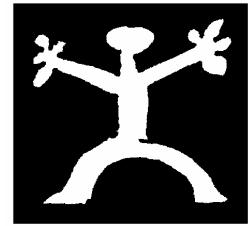


IPP Newsletter



go out. find out. help out.

Volume #2

Issue #1

In this issue

IPP Germany: The story of a project about the Holocaust ...
Go to page 2!

IPP Norway: Some thoughts about IPP after being part of one
Page 3

IPP Brazil: On page 5 you will find more information about the project being held this December.

Coming projects: 2003: Where?, when?, who?...
Find it out on page 6

IPP and Local Work
Page 7

... Some words from the Taskforce
Look for it on page 8

Editorial

International People's Project (IPP) is the newest activity in CISV; it has grown a lot ever since the first idea was thrown on the table... Nine successful projects have been held now! But still, there is a lot to be done: many countries have never sent a delegation to participate in an IPP, and many more haven't hosted one.

In order to promote IPP, the taskforce has developed an IPP Promotion Plan and publishing an infoletter is one its goals. We welcome you to its second edition!

The infoletter is intended to offer a useful tool for promoting IPP and its projects, as well as to maintain people informed on the plans of the taskforce. We want to provide a space for IPP participants, staff and Partner Organizations to express their opinion or experiences on projects, and also to anyone else

who wants to be part of the infoletter.

In this edition you will find information about IPP projects: the ones held this year and the ones coming up. Thiago Tourinho from Brazil tells us about his experience as a participant at the IPP in Germany and Saiko Shimada (Japan) does it for the IPP in Norway. There is also news from the IPP taskforce.

Please feel free to send us comments, questions, recommendations and articles for next edition!

Marifer



The past in the present and the history of history repeating.

When I was first asked to write this article about my IPP, I put a lot of thought on it, to come up with a good text. I didn't know if I was supposed to talk about the practical work I did, the educational content or even talk about the group. After sometime I figured out I couldn't talk about those few separated things. I couldn't talk only about the hard work, I couldn't talk only about the educational part or either couldn't talk just about the group. Because IPP is hard work, with a good educational content made of a great group. In this article I will try to share my memories and experiences with you. I hope I can make it as interesting and pleasant to read as it was to live.

The IPP was held 40 minutes away from the City-State of Hamburg. The theme was "The past in the present and the future of history repeating.". The precamp had already announced one of our major specific themes: the II WW and the Holocaust. That theme for sure scared some of us, because of its cruel aspect and the hardness on dealing with. In the first day of camp we had opportunity to prepare ourselves for it, even though it's hard to get prepared to deal with these issues and to get deeper on its understanding and cruelty.

We did some activities about expectation and feelings towards the Holocaust. That would help us for the second day, when we visited the worksite, a former concentration camp of the II World War called Neuengamme. This former camp is now a Memorial Site, with a museum and 2 State prisons. That day we first entered in the museum that would be our working site in the next 3 weeks. For some of the participants, that was the first time they've ever entered in a holocaust museum.

That same day, we got to know the 3 first projects that we would work on: The digging project, the cleaning\archiving project and the interview project. Those projects had a sense of continuity. I will quickly go back on history to explain it. Before the allies could get in the Neuengamme camp in 1945, the Nazis buried on clay pit a big amount of documents, objects and other materials that were used on the Concentration Camp. If we could find these objects, they would be used in the next exhibition of the museum. So the first project was to dig holes on this former clay pit trying to find those "lost" objects, which we prefer to call as pieces of history. After finding it, we sent those objects to the second

project. The group of the second project had to clean (with those nice archaeological brushes), photograph and archive it. The third project was a need that we had for data, and when it was developed it got other even more interesting aspects. The idea was to interview visitors of the museum

Digging, cleaning, photographing and interviewing. Everyday we would wake up at 8:00 and prepare ourselves to the worksite. The group was always divided a day before on the camp meeting. Everyone was able to choose any of the projects to work on the next day. Even though the work was hard and the theme scary, everyone was full of CISV spirit. It is less hard to work on a 30° degrees temperature for 5 hours a day when you have the CISV spirit. Even though we had a big amount of work, we couldn't stop ourselves from singing, laughing and making stupid jokes about our situation. CISV spirit was present on each and every moment of the day and on every centimeter of the holes we dug. That's one of the wonderful things about IPP. We can take the CISV environment wherever we go, enabling us to go everywhere because we can always find motivation and strength on CISV. That's

not just a personal point of view.

After 3 weeks, we could find a lot of objects such as a razor blade (because the prisoners had to shave their hole body so they couldn't recognize other friends or relatives), a piece of rope (proving that there was children poisoned at that camp, because they were the one who usually did this work) and a navy button (proving that the Navy also helped the SS to guard the Concentration Camps). All objects were cleaned, photographed and archived. The interviewing group interviewed almost 100 visitors. We were able to hear some amazing stories and opinions of people who visited the museum. Even survivors of the camp visited the museum and could do our survey.

We also had 2 great Guest Speaker. One was a survivor of the Holocaust. Her name is Esther Bejerano. She spent a whole morning with us and wasn't enough

to tell all the experiences she had and how she survived to Auschwitz. The second speaker was Christina Boswell, who works in Hamburg in a peace foundation that deals with the Immigration, which was one of our specific themes. Christina could give us a big amount of information, which I think we are still processing on our minds.

I couldn't forget to tell about our trip to Berlin, where we visited the Parliament and most important the Jewish Museum. That museum brought us more information about the Holocaust, which we would discuss later on our educational night. We spent a whole day there, asking question, analyzing facts and discussing the past, the present and the future.

As you can tell, we had a great experience in the IPP. That's why we decided to put all in a magazine. In the last week we created

another project, which was to make a magazine about the IPP experience. That included all our projects, trips and thoughts. The magazine was ready in 5 days to be presented on our open day.

Writing this text was not just a pleasure, but an obligation, that we as IPPers owe to the society. Differently from other programs, the IPP is endless, because of its impact, its philosophy and the learning to get in the society as a leader and make a difference. The IPP still remains on the mind of each and every one of us who went to this IPP. Not just as the remembrance of friends and moments, but a constant concern to be aware and to know that you can, and you should do something for your community and your society. If not us, who will make a difference?

Thiago Tourinho (Brazil)

IPP Norway: Verden i Bergen

When I first heard of activity called International People's Project few years ago, I did not like the project. Lots of questions came into my mind that troubled me. I was skeptic about the whole project. But now having participated this summer in an IPP program at Bergen, Norway, I have changed my mind. If you were thinking along the same line

as I was, I would like to ask you to take a moment to think "Well, Why not?"

Worries about IPP...few examples...

"How can CISVers be bold enough to start meddling with social issues?"

"There needs to be a lot of expertise and preparation."

"Why are we starting something new rather than participating in their program?"

"Would we really be able to work with responsibility and sensitivity that is required when working with different social issues?"

"Why are we sticking to 'CISV groups'?"

These were the questions that were floating in my mind. On the year the International People's Project became an official activity in C.I.S.V. International, I was still not

convinced with the value of the IPP. I shared the concern with other people that this idea had transformed itself into activity too quickly. The Presentation did not impress me but made me even more worried because I did not see much feedback coming from the people who worked with C.I.S.V.ers. There is always a thin line to watch out for when we are talking about "helping" or "volunteering".

Are we REALLY helping others?

How do we REALLY know if we are doing something good?

Aren't we doing some things for our self satisfaction?

These were the painful questions that my friends and I came across when we were volunteering at our high school few years ago.

So, how did this skeptic individual end up going to IPP?

When it came to participating, it was by chance. I am really truly thankful to Maho from Japan from asking me whether I wanted to apply to IPP as well...if she did not ask the question at the time, I would not have gone. The schedule was really tight. Going to IPP meant that I had to fly to Norway, Bergen on the day after my final exams for my university. There I was thinking at the beginning of this year, I will have a quiet summer, time for myself. However, this was not to be.

The IPP

Arriving in IPP I was really nervous, even nervous

throughout the 2 weeks in one way or another. The IPP in Norway was an inspirational and worthwhile experience; you can see the value of the program from the smiles of the children and the adults. The staffs of the IPP in Norway, Bergen are people I call as pioneers. Every single member was and still is passionately involved with the project. It was great to see such a good team of talented individuals working together. The unique combination of variety resulting from different age, culture, language, living experience, expression and individuals made the project a truly dynamic one.

Well...Why not?

We rarely know whether we can really help others or not, but that can not and should not be a barrier to try. Social issues need to be tackled from as many angles as possible. If a drop of water falls onto a stone it has not much impact. But if many water droplets fall onto a stone constantly on the same place, water can cut through a stone as time passes. I think that knowing another smile from another country is much simpler and more intimate way of understanding that the world is small. Our differences and similarities can bring people together. If we want to spread understanding through friendship, we need to provide opportunities for this to happen. International People's Project in this sense is another opportunity builder.

Like a phrase you find whilst you are traveling, "Why not dare to dream?" As many C.I.S.V.ers have said in the past, how can we talk of spreading friendship around the world, if we are not doing that in our daily lives? Small differences make a world of difference. Something ambitious and inspiring project cannot be described neatly in words because these experiences touch people in more than one way. In fact, millions of ways I think none of us can say what the other person might think or feel, because the experience was unique to each and every individual. The key thing I have learnt that is really important in a project like IPP is to be the best you can be as yourself.

Few words for you...

If you passionately either agree or not agree with the project, well, "Why not? Why don't you see it with your own eyes and make your own judgment?" I personally think it is a great project but that is probably due to the vision and passion of each and every member that was there at the World in Bergen.

Saiko Shimada (Japan)

Getting ready: IPP Brazil

The third IPP for this year will take place in Ituberá, which is a small city in Salvador Bahia, Brazil. It'll start on December 27th and will go on until January 19th.

The theme for this project is *Quality of Life*

PARTNER ORGANIZATION. Participants will be working together with the IDES (Institute for the Sustainable Development of the Southern Lowlands), which is a non-governmental organization that signed on as a partner with the Fundação Odebrech to work on a project called Alliance with Adolescents. Some of the objectives of the IDES are:

- Promotes adolescents' personal and social development by preparing them to become full-fledged, compassionate citizens.
- Promotes the extensive, qualified use of communications resources and outlets to help prepare adolescents for life.
- Contributes to the co-responsible participation of Third-Sector institutions in conjunction with the government and other segments of society to find solutions for social problems concerning adolescents.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT: The project will be developed around the following objectives:

1. Through activities, presentations and discussions the participant's will learn about the problems of society experienced by the community and how this affects their quality of life
2. By meeting the local community and sharing experiences the participants will

identify ways that the community's quality of life can be improved

3. Collaborate on several projects aimed at expanding the knowledge and increasing the self esteem of the teenagers participating in the IDES project
4. The participant's together with the teenagers involved in the project will build and make modifications in the environment to help increase the quality of life in the community
5. To evaluate their work at the end of the IPP project and, if necessary, suggest modifications in the project held by the IDES organization
6. To deepen the participants' knowledge in subjects such as: sustainable development, social inequality and ways to improve quality of life, and stimulate them to act as future multipliers of the learned ideas

PRATICAL PART. New Year's celebration is a great happening in the city of Ituberá, the community get together to organize and prepare the whole event, so during the first days there, participants will be working together with the community on this preparation for the big party, this will be a great opportunity for them to start to get to know the people better. So until New Years participants will be helping the community out and interacting with them and also working on integration as a group and having discussions and activities on the specific theme.

Then after that, IPPers will be involved on the different programs held by The IDES

Upcoming projects - 2003

Three new projects will be held in 2003. USA and Sweden will host an IPP for the second time, while Canada is going to have one for the first time. If you are interested in participating and your country is invited, hurry up and get in contact with your national IPP coordinator!

When?

June 14th to June 28th,
2003

Where?

Detroit, USA

Theme:

Understanding Issues
of Poverty and Basic
Needs Throughout the
World

Who is invited?

USA, Philippines,
Austria, Thailand,
Brazil, Spain, Australia

IPP USA: Life in the Global Village

The IPP will combine our skills and spirit of volunteerism with the Howell Conference and Nature Center's Global Village (a project of Heifer International) to help them in their mission to provide education that emphasizes experience as participants gain a greater awareness of world hunger, poverty, and population issues. The educational component will include participating in the Global Village simulation, which introduces the participants to life in poverty stricken areas in several countries, as well as presentations given by the participants about the issues of poverty in their own countries. They will discuss ways to educate and communicate information regarding these issues in their own communities. The project component will be accomplished by the participants planning and building another home to add to the village. The home would be as authentic as possible and would represent a home of citizens in a chosen country that are not privileged.

IPP CANADA

The IPP will be held in cooperation with the organization *Saskatchewan Abilities Council, Camp Easter Seal*. The purpose of this organization is to provide and assist optimal independence and active participation in all aspects of society for people with disabilities. At Camp Easter Seal children and adults with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in sports and a variety of *normal* camp activities.

During the project, participants will take part in the daily life of Camp Easter Seal, acting as *guest staff*. They will be assisting Camp staff with providing program instruction and supervision, camper care and camp maintenance. Programming includes swimming, horseback riding, boating and other sports, camping and overnight tenting; camper care includes things such as feeding the campers, helping them dress, etc. Maintenance may include building repair, wheelchair-ramp repair, etc.

When?

July 4th to 20th, 2003

Where?

Saskatoon, Sk –

Canada **Theme:**
Disabled People &
Society

Who is invited?

Canada, Colombia,
Denmark, France,
Germany, Great
Britain, and Italy
(back-up: Hungary,
Lebanon)

When?

December 27th 2003 –January 10th 2004

Where?

Malmo, Sweden

Theme:

Homelessness

Who is invited?

Sweden, Norway, Costa Rica, Japan,
Mexico, Latvia. (Back-ups: Finland,
Czech Republic, Guatemala, Jordan)

IPP SWEDEN

The first phase of the project will involve the IPP participants learning about the problems faced by children and young families living in temporary accommodation. The participants will work together with the partner organization *Socialförvaltningen* to provide activities for children and youth, similar to IPPs hosted previously.

IPP and Local Work

IPP INSPIRES DETROIT LOCAL WORK

International People's Project seems to be becoming a new tradition in the Detroit, USA chapter. In 2001, we hosted an IPP that studied poverty in the urban setting in the city of Detroit. During that project, one of the delegates from Costa Rica said, "You Americans don't really have any idea what real poverty is. You should come see the way the poor in my country live." He was right, of course. There was no way for urban Detroiters to understand how most of the world's poor live. So, we took that as a challenge, and decided to try to find out. One of our chapter members found just the right "Like Minded Organization" (LMO) in our area, to take us on such a journey - Heifer International. Perhaps you have seen their catalogues. They sponsor the giving of animals to families in poverty throughout the world in order to help provide protein in their diets, as well as helping them to begin cottage industries that will provide money for other essentials.

In the Howell Nature Center near Detroit, Heifer International has been developing a Global Village to educate people in Michigan about the plight of the poor around the world. They currently have built 7 structures, and are hoping to have a village of 10 houses that represent the homes of poor people in many different countries, upon completion. Currently, they have 3 houses representing a barrio (such as in many countries), a house from the Appalachian Mountains in the USA, a house from Nepal, a mud house representing Africa, and a house representing those in which migrant farm workers live. Our IPP in 2003 will take part in the educational program they provide, and then stay to build one or two more houses. Our delegates will donate time, know how, and muscle to this project, to make these homes as authentic as possible, using local materials, and fortifying them to withstand Michigan winters.

In order to begin preparing for the IPP, it was important for the people of our chapter to learn first hand what this project was all about, and to participate in the educational program we are helping to build.

On September 21 and 22, a group of chapter members started had an overnight experience at the Nature Center. We began the program with some CISV-type activities, a movie about Heifer, and an inspiring slide show about Nepal. After lunch, we were taken out to the Global Village. We were given a general tour and told about the conditions of each represented country. Next, we were divided up, into family units, and placed in "our" homes. We were given minimal supplies for survival. However, no group was given enough to survive, which meant that we had to barter for shared goods and services. Being CISVers, it didn't take us long before we were deeply embroiled in some serious philosophical discussions about how to work things out. But also, being CISVers, we were quickly able to develop a world trade conference, pool our resources and we all ate fairly well. We even managed to put aside enough rice, milk and sugar for a "sweet rice" dessert. (Leave it to Americans to make sure there was dessert!). We then spent the night in our homes, 6 people sleeping on the dirt floor of their barrio hut.

Waking up the next morning, we were cold, hungry, and aching, but also quickly realized that we were able to go home to our nice beds, climate controlled homes, and stop off for a bite to eat on the way. We imagined what it would be like to face the day hungry, working all day to find food, getting colder as the weather changed, and possibly sick with no hope of medical care - even an aspirin.

After breakfast, we spent a couple hours debriefing. During this discussion, some very important issues were arose, such as respect

for the impoverished, developing resources from very little, the need for preserving natural resources, cooperation, power structures, cultural perceptions, and many more. Many valuable lessons were learned. The experience also has inspired some new local work and JB activities within the members of this small group. Some will be starting a Read to Feed program in some elementary schools, the JB may be developing a fund raising program to sponsor animals, and of course,

we will all be telling our friends and families about the experience, in an effort to raise the awareness of those around us.

Our IPP has already had an important impact on our chapter before it has really started. It promises to be a very exciting, meaningful IPP. We can't wait!

By Kathy LaCombe
USA

... some words from the Taskforce

IPP Today

At the beginning, in 1996, there was a bunch of crazy juniors: Driven by enthusiasm, the will to revolutionize CISV and the possibility of creating something new. On the other side was a somewhat conservative international board, thinking, IPP was a dangerous, "high-risk"-activity and after all, CISV should focus on what it's good at: Camps for 11-16 year old. But for the group that called themselves the "IPP operational team" (the term "taskforce" was considered inappropriate for an "experiment") fighting for something they thought was right, only lead to more motivation, With hours of discussion and work, making sure IPP was a "high-quality" activity and proving to everybody else what juniors could do, five excellent IPPs were hosted and evaluated, and finally only 3 years after the first project took place the international board was convinced with an 80 page report to approve IPP as a new official activity. Hurray, Champagne and celebration.

But what also followed was disillusionment. In fact after the IBM in 2000, IPP had to start from scratch again: A new international coordinator had to get oriented, a break of 18 months with no IPP made it necessary to start promoting all over again, and worst of all, the enthusiasm of the early days was gone. This was the era of the "hard-workers":

The basic discussion on "how", "what" "why IPP" was settled - instead dull work had to be done: The IPP guide had to be put together, NA contacts had to be established, and people had to be found, willing to put a lot of work into hosting an IPP. Numerous cancellations made it necessary to find backups. Also, a meaningful promotion plan had to be put together, and finally somebody had to start working on a staff and participant training concept.

Today, I believe there is still a lot of work to do, and the list of tasks above is far from being completed. But for the first time, this year at the international board meeting in Finland, it seems there is a light at the end of the tunnel: Numerous NAs tell me that they have ideas and even plans to host an IPP, more than 40 happy IPP participants will arrive back home in their chapters, and we do have a long list of potential hosts, meanwhile. I am convinced that the days are near when IPP will be able to "roll by itself".

Nevertheless we still have to work hard to prevent IPP from disappearing again and we need all the help we can get.

Nick

(IPP taskforce coordinator)

What can I do for IPP?

Many people have said that they think IPP is a fantastic idea, and they wanted to help wherever they can. Here's a list of things you could do to help IPP growing:

- **Tell everybody about it.** CISVers, non-CISVers, your parents, your colleagues at work. Everybody is a potential IPPer. You could also write an article for your national or chapter newsletter.
- **Conduct a workshop on IPP:** At your national leadership training, at a junior branch meeting, at the national board meeting. We will provide you with all the material you need. We can even offer workshop templates, that will guide you through conducting an IPP workshop step by step.
- **Start a Local Work project.** If you know a good organisation or/and project that would make a perfect IPP, start working with them right now. Get in contact and bring CISVers to the organisation; work with them for a weekend. Take your JB-minicamp to another organisation and learn what they do and how.

News in brief...

Looking for friends from past IPPs?

Hello exIPPers! To help you stay in contact with people you've met in past IPPs we have introduced the EX-IPP-ERS-LIST. Just visit the IPP website and enter your name and e-mail address at the PEOPLE page, a number of people have already signed up so you might be lucky to find somebody you have lost contact to... (www.cisv.org/ipp/people.html)

IPP rocks Sao Paulo

A couple of CISVers took the opportunity to participate at an international meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil called Rede Paz, Peace Network. Two presentations were held, one explaining CISV in general, the other one about, you guessed it, IPP. Thanks guys, for bringing CISV and IPP to the NGO world! Find more at www.redepaz.org

IPP picture archive

We've not included pictures in this newsletter, so we wouldn't have to send a super-huge file to your e-mail account. However, if you're curious now, you can have a look at many pictures from most of the IPPs in the past at www.photoisland.com. Login: ipppictures, Password: lttwd. Enjoy!

If you want to know more about IPP check out our webpage
www.cisv.org/ipp

For questions, comments or articles for next issue write to us at
ipp.list@cisv.org

Thanks to Saiko and Thiago for contributing to our newsletter!