



ICVNews Flash May / June 2009

Happening this Month...

Asia@home: training for Asian Researchers
E-TIC: trainings starting soon in Senegal
ICVoluntaris-Barcelona: Carbon Expo
Report on the International Year of Languages
Conference Volunteering in Switzerland
Internship opportunities
Awards & Special Thanks
Up-coming projects

ASIA@HOME

Training for Asian Researchers

On 16 and 17 April 2009, some 40 participants took part in a Workshop on Volunteer Computing at Academia Sinica in Taipei. Thanks to the support of the Nagaoka University of Technology in Japan – where ICV's Japan Desk is located – ICVolunteers was present at the event and helped with news coverage and photography. *Volunteer Computing* is an exciting new way for ordinary citizens around the globe to contribute to important challenges in fundamental science and medicine, by providing idle time on their PCs and even partaking in data analysis via the Internet. Workshop participants represented academic institutions, international organizations and non governmental institutions involved in projects related to computer science and technology, fundamental research, satellite imagery, health and cybervolunteering, to name just a few. They gathered from Taiwan, the Republic of China, Spain, France, Switzerland, Hungary, South Korea, Malaysia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

More: <http://www.icvolunteers.org/news/361/>

E-TIC PROJECT

Trainings starting soon in Mali and Senegal

Issues of farming, rearing livestock – and computing -- are at the heart of this west African project. In many parts of Mali and Senegal, the isolation of rural zones means a large majority of farmers lead nomadic lifestyles and are illiterate. Effectively farmers often have almost no access to written information, even their work is a pillar of the local economy in pastoral regions.. Through a system carefully designed around local needs and habits, ICVolunteers hopes to provide means to improve the information available to those directly involved in the agricultural sector,. Training sessions for journalists, young people and women are to start within the next couple of weeks in Bamako and Dakar. This project is made possible thanks to the support of our partners, including *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) and its *Fonds Francophone des Inforoutes*, managed by the *Institute de la Francophonie Numérique* (IFN), Gensen, *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF) and ICV-Mali.

More: <http://www.icvolunteers.org/projectslong/370/>

SPAIN

Carbon Expo

The **Carbon Expo** event focused on the reduction of carbon emissions, one of the major causes of global warming. Fifty volunteers participated in Barcelona from 25 to 29 May 2009, helping to prepare conference folders, provide welcome services and supervise rooms. Over 3,000 participants attended the fair that brought together professionals from various backgrounds including professionals trading carbon emissions, as well as representatives from governments and the non-profit sector.

More: <http://www.icvolunteers.org/projectsshort/381/>

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

Report on the International Year of Languages

On 21st of February 2009, The International Year of Languages 2008 officially came to an end. What conclusions can be drawn? In his opening address, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, pointed out that "links between multilingual education, education for all and the Millennium Development Goals now constitute the pillars of any sustainable development strategy". During the session, the third edition of the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger was presented. This on-line digital tool lists about 2,500 "under-threat" languages and dialects. Hundreds of initiatives, projects, competitions, publications and workshops are also listed. Between them, the Facebook group for the IYL, created by Don Osborn, which has thousands of members and the launching of ANLoc, the African Network for Localization. The complete report for the IYL2008, will be soon available on line, on the UNESCO web site. These same initiatives were presented by ICVvolunteers at the occasion of the annual World on the Information Society follow-up conference on 18 May 2009 in Geneva.

More: www.unesco.org/en/languages ; <http://africanlocalization.net> and <http://donosborn.org/iyl/>

SWITZERLAND

Conference Volunteering

In the last 2 months, volunteers have been involved in a number of conferences in Geneva. From 30 to 31 March 2009, the Kofi Annan Foundation hosted '**The Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation: One Year Later**'. Through a number of panel discussions, the two-day meeting drew lessons from the mediation in Kenya that can be shared with Africa and the wider world. The dispute over the results of the Kenyan presidential election in December 2007 led to unprecedented violence, ethnic animosity and mass displacement in what was considered a peaceful and stable country. Volunteers from ICV helped with the preparation, welcoming participants and room supervision. At the end of the event, they received special thanks from Mr. Annan himself. There was also the **International Security Forum**, held from 18 to 21 May 2009, a conference bringing together specialists from different backgrounds to share research on security issues. Volunteers also assisted the organizers of the **Calvin celebrations**, a conference looking at the influence of Calvin over the past 450 years. **Global Issue Network (GIN) Conference** brought together 350 young people from various countries to talk about sustainable development from 19 to 21 March 2009. They were welcome by a team of ICV volunteers who dealt with logistics, room supervision and interpretation.

More: <http://www.icvolunteers.org/news/360>

AWARDS & SPECIAL THANKS

The award of **Volunteer of the Month** goes to *Kristina Maslo*, originally from Lithuania and recently moved to Geneva. Kristina volunteered at the World Cancer Congress (27-31 August 2008), as registration desk, and during the World Peace Day, setting up the ICV stand. She was also one of ICV photographers during the International Symposium organized by the World Microfinance Forum Geneva (WMFG) last October. Kristina has been assisting the research and development department, where she is helping with the Languages and Migration project and with a survey on volunteer motivations. Congratulations to Kristina for being selected as Volunteer of the Month!

Special thanks go to *Flavien Rey*, of Switzerland, who has been an intern at ICV since last October. Assistant Project Manager during his very first mission, the International Symposium organized by WMFG, and then became Project Coordinator for the 6th Conference of the European Charter for Human Rights in the city (Geneva, 8-9 December) and the HURIDOCs conference "The New Challenges for Human Rights Communications" (Geneva, 25-27 February 2009). Flavien was also one of the principal coordinators for the training of community interpreters for the Languages and Migration Project. We thank him for his invaluable input to the team and we wish him all the best for his future career.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ICV is looking for members of the **Project Coordinator** team for our offices in Barcelona (Spain) and Ferney-Voltaire (France). Project Coordinator tasks include: to coordinate & nourish contacts with partners and organizers; to liaise with organizers of conferences in collaboration with ICVolunteers headquarters (Switzerland); to organize information sessions for new volunteers; to coordinate volunteers prior, during and following the conference. The ideal candidate will have the following requirements:

- Very good Spanish and English, French a plus
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Good organization and coordination skills
- Ability to work independently as well as in a team
- Team player and able to initiatives, open-minded and flexible.

If interested, please send a CV and Cover letter to volunteer [at] icvolunteers.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Up-coming projects

As every year, *Fête de la musique* will take place on the last weekend of June (19-21 June 2009) in Geneva. We are looking for volunteers to help us coordinate our food and drink stand in central Geneva. The proceedings will be dedicated to our Green Voice project, working with young people in Europe and Brazil around environmental issues. For more information, see <http://www.icvolunteers.org/projectsshort/379>

The Global Humanitarian Forum will hold its 2nd annual meeting from 23 to 25 June 2009 in Geneva. We are looking for volunteers interested in this event. For more information, see <http://www.icvolunteers.org/projectsshort/383>

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