

# Global Citizenship and Effective Aid



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## IVCO 2007

### Conference Report

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Montréal, Canada



International FORUM on Development Service  
FORUM International du Volontariat pour le Développement



# Welcome to IVCO 2007



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Cliff Allum, President FORUM

Cliff Allum, President of the International FORUM on Development Service, welcomed delegates to the meeting of International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations (IVCO) 2007.

*“The IVCO meeting essentially derives from FORUM’s key purpose, to bring together organisations involved in international volunteer cooperation to share ideas, challenge our own thinking, to meet each other, to learn and to build relationships,” Cliff Allum, President, FORUM.*

Cliff thanked CIDA for funding the conference and thanked the Canadian agencies, in particular Oxfam Quebec for taking the lead in organisation of the event.

The focus of this year’s conference was, global citizenship and effective aid. This was looked at through exploring three areas over the three days of the conference, ‘what lies ahead for volunteering and cooperation work’, ‘global citizenship and effective aid and how they fit together’ and ‘new innovations and development’.

General Director of CIDA, Lilian Chatterjee then made an opening speech on behalf of Robert Greenhill, President of CIDA . In Robert’s speech he talked about Canada’s history of international volunteer cooperation and CIDA’s commitment to international volunteering.

*“Through conferences like this you explore emerging issues in international volunteering, with counterparts and donors you share best practices, then armed with evidence you develop cogent arguments that help shape the policy of donors both here and abroad. In keeping with global trends you strive to become even more effective and accountable both at an institutional level and with respect to the volunteers themselves and having improved your programmes you look for ways to measure your impact more accurately,” Robert Greenhill, President of CIDA.*

## Future trends and challenges in international volunteering

Betty Plewes and Rieky Stuart, consultants with wide and varied knowledge of international development, presented their paper on the future trends and challenges in international volunteering prepared for the IVCO meeting. In the past FORUM has commissioned past trends papers, so to have a forward thinking paper is new to IVCO.

Betty explained that the paper was divided into three parts, the first part is a very brief overview of trends, the second part is a rationale for volunteer sending and the third looks at opportunities and challenges.

There was then a summary of three big context setting current trends aid, civil society and environment. Betty then went on to list some of the smaller trends such as change in demand, nature of demand changing,

Southern NGO’s financial autonomy, capacity building focusing too much on providing skills to individuals and not enough on organisational strengthening, increase in supply outstripping demand and the variety of funding mechanisms.

*“The challenge in this crowded landscape is where you position your individual organisation, but positioning has to be done in accordance with your mission and how to accomplish this effectively,” Betty Plewes, consultant.*

Betty explained that on the topic of the ‘mould being broken’ for international volunteer cooperation, there are still a good many organisations who use the old model, but there are also a lot of new

models including short-term, long-term, sequential, volunteering and getting academic credit, having a meaningful holiday and many others, there is an endless variety.

Rieky Stuart presented the overview on rationale for volunteer cooperation.

*“It is fundamentally important to have theory of change, because if don’t have model of what kind of change is to be achieved and why, you can just do activities, you can’t learn.” Rieky Stuart, consultant.*

Rieky discussed some of the theories of change that underlie volunteer sending and proposed three main models.

The development model theory is where sending volunteers will make a contribution to social change and poverty reduction. There is focus on skills transfer and capacity building. This model is prevalent and many volunteer sending organisations funded by develop organisations are

required to have rationale that contributes to social justice and poverty reduction.

The learning model also has old roots. This model is about personal growth, solidarity and movement building. If people have chance to work and live in other culture they will gain understanding and appreciation of issues such as poverty for rest of their life.

Thirdly there is the civil society strengthening model. Today many volunteer senders work more with civil society organisations than with governments, universities or the private sector. By strengthening capacity of local civil society, they are empowered to take a larger role in their own society.

*“It would not be useful to have only one theory of change, but it is helpful to be clear about what your model is. It can create tension when different areas of same organisation are working to different theories.” Rieky Stuart, consultant.*

### These are some of the key points that were raised in group table discussions:

- *Delegates valued the input from Southern partners. Their perspectives have enriched discussion.*
- *Reciprocity needs to be one of the fundamental principals of the work. It is important to match Northern needs and Southern interests and very important to match supply and demand.*
- *There needs to be an acknowledgement of power relationships, power given by being a donor and having the financial resources and an understanding of the implications of those power relationships.*
- *Best practices and standards, there is a movement towards codes of conduct for volunteer sending.*

- *There is a need to take a programmatic approach to volunteer sending and that a series of individual placements whatever your overall objectives, is not very effective in meeting them.*
- *There is a need for equal opportunities for nationals both North and South to participate in programming.*



Betty Plewes, Consultant, Canada

# New trends in volunteer cooperation

## Climate Change

Professor Jean-Guy Vaillancourt, Sociologist of Environment at the Université de Montréal in Canada made the first presentation. He talked about the impact of global warming on the practice of international solidarity and the absolute urgency of climate change as well as the complexity of the issue. He connected number of issues including poverty reduction, human rights, political sociology as well as the environment.

Nicola Jones from UK organisation *Converging World* talked about their approach to addressing the challenge of climate change which links poverty reduction, economic development and environmental issues though using wind turbines in India to produce carbon credits that return to the UK to support UK sustainable development through projects such as Go Zero.

Jean-Robert Julien, who heads Réseau d'enseignement professionnel et d'interventions écologiques, an educational organisation in Haiti, introduced a cooperative project they are undertaking with SUCO. The project will contribute to the sustainable development of communities of Orange in Haiti with a view to reducing poverty environmentally.

Mary Stuart, the Executive Director at VSO Canada, finished the presentations by giving a case study of how VSO are changing their internal practices to reduce climate change. This includes reducing flights, looking into carbon offsetting, using technology such as Skype and video conferencing and reducing their usage of heat, water and paper.

## New Models

Diane Trahan, National Director of Programming and Development Interim of Canada World Youth (CWY) made the first presentation. She talked about the CWY international volunteering youth programme for seventeen to twenty one year olds with a focus on community engagement.

Tor Elden, Director General of FK Norway, presented FK Norway's South-South volunteering programme. Tor explained some of the advantages of this programme are that it avoids the dominance of

northern partners, it increases capacity by planning and administering the programme in the South and the participants adjust more easily to cultural differences.

Dagmar Schumacher, Head of the Donor Relations Unit at UNV, talked about the UNV online volunteering website and explained the benefits including inclusion of people who would otherwise not be able to participate in the typical volunteer models. Dagmar encouraged more international volunteering organisations to become involved with online volunteering through the UNV website.

Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Director of the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA), gave an insight into the different volunteer models as experienced by a volunteer receiver.

## Public Engagement

Brian Rockcliffe, CEO of VSO UK, made the first presentation. He talked about VSO's Diaspora public engagement efforts. He explained that, In the UK, over 100 Diaspora volunteers have completed volunteer placements overseas. Diaspora communities have traditionally felt alienated from traditional public engagement activities, but they feel more 'ownership' over these partnered initiatives.

Michel Chaurette, Executive Director of CECI Canada, talked about how Uniterra mobilises their networks (returned volunteers, campus groups, partners) to reach the Canadian public. He stated that the lessons learned were to choose networks with public engagement potential; find key 'entry points' and to ensure messages are close to the core interests of the partners.

Deborah Snelson, Chief Executive Officer of VSA, New Zealand introduced the Adventure VSA alternative tourism project. The project creates experiences for more New Zealanders to expand their understanding of development and provide opportunities to make a positive difference through travel. Travellers also make a commitment to do some public education after they return.

Ishmail Lansah from the Northern Ghana Network for Development talked about the public engagement work his organisations is involved in which includes focussing on recruiting in-country volunteers.

# International Volunteer Cooperation and Civil Society

During the conference there were three keynote speakers who all added to the discussion on international volunteer cooperation and civil society.

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## Michael Edwards, Director, Governance and Civil Society Unit, Ford Foundation

Michael's speech was titled 'Arriving Where We Started', here are some excerpts:

"At root our work is not about foreign aid or development "over there", or technical assistance or capacity-building (North-South, South-South or even South-North), though no doubt it contains elements of all these things, it's

about the commitment we *all* share to approach life in a particular spirit – a spirit of equality, solidarity, love, respect, and constant, unceasing, self-questioning and mutual support, what I called a spirit of "critical friendship".

Volunteering is really a way of concretising our embrace of a radically different way of being, living and acting in the world, wherever we happen to live and work, and whatever position we occupy in society. And that's why it's so important for our collective future – it's the very foundation for making progress in every other area, the heart and soul of what I would call a "global civil society" in the deepest and most meaningful sense of those words."

## Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General and CEO, CIVICUS

Kumi's speech was titled 'Global Citizenship and Aid Effectiveness', here are some excerpts:

"Although faith in traditional political institutions is waning, this should not be taken as a sign of citizen apathy. On the contrary, people are finding new and more direct ways to get involved in public life and decision-making – marking a shift from representative democracy to what is often called participatory democracy. Citizens are arguing for a new notion of governance that requires political leadership to engage with citizenry in



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ways that allow for ongoing input into decision-making and policy formation.

While the space for civic participation in the global policy-making environment is growing, however, the overall picture overwhelmingly remains one where citizen voices are marginalised or are belatedly solicited after key decisions have been taken. The constrained status of civil society engagement can be seen in the case of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although hundreds of Civil Society Organisations actively campaign around the issues that have been targeted in the MDGs, there was no significant role for civil society in the development of these goals. If the Millennium Goals are to be achieved, ordinary citizens around the world must feel a true sense of ownership and must be willing to campaign to hold their governments accountable to them. This can only happen if the MDGs are 'owned' by the people and not appropriated by elements of the international system."

## Jacques Jobin, Director, International Affairs Bureau, City of Montréal

Jacques talked about volunteering and the idea of global citizenship, here is an excerpt:

"Those of us gathered in this room are often faced with the reality of global citizenship. We have been able to bridge distances and we know that the world is small enough that it can be circled if you sit in a plane long enough. This has helped us feel that we know the world and are global citizens. Moreover, citizens of the northern hemisphere spend a good part of the day watching television, and this sometimes leads them to believe that they know the rest of the world. Meanwhile, in many countries of the Southern hemisphere where we work, their people either have no television and are occupied with merely surviving, or they do have television and try, through their imagination, to bridge the gap between their actual life experience and what they see on the screen."



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Full speech notes can be viewed at [www.forum-ids.org](http://www.forum-ids.org)

# Effective Aid

General Director of CIDA, Lilian Chatterjee introduced the donor's panel on effective aid. The first speaker on the panel was Naoki Saito, Deputy Director General of the Secretariat of JOCV/JICA, who talked about JICA's history and role as a donor.

Saito talked about JICA's merger with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to provide one of the biggest donor agencies, which allows JICA to provide technical cooperation, volunteer sending, grant aid and loan assistance all under one roof for the first time in Japanese history.

He also talked about the three main areas he believes development aid should focus on, human security, capacity development and cultural liberty and he stated that international volunteering can contribute much to these aims.

The next presentation came from Frank Flood, Director of Volunteering at Irish Aid. Frank gave us the history of funding for international volunteering in Ireland and then presented the present day situation including a breakdown of where Irish Aid money is spent in relation to international volunteering.

Frank spoke about aid effectiveness and Irish Aid's short and long term plans. He spoke about development education funding schemes and the civil society fund. Frank also talked about future volunteering support such as the interest in short term volunteering and the Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre.

Next, Ellen Shipley, Director / Community and Business Partnerships for AusAID, presented the Australian perspective. Ellen talked about the international agenda surrounding aid effectiveness including the MDGs and the Paris Declaration,

The Australian Prime Minister's pledge to double aid by 2010 and also spoke about the new White Paper on Australian aid.

Ellen stated that Australia wants their aid to be the best it can be and there is a new drive on the effectiveness agenda across the Australian aid programme.

The next panel focussed on aid effectiveness from the perspective of civil society. Induced by Michel Chaurette, General Director of CECI, the speakers included Brian Tomlinson, Coordinator (Aid), Policy Team for the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) in Canada, Therese Niyondiko, Executive Director of FEMNET in Kenya and Roberto Bissio, Editor in Chief of Social Watch from Uruguay.

The Paris Declaration was a big topic of discussion and these are some of the points that were presented:

- Civil society did not have a presence in Paris and since then, they have raised questions about the declaration at three levels. They question the progress made to date on the five objectives of the declaration, there are questions about those objectives, and there are concerns about what is the subject.
- These questions resulted in civil society having an engagement with the working party on aid effectiveness. A number of civil society raised concerns about the Paris Declaration not being focussed enough on end results.
- At the World Social Forum, a steering committee of Southern and Northern networks and NGOs formed, tasked to develop a civil society process from now until September of next year including working with a Ghanaian based civil society coalition who have planned a parallel forum.



## New Programming

Cliff Allum, CEO of Skillshare International, made the first presentation. He introduced Coaching for Hope which is a new programme to Skillshare. The Coaching for Hope programme teaches football coaching skills to FA standards in West Africa whilst also hosting HIV awareness and art workshops. The programme has also recently expanded to Southern Africa.

Nicola Jones from UK organisation *Converging World* talked about how convergence, creativity and systems thinking have created an innovative process which holds the potential to address the great challenges we are facing in relation to climate change.

Dr Jürgen Wilhelm, Director General of the German Development Service (DED) presented Germany's new volunteer program in which thousands of young people, especially those without an academic degree, will have an opportunity to volunteer in a developing country. The *Weltwärts* programme will start by sending up to 3,000 volunteers in 2008 with that number increasing to 10,000 by 2010.

## Evaluating Impact

Daimin Hanadate, Senior Administrative Officer at the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), talked about evaluating the impact of a new business model on the volunteer program. He spoke of the three viewpoints for evaluation, contribution to social and economic development or reconstruction in partner countries, promotion of a friendly relationship and mutual understanding between partner countries and Japan, and sharing of volunteer experiences with Japanese society.

Rebecca Tiessen from Dalhousie University in Canada made a presentation on her ongoing five year research project entitled 'Creating Global Citizens? The Impact of Learning/Volunteer Abroad Programs'. The research aims to find out to what extent short-term (3-6 month) student placements, internships, and volunteer programmes help to make Canadian participants "global citizens", and how Southern

organisations and communities that host Canadians and other Northerners on short-term placements experience their impact.

Sean Kelly from CUSO, talked about a report CUSO have published entitled "Canadians Back The Overseas Experience: A Passport to Improved Volunteerism". The report found that former overseas volunteer "cooperants" volunteer significantly more than the average Canadian upon their return to Canada. The report also found that former overseas volunteers are also more likely to take on more responsibility whilst volunteering - doing activities which require leadership, supervisory and management skills.

## Tools

Donna Keher, Chief of Partnerships, Communications & Resources Mobilisation Group at UN Volunteers presented their BA participatory methodology for assessing the contribution of volunteering to development, which was developed with other FORUM members on the steering committee.

Michelle Brooks, Director of Congressional Relations and Morgan Courtney, Confidential Assistant, Office of the Director of the U.S. Peace Corps, then talked about the U.S. Peace Corps logic model for measuring the impact of cultural exchange. The Peace Corps model has its foundations in collecting stories from all parties participating in the volunteering experience.

Glenn Bayron, CEO of Amigos de las Americas, presented best practice in health and safety protocols for international volunteer or educational programmes. Glen presented the health and safety protocols of his organisation, which has a youth focus and he also made recommendations for best practice and signposted where to access best practice resources.

**Most of these presentations can be viewed in PowerPoint style at [www.forum-ids.org](http://www.forum-ids.org)**

# Participants

Élise Agounkey, **GF2D/CRIFF**  
Guerty Aime, **ENFOFANM**  
Cliff Allum, **Skillshare International**  
Mariam Barandia, **Muslims Sharing Skills For Peace And Development**  
Glenn Bayron, **Amigo de las Americas**  
Johanne Beauchamps, **Oxfam-Québec**  
Luis Bertoglia, **Servico Pais**  
Roberto Bissio, **Third World Institute**  
Deline van Boom, **Volunteer Centre**  
Amadou Boubacar, **ONG-ADD**  
Michelle Brooks, **U.S. Peace Corps**  
Liz Burns, **IAVE**  
Gladis Caceres, **INPRHU**  
Lilian Chatterjee, **CIDA**  
Michel Chaurette, **CECI**  
Jean Christie  
Morgan Courtney, **U.S. Peace Corps**  
Paul Davidson, **WUSC**  
Ad De Raad, **UNV**  
Nonhlanhla Dlamini, **SWAGAA**  
Njong Donatus Fonyuy, **Kumbo Council**  
Michael Edwards, **The Ford Foundation**  
Tor Elden, **FK Norway**  
Hartwig Euler, **AKLHUE**  
Dimity Fifer, **AVI**  
Frank Flood, **Irish Aid**  
Linda Gagnon, **SUCO**  
Anne Gardner, **CCI**  
Suzanne Guay, **SUCO**  
Daimin Hanadate, **JICA**  
Sanghamrita Iyengar, **Samraksha**

Don Johnston, **CWY**  
Nicola Jones, **The Converging World**  
Jorge Juan Galiano Bravo, **Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru**  
Donna Keher, **UNV**  
Peggy Kek, **SIF**  
Sean Kelly, **CUSO**  
Ishmail Lansah, **Northern Ghana Network for Development**  
Aidan Leavy, **International Service Ireland**  
Eric Levine, **SPW**  
Claire Lewis-Armes, **FORUM**  
Douglas H Macdonald, **Canadian Foreign Service Institute**  
Jean-Marc Mangin, **CUSO**  
Sergio Marelli, **Volontari Nel Mondo**  
Amanda Mukwashi, **Skillshare International**  
Kumi Naidoo, **CIVICUS**  
Uyapo Ndado, **Botswana Network on Ethnic Law & HIV/AIDS**  
Karl Nerenberg, **CUSO**  
Therese Niyondiko, **Femnet**  
Dorothy Nyambi, **CESO**  
Jody Olsen, **U.S. Peace Corps**  
Kristin Plater-Zyberk, **CIDA**  
Betty Plewes, **Consultant**  
Peter Reicher, **HVSF**  
Jean Robert Julien, **REPIE**  
Brian Rockliffe, **VSO**  
Naoki Saito, **JICA**  
Dame Sall, **RADI**  
Martin Schreiber, **Unité**  
Dagmar Schumacher, **UNV**  
Gyong Shik Chon, **KOICA**

Ellen Shipley, **Australian Agency for International Development**  
Matthiew Snell, **International Service**  
Deborah Snelson, **VSA**  
Michael Steeb, **AKLHUE**  
Rieky Stuart, **Consultant**  
Mary Stuart, **VSO Canada**  
Young Tae Han, **KOICA**  
Karen Takacs, **CCI**  
Rebecca Tiessen, **Dalhousie University**  
Brian Tomlinson, **Canadian Council for International Co-operation**  
Magdalene Toroansi, **Ministry of Women, Religion and NGO's, Autonomous Government of Bougainville**  
Emilia Torres, **Association des Promoteurs de la Culture**  
Oumou Touré, **CAFO**  
Diane Trahan, **CWY**  
Cathy Tremblay, **CIDA**  
Jean-Guy Vaillancourt, **Université de Montreal**  
Gérard Ventre, **AFVP**  
Pierre Véronneau, **Oxfam-Quebec**  
Paul van der Wel, **Canadian Executive Service Organisation**  
James Whitehead, **Progressio**  
Jurgen Wilhelm, **German Development Service**

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## Next Steps

IVCO 2008 will be held in Cambodia in November.

For further information about FORUM, please contact: [info@forum-ids.org](mailto:info@forum-ids.org)