



ICVNews Flash / September 2008

Happening this Month...

World Summit Award new partner of ICVolunteers
Language and Migration Project: the Studies
More than 600 conference volunteers in four months
Connecting World's Language Services to Support Intercultural Collaboration
Discussing ICT4D in Kuala Lumpur and Armenia
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PARTNERSHIP

World Summit Award new partner of ICVolunteers

World Summit Award (WSA) and ICVolunteers recently signed a partnership agreement. WSA is a global initiative which aims to select and promote the world's best in e-Content and creativity. Started as part of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), more than 160 UN member states are participating in this bi-annual contest, making it the most global activity of its kind. WSA involves professional organizations, business networks, government agencies and eminent experts from all continents and sees the bridging of the digital divide and narrowing of the content gap as its overall goal. In highlighting outstanding Internet content and applications around the world, the WSA is helping civil society organizations, policy makers and businesses everywhere to harness the potential of ICT for empowering people and promoting development. WSA is an activity carried out by the International Center for New Media-ICNM, a registered non-profit public association in Salzburg, Austria. The purpose of the collaboration agreement between WSA and ICV is to leverage each organization's expertise which are complementary in many ways. It aims also to carry out joint efforts in order to support each other.

More: www.wsis-award.org and www.icvolunteers.org/index.php?what=projectsregions&id=309

RESEARCH

Language and Migration: the studies

What kinds of services are available for migrants who arrive in a country and do not speak the local language? What are the issues they are faced with when trying to get assistance for administration, health or education? For the past year and a half, ICVolunteers has been conducting two studies, one in Barcelona, Spain, and one in Geneva, Switzerland, trying to answer exactly these questions. Together with its offices in France, South Africa and Brazil, ICV is currently developing training models for community interpreters. In Switzerland, ICV will also collaborate in a web portal for migrants, a project led by Sociolutions, in collaboration with the Forum pour l'Intégration des Migrants et des Migrants (FIMM), the Forum des Etrangers et Etrangers de Lausanne (FEEL) and the association Main Tendu.

More about language and migration in Switzerland: www.icvolunteers.org/projects/309, www.migraf.com, www.sociolutions.com, www.fimm-integration.ch, www.forumetrangers.ch

CONFERENCE SERVICES

More than 600 conference volunteers in four months

Our Conference Teams have had a very busy time since May, with 7 major events: the Red Cross and Red Crescent annual Health and Care Forum (Geneva, 14 – 16 May 2008), the Geneva Health Forum (Geneva, 25 – 27 May 2008), IBM Solidarity Week (Rio de Janeiro, 28 May 2008), *Fête de la Musique* (Geneva, 20 – 22 June 2008), the Global Humanitarian Forum (Geneva, 24 – 25 June 2008), the World AIDS Conference (Mexico, 3 – 08 August 2008), the General Assembly of the Blind Union (Geneva, 15 – 23 August 2008) and the World Cancer Congress (27 – 31 August 2008), Philanthropy Forum (Geneva, 10 September), World Knowledge Dialogue Symposium (Crans-Montana, 10 – 13 September 2008). ICVolunteers managed conference services and contributed both to the preparation and running of these events. More than 600 volunteers were involved in reporting, session interpreting, room supervision, accompanying of blind and the visually impaired. We would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank them for the involvement and contribution.

More: www.icvolunteers.org/news, www.icvolunteers.org/projects

ICV-JAPAN

Connecting the World's Language Services to Support Intercultural Collaboration

The principal project developed by the new ICV desk in Japan is the *Language Grid*, a new infrastructure on the Internet that aims to improve the accessibility and usability of existing language services and so encourage users to create new language services that suit their needs. The Internet allows people to be linked together; however language remains the biggest barrier. The *Language Grid* combines language resources (ex. bilingual dictionaries) or language processing functions (ex. machine translators) and allows users to add their own language resources to easily develop new language services. Basic software for the *Language Grid* has been developed at the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) of the Kyoto University. The use of the *Language Grid* is limited to non-profit activities. Bilingual dictionaries and machine translation services for more than ten Asian languages will be available in the next three years. Furthermore, various intercultural collaboration activities will be available, such as interpretation in medical hospitals and multilingual workshops. The project will be discussed during the next NUT Week 2008, in Nagoaka, Japan, next 20 to 24 November. The NUT Week is an international forum for researchers and practitioners, which addresses all aspects of research related to humans and computers, intelligent and affective systems, governance and linguistic diversity in the Internet.

More: <http://langrid.nict.go.jp> and <http://kansei.nagaokaut.ac.jp>

ICTs FOR DEVELOPMENT

Discussing ICT4D in Kuala Lumpur and Armenia

Viola Krebs, Executive Director of ICVolunteers, and nominated to join the Strategy Council of the UNDESA Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), participated last May in the UNDESA-GAID Annual Meeting and at the Global Forum 2008 in Kuala Lumpur. During the meetings, several key decisions and conclusions were agreed upon to continue pushing for a result-oriented ICT for Development agenda. GAID is in fact developing a well-focused and integrated two-year programme of work with special emphasis on four thematic areas: access; connectivity; local content and ICT education. In this context GAID is also preparing the Global Innovation Forum for Education and Development which will be held in Yerevan, Armenia, next 21 to 24 of October. The Forum will provide a platform for several hundred young people across the globe to advance their causes towards achieving the MDGs through ICT.

More: www.un-gaid.org and www.athgo.org

AWARDS & SPECIAL THANKS

Sue Hua, from Canada, joined the Geneva team last December. Recently, she left ICVolunteers-Switzerland for UNICEF. We have awarded her our **Volunteer of the Month**, and would like to thank her for the precious help during the different events she followed (the Aid & Trade 2008 Conference, the Animal Conservation and the Human Rights Debate organized jointly with the Earthfocus Foundation, the IFRC Health & Care Forum 2008 and the Global Humanitarian Forum Annual Meeting). We wish her all the best for the future. *Ann Berger* is a Scottish lady who absolutely deserves a **fidelity award** as a long-standing volunteer. She has been with ICVolunteers since 2006, and she is still enthusiastic!

More: www.icvolunteers.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Up-coming Events

In the framework of the *International Peace Day*, from **19 to 21 September**, at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CCIG), the Earth Focus Foundation and ICVolunteers will organize a debate on "Peace and Sustainable Environment", with young people from Geneva and the Lake Léman region. The events will be followed by free concerts in Parque des Bastions (<http://www.icvolunteers.org/projects/362>). If interested in reporting or interpreting please call Beatrice at + 41 22 8001436.

For the *Conference on Linguistic Diversity in Cyberspace and Intercultural Dialogue*, **29 to 31 October 2008**, Barcelona, Spain, we are looking for volunteer interpreters and volunteers for welcoming services. To sign up, write to volunteer@icvolunteers.org.

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