

NETWORK FOR VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA



NEWSLETTER

September 2025



FROM ACTION TO PEACE, TOGETHER



For many of our members, the busy workcamp season is coming to an end. This summer brought extreme heat and reminded us of the ongoing climate crisis, while conflicts around the world made peace feel far away.

Still, on August 15 we marked World Peace Action Day, listening to voices from past and present and reflecting on how we can build a better future. We confirmed once again that across borders, our wish for peace is shared.

IVS is one of the strongest ways to carry this vision forward. Let's take pride in our work and keep moving toward peace.



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JOINING HANDS FOR A GREENER TOMORROW – MY SCC JAPAN EXPERIENCE

By Arjun Rajput (RUCHI, India)

In early July 2025, I had the opportunity to participate in “Stop Climate Change” (SCC) program in Japan, hosted by NICE (Never-ending International workCamps Exchange) near Yokohama. To dramatically increase the impact of carbon reduction, the program united enthusiastic participants from India, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Japan, with a shared goal: taking meaningful action against climate change.

By pairing mid-term and short-term workcamps with carbon-offset fundraising, SCC turns practical actions—like mangrove planting and bamboo-charcoal production—into measurable climate impact while strengthening a global network of local hosts, as evidenced by two SCC Summits held in Cambodia and Japan.



The SCC meeting was attended by representatives from four organizations:

- HAGIWARA Nana from NICE, Japan
- Sophat Prasob Rachana and Choeung Soklang from CYA, Cambodia
- Ajeng Prasasti from GREAT, Indonesia
- Arjun Rajput from RUCHI, India

Throughout the week, we engaged in a series of impactful sessions. The first day was about introductions and sharing how each of our organizations is tackling the climate crisis locally. It was deeply motivating to learn how SCC's vision is alive in diverse communities across Asia.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

JOINING HANDS FOR A GREENER TOMORROW – MY SCC JAPAN EXPERIENCE

In the following sessions, we planned cross-border climate actions and exchanged ideas with future Japanese camp leaders. We openly discussed challenges faced by our projects and strategies to overcome them. Finally, we collaborated to create a shared Action Plan that all four SCC workcamps will implement going forward.

One session that truly resonated with me was on charcoal bamboo burning — a traditional technique that helps absorb CO₂ and improve soil quality. It was a powerful reminder that local knowledge can offer global solutions.

We also participated in hands-on environmental work with local Japanese volunteers — clearing invasive plants and planting rice. Working together in the fields brought our mission to life in the most tangible way.



Beyond the sessions, it was the spirit of collaboration, shared meals, and honest conversations that made this experience unforgettable. The warmth and dedication of the NICE team and fellow participants reminded me that real change happens through unity and grassroots action.

This experience has left me inspired and hopeful. It proved that when people from different cultures and countries come together with purpose, we can spark powerful change — starting small, but growing steadily.

Let's continue working, learning, and leading — for a greener, fairer, and better tomorrow.

ACTIVITY REPORT

WORLD PEACE ACTION DAY - 15TH AUGUST

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By Xuan (HJA, NVDA Intern)



August 15th marks the anniversary of the end of World War II, a moment for people across the globe to remember the past and commit themselves to a peaceful future.

To honor this day, NVDA, together with NICE, CCIVS, GIVE, IPYL and many international workcamps, organized World Peace Action Day 2025: “From WW2 to Palestine/Myanmar.” The online event gathered 67 participants from 31 countries, uniting volunteers, peace activists, and survivors to share their voices for peace.

The meeting began with a reminder of the purpose of World Peace Action Day to learn from past wars and address today’s conflicts together. Though eight decades have passed since World War II, the suffering caused by wars and violence continues, making the call for peace more urgent than ever.

Many international workcamps appreciated the campaign. They said it provides a valuable opportunity to discuss peace, represent community voices, and cooperate with others. They also noted that even small acts of support can help create a more peaceful world.

Bun, a Hiroshima survivor, shared the lasting impact of the bombing. After years of silence, she tells her story to warn the world about the human cost of war and the danger of nuclear weapons.

Speakers from Palestine, Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand reflected on ongoing conflicts. Adli from Palestine shared the long-lasting struggles of occupation and displacement. Thazin from Myanmar speaker stressed community engagement and grassroots efforts as key to building peace. Alex from Thailand highlighted that, despite a ceasefire, tensions persist and social media has fueled fear, emphasizing the importance of dialogue, understanding, and volunteer initiatives to restore trust and harmony.

In small groups, participants reflected on war, nuclear dangers, and the role of voluntary service. They agreed that educating the next generation is vital to prevent past tragedies from repeating.

World Peace Action Day 2025 reminded us that peace needs awareness, dialogue, and solidarity. From Hiroshima to Palestine and Myanmar, testimonies showed the cost of war and the power of community action. Together, we can take small but meaningful steps toward a more peaceful world.

World Peace Action Day 2025
from WW2 Hiroshima to Palestine/ Myanmar

International Workcamps!



by KAIZAWA Shinichiro (Kai), General Secretary of NVDA/ President of NICE (Japan)

MEMBERS NEWS

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GIED 10TH ANNIVERSARY

By Glezzyl Resuelo (GIED)



GIED proudly celebrated its 10th Anniversary last July 23, 2025, by conducting a “Decade of Dedication” onsite Local Partner Orientation and Appreciation Day event held at the Kabilin Center Hall, Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc (RAFI), Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines. The successful event gathered GIED's local and international partners and volunteers, featured fellow International Voluntary Service Organizations (IVSOs) and partner government agencies in the country (virtually and onsite), and invited potential partner stakeholders both in public and private sectors for a day filled with meaningful discussions and recognition for all who have contributed to GIED's mission over the past decade.

The program was warmly welcomed by the GIED President, Rhenelyn Queen Dadulo, followed by a series of insightful panel discussions from invited government agencies and partners.



The first panel discussion, The Power of Global Partnerships and Cross-cultural Exchanges to Local Impact and Development, was led by Ms. Gelena Asis-Dimpas, Assistant Regional Director of the Department of Tourism Region 7. This was followed by the second panel discussion, Localizing IVS in the Achievement of the SDGs, by Mr. Patrobinson M. Salumag, PhD (Campus Director of CTU-CCMSC) and Ms. Edralin A. General, PhD (Chairperson for CTU Danao's Internationalization Office).

GIED 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The morning program concluded with the third panel discussion, Youth Voices on International Voluntary Service (IVS), featuring GIED's youth volunteers Michelle May Molina, Chiaki Nakayama, Nora Viertel, and Zoë Schindler.

The afternoon program started with an LPI Sharing Session, wherein GIED featured three (3) LPIs – Mr. Cyril Mapula of Foundation University, Ms. Jessabel Pino of Bidlisiw Foundation Inc., and Mrs. Evangeline Alsong of LGU Barili – who shared their experiences with GIED.

Afterwards, a presentation of IVS statistics was conducted by Ms. Corina Encabo (GIED Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Manager), who also conducted a simple workshop aimed at strategizing ways to further engage GIED's LPIs. Eventually, the event concluded with an LPI Appreciation Ceremony, recognizing the dedication of both new and existing partners through the presentation of awards and tokens of appreciation.



A heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this celebration possible, especially to our event partners – the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc., the Department of Tourism (Region 7), DOT's Education Tourism Program (Edux7), and the Pestales Agriculture Cooperative. Indeed, the day was a fitting tribute to GIED's 10 years of achievements. Cheers to many more chapters!



NVDA INTERN STARTS!

**NVDA is working with 8 interns from VPV, DALAA, HJA and VYA since July!
Let's meet our talented and motivated interns.**

Lee



Hi, my name is Lee and I'm from Vietnam 🇻🇳.

🎉 Last year, I had the opportunity to serve as a PR intern, and I'm excited to share that this year, I've stepped into a new role as the leader of the PR intern team for NVDA.

🔥 We have an energetic and talented group of interns from all around the world, and together, we aim to promote the values of NVDA and inspire more volunteers to join our global initiatives.

Stay connected to meet the rest of our amazing team!

My name is Anna. I am French 🇫🇷 and I am currently volunteering in Dalaa, an association based Thailand. I graduated last year with a master's degree in geopolitics. As part of my studies, I spent a month in Thailand, where I met many local NGOs—an experience that inspired me to work with NGOs again.

Through this internship in NVDA, I hope to gain new skills, contribute meaningfully to the community, and connect with people from diverse countries and backgrounds.

Anna



Mali



Hi everyone 🙌, I'm Mali from Laos 🇻🇳, currently majoring in English at the National University of Laos. I'm passionate about language, cultural exchange, and community development.

I'm excited to join NVDA as an intern to grow my skills, contribute to meaningful work, and connect with people from around the world. 🌍

Hello everyone! I'm Xuan, a volunteer from Laos 🇻🇳 ✨

I graduated last year from the Faculty of Architecture at the National University of Laos. While my background is in design and construction, I've always been passionate about learning from real-life experiences, especially through teamwork, volunteering, and cultural exchange.

Joining NVDA is a meaningful opportunity for me to grow as a person, contribute to local communities, and connect with others who care about making a positive difference. I enjoy sharing ideas, learning from different perspectives, and supporting each other to create sustainable change.

I'm truly excited to be part of this journey — and ready to support others through this meaningful volunteering journey. 🌱

Xuan



NVDA INTERN STARTS!

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Thanny



Hello everyone! My name is Phimsouvanh, but you can call me Thanny. I am currently a student at the National University of Laos 🇇🇵, majoring in International Relations.

I'm thrilled to begin my internship with NVDA, where I'll gain new skills, connect with inspiring people, and grow both personally and professionally. This opportunity allows me to explore different cultures, contribute to meaningful projects, and make a positive impact in communities.

I'm truly grateful for this chance and excited to share my growth and adventures with NVDA team.

Greeting everyone! 🇲🇻 My name is Perawit, but you can also call me by my nickname, "Film." I'm a young quantum physicist with a passion for futuristic art-science projects. This coming September, I will begin my studies in Physics in the United States. I have previously taken on leadership roles in various projects, such as serving as the Director of TEDClub Korat and organizing events like International Pi Day at SVB.

The reason I decided to join the NVDA Internship Program is because I seek a deeper understanding of diverse national perspectives. I also recognize the importance of humility and empathy—key values aligned with public relations roles. I hope this opportunity will be a valuable and enriching experience as I grow alongside the NVDA Internship Program.

Film



Kanlaya



Greeting to everyone! 🇇🇵 I'm Kanlaya, an Accounting and Auditing student from Laos 🇇🇵. I'm currently working as a PR intern at NVDA.

My interest in volunteering and learning through real experiences, especially by working with people from different cultures and backgrounds led me to join this program. 🌱

Joining NVDA is a wonderful opportunity for me to grow both personally and professionally by building meaningful connections and supporting communities alongside people who share the same passion.

I'm excited to exchange ideas, gain new experiences, offer support, and work together to make a positive impact with the NVDA team. 🌸

Hi everyone! This is Yurin from Taiwan 🇹🇼. I'm currently studying Japanese and History as a double major at Fu Jen Catholic University. I'm passionate about history, learning languages, and building cross-cultural connections.

Last year, I joined my very first workcamp in Tsuga, Shimane. That experience opened the door to international volunteering, and since then I've participated in four workcamps in Japan. Every summer and winter vacation, I can't wait to join another workcamp!

I'm also deeply interested in NGO activities, which is why I'm so excited to be joining NVDA as an intern this year! Through this internship, I hope to challenge myself, broaden my skills, and contribute to making our world a little more connected and inclusive. 🌍



Yurin

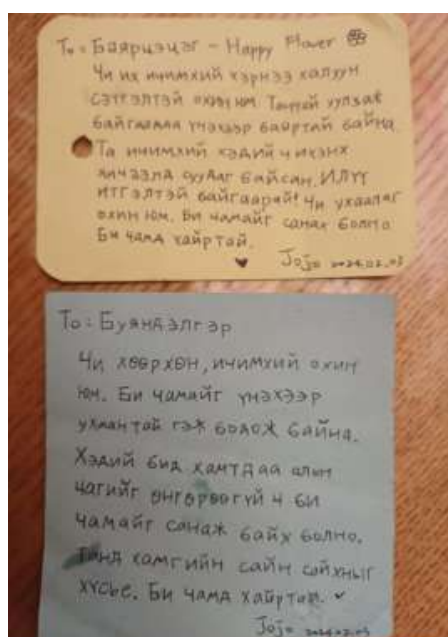
IVS IMPACT STORIES

-These are examples of impact on Members' Projects in 2024 from NVDA annual report-

MCE MONGOLIA

School project- Feb, 2024.

Group of Taiwanese vols participated into this project. Many of them wish to come back to the project and one vol wrote letter in Mongolian to every kids in the class.



Same workcamp as above. We travel to school and way back we spend quite long time in the car. 2 vol who always use front seat of the car keep asking Mongolian letters on the number plate of the cars. After one week she could read Mongolian words without any problem. Of course, she can read but don't understand meaning. Still so good for her

IWO KOREA

Soando workcamp, 2024 Aug.

The project was held in island called Soando located in the south of Korea peninsula. It created the stone-table with the messages from the each countries. the island was famous with the heroes who loved the countries and against the empire. The volunteers left well known messages from their own countries about thier heroes. It became the remarkable monument to the guest.



MEMBERS UPCOMING PROJECTS

DALAA, THAILAND

➤➤➤ KONG POR NEUA WORKCAMP: PEACE, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN THAILAND



Volunteers will stay at the monastery, support the Chedi Watering Ceremony (December 15–16), and spend a day with about 100 primary school students. They will also join the Universal Moral & Ethics Camp (December 19–21), where local people learn about Dharma and family ethics, while volunteers create activities for children and youth.

The camp concludes with a visit to the local forest to raise awareness about nature conservation. Accommodation is in simple shared rooms at the monastery, and all meals are vegan. Participants are encouraged to bring songs, games, or cultural ideas to share.

Limited to 15 volunteers, this 10-day program offers a unique chance to experience peacebuilding and cultural exchange in a remote community.

➤➤➤ YUMEFUKURO WORKCAMP : TRADITIONAL CRAFTS AND ECO-CONSERVATION IN KUMAMOTO

From November 17–30, a volunteer program will take place in Fukuro, Minamata city, Kumamoto prefecture. Surrounded by mountains and the sea, this naturally rich area offers participants a chance to engage in climate change prevention and circular environmental conservation.

Volunteers will join workshops in traditional papermaking and weaving, while also assisting in community events. The program includes networking sessions, excursions, and roundtable discussions, encouraging both cultural exchange and environmental awareness. Accommodation is simple and community-based, with meals shared together. With its mix of eco-activities, cultural immersion, and local exchange.



Yumefukuro Workcamp is an ideal opportunity for those seeking meaningful engagement in rural Japan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

➤➤➤ ASIAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2026 IS COMING!

NVDA, in cooperation with NICE and supported by the Mitsubishi UFJ Foundation, is launching Asian Voluntary Service (AVS) 2026. From January 11 to March 21, 2026, youth volunteers will join or co-lead workcamps and support NGO offices in five Asian countries.

AVS aims to foster friendship, leadership, and practical action in fields such as environment, rural development, education, culture, and human rights. International and local volunteers will work in pairs, creating stronger collaboration and mutual learning.

Through this program, participants will gain valuable experience in community development, cultural exchange, and grassroots peacebuilding. Hosting NGOs will also have the chance to strengthen their networks and visibility within the international volunteering movement.

We are now calling for hosting NGOs until the end of September. Don't miss this chance to be part of a meaningful exchange that builds peace and solidarity across Asia.

➤➤➤ SPECIAL WEEK FOR SISTER STAFF COMMUNITIES

October is SSC month again. As the high season of workcamps comes to an end, why not take this opportunity to reflect on the past year and prepare for the new season together with NVDA friends? At SSC, we welcome the themes you would like to share and learn about.

Date / Theme / Facilitator

Oct. 6 (M) / Placement officers + PR / Baatar, Kai, Richa

Oct. 7 (Tu) / Project Coordinators/ Trainers / Alex

Oct. 8 (W) / Heads of NGOs / Sophat

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