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On behalf of the IANYS Global Council, I wish to thank and congratulate our conference organizers:

**Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP)**

**Unis-Cité**

**and the Association of Voluntary Service Organizations (AVSO)**

for their tremendous effort in hosting the 8th Global Conference on National Youth Service.

We also would like to thank the generous sponsors of the conference who made this successful event possible: the European Commission, the Shinnyo-en Foundation, the French Ministry of Youth, UN Volunteers, Benoit Foundation, and the University of Minnesota. We are also grateful to the US Embassy in Paris for their logistical support, including the donation of the conference space at the Fondation des Etats-Unis, and we thank the staff of the Fondation for their involvement and support.

We thank all of the speakers, presenters, facilitators and attendees for your participation, input and dialogue to advance and strengthen National Youth Service around the world.

—Elisabeth Hoodless, DBE, Chairman, IANYS Global Council

This report was written by Jean Manney, Innovations in Civic Participation; Helene Perold, Volunteer and Service Enquiry Southern Africa; and Sarah Tucker, Innovations in Civic Participation.
Preface

The 8th Global Conference on National Youth Service (NYS) was a turning point for IANYS and for the entire field of youth civic engagement globally. Participation in the conference far exceeded our expectations, drawing the largest single gathering of participants and most diverse representation of countries in IANYS history, with more than 120 participants from approximately 40 countries.

IANYS is the only association of its kind working to advance and promote NYS in countries around the world. The response to the 8th Global Conference demonstrates that there is a real need for an association that brings together people who are working with youth in different contexts around the world. Areas of common interest include creating high-quality youth service programs, advocating for government support, undertaking evaluations and research of youth service programs, and providing opportunities for young people to make a difference in their communities.

Worldwide, civic engagement is becoming more widely acknowledged as being integral to democratic development and the momentum for service has grown enormously. Furthermore, it is clear that there is a growing interest not only in developing youth civic engagement programs and policy, but also in participating in global networks to share models, ideas and good practice. This growing interest in national youth service is accompanied by a range of needs from professionals in the field of youth development around the world.

Given these developments in different parts of the world, the time is right to pull together NYS resources, expertise, models and practices, and to provide countries with the support they need to invest in and implement, or improve and scale up national youth service policies and programs. We believe that the IANYS network has the momentum, expertise and capacity to be the vehicle to produce and disseminate this support. The groundbreaking 8th Global Conference was just the beginning of a new era that could see the transformation of youth civic engagement worldwide.

As the permanent Secretariat for IANYS, ICP is committed to responding to the needs of the field. We are working to create a more robust international network that significantly expands the number of professionals involved in IANYS activities; facilitates the exchange of information about youth civic engagement; and offers technical assistance to governments and international organizations in the design, implementation and evaluation of youth civic engagement policies and programs.

Please join us in our efforts to scale up IANYS to meet the rising interest and needs of the National Youth Service field and help us engage the largest youth generation in history to work for change through service to communities around the world.

Susan Stroud
Director, IANYS
About IANYS

The International Association for National Youth Service (IANYS) is a unique global network of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and other professionals in the field of national youth service. IANYS was formed in 1996 and has grown to include members from 48 countries on six continents. IANYS is the only network of its kind actively working to encourage every country to consider the implementation of policies and programs that support youth civic engagement.

The goals of IANYS are to stimulate and facilitate the exchange of information about national youth service (NYS), to advocate for strong youth policy, and to offer assistance to nations wishing to consider the introduction of NYS or to reshape current NYS programs.

The central activity of IANYS is a biennial Global Conference that provides youth service practitioners and policymakers from around the world with a stimulating forum to share information and current developments in the field, nurture connections for developing future projects, and discuss the potential for scaling up national youth service for greater impact on community and youth development. Past conferences have been held in the US, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the UK, Israel, Argentina, and Ghana.

What is National Youth Service?

National Youth Service (NYS) is an organized activity in which young people serve others and the environment in ways that contribute positively to society. NYS participants normally serve full-time for a period of six months to two years and receive support—whether from NGOs or government—sufficient to enable them to serve. Major areas of service are health, education, environmental conservation and care for the very old and the very young.

NYS also embraces service learning, where students utilize their education to serve others and then reflect on their service experiences to inform their learning. Service learning is a graduation requirement in many universities around the world. Service learning in secondary schools and universities is often a prelude to full-time NYS.

Countries initiate NYS programs for varied reasons, including delivering social and environmental services, alleviating youth unemployment, providing alternatives to required military service, experientially complementing classroom education, and engaging youth in nation-building.

The outcomes of national youth service programs depend on the goals for which programs are designed, the experience young people bring to the service, and the support of the community. Almost all evaluations to date have shown that the value of services rendered by national youth service participants is equal to or greater than the cost of the program. In addition, participants benefit from work experience, career exploration, increased self-esteem, and increased awareness of the needs of others. Many national youth service participants acquire new skills, good work habits, decision-making ability, social maturity, and a new understanding between races, ages and faiths.
Origins
IANYS was founded in 1996 through the work of Donald Eberly, who began exploring civilian programs focused on peace building, civic service and alternatives to military conscription. As Mr. Eberly began writing his own ideas for National Youth Service, he joined with others around the world to document global developments in NYS.

As interest grew and a collective of professionals in the NYS field began to form, the idea to have an international meeting on NYS developed. At the third biennial Global Conference on NYS in Papua New Guinea in 1996, participants formally established IANYS.

IANYS today
The Global Council, the governing body of IANYS, is made up of experts in the field of youth service from around the world. Currently 13 countries are represented on the Global Council. Dame Elisabeth Hoodless, Director of the UK’s Community Service Volunteers and organizer of the 4th Global Conference, serves as the Global Council Chairman. Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP) serves as the Secretariat of IANYS and Susan Stroud (ICP’s Executive Director) is the Director of IANYS.

Given ICP’s experience and expertise in fostering innovative opportunities and supporting the development of the youth civic engagement field, ICP was selected to serve as the permanent secretariat for IANYS in 2007. Previously, secretariat responsibilities had resided with the country which hosted a global NYS conference, and were handed over to the host of the succeeding global conference, though the Charter included the possibility of creating a permanent secretariat.

As the permanent secretariat, ICP has expanded the IANYS network and is working to strengthen the capacity of IANYS to support youth service professionals to increase and improve opportunities for young people to help meet critical national and community needs while building essential skills for future success.

IANYS provides the framework where all these diverse experiences and different forms of voluntary service can come together and be shared by members, ideas can be changed, and effectiveness can be compared and evaluated in a better way.”

—Reuven Gal, Head, The Authority for National Civic Service, Israel
In partnership with the Association of Voluntary Service Organizations (AVSO) and Unis-Cité, ICP organized and held the IANYS 8th Global Conference on National Youth Service at the Fondation des Etats-Unis in Paris, France, in November 2008.

The 8th Global Conference provided youth service practitioners, policymakers and other professionals from around the world with an exciting opportunity to exchange ideas and program models, discuss pressing issues in the field of NYS and network with their peers. As the first Global Conference coordinated by the new permanent Secretariat, ICP, and the first in four years rather than the normal two years, the organizers aimed to scale up the reach of the Conference and to diversify and increase participation. They also aimed to strengthen professional and field development by organizing sessions around key themes.

The four days of the Conference included a training session on national youth service (NYS) policy and program development, roundtable presentations, smaller workshops, and site visits to volunteer-hosting organizations. Sessions focused on examining current NYS policies and programs, scaling up NYS programs, measuring the impact of NYS on youth and communities, analyzing youth service and social inclusion, and examining private and public investment in NYS. Workshops explored youth service and the UN Millennium Development Goals, peace-building, service-learning, and developing regional networks. Unis-Cité organized site visits to local community organizations where Unis-Cité volunteers have been involved in service projects and facilitated a reflection session to engage participants in an interesting dialogue on youth service from diverse cultural perspectives and contexts.

Expectations for the number of participants were greatly surpassed as the registration list continued to grow even in the days leading up the conference. The 8th Global Conference saw the largest single gathering of participants and the most diverse representation of countries in IANYS history, with more than 120 participants attending from approximately 40 countries. In addition to substantial participation from European countries, participants came from China, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei, India, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Israel, Kuwait, Algeria, Sudan, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Argentina, Jamaica, Barbados, the USA, and more. A number of participants from several countries were unable to come as a result of not getting visas. Many government officials attended, including Deputy Ministers and Directors of National Youth Service, along with NGO and university representatives. IANYS Global Council members in attendance included Susan Stroud (USA), Licio Palazzini (Italy), Reuven Gal (Israel), Jim Kielsmeier (USA), Marie Trellu (France) and Agnes Uhereczky (Belgium).

The 8th Global Conference was successful in large part due to generous sponsors including the European Commission, the Shinnyo-en Foundation, the French Ministry of Youth, UN Volunteers, Benoit Foundation, and the University of Minnesota. IANYS also received logistical support from the US Embassy in Paris, including the donation of the conference space at the Fondation des Etats-Unis.
The chance to talk to other persons, especially informally, outside of formal settings, has been especially important for me. To hear that person’s inputs as to their personal experience, it is critical.

“In this type of conference, not everyone has a chance to talk about their own experiences because there is not enough time. So, to have that informal setting to talk to people has been very positive.”

– Therese James, Director, Barbados Youth Service
“Even though we can read about programs in different countries, its different to hear the rationale and justifications and what issues that they face on the ground. When you hear the programs being described and hear the issues being discussed, you can understand a lot more what drives them and gets them going day to day, what sort of considerations they have that isn’t put down in the foundations or the structure of the program. I really get a sense of the realities that face Youth Service on the ground.”

–Justin Tan, National Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Singapore
Introduction

There is an inextricable link between service, youth empowerment, national development and increased civic engagement by young people. This was the message from a number of global leaders who lent support to the IANYS 8th Global Conference, stressing the importance of national youth service for young people worldwide.

Youth service, democracy and peace

In a video address to the opening session of the Conference, the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, stressed that young people are indispensable to democracy and peace: “Young people can and must play a critical role in building democracy and peace. Liberia makes youth civic engagement a top priority in new development legislation, because no nation, especially after periods of violence, can develop without youth service.”

President Johnson-Sirleaf argued that youth are a pivotal factor in a nation’s recovery from violence and its transition into peace, because many young people were strongly impacted by violence and war. “Youth service gives them a chance to direct the emotions and memories left by violence towards reconstruction and building peace, allowing youth to pave the way to ensuring that the same mistakes that led to violence in the past are not repeated.” According to the Liberian President, a national youth service corps is an integral part of the Liberian development strategy, and she welcomed a partnership with IANYS to support her administration in developing a policy framework for National Youth Service.

Widening youth service in Europe

A message from Bernard Laporte, French Minister of Youth, expressed his enthusiasm for IANYS and indicated that new legislation regarding youth service is being discussed in France and in the European Union. “The new legislation recommends the improvement of existing information systems for evaluating youth service and the creation of a trans-national youth volunteer network for young Europeans,” he said. The project is designed to facilitate youth volunteering and to improve national systems of volunteering. Polls that showed massive youth enthusiasm for service and international travel served as a catalyst for the legislation and inspired its form.

Mr. Laporte indicated that the President of France hopes that the new models will encourage more young people to get involved in service and to sustain their engagement in civil society following the time they spend in service. He sees the program as having the ability to strengthen ties within society and to bind citizens more closely together. “Getting this project off the ground is an ambitious endeavor that will require support from governments as well as other youth service groups.”
Youth civic engagement

Pascale LeJeune, Head of the ‘Youth In Action’ Programme Unit at the European Commission, outlined how youth civic engagement increases awareness about political issues and fosters participation by young people in politics. “In this way, youth service becomes critical to poverty alleviation. Through service, young people gain valuable experiences, meet other youth from diverse backgrounds and provide valuable services to those in need.” Now that youth service is well established in many developed countries, said LeJeune, stronger efforts are being made to encourage young people from under-privileged backgrounds to participate in NYS. This is because volunteerism helps young people to access job training and increases their political participation – factors that both shape the future of youth.

Building young leaders for change and peace

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Kumi Naidoo, Honorary President of CIVICUS, anti-apartheid activist from South Africa and the incumbent Greenpeace CEO, stressed that young people, just like all members of society, are potential leaders capable of addressing the challenges facing the world today. “We must not see youth as ‘half-empty’, but rather look at their strengths, knowledge and potential. We must look beyond the challenges that they face to see them as having the power to create change.”

Naidoo pointed out that investing in the power of youth would take only a fraction of the money needed to bail out the global market from the economic crisis, and would produce significantly greater returns. Referring to Obama’s victory in the US and his popularity with young people around the world, he demonstrated that youth are yearning to have a greater impact on their communities and to move towards peace and stability. He believes that young people are innovators who see their communities from a perspective not constrained by prior experience or preconceptions, and who are able to understand concepts such as climate change and internet technology much better than their parents’ generation. “Harnessing the power and knowledge of youth is the key to solving imminent problems and creating a better world,” said Naidoo.

Henry Lozano, Director of External Affairs at the Shinnyo-en Foundation, closed the Conference with an inspiring speech about the impact that people have on each other every day and the value of building mutual respect and peace between individuals. He called on IANYS members to be effective leaders by believing in their ability to advance nations of service, create a positive difference in peoples’ lives, and make a difference to what it means to be a member of the planet Earth. “Youth service is more than just programs and events: it is determining the fate of the globe,” said Lozano. “Leaders of youth service play a crucial role in creating peace through inspiring and empowering both the leaders of today and tomorrow.”

All the speakers stressed that the work of IANYS is fundamentally important in that it gives young people a chance to rise and meet global challenges. IANYS’s services will be needed in the coming years more than ever before.
National Youth Service Policy and Program Development

On the first day, the Conference focused on NYS policy and program design to meet the interests of policymakers, government representatives and practitioners new to the field of NYS and service learning. It provided participants with an in-depth understanding of the concepts of NYS and service learning, gave them an opportunity to learn about successful NYS and service learning program models, and provided some of the tools necessary to begin developing a NYS policy or program in their home countries.

Introducing National Youth Service

Given that there are over 1 billion young people in the world today, representing up to 50% of the population in developing countries, there is a growing need to endow these youth with life-skills, a sense of citizenship, positive attitudes, and job training to help them better themselves and their communities. Through National Youth Service, young people can address issues such as climate change, nation building and post-conflict reconciliation in positive and constructive ways. Service is an important means of mobilizing young people to participate in society by creatively using their energy to solve social problems.

Susan Stroud, Executive Director of Innovations in Civic Participation and Director of IANYS, provided an overview of definitions and key concepts of youth service, as well as an overview of the different types of models which have seen successful implementation throughout the world.

There are many different types and models of national youth service with varying amounts of government involvement, sources of funding, and structures. It is important to provide insight and infrastructure to help new programs grow, and to have a diversity of approaches to accommodate all the different types of NYS.

The primary objective of service is to make a difference in the local community. The secondary objective is to create a positive experience for the participants and the third is to bring people together and give young people a sense of efficacy. Keeping these three objectives in balance can prove a challenge for program design and implementation.

Key Terms

National Youth Service: Organized period of substantial engagement that contributes to the community's development, is mandated and supported by the national government, and for which the volunteer receives minimal monetary compensation.

National Youth Service Policy: Government legislation to create frameworks and policy for National Youth Service under which projects can operate and be funded, and makes it possible to operate on a large scale, as well as to justify private investment. Policy is imperative for forming relationships between civil society, government and private sector, and should ensure that youth service reaches the populations most in need, meets critical public interests, is sufficiently funded, and has a clear purpose and goal.

Service Learning: Service with intentional learning component and reflection that is based in education institutions, community organizations, and/or formalized in classroom instruction, and serves as a way of approaching learning that involves community service.
Effective youth service programs engage young people in valuable service work. They train and supervise participants, encourage diversity of participation and recognize the contributions of participants and organizations to the community. They also engage quality local leadership and are held to high standards of accountability.

Some approaches to National Youth Service

**Building youth service in France**

The Voluntary Civil Service was launched in France after government faced a number of crises with inner city young people in 2005. Its goal was to promote social cohesion and peace. After President Sarkozy’s election in 2007, there was a move to reform the system of civil service and to scale up youth service projects, but how was this to be achieved?

Ever since the suspension of the military draft in France, the question has been whether or not to make national youth service mandatory. The French experience showed that there are many obstacles to mandatory youth service: most young people feel that service should be voluntary; the cost of mandatory service is very high; and it is very complex to implement. For these reasons, France adopted a model of voluntary civil service as its best option. Goals were established for the numbers of young people to be involved, a budget was developed and a government body was put in charge of implementing the civil service program.

Overall, the most successful aspects of the French youth service program have been communication through information campaigns and online networking, the development of the program and its evaluation via post-service questionnaires. Through national service young people have gained job skills and have received monetary compensation, both of which help to alleviate poverty and open up new opportunities for individuals. Young people are developing a positive view of the private sector, which is actively involved with NYS, providing work experience opportunities and other support such as funding youth service abroad.

“Presented by Amiral Alain Bereau, a member of the French Society Analysis Council, speaking on the findings of his report on the future of civic service in France.”

**NYS in Israel: Sustaining citizenship**

Military service is compulsory in Israel, except for the Arab minority, Jewish women and ultra-orthodox men and women. Civic service was originally created just for ultra-orthodox Jewish women, but was expanded in 2008 to include all women, Arabs, ultra-orthodox Jews, and conscientious objectors.

While service programs had existed in Israel for 40 years beforehand, there had never been a uniform law by which they were governed. The basic tenet of the Israeli program is to promote equality between social groups. It follows government guidelines and is independent from defense establishments. Volunteers receive compensation and volunteer within their own communities, and the whole endeavor is monitored by a public advisory board.

Most volunteers are serving in the education field, with the next most popular fields being health and welfare. Through the program youth learn confidence, patriotism and citizenship, which develops into a type of ‘cyclical citizenship’: after spending time in the national youth service program, young people internalize the concept of citizenship and are motivated to serve their country consistently.

The government is often very unwilling to support NYS because it means one more project for them, but they must understand that in the long run, these programs are important for strengthening the nation.

“Presented by Reuven Gal, Head of the Authority for National Civic Service and Lior Shohat, Manager of Public Affairs, Authority for National Civic Service.”
Designing Youth Service Policy and Programs for Different Purposes

A range of youth service program models are used in different countries, demonstrating how service can help achieve a number of different goals. These include developing youth service to strengthen non-profit organizations, using national youth service to support development, using national youth service as a foundation for training and employment, and fostering cooperation between government and civil society through youth service.

National youth service in support of the non-profit sector

The Voluntary Social Year and Voluntary Ecological year are two national youth service programs in Germany that were initiated in 1959 and consolidated in 1964 by the Volunteering for Youth Act. Sterenn Coudray, Secretary General of the EFYSO in Germany, described how by the 1990s, these programs were open to all European countries and by 2002 they had emerged as an alternative to conscription.

Most volunteers work in public schools and other institutions of public education. There are also opportunities for young people to work in hospitals or nursing homes, in organizations focused on preserving culture, or to work for a political party. Service programs abroad are an alternative to conscription and are subsidized by the government.

The program is supported by the Federal Ministry for Families, Seniors, Women and Youth, which provides a legislative framework, makes available grants for programs supporting education in Germany, and sets up the arrangements with supporting organizations. Specific regions of Germany provide financial support and facilitate the working relationships with partner organizations. The program depends on intermediary organizations that advocate for NYS programs, find participants and provide training. A fundamental rule for partner organizations is that they must not replace a worker or a job with a volunteer or a service program, so that employment does not suffer as a result of the National Youth Service.

According to Hinrich Goos, Project Leader for the Voluntary Ecological Year in Germany, both the Voluntary Social Year and Voluntary Ecological year are funded largely by the government, with the Ecological Year receiving much more state funding than the Social Year.

The government is focused on the proven benefits of national youth service and tracks how many young people keep working in the non-profit sector as a result of their participation in Voluntary Ecological Year. Surveys were conducted to measure the effectiveness of the program, taking note of how many participants continued working in it (with or without pay) and how many continued working in the nonprofit sector more
generally. The survey found that the great majority of participants would like to continue working with the Voluntary Ecological Year program, but are unable to do so because they cannot support themselves without compensation. At the same time, it was found that many NGOs were founded by people who had participated in the program and many of these are project leaders for voluntary service.

It has been recommended that tax reform is necessary to make work in the non-profit sector a viable and sustainable career. This will help to promote youth volunteerism and participation in the non-profit sector, and will ensure the continued development of much-needed NGOs.

National Youth Service for development

The National Volunteer Service in Burkina Faso was established in 2001, the International Year of the Volunteer, as a result of increased political willpower, which was combined with a movement to improve employment in the nation and the efforts of a number of NGOs. According to Helene Agnelli, a further project was launched in 2006 to bring volunteer groups together and with the adoption of a new law, the National Volunteer Corps was established in Burkina Faso.

Six well-known NGOs were selected as regional volunteer centers to create strong program structures, to train and support volunteers, to manage them administratively and financially, review applications, promote volunteering, and raise funds. Groupement d’Interet Public was created to manage volunteers, make laws, and campaign for support for the programs. The founding members of this institution were states represented by ministers, the Regional and Municipal Association of Burkina Faso, the National Service for Development, and others.

Burkina Faso’s national voluntary program aims to fight poverty, work towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, promote good governance by maximizing voluntary engagement and civil society participation in politics, and to unify the citizenry. Volunteer sectors include education, health, environment, anti-desertification, economic development and community development. Programs are primarily financed by the government, but other partners are being sought.

National Youth Service as a foundation for training and employment

Two examples were provided of how National Youth Service can link with youth employment objectives — one from Kenya and the other from Jamaica.

Japheth Mwania, Director of National Youth Service in Kenya, explained that the vision of NYS Kenya is to be a world class institution in training and imparting skills, knowledge and attitude to young people, as well as creating an environment where youth can learn and integrate into society.

Young people undertake economically valuable projects such as the construction of houses and dams, famine and disaster relief, environmental preservation, working in public schools and hospitals, and providing military support.

There are three options for vocational training: artisan, craft and diploma training. Young people have the opportunity to gain hands-on job training by working on projects that are real, relevant and important to Kenya’s development. With this training, youth have better chances at success in the job market, an improved sense of citizenship, and a commitment to service. The focus of the program is direct service; self discovery and integration come as byproducts of engagement in the NYS program, and its secondary mission is the involvement of youth in social programs of the government, and the development of citizenship.

In Jamaica the NYS began in 1973 as a mandatory part of the secondary education system. It was part of the social sector of the government and though it was discontinued in 1983, by 1998 National Youth Service was established permanently by law.
According to Adinhair Jones, Executive Director of Jamaica’s National Youth Service, the program has three missions: to help youth gain work experience; to encourage a sense of responsibility, self respect and service; and to promote discipline, democracy, citizenship and cooperation among participants. Jamaica has a large problem with youth delinquency, which is driven by unrealistic expectations of youth by society, most notably in the pre-occupation with achieving employment. National Youth Service gives young people a pathway for getting job training and finding alternatives to crime for making a living. Challenges faced in Jamaica include forging partnerships between organizations, collecting evidence of the effectiveness of the NYS, processing information and expanding the youth service within the constraints of limited facilities.

Fostering cooperation between government and civil society through youth service

Susan Stroud, Executive Director of ICP and a founding member of the US youth service program, AmeriCorps, described its design and implementation as a voluntary program that is funded by Congress to meet public needs in education, safety, health and the environment.

Administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a government department which runs the program, the federal government works closely with states, which in turn work closely with local non-profit organizations and NGOs to form partnerships for youth volunteering.

There are three branches of AmeriCorps: First, the State and National Branch works towards education, environment, health, housing, and disaster response needs and is sponsored by thousands of local and national non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and City Year. Second, AmeriCorps VISTA is the poverty-fighting arm of AmeriCorps, working with low-income individuals and communities to alleviate poverty. Third, the NCCC is a residential program that works on five campuses around the country to provide disaster relief, firefighters and flood relief.

The objectives of AmeriCorps are to impact on communities and participants, and bring communities together. With President Obama’s new National Service plan, AmeriCorps hopes to expand to create many more opportunities, include more participants, and engage a wider range of ages in the program.

Scaling up NYS from local to national levels

While some NYS programs begin as government initiatives, others begin through NGOs that then try to get government funding to scale up the programs. Attracting both public and private funding is a common important element to expanding and sustaining NYS programs. Even when governments have committed funds, it is necessary to convince them to keep funding NYS by showing its effectiveness. Also crucial to scaling up is the need to creative positive attitudes towards service and foster the recognition of youth service as a strategy for nation-building and development.

Licio Palazzini, President of Arci Servizio Civile in Italy, described how NYS in Italy is currently an optional investment by the national government. In times of economic crisis, funding may be cut, making it difficult to develop long-term and concrete plans for the development of the NYS. What the Italian NYS needs in order to scale up is to ensure that funding does not decrease in the coming years despite the economic crisis. This it hopes to achieve by encouraging private investment. There is also a need to shift the focus from the regions to
the centre without losing sight of defined goals. Lastly, Italy seeks to find a way to encourage youth to continue serving after their initial project is over, and to make service a pillar of society. One aspect of this effort is to encourage young people to develop their own projects in order to build a unified and strong sense of Italian and European citizenship.

In Cambodia, three factors combined to launch YouthStar Cambodia: the need for a higher appreciation for volunteerism, the need for a stronger education system, and the need to find a way of engaging and mobilizing the majority youth population in Cambodia. According to Catherine Cecil, Communications and Policy Advisor for YouthStar Cambodia, the program goals are to build social capital, develop young leaders, provide resources to meet critical needs, promote voluntary service as a nation-building strategy, and to implement innovative programs.

With 72 volunteers to date, YouthStar Cambodia is a young and relatively small program that faces challenges with funding, program evaluation, gaining recognition for the work of the volunteers, and recruitment in a society where service is misunderstood and undervalued. To scale up its efforts, YouthStar has added branches in every province in Cambodia, and is now working with the government to develop the nation’s first youth policy which includes national youth service. There is no plan yet for becoming a national program, but YouthStar and the national government are working together towards developing Cambodia. A crucial part of the scaling up efforts is creating a positive attitude towards service by developing a national context to underline the importance of service programs and the value of volunteering for everyone involved. YouthStar’s ultimate goal is the creation of an active youth citizenry that is involved in policy, decision making, and development.

In South Africa, the NYS began through a small NGO in 2002 to address unemployment issues, and then began pursuing government funding in 2005 because of the increase in volunteer numbers. According to Nthuseng Mphahlele, Head of the National Youth Service Unit, this coincided with a change in policy which was marked by a focus on leadership, and youth service was recognized as a critical vehicle for the development of leadership.

The National Youth Service Unit’s (NYSU) frameworks are aligned with government organizations and it has succeeded in gaining recognition for youth service as a critical problem-solving and nation-building strategy. The NYS focus areas are youth job training, higher education volunteering and programs that involve all youth and adults. NYS has already been recognized by the government as a critical player in development, and the NYSU plans to target the government anti-poverty initiative in upcoming efforts.

Nthuseng Mphahlele describes the key to scaling up as ensuring that higher education programs integrate service and service learning, scaling up flagship projects, and spreading projects to more areas of the country. Direct funding from the national treasury as well as increased funding from private sector partnerships will allow for the creation of wage subsidies and stipends, making service a feasible option for more South Africans. The NYSU also hopes to cover a wider range of issues with its projects, such as anti-poverty, working with disabled people, and implementing programs in correctional institutions. However, its current funding model inhibits growth because government departments are implementing the NYS programs, and this limits the NYSU’s ability to oversee and manage projects.

“The Conference has been very informative, because the government of Barbados is going to develop a NYS program, so we’re looking at best practices and models that exist in other countries so that we can learn from others’ experiences. Coming out of this conference, I have better information to advise the government of Barbados to implement a national youth service program.”

—Hally Hanes, Director of Youth, Ministry of Family, Youth, Sports and Environment, Barbados
Measuring the Impact of National Youth Service Programs on Participants and on the Community

More and more, National Youth Service programs are being challenged to provide evidence of their impact on young people and on the wellbeing of the countries in which they operate. Different evaluation models can be used to measure the impact of NYS programs, both on participants and on the community. At least six examples of NYS evaluation approaches were presented at the Conference. Participants learned about the outcomes of various impact assessments and discussed the implications for their own NYS programs as well as for the field of NYS as a whole.

Demonstrating the value of investing in NYS

Since the end of mandatory service in France, the country has been unable to create an effective and all-inclusive program that runs on a voluntary basis. Because youth service programs tend to be fragile and unstable, Unis-Cité works with business and public officials to familiarize them with NYS organizations and to ensure that these are supported to function effectively. In order to prove the worth of NYS, a research program was carried out of the Unis-Cité youth service program to demonstrate that it is worthy of the investment of public time and money.

Valerie Bequet of the Université de Cergy/Pontoise in France was the evaluator of Unis-Cité and described how the study took place in two parts: surveys were conducted of individual participants and surveys were also conducted with organizations that were hosting the young servers. The individual volunteer component was a longitudinal study that surveyed youth at the start of their voluntary service, at the end, and six months later. The organization component involved a qualitative study that measured the impacts of programs, analyzed the data, and examined how funds are spent. The data were used to persuade policy makers that NYS is a valuable and productive experience, and to evaluate how public funds should be allocated.

Strengthening program quality through monitoring and evaluation

A different evaluation model was developed by Students Partnerships Worldwide (SPW), which is a collection of organizations in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia.

According to James Fofah, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator for Students Partnerships Worldwide Sierra Leone, the primary objective of SPW programs is peer reproductive health education. Performance is measured against goals that are established and communicated to each regional office, with individual programs being accountable for producing results. Daily, weekly and monthly progress reports and reporting forms are completed. In addition, structured surveys are conducted as well as focus groups and long-term case studies, to gather information that is evaluated, discussed and disseminated.
The reporting framework involves an intricate network of local, regional, national, and international offices that compile their individual reports into an annual report of consolidated information about the program's status and progress. This form of evaluation takes commitment, time and effort at all levels to compile, review and consolidate reports.

SPW's experience is that it can be difficult to obtain consistent financial support from donors to invest in young people leading, measuring and evaluating performance. These challenges make it difficult to implement thorough monitoring and evaluation systems on a regular basis, but by advocating for investment in evaluation and integrating evaluation into the fibers of its program system, SPW has succeeded in developing a comprehensive evaluation method for the program overall.

**Measuring youth service impact against national data**

The loveLife groundBREAKER youth service program in South Africa focuses on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention through youth-focused campaigns and peer education. In 2006, loveLife commissioned a study to determine whether graduates of the program went on to study or find jobs, whether they retained their commitment to community service and leadership, and what they perceived the value of the program to be.

The study involved a survey of a representative sample of young people who had participated in the groundBREAKER program. According to Helene Perold, Executive Director of Volunteer and Service Enquiry Southern Africa (VOSESA), which carried out the study, the challenge was that loveLife had no baseline data against which the impact of the program could be measured. A comparison profile was thus set up for the study, using comparable national data drawn from other studies. The quantitative nature of the data from loveLife study made it possible to compare those results with other statistical data relevant to the general South African youth population.

These strategies produced a self-assessed impact study that could be compared with national data to evaluate program success. It found that these youth service program graduates went on to study further than the national average, had better employment prospects and were more involved in voluntary service at community level in the long term.

The experience underscores the importance of gathering baseline data at the start of youth service programs. It was also pointed out that the measurements taken by loveLife demonstrate the attitudes of the youth themselves, but do not address the cost-effectiveness questions that investors and policy makers will be likely to ask.

**The importance of rigorous evidence of youth service impact**

Steve Powell, the Director of ProMENTE in Bosnia Herzegovina reported on a study conducted for the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO) in which ProMENTE collected and analyzed 300 report documents, only 50 of which provided evaluation of the impact of long-term voluntary service. He noted that impact studies very often do not have the “methodological teeth” to demonstrate that voluntary
service is effective and worthwhile. It is not enough to have a good website and happy volunteers: there needs to be concrete demonstration of the impacts of voluntary service.

Steve Powell argued that it is not sufficient to ask volunteers if they feel they benefitted from the program or if they would like to continue volunteering. Real evidence depends on identifying the most significant changes achieved by the program, mapping outcomes, conducting qualitative studies, and calculating direct estimates of economic benefit and benefits to the served. The World Bank holds that service is promising but not proven, and is looking for proof not just that youth are better off after the program, but that it was the service that had the positive effect. Therefore, in addition to pre- and post-service comparison, it is also necessary to compare youth who participated in the service program with a sample of their peers who did not. It is important to measure factors such as how the program affects the employability of youth, their life skills, knowledge of issues, independence and leadership, in comparison with peers who did not participate. Such comparative data can provide solid evidence for program effectiveness.

To assist others in the more rigorous assessment of youth service program impact, AVSO provides definitions of key terms and a volunteerism impact measurement portal via its website. The measurement portal is free to service and voluntarism organizations, and includes a “tool pool” of questionnaires and methods available to all.

**Developing the youth service research field**

In the discussion that followed, Susan Stroud reported that ICP and the World Bank's Children and Youth unit hosted an international experts meeting at the World Bank to identify gaps in the existing research on youth service and to develop a research agenda to move youth service from a “promising but unproven” to a “proven” strategy for development. In follow-up to that meeting, ICP is working with international experts to develop tools for high-quality impact evaluation of youth service programs to highlight the impact of youth service and encourage further investment in the field.

The platform for **Belgian Citizen Services** has approached economists and is developing workshop for evaluating the economic benefits of NYS, using data that shows the cost of endowing participants with certain skills or knowledge, and then mapping the economic benefits of the participant’s transformation to society.

Participants indicated that it is also necessary to measure different variables within youth service organizations such as employee training, managers, etc. This way, program ineffectiveness that stems from internal operational weaknesses are not attributed to the program design, and problems can be addressed at their source. Separating out the variables helps to distinguish between the need for changes within the organization versus the organization as a whole.
Examining the Public Cost and Funding for National Youth Service

Funding NYS programs from the public purse raises a number of issues concerning public costs and funding strategies. These include questions of sustainability, making sure that the services provided by young people meet public needs, and ensuring that youth service does not revolve around narrow political or economic interest.

Five examples of public funding strategies for NYS were presented at the Conference. The examples differ widely, but all demonstrate that national youth service cannot rely on public funding alone. And while the question of return on the investment in youth service is pertinent, some speakers questioned the cost of NOT investing in youth service.

Public and private funding required to renew Kenyan NYS

The National Youth Service in Kenya provides various types of job training for participants, contributes to emergency and disaster operations, and undertakes construction projects that serve various national interests. The NYS is funded through several sources. The government annual budget covers recurrent and development expenditures. Income generating activities like construction and electricity services provide a revenue flow into the organization, but the declining condition of machinery has resulted in a decreased demand for these services. The service receives external funding from countries like Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

GK Somba Kivalya, the Deputy Secretary in the Kenyan Ministry of Youth Affairs, argued that the qualitative value return of the service is far more than the government funding would suggest. If all of the service participants entered the job market to be employed at the national average output per worker, there would be $475 million USD added to the country’s GDP. Furthermore, the NYS group works more cheaply than professionals and could help the government save money.

However, the government does not sufficiently fund the costs of volunteer training, and thus is not getting its full return on the volunteers. The NYS faces a lack of appropriate construction and training equipment, a shortage of staff, low budgetary allocation and a lack of interest from development partners. Other constraints are an inadequate policy framework for the national youth service and a lack of employment opportunities for program graduates. The program needs more funding to buy essentials like food and fuel, and to build staff capacity for training and management. The service also requires bilateral technical assistance for capacity building. These needs necessitate the securing of private sector investment in the absence of adequate government funding.
The social costs of not funding NYS in Jamaica

Jamaica has the highest debt-to-GDP ratio in the world and has experienced only 1% of GDP growth over the past 30 years. While 16% of the budget goes towards education, the returns on this investment are low compared to other Caribbean countries. Both public sector and private sector income have been growing in Jamaica, and so the NYS is looking for stronger public-private partnerships to strengthen its resource base. The increased government commitment to NYS indicates the government is willing to play a role in such a partnership.

Adinhair Jones, Executive Director of the Jamaican National Youth Service, said that a good cost-benefit analysis of NYS for Jamaica is the cost of incarceration of youth. The government spends J$500,000 on inmates, while the cost of NYS in that same timeframe is J$130,000. Additionally, according to a 2003 World Bank report, juvenile crime costs citizens East Caribbean $208,000 per year, and every 1% increase in crime causes a decrease of one half to three-quarters of a percent in tourism, one of Jamaica’s main industries. Adinhair Jones argues that the social costs of not funding NYS, such as prison costs, loss in productivity and industry due to violence, costs of crime, and costs of poverty, translate into economic costs as well. This fact is increasingly being recognized in Jamaica and internationally. Going forward, a loan and a social grant from the International Development Bank will provide a combined added contribution of over J$1 billion, which, combined with an increase in government funding by roughly the same amount, will cause a large boost in Jamaica’s NYS.

There are three models in Jamaica for funding NYS: the private sector can pay a participant’s stipend, the government or NGO gives the participant assistance, or the placement that the participant receives gives a guaranteed position to the participant to become a consultant or a mentor to the organization. Jamaica also has a strong marketing and media campaign for NYS, which has been helpful in garnering public attention, attracting private sector interest, and drawing government support.

Reducing the visibility of government in UK youth service programs

v in the UK is a youth-led charity. It is designed to implement a new framework that was developed through the Russell Commission, a joint effort of the chief of an energy company and the British government. The program was largely designed around the idea that a government-sponsored service program would be a turn-off to youth in the UK who do not want to be told what to do by the government.

v is charged with creating a step change in the quality, quantity, and diversity of youth service programs in the UK. According to Tracy Herald, the Head of Policy and Projects, v is completely youth-led, with its own youth advisory board and youth on the Board of Trustees. Among v’s responsibilities are generating private sector investment, creating marketing and awareness campaigns, and funding third sector organizations. The v core grant comes from the UK government (the Office of the Third Sector) and funds short-term, part-time, and full-time youth volunteering activities and projects.

One of the organization’s most successful initiatives is the v match fund, which matches corporate contributions with equal v funds. This generates double the money and double the impact by inspiring the private sector. Other v operations include its website, marketing campaigns, and research and evaluation. So far the program has been very effective in increasing service capacity, achieving sustainability, and having a strong community impact.
Using youth service to strengthen livelihoods and support peace — Afghanistan

The Joint National Youth Service Program (JYNP) in Afghanistan was born out of the extremely large youth population in that country, and the need to increase youth participation in governance, civil society, development, and peace-building. According to Zardasht Shams, the Director of Planning and External Affairs in the Ministry of Information and Culture in Afghanistan, the four components of the program are: strengthening governmental capacity to respond to youth needs; promoting non-formal education and awareness for developing skills; promoting volunteerism as a method for peace and development; and engaging youth in governance, development, social, and political processes at all political levels.

Funding for the JYNP has nearly doubled since the program’s inception, but comes nearly entirely from international donors such as USAID, UNDP, CIDA, UNICEF, UNV and UNESCO. National partners include the Ministries of Education; Information, Culture and Youth; Labor and Social Affairs; Higher Education; Rural Rehabilitation and Development; and Women’s Affairs, as well as other civil society groups. The JYNP reaches 20,000 youth per year with youth development centers, district level youth councils, and youth communication and information centers equipped with internet and technological training opportunities.

Zardasht Shams said that while terrorists attempt to recruit youth for their own efforts, the JYNP seeks to counteract this and provide young people with alternatives through religious and traditional institutions, workshops, confidence building, building faith in peace, and teamwork.

Public-private partnerships drive youth service funding in Italy

The National Civic Service in Italy is funded by a combination of public and private support. Government funding for the NYS in Italy comes through the National Office, under the responsibility of the Prime Minister. 85% of the government budget for the NYS is for supporting the volunteers, 10% goes to training activities and 5% is allocated to managing the work of the NYS. However, the government funding makes up only a percentage of the total budget for NYS projects, which are run by local non-profit organizations.

There are many different models of how local organizations run the NYS projects and what percentage of their budget and funding comes from the National Office. For example, an organization such as Caritas has many programs in addition the NYS project, and the government funding supports only a percentage of their NYS projects. On the other hand, Licio Palazzini, the President of Arci Servizio Civile, explained that all of the programs of his organization are NYS-related. 85% of their funding comes through local private organizations, and the only public funding they receive from the National Office is to support part of the cost of training volunteers. For each volunteer, Arci Servizio Civile spends 250 on training, management, support, etc, and they receive only 90 per volunteer from the government towards training activities.

NYS volunteers receive a stipend, which is paid directly to the volunteers by the government. This helps to avoid misallocation of funds. In addition, having the stipends go directly to the volunteers from the government also helps to reinforce the public nature of the NYS program and emphasizes that the volunteer is providing a public service.
While research shows that for every Euro spent on NYS it produces €1.8 in return, the government still fails to consistently allocate large amounts of funding to the NYS. Additionally, this model of high return is only possible if large numbers of participants can be included, making the need for funding in Italy much more profound.

**Conclusion**

All these examples demonstrate the need for more than just public funding for NYS, whether it is private additional funding, revenue-generated funding, or support from international governments and organizations. This can raise the issue of balance between different funding sources, and whether the NYS program is perceived as a state-run or private program.

The issue of return on investment is also significant for governments in deciding to fund NYS. The cases of Jamaica and Afghanistan argued the cost of NOT investing in youth through service programs by looking at the costs associated with crime and incarceration, and the threat of recruitment of youth by terrorist groups, respectively. The Kenyan case argued the need for governments to invest fully in NYS so as to provide adequate training and support, otherwise government will not get the full value from the young servers. Finally, although research has shown a return on investment of 1.8 for every Euro spent in on the NYS in Italy, that program still struggles to persuade government to allocate sufficient funds for NYS.
Stimulating Private Sector Investment in National Youth Service

Philanthropic leaders from private sector organizations demonstrated the innovative ways in which they have partnered with organizations to support youth civic engagement programs. The panelists discussed trends in NYS corporate philanthropy and implications for increasing private sector investment in NYS programs and the youth civic engagement field.

Four themes emerged in this part of the Conference: the importance of mutually beneficial partnerships, helping young people access employment and business skills, leadership and program development, and building strong organizations and programs to improve the lives of young people.

Productive partnerships are mutually beneficial

City Year is a youth service program that focuses on educational issues in the United States, addressing dropout rates, failing grades, and literacy. Working in cities with low turnouts of high school graduates, City Year mobilizes a volunteer corps that works to build young peoples’ skills and confidence to succeed in school and beyond.

City Year has very strong partnerships with private organizations and, according to Robert Gordon, the Senior Vice President of Civic Leadership at City Year, this is essential to sustain service programs in America. City Year is a $16 million organization that receives 3% of its funding from the government via AmeriCorps, and 70% from the corporate sector. There are nine national leadership sponsors, namely Timberland, CSX, Comcast, T-Mobile, and others that contribute to City Year's leadership development. Volunteers from all 156 teams wear uniforms provided by Timberland: boots, pants, hats, etc., so they are immediately recognized in schools and on worksites.

City Year looks for three criteria in corporate partners: dedication to the community; the ability to contribute intellectual as well as financial capital; and talented employees. One goal of these partnerships is the cultivation of a strong relationship where the company invests more than just money. City Year and its corporate partners are mutually invested in one another. City Year has survived three economic recessions, largely because philanthropic companies continue to focus on organizations they believe in, despite the economic situation.

Patrick Baboin, Vice President of the Timberland Company — USA/France, explained that Timberland's motto of “Doing Well, and Doing Good,” speaks to the socially conscious aspects of the company's profile. The relationship between Timberland and City Year began as a donation of a couple hundred pairs of boots and grew into a major funding program. City Year is deeply engrained in the culture of the company and the workers. Even when Timberland nearly went bankrupt in 1995, it never stopped funding City Year and even increased the amount of funding during that time. Baboin said that the nature of the relationship “would have made it criminal to terminate the partnership”.

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An important feature of City Year’s relationship with its corporate partners is that the private sector does not influence the type of service that is done. For this reason it is crucial that Timberland trusts and fully understands the City Year program. One of the key activities that strengthens the partnership is the ‘days of service’, during which employees work with youth involved in service programs. This helps Timberland employees see the benefits of the organization that they are working to fund. The two entities become increasingly tied together and their commitment to one another is solidified. The partnership with City Year makes Timberland employees proud of what they do, and reaffirms the mission of the company itself to provide socially conscious apparel.

Helping young people access employment and business skills
Chantal Monvois of Fondation VINCI pour la Cité described how Fondation VINCI works to create links between companies and civic organizations with two objectives in mind: increasing youth access to employment and creating social connections. The methods for enabling youth to maximize their access to employment are helping organizations such as those dealing with drug or accident rehabilitation, which help individuals re-claim their lives; helping organizations that improve literacy; and increasing social mobility by helping people to escape poverty. The methods used to create social connections involve creating support groups among the impoverished and the unemployed; increasing access to housing; and aiding Unis-Cité in its youth civic engagement efforts.

The partnership between Fondation VINCI and Unis-Cité began in 2002, and VINCI has been a consistent financial supporter of the youth service program. The relevance of Unis-Cité’s programs in promoting youth employability and providing direct services to the community makes it an ideal partner for VINCI. A union between the salaried workers of VINCI and the social actors of Unis-Cité allows for the combination of skills, manpower and knowledge to create new business ideas, such as ecological car washes. Youth benefit from these programs through support from professionals, working in teams, discovering their career passion, and having access to a source of employability, while VINCI benefits by being able to connect salaried workers with a young and motivated population, and by creating a more capable, ambitious workforce that is invested in service and in VINCI itself. Employees become more strongly connected, loyal and committed to their jobs, and to service.

Developing youth leadership for youth service internationally
The Open Society Institute (OSI) is a private operating and grant-making foundation that aims to shape public policy and promote democracy, human rights, and economic, social, and legal reform. OSI is founded by George Soros and operates in over 60 countries, making grants and monitoring the use of the donated money. Through OSI-sponsored programs, youth are empowered to become active citizens by engaging in debate, citizen journalism, and self-designed service projects.

Anne Campbell, an OSI representative, described one of the key programs funded by OSI as the Undergraduate Exchange Program. This enables university students to study abroad in the United States, participate in service projects in the US, and then take what they learn back to their home countries and undertake service projects there. Participants develop skills such as project planning and identifying community needs, supported by a small grant from OSI. While programs such as this one are very expensive, the challenge is to attract strong leaders, and make sure that the maximum dollar value of results is created in the short and long run.
Building strong organizations and programs to improve the lives of young people

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) supports local efforts around the world to improve the lives of young people, working to better the conditions in which they live and enhancing their prospects for the future. IYF builds alliances across sectors to leverage knowledge, resources and experiences to disseminate best practices and strategies. The IYF has worked with hundreds of companies, foundations and NGOs to build up effective programs and to establish strong partnerships.

Alan Williams, the Vice President of the Leadership and Civic Engagement Center at the IYF, said that multi-sector partnerships are critical because global challenges require unique experiences from every sector. Corporate sector support is essential for locking in resources in a community and in turn, healthy communities will better be able to support the corporate sector. Working somewhat differently from the partnership between Timberland and City Year, IYF believes in a policy of co-creation, where all partners collaborate on designing and implementing programs. Programs should also have local relevance, be rooted in the local youth need, and be flexible to allow for exclusive corporate branding. In IYF’s view, there are three key principles for a successful partnership: measurement of individual and societal program outcomes; ensuring that international multi-sector alliances are built; and commitment to quality design, execution, and monitoring of relationships.

Nokia serves as a good case study for the IYF’s model of a corporate partnership. Nokia has been an IYF partner for over nine years, working with six different youth development themes, which focus on youth citizenship, social entrepreneurship, technology, education, and employability. The program links youth initiative to Nokia’s “connecting people” brand and values. The ‘glue’ of the partnership between IYF and Nokia are the shared goals and values between the two organizations. Both are optimistic yet concerned about the youth demographics and trends, and are invested in the spirit of co-creation, local relevance, and measurement of impact.
National Youth Service as a Strategy for Social Inclusion

How can NYS be utilized as a strategy for social inclusion of disadvantaged groups? And how can NYS programs become more inclusive and accessible for all groups? Three case studies were presented to show how participation in NYS can be beneficial to members of disadvantaged groups as well as to the communities in which they are located.

Restoring the tradition of service through youth

The Make a Connection program of the International Youth Foundation works in different countries to ensure that youth are more equipped to make meaningful connections within their communities and with other youth. Karin Akins described how in Central and Eastern Europe, programs seek to restore the tradition of service that was interrupted during the communist years. Youth compete for small grants to implement volunteer projects in their communities. In the Czech Republic, these grants are a vehicle for youth who are socially and economically vulnerable, have disabilities or identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ), to engage their peers and benefit their communities. The IYF strives to include participants of diverse ethnic, socioeconomic, gender/sexual orientation and physical backgrounds. The youth gain skills in creative and critical thinking, problem solving, conflict management, and interpersonal interactions, as well as a sense of self confidence and belonging.

Overcoming discrimination in schools

Hungary has one of the most segregated school systems in Europe. Achievement is largely dependent on a student’s socioeconomic status and so there are great inequalities within schools in Hungary. Rita Galambos, the Executive Director of the Foundation for Democratic Youth (DIA) in Hungary, explained how a Peace Corps volunteer, Richard Harrill, realized that Hungary’s transitional state presented special opportunities for youth activism in building and developing their communities. Out of this has grown the mission of DIA, which is to instill active citizenship through experiential learning, service learning and community projects. DIA is one of the Make a Connection programs funded by Nokia through IYF. The organization provides young people with a creative outlet that cannot be found in schools. They dream up a service project and DIA helps them turn this project into reality through project management and minimal funding. Most of the DIA participants comprise middle class students that want to be useful in society, but DIA fosters social inclusion by extending these opportunities to disadvantaged youth. The program focuses on building life and employability skills such as cooperation, empathy, leadership, conflict resolution, problem solving, critical thinking, self esteem and social awareness. These qualities are not prioritized in schools and the program thus plays an important role in developing well-rounded young people.
Promoting social cohesion through service

The Roma are a gypsy population in Eastern Europe which faces extensive discrimination. John Stringham of the Roma-Gadje Dialogue through Service (RGDTS) in Germany described how the Roma are often categorized as mentally disabled and are discriminated against in the schools, which are heavily segregated. As a result, they receive unequal access to education. RGDTS works predominantly in Roma areas, engaging youth in ecological projects or in efforts with disabled people. These opportunities give Roma youth a chance to experience their communities and to prove to the world that they are not any less caring or capable than any other population in the world. Mr. Stringham showed a film that portrayed the life experience of Roma in Slovakia through street interviews. Programs like RGDTS help to give a face to the Roma struggle, and by bringing together groups of different backgrounds, promote understanding and acceptance. RGDTS also strives to bring together Roma from all across Europe, enabling them to meet each other and to meet other highly educated Roma to foster networking, social mobility and solidarity.
Identifying and Meeting Community and National Needs through National Youth Service

How can NYS be utilized as a strategy to meet a variety of community and national needs? Elisabeth Hoodless, Executive Director of CSV, led participants in this interactive workshop session, examining how to identify needs that can be addressed by NYS and how to design NYS programs for those particular needs.

Licino Palazzini, President of Arci Servizio Civile, explained that Italy works to meet needs by having projects rooted in the local community while volunteer stipends are provided directly by the government. By including activities that operate at local level as well as those that link volunteers from one project into a network of volunteers working on another project, there is the creation of a national body of volunteers. The missions of the Italian civic service include education towards peace, and social, environmental, cultural and educational programs that target the central nature of issues that concern young people. These projects manifest themselves at the local level according to local need. The largest sector of the National Civic Service is involved providing care in the healthcare sector and for the elderly. However, there is the risk that making the care sector the focus would suggest that national service in Italy is an extension of the care sector, rather than a tool for national defense, education and civic participation. If the care sector always takes priority, young people who are not interested in that sector may be discouraged from applying to NYS, or may feel that they are ‘tools’ of the care organizations – told where to go, rather than being empowered.

In Germany, conscientious objectors must prove themselves in order to be exempt from military service. Barbara Kramer of the central coordinating organization for conscientious objection described how the Voluntary Ecological and Social Years respond to the government objectives of lowering youth unemployment and bonding society together. They also meet the societal objectives of focusing youth on social, cultural, and ecological issues. She identified several important factors that make the service experience effective for meeting social needs; these are education and training about the issues being dealt with during service, the location of the experience, and providing transition mechanisms from service to employment.

As is the case in Germany, civic service in Israel is an alternative to compulsory military service. Reuven Gal, Head of the Authority for National Civic Service, explained that it contributes to national needs by integrating people across different groups such as women, ultra-orthodox men and Arabs. It also provides a way in which young people can serve their country besides through military service. Civic service aims to promote equality and understanding, and sharing societal burdens through programs such as helping Holocaust survivors complete daily tasks or preventing traffic accidents through education.
China’s All-China Youth Federation, represented in this session by Wu Wei, Deputy Director of the International Department, has engaged 15 million youth since 1993 in six areas of service to respond to a variety of challenges facing Chinese communities. To alleviate poverty, the program sends volunteers to the poorer western provinces to provide services such as health care, education and legal aid. Community-building entails the young people living in a community, observing their culture and doing service projects based in that community that reflect theories developed by the government. For environmental protection, youth engage in water and air pollution control, plant trees and protect wild animals. Large sports events (such as the Olympics) engage youth in volunteering at these events, while the area of international cooperation promotes partnerships and understanding between China and nations such as Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand. Disaster and emergency relief efforts employ youth in dealing with issues such as the SARS outbreak and earthquake relief.

Examples of programs from other countries that meet unique national and local needs include those that work to engage and re-integrate past offenders through rehabilitation programs and through engaging them in service. Another very effective model is one in which youth design service projects themselves. Here, youth create initiatives that not only address community needs, but which directly relate to issues pertinent to youth, promoting youth empowerment and self-reliance in the process. Young people are very innovative and are very effective at reaching out to one another to get messages across and to mobilize their peers in service efforts.

There was a general consensus during the workshop that it is imperative to change the global mentality about young people. Youth understand their communities and the problems within them. To tap into this bank of knowledge, education must be altered so that young people have more opportunities to educate each other and to learn through firsthand experiences, in order to instill a sense of potential and initiative. The role of youth is changing in the world, and institutions like education and service need to adapt to accompany this change.
Where is the Learning in National Youth Service?

Two sessions at the Conference focused on the relationship between National Youth Service and learning: the first focused on youth service in educational settings. The second workshop looked at the pedagogy of service-learning and the importance of critical reflection to connect service with learning objectives. Both were led by Jim Kielsmeier, President and CEO, National Youth Leadership Council in the USA.

Youth service in educational settings

Service-learning has emerged as a new way of thinking about learning. Active participation in education is seen as essential and experiential, while constructive learning increases student engagement and retention. Because young people are generally under-engaged and under-involved, service learning can be instrumental in bringing learning to life for them.

Jim Kielsmeier sees service-learning as being similar to a wind generator: “Service-learning takes the ideas of youth and converts them into a useful form,” he said.

According to contributions from Dina Sherif, Associate Director, the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, American University in Cairo, and Andy Furco, Vice President for Public Engagement, University of Minnesota, the quality of service-learning programs depends on creating standards, relating these to curricular content and capturing youth interest. By empowering youth to take action, service-learning ensures that young people contribute and receive benefits from the program. These include young people utilizing their strong technological capabilities and being innovative and creative. Since not everyone is capable of achieving these outcomes effectively, teachers should be trained in service-learning. However, the panel advised against service-learning being a mandatory component of class work, since this may devalue the concept if a teacher is not fully committed to its successful execution.

Although career and citizenship development are very important parts of service-learning, it is a challenge to shape service and learning in ways that are relevant to the community. This makes it difficult to persuade governments or school boards to adopt this form of experiential learning.

Researching the impacts of service on young people provides evidence for governments and school boards that service-learning produces concrete beneficial results, and could persuade those who might otherwise be reluctant to sponsor such projects, to invest in them. To make sure that youth with varied interests can be engaged, service-learning should work with many different kinds of service.

Service-learning in Egypt

The Gerhart Center was launched in 2005 to re-engage students with their subject material, and to bridge the gap between wealthy university students and impoverished communities.

Since the introduction of service learning to campus, students are seeking out more service learning opportunities. They see themselves as part of the solution to community problems, and have a better understanding of social justice issues in Cairo.

Where is the Learning in national Youth service?

Service-learning in Egypt

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The pedagogy of service-learning

The second session led by Jim Kielsmeier discussed the pedagogy of service-learning and the importance of critical reflection to connect service with learning objectives. Enrique Ochoa of the Ministerio de Educación de la Nación in Argentina and the Latin American Center for Service-Learning (CLAYSS) made a presentation on high-quality service-learning practices and provided an overview of service-learning in the Latin American context.

Service-learning is a teaching method that enriches learning by engaging students in meaningful service to their schools and community through a process that is carefully integrated with established learning objectives. There are three defining features of service-learning: active engagement and leadership in a project, real and verifiable service provided to the community, and academic content intentionally linked to service conditions. Ideally, service-learning opportunities should be inclusive, address pressing social problems, reflect on the social and political contexts of issues, link directly to the curriculum, and should include some sort of public recognition for the young person’s achievements.

Service-learning should be integrated with classroom content areas, and should be shaped by each country’s specific cultural context. To bring lessons to life, young people can do hands-on learning in the form of service that relates to what they learn in class. These types of experiences reinforce cognitive retention and learning, and make youth more engaged and committed to school. It takes greater knowledge to transform reality than it takes to describe it, and it takes greater knowledge to create a meaningful community project than it takes to fulfill a service requirement.

There are efforts now to use civic engagement and service-learning as tools to reduce the dropout rate through increased stimulation in and outside the classroom. The sense of empowerment and relevance that service-learning imparts has a powerful impact on youth, inspiring them to achieve more and reach higher levels of maturity. It is crucial to find a balance between service and learning to ensure that both are equally significant components of the service-learning process.

Attaching a learning component to National Youth Service requires the volunteers to reflect on the work that they have done, apply it to their lives and their surroundings, and make it a part of their consciousness. This learning can take place throughout the service project as well as afterwards, through directed questions, discussions and documentation. If service and learning are appropriately linked, students learn about themselves, their communities and social issues.

In order to assess the success of service-learning programs, feedback, diagnoses of service experiences, reflections and dialogues need to be performed and gathered from everyone involved.
Developing Regional Networks for Youth Service

Three examples of regional youth service networks were presented at the Conference: The European Voluntary Service, the River-See Program in South Eastern Europe, and the Youth Ambassadors for Peace program of the African Union. This workshop discussed the benefits of regional youth service networks and explored the opportunities and challenges of developing regional networks.

Agnes Uhereczky Director of AVSO presented the European Voluntary Service (EVS), which was established under the European Union after World War II to promote international understanding and to avoid conflict. The EVS is free for volunteers and youth receive a Youth Pass, much like a certificate, after their service. The service organization, the receiving organization and the volunteer form a triangle that makes up EVS. Training is done by a national agency now, which is different from the old method of training by the sending organization. In addition to the creation of an EVS charter on standards and principles, there is also an activity agreement between partners. While the goal is to expand the program to include more disadvantaged youth from Europe and more youth from developing countries, both aims have proved to be difficult to achieve. Defining youth as disadvantaged is a complicated matter and it is difficult to bring people into Europe from developing countries owing to stringent visa requirements. Furthermore, many European countries are resistant to the homogenizing and nationalizing affects of the European Union and so do not welcome organizations like the EVS.

Stephanie Roels of United Nations Volunteers presented the River-See Program, which is an acronym for Regional Integration through Volunteer Exchanges for Reconciliation in South Eastern Europe. Established in 2003, River-See includes Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Albania and other countries in the region. These countries are relatively new and tend to be diverse and divided. The creation of River-See was envisioned to promote peace and reconciliation after the 1995 war, to develop cross-border cooperation via service and exchange, to strengthen civil society and its infrastructure, and to create unity among
the countries formerly involved in Yugoslavia. River-See has succeeded in establishing connections between the East and the West: it has increased awareness of youth service and is developing into a successful and fruitful exchange mechanism. Some of its challenges have to do with management, cash flow, and sustainability. The program accesses new participants largely through the internet and universities, but this limits access to a small portion of the population. Although it has been a challenge to reconcile differences between people from different backgrounds, this has also proved to be very rewarding, as has been changing people’s attitudes towards volunteers. Often the mayors of towns are reluctant to welcome the program, but they eventually come to understand its necessity. River-See is now entering a new phase with shorter terms of service, more locally focused efforts, simplified management, and increased matchmaking and fundraising.

Mae Chao, also of United Nations Volunteers, presented the **Youth Ambassadors for Peace** program which is designed to serve as a Youth Service Corps for the African Union. The Youth Ambassadors program is funded entirely by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with UNV providing technical support. All the plans are in place, but the program is waiting for the launch of the new peace building initiative. Youth Ambassadors for Peace seeks youth who show potential of becoming future leaders, trains them in peace building and places them on a career path to becoming international leaders in peace. The youth will start off in national youth service programs in their own countries and as they demonstrate skills and enthusiasm, they will move to the international programs where, through partnerships with UNESCO and placements with NGOs, the youth are trained in peace building. There have been various discussions and consensus papers have been developed in collaboration with the African Union; the president of the AU is supportive of the idea of a national youth corps serving across the continent. The program has been highlighted as a laudable program with good potential given the strong partnerships and framework already established.
Peacebuilding and Service

Ineko Tsuchida, Project Manager at the Shinnyo-en Foundation, facilitated a dialogue among panelists to explore how youth service can be a means for peacebuilding through the contributions and connections people make.

The Shinnyo-en Foundation is a secular grant-making organization founded in 1994 to bring increased compassion, peace and empathy by supporting educational programs that engage young people in meaningful acts of service. Their ‘Six Billion Paths to Peace’ initiative inspires people to become more aware of how everyday actions can lead to peace. Panelists were asked to reflect on their personal and programmatic experience with service and peacebuilding.

Four panelists contributed to the discussion: Deb Kielsmeier of the Christ Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis, MN in the USA spoke from a faith-based perspective of service and peace. Kamini Prakash of the Indian NGO, Pravah, described that organization’s goal of promoting youth active citizenship to create social change and their focus on encouraging self awareness, a process by which youth are encouraged to become aware of their own biases and to look beyond stereotypes by engaging with people who are different than they are. Phuong Tuan Don of Volunteers for Peace Vietnam described how their service programs work to encourage youth to appreciate others, to respect one another and foster universal human rights. James Fofanah of Students Partnership Worldwide Sierra Leone spoke about the importance of engaging young people in service, as they can then see themselves being able to contribute to the alleviation of community problems, to speak as one and to put a history of conflict behind them.

Youth as agents of peace

A common goal that emerged in many youth service programs is to promote understanding between youth and to make youth see themselves as agents of peace. War is a very common theme, streamlined into youth consciousness by the news young people see, the situations they encounter, popular culture, or the reality that they must live every day. Despite these pressures, youth still have the capacity to ask themselves
vital questions such as “Who am I?”; “What is happening”; “Why war and violence”; and “What can I do to make a difference?” Whether it is through a religious calling or the need to bring together a war-torn community, young people often yearn for answers to the questions that they demand of themselves. Youth service programs can help to engage youth in constructive discussion and channel their capacity towards creating positive change.

Many young people do not have the opportunity to participate in a service program. However, once they are given the chance, they learn to be more socially responsible to their community, learn about empowerment, and develop a sense of solidarity and common humanity with those they work with and those they serve. Young people who grew up surrounded by war and mistrust can learn harmony and acceptance, and youth from privileged backgrounds can be humbled and driven to serve others. The transformation that youth undergo when they engage in dialogue and service is inspiring, and this change serves as the foundation and axis for other changes in the community.

**Developing a commitment to the value of service**

It is difficult to get youth to commit to a life of peace and service, and so it is necessary to ensure that they understand the value of service. This can be achieved by having them design their own projects, a process by which they can see how modern issues affect them and their peers personally. Through the process they subsequently learn to address issues before they become problems rather than just react to the consequences.

The youth take ownership of issues and become agents of change through their own initiative. Also, it is crucial to eliminate the line between “volunteer” and “recipient of service.” By establishing the mindset of a common humanity and a common future, young people will understand that their well-being is bound up with others in society, regardless of how distant their troubles may seem. A Christian interpretation of this is the idea that those who are oppressed are very close to God, and therefore believers are called upon on behalf of the oppressed as common human beings. Belief in the intrinsic value and essential capacity for altruism within every person pushes young people to believe in themselves and in others, and to cultivate this potential for good within themselves and in others.

The challenges that peacebuilding and service can pose are often very difficult for youth to overcome: their beliefs may be confronted by new concepts or trials that they are not ready for, and this can be discouraging. Above all, it is important to present these challenges as opportunities for growth, learning, and developing peace within themselves.
Youth Service and the Millennium Development Goals

The world’s 1.5 billion young people aged 12-24 constitute the largest generation ever to make the transition to adulthood, and this age group is a focus of many of the Millennium Development Goals. How then can countries harness the potential of young people to contribute to their own development and to the achievement of the MDGs? Mae Chao, Volunteer Infrastructure Specialist at United Nations Volunteers facilitated a workshop to discuss how national youth service can be used to help address the MDGs.

Youth service is increasingly recognized by governments as a promising tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In many countries, the power of youth service is so valued that service is mandatory for all or segments of the youth population, such as the required year of volunteering for university graduates in Ghana, as described by Kofi Obiri Yeboah, Executive Director of the National Service Scheme in Ghana. Helene Agnelli from Burkina Faso spoke about the National Volunteering Program that is being developed in that country.

Young people, especially those with higher education degrees, can be utilized in schools or in clinics to provide quality healthcare and education, and also to provide vocational training to help people lift themselves out of poverty. Education is the most common area in which volunteers work in relation to the Millennium Development Goals because there is a dire need for improvement in schools, especially in rural areas of developing countries where school infrastructure and well educated teachers are not as common as in more urban areas.

With regards to creating awareness, youth often are more capable of reaching out to their peers than adults, especially when it comes to sensitive or politically charged issues such as HIV/AIDS and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Soad Abdel Rahman A. Elaragi of the UNV/UNFPA/ AUW FGM Project in the Sudan spoke about a community mobilization and volunteerism initiative to combat FGM, which targets three MDGS – promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. By working in small community-based pilot projects and including all members of society in finding solutions to these difficult issues, young people can create strong and viable solutions to foster development.
Jim Kielsmeier gave a brief history of IANYS, detailing its founding and its growth from a small gathering of people interested in national youth service to a large international conference with 43 countries participating.

Many suggestions were offered for how to improve the next IANYS Conference. In the new era of the internet, participants hope for increased information technology, utilization of the internet as a tool for networking and communication, and better understanding of technology and the internet itself as a means of promoting and sustaining dialogue. An online database of information about the conference and conference participants would be a useful constant reference and resource. Though participants agreed that this Conference was a great leap forward from past conferences, there was notably only one representative from Latin America, and there were fewer youth speakers than there had been at other conferences. In the past it was a requirement to bring a volunteer, but this was deemed too difficult and left many organizations unable to attend because of their inability to bring a youth representative.

Workshops that people wish to see in the future would include more involvement from private sector groups in discussions, and would go into further detail about how to conduct cost-benefit analysis with clear economic evidence for the benefits of youth service. Regional dialogues to establish connections and create regional service strategies would help in areas where service programs are just developing and could benefit from regional cooperation. Holding smaller workshops that encourage more discussion and giving participants the choice of which ones they would like to attend, would give the Conference a more relaxed and interactive feel.

Incorporating cultural entertainment into the Conference, as well as more direct service, would help to emphasize diversity and commitment to volunteering. IANYS could serve as a bridge to the academic university community to make them aware of developments in youth service internationally and therefore make it easier to request funding and other support. A similar relationship with the private sector would facilitate cooperation and fundraising.

Participants reviewed the IANYS Charter, discussed possible updates and were encouraged to offer feedback on the conference and IANYS itself. It was also announced that IANYS would be issuing a request for proposals to host the next IANYS conference in 2010.
Building a Network to Support and Advance the Field of National Youth Service: Outcomes of the 8th Global Conference

The 8th Global Conference marked a revival of IANYS and the renewal of global interest in the NYS field for experienced policymakers and practitioners. It also served as a powerful introduction to a range of NYS concepts, models and issues for those new to NYS or new to the growing international field of NYS.

For IANYS, the 8th Global Conference symbolized a momentous surge in countries ascribing to the idea of NYS. It also indicated a growing interest and need to participate in a global network to share models, ideas and best practices of NYS.

Participants reported that they felt better informed to advise their governments on designing, implementing or improving NYS policies and programs, or to present models and concepts on youth civic engagement to governments that are just beginning to explore innovative and effective ways to invest in youth and community development.

As a follow up to the 8th Global Conference, IANYS has been adding new information and features to the IANYS website – www.icicp.org/ianys. The 8th Global Conference page includes information about the Conference including the final agenda, speakers, links to download speakers’ presentations, biographies and video interviews with several participants, photos from the conference and President Johnson Sirleaf’s video message.

Other IANYS pages include NYS Country Information, which includes the NYS Country profiles that were collected prior to the conference and that ICP has continued to collect. It also includes news articles by country and research reports. The IANYS website also features an online discussion forum to enable continued dialogue and interaction among conference participants. The IANYS website is linked to the Google Translate service, which enables users to view the pages in multiple languages.

To find the information discussed above as well as additional content, please visit the IANYS website at www.icicp.org/ianys
Building on the momentum

Given the strong growth in interest in youth civic engagement around the world in the past few years, the time is right to take action. We must pull together NYS resources, expertise, models and practices and match them with countries to give them the support they need to invest in and implement, or improve and scale up national youth service programs and policies. The demand for assistance clearly exists, but there is currently no organized and systematic way of responding to that need. We believe that the IANYS network has the potential to be the vehicle to produce and disseminate this support.

Building on the momentum of the groundbreaking 8th Global Conference in an effort to create a more robust global network, IANYS intends to undertake several activities designed to strengthen the field of youth civic engagement globally, including:

- Researching and producing a report that examines the State of National Youth Service throughout the world and developing tools to help governments design and implement NYS programs.
- Developing a network of consultants to advise and offer technical assistance in the design, implementation and evaluation of youth civic engagement policies and programs.
- Creating an exchange program for policymakers and practitioners to gain first-hand knowledge of different policies and program models through fellowship projects with partner organizations.
- Gathering and expanding access to resources and information on NYS through the IANYS website, which will include:
  - Creating an interactive online resource center with features such as National Youth Service Country Profiles, updatable member profiles, ICP’s online searchable Program and Policy Database and collaborative information sharing through the use of wikis.
  - Building a virtual community of practice via a virtual discussion forum and exchanges of program models and best practices through the use of digital media.

IANYS will also continue to organize Global Conferences on National Youth Service to provide stimulating forums to share information and current developments in the field, nurture connections for developing future projects, and discuss the potential for scaling up national youth service for greater impact on community and youth development.

IANYS will release a Request for Proposals and facilitate an application process to select the co-host(s) and location of the 9th Global Conference in 2010.

“This is a very impressive meeting. It is important to be able to see a broad range of experiences, because once youth service programs have growth and reach, sometimes they lose something of the spirit that got the project going. So it’s nice to be around the pioneer spirit at this Conference.”

- Richard Harrill, Founder, Foundation for Democratic Youth (DIA), Hungary
Appendix A: Conference Attendees

Soaad Abdel
Rahman A. Eleraqi
UNV/FGM Specialist
UNV/UNFPA/AUW FGM
Project, Sudan

Helene Agnelli
Coordinator
National Volunteering
Program, Burkina Faso

Kwasi Agyeman
Professor/Chairman
of the Board
Ghana National Service
Scheme, Ghana

Ramadier Aimeric
Conseiller technique
Présidence de la
République, France

Karin Akins
Program Manager
IYF, USA

Abdullah AlAttal
Women's Committee,
Kuweit

Pierrot Alexis
Directeur Régional
Unis-Cité
Champagne-Ardenne, France

Dupin Alice
Chargée du Service
civil volontaire
Ligue de l'enseignement,
France

Haya AlSumait
Women's Committee,
Kuweit

Dalal Al Tawheed
Women's Committee,
Kuweit

Benali Amandine
Responsable
d'Antenne - Lille
Unis-Cité Nord
Pas de Calais, France

Kirogloiu Annick
Responsable associations
Service Civil Volontaire
ACSE, France

Kinga Balcsik-Tamas
ÖDE OFFICE
Voluntary Year Office of
Hungarian Reformed
Church, Hungary

Brinquier Barbara
Coordinatrice
Internationale
Les Petits Frères des
Pauvres, France

Silvia Barbotto
Italy

Roser Batlle Suner
Fundacio Catalana
De L'esplai, Spain

Strouf Béatrice
France

Julian Bendixen
Freiwilliges Ökologisches
Jahr, Germany

Mounier Benoît
Responsable d'antenne
Unis-Cité Ile de France,
France

Lesterlin Bernard
Député
Assemblée Nationale,
France

Saigne Bernard
Chargé de mission
“volontariat” Ministère
de la Santé, de la Jeu-
nesse, des Sports et de la
vie associative, France

Simonin Bertrand
Directeur Adjoint
Unis-Cité Ile de France,
France

On. Leonzio Borea
Director
National Civic Service
Programme, Italy

Theveniau Brigitte
Responsable collectivités
territoriales
Service Civil Volontaire
ACSE, France

Francesco Brollo
Region of Lombardia/SCN,
Italy

Jude Butcher
Professor Edmund Rice
Centre for Justice and
Community Education,
Australia

Maria Cabral
Belgium

Anne Campbell
Program Manager
Open Society Institute,
USA

Bill Caroline
Chargée de Mission
jeunesse
Conseil Général Val d'Oise,
France

Soubie Caroline
Responsable du Service
Jeunesse Croix Rouge
Française, France

Catherine Cecil
Communications
and Policy Advisor
Youth Star Cambodia,
Cambodia

Monvois Chantal
Déléguée générale
Fondation Vinci pour la
Cité, France

Mae Chao
Officer in Charge
of Research
and Development
United Nations
Volunteers, Germany

Gary Coogan
CSV Enterprise North, UK

Sterenn Coudray
EFYSO, Germany

Monferrer Dante
Délégué Général
AFVP, France

Willem DeBoer
Code - X International,
The Netherlands

Renaudin Elise
Déléguée à la citoyenneté
et aux initiatives solidaires
AFEV, France

Depecker Elise
Directrice Réseau
Unis-Cité, France

Floch Fabrice
Responsable d'antenne
Unis-Cité, Aquitaine,
France

James Fofanah
Monitoring and Evaluation
Coordinator
SPW, Sierra Leone

Agyn Godfred
Kwame Fosu
Greater Accra
Regional Secretariat
Ghana National Service
Scheme, Ghana

Andrew Furco
Associate Vice President
for Public Engagement
University of Minnesota,
USA

Mangez Gaetane
Plateforme pour le
Service Citoyen, Belgium

Reuven Gal
Head
The Authority
for National Civic Service,
Israel

Rita Galambos
Executive Director
DIA, Hungary

Zaher Gauss
Deputy Executive Director
CSV, UK

Le Bars Gildas
Chargé des relations
extérieures
Unis-Cité, France
Aliya Sagingalieva
Volunteer Center and Social Seminar Fund, Kazakhstan

Levine Sandra Isabelle
Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse, des Sports et de la vie associative, France

Cœuré Sandrine
Déléguée Générale Fondation Société Générale, France

Paola Santoro
ASC, Italy

Abraham Sébastien
Coordinateur d’équipe Unis-Cité Champagne-Ardenne, France

Idan Segev
Responsable de volontaires (ASF France) Aktop, sühneziechen friedsdienste/ASF France, France

Gaini Seisembaeva
Volunteer Center and Social Seminar Fund, Kazakhstan

Zardasht Shams
Director of Planning and External Affairs Ministry of Information and Culture, Afghanistan

Dina Sherif
Associate Director John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, Egypt

Lior Shohat
Manager of Public Affairs Administration for Civic Service, Israel

Rejoice Shumba
VOSESA, South Africa

Regina Siqueira
Superintendente Executiva Assoc Alfabetizacao Solidaria, Brazil

Rena Sodhi
Director of Programs V, UK

Khemra Som
Youth Star Cambodia, Cambodia

G.K. Somba Kivalya
Deputy-Secretary Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Kenya

Plieau-Varet Stéphanie
Responsable d’antenne Unis-Cité Ile de France, France

Andrieux Stephanie
Directrice Régionale Unis-Cité Ile de France, France

Cazade Stephen
Directeur National Unis-Cité, France

John Stringham
RGDTS, Germany

Susan Stroud
Executive Director ICP, US

Kum Kit Tan
National Education Branch National Education Officer Ministry of Education, Singapore

Lorraine Tansley
Student Volunteer Coordinator National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Manuela Tenaglia
ERA Onlus, Italy

Henrio Terangi
Chargée de Partenariat Unis-Cité Aquitaine, France

Marie Trellu
President, Unis-Cité, France

Nthuseng Tsionyane-Mphahlie
Head of the National Service Unit Umsobomvu Youth Fund, South Africa

Ineko Tsuchida
Project Manager Shinnyo-en Foundation, USA

Susan Tucker
OSI, USA

Karina Ufert
Regional Youth Council of Vilnius City, Lithuania

Bengi Uguz
AVSO, Belgium

Agnes Uhereczky
Director AVSO, Belgium

Becquet Valérie
Sociologue, France

Busson Véronique
Chargée de mission volontariats Cotravaux, France

Evangerine Wandia
King’ang’i Pentsys Technology, Kenya

Simon Westmorland
AVSO, Belgium

Alan Williams
Vice President of the Leadership and Engagement Center IYF, USA

Wei Wu
Deputy Director of the International Department All-China Youth Federation, China

Malenfer Xavier
Conseiller technique Cabinet du Premier Ministre France

Hongbo Xin
Executive Director Shenzhen Municipal Volunteers Association, China

Kofi Obiri Yeboah
Executive Director Ghana National Service Scheme Ghana

Alina Yuldabaeva
Volunteer Center and Social Seminar Fund, Kazakhstan
Appendix B: Conference Program

Special Pre-Conference Session on NYS Policy and Program Development

This session is specially designed for policymakers, government representatives, and practitioners who are new to the field of National Youth Service (NYS) and service learning, and interested in learning more about the key issues in program and policy design. The session will provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the concepts of NYS and service learning, an opportunity to learn about some successful NYS and service learning program models, and the tools to begin developing a NYS policy or program in their home country. This session will be facilitated by experts in the field of national youth service.

Introduction to National Youth Service

Overview of definitions and key concepts of youth service; Overview of different types of models throughout the world

Facilitator: Susan Stroud, Executive Director, Innovations in Civic Participation; Director, International Association for National Youth Service (USA)

Case Studies

Government experts and policymakers will share their experiences with Youth Service program and policy development. There will be time set aside at the end for questions.

Chair: Elisabeth Hoodless, DBE, Executive Director, Community Service Volunteers (UK); Chairman, IANYS Global Council

Presenters:
• Licio Palazzini, President, Arci Servizio Civile (Italy)
• Reuven Gal, Head, The Authority for National Civic Service & Lior Shohat, Manager of Public Affairs, Authority for National Service (Israel)
• Amiral Alain Bereau, (France)
• Lucy Hlubi, Director: Skills Development, Umsobomvu Youth Fund (South Africa)

Key Considerations in Policy and Program Development

Participants will examine effective models of Youth Service in both youth service corps and formal education settings. Participants will focus more extensively on one of these areas and review key considerations in designing policies and programs as well as challenges to implementation and strategies for addressing these challenges

Session One: Youth Service Corps

Chair: Marie Trellu, President, Unis-Cité (France)

Presenters:
• Sterenn Coudray, Secretary General, EFYSO (Germany)
• Helene Agnelli, Coordinator, Burkina Faso’s National Volunteering Program (Burkina Faso)
• Susan Stroud, Executive Director, Innovations in Civic Participation; Director, International Association for National Youth Service (USA)
• Japheth Mwania, Director, National Youth Service (Kenya)
• Adinhair Jones, Executive Director, National Youth Service (Jamaica)
Session Two: Youth Service in Educational Settings
Chair: Jim Kielsmeier, President and CEO, National Youth Leadership Council (USA)

Presenters:
• Andy Furco, Vice President for Public Engagement, University of Minnesota (USA)
• Dina Sherif, Associate Director, the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, American University in Cairo (Egypt)

Opening Ceremony
Chair: Elisabeth Hoodless, DBE, Executive Director, Community Service Volunteers (UK); Chairman, IANYS Global Council

Presenters:
• James Bullock, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, US Embassy in Paris
• Pascal Lejeune, Head of “Youth in Action” Programme unit, European Commission, DG EAC
• Message from Bernard Laporte, Youth, Sports and Non Profit Sector State Secretary (France) – Read by Marie Trellu, Unis-Cité
• President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia (by pre-recorded video)

Day 2: Thursday, November 20, 2008

Round Table Presentation: Scaling Up NYS from local to national
An internationally diverse panel of practitioners will present models of national youth service programs with different designs and at various stages of development. Panelists will discuss how youth service programs began in each country and how pilot programs were or could be scaled up to the national level.

Chair: Reuven Gal, Head, The Authority for National Civic Service (Israel)

Presenters:
• Hinrich Goos, Project Leader, FÖJ, Voluntary Ecological Year (Germany)
• Licio Palazzini, President, Arci Servizio Civile (Italy)
• Nthuseng Mphahlele, Head of the National Youth Service Unit (South Africa)
• Catherine Cecil, Communications and Policy Advisor, YouthStar Cambodia (Cambodia)

Round Table Presentation: Measuring the Impact of NYS Programs on Participants and on the Community
Panelists will discuss the importance of increasing the evidence base to support NYS, and will present on different models of evaluation to measure the impact of NYS programs both on participants and on the community. Participants will learn about the model and outcomes of various impact assessments and discuss the implications for their own NYS programs as well as for the field of NYS as a whole.

Chair: Andy Furco, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement, University of Minnesota (USA)

Presenters:
• Valérie Becquet, Junior Lecturer, Université de Cergy/Pontoise (France)
• James Fofanah, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Students Partnership Worldwide (Sierra Leone)
• Helene Perold, Executive Director, Volunteer and Service Enquiry Southern Africa (VOSESA) (South Africa)
• Steve Powell, Director, ProMENTE (Bosnia Herzegovina)
Site Visits in Paris and surroundings, organized by Unis-Cité

Round Table Presentation - Stimulating Private Sector Investment in NYS
Philanthropic leaders from the private sector will present on the innovative ways in which they have partnered with organizations to support youth civic engagement programs. The panelists will also discuss trends in corporate philanthropy for NYS and implications for increasing private sector investment in NYS programs and the youth civic engagement field.

Chair: Marie Trellu, President, Unis-Cité (France)

Presenters:
- Alan Williams, Vice President of the Leadership and Engagement Center, IYF (USA)
- Colonel Robert L. Gordon III, Senior Vice President, Civic Leadership, City Year (USA)
- Chantal Monvois, Fondation Vinci pour la Cité (France)
- Anne Campbell, Program Manager, Open Society Institute (USA)
- Patrick Baboin, Vice President, the Timberland Company (USA-France)

Day 3 Friday, November 21, 2008

Round Table Presentation: NYS as a Strategy for Social Inclusion
Panelists will examine how NYS can be utilized as a strategy for social inclusion of disadvantaged groups. Case studies will show how participation in NYS can be beneficial to members of disadvantaged groups as well as communities as a whole. Discussion will also focus on ways to make NYS programs more inclusive and accessible for all groups.

Chair: Agnes Uhereczky, Director, Association of Voluntary Service Organizations (Belgium)
Presenters:
- Rita Galambos, Executive Director, Foundation for Democratic Youth (DIA) (Hungary)
- Karin Akins, Program Manager, Make a Connection, International Youth Foundation (IYF) (Europe)
- John Stringham, Roma-Gadje Dialogue through Service (RGDTS) (Germany)

Round Table Presentation: Examining the Public Cost and Funding for NYS
This panel will discuss the cost of NYS programs, including concerns about cost and how to mobilize public sources of funding for NYS.

Chair: Helene Perold, Executive Director, Volunteer and Service Enquiry Southern Africa (VOSESA) (South Africa)

Presenters
- G.K. Somba-Kivalya, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Kenya)
- Licio Palazzini, President, Arco Servizio Civile (Italy)
- Zardasht Shams, Director of Planning and External Affairs, Ministry of Information and Culture (Afghanistan)
- Tracey Herald, Head of Policy and Projects, v (UK)
- Adinhair Jones, Executive Director, National Youth Service (Jamaica)

Thematic Workshops - Friday
Participants will have pre-selected a workshop choice.
Identifying and meeting community and national needs through NYS
Panelists will discuss the ways in which NYS can be utilized as a strategy to meet a variety of community and national needs. This panel will examine how to identify needs that can be addressed by NYS and how to design NYS programs for those particular needs.

Chair: Elisabeth Hoodless, DBE, Executive Director, Community Service Volunteers (UK); Chairman, IANYS Global Council

Presenters:
- Reuven Gal, Head, The Authority for National Civic Service (Israel)
- Licio Palazzini, President, Arci Servizio Civile (Italy)
- Barbara Kramer, former President, currently Member of the Board of Directors, Zentralstelle Kriegsdienstverweigerung (Central Coordinating organization for conscientious objection) (Germany)
- Wu Wei, Deputy Director of the International Department, All-China Youth Federation (China)

Developing regional networks for youth service
This session will discuss the benefits of regional youth service networks and will explore the opportunities and challenges of developing regional networks. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with established regional networks and others interested in developing youth service networks for their regions.

Chair: Agnes Uhereczky, Director, Association of Voluntary Service Organizations (Belgium)

Presenters:
- Stephanie Roels, United Nations Volunteers (Presenting on River SEE)
- Mae Chao, Volunteer Infrastructure Specialist, United Nations Volunteers (Germany)

Peacebuilding and Service
This workshop will examine how youth service can be a means for peacebuilding through the contributions and connections people make. Panelists will speak on the topic from the perspectives of developing compassionate and committed young people through service, faith-based traditions of service and peace, and conflict transformation through youth service. Chair: Ineko Tsuchida, Project Manager, The Shinnyo-en Foundation (USA)

Presenters:
- Deb Kielsmeier, Associate Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN (USA)
- Kamini Prakash, Director, Streaming of Citizenship Action, Pravah (India)
- James Fofanah, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Students Partnership Worldwide (Sierra Leone)
- Phuong Tuan Don, Founding President, Volunteers for Peace Vietnam (Vietnam)

IANYS General Meeting – Grand Salon
This is a meeting for all IANYS members and all conference participants. The IANYS Global Council will lead discussions on important issues to the Association, including membership, identifying the location of the 9th Global Conference, and identifying needs of the NYS field and suggestions for how IANYS might respond.
Thematic Workshops - Saturday

Participants will have pre-selected a workshop choice.

Youth Service and the Millennium Development Goals

Given that the world’s 1.5 billion young people aged 12-24 constitute the largest generation ever to make the transition to adulthood, and that this age group is a focus of many of the Millennium Development Goals, how can countries harness the potential of young people to contribute their own development and to the achievement of the MDGs? This workshop will examine how national youth service can be used to help address the MDGs.

Chair: Mae Chao, Volunteer Infrastructure Specialist, United Nations Volunteers (Germany)

Presenters:
- Kofi Obiri Yeboah, Executive Director, National Service Scheme (Ghana)
- Hélène Agnelli, Coordinator, National Volunteering Program (Burkina Faso)
- Soad Abdel Rahman A. Eleragi, NUNV/FGM Specialist, UNV/UNFPA/AUW FGM Project (Sudan)

Where is the Learning in NYS?

This session will discuss the pedagogy of service-learning and the importance of critical reflection to connect service with learning objective. Panelists will present different service-learning models and discuss key considerations for developing and advancing learning objectives in NYS programs.

Chair: Jim Kielsmeier, President and CEO, National Youth Leadership Council (USA)

Presenters:

Closing Ceremony

IANYS Global Council Members Jim Kielsmeier, President and CEO, National Youth Leadership Council (USA) and Marie Trellu, President, Unis-Cité (France) on behalf of Susan Stroud, Executive Director, Innovations in Civic Participation; Director, International Association for National Youth Service (USA)

Speakers:
- Henry Lozano, Director of External Affairs, the Shinnyo-en Foundation
- Kumi Naidoo, Honorary President, CIVICUS
Appendix C: IANYS Global Council

Don Eberly, New Zealand
Founder and Honorary President of IANYS

Elisabeth Hoodless, DBE, UK
Chairman
Executive Director, Community Service Volunteers

Susan Stroud, United States
Director
Executive Director, Innovations in Civic Participation

Addys Then Marte, Dominican Republic
Director, Alianza Ong

Agnès Uhereczky, Belgium
Director, Association of Voluntary Service Organisations

Ali Raza Khan, Pakistan
Founder and Director, Pakistan National Youth Service Program
Youth Engagement Services Network

Busani Ngcaweni, South Africa
Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the President

Christopher Witt, Australia
Partner, Kalori Group Investments

Jim Kielsmeier, United States
President and CEO, National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC)

Licio Palazzini, Italy
President, Arci Servizio Civile

Marie Trellu, France
President, Unis-Cité

Maria Nieves Tapia, Argentina
Director, Latin American Center for Service Learning (CLAYSS)

Reuven Gal, Israel
Head, The Authority for National Civic Service, Prime Minister’s Office

Yuanzhu Ding, China
Professor and Director, Peking University Research Center for Volunteering and Welfare
Appendix D: Sponsors

Platinum: Civic Service Champion
The European Commission

Gold: Civic Service Leader
The Shinnyo-en Foundation  |  Fondation des Etats-Unis

Silver: Civic Service Sponsor
UN Volunteers  |  Benoit Foundation
French Ministry of Youth European Commission “Youth in Action” Programme

Bronze: Civic Service Supporter
The University of Minnesota
Appendix E: Credits

Organizers
Unis-Cité
Marie Trellu
Elise Depecker
Magalie Schickele
Stephen Cazade

Innovations in Civic Participation
Susan Stroud
Jean Manney
Elizabeth Brouwer
Charmagne Campbell-Patton

AVSO
Agnes Uhereczky
Valerio Pellirossi
Bengi Uguz
Simon Westmorland

IANYS Global Council Members in Attendance
Elisabeth Hoodless, DBE, UK
Chairman
Executive Director, Community Service Volunteers
Susan Stroud, United States
Director
Executive Director, Innovations in Civic Participation
Agnes Uhereczky, Belgium
Director, Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO)
Jim Kielsmeier, United States
President and CEO, National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC)
Licio Palazzini, Italy
President, Arci Servizio Civile
Marie Trellu, France
President, Unis-Cité
Reuven Gal, Israel
Head, The Authority for National Civic Service, Prime Minister’s Office

IANYS Conference Film
CSV Productions: North West, Community Service Volunteers
Peter Hall,
Jose Huwaidi
Gary Coogan
Matt Robson

Film Production
Gary Coogan
Peter Hall
Jose Huwaidi
Simon Westmorland
Kristian Lora
Kieron Jones