

Report on the 20th IAVE World Volunteer Conference

April 2-5, 2008, Panama City

“Volunteering for Human Development: More Solidarity, Less Poverty”

The Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS) participated at the 20th IAVE World Volunteer Conference. It is the IAVE representative body in Hong Kong.

Objectives

- 2 The objectives of joining the World Conference are
 - i. to network experts who may be resource persons for volunteering development in Hong Kong;
 - ii. to keep updated of latest development in key areas of interest in other parts of the world;
 - iii. to play a positive part in IAVE; and
 - iv. to project AVS at the international forum as the forerunner of volunteerism in Hong Kong.

The Conference

3 The theme of the Conference is “Volunteering for Human Development; More Solidarity, Less Poverty”. The Conference in fact covered a wide range of subjects related to various aspects of volunteering development. About 400 delegates from over 40 countries attended the Conference. Ms Flavia Pansieri, Executive Coordinator, UN Volunteers, was present and other organizations attending included UNDP, CIVICUS, Panamanian government officials and civil society. Apart from the 3 plenaries, some 8 fora and 60 workshops were held in concurrent session. The Hong Kong team consists of Mr J P Lee, SBS, OBE, JP, Chairman of AVS, Ms Joy Cheng, Manager, Volunteer Training and Development AVS, and Mr Pang Pik-ming of Social Welfare Department.

4 Given the vast number of sessions in concurrent fashion and the small AVS delegation, it was decided that AVS would attend sessions in two key areas, namely, “Volunteering and the Role of Government” and “Research in Volunteering”. At the

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same time, Mr Lee was invited to make a presentation at the Forum on Volunteer Centres, in addition to the workshop AVS hosted. The presentation, titled “Volunteer Action for Human Development” described AVS’ action in respect of volunteer safety and protection, the role of a public broadcasting authority, and Hong Kong’s constitutional development. It illustrates how a national volunteer centre can respond to social issues and social policy independently as a non-government organization. For Mr Lee’s presentation, please see Appendix 1.

5 A Youth Conference was held on April 1-2.

6 **The Opening and Plenary:** Some significant messages were delivered. Ms Flavia Pansieri, UNV Executive Coordinator said, “*Governments play a very important role, making sure that volunteer efforts that naturally come from individuals and society are supported by right policies, by legal frameworks and by all the measures in order to make it possible for volunteer efforts to bear the most visible and the most durable fruits.*” She believed in building volunteering into social policy, and volunteers should actively participate in social development. Volunteering brought out the potential of people, e.g. solidarity, and more should be done to give recognition to volunteering.

7 Ms Isabel Licha, Main Advisor in Social Polices, Spain Fund, UNDP echoed that there was not enough recognition to volunteer effort. While agreeing that volunteering was a factor for social development which was people centred, she questioned if volunteers would be prepared or willing to take up the challenge of assisting such development. She considered that the relationship between the volunteer and state should be complementary, but volunteers could improve the image of the private sector. She concluded in saying that both volunteers and volunteer organizations should self-evaluate in the pursuit of citizenizing volunteerism.

8 Mr Marcus Held, Director of the European Volunteer Centre (CEV), said since 2007 the EU had recognized volunteering as an indicator of active citizenship and the added value of networks like CEV. However, “*Policy makers discover volunteers when there is a problem, and look at volunteers as a solution to challenges faced in multicultural*

societies. The universal values of volunteering as well as being a strength was a threat because volunteering was viewed as a means to something. It is not a means to something; it has its own intrinsic value. Volunteering and solidarity were two sides of the same coin. Volunteer organizations had to be very careful not to follow policy makers who want to promote volunteering as a means to something, but promote volunteering for itself.”

9 Mr Ceasar Molebatsi, Former President YMCA World Alliance, in his keynote address at the Opening, drew attention to the process of impoverishment which volunteerism could help remedy. Backed by principled solidarity, he saw the world required “radical and purposeful volunteerism”. He concluded with this message: “*As a volunteer you are supposed to keep hope alive. Moving people from survivalist mindsets to a mindset of co-creation, where the volunteer and the beneficiary, sits together to do long-term plans that will give a reason to look forward to the future, e.g. the Olive Tree Campaign. We as volunteers have a task as volunteers to light millions of candles in the darkness so that the rays of a better future shine bright for people of the world.*”

10 Mr Kumi Naidoo, Honorary President, World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS) shared that solidarity without justice or equality would be meaningless.

11 Mr. Lester M Salamon, Director, Centre for Civil Society Studies, Johns Hopkins Institute, outlined the work he had been doing with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to include research on volunteers within the ILO international labour force survey, to quantify the value contribution (in terms of replacement cost) of volunteers in 37 countries. The draft of a possible ILO *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work* through official labour force surveys and a draft Volunteer Measurement Survey Module will be presented for discussion at the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in November 2008.

12 **Volunteering and Role of the Government:** Presentations from different countries indicate the varying extent the government was involved in and being pushed to promote volunteering. In some less developed countries, the government often took the initiative, www.volunteerlink.net

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sometimes assisted by UNV to start the movement or build the infrastructure to meet social objectives. Some countries had a public policy or legislative framework for volunteering, and more often than not the government provided funding in varying degrees. Despite this, it was clear the government could not work in a vacuum, but had to work through or partner with civil society. Both IAVE and UNV speakers stressed the value of a good relationship with the government which was not only a funder but also a partner. It is interesting to note that in Singapore, although for years the government has provided the direction, the strategic policy, the infrastructure and funding and subject to government oversight, there is now thinking that the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) should have independence for representing the masses and for better governance.

13 Research in Volunteering: Four research studies were presented in the Forum, highlighting key outcomes, methodology and the impact research had on volunteering and / or public policy.

- a) Youth Service in Latin America and the Caribbean: A recommendation worth noting is: “Institutional development will require investments across sectors. All of the sustainability factors pertain to staff and volunteer skill, including partnership development, social marketing and communications, program evaluation, policy advocacy, and information technology. Volunteer management is a priority for many. The volunteer management field needs capacity building via formal education, continuing educations, consulting, networking. As the service programs grow beyond their infancy into mature programs, it is imperative that this strategy for organizing youth in collective action is state of the art.”
- b) Volunteering in German-Caritas and the parishes. Results of a Representative Survey and Study. The focus of this survey was satisfaction, cooperation with paid staff, qualification, expectations, volunteering as a replacement for paid work, extension of voluntary work. The results and a comparison with a similar 10-year old survey will be published in February 2009.
- c) Shaping Service Learning: A Comparison of Three National Contexts: To understand the ways in which national contexts may shape service-learning in

developing youth volunteering and to further develop the global knowledge base on this form of volunteering, service-learning programs were examined in three countries in various stages of development: Argentina, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. Analyses of how each distinct context differentially influenced this form of volunteerism were presented, with attention to similarities and differences in the form, nature, and desired effects of service-learning across the three countries.

d) Volunteering in Ecuador: the Impact in the Public Policy Level: The research was to demonstrate the contribution of volunteerism to the development of the country and therefore, the relevance of volunteerism inclusion in public policies. An extensive quantitative and qualitative data collection strategy was employed. The results had helped:

- Identify the profile of Ecuadorian volunteers: who they were, where they volunteered and what their perception of volunteerism was.
- Measure economic contribution of volunteerism to national GDP.
- Show a transformation in the vision of volunteerism in Ecuador, moving from a traditional approach (charity) to a "volunteerism for development" focus.

14 Forum on Government and Research: The Forum was set up apparently to explore the connectedness between volunteering research and the government. Discussion evolved around the need for research, standards and definitions, global comparability, the possibility of a tripartite effort to explore the subject, the drivers for research, funding, the integrity of research, e.g. independence, method, ownership and transparency. There was also a suggestion that IAVE could set basic standards and be the clearing house for research work. The meeting also noted that international research bodies such as the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) would be invited to participate in future IAVE events.

15 **IYV+10 i.e. 2011:** International Year of Volunteers (IYV) fell on 2001. The UN have marked 2011 to review what has been achieved and what more should be done to promote volunteering. Throughout the sessions, it was clear that 2011 is taken seriously by both UNV and IAVE and its constituencies. UNV hoped IAVE could provide input to the kind of action governments might be persuaded to take and IAVE expected its constituencies to participate in the exercise. Following the Conference, the IAVE Board issued a declaration on IYV+10 in response to UNV. There is at Appendix 2.

IAVE Activities outside Conference Proper

16 IAVE took the opportunity to transact business and interact with its members. AVS attended the following

- a) Training programme for National Representatives.

National representatives from 22 countries attended, and the issues discussed include: rights and responsibilities, membership and e-IAVE, international resource centre, strategic plan 2007-10, and election of the IAVE board member for national representatives. In the event, Ms Debbie Huang, Taiwan was re-elected. Details of the meeting can be found at IAVE website at <http://www.iave.org/ResourceView.asp?resourceID=294>

- b) National Volunteer Centres Meeting

The meeting brainstormed strategic plans on IAVE membership development and the activities or celebrations for IYV+10 in 2011. Those present agreed to strengthen network through email.

- c) Asia Pacific Regional Meeting

There was discussion on proposals for IYV+10 and exchange home information by electronic communication, such as email and e-newsletter.

- d) IAVE Members Meeting (AGM)

The agenda included introduction of new board members, by-law changes, a new logo, a farewell for Ms Liz Burns, and a welcome to Dr Lee Kang-Hyun, South Korea, the new IAVE President. Mr J P Lee delivered a vote of thanks to Ms Burns, and presented to her a souvenir on behalf of AVS.

17 The time table for future IAVE meetings is

- a) The 12th IAVE Asia-Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference will be from November 26-29, 2009 in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan;
- b) The 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference will take place in Singapore from January 17-20, 2011. An affiliated Youth Conference will be held from January 14-16, and
- c) The 13th IAVE Asia-Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference will be held in end of 2011 in Seoul, South Korea.



VOLUNTEER ACTION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

presented by

Mr J P Lee, SBS, OBE, JP, Chairman of Agency for Volunteer Service

at 20th IAVE World Volunteer Conference

2 - 5 April 2008, Panama City

Established in 1970, Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS), the Hong Kong Representative of IAVE, is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to playing a proactive and pivotal role in building a civil society and caring community through the promotion and development of sustainable volunteerism. AVS develops partnership with all sectors of the community to mobilize and facilitate individuals and groups to provide quality and value-added volunteer service.

2. AVS upholds the values of human dignity, care and share, community oriented, innovativeness, quality, cost-effectiveness, partnership, professionalism and sense of fulfillment. It promotes volunteerism, offers volunteer referral, volunteer and volunteer management training services, and organizes innovative and large-scale volunteer projects in response to community needs.

3. In the past year or two, AVS has assumed a more active role to participate in public issues related to volunteerism, attempting to influence policy decisions for human development in line with the ethics of volunteerism. In this regard, three different cases are presented demonstrating AVS as a pivotal organization in promoting volunteering. These are
- a) Volunteer safety and protection
 - b) Government consultation on public service broadcasting
 - c) Government consultation on constitutional development

Case I : Volunteer Safety and Protection

Background

4. According to the 'Study on Public's Reception and Perception of Volunteer Services'¹ in 2001, it was found that over 60% of the respondents have participated in one form of volunteering activity or another. While the value and contribution of volunteering are recognized, support and protection to volunteers on safety have not been adequately attended to generally.

Strategy

5. To address the issue of volunteer safety and to arouse greater

¹ AVS initiated the first community wide study to celebrate the International Year of Volunteers, 2001

awareness of volunteer protection, AVS initiated as a first step, a survey on “Volunteer Safety and Protection” in Hong Kong which would form the basis for mapping future action.

6. The aims of the survey are

- a) to ascertain the circumstances and the nature of accidents in volunteering;
- b) to identify the current practices, challenges and opportunities for improvement on volunteering safety; and
- c) to explore the needs and expectations of volunteer user organizations on the support to be provided.

7. Conducted during 7 June to 13 July 2007, the survey covered 237 respondents representing NGOs, schools, community sports clubs, corporations, volunteer organizations, hospitals and patients self-help groups drawn from AVS database. The response rate is 14%. The survey finds that

- a) 5 out of the 220 organizations interviewed encounter one to two minor accidents during the volunteer service they organize or participate in the last two years. Labouring is the most commonly known activity involving accidents;
- b) the sense of safety is not consistent; while 89% have preparation arrangements before volunteering activity, only 70% adopt safety / protection measures during the activities. In addition, half of the

- organizations do not have any contingency policy in place;
- c) one-third of them do not purchase any form of insurance when organizing volunteer services;
 - d) while financial consideration deters organizations from taking out insurance for volunteers, lack of insurance knowledge is also a significant obstacle;
 - e) limited financial resources, lack of support on equipment, know-how and safety infrastructure prevent the provision of a comprehensive protection cover. Organizations are affirmative to enhancing volunteer safety, and believe it will have a positive impact on volunteer participation; and
 - f) over half of the respondents expect AVS to take on further roles, such as developing reference guides on best practices, providing training, professional consultation and information on insurance.

8. To arouse public attention and discussion on the subject, AVS organized a seminar involving government officials and experts from the legal and insurance professions. Volunteer leaders and volunteer users organizations were invited to attend and share their views. The seminar concluded with the recommendation that adequate safety measures for volunteers should be provided. Volunteers, volunteer providers, volunteer users, the national volunteer centre (i.e. AVS) can contribute to this, and the government should support their efforts. Thus, AVS can

- a) advocate policy and guidelines on volunteer safety and protection;
- b) develop standards and reference guides on volunteer management;
- c) provide training and consultation as part of volunteer management;
- d) develop partnership with different stakeholders particularly the government and the insurance industry to promote volunteer safety;
and
- e) explore feasible and cost-effective ways to purchase volunteer insurance.

The government and funding bodies can

- a) support the volunteer community in building the necessary infrastructure on effective volunteer management including measures on volunteer safety;
- b) partner with the volunteer community to develop appropriate policy and mechanism for promotion of volunteer safety;
- c) recognize volunteer insurance as a standard or essential subsidy item;
and
- d) provide resources for the necessary infrastructure, facilities and quality management of volunteers.

9. The seminar attracted considerable media coverage which in turn sparked much public attention and interest. In response to the need for information and training support, all the seminar papers and other

training materials are uploaded at AVS Volunteer Link (www.volunteerlink.net). Training programmes on volunteer service management are enriched with concepts and skills on risk management, volunteer safety and protection.

Case 2 : Public Service Broadcasting

Background

10. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), public service broadcasting (PSB) “is broadcasting made, financed and controlled by the public, for the public. It is neither commercial nor state-owned, free from political interference and pressure from commercial forces. Through PSB, citizens are informed, educated and also entertained. When guaranteed with pluralism, programming diversity, editorial independence, appropriate funding, accountability and transparency, public service broadcasting can serve as a cornerstone of democracy.” PSB is regarded as vital and necessary to citizen and human development. In Hong Kong, the role of PSB is assumed by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) which is a government department under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

11. The Hong Kong government decided in January 2006 that “a fundamental and critical review of PSB in Hong Kong and its future

development is timely. To a large extent this is due to the phenomenal changes to the broadcasting market that have been witnessed in the last two to three years and are expecting to continue to see in the future. The objective is to arrive at a clear policy framework that provides both the vision and specific plans for future development.”² In this connection, the government set up a Committee on Review of Public Service Broadcasting with the following objectives

- a) to examine the role of, and justifications and public purposes for, public service broadcasting (PSB) in the development of Hong Kong’s broadcasting market, against the public financial and other resources required for such broadcasting;
- b) to identify issues concerning public accountability for PSB in matters of editorial impartiality, programming policy and good governance;
- c) to identify measures for the Administration to evaluate the effectiveness of PSB and arrangements through which the public can participate in such a process;
- d) to recommend, in the light of the above, an appropriate arrangement for the provision of PSB in Hong Kong; and
- e) to recommend implementation plans for the short, medium and long terms.

12. Apart from meeting with relevant stakeholders, the Committee

² The Hong Kong government’s brief to the Legislative Council
www.volunteerlink.net

invited written submissions from a cross section of the community. AVS took the initiative to express its views with reference to volunteerism.

AVS Views on Public Service Broadcasting

13. AVS advocates that PSB plays a crucial role in promoting volunteerism. Moreover being short of funding and given insufficient business interest in volunteering, AVS has relied heavily on PSB in promotion activities. In the past years, with the support and assistance from PSB, the spirit of volunteerism has steadily strengthened in the community. PSB has been AVS' partner in supporting volunteering projects, both in and out of Hong Kong, in reinforcing the essentials of volunteering and the multifarious activities AVS conducted in developing volunteerism. PSB is seen to act immediately on social issues and assists NGOs to recruit volunteers. That was particularly true during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003 when RTHK joined AVS to mobilize a large number of volunteers for the SARS Prevention Volunteer Campaign, a record yet to be broken.

14. Under the current mode of government subvention to NGOs, nearly all NGOs, including AVS, have hardly any funds to promote their service and mission through the mass media. PSB serves an important function in helping such organizations to publicize their values and services, which commercial broadcasters cannot or will not undertake. Thus, PSB is

certainly an indispensable partner to civil society.

15. The 10th IAVE Asia-Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference hosted in Hong Kong in November 2005 issued the Hong Kong Declaration on Volunteering. Among other issues, it calls on the mass media to communicate actively to the public the value of volunteerism and assist in sustaining an environment for community involvement in volunteer action.

16. The functions of PSB are irreplaceable by commercial broadcasters. First, PSB is to serve the community while the commercial broadcasters are under various pressures including profit maximization. Therefore, PSB is more oriented towards public interest, focuses on long-term goals, pursues high quality and creative production and endeavours to maintain a high degree of trust by the public. With regard to its three major functions - information provision, education and entertainment - PSB would compete at a level playing field with their commercial counterparts and offer additional choices to the public.

17. In consideration of the crucial role of PSB, the government should provide stable and sufficient funding to ensure its viability. At the same time operation of PSB should have a high degree of transparency and public accountability. To ensure impartiality and independence, particularly in respect of programming and editing, the funding of PSB, no matter from the government or other sources, should be channelled

through an independent trust which finances the operation of PSB. Moreover, there should be adequate citizen participation in the structure of the trust and on the board of directors of PSB.

Case 3 : Hong Kong's Constitutional Development

18. In July 2007, the Hong Kong government issued a Green Paper on Constitutional Development. The Paper deals with the application of universal suffrage to the election of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council, raising questions on the model, roadmap and timetable to be adopted.

19. It may be useful to provide some background to the issue. Hong Kong used to be a British colony. Following negotiations, China and the United Kingdom agreed that Hong Kong should revert to China by July 1997. The two parties signed a Joint Declaration which, among other things, provided for universal suffrage for the election of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council. The Joint Declaration was registered with the United Nations subsequently. Further, the Basic Law which is the mini-constitution for Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of China, provides for change in the electoral arrangements to implement universal suffrage replacing current practices. For since the return of sovereignty to China, the Chief Executive is elected by a Selection Committee, the

members of which are not elected by universal suffrage. Similarly the Legislative Council is elected partly by geographically based direct election, and partly by a functional constituency electorate which provides a small number of individuals and corporates voting rights on a selective basis. These arrangements may be changed by 2007 at the earliest.

20. Volunteerism is founded on love, freewill and respect for human dignity. While love or charity may be a matter of the heart, freewill is a matter of the mind. It is difficult to envisage how love does not embody the spirit of respect of the beloved. Also, volunteerism is actualized through participation; for without participation, there would be no volunteering.

21. In the context of Hong Kong's future constitutional arrangements, it is generally accepted that universal suffrage is the ultimate goal. It is important that this goal should be clearly understood, and that any system to this end must be built on certain fundamental values.

22. The common and international understanding of universal suffrage is every natural person has one vote and voters have equal voting right. At the same time universal suffrage anticipates citizen participation.

23. It is acknowledged that volunteerism is a driving force for

community building.³ It is also accepted that volunteering enhances social inclusion. That being the case, volunteerism must be a positive ingredient in Hong Kong's development of political institutions, including electoral arrangements. Volunteering has been a crucial factor in the growth of civil society in Hong Kong, and I certainly believe, elsewhere as well. Hong Kong's civil society has a long history, and is strong and active, and is one of the fundamental components for universal suffrage. It is therefore a question of sooner than later to introduce universal suffrage in Hong Kong.

24. Thus, arrangements for constitutional development should adhere to the following fundamental principles of volunteering

- a) they are in line with respect for human dignity. In this regard, the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are relevant;
- b) they allow the fullest and equal participation by the largest number of citizens. Full opportunity should be provided to those with the right to participate, and there should be no bias or favouritism in the arrangements; and
- c) the freedom of choice of voters may not be unreasonably prescribed. Voters' freewill to participate, to vote, to stand for election, and to the choice of candidates should be respected.

³ 10th IAVE Asia Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference, November 2005 in Hong Kong
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25. Translated into institutional arrangements in the context of Hong Kong, it will mean
- a) subject to certain basic qualifications, such as age, every citizen has the right and option to register as a voter;
 - b) eligible voters will have the freewill to cast vote or stand for election, but the opportunity should not be barred from them;
 - c) arrangements should be conducive to, and not impeding to voter participation whether to vote or to stand for election;
 - d) functional constituencies should be abolished as they confer additional voting right to their respective electorates; and
 - e) in the case of electing the Chief Executive, the members of the nominating committee should be elected by universal suffrage, and the threshold to being a candidate for Chief Executive should not be unduly or unreasonably restrictive.

It follows from the above that, if transitional arrangements to universal suffrage are necessary, they should be steps moving the electoral process closer to universal suffrage rather than placing restrictions to a) to e) above.

26. AVS put forward its views to the government in October 2007. In the event, the political decision by the Central Government of China is that the election of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage could be implemented by 2017, but later for the Legislative Council. Detailed

arrangements have yet to be discussed, and AVS will seek to have the values of volunteerism incorporated in them.

27. Pursuit of the three issues tells that AVS as an independent NGO has broadened its ambit to advocacy. Volunteer safety is an integral part of sustainable volunteering and is a necessary condition for preserving volunteer resources. The second topic is at cross sectoral level underlining the role PSB can play in publicizing / promoting volunteerism, and the relationship between PSB and the national volunteer centre. The importance of the mass media in advancing volunteering cannot be under-emphasized.⁴ At the macro level is the formulation of public policy and change in institutions, and in this case, political institutions. Here, AVS acts as a proponent to incorporate the principles and values of volunteerism into the development of electoral arrangements in the hope that future political conditions will be favourable to volunteer action and to building solidarity and social inclusion. Volunteerism is therefore a force of change for a more humane community.

28. It is true that AVS has not adopted a full advocacy role involving popular mobilization or putting pressure on the government. However, as a non-government charity dedicated to volunteerism, AVS takes an independent position on social issues, and actively participates in public

⁴ Universal Declaration of Volunteering put forward at 16th IAVE World Volunteer Conference, 2001 in Amsterdam

policy, granted that it is funded in part by the government.

29. The United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration in September 2000 upon which the Millennium Development Goals were projected. The Declaration says in Article 2, under “Values and Principles”, “...we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level...”, and in Article 4, “...We rededicate ourselves to ... support all efforts to uphold respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms...”. Volunteers and national volunteer centres are therefore contributing constructively as they participate in the formulation of public policy and executive rules and procedures at the sectoral, cross sectoral or macro level, to achieve the dual purposes of promoting volunteerism and supporting efforts to build a better community.

For further information on AVS, please visit www.avs.org.hk.

March 2008

DECLARATION OF IAVE BOARD ON IYV+10

[This declaration was adopted by the IAVE board of directors following the World Volunteer Conference in Panama in April in response to a request from the UNV for input to planning for IYV+10]

We, the IAVE Board of Directors, following the XXth **IAVE** World Volunteer Conference:

RECOGNIZE the vital contribution of volunteers to human, social and economic development and welcome the opportunity offered by IYV+10 to further harness and re-energise the efforts of volunteers and activists worldwide in support of the world's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals.

We **UNDERTAKE** to:

- Promote the opportunity which IYV+10 offers to reflect on the results of the International Year of the Volunteer and of the outcome commitments made by governments;
- Collaborate with governments, civil society partners and the private sector to prepare plans for marking and celebrating IYV+10.
- Gather and disseminate evidence to highlight the impact of volunteering around the world.
- Organise the XXI IAVE World Volunteer Conference in January 2011 as the opening event of the Year, and urge UNV to recognise it as such, and to support an invitation to the UN Secretary General to open it.
- Work with partners in the research field towards the creation of an International Observatory for Research in Volunteering, to be launched in 2011.

We **PROPOSE** that IAVE works with UNV and other partners to take full advantage of opportunities at national, regional and global levels to promote dialogue among leaders

from civil society, governments the private sector and academia to develop and implement plans for marking and celebrating IYV+10, so that it becomes a launch pad for the increasing efforts which growing global threats will demand.

We **URGE** UNV to ensure the longer term impact of IYV+10 by convening a high level Strategic Advisory Group that draws on leaders from civil society, governments, academia and the private sector to develop, monitor and keep under review long term strategies for maximising the impact, effectiveness and sustainability of volunteer effort in addressing the Millennium Development Goals and emerging global challenges beyond 2015.

We **SUPPORT** the work of the Johns Hopkins/ ILO/UNV to develop standard measures for volunteering for inclusion in national statistics and **RECOMMEND** that, in addition, parallel work be commissioned by UNV to develop impact measures, starting in 2011.