

## NICE Projects for 2008

- Pop bridge between local & global communities -



### What is NICE!?

- \* NGO/ NPO to organize workcamps and other voluntary projects in Japan & east Asia
- \* Vice president of CCIYS at UNESCO and General Secretary of NVDA (Asian network)
- \* Enjoying to create a new global age by mentally young people!

#### 1) Brief History;

NICE was founded on 4th Feb. in 1990 by 7 youth who had participated in workcamps abroad. In Sep. 90, the first international workcamp in Japan was held at the foot of the Mt. Fuji. It has been developing rapidly and variously with huge needs of projects & motivations of people!

#### 2) Aims;

- To create/ develop/ revive ecological, self sufficient and warm-hearted civilization. We promote exciting voluntary actions by fresh ideas and mobility as a youth NPO, to shift the world with too much competition and expansion into more healthy one for both nature and people.
- To encourage activities of NGO/NPOs and activation of local communities. We create opportunities to meet new people and to start new actions by involving many locals. We make bridges between isolated NPOs and local people, and invite youth to depopulated areas.
- To promote global friendship, understanding and solidarity. We grow exchange naturally among world youth and local people through living, working, talking and laughing together. They can improve global views/ sensitivity and language/ planning skills.

#### 3) Activities;

- To achieve the above aims, NICE run the following activities (main ones);
- To organize international workcamps (1-3 weeks) mostly in Japan and sometimes, in Asia, etc.  
: 85 (648) projects in 14 (20) countries with 858 (7,694) international vols. in 2007 (and in 18 years)
  - To send volunteers from Japan to international workcamps abroad  
: 750 (7,935) volunteers to 58 (96) countries in 2008 (and in 18 years)
  - To organize weekend workcamps (1-3 days projects) in Japan  
: 125 (1,313) projects in 23 (33) prefectures with 1,338 (18,755) volunteers in 2007 (and in 15 years)
  - To organize LAMP (LMTV projects for 2-12 months) in Japan & send LM vols.  
: 20 (85) projects with 63 (248) vols./ sent 103 (495) vols. to 19 (24) countries in 2007 (and in 13 years)
  - Many other ecological/ social/ educational/ cultural actions such as Green Foster Parents, Sister School Project, Actions against child abuse, Actions for refugees, Promotion of acrylic sponges, etc.

#### 4) Members & Partners;

- 1,307 Full (72%:female, 71%:students) + 6,889 Associate + 6 Organizational members.  
It's run by 10 professional & 10-15 regular voluntary staffs together with many active members.  
The General Assembly/ Executive Committee of NICE is held twice/ six times in a year.  
We are completely independent from any political, religious, economic power. NICE is;
- Vice President (the only Japanese member) of CCIYS at UNESCO since 07
  - General Secretary of NVDA (Network for Voluntary Development in Asia) since 08
  - The first Asian member of ALLIANCE of European Voluntary Service Organizations since 96
  - Exchange Partner of SCI (Service Civil International) and YAP (Youth Action for Peace).
- We also cooperate with a lot of local governments, NGO/ NPOs, media, foundations and people.

#### 5) Finance;

- Running cost (staffs, offices, etc.) is managed by the fees from members and volunteers.
- Project cost (food, accommodation, etc.) of international workcamps in Japan and LAMP are mainly by local partners (their own budgets, local governments, sponsoring foundations, etc.)
- Project cost of workcamps in other Asia and weekend workcamps are paid mainly by volunteers.

### What are International Workcamps !?

International voluntary projects, where volunteers from all over the world live & work together with local people. Mostly for 2-3 weeks/ in Jul.-Sep./ by 10-30 volunteers.

#### 1) Brief History;

In 1920, the first one started in France by German & French youth as reconstructing the farms destroyed during the World War I. Since then, it has been spreading to all over the world. In the 60s, many workcamps with construction works were organized in newly independent countries as well as peace projects between East & West in Europe. Environmental ones have been increasing since the 80s. According to our research, about 3,000 projects in 100 countries were held in 2007.

#### 2) Voluntary Works;

- Normally for 6-8 hours in a day and 5 days in a week. The types of works are various:
- Environment: Cleaning rivers, planting trees, protecting animals, creating eco-villages, etc.
  - Agriculture: Picking fruits or seeding in organic farms, reviving uncultivated fields, etc.
  - Construction: schools, toilets, renovating castles, converting farms into youth centers, etc.
  - Social work: With/ for children, refugees, mentally/ physically disadvantaged, elders, etc.

- e) Arts/Education: Organizing festivals, performing play against AIDS in schools, archaeology, etc.
- f) Others: Making proposals of town planning, recycling & sending bicycles to India, etc.

3) Accommodations & Free time activities;

Usually youth centers, public halls, schools and sometimes tents or temples that are simple but even better for the group life! Volunteers often cook by turns and enjoy global tastes. The common language is English in most of workcamps though you had better to try local languages. In some workcamps, the hosts or we volunteers organize discussions, excursions, and exchange parties with local people, school visit, sports programs, etc. It is very important to note that workcamps should be made by all volunteers with local people. Volunteers are not guests!

4) Workcamp Organizations (WOs);

Most of WO's are non-governmental/ non-profit organizations (NGO/NPOs). Most of WO's are affiliated with CCIVS (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service) founded by UNESCO, UN in 1948 to assist & promote workcamps in the world. It publishes booklets and organizes conferences and a few workcamps where no workcamps are existed yet. WO's are not branches of CCIVS, but the creators of this network! Each WO independently & freely organizes workcamps mainly in their own countries with local governments or NGO/NPOs and cooperate with other WO's abroad. They are organized locally, coordinated nationally and exchanged internationally!

5) Finance;

Many WO's manage the running finances by inscription fee from volunteers & some are supported also by governments, foundations, etc. Volunteers need to pay the travel cost to/from workcamps and fee to WO's in their own countries. Food & accommodations are provided by local partners, though there are participation fee around 100-200 US\$ in most workcamps of Africa, south Asia, etc.

6) Common Aims;

Although each WO's and workcamps have their own aims, the common aim is to achieve peaceful, healthy, just and sustainable world by

- a) Creating/ supporting voluntary movements for ecology, human rights, self-sufficiency, etc.
- b) Activating and involving new people to local communities and NGO/NPOs
- c) Promoting global understanding, friendship and solidarity

**NICE (Never-ending International workCamps Exchange)**

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