



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

PRESS RELEASE

A NEW GENERATION OF VOLUNTEER AS CHANGEMAKERS IVCO 2023 CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, October 22, 2023 – The Honorable Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang, Minister of National Unity, **officially inaugurated the International Volunteer Co-operation Organisations (IVCO) 2023** at Aloft Hotel Kuala Lumpur today. Hosted by the Ministry of National Unity in collaboration with the Student Volunteers Foundation (Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa - YSS) and the International Forum for Volunteering in Development (Forum), this event is scheduled to run from October 22 to October 26, 2023. The conference **will bring together global leaders, policymakers, volunteers, and organizations from around the world to delve into the theme, "A New Generation of Volunteers as Changemakers."**

IVCO 2023 in Kuala Lumpur **marks the first time in over a decade** that this prestigious event has taken place in Southeast Asia. With Forum's expanding membership that now includes a diverse array of volunteer-involving organizations worldwide, **the conference provides a crucial platform for in-depth and comprehensive discussions.** Its primary focus is on the future of volunteering, bringing together organizations, policymakers, practitioners, and volunteers to explore and establish an enabling environment for the new generation of volunteers to thrive and make a lasting impact.

The conference aims to achieve several key objectives:

- i. Understand the significance of the new generation of volunteers and their role in volunteering for development.
- ii. Explore how to design and implement programs tailored to the needs of the new generation of volunteers while encouraging their active participation.
- iii. Forge a collective approach to effectively collaborate with young people in preparing for and addressing upcoming development challenges.

IVCO 2023 **brings together 178 participants from over 51 countries** with diverse backgrounds, including individuals, corporates, researchers, funders, and local actors involved in international volunteering for development, particularly those engaged with young people. The conference will feature a comprehensive agenda, including keynote speeches, plenary sessions, breakout sessions, booth spaces for organizations to

showcase their programs, collaborative workshops, and ample Q&A time. The primary objective is to promote meaningful discourse, action planning, and the sharing of best practices.

YB Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang stated, “The Ministry of National Unity Malaysia plays a vital role in promoting unity in volunteerism through inclusive initiatives. In the recent Budget 2024 announcement, **an incentive of RM500 will be provided to youths who participate in volunteerism activities with government-recognized bodies.**” He added that **starting in 2024, all volunteers under Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa will be recognized as Unity Ambassadors.**

To adapt to the challenges emerging in volunteering management, The Ministry urges YSS **to establish Volunteering Labs for adapting, creating, experimenting, and testing new volunteering initiatives that effectively respond to humanitarian needs.** YSS also needs **to develop a comprehensive Volunteering map of activities and projects that showcase the humanitarian initiatives, activities, and projects undertaken by volunteers throughout the country.**

IVCO 2023 will **launch the ‘Kuala Lumpur Call to Action’ together with the conference report next year, based on the findings and discussions** throughout the three-day conference. This will set the tone and demonstrate volunteer-involving organizations' commitment to keeping young people at the heart of our work. For more information and to stay updated on IVCO 2023, please visit www.ivco2023.org.

THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

October 22, 2023

The Ministry of National Unity was established on March 10, 2020. The primary function of the Ministry of National Unity is to drive the national unity agenda to ensure the well-being and harmony of the people of Malaysia. There are seven (7) Government Departments/Agencies under KPN, namely: 1. Department of Unity and National Integration (JPNIN), 2. National Archives of Malaysia (ANM), 3. National Library of Malaysia (PNM), 4. Department of Museums Malaysia (JMM), 5. Student Volunteers Foundation (YSS), 6. Tunku Abdul Rahman Foundation (YTAR) and 7. Tun Razak Foundation (YTR).

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ABOUT YSS

Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa (YSS) is an entity owned by government through Ministry of National Unity. YSS was launched in 2012 and committed to promote national integration and unity among Malaysians through volunteerism.

ABOUT FORUM

The International Forum for Volunteering in Development (Forum) is a global network of volunteer-involving organisations committed to international volunteering for development.

ABOUT IVCO

IVCO is an annual conference of Forum bringing together leaders of international volunteering agencies from around the globe in a unique dialogue focusing on the challenges and opportunities currently facing volunteering in development – longstanding, and newly emerging. IVCO allows Forum members to learn, exchange ideas and practice innovation, build supportive peer networks, and participate in shaping sectoral policy and advocacy initiatives.