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#### UNV Retreat 2012

As every year UNV Nepal office invited all the UN Volunteers serving in Nepal to get to know each other professionally and also personally and share experience and know-how as well as understand the contribution of volunteerism in the development context of the country.



This year the retreat was held in Nagarkot with the natural energy from the Himalayan mountains to refresh the mind to spread volunteer spirit. Then there was also a cultural exchange time to get to know each other better and as well as to learn more about Nepal by wearing Nepalese traditional dresses.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) Yearbook

The ‘Yearbook’ of the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) was finally published. This yearbook is a commemorative publication of IYV+10 celebrations in Nepal which is a significant step to highlight the activities of NSCVN and also to showcase the works being carried out by the member organizations of NSCVN to mark IYV+10 as well as to promote volunteerism in Nepal. 2011 has been an incredible year for Nepal as the yearlong celebrations of IYV+10 has drawn attention of the national and international volunteering stakeholders in many ways. IYV+10 campaign also deepened and broadened the debate about volunteerism in Nepal as it has increased the awareness level of people and concerned stakeholders. The IYV+10 celebration proved to be a great success bringing together leaders and decision makers from government, humanitarian and development organizations, civil society, academia, the UN system and the corporate sector. A strong relationship and partnership has been built by this campaign. IYV+10 campaign has also created a favorable atmosphere to initiate larger supplementary campaigns with all the stakeholders advocating for the more inclusive and sustaining volunteering infrastructure and networking for better Nepal.

#### International Youth Day in Nepal “Youth Festival”

To celebrate the International Youth Day, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Youth NGO Federation Nepal and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme jointly organized National Youth Festival on August 12-13, 2012 in Kathmandu, with financial and technical support from several NGOs, INGOs and organizations working in youth, employment, poverty alleviation and other areas. The theme chosen for National Youth Festival 2012 “Building a Better World: Partnering with Youth” is a global call to action for young men and women, as well as other stakeholders around the world in order to develop partnership with youth and engage youth towards building a better world. The festival aimed at exploring opportunities and analyzing challenges for youth in Nepal. The festival also tried to promote the concept of national integration in Nepal and the spirit of solidarity and brotherhood. The festival was a venue for mutual experience sharing among the youth participants from various parts of the country, at the same time, a venue for gaining information about youth programs in the country. During the festival youth participants could enjoy solidarity rally, seminars, exhibitions, cultural shows and thematic workshops.

As main organizer, UNV Field Unit Nepal prepared national workshop with the theme of ‘Youth and Volunteering: An Opportunity for All’ with a special focus on the youth from different sectors on the second day. During the workshop UNV shared its mandate and approach for youth volunteering initiatives at global level and also at national level. The workshop also served as an opportunity to have an interaction with the youth participants on their concerns and interests.

## Electoral Education Information Centre (EEIC) in Kathmandu

After the successful delivery of Constituent Assembly elections in April 2008, the Election Commission of the Government of Nepal prioritized on sustainable capacities, information dissemination, voter education, outreach, research and development, and established an Electoral Education Information Centre (EEIC) at its headquarters in Kathmandu in May 2012 with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Australian Aid.

One of our national UN Volunteers, Mr. Umesh Upadhyaya who is serving as ICT Specialist at the UNDP Electoral Support Project shares with us that EEIC helps to increase the skills and knowledge, and promote values that encourage the people of Nepal to be informed and active citizens in their democracy society through political participation.

Through the EEIC, the Commission aims to provide civic and democratic electoral education and information to visiting individuals and groups, and encourage people of all remote areas and under-privileged class, race, gender and regions through a number of outreach programs. 5000 individuals have already visited the centre after its establishment. EEIC consists of Exhibition Hall/ Museum, Mini Theater, Interactive Learning Area and a Polling Centre/Booth where anybody who is interested can visit. If you are interested in the history of the Election in Nepal, please visit EEIC!



<Students visiting EEIC (audio booth)>

### Sports Day for Urban Refugee Children

On a sunny Saturday morning on 29<sup>th</sup> September some 15 girls and boys from the refugee community in Kathmandu gathered in Golfutar (Kathmandu) to play football, basketball and other fun games.

As part of the 2012 Global Peace Games, UNV Nepal, together with UNHCR and its NGO partner Pro Public, organized a sports day for the refugee children in Kathmandu. All the children go to school but they do not have many opportunities in terms of recreational activities. Due to their different backgrounds, culture and languages, it is also difficult for them to mingle with their peers at school or the children in their neighborhood. Therefore they were very happy and excited to play and compete with each other and spend a day out and about.

After much laughter during the sack race, all children and parents gathered and Christian Simmelkiaer UNV Field Unit Nepal introduced the concept of the Global Peace Games.

All participants then gave each other a handshake of peace and continued playing their games. The event concluded with lunch and presents for all children. The smiles on the faces of the children on their way home showed that the program was a clear success.

For more information or to arrange visits,  
please contact:

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### New UN Volunteers in September 2012

In September, Essi (Finland) as Peace and Disarmament Officer and Elizabeth (UK) as Peace-building and Conflict Prevention Officer joined us in Nepal as International Volunteers. Here is a greeting message from Essi:

Namaste! My name is Essi and I'm from Finland. I joined the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), based in Kathmandu in September. UNRCPD is the Regional Disarmament Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and serves as UNODA's operational arm in assisting countries in the Asia-Pacific region in achieving their peace, security and disarmament goals by promoting regional disarmament efforts, as well as providing support to the implementation of initiatives and activities at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. At the Regional Centre, we focus on three main areas: providing capacity building and technical assistance, creating and participating in various dialogue platforms, and engaging in outreach and advocacy on disarmament issues. In Nepal, UNRCPD's recent activities have included an art competition 'Children and Peace' for students from six Kathmandu Valley schools, and a training course for Nepalese security sector personnel to combat illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. My work as a Peace and Disarmament Officer includes supporting in activities related to the aforementioned areas, through drafting project proposals and reports, carrying out research and analysis, as well as assisting in planning and organizing various kinds of events.

All in all a very interesting and rewarding organization to volunteer for! Danyabhat!