

Asian Voices

An initiative by Asian Development Committee
Volume 16, December 2022

Editors :
Wilbert, Youna



Dear readers,

After a long time there is an issue of Asian Voices again. A new issue in the New Now, after the pandemic and more than ever the awakening awareness of an ecological crisis.

Yes, at several levels we wake up, but we also continue our work. In this issue reports of workcamps and other activities, as well as interviews with experienced activists in the Asia-Pacific region.

We, as editorial team enjoyed very much working on the Asian Voices. As it goes along the way, we write this editorial just before (or after!) the latest deadline, but we finally present you an Asian Voices which we can be proud of.

If you have interest in helping out for the next issue , you are most welcome! Please send comments, letters, photos, illustrations, puzzles, the weather forecast to the following address :
wilvogel53@gmail.com

Amities

The editorial team,
Youna (also lay-out) and Wilbert



1. Editorial

2. LTV's experience in SCI Sri Lanka

by Youna Nédélec, SCI Sri Lanka

4. First Summer Workcamp for a long time in Sri Lanka

by Youna Nédélec, SCI Sri Lanka

6. A consistent move to make a village plastic waste free

by Tapas, SCI India West Bengal Group

8. Raising Peace : the success-formula

by Rita Warleigh and Wilbert Helsloot

10. How is a workcamp with SCI Sri Lanka ?

by Youna Nédélec, SCI Sri Lanka

12. Gift of love Charity Peace Dinner

by Athimulam Arjunan, SCI Penang Malaysia

13. The spotlight on ... SCI Japan

by Wilbert Helsloot

15. Human Library

by Pat Huang, SCI Hong-Kong

16. News from SCI Nepal & End Note

LTV's experience in SCI Sri Lanka

by Youna Nédélec, SCI Sri Lanka



What did you do before coming to Sri Lanka ?

Cléa : I was in my final year of study for a master degree in geography and human sciences in land management and local development, and this volunteering was also an internship to obtain my diploma last July.

Youna : I was working for a year as a mix of a social worker and a digital tools teacher with a local organization, so I was helping people to do administrative work online and teaching them how to use their computers or smartphones for example.

Why did you want to become a volunteer ?

Cléa : Since many years I was interested to work for the international solidarity and NGOs, and I really wanted to have an experience abroad, far from all that I know.

Youna : Actually since I was a child I have been a volunteer. I have always helped in local events in my area and I also volunteered abroad 5 years ago so I kind of missed it.

Why Sri Lanka ?

Youna : I was at a point in my life where I wanted to see more than Europe and challenge myself. Then I saw the offer of volunteering for SCI Sri Lanka and I thought it was a good opportunity to

discover a really different culture.

Cléa : For me I wanted to go abroad for my internship. At first I wanted to go in Asia in general and then saw the offer on the website in Sri Lanka and I said "I was ok, why not!"

What were your fears before starting your volunteer experience ?

Youna : My biggest fear was not to be able to adapt to the local culture. I had some trouble on the way, understanding their way of doing things but eventually, everything went well !

Cléa : For me at first nothing I was only just excited to start a new experience but then I was like ok maybe I am afraid to understand nothing in English !

What are your tasks in this volunteering ?

Cléa : My main task in SCI Sri Lanka was to help to organize some international workcamps and also to share the information with local and international volunteers and manage their arrival and everything about the workcamp. Also I was kind of a mediator between the international secretary and SCI Sri Lanka. I also support in different administrative tasks and then we both support SCI Sri Lanka in all local trainings and programs.

Youna : For me, one of my main tasks was to be the ADC (Asian Development Committee) support. This is a group that gathers some people from all the SCI Asian branches. So I was sharing with them important information from the IS and helping them organizing meetings and taking the minutes. My second main task was about communication about all the activities of SCI Sri Lanka on social media and writing articles and newsletters.

What are you missing the most from home ?

Youna : So what I missed the most from home was my family and my friends but most of all I missed my washing machine!

Cléa : Oh yes washing machine ! Washing machine and hot water !

Youna : Yes that's true !

Cléa : No also for me it was also my family definitely and I confess French food also.

What was your best moment in a workcamp this year ?

Youna : For me the best moment in a workcamp was when all the volunteers gathered at night around the campfire to sing all together.

Cléa : Nice ! And for me definitely what I preferred was to spend my time with children, exchange with them look their smile, their love, and sometimes it's really exhausting yes I confess !

What programs did you have this year in your organization ?

Youna : So this year in SCI Sri Lanka we conducted three international workcamps focused on environment and education. We also had local trainings with the link language program where we were teaching the three spoken languages in Sri Lanka which are Tamil, Sinhala and English. We also had two trainings, one upcycling training and one capacity building training. We also organized 5 food distributions thanks to some money sent by SCI India. And finally we had some online events, so for the international day of peace, and we also conducted online French classes together with Cléa. And in the end, from our own initiative, we decided also to go teaching in an international school. So we taught English, French and we also had a course about First Aid.

How can we volunteer with SCI ?

Cléa : So, there are two types of volunteering in SCI. The first one is the short-term volunteering, it is when you participate in different workcamps

(about 10-15 days) and it is organized everywhere in the world by different branches of SCI or our partners, you can find the link below (see video). And you can also do LTV, it is long-term volunteering, just like us. Many branches ask for long term volunteers, you can find also a database on the website of SCI and if you have any question you can also ask your sending organization.

What did you gain from this experience ?

Youna : So, from this experience I gained a lot of adaptability, so the capacity to adapt to a different culture, but also a different way to work, to communicate, or to plan. But most of all I gained a lot of beautiful memories.

Cléa : For me, actually I just realized one of my dream so I am really proud because for many years I do everything to have this kind of experience abroad and finally I got it ! So I am happy for this! And I think this experience allowed me to gain a lot of things like autonomy, adaptability also for sure and patience, confidence in myself for sure and friends and a lot of memories too.

What will you miss from Sri Lanka ?

Cléa : Definitely the temperature because when we will be back in France with 5 degrees it will be a shock I think! No more seriously the friends that I met here, I'll remember them for the rest of my life for sure!

Youna : And for me I think I will miss a lot the landscapes because here it's green everywhere, you can see flowers anytime of the year. And I will also miss a lot the smiling people because here no matter what, no matter the political and economical crisis they are going through, the people keep smiling and that is pretty amazing.

What will you do when you are back ?

Cléa : So when I'll be back, let's go back to my own activities and enjoy my family a lot a lot a lot. And obviously find a job.

Youna : Yeah, it is pretty much the same for me but I also wish to go back studying next September to learn more about project management in social field, and I also want to keep traveling because I became an addict I think.

Cléa : Okay, so it was the last question for the video. Thank you so much for listening, goodbye everyone and ...

Both : Happy Volunteering Day !

First Summer Workcamp for a long time in Sri Lanka

by Youna Nédélec, SCI Sri Lanka



SCI Sri Lanka is happy to inform you that after three years, we were able to hold a 10-days summer workcamp in Kudagama village close to Anurahapura, from the 14th until the 24th of July! We organized it together with a host organization : the Inspire Village.

Kudagama fishing village is located on the banks of one of the biggest tanks (reservoir) in Sri Lanka. In this village there are about 20 families living in very small houses and their main livelihood is to catch fish to sell. Until recently toilet facilities, running water and electricity were not adequately provided. The main issue the village faces is that other people look down on them as they are fishermen and education for children has been challenging. That's why we decided to focus this workcamp on educational activities for the children and the youth of the village in order to teach them English and motivate them to attend school everyday. The purpose of having volunteers is to bring much needed outside recognition and acceptance to the village community.

The first days of the workcamp were dedicated to the preparation of the campsite and the teaching program. Some people gathered tools, collected coconuts or went shopping. Then we went to the campsite, celebrating the journey by singing many songs. We started to clean the garden which was full of grass and bushes. We also cleaned the community center hall and small house nearby. When we came back to the Inspire Village we were happy to wish Imashi a happy birthday, especially when she offered us cake and chocolate ice-cream !

The next days, we planned the English teaching program with the youth volunteers from the Inspire Village which is a group of 9 teenagers from 17 to 19 years old. We were divided into 5 small groups and discussed what we were going to teach according to the class levels. We were also really lucky to participate in the bonfire and Inspire kids' soap auction and the Human Library program which were both really interesting experiences.

The trip in the cab to the campsite was a bit uncomfortable for all the volunteers because we were all piled up together with the baggage, mattresses and tools. Petrol is really expensive here so we have to optimize the transportation costs.

After four days of preparation and getting to know each other, we were finally ready to start our work with the local community. For five days we almost had the same schedule. We were cleaning the school premises, the garden or cooking for lunch. This part always took some time because we had to cook with firewood for a lot of people. Two carpenters also joined to make some renovations by building up a roof. In the afternoon we were teaching English to the students. We introduced many games to them to make the teaching more enthusiastic and interesting. There were 3 special needs children in grade 6 so one of the volunteers, Nuwan, taught them sign language. We realized that they enjoyed our way of teaching a lot because day by day more students were joining. We too felt so happy teaching them and we also learned something when the school girls taught us how to perform Sri Lankan dance !

The Inspire village also has a group of kids that took part in some of the work as young volunteers. Indeed they came to the school one day with their own material and painted a nice fresco on one of the buildings.



Since the people from this community are quite poor, we decided to serve some snacks to the children coming to the school such as chickpeas, manioca or bread and sambol. We were able to afford this thanks to the SCI India (Karnataka group) relief fund they kindly sent us during these times of crisis.

On the last day, we were invited to visit the children's house on the way to our accommodation. They seemed very happy to introduce us to their parents and elders and they kindly offered us snacks and soft drinks. According to us, this moment was really important to show to these people that we are equal and we don't let them apart.

That night we had a nice dinner prepared by the Inspire Youth and we sang songs around cooking hearth until midnight.

Finally, on our last day, we had our evaluation in the morning. Everyone spent a great workcamp and the Inspire Youth were really happy about their first experience as volunteers. In the evening, everyone went to visit Anuradhapura sacred places by tractor and bicycles. It was a very interesting excursion and we had a lot of fun.

During the evaluation, someone mentioned that some parents requested us to teach more English to their kids, so the Inspire Youth decided to go back to Kudagama school and teach the students for another two weeks in August. SCI's work still goes on !

A consistent move to make a village plastic waste free

by Tapas, SCI India West Bengal Group



The tragedy of today is what we see as development now, after sometime it becomes a threat to our survival. Making big dams, introducing use of plastic, genetically modified food stuff etc are all bringing treats to us. So we decided to create awareness on the environment, planting trees and basically focus on usage of plastic.

The plastic, largely a by-product of petroleum which immensely supports our daily life, also brings an enormous threat to our survival. From the marine life in the oceans to the soil of the earth and the air are very badly affected by plastic waste. But we cannot avoid using it totally, hence we have to learn how to live with it. Yes, that is why we decided to focus on the use of plastic and also planted trees for a healthy environment in our short term camp.



Meeting with new members and local youth

By the end of July (26th. July to 2nd. July '22) we had a short term camp at Raidighi 24 Paraganas South, West Bengal, about 100 kilometer away from Kolkata. In this camp 8 local volunteers from the village, 3 SCI volunteers from West Bengal State Group and 2 volunteers from Mumbai joined the camp. We planted 600 saplings of Sonajhuri tree, distributed 50 mud apple fruit trees among poor families, organized an awareness meeting with the villagers and distributed 65 sacks to the local families to gather plastic waste from each family. We assured the families that we will collect the plastics once in two months.

The camp inspired the local youths. About 12 of them formed a local SCI unit. They decided to generate massive awareness regarding land and other pollution created by plastic waste consistently. They also decide to make the village plastic free. After two months they collected the wastes from 60 families. About 10 sacks of plastics were collected in the month of October. Had we not collected it would go into the agricultural land. Seeing this outcome the new SCI unit members became more enthusiastic.



Subsequently they had a meeting with the Gram Panchayet (local Govt.) Head and the Block Development officer (BDO). Both the authorities listened to them with due importance and felt the necessity and urgency to introduce some scheme to collect regular solid waste. They wanted advice from the authorities that where and how could they keep the plastic they gathered from the village in two months? The authorities started to think over it. They assured to extend their cooperation. The village Panchayet agreed to allow them to organize a seminar at Panchayet hall where all the elected Panchayet members will remain present.



Meeting with Pradhan

They have decided to hold it in December. They also had a meeting with a joint BDO who have agreed to give us 12 drams to install in Raidighi Park. They will also do it in December jointly with the college students. Three of our volunteers participated in the Short Term Camp organized by Maharashtra state group in Kudal which they enjoyed very much.

These activities gave SCI much expected visibility and helped to promote voluntarism. Thus we were able to organize activities in tune with the objectives of SCI and these really made us happy.



Meeting with joint BDO

Raising Peace : the success-formula

by Rita Warleigh (and Wilbert Helsloot on behalf of Asian Voices)

Some of us attended online sessions and workshops. Most of us have heard of it, even year after year. Raising Peace is a remarkable event, initiated by IVP Australia, but with alliances of other peace-organisations in Down Under. Rita Warleigh, who had the initial idea, explains in an interview with Asian Voices the success-formula.



“With the approach of 100 years of SCI, IVP saw an opportunity to bring our vision and our way of working towards peace to the attention of other groups working for peace in Australia. I had the idea of having a weekend Peace Festival, where peace groups could have displays and talks, learn about each other, get inspiration and form new alliances. Raising Peace was chosen as the title of the event, as we had the aim of raising the profile of peace, peace activism and the long history of peace organisations in Australia.

It took a few years to gain momentum and interest and then in 2020 we could not hold the physical event due to the pandemic. Instead a small gathering took place, a reunion of IVP activists, with just three or four other groups involved and some high profile speakers, and a decision to hold the larger event in September 2021, centred around the International Day of Peace. By 2021 plans had expanded to cover two weeks and had 30 peace groups signed up. However the pandemic again interfered and we made a last minute decision to hold the event online, which none of us knew how to do.

A flurry of activity brought some young tech savvy people on board who managed all the technical aspects.

Moving to online also allowed us to invite speakers from further afield, including the Ambassador for Costa Rica as our keynote speaker. The 2021 Raising Peace Festival was a huge success with 37 events over 11 days, involving 35 organisations, 120 speakers, and over 1000 attendees from all regions of the globe, including some from SCI and NVDA. All sessions were recorded and are available on our website raisingpeace.org.au. The short film IVP produced for the Raising Peace Festival is a lasting legacy that we can use for publicity.”





Young people

"The energy and interest raised by this event was fantastic and the main organising groups wanted to keep the momentum going. People stepped forward to take on various roles with collaboration remaining informal. We are delighted that more and more young people are joining the group and taking on active roles. IVP is still the hosting body of this non-formal group, as it uses IVP's financial, insurance, and internet services and two IVP activists are centrally involved in the decision making, technical aspects and forward planning. The festivals and all related costs have been financed by several large personal donations and small donations from each of the groups involved. A grant has now been secured to turn the festival recordings in podcasts. Raising Peace remains a SONG (self organising network group).

Raising Peace is one of IVP's most important ongoing projects. It has succeeded in raising our profile in Australia and important links have been established, both within Australia and further afield, particularly in Asia-Pacific and Central America. For instance, Stephen Horn and David Hessey made submissions to the People's Enquiry organised by Independent and Peaceful Australia Network and Stephen represented IVP at the launch at Parliament House on 24th November. Rita Warleigh has been invited to speak at an event hosted by the Ambassador for Costa Rica on 1st Dec, the anniversary of the Abolition of the military 75 years ago."

Peace movement

"The decision to put PEACE at the core of the Raising Peace festival rather than volunteering, contributed enormously to its success. Most of the peace organisations who came onboard are run entirely by volunteers so the volunteer aspect, whether local or international, is present without needing to be elevated. Many people involved in the peace movement have been involved for their whole long lives, some groups are diminishing in size and in danger of being lost to history, including IVP. On the other hand there are new vibrant groups of young people working for peace and related issues through social media and direct action. Raising Peace is a platform for both and is being hailed as the most important new development in the peace movement in Australia."



How is a Workcamp with Sri Lanka ?

by Youna Nédélec, SCI Sri Lanka



Let me give you some input about my second summer workcamp experience which took place in Akurana District from the 10th to the 16th of August.

On our first day, we arrived at the campsite, which was the Yalugahawela Waste Management Center, and had an inaugural ceremony with some members of the municipal council. We were offered some tea and milk rice. Indeed the tea breaks are very important here. We usually have one in the morning and one in the afternoon. After that we went to our accommodation place and settled for the week.

For three days, we worked in this village. We started by cleaning the road leading to the waste center. At the beginning the villagers were not joining us but by the middle of the day they helped us to finish the cleaning and told us the story of the Garbage Center. This moment was really important because it allowed us to create a connection with these people and understand their point of view better. This local community is marginalized by the rest of Akurana people because they are Tamils from Indian descent brought by the British to pick tea. In the past, they didn't have citizenship so they were not able to take legal actions. By talking with them we realized there were more deeper issues between them and the local authorities. Later on that day we even played volleyball with the village youth.

The Inspire Kids, on their side, started their research going from house to house, about the issues that had arisen after establishing the Garbage Center in the village. Their goal is to make everyone aware of the situation of this village by writing an article about them.

In the next few days we cleaned the garden, made a compost bin, planted seeds but most of all we cleaned, repaired and painted the pre-school building and its premises together with the local community. In the evening, some office bearers of the village societies, parents of the pre-school kids' had gathered there for the meeting. The P.S. President addressed the gathering appreciating our work and promising to develop the village further. We had been able to make a bridge between the people of the village and the local authorities for them to meet each other after a long time. Everyone's happy face was a witness of that story.

All along the week we were served delicious typical Sri lankan food. Here the main dish is the "rice & curry", which is basically plain rice, served with different curries made out of vegetables most of the time and sometimes meat or fish. In the evening we had some fried rice and kottu. It was all very tasty "rasai", but also so spicy "sarai" for me and Cléa ! They love chili so much here but even after 4 months here, we are still not completely used to it.

On the last three days of the camp, we focused more on environment awareness. We had two cleaning walks; one in Akurana town and one in Alawathugoda. We collected garbage on both sides of the road under the sun in the morning. Some people didn't care at all about what we were doing but others came and asked us why we were doing this and some of them even joined us. I hope that on that day we could make people more aware about waste pollution. There is still a lot of work to do since the river is also full of plastic, tins, cans and polythene bags. One of our volunteers was really sad to see that because he remembered that as a child he was able to drink without any risk the water from the river. Nowadays this would be really difficult with all this pollution.

In the afternoon, after this hard work we deserved some fun so we played cricket all together and even had an ice cream! We were also able to visit an organic garden with a lot of various vegetables and fruits. Finally, on the last day, we ran an awareness program in Dippitiya school. The 90 students were divided into three groups and we introduced them in a creative way to the 3R concept: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle concept. Everyone enjoyed the time there and we hope the children will think about this concept in their daily life.



When we are working but also in our free time, we always have fun with our volunteer team. A lot of people really enjoy making jokes, taking funny pictures of each other and posting them into the whatsapp group or teaching us some funny sentences in Sinhalese (one of the languages of Sri Lanka) which makes everyone laugh so much. During this workcamp we also enjoyed a lot the experience sharing and the musical evenings, when we were all together singing on a guitar melody played by Sameera, Caral or Nuwan.

And this workcamp doesn't end here! Indeed, we think it's always better to have a follow up with the communities we helped to make our intervention more meaningful. For this village we have several plans. First of all, the kids who went talking to the villagers will write an article and share it in the media for people to be aware of the history of this village and this waste center. We will also provide the municipal council a report about our observations and thoughts regarding the situation of the village in order for them to understand this community and their wishes better. Finally, we are already planning to have one workcamp a year in this village to keep making people aware of climate change and waste management.



Gift of love Charity Peace Dinner

by Athimulam Arjunan, SCI Penang Malaysia



SCI Penang Celebrates its 50 Year (Golden Jubilee) Celebration on 15 Oct 2022

The Gala Celebration was held at the Penang Golf Club Ballroom. The event was also themed "Gift of Love Charity Peace Dinner". The event was graced by the Penang Deputy Chief Minister, Professor Dr P Ramamasamy, on behalf of the Chief Minister who had another event.

Close to 50 tables were taken up and over 450 attended inspite of heavy rain. Special invitees were our many Partners from the Special Homes, and many of our old members who came from quite a distance. All the attendees were given door gifts and were served sumptuous 8 course Malaysian Chinese Dinner – both vegetarian and non-vegetarian.

We had a very lively evening, with amazing performances by members from several of the Homes displaying their natural talents. We were backed by a Live Performance group, which provided continuous music and songs for the night.

The sporting Guests able and on wheel-chairs also joined in the line dances as they weaved through the ball room during the night.

There were several short and complementary speeches from our VIPs, and we had the usual 50 Yr Birthday Cutting – accompanied by the Cash Cheque (Donation Collected - Our Gifts) to 10 Special Need Schools and Homes in Penang. All of them are also our supporters for our Annual Peace Run and Partners for our Workcamps.

It was a fabulous event. Many thanks to our dedicated Members who worked hard to fund raise the donations through sales of "table" and organising the whole event, and to our donors, sponsors, well-wishers, and our the Penang State Government, State Executive councilors that came. Terimah Kasih.

The event is a wonderful show of our motto - UNITY IN DIVERSITY/ DEEDS NOT WORDS

Submitted: Athimulam Arjunan, President – SCI Penang



The spotlight on...

SCI Japan

by Wilbert Helsloot

Kaneie Toyoda (79) has been a member of SCI Japan for 58 years though... not active for few years in between.

Because of his wisdom and experience, combined with a humble attitude, he certainly forms an enrichment for (Asia-Pacific) SCI meetings.

An interview about the history and the current state of being of SCI Japan.



When and where was your first IVS-project (workcamp, LTV) ?

- My first workcamp was in 1964 in Hokkaido, Japan.
- My LTV was from 1969 Dec. to 1970 April to India.

When was the first time you realized the importance of peace?

- Before I joined SCI. Because we have experienced the world war 2nd and Hiroshima/Nagasaki.

History of SCI Japan

In 1958, a camp was started to build a nursery school in Niiijima, where the missile problem was causing a lot of turmoil at the time. After that, many short-term camps lasting two to three weeks were held in slums, pioneer villages, facilities, etc., and many young men and women from overseas participated. In 1964, SCI Japan was officially recognized as a Japanese branch by the International body(ICM). We send volunteers to camps and also accept volunteers from overseas. In particular, as a member of the Asian region, we organize activities to deepen understanding and solidarity with Asia, exchange information, protect

and establish human rights, improve the status of women in Asia, political and economic relief of refugees, orderly development

- Note: copied partially from leaflet of SCI Japan.

When was the golden period of SCI Japan?

- From 1960's to beginning of 1970's.

And when did SCI Japan fall (half) asleep?

- First dormant period was from late 1970's to 1990's.
- And second one started late 2010's till now.

What has been the relation with NICE Japan throughout the years?

- No communication and contact on both sides

Current state of SCI Japan

- At present, we have 9 committee members including vice president, treasurer, international delegate auditor. We have no president, and I am acting president as vice president.
- We usually call for committee meeting at every two months and about four to 6 members are attending online meetings.



Where are the activities/ where are the activists/ and what is the relation according those two questions? (we don't hear much)

- Most of activist in golden period, who were around 20 years old, get now over 70 years old, and we are not good at reading and writing mails in English.
- New activists are now spending quite busy time due to their work or job and hardly get involved in practical activities.
- Actually most of members are not able to spend their time for initiating new program or activities due to their limited time and/or less interest in international communication because of language barrier
- And the less membership we have, the more we lose motivation. The more we lose our motivation, the less we get membership.
- We still keep some communication with previous projects like Kanazawa Farm, Kosugi Farm, Relief project in Fukushima, Sugino where we organized tri-lateral workcamp. But because of the pandemic, we were not able to organize a physical workcamp which we Japanese love and we are not good at organizing virtual workcamps.

How is the relation with SCI Bangladesh on the Mother and Child Care Shelter project?

- At the moment, our main role for this project is to support financially and/ or providing resource of medical support. We occasionally have online coordination meeting with SCI Bangladesh. When the restriction of Pandemic is eased, we hope to send Japanese volunteers to the workcamps for the project.

What do you hope and/or expect for the future of SCI Japan?

- One of the reasons why we are losing membership or failed to get new membership is that our web site is not functioning at all. This means we are making no advertisement to public. Now we are trying re- upload new website. Then we will be able to advertise SCI and its aims and role to attract new members who are concerned with peace activities. At the same time, I personally worry about the fact that human relation/bond is replaced with virtual relation and losing human contact because too much progress and development of IT/AI technology.

Will you join coming ICM (by proxy?)

- Yes, SCI Bangladesh kindly accepted to proxy vote on behalf of us. We will prepare Proxy letter and inform the IS. Eventually some of us like to attend to virtual ICM as observer(s) only for some session. If possible, I will ask this to IS coordination.

Human Library

by Pat Huang, SCI Hong-Kong

Theme : "The Path to the New Normal"

Date : 10th December 2022

Time : 4:15-6:15pm (Hong Kong Time)

Where : on Zoom



Human Library

Real people. Real Conversations.

1. What is a Human Library?

Human Library is a unique non-formal education method. The idea first started in Denmark as an interactive way to educate people.

The idea is to use people as a book and give the students an opportunity to read the human book by asking questions about a specific topic from each individual.

The Human Library is an innovative method designed to promote dialogues, reduce prejudices and encourage understanding. It enables groups to break stereotypes by challenging the most common prejudices in a positive and humorous manner.

2. How can I be a book?

- Think of an attractive book title to attract readers
- Be prepared to share 12-15 mins

3. How can I be a reader?

- Choose the book title that attracts you
- Please be reminded to respect the book while you are reading

4. How does the human library work via zoom?

- Form students in groups and rotate the books in the breakout rooms
- Book sharing lasts 10-15 mins with 5-min reminder before closing the book sharing section

5. What are some anticipated problems and possible solutions?

- Human books may get thirty/ go missing/ get sleepy (in different time zones)
- Technical issues

6. Zoom Details

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9519918566?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9519918566?pwd=dm9FOGQ3ek01R0Q3bGpvUkFYs0VKQT09)
pwd=dm9FOGQ3ek01R0Q3bGpvUkFYs0VKQT09
Meeting ID: 951 991 8566
Passcode: 123123

If any questions please contact :
pat.huang@scichina.org.hk

Thank you again for joining the human library!

News from SCI Nepal

by *Punya Pasakhal and Raju Bajiko*



SCI Bhaktapur

We organized training in 7 March 2021 occasion of International Women Day "self defense training for women" in remote area, schools, colleges, SME factories, brick factories for their selfdefence and security. On the Festival Time of Dashain and Tihar critical situation of Dengue Disease situation, 15 volunteers of SCI and students of Kwopa College cleaning pond, shrubs area of open grounds and various school areas During the Dengue time in Nepal. SCI Nepal Bhaktapur branch volunteers also worked with SCOUT in associate and support with local authorities for various health awareness programs. Last, but not least, on the occasion of Human Rights National Magna Meet, SCI Nepal in working with Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN), UN agencies, government and like-minded organized conference in Bhaktapur.

The activities of SCI Nepal are carried out by two local groups : Panauti and Bhaktapur. Although no workcamps recently, there were different kind of activities. They have plans to start up in 2023 with international workcamp and local program for youth.

Panauti:

We are still doing cleaning river of Panauti with local women group, we are just supporting them . Besides that, SCI Nepal- Panauti participated in candle lighting rally for peace and celebrate New Year of Newar 1143 (Divali festival).

End Note

Dear Readers,

Hope you all have enjoyed reading the Asian Voices as much as we have enjoyed making it !

We would like to thank you, branches, for the contribution of articles for this issue. We encourage all (also other) branches to continue this work, so it could bring us all together as One with hope to inspire and develop volunteer work in Asia.

Very recently we received breaking new from SCI Bangladesh ! They will organize a regional workcamp in July 2023 and they shared their interest to host the APM 2023 during that time! This would be a great opportunity to start again with regional exchanges.

Dear readers, stay tuned!

The editing team,
Wilbert and Youna