

# Call for Presenters



We are inviting practitioners, researchers and academics to apply to present a paper at the IAVE 26th World Volunteer Conference

**“Volunteering Together to Enable  
Change and Create a Better World”**

Presenters may be anyone with appropriate knowledge, perspective and experience to respond to one or more of the conference sub-themes. They may be volunteers who lead organizations or grassroots initiatives; paid or volunteer managers of volunteers; leaders of civil society organizations (NGOs); academics; government officials; individuals working within the corporate sector; consultants etc. IAVE and the Emirates Foundation seek to involve the widest diversity of presenters.

Please also note that while this call is for presenters for breakout sessions IAVE and the Emirates Foundation may draw from responses in order to identify potential speakers for Forum sessions as appropriate.

*Since 1970 IAVE's World Volunteer Conference has been the primary global convening of leaders of volunteering from throughout the world.*

# 26th IAVE World Volunteer Conference

## Introduction

Since the very first conference in 1970, the IAVE World Volunteer Conference has been the premier gathering point for volunteer leaders from throughout the world. The conference attracts people who share a commitment to volunteering as a means to build understanding across borders through the active engagement of people in service to their communities, to their societies and to the world.

In 2020, IAVE will hold its 26th World Volunteer Conference in Abu Dhabi October 11-14. As in years past this will be the single largest global gathering of volunteering experts and practitioners. This conference will be particularly momentous because IAVE will also celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Hosted for the first time in the Middle East, the 26th IAVE World Volunteer Conference will be hosted by the Emirates Foundation, the national organization set up by the Abu Dhabi Government to facilitate public-private funded initiatives

for the empowerment of youth across the UAE. The Emirates Foundation shapes, guides and delivers innovative volunteering programs that increasingly put youth at the forefront of volunteering efforts in order to achieve far-reaching national impact.

The conference is expected to attract 1,400+ participants from more than 100 countries, representing all the stakeholders of the volunteer community, including individual leaders, civil society organizations, businesses, government agencies and academia.

# The 26th IAVE World Volunteer Conference is designed to:

- Provoke discussion around current volunteering issues.
- Discover new and creative solutions to the challenges volunteer leaders face each day.
- Promote active learning among participants.
- Provide examples of projects, lessons learned and inspiring practices about developing volunteering around the world.
- Lay the groundwork for collaborative efforts between participants.
- Share the latest research on volunteering.
- Highlight our shared commitment to volunteering.

The four day conference will feature numerous plenaries, forums and breakout sessions consistent with the overarching conference theme of:

**Volunteering Together to Enable Change and Create a Better World.**

*View the seven sub themes on page 5.*

# Call for Presenters

The conference will include a range of breakout sessions/ workshops on the conference sub-themes. The **session objective(s)** are to:

- share information and ideas
- highlight new and innovative practice
- exchange knowledge
- showcase learning - what has worked and why
- focus on impact
- inspire and energize
- celebrate volunteering

The breakout sessions will include up to 3 presenters, each presenter will have maximum 20 minutes to present, once all presentations are made there will be an opportunity to engage with the session participants through questions and answers.

# 2020 Conference Theme, Sub themes and Priority Areas for Consideration

## Overarching Theme:

**Volunteering Together to Enable Change and Create a Better World.**

Sharing and exploring how volunteers as agents of change provide the practical action that builds hope and resilience, improves lives and strengthens communities.

## Sub Themes:

### 1. Volunteering 2030 - New Paradigms.

Rapidly changing societal trends, technological innovation, virtual landscapes, and a global commitment to enabling the Sustainable Development Goals for everyone, everywhere creates an emerging dynamic where established boundaries for volunteering are being challenged and changed. Such a 'borderless state' often within countries but sometimes across nation states requires more collaboration, integration and sharing of resources to bring about the change the world needs. Partnership across organisations and sectors, new ways of engaging citizens and volunteering across borders can bring innovation and greater impact to the involvement of volunteers.

#### *Priority Areas for Consideration:*

- Examples of successful collaborative working to enhance or develop volunteering across organizations and sectors and/or across geographic borders
- Case studies of volunteers working together in common purpose to affect change at a local, regional or global level.
- Innovative examples of how volunteering is having an impact on achieving the SDGs.
- Creative ways of mobilizing greater numbers of volunteers.

## 2. Future Leadership – the Role of Youth Volunteers.

Youth volunteering is seen as providing an important experience for young people to engage with their communities and the issues they care about while enhancing their own personal development. Learning to lead through volunteering often creates a pathway to employability and social entrepreneurial activities. Young volunteers are increasingly vocal in what they think about the world and how they want things to change. It is an important priority to channel the energy, passion and commitment of young volunteers into leadership roles to sustain and grow the volunteer effort. Young people themselves need to have a say in what volunteering leadership means to them.

### *Priority Areas for Consideration:*

- Youth volunteering as a pathway to employment: examples and best practice.
- Case studies of leadership programs for young volunteers highlighting learning and results.
- Young volunteers making a difference – examples and outcomes.
- The role of young volunteers in helping to deliver the SDGs – practical examples/ case studies.
- The voice of young people – what is their vision for volunteering.

## 3. Tolerance and Inclusion – Volunteering Enabling Community Cohesion and Embracing Diversity.

Volunteering is vitally important to providing a sense of belonging to one's community, it is a practical way to foster inclusion by enabling everyone to help themselves and others to overcome problems whether they are, for example, economic, social, humanitarian or environmental. Volunteers are working across divisions and between cultures showcasing in practical ways the respect for others that builds more tolerant societies. Organisations that involve volunteers also need to be committed to the value of inclusion, showcasing tolerance and embracing diversity in their involvement of volunteers.

### *Priority Areas for Consideration:*

- Successful strategies for delivering diversity and social inclusion in recruiting and engaging volunteers.
- Impactful examples of the role volunteers play in fostering social inclusion.
- Examples of volunteering within the context of peacebuilding and/or building more tolerant societies.
- Case studies of volunteering within the context of developing mutual aid and self-help that enables those feeling excluded to have a voice and influence change.



## 4. Corporate Volunteering – Delivering Business Objectives Through a Values Focused Mission.

Today's business leaders see their organisations and their employees as together having a stake in the wellbeing of their communities. The focus is changing from what corporations can do for you to what they can do with you. Corporate volunteering plays a big part in this shared sense of social purpose that gives the win-win-win effect, good for business, good for employees and good for wider society.

### *Priority Areas for Consideration:*

- Enhancing volunteering through partnerships – civil society and corporate sector collaboration.
- Case studies of employee volunteers having an impact within their local communities and the causes that are important to them.
- Examples of company values and behaviours being aligned with employee volunteering programs and a shared sense of social purpose.
- Optimal ways of not only effectively engaging employee volunteers but of measuring the social impact and value of their involvement.

## 5. Volunteering and the Digital World – Extending the Power of Volunteering Through New Technologies.

As technology evolves it is being harnessed to give greater access to volunteer involvement and enhance how volunteers carry out their roles. Going to the computer or phone to find out how to connect to volunteering opportunities is the norm, virtual volunteering is a growing trend. Social media creates an instant global sharing of who volunteers are and what they are doing. New technologies such as artificial intelligence will bring further change and challenge as to how these new digital opportunities can also support and develop volunteering.

### *Priority Areas for Consideration:*

- Exploring digitalization and volunteering, the challenges and opportunities.
- Examples of volunteering within the context of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.
- Case studies of successfully inspiring volunteer action through use of social media.
- Effective strategies that harness technology to recruit and engage volunteers.
- Optimal ways of not only effectively engaging employee volunteers but of measuring the social impact and value of their involvement.

## 6. Measurement and Impact – Providing the Evidence that Volunteering is Good for Society and Good for You.

It has always been important for volunteers to know that their involvement has made a difference, volunteering can also be of great benefit to the individual volunteer. Increasingly the focus is on providing the evidence to record, measure and showcase the impact of volunteering. As an example, the United Nations, in taking forward the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 agenda, is seeking to scale up the measurement of impact to evidence how volunteers are making a positive difference to solving the world's problems. Everyone understands that impact measurement is important but not that easy to do. Learning from experience is helpful, organisations and institutions need to share information on what they are measuring and how they are doing it.

### *Priority Areas for Consideration:*

- Best practice examples of how impact measurement for volunteering is being implemented.
- Case studies of partnerships between NGOs, government, corporations in responding to the SDGs and how they have evidenced their impact.
- Measuring the impact of volunteering on the volunteer.
- Inspiring case studies/volunteer stories of making a difference through volunteering.

## 7. Volunteerism and Community Resilience – Locally Owned Solutions Delivering Impact

There is a growing realisation that emergency resilience activity should be aligned with broader community resilience building and vice versa. The activity and approaches to build community cohesion and tackle, for example, health and well-being issues such as loneliness and isolation of older people, also build community resilience in response to crisis. Building resilience within communities is about engaging community members in considering the challenges faced by the diverse parts of a community that make up its totality. It is about following through on the SDG's aspiration 'that no one will be left behind'. Volunteering makes connections, builds networks and stakeholder relationships, aids communication and supports cooperation, vital components for community resilience. The people power of volunteers has been shown to anticipate and challenge issues, take ownership and responsibility, identify novel solutions and give leadership to transformational change.



***Priority Areas for Consideration:***

- Case studies of volunteering as a vital component of community development in addressing key humanitarian or environmental problems, building community resilience and delivering sustainable change.
- Good practice examples of building resilience through volunteerism to tackle disadvantage and social injustice; supporting and empowering people, for example, those with a disability, older people, to enhance their well-being and improve their situation.
- Community based, practical volunteer action examples targeted at those furthest from the labour market to enhance their skills and employment opportunities.
- Evidence of how volunteers have effectively responded to a major crisis, such as a natural disaster, a conflict related emergency or a critical economic situation, where the safety and livelihood of their community is threatened.

# Making an Application to Present

**Please complete and submit your application by using this link: [bit.ly/wvc2020abstract](https://bit.ly/wvc2020abstract)**

You may submit more than one application. Please note that all applications must be submitted in English.

**All abstracts received will be reviewed for relevance and quality. They will also be scored on how they:**

- Relate to the chosen sub-theme and one or more of the priority areas
- Link to the overarching conference theme
- Meet one or more of the objectives for the breakout sessions

**Applications must be submitted by 9th March 2020. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by end of April 2020.**

Due to the generosity of our partner host organisation, the Emirates Foundation, those individuals invited to present at the conference will be offered a waived registration fee. Presenters may wish to consider declining the waived fee and donating the funds back to the Conference Scholarship Fund.

Applications will be acknowledged upon receipt but we are unable to respond to inquiries about the status of applications until the review is complete.

Please be aware that if your abstract is accepted the description and content will be included in the final conference program available online and in printed copy. The final conference presentation will also be made available to participants and on the conference/IAVE website.

Thank You for your interest in the 2020 IAVE World Volunteer Conference.

**For clarification or further information contact:**

Wendy Osborne OBE, Senior Consultant, IAVE

[wendy@iave.org](mailto:wendy@iave.org)