Save the Date: November 5th is the International Volunteer Manager's Day!

By Ramona Dragomir, Manager, IAVE Network Development

The [International Volunteer Manager's Day](#) (IVMDay) Global Committee announced the theme for this year's celebration of those professionals who enable and enhance the spirit of volunteering. "*Volunteer Managers: the power behind Super Hero volunteers*" will be used around the world on November 5th, 2015 to say a huge "Thank you" to volunteer managers for their efforts.

"We believe this year's theme nicely sums up the powerful, important and integral role that Volunteer Manager's play in driving great volunteering outcomes and helping to shine the light on the often super hero accomplishments our volunteers make." says Andy Fryar (Australia) – member of the the IVMDay Global Committee.

Remember to mark the days in your calendars and visit www.volunteermanagersday.org to find promo materials with this year's theme and get inspiration to plan your celebration!

Reflections on Volunteers, Civil Society, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

By **Megan Haddock**, International Research Projects Manager, Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies

[Original article posted on the *Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies* [blog](#) on July 16th, 2015]

In September, the United Nations will adopt the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), an overarching set of collective objectives for the development of people and the planet that will replace the expiring Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on January 1, 2016.

The SDGs

For the next 15 years, the SDGs will drive the development agenda and will shape the way the United Nations, governments, development agencies, businesses, civil society (nonprofit) organizations, and volunteer groups engage in efforts to combat global poverty, income inequality, and environmental degradation.

But more than just replacing the MDGs with a new set of goals, targets and indicators, the SDGs promise a new way of doing business. There are three especially important differences to be aware of.

First, the SDGs recognize the inter-related nature of social, economic, and environmental development work and no longer keeps these work streams in separate silos.

Second, the SDGs recognize that development work is not something that is confined to developing countries. *The SDGs are will only be considered achieved if they are achieved for all, and no one should be left behind.* This means that developed countries have a responsibility to work inside their own borders just as much as they do across borders.

Third, the SDGs recognize that governments alone cannot be responsible for developing, implementing, financing, measuring, monitoring, reviewing, and reporting progress towards achieving the Goals. Rather, the participation of multiple stakeholders – and indeed the people themselves – is needed if the SDGs are to be realized.

High Level Political Forum



Six essential elements for delivering the sustainable development goals. **Image source:** [UN](#)

To this end, the United Nations has been hosting [regular negotiations](#) in New York under the auspices of the [High Level Political Forum](#) (HLPF), the UN body responsible for managing the development of the SDGs, to debate how the SDGs should be structured, and how the HLPF will provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations to member states of the UN, and how it will manage the follow-up and review of their implementation.

The negotiations are formally carried out by member states, but a mechanism has been developed to ensure that the voices of various stakeholders are included. Twelve groups of stakeholders, one of which is reserved for Non-Governmental Organizations and one of which is Volunteer Groups, are invited to comment on the negotiations, submit position papers, and provide input and suggestions. The inclusion of Volunteer Groups as a named stakeholder is a recent development and reflects a growing recognition that volunteers play an important and distinctive role in development efforts (the Secretary General called volunteers a “[powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation](#)”) and an increasing coalescing of diverse volunteering voices under a single tent.

Realizing the SDGs

I have been working with the volunteer groups – officially named the [Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group](#) – and it was through them that I was nominated and ultimately selected to be a speaker at the UN last week,



July 8, during the latest round of inter-governmental negotiations. The overall theme for the HLPF meeting was **“Strengthening integration, implementation and review- the HLPF after 2015”** and I participated in a moderated roundtable discussion on **“Realizing the SDGs: Matching ambitions with commensurate means of implementation – resources, technology and capacities.”**

In **my comments**, I drew on the experience of our Center, in collaboration with a diverse group of civil society, volunteer groups, and government actors, to collaborate with the United Nations Statistics Division and the International Labour Organization to develop the first-ever international standard methodologies for

gathering and reporting basic data on **the nonprofit sector** and **volunteering** by government statistics agencies. Developed from the ground up, and incorporating the experiences of actors from diverse regions and levels of economic development, our experience serves as proof that these kinds of partnerships work and offer a model for how they might be structured in efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Drawing on this background, I emphasized the importance of engaging civil society and volunteer groups in the planning – not just in the implementation after the fact – so that the outcomes are more effective, more efficient, more transparent, more accountable, and more useful to the communities they seek to serve.

The good news is that most seem to recognize that the SDGs will simply not be achieved without partnership with civil society and volunteering groups, upon whom we will all rely heavily to implement the SDGs at the local level. However, clear parameters have not been articulated to outline how these partnerships will be enabled. What is needed at this point is some articulation of the clear structures and processes that might be established to enable these partnerships within the HLPF and among member states. I recommended four areas of action:

- The development of robust data on civil society and volunteering using the United Nations Handbook on Nonprofit Institutions in the System of National Accounts and the International Labour Organization Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work to help benchmark and gauge progress.
- The establishment of coherent institutional structures to facilitate better partnerships, including thematic working groups with clear mandates.
- Encouraging the flow of social impact private investment capital to CSOs, volunteer groups, and social ventures and help prepare them to access and use this capital effectively.
- Support for the development of an enabling environment and remove the barriers that hinder civil society and volunteer groups from serving as effective partners.

Though my comments were well received, I can’t operate under the illusion that a single four-minute set of comments will radically change the course of global events. What we need to trust in is that, by having many voices repeat the idea that engaging civil society and volunteer groups is important, we will be able to penetrate the language and strategies of development work. If we keep at it, eventually, it will not be possible to think about development work without also thinking about the role of volunteers and civil society groups.

I conceive my own role, and the role of our Center, as working to permeate the language of national statistics offices with the language of civil society and volunteers. Hopefully one day soon, governments will routinely report **data on civil society and volunteering** as part of other measures of economic, social, and environmental development and well-being. Of course, we cannot and should not do it alone. We seek partners in this endeavor, and encourage everyone to join us and participate. Please **contact me** if you would like to join us!

To get updates on these developments, follow the Center on Twitter **@JHUCSS!**