

Call for Presenters

The 16th IAVE Asia Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference

12-15 November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Unlocking the Power of Volunteering

The 16th IAVE Asia Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference seeks challenging and inspiring presenters who will share their rich experiences and knowledge of volunteering efforts. We appreciate and cherish your ideas and passions for volunteering, and strongly encourage you to partake as a presenter. We want people to leave the conference with inspiration that together we can create change to the region and better understanding of quality in volunteering for development, with tools and ideas for working towards quality practice.

Application Deadline	Deadline: 30 July, 2019
Conference Subthemes	Subtheme 1. Make the invisible visible Subtheme 2. Simple but not simpler Subtheme 3. Stronger together Subtheme 4. Flipping SDGs conversation Subtheme 5. Unlocking the lock
Contact	Email : contact@iaveap2019.org

The 16th IAVE Asia Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference will take place on November 12-15, 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand. The event is hosted by International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) in collaboration with Volunteer Spirit Network which is a national platform of volunteering promotion in Thailand. The Conference also holds Youth Forum as a part of conference program, organized by Thammasat University and Why I Why Foundation.

With this year's conference theme '***Unlocking the power of volunteering***', we aim to explore all possibilities of creating an enabling environment of volunteering promotion and finding the keys to enhance recognition of the value that volunteers bring as well as improving accessibility of volunteering opportunities.

In regards to the theme of the event, we recognize that volunteering takes place in several ways and, across all sectors and within a multitude of structures. However, we believe that the underlying values of good practice makes volunteering valuable, sustainable and beneficial for everyone. There are underlying values that need to be in place for volunteering to be valuable, sustainable and beneficial to the volunteer, the organization and to the wider community.

This theme provides an opportunity for IAVE members and the wider volunteering for development sector and beyond to recognize and share good practices from our organizations and agree on ways forward, as organizations and as a sector, to improve the quality and impact of our work.

About Conference Subthemes

1. Make the invisible visible

The hidden power of informal volunteering. Under this subtheme, we would like to recognize and estimate the concealed power of volunteering and also address on many more volunteering activities that are in grassroots level contributing to real change in community. We are encouraging presenters to bring up case studies and researches highlighting the power of community participation and ownership and the change that sustain in the community.

2. Simple but not simpler

This is said to be the quote of Albert Einstein mentioning about his physics theory. In this context, it gives the meaning as one can describe 'Don't overcomplicate your thinking, but don't "under-complicate" it at the expense of being incorrect'. This saying is applied to our work in the way that by being simple, we can encourage more organization and people to volunteer and still being able to ensure that volunteering is responsible and impactful. We would like to invite you to share with us your various inspiring practices when dealing with challenges, how did you overcome it and achieve in getting organisational and people to get on board.

3. Stronger together

Within the field of volunteerism, myriad roles and collaborations occur to penetrate volunteerism. It is undeniable that consistent effort must be remained to develop partnership across sectors. Within this subtheme, let us explore

- Roles of different targets and sectors / collaboration across sectors or targets to promote volunteering. Developing and implementing quality standards in volunteering for development
- Roles of Global-local, Role of youth-, corporate-, national-, international-, -senior, people in community

We would like to invite you to lead and drive a powerful conversation where global and local leadership organizations for volunteering, NGOs, corporations, government, civil society and academia join to help shape the kind of future we want for volunteering and how all sectors can work together to realize that future.

4. Flipping SDGs conversation

Instead of asking ‘what is SDGs?’, let us ask ‘what makes the life of disadvantaged people better?’ Within this subtheme, starting from the ground, we would like to explore how we can encourage and provide accessibility to people from all levels to engage in volunteerism. Also, What does ‘leave no-one behind’ mean for volunteering today? – how is volunteering reaching into the lives of the poorest people.

(* SDGs is UN’s Sustainable Development Goals)

5. Unlocking the lock

We acknowledge that volunteering is a powerful way to create better change to our local and global communities. We also realize that volunteering contributes to our own personal development – building knowledge of the realities of the world, reinforcing our instinct to care and to respond and reminding us of our ability to make a real difference in the lives of others. However, there are challenges to volunteerism. We would like to invite you to explore and discuss on these topics.

- What are the existing challenges or barriers of volunteering, what is holding transformative change back from happening?
- How can we support cultivating national, international networks and partnerships across civil society, private sector and government and unlock the power of volunteering?

Program agenda and format

We propose a mixture of keynotes and plenary sessions to introduce thinking and practice, and smaller spaces for group discussion, where participants can agree on action points.

Participants will have opportunities to engage as speakers, panel members, presenters, and moderators, in addition to Q&As. In keeping with recent IAVEs, we will include interactive small-group discussions as part of plenary sessions.

We will explore possibilities for remote participation, for example through live streaming and online participation. This would help to mobilize and engage people who cannot attend in person. Plenary sessions will include keynotes, presentations and panel discussions. Break-out sessions will take the form of parallel dialogues. The conference will be interactive and inclusive, with time for small group work and Q&A sessions.

Case studies will be presented to stimulate debate, moving into discussions about what these case studies tell us about quality.

There will be ample time for networking and informal conversations.

We propose to provide simultaneous interpretation in English and Thai in all plenaries, and in some breakout sessions if needed.