



International Youth Committee: Conclusion of the Meeting
December 13 - 18, 2008
Paris, France



Meeting Information:

- The International Youth Committee (“IYC”) met at the International General Council in Paris, France for the first IYC meeting in December 13 – 18, 2008.
- Attendees: Alexandra Tuñon (Spain), Elie Khoury (Liban), Hasitha Padmika Mahabaduge (Sri Lanka), Julien Spiewak (France), Melanie Anguay (USA), Milica Gjekic (Macedonia), Patrice Alethia Mitchell (Jamaica), Penny Badwal (Australia), Sarika Sun (Cambodia), Tommy Peter Alimamy Harding (Sierra Leone)
- Members who were unable to attend: Agustín Hernández Saltos (Venezuela), Alice Bakundukize (Burrundi), Danusia Kaska (Australia), Leigh Anne Cipriano (USA)
- During the course of the meeting the following were discussed:
 - Structure of IYC
 - Formation
 - Communication
 - International cooperation
 - Reviewed “Foundation of Bailly & Lallier” document

**Mission Statement:**

The International Youth Committee (“IYC”) will serve and support youth conferences worldwide; act as a link between CGI & national youth delegates; and promote best practices in youth conferences.

Conclusions:

- IYC will revise the youth page on the ozanet website
- IYC will develop a database collecting national youth representatives
- IYC will develop spiritual reflections for the ozanet website
- IYC will develop formation resources to be published on the ozanet website
- IYC will encourage international youth cooperation between Vincentians around the world
- IYC will recommend an international youth meeting every five years
- IYC will request support from the International General Council
- IYC suggests the “Foundation of Bailly & Lallier” be youth-friendly
- IYC has divided responsibilities of committee members by continent

Youth is useful through its boldness, even its foolhardiness, its new ideas, undertakings to which we would not have given a thought.

- Frederic Ozanam



International Youth Committee (“IYC”): Summary of Activities
December 14 – 16, 2008
Paris, France

Present:

Alexandra Tuñon (Spain)
Elie Khoury (Liban)
Hasitha Padmika Mahabaduge (Sri Lanka)
Julien Spiewak (France)
Melanie Anguay (USA)
Milica Gjekic (Macedonia)
Patrice Alethia Mitchell (Jamaica)
Penny Badwal (Australia)
Sarika Sun (Cambodia)
Tommy Peter Alimamy Harding (Sierra Leone)

Absent:

Agustín Hernández Saltos (Venezuela)
Alice Bakundukize (Burrundi)
Danusia Kaska (Australia)
Leigh Anne Cipriano (USA)

Workshop 1: Structure of international youth committee

- Discussion regarding the development of the IYC vision and mission:
 - Develop active and vibrant youth conferences across the world
 - Facilitate global information exchange between youth committees and nations
 - Act as a spring board or catalyst to achieve the global SSVP mission
 - Use youth conferences as a succession plan for continuing the Society
 - To suggest ways that young Vincentians can assist the Society
 - To encourage national councils to work with local youth councils
 - To serve and support youth conferences worldwide
 - To act as a link between CGI and national youth delegates
 - To promote best practices in youth conferences
- Vision/mission statement: The International Youth Committee (“IYC”) will serve and support youth conferences worldwide; act as a link between CGI and national youth delegates; and promote best practices in youth conferences.
- Strategic plan – will not be developed during this workshop, IYC will focus on developing the mission and vision statement. At the end of the meeting, we will develop the strategic plan during the fourth workshop.

Workshop 2: Formation



- Youth have limited access to SSVP information (i.e. who is Frederic Ozanam or St. Vincent de Paul, the international structure, Vincentian spirituality, etc.).
- Formation is understood as:
 - Preparing a person for membership of the organization for the first time
 - Spiritual training with materials, workshops, retreats, etc.
 - The committee has recognized that the availability of training materials in various languages is difficult to develop.
- USA has various formation documents available (i.e. the Rule, Manual, Serving in Hope). USA will provide access to the material via a link to website from ozanet.org.

Workshop 3: Communication

1. Website

- Hasitha has agreed to act as the website coordinator for IYC. He will collect information from regional coordinators, to be reviewed by Julien, for publishing on the website.
- A database of regional contact information, as well as a map of countries indicating regional representatives will be created.
- National coordinators should inform regional coordinators, as well as national council presidents, in order to access IYC resources.
- IYC committee member's responsibilities will be based on location and language.
- IYC should attempt to motivate other young members of SSVP around the world by sharing best practices.
- IYC will formally communicate via email and will informally communicate via Facebook.

2. How to address the issue of countries that have limited internet access

- The IYC members should all have regular access to the internet. Jose Ramon is supportive of assisting us in making this a reality.

3. Develop a database for global youth conferences

- Once we have the details of national youth delegates we will begin to compile a database of youth conferences around the world.

4. Develop international or continental meetings for youth similar to the International Youth Study Days in Salamanca, Spain 2008

- Recommend an international meeting every five years.
- Every country should send one delegate (more than one if the country requests).

5. Coordinating IYC meetings

- It was suggested by some members that we meet face to face late next year.
- There was some concern that the one year term given to the current IYC members could limit us in our actions, however, we will still endeavor to create sustainable long term plans.



Workshop 4: Division of labor for committee members

- A timetable of activities was developed. See document dated December 16, 2008.

Presentation: “Conference about SSVP Twinning” by Jacques Lonchamp

- Jacques Lonchamp gave a presentation about his interpretation and facts of twinning in the Society.
- Twinning solutions developed by IYC:
 - Be organized in the donor country (visit/network in twinning country). Rich countries should attempt to understand how poorer countries operate.
 - Focus on person-to-person contact when developing twinning partners.
 - Twinning is a tool, not a policy. We should address cooperation between countries.
 - Search for professional volunteers to participate in SSVP.
 - Develop short term exchange programs between twinned conferences.
 - Share efficient formation.
 - Further promote the idea of “leader” countries in respective regions. At the moment there are three regions: North America with South and Central America, Europe with Africa, Australia and New Zealand with Asia.
 - Develop relationships between countries as this will encourage reporting between countries.
 - Focus on recruiting volunteers of quality as opposed to quantity.

Presentation: Historic Conference by Charles Mercier

- Charles Mercier spoke about the history of conference development in the Society

Review of document “Foundation of Bailly & Lallier”

- Penny & Patrice will promote this foundation to youth on behalf of IYC
- IYC members suggest the following for the foundation:
 - During Vincentian formation, the hotel should continue to rent rooms at X% capacity to ensure continued funding for the program
 - House an archive or library of Vincentian documents
 - Formation training should be youth-friendly
 - Include a youth track/program