



inspiration in action



UNV Karamveer Chakra: National Medallion for proactive Volunteer Action

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10), United Nations Volunteers (UNV) India and Indian Confederation of NGOs (iCONGO) have announced the **UNV Karamveer Chakra**. This award is an endeavour to promote volunteerism and acknowledge exemplary voluntary actions by recognizing the invaluable role played by volunteers towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Instituted in 2008-09 in association with the UN, **Karamveer Chakra** is the national medallion for proactive voluntary action to **Be the Change**. This year the Chakra will be given in association with UNV.

The Chakra will be given to those volunteers who have contributed their time with innovative ideas, freewill, commitment, active engagement and solidarity for socio-economic causes. The awardees shall receive UNV Karamveer Chakra that symbolizes volunteerism, solidarity, peace and development; and a citation.

Ms Flavia Pansieri, UNV Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers in a message sent from Bonn, Germany said "We at United Nations Volunteers (UNV) are very pleased to learn that our office in India has announced **UNV Karamveer Chakra** in partnership with Indian Confederation of NGOs (iCONGO) through the iCONGO promoted "KARMAVEER PURASKAAR (KVP)". We would like to congratulate iCONGO for this initiative and encourage other partners in the development sector to follow their example.

*Volunteering is an important expression of our common humanity and empowers change from the grassroots up, especially through strong partnerships. This year is very important year. Ten years ago **United Nations** proclaimed **International Year of Volunteers**, and this year it decided to ask UNV to be the focal point for marking this anniversary, and together with our partners we are doing exactly that. Because, we believe that it is important to continue to increase recognition of volunteerism, to support networking opportunities, to create the proper institutional arrangements for volunteerism to flourish and to help all people to make a difference through their own volunteering.*

This celebration is important also because it comes at a point of time when we need to really all engage. The challenges we face climate change, sustainability, achieving the millennium development goals are all requiring that everyone participates and engage to ensure that we all will enjoy more sustainable and inevitable future. And volunteers are particularly important as very often they work among communities often forgotten and neglected, and that is where they that make the difference. Therefore, their contributions are particularly essential, in this context. It is also important to recognise that volunteerism may take many different forms. The expression it takes is determined by the culture in which the volunteering is expressed. It can be International volunteerism or with community level self-help groups, it can be direct or through institutions. Wherever it is, volunteering makes a difference. It is an expression of solidarity we should all encourage, recognise and support because this potential that people have, is a renewable resource that needs to be tapped. We therefore would like to congratulate once more all the partners for this excellent initiative and would like to congratulate all the nominees for having gotten that far. Keep up the good work".

UN General Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the **International Year of Volunteers (IYV)** and designated the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme as the international focal point. The year 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10). This celebration of volunteerism provides an opportunity to engage the will, the positive energy and the innovation of millions of people towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals, achieving sustainable development, and creating an enabling

environment for citizen engagement. IYV+10 is being marked by celebrations and activities on a global, regional and national level by volunteer involving organizations, Governments, UN agencies, Foundations and other Stakeholders. UNV is also launching the first ever **UN report on Volunteerism** on International Volunteer Day (IVD) on, 5 December 2011 in New York, United States and many countries around the world.

About UNV

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is the nodal UN agency that contributes to peace and development worldwide through volunteerism. UNV believes in 'Volunteerism for Development'. The concept of volunteerism for development centers on optimizing impact of volunteerism on peace and development. Volunteerism by many millions of people is critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

About iCONGO

The iCONGO promoted "KARMAVEER PURASKAAR (KVP)" are the Global Awards for Social Justice and Citizen Action instituted by the people sector & civil society with various partner organizations, citizens at large and media supporters. The awards are a part of the RIGHT every WRONG movement and are accompanied by the RIGHT every WRONG Conclave. Over the years the Karmaveer has become a highly coveted civil society and people's award. These awards recognize and applaud the social commitment of concerned individuals, who have proactively and voluntarily worked for bringing a positive transformation in the society and the world we live in.

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