



UN Volunteers

Inspiration in action

UN Volunteers is administrated by United Nations Development Programme

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NOTE FROM THE UNV PROGRAMME OFFICER

This issue of the UNV Nepal Newsletter marks the end of a very active year for UNV Nepal. We have had the pleasure of deploying 43 new UNV volunteers for posts in various UN-agencies of which 12 are National and 31 International Volunteers. At the moment we have a total number of 35 UNVs working in OHCHR, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, FAO, WFP and UNESCO.

During 2008 we also carried out a number of short term missions under the UNV Corporate/Private Sector scheme (CPS), established UNV Internships with FAO and UNESCO and received our first volunteer in Nepal from The University Volunteer Network. And at the same time we have been facilitating the recruitment of 28 Nepalese citizens going abroad as International UN Volunteers.

For 2009 we have more activities in the pipeline, including a new internship with UNICEF and several missions under the CPS scheme. As part of a UN Joint Programme we will be involved in the nation wide Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP), cooperating with the GoN's National Development Volunteer Service, and we will be continuing our collaboration with other Volunteer Sending Agencies to advocate for volunteerism and promote the concept of Volunteerism for Development.

We hope for continued fruitful relations with all volunteers, UN-agencies, Volunteer Sending Agencies, NGO's and other partners in the coming year and wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2009.

Christian Simmelkiaer, UNV Programme Officer

UNV Nepal Retreat 2008

The UNV Nepal 2008 Retreat was held from 25 – 27 September at Hotel View Bhrikuti in Godavari, Kathmandu.

25 UNV volunteers participated in the retreat which had the purpose of facilitating capacity building/knowledge enhancement of the UNVs, brief the volunteers on the UNV corporate mandate and function as a platform for sharing experiences and concerns.

The starting point for the retreat was a welcome session which followed up on various issues raised by the participants in last year's retreat. The UNDP Country Director Ms. Anne-Isabelle Degryse Bateau participated in this session along with the UNDP DRR Mr. Ghulam Isaccai. Then followed two days of intensive sessions focused on training in communications and team-building as well as preparation for the UNV Annual Report



and the celebration of the International Volunteer Day on 5 December.

The retreat ended with a briefing on the UNV corporate mandate, updates on the UNV COT activities in 2008 and discussions on various UNV administrative issues. The participants expressed great satisfaction with the programme and it was agreed to follow up with a similar event next year.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY



5th of December is the International Volunteers Day (IVD) to highlight the importance of volunteerism celebrated every year around the world. This year UNV Nepal organized various events to commemorate the special day.

In Kathmandu, a big, street cleaning campaign was held in collaboration with government bodies, local and international NGOs, and youth groups. An orphan home received visitors from UNV and a local NGO who presented books donated by numerous supporters.

In Damak, UNV and supporting agencies ran a rally and a put on a cultural performance show. A great number of the local residents participated. Here are the reports from the volunteers who took part in the special events.

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY, 2008

Street Cleaning Campaign, Kathmandu

A Street cleaning campaign took place with a specific purpose: of to raise awareness of environmental issues as well as of the importance of volunteerism.



More than 300 volunteers gathered in front of PK Campus, Bagbazaar at 7:30 am. Cleaning started with the opening remark of Mr. Robert Piper, UNDP Resident Coordinator, who managed to join this event.

Volunteers moved along the street sweeping away garbage from Bagbazaar to Ratnapark. Thanks to the collaboration among all the participants and the supporters, the busy streets of the capital city became cleared out of garbage.

The activity ended at Ratnapark followed by a ceremony staged at the garden area of the park. The ceremony started with a play performed by the street children supported by PRAYA,

local Nepali NGO. In the latter part of the ceremony, invited guest speakers delivered speeches to celebrate the remarkable day. Mr. Badri Nath Koirala representing NDVS gave his welcoming speech in Nepali followed by the Chief Guest's Speech by Mr. Janak Raj Joshi, Member-Secretary of National Planning Commission.

On behalf of UNV Nepal, UNV Programme Office for UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), Mr. Karma Loday conveyed the special message for this day from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Then, UNV Programme Officer Mr. Christian Simmelkiaer expressed many thanks to all the participants and the supporting organizations.

The campaign was successfully ended with the closing remark by a representative of Volunteer Sending Agencies, the organiser of this event.



We would like to express great appreciation for the support and contribution given by all the supporting organizations.

Visit to Buddhist Child Home

By IUNV Serena Pepino, Programme Officer, UNESCO Kathmandu

UNV Nepal organized a visit to Buddhist Child Home, an Orphanage in Jorpati, and north of Kathmandu. The idea to visit an orphanage, spending some time with some children and bringing them books to read, came up during a brainstorming session ...at the UNV retreat 2008 in Kathmandu. Ever since we discussed this, we thought it would have been an amazing idea for an activity to fully observe IVD 2008 in its giving spirit.

Through the help of some of my colleagues from UNV, UNESCO, FAO, UNDP, UNCHR, we got in touch with

READ Nepal, HimalRights, UNICEF, EQUAL ACCESS, and Nepal National Library. READ Nepal kindly offered to make a substantial contribution of material to distribute and offered a few of their volunteers to come along with us. In the end we managed to bring some DVDs, a few cassettes and quite a number of publications to the children! These were then used to expand and enrich the library and resource center of Buddhist Child Home.

The purpose of the visit was of course to distribute books and bring some refreshments to the children but most importantly to spend a few hours with them playing, getting to know them and understanding how their "home" works. For UNVs, it was a nice and impactful experience. It was amazing to see how energetic and full of life these children are! We played all sorts of games with them and talked and got to know a few of them better.

After a couple of hours playing Mr. Indra Bhujel started a small program to give the chance to the founders of BCH to tell all of us something more about BCH. I also said a few words on behalf of UNV. However the most entertaining moment was when the children all started singing and playing a local song on the "right to bloom" and when Mrs. Durga Mainali, Chairperson of BCH blessed and thanked all UNVs for their visit.

Buddhist Child Home is a well managed home which through the help of other local and international volunteers as well, puts effort to increase the well-being of the children every day. We were glad we chose it as a place to visit during IVD 2008. We were all extremely impressed by it and we all hope to manage to contribute to these children's lives sometime soon.



International Volunteer Day (IVD), Beldangi I camp, Damak **By NUNV Bimal Babu Khatri, External Relations Officer in UNHCR**

In coordination with Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the following activities were carried out to disseminate the messages on the importance of volunteerism and IVD as well as to encourage the community members towards the spirit of volunteerism.

A rally was organized in which refugees' community participated with their cultural dances and performances (Jhankis). They also carried and displayed the placards and banners containing the messages and slogans on the importance of volunteerism and the IVD.

A stage programme was held. The refugee talents presented cultural performances, songs and dances. Some of them were composed recently by themselves and focused on the importance of volunteerism. UNVs delivered the speech highlighting the importance celebration of IVD and importance of volunteerism.

The bests and other active volunteers in the refugee community were felicitated by providing prizes and token-of-love. The prizes were also distributed to the best performers of the cultural performances.

The volunteers wrote the self-expression messages in a banner hanged in front of the audience which was also read out later in the same programme to promote the volunteerism. Many volunteers including the UNVs made their expression on volunteerism in writing publicly that encouraged the audience towards the spirit of volunteerism.

The voices of the head of the agencies of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee Sub-Office Damak, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations World Food Programme WFP) and other organizations involved in the service of refugee operations as well as UNVs and refugee volunteers were recorded. Those messages were aired via local radio stations and also played at the programmes in the camps on the day.

VOICE FROM COOPERATING ORGANIZATION: December 5: A Recurring Moment **By Indra Bahadur Bhujel, Programme Office, READ Nepal**

We cleaned the street together with inter/national volunteers and organizations. With in a few hours duration the street nearby Bagbazaar and Ratna Park got cleaned. And we wished that if all streets of Kathmandu be cleaned as the same.



I was informed and coordinated by

Ms. Serena, Program officer at UNESCO Nepal. On behalf READ I promised to her to be a part of the program with some books. I thanked to her to have an opportunity to be a part of the program.

I really enjoyed being a part of the program. Serena also

requested me to take part in another PM segment of the day at Jorpati Kathmandu. When I found the people doing the work with very honesty and enthusiastically then decided to take part in the PM program too.

It was nearly 2.30 PM, my colleague Saajan Thapa and I went to Buddhist Child Home along with a number of children books from office. Mostly the guys were under thirties, played with children. The scene was remarkable because all volunteers without any hesitation and anxiety played with them. I was fascinated and overwhelmed by seeing just 2-month-

old kid sleeping at the premises and 3-4 children making her to laugh.

At the end of the program children sang a beautiful song regarding child rights which was very mind-blowing that eventually urged to do something for children.

While returning back to my residence, I smiled many times by remembering the scene with children and swamped sometimes and moreover my heart remained sour and unpleasant when the flash back came in front of me with most of the faces who lost their MOTHEOOD and AFFECTIONATE forever.

FAREWELL TO REPATRIATING VOLUNTEERS

- ⊗ Sylvie Casiulis served as Interpreter/Translator, OHCHR
- ⊗ Stefanie Gross served as Human Rights Officers, OHCHR
- ⊗ Mikyung Lee served as Women in Peace Building Officer, UNFPA
- ⊗ Anita Orvokki Etholen served as Environment Officer, UNDP
- ⊗ Walter Omondi Otieno served as Procurement Officer, UNDP
- ⊗ Jessica Schnabel served as Executive Assistant to the Representative, UNHCR
- ⊗ Annie Dumont served as Programme Officer, WFP
- ⊗ Deepa Dixit served as Senior Durable Clerk, UNHCR

Welcome to UN Volunteers Family

Charles Muwunga, Field Human Rights Officer Bunthea Keo, Field Human Rights Officer Damian Turk, Interpreter/Translator Michael Macharia, IT Officer	OHCHR
Erkki Kumpula, Program Officer Ana Abellan Fernandez, University Volunteer	FAO
Mathew Swamfield, Associate Resettlement Officer Kate Latimir, Associate Resettlement Officer Anna Earles, Associate Resettlement Officer Tara Kinch, Associate BID Officer Kopila Thapa, Administration Assistant Sangita Khatiwada, Protection Assistant	UNHCR
Chonghee Choi, Community Health Coordinator	UNFPA
Masako Yokoyama, Programme Support Associate	UNDP
Yoshie Hayakawa, Associate Programme Officer Umesh Pradhan, UNV Country Office Assistant	UNV

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