



WORLD TANABATA ACTION

“Greening the world and hearts to prevent **climate change** through IVS”

TOOLKIT FOR NATIONAL PARTNERS



1. Presentation of World Tanabata Action (WTA)

A. From a Japanese custom...

...where people write their own wishes such as “Health for the family”, “A more peaceful world!!” and hang them on a bamboo branch, in the evening of the 7th July. This is based on the romantic, old tale that a couple loved each other too much to work, so God got angry and made them two stars separated by the milky way, but allowed them to meet on that day once a year.

Based on the Tanabata festival, WTA is a global action aiming to prevent climate change by planting trees & writing commitment to undertake personal actions in this sense on Tanzaku papers. Their size that is to 5x
It started in 2008 and in 2008–2010:

- **21,427** people in 19 countries joined
- **822,831** trees were planted
- **15,882** tanzaku papers were collected



B. Aims of WTA

- Preventing climate change by practical actions to decrease CO2 emissions
- Raising awareness about climate change and also recognition of international voluntary service.
- Strengthening links and solidarity among NGOs and people for the common global issues

C. Benefits for National Partners (NPs)

- Recognition as WTA NPs: further promotion, invitation to international events
- Wider involvement and impact for the projects hosting WTA activities via new outreach and activities
- Development of local and global partnerships

D. WTA: How-to guidelines

Who: Anybody

- Actions: Anybody from all over the world involved in the IVS field
- National Partners: Any IVS NGOs with more than one NP by country

When: Any time

- In summer, during the peak season of IVS activities
- But also in spring, fall and winter

Where: Any place where they can take care of trees such as:

- international workcamps sites
- LMTV project sites i.e. schools, rest-homes, orphanages, community centres
- Festivals or other local events



What:

- Planting of seedlings, seeds, acorns or branches of native species.

Alternative actions: free electricity day, bicycles day

Some NPs appoint Tanabata messengers or ambassadors from their active members/local volunteers who will be in charge of organising the actions.

- Writing on Tanzaku papers actions doable at an individual level to participate in a “50% decrease of global green gas emission by 2050”

Therefore, the size of the paper (recycled, rough) should be 20.50 cm x 5 cm.

It is possible for the participants to write the same wish on 2 papers so as to give one to a NP and to keep the other one.

Moreover, a study part on climate change is recommended to better raise awareness about this issue.

- Sending activities report and Tanzaku papers

How: A simple report form will be sent to the NPs.

Where, When & What: NPs should send national reports & Tanzaku papers to NICE Japan (by 10 Oct. to exhibit Tanzaku art at WSFA!) or to CONCORDIA France (after 10 Oct.)

* There is no limit for the number of the papers.

* Postal costs should be paid by each NP.

E. Organisers

* CCIVS – Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service

Maïa (Project coordinator) secretariat@ccivs.org

* NVDA – Network for Voluntary Development in Asia

Hang (Secretariat) nvda.secretary@yahoo.com

* NICE – Never-ending International workCamp Exchange

Kai (President) nice@nice1.gr.jp

* Concordia France

Rita (International Coordinator) international@concordia.fr

In cooperation with:

* UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

* ALLIANCE of European Voluntary Service organizations

* LAA (Latin American Alliance of international voluntary service organizations)

2. Best awareness-raising practices

A. Quiz on Global Warming (Annex 1)

B. Interactive introduction/role-play on Tanabata (Annex 2) + (Annex 3)



3. Tanzaku papers

A. Samples of Tanzaku papers (Annex 4)

B. Photos:

- G8 Summit – Tokyo, 2008



- NGOs Exhibition, UNESCO – Paris, 2009



In 2011 and 2012, there will be different international events where Tanzaku art exhibitions could be held:

- World Summit for Forest Action (WSFA) – Japan, 8–12 October 2011

Participation of about 100 representatives from NGOs and companies involved in the protection of forests in Japan and the world, some of them will be WTA NPs

To be exhibited in the WSFA, the Tanzaku papers need to reach NICE in Tokyo by 30



September 2011

- Volunteering 2011 Final Seminar – Germany, October 2011
- Global Contest of Excellent Volunteers – Viet Nam, December 2011
- NVDA General Assembly – India, January 2012

4. 3-year report of WTA (2008–2010)

A. Individual reports from NPs (Annex 5)

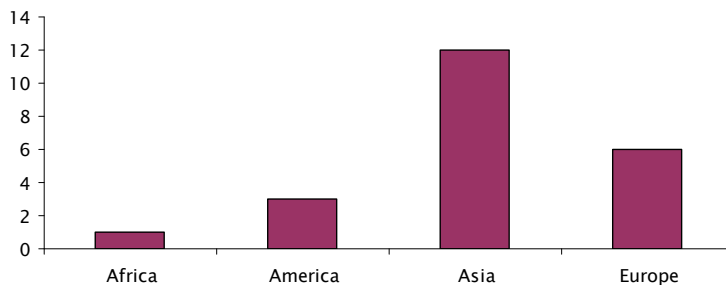
Not all the NPs submitted their evaluation reports, which only provides a partial overview of the WTA campaigns.

B. Short general analysis

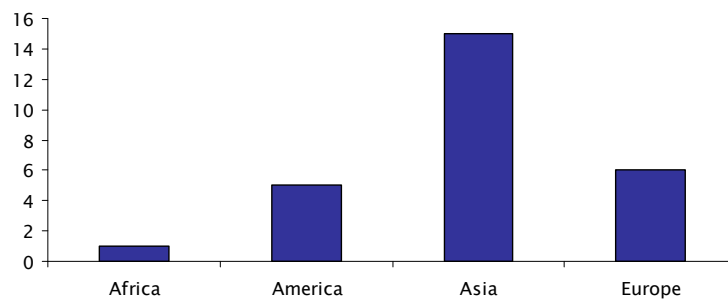
Since 2008, 51 different IVS organisations from 36 countries have registered to take part in the WTA campaign but only 27 IVS organisations representing 22 countries have submitted their report. Besides, many other partners and individuals at a more local level got involved.

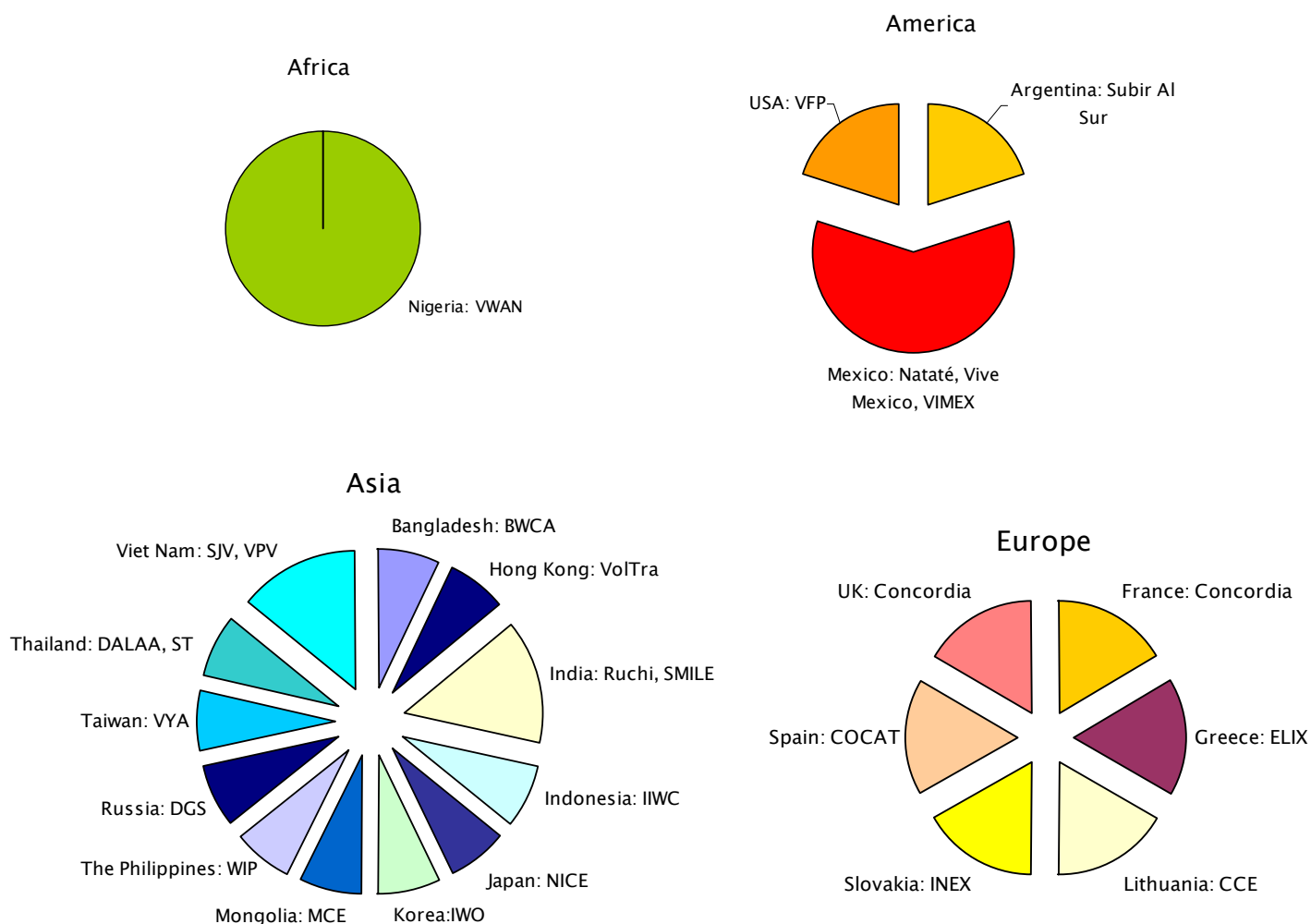
The following graphs provide further information in terms of geographic balance and the Annex 6 more quantitative data.

Regional balance – Countries



Regional balance – Organisations





From a more qualitative point of view, all the NPs highlighted in their evaluation report the participation of local people from the sites where the WTA workshops were run. If WTA aims to prevent climate change via IVS projects, the target group of this awareness-raising action is not only the international volunteers but includes anybody who is willing to concretely act to decrease CO2 emissions. Therefore, the local involvement should always be encouraged. Besides, the impact was stronger when the NPs organised aside from writing Tanzaku papers concrete activities such as tree planting or acrylic sponges production as well as reflections with quiz or roleplays.

5. WTA Special Meeting

Held from 13 to 16 February 2011 in Semarang (Indonesia) and hosted by IIWC in one of their project sites in Mangkang, the first WTA Special Meeting aimed at:

- sharing the impact, know-how and difficulties to run WTA in each NPs' country
- strengthening solidarity among the coordinators but also among the NPs
- establishing a Plan of Action for 2011 (in relation with the International Year of Forests)

In line with the analysis of the evaluation reports, the participants not only committed themselves more in the WTA campaign with specific tasks and actions to be implemented within 2011 after exchanging their practices but also took part in planting 6000 baby mangrove trees! The minutes of this WTA Special Meeting are available [\(Annex 7\)](#).

