

E-IAVE Special Edition: The 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference

This year's IAVE World Volunteer Conference, held from 24-27 January in Singapore, marks the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers as well as IAVE's 40th anniversary. So what exactly does this mean for the Conference? Put simply, the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference is both a celebration and an opportunity. It's a celebration of the dedication and effort which volunteers pour into their communities all around the world, a showcase of volunteer achievements and experiences which will impress, inspire and enlighten you in equal parts. It's also an opportunity to touch base with others in the field, to forge partnerships and links which have the power to enrich all those involved. Here are a just a few reasons why the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference should be on your calendar:



- **Speeches, forums and workshops** conducted by some of the global volunteer community's leading lights, from superstars Jet Li and Michelle Yeoh to renowned activists and luminaries of the non-profit scene, including Tadateru Konoe, J. Brady Lum, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Flavia Pansieri, and many more;
- Myriad opportunities to listen to, learn from and meet with numerous **business and entrepreneurial personalities** like David Boyd-Thomas, Ed Martinez, Steve Bertamini, and Sherrie Bossung, all of whom share one common belief: that volunteerism is both good *and* good business;
- **Five tracks of forums and workshops** designed to give in-depth coverage to all major areas of volunteerism, charitable work and non-profit organisations;
- A chance to experience the diversity and intensity of Singapore through **culinary tours, functions and visits to local NGOs**

The last ten years have seen great changes to volunteerism and the world it seeks to improve upon, with many more steps to take if we are to bring about a better future. The 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference is one such step, bringing together like-minded individuals with the spirit of giving burning bright in their hearts. Come join us and celebrate both the history and future of volunteerism!

Conference registration information and further details are available at www.iave2011.org.

Doing good (business): Corporate volunteerism and the World Volunteer Conference



We've come a long way from when businesses and non-profits sat squarely on opposite sides of the fence, to the current reality where more and more companies see the value that volunteer and philanthropic drives bring to their bottom lines. In a similar vein, many non-profits now acknowledge that taking on corporate values and goals can bring huge improvements to how they serve others while also sustaining themselves. Giving is serious business, and leaders from both corporate and non-profit enterprises have realised that more often than not, they share the same goals and paths to achieving them. And with delegates hailing from some of the world's largest and most influential companies, social enterprises and corporate advocacy groups, the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference is as much about the business of doing good well as anything else.

It won't be just CEOs and directors at the conference, with a host of political and advocacy leaders also weighing in to discussions and looking for new ways to work with the established volunteerism community. This year's World Volunteer Conference has a variety of opportunities specifically centred around corporate engagement and networking, including:

- Informal luncheons, briefings and discussion boards with members of influential organisations like ASEAN, the HandsOn Network, and many more;
- Special networking sessions between workshops for informal discussion and interaction;
- Functions and tours designed to facilitate conversation and bonding, including the Singapore Experience culinary tour and a closing dinner in the historic Colonial District by the Singapore River.

Come to the World Volunteer Conference and talk volunteerism and good works with business and thought leaders from around the world.

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How to change the world: Speakers and topics from the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference

The entire world of volunteerism is on display at the World Volunteer Conference, but what exactly does that mean? In its simplest form, the conference is structured around five main topic areas, or tracks:

- The Power of One;
- Many Helping Hands;
- From Good to Great;
- Mega Volunteering Trends;
- And Strategic Issues in Volunteer Management.

Each track contains workshops that cover a whole range of subject matter but centre around a certain key idea: for the Power of One this might be how to maximise individual potential, while for Mega Volunteering Trends it might be large-scale mobilisation of concerned citizens. By picking out a variety of workshops and forums across the tracks, you'd be sure to cover a wide variety of trends and ideas related to volunteerism, although you can also focus on a single track if it particularly suits your interests.

Here are a few examples of the people and ideas you can expect to encounter at the conference:

Flavia Pansieri

As one fluent in six languages (including Chinese, Spanish and German) and well-versed in everything from fighting drugs to championing women's rights, Flavia Pansieri is an undeniably global citizen, one who's dedicated her life to bettering those of others in less fortunate circumstances. The eloquent Italian national – who also holds degrees in Philosophy, Literature and Chinese – has served with the United Nations in numerous capacities since 1983, with her many talents now being put to use as Executive Co-ordinator of the UN Volunteer Programme. While proud of the milestones which the UN has reached so far in areas like human rights and sustainability, Pansieri isn't one to sit on her laurels, working to address pressing issues of climate change and human development through volunteer initiatives both existing and new. With her sharp intellect, quiet confidence and determination at the helm of the UN's volunteer work, Pansieri's formidable track record at helping others looks set to grow even more in the future.



Flavia Pansieri will be speaking at the Opening Ceremony on Day 1 of the World Volunteer Conference.

Tadateru Konoe

You wouldn't pick it from his humble demeanour, but Tadateru Konoe actually hails from one of Japan's leading aristocratic families. The President of the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent has devoted his life to the service of others, starting off as a volunteer in his local Japanese Red Cross chapter and progressing through the ranks to lead some of the most important aid and development missions in the Red Cross/Red Crescent's history. As someone who's experienced virtually every facet of volunteer work – from leading tsunami aid teams to co-ordinating national plans for disaster response – Konoe is respected throughout the Red Cross/Red Crescent for his continual desire to learn from and empathise with all people, no matter where they're from. Perhaps it's no coincidence that Konoe shares his birthday with Jean Henri Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross/Red Crescent – nor that the aristocratic family to which he belongs has a longstanding tradition of devoted service to others.



Tadateru Konoe will be presenting the Keynote Address on Day 2 of the World Volunteer Conference.

Dr Surin Pitsuwan

He's been an academic, a writer, and a politician, but now Dr Surin Pitsuwan is the Secretary-General of ASEAN, a role he's held since 2008. The illustrious career of this activist and scholar, which has spanned the globe and numerous organisations from the UN Human Security Trust Fund to the United States Congress, very much befits Pitsuwan's passionate yet good-natured approach to his work and the world, something which has brought him more than a little acclaim in his active approach to leading ASEAN. Pitsuwan is no stranger to engaging big groups of people both in politics and non-profit affairs, and he'll be doing so in the forum "Engaging Volunteers, Raising Communities" when he talks about how to inspire and bring people together for the long haul.



The forum featuring Dr Surin Pitsuwan, "Engaging Volunteers, Raising Communities" (Forum 520), will be held on Day 3 of the World Volunteer Conference.

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More than a Tropical Paradise: Singapore's Role as Volunteer Hub

With its bustling cosmopolitan city-centres, tourist-friendly attractions and some of the most delectable food in the world, Singapore is much more than the sanitised state many might make it out to be. From its origins as a critical port city for trade routes into and out of Asia, Singapore has developed itself into an



all-round hub for business, lifestyle and – most recently – volunteerism. With volunteer rates skyrocketing in Singapore due to a nation-wide emphasis on community service and giving, the country has established a reputation for generosity and passion for giving which extends far beyond the national borders.



Giving has been a part of Singaporean culture for decades, from sharing the best places to grab a bite (a common occurrence in a country where food is the national pastime) to the fishing villages of the old Singapore helping out their neighbours in times of need. And hosting the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference is a definite milestone for Singapore's volunteer community, but it's also a sign of things to come.

About NVPC

Singapore's National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) is the co-organiser of the 21st IAVE World Volunteer Conference and Singapore's national volunteering body. Established in 1999 to promote volunteerism and philanthropy in Singapore, NVPC has worked in tandem with the public, people-based and private sectors to bring the spirit of giving to the forefront of the public consciousness. With Singapore's volunteerism rate doubling over the past ten years and philanthropic donations reaching record highs this year, NVPC is all the more determined to keep the spirit of giving alight in Singapore's heart.

NVPC engages in a wide range of activities designed to raise the profile of volunteerism and philanthropy in Singapore and abroad, from media campaigns and events to online donation portals, volunteerism publications and even the odd talk show appearance. For more information about NVPC and its work, visit www.nvpc.org.sg.

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