



# NEWSLETTER

September 2024



**LET US BE  
THE LIGHT  
OURSELVES.**



July, August, and September are high season for IVS in many countries. New encounters and dramas will have been created in many projects.

On the other hand, there is no end to the sad news of wars and natural disasters.

Our strength may be small. But we know that it is not zero, don't we?

Together, let us raise a light to illuminate the world!

- Activity Report P2-3
- Members News P4-5
- PR Interns start!! P6-7
- IVS Impact Stories P8
- Members Upcoming Projects P9
- Upcoming Events P10



**WHAT'S  
INSIDE**

# ACTIVITY REPORTS

## SISTER STAFF COMMUNITY - IN JULY-

During the first week of July, the second SSC was held. SSC is a community where staff members who serve in the same role in NVDA organizations can interact with each other.

Each day from Monday through Friday, we were divided into Incoming, Outgoing, Project Coordinator, PR, and Head to share case studies and discuss concerns.

Of particular note this time was a case study shared by VYA in the Project Coordinator's session, in which VYA took a project to build toilets in a village as an example.

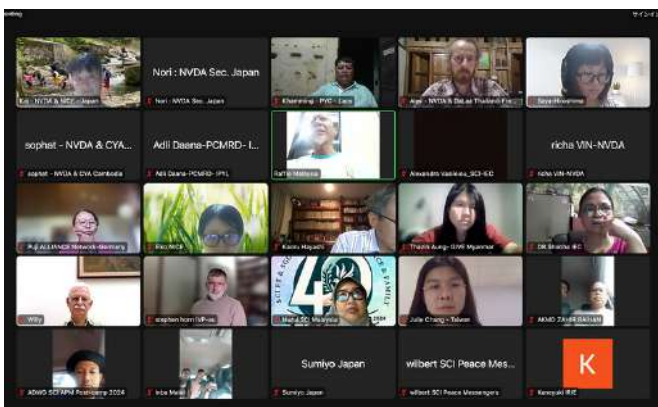
Antonio used the sheet to explain how the project started, what problems they were aware of, how they conducted the research, and how they would evaluate the project. He explained in detail how he used the sheet to evaluate the project.



Starting a project and evaluating it objectively is no easy task, and I think Antonio's presentation was a good and useful one for each organization.

The October SSC is scheduled for staff training. Even in months when there is no SSC, you are always welcome to communicate with other staff members in the same position via Whatsapp chat or other means!

## WORLD PEACE ACTION DAY - 15TH AUGUST



Aug. 15th is a Memorial Day as the end of World War 2.

Many people strongly wished never to repeat such tragedies 79 years ago though so many people in the world are victimized and suffered by the wars, violences and conflicts still now...

As a part of the world peace movement of International Voluntary Service (IVS), NVDA held "World Peace Action Day 2024, From WW2 to Palestine/Myanmar" with NICE, CCIWS, SCI, IPYL. And we called for actions and participations to work together more strongly to achieve the world peace even little by little...!

The long journey towards global peace begins with small steps. Thank you for being part of this journey with us at the with 44 participants from 21 countries. Your enthusiasm is a light in the darkness.

And also you can see the peace messges and photos in Padlet.

[World Peace Actions! \(padlet.com\)](http://www.padlet.com)

# ACTIVITY REPORTS

## ASIAN VOLUNTEERS VOICE IN JUNE AND JULY

BY RICHA GHIMIRE(VIN)

**June 20th Asian Volunteers Voice (AVV)** was Facilitated by Richa ( Me) and Kai. He presented about "South East Asia & Beyond (SEAB)" volunteer program. There were 17 guest listener including Sophat and facilitators.

Sophat presented about The South East Asia & Beyond (SEAB) Volunteer Program that is a newly established, year-long initiative by the Cambodian Youth Action (CYA) organization. This pilot program aims to address the social, environmental, and economic challenges in Southeast Asia by promoting volunteer exchanges, fostering intercultural learning, and building the capacity of youth in the region. The program is set to run from May 2024 to April 2025, with a fixed period of 12 months.

The SEAB program is a significant opportunity for youth in Southeast Asia and beyond to contribute to community development, gain valuable experience, and foster intercultural understanding. Only six places are available, making early application essential.



Organizations across Asia and Europe are encouraged to promote this program among their youth networks. The SEAB program is a unique chance to engage in meaningful volunteer work while developing leadership skills and making a lasting impact on local communities. Overall, the AVV had good number of participation and bilateral communication.

The AVV event, held **on July 18th**, successfully brought together 27 registered participants from 13 different countries, including staff from ALLIANCE members and SCI branches.

Following the opening, Alex from DALAA Thailand took the stage to present the Koh Sukorn workcamp. Alex provided a comprehensive overview of the project, which focuses on preserving local agriculture, particularly rice planting, on the island of Koh Sukorn. He emphasized the importance of this workcamp in helping to maintain traditional agricultural practices while fostering a sense of community among volunteers and locals.

Next, Siva from MOVE Malaysia presented on three distinct workcamps: YCK, MAB, and Golden Age. Each of these workcamps serves a different segment of the community. Siva's presentation underscored the impact these workcamps have on both the volunteers and the local communities, illustrating how volunteer efforts can create lasting positive change.

The event also featured a volunteer story-sharing session, where Ayaka, Takuya, and Kai recounted their experiences in Thailand and Malaysia.

Overall, the AVV event was a success, achieving its goals of fostering global connections and promoting volunteerism as a powerful tool for positive change.



# MEMBERS NEWS

## IVP, AUSTRALIA

## >>> RECENT NEWS OF FOUNDERS

IVP-AU has three Founding Members and here is some news about two of them.



Chris Dunstan recently married his long time partner Catherine in a wonderful ceremony where they celebrated their love and commitment to each other, with their two daughters playing a major role in the planning. Chris continues his contribution to the planet through his professional work in alternative energy.



Vern Cork has retired to Bali where he continues to write and publish books. He aims to organize a workcamp in Bali connected with a library project.

Other IVP Committee and core volunteers continue to fan the flames of international volunteering, including organising a new workcamp which has only one free place. So maybe that spot is for you?

See [Southern Tablelands](#), the [Goulburn Farmers Market](#), initiated by IVP, continues to grow and will celebrate a successful first year in October!

## VOLTRA, HONGKONG

### >>> HONG KONG SOCIAL INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT CAMP

During July, VolTra and Empact co-hosted the impactful "Hong Kong Social Innovation and Development Camp." Twenty-nine mainland students participated, gaining unique insights into Hong Kong's diverse society.

A significant part of the camp involved visiting Sham Shui Po, where the students explored subdivided flats and met former homeless individuals. These experiences provided a stark contrast to Hong Kong's prosperity, fostering empathy and a deeper understanding of the city's social challenges.

## MEMBERS NEWS

Additionally, the students engaged in food distribution activities, witnessing the importance of community support and the positive impact of social initiatives. This hands-on involvement emphasized the role of charity and social responsibility in addressing societal needs.

The camp also included visits to social enterprise restaurants. Here, students learned about the operations and missions of these businesses, which aim to balance economic success with social goals. This exposure broadened their knowledge of how enterprises can address societal issues while providing employment to marginalized groups.



Moreover, interactions with special education students allowed the participants to experience their daily learning environments. This aspect of the camp highlighted the inclusivity efforts within Hong Kong's education system and the challenges faced by students with special needs, deepening the mainland students' appreciation for diversity and resilience in education.

Overall, the "Hong Kong Social Innovation and Development Camp" offered a multifaceted view of Hong Kong society. Through practical activities and meaningful interactions, the camp enriched the students' understanding of social issues, strengthened their sense of social responsibility, and equipped them with practical skills.

The insights gained from exploring social enterprises, grassroots communities, and educational inclusivity provided a comprehensive understanding of the complexities behind Hong Kong's development, likely leaving a lasting impact on the participants.



# PR INTERNS START!!

*NVDA will work with 4 PR interns from August 2024 to January 2025.*

*Meet our talented and motivated interns.*

Hi everyone, I'm Deni Irawan, the new intern in NVDA's PR department. Growing up in Indonesia, I've always been drawn to nature and community service. As a camp leader in both Indonesia and France, I've had the opportunity to work with people from diverse backgrounds and contribute to meaningful projects.

I'm excited to bring my passion for volunteering and my love for learning to NVDA



Hi everyone, My name is Lam, and I'm a 19-year-old student from Vietnam currently pursuing a degree in Professional Communication.

I'm excited to apply for the internship position at NVDA. Throughout my academic journey, I've developed a strong passion for effective communication and teamwork. I believe these skills, combined with my enthusiasm for camping and connecting people, make me a valuable asset to the NVDA team.

I'm confident that this internship will provide me with invaluable experience and opportunities to grow both personally and professionally.

Hi everyone, I'm San and I'm joining the NVDA family as one of the new PR Interns! I'm currently a college student majoring in PR in Vietnam and I have a big interest in volunteering. Through summer voluntary trips and experiences with organizing events,

I have developed a special love for volunteering and connecting people via communication. I'm super excited about this opportunity, and I hope via this internship,

I will be able to contribute that enthusiasm and eagerness to the NVDA's community, as well as to be inspired and learn new skills from creative and passionate peers around the world.

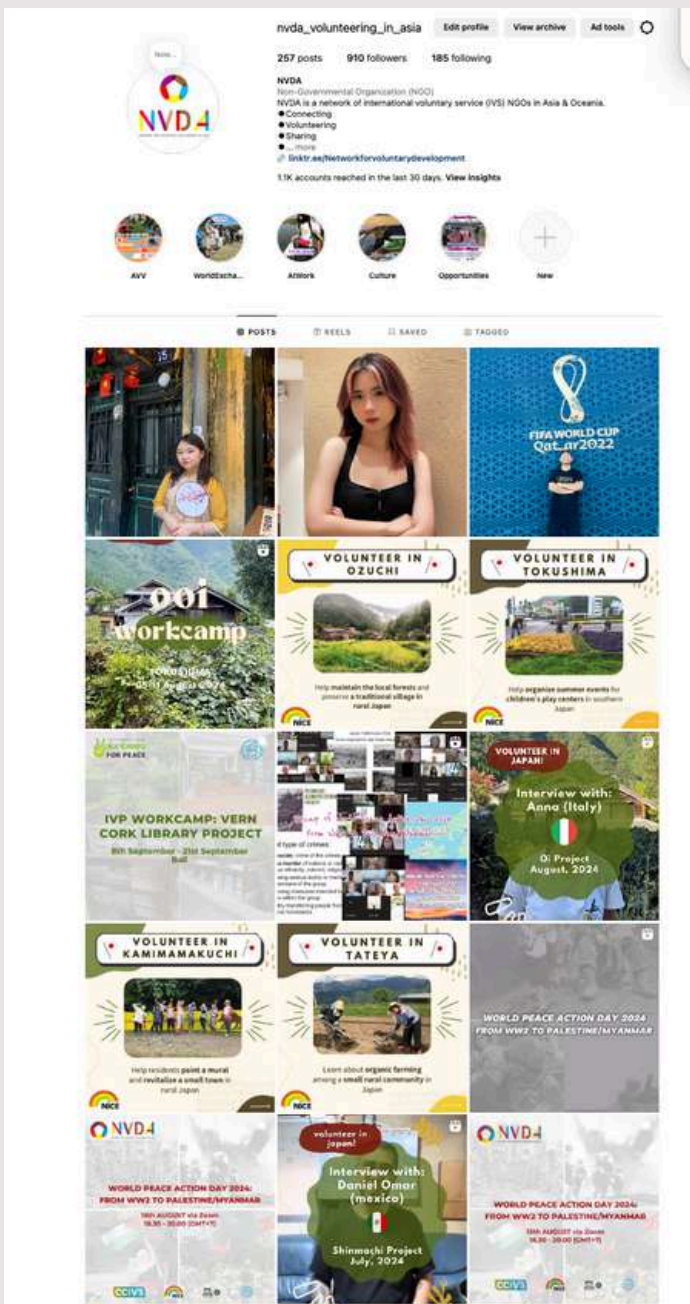




Hello everyone, My name is Linh or you can call me Lee. Currently, I'm a university student majoring in Linguistics.

After participating in a voluntary trip in Thailand, I have developed a fascination towards culture, cuisine and voluntary work in different parts of the world. Acknowledging the lofty objective of NVDA, I aspire to become a part of the mission by applying for PR intern position.

I hope that via this internship I will have the opportunity to develop myself, contribute to the community and gain a deeper insight into different cultures all over the globe.



**With the new sensibility of our interns, NVDA is updating its Instagram and FB content. We have also started Tiktok.**

**PR is a common challenge for IVS, we welcome your comments and suggestions about NVDA's PR!**





**WE CAN SEE  
IMPACT ON THE  
COMMUNITIES,**

**IMPACT ON THE  
VOLUNTEERS**

# IVS IMPACT STORIES

## GIED PHILIPPINES & DALAA THAILAND

**-These are examples of impact on Members' Projects in 2023 from NVDA annual report-**

### ➤➤➤ GIED, PHILIPPINES

In honor of our volunteers worldwide this International Volunteer Day 2023, Global Initiative for Exchange and Development Inc. - GIED in partnership with the Local Government of Alegria, Cebu organized our 2nd IVD Christmas BOOTCAMP with our long term foreign volunteers last 12-15 December in Alegria, Cebu, Philippines In the mountain village of Compostela, Alegria our volunteers did a river clean-up in one of the jump-off canyonnering sites, planted bamboo trees in the nearby BADAM Water Shed protected area and sorted out garbage in their MRF facility.

After which we had an overnight fellowship in the beach to commemorate our ecological efforts and build camaraderie among our long term volunteers and local partner institution.



The Bootcam was our way gifting back what our NATURE truly deserves through our small acts of service to breathe, cleanse, heal and rejuvenate even in a brief time together.

### ➤➤➤ DALAA, THAILAND



Hug Ban Den, Lampang province, North Thailand. For 2 months in October- November 2023, Marie from Belgium has been the first volunteer to stay with our host Kru Ann in this little village from the North Thailand. As the first and only volunteer in this village, she was fully immersed in the local culture and so well taking care of. She discovered the strength of the simple life and solidarity in the village. Her experience was above all her expectations and her evaluation was so warming heart to listen to.



# MEMBERS UPCOMING PROJECTS

## »»» ' DALAA THAILAND 20TH ANNIVERSARY WORKCAMP'

Every year, we commemorate the first workcamp we organized in DaLaa back in 2004 by keeping the same dates 15-21 October but this year is special: we are reaching 20 years and we wish to celebrate this big achievement.

We decided to extend the workcamp to 2 weeks from 10-23 October. We'll keep doing our usual activities with kids and improving our Voluntary Service Community area (Songkhla province) as we do on these School holiday times.

These are always a great joy and fun. But for the anniversary celebration, we will move to Pattalung province in a place called Roywan Phan Pba with the hosts we used to work for 6 years (2010-2015) and send so many volunteers.



They finally transformed the project into an eco-resort but wish to share their achievement with DaLaa and possibly receive more volunteers there in the future.

We will have the whole resort area crossed by an enchanting river from 18 to 21 for the celebration. We didn't decide precisely the program there but we will invite those who have played a significant role in the organization's history and we will probably have some storytelling to share our happiness and life changing experience passing through DaLaa, some art and music performance and much more.

We still have a few places for the workcamp for your interested volunteers or yourself:)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ➤➤➤ SPECIAL TRAINING FOR SISTER STAFF COMMUNITIES

We are starting Special online meeting for NVDA's member orgs' staff members in the same position can share common know-how, concerns, and ideas. The third meeting will be held **October 7-11**, and it's **staff trainings**. More details will be sent to members shortly via email.

### Date / Theme / Facilitator

October 07 : Outgoing placement - Kai

October 08 : Incoming placement - Baatar

October 09 : Project coordinator / Trainer - Alex

October 10 : PR - Richa

October 11 : Head (President and Directors) - Sophat

## ➤➤➤ GLOBAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE (SCC) 2024

To dramatically increase the impact for carbon reduction as well as strengthen volunteerism and management of NGOs, we started the SCC project, with sponsorship of the UPS Foundation, NLAPO and Mitsubishi UFJ Foundation. After the great success in 2016, we have been continuing and developing the SCC project mainly by our self-efforts (besides grant from NLAPO and Fund of NICE) and collaboration since it is huge work and takes some time to get real impact.

Due to the COVID-19, it was stopped since 2020, but now revised in a new format from 2024! India, Indonesia, Japan, and Cambodia are participating in the SCC. Unfortunately, due to the low number of volunteers, only Japan (NICE) will have project this year, but it will be held in Japan for 46 days from Nov. 10th to Dec. 25th. Short-term workcamps are also scheduled during the period. Let's look forward to it!

## NVDA NEWSLETTER (SEPTEMBER 2024)

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