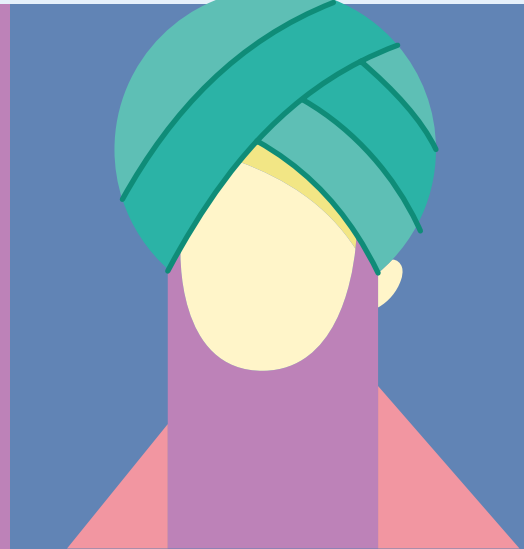
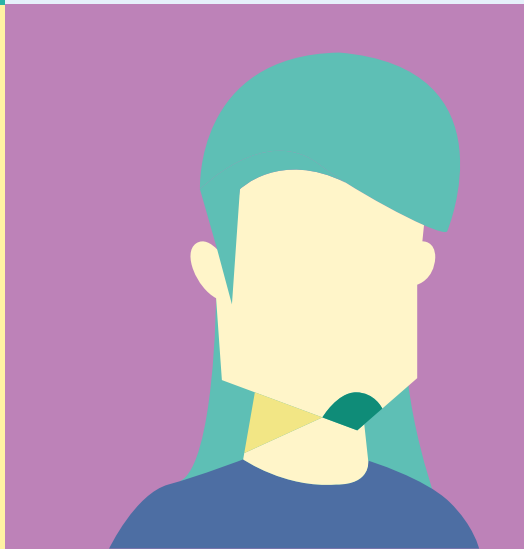
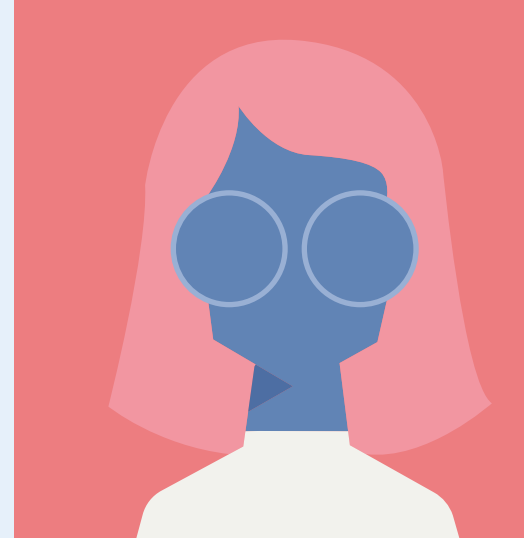


STORIES FROM
70 YEARS
OF CCIVS





CCIVS
70 YEARS
Coordinating Committee for
International Voluntary Service
1948-2018

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STORIES FROM
70 YEARS
OF CCIVS

CCIVS celebrates its 70th anniversary, 1948 - 2018

We started to collect stories from a diversity of actors who played and still play a role in this worldwide adventure.

This publication presents 33 stories.

Hopefully, this will attract more stories to share

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by Victoria LOVELOCK

COMMUNITY

Community is an important aspect of human life, this is something that in the western world has for many years been disintegrating. We have created frontiers, built walls, tried to divide and conquer not only in our own regions but around the world. For those of us who have volunteered we know that it allows us to develop critical thinking, to think of solidarity and not charity, it provides an insight into another way of living, and it provides us with a sense of a global community.

For those who can dedicate their time, the vast array of offers online can now seem daunting. All too often that question of critical thinking is not present when we look for a project - how often do people consider what the organisation is, who they are, what is their impact on the ground. What does it mean to be a grassroots organisation or a humanitarian short-term intervention programme?

Recently I attended a global meeting of volunteer organisations, I could clearly see the importance of our IVS and what we do and why people should participate in the projects offered by our members. To my way of thinking, we have the correct format - of course not all of our projects are always perfect, but our value-based system is right. CCIVS works from the bottom up. Our members are the grassroots organisations, they do what they do by conviction, for the most part, they themselves are volunteers, gathering and training thousands of volunteers, they speak the languages of the local communities where they work, they know the local needs, they offer opportunities to create community.

I had the chance this year to participate in two activities where my hands touched the Earth once again and in a volunteer context -these two events changed me, they gave me the air I needed to breathe, to see clearly the path I needed to take. One was the CCIVS Bioconstruction training in Ecuador hosted by FEVI and funded by the E+ programme and the other, thanks to SCI USA, OLCERI (The Oglala Lakota Cultural & Economic Revitalization Initiative), Tiyospaye Winyan Maka and the Indigenous Wisdom and Permaculture Skills Convergence (IWSPC), was a project in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation on Turtle Island. Apart from hands-on activities contributing to the development of the local project, there were many discussions and workshops. One of the major points was that of decolonisation, the debates were heartbreaking, but empowering. The days there were so intensely strong. The connections made on both events were beautiful.

To go back to the opportunities for volunteering, we need to use all the resources we have to get our message out, to ensure that people can have access to information about where to participate and engage and why this engagement is meaningful. I believe that CCIVS needs to put all energies on this now, to continue to unite the IVS movement and to ensure the message is shared and that it is heard.

I would like to end by thanking this IVS movement, one I have been part of for 15 years non stop, since my first EVS project run by CCIVS members Solidarités Jeunesses in their partner project in the South of France, La Croisée des Regards in 2003.

IVS did change my life, and as I mentioned just above it continues to do so, and for this reason I will defend our IVS movement and continue to work to encourage people to live this experience, to create community and to work together towards a peaceful and healthy world where everybody and everything enjoy the same rights.



by Doctor Simona COSTANZO SOW

TELLING MY CCIVS TALE

this is a story about story telling

Story telling is about giving purpose to a sequence of actions; it's about vision and values, about progress and people making a difference. CCIVS and its members have been making a difference for seven decades and there are many ways to tell the story of the global volunteer movement. Story telling weaves a narrative, which defines origins and motivations and projects the future path and direction.

So how do we tell the CCIVS story? What do we emphasize? How do we craft the narrative of its origin? Of its purpose, of its achievements, but also of its doubts and struggles? Where do we think we are coming from, where are we heading and where should we be heading after 70 years?

Is it a story about an anti-war organization? Is it a story about an organization for intercultural learning? For the environment? For social progress? Is it a tale of a youth organization? An organization engaged in skill building and non-formal education? Is it an organization fostering alternative tourism? Or is it a story of an organization working in the field of development cooperation? What do we really mean by voluntary service? And by international voluntary service more specifically? Where does volunteering end and where does it stop? What kind of things should volunteers do and what connection should their activity have with local needs and realities?

This is also a story about asking the right questions.

One could say that the CCIVS' story encompasses all of the above and could wonder why it matters which tale we tell. Yet, in the past CCIVS has often struggled with its self-definition, the subsequent image others have had of the movement and the partnerships that sprung from this self-definition. Speaking of "movement" – is it a movement or is it a network? Or is it a federation? What is the common core of a "coordinating committee" and how similar do we expect its members to be? To what extent do they need to sign up to a common core of values and ways of working when they join?

There may not be clear-cut answers to the above questions, but asking the questions is a worthwhile exercise in itself as it helps to craft a shared vision and define a path to reach it. The answer members and partners have given through its seven decades of history have varied and different facets of the above traits have been articulated more prominently depending on the composition of its membership, times, regional and political context.

When UNESCO helped create CoCo – as the Coordinating Committee was first called in 1948, it looked for a network that could help to influence the minds of human beings after a devastating war to embrace ideas of peace through education, science and culture. In fact, at the time UNESCO helped federate numerous international and national organizations to build networks fostering these three ideas. This led to

the creation of a number of global umbrella organizations related to science, music, cultural heritage, dance, philosophy and education. Volunteering was seen as a powerful way to disseminate values, foster peace and build trust among peoples after the lunacy of World War II.

CCIVS was born as an umbrella, harnessing the ability of its national and regional members around the globe to contribute to peace and development through concrete action between people from different origins and backgrounds, thus contributing to the reconstruction of relations and nations. Many years later, in 2002, when CCIVS was about to lose its offices in the UNESCO premises, the then Permanent Representative of Romania to UNESCO, Ambassador Dan Haulica reminded UNESCO member states to respect CCIVS, along with other NGOs in formal relations of association for being “the little hands of UNESCO”.

8 At the same time the founding members of CCIVS existed before the coordinating committee was created and came with diverse philosophical and cultural baggage. Ever since its beginnings, CCIVS has federated organisations of diverse inspiration. Quite a few of CCIVS’ early members came with a Christian inspiration, which some kept, while others re-interpreted the ‘c’ in their names to mean ‘cultural’. Other organisations had roots in anti-war movements and movements of conscientious objection to military service. Reconciliation and reconstruction were important driving forces for many of the European and North American members in early years. Other organizations drew their inspiration from anti-colonial movements, eager to build new, modern nations. Many early African members mobilized young people from their own countries on this basis. Several socialist youth organisations from Eastern Europe and Central Asia were part of CCIVS during the cold war period already and new organisations built their legacy on these movements when they re-emerged after the fall of the Berlin Wall in the nineties.

CCIVS’ strength – and its weakness – lies in the diversity of its members, in their inspiration and in the wealth of their approaches to making a difference in people’s lives at the local and global level. As a movement and umbrella, it needs to constantly maintain a vibrant conversation about the core values that act as gravitating force in its centre, so that it can inspire the action of its members, increase cohesion and provide opportunities for sharing knowledge and practices.

Telling the CCIVS Tale is about its past, as much as it is about its future.

by François RIBAUD

A STORY OF A MILLION STORIES

CCIVS is a story, a story of millions of international volunteers, staff, leaders, partners... who have given a hand to respond to a local community's needs; for a week, a month, a year... a life.

CCIVS is an organisation, a global body housed in UNESCO in Paris, a unique story that has helped and inspired thousands of local and regional organisations.

CCIVS is a diverse human adventure which has lasted for 70 years, five generations of executive or staff members.

CCIVS is a network, a network of networks, a coordination of NGOs; regional, international, universal.

International voluntary service (IVS) is made of actions, projects, processes and procedures, finances, contracts... based on values, personal involvement, intercultural apprenticeship, goodwill, respect...

Each IVS experience is a cultural and educational adventure, each one worth a story.

Why tell the story of all these stories that happened over so many decades?

Because, CCIVS is a grown-up body (an organisation's age is not the same as a human's). It is a human organisation that has a memory that needs not only to be reminded of the past but to be confronted by contemporary action and future trends.

Last but not least, it is because we need to empower ourselves within a broader scope than our everyday action in our organisations, emergencies, difficulties, small successes or big disasters. After nearly 100 years of international workcamps, when Peace is always such a poor little struggling thing, we need to remind ourselves what we act for.

70 years after 1948, Peace is still an idea, a dream or utopia. The planet is burning, injustice and oppression are still masters of our lives. The planet hosts 7,5 billion people, that is 3 times more than in 1948 (2,5 billion). Peace education has more to do, definitely not less.

We have to continue, to go forward, to keep on volunteering, adapting to current world trends, working on future trends. We need to fuel our action, our commitment with fresh, short, human stories.

This is why we have collected some stories to illustrate IVS, rather than writing a report. These stories are personal and subjective, they evoke memories, reflections and perceptions.

We are pleased that a number of volunteers, current or former EC members or staff have agreed to tell "their" stories. Still more stories could be added, hopefully via a story book that could soon be opened in the CCIVS web site.

So, please, read and then tell us more!



**ORGANISATIONAL
BODY
STORIES**

by Rakesh Samuel SOANS

A FIRE BURNING INSIDE

Rao CHELINAKI

Active Youth, French Student Revolt, Upset of Chilean Democracy, Lebanon Conflict, War in Vietnam, Cold War and Nuclear threat, and the Language of Peace - An interview with Mr. Rao Chelikani (former CCIVS President, 1975-1992) by Rakesh S Soans (FSL President, CCIVS Treasurer 2016-)

The first time I heard of Mr. Rao Chelikani was in Nairobi, during the CCIVS GA of 2004, my first CCIVS GA. I was very excited to hear about it from the then President, Mr. Gianni Orsini. He mentioned to me a President of CCIVS from India, who served CCIVS for many years. However, it was not until 2014, when I was elected as an EC member in Korea that I remembered Mr. Rao and started searching for him. There were no contact details or any information available at that time about Mr. Rao with which I could reach him.

Finally, after searching through the vast space of the Internet, a YouTube video popped up, mentioning Mr. Rao Chelikani as heading an organisation at Hyderabad, in South India. That is when I got my break and at last I went to meet him in person, to get his story and that of CCIVS, told from his viewpoint. I made a mistake when I planned to have just 4 hours with him! The rich knowledge he has about CCIVS history and the world in this era is immense. At the age of 78, the fire within him is still burning strong.

Mr. Rao's journey started when he was working in an organisation, Bharath Sevak Samaj (BSS) started by one of the freedom fighters and the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It was a high voltage time of nation building and the beginning of the NGO movement for the newly independent India, especially for young Indians. Armed with Humanities and Law degrees, hailing from a rural area called Pithapuram, Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Chelikani Rao set out to study Constitutional Law and to pursue a Ph.D. in International Relations and Diplomacy at Sorbonne University in Paris, and so to discover the world. He is very proud when he recollects that part of his life at CCIVS.

He says that within a few days of arriving in Paris in 1967, his Indian organisation (BSS) wanted him to contact and meet CCIVS. At that time, the office was not at the current UNESCO HQ. Since then he was associated with CCIVS until 1994. Though many of his college mates decided to join UNESCO due to the connections they had, he decided not to join UNESCO as a member of their staff. During 1968, when the French Student Revolt happened, he jumped right into it. Back in India too, he was part of the Language Agitation.

He proudly says that his decision to stay on with CCIVS as a volunteer was due to the spirit of Volunteerism - a flame kindled in him by the stalwarts of freedom fighters and the first leaders of independent India. This flame is still burning in him, even today. So he felt at home when he came to CCIVS. Even now he is a Chairman of the Board of a non-profit organisation, a

voluntary organisation working for a holistic approach to human development in all its dimensions including civil society and active citizenship.

He was the President of CCIVS for 17 years, and continued to volunteer in the Secretariat for many years. In fact he says there were very few days when he was not linked to CCIVS during the whole period up to 1994. “Though there was always the challenge of insufficient funds, the experience of meeting people and discussing subjects of such importance used to be so enriching and satisfactory; all the hardships were nothing to me. All these experiences were my education”. At a later stage, taking up representation on the Standing Committee of NGOs affiliated to UNESCO (NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee), proved the biggest opportunity and recognition for CCIVS. It gave CCIVS and its member networks the opportunity to be part of the larger NGO community around the globe.

He says he is indebted to CCIVS for having given him such an opportunity as later on he became the President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee from 1989 until 1994, which had a strong background of Civil Society right from its formation in 1948. Later on, he said, CoNGO, Geneva, which was linked with the UN, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and CCIVS (representative in the committee) could collaborate, consult and put pressure on UN policy making. He said the partnership was strong during his time and included the New York Group of NGOs.

The path was paved for NGOs to be involved in developmental work by the UN. At that time, NGOs and Civil Societies were recognised and encouraged by the UN and UNESCO. One of the supports was to provide office space for a good number of NGOs in the UNESCO building, including CCIVS.

Between 1967 and 1994 Mr Rao was always a part of CCIVS - sometimes as President, Secretary, Director, Volunteer and sometimes the only one present in the office. 1973 was his first CCIVS GC in Lebanon, and sadly that is the time when during the conference the conflict started in that country.

In 1975 he became the President of CCIVS during the GC in Panama at the time when the democratic government collapsed in Chile. Chilean youth along with other Latin American youth were invited. They were very active and passionate. From then on there was a huge exchange of long-term volunteers between Latin America and Europe. In fact the Chilean event was the wake-up of consciousness in CCIVS regarding Latin American issues at that time.

There was also the “Theological Liberation Movement” by Latin American priests. At that time good governance was the main issue for Latin American youth. He says that among the politically conscious youth of the world, Latin American youth were at the forefront in the early 1970s. Their analyses of the political situations were motivating and educative for the rest of the youth of the world.

At the same time back home in India there occurred the language uprising. Mr. Rao was recalled and left to join this movement to fight for regional language recognition. All these were third world political situations around the globe.

“The communion for me at CCIVS was Volunteering. Volunteering for Peace” says Mr. Rao. The Vietnam War, the overthrow of the democratic regime in Chile, the cold war between super powers and the accumulation of nuclear warheads all threatened the very existence of humanity and all life on earth. This was the context where CCIVS became a platform for youth from around the world. They could learn, discuss and engage actively in policy making. “It was a challenging time for youth as we were intellectually traumatised by the prospect of total annihilation of the world itself”, says Mr. Rao.

So, Peace, Peace Education, Conflict Resolution and Post Conflict Reconciliation were the main topics and concerns for CCIVS. And the leader in these facilitations was Service Civil International (SCI). Mr. Rao says on a lighter note, “At that time, I thought CCIVS and SCI was the same thing! That was the feeling in CCIVS at that time. Today, and in future, peace will be the most important factor. As the UN also has made its agenda “Peace Keeping”, in this context CCIVS was recognised as a “Messenger of Peace” in 1987, for the youth movement in the forefront of peace building.” He continues to say that CCIVS has been the fountain of Peace building and has taken the leading role in spreading Détente among European countries.

Mr. Rao represented CCIVS in a series of conferences in Finland and in other nations. He felt, being a neutral between the East European and West European governments, that he was accepted and could play a very satisfactory role during the

whole process. He played a major role in getting some of the organisations at Budapest to be part of the CCIVS EC. This gained confidence and trust among the other organisations in Eastern Europe for the process that CCIVS and SCI were following.

So, in this way CCIVS became a platform to bring youth from the East and the West together and to meet as youth and as citizens who have common aspirations in life. This could happen only when they actually met. So CCIVS along with SCI at that time were able to make it happen through exchange camps. He felt he had contributed a lot as an Indian in such a volatile and challenging environment. In fact Mr. Rao became used as a reference for other East European organisations to join CCIVS during this time, as the language that CCIVS and SCI spoke was not threatening to either side. It brought global awareness to the youth who were engaged in the process - it was the language of peace. He says East-West reconciliation was one of his major contributions at CCIVS during that time. And he wished he could have given the same energy and time for North-South collaboration, because by then the peace dividend had dried up.

Moving forward, he says, “CCIVS should continue its work and be closely involved through the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee which would give CCIVS connections and recognition in UNESCO and beyond.”

When asked to attend the 70th year celebrations he says, “I have contributed my part, now is the time for the next generation of leaders to continue the work. CCIVS should be creative and be a platform for youth to speak out their concerns and act for change. The issues may be different, but the work of CCIVS is as important now as ever.”

by Simona COSTANZO SOW

WHO IS CCIVS ANYWAY?

Working in the CCIVS Secretariat for nine years, recurrent questions come up: who is CCIVS anyway? The correct answer is: all its members through the General Assembly and Executive Committee. The short cut is: the Executive Board in collaboration with the Secretariat that implements and interprets the decisions of the GA and EC. The ultra-short cut is: the Secretariat, which provides services to members.

The correct answer reveals the potentially immense strength of a movement spanning all continents, hundreds of organisations, thousands of committed individuals and tens if not hundreds of thousands of volunteers on the ground who can inspire each other, learn from each other and develop initiatives together. The short and ultra-short cut answer reveals how it often feels when working in the Secretariat: a small group of people with little means, trying to live up to the expectations raised during assemblies, workshops and trainings.

Crafting CCIVS' narrative also means constantly telling the tale of true partnership: sharing common objectives towards which we work with different means, while sharing benefits, risks and efforts.

Only when there is a clear understanding that joining CCIVS comes with rights and duties, with a readiness to share and inspire others, while benefitting from their expertise and knowledge, will the movement be able to fully live up to its potential!

by Pierre MARTIN (CCIVS archives)

WORKCAMPS AROUND THE WORLD

1960

It was on Sunday, November 8th, that I got my first blister in a West African work camp. The Youth Department of the Government of Senegal has organised, on every second Sunday since September 20th, "Cleanliness Days (Set Setal)". Mrs. Fall, once a school Director and now the dynamic organiser of these "Days", told me that an Organising Committee - including a good number of women - would meet before every one of these "Days" (which take the form of work camps) to choose the location. Of course locations in need of cleaning up are not lacking in Dakar, mostly on account of the absence of road cleaning services in the city.

The Friday evening preceding the project, I attended a meeting of the Organising Committee, which was comprised of approximately 300 people. Zone Leaders and Team Leaders were picked and the work was divided among them. I was told at the meeting that there would be about 500 volunteers, not an unusual number it seems, at work the next day. I signed up for the camp then and there; it was something I really wanted to see with my own eyes. What I saw was a little disconcerting, in spite of all the hard work done by the Organising Committee but it seems to be a formula well adapted to the African way of doing things.

Pin-Ups and the "ton-ton's"

The meeting was fixed for 8 a.m. in front of a cinema in Dakar's Medina section. When I got there, two trucks were already there, plus a few men, Team Leaders, and six policemen. Little by little more men came along. There were firemen, Red Cross people (with DDT sprayers), and volunteer drivers for the trucks that had been lent by private companies and the town Public Works Department. Then, Mrs. Fall arrived, accompanied by four lovely ladies who worked for a while and then disappeared. In addition to these pin-ups, there was what I consider to be an indispensable element of motivation, in this case incited by the "ton-ton's" (respectful and friendly name for a senior person). They paced the work without stopping. If they went faster, we worked harder, if they slowed down, we slacked off. It was something to see-and hear!

We got to work about 8.30, everyone going off after his Team's "ton-ton". Our job was to clean out an open gutter, which luckily, was dry at the time. We divided up into four groups, two at each end of the 600 metre long gutter and one on each side of each end. We were meant to meet at the middle. There were about 100 of us, all told, not counting about 30 children who worked hard along with us, jumping down into the gutter to throw out the garbage that had collected there. They were followed by the firemen, who used a flame-thrower to kill off those weeds that might have remained and then washed the whole thing down with hoses, giving, from time to time, a free shower to one of the laughing kids. All the volunteers seemed

to be from Dakar or the surrounding area and not just from the part of town where we were working. Someone told me that at a previous camp, held in a Lebanese Quarter of Dakar, there had been quite a few inhabitants from the area who had participated. Only one Frenchman, a Minister in the Government, took part in the first few camps. That Sunday I was the only European working and several passers-by smiled and shouted “Thank you! Thank you!” to me.

The Youth Minister and a Boxing Champion

The Minister for Youth was there, and not just as a spectator. He set to work with a pick and you could see that he had some experience in that kind of work. The work of pulling up shrubs, clods of grass, etc. was pretty hard and with the exception of a few solidly built workers (like the Minister and the boxing champion of Senegal), the volunteers relieved one another. Usually, the work camp would last all day Sunday, cut only by the noon meal, which the girls would prepare. On the Sunday that I was working, the day had been planned to stop at noon because of various sporting events that were taking place that afternoon. As it turned out, however, we didn’t finish our particular job until 2:15.

I should say, that in spite of a half-hour break that I took to have a look at some of the other Teams, the preceding two hours seemed hard to me, especially since I’d forgotten my hat and there hadn’t been a hint of shade. In one of the villages that I had visited (another Team was working there), I was told that the Youth Department of Senegal was thinking of going forward with a second stage in their work camp programme. “Cleanliness Days” would be continued but, at the outset, some of the volunteers would be diverted to construction activities. For example, I saw four or five young men, surrounded by a crowd of curious onlookers, making cement blocks for a youth centre. I hope that the second stage will be as successful as the first has been.



by Paul OSBORN

CO-CO

where game-changers go to grow

Like you, I can wax eloquent about CoCo, peace and a resilient civil society. And about its leads in ideas and action, way beyond the early conviviality of workcamps. Yes, we volunteers permeate throughout society to be its game-changers.

For me, in the 60s of my teens, CoCo was more than a window on the world I was joining. It was a gateway, a doorway, a portal and a path. It linked the Wuthering Heights of a fragile global system with the weathering might of grassroots sweat and tears for change.

We met, CoCo and I, as I emerged bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and 1% world-savvy from my village. I'd bounced through the peace movement (boycotting my cadet-soldier schooldays, writing in Peace News) and Young Oxfam (the office boy), then volunteering at home with IVS/UNAIS, SCI in Europe and VSO in Algeria, studying it all in Canterbury.

I came of age with CoCo. It all happened so quickly. In 1969, a CCIVS conference in Denmark of we workcamp administrators pooled our admin and enhanced communication: one London morning, 100 Yugoslav volunteers had arrived unannounced, expecting workcamps! CCIVS sorted it. In 1970, I honed my publishing skills on two CoCo books with Action for Development-FAO: 'Involve' for long-term 'Northern' volunteers in the Global South, and 'And Now' for their return to disrupt the industrial society whence they came.

To leverage change amid a then over-polluting, over-consuming North was one desired effect of volunteering. In the South, another paradigm was shifting. The 1973 CCIVS General Assembly in Tema, Ghana, questioned the role of export volunteers, feeding my own impatience to reshape the UNAIS I would later lead. Worldwide, CoCo and FAO did the earthwork in 1974(?) with 'The participation of local volunteers in rural development in Africa: a luxury or necessity?' by Maxime Rafransoa, my cover design dramatising the dilemma. Familiar?

Anna, Archie, Arthur, Bruno, David, Frank, Glyn, Max, Nigel and so many more. Thankee.

CoCo, mon amour. Always knew you could ;-)

Bonne continuation!

by Franck JUDD

CCIVS ON THE BRINK OF 70s

This was a very interesting time at which to be President of CCIVS. In Arthur Gillette we had an inspired and visionary leader with indispensable backing from UNESCO. It was exciting in the midst of the Cold War, Vietnam and Biafra, to have a group of organisations from both West and East bringing together especially younger people with a common commitment to serving humanity across frontiers. At a time of such stark confrontation, to be doing this on an East/West basis was vitally important. It provided a means of keeping at least some bridges open. A close cousin of mine met his future Czech wife at an East/West workcamp. I have just been to visit them and their talented Scottish/Czech family at their home in Scotland. There are many other similar examples. I still constantly encounter people in interesting and responsible professions who have vivid memories of their experiences and what they learned from them.

In August 1968 I represented “Co-Co” (as CCIVS was affectionately known) at the International Youth Festival in Prague. It was an amazing and intoxicating atmosphere with a pervading sense of liberation. But I came back to London deeply troubled. It seemed to me that it was too good to be true and that the Russians would be bound to intervene. Had the fine and courageous leader, Dubcek, gone too far? Would it all provoke a grim set back? Two weeks later the Russian tanks rolled into Prague. I prayed that all the spirit of genuine, vitalising international solidarity would not be totally extinguished. The years that followed were harsh.

In an age of Putin, Trump, Brexit and resurgent myopic xenophobia and hatred, the objective that CCIVS tried to convey in the 1960s remains at least as relevant as ever!



by Benny DEMBITZER

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF CCIVS

1962-63

I started being interested in the issues and challenges of voluntary service back in my university days, 1959-62. The organisation that attracted me was the UN Association, which had a branch at university and I joined it and was active in it. One of their many different activities was a voluntary service that was meant to attract people to work for short periods of time in what we called workcamps, namely places where people from different backgrounds and nationalities would be able to mix and get to know one another, whilst at the same time they would also render some services to the local community.

UNA International Service (UNAIS) had been created by an incredible bloke called Robin Howard. He had been I think an airman in the war and had been shot down and having lost his legs walked on sticks. He had been involved with CCIVS as he had represented UNAIS on the Committee. At some stage in early 1963 Glyn Roberts had asked Robin if he knew of anyone who could start a newsletter on long-term voluntary service. CCIVS had received some money to launch a sort of monthly review of who was doing what across Europe in the field of long-term voluntary service. This was the new title given to the secondment of different people from rich countries to work in other parts of the world. It had received a boost from the visit of JF Kennedy to Europe, when he had invited other nations in Europe to launch programmes similar to his own Peace Corps, just born in the US.

The good President had never known perhaps that not only VSO had been created a few years before, but that IVS itself had been doing this sort of work in India from the mid-30s onwards. I applied to join CCIVS to become the editor of this newsletter. My main qualifications were that I spoke French and Italian and was reasonably unattached.

I started in April 1963. We were in one room in a building belonging to UNESCO, at number 6 Rue Franklin. In our same building were the International Association of Libraries and the International Association of Museums. All their employees were terribly serious and terribly pompous. We were, quite clearly, the riffraff – living at the ground floor. CCIVS consisted of Glyn Roberts, Arthur Gillette and myself.

I had to read dozens and dozens of cyclostyled newsletters from all over the place. Everyone was in the process of creating their own parallel programmes, all copying one another. The Germans were particularly keen to know what we were hearing from different places, whom we were writing to and whom we were meeting. Their concerns were very strongly political. Germany was then divided into the Federal Republic, which was obviously pro-West, and the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR) which was part of the Soviet Block. But all of them suspected us; we regularly got complaints that we were pro-Soviet because we had done this or that or the other. But we tried to remain impartial. Serious complaints would have endangered our relationship with UNESCO, which was our landlord.

Paris was a difficult place to live in, especially if you were paid very little, as the three of us were. It was the time of the revolt of Algeria, when De Gaulle, French President, was in danger of being overthrown. The gendarmes with their repeater guns were everywhere and very nasty to young men in particular. It was the time when many young Algerians and Moroccans would be just killed by the gendarmes and their bodies thrown in the Seine. No questions were asked. The French government had started two sorts of programme:

- » one which was for genuine voluntary civil (as opposed to military) service by young French people,
- » and the other, which was military service clothed in civilian uniform. We were involved a bit with this because there was a very good and active French group of Service Civil International (SCI).

SCI France was a genuine alternative to military service. De Gaulle had dictated that a small number of people could be allowed every year to be genuine Objecteurs de Conscience - not too many - and SCI was their natural home.

Most of the time the work consisted of visiting the different organisations across the continent where such projects were being launched, including Belgium, the Netherlands, and – I do not remember very clearly if it was at the time or later on – even Luxembourg. The best bodies were the Scandinavian countries, because they genuinely wanted their schemes to succeed. In Sweden in particular the Quakers were active in this form of

service and I remember being invited to talk and work with a group of young people, most of them Quakers, in the summer of 1963. We spent some 2 weeks in the mountains North of Fredrikstad, in SW Norway, in a village called Bakkebo. Young men and women were working in creating roads in the village. In those days in Norway people with what we now would call mental handicap or learning disabilities would be chemically castrated. This meant that they became incredibly muscular and strong. We were working with them and creating village paths. Men who had been trained by the army into handling explosives would blow up the boulders and then we would come along and use the smaller pieces of rock to create the paths. In the evenings we would have discussions about what it meant to be a volunteer, about helping others, about the very concepts of a community. Glyn Roberts had written a little book and we used that as our bible, literally discussing a different section every evening.

At some stage in the summer of 1963 David McNeil, a young American joined us. I think he might have been doing a Peace Corps service or might have been sent from some Quaker organisation. He thought that he was to be the editor of this newsletter, so there was inevitably some conflict. But we are still in touch, some 60 years later. Then another young American, Sandy Bertoli, joined up and again I am from time to time in touch with her.

Later on that summer, in September, I spent some 2 weeks

working in camps that had been set up by the UN Association and the High Commissioner for Refugees in Austria. We were creating the foundations for a village for refugees, many of them from Hungary, who had fled in 1956 after the rebellion in Hungary against the Soviets and which had caused a huge influx of refugees across the whole of Europe. Again, we would spend the day working and then in the evenings we would talk about the problems of the world and not solving very much. But at the end of the day, you do not start wars against people whose addresses are in your notebooks.

The winter of 1963 was dominated by the impending annual conference that was to be held in Linz, again in Austria. A terribly nice Pole joined us at that stage to organise the conference. I left the CCIVS in Linz in 1964 and returned to England.

I had a great experience at CCIVS. I was often brought in to translate between visiting groups from the UK, including Frank Judd the Secretary of IVS, whose only language was English; he became a life-long friend and I am also still in touch with him. The Italians came from time to time. Most of the participants were the American organisations, from the Quakers and the Mennonites, who all had strong traditions of opposing military service and all were pacifists. Obviously, the whole effort was one of containing the expansion of the Russians. We did not know it, but we were pawns in the much greater game – of making sure that the ideas emanating from the West, and in

particular from the US, would dominate the world's view and ultimately the political agenda. I do not think that we realised it, but with the benefit of hindsight, I still think that we were doing the right thing. Our ideas – the ideas of the West – were far more worthy of respect than those that were emanating from the Eastern European bloc.

The world has become far more open. We were then operating in a far more simplistic system.



by Glyn ROBERTS

YOUNG BLOOD IN CREATIVE CHAOS SECRETARIAT

CCIVS secretariat 1961-63

1961

Arrived 11th April 1961. Young, with an exciting new job based at a prestigious United Nations agency. April in Paris – a dream come true! Parts of this dream were indeed wonderful. The romantic Seine with its bridges, bouquinistes along the quays and splendid buildings on either bank, the Quartier Latin, threaded by intriguing narrow streets alive with students. Exhilarating Paris, with its parks, boulevards, gardens, small cafés filled with chic women and, yes, chestnuts in blossom. One slight disappointment was to learn that the fine UNESCO building at Place Fontenoy did not house our little office. Instead, we had the ground floor of a nondescript block in a very ordinary street, two miles away at 6, rue Franklin, near the Passy Metro station.

My first two days in the office of the Coordinating Committee, I spent with Larry Johnston, a taciturn volunteer about to return home to the USA, and then I was largely on my own. I went from filing cabinet to cabinet, reading up the minutes of earlier committee meetings, trying to understand the finances, trying to grasp our future work commitments. Apparently, we were expected to set up a world conference of workcamp organisers every two years, prepare for Executive Committee meetings every three months, publish each spring a vast list of all workcamps due to be run that summer, run training courses for workcamp leaders in different continents, edit a quarterly newsletter, “Workcamps Across the World”, promote understanding and cooperation between associations in East and West Europe, speak up for voluntary service principles within the United

Nations and further UN values within the volunteer sector. I say “we”, because a new American was due to join me in the early autumn, a chap by the name of Arthur Gillette. He had already worked at the CCIVS as a conscientious objector doing his alternative to military service in the U.S.A. and I eagerly awaited his arrival. In the meanwhile, I was to hold the fort, with help from a short-term assistant and a few irregular volunteers.

After some months my counterpart arrived – Arthur – with his John F. Kennedy good looks and a huge personal commitment to volunteering. We hit it off immediately, sharing the same sense of humour, the same enthusiasm, the same readiness to give the CCIVS the best we could. Undaunted by the many tasks ahead and the limited money to do them with, and in view of our minimal pay, we gave ourselves fancy job titles.

So what was this lifestyle? ‘Creative chaos’ best describes the state of our office. We had a constant coming and going of volunteer helpers and visitors, a dozen projects running at any one time, the duplicator spewing out tens of thousands of workcamp lists – to the strains of Bartok, Bach or Blues – amorous courtships and violent arguments went on between the filing cabinets. If you liked this (and not everyone did) you gladly worked all hours of the day and night. Time did not matter; this was not a job but a life. And we could act and act fast, in contrast to the ponderous bureaucracy of UNESCO that gave us official shelter. A new idea at eleven could be thrashed out by two, on stencil by three and in the post to our seventy-five members by

five-thirty. Whatever else slowed down the CCIVS in those days – the lack of funds, poor communications with member groups in Africa and Asia, arguments about a rapprochement between East and West Europe – we at the secretariat were enormously productive.

What do I mean ‘on stencil’? Each spring, we turned out 3,000 copies of our workcamps listing, thirty pages thick, on an ancient ink duplicator. This was long before the time of photocopying and much more laborious. First, each individual page needed typing onto a floppy wax-covered stencil rather bigger than an A4 sheet of paper. A small error could be corrected by painting it over with liquid wax on a tiny brush, letting it dry and then re-typing; but a bigger mistake meant tossing away the stencil and starting all over again.

Each finished stencil was then draped round the inky cylinder of our duplicating machine and clamped tight. Next, we loaded a couple of hundred sheets of duplicating paper and pressed the ‘On’ button. Ideally, black text then appeared on each sheet, with the paper remaining blank beneath any un-typed parts of the stencil. In practice, stencils ripped, ink got everywhere, paper jammed or the duplicator span round like a mad thing, snatching each sheet and spitting it out with bewildering speed. We were well into our second year before we spotted that the old-timer was meant to run on 110 Volt electricity, while power at 6, rue Franklin was the modern 230 Volts.

Once all 45,000 sheets had been printed and 3,000 copies of pages 1 & 2 were stacked on a desk top, we piled 3,000 copies of pages 3 & 4 next to them, and so on. With one desk top full, we started on the next until we had fifteen piles each of 3,000 sheets. Then began the weary job of walking round the stacks, collecting one sheet from each until we had a complete document. Next, we had to staple it, slide it into an envelope, seal this and write an address on it. Finally, put on a stamp of the correct value according to its destination. 3,000 times. (If you find it tedious to read this description – just imagine how it felt to do the job itself.) But we helped to pass the hours by singing along to American hill-billy music or the chansons of French guitarist Georges Brassens – whose lyrics combined ironic social commentary with delightful tunes. I saw him once, live, at a theatre in Paris and lamented that the U.K. had no one to match his particular talents.

During this time, we wrote 2,000 personal letters and travelled over 30,000 miles to various conferences and meetings – mostly by train. We ran a World Conference deep in the jungle of central Cameroon, two Continental Training Projects, a seminar at the World Youth Festival in Helsinki and prepared fifteen committee meetings for the CCIVS itself.

As a world coordinating centre for the workcamp movement, our office came as a disappointment to some. They expected smooth professionals in smart suits, diplomatic gravity, certain privileges and comforts, and they found none of it. Our Coordinating Committee and its staff worked in the volunteer tradition, with all the strengths and weaknesses that implied. Our approach reflected the values of work-camping itself, along

1962

lines that were non-national, amateur rather than professional, frugal, egalitarian and democratic.

In the spring of 1962, Arthur and I had to arrange a world conference for workcamp organisers and were delighted that a member-group in the central African country of Cameroon invited us to hold this gathering at the town of N'kpwang, close to Sangmélina a hundred miles or so south of the capital. The president of this workcamp group, Monsieur Gaston Medou, had told us that a purpose-built conference centre was nearly complete. We would be the first to use it, and it would then become a wonderful community education resource for the whole area. It sounded fabulous, exotic, in the pioneering spirit, and the Coordinating Committee gave us the go-ahead.

But even in the capital city, Yaoundé, as our 25 delegates boarded a hired bus and drove south on the red-earth Sangm lima road, we were told to expect complications. Four hours later we passed under a huge banner stretched across the road proclaiming “BIENVENUS A LA 13^{ème} CONFERENCE MONDIALE DE L'UNESCO” (which our small gathering most certainly was not) and rumbled into N'kpwang – a village of thatched mud and concrete block huts, steaming in the sun after a tropical downpour. We bumped off the main road onto a building site, passing a pile of unopened cement bags, clearly rock hard, stacked in the red mud. The centrepiece of the site was an assembly room, without doors or windows, but with a cement floor and roofed with corrugated iron sheets. Around it were several smaller barrack blocks of the same materials and at the same level of readiness for our conference participants.

Washing facilities were of a similar state of readiness, and one of the first practical jobs for participants was to use broad teak planks to construct rudimentary toilet screens. During our week-long conference, birds would fly in and out of the window spaces and inquisitive monkeys observed proceedings from window sills and roof struts. All discussion paused while afternoon downpours thundered on the corrugated roof.

Despite the crazy setting, and perhaps even helped by it – the need to improvise at every stage, our interpreters giving simultaneous translations via an ancient amplifier and heavy Bakelite headphones (for a ‘sound-proofed studio’, each sat under a large cardboard box) – the participants bonded and worked hard to make the conference a success. Food was always tasty, so long as one did not dwell on the nature of the forest “bush meat” – anything, from monkey to rat. The villagers of N'kpwang also helped in many ways and one afternoon challenged the conference to a football match, both sides to play barefoot. Given the torrid heat and high humidity, I reckon we didn't do badly to lose 13-0. The Foreign Minister of Cameroon attended our closing ceremony, and a Russian youth organisation presented him with a large model of a Sputnik, ‘on behalf of the 13th Conference of Work Camp Organisations’ – to the deep annoyance of various US participants.

One of my responsibilities during the summer of 1962 was to prepare and run a programme at the World Youth Festival in Helsinki – motto: “FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP” – with 18,000 participants from 137 countries. The CCIVS was divided as to whether we should take part – some German and Dutch workcamp organisations were very against, seeing the Festival as an unashamedly Communist propaganda exercise, while the British & American Quakers and Service Civil International spoke up for our strengthening East-West relations. As a compromise, they decided to send me as a single representative of the Committee. I was to take absolutely no part in political debates or manifestations and to keep a very low profile.

Low, that is, until – the event being over – we took advantage of free rail transport taking Festival participants from Helsinki, via Leningrad, to Warsaw – a full 24 hour journey. The train stopped at every blessed station, where town officials, youth representatives and brass bands waited patiently beneath red flags and banners to greet Festival participants and present them as they emerged from the carriages with flowers, ribbons and badges – all celebrating youth, socialism and Peace & Friendship. Speeches were made, bands played, and after ten minutes the train would pull out – only to coast to a stop again twenty minutes later for a repeat performance.

We changed trains in Warsaw for the ancient town of Kazimiercz and then went by bus through the evening gloom to visit an East-West workcamp that the CCIVS had special hopes for – “a practical example of co-operation by young people from different political backgrounds”. I was to evaluate it and rather hoped to prepare a glowing report. The bus dropped us off in thick mist

by a single street lamp and disappeared. We were alone. As our eyes adjusted to the gloom, we made out the dark forms of buildings that proved to be the work camp centre.

Next morning, we marched along with the volunteers, through the mist, turned off the main road and eventually stopped – in the middle of nowhere. We unloaded picks and shovels from the barrows and headed off in one direction or the other until each person was nearly out of sight of the next – my fellow Sigyn a darkish shape thirty metres away. Then we began. Instructions were simple: clear the ditch and throw the earth away from the road into a field. Around noon, we ate sandwiches, then carried on till four.

On the way back, I asked a girl from Czechoslovakia and a lad from Spain about our road – where did it lead to, why was the work needed? They answered, ‘Don’t know. It just disappears into the mist.’ And at base camp, I could get no explanation. There were no plans, no sketch maps. After our evening meal the volunteers chatted quietly; a few gathered round as Sigyn and I described what a workcamp should be like, properly prepared and led in a democratic, imaginative spirit. But this project had only a few days left to run, and the volunteers just wanted to get away. It was the worst workcamp I ever came across, before or since.

1963

The early 1960s saw a major change in the nature of international volunteering. Up till then, most youth volunteer work had occurred in workcamps lasting two or three weeks – and this system continued for decades afterwards. But President John Kennedy then inspired several generations of Americans to think in terms of serving abroad, in the so-called developing countries, for two years or more. In fact, this formula had been successfully pioneered by several non-governmental organisations such as the British-based Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), but the U.S. government initiative was on a vastly greater scale. It was a programme soon to be copied by the French, the Germans, the Japanese, the Dutch, the Canadians and a number of other countries.

Much of the year I spent corresponding with the CCIVS member organisations in the Third World, and their reports were increasingly critical of the new wave of volunteering. We tried to organise a conference for sending organisations to raise these criticisms and to get the concept of long-term volunteer service brought under the United Nations, but our efforts collapsed. The CCIVS was seen as too radical by Western governments, and anyway, they wanted their own programmes for their own ends.

We then asked the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust in York if it would sponsor me on an 18 month survey of volunteers in Africa and Asia and the Trust agreed.

December was extraordinarily busy, with much to do before I flew to Algeria early in January. Arthur, too, was to leave CCIVS, to begin work in the Youth Division of UNESCO. We finished off all the tasks we could and handed over to a new fellow, Benny Dembitzer. Benny – who had experienced the horrors of Nazi imprisonment as a child – had a seething volcano of energy burning within him.

Christmas came. I cleared my desk at rue Franklin and said goodbye to the many friends I had made in Paris, and headed back to spend the festive season with my parents in Manchester, inviting Arthur to join us, as he had done the year before.

A week or two later, I flew out to Algeria to begin my survey of long-term volunteers in twenty countries of Africa and Asia.

... to be continued.

by Cedric MEDLAND

IVS NETWORK

One of the things that I most enjoyed about working with and for CCIVS was that it allowed co-operation and information sharing between the different international organisations based in Europe.

The scale of the task was revealed when in late 1992 the Alliance of European Voluntary Organisations decided to hold a joint technical meeting with the successor communist partner NGOs of the Soviet International Voluntary Service for Solidarity and Friendship for Youth (SIVSAJ), through combining the Alliance 1993 Technical Meeting (TM) with the exchange co-ordination meeting organised by the GATE secretariat of Service Civil International. This was the bright idea of myself for UNA Wales and Philippe Duvert of Concordia when our organisations were members of the Alliance Executive Committee.

We had no idea of how difficult this would be.

The first European peace networks using voluntary service were founded after the First World War, in particular SCI (1920) and Christian Movement for Peace (CMP 1923). It was after 1945 that they assumed their institutional form as continent-wide branch structures co-ordinating international volunteer exchanges. International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE) was founded in 1949 in the USA. ICYE found a natural home in Europe where the need for international reconciliation and reconstruction was paramount.

In the European Communist states government youth and voluntary organisations were founded in imitation of the Soviet Union's Komsomol. The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) was founded in 1945 and in 1969 WFDY formed SIVSAJ. The 1940s and 1950s also saw the founding of numerous independent national associations in western Europe. In 1982 after a decade of negotiations the Alliance of West European Voluntary Service Organisations was created as a purely technical platform in which the members retained complete autonomy.

In response to the 1968 youth risings the Council of Europe, founded back in 1948, launched the European Youth Foundation in 1972. The EYF established the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg (and later Budapest) for training youth activists in international seminars. The EYF funded new youth exchanges, conferences, and training. It allowed the European IVS networks to establish professional secretariats. SCI created a Bonn based secretariat called GATE to co-ordinate 'east-west' exchanges between the SCI branches and the SIVSAJ members.

Philippe Duvert and I believed there was a paradox in an international peace movement with a common ideology of international solidarity and a common methodology of volunteer projects operating in almost completely separate exchange structures and regarding each other with rather tribal instincts as competitors when we should be working in a common cause.

Such was the lack of inter-network co-operation in 1992 that the Alliance and SCI managed instead of an Alliance/GATE meeting to combine the internal Technical Exchange Meeting (TEM) of the SCI European branches hosted by SCI Germany with the Alliance Technical Meeting hosted by IJGD in a youth hostel in Bonn in 1993. The GATE meeting was still planned to be at Poznan in Poland on the same dates! The combined TEM and TM was a huge error as the SCI branches and Alliance members had no mutual exchanges with a few exceptions where Alliance members were also SCI 'partners'.

When Philippe and I arrived it quickly became apparent that most of the staff and volunteers of SCI Germany and IJGD regarded each other with intense hostility – their organisations were rival bidders for public funding from the Bonn and regional German governments. The meeting was like a disastrous wedding or a segregated social event in apartheid South Africa. There were even separate coffee urns provided by the youth hostel, one labelled 'SCI' and one 'IJGD'.

Philippe and I did our best to mingle and break the ice in the coffee breaks, transgressing the lines of segregation by talking to the SCI people and drinking the SCI coffee. In a gesture of solidarity we had invited a Dutch member of the Steering Committee of Christian Movement for Peace to attend. He met a level of prejudice and being a bit crazy graffitied one of the public rooms. I heard that the graffiti was cleaned off by a joint team of IJGD and SCI Germany people working in grim silence!

Towards the end of this disastrous experiment an exhausted contingent of former SIVSAJ partners arrived from Poznan on the aged GATE bus. (The CCIVS General Conference in Moscow that January had allowed us to concoct this improvised solution.) Phillipe and I concluded that the youth hostel would never want us back. Our effort seemed to have been a disaster.

Nevertheless, in the later 1990s the European Union's interest in volunteering brought the European networks together to co-operate in Brussels through the 'Steering Group', later the secretariat of the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO), which designed the 20 year successful EU funded 'European Voluntary Service' which continues now as the 'European Solidarity Corps'.

The Alliance emerged as the largest international structure by the late 1990s as it was joined by the successor NGOs of SIVSAJ and the Alliance Technical Meeting has become the global forum for short term international volunteer exchanges. Christian Movement for Peace, renamed Youth Action for Peace in 1994, died in 2008. As with SIVSAJ the national successor organisations of CMP-YAP gravitated to the Alliance. Now only SCI and ICYE remain as separate global exchange structures but thanks to joint CCIVS projects they and their global branches and the independent national organisations worldwide are working together in ways unimaginable from the time of that first disastrous meeting in Bonn.

I have a dream that one day it will be possible for volunteers to be placed in the projects of all the CCIVS members regardless of the political origin of their sending organisations. Just as scientists seek for a 'unified field theory' I wish for a global international exchange network.

The European networks still make sense in the way that they set standards but I think the future is global and I believe the future lies in CCIVS. My hope is that CCIVS will continue to bring us all together into a united voluntary movement for global progress.

by François RIBAUD

COULD YOU BELIEVE IT

20 years auditing CCIVS's accounts!

When you arrive somewhere, you usually get a first impression.

When I joined my first CCIVS meeting (Kpalime, Togo, hosted by Astovoct) in 1990, I was welcomed to work straight on some of the Executive's issues I knew very little about. The major thing that struck me, was the lack of content in the accounts and financial report. Not that I was an expert, but my practice at grassroots level (I love this IVS expression), gave me a sense a pragmatism and of logic and I was struck dumb by CCIVS's figures.

In small and medium-sized organisations, accounts and finances always look strange to common sense or normal people. Financial reports are not that funny. Worse, they are intimidating, they provoke anxiety.

Later, when hosting a CCIVS EC meeting in my local rural area (Thiezac, Cantal, Auvergne, France), including a first UNESCO World Heritage exchange, with the withdrawal of the expected candidate (a quite reasonable fellow), I proposed myself for the Internal Auditor position. The next GA, 1993 in Moscow (January in Russia!), nominated me. My mandate ended 20 years later at the 2012 GA in Mexico.

During this period (1992-2012), CCIVS changed its culture on finance and accounting. It had too. It took years. Not because of a lack of responsibilities or collective intelligence, but because all organisations had to, NGOs, Sponsors ... and UNESCO. The fall of the Berlin Wall changed the UN bodies' priorities and

led to the millennium strategies. Collaterally, the increased number of European Union programmes targeting transnational organisations (International, European, multilateral ...) brought new opportunities in some cases, but also new rules.

On one hand you have to reorganise accounting procedures to present "clear and true" accounts so that members can act as members (it is called democracy). On the other hand you have to learn from the sponsor's officers, who were also learning, how to deal with generations of project reporting and grant management. To put it simply, the more professional and transparent you are for your members, the less efficient and comprehensible you were for your partners.

Many members suffered from such changes. Directors had to learn not to travel with different currencies while visiting projects. Host or partner organisations had to wait months (years) to get refunded. EC members and staff met the same problems. Active member organisations were very supportive. Some made loans.

Now, the accounting has been under control for a decade, and project management is improving. Funders are securely retained thanks to the Secretariat's huge work. CCIVS has contracted one external accountant. A new funding system was made, covering membership fees and the solidarity fund. Some foundations were contacted (mostly in Asia).

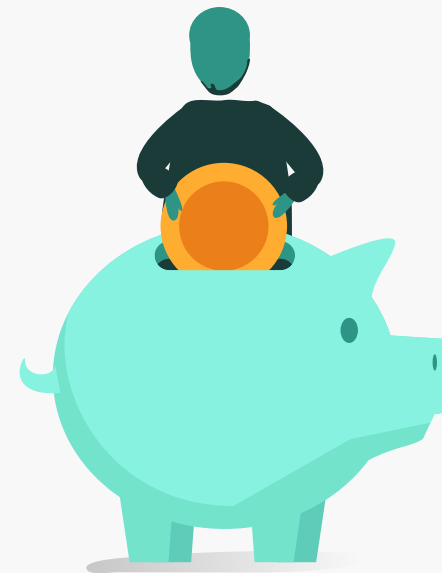
The CCIVS's bank was, and still is, supportive. They never closed the account during the tough times.

As is common with finances, this story is not a funny one.

But this is quite a happy achievement, and this was a rich (sic) time: we learned a lot. I did personally. We found ways, even though the old CCIVS people say that CCIVS is always running after money, with many projects and in a tiny office (that is indeed very small).

CCIVS is now (much) better structured for finances. CCIVS has clear and true accounts. Even if... the organisation is always short of money, with many projects, and in a tiny office (but a new one in 2018).

So, 20 years is not that long a commitment, when dealing with such a topic in an intercultural and worldwide body.





REGIONAL STORIES

by Nigel WATT

AFRICA BIT

At a workcamp in Germany in 1955 I met the first African volunteer to come to a camp in Europe, Ben Korley from Ghana. Twenty years later, working for IVS, I met James Makoetla who failed in his attempts to start volunteer associations but soon afterwards IVS was able to help support the creation of the workcamp associations in Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland (now eSwatini). Volunteer exchanges (known as “Boleswa”) between these three were the forerunner of Southern Africa Workcamps Cooperation (SAWC).

IVS also supported Gerson Gu-Konu who was instrumental in founding UWAVWA, the regional structure for the West African associations. This structure included associations in Ghana, Togo, Nigeria and Sierra Leone – and at times also Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Benin and The Gambia. It has suffered at times from misunderstandings between the French and English speakers in the region and from a constant shortage of funds. Francis Donkor of VOLU Ghana became the first (and only) African Director of CCIVS. The West African structure had a relaunch at a CCIVS seminar in 2007 as the West Africa Voluntary Association Network (WAVAN) but despite Kola Aganran’s dynamism it remains fairly weak.

After I became director of CCIVS in 1992, Arthur Gillette, a great friend of volunteering who was by now head of UNESCO’s youth division, procured UNESCO funding for two training events in 1993, the first in Lesotho and the second in Namibia to which we invited potential voluntary service leaders from different countries. Outstanding pioneers who attended these seminars

created new workcamp associations which still survive: Innocent Katsiga founded the Zimbabwe Workcamps Association (ZWA) – and he later became a Vice President of CCIVS - and Manuel de Araujo founded AJUDE in Mozambique. Henry Kabula founded ZAVWA in Zambia.

The Southern Africa Workcamps Cooperation was inaugurated at the CCIVS conference in Berlin in 1993 led by Innocent, Henry and Manuel, along with Thabo Marekimane from Lesotho. For a time the Quaker Peace Centre in Cape Town had a coordinating role. A new association has since been established in South Africa, led by Enock Pedze whose enthusiasm dated from his attendance in a seminar run by CCIVS in Zimbabwe. SAWC has recently revived thanks to the enthusiasm of Ratherford Mwaruta who had run ZWA since the sad early death of Innocent Katsiga.

The Eastern Africa Workcamps Association (EAWA) Network was also established in 1996 led by Samuel Waddimba of the Uganda Pioneers Association (also a Vice President of CCIVS), Stuart Semakula of Uganda Volunteers for Peace, Oneka Munanairi of KVDA Kenya and Ben Mongi of UVIKIUTA Tanzania with other members from Burundi, Kenya and Uganda. It has also managed to function quite well and has shared some activities with SAWC. It has also pioneered a Caravan project in which volunteers move between and work in the four countries.

In 1997 CCIVS got a grant from UNESCO for a project to try to

revive voluntary service in Liberia, where a civil war began in 1989. The Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) was a member of CCIVS which had stopped its activities when the war broke out. Now the country was beginning to recover and the grant enabled us to run a training workcamp to help revive FLY. I was joined by three experienced volunteers to run the project, Abdulai Kargbo from the Voluntary Workcamps Association of Sierra Leone, Mustapha from VOLU Ghana and Kwam from Astovot, Togo. Our project was to paint and clean up a school which had been occupied by displaced persons during the war. FLY never did much to develop youth workcamps but in 2005 it revived many activities and is now a major player in Liberian civil society.

Another way in which CCIVS has worked closely with African members is through UNESCO World Heritage Volunteers. As Director I helped plan the project at the historic sites on Mozambique Island and I have been present at the sacred grove, Kenya and in northern Togo and at Victoria Falls in Zambia. There have been other projects in Uganda and Nigeria.

My dream today is to be able to establish a Pan African youth volunteer exchange and we now have a working group of African volunteer leaders working to try to achieve this.



by Oneka MUNANAIRI

DEBUT IN VOLUNTEERING

at prime age with nostalgia

Aged 19 years old, a Kenyan was invited on a volunteer exchange programme to Denmark in 1992. It was the first time he was getting out of his motherland, to a foreign country and this was the most memorable time of his life as the atmosphere was pregnant with expectations.

He was lucky to have a direct flight from Nairobi to Copenhagen on an 8-hour trip that was amazing with the terrific speed of the aircraft that was heading to the presumed land of plenty although to him he had read horrifying stories about the North and his worldview certainly was informed by the misconceptions, stereotypes that painted rosy images. To his relief he was met on arrival at Copenhagen by Denmark who was his host with pomp and circumstance.

Kenya was certain that Copenhagen was heaven on earth and his first impression at the airport confirmed his primary expectations.

Kenya couldn't contemplate the truism in the information received from the sending organization in Nairobi that Northern world was not heaven on earth as many people were wont to believe as the mass media was awash with images that portrayed the North gloriously to the point of making majority of young people from the South to yearn to take the next flight to the stratosphere.

Kenya met Uganda, Senegal, France, Greece, Spain, Germany and Netherlands in Denmark and this was the beginning of the experience and it really disappointed Kenya to note that life in Copenhagen was never a bed of roses as every human being encountered was at every turn struggling to survive and earn a living under pressure and extreme circumstances.

Kenya wondered why the mass media was awash with news of aid given to the Southern world when some of the circumstances witnessed in Copenhagen begged for more support for the poorest in their society, the homeless and beggars who survived on charity, as this image had been hidden from majority of people in his homeland.

Kenya, Uganda and Senegal couldn't understand their new environment for the 4 months exchange programme and they raised issue with their first-hand experience and wondered why the majority of their people at home have no idea on what goes on beyond their borders.

While in Copenhagen, they could barely live on the bare minimum as life was expensive and indeed they confronted to the truth of the adage that time was money.



CCIVS
70 YEARS
1948-2018

During the cultural festivals for the nationalities represented in the programme Kenya took Greece, Spain, Germany and Netherlands to task on cultural diversity and wondered why identity crisis continued to destroy the dreams of her people at home in the hope that there was honey and milk in the land of opportunities as the mass media made the majority of the people in the Southern world to believe.

Kenya confessed experiencing cultural shock from the unfolding scenario, wondered why the universal education didn't strive to enhance globalization in its true context and disabuse the faulty notion that had driven the masses to destroy their cultural heritage in their homeland and always thought that everything good came from outside their borders.

Kenya couldn't understand the reason for the migration by the masses from the South to the North under the guise of searching for better opportunities when it was evident that there are plenty of natural resources and opportunities on the continents that are not tapped by the people and these continents are erroneously described to be poor when they sit on enormous untapped resources.

Kenya was a dejected person who couldn't contemplate on the realization that the world shared common values and that human beings were the same and the physical separation, colour, creed, religion, artificial borders; were mere facades entrenched to define class interests and they served to manipulate the masses to do their bidding with impunity.

Kenya vowed to return back home in Nairobi and become the voice of conscience in society and help to re-educate the masses with the possibility of de-schooling society that faced serious threat from negative effects of the mass media that was transforming the youths into gullible masses that are vulnerable to manipulation.

The prospect of turning all young people into the lost generation was scary to Kenya as the prognosis was shattering with majority of the youths yearning to be influenced by external forces of radicalization, marginalization, oppression and occupation.

Kenya is glad that CCIWS has over the decades developed a platform to address issues that were dear to his heart and foremost to create a society that was alive to development education and a people that embraced value systems in their quest to champion the cause of social justice to make a difference in the world.

Kenya congratulates CCIWS at its 70th Anniversary that is a major milestone for the global volunteering network and wishes that many people had an opportunity at their prime age to experience what he did in 1992 courtesy of MS Action Aid Denmark.

by Kolawole AGANRAN

SYNOPSIS OF IVS IN WEST AFRICA

Volunteer efforts began through the Leadership Training programme undertaken in the late 50s along with pilot projects executed with foreign partners' support. The history of the formation of workcamps associations and voluntary service development was due to the passion for selfless service of Gordon Green who arrived in Ghana in 1954. Gordon Green was engaged as English Teacher at Mfantsipim School, Achimota in the Gold Coast (Ghana). Quakers in Ghana explored the opportunity to organize several workcamps with the support of Gordon Green with some African and European friends. The first workcamp was held at Tsito in Awudome, Ghana. The impact measured at this workcamp further advanced the idea, which eventually gave birth to Voluntary Workcamps Association of Ghana (VOLU) in 1956.

In 1962, there was an important West African Leadership Training which attracted participants from different parts of the West African coastal region. This horizon attracted the interest of participants at the programme including Gerson Konu (Link to profile: <http://archives.sci.ngo/volunteers/konu-gerson.html>), and Justin Yole Labinjoh who took part and decided to replicate similar organizations on returning to their home in Kpalime, Togo and Lagos, Nigeria respectively. Gerson Konu in 1962 founded the Togolese association, Les Volontaires au Travail (LVT - Volunteers at Work) which became ASTOVOCT (Association Togolaise des Volontaires au Travail), and Justin Labinjoh founded Voluntary Workcamps Association of Nigeria in 1963, workcamp associations patterned on VOLU model.

The three organizations, VOLU, ASTOVOCT and VWAN became the pioneering frontline voluntary workcamps associations in West Africa in the early 60s.

International community and Western organizations began to show interest and support to the development of these organizations. Service Civil International played a tremendous role to offer mentoring and nurturing models. These invaluable efforts contributed to the spread of the IVS organizations to other countries. In 1972 the regional organization called Union of West African Voluntary Workcamps Association (UWAVWA) emerged with VOLU, ASTOVOCT and VWAN playing a dominant role in the leadership and administration of the Regional Network.

In 1988, a group from SCI visited West Africa to explore the potential, evaluate the exchanges, harmonize relationships and strengthen partnership. The team included An Ros (SCI-SEED) Andy Egan (IVS-GB), Augustyn Wyss (SCI-Switzerland), Dominique Carré and Joelle Soret (SCI-France), Iris Schumacher (SCI-Germany). I would also mention the efforts of Nigel Watt and Simona Constanzo Sow to help build the network. Similarly, the Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (MS-Denmark) tremendously supported the local initiative and also fundraised to build firm structures for the organisations in the region. The trends of voluntary service began to change as partners continued to explore other areas of better cooperation and partnership. In an attempt to empower the region and also infuse synergy into IVS in West Africa, CCIVS organized a Regional Leaders Capacity



CCIVS
70 YEARS
1954-2024

Training programme in 1998 in Lome, Togo where Leaders came together under Mr. Aziki Kokou of ASTOVOCT. In April 2005, another Strategic ICT programme anchored by FAGAD-Togo was conducted at Kpalime which brought about 8 countries from 14 organizations and 25 participants under the Information Technology empowerment programme. This event created a lot of impact and offered resounding benefits to the region. Another Regional Seminar on Literacy through Non-Formal Education and IVS meeting for Workcamp Leaders was held in May 2007 at Kordiabe, Ghana. This event brought a change to the region as a new Constitution was approved and name of the network was changed from UWAVWA to WAVAN (West African Voluntary Association Network).

The Action 3,2 of EACEA of EU came just in time to improve cooperation among partners.

The EACEA funded project of the European Commission made opportunities available through overseas partner organizations linked to particular thematic areas. This development continues to offer credible opportunities to enlarge performance which helps to build confidence among the stakeholders. The EACEA further reviewed the process to extend the gesture of partnership projects to the global South. The designed conditions and rules of Erasmus+ (European Community Action Scheme) or KA2 project can now attract support from the funder to provide flexible space to develop youngsters' mobility and education thus increasing intercultural learning. This Sustainable Development under Key-Action-2 (KA2) provides space for adult learning, cooperation, reforms, skills development and capacity building in all facets of life. Implementation of some of these KA2 projects has mitigated the sufferings inherent in exchange procedures. Typical of these a few actions executed by CCIVS are: ImpACT, Vision2Action, WHV, Volunteer P.A.T.H,

STEPS, IVS for Climate Justice and STEP to Change. It has not only provided forum for partners to meet and formulate concrete policies and decisions but equally afforded the funders, the European Commission and EACEA, to have concrete understanding of developmental processes and thus help to strengthen collaboration and bilateral mutual understanding. It is unfortunate to note that efforts to find funds locally and within the region have not yet produced any positive result.

Voluntary Service development in the Western part of Africa has gone far beyond the rhetoric of the past and IVS continues to impact the community. Many VYOs, CBOs and NGOs began to see the need to undertake projects that can add value to embrace the ideas of community development, capacity building, environment, sustainability, gender sensitivity, cultural diversity, active citizenship and participation which seek to address the perennial complex challenges of society. The Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), Service Civil International (SCI), Intercultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) and the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations and many other international networks have played very dynamic roles through diverse projects connecting southern partners to the global community. The present phase of voluntary service development is about sustainability and consolidation of opportunities offered by the projects to develop rural communities. Africa, and Western Africa and in particular, still remains the continent where many opportunities abound and is enriched with invaluable resources that can be used to change the whole world to a better place.

by Kolawole AGANRAN

HARM & HURT

It was an unexpected scenario which took place as we attempted to inspect a project intended for an international workcamp. On a trip of 540 km we set out into the countryside early in the morning to search for the project. After travelling several kilometres from the suburbs, with nobody appearing and no one to be seen on the highway suddenly, as the project vehicle rounded a sharp bend the team were astonished to spot an old man in white regalia holding a rod. His appearance was like that of a ghost.

It was a completely strange experience – a man completely dressed head to toe in white raising a stick as he appeared out of the thick forest. The team was scared and decided to zoom off to avoid being accosted by hoodlums, being robbed or having an accident.

Eventually the team got to the village where the project – the Village Community Hall - was meant to take place. Approaching the community leaders and traditional Chiefs of the community, we were entertained as their guests and told that the Paramount Ruler who was the Village King was not around. The Village King, as the one who had the final authority was not present but they hoped that he would soon be available.

The group waited for almost two hours when suddenly the Paramount Ruler arrived. After a long trek back to his village he came towards us full of bitterness and anger. At the sight of our team's vehicle, he grew even more irritable and was terribly annoyed. He began to rain curses and abuse on us as

he recounted the ugly experience and bad treatment we had meted out to him on his way back home from the forest. He recognized our team and remonstrated that the team had seen him stranded on the highway raising his stick to show them that they ought to stop and give help. Instead they had turned their faces away from him and sped off.

All the excuses the team made to defend their behaviour were of no avail. Knowing the traditions of that community they realised they had no chance of placating its leader. He was so incensed by their misconduct that he issued a village order that there should be no community project available for them to do in his community.

The team lamented and apologized but the ruler rejected all their pleading. The harm had been done when they had closed their eyes to the need of a scary stranger. It was a very hurtful and costly experience. Much time, money and resource had been wasted on that fruitless journey to the village.

We learnt our lesson the hard way, that when we go out to survey a project in a village while on our way there we should always offer assistance to whoever is in need of help.



by Ratherford MWARUTA

AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

walking the memory lane for southern Africa workcamps cooperation

An incredible journey from the very humble beginnings during the late 70s when James Makoetla set up the first voluntary organisation in Southern Africa. He laid down a very strong foundation for Lesotho Workcamps Association. James's vision and legacy were developed properly by Vincent Mhlakaza. Other impressive great leaders who steered LWA to greater heights were Kory Masitha, Zakaria (Zed) Phalatse and Thabo Marekemané. With the help from Augustin Wyss, from SCI Switzerland, national Vincent Mhlakaza helped in the formation of Botswana Workcamps Association in 1979 and Swaziland Workcamps Association (SWCA) in 1980.

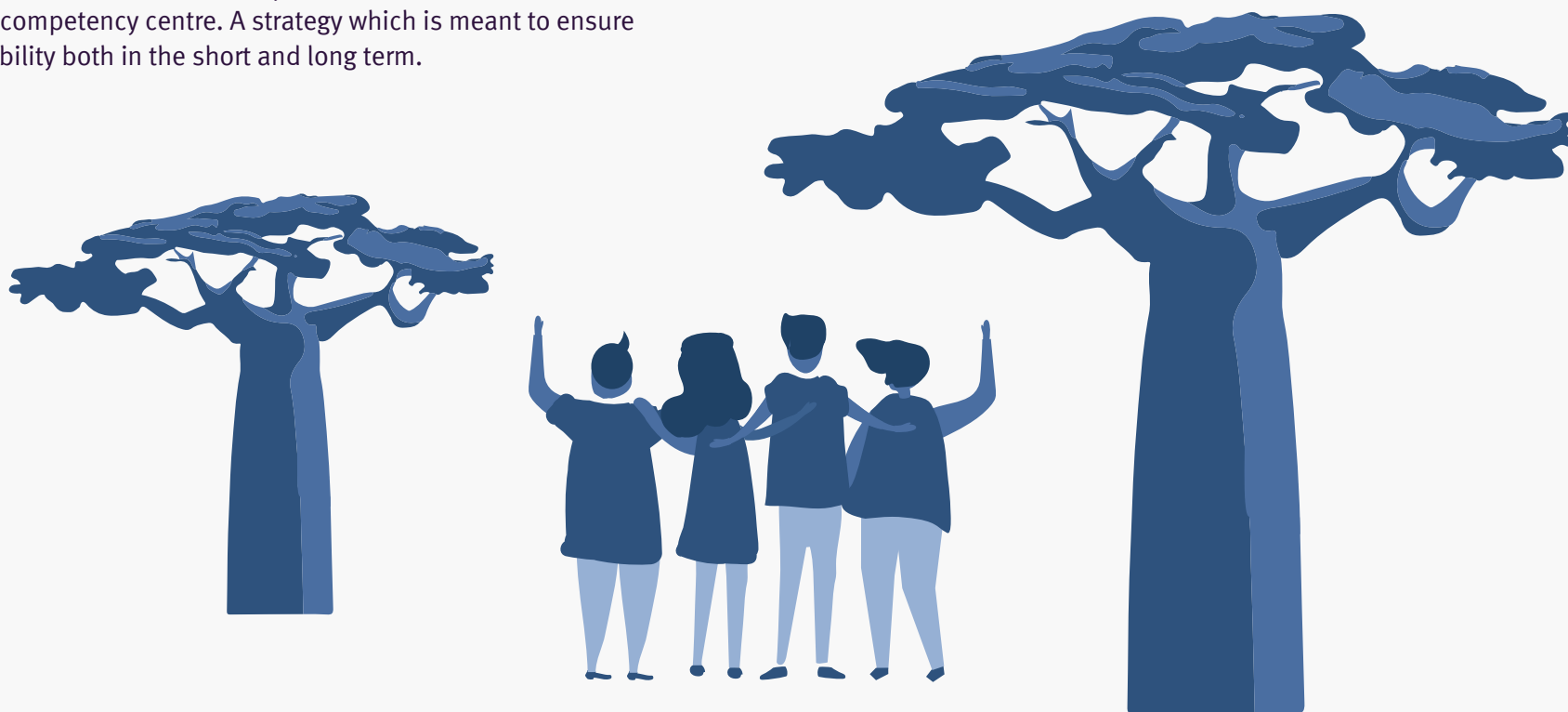
Botswana Workcamps Association to get off the ground on a very sound note and it built up a strong network made up local groups in the huge traditional Tswana "villages" and established its centre in Mochudi. In Swaziland, the organisation worked well but only for a few years, led first by James Mwalwembe, a Zambian UN volunteer posted to Swaziland and later by Solomon Lukhele and Bongani Mamba. In the 70s and 80s these three organisations (BWA, LWA and SWCA) pioneered regional volunteer exchanges known as south-south cooperation Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland ("Boleswa") which involved long journeys by minibus across South Africa. Boleswa is the father of the present day Southern Africa Workcamps Cooperation (SAWC).

In 1993 Arthur Gillette a good friend of International voluntary service got funding for CCIVS from UNESCO for two training events. The first "camp seminar" was at the village of Ha Makoae in Lesotho where, apart from talking and training, the volunteers helped to lay a pipe for a village water supply, construct classrooms for a new school and plant a lot of trees on the hillsides. Francis Donkor, the General Secretary of VOLU Ghana, was the main resource person. Participants were drawn from Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Henry Kabula, who had been selected by Human Settlements of Zambia, went home and founded a workcamp association in Zambia. ZAVWA which did well for 5 years and then closed down. Nigel Watt in his capacity as the director for CCIVS attended the training event alongside with Mario Carly from Belgium who helped organise both seminars.

The second CCIVS training event in 1993, was in Namibia. It started with a short workcamp clearing and smartening up the Old Location Cemetery in Windhoek. When the apartheid regime moved people from their homes, the cemetery had been the scene of fierce resistance by the African women. After a week there the group moved off to Swakopmund for the training seminar. The guest trainer to the seminar was Cephaz Munanairi (popularly known as Mr. Africa) who had developed the volunteer movement in Kenya. Two outstanding pioneers who attended this seminar were inspired to create new workcamp associations which still survive: the late, great Innocent Katsiga founded the Zimbabwe Workcamps Association (ZWA) – and he later became a Vice President of CCIVS - and Manuel de Araujo founded AJUDE in Mozambique.



During early 2000 a number of organisations from Southern Africa joined the regional voluntary movement namely, Quaker Peace Centre from Cape Town South Africa, Youth Association of Zambia and AYISE/MWAI Malawi. SAWC went into hibernation due to a number of reasons. SAWC was rejuvenated in January 2016 with new players joining the regional organisation namely Associação dos Jovens Voluntários (AJOV), South Africa Voluntary Workcamps Association (SAVWA) and Insight Study volunteers. SAWC has adopted Maseru in Lesotho as it's regional competency centre. A strategy which is meant to ensure sustainability both in the short and long term.



by Victoria LOVELOCK

A DISCOVERY IN THE ARCHIVES

A couple of years ago when I had a little moment I snuck down to the CCIVS archives, one of my favorite places, although not one I get to visit very often. As I was thumbing through the older archives, I came across a letterhead from the 1950s of the CCIVS regional office in Argentina! I was so surprised to see this, I knew that the 15th GA in 1966, took place in Argentina, but I had also spent 6 years in Argentina from 2006-2012 working with the development of the CCIVS member, Subir al Sur, and at that time although we had heard that once upon a time there had been an SCI office in Rosario, we had no idea that there had once been a regional office there.

Not so long afterwards, I was reading one of the books in the CCIVS office 'CCIVS Pioneering Years, Collected Memoirs 1950-1966' edited by Betty Müller (a really wonderful book to read as the office conditions are pretty much the same as they were back in the 50s!), and I found out that not only had there been a regional office, but that together with UNESCO there had been many efforts for the development of IVS in Latin America. A permanent Training Centre for Leaders of International Workcamps was set up in Buenos Aires in 1964, a coordination called Centrosev, was based in Chile in the 1960s. There had also been a strong effort to create a long-term training centre in Primavera, Paraguay, where the first international Training Course for Workcamp Leaders in Latin America was held in 1961 and international trainings for workcamp leaders took place in Cuba in 1959, which was really important in terms of bringing east and west together.

Whilst François and Gianni were having a nose in the archives, they too came across information that the Latin America regional Office moved from Argentina to Chile in the early 70s, and this came to an end with the Military Dictatorship.

Whilst I was in Argentina, through my involvement in YAP International and with the support of YAP members I undertook a study visit of South America, which included visiting Paraguay and trying to contact the SCI office in Rosario, without knowing any of this history. I still dream of the day when we can find the means to support a greater participation with the Americas from South to North.

What I have yet to find out, and what I would love to do before I leave CCIVS is to have a greater understanding of this period of our history... I keep looking forward to another prolonged immersion in the archives or to hearing anyone's stories who can help to fill in the holes!

by Ing. Nicolás R. AGUILAR OSORIO

LATIN AMERICA

Not knowing the history of CCIVS before my time I would not dare to write anything before 1997, the year when, coming from Mexico, I joined Solidarités Jeunesses (France).

I participated in a meeting in Toluca, Mexico, organised by the former YAP International Secretary, Andreas Schwab, in which it was foreseen to create a Mexican IVS platform. Various Mexican organisations participated among which were VIMEX, Vive Mexico, Nuestra Tierra and SCI.

CCIVS, led at the time by Simona Constanzo Sow, organised in 2005 a seminar in Peru in which European and Latin American organisations met trying to design a strategy to foster the cooperation between organisations from that region. In the meantime collaboration and communication amongst the Latin American associations was taking place with the Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Perú (Peru), Fundación Chriboga (Ecuador), Subir al Sur (Argentina), ACI Costa Rica (Costa Rica), ICYE Colombia (Colombia), Red Tinku (Bolivia), Nataté, Vive México, SIJUVE and VIMEX (Mexico). This period gave the Latin American associations the possibility to integrate into CCIVS, to cooperate more amongst themselves and to share practices that allow them to move forward in their work, and to increase their collaboration with European and Asian organisations.

Through 2011, a CCIVS project brought together several associations from Latin America and was a turning point for the IVS in the region because it was the time when a platform of Latin American associations was born. This initiative despite all

the efforts did not reach the goal of creating a strong network in the region that could consolidate the regional aims of CCIVS. It lasted for 3 years. However, the organisations in Latin America continue cooperating with various international networks and develop more individually. Various efforts have been done to create a Latin American network but those efforts have not been achieved, yet.

I believe also that it is important to acknowledge the people who have been behind the various initiatives to consolidate a Latin American platform because they have been striving to reach this goal: Vidal Flores, Alberto García, Juanita Delgado, Andreas Schwab, Simona Constanzo Sow, José Chang, Ramiro Sarabia, Cecilia Milesi, Victoria Lovelock, Flora Marchini, Sharon Peña, Blanca Jimenez, Flor Cardorini, Nadia Chichiareli, Virginia Mueses, Nicolas Aguilar, Jorge Galiano, Rocío González ... and many others.

The CCIVS has played an important role coordinating different actions in the Latin American region and until today it continues integrating their members to various multilateral projects, such as the World Heritage Volunteers.

A special word for José Chang, President of the Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Perú, who passed away this year 2018 and was one of the main actors in the promotion of IVS in South America.



by Peter COLDWELL

NORTH AMERICA

As was the case in Europe, International Voluntary Service (IVS) began in North America via the influence and efforts of Service Civil International (SCI) which arose from the Fellowship of Reconciliation close to a century ago. The program model of workcamps brings change in human relationships. Over the years, I have read many project reports which inspired me because it was evident that the volunteers had grown in their tolerance and openness from being a volunteer. These reports often energized me, enhanced my faith and brought new meaning to what I was doing professionally. These projects bring out the humanity in everyone because we are all, genetically, tribal beings and are destined to work together. It is in our DNA. That is how and why IVS enhances the prospects for peace.

In general, the growth of IVS in the USA is inhibited due to the structure of our political and economic system. Unlike in most of the world, non-profit activity is funded on a private, not public basis. In our country, support for youth activities, in general, entails constant fundraising from private donors, which requires extra effort and special skills. Also, in the USA, our medical costs can exceed those in most other developed countries by a factor of three. Another main obstacle to growth is our program host's concern about the risk of their potential financial liability for damages to property and personal injury caused by volunteers. Because of these fears, there are additional operational expenses to cover the cost of insurance premiums. In short, IVS organizations in the USA have to be open to taking risks and must have an adequate number of highly motivated and committed staff willing to work for less than a "livable

wage" and benefits. Volunteerism, in general, is widespread in the USA. In rural areas, this ethic is very strong because it is not often expected that the state provide many services that are needed by local communities, such as rescue squad, fire department and maintenance & repair of historic buildings. Our neighbors in Canada have a political/economic system based more on the European model so their obstacles to growth are surely different.

Volunteers For Peace (VFP) began in the early 80's, in response to the threat of nuclear war with the Soviet Union. In 1968, through the auspices of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, I participated in two workcamps in Czechoslovakia and Hungary. From this experience, I became motivated to start a peace organization based on the IVS model. All our efforts at that time were focused on exchanges between youth of capitalist and socialist states. CCIVS and the German branch of SCI played essential roles in that effort. The Soviets were eager for cooperation and dialogue, as are the Russians today. In the early 90's, the collapse of the Soviet Union did not provide a "peace dividend" as hoped. The growth of our military has continued unabated and has actually intensified in the last two decades after the horror of 9/11.



Rest assured that the core values of IVS stand solid after all these years and the need for these projects is more important than ever. Politically, in the USA, there is now bi-partisan support for record “defense” spending largely because of the economic needs of what has become the world’s largest industry. The corporations which profit from this industry and also control our media make every effort to keep the public in perpetual fear of other peoples and countries. To our peril, they have thus far been successful in their mission to create a unipolar world through globalization. I believe that, as the future unfolds, truth and connection with the human heart will overcome those who pursue greed and promote hate and violence. I can thank the IVS “movement” for this faith which allows me to sleep at night with the comfort of knowing that a multipolar world of peace and reconciliation awaits us.



by KAIZAWA Shinichiro

SPRING HAS COME TO ASIA

“I’ve been waiting for you”. A middle-aged English gentleman with grey hair has approached to me.

He is Nigel Watt, the Director of CCIVS and this first meeting changed my life and the IVS movement so much.

“Aren’t you cold?” He asked me who always wears short sleeved shirts and sandals. It was the beginning of March and the wind was still chilly in the rural area of France. I was joining the Technical Meeting of the ALLIANCE in 1993, a year after NICE was affiliated to CCIVS as the only eastern Asian NGO apart from the branches of international NGOs.

Then, we drank wine, said “Cheers!” and looked in each other’s eyes, not because of minding to have terrible sex for seven years, according to the French proverb, but because of the exciting topics both of us had expected to have!

“How can we spread IVS in Asia?” “We first need to gather the potential NGO leaders.” “They should experience workcamps first.” After a couple of glasses, we’ve agreed to organize a Training and Networking Workcamp (TNW) in Asia.

The very first workcamp in Asia was started in India, 1935 by SCI. Then, some international NGOs such as SCI, ICYE and FIWC had workcamps in several countries, but volunteers were exchanged only among their branches.

In 1989, I took a one year vacation from my university to travel around the world and joined the workcamps in Poland. It was so amazing that I looked for and got a list of CCIVS members (the branches of international organizations were not included). In Asia, only India and Bangladesh had workcamps. I was disappointed for a while, then, got an idea. “Why not to create!” After coming back to Japan, I got a list of 10 youths who had working experience abroad and wrote a letter to them, and then 7 of us gathered in Tokyo. “Cheers!” By the power of big ambition and a bit of beer, we founded NICE to start workcamps not only in Japan, but also Asia. Our first workcamp was organized near Mt. Fuji in 1990.

The 1st TNW was realized in 1995 March, at Vladivostok, Russia. It was co-organized by CCIVS and NICE with financial support from International Foundation of Mitsubishi Bank and Korean National Commission of UNESCO. Our work was to demolish a house. It may have been symbolic to break an old ruin before creating something new.

About 15 young people came from SCI, NICE, KNCU and a few branches of TEJO, the youth group of Esperanto. Nigel coordinated the first week and I did the second. “Let’s create a Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA)” we agreed on the last day. But TEJO could not start any workcamps afterwards due to the nature of their organizations and a lack of decision making power by those who participated. So, we decided to target only NGO leaders with sufficient capacity and motivation personally and organizationally to start workcamps in their countries.





The pilot workcamp was organized in China, 1996 hosted by All China Youth Federation which had 200 million members (!). We met at the CCIVS GA in 1995. We talked and agreed to organize the 2nd TNW in China, 1997.

20 NGO leaders gathered in Inner Mongolia including Sheila Smith from UK and Regis Colin from France, with the friendly support from European based networks, ALLIANCE and YAP. We planted hundreds of trees on a very dry land but actually, also seeds of actions and cooperation that have brought so many flowers and fruits in the next few decades to all over Asia and the world! We said “Cheers”, drank 56-degree local wine, and had so many hot talks even until early morning. On the last day, the first General Assembly of NVDA was held. Most of us planned to organize tree plantation workcamps in each country. “So, let’s do it together as Greening Asia!” My proposal became the first common action.

“Kai, you are the initiator, so take responsibility!” The first Presidency of NVDA came to my shoulder though I did not at all imagine such a long involvement and so many dramatic stories happened in NVDA in the next 20 years...

by Jihyun PARK

STORIES FROM ASIA

In a village somewhere in Cambodia, there was an eight year old child reading books under a dim hand lamp. Though this child was growing up in a village where there was a lack of electricity, she was desperate to read books in the darkness. After we heard this story, IWO decided to supply an electrical infrastructure for this village. IWO together with a Korean electric company was in charge of the general operation process, and the Cambodian partner organization provided specific information about the local situation. Last but not least, volunteers flew out to Cambodia and actualized the project by installing light bulbs in schools and on lamp posts in the village.

Something which we might often take for granted such as reading under a bright light, many people have had to collaborate with one another and put their efforts together to make it happen. At the end, what might have seemed a small gift that we brought to the village left a greater impact than we had expected. It's not only that the local children are able to study any time of the day, but also the overall classroom atmosphere has changed. These improvements enhanced the quality of education; a safer environment for education was established, and the village's future became brighter in terms of preventing accidents due to the lack of lights. Furthermore, the fact that many local civilians tried to help us undertake this project touched our hearts. We can never forget those mothers who came from far away saying that the only thing that they had to offer as help were their hands. Over 4 years, we managed this project in 4 more countries, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bhutan and Sri Lanka with great partners.

In some villages in Nepal, there are many parents who do not send their children to school. We expected that these parents were too poor to pay the tuition fees or too busy working at agriculture in the fields. However, we realized that these parents did not send their children to school because schools are too dangerous. In fact, many schools did not have a school fence, and some schools had a sports field right up to the edge of a cliff over which students occasionally fell. We visited schools on a hillside in a poor neighborhood and helped them build a school fence. To make schools in Nepal safer places for children, many people and organizations had to work together. We sorted out which village may need what kind of help, and the Nepali organization chose the right schools to help and found the most important work to do for them by communicating with the village people. With the sacrifice of the volunteers, we were able to complete our tasks.

As one can see in these examples, many sectors and people are connected with one another; together they are making a big change with the small contribution that each person brings. They are all aiming at the same goal, which is to create a better world. IWO has been running international volunteering projects in Asia. Regarding themes of the projects, we did not hesitate to try new activities. The themes of projects include building, construction, IT, wall painting, education, social work, national heritage, etc.

The reason we were able to do these activities is that many countries in Asia— not only do the job but also do it in a joyful and meaningful way— because of their devoted partner organizations and dedicated volunteers. The village people who constantly paid attention to the projects and kindly supported us were a huge part of our motivation to continue these activities.

The Asian continent, known as having the most diverse climate and geography in the world, has many distinctive languages. Nevertheless, united in heart if not in language, IWO has been running the greatest amount of volunteering projects in Asia.

We will continue spending our time and sharing our passion with Asian countries.



by Mattia LOLLI

EUROPE WITNESSES

Since the first workcamp took place (almost 100 years ago!), volunteering has been one of the core values in the process of European integration. The culture of peace, solidarity and inclusion that is deeply connected with International Voluntary Service has spread across the years among several generations of young people that participated in thousands of projects all over the world, connecting them with local communities and organisations that work on daily basis for social change.

Nowadays we are facing new and global challenges: inequalities and limits to access to resources are stronger than ever; fear, discrimination and intolerance keep rising; climate change is affecting more and more our lives and, if not addressed with concrete actions, could bring us to the point of no return.

That's why today we are more committed than ever to keep raising peace, striving for freedom of movement, fighting for climate justice, social inclusion and gender equality.

Volunteering and Non Formal Education can be the common ground on which we can feed the roots of a new European vision and cooperation, based on solidarity, multiculturalism and equality, against any attempt to build new walls and fences separating people and cultures.

We don't believe in the dark visions of the future that are circulating in the mainstream and that have been delivered to us as a non-negotiable truth. We believe in the future that we are able to shape and build with our own hands, with the concrete work that we learned in the workcamps we joined, with the open mind and intercultural background the we gained through IVS, together with all the friends that we met from all over the world.

We, the IVS movement, are the ones that will save this planet and transform this society. We are already doing it every day and we need to spread the voice to the new generations that are eager and ready to join us.

Adli DAANA

CCIVS THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

twenty years of employing IVS for peace in Palestine

It was 1997 when I paid my first visit to the CCIVS office in Paris invited by the then President Thierry Picquart (Secretary General of SJ at that time) and the Director General Nigel Watt who introduced me to the team and later to many organizations to help me start and increase the work of the newly established youth organization (IPYL) to build concrete professional working relations with partners from all over the world so as to include Palestine in the IVS world network. Everything had started after a visit by Thierry Picquart from SJ and Françoise Doré from Cotravaux to Palestine in 1996. They had invited me to learn about IVS and ways to include Palestine in this world.

Although IPYL, later as a branch of Youth Action for Peace (YAP), was by default a beneficiary from services provided by CCIVS, IPYL wanted to be more involved in CCIVS by being a full member that is able to vote and to play an active role in decision making to make sure that the voices of the oppressed Palestinians are heard very clearly in all forms and platforms that fight for human and civil rights for all and struggle and support the self determination of nations.

IPYL has a mission which is basically to bring Palestinian voices to all corners of the earth, as a way to raise awareness of the conflict and the illegal military and colonial occupation of Palestine and to mobilize new tools and methods to fight the occupation and its brutality. IPYL, thanks to CCIVS was given the necessary space to express its mission and share its nonviolent calls for interventions to expose the occupation's racist and discriminatory policies that aim at the expulsion of the people from their lands and country.

In almost all of the actions organized by CCIVS: seminars, conferences, training and symposiums that tackle conflict, peace, nonviolence and equality, IPYL was invited to participate as an expert and as witnesses to an actual occurrence of military incursion and occupation followed by illegal seizure and illegal settlement. In that way IPYL has been enabled to employ IVS in advocacy and to lobby for better conditions and a hopeful future. For me, this priceless opportunity to share the concern of my oppressed nation with the world was an unforgettable chance that brought the Palestinian question into the minds of hundreds, if not thousands of people from all over the world.

People can hardly imagine the influence of IVS in people's lives and how it brings appropriate answers to many common global and universal questions and concerns. From peace education, peace culture, world heritage, climate change, non-violent resistance, conflict resolution, solidarity, anti-discrimination, anti-xenophobia, anti-Islamaphobia, gender equality, equity, immigration, LGBT rights, human rights, humanitarian intervention, global warming, sustainable development and many other subjects that individuals and communities work to realize. All this goes in the direction of contributing to a better world and a better future for our children and the generations to come.

Even if the impact is small and slow, I believe that taking this path is a victory in itself since it provides people with the chance and the honour of being part of the legacy of positive change and the feeling of pride in developing yourself by helping others.



CCIVS
70 YEARS
1953-2023

It is CCIVS that has carved its name in our minds, it is CCIVS that we all enjoyed being part of, it is CCIVS that taught us about ourselves and how to appreciate and enjoy the spirit of giving, it is CCIVS that brought all of us from all the corners of the world, to be fighters for a better world and a better life.

In its seventieth anniversary I don't want to try to imagine or count how many volunteers, communities, nations, minorities, immigrants, and countries have been changed thanks to its services and mission and support, because impact is not only measured by quantity, but supremely by quality. I just want to say that CCIVS has given me all the tools necessary to change myself and raise the voice of Palestine which was absent from similar forums for more than 50 years of Israeli illegal occupation of my country; for which myself and my nation are very grateful.

Thank you to all the CCIVS family.





**HISTORY
STORIES**

CCIVS IN A CHANGING AND UNCERTAIN WORLD

from the fall of the wall to the dawn of the 21st century

FR: Good morning Thierry. Maybe we can start with your very first steps in CCIVS. Do you remember?

Yes, quite well. It was in Hungary in 1987. I don't exactly remember if it was an initiative of CCIVS or not, but nevertheless the aim of this trans-European meeting was the creation of a pan-European network of CCIVS organisations. It was followed by another meeting in Lodz in Poland the year after which I also attended.

FR: What were the results of these meetings?

Very positive! It was a good opportunity to envisage closer working between Eastern and Western national organisations as well as international organisations. I don't remember whether the 3rd meeting took place or not, but I guess that this pan-European network process was interrupted in the context of what happened on the European scene at the end of the '80s and the beginning of the '90s.

The next CCIVS General Assembly took place in Hammamet, Tunisia in December 1989 i.e. one month after the fall of the Berlin wall. The atmosphere was a little bit surreal. Our friends from Eastern countries were affected and destabilised by what was happening in their countries. They did believe in what they were doing in their organisations like any other CCIVS organisation leaders. It was really hard for them.

FR: General Assembly in Hammamet in 1989 and then the following one in Moscow in 1993?

Yes, before the meeting I was told by Rao Chelikani who remained as President for 15 years that he would not go for another mandate. I was a bit worried about the future of CCIVS in this rather particular period. Thus it seemed to me and to my organisation, Youth Action for Peace, that we could take more responsibilities, but only if we could set up a team and go as a team. This was exactly what we did in Moscow during the General Conference: gathering a representative and very engaged team.

FR: what were your fears regarding the future of CCIVS?

We used to live in a bipolar world for years. Whether we like it or not, it was a fact that has structured international relationships for decades. Intergovernmental and international organisations were spaces of competition for power and influence. Even if CCIVS was an invaluable space for international youth exchange and friendship across borders, it could not escape from that. Therefore there was a strong risk that a number of organisations opted out due to the decrease of their political interest in the organisation.

In the meantime far from achieving an ideal new global order, the world news showed that the end of the bipolarisation did not mean the end of our task: the war in the Gulf region, in former Yugoslavia, in Liberia, the social disasters caused by the IMF and World Bank policies, the situation of human rights, women's



rights, the need for education, literacy, culture, remained the same. In this new context, CCIVS should be present and active. It was my conviction. By the way the theme of the 26th General Conference (1995) was: “A world to rebuild: the volunteer movement in the 21st century”.

FR: I clearly understand the risk to be avoided. In your opinion what were the challenges to overcome?

There were a lot:

- For obvious reasons linked to what was said previously, to make CCIVS closer to the members, in particular through regionalisation and through regional representation in the Executive Committee was the first,
- Facilitate South-South and South-North exchanges was the second,
- Deepen the relationship with UNESCO in a troubled period for the institution was the third. It is important to note that CCIVS, for many member organisations, represents the (only) possibility to approach the UN system.

FR: How did you try to do that?

The regionalisation of voluntary service had been well developed in the '90s, in particular in Asia (NVDA), West Africa (WAVAN), South Africa (SAWAC). It already existed in Western Europe through the Alliance. The new political situation in the continent gave the possibility to Central and Eastern Europe members to affiliate to the Alliance. There were also concrete projects in East Africa and North Africa and on a longer term in Latin America.

With regard to the regional representation to the EC, we had nice principles on paper but without any effect in reality. I mean we know that it is impossible for some members to send representatives to EC meetings at their own cost. So we made an important change to the constitution in the GA in Berlin in 1995: a drastic reduction of EC members from 24 to 12 but with a better coverage of the travel costs for the delegates, in particular from Southern countries. In the same spirit we also changed the election mode for a better representation and also fixed the regional balance in the texts.

With regards to the South-South and South-North exchanges, we created the CCIVS Solidarity Fund in order to support the reciprocity of exchanges and the development of South-South relationships.

Finally, with regard to UNESCO, as you may know, this period was quite tumultuous for CCIVS. Created by UNESCO in 1948 and supported for a long time by UNESCO in particular through its Youth Division managed by the former 1st CCIVS co-director (Arthur GILLETTE), CCIVS benefited from a natural recognition. Financially suffering from the US-UK withdrawal from the organisation as well as a mandate from the member States to cut costs, UNESCO decided to revise all its NGOs partnerships. Around the same period, UNESCO created its own Volunteering Unit and got rid of the Youth Division. It was really, really difficult. As an anecdote, this situation gave me the opportunity to take the floor at the UNESCO Executive Committee which normally doesn't happen for NGOs.

FR: In the end how would you define the results of your action compared to the risks and challenges you identified at the early stage of your mandate?

Fortunately CCIVS is still alive and today has more members than ever, thanks to all who have been involved in the last 20 years, active members, President and EC members, Directors and members of the Secretariat.

At my last General Assembly as President, which corresponded to the 50th Anniversary of CCIVS, I was really happy when I saw that there were a lot of members present. We did not have any financial support for this meeting and members were there. This was the reassurance that CCIVS was meaningful for the members. In addition to the challenges already identified at the previous General Assemblies in '93 and '95 that remained totally valid, other issues appeared in the meantime like:

- should CCIVS directly apply for grants for exchange activities and take the risk to be in competition with its own members, and may be to do less well than what the members can do better?
- an organisation like CCIVS is based on inter-association cooperation. We can say that this is the essence of our work in CCIVS. What if today or tomorrow volunteers can choose their activity abroad by clicking on the Internet without ever seeing someone from a sending organisation? How to avoid cheap tourism, the volunteerism market?

Regarding the point previously addressed on the relationship with UNESCO, we succeeded, despite the odds, to get the closest relationship status. One of the consequences is that CCIVS is still within the UNESCO walls and still has projects with UNESCO even if they are not sufficient and if CCIVS must seek funding outside.

FR: Any regrets?

Yes, at least one: having failed to set up the Mediterranean Platform of Voluntary Service. The proposal was on the table at my last General Assembly as President, in 1998 in Morocco. Everybody agreed on the need, the aim and the added-value that could bring this regional structure of CCIVS to the dynamism of the projects and members in the region. Everything was in place: constitution, budget, first activities, EC Meda application, Everything! What happened? Probably internal misunderstandings among Moroccan members....

FR: Anything to add?

I would have a lot to add. How can we summarise in a 30-minute interview a so intense and committed period of my life? I would have liked to talk more about Solidarités Jeunesses and YAP that fully supported my commitment, about the Executive Committee and Secretariat members I loved to work with, about the ideas we were fighting for and that still need our commitment today. Let's keep this for the 100th Anniversary publication!

by Bogdan IMRE

JOURNEY TO EUROPE

After a week spent walking to and from the Belgium embassy in Bucharest and a short weekend at home, including 24 hours spent in trains, I was happy when Monday morning I saw my name at the top of the list. I had made it to the top 10. My visa was ready within a few days and the only thing left was to sort out my luggage.

Little did I know how epic the upcoming journey would be... my first time abroad, alone, my first time in the Schengen space, my first time in an airport, my first time in an aeroplane, my first time not knowing anyone I was about to meet...

I still remember landing and getting out of the airport with a giant smile on my face. I made it! I stepped on Belgian ground! I made my way to the train and, with my hands shaking; I again read each line of the info sheet. As soon as I had made it out in the street I looked for all the clues. One by one I found the church, the bridge and there I was on the right street, rue des Ateliers. I arrived at the address and I could hear some people talking on the other side of the giant fence. I knocked and somebody opened the door, allowing me to step in. I still wonder if that door was magic... because everything changed from that moment on.

The group was standing in a circle and Phillip was performing some sort of ritual using a singing bowl. I can still feel the vibration and hear the soft sound it made and his voice guiding me through my journey, as if he had been there every step of it... magic!

The week in 'de Waterman', the venue that was hosting my pre-departure training, was outstanding. It added one more 'first time' - my first time in a non-formal education training. The team was nice, warm and full of care. The methods were surprising. They gave me the freedom to express myself, to take the space I wanted, to share and be creative.

I fell in love with Lee's approach to public speaking and I use his method in my training nowadays. I enjoyed Emese's smile and the warmth with which she welcomed each one of us every evening when we did our group reflections. Phillip was constantly surprising me with his musical talents and with his ability to transform simple questions into philosophical debates. The more I think about it, the more I realise that each one of the team members had a direct influence on my own training style. I am who I am today, both personally and professionally, because of them.

This was the first experience that enabled me to find my passion and shift my career towards volunteering. The EVS that followed seemed an extension of the pre-departure training as with every encounter and every person met, I felt I was growing and becoming a better person.

In loving memory of YAP International, former CCIVS member organisation, and its lovely and passionate people I had the privilege to meet.





CURRENT STORIES

by KAIZAWA Shinichiro

GLOBAL LMTV MEETING

“I wanted to kill somebody.” A boy has confessed this to us in the night of LMTV Evaluation Seminar.

It was a rainy day in 2003 when a mother and his son suddenly visited our office. “He’s always staying in his room with playing with internet and computer games”. It’s been a serious social issue in Japan for 20 years that a million young people are NEET (Not in Education, Employment nor Training), some of whom are like him for different reasons such as family relationship, school bullying, laid off, etc. “I really worry his future. Can he join your project?”

“But mother, is he himself really motivated to join?”, our staff asked. “Please let me try!” the boy insisted. That’s why we asked him about this in the Seminar after he’s come back from a project in Thailand for 3 months .

“I was totally isolated and hated the world. But I don’t want to be arrested and the only legal way I could find from internet is to join the foreign soldiers’ army in France , that requires me to speak at least good English. So, I’ve decided to join your project to improve my English”. But he has dramatically been changed through the days in Thailand. “Local people were so kind to me. I’ve got a lot of precious treasurers.” In a year later, he became a very nice leader of our Mid Term workcamp in Japan and his mother kept sending 50 melons to our office every year.

This is one example of impact by LMTV (Long and Mid Term Voluntary service) and more and more IVS NGOs started LMTV projects and exchange since the beginning of this century. There was a lot of potential to share practice and making common working ways to improve the qualities, to developing the projects to maximize the positive and minimize the negative impact and to strengthen partnership among IVS NGOs and with other stakeholders.

However, there were very rare opportunities for LMTV staff to meet together since short term workcamps were the main activities for many NGOs. That’s why I and NVDA organized an Asian LMTV Seminar in Tokyo, 2004 hosted by NICE and sponsored by the Japan Foundation. 15 staff from 10 countries gathered and created a LMTV Handbook.

“It was such a big help for me and IWC to have better program of LMTV in Indonesia”, said by Puji, the Secretary (later, President in 2008-10) of NVDA.

We’ve developed this practice into the Asia Europe Training for Trainers (TfT) on LMTV in Tokyo again in 2009 by NVDA, Asia Europe Foundation and NICE in cooperation with CCIWS and ALLIANCE. 29 LMTV activists from 20 countries joined .

Then, some TfT participants and I initiated to realize the 1st GLMTV in Germany, 2010 organized by CCIWS, NVDA and ALLIANCE right before the Technical Meeting.



CCIWS
70 YEARS
1945-2015

It was an effective way to gather many people. 52 from 24 countries joined . But we felt, “It may be better to have it separately with a less number, but more motivated people.” So, the 2nd GLMTV was held in Vietnam, 2011 and it’s been organized every year in Asia and Europe by turns with around 20 - 25 participants from 10 countries till now. SCI joined to co-organize it with 3 other networks since 2013.

We usually have a meeting in the project place of LMTV with some voluntary work in the beautiful nature and simple living conditions. Making a snow house in Slovakia, 2013 was a dreaming time especially for those who’d never touched snow! The coconut break in the organic farm of Thailand, 2014 was another paradise for those from north.

The meetings became more active and productive after such solidarity and refreshment .

We also try to have networking meetings with other stakeholders and/ or open events to promote LMTV to the public. The Ministry President of the Flemish region was very friendly even to me with samurai karate costume in Belgium, 2015. Asian Volunteering Summit focusing on SDGs was a meaningful opportunity to exchange with over 100 NGO leaders right before the GLMTV in the Philippines, 2017.

GLMTV and LMTV projects/ exchange have a lot of potential to develop more a colorful and healthy world, so let’s grow them

together!



by Victoria LOVELOCK

THE IVS MOVEMENT

I want to spend some time to reflect on the IVS movement. I remember whilst working on the White Paper for IVS in 2010-2011 that there was this question 'Are we a movement? Can we say this?'. At the time, it seemed that there was not enough unity between the different international IVS networks. SCI, ICYE, IBO as direct members of CCIVS, our sister networks, focusing on different regions; NVDA (Asia), Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations, SEEYN (Southeastern Europe), SAWC (Southern Africa), WAVAN (West Africa), EAWA (East Africa) all with whom we had contact and some form of relations be it stronger or weaker. Amongst all of these networks, CCIVS members could be found in one or several. When CCIVS members, Youth Action for Peace (YAP) network, ceased to exist in 2009, most YAP members joined CCIVS directly and some joined only or also the Alliance depending on their specific needs at the time.

To take a step back into history and the founding dates of some of the networks active in the Global Meeting; SCI (Service Civil International), the first IVS network created in 1920 coming from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, was one of the founders of CCIVS in 1948. In 1923 Youth Action for Peace (YAP), originally the Knights of the Cross and later Christian Movement for Peace was created becoming part of CCIVS, I think in the 1950s. ICYE also came into being around this time in 1949 as a service programme of the Church of the Brethren and in 1957 as ICYE (International

Cultural Youth Exchange), also becoming members of CCIVS in 1981. IBO (The International Building Organisation) started in 1953, becoming an international association in 1962. The Alliance was created after a group of CCIVS members couldn't find what they were looking for within the CCIVS network decided to create a technical platform to respond to volunteer exchanges in Western Europe in 1982. Later expanding to all of Europe, it became a cooperative network in 2011. NVDA (Network for Voluntary Development in Asia) was created in 1997 to strengthen exchanges in and with Asia. SEEYN (South Eastern European Youth Network) in 1999 for societal reconstruction in South East Europe. UWAVWA (West Africa Voluntary Workcamps Association) was created in 1971 becoming WAVAN (West African Voluntary Association Network) in 2007 to support volunteer associations in West Africa, BOLESWA (Botswana Lesotho Workcamps Association) was created in 1979 for Southern Africa becoming SAWC (Southern African Workcamp Cooperation) in 1994 and EAWA (Eastern African Workcamp Association), recently changing its name to EAVS-Network (Eastern Africa Voluntary Service Development Network) for East Africa in 1996.



CCIVS
70 YEARS
1948-2018

Going back to, this reflection as to whether we are a ‘movement’? One of the objectives of CCIVS in the last 5-6 years has been to try to establish this ‘movement’ and at the same time to address the needs of CCIVS by reconnecting with our members and uniting the networks. The Global Meeting of IVS organisations created in 2006 by the CCIVS President and EC team was a good place to start. Meetings were held and at the time, organized by the networks (CCIVS, SCI, Alliance) we attended when invited different institutional events and created common campaigns. These Campaigns, most notably the Raising Peace Campaign (2014 -), but also Freedom of Movement (2014 -) and IVS for Climate Justice (2016 -) were open not only to CCIVS members, but also to the networks. They provide a platform to promote the actions of IVS organisations around the world, and create plenty of topics of discussion within the Global Meeting of IVS organisations. In 2018 for the first time, we set up a system to manage the Global Human Rights week of CCIVS with one day managed by each of the different IVS networks (Alliance, SCI, SEEYN, WAVAN, SAWC).

CCIVS also sought to involve the networks where possible in our Impact measurement projects, seeking to ensure a common tool that can be used by all the IVS world in order to better promote the work we do. In 2017 during a prep meeting, the reflection of the meeting was ‘We are a Movement’. Finally, we can say yes, we are a Movement. We have worked to have better and closer relations for the common cause of the advancement of peace in the world through International Voluntary Service. CCIVS at the same time has opened the door for our sister networks to become members of the Global Coordinating Body. CCIVS was created with this intention, and our vision is to be the natural home of all networks and organisations which share our common goals.

by Matina DELGIANNI

FOOD FOR IVS NETWORKS

Usually the global meetings of IVS networks take place in big cities or well-connected urban centres next to other important and fully attended meetings so as to make it easy for busy representatives with overloaded agendas to attend. Especially when it is a short meeting of one day or a day and half and facilitating participation is one of the main concerns. Undoubtedly, the point of the meeting is to bring together the largest possible number of representatives in order to reinforce cooperation of regional networks and international organisations and develop common actions which contribute to a culture of peace and social justice.

However, this meeting was somehow different. There was still a pressing need to meet and interact and there were important actions to agree upon and move forward. In addition there were limited financial resources and the necessity to combine several meetings, objectives and groups of people. Those that are even remotely involved with the management of the network probably think that this is indeed a common CCIVS scenario. Yet the place chosen for the global meeting was what made it unusual. It was in a small French village, 40 minutes by car from the nearest train station and closer to the Swiss border than to any major French city, home to 800 hectares of forest but to only 400 people. It is also home to one of SJ's landmark projects, an international centre where utopia becomes a source of creation and social justice a way of living.

Unquestionably, it is extremely meaningful to hold a global meeting in a local project, one that is living proof, if ever there was need of any, that CCIVS is a grassroots network. Yet beside the symbolic power of the setting, the hectic schedule and the numerous subjects to discuss, it leaves almost no space to connect and bond with the local reality. Generally speaking, my concern as chairwoman and facilitator of such meetings is to focus completely on the content of the agenda and the objectives of the meeting. This time I also had to consider how to enable connections and make the place more than just a theatre set.

During this meeting that brought together representatives of the major IVS networks and international organisations, we concentrated our efforts on a declaration on the situation on Human Rights and Peace. Reflexions, comments and contributions as well as confrontations, objections and disagreements, were orchestrated by means of participatory methods and skilful facilitation and they transformed this declaration to one agreed by us all. Gradually, our remarks, statements and crossings-out covered the walls of the meeting room and brought to light the unity of our principles and values. The declaration also made us reflect and exchange ideas on the concrete actions and campaigns that we should implement in order to transform those words and support their achievement by hundreds of IVS organisations all over the world.



CCIVS
70 YEARS

1950-2020

by Simona COSTANZO SOW

VOLUNTEERISM TO ADVANCE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

pretension or reality?

The annual international meal which coincided with the global meeting embodied this declaration. It is one of the key events of the year for the local host. It brings together local people - newcomers and people living in the region for generations – and the inhabitants of the centre: staff, international volunteers, teenagers supported by the centre. Food and friendliness are a way of promoting culture, of supporting intercultural dialogue and creating solidarity. I like to consider that the event offered us a few moments made from the connections and awareness that contributed to our work in their own strange way. These included: the experience of the Indian volunteer, a Jain in the middle of his voluntary service, rediscovering the value of non-violence in the light of other people's experiences and beliefs; the assertiveness of the Nigerian teenager refugee living in the centre after having crossed half of Africa and Europe and his belief on the value of human relations; the eagerness to connect and better understand the Other by the local family who had participated in the event for the last six years. All those short and infinitely big moments are central to the reality of IVS and they are our *raison d'être*.

One of CCIVS' missions is to support volunteer organisations as they define quality standards for their work. The Universal Charter of Voluntary Service has been guiding the network from as early as 1968 when it was first drafted during the 16th Conference of Organisers of International Voluntary Service in partnership with UNESCO. The charter recognised the importance of mutuality, equitable international cooperation, and working to support the growth of local and national volunteer programs. The 27th CCIVS General Conference in Morocco 30 years later confirmed the core principles of the charter and made more specific references to the fact that solidarity and mutual learning transcend the North-South vision of classical development cooperation and reaffirmed its overarching vision of peace, inspired by UNESCO's preamble which underlines that lasting peace ultimately requires a change in mind-sets and behaviours at local level.

Grounded in its charter and other key documents outlining quality criteria, which different member organisations have drafted, CCIVS has essentially defined the core of a volunteer initiative as being based on a local development need, which local and international volunteers address together in order to benefit from their collective creativity and capacity, while bringing about core learning processes among the volunteers themselves. As Cotravaux, France put it: "Voluntary service is an exchange between an individual, or a group of individuals and a local community. The volunteer or group of volunteers offers time, energy and effort to a project of benefit to a community, and through this project the community offers to the volunteer or group of volunteers an opportunity for experimentation, learning and personal and collective development."

by Simona COSTANZO SOW

CCIVS AND THE 2030 AGENDA

a new tale for peace and sustainable development

Voluntarism as CCIVS members practice it has always known two tensions related to the desired outcomes for the local community and the volunteers themselves.

- » Balancing the needs of the local community with the desires of the international volunteers, driven by a 'market' of international volunteers favouring certain projects over others, and
- » Balancing the need to make a real difference in terms of addressing local development challenges with the objective to trigger intercultural learning and increase intercultural competencies among the volunteers themselves.

Ensuring that the idea of a project is developed with the local community and that local volunteers are involved in the group of volunteers is one way to bridge these tensions and ensure sustainability of the ideas and approaches the group of volunteers introduced. Organising several short-term projects in a row or over a period of time in a longer term process, which is ongoing in the community, is another way to ensure that the initiative can leave long lasting traces in the community. The fact that CCIVS members are grounded in the local reality of the communities where they host volunteers is a unique key component of CCIVS' membership that distinguishes the movement positively from many other actors in the field of volunteering and intercultural learning.

Since 2015, the world community has adopted a set of sustainable development goals through the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has three overarching principles: policy coherence, 'Leaving no one behind' and universality.

After years of policy making in silos, the 2030 Agenda recognises the need for more integrated thinking, approaching development challenges from a social, environmental and economic perspective at the same time. After years of focusing on average national development outcomes, the 2030 Agenda recognises that governments cannot achieve well-being and a healthy planet alone, it has to be a whole-of-society effort, which needs to focus on the involvement of local populations and their specific needs much more systematically. Finally, after years of looking at the world from a North - South or donor - beneficiary perspective, the 2030 Agenda emphasises its universal nature. It recognises that knowledge and experience sharing is relevant from any part of the world to any other part of the world. Good ideas and innovation come from every part of the globe – in fact, local people are often closest to the solution for the challenges they are facing.

While developing countries require continued support to address poverty and solve environmental challenges, it is understood that all countries, whether industrialized or developing, have homework to do, whether it's from an environmental, climate or energy perspective, looking at gender relations, employment, production and consumption patterns, education, citizen participation, social cohesion, the challenges of urbanisation or other aspects covered by the sustainable development goals.

This wider global narrative is an opportunity for CCIVS to describe its contribution to peace and sustainable development. In fact, in many ways, CCIVS has always embodied the core values that the 2030 Agenda puts forth so prominently for the world community now. CCIVS should emphasise its unique nature, the diversity of its members from all walks of life and all parts of the world.

CCIVS has always defined the community needs to be addressed through its member organisations, who often have roots at the local level. It has always looked at development challenges holistically. Issues that a volunteer project focuses on could be social, environmental, cultural, economic or all of the above. The focus is not issue or sector based but problem focused and results oriented. The issue to address could be in a developed or in a developing country and the volunteers using their creativity and energy to address it could be from anywhere, gaining inspiration from different ways of approaching the situation at hand. CCIVS volunteers do not and should not come as teachers or experts, aiming at transferring knowledge or capacity, but as equals sharing solidarity, creativity and inspiration. Together with the locals this approach can free new ideas and trigger new ways of addressing local development challenges and leave a lasting impact on local ways of addressing peace and development challenges. CCIVS members often quote the sentence by Lilla Watson, an indigenous Australian visual artist, in this regard: “If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine,

let’s work together.”

There are many ways to tell CCIVS’ story and more chapters will be written as its members shape its destiny. After 70 years it may be time to rethink the narrative we want to project going forward. CCIVS has a unique opportunity to write its next chapter as a correlation to the 2030 Agenda, embodying its core values and approaches based on universality and local action across all dimensions of sustainable development.

While many members are struggling with volunteer numbers and competing with actors offering voluntourism, which has nothing in common with the core values of voluntarism, we should regain confidence in explaining why CCIVS’ approach is more timely than ever and how it can help achieve sustainable development outcomes around the world.



**FORETELLING
THE
FUTURE**

by Francesco VOLPINI

VOLUNTEER LIFE ON MARS: 2248 SPACE ODDITY

A story from the Coordinating Committee for Intergalaxy Voluntary Service

- Dr Yossarian, they sent the CBPR-22 back again. They say they need them to be more 'human'.

- Right, sure. And did they tell you what they mean by 'human'?

- There's only a note from Dr. Hiroshi Ishiguro IV from the Intelligence Robotics Laboratory, it says: "coming into contact with androids will get you thinking about our relationship with them, and about what it means to be human".

- I know Dr Ishiguro, he's probably talking about the contact hypothesis by Allport. I studied it in the Medieval Intercultural Planetary Science seminar but we can't apply some 300 years old theory that was created for humans to artificial intelligence!

- Wait, there's also an annex with the technical specifications for the required improvements. It says the CBPR-22 needs more autonomy and the communication software should also be upgraded. And apparently the androids haven't been able to solve many of the problems encountered on Mars as initially foreseen. They also request that we increase their ability to feel integrated in the Martian society and be more open to the alien cultures that populate the planet. It seems they haven't been able to solve the conflicts that have arisen since the arrival of the Plutonians, and they keep saying those people shouldn't be there because 'Pluto is different, it's not a planet'. The batteries must also have some default because the CBPR-22 is not behaving as proactively as it was engineered for, and it is showing no preoccupation for the consequences of its actions on the

environment, nor any respect for the preservation of our cultural heritage.

- Damn, but that's why CBPR-22 were created under the aegis of UNESCO in 2048, and sent to Mars when the earth exploded! It even breaks the first law of robotics: "A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm". If androids cannot succeed where we failed, we'll lose any memory of humankind.

- Let me see if there's anything that can help us in the original instructions booklet, they are supposed to be learning machines... Mmm here, page 267: "Research conducted by the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service and several of its members at the beginning of the XXI Century indicates the existence of a programme that has proved very effective across planets and human and non-human cultures in order to promote Autonomy, Communication, Problem Solving, Conflict Management, Social Integration, Cultural Openness, Active Participation and Concern for Cultural and Environmental Sustainability." It says it's called 'Workcamp'. There's even a bunch of statistics confirmed by several universities, it seems they were trying hard to convince the world that Peace was still possible.



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- I will call immediately the N.A.S.A. to see if they can send us all the materials. Apparently there's even a handbook on 'How to organize a workcamp'. Though I am not sure we'll be able to manage the Force of such a powerful tool.

- I heard there's a person who has preserved the knowledge of volunteerism for centuries, he lives in a galaxy far, far away. They call him Nijedi Watt.

- All may not be lost then. Send Luke Skywalker to find him, and may the Force of volunteering be with you.

Note from the author: While the earth has not yet exploded, many aspects of this story are real and inspired by research: Dr. Ishiguro did actually pronounce the words quoted at the beginning of the dialogue, and was the first to extend the exploration of the idea of diversity into our interaction with androids in order to better understand 'what is human'. CBPR is the abbreviation of Community-Based Participatory Research, an approach CCIVS has tried to adopt and improve in its research with stakeholders across the world, and much of the basic theory behind the workcamp methodology is reflected in Allport's contact hypothesis (1954). The competences mentioned at 'page 267' of the androids instructions booklet are those repeatedly found by different impact studies on international workcamps. Finally, I hope everyone in the CCIVS network has met, at a moment or another, a Nigel 'Nijedi' Watt who was able to transmit through passion and personal example the power of volunteering. As Yoċa said, "Always pass on what you have learned"



by Ingrid DANCKAERTS

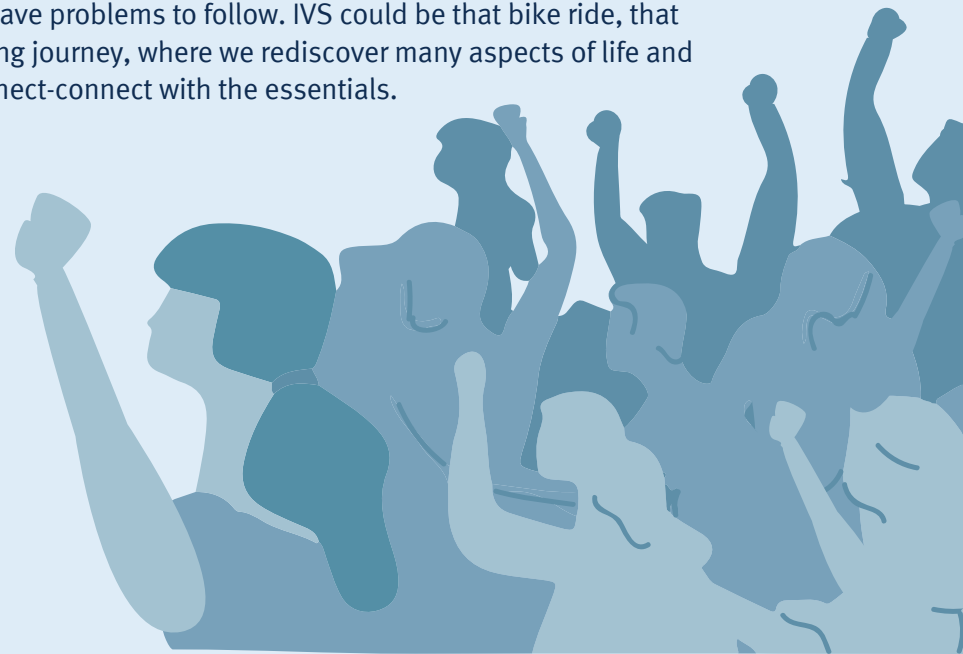
THE CCIVS JOURNEY

Nowadays we fly very fast from one place to another. We are connected in real time with our partners all around the world. I remember my childhood where during the summer holiday you could be really bored and if you wanted to meet your friends you had to get on your bike and pedal to the village or the nearest town. Life has changed and so has International Voluntary Service. We live in a fast-paced world and volunteering is often seen as “one more experience” that you can put on your list of achievements. It’s not a coincidence that the SLOW movement has developed as an alternative to this fast mode of life. So it’s time to stand still and ask ourselves: “where are we and where do we want to go?” Is international volunteering still a valid model in this complex, interconnected world?

Coming back to the cycling in my childhood. I used to cycle because I had no other means to get to the place I wanted to go to. Cycling was a necessity. In the 20th century, international volunteering was an important tool to connect citizens, to get to know different realities, to work towards common understanding and to gain intercultural competences. International volunteering was a unique way to pave the way for a culture of peace. IVS formed “global citizens” long before it became a topic.

Nowadays I still cycle but not as a necessity but to enjoy the ride, to observe the beauty of nature, to slow down and disconnect from my busy life. Maybe IVS plays a different role in this 21st century. Our internet dominated globalised world offers many possibilities to learn about different cultures, to connect with people across the globe and to get to know different realities. Something happens in one place and at the same time it goes viral and we can follow in real time what it is all about.

Maybe IVS should not be “doing as much as possible, as fast as possible and as far as possible”. To come back to my cycling... it shouldn’t be a “Tour de France”. It should be a road trip to enjoy the ride and to absorb as much as possible during the ride. To smell the flowers along the road, to enjoy the company and the joy of accomplishing something together. Where do we take turns in taking the lead or give a little push to those who have problems to follow. IVS could be that bike ride, that learning journey, where we rediscover many aspects of life and reconnect-connect with the essentials.



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IVS still has a value but we have to redefine where and how it contributes to social transformation within our globalised world. We have to make clear how IVS in this FAST world can provide a SLOW but deep connection to some fundamental principles for building sustainable peaceful societies. And maybe we have to adapt our bike. Nowadays so many bicycle models are available and we can choose depending on the purpose of our bike ride. Our international voluntary projects might need some changes in order to better respond to the challenges we see and the goals we set. We are at a crossroads. Testimonies of members of our IVS community show clearly how IVS has changed their lives but will this be the same for the next generation? What do we need to do as a movement to respond to the disquiet of the younger generations? How

can we promote real global citizenship where the wellbeing of all human beings is at the centre of all decisions? How can we reinvent/invent “volunteering in a rapidly changing new global context”? Which partnerships we need to develop to respond to the complexities of our societies?

Can we defend and develop our model of global citizenship so that it can be a real alternative to the growing tendency for more borders, control and military security? How can we make a difference?

This publication shows that IVS has been able over the last 70 years to interact with the broader society and how the IVS movement has contributed in its own way to the developments we have seen. The IVS movement will have to define its role in this new era and CCIVS has to be at the core of that discussion.



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by François RIBAUD & Victoria LOVELOCK

FINAL WORDS

Writing is a pain; the head is going too fast and the fingers too slow. You need time, to find the motivation, to pause, to think, to get the starting idea, to check whether it is worth to share, then to write, type, proceed, read, reread, reread, send, correct... at the end always a frustration. But it is also a joy, a relief once you have finished.

Writing is sharing. Sharing a feeling, giving life to your story in a collective expression.

Writing is also frustrating for those who read (why not me?). Don't be sad, you'll have time, space and opportunities to share your stories.

By writing these stories, we tell something: CCIVS is important, essential for IVS organisations working at the grassroots, locally and globally.

CCIVS is a unique space where local, national, regional and international non-profit organisations learn to work together and to cooperate to promote Peace.

It was seen as a need when organisations gathered by UNESCO, started the Co-Co 70 years ago. Voluntary service was seen as an essential part of the work to achieve the goals of UNESCO in education, science and culture. CCIVS is now the genuine home of the IVS movement, universal rather than global, with its local and cultural ties.

Thank you to all the contributors and editors.

Thank you to all those who have created some part of the history of IVS and CCIVS, who have dedicated their lives to work for peace in this world.

Thank you also to those who will make part of its future.

With a special dedication to Gianni ORSINI actor of this publication project, and in loving memory of Dolores, his wife.

In memoriam to all those who made their lives part of this movement.



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CCIVS
70 YEARS
Coordinating Committee for
International Voluntary Service
1948-2018

Since 1948 and for 70 years, the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) supports local and national organisations in their grassroots community based projects and volunteer exchanges.

As a coordinating body it unites these actors together with regional and international networks and provides a space to work together for the common values of International Voluntary Service (IVS).

This publication presents individual contributions, past, current or future stories.

Price 15 Euros