

Volunteer Service Act in Taiwan -- the Challenges for the NEXT



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The history of Taiwan Volunteer Service Act

- Prof. Lu Kung drafted Social Welfare Volunteer Service Act in 1989
- To echo the Volunteer Action, The Ministry of Interior initiated Xianghe Plan in 1995
- In 2000, thousands of Volunteers celebrated on International Volunteer Day and advocated the legislation of Volunteer Service Act
- The Volunteer Service Act was promulgated on January 20, 2001

The components to guide the development of volunteering in Taiwan

- **Volunteer Service Act**

Defines the rights and responsibilities of volunteers, e.g. volunteer training service, insurance, service hours record, and awards.

- **Xianghe Plan**

Encourages institutions to establish volunteer teams which are officially organized by Vos to Offer training, service hours record and awards.

- **Volunteer Service Associations**

Initiates the people-led Volunteer Service Associations both national and local base to help facilitate the adoption of Volunteer Service Act generally and network the community agencies.



Voluntary Service Act

Announced on Jan. 20, 2001 by Ministry of Interior

- General Provisions : purpose, scope of applicatuib, definition
(Article 1-3)
- Competent Authorities
(Article 4-5)
- Responsibilities of Volunteer Service Exercisers
(Article 6-13)
- Rights and Obligations of Volunteers
(Article 14-15)
- Measures for Promoting Volunteer Services
(Article 16-21)
- Legal Liabilities of Volunteer Service
(Article 22)
- Fund
(Article 23)
- Supplementary Provisions
(Article 24-25)

The Structure of Volunteer Network Aligns with Xianghe Plan



Local Volunteer Association was designed to be the function of Local Volunteer Center to serve as the mediator between Governments and Community Agencies

According to the research of the Effectiveness of the Volunteer Service Act in 2006

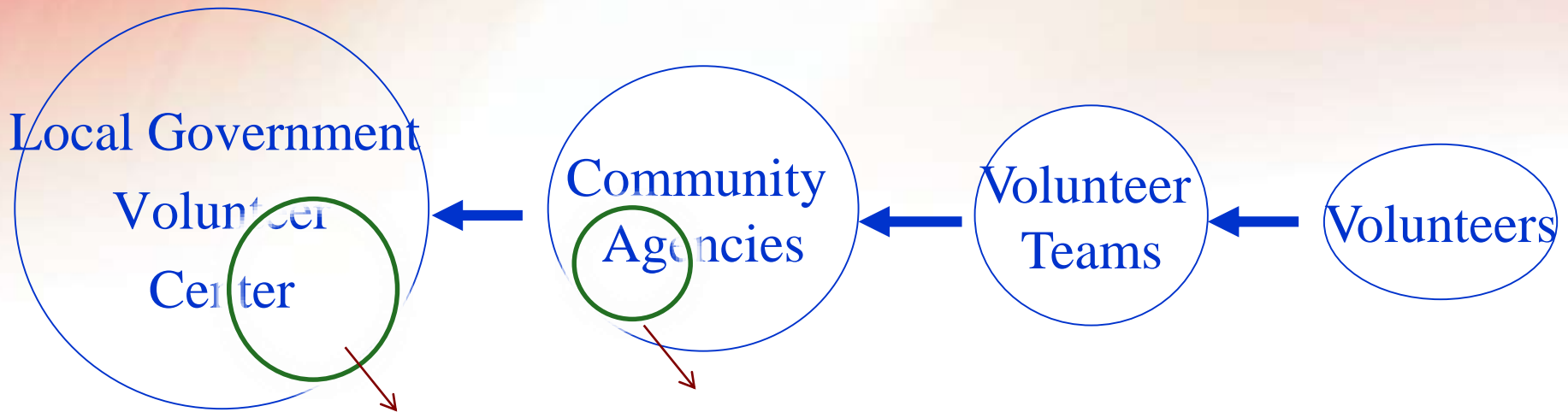
(questionnaire samples:150)

| indicators | Effectiveness | No. of interviewee | Percent (%) |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Volunteer Recruitment | Y | 85 | 57.82 |
| | N | 62 | 42.18 |
| Volunteer Training | Y | 35 | 23.81 |
| | N | 112 | 76.19 |
| Strategic Planning | Y | 85 | 58.22 |
| | N | 61 | 41.78 |
| Fundraising | Y | 110 | 74.83 |
| | N | 37 | 25.17 |
| Organization Operating | Y | 93 | 63.27 |
| | N | 54 | 36.73 |

The Challenges to Taiwan Volunteer Service Act

- Dominant government-led volunteer movement has restrict the development of civil society, various levels of governments have been the resource distributors and supervisors on the activities of volunteers, and meanwhile downgrade the autonomy of volunteers.
 - over rely on government budget
 - inconsistent policies that violates the solidarity
 - no collective performance evaluation
 - the marginalization of local volunteer associations

For the past decade, the structure of volunteer work has been formed as:



Local Volunteer Associations become the contractor to run the volunteer center.

Local Volunteer Associations downgrade as the community agencies.

The Challenges to Taiwan Volunteer Service Act

- Ministry of Interior has not functioned as National Volunteer Center to integrate the information and resources of volunteer agencies for different sectors, including:
 - volunteer population survey
 - evaluation on social change
 - rewarding system
 - knowledge Management

The Challenges to Taiwan Volunteer Service Act

The Volunteer Service Act focus on the terms and conditions of individual volunteer, not much concerns on the holistic support for volunteer organizations and volunteer managers. The outcomes of research and practice in local volunteering are not sufficient for building an effective partnership, such as the capacity of leadership, strategic planning, project management, fundraising, social marketing skills, and evaluation method.

The Challenges to Taiwan Volunteer Service Act

The Volunteer Service Act is lack of the flexibility and adaptability to cope with the changing society. We are restricted:

- to parallel with the global force
- to work effectively with newly developed volunteer groups, e.g. corporate volunteers, youth volunteers

What's the Next:

A non-governmental national volunteer center

IAVE Taiwan proposed the establishment of National Volunteer Center , we collect the questionnaires from 168 non-governmental and governmental organizations in 2006. 62.89% of interviewees response positively to the proposal.

| A National Volunteer Center in Taiwan | No.of interviewee | Percent (%) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Very important | 28 | 17.61 |
| Important | 72 | 45.28 |
| Acceptable | 46 | 28.93 |
| Not important | 9 | 5.66 |
| Not Acceptable | 4 | 2.52 |



The functions that Taiwan volunteer society expect to benefit from NVC:

1. Set up the annual goals nationwide
2. Build up the capacity of Voluntary Organizations
3. Strengthen the leadership of Volunteer Managers
4. Facilitate the research and study in the voluntary field
5. Propose the people friendly policy and participatory and democratic decision-making-process
6. Develop the reciprocal cross-sector partnership
7. Matching the volunteers and Community Agencies
8. Explore the creative and diverse volunteer opportunities
9. Bridge the international volunteer societies and participate in global movement

Thank you for your attention:

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www.iave.org
International Association for Volunteer Effort