

E-IAVE

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Now the Hard Work Begins...

By Kylee Bates, IAVE World President

We meet just one day after the historic adoption of Agenda 2030 to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet....[Today] September 26th is even more important than September 25th. Today, we begin the hard work of turning plans into reality.

-Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Secretary General addressing UN Private Sector Forum

Described as one of the most significant decisions taken by the 193 member states of the United Nations in its 70 year history, on Friday 25 September the UN General Assembly adopted 17 Global Goals contained within *Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

However it is the 5.000+ days over the next 15 years that will follow this historic day that will matter more. As the UN Secretary General noted in his remarks to the Global Compact's UN Private Sector Forum "declarations

are easy... implementation is not..."

To some it will seem incongruous that IAVE would have a seat at this Forum of some 250 global private sector leaders to discuss the role that the private sector can plan in achieving the goals. Yet the logic is clear. One of the greatest opportunities – and assets – that the private sector has available to it to engage in, and directly impact, the sustainable development agenda is its employees. More specifically, through their employees' volunteering efforts.

As IAVE's representative, I was able to advocate for the potential impact that corporate volunteering programs can have on the localization and achievement of the Global Goals, highlighting IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteering Council as a significant demonstration of what our 50+ member companies and their estimated 6 million employees alone could achieve when efforts are aligned with the sustainable development agenda.

However, more than the effort and impact of these employees alone, the significance of the contribution comes from the global, national and local partnerships with civil society and volunteer involving organizations that an important, indeed essential, ingredient for success.

IAVE's membership is diverse, comprising individual leaders in volunteering, volunteer involving organizations, volunteer centers, academics and companies and as our strategic plan highlights, we place high value on developing strong, sustained, mutually beneficial partnerships with NGOs, businesses, multilateral organizations and governments that share our belief in the power of volunteering to change the world.

The 2030 Agenda raises the premium on all IAVE members and friends already working in partnership with one another, and other key stakeholders, to ensure that the role of volunteers in achieving the global goals is not only recognized, but enabled.

The UN Secretary General is indeed right that it is now that we begin the hard work of turning plans into reality. Fortunately for us all, the words *volunteer* and *hard work* are synonymous.



The SDGs Are a Reality!

By **Simona Costanzo Sow**, Manager, MDG/post-2015 Project, Volunteer Knowledge and Innovation Section (VKIS), United Nations Volunteers

We have witnessed the excitement over the adoption of the new 2030 agenda during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit Pope Francis, Malala Yousafzai with a group of girls from different countries, Heads of State from around the globe, civil society representatives and ordinary citizens witnessed the adoption of the 17 Global Goals that will focus sustainable development policies around the world in the next 15 years. Welcoming the new agenda, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon stressed that the true test of commitment to the new goals will be implementation, and called for a renewed global

partnership. Amidst the enthusiasm, critical voices were also raised: Amnesty International's Secretary General Salil Shetty for instance urged the world community to address counterproductive policies and practices that exacerbate discrepancies and foster insecurity, if the promises of the new agenda are to be kept.

As part of the celebration for the new goals, the UN Millennium Campaign organized a ceremony to award initiatives to achieve the MDGs and efforts to include people's voices in shaping the new agenda. One of the awards was dedicated to longstanding contributions to the MDGs through volunteering. In

the presence of representatives from IAVE, IMPACT2030, VSA and VSO, the UNV Executive Coordinator handed over this award to two co-winners: the SoyVoluntari@ Network, Peru, and the Community Health Volunteers of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan. These initiatives underline two aspects of an enabling environment for volunteerism: the importance to build strong multi-stakeholder networks to coordinate and scale up action, and the outreach capacity of volunteer initiatives combining international, national and local action.

The Summit also discussed the role that the private sector could have in achieving the goals. The UN Private Sector Forum 2015 focused in particular on how business contributions to governance issues – such as anti-corruption, peace and stability, and the rule of law – can accelerate progress in advancing the entire SDG agenda. Representatives of UNV, IMPACT2030, IAVE and VSO on behalf of FORUM attended the Private Sector Forum, along with a number of high-level participants. Corporate volunteering was mentioned in different occasions as a means to transfer knowledge and skills from the private sector, as well as to define policies and approaches to foster cultural changes within institutions, companies and communities. UNV will work with partners to scale up corporate volunteer opportunities in the context of the new agenda.

As you know, volunteer groups are mentioned as stakeholders in their own right in the Summit Outcome Document in the context of the means of implementation for the agenda. Now that the implementation phase has started, we also look forward to the adoption later this year of the Plan of Action 2016-2030 for the integration of volunteering. The Plan frames our collaboration around three strategic objectives: SDG outreach, SDG implementation across all thematic areas, and measurement of volunteerism's contribution to development, including to report on SDG progress. UNV will facilitate the implementation of the Plan.

In the near future the UN Millennium Campaign, in partnership with UNV will explore ways to engage large numbers of people through volunteerism in raising awareness about and monitoring the Global Goals. We'll keep you informed as things evolve.

The times ahead of us are exciting and challenging! The integration of volunteering in the post-2015 debates is the result of the collective work over the last months and years. The new agenda contains many opportunities to highlight the added value of volunteering in engaging people and advancing development. Let's work together to leverage them.

Useful Links:

- [Why volunteering matters for the SDGs and what roles volunteers can play in the new framework](#)
- [People's Voices Awards recognize volunteers' contribution to the MDGs](#)
- [Introducing the corporate volunteering perspective in the UN Private Sector Forum 2015](#)
- [The Plan of Action 2016-2030 for the integration of volunteering in peace and development](#)
- [1 Billion Volunteers Can Help Leaders Meet the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal](#)

UPS Launches 13th Annual Global Volunteer Month, Becomes Founding Member of Impact 2030

[Original press release distributed by UPS on October 1, 2015]

On October 1, 2015, UPS commenced its 13th annual Global Volunteer Month, an October tradition which invites employees to give back to the communities in which they live and work. This year, UPS is working with its global volunteer partners [The International Association for Volunteer Effort \(IAVE\)](#) and [Points of Light](#) to rally its volunteer programs around the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

UPS recently became a founding member of [IMPACT 2030](#), a business-led global collaboration of the United Nations, the private sector and civil society organizations whose mission is to encourage employee volunteering around the

world to advance the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Nearly 15,000 volunteers from UPS's global offices and business units are expected to contribute 315,000 volunteer hours this month, furthering the company's service commitment legacy.

Spearheaded by The UPS Foundation, the global philanthropic and corporate citizenship arm of UPS, Global Volunteer Month mobilizes employees from every region to engage in a variety of service activities. During October, UPS team members will assist with a range of projects including tree planting and landscaping, food and supplies collection, packaging and distribution, participation in community fundraising events and administrative support for organizations focused on driving social change.



UPS employees' efforts during Global Volunteer Month support the company's pledge to complete 20 million hours of global volunteerism by the end of 2020. Since 2011, UPS has contributed more than 7 million service hours toward this goal.

"I am excited to unite our UPS '20 million by 2020' volunteerism goal with the goals of IMPACT 2030 and marshal UPS employees to contribute to a larger global movement," said Eduardo Martinez, president of The UPS Foundation and chief diversity and inclusion officer at UPS. "We are proud to support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and address critical needs around the world."

Each year, UPS concludes Global Volunteer Month with a \$10,000 grant to a non-profit organization in each U.S. region and business unit.

Featured Global Volunteer Month projects include:

- United States
 - Leading tree planting events with **Keep America Beautiful**
 - Hosting career days with high school students in partnership with **Junior Achievement**
 - Assisting with food packaging and distribution for homeless and malnourished individuals in partnership with multiple organizations, including **Northwest Harvest, Chosen 300 Ministries** and **Share Food**
 - Supporting breast cancer awareness and research by participating in the **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** and **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure** charity walks
- Canada
 - Facilitating tree planting projects in partnership with **Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)** and **Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA)**
- Latin America
 - Execution and participation in the UPS Golf Classic Tournament, a fundraiser for **The United Way**
- Europe
 - Conducting fundraisers for several organizations supporting individuals with muscular dystrophy, Down Syndrome, AIDS and multiple sclerosis, including **Fundación Rosella** in Spain, **SOS Children's Village** in Hungary, and **Biobrotboxaktion** and **Aidshilfe Köln** in Germany
- Asia-Pacific
 - Participating in a home build for **Habitat Indonesia**
 - Cleaning beaches in Shenzhen Bay and Mangrove with the **Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation**
 - Accompanying underprivileged children to the Octoburst! festival in partnership with

Esplanade

- ISMEA
 - Knitting scarves, blankets and gloves ahead of South Africa's 2016 winter season with **Knit-a-Square**
 - Hosting a camp for underprivileged girls in support of **Project Hop**
- UPS Global Headquarters
 - Assembling food packages for children in support of **Feed my Starving Children**
- UPS Freight
 - Participating in **Hands On Day Richmond**, where UPS employees will support more than 11 volunteer initiatives within the greater Richmond, Va., area
- UPS Airlines
 - Raising funds and taking part in the **American Heart Association's** Kentuckiana Heart Walk

For more information about UPS's philanthropic and volunteerism efforts, please visit

www.UPS.com/Foundation.

Volunteering for Refugees in Germany

By Wolfgang Krell, IAVE National Representative, Germany

'If I don't burn, if you don't burn, if we don't burn

How will the light vanquish the darkness?'

Nazim Hikmet (Turkish poet, 1902 – 1963)

Once again, as was the case during the devastating floods of the river Danube in Bavaria some years ago, local residents demonstrate that they are ready and willing to take action. The state, the city and the local authorities would be lost without this initiative. It is tremendously satisfying to witness the launch of spontaneous initiatives and to observe residents providing hands-on help, as seen at Munich main station in the middle of September.

Social media often provide the platform through which help is organized. Volunteer-Centers play an important role in acquiring, training and mentoring volunteers to work in the area of asylum. In particular, the decentralized accommodation of refugees which came about due to the scarcity of housing, serves to increase the active involvement of residents: circles of helpers supported by parishes, political communities, associations and new action groups are brought to life in the many villages where houses are occupied by refugees. Thousands of volunteers have direct contact with the refugees, and they get to know them personally and are able to offer tangible help in each situation. They thereby significantly contribute to the atmosphere of hospitality in Germany.

However, the main task of integrating the refugees (currently up to a million are expected to enter Germany in 2015) has yet to be come. Here too, volunteers can make a significant contribution. Residents can integrate new residents: as neighbours, football pals, work colleagues and volunteers in support of a cause – professional services can only help with this integration.

The immigration into Germany of predominantly younger people is a benefit for our aging country. And it is important to recruit the refugees themselves as volunteers and to take advantage of their skills.



Action/2015Fiji and Beyond 2015 Campaign

By Neil Maharaj, FCOSS, IAVE National Representative, Fiji

The Fiji Global Day for Action for Action/2015Fiji and Beyond 2015 Campaign was a great success. It was held on September 24, 2015 at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji.

The objective of the campaign was overwhelmingly achieved, especially when the Chief Guest Honorable Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji Islands- Dr. Jiko Luveni agreed to be the Ambassador to Champion the SDGs in Fiji.

During the event, Dr. Luveni stated in her speech, "Parliament's role in contributing to SDGs has increasingly come to the forefront as a natural avenue that is uniquely positioned and designed to address contentious issues and relationships.... Parliament can promote the SDGs plan of action through its Standing Committees' role in examining of Bills, scrutinizing of the operations of Government departments, considering petitions

and papers presented, and approving international treaties and conventions".

Dr. Luveni reminded the forum that SDGs can only have a real impact if they are recognized and understood by stakeholders and the general public.

She also urged the Government, Private Sector and CSOs to strengthen their partnership in order to effectively advocate for actions in the implementation of such a far-reaching agenda.

FCOSS hopes that being an ambassador to champion SDGs in Parliament, Dr. Luveni will ensure that awareness on SDGs will reach national and community level through the policy makers and the parliamentarians. The appointment of Hon. Dr. Luveni as the first woman Speaker was an example of how inequality was addressed in regards to gender issues.

Getting to Know the CLAVE Companies: Part 1

By Mónica Galiano,
Executive Secretary, CLAVE,
Senior Consultant, IAVE

The stars were aligned on July 2015 when five companies, all operating in Latin America and promoting corporate citizenship through employee volunteering, met in San Jose, Costa Rica.

BAC Credomatic, Banco General, DIRECTV, Telefonica Foundation of Central America, and The Walt Disney Company are members of CLAVE, the Latin American Corporate Volunteer Council, a council created to develop new knowledge and collaborate on joint projects.

We interviewed lead members of each company to find out what moves them, the challenges they face, how they overcame these difficulties, and the satisfaction they receive from the changes volunteers bring to their communities. This is the first installment of the series "Getting to Know the CLAVE Companies".

When asked what best describes the volunteer program within companies, the executives mentioned:

There is a strong sense of solidarity within the company, starting with the senior leaders, who are all highly respected members of the community.

Employees are genuine and their work is based off of their values. We reach out to the neediest communities where others generally disregard.

Our strategy is to inspire commitment, diversity and frequency of opportunities associated with the brand.

- We aim for policies and CSR programs that are firmly aligned with volunteering
- Clear guidelines, structures and policies that serve as a framework for action: what we do, how we do, how we incorporate new initiatives

Five companies, five leaders, five different dimensions. Add them all together and you get the ideal corporate volunteer program.

DIRECTV motivates their executives to be present in the during service projects to to lead their employees by example. In the words of Enzo Dotto, "... *the spirit of volunteerism is anchored in human values, engagement from the heart, and inspiring colleagues.*" He adds: "*We go to the places where no one dares to go: we want to really help. Because true charity needs sacrifice and sacrifice involves risk.*"

Banco General's Jackie Souter says, "*Our program stems from our company's culture: to be supportive of active citizenship and to collaborate together for the country's development.*"

"*We look on the inside and outside. We want to inspire our employees and also include our audiences*", says Belén Urbaneja, from Disney, "*All our actions have a link with the brand, and Disney employees are very proud of their commitment.*"

A good volunteer program cannot ignore the priorities defined by the CSR policy and must have a system of professional, orderly management. Roxana Viquez, from BAC Credomatic, highlights the need to "...*have ordered structures, to record achieved results, and to show the impact of the actions.*" Vicky Riaño of Telefonica adds on to say, "*Our program is defined by the passion of our employees*".

Structure, passion, commitment, solidarity, and impact are all important components to successful employee volunteer programs, as defined by the CLAVE companies in Latin America.

Hackathon for Good in Beirut

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



New technologies are providing some very creative ways to volunteer. On the weekend of September 25-27, in Washington, DC, London, Barcelona, and Beirut International Alert organized hackathons to bring together technologists, designers, developers and those in the non-profit sector to develop ICT (Information and Communications Technology) solutions for some of the most challenging problems in their societies. Individual participants were to choose a challenge and work in teams to build a prototype technology solution. Prototypes were then pitched at the end of the hack, with prizes for the best solutions. Experts were on-hand to give technical support. The designers and developers were there to practice their skills while contributing to society in a way that had a limited time framework and commitment. Those in the non-profit sector were there to enlist the technologists to help them develop apps to serve their causes. All the participants were there as volunteers.

The theme selected for both the DC and London hackathons was to develop digital solutions to counter violent extremism. The focus of the Barcelona hack was peace and migration. And the Beirut hack focused on challenges faced by residents of Lebanon, with particular emphasis on access to resources (electricity, water, etc) and services (justice, education, medical).

I registered for #PeaceHackBEY, the Beirut hackathon, as a co-founder of a recently established NGO called Volunteer for

Lebanon. On Friday evening about 50 of us gathered at UK Tech Hub where organizers from International Alert and Chayn guided us through the steps of the hack. After introducing ourselves, the participants brainstormed ideas that could be turned into digital applications. The participants or “hackers” then formed teams to tackle the problems that they found most compelling. I pitched my dream project, the development of a web-based platform to support service projects in Lebanon – and by the end, there were five of us on the team. We worked all day Saturday (9 am to 8 pm) on the project, with small breaks for food and sharing among the different participants. On Sunday we again worked on the project, as well as on developing a 3 minute pitch to present to judges and other hackathon participants. And then we all gathered for the pitches.

Other projects developed at #PeaceHackBEY included:

- 1) A website to provide informational support to deaf, blind, and wheelchair bound people in the Arab region
- 2) A site linking Syrian refugees with students of Arabic worldwide to give the refugees a source of income and the students the opportunity to practice their conversational Arabic.
- 3) A site in Arabic to support women who want to develop startup businesses
- 4) An app that would allow Syrian refugees to share their knowledge and experiences about how to manage their lives in the harsh environment they live in

Our team didn't win any prizes, but we did make important progress on developing a web-based platform to support service projects in Lebanon. It is my hope that the full platform will be at least in Beta mode in time for the public launching of Volunteer for Lebanon on December 5th, International Volunteer Day.

Inauguration Ceremony for the Junior Secondary School of Davedi in Togo

By Kokou Edouwossi,
President, Mission Des Jeunes,
IAVE Member, Togo

On August 23, 2015 Mission des Jeunes (MDJ), a non-profit organization in Togo, hosted the inauguration of the Junior Secondary School of Davedi. The ceremony took place within the community, with attendance from the District Representative (le Préfet), traditional community leaders, members of Mission Des Jeunes and their partner 'Go to Togo'. The project was made possible by the joint effort of volunteers who dedicated their time to building the school and helped fund it through their generous donation of over 30,000 Euros.

The keys to the school were handed over to the government representative during the ceremony by the President of the MDJ.

MDJ has several other exciting projects in the works this year :

- Exchange Programs for Development : Visits were made to local villages to provide information on voluntary services and to raise awareness to rural populations on MDJ's program for the month of September 2015.
- Donation of computers and the sensitization on volunteering concept to students within the secondary school level will continue in September during the start of the school year. Two more schools will receive 40 computers.
 - MDJ volunteers will be present at the French



Voluntary Service Day on October 10, 2015.

- Ongoing computer skills learning sessions at the MDJ training center.
- Discussions are ongoing for the National Junior Volunteerism Program in partnership with ANVT (Agence National de Volontariat au Togo).

What Happens After Disasters?

By Susan Danish, Executive Director, The Association of Junior Leagues International, IAVE National Representative, USA

There have been so many natural disasters in our IAVE countries. It seems that almost every week there's a hurricane, a tornado, fires, floods or drought. The immediate impact jolts all of us and spurs us to action. Then the attention swings to another disaster elsewhere.

In the US there has been much in the news lately about the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which impacted our nation from Florida to Texas. Every TV channel, every newspaper, every online outlet has carried stories. The damage was especially serious in New Orleans, Louisiana. Personally I will never forget the shock of seeing the news when the hurricane struck and the levees gave way. Over 80% of New Orleans was flooded, nearly 2,000 people died and about one million people were displaced as a result of Katrina. Just six months earlier my organization had held its Annual Conference in New Orleans, a city known for its music, food and good times!

After the disaster, our New Orleans Junior League chapter asked for help and 1,000 Junior League members went to New Orleans to rebuild houses, replant parks and clean cemeteries. Many, many other organizations and individuals stepped up to help, too.

Ten years later, to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Katrina, AJLI held another conference in New Orleans. There has been progress but still more to do. New Orleans itself has come back strong, but there are nearby communities that still have not recovered. I don't know if the pattern has been the same in other IAVE countries. It made me remember that "out of the headlines" does not mean that everything is ok. For weeks, months and even years, continued volunteer effort is needed. We talk about disaster preparedness and response, but what about the ongoing commitment?

International Volunteering in Colombia: Development of skills and intercultural exchange for youth

By Lina Tangarife Castilla, The Colombian Association for Volunteer Effort, IAVE National Representative, Colombia

Currently, young people have wonderful opportunities to grow and form, beyond formal education. It is interesting to see the tools that are being offered from the civil society sector and the influence of technology in these processes. That is why in a country like Colombia, we want to show the cultural exchange experience of the volunteer program of the Pacific Alliance, and the cooperation agreement that it facilitates and manages.

Volunteering involves more than a commitment, it is when you generate actions and improve the quality of life of people. We believe the voluntary exchange program of the Pacific Alliance managed to create wonderful experiences, knowledge, and capacity building in their projects. Above all, it creates a volunteer culture that goes beyond borders.

The volunteer program of the Pacific Alliance, seeks to create an international exchange for young volunteers from countries that signed this cooperation agreement (Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Chile). These volunteers engage with different communities,

developing training processes and consulting projects in different parts of their countries.

As part of this initiative, it should be noted that thanks to the partnership between some national government agencies (the Department of National System for Youth "Young Colombia", the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation, the Colombian Foreign Ministry and the Special Administrative Unit of Solidarity Organizations) we were able to bring together 13 young volunteers to generate significant impact on several communities throughout the national territory. Furthermore, 12 Colombian volunteers had the opportunity to visit the above-mentioned countries to fulfill the same mission.

The Colombian Association for Volunteer Effort - ACEV, IAVE's National Representative for Colombia, was in charge of the technical and logistical operation of the program. ACEV focuses on strengthening voluntary efforts, and seek mutual support and exchange of information, existing to promote, strengthen and celebrate volunteering.

The objective of this program, from all levels, is to join efforts to promote and strengthen the volunteer culture in Colombia, thus contributing to the consolidation of volunteer models as a source of intercultural training and enrichment in the country.

ACEV's goal is to contribute to the promotion of the volunteer culture in the country, making visible the important role of volunteers and their contribution to the sustainable development of the country.

IAVE at Caracol de Plata's University Awards

IAVE's Youth Strategy Project Manager, Raaida Manna, was invited by the Mexican NGO [Caracol de Plata](#) as part of the international panel of judges of their Annual Communications Award for Universities with volunteering as the main subject this year on their XII Edition.

Caracol de Plata's mission is to raise awareness among companies of the private sector inspiring them to commit themselves to cooperate in solving social problems and to support civil society organizations through the use of social impactful branding. Since 2004, the organization has included youth as a key element of their strategies and goals, launching their University Award.

Visit their website for more information (in Spanish). The complete list of judges is available [here](#).



In Recognition of Galina Bodrenkova, a Colleague and Friend

Several month ago, Galina Bodrenkova, IAVE National Representative for Russia, informed us of her decision to step down from that position after 19 years of service. At our European Conference on Corporate Volunteering in Zurich, members of our Board of Directors – Kylee Bates, Eugen Baldas and Wendy Osborne – presented Galina with a gift to recognize the work she has done to promote IAVE in Russia and to effectively represent Russian volunteering at the global level through her involvement with us.

I first met Galina in 1991 when she was one of a small group of Russians who came to Washington DC on an international visitors program sponsored by the U.S. government to learn about volunteering and private

philanthropy. Since then, we have become close professional colleagues and great friends.

Galina has reflected on her work with IAVE in the article that follows. As the one who introduced her to IAVE, I would like to say a few words about the importance of her work.

In 1991, what all of us routinely think of as “volunteering” was little known or understood in Russia. But Galina was already working at a very grassroots community level with existing associations and individuals to encourage people to work together to support one another during difficult times and to work together to solve local problems through voluntary effort.

Over almost 25 years, she has been an unstoppable force of nature, a tireless advocate for volunteering, a prolific author, a creator of new national and local organizations devoted to building a strong Russian volunteer community, and a passionate representative of Russian volunteering at the global level.

In the process she has made IAVE well known in

Russia, has offered us innumerable opportunities to join in activities with her and others, and has built one of the largest membership groups in IAVE in any country. She has been a model National Representative and, for several years, member of the IAVE Board of Directors.

She has been a model of what an IAVE National Representative can be and can accomplish.

We will miss having her in this role but she has recruited an excellent replacement in Vyacheslav Ivanov from the [insert university name]. He will have big shoes to fill but is taking on this role in confidence that Galina will be prepared to help and support him.

Thank you, Galina, for 16 years of committed service to IAVE and to almost 25 years as one of my most valued colleagues and friends.

Kenn Allen

IAVE Senior Consultant

A Message from Galina Bodrenkova

It was a great privilege for me to have the unique opportunity for more than 15 years to promote IAVE in Russia and for a few years to be a member of the Board of Directors IAVE.

My appointment as National Representative for Russia in 1999 coincided with the preparations for the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) in 2001. As part of this, I organized a public discussion in Russia as IAVE prepared a new version of its Universal Declaration on Volunteering. I am very proud that some of our ideas were included in that.

As a result of promoting the Universal Declaration in Russia, it became part of the most frequently mentioned basic documents on volunteering, including in the list of acts of volunteering issued by State authorities.

I would like to recall that Kofi Annan, then Secretary-General of the United Nations, during a visit to Russia in 2001 visited the office of our center and I had the honor of telling him about IYV activities in Russia. The final report of IYV included several points about Russian volunteering.

Serving as IAVE National Representative supported me in my work on behalf of the development of volunteering in Russia. That work includes preparation of more than 50 publications and several books on volunteering, both in Russia and globally. In all, I was able to reflect on the role of IAVE.

It also was helpful as I repeatedly appealed to the President and the government of Russia to gain their support for the promotion of

volunteering here.

I am happy that over the years IAVE has become known in Russia and recognized here as a world leader of volunteering – and that we have been able to build one of the largest IAVE membership bodies in the world.

I am very grateful for the opportunities to act as speaker or workshop leader at IAVE conferences, particularly in 2014 when I presented our strategy for the development of volunteering in Russia.

In the future, I will continue to engage actively with IAVE as head of the Russian Center for Volunteering, a member of the IAVE Global Network of National Volunteer Centers.

I am very glad that Vyacheslav Ivanov has been appointed as the new National Representative for Russia. I wish him every success in this important work and pledge to help him in every way.

Finally, I want to say a strong word of gratitude to the IAVE Board of Directors for its recognition of my efforts for IAVE over the years.

Galina Bodrenkova