



## **UN Volunteers Celebrates International Volunteer Day & National Volunteer Month**

In celebration of the International Volunteer Day and Philippine's National Volunteer Month, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), in partnership with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), will host a Symposium on Youth Volunteering and HIV/AIDS Prevention on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Philippine Normal University in Manila, followed by Advocacy Run for Volunteerism on December 7<sup>th</sup> at University of the Philippines—Diliman in Quezon City.

In 1985 the United Nations General Assembly declared December 5<sup>th</sup> as the International Volunteer Day which provides an annual opportunity for volunteers and volunteer organizations worldwide to make their invaluable contributions to development recognized. The importance of volunteerism in development is further promoted by the Government of the Philippines since 1998 with the proclamation of every December as National Volunteer Month.

The Symposium on Youth Volunteering and HIV/AIDS Prevention aims at providing a platform for youth volunteers to enhance their knowledge about volunteering and how they can help prevent HIV/AIDS incidence in their communities. Speakers include representatives from civil society organizations specializing in HIV/AIDS issues, a former Filipino UNV volunteer serving abroad, and the 2007 Youth National Awardee of the Search for Outstanding Volunteers—all of whom will share their firsthand knowledge and experience, rather than discussing from an academic point of view. Zone One Tondo (ZOTO), a group of out-of-school youth, will perform live music and dance to add a sense of festivities.

The 2.5 km Advocacy Run for Volunteerism is jointly hosted by UNV, PNVSCA, and RUNNEX, a non-profit runners' group composed of corporate executives and professionals, to demonstrate a concerted effort of public and private sectors in fostering volunteerism at all levels of society.

UNV, as the leading advocate for promoting active civic engagement in development initiatives through volunteering, mobilized over 7,000 highly skilled volunteers worldwide in 2007, including nearly 300 of those from the Philippines. UNV promotes the integration of volunteerism into development programming, especially that of youth.

For more information about the events, please visit the UNV Philippine website at <http://www.unv-ph.org/unv4/ivd-2008.php>.

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UN Volunteers is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).