Report on FORUM activities in 2005
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This report covers the period from January to December 2005, in line with the annual accounts. During this period there has been one meeting of FORUM members at IVCO 2005 in Tokyo, at which Tor Elden (FK Norway) was re-elected to the Executive.

Membership

The membership of FORUM now amounts to 14 members, with VSA (New Zealand) and HVSF (Hungary) joining in 2005.

Activities

During the course of the year, FORUM has undertaken the following activities:

♦ Member links and network promotion

In 2005, we removed the password-protected members’ area of the website, thus enabling organisations and individuals to access resources more easily. A leaflet which explains the work of FORUM was produced and circulated to members. Further copies are available on request and it is also available as a PDF.

Links between Executive members in the context of FORUM continue to develop with current and potential members, but once again successes have been mixed with the sense that more could be done. We have been encouraged by the participation of IVCOs that are not FORUM members at our conference and hope that this will result in new members in due course.

♦ European Workshop

In September 2005, a range of NGOs, governmental and para-statal bodies met in London for 2 days. This was the first European conference organised by FORUM for over 5 years. A separate report covers the key issues and main discussions.

♦ IVCO 2005

IVCO 2005 was held in Japan from 25 to 27 October and was hosted by JOCV-JICA at their headquarters in Tokyo. The conference focused on “Making a Difference in the World” with sessions on the international context of our work, competition & collaboration and demonstrating impact. Its proceedings are covered by a separate report. The conference was a great success and delegates were invited to attend JOCV’s 40th anniversary ceremony on 29th October.
♦ **External links**

During the year, FORUM maintained its membership of CONCORD, the European NGO network. CONCORD provided financial support for the European Conference and continues to be interested in FORUM taking a role in engaging with EU human resources policy issues.

In December 2005, AKLHÜ held a trade fair on international volunteering in Bonn. FORUM produced an audio-visual presentation on international volunteering and the Millennium Development Goals for this event.

♦ **Research**

Again we conducted the regular trends survey. This was undertaken on our behalf by Development Initiatives and presented to the IVCO 2005 conference by Karen Takacs. The Impact Assessment Research project commenced in 2005, co-ordinated by UN Volunteers with 5 other FORUM members on the Steering Group. FORUM also launched a research fund in 2005 and is grateful to both FK Norway and Unité for their contributions.

Resources

♦ Income is better than budget, mainly due to contributions to the newly-established research fund.
♦ Expenditure is €4,000 greater than budget, mainly due to the higher than budgeted research costs, covered by the research fund.
♦ Expenditure on member events was higher than budgeted but this was offset by income from conference fees and specific grants received from CONCORD and AKLHÜ.
♦ At year end, the surplus of €10,763 is very close to the unused research fund income which remains a designated reserve.

2006

In the year ahead we will take forward the vision for FORUM agreed by members at IVCO 2005 including:

♦ Support IVCO 2006, hosted by UN Volunteers in Bonn, 4-6 October.
♦ Support a European-level workshop for IVCOs and develop FORUM’s work in relation to the EU through our membership of CONCORD.
♦ Sustain and expand membership support.
♦ Implement an agreed research programme.
♦ Review our constitutional arrangements.

Cliff Allum
President
March 2006