

National IYV Committee in Bangladesh-Plans

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has set up a National Committee headed by Mr. Manik Lal Somaddar, Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports for IYV 2001. The other member organizations are:

Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management
Ministry of Information
Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh
Department of Youth Development
NGO Bureau
Department of Social Services
Department of Women's Affairs
Department of Health Services
Department of the Environment
Department of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education
Department of Family Planning
Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh
Department of Narcotics
City Corporations, Dhaka/Rajshahi/Khulna/Chittagong
Disaster Management Bureau
Bangladesh National Cadet Corps
Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh
Bangladesh Boy Scouts
Bangladesh Girl Guides
Lions Club
Rotary Club
Service Civil International Bangladesh (SCI)
International Association of Voluntary Efforts (IAVE)
Bangladesh National Youth federation
Development Association for Youth Day, Bangladesh

The committee has held two meetings thus far and formulated a comprehensive program for IYV 2001.

Highlights are:

1. Nomination of Focal Point for the National Committee, Mr. M. Ataur Rahman, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports (he has written two articles on IYV which have been published in 3 daily newspapers). Mr. Rahman can be contacted at (880) (2) 861-0664 or by fax at 861-5658.
2. Press Conference: A press conference was held on 4 December 2000 in which the chairman of the National Committee presented to the journalists the background and objectives of IYV 2001, the composition of the National Committee, proposed program, and answered questions asked by journalists present.
3. Rally: A rally was held on 5 December for Volunteer Day and kicked off celebrations for IYV 2001. Over 2,000 individuals marched through the streets of downtown Dhaka promoting IYV. The rally was inaugurated by Mr. Obaidul Kader, Honorable State Minister for Ministry of Youth and Sports.
4. Decorations: Dhaka's main city streets and strategic points have been decorated with the slogan of IYV in Bangladesh, "Nije Shechha - shevok hone, Annokeo Utshahito Karun" (be a volunteer and inspire others to be volunteers).

5. Commemorative Postage Stamp: The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications released a commemorative IYV postage stamp on 5 December 2000. The Honorable State Minister for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications Mr. Abdur Rouf Chowdhury was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest.

6. Supplement: A supplement was published in two daily newspapers, one English (The Independent) and the other Bangla (The Bhorer Kagoj) in which messages regarding volunteering from the Prime Minister, the State Minister for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Director General of the Department of Youth Development were published. The supplement also included an article on IYV.

7. Involving People at the Grassroots level: To inspire people at the grassroots level with the spirit of volunteerism, the Deputy Commissioners of 64 districts and Upazila Nirbahi (Executive) Officers of 460 Upazilas (basic administrative unit) were instructed to observe 5 December as IVD and make a kick-off of IYV with a detailed program spreading over the entire year 2001.

8. Year Long Program: member organizations of the National Committee are going to prepare programs in their respective areas, covering the entire year 2001.

9. Workshops/seminars: Workshops and seminars will be organized throughout the year to promote volunteerism.

10. Monitoring: The National Committee will, from time to time, hold meetings and take stock of implementation status of programs formulated by member organizations.