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< 18th General Assembly with the special programs >

It is planned to be held for 6 days between May 14th and 19th in Vietnam to be hosted by SJV. Some attractive programs such as Capacity building for the new staff, Knowhow sharing among the NGO leaders, Promotion event for the public and youth, Project visit with voluntary work and Networking with other stakeholders may be included. The official call for the participants may be sent to all member NGOs by the end of March.

< Asian Voluntary Service 2023 >

Asian Voluntary Service was actively organized in 2014-2017 with 84 mid term volunteers from 14 countries and created various great impact in 11 hosting counties. This year, we will revive it in a new way to combine the office intern and project coordination as a (co-)leaders.

* Dates: 2023 Jul. 16th to Aug. 31st for 47 days
* Place: 7 + a few countries incl. Cambodia, India, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand
* Activities: Work as Office interns of Hosting NGOs and run the special workcamps as a co-leader
* Finance: Travel cost will be paid by Volunteers themselves while the stay cost will be covered by Hosting NGOs. There are some possibilities to get a fund to support a part of both cost.
* 7 NGOs have been already registered at the Pre Call and the official call will be sent out to all member NGOs by the end of March, so a few more members are welcomed to join us!
Upcoming Members IVS Projects

* They are just examples and more projects are organized by Member NGOs, so check their sites!


* Dates are indicated by Month/Date order.

**China (DWC)**
Guangdong – Organic farming in the Eco Farm and Caring the Animals (ponies, rabbits, ducks, etc.). All meals are healthy and fresh vegan! 07/08-07/14

**India (RUCHI)**
Bandh – Women empowerment by working with self help groups in villages and teenage girls. 06/12-24, 07/24-08/05, 09/04-16 and 11/20-12/02

**Thailand (DALAA)**
Songkhla - Creative English teaching and activities with kids such as art, sport, games, theater, cooking, recycling, etc. 04/03-16 and 05/02-15

**Indonesia (DJ)**
Lampung - Elephant Conservation by helping local mahout (bathing, feeding, health checking and grassing). 07/24-08/01 and 2024/01/08-16

**Taiwan (VYA)**
Xiushan - Creating the lion head and painting at the traditional Chinese Ghost Festival ceremony and organize care programs for the elders. 08/09-08/22

**Korea (IWO)**
Shinan - Make artisanal metal-made figures on the World Heritage sites and organize educational activities on heritage for local youth. 07/18-07/25
SMILE – India

It's been another challenging year for all of us in SMILE, India. We've lost some of our boon companions in these years. Despite a lot of struggle and shortcomings, we are reviving the spirit of volunteering among people. COVID-19 changed the course of human lives on a completely different scale, but with our relentless efforts & perseverance, we've gone past tough times and are steadily embarking towards normalcy.

In India, COVID is starting to be under control and people are returning to their usual lives. As COVID instances decrease daily, it is clear that we are recovering to our normal ways of life without much concern.

All of our programs are operating normally, but they are all short on volunteers. We are looking for motivated volunteers from all around the world. Every project needs volunteers support but we are not having enough. Let’s hope to receive adequate volunteers from our partners. COVID made us financially very unstable but we are trying to fight back. Your support and solidarity is needed. We look forward to receiving your friendship and unwavering support.

DEJAVATO – Indonesia

On 22 November 2022, Dejavato held a Volunteers Companion (Volscom) in Detekon view, Semarang. The volunteers received all the materials, such as companion procedure, city tours and basic Indonesia, from the Dejavato staff. This activity aimed to involve local volunteers in international voluntary service. It is also the opportunity to introduce Indonesian culture and uniqueness to foreign volunteers.

DEJAVATO – Indonesia

On 15-16 October 2022, Dejavato held an English Weekend Camp in Clapar, Duren Village, Bandungan District, Semarang Regency. The hamlet carried out this activity, and it is known as the largest center for producing chrysanthemums in Central Java.

This activity aimed to improve the participants’ language skills and encourage the local people to learn English. Not only that but also to connect the participants with the local community so that the locals can promote its social, cultural, educational, and environmental activities to the participants. With the hope that it will advance the economic and tourism potential in Duren village, Bandungan sub-district.

As the 22 participants attended the activity, they had to do some works. They had fun activities like planting with the community, team-building activity, and fun games. Furthermore, they also interacted with the local students and the community with activities such as games and fun competitions to share their skills, competencies, language, and abilities.
RUCHI- India: Bringing Forest Back
from 22 August to 3 September 2022 A group of 5 Japanese and 2 Italian volunteers along with a few local women and the Forest Department planted more than 200 local species trees on two roadside locations leading to a village and an ancient temple. The community was very happy that young international volunteers did manual work for their community and the volunteers appreciated the love and affection extended to them through local hospitality.

GREAT- Indonesia:Star Paws Cat Ranger
1-3 September 2022: This is the first time to conduct a work camp with a fresh project topic and new local partners. It has opened the volunteering opportunity for new local and potentially international volunteers in the future. Mulyo Asri Mangrove, 3-6 September 2022: This is a reactivated project about mangroves which GREAT has been close working about mangroves in Pekalongan since before the pandemic, and we are happy to collaborate with new local partner who is more passionate and pro-active in promoting the importance of mangrove and its benefits to our future generation. By having international volunteers working together with local volunteers, not only it helps our local partner in promoting its causes to the international world but also has become one of few ways for our local GREAT volunteers’ community to be active again.

VolTra- Hong Kong
Goodmates App: Jan 2022 - March 2022 We're grateful for the success of "Goodmates" which allowed us to participate in a flagship program started by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. We'll be working with other charities such as Caritas, St. James Settlement, HKFYG and BGCA to develop a new method for engaging people in volunteering. Our goal is to create a digital platform where volunteers can contribute their time and skills, and share their impact via different charities in Hong Kong. This project will have a great impact on VolTra, as it will create financial stability for the company and enable us to expand our services to include digital platforms.
In the first project, volunteers participated in the opening ceremony and stamped their bodies to pray for good health. The day before the parade, they cheered with fairies, holy water pipes, songs and drums.

Next, WHV, the Macao New Chinese Youth Association, participated in the annual event “Feast of Na Tcha” as a flag bearer.

Finally, the SMILE India project was a huge success this year. The project helped bring little extra oxygen among city dwellers and grow chemical free vegetables. The project became big success among communities living in cities. The project provided training and educated community women to build such Rooftop Organic Farm on their house top. It became very popular too.

IVS Impact stories - from 6 countries!

SMILE- India

Project name, dates: Rooftop Organic Farm
Story: We got a huge success this year on this project. This project helps to bring little extra oxygen among city dwellers and grow chemical free vegetables. Our pilot project became big success among communities living in cities. We provide training and educate community women to build such Rooftop Organic Farm on their house top. Looks like it became very popular too.

MNCYA- Macao

WHV- The Historic Centre of Macao- Macao New Chinese Youth Association, 11 June – 19 June 2022

After a certain time of quarantine at the beginning of the year, as well as many social activities were cancelled, local volunteers seem to have more interest on our activities and are more active on face-to-face interaction. 1. The day before the parade, volunteers participated in the opening ceremony and stamped their bodies to pray for good health. 2. “Feast of Na Tcha” was kicked off in Chi San Na Tcha Temple. 3. Participate in the annual event “Feast of Na Tcha” as a flag bearer, cheering with fairies, holy water pipes, songs and drums.

GIED- Philippines

Japan-Philippines Bilateral Workcamp, August 2022. The Japanese group were the first batch of participants to our workcamp after two years of no workcamp projects due to the threat of COVID-19 pandemic. The interaction between the two countries was very rich as they provided support to the renovation of the SPAAFI Techno Demonstration Farm that was destroyed during the typhoon Rai in December 2021 as well as visiting public elementary schools to deepen the intercultural learning. They brightened the vibes and built friendship with the local community with their presence and spent happy moments with them.

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