



NATATÉ

VOLUNTARIADO INTERNACIONAL A.C

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

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DAY OF THE DEAD



a mexican tradition

satiric way, through little skulls made of sugar or chocolate, hojaldras (typical seasonal sweet bread), decorated papers or the different reproductions of the skulls, it's always a devotional and important festivity in the Mexican culture. This year, some of the volunteers in Nataté got together to set the traditional altar, to show the cultural perspective of death through the creativity of the volunteers.



The Day of the Dead is one of the most important celebrations in Mexico, and it is quite a celebration, full of colors, food and drinks. It's a series of elements that, though they might seem ironic, manifest the sense of death as a following stage of life, as seen in ancient Mexican culture. And, even though at moments the death is shown in a

VOLUNTEERING AND NATATÉ

Sara Aricéaga

Volunteering appears along with humanity itself, given that under any circumstance where a change was needed, it was cooperation between individuals or groups of people the element that produced that change. And this is indeed the aim of a volunteer action, to produce a change, however, for Natate, this change can be achieved in two ways, a personal one and a collective one.

Even if the reasons for someone to decide to be part of volunteering are different from person to person, the objective of each project is an attempt to bring those reasons together through the results of different kinds of experiences.

There are many organizations around the world that offer the experience of volunteering, and Nataté is part of that network, by offering to be a link between people with different interests, and projects that can satisfy, at least, some of them.

The experience of local and International volunteering, both for the outcome of it so far and the future expectations of the organization,

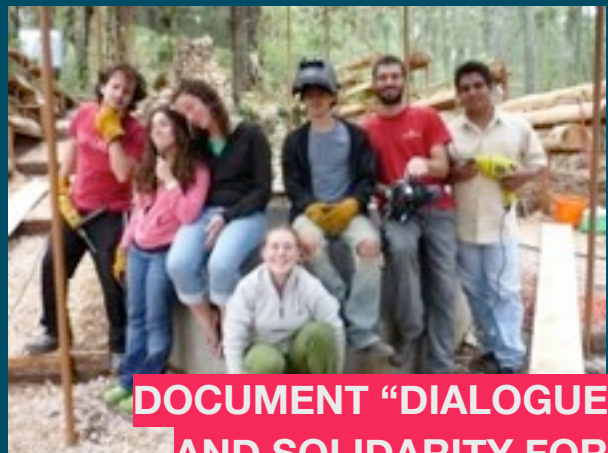
has proven to be, mainly, a way of cultural approachability, learning, understanding and mutual awareness, this being possible by diminishing our prejudices and having a perspective of reciprocity and trust, perspective on which the projects are created and followed. Volunteering, isn't, then, an experience to help, but an experience of reciprocal cooperation, understanding and a sense of collectivity. The interaction among the elements on the development of the projects, force the concepts culturally acquired previously to be reconsidered, when the people involved have different backgrounds, nationalities, age, etc. Thus, every part is essential in the process of volunteering, from the recipient, the volunteer and the project itself, up to those who sort the process out. And this process doesn't end up with the project, volunteering could be considered as a way of life, and be thought as the unavoidable interdependence between human beings, as well as the interdependence between them and th

Fatima Sy, volunteer in Natate (with the support from the rest of the volunteers) is currently writing a document entitled Dialogue and Solidarity for Development, this document talks about the importance



of both assertive communication (through dialogue) and solidarity, to achieve one of the objectives of volunteering: development. The experiences and opinions of the volunteers from the EVS (European

Volunteering Service) who have been collaborating with Natate since march this year, are included in the document.



DOCUMENT "DIALOGUE AND SOLIDARITY FOR DEVELOPMENT"



MEXICAN VOLUNTEERS IN FRANCE

Thanks to the support of the French Organization Solidarités Jeunesses (SJ) and the Coordinating Committee for International Volunteering Service (CCIVS), a group of four Mexican volunteers are currently taking part on a trilateral (Mexico, France and Germany) project, co-funded by the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO). The volunteers are: Leslie Feregrino, Darinel Vásquez, Aurora Correa and Marisol Mendoza, Daniel Salinas has joined them. This group, along with Ana Villanueva and Haden von Duben are representing Mexico on this project, which intends to set up a festival celebrated each year, by the French

Organization SJ, whose scope this year is the Common Memoir of the association and its branches and regional delegations. We hope that the Mexican performance is joyful and festive, as it's a distinctive feature of Mexican people wherever we are.

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LUISA RUIZ, MEXICAN VOLUNTEER IN WALES

Right now, I'm living in Swansea, Wales. I began the volunteer work on September and I'll be here until June next year. I've been in this new experience for a month, and I don't regret that I quit the job and I'm doing something different.

I'm working at Swansea University, in the Interaxions program, which objective is to support University disabled students. Without the volunteers, these students couldn't continue with their studies.

Before beginning the work, we had a training week in different subjects such as disability, personal care, first aid, building evacuation, food hygiene. The 15 volunteers are from different places: England, France, Uganda, Colombia, United States and Mexico.

The students require 24 hours supervision. That's why we are three volunteers working with the same student. During the week, we establish rota so we all work the same time.



Luisa Ruiz, Mexican Volunteer in Swansea, Wales.

Being here not only allows me to help, but to be inside a different culture and meet people from all over the world and also practice my English. Two weeks ago, I went to Cardiff to a volunteer meeting. I met volunteers working in different projects in Wales and it was very nice to share experiences with them.

I'm very happy with the work I'm doing, and I'm sure that this experience will influence my personal life in the future. Being satisfied with what you're doing is more important than what you can get at economical level. And today I can say that I'm fulfilled and grateful for the opportunity for learning so much as I'm doing. Luisa Ruiz

NATATÉ AROUND THE WORLD

NATATÉ IN THE WORLD TANABATA ACTION



The Tanabata Festival, also known as the Stars' Festival, was held in China for the first time, based on a legend in which two lovers are separated through the Milky Way, as a punishment for having neglected their duties since they got together. They can see each other only once a year, on the seventh day of the seventh month, as long as their work is done and there is no rain.

The festival was adopted in Japan, where they used to make requests for certain abilities. Nowadays, the celebration is about

writing desires in small pieces of paper, called Tanzaku papers, and those are hung in the branches of bamboo trees.

Later on, in 2008, the tradition is adopted, with the purpose of building a path towards social awareness around the world, on one of the most important issues nowadays: global warming. Nataté cooperates with the World Tanabata Action since this year, by sending Tanzaku papers, this time to the CCIVS Office, in Paris. The main goal is to carry out an alternative action, one that promotes the prevention of global warming (such as trees and seed planting, energy saving, etc.) and then write what was done in small Tanzaku papers, which are to be shown at the Special Workcamp of the World Tanabata Action, to be held in Paris, from the 24th of November to the 7th of December of this year. The International Volunteering Day celebrations (the 5th of December) will be included in this celebration.

Nataté, together with some partner organizations, such as the Ecoparque San José, Yirtrak, among others, have

Thanks to de participation of volunteers and members of the administrative council Nataté has gathered 220 Tanzaku papers that will be on exhibition at the UNESCO building, in Paris this december.

participated in the action, however it is expected that the number of Tanzaku papers is surpassed in the year 2010, with an active and collective cooperation.

Darinel Vázquez, Mexican Volunteer will be representing Nataté during the final phase of the Tanabata project.

TRIP TO EUROPE

At the end of September and the beginning of October the director of Nataté, Nicolas Aguilar, visited several European countries with aim to promote the interchanges, to present the projects and to reinforce the cooperation of Nataté with several organizations in that one continent such as Solidarités Jeunesses, Concordia, DSF (Desarrollo Sin Fronteras) and the Association SIERRA in France, YAP-CFD in Germany, JAVVA in Belgium, Voluntá in Holland and Workcamps Switzerland in Switzerland. In addition he met with Mrs Guadalupe Carbajal of the Embassy of Mexico in France, with Carmela Quin, person in charge of the section of Promotion, Publications and Education of the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO, and with the staff of the CCSVI Francesco Volpini and Regis Colin. Nico also participated partially to the 6th Youth Forum of UNESCO as an

THANKS TO JAVVA, YAP-CFD AND SOLIDARITÉS JEUNESSES FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

observer, as well as to a meeting of the Administration Council of Solidarités Jeunesses, Nico's mother association.

It is worth mentioning that these visits had not been possible without the financial support of the organizations JAVVA, YAP-CFD and Solidarités Jeunesses that partially contributed to his transportation and stay in France, Belgium and Germany. Thanks to these organizations for your support!

NATATÉ IN MEXICO



INIFAP

First Local Meeting of Producers from Chiapas

On the 9th of October, Natate was invited to the First Local Meeting of Successful Experiences of Producers from Chiapas, held by the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP) and the Fundación Produce Chiapas, A.C. in Ocozocoautla. Five volunteers from Natate

went there to promote the organization, a good number of people were interested in the organization's work, mainly students with the interest on a cultural exchange, we hope that they can live the experience.

NATATÉ EN MEXICO

PRESENTATIONS & AGREEMENTS

AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE CHIAPAS.



event.

Other institutions and universities have shown interest on working together with Nataté next year. We all hope this agreements benefit the community and mexican youth.

Last september Nataté signed a participation agreement with the Universidad Politécnica de Chiapas in order to increase the participation of mexican students in the volunteering projects in Mexico and abroad.

Several teachers, students, volunteers and members of the Nataté council participated on this



PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE SAN LUIS POTOSÍ

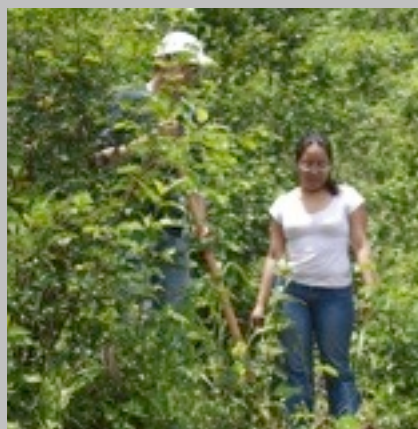


NICOLÁS AGUILAR, DIRECTOR OF NATATÉ PRESENTING THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING PROJECT IN TECPATÁN

A presentation of International Volunteering was held on October the 7th, at the Communication Sciences School (Escuela de Ciencias de la Comunicación) of the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí. This activity was organized by a group of students from this University, led by Jessica González Guerrero, a former volunteer in an international volunteering project in Tecpatán, Chiapas. More than a hundred students attended the presentation.

NEXT ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL WORKCAMP IN TZAJALÁ



The International Workcamp in Tzajalá will be held from the 22nd of November to the 12th of December. Tzajalá is located in Ocosingo, approximately an hour and a half away from San Cristóbal de las Casas. The workcamps carried out in this community intend to create sustainable projects on support for the community, achieving this through jewelry workshops, an experimental agro-ecological farm

(horticulture, fertilizing, coffee, herbal medicines, etc.), among other kind of projects.

YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.natate.org



NEXT ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING, 10TH OF NOVEMBER AT 1PM, IN THE MIGUEL DE LA TORRE AUDITORIUM, ON THE 8TH WEEK OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ENTITLED: "DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY" UNAM - FES ACATLÁN.

Conference on International Volunteering in the Universidad Politécnica de Chiapas, on the 18th of November.

EVALUATION MEETING, WITH THE ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTES WITH WHICH NATATE HAS BEEN COOPERATED THIS YEAR, TO BE HELD ON THE 18TH OF NOVEMBER.

THANKS!

GOODBYE TO DE SVE VOLUNTEERS

We would like to take the opportunity to announce that the EVS volunteers are on the final term of their volunteering, after having completed almost nine months in Natate and Mexico, thank you!



TRANSLATION AND ASSISTANCE

Now our web page has French, German, English and Italina versions

As you might have noticed, Natate's Website is introduced in four languages: Spanish, English, French and Italian. German couldn't be left behind, as many of the volunteers are from German – speaking countries. Thanks very much to Janina Hupel, from Germany, who has been cooperating with Natate, and keeps supporting with translations from English and Spanish to Goethe's language. Thank you Janina and all the people assisting with text translation, recount of workcamps, etc. The German version of the Website will be online soon!

Thanks to Janina and all the people assiting with text translation, recount of work camps and all the support.

THANKS!

WORK CAMP LEADERS

The International Workcamps' season has finished with the last workcamp in the Villa Corzo region. We want to say **THANK YOU** to the Workcamp leaders, coordinators and reference people, because they've walked the extra mile for the Workcamps to develop on the best of the ways. They deserve this space to be specially thanked for, due to the difficulties and situations they went through. We hope this was both a fulfilling and a constructive experience. Thank you Jonathan, Bariño, Diego, Piera, Fatima and all

the people who contributed to the growth of the Workcamps.



NEW VOLUNTEERS

Nataté keeps opening spaces for young people who wish to live a different experience, contribute to the development of an NGO or a project, or even just contributing to the improvement of our society. Thus, we're pleased with the arrival of Sara Aricéaga, Viviana Gómez and Kristi Robertson to Nataté. Sara and Viviana take part on the office work, through document-checking, newsletter-writing, the creation of a database, writing articles, among others. Kristi collaborates in a project in the

community of Tzajalá in which she's getting ready to coordinate the tasks of the next and last Workcamp of the year for Nataté.

On the other hand, we also want to thank Valerie Weidinger, who collaborated with Nataté for two weeks. Valerie, along with Bariño, carried out some interviews with the people from associations and schools with which Nataté cooperates for the making of a promotional video.

CONTENIDOS DEL BOLETÍN

SARA ARICÉAGA, NICOLÁS AGUILAR

DISEÑO

ANA PAULA ESPINOZA

TRADUCCIONES

SARA ARICÉAGA (INGLÉS)

DIEGO REGOSA (ITALIANO)

JONATHAN VAN DENCASTEELE (FRANCÉS)