



ICVNews Flash / February 2009

Happening this Month...

Bamako's World Forum on Multilingualism
Cyber Workshop at the Lift09 Conference
Interpreting in Cape Town
Community Interpreters Training started in Geneva
Awards & Special Thanks
Up-coming projects

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

Bamako's World Forum on Multilingualism

Bamako's World Forum on Multilingualism was held in Mali from 19 to 21 January 2009. The Forum involved Maaya (World Network for Linguistic Diversity), under the auspices of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), UNESCO, OIF, *Union Latine* and other International Institutions representing different geo-linguistic areas of the world. The aim was to promote exchanges and dialogue between various stakeholders, in order to enhance multilingualism and linguistic diversity as vectors of democracy, human rights, rule of law and peace. The Forum was also an opportunity to evaluate the outcome and achievements of the International Year of Languages and was the first step towards a 2011 World Summit on Multilingualism. ICVolunteers had the opportunity to present its community interpreter language and migration project.

More: www.maayajo.org

CYBERVOLUNTEERING

Cyber Workshop at the Lift09 Conference

ICVolunteers is organising a two-hour workshop on 25 February 2009, at 4 p.m., in the context of the LIFT09 conference, which will take place in Geneva (25 to 27 February, CICG). The Workshop will provide a space to discuss the latest trends in cyber-volunteering and how they can help in tackling many of our common global challenges. ICVolunteers will show some examples of past and future projects based on volunteer computing and collective thinking, i.e. voluntary supply of information over the Internet. Among the workshop speakers will be Viola Krebs (ICVolunteers, Executive Director), Yoshiko Kurisaki (ICVolunteers, CyberVolunteers Programme), Chew Yew Choong (LOP, Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan), Donna Stoering (passportM, USA), Christian Pellegrini (University of Geneva), Nicolas Maire (Swiss Tropical Institute), Ben Segal (CERN).

More: <http://liftconference.com/cyber-volunteers-world-unite>

ICV-SOUTH AFRICA

Interpreting in Cape Town

Chantel Daniels, of the ICV Desk in South Africa, recently helped the New Field Foundation, based in San Francisco, in recruiting, training and coordinating a group of eight English-French interpreters. They interpreted for the Association for Women's Rights in Development Forum, which took place 14 to 17 November 2008 in Cape Town. "The interpreters, selected, assisted and previously trained by me and Serge Mukotha (also from the ICV Desk), were mostly university students from Gabon", explains Chantel. "They were requested to provide interpretation services and communication support to visiting delegates from several French-speaking West African countries during the conference as well as during breakout sessions held the day before and the day after the main event".

More: www.newfieldfound.org, www.awid.org and www.volcent.co.za

LANGUAGE AND MIGRATION PROJECT

Community Interpreters Training completed in Geneva

In January 2009, a four-day training for community interpreters was organised in Geneva, in the context of the Swiss-led Languages and Migration project. The training consisted of a series of lectures given by representatives from HUG (Geneva University Hospitals), GAPP (*Groupement Genevois des Associations de Parents d'Elèves du Primaire*), Sociolution. A module on triangle communication by Appartenances will complete the training. It included the following topics: the role of community interpreters, the rules of intercultural communications, the Swiss primary school system and. About ten interpreters completed the training. They are going to form a list of volunteers available for accompanying non-French speaking families living in Geneva in various daily tasks, in particular related to the school system. For more info do not hesitate to visit our web site or call our offices at + 41 (0) 22 800 14 36.

More: www.sociolution.ch, www.gapp.ch, www.appartenances.ch, www.hug-ge.ch

AWARDS & SPECIAL THANKS

Aleksandra Imielinska, from Poland, is our Volunteer of the Month. After having volunteered during the World Cancer Congress (Geneva, 27 to 31 August 2008) and after a one-month internship at the World Microfinance Forum Geneva, Aleksandra is now an essential part of ICV's team where she mainly works as Conference Manager and Researcher. Since last November, she recruited and coordinated volunteers for the 6th Conference of the European Charter for Human Rights in the City (Geneva, 8 to 9 December 2008) and the last Earth Focus Foundation debate, which addressed the theme "What was the impact of the Beijing 2008 Olympics on Human Rights?" (Geneva, 10th December 2008). She also carried out some specific research on life-costs in African countries and on ICV volunteers database.

Special thanks go also to **Stephanie Garde**, from France, who spent the last three months in our offices in Ferney-Voltaire helping our French team with fund raising, project management, recruitment and logistics. She is leaving us at the beginning of March for an internship at ILO.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Up-coming projects

How information about human rights can be communicated more effectively by NGOs? If you are interested in this question and topic, you might wish to volunteer during the HURIDOCs Conference on **Human Rights Council and International Criminal Court: The New Challenges for Human Rights Communications** (25 to 27 February 2009, Geneva, Switzerland). ICVolunteers is looking for interpreters (English, French, and Spanish language combinations) and service volunteers to assist with room supervision, exhibition stands as well as the registration and info desk.

More: www.huridocs.org

LIFT09 is a unique volunteering opportunity for those of you who are interested in new technologies and its impact on society. For this event, which will take place from 25 to 27 February 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland, we are seeking five volunteers for the following tasks: registration desk host/ess; info desk/shop officer; art installation operator to supervise interactive art installations.

More: www.liftconference.com

We are also looking for seven volunteers for the **Swiss Philanthropy Forum**, which will take place in Zurich, Switzerland, on 5 March 2009. The Forum will broadly address the theme: "Philanthropy and Innovation". In particular, we are looking for four logistics and registrations officers, one photographer and two reporters, German-speaking.

More: www.stiftungszentrum.ch

Edited by Irene Amodei and Margaret Flez

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