

## Workshop Presentation

Topic: Innovations and Good Practices in Volunteering

### Volunteering in China--From Motivation to Action

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This speech paper will present an overview of volunteer service development in Chinese and international context. Starting from volunteer motivation, the paper will mainly introduce on the volunteer action in China including its history, current status, problems and chances for future development, and it will also expatiate on the development and best practice of international volunteer service and provide some suggestions to develop volunteer service in China.

At the first part, the paper will address the definition and motivation of volunteerism, analyzing the complexity of various motivations people undertakes volunteer service. Some volunteer action is spontaneous, but quite a lot are compulsive or kind of 'have to', especially in China, due to a survey. The author will raise the issue that motivation of volunteering is a kind of combination of altruism and egoism, and people don't have to go into them seriously. However, the users of volunteers would better know the motivation of volunteers so as to adjust their management strategy.

After the motivation, the author will make a general introduction of volunteer service in China and international volunteering development. Firstly, the paper will brief the global definition on characteristics of volunteer action. Then, it will analyze on the characteristics, forms and serving fields of volunteer action in China, as well as the history and current condition of Chinese volunteer service. The paper will make a comparison between Chinese and international volunteering.

The third part of the paper will focus on some existing problems of volunteer action in China, expounding from voluntary organization's hard situation to favorable national policy safeguarding, from public recognition to the abilities of volunteers and volunteer managers. For instance, voluntary organizations in China, especially the grass-roots volunteer organizations are surviving hardly due to the lack of funding and human resources. The cause of volunteer service develops fast, but there is a lack of national law to safeguard the rights of volunteers and promote the private sector to donate and undertake their social responsibilities. Volunteers are not well and widely recognized at the society and meanwhile their service skills need to be improved, and etc. In this part, the paper will also introduce the experiences of international volunteering.

In the fourth part, the paper will mainly discuss and explore how to increase public recognition on volunteering, strengthen exchanges and cooperation among Chinese and international volunteer organizations, and improve capacities of volunteer

organizations by making more researches and policy recommendations to government, organizing various volunteer promotional activities, building a regular platform for volunteer organizations to exchange ideas and experiences, introducing international best experiences and expertise, and etc.

Finally, the paper will raise some future opportunities for volunteer service prosperity and development in China. For instances, the building of harmonious society and community, the government reform and change to service-centered style, the promulgation and implementation of Law of Administration Permission, and the great event of Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.