

# INTERNATIONAL FORUM



## FOR VOLUNTEERING IN DEVELOPMENT FORUM INTERNATIONAL DU VOLONTARIAT POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT



*A global movement of volunteers working for a just world.*

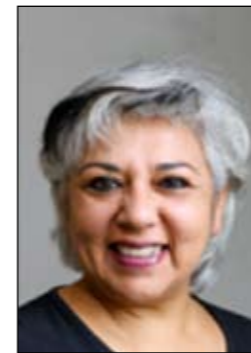
## ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Forum is a global network of organisations involved in international volunteering. Forum promotes the value of volunteering for development through policy engagement, mutual learning and by sharing innovative and good practices.

*“In 2014, Forum, alongside global volunteer involving organisations, will position itself to ensure that the role of volunteerism is valued and recognised for its unique role in creating positive, sustainable development outcomes.*”

*Our message will be clear – that volunteerism is a cornerstone of people-centred development and is crucial in the delivery of the post-2015 universal development agenda.”*



**Nita Kapoor**  
CHAIR International Forum for Volunteering in Development



## REPORT ON FORUM ACTIVITIES IN 2013

**Welcome to the 2013 Forum Annual Report.** This report covers the period from January to December 2013, in line with the annual accounts. During this period, there was one Annual General Meeting of Forum members in Paris, France on 30 October 2013.

Major highlights of 2013 for Forum included the implementation of the *2013 – 2015 Forum Strategic Plan*, a successful annual conference for International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations (known as IVCO) in Paris, the creation and related advocacy efforts of *The Paris Accord on Volunteering for Sustainable Development*, and the active involvement of Forum Board of Directors and Forum members in key post-2015 dialogues, with the subsequent increased visibility of international volunteering and mobilisation toward the post-2015 global development agenda. This included the ‘Volunteer Action Counts’ campaign.

Other achievements this year included the final steps in the incorporation of Forum and an important series of Discussion and Position Papers.

## ACTIVITIES

**During the course of 2013, Forum undertook the following activities in line with the organisation’s new strategic objectives as laid out in the 2013 – 2015 Forum Strategic Plan.**

### Developing effective knowledge management to increase sharing and learning among members

The Forum Research Working Group, led by Cliff Allum of Skillshare International, met four times via teleconference and once in-person. Forum would like to express deep appreciation to all members of the Forum Research Working Group for all their hard work in coordinating the relevant and timely research for International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations, described below.

#### Forum Discussion and Position Papers 2013

This year, one Forum Discussion Paper was presented and discussed at IVCO 2013. Furthermore, a Forum Discussion Paper on *Volunteering and the Post-2015 Development Agenda* and a Forum Position Paper on Forum and the *Post-2015 Development Agenda* were prepared at intervals throughout the year to assist Forum members’ understanding of the post-2015 landscape and to plan “where to from here” as they navigate the post-2015 processes ahead.

*Measuring and Conveying the Added Value of International Volunteering* was prepared by Benjamin J. Lough and Lenore Matthew, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Findings were presented at IVCO 2013 by Benjamin J. Lough  
<http://forum-ids.org/2013/12/forum-discussion-paper-2013-measuring-and-conveying-added-value/>

*Advocating for People Centred Development in the Post-2015 Agenda* was prepared by the Forum Board of Directors and the Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group. This paper was shared as part of the 2013 Forum Annual General Meeting, an outcome of which recommendations 1-13 were supported by Forum members.  
<http://forum-ids.org/2013/12/forum-discussion-paper-2013-advocating-for-people-centered-development/>

*Forum and the Post-2015 Development Agenda* was prepared by the Forum Board of Directors and the Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group. This paper was shared with Forum members via email in March 2013.  
<http://forum-ids.org/2013/10/forum-position-paper-2013/>

During the course of the year, plans were also laid for the creation of the 2014 Forum Discussion Paper series.

## Forum Research Fund

On behalf of Forum, the Forum Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Forum members Unité, World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) and FK Norway (Fredskorpset) for their generous contributions to the 2013 Research Fund. This support, together with the work of the Research Working Group, enabled a strong basis for Forum's research work in 2013 and beyond.

## Increasing the visibility and recognition of the value of volunteering for development

### The Paris Accord on Volunteering for Sustainable Development

Representatives of volunteer groups and volunteer involving organisations from around the world gathered in Paris on 27-30 October 2013 for the annual meeting of the International Forum for Volunteering in Development. Acknowledging that our world demands innovative mechanisms and dynamic spaces for public-private-citizen connections, the *Paris Accord on Volunteering for Sustainable Development* was created for organisations to utilise in their efforts to see volunteerism recognised as one of the key movements supporting the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as a single set of Sustainable Development Goals beyond 2015.

The *Paris Accord on Volunteering for Sustainable Development* was approved in the IVCO 2013 plenary and signed by attending parties. Following the conference, Forum members as well as other International Volunteer Cooperation Organisation stakeholders and volunteer involving organisations were informed about the *Paris Accord* and invited to become signatories. By December 2013, over 50 organisations had signed up to *The Paris Accord on Sustainable Development*. (More organisations signed up through the beginning of 2014, to total over 60 signatories).

On International Volunteer Day, 5 December 2013, the *Paris Accord* was mass-distributed internationally along with the 'Volunteer Action Counts' campaign developed by the Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group.

## The Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group

A key milestone for Forum's work on the Post-2015 development agenda was having Forum member and CEO, Volunteer Service Abroad, Gill Greer, speak at the President of the General Assembly's Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals in New York, in September 2013. A larger Forum member delegation also represented volunteer groups at the event and attended a UNV Stakeholder Meeting organised at the same time.

Following these gatherings in New York, and thereafter at IVCO 2013, a collaborative Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group was formed in which Forum members were a driving force. This group was mandated to follow the post-2015 processes and encourage the visibility of volunteering in key debates. Forum members who wished to be active nationally, regionally and/or globally were encouraged to appoint a post-2015 focal person in their organisation to liaise with the Working Group.

A major achievement by the Forum Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group, along with a wider Task Force including members of other volunteer involving organisations, was to organise the 'Volunteer Action Counts' social media campaign on 5 December, International Volunteer Day.

Through the Post-2015 Working Group, work was also initiated at the end of the year to recruit an intern based in New York who could assist Forum in their liaison with the UN system and in key milestones related to the post-2015 development agenda.

Although a number of Forum members have participated in and contributed to the Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group, the Board would particularly like to acknowledge the efforts of Gill Greer, Volunteer Service Abroad and Barbara Hogan, Cuso International for chairing the group, and the additional support of Philippe Fagnier of WUSC-CECI to Forum's post-2015 work.

## Growing and diversifying Forum's membership

Over the year ending December 2013, Forum's membership grew to 26 members (made up of 22 full members and four associate members). A number of potential new members indicated that they would join in 2014. A special and warm welcome to our new members and associate members who joined in 2013.

Members of the Forum Board of Directors and the Executive Coordinator worked with members throughout the year in the following ways:

- Supporting national efforts to increase the visibility and recognition of volunteering for development;
- Celebrating key milestones (organisations turning 40, 50 and, in one case, 60);
- Sharing member research, news and good practice via the Forum website and e-newsletter, and;
- Participating in key events and workshops.

The Forum website underwent a significant refresh to align with messaging in the *2013 – 2015 Forum Strategic Plan*. Our growing body of credible research and good practice was also added to, providing another avenue by which to keep existing members engaged, whilst at the same time attracting new interest. Furthermore, the Forum IVCO brochure was updated to encourage potential members and associate members to attend IVCO 2013 in Paris and to learn more about the benefits of joining Forum. The launch of Forum's e-newsletter was another highlight for the year.

## Strengthening the capacity of Forum (including Financial Report)

### Forum Coordination

During 2013, the part-time Forum Executive Coordinator position continued to be based in Australia, with the ongoing, generous support of Australian Volunteers International (AVI).

### Forum Finances

A copy of Forum's 2013 audited financial accounts accompanies this report.

### Forum Incorporation

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting, Forum members agreed to incorporate Forum as a not-for-profit organisation in Canada and work on formalising this process took place in 2013.

Steps to carry out the incorporation process were undertaken by the Forum Board of Directors in early 2013 and this work was finalised in March 2014. As part of the incorporation process, it was a requirement that Forum's full English name align with the French name. Therefore, a proposal to change from the *International Forum on Development Service* to the *International Forum for Volunteering in Development* was proposed to members, to comply with the Canadian incorporation requirements. The proposed name change was supported by a member vote in April 2013.

Forum will fall under the Canadian law for not-for-profit organisations in Canada, as outlined in the *Forum By-law No.1* document.

## IVCO 2013

IVCO 2013 with the theme of *PEOPLE to PEOPLE: Volunteering as a catalyst for post-2015 development policy and practice* was held in Paris, France from 27-30 October 2013 and was proudly hosted by Forum member, France Volontaires.

This was a vibrant gathering of 117 participants representing 68 organisations from 24 countries, and encompassed numerous plenaries, workshops and presentations of projects and studies. The participants strongly asserted that volunteering constitutes a worldwide social and human contribution to development.

Papers and proceedings from IVCO 2013 are available on the Forum website:  
<http://forum-ids.org/conferences/ivco/ivco-2013/>

Forum would like to thank France Volontaires for their valued work, including opening up the conference to involve a strong Francophone constituency, as well as positive efforts and in-kind contributions in hosting the successful IVCO conference.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

**Building on the work of Forum as a key collaborator in the global dialogues of 2013, Forum looks forward to working with members at a national level to secure enhanced recognition of the role of volunteerism in a post-2015 world.** We look forward to facilitating meaningful exchanges among members and the wider volunteering community to think *together*, work *together* and act *together* to strengthen our work in communities across the globe. And, as a result of this collective movement, the impact of people-centred development will be strengthened.

Forum looks to 2014 ready to support member agencies in their international volunteer cooperation work, including via IVCO 2014 - creating a space for evaluating the role of volunteerism in a converging world, as well as developing both reflective and forward thinking dialogue in the forthcoming Discussion Paper series.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**The Forum Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the generous contributions from the organisations providing human and in-kind resources to the Board.** These contributions make a significant difference to the level at which Forum can operate, and thus what outcomes can be achieved for members.

We would particularly like to express our appreciation to Ben Ngutu for his contribution to the Forum Board of Directors during his term (till 2013 AGM), and including during this time, VSO Jitolee's hosting of IVCO 2010. And to all the Forum Board of Directors and Forum members who generously give of themselves to enhance Forum's effectiveness as a whole, as well as through the various working groups (detailed in Appendix One).

And for another year, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Executive Coordinator, Christina Jenkins, for her dedication and tireless efforts in strengthening support for the Forum Board of Directors and Forum members.

We wish also to give our thanks to all the members of International Forum for Volunteering in Development. Your continued support for our organisation's work – through contributing time and resources and sharing of your experiences – is highly appreciated.

During the past years, we have seen a number of very positive outcomes as a result of the Forum members, their development partners and other volunteer involving organisations pushing for increased recognition of volunteerism: this transformational mechanism which engages people from the bottom up. Forum has grown in membership; we have expanded our networks and fortified our strategic alliances. This has made it possible to achieve a stronger voice on behalf of the international volunteering community.

We look forward to Forum strengthening our resources and organisational structure even further in the years to come, so that we can continue to make volunteering more relevant, more visible and more prevalent in the development agenda.

### **On behalf of the Forum Board of Directors**

Michel Chaurette, World University Service of Canada and Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (WUSC-CECI)

Gill Greer, Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA)

Barbara Hogan, Cuso International

Marg Mayne, VSO International

Dante Monferrer, France Volontaires

Peter Reicher, Hungarian Volunteer Sending Foundation (HVSF)

Jean Tan, Singapore International Foundation (SIF)



**Nita Kapoor**, FK Norway (Fredskorpset)

**Chair**, International Forum for Volunteering in Development

September 2014



## APPENDIX ONE

### Directors' Portfolios and Members Involved January – December 2013

Portfolio role	Members involved
<p><i>Developing effective knowledge management to increase sharing and learning among members</i></p> <p>Research Working Group (2013)</p>	<p>Forum Board of Directors with support from Executive Coordinator and Website and Communications Contractor</p> <p>Forum member and Research Working Group Chair: Cliff Allum, Skillshare International</p> <p>Forum Board Director: Jean Tan</p> <p>Also included: Live Bjørge and Øyvind Sunde, FK Norway (Forum member); Peter Britton and Claire Layden, AVI (Forum member); Peter Devereux, UNV (Forum member); Philippe Fragnier, WUSC-CECI (Forum member); Ana Gonzales, France Volontaires (Forum member); Violeta Vajda and Katie Turner, VSO (Forum member); and Benjamin Lough, Research Associate, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with support from Executive Coordinator, Christina Jenkins and Website and Communications Contractor, Kate Vereshaka</p>
<p><i>Increasing the visibility and recognition of the value of volunteering for development</i></p> <p>Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group (2013)</p>	<p>Forum Board of Directors with support from Executive Coordinator and Website and Communications Contractor</p> <p>Forum Board of Directors: Gill Greer, Barb Hogan and Nita Kapoor</p> <p>Forum members: Philippe Fragnier, WUSC-CECI (Forum member); Helge Espe, FK Norway (Forum member); Emma Hess, AVI (Forum member); Aarathi Krishnan, Australian Red Cross (Forum associate member); and Priya Nath, VSO (Forum member)</p> <p>Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group Advisor: Simona Costanzo Sow, UNV (Forum member)</p>
<p><i>Growing and diversifying Forum's membership</i></p>	<p>Forum Board of Directors: Barb Hogan, Nita Kapoor, Ben Ngutu and Jean Tan</p> <p>With support from all Forum Board of Directors, Executive Coordinator, IVCO hosts and Forum members</p>
<p><i>Strengthening the capacity of Forum</i></p>	<p>Forum Board of Directors: Michel Chaurette and Nita Kapoor, with support from Executive Coordinator and Finance Contractor, Clair Rowe</p>
<p>IVCO 2013 Working Group</p>	<p>Forum Board of Directors: Barb Hogan, Dante Monferrer, Ben Ngutu, Peter Reicher and Jean Tan</p>
<p>IVCO 2014 Working Group</p>	<p>Chair: Ben Ngutu, VSO Jitolee (Forum member), Forum Board of Directors: Michel Chaurette, Barb Hogan, Dante Monferrer, Peter Reicher and Jean Tan</p>

## APPENDIX TWO

### Auditor's Report



KEVIN O'DEA  
AND COMPANY

"We help you make  
your business  
more successful."

Services provided to  
you and your business  
include:

- Taxation
- Accounting
- Company
- Business Support
- Financial Services
- Superannuation

Postal Address:  
P.O. Box 307  
Mentone Vic 3194

Business Address:  
14 Balcombe Road  
Mentone Vic 3194

Telephone:  
(03) 9584 4088  
1300 308 382

Fax:  
(03) 9583 7615

Email:  
tax@taxworld.com.au

Web:  
www.taxworld.com.au

A.C.N. 007 414 158

A.B.N. 68 007 413 158

TAXWORLD  
AUSTRALIA PTY LTD  
•Business Advisors •Tax Accountants •Tax Agents

DIRECTOR: KEVIN O'DEA  
F.C.A. C.T.A. M. TAX (Monash) Exec Cert BA (Swinburne)

"Private & Confidential"

FILE COPY

#### Independent Examiner's Report to the Board of the International Forum for Volunteering in Development

I report on the accounts of the International Forum for Volunteering in Development (the organisation) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 which are set out on the attached spreadsheet.

#### Respective responsibilities of Board Members and examiner

As the board of the organisation you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required. It is My responsibility to state whether particular matters have come to my attention. In carrying out this task I have considered it appropriate to adopt the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the UK Charity Commissioners under Section 43 (7) (b) of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006. (These procedures have been adopted in previous audits) and more recently the Canada Not-for-Profit corporations Act S.C. 2009. C23.

#### Basic of independent examiner's report

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the organisation and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Secretariat Co-ordinator concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Liability Limited By a Scheme Approved Under Professional Standards Legislation

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect
  - reasonable accounting records have not been kept, and
  - accounts that accord with the accounting records have not been produced.
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**KEVIN O'DEA – M. Tax (Monash)**  
Chartered Accountant  
Chartered Tax Advisor  
Registered Company Auditor

Forum's financial statements for the year ended  
31st December 2013 are attached.



*A global movement of volunteers working for a just world.*