

ICP AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE (IANYS)

By Katherine Hutter, ICP Project Coordinator

During IANYS' most recent business meeting at the end of March in Albuquerque, New Mexico, ICP was selected to become the new Permanent Secretariat for the Association. IANYS is an organization dedicated to stimulating and facilitating the exchange of information about national youth service (NYS)¹ and to offering assistance to nations wishing to consider the introduction and/or reshaping of NYS programs. IANYS takes a pro-active position on national youth service, recommending that every country give it serious consideration. The Association also embraces service-learning, where students utilize their education to serve others and reflect on their service experiences to inform their learning.

Members of the IANYS Steering Committee felt that ICP was the natural fit for assuming the secretariat role, given the similar goals of the organizations and Susan Stroud's long-standing involvement in IANYS. Specifically, ICP will become the Association's Permanent Secretariat, and Susan its Executive Director, responsible for IANYS on an operational level. ICP and IANYS will remain discreet entities with independent financial and governance structures. Under ICP's leadership, IANYS' current Steering Committee will become a Global Council, comprised of dedicated individuals from all parts of the world who will provide general oversight and direction for the organization. ICP will also house the IANYS website and dedicate space in its newsletter, *Service News Worldwide*, to highlight IANYS members and activities.

One of IANYS' main activities has been organizing biannual conferences. There have been seven IANYS conferences to date in locations as diverse as Ghana, Israel, the UK and Argentina. Plans for a conference in 2008 are ongoing, and under ICP's leadership, it is hoped that a new scope of work and plan of action for IANYS can be defined and executed to help revitalize the organization. Future IANYS activities might include developing a network of consultants to advise countries on NYS policies and programs and creating an exchange program for NYS policymakers and practitioners to visit NYS programs in other countries to gain first-hand knowledge of other models.

The Association welcomes the participation of anyone involved in national youth service and service-learning who agrees with the IANYS charter, goals and principles. It particularly welcomes people from countries where national youth service is under consideration or just getting under way. There are currently about 50 IANYS members. There is no membership fee, but this may be reviewed at a later date. Criteria for membership and a plan for membership expansion will be discussed during the next meeting of the Global Council. To learn more about IANYS and the ICP merger, please feel free to contact us at admin@icicp.org.

¹ According to the Global Service Institute, (national) youth service is defined as "an organized period of substantial engagement and contribution to one's community, recognized and valued by society, with minimal monetary compensation to the participant."