



VOLUNTEERING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

**24th IAVE WORLD CONFERENCE
20th CEMEFI ANNUAL MEETING**
Mexico City, November 7-10, 2016

Closing Remarks at the 24th IAVE World Volunteer Conference

By Kylee Bates, IAVE World President

Acknowledgements

I always feel mixed emotions at the end of an IAVE conference – gratitude for having had the chance to reconnect with old colleagues and having made connections with new ones, and regret – for never having enough time to spend with everyone I'd want to. But always I leave with a sense of inspiration and renewed purpose and that is only possible as a result of the efforts of many.

Firstly, I'd like to report that our colleague from Kenya who was hospitalised earlier in the week quite seriously ill has had surgery and seems to be recovering well. He will need to stay in Mexico for another couple of weeks before he can fly home which is great news.

We are very grateful to the teams at CEMEFI and Maria Ann Helica's office who have provided really vital support throughout this process. I would particularly like to acknowledge the support provided by the following individuals: Beatriz Bell, Carolina Silva and Rodrigo Morales who have provided great support to our IAVE team and our colleague personally – Thank you very much.

Thank you to all of you for being a part of such a successful event.

I'd like to acknowledge and say a heartfelt thank you to the following organisations and present them with a special award:

- CEMEFI – Jorge and team
- AMEVOL – Susana and team

I would also like to say an enormous thank you to our sponsors for the generosity of their support all of our sponsors. It is this incredible support that brings us all

together, but importantly it highlights the importance that your organisations and companies are giving to volunteering and we thank you for that.

Thank you also to the many global and local co-operating organisations who spread the word and brought new friends to the IAVE fold. We hope we will continue to see you – and more of your colleagues – at future IAVE events.

I would like to acknowledge my IAVE Board Colleagues who due to the dispersion of countries and time zones we live in work hard to make themselves available at sometimes unusual times and many of whom have also travelled far to be here – and whose time in Mexico has not yet ended as we tomorrow begin our two-day board meeting.

And last but not least, I'd like to thank the small IAVE Secretariat Team who have all worked incredibly, incredibly hard over many months – and the last few in particular – along with CEMEFI to bring this event to you. You will have seen them all at various stages these past few days.

So to Kathi Dennis, Kenn Allen, Jessica Han, Lorrie Foster, Ramona Dragomir, Monica Galliano and Raaida Mannaa – thank you very much.

Special IAVE Recognitions

Next, I'd like to make a couple of very special awards. From time to time the Board of IAVE awards a Life Membership to a person who in our view has made a substantial contribution to volunteering throughout the world and through their work with IAVE.

Today I am pleased to present two such awards:

The first is to a woman who began her relationship with IAVE in 1972 when she participated in the second World Conference held in Manila, Philippines as a representative of the Korean Girl Scouts.

However her entire career has been based on volunteer work and her commitment to volunteering began when she started Girl Scouting in Korea during the Korean War.

She subsequently served as the President of the World Federation of Methodist Women and as a board member of IAVE.

In 1986 she started the Kakdang Welfare Foundation to spread volunteerism in Korea by training volunteers and placing them to work at various organisations including the Korean Association for Volunteer Effort that focuses on care for troubled young people, the Korean Association for Death Education and Counselling (KADEC) which trains leaders to support people to prepare for death and the Korean Association for Rainbow Hospice (KARH) which regularly conducts hospice volunteer training and a home hospice program – something that was the first of its kind in Korea.

I would like to acknowledge Dr Oknah Lah, now aged 98 for her role in promoting, supporting and celebrating volunteering and invite her son Mr Jake Lah to accept the Award on her behalf.

Our second recipient of an IAVE Life Membership Award is someone who has also made a very significant contribution to volunteering and IAVE over a very long period of time.

It also highlights how strong volunteering is in Korea as our next award recipient is also from that country.

Dr Kanghyun Lee, introduced the modern concept of volunteer management in Korea and founded the first volunteer centre, Federation of Volunteer Efforts in Busan, Korea.

He was instrumental in passing the Volunteering Act of 2005 and co-chaired the Board of the Korea Council of Volunteering, an umbrella organisation recognised by that Act for providing leadership in the field of volunteering in Korea.

He has taught on volunteerism and volunteer management at several universities.

Dr Lee served as the Secretary General of the IYV2001 Korea Commission and represented the Asia-Pacific Region on the board of IAVE and in 2002 he led Korea's efforts to host the 2002 17th IAVE World Volunteer Conference, before serving as IAVE World President from 2008 to 2014.

Please join me in welcoming Dr Lee to the stage to accept this Life Membership Award.

Closing Remarks

Wow! What a week it has been. And what a night last night was – your promises of Belles des Artes being AMAZING exceeded our already high expectations and I think this was a particularly welcome experience as I know that yesterday morning many felt that they had been hit by a truck after the US Election yielded a result that few had predicted.

In her concession speech Hilary Clinton said that her campaign had been about building an America that is hopeful, inclusive and big-hearted, so today I would remind you that *volunteering* has always been about building a *world* that is hopeful, inclusive and big-hearted.

So when, as I said on Tuesday, we feel that what we believe in is being tested it is our responsibility to step up: Try harder, work faster and speak louder to show the value of what we do and ensure that all people have the opportunity to do it as well!

Regardless of how you might feel about the result, know this, you will ALWAYS remember where you were when it occurred – the 24th IAVE World Volunteer Conference in Mexico City!

So let this be our opportunity to rise above the divisions that the result has revealed and resolve collectively to stand together to work in partnership or collaboration to promote, support and celebrate volunteering in all of the myriad of ways it happens throughout the world.