Call for Proposal for
Context Paper

Introduction

In October 2020 the IAVE World Volunteer Conference was to be held in Abu Dhabi hosted by our partner organization the Emirates Foundation. Due to the situation around the COVID-19 pandemic the conference has been postponed to October/November 2021; date to be announced in July 2020. IAVE's mission is to enable leaders of volunteering worldwide to stand in solidarity with one another to promote, support and celebrate volunteering in all the many ways it happens throughout the world. 2020 sees IAVE celebrate its own 50th anniversary and from day one a core function of the organization has been about bringing together, in person and now also on line, leaders in volunteering to discuss, debate and deepen our shared understanding of volunteering and its potential as a global force for good.

The organizing partners decided to add something extra to the conference format in 2020 to provide for greater consideration of the issues, wider dissemination of knowledge and to enable a legacy for the event that would add value to those supporting and developing volunteering, including those not able to attend the event in person. This particular project was about commissioning seven context papers on the seven sub themes of the conference. Despite the postponement of the conference this work has continued, and proposals have been accepted for six out of seven topics.

This briefing outlines a call for the seventh topic. A proposal to provide a context paper to enhance knowledge, share ideas and stimulate debate in relation to: **Volunteering and the Digital World – Extending the Power of Volunteering through New Technologies.**

Volunteering and the Digital World – Extending the Power of Volunteering Through New Technologies.

As technology evolves it is being harnessed to give greater access to volunteer involvement and enhance how volunteers carry out their roles. Going to the computer or phone to find out how to connect to volunteering opportunities is the norm, virtual volunteering is a growing trend. Social media creates an instant global sharing of who volunteers are and what they are doing. New technologies such as artificial intelligence will bring further change and challenge as to how these new digital opportunities can also support and develop volunteering. The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought the use of digital technology to the forefront of communicating with and engaging volunteers in countries across the world.

IAVE and the Emirates Foundation are looking for a proposal from either an academic and/or practitioner to provide a context briefing paper of maximum 4,500 words. (Papers can also be a collaboration between two or three individuals). The expectation is that each paper will expand on the topic, introduce the issues, highlight current thinking including discussion of any issues that create difference of opinions, and showcase at least two case studies of excellence and impact in volunteer involvement. It should also take into consideration relevant issues from volunteering and the COVID-19 pandemic. More detailed criteria and information is outlined below.

Who should apply?

Any individual (academic or practitioner) with an interest in and track record of experience/knowledge about volunteering and the subject matter associated with the sub theme. They will also have to demonstrate the ability to prepare and write an informed and evidenced based paper. Note: if more than one person is involved in writing the paper a lead individual must be identified.

What needs to be provided?

A comprehensive paper maximum word count 4,500 paper plus a list of key sources used or referenced in the content. The paper should expand on the topic, bringing forward current thinking and any research, and highlighting at least two case studies of successful volunteer involvement showcasing the need being addressed, the role of the volunteers and the impact or change being delivered. The case studies should be from at least two of the IAVE regions – Africa; Arab Nations; Asia Pacific; Europe; Latin America; and North America. The paper should also include, as appropriate, reference to and/or a case study relevant to volunteering and the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Timescale?

A first draft of the paper should be with IAVE by mid/end July 2020; the final paper should be completed by end of August 2020.

Other Requirements?

The author of the paper will be expected to present on an online Forum/webinar session to take place before the end of October 2020.

Ownership of the material?

Once the paper is submitted the material will belong to IAVE/Emirates Foundation; however, the author(s) will be given full credit in any publication.

Remuneration?

The individual/lead individual selected to produce the paper will be provided with $6,450 USD.

How to apply

Proposals can be submitted up to 4:00pm UK time on the 12th June 2020 to Wendy Osborne at wendy@iave.org.

This should include the following information:

- a copy of your CV with information on any previous articles; papers; publications;

- A 200-word statement on your knowledge of the subject area covered by the topic; and a 200-word summary of what you will cover in your paper.

- Agreement to input to an online Forum/webinar.

You must use the proposal submission form provided, a copy is attached at Appendix 1.

Selection criteria?

The following will be used to select the proposal:

- Knowledge and experience

- Relevance and quality of the summary proposal

- Ability to take part in the webinar

Further information can be obtained by contacting Wendy Osborne OBE , IAVE Senior consultant at wendy@iave.org