

**Center for Social Development
Washington University in St. Louis**

**Second International Roundtable on Volunteerism and Service:
Summary of Work Sessions Sponsored by the
Center for Social Development**

In conjunction with the
Corporation for National and Community Service and the Points of Light Foundation
National Conference on Volunteering and Service
August 3, 2005, Washington, DC Convention Center

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Work Session One: Breakthrough Research Findings on Volunteerism and Service

Moderator

Amanda Moore McBride, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Research Director,
Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis, USA,
moderator

IAVE's Volunteerism Research in Africa

Rose Ekeleme, Ph.D., IAVE-Nigeria, and Liz Burns, President, IAVE

Researching National Service across Africa

Ebenezer Obadare, Ph.D., Research Fellow, London School of Economics, UK
and Nigeria

Youth Service Research in Latin America and the Caribbean

Marta Estarellas, Youth Development Specialist, Inter-American Development
Bank, and Lissa Johnson, Project Director, Center for Social Development

Work Session Two: National Service in Comparative Perspective: Nature, Structure and Impacts

Moderator

Amanda Moore McBride, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Research Director,
Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis, USA

The Rise and Fall of National Service in Nepal and the Impact on Citizenship

Chandra Bhatta, Ph.D. candidate, London School of Economics, UK and Nepal

National Youth Service in Israel: Social Impacts

Nicole Fleischer, MBA, Director, Carmel Institute for Social Studies, Israel

Canadian National Service through Katimavik: Impacts on Youth and Communities

Jean-Guy Bigeau, Director, Katimavik, Canada

Theme 1: Applied Research and Policy and Program Development

Linking research and policy. Speakers and attendees at both work sessions stressed the need for a common language and terminology for volunteerism and service. This was deemed necessary for efficient communication and comparability across policies and programs. Liz Burns, President of IAVE, stressed that embracing the continuum of voluntary action and naming it will promote examination of the patterns of volunteering worldwide, and that this examination can promote responsive policies that leverage the inter-relationships between all forms of voluntary action.

Inclusion. In both sessions, the theme of inclusion was dominant—from inclusion of all stakeholders in research, policy, and program development to inclusive approaches that enable all individuals to volunteer who have an interest to do so. Ebenezer Obadare, Research Fellow at the London School of Economics, noted that a challenge for supporting volunteerism and sustaining programs is involving individuals in the policy process, such that they exercise their rights, influencing the design of the programs. Rose Ekeleme of IAVE in Nigeria discussed obstacles to volunteer participation such as meeting basic needs of the volunteer (e.g., funds for transportation to and from work sites, time freed up from paid labor, etc.). Nicole Fleischer, Director of the Carmel Institute in Israel, discussed a volunteer program where youth with disabilities were the primary volunteers and the results from a pilot study assessing possible effects. The youth reported increased levels of independence and their parents expressed increased levels of pride and perceived status of the youth within the family. These findings suggest the possible benefits of inclusive programming and the need to research and develop policies and programs that build in institutional mechanisms to expand participation.

Sustainability. More research and impact studies were requested to support the creation of new programs and to ensure continued funding for existing programs. The development of partnerships and networks were also discussed as successful ways to leverage resources and share knowledge. Several speakers discussed how they had leveraged funding and were embarking on impact research. Marta Estarellas, Youth Director at the Inter-American Development Bank, and Lissa Johnson, Project Director at the Center for Social Development, discussed ongoing collaborative research in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has provided a background on the forms of voluntary action in the region and examined program expansion from local to international in scope. Jean-Guy Bigeau, Executive Director of Katimavik in Canada, emphasized the need for policies with sustained funding at the national level. Likewise, in her presentation on the social impacts of national youth service in Israel, Nicole Fleischer, stressed the need for research on the community-level impacts of national service. When these effects are demonstrated, perhaps national service will be less swayed to political opinion.

Theme 2: Methodological Challenges in Comparative Research

Definition and scope of volunteerism and civic service. The participants recommended contextual development of a clear definition of volunteerism. Participants acknowledged the differences in voluntary action across nations and cultures, especially among developing economies where informal volunteerism and mutual aid are still most prevalent. What terms and definitions are cross-cultural and cross-national? Which terms are easily translated? Where do programs fit along a continuum and when does volunteerism become service? In one study in Africa, the “volunteers” were not aware that they were performing “volunteerism.” While in Latin America and the Caribbean, the distinction between episodic volunteering and longer-term service remains to be drawn. In Canada, Jean-Guy Bigeau noted that Katimavik has recently re-defined its “service” as “service learning,” giving greater emphasis to the learning aspect of the volunteer’s experience. With the development of more specific parameters to assess volunteerism and service, methods and research questions can be designed to determine the status of the continuum worldwide, from informal volunteering to formal service.

Application of research in different contexts. A topic extensively discussed in both sessions was the methodological challenges in comparative research due to lack of representation and common measures. Several research reports were focused on identifying the current forms of volunteerism in developing countries to promote contextual understanding. Liz Burns and Rose Ekeleme expressed concern that informal volunteering is likely the most prevalent form of volunteerism but it is still under-represented. In the developed world, there is a tendency for researchers to only “count” formal volunteering and a reluctance to include or “count” informal ways of volunteering. If this trend continues, international comparative research will become increasingly difficult as well as elitist. Another important discussion was the “top-down” nature of some practices in volunteering and service – referring to practices that do not link the local context and local knowledge to the design and implementation of policies and programs efforts. Effective practices need to be identified that promote impacts on the volunteers, hosts, and host communities.

Theme 3: The Role of Government in Volunteerism and Service

Discussed at both sessions was the role that government plays in supporting or hindering volunteerism and service. Government has an important role in creating mechanisms that encourage individuals to engage in service. The extent to which government facilitates or hinders engagement in service roles depends on a country’s political, social, and economic context. Ebenezer Obadare examined how political forces have negatively affected the implementation of National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) program in Nigeria, undermining citizenship rights and obligations. Chandra Bhatta, doctoral candidate at the London School of Economics, studied the role of the Nepalese government in national service development. His presentation linked the politicization of service and the challenge that it poses to the notion of “citizenship and nationalism” in the Nepali context.

APPENDIX:
CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLENARY AND WORK SESSION SPEAKERS

Afternoon Plenary, organizer Miriam Parel, Points of Life Foundation

National Service as Development in Africa: Social, Political, and Economic Contexts

Ebenezer Obadare, Ph.D., Research Fellow, London School of Economics, UK and Nigeria

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/who'swho/obadare.htm>

Dr. Ebenezer Obadare is a Ford Foundation International Fellow and Lord Dahrendorf Scholar at the Centre for Civil Society, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, where he received his doctorate in 2005. He was a visiting scholar at the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, New School University, New York (September-December 2004). Between 1995 and 2001, he was a junior faculty member in the department of international relations, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Prior to taking up academic appointment, he was a national award-winning political reporter with TEMPO magazine, modern Nigeria's pioneer guerrilla newspaper, famous for spearheading the resistance to military rule in Nigeria in the early 1990s. Ebenezer has presented papers at international conferences in Europe, North America and Africa on themes such as democracy, civic service, civil society, youth, and citizenship. His articles and reviews have appeared in peer-reviewed journals, including *Africa Development*, *Africa Quarterly*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Nordic Journal of African Studies*, *Voluntas*, and *ISSUE: A Journal of Opinion*. He is the author, most recently, of "In Search of a Public Sphere: the Fundamentalist Challenge to Civil Society in Nigeria," and "Civil Society in West Africa: Between discourse and reality." In 2004, Ebenezer was awarded the Macarthur Foundation's "Research and Writing" Grant for a study of the short- and long-term impacts of transnational resource flow on citizenship in Nigeria. In 2003, through the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis, he was also awarded a small research grant to study the citizenship effects of the Nigerian national service program.

A Continuum of Voluntary Action: Informing Policy, Practice, and Research

Amanda Moore McBride, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Research Director, Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis

<http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/csd/>
<http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/csd/gsi>

Amanda Moore McBride is Assistant Professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and Research Director of the Center for Social Development (CSD), Washington University in St. Louis. Her scholarship focuses on civic engagement and civic service. She researches inclusive definitions and measurement of civic engagement, international service and global citizenship, youth service as youth development, and the relationship between civic service and asset building. Professor McBride is currently co-principal investigator for CSD's research agenda on civic service worldwide. In addition to leading research projects and

convening scholars, she directs a small research grants and fellows program, increasing capacity for civic service research internationally. She was lead editor of a 2004 special issue of *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, entitled “Toward a Global Research Agenda on Civic Service,” and is currently editing a forthcoming book with ME Sharpe, entitled “Civic Service Worldwide: Impacts and Inquiry,” and co-editing a special journal issue of *Voluntary Action*, entitled “International Service in the Context of Globalization.” Professor McBride has also been a member of CSD’s national American Dream Demonstration research team since 1998, through which she assessed the efficacy of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) matched savings programs for individuals of low-income. A recent study examined the civic engagement effects of asset building through IDAs. Through a contract with the Corporation for National and Community Service, she has also examined the role of AmeriCorps*VISTA members in asset building programs throughout the United States. Professor McBride has a range of social work experience, holding such positions as grant writer, program developer and evaluator, and direct service provider with older adults, women, and youth. She is associate editor of the international journal, *Social Development Issues*, and teaches courses on social justice, community development, and program evaluation and research.

Morning Working Session, 11am, *Volunteerism and Service Research in Regional Contexts*

Volunteerism and service is burgeoning worldwide, as is interest in researching their forms and effects. Three research projects will be presented. Presenters will also discuss opportunities and challenges in researching volunteerism and service comparatively, from conceptual and definitional to logistical. Attendees will reflect on how to build a regional research agenda that supports program and policy development.

Brief reports will also be given about another research project assessing volunteerism and service in the Southern African Cone by Rand Afrikaans University and VOSESA (Volunteer and Service Enquiry Southern Africa), the leaders of which could not be in attendance, and about upcoming issues of the serial publication, *Service Enquiry*, which will be dedicated to policy, programs, and research in Latin America and Africa.

<http://www.vosesa.org.za/>

<http://www.service-enquiry.org.za/>

Moderator

Amanda Moore McBride, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Research Director, Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis, USA, moderator

IAVE’s Volunteerism Research in Africa

Rose Ekeleme, Ph.D., IAVE-Nigeria, and Liz Burns, President, IAVE

<http://www.iave.org/>

Dr. Rose Ekleme became a member of IAVE in 1988 when she was introduced to the organisation by Mark Eke, a fellow Nigerian who had attended the World Conference in Washington, DC. At a meeting summoned by Mark, she was elected Chairman and given responsibility of building up the organisation in Nigeria. Due to her effort and enthusiasm, today Nigeria has one of the largest numbers of internationally registered IAVE members. Similarly, the number of associate memberships has grown tremendously. Dr. Ekeleme has been an avid and dedicated volunteer from her youth, when she volunteered as a girl guide and member of the Red Cross to assist the disabled and the less privileged. It is this same interest that prompted her to major in special education for her doctorate degree. She belongs to several philanthropic organisations in Nigeria, especially those catering to the interests of women.

After a long career in volunteering, both as a volunteer and as a professional, Liz Burns was elected President of IAVE in 2001. Her experience as a volunteer includes work abroad in international student work camps, long involvement with parent-run pre-school education, and work as a marriage guidance counsellor. Liz began her professional life as a teacher of modern languages. After a career break when her children were young, Liz started a new career in the NGO sector. In 1983 she was appointed to develop a new organisation, Volunteer Development Scotland, which is the national centre for volunteering in Scotland. Liz has served on a wide range of boards and committees in the NGO and government sectors, including the Joint Working Groups, which produced the first National Strategies for Volunteering in the UK, and the Compact between Government and the Voluntary Sector. Liz is a past President of the European Volunteer Centre. She has also published articles on volunteering in a wide range of journals and conference reports, and has spoken at conferences around the world. Liz retired from her post in VDS in 2001, and in addition to her work as President of IAVE, she is Chair of the Scottish Child Psychotherapy Trust, and has just been appointed as first Chair of a new government advisory body, the Heritage Environment Advisory Council for Scotland.

Researching National Service across Africa

Ebenezer Obadare, Ph.D., London School of Economics, UK and Nigeria

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/who'swho/obadare.htm>

Dr. Ebenezer Obadare is a Ford Foundation International Fellow and Lord Dahrendorf Scholar at the Centre for Civil Society, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, where he received his doctorate in 2005. He was a visiting scholar at the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, New School University, New York (September-December 2004). Between 1995 and 2001, he was a junior faculty member in the department of international relations, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Prior to taking up academic appointment, he was a national award-winning political reporter with TEMPO magazine, modern Nigeria's pioneer guerrilla newspaper, famous for spearheading the resistance to military rule in Nigeria in the early 1990s. Ebenezer has presented papers at international conferences in Europe, North America and Africa on themes such as democracy, civic service, civil society, youth, and citizenship. His articles and reviews have appeared in peer-reviewed journals, including Africa Development, Africa Quarterly, Journal of Modern African Studies, Nordic Journal of African Studies, Voluntas, and ISSUE: A Journal of Opinion. He is the author,

most recently, of “In Search of a Public Sphere: the Fundamental Challenge to Civil Society in Nigeria,” and “Civil society in West Africa: Between discourse and reality.” In 2004, Ebenezer was awarded the Macarthur Foundation’s “Research and Writing” Grant for a study of the short- and long-term impacts of transnational resource flow on citizenship in Nigeria. In 2003, through the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis, he was also awarded a small research grant to study the citizenship effects of the Nigerian national service program.

Youth Service Research in Latin America and the Caribbean

Marta Estarellas, Youth Development Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank, and
Lissa Johnson, Project Director, Center for Social Development

<http://www.iadb.org/exr/mandates/youth/index2.htm>

<http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/csd/gsi/>

Marta Estarellas joined the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in 1998. She works in the Special Programs Section in the Office of External Relations as a Youth and Community Development Specialist for the Youth Development and Outreach Program and the IDB-DC Solidarity Program. As a member of the Youth Program team, Ms. Estarellas provides technical expertise to operational and other departments of the Bank to promote youth leadership and participation as an integral part of the development process in Latin America and the Caribbean. She interfaces with youth, youth-led organizations, youth practitioners, non-governmental organizations, the public and private sectors, and the international community in order to promote best practices, model programs and successful methodologies of youth development and participation. She also serves as the Secretariat of the Inter-American Working Group on Youth Development. In addition, she advocates youth development and participation by representing the Bank at youth summits, forums and conferences locally and abroad, and engages in policy advocacy and formulation. She was the coordinator of the IDB/IIC-New Orleans Youth Summit in March 2000 and the IDB Youth Programs of Activities in Fortaleza, Brazil in March 2002. Prior to joining the IDB, she was Vice President of Press and Communications of the Economic Development Bank for Puerto Rico and account executive for Comstant/Rowland, Inc., a public relations agency in Puerto Rico. Ms. Estarellas received a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration in Puerto Rico and a Masters Degree in Business Administration in Washington, D.C.

Lissa Johnson is a Project Director with the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis. She has expertise in applied social and economic development research, specifically studying asset-building and civic service. For the past seven years, Ms. Johnson has managed the American Dream Policy Demonstration (ADD) research, the first nationwide study of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). She has been responsible for overseeing the completion of eight research methods implemented across 13 program sites. As part of the ADD research, Ms. Johnson led the development of a commercial management information system (MIS) that provides program administration, account management, and data monitoring for organizations implementing IDA programs. In the area of civic service, Ms. Johnson manages a global web-based information network on civic service for the Global Service Institute (GSI) and works on various research projects. She recently completed a background research paper on

youth volunteerism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ms. Johnson has an extensive social work and business background, having also trained youth, counseled families, and developed business computer systems. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, attending one year in Exeter England. She received her Master of Social Work degree from Washington University in St. Louis and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in the state of Missouri.

Afternoon Working Session, 3pm, National Service in Comparative Perspective: Nature, Structure, and Impacts

This session will focus on national service across Nepal, Israel, Canada, and the United States. Brief details will be provided about the nature and structure of these programs. Presenters will discuss research findings on the impacts of national service, given the social, political, and economic context of the countries. Social and civic impacts on the volunteers are discussed as are possibilities for furthering the comparative knowledge base on national service.

Moderator

Amanda Moore McBride, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Research Director, Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis, USA

The Rise and Fall of National Service in Nepal and the Impact on Citizenship

Chandra Bhatta, Ph.D. candidate, London School of Economics, UK and Nepal

<http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/csd/service/bhatta.htm>

Chandra D Bhatta came to the United Kingdom from Nepal on a British Chevening scholarship and is currently a PhD scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His thesis investigates the role of civil society during complex political emergencies. He has expert knowledge on South Asian affairs and is a political analyst in Nepal. He has been a regular contributor to major Nepalis newspapers and has published widely. He has received scholarships from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London School of Economics, University of London and also from the Tribhuvan University in Nepal.

National Youth Service in Israel: Social Impacts

Nicole Fleischer, MBA, Director, Carmel Institute for Social Studies, Israel

<http://www.carmelinstitute.org.il/>

Nicole Fleischer, M.B.A. Director, The Carmel Institute for Social Studies, Nicole Fleischer is presently the director of the Carmel Institute for Social Studies in Zichron Ya'akov, Israel and the co-founder of The Israeli Center for Outstanding Leadership, a new spin-off of the Carmel Institute. Fleischer received her B. Sc. in Life Sciences and a degree in

teaching from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 2003, she earned a Masters degree in Business Administration from the College of Management, the School of Business Administration in Tel Aviv. Since 2001 at the Carmel Institute, she took part in the development of a working model for the World Jewish Peace Corps and conducted feasibility studies in South Africa and India. Several civic service related research projects and papers have been co-authored by Fleischer of which some are still in the process. Presently Fleischer, along with other researchers, is conducting two different evaluation studies about the impact of National Youth Service on male volunteers and on the inclusion of volunteers with special needs in National Youth Service. As part as the activities of the Carmel Institute, Nicole is establishing a think tank on the development of Social Capital related research tools within Israel's multicultural society.

Canadian National Service through Katimavik: Impacts on Youth and Communities

Jean-Guy Bigeau, Director, Katimavik, Canada

<http://www.katimavik.org/>

Jean-Guy D. Bigeau has served in a variety of senior management positions and directed teams of professionals in the fields of education and community development at both regional and national levels. His expertise includes managing large budgets, implementing strategic planning initiatives and running major fundraising campaigns, in addition to contributing to the development of community programs. Bigeau was appointed executive director of Katimavik-OPCAN, a national youth service organization financed by the Department of Canadian Heritage, in 1999. Katimavik is Canada's leading national volunteer service program for youth. It provides young Canadians with the opportunity to participate in a program that fosters their personal and professional development through a combination of volunteer service in the community, leadership-oriented training and group living. From 1994 to 1999, Bigeau served as executive director of the Canadian Crossroads International (CCI). Financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), this international organization recruits Canadian volunteers to serve and foster international cooperation in more than 30 developing countries. From 1992 to 1994, he was the chief executive officer of the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS), a national academic association funded through the Department of Canadian Heritage. The ACS works primarily with universities across Canada and the world developing exchange programs, publications and research projects aimed at promoting Canadian studies at home and abroad. From 1986 to 1992, Bigeau was appointed chief executive officer for Le Carrefour, a regional learning centre in northern Ontario. He was responsible for implementing a series of new and innovative community programming initiatives. He also initiated a comprehensive strategic planning process with the board of directors that included a funding and program diversification strategy.