



*The International Confederation
of the*

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The Members of Council General

Madrid and Paris Secretariats

Wish you

MERRY CHRISTMAS,

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!



2008... year of the youth

If the age of the members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul gives it the strength of experience, SSVP does count on its youth to ensure its future. In that, 2008 has been exemplar.

In June, during the International Vincentian Youth Study Days, around 100 youth from the 5 continents have met in Salamanca to work, learn, think, and answer President General's appeal to world Vincentian youth. These days were the first world youth meeting in the history of SSVP... May there be many more in the future!

After these days, Council General nominated an International Youth Committee with 11 members of all 5 continents, and an International Youth Coordinator: Julien Spiewak. This position had been vacant for several years!

This Committee has held its first work meeting at the Society's international headquarters in Paris from December 13th to 18th. Together, the young people have been attending conferences about twinnings and about the history of the Society with the kind participation of Mr Jacques Longchamp, a French Vincentian who has been working for many years on twinning, and of Mr Charles Mercier, a young historian specialized on the Society.

They've also elaborated the first steps of the reflection and coordination process to organize the work on the young Vincentians of the world, improve their visibility within SSVP and become, as wished by President General, their elder fellow Vincentians' "conscience".





Time for a review...

As 2008 comes to an end, it is time for us to give you a short overview of our international work this year: 16 Councils instituted, 536 Conferences aggregated, 18 national Presidents elected or re-elected, 527,621 Euros of help distributed by the Technical Commission, all that in details:

Aggregations and Institutions...

Africa			America		
Country	Councils	Conferences	Country	Councils	Conferences
South Africa		3	Antigua		1
Cameroon (Fr)	2	46	Argentina		11
Guinea		1	Brazil	1	119
Mali		1	Canada		8
Rep. of Central Africa		41	Colombia		2
Sao Tome & Principe		1	Dominica		1
Zambia			United States	3	31
Total Africa	2	93	Nicaragua		1
Europe			St Kitts & Nevis		1
			Total America	4	175
England and Wales		2	Asia/Oceania		
France		6			
Italy		3	Cambodia		6
Lebanon*		5	India	10	161
Portugal		46	Indonesia		21
Czech Republic		2	Vanuatu		2
			Vietnam		14
Total Europe		64	Tot. Asia/Oceania	10	204
TOTAL 2008	16 Councils		536 Conferences		

* Within the territorial structure of the Confederation, Lebanon is part of the « Europe Centre & Mediterranean »

Presidents elected

Country	Former President	New President	Country	Former President	New President
South Africa	Mme June REHMAN		Haiti	M. Lesly ELISMÉ	
Angola		M. F. AGOSTINHO	Jordan	M. Samir MOUASHER	
Australia	M. J. MEAHAN	M. S. TUTTON	Malta	M. G. SPITERI	M. J. ATTARD
Belgium	M. W. de RENESSE	M. L. EVEN	Uganda	M. A. KIWANUKA	M. J. KIMERA
Burkina Faso	M. M. OUEDRAOGO	M. G. IGO	St Vincent / Grenadines	M. G. BAILEY	M. B. BROWMAN
Burundi	M. A. SINDAYIGAYA	M. D. BIGERE	Slovenia	-	Mlle Andreja LIČEN
Cameroon (Engl)	M. S. DIKUBA	M. S. CHING TIM	Thailand	M. Peter SURAPHOL SENAVININ	
Korea	M. D. EUN-HWA JUNG	M. J. JEONG HAE JEONG	Vanuatu	M. J. TARIODO	M. R. HOKE
Costa Rica	M. Angel SOLORZANO JIMENEZ		6 Presidents re-elected		12 new Presidents
Croacia	Mme Katica NOŽINA-BALIĆ				

Note: this list only includes the Presidents whose election has been validated by June 2008 Permanent Section meeting, as planned by the international Ruel and Status.





Help distributed by the Technical Commission...

Disasters			
Country	Disaster	Description	Amount €
Several Asian countries*	Natural Disaster	Emergency help	5 000
		Houses reconstruction and rehabilitation	49 000
		Medical help, distribution of food and school material	37 016
	Natural disaster	Emergency help	5 000
	Natural disaster	Emergency help	6 807
Burkina Faso	Floods	Distribution of reconstruction material	18 300
Brazil	Torrential rains	Emergency assistance	5 000
Burundi	Floods	Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of houses	24 450
Central African Rep	War	Distribution of emergency items	2 000
Cuba	Noel Trop. storm	Emergency assistance	2 035
Dominica	Hurricanes	Emergency relief	5 117
Dominican Republic	Noel Trop. storm	Distribution of 1st necessity items	16 000
DR Congo	Earthquake in Kivu	Distribution of blankets, kitchen utensils, tarpaulins, flour, water	14 000
		Phase 2	9 548
	War in Bas-Congo	House rehabilitation, distribution of food, utensils, material...	8 227
Ghana	Floods	Agricultural help for farmers to get back to work	20 000
Haiti	Hurricanes	Emergency assistance	6 813
India	Tsunami 2004	Scholarships (year 3)	22 600
Indonesia	Torrential rains	Rehabilitation	30 000
Kenya	War	Assistance to refugees	5 000
Madagascar	Cyclone Yvan	Distribution of food, and reconstruction	2 597
Malawi	Floods	Emergency relief	1 373
Mozambique	Floods	Emergency relief	1 378
		Emergency assistance	10 902
Uganda	Kenya Refugees	Distribution of Salt, food, blankets and agriculture tools	11 960
			8 748
Zambia	Floods	Assistance to the Chisemba farm	3 000
Zimbabwe	Floods	Emergency	1 373
		Distribution of food, soap, mosquito nets, clothes	27 000
			50 000
Total			431 149

Projects			
Country		Description	Amount €
Burundi		School help	7 000
Cameroon		Organization of National Youth Camp	4 076
China (Hong Kong)		Help to school rehabilitation	5 000
Congo Brazzaville	African Commission	Professional training in handicraft production for young mothers	10 000
		Extension of the "Ozanam mutual insurance" scheme	3 847
Israel (Jerusalem)		Phase 2 of professional training programme	19 099
Lebanon		Extension of the bread oven project	21 000
Macedonia		Christmas activities	1 500
Peru		Christmas activities	500
Russia		Several Conference activities	14 925
Togo		Mission	650
Ukraine		Holidays for children	6 375
		organisation of SSVP	2 500
Total			96 472
TOTAL OF FUNDS 2008			527 621

Note: for most of the African Commission projects approved in 2007, the funds have been disbursed and projects started in 2008, but these projects are included in our 2007 totals (see Confeder@tioNews nb 11).

* As you know, our activity in some countries needs to be handled with care and discretion





The “Mobility” Project

Among other striking facts during this ending year, 2008 saw the birth of a special activity of Council General aimed at Vincentians aged 50 years and above in Europe. They are a key force in our European member structure in terms of their availability and life experience, and have great energy and potential to take over even more responsibilities than they already do.



Thanks to a grant of the European Union, the International Council General has been enabled to start setting up an intra-European exchange scheme for volunteers of 50 years and over, for formation and exchange of experience. This special activity, that will last until the end of 2010, enables volunteers to go outside their own country in order to learn from other volunteers and gain reference points for their work at home or for new projects. For example if two countries are working on supporting alphabetisation, their work will vary in its details. Learning about these differences has the potential to enhance the work of both partners. Or if one country has a well working project to support those infected with HIV/AIDS, Vincentians from another country might be interested learning how this project is set up in order to start a similar initiative at home. Or two Conferences or Councils twinned with each other might want to take their relationship to a closer level through a face-to-face meeting. The options to learn from each other are without limits!

Three types of journeys are being suggested - the type and length of journey is up to the individual group:

- (1) “Study Trips” of 3 to 5 people, for 3 to 4 days
- (2) “Senior Experts”, 1 or 2 volunteers who go on a longer visit, of 1 to 4 weeks, enabling more in-depth work
- (3) “Short International Visits” of possibly a larger number of volunteers (up to 20) for 1 to 2 days, visiting their international next door neighbours and finding out what is being done elsewhere as an inspiration for the work back home.

As of now, individual volunteers or groups can submit their interest in taking part in an exchange trip. They must contact their National Council or the CGI. They will be asked to fill out a short « application form», describing the reasons for the trip and how they intend to make concrete use of the trip for their volunteering work. In case an exchange partner needs to be found for one or several volunteers interested to learn about a special project but unaware of fellow volunteers working in this field, Council General will try to find a suitable match. Basic travel and subsistence costs can be reimbursed thanks to the EU grant. Exchange-trips can take place as of spring 2009. We look forward to receiving your exchange ideas!



“Mobility” meeting in Paris, November 2008

In June and November, 2008, the Mobility Project has held its first two meetings in Salamanca and Paris; the participants of the different countries in Europe have been able to meet, to know one another, to introduce themselves as well as the significant works of the Society in their countries, setting the basis of the European network that will be developed over the next two years in the European Union.

