



EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

by

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Abstract

While the arguments for and against globalization cannot be resolved here, it is clear that the process generates issues that require international cooperation if they are to benefit the generality of people of the world, especially those living in the developing countries. Some of the recent developments such as terrorism which create the need for more international cooperation are analyzed and their immediate and long term impacts on the global economy examined. With much of these impacts being manifested in form of imminent world recession that is unusually synchronized, the current downward trend in Official Development Assistance looks set to continue for longer than the world is prepared to wait for automatic adjustment mechanisms to correct them. Efforts must therefore be mobilized in other ways to maintain the tempo of international cooperation. One proven way to do this is volunteering which allows youth to acquire skills and dexterity in problem-solving based on compassion while bringing succor and hope to the hopeless. In a setting characterized by increasing inability of the public sector to deal with ever-increasing distortions in both economic and social life, few alternatives can be as efficacious.

Introduction

- Commonly held notions of the youth – careless, ignorant, etc.
- UN’s conception of youth and harmonizing of definitions – participants to give their national definitions of youth.
- Meaning of International Cooperation and its implications. Definitional difficulties highlighted - multiplicity of objectives for, and manifestation of, cooperation. Debate currently on-going to explore ways to “re-engineer technical cooperation” - an important element of international cooperation (<http://www.capacity.org/undp-forum/>).

Factors Working Against International Cooperation:

Reactions to Globalization – are the protesters right? Features of globalization examined. Some examples from experience and why it is dangerous to make international comparisons without adequate information.

- How does globalization build the case for more volunteering?
- Trends in Official Development Assistance (ODA) – continuing decline since early 1990s and present situation, especially since September, 2001.
- Urgent need to consider alternatives that are workable, cost less, and give benefits to all concerned.

Volunteering

- Meanings from different backgrounds and cultures – tabulation of results of responses and discussions.

Nature of Voluntary Action

- commitment to a cause,
- a spirit of sacrifice,
- an absence of remuneration,
- a display of altruism.

Two elements causing definitional problems associated with volunteering;

- some volunteers are actually paid for the work they do, and
- there is often a perception of the “volunteer” as an “amateur”.

With respect to the first, payment can be made but as long as it is below market rate, it is volunteering.

With respect to the question of amateurism or otherwise, ever since the Greeks gave the Trojan Horse to the people of Troy, the world has viewed all free gifts with suspicion, and volunteering is not an exception. But volunteering is merely a means of providing a service, and appreciation of its nature and dimensions should clear the confusion.

Volunteering with the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme

- UNV programme is the volunteer arm of the United Nations established by United Nations General Assembly in 1970 and administered under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Only multilateral volunteer undertaking in the world.
- Annually, handles close to 5,000 volunteer assignments involving up to 150 nationalities and 140 professional categories.

- Activities cover fields as diverse as community-based initiatives, peace building and reconstruction, skills development and upgrading, counseling and home-based care for the terminally ill.
- Coordinating the International Year of Volunteers (IYV 2001) and the United Nations Information Technology Services (UNITeS).
- Annual budget now in excess of US\$100m.

Table 1: Total number of UN volunteers worldwide

Year	Number
1971	35
1975	376
1980	1052
1985	1493
1990	2637
1995	3263
2000	4780

Source: www.unv.org

UNV'S VALUE-ADDED

There are a number of attributes that contribute to the effectiveness of the UNV programme and these are briefly highlighted:

- **Outreach work:** Within the UN System, UNV is becoming known as an “outreach” agency, since UNVs often work directly with communities, fostering local participatory approaches to sustainable development.
- **Participatory work:** UNV's work with communities has often been participatory, therefore it has developed particular expertise in participatory methodologies.
- **Capacity to convey a volunteer *ethos* and reinforce volunteerism:** The UN Volunteers also have an added advantage when working with civil society organizations such as NGOs and CBOs, as the work of such organizations is often based on a volunteer *ethos*.
- **Capacity-building agents:** The volunteer ethos has also built-in motivation for effective capacity building. There is an implicit will to help other people, and an expectation to gather experience as well.
- **Human Resources (Volunteers) Management:** UNV can offload from other organizations the complex process of managing human resources, involving identifying, contracting, placing, administering and monitoring of volunteers any place in the world.
- **Universality:** In 1998, 3766 volunteers of 141 nationalities served in 148 countries. This universality carries with it a wealth of perspectives on how to confront

development problems. Furthermore, 75% of them came from developing countries, making UNV a truly "TCDC" Programme.

- **Various volunteer modalities:** A project can receive the services of international and national Volunteer Specialists (with considerable professional experience), and international and national Field Workers (drawn from communities for their active and leadership profiles). There are other specialized modalities.
- **Neutrality and Impartiality:** UNV as part of the UN system operates under the principles of both neutrality and impartiality in situations of potential conflict among stakeholders.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** UNVs receive modest monthly living-allowances to compensate them for living expenses and their contract includes health and life insurance, vacation entitlements and other benefits.

Empowerment of the Volunteer

According to the Report of the Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly, volunteering is no longer completely altruistic and selfless service. Increasingly, it has become an activity that imparts benefits to all concerned, both the volunteers and those on whom volunteer action is focused.

1. volunteering instills self-confidence and enhances self-esteem born out of the experience of having made concrete gains;
2. volunteering facilitates acquisition of skills and experience which enhances the employability of those who volunteer. In this regard, local volunteer groups learn how to deal with power-holders on their own terms and demonstrate expertise in dealing with social problems;
3. volunteering builds up reserves of goodwill which an ex-volunteer can draw upon for the future;
4. helps young people to develop their potentialities, share knowledge and skills and secure employment;
5. enhances opportunities for career advancement for working adults;
6. promotes longer and healthier lives for older persons by increasing the chances of their getting involved into something meaningful;

Examples of specific projects in which volunteer roles have been successfully demonstrated will be given in the presentation.

Annex:

Articles, Documents and Links

Some of these documents require Adobe PDF reader (<http://www.adobe.com>)

Youth and Voluntary Programmes

- ◆ Review of Existing Youth Voluntary Service Programmes and Proposals for an Innovative UNESCO Approach (PDF 75 KB) (also en français). The Spirit of Youth (<http://www.ifrc.org/youth>)

- ◆ Welcome to the Millennium Volunteers website (<http://www.millenniumvolunteers.gov.uk/>)
European Voluntary Service (<http://www.sosforevs.org/introUK.htm>)
CoyoteYouth-Training-Europe, Issue 2, May 2000
(<http://www.coe.fr/youth/english/Partnership/coyote/English/issue02/coyote2eng.htm>)
- ◆ What Young People Want from Volunteering (<http://www.ivr.org.uk/youngresearch.htm>)

Youth Policy

- ◆ Policies, Useful Documents and Links - Youth Policy in Europe
(<http://www.youthforum.org/spb/beliefs/>)
- ◆ Library (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library/>) (contains a variety of UN documents related to youth, including the Lisbon Declaration and Braga Youth Action Plan)
- ◆ Strategy for UNESCO's Action with and for Youth
(<http://www.unesco.org/youth/stragb.htm>)
- ◆ Youth profiles: Online Research Reference
(<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wywatch/country.htm>) (contains links to national youth policies, by country)

Volunteerism at Universities

- ◆ Voluntary Service at Universities (PDF 28 KB) (flyer)
- ◆ Voluntary Service at Universities worldwide, by Melda Ünlü (PDF 130 KB) (comparative analysis)
- ◆ University Student Volunteers in London - UK (PDF 12 KB) (program description)
AIESEC (<http://www.aiesec.org>)

Youth and International Development

- ◆ UNV and Youth in Development (<http://www.unv.org/policy/ypd0898.html>)
- ◆ Volunteers: Improving the World One Life at a Time 2001: Celebrating the UN International Year of Volunteers (<http://www.unicef.org/noteworthy/volunteers.htm>)
- ◆ The World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
(<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library/wpay.htm>)
- ◆ Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development
(<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/youtham/default.cfm>)
- ◆ Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers
(<http://www.jica.go.jp/English/activities/schemes/04jocv.html>)
- ◆ Youth Invitation Program
(<http://www.jica.go.jp/English/activities/schemes/02you.html>) (Japan International Cooperation Agency Scheme)

Proceedings of Global Conferences on National Youth Service - National Service Secretariat (<http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/ncys/nys/proceedings/1996/default.html>)

- ◆ 1st Global Conference - USA 1992
- ◆ 2nd Global Conference - Nigeria 1994
- ◆ 3rd Global Conference - Papua New Guinea 1996
- ◆ 4th Global Conference - United Kingdom 1998
- ◆ 5th Global Conference - Israel 2000

Annex 1:

Discussion on volunteering

At the start of the first session of Seminar II, the participants responded to the question as to what the word volunteering meant to them. The responses varied and fell roughly into three categories according to whether they focus on whether or not the service was remunerated, the nature of the activity, or the human instinct that gave rise to it. A sample of the definitions that emerged are presented in Table 1 below. In Table 2, the responses/definitions of the third seminar group are summarized in same way.

Table 1: Sample Definitions Of Volunteering

Definition	Nationality
Volunteering is a self-sustaining activity which involves one providing freely chosen service for others without material reward.	India
To render a free service without compulsion.	Japan
Volunteering is what you don't have to do such as helping others or protecting the environment but like to do without expectation of reward.	Bahrain
An activity in which one gives assistance or help to a needy person or group without reward.	Mauritius
Helping people to overcome their difficulties without payment.	Japan
Volunteering is an act that you want to do for somebody who needs help or cooperation without getting paid for it although one gets valuable experience in the process.	Japan
Peer assistance to uplift the society during crisis	South Africa
Volunteering means offering oneself to help someone else on one's own initiative preferably without expectation of remuneration.	Sri Lanka
Volunteering is doing something for one's growth and happiness without remuneration and acknowledgement	Japan
Volunteerism is an act that comes from the heart and gives satisfaction to the one doing it.	India
Volunteering means to help/assist someone in needs of our own volition.	Japan
Volunteering is to freely give away part of our time to serve others or the community.	Egypt
Voluntary work is to help people without getting any money or benefit to yourself.	Finland
Volunteering is mutual assistance, loving each other, to be a neighbour, to share, to think of others, to improve oneself, to grow each other, to think together, to be with others, "to ask to be with me".	Japan
Volunteering is an act which we perform and are not paid for it but from which we derive some benefit.	Japan
Volunteers are people who have met satisfied their own life's needs and are now in a position to help others.	Brazil

Table 2: Sample Definitions Of Volunteering

Definition	Nationality
Mainly non-paid action taken spontaneously.	Japan
Action taken to help somebody else and show kindness.	Japan
Devoting some time to help others without pay and involves using the skills one has with the aim of gaining experience for future employment.	United Kingdom
Means giving up some of one's own free time to help others and may be paid or non-paid.	United Kingdom
Volunteerism is a religious obligation to support others who need help and this is done individually or collectively.	Bahrain
Volunteer activity is non-paid work but the way it is practised today there is expectation of benefit to the volunteer and this is hypocritical.	Japan
Providing help to others, especially to the elderly.	Sri Lanka
Volunteerism is the highest action of human beings and involves offering help to other people or cause without expecting to be paid.	Greece
When we work for the benefit of the society, whether paid or not, we are volunteering	Japan
Joining a campaign to raise funds.	Japan
All the actions taken to help other people who are socially weak.	Japan
A wide of activities involving individuals, organisations and businesses offering time, money and resources to help a cause without monetary reward.	South Africa
Giving time, money, knowledge or skill to others without charging a fee.	Japan
Doing something from the bottom of our hearts to help somebody else in need without expecting to be paid for it.	Brazil
Devoting our free time to help others, either part or full time, without being paid for it.	Finland
Volunteering is giving our free time to provide a service to individuals, organisations or groups without pay.	United Kingdom
An obligatory involvement in an activity to help others by raising funds or other events.	Japan

Seminar III participants further examined the implications of greater global integration, otherwise known as globalization, for volunteering. Some saw globalization as leading to more people giving of their time and skills to help others in countries other than their own as international volunteers. Such volunteers gain more experience and awareness about the process of development and the less developed countries and are thus enabled to widen their horizons and become more skillful in development cooperation. But a cautionary word was given that globalization should not lead to a loss of the sense of community. Just as there is need to help those in other lands, we must not forget about the problems in our immediate environments, our local churches and mosques, schools and neighbourhood. Volunteering is needed at home as much as it is needed abroad. It is also important not to see problems only in the big issues; the issues that appear small may make a big difference in the lives of the people at the receiving ends of our compassion and support.

The point was also made that a number of global trends make a strong case for greater involvement of volunteers. For instance, in the fight against HIV/AIDS, it is imperative for countries to cooperate to share information about strategies and ways to ensure mutual protection from the scourge. The same is true in the case of international terrorism where cooperation to enforce security measures will be beneficial to all concerned. Because of the huge costs involved in these measures, more can be achieved if more of these actions are carried out by volunteer actions.

A Japanese participant raised the interesting argument that volunteering meant that an undesirable situation existed. In his view, this called for the government to improve its procedures in order to efficiently provide those services for which volunteer action jumped in to fill a void. A debate consequently ensued and it was agreed that the second session the next day should start with a discussion of the subject. The following issues were agreed to serve as guidelines for the discussion:

- What conditions create the need for volunteers?
- Are people taking over the role of government by volunteering?
- Will improving government procedure remove the need for volunteering?
- Youth volunteering: is this exploitation? What is your definition of youth?
- Volunteer vs. Paid work: is quality compromised?
- Volunteer recruitment, training and supervision.

CONDITION CREATING NEED FOR VOLUNTEER ACTION

The consensus was that although government procedures led to delays, people would still need to volunteer because certain events demand immediate response, for example in the case of a disaster situations where not even the most efficient government machinery has the time to decide and act. In such situations, spontaneous responses of the types associated with volunteer response seem inevitable. There was a feeling that a few governments and companies have the tendency to rest on their oars and rely on volunteer service as a way of dealing with cash flow problems and this may lead to overuse of volunteers. Sometimes, this situation results in people being made to volunteer for long periods of time. To this, it was suggested that part-time volunteering could be a way of helping out where prolonged need for volunteer input existed as this can allow volunteers to invest time in other pursuits to support a normal standard of living.

An interesting conclusion made by some of the discussants was that volunteering was necessary to maintain healthy social ties and harmony in a community by making people who have received volunteer service to feel a sense of indebtedness to others. For this reason, there should be a requirement for all citizens to volunteer sometime in their working life or retirement. Part-time volunteering seems to provide the opportunity for all to give their time in a way that suits their other engagements and promotes such widespread involvement of the citizenry in volunteer action.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

There was general agreement that volunteering by the youth is an empowering process, is educational, and helps to build in the youth the leadership qualities they need to play useful roles in the future. There is no sense in denying the youth, including in fact the very young, with the exception of infants and children, of the opportunity to learn how society is organized and what debts we owe one another. Serving in school clubs, Sunday school groups, etc. afford such opportunities.

Different definitions of youth in the different societies were then considered and the following emerged:

Japanese definition (according to JOCV): persons aged 20 – 40 years.

India: persons aged 18 – 35 years.

Finland: persons aged 13 – 39 years (working age starts at 15 years).

Republic of South Africa: persons aged 14 – 35 years (working age starts at 16 years).

Mauritius: persons aged 14 – 29 years.

QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

The consensus was that quality can be a problem to any type of work, not only volunteering, and so on should not be an issue in deciding whether or not to engage a volunteer. What often happens is that resources are not adequate for the volunteers to work and this can affect the outcome. It is necessary to plan assignments very well and ensure that volunteers do the job for which they are most suited.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

This topic was seen to relate to the conclusion reached on the previous item concerning how to ensure that quality problems do not arise with the assignment of volunteers. Management and improvement of volunteers was found to be crucial to their effective performance. The following issues were agreed to contribute:

- A welcoming environment
- Value and recognize work of volunteers
- Well-prepared and committed managers sharing visions and goals
- Responsive to customer/member needs
- Effective planning of assignments before volunteers are engaged
- Commitment to improvements by the sponsor of the volunteer assignment
- Providing an optimum work environment for the volunteer.

It was also suggested that a programme to socialize young people to see that volunteer ethos are essential for every society will ensure that volunteers perform their jobs well.

Annex 2:

SPEECH PRESENTED BY AJURUCHUKWU OBI, UNV PROGRAMME OFFICER, LESOTHO, TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE 14TH SHIP FOR THE WORLD YOUTH PROGRAMME ON MONDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 2001

I thank you for your attention. I also want to commend you on the able way you have demonstrated your commitment to the lofty spirit, ideals and purpose of this Ship for the World Youth Programme. The youth on this Ship have shown that they have the discipline to manage this world and that they are prepared to take up the challenge of being the leaders of tomorrow.

Since you are all very insightful people, as the Americans like to say, I am sure that you have already guessed that my speech this morning was going to focus on Volunteering. You are actually right on that. And this is a good time for me to be trying to sum up all that I have been saying over the past 7-8 days.

In summing up, I will like to remind you that the enemy is still not defeated and that we have a battle to fight. The enemy comes in the form of poverty, destitution, illiteracy, HIV/AIDS, and all the other problems we have heard about in the stories and personal experiences we have shared over the past several days.

But how can we fight these vicious enemies when the funding for development assistance continues to dwindle? A process that has been going on for other reasons over the years, that is the decline in official development assistance, is now worsened by the more vicious enemy of international terrorism. What do we do? Do we sit back and allow the problems to solve themselves? No, But we know that problems do not solve themselves, rather they multiply and feed on each other and create more devastation and ravage humanity and wreak more havoc.

This is why I have on the first day of my seminar tried to demonstrate the inevitability of the option of volunteering in an environment where little or no funding can be found even if governments have the best of intentions for their people and meet all the conditions set by the donor countries and institutions by demonstrating good governance, democratic principles, and accountability. From those initial arguments and conclusions, we went on to examine some of the steps that international NGOs and the UN system have taken to promote volunteerism, culminating in the proclamation of 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV 2001). We took note of the facilitating role performed by the Japanese Government in this process right from the very beginning in the preparatory activities, the official launch of IYV, and in its implementation.

In parallel, the Japanese Government has continued to support initiatives in developing countries, especially Africa, through the significant support it continues to give to the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, to demonstrate volunteer roles in the process of integrating youth in development and other areas of its operational programmes. We have shown subsequently what the numerous achievements have been and the immense satisfaction the 124 National Committees which spearheaded this process must be feeling now as they deliberate at the International Symposium on Volunteering which started in Geneva on 18 November and will end on 21 November. This symposium in Geneva will produce a report which will be a major input to the preparation of the report which the UN Secretary-General will submit to the UN General Assembly on 5 December. This is an important report which will tell governments and the civil society what they must do, based on findings in the course of this year, to enhance the promotion, facilitation, networking, and recognition of volunteer activities in all countries from now on.

The message I will like to conclude my speech with is to remind you that good intentions are not enough. Although they are necessary, they are not sufficient. We need to have something to deliver, to be able to make a difference in the lives of the people who receive the compassion we can muster as volunteers. We need to develop ourselves and acquire the skills that are needed to make a difference in the lives of the people we meet. Also, this ship programme can become an opportunity to demonstrate and introduce people to these voluntary activities in the countries where the ship docks even for a few

hours. Instead of milling around the countries and taking pictures for a few hours, we can go to high schools and teach computing, internet use, clean hospitals and streets, plant trees, etc. There are people I have met on this ship who would have loved to do that in Fiji, Saipan, New Zealand, etc, rather than have a few rushed hours to see and be amazed by the extreme poverty that still exist for many people in the midst of plenty.

I thank you all.

Annex 3:

SWY POST-PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this brief write-up is to give a picture of what alternative uses could be made of the US\$20,000 which the Government of Japan spends on each of the Participating Youths (PYs). This suggests that the Government of Japan spends about US\$200,000 per participating country for each ship programme. These ideas are being given at the request of the Ship Administration Staff member responsible for post programme activities. It must be stated right from the outset that what is proposed here is to combine the ship programme with some in-country development activities which will entail the same or slightly less costs while giving much greater visibility of the significant contributions of the Government of Japan to global efforts to alleviate poverty and build sustainable institutions. The example to be given here is drawn from an actual project with which I have been personally involved.

TRAINING OF RURAL WOMEN IN PRODUCTIVE SKILLS

This is a micro-project involving the training of poor rural women to acquire the skills to knit and weave items of clothing and craft objects using locally available materials such as mohair (from sheep) and grass. They are also taught how to identify local plants from which dyes can be produced and also how to produce such dyes and apply them to the fabrics which are woven into colourful patterns. A Japanese fully-funded volunteer, Ms. Kiyomi Kaida, is involved with this project which came about as a compromise arrangement after she was already in-country and it was realized that the start-off of her previously drawn-up assignment would be slightly delayed.

In the event, a small fund amounting to only US\$6,000 was allocated from an expiring project executed by UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation). With this fund, Ms. Kaida drew up a schedule for the training of the women over a period of 7

months. During this time, Ms. Kaida covered 7 remote villages in the mountain district of Thaba Tseka in Lesotho and trained a total of 200 women who have been organized into a cooperative society which handles the collective marketing of the produce of the members.

The money Ms. Kaida received from UNIDO was channeled towards buying light equipment accessories and material for knitting and mixing of raw materials for dye-making. Part of the money was also used for reimbursement of transportation costs to the women to attend meetings at a central point in the district and also for Ms. Kaida to visit the villages to train them and follow up. An exhibition of the products of the women was held on 20 September, 2001, and the government officials and UNDP representative were all impressed with the outcome of the project and an appeal was made to continue the project.

To ensure its sustainability, an arrangement was worked out for the institution hosting Ms. Kaida's assignment in Lesotho, the Thaba Tseka Technical Institute, to be a cooperating agency for this women's training programme. The local teaching staff of the Institute's Textile Department served as Ms. Kaida's counterpart who will carry on with the programme when Ms. Kaida's contract ends at the end of the year.

In this case, Ms. Kaida's volunteer living allowance is being paid under the UNV/Japanese Government Joint Execution and not charged to this UNIDO micro grant. But even if some remuneration were considered for an expert personnel, a modest arrangement is feasible. For instance, local persons are available who possess expert knowledge to provide capacity building similar to the one being done by Ms. Kaida. The constraint in most cases is the funding to facilitate the engagement of these local personnel. Through the UNV programme, these local experts can be engaged usually at levels of remuneration that are in line with local salary scales in the country. In Lesotho at this time, based on the current dollar-maloti exchange rate, a local expert can be engaged for a 12-month period at a cost of US\$6,000. These are called National UNV (NUNV) Specialists.

So, if a project similar to the one in which Ms. Kaida is involved is designed with the aim of providing training for a period of one year through a local specialist, it is possible to

deliver this assistance cost-effectively within a budget of US\$20,000 if a local cooperating agency is found that accommodates the administrative costs as part of its counterpart obligations. Such an initiative has to fit into the country's development priorities and on-going strategy. In this way, the programme will have a good chance of making significant impact in the country concerned as well as giving high visibility to the contribution of the Government of Japan within the country context even with a very modest investment.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ENHANCED VISIBILITY OF JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

However, the current programme has a uniqueness and value which must not be watered down by a process of expenditure rationalization. The long-run advantages of this programme are immense in the opportunity it affords Japanese youth to know the world and for the world to know Japan and the Japanese worldview, lifestyle and politics. But in a dynamic world, there can be more than one way of making impact and achieving results. One alternative approach to enhancing the effectiveness of the Ship Programme is to have a 50% reduction of the OPYs from each country. Each national delegation then comes on board with some concrete proposal for a future project which has been selected on the basis of wide consultations at home.

On board the Ship each national delegation will now work to flesh out the proposal on the basis of more focused Seminars by advisors and interactions with the Japanese delegation and Ship Programme Administration on issues of procedures and policy. Each country project should have a proposed budget of about US\$50,00 which represents the saving from a reduction in the size of national delegations from outside Japan.

The proposals are then forwarded to the UNV programme for a full and thorough Project Appraisal (PAC) to assess their feasibility. The focus will be to demonstrate volunteer role in development cooperation. Demonstrating volunteer role in development cooperation has been a major purpose of UNV's proactive programming effort using the instrumentality of the Special Voluntary Fund (SVF). The UNV designs and executes projects that are small scale and experimental in nature and have the potential to be scaled up and replicated with the involvement of partners whose prior interest and/or participation in the project are important criteria for project approval. Since the Japanese

Government is already working with the UNV programme in funding of the SVF projects through its Trust Fund with the organisation, this can be one way of expanding that collaboration. For one thing, more people in each of the participating countries would benefit and the projects would be better-designed, having benefited from the insights of persons drawn from a wider constituency.

Annex 4: Summary of Ship Activities – Press Release

THE 14TH SHIP FOR THE WORLD YOUTH PROGRAMME: SUMMARY OF SHIP ACTIVITIES

For the third time in as many years, the Japanese Government's Management and Coordination Agency has invited the UNV to send advisors/speakers to the Ship for the World Youth Programme. In 1999, the UNV Executive Coordinator, Ms. Sharon Capeling-Alakija, addressed participants of the 12th programme in Singapore. On that occasion which involved 264 participants from 17 countries, the UNV Executive Coordinator spoke on youth and voluntary service and the preparations for the International Year of Volunteers (IYV 2001). Ms. Capeling-Alakija also addressed the participating youths on board the Ship in Auckland, New Zealand when the Ship docked there in 2000.

This year, the UNV programme participated during 14 days as the Ship sailed from Auckland, New Zealand, to Singapore, carrying its human cargo of 268 ecstatic youth from Japan and 14 other countries. The non-Japanese delegates on the Ship have come from Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Egypt, Finland, Greece, India, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. 124 of these young people, along with several Cabinet Office staff and advisors, come from Japan.

The ship, known as *Nippon Maru*, and which has been in service since 1990, had made stops in the Northern Mariana Island of Saipan and in Fiji, arriving in Auckland on 10 November. The Ship docked in Singapore on 25 November, 2001 to begin two days of country activities. The *Nippon Maru* is now on its way to Bangkok (Thailand) where a series of activities, including a state reception hosted by the Government of Thailand are planned. From Thailand the Ship will return to Singapore for all the non-Japanese participants to disembark on 5 December before the *Nippon Maru* steams its way back to Tokyo where it will dock on 13 December, nearly 50 days since it left on 25 October.

UNV's participation in the 2001 event has been, as in past years, a significant public relations coup for the organisation. In three separate seminars on the Ship, the UNV clarified some of the knotty issues concerning volunteering and the involvement of youth, as well as the on-going International Year of Volunteers (IYV 2001) in which the youth showed a great deal of interest. At a time, the UNV and IYV 2001 pins, balloons and door/windscreen stickers became the most sought after gift items on the Ship. Several seminar assistants were kept busy photocopying UNV/IYV brochures for distribution to even those youths who did not attend the seminars on volunteering. As the Ship arrived in Singapore, UNV's direct participation on the 2001 Ship Programme ended but its spirit remains on board as the youth prepare for a charity dance on 28 November. The UNV will also be in the hearts and minds of the youth as they continue the scheduled

discussions on voluntary activities and decide what international charity to give the funds raised on the Ship.

In addition to the seminars, UNV addressed all the participants at the start of a broad-based discussion on volunteering held on 16 November 25, 2001, giving specific guidelines on the structure of the discussion and clarifications on conceptual and definitional problems associated with volunteering. On 19 November 25, 2001, it was UNV's turn to address the Morning Assembly. Mr. Ajuruchukwu Obi, UNV Programme Officer who represented the UNV on the Ship, used the opportunity to urge the youths to devote more time to volunteering. Mr. Obi however cautioned that the youths need to match their good intentions with skillfulness which alone will make a difference in the lives they want to touch. In addition, Mr. Obi drew attention to the enormous resources on the UNV and IYV websites for building up know-how on the opportunities available for volunteer action. Each of Mr. Obi's seminars also featured a mini exhibition (and video presentation) of assorted craft items produced by rural women in Lesotho who have been trained by a serving Japanese fully-funded volunteer Ms. Kiyomi Kaida.

Six other Advisors from Australia, Canada, Japan and Korea lectured the youths on topics as diverse as Africa (Traditional and Modern), Environmental Media and Human Activities, Mental Health, Japan and Foreigners, Globalization, and Personal Power, Potential and Purpose. In the event, the ship was at once a floating university, a "UN General Assembly", and several things in between. The participants quickly got into the habit of addressing the advisors as *Professor!* But there was no question at all whether the programme achieved its central purpose of "fostering the spirit of international cooperation and the competence to practice it". Few programmes targeting the youth come close to this one whether you are looking at the cooperation among the multinational "letter" groups that organize Morning Assemblies or the equally diverse committees arranging one exhibition or the other and the endless discussions and talks, etc. The likes of Shakespeare who once thought youth was synonymous with carefree existence and ignorance should have been on this Ship!

Before he left the Ship, the UNV Programme Officer was presented with a Certificate for Crossing the Equator by the Captain at an open air dinner party held on the 6th floor Sports Deck of the *Nippon Maru*.