



## What is VYA

Vision YouthAction(VYA) is a non-profit, voluntary organization working with the aim to promote volunteerism and international exchange in Taiwan and around the world. VYA is:

- ✗ The Executive committee of **IAVE-IRC** (International Association for Volunteer Effort's International Resource Center, IAVE-IRC) since 2005.
- ✗ Full Member of **NVDA** (Network for Voluntary development in Asia) since 2007
- ✗ Full Member of **CCIVS under UNESCO** (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service) since 2008
- ✗ Official Partner Organization of Alliance (Alliance of European Voluntary Organisations) since 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2010.

## Brief History

**Vision YouthAction** was founded in 2002 by 30 young leaders who participated in international volunteer exchange project between Taiwan and U.S.A. From 2002 to 2007, VYA has been successful in setting up a regional youth volunteer center to promote very short term community service from one day to one week. Over 7,000 young people served as volunteers, donating more than 260,000 hours to social services from 2006-2008. In 2007 August, in collaboration with NICE Japan, the first international workcamp in Taiwan originated in a small fishing village in the mid-western coast of Taiwan. It has been developing rapidly and variously catering to the huge needs of projects & motivations of people!

## Our Missions and Future Prospects

- a) To promote youth engagement in public affairs and international voluntary services:** We encourage and help the youths to participate in various kinds of voluntary services. Through voluntary service, the cultural exchange, global understanding and friendship among world youth and local people have grown naturally through living, working, talking, and laughing together.
- b) To Nurture future Young Social Entrepreneurs:** We assist youths to run NPOs with the concept of social enterprise and venture capital, solving social problems efficiently on the basis of new business model.

**Activities** To achieve our missions and future prospects mentioned above, VYA runs the following activities;

- a) Very short term community service projects (VSTCSP):** Organizing with National Youth Commission, VYA encourage Taiwanese young people to get involved in community voluntary services. Every year, at least 2000 youth volunteers are involved in VYA VSTCSP and initiate more than 130 community service projects by themselves.
- b) Taiwan International WorkCamp:** VYA organizes workcamps and bridge the gap between local and overseas NGOs for Taiwan volunteers. The first Taiwan international workcamp was held in 2007 in cooperation with NVDA and NICE.
- c) VolunteerMatch.org.tw:** the first professional online IT system for volunteer management in Taiwan. This website offers NGOs & youth volunteers training courses, applications for service certificates, volunteering opportunities hunting, and consultancy of volunteer management.
- d) Training Projects for Young Social Entrepreneurs:** VYA maps out a series of training projects for young people developing a long-term career in non-profit organizations. By doing so, we cultivate young social entrepreneurs to be equipped with global perspectives, leadership, value of civil society, and the capability of organization and management.

## WorkCamps and volunteers

- a) To organize workcamps in Taiwan: 8 projects with 78 international vols and 78 local vols in 2009**  
In **2007**: 1 project- 8 international vols & 6 Taiwanese vols  
In **2008**: 3 projects- 22 International vols & 72 Taiwanese vols  
In **2009**: 8 projects- 78 International vols & 76 Taiwanese vols

## Members & Partners

VYA is completely independent from any political, religious, economic power. There are 4 full-time staff in charge of VYA and **20-30** regular volunteers as assistants. The General Assembly/Executive Committee of VYA is held twice a year. **VYA has** 2442 members around the world and 672 volunteers in Taiwan. VYA has 32 local partners and has built partnership with more than 200 local NPOs around Taiwan to promote voluntary service.

## Taiwan International Workcamp

### Introduction

Welcome to join our workcamps, **share happy time and create new age together!** All campsites have good-natured and warm people, so you will discover the colorful and vigorous faces of Taiwan and those are completely **different from stereotypical images** you may have through media.

All workcamps share the following features (unless mentioned in each project description):

- a) **Age limit** : **18 at least (No maximum)**. In some projects, we accept kids with their parents joining together and in some cases, volunteers 1-2 years younger than 18 (aged 16-17) are welcomed as well.
- b) **Language** : **English** (Mandarin or Taiwanese is not necessarily required, but we welcome your trying!)
- c) **Insurance** : We provide small amount of insurance **only for accidents during workcamps IN Taiwan**.
- d) **Accommodations**: Mostly, there're showers, kitchens and toilets. Basic, but enjoyable enough.
- e) **Study Part** : All workcamps are designed for youths around the world to learn and work on a better future for global community.

### Detail information of the project

**1-2 months before** the projects begin, volunteers will receive "Information Sheets" (details of the project: what to bring, the meeting place, how to get there, etc.) together with "Acceptance Letter" and "VYA Volunteers' Guide" through the partner organizations.

### Book the flights as soon as being accepted!

**Don't wait** for the Information Sheets; otherwise you may miss economy class!

In all the workcamps in Taiwan, volunteers will have to meet in the accommodations or the train stations **in the afternoon of the first camp day**. And the workcamps finish **in the afternoon of the last day**.

Some projects are located quite **far from the airports** and the inexpensive route takes much time. **We advise volunteers to arrive at/leave Taiwan at least a few days before/after the projects begins/ends also because volunteers should not expect much sightseeing during the projects.** (If you want to do it, please do it before/after the workcamps!). Before the workcamp begins, it is possible to host you early in camp house, otherwise we will recommend youth hostels. (For further information, wait for the info. sheets!)

### General Qualification

- a) **Strongest motivation for the voluntary work** (special skills and power are not necessary)
- b) **Responsibility to follow rules** of VYA & the partners and full **cooperation** to run the workcamps
- c) **Best efforts to understand and respect cultures** of the hosts and other volunteers
- d) **An Open mind to make friends**, trying to speak English (in the groups) and the local language
- e) **To adapt to and enjoy simple living conditions**

Fun and refreshing as it may be, **if you seek for pure entertainment on vacation, please don't apply and do just travel**. If you are here for **voluntary service** to make a better world and **friendship** with local people and other volunteers, you are **super welcomed!!**