



ICVNews Flash / January 2008 Happy New Year and All Our Best Wishes

Happening this Month...

2008: International Year of Languages
Partnership with Earth Focus Foundation
South Africa: Big Things Begin Little
11th International Colloquium on Voluntary, Non-Remunerated Blood Donors
Conclusions from the Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3)
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FEDERATION

2008: International Year of Languages

As declared by the United Nations General Assembly, 2008 will be the International Year of Languages (IYL). The official launch of the year will take place on 21 February 2008, the International Mother Language Day, at UNESCO in Paris, France. It is estimated that a third of all the world's languages will disappear throughout this century. It is therefore timely to look at ways in which languages can be documented, enhanced and revived. One of the key issues is linguistic diversity in cyberspace linking the potential offered by modern communications tools and linguistics. Throughout the year, a number of events will look at different issues and aspects related to languages, such as for example Specialized Translation (Havana, Cuba). Maaya, the Network for Linguistic Diversity – the headquarters of which is hosted at the ICVolunteers office in Geneva – will play an active role during the year, facilitating a range of activities, including a list of events in which it will be involved to varying degrees.

More: www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10592.doc.htm and www.maaya.org

PARTNERSHIP

Earth Focus Foundation

350 students from both public and private schools in Geneva took part in the *Youth Debate on Fuels for the Future* organized on 4th December 2007 at the Geneva International Conference Centre. In addition to the discussion on energies, young people also prepared a message for the International Volunteer Day, 5th December 2007. The event was also a symbolic moment for the two organizing entities, Earth Focus Foundation and ICVolunteers, which signed a partnership agreement outlining their determination to work together around issues related to young people, education and sustainable development.

More: www.icvolunteers.org/index.php?what=news&id=283 and www.earthfocus.org

SOUTH AFRICA

Big Things Begin Little

The ICV Desk in Cape Town, South Africa, coordinated by Chantel Daniels, joined ICV's Community Language Project, which has been developed by ICVolunteers in Spain, France and Switzerland, around language and integration issues for migrants. In South Africa, the project has taken a community dimension, working with pre-school children from disadvantaged backgrounds, offering them an opening to languages other than those spoken in their community.

More: www.icvolunteers.org/index.php?what=news&id=289 and www.volcent.co.za

SWITZERLAND / EGYPT

11th International Colloquium on the Recruitment of Voluntary, Non-Remunerated Blood Donors

This Colloquium (Cairo, Egypt, 12-18 January 2008) is co-sponsored by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, and is hosted by the Egyptian Red Crescent. ICVolunteers has been involved in the preparation of the event, through the selection and placement of a long-term volunteer / intern helping with scholarships and visa coordination, facilitating logistics, as well as working with local volunteers during the event, reporting and documenting the discussions. With a shrinking base of potential blood donors, there is more than ever a need for an open communication exchange, involving those tasked with the motivation and education of potential blood donors. One of the short-term goals of the Cairo Colloquium is therefore to consolidate existing partnerships and establish new working relationships among these actors.

More: www.icvolunteers.org/index.php?what=prj&id=322

CYBERVOLUNTEERING

Conclusions from the Third Global Knowledge Conference (GK3)

Close to 1800 global visionaries, innovators, practitioners and policy makers, geared to sharing knowledge and building partnerships at GK3 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 11 to 13 December 2007. As a member of [Global Knowledge Partnership \(GKP\)](#), ICVolunteers organised a round table and participated in a high level panel jointly organized by the [Global Alliance for ICT and Development \(GAID\)](#) and GKP. ICV also led the preparation of a [statement on cybervolunteering](#) which was presented at the GKP Pavillion.

More: www.icvolunteers.org/index.php?what=news&id=285

SPECIAL THANKS

ICVolunteers would like to warmly thank **Brigitte Elling**, **Cyrille Schmid** and **Kashmira Aga** for their excellent work which made the Swiss Proteomics Society meeting held at the beginning of December 2007 in Lausanne, Switzerland (www.sps07.org) a success.

CYBERVOLUNTEERING

Projects at glance

- *Kilimanjaro International Institute for Telecommunications Electronics Computers* (Arusha, Tanzania): ICV is looking for trainers and teachers to share their knowledge with students in the field of engineering.
More: <http://cyber.icvolunteers.org>
- Breeding information points in Sahel. . Web developer. These information points will simultaneously be contributed to and utilized by the stockbreeders and the other participants of the network. These 'points' will thus help in the distribution and dissemination of information related to epidemiology, the weather, the environment and socio-economic issues. More: www.icvolunteers.org/index.php?what=news&id=271

EVENT-RELATED VOLUNTEERING

Projects at glance

- *Aid & Trade Event* (Geneva, Switzerland, 29-30 January 2008): 16 volunteers and 3 ICV desk coordinators needed. Tasks will be: registration and welcome, "Meet the buyer" corner supervision, reporting, technical assistance and filming.
More: www.aidandtrade.org
- The first ever *European Fair Trade Fair* (Lyon, France, 1-3 February 2008). Organised by Equi'Sol, the event will be held in three languages. ICVolunteers is looking for 8 interpreters to ensure interpretation from and to English, Spanish and French during debates and round tables.
More: www.european-fairtrade-fair.org
- *International Master in Development Studies* – internship opportunity in interpretation (10 February-12 April 2008): ICV is selecting 6 interpreters to become part of the IMAS language team involved of the Graduate Institute for Development Studies (IUED) in Geneva in assisting the students following the masters program, from Asia, French speaking Africa and Latin America, to be able to share and present their work to the professors, as well as fellow students More: <http://www.icvolunteers.org/index.php?what=prj&id=318>
- *Red Cross: Health and Care Forum 2008* – internship opportunity in project management (January to May 2008) as well as volunteers for various tasks during the event such as welcome & registration, reporting, interpreting and room supervision.

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