



# World News

August 2008

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF CIF INTERNATIONAL



CYPRUS, MARCH 2008

The Council of International Fellowship Magazine



Maria Christopolou  
Executive Committee (EC)  
Member at Large,  
WN Editor and  
President CIF Cyprus

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## From the Editor's Corner

### By Maria Christopolou

Dear CIF Members  
and Friends,

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I address this editorial to you all. My experience as the editor of the World News for CIF International has gained me a lot of insight into the different branches worldwide and has made me more knowledgeable on issues and matters concerning the internal functions and wishes of the branches themselves, as well as the different countries and their own culture. CIF opened up my horizons regarding the multicultural state. It has given me a lot of information on the different living, cultural and professional differences and similarities we experience, and brought me closer to all of them.

The World News Questionnaire sent out to the National Branches in April 2008 helped me to collect ideas about the WN magazine, see how branches think and understand better their needs and concerns. I had 30 responses out of all branches of CIF International. Along with my magazine team we took these into consideration to make this second edition friendlier, more comprehensive and more appealing to all branches including their suggestions and desires. This issue has tried to cover other subjects and give more information to the countries. The aim is always to produce a

magazine which will reflect the needs and the thoughts of all its members and to inspire others to join our association.

My personal experience with CIP programs has been always one of the most valuable and unforgettable and one that I wish to share with others to help them see all the things I have gained. Much more from a professional development which can be considered in the top range, a gain of long lasting friends from all over the world, the opportunity to expand my knowledge on people and cultures, and be more tolerant to change, to differences, to people and to situations. The maturity and the self-development are incalculable and infinite.

CIF fellowship has expanded worldwide and the connectivity among its members and friends is unbelievable. Now especially with the new technologies and internet things are so much simpler and so easy, and boundaries are unseen. We are all so close and at the same time so far away. We can do things together even being apart. It is amazing how things evolve and how life moves on with changes constantly making us wiser and more efficient.

When I decided to re-vitalize my membership in CIF it was because I believed in this concept and felt that I could help share this excellent experience of my past

with the young professionals of my country. I have set up my goals as a personal dream and now see it become a reality in a very nice and constructive way in a shorter time than I ever thought possible. Fulbright, which was my main concern, and a big “WHY” did they stop funding the program, has made me more demanding and unsettled and I promised myself to find the road to the end, solve it and make it function again. Today I am in the happy position to announce to you the formal collaboration with the Fulbright Cyprus Commission with a summer exchange program with three candidates to Denver and the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) for a short-term program. This seals the beginning of a new era of cooperation with Fulbright and CIF-CY and CIPUSA.

Also, through this program I have found two other ex-candidates who have participated in such a program in Germany with excellent recalls and now became our formal members with active participation. I have found myself with other Cypriot colleagues who we only now found out that they have been in one of these programs in the past and are now happy to join our organization, help recruit new members and expand the program for youth, students, university and college kids.

I am so happy to see this growing so rapidly and with such an enthusiasm. I wish you all to have the chance to experience these in your own countries and your own branches.



## From the CIF International President's Desk

Dear CIF Friends,

While I have been a CIF member for decades and have been a Board of Directors (BD) member and an Executive Committee (EC) member for years, it was my first experience conducting an EC meeting as its President. The choice of the beautiful venue offered by Maria Christopoulou in the small yet lovely Cyprus and the wonderful hospitality and good organizational support made my task easier. What was difficult was to find acceptable solutions within a heterogeneous group which is diverse in nationality, culture, language and approach. It was the binding spirit of CIF and the common goals that guided me through my first meeting as President to reconcile conflicting views, review work already done or decisions taken earlier, yet give due importance to dissenting views. That I believe is the nature of democracy and coming from a country that strongly believes in the democratic functioning I believe I was able to address issues and together find solutions that will help promote our common goals.

One major issue that took a fair amount of time was to

chalk out the way ahead in the strategic planning process (SPP). The committee discussed at length the recommendations thus far, and in the light of a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis that I freshly prepared, we decided to recommend to the BD a few key proposals, the details of which would be available in the minutes which would be on the CIF International Web site.

The key decisions were:

1. Reduce expenses by cutting down one EC meeting and cutting down the print edition of World News (WN)
2. Conduct meetings using e-forum gainfully using new technologies
3. Move towards a small permanent low cost secretariat attached to the President that may itself move with the email address so as not to create any problems on continuity
4. Engage younger CIF participants to become active members
5. Enhance funds through a concerted drive
6. Encourage more

communications through WN

7. Encourage BD members to strengthen their activities.

All the above decisions can only be meaningful if CIF members actively participate, contributing their time and thoughts.

I am sure that in years to come, when various CIF member countries will be celebrating 30, 40 or 50 years these occasions will provide opportunities to reflect, reminisce, review activities and enhance bonding.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the EC members and particularly Maria Christopoulou for making the process enjoyable. Yes, in Cyprus we had good food, great wine and long lovely walks. Maria spared no effort to find the best restaurants and take us to the old city on exploratory tours. She organized an afternoon lunch with all CIF members. She also invited the Fulbright officials to have a dialogue with us. It was indeed a wonderful afternoon.

Maria even traced out two lost contacts, one a CIP USA co-participant of Leo Heikkilä about 30 years ago and one a friend of mine from London. In both the cases there was insufficient information, but Maria, who can make a great detective, was able to track down the targets!! Thank you, Maria Christopoulou for your perseverance, patience and performance.

We now look forward to the BD meeting at Vienna, Austria in October where we hope to conclude the decisions initiated and start actions. I also take this opportunity to thank Dorothy Faller and Ninetta-Lambrini Zoi for their contributions to the SPP and all other members who have helped in the process. I look forward to



President CIF International

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 ”

more participation of CIF members and their contribution to the World News. It is disappointing that we had to skip an issue as we did not have enough material. It is really important to the EC to have more members to contribute to the growth of CIF International. I'm looking forward to all your remarks which you can address to the editor or me directly.

Hope you all will enjoy a warm and good summer!

Zarin Gupta, President, CIF International





# Greetings from the First CIP Participants

Dear CIF Friends,

A hearty welcome to you all from the members of the first group of exchange students of CIP here in Cleveland in summer 1956 - 51 years ago! We were a group of 25 German participants, personally selected by the founder of CIP, Dr. Henry B. Ollendorff, out of 275 candidates. We spent four months here in Cleveland, sponsored by the US State Department, the German Fulbright Commission, the Neighborhood Settlement Association of Cleveland, donations of Cleveland citizens, and the German Ministry for Youth and Welfare.

Our age averaged between 20 and 30 years, this was for all of us the first big trip in our lives, a tremendous experience to visit, learn, study and work here for a while, a great chance only a few years after World War II: living in three different families for six weeks, getting to know the social, cultural, religious and industrial situation in and around Cleveland, a course on social group work at the university and a 10 week work period with children and youngsters in summer camps. For most of us this exchange program opened eyes and doors for a later career, the direction of study, training and working fields. Many of us have

kept lifelong contacts to the former families, colleagues and friends, visiting back and forth. Just recently I had a visit of the grandchildren, with great-grandchildren, of one of my

1958 where eight Americans came to Germany. So the International Program was born after two years already!

In 1960 the Council of

*Anita Gerdes of Berlin, Germany, CIF Germany member and 1956 CIP participant prepared the following remarks for the 27th CIF International Conference held in Cleveland, July 2007.*



families in Berlin!

In the evaluation at the end of our four-month program we suggested for the future to invite participants from other European countries, and this happened the following year 1957 already. One member of our group organized the first similar program in Hamburg in

International Fellowship was founded in Hamburg and our regular international conferences continued to take place every other year in different countries around the globe. Several groups of a year met at certain times in between for exchanging ideas and for fastening their friendship.

From the group of 1956 I want to mention that we have met every two years in Germany. Unfortunately none of us is able to attend this year's conference in Cleveland. But we are here with you all with our thoughts and very good wishes to you personally and for success for a good conference. May the contacts and friendship between many of you grow and further develop.

Let us all continue to build bridges whenever and wherever we can, bridges for which

Henry B. Ollendorff laid the foundation of this unique worldwide recognized program in 1956!

*Thank you! Anita Gerdes*



*Anita Gerdes(right) with Frank and Martha Ollendorff (seated)*

# Host Family Experience Fosters Understanding of the World

By Nancy and Terry Singer

We live in a world where there is so much uncertainty about people and places about which we know very little. We are divided along ethnic, religious and geographical lines, the extreme result being war and unspeakable atrocities. It seems certain that the reason for this distance among people has something to do with the fear of the unknown.

We had a wonderful opportunity when we lived in northeast Pennsylvania (USA) on a smaller basis to do something about this global discord. For ten years, we served as a host family for participants in the Council of International Programs (CIP) at Marywood College. Not so surprisingly, this program was developed following World War II to build better understanding of youth workers from Germany with the rest of the world. These participants came from many regions of the globe for three months to experience a cross cultural exchange, and it was set up to be a mutually beneficial experience. We have many wonderful memories of the individuals we hosted.

Through the experience of sharing our home with CIP participants, we were able to learn a great deal about the professional and personal qualities of life from so many different perspectives. What do Muslims believe and what are their dietary restrictions? How do Norwegians manage a full

day of daylight? How do Germans understand their history replete with strong religious and ethnic persecution? How does one take the experience of freedom back to a country like China that is more limiting in personal expression and freedom? These questions were not meant to pass judgment, but to create a better understanding. And just as important were the discussions and experiences of the human qualities that tie us together. These are just a few of the interesting features of this exchange.

Perhaps one of the most beneficial aspects of being a host family was that our children were exposed to a diverse group of individuals from whom they learned about different cultures and languages. Just imagine if we could give our children these opportunities to

foster greater understanding of the world and its component differences and similarities what better chance the world would have to survive the barriers of hate and mistrust. We would like to think that our children, now fully grown, bring a new vision to the world that they hope to create.

Unfortunately, time has a way of losing track of some of the friends we made. We still exchange Christmas cards and emails with some of those friends. But more importantly, locked in the indelible memories of those times, is a fondness for wonderful human beings and a realization and hope for what the world can become. Being a host family far exceeded anything we could have hoped for. If only we could get the whole world to experience something similar....



*Through the experience of sharing our home with CIP participants, we were able to learn a great deal about the professional and personal qualities of life from so many different perspectives.*



Maria Christopoulou, Josh and Nancy Singer

Terry and Nancy Singer at their house in Louisville, Kentucky. My first and dear host family.



# IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened by the loss of four long-time members and supporters of CIP and CIF International:

- Aafje Punter from the Netherlands on 2 October 2007
- Gerd Hagen from Norway on 9 October 2007
- Iris Bruckner from Germany on 15 December 2007
- Håkan Berggren from Sweden on 17 July 2008

Thank you to Tone Buberger of CIF Norway for the following article:

In Memory of Gerd Hagen, Norway 1928-2007

Gerd Hagen passed away peacefully on October 9th 2007 after a short period of illness. Her rich life came to an end. Gerd was one of the pioneers of CIP and was one of the founders of the CIF Norwegian program in 1988. She went by boat to USA, to the Cleveland program in 1959. In 1985, she returned as a guest speaker at several

universities in US and to the 30th anniversary conference in Cleveland. Here I met Gerd Hagen for the first time.

Earlier she was only a name to me back home in Oslo. She is said here in Norway to be the "Mother of Child Welfare" services and for the further education of child welfare and social work. This meeting developed into a strong friendship between us and we travelled together to several CIF conferences. Her family (four nephews and their families) gave her a beautiful funeral. Her colleagues gathered with family and friends at the University College for an unforgettable memorial. After the funeral, they wrote in the newspapers: "She came to the Norwegian College of Social Science (NKSH) in 1968. There she engaged her enormous working capacity, her powerful disposition and her strong will." She created and formed our department. Gerd never avoided a challenge and her abilities as an innovator emerged in whatever she did, as a counselor or as an

administrator. She became The College's first elected principal and was responsible for the further education in social work, not to mention her contribution to making social work a master degree at the College. Gerd wanted to build a bridge between knowledge, practice and education.

Gerd was politically conscious, often before her time. The need for knowledge and interest in research and

developing new methods engulfed her work. Towards the end of her active career she was very engaged in knowledge and research in connection with children of immigrants and minority groups.

In 1997, Gerd Hagen received the very honored Order in Norway: the knighthood of the 1st Order of St. Olav. For several years she edited a periodical, The Norwegian Child Welfare Services, and she wrote their history. She wrote a couple of books in her field. They immediately became curriculum at the College of Social Work. She also wrote a local history about the place where she lived in Oslo.

The new building at the University College, Department of Social Science carries her name: Gerd Hagens Hus - The House of Gerd Hagen.

*Inspired by Gerd Hagen we are a group who try to have a Norwegian parliament member to nominate CIF International for the Nobel Peace Prize 2009. The documents are sent to the parliament member. Tone Marie Buberger, Oslo, Norway May 5th 2008*

Iris Bruckner

By David Scheele, CIF Germany

Iris Bruckner died Monday December 10 2007. Her funeral was on December 17 in Viernheim, Wald Friedhof in Germany. Iris was diagnosed with breast cancer several years ago and has had several treatments the past years. After the last treatment, she realized that, if the cancer came back, it would be impossible to cure again. She knew for years she had a disease that could be fatal and thought about death and how to deal with that. It was typically Iris, facing the facts and deal with them. After having lived with breast cancer

for over four years, she was not afraid of dying anymore. She kind of accepted the fact that she would not get very old.

Iris is remembered as being very realistic and straight forward in almost everything, also to her illness. Only for treatments, she would be away from her work. When possible, she went back to work, giving her attention towards others rather than herself.

The last months of her life, Iris was taken care of by her family and friends at her own home. When things became too difficult, she was brought over to her brother's house. Unfortunately, the last weeks of her life she needed so much technical nursing that she had to be taken to the hospital.

Iris leaves behind her parents and her brother and his family. Also, her good friends for a long time, both in Germany and in the CIF community. We will all miss her analysis of people and situations, her humor and hospitality. It is sad that she died so young but we do take our memories of Iris with us and that are many happy ones. She was in the extended CIP program 1989-1990. "Iris was always so calm, responsible, fun and cheerful. She is indeed missed," said Dorothy Faller, former executive director of CIP USA.

Håkan Berggren

Håkan Berggren died unexpectedly on 17 July 2008. Håkan was riding a bike together with an old friend in the southern part of Sweden. He got tired and sat down to rest for a while and then it happened. Håkan has been one of the active CIF members since the last 30 years and is also a personal friend to many in Sweden. It is a great loss in many respects to all of his friends and also to CIF Sweden and CIF International.



Aafje Punter, enjoying a boat trip at the CIF Germany Conference in 2005. A friend to all and dearly missed.

# CIF Rekindles Relationship with Cyprus Fulbright Commission

This year marks the beginning of a rekindled relationship between CIF Cyprus and the Cyprus Fulbright Commission (CFC). The CFC administers a variety of scholarship programs for Cypriot students and professionals. One such program particularly of interest to CIF is the Short-Term Training program. The aim of this program is to enhance the development of Cyprus by providing professional training opportunities to Cypriot professionals in both the public and private sectors. Each Short-Term Training program is tailor-made to meet the needs of each individual grantee and may involve a variety of activities such as conference participation, visits and observations at educational and professional institutions, hospital training, and much more depending on program requests.

CIF cooperation with CFC takes place through AMIDEAST, the America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. AMIDEAST considers placement possibilities offered by CIF in the same way it evaluates others placement possibilities.

We have begun small in 2008 in the hope that our cooperation will expand to include more grantees. There are three grantees this year, one Turkish Cypriot and two Greek Cypriots, in the fields of substance abuse and water /wastewater analysis. CIF Cyprus, with Lisa Purdy and Council of International Programs USA (CIPUSA), has been instrumental in organizing the kind of training programs requested by the grantees through the Denver CIP Affiliate. Mrs. Kufi, specialist in wastewater analysis, will be placed initially in Denver at the Wastewater Management Division followed by a second training course at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Environmental Science and Engineering Program located at the School of Public Health in Los Angeles. Ms. Charalambous and Ms. Zangoulou will have a professional training program at the Denver Family Therapy Center.

All expenses for this six week program will be undertaken by the



Fulbright Commission and CIPUSA coordinates the visas as well as finding the placements in the U.S., enabling the participants to enjoy a fruitful social and professional experience in their field of expertise. We have been able to fulfill a most important goal of this award, which is to offer the grantees a bicomunal program that will create a multiplier effect for the benefit of Cyprus.



# CIF Hellas and the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences Team Up to Provide a Travel and Study Course

Greece

*By Deborah R. Jacobson, PhD, LISW, ACSW, Assistant Professor, Director, International Education Programs, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University*

Our story begins with the 27th Conference of CIF and CIP USA's 50th Anniversary in July, 2007. The Council of International Programs USA (CIP USA), together with Council of International Fellowship (CIF International), met in Cleveland for an unforgettable conference at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS). I became introduced to CIF and CIP USA programs and people that have and continue to transform people, communities and individuals. I learned about their mission, philosophy and met many wonderful

colleagues. I also learned that there could be an opportunity for our students and alumni to experience a special study/travel CIF program. The program took 21 MSASS participants (seven social work graduate students, ten undergraduate students and four alumni social work professionals) to Greece to learn about the Greek social welfare system. Dr. Munira Merchant (CIF USA member) was a co-faculty for the course. We were joined by two social workers from Estonia and one from the Switzerland-CIF Hellas Exchange Program 2008. Our program took place May 10-18, 2008. Students were able to earn three hours of credit by meeting for two pre-trip sessions, turning in a paper in advance and also upon returning from Greece. Elisavet (Veta) Bakagianni (President, CIF Hellas),



Lambrini "Ninetta" Zoi (Immediate Past President, CIF International) and Catherine Psarouli (General Secretary, CIF Hellas) were our hosts in Greece. They made all the arrangements with agencies and presenters as well as the hotel and transportation. We were generally spoiled by our Greek friends who went out of their way for the entire program.

We had many lectures to give us background information on Greece Social Welfare. We learned about CIF/CIP and The Greek Welfare State: Moving from Welfare to Social Solidarity by Lambrini Zoi (who is also Advisor to the Deputy Ministers of Health & Social Solidarity). We were given an introduction to Modern Greece by the Director of the Athens Centre, Mr. John Zervos, and a lecture on Networking for Local and Social Policy Development by Professor of Social Work (A.T.E.I., Athens), Ms. Christina Vayas. We also had a lecture on Family and Caring: Present Reality and Future Concepts by Ms. Olga Stasinopoulou, Professor, Panteion University of Athens. We learned about Athenian Democracy from Mr. Nick Nikoloudis, Historian/Chief-editor of Istorika Themata Magazine. A lecture on Globalisation and Trends for Education and Social Work Practice was given by Professor of Social Policy & Social Work, European University Cyprus, Dr. Petros Stathopoulos. We had a special surprise when a Greek 1960 MSASS/Case alumni, Stamatina Kokkinaki, Professor Emeritus (A.T.E.I., Athens), spoke to us on Social Work Education in Greece in the 20th century. She is a CIF Hellas honorary member, an activist and an artist; and she gave each participant one of her photo-paintings. We had wonderful visits to agencies to learn first-hand about social issues, policies and practices in Greece. We visited Lavrio

Refugee Centre and met with Deputy Director, Ms. Christoforidou (CIF Hellas board member) and social and legal services staff. We also met with political asylum seekers and heard their stories of coming to Greece. We visited the National Centre for Solidarity (EKKA) (Ms. Smaragda Christidou, CIF Hellas board member) as well as the Aeginio Psychiatric Hospital (Ms. Nota Papavasiliou, CIF Hellas founder member). We were hosted by the Municipality Daycare Centre for the Elderly in Iraklio Attikis, where we heard Greek folk songs, saw Greek dancing and learned about their programs. Hand-made gifts were presented to all of our program participants (Ms. Eleni Mavrogiannaki, CIF Hellas Treasurer made arrangements). Our last agency visit was to Porta Anichti- Cerebral Palsy Greece (Ms. Mary Giannikaki-Koustelou, Vice-president CIF Hellas) where we learned about their education program and services, were shown around the facility and given a performance by the clients. We also were taken to the Acropolis, Plaka and Poseidon's temple in cape Sounion. We had a road-trip to Epidavros to see the ancient theatre, museum and village. Dimetris Koutounoglou joined in on many of our visits and gave us the history of places we were visiting. On our last day, we took a one-day cruise to the islands of Hydra, Poros and Aegina. Our hosts had a wonderful farewell dinner and special gifts for the participants, presenters, agency directors and representatives, and other CIF Hellas members. Through all of the presentations and visits, we learned about the Hellenic and Mediterranean Welfare State Model and were given a comprehensive understanding of current Greek Social Work and Greek Culture. We would like to thank our hosts and everyone that gave so much to make this such a successful and memorable program.



# German Program Leads to Cyprus Friendship

Cyprus

By Maria Panayidou, member of CIF Cyprus

During September and October 2004 I participated in the International Study Program (ISP) of the Federal Republic of Germany. This program is sponsored by the Government and the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

We were twenty participants from different European countries and all working in the field of social work and child/youth welfare. The first week all the participants were being positioned in Berlin for the introduction seminar and after that we were split into the five partner cities of the program. The duration of this program was eight weeks. During that period we had the chance to exchange professional experience and also practice our professional skills.

I was positioned in Rostock and my working place was Michaelshof, a care and support institution for mentally and multiple handicapped children, adults and senior citizens. In Michaelshof you can find a special school, workshops, hostels and care houses.

During my service time there I visited all the areas, but as a special teacher, I spent more time in the school. There I got very well acquainted with the assistant headmistress, Mrs. Ines Regina Fritzsche. I was always visiting her class and



Maria Panayidou at her visit during the exchange program in Germany. Maria Panayidou (Cyprus) and Ines Regina Fritzsche (Germany)

developed a very good relationship with her students. I was helping her with the lesson and had also the opportunity to talk to the children about Cyprus. I spent six weeks in Michaelshof and left with very good impressions, memories and earned knowledge in the field of Special Education.

When I came back, I was still having contact with Mrs. Fritzsche and invited her to come to Cyprus to learn about the Cypriot Educational System. She did so twice. First, she came in October 2005 and stayed for six days, and afterwards she came in March this year for a week. We visited together special schools and institutions for handicapped people in Nicosia. Of course she spent some days in my classroom with my students. I also had the chance to take her sightseeing in Cyprus. We had a great time together and I'm very pleased that she is a friend of mine.

I would also like to thank the German Government for giving me the opportunity to participate to the ISP, because I had the chance to meet and get to know many people from Germany and other European countries. I still have contact with them and hope that we will continue in the future.



# Grants Offered by the International Study Program (ISP) 2009 of the Federal Republic of Germany

Germany

By Renate Wisbar, ISP Program - Germany

A contemporary practice in child and youth welfare as well as in social work requires nowadays international and cross-cultural experiences of the specialists who are working

in these areas. The German ISP-program provides this within the European region.

Every year around 20 professionals from about ten or more different European countries have

the chance to meet during almost eight weeks in Germany experiencing professional practice with their German colleagues and also intercultural and international exchange.

Eligible for a grant are all those who are engaged full-time or on a volunteer basis in the field of social work and child/youth welfare including children and youngsters with special



needs. Candidates must have worked for at least one year after obtaining their professional qualification and must have very good comprehension and speaking skills in German. The age must be between 25 and 45 years.

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft fuer Kinder- und Jugendhilfe (AGJ) Child and Youth Welfare Association, an alliance of child/youth welfare NGOs and GOs, is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens Women and Youth to implement this program.

Contact:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft fuer Kinder- und Jugendhilfe-AGJ,

Muehlendamm 3, 10178 Berlin, Germany, Tel.: +49-30-400 40 223, FAX: +49-30-400 40 232, e-mail: renete.wisbar@agj.de, Internet: <http://www.agj.de>

*A program flyer as well as an application form can be ordered there or in German Embassies of European countries. Application forms (two copies) must be sent to the local German Embassy by January 2009.*



Group of ISP participants at the end of the program 2007  
Photo by Marian Lachmund

## Kyrgyzstan Member Inspired by 27th CIF Conference

By Bekboev Salamat, Vice President of "CIF Kyrgyz Land"

I had a good opportunity to participate at the 27th Conference of CIF International, which was held in Cleveland, Ohio the summer of 2007. Being a member of this conference I gained such good social worker's knowledge and was given a great chance to meet and socialize with the Presidents of CIF International Branches and other members. I met people who have many years of experience working as a social worker or generally in this system. Each representative of different countries was very interesting; some were well experienced and others were just fairly new as me. I had talked to the Presidents of

CIF: Austria, Italy, Scotland, Sweden, Finland, Australia, CIPUSA and other countries about exchange programs and we discussed many plans for the future. We have a great communication system.

The whole organization of this event was very successful, in my opinion, referring to the various discussions, board meetings, workshops, speeches, field trips, etc. We saw and lived in the city of Cleveland and visited some interesting places of this city. However, along with seeing America, we also shared little elements of our cultures. Each member had a chance to show their traditional souvenirs they had brought from their home towns and

sell them in order to make some contribution to the promoted fund-raising. It was fascinating to learn about each other's cultures and lives.

Learning was the biggest part of this conference. Every day there was something new to discover, because so many members shared their knowledge and experience from life. It is very important, because working with society means correlation with different people's lives and learning about them in order to help or make some changes. I gained a big amount of experience, advice and knowledge from this conference, which I can use in my future plans.

Special gratitude goes to the CIF International and CIF in Finland for giving me an

opportunity to be part of this big event. CIF International invited a representative from "CIF Kyrgyz Land" and sponsored my living in Cleveland. In 2005, I participated in the exchange program in Finland, which was a big welcoming door for me into this organization and membership. Former President of CIF in Finland, Gunvor Brettschneider, helped me in terms of finance as well.

Such conferences make good influences, bring enthusiastic people together, help to obtain life experience and give good memories. I wish many other social workers had this opportunity as well, because I truly enjoyed my participation. I hope my presence brought some information to others and made some impact.

## CIF Austria Hosts Board of Directors Meeting This Fall

All CIF branches and CIPUSA are invited to attend the Board of Directors meeting from 11 a.m. the 17th through 19th October, 2008 in Vienna, Austria. The exact meeting agenda will be set by the Executive Committee. There will be a morning session on Sunday followed by a short trip organized by CIF Austria for the afternoon.

CIF Austria is very happy to host the BD and looks forward to meeting CIF branch presidents or representatives in October! Meeting accommodations must be booked through CIF Austria. "We wish that this BD meeting will be as democratic as possible by giving as many branches as possible the chance to take part," said meeting planners. There will be some places at host families for free and some possible grant money. More information will follow to branches by e-mail, and you are welcome to ask your questions: [cifaustria@yahoo.com](mailto:cifaustria@yahoo.com).

# Austria

# BURMA A NATION RULED BY EVIL BUT MAINTAINED IN HOPE

Burma (Myanmar) once again made the headlines last month with the devastation of cyclone Nargis resulting in more than 100,000 estimated dead and more than 2 million internally displaced in this already oppressed population. All too quickly, the news slipped away into oblivion as Western media found other events to cover.

Burma has known no peace since independence from



Britain in 1948. There has been continuous internal war since that time with the ethnic minorities suffering the most. The notorious military junta in Burma represses and kills its people without mercy. Their persecution is focused especially on the ethnic minorities who make up half of Burma's estimated 60 million population. There is no obvious reason for their repression except to maintain itself in power.

The Karen are the largest ethnic group within Burma after the Burmese with an estimated 7 million population. In a process of ethnic cleansing that accelerated after the military coup of 1962, tens of thousands of Karen as

well as other ethnic groups have been tortured and killed, women and children raped and brutalized, many conscripted into forced slave labour, and villages, crops and livestock plundered and destroyed in a scorched earth policy. As a result, over 2 million are internally displaced in their own country and more than two hundred thousand have chosen the relative safety, though without freedom, of the displaced

persons' camps within the Thai border. Undaunted, despite the perpetration of these gross human rights violations, the Karen's fierce national pride and sense of justice have enabled them to collectively

persist in the pursuit of their goal for freedom within their land.

I first met the Karen in 2003 when I took part in a vacation Bible School with the Christian NGO organization, Partners, inside three of the displaced persons' camps on the Thai side of the Thai-Burma border. I was immediately struck by their tenacity and resilience their ability to maintain hope in what appeared to me an entirely hopeless situation. This has led me to undertake my PhD study researching how the Karen maintain their sense of identity, both individually and collectively, in the face of 60 years of organized violence and dispossession of their land. Since August

2007, I have acted in the role of volunteer lecturer at the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist School and College located in Mae La Displaced Persons' Camp on the Thai-Burma border, while simultaneously conducting in depth interviews with people living in the camp. I am still in this role. My aim is to complete my dissertation by the end of this year.

The Burmese military junta is a most evil regime. This has been particularly evidenced over the past weeks when they have obstructed international relief efforts to the victims of cyclone Nargis. As I write this, I know that hundreds of people in the delta are dying from preventable diseases because of the junta's obstructive policies, with many more expected casualties. Instead of diverting their 400,000 strong army to help the victims, the organized offensive in northern Karen State aimed at forcing villagers to relocate from the hills to more accessible army controlled areas, continues. In the month of May alone, over 20 villages have been completely destroyed and land mined



By Shirley Worland  
Vice President,  
CIF Australia

to prevent the villagers' return. Villagers have been killed and tortured, crops destroyed and rice barns burned. This has led to thousands more fleeing to the jungle in the height of the monsoon season with little or no food, shelter or medical care.

What can you as the reader of this article do about this? My challenge to you is to become informed. The media gives scant attention to Burma but there are plenty of Web sites who do. Read up and you will see that there are many ways you can help. Please check out the following Web sites, which will lead you to many more:

[www.khrg.org](http://www.khrg.org)

[www.partnersworld.org](http://www.partnersworld.org)

[www.freeburmarangers.org](http://www.freeburmarangers.org)



Displaced villagers after army attack in Burma.



## Nepal Gearing Up for Change

It is my great pleasure to know all the information regarding the 27th CIF conference in Cleveland, Ohio USA through the CIF World News of November 2007. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for the editorial board that worked dedicatedly to finalize it and distributed properly to all the readers. All Nepalese former CIF and CIP participants are grateful to the board for such wonderful information.

It must be very exciting in the Conference to share the different knowledge, experiences and the achievements with fruitful outcome of human services workers which was explored by 200 alumni and social

workers of 40 countries of the world in the 27th CIF conference. It was also the pleasant event celebrating the 100th birthday of Henry and banner of good wishes delivered to Martha of wonderful memories. Much more information in this World News supplied grantee reports, branch news, memorable words of the president, a plea for help and other important information of exchange programs in 2008.

You all might have known about Nepal which is a mountainous Himalayan country and suffered for about ten years from Maoist insurgency now gearing up to come in peace for the people with a new

constitution assembly and looking forward to new change of Nepalese socio economic life. We CIP/CIF friends are trying our best to open the branch office in Nepal.

I would like to congratulate and offer best wishes for the new CIF executive committee and thanks for the past CIF executive committee for their wonderful work to sustain CIF.

Lastly, I am very happy to know that the CIF conference will be held in Finland in 2009 which has accepted the exciting challenges and responsibilities to make it a success for CIF Finland, particularly new CIF vice president Leo Heikkila who is so dynamic and smiling CIF friend, has to manage a

## Nepal



By Krishna Acharya  
CIP/CIF contact person,  
Nepal

lot for the next CIF conference. I wish him good luck and success for the Finland conference in the days to come.

Best of luck to all CIF /CIP workers for their dedication and for giving valuable time to humanitarian services of the world's needy people.

In a recent World News questionnaire to CIF Branches, a number of respondents requested more details about how various CIF programs operate. CIF France offers additional details below :

CIF France will host an international exchange program for individuals in the human service field from May 24th through July 2nd 2009.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Participants should be professional human services workers with basic training and a minimum of two years of professional experience in social field and must be fluent in French.

### FINANCIAL CONDITIONS:

- Participants pay their travel expenses from their country to Paris and back;
- Participants are required to apply in their country for a personal insurance covering medical and emergency



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ASSOCIATION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT  
DES ÉCHANGES INTERNATIONAUX DES  
PROFESSIONNELS DU CLAMP SOCIAL

expenses before their arrival in France;

- CIF France pays the domestic travels when related to the program, and is responsible for securing room and board. CIF France also provides a weekly allowance of 70 €.

### DURATION OF THE PROGRAM:

- The program includes one (1) week of orientation: university seminars and field visits in PARIS; four (4) weeks of

professional field experience (mostly out of Paris); and five (5) days of evaluation and tourism in Ardeche.

- To apply, send four (4) applications for each candidate to the French Embassy in your country. They will make the first selection, evaluate the knowledge of French, and will provide a grant to those selected.

### SUGGESTED CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR:

## France

by Mireille Boucher,  
President CIF France

September 30th 2008: receipt date by the French Embassy for the applications

March 31st 2009: selection by CIF France;

May 24th - July 2th 2009: CIF France program

Contact CIF FRANCE for additional information:

99, rue Germain Baujard - 18400 St Florent sur Cher - FRANCE  
or Tel / Fax. 02 48 55 21 98,  
Web: [www.cif-france.org](http://www.cif-france.org) or e-mail: [cifrance@orange.fr](mailto:cifrance@orange.fr)



Marie Thérèse Berriaude, Maria Christopoulou  
and Mireille Boucher

# Building Bridges through the Arts

This past spring, warm breezes ushered in a wonderful new project at CIPUSA in partnership with our longtime friend and colleague, Nuket Atalay and the Foundation for the Advancement of Counseling in Education, (YORET), CIF Turkey and Turkish and American arts and arts education organizations. The Engaging Marginalized Youth through the Arts project is supported by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and will promote an understanding of the role of cultural institutions as educators, particularly to teach children and youth to value and respect their own cultural heritage and to examine and learn to appreciate the heritage of other peoples and cultures.

The first phase of the project began in April when a group of five Cleveland-based arts professionals and Lisa Purdy spent a week in Istanbul observing the arts and culture scene there through the lens of arts education as a tool to reach and empower children. Nuket, her staff and CIF Turkey provided an outstanding itinerary of learning opportunities including visits to a youth festival, various public and private elementary and high schools, university programs, a community center and a number of arts organizations



Children at a community center in Istanbul perform a Turkish traditional dance.

in Istanbul. The primary purpose of the 10 day program was for the U.S. team to gain a better understanding of how the arts are used in the Turkish education system to reach youth who are at risk. The program focused on the Gaziosmanpaşa District in Istanbul which has a population of 1.1 million people.

The American team was both thrilled and daunted by the challenge of training others to replicate the successful work that Cleveland area artists and arts educators are doing with urban youth. The opportunity to reciprocate their Turkish colleague's hospitality came in June when our Turkish friends arrived for a full month of training in four exciting American cultural centers Cleveland, San Francisco, Denver and Chicago.

The group of 10 visitors was plunged into a whirlwind of observational learning and training activities arranged by Cleveland Public Theatre, Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio, Motivation through Excellence, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) and the Cleveland Foundation. Their demanding but fun itinerary included working on and participating in Cleveland's well-known Parade the Circle event, theater performances, kids' playwriting festival, all kinds of gallery tours and concerts, and concluded with an old fashioned Fourth of July barbeque, picnic and fireworks.

But despite their exciting social calendar, the Turkish participants and American hosts

recognized the importance of their mandate to create together an arts-focused community program for marginalized youth concluding with an arts production in Istanbul next summer. Three full days were devoted to collaborative action planning about how to make their mutual vision a reality.

As American program



By Lisa Purdy, President and CEO, CIPUSA



The U.S. team and our Turkish friends in front of the Blue Mosque on our last day in Istanbul.

participant, Kathleen Cerveny, Program Director for Arts and Culture at the Cleveland Foundation stated about her trip to Turkey, "We traveled to meet those who may speak a different language, but who care as much as we do about

children and who understand the power of the arts to transform lives."

We know this will be a memorable program and we will keep you informed as we continue our work together.



Turkish group on their second day in Cleveland at University Circle Incorporated.



## Council of International Fellowship 28th Conference in Finland August 3-8, 2009 • Kiljava, Nurmijärvi, Finland

### Conference Dates

CIF Executive Committee Meeting July 30 - 31, 2009  
CIF Board of Directors' Meeting August 1 - 2, 2009  
CIF Exchange Program Coordinators' Meeting August 3, 2009  
CIF Conference August 3 - 8, 2009

### Conference Site

The conference site is the Kiljava Institute, a residential adult-education college, with the development of working life as its special field. The Institute is located approximately 50 km northeast of Helsinki on the shore of Lake Sääksjärvi with its pure waters at Kiljava in Nurmijärvi.

### Conference Accommodation

Rooms at Kiljava are hotel/ hostel standard doubles with single beds inc. WC and shower. All the rooms have a view of the lake and are close to classrooms and administrative offices.

- Room and board 380 € double/ person, single 500 € (including 15 € to CIF International)
- Bed and breakfast at the moderate Haukilampi camping site including lunch and dinner at the conference restaurant 260 - 330 €/ person, depending on the rustic nature of the accommodation (including 15 € to CIF International). Distance to the conference site approximately one (1) km.

*If you pay later than March 31, 2009 a late fee of 20 € will be added to the sums above.*

### Additional services at the conference site

- a lobby cafeteria/ bar
- vending machines (soft drinks) in hallways
- swimming pool and saunas
- email and internet access
- access to public transportation by bus (approximately one (1) hour) to the city centre in Helsinki

*Preliminary registration by November 30, 2008 by e-mail to [info@cifinland.org](mailto:info@cifinland.org) or to CIF c-o SSKH, Topeliusgatan 16 (PB16), 00014 Helsingfors universitet, Finland. Fax 00358919128430. More detailed information will be available on the CIF Finland website:*

## Finland



28th Conference  
**Dialogue**  
**Dialogue**  
3.-8.8.2009 in Finland

[www.cifinland.org](http://www.cifinland.org) from September, 2008 onwards.

### Meals

Meals will be provided at the conference site restaurant. Coffee and tea will be available between workshop sessions.

### Weather

As there is no longer any typical weather pattern in Finland a daytime temperatures can range from 14 to 30 degrees C with nights 10 to 18 C. In the evening a sweater or light jacket will be sufficient. There is the possibility of rain at any time.

### Travel to the conference site

You can reach Helsinki by train, ship or plane. Transport from the airport and from the centre of Helsinki to Kiljava will be arranged by CIF Finland on certain intervals on Monday with return transport on Saturday.

### More information on Helsinki:

<http://www.answers.com/topic/helsinki?cat=travel>

### The conference theme

Dialogue - A means to increase mutual understanding and peace.

### Call for papers

Workshops on August 4 - 5, 2009 on the conference theme of Dialogue

If you are interested in presenting a paper please inform us no later than October 30. Contact person: Valpuri Salonen-Sorri, President of CIF in Finland E-mail: [info@cifinland.org](mailto:info@cifinland.org)

"Are you ready to take the challenge of dialogue mathematics:  $1+1 > 2$ ?"

## Finland - Sweden Fund Established

By Birgitta Holm, CIF Sweden

The Finland Fund started in the mid-1980s and in 2006 CIF Sweden joined the fund. It is now called Finland-Sweden Fund.

CIF Finland started the fund to make it possible for members from Eastern Europe to participate in CIF conferences.

CIF Sweden felt that they also wanted to contribute to this and asked CIF Finland if they could join the fund. So in autumn of 2006 a letter about this was written to all the members in CIF-Sweden. The subscription started and many members were interested in contributing.

The goal was to get at least \$3,000 from CIF Sweden as CIF in Finland already when the fund started, collected \$3,000 from its members for the fund. The members of CIF in Sweden could follow the inflow of money on the home page of CIF Sweden's Web site. Money came to the fund and in

December the goal was reached. At the end of December there was \$3,600 that could be added to the \$3,000 in the fund. So at the end of the year there was \$6,600. Together with €50 that CIF Finland paid as a welcome to CIF Sweden and some more contributions from both countries we now have \$7,287 in the fund.

The subscription is continuing and some money to the fund is still coming both from CIF members in Finland and Sweden. The members in Sweden are still able to follow the inflow of money on their home page.

When CIF Sweden joined the fund it was decided that members from countries which had been parts of the former Soviet Union also would be included as grantees. It is decided by CIF in Finland and Sweden that the returns of the fund should be used for grants for CIF conferences.

The Executive Committee of CIF International decides to whom the grants are given in accordance with the conditions settled by the donors.

# Exchange Programs: An Experience with a Lifelong Benefit

Edna recently met students and professionals at an educational conference who were exposed to fliers and posters with information about the CIF organization and its exchange programs. Edna said, "I see myself an ambassador of one of the most special organizations, which gives me an opportunity to experience something so powerful..." She answered questions about CIF exchange programs.

*I was asked:*

1. Is the exchange program an educational or a study program? Is it at any university? Do I get credit for my participation?

*My answer:*

It is a program to broaden knowledge in your professional area, to learn about various welfare services and agencies in a foreign country. It gives you a chance to meet professionals and to study different professional systems. It is a very special experience to be able to meet all these professionals and learn from them on a personal basis. Sometimes

the meetings take place at universities, but mostly at agencies. There is no credit on paper. We are in a process of developing this...but there's a lot of credit for the experience!

2. How can I join a program if my workplace is not participating with my interest to study or there is no financial help or even no promise to keep my job till I come back?

*My answer:*

It is up to you to take the initiative to apply to a program after you get all information needed from the CIF branch you choose. Once you are convinced with the importance of the program for your professional and personal career, you will be able to convince your employer to give you a hand. Participants, after an exchange program, give in return to their agency by bringing back good knowledge and new ideas.

3. What are the living conditions?

*My answer:*

The CIF exchange program's uniqueness is living with host families. The most wonderful experience

is to learn about people, their culture, to understand day-to-day living in a foreign country and to establish special relationships with people.

4. Is there any continuous process of the program?

*My answer:*

Once you participate in a CIF exchange program you become a member in a big family of members who believe in values of friendship, peace and contacts between people all over the world. Relationships established in the frame of a program continue when you meet other participants from many countries and when you join the biannual conferences. These personal and professional relationships can be obtained only through this unique experience. Relationships offer you a dialog with professional colleagues all over the world and open new



*By Edna Bar-On, CIF Israel, CIF Executive Committee Member-at-Large and CIF exchange programs coordinator*

opportunities for further common professional programs in the future.

## Summary

There were many interested faces around me. All were very much interested to learn more about our programs. Not many find the time to meet with branch members or write to CIF or CIP/USA exchange programs to get more information. Less have initiative and the patience to complete an application form which can be obtained at the Web site [www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com). Those who do benefit for the rest of their life!

## Guidelines for Conference Grants Announced

The next CIF Conference will be in Finland during the first week of August in 2009. A few grants are offered to members in developing countries and Eastern Europe. The guidelines for grants and application forms for grants have been sent to all branches and contact persons.

The applications shall be sent to Birgitta Holm, treasurer at latest on September 30th 2008. All applications should come and be endorsed by the National Branch where it exists, or by the country contact person.

### Additional Funds Requested

There are always many applications for grants. I think all of

us would like to offer more grantees to attend the conference. Only a third of the applicants to the conference in Cleveland were able to get a grant. Therefore, we also ask you or your branch to consider if you are able to contribute some funds to a conference grant or to a part of a grant. If you or your National Branch are able to give a contribution or if you have some questions regarding grants, please get in touch with me.

*Birgitta Holm, Treasurer  
Katarina Bangata 43 3TR  
116 39 Stockholm  
Sweden  
[birgitta.holm@cifinternational.com](mailto:birgitta.holm@cifinternational.com)*


**CIF /CIPUSA - International Exchange Programs 2009**

| Program Dates/Details <sup>1</sup> |                        |                    |                        |                                 |                               |   |                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Country                            | Duration               | Dates              | Deadline <sup>2</sup>  | Language                        | Registration Fee <sup>3</sup> | Support. by <sup>4</sup>                | No of Participants |
| Aotearoa/<br>New Zealand           | 4 weeks                | Oct 12 – Nov 7     | April 30th             | English                         | S 500 NZ                      | Dom. travel                             | 4 to 6             |
| Australia                          | 4 weeks                | Sept 11 – Oct 7    | March 1                | English                         | AU\$ 400                      | Dom. travel                             | 4 to 6             |
| Argentina                          | 4 weeks                | Sep 14 – Oct 4     | March 31 <sup>st</sup> | Spanish                         | 400 €                         | Dom. travel                             | 4                  |
| Austria                            | 4 weeks                | April 7<br>May 17  | Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English                         | No fee                        | Dom. travel                             | 4 to 5             |
| France                             | 5.5 weeks              | May 24<br>July 2   | Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>    | French                          | No fee <sup>5</sup>           | Dom. travel + allowance                 | 12                 |
| Germany                            | 4 weeks                | May 1<br>May 24    | Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English,<br>German if possible  | 300 €                         | Dom. travel                             | 4                  |
| Greece                             | 4 weeks                | May 4<br>May 29    | Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English,<br>Greek if possible   | 400 €                         | Dom. travel                             | 5                  |
| India                              | 5 weeks                | Nov-Dec            | July 1 <sup>st</sup>   | English                         | 450 €                         | Dom. travel                             | 7 to 12            |
| Israel                             | 3 weeks                | April 17<br>May 8  | Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English                         | 350 €                         | Partial Dom. travel                     | 2                  |
| Italy<br>+<br>Slovenia             | 3 weeks<br>+<br>1 week | Sep 18<br>Oct 18   | March 1 <sup>st</sup>  | English,<br>Italian if possible | 200 €<br>+<br>100 €           | Dom. Travel, excluded Italy to Slovenia | 4                  |
| Norway                             | 4 weeks                | April-May          | Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English                         | No fee                        | Dom. Travel                             | 7 to 8             |
| Scotland                           | 5 weeks                | May 2<br>June 9    | Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English                         | No fee                        | Partial Dom. travel                     | 4 to 6             |
| Sweden                             | 5 weeks                | April 17<br>May 17 | Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English                         | No fee                        | Dom. travel                             | 6 to 8             |
| Switzerland                        | 4 weeks                | May 17<br>June 14  | Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English,<br>German if possible  | SFR 320                       | Dom. travel                             | 4 to 6             |
| Tanzania                           | 4 weeks                | May 26<br>June 30  | Feb 28                 | English or Swahili              | US\$ 500                      | Partial Dom. travel                     | 6 to 8             |
| Turkey                             | 4 weeks                | May 2<br>May 30    | Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>    | English                         | 400 €                         | Dom. travel                             | 4 to 6             |

<sup>1</sup> Dates/Details are subject to change from year to year

<sup>2</sup> Deadline is for applications from people living in countries without a national branch. In countries with national branches the deadline may be earlier

<sup>3</sup> In addition to the registration fees, applications fees can be charged by countries with national branches that send the application to an exchange program

<sup>4</sup> All exchange programs provide participants with housing - usually host families living during the program. either an allowance (pocket money) is provided and/or domestic travel cost in the country during the program

<sup>5</sup> The fee for participants with no support from the French embassy is 1950 €

# Executive Committee Elections - 2009

By Jane Ollendorff, EC Nominations Convener

As we prepare for the 2009 CIF Conference in Finland, it's also time to begin to consider candidates for election to the CIF International Executive Committee (EC). It's a process that begins with a review of the bylaws and analysis of the eligibility of those people serving in their present role. Our bylaws require no more than eight (8) consecutive years in any position on the EC and allow only four (4) consecutive years in the same position. This means that our current President, Zarin Gupta, must retire from the EC, having graciously served for eight years by the summer of 2009; and both the Treasurer, Birgitta Holm, and the Secretary, Maria Hierlinger-Gudat, have served in their present positions for the limit of four years. We hope they will each consider continuing by accepting a nomination for another EC position, but cannot continue in their present role. All of the other EC members are eligible to continue in their present position for another two-year term of office.

Nominations Committee members, Nadine Rogue and myself, want to encourage each National Branch and all Country Contact Persons to discuss possible candidates for the EC in preparation for the nomination process which will begin in February, 2009. Candidates must, in addition to their commitment to the organization, be members in good standing of CIF, must have attended a CIF or CIP USA exchange program in the past, and must have the technical ability to send and receive e-mails as well as access the Web in order to facilitate worldwide communication.

The CIF International organization continues to grow and thrive because all of you believe in the importance of cultural understanding as a bridge to world peace! We hope you will consider contributing your time and leadership ability to keep CIF moving forward. You will gain so much through your involvement in addition to international contacts, friendships and travel opportunities. You can direct your questions about the elections and nominations process to: Jane Ollendorff at [jane.franko@charter.net](mailto:jane.franko@charter.net) or Nadine Rogue at [nadine.rogue@9online.fr](mailto:nadine.rogue@9online.fr).



## From the Conference...





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## Six Sweden social workers in Marseilles

It's a wonderful story by the way of internet, because six social workers from Malmo, Sweden discovered the CIF France Web site and came to Marseilles the 12th of October 2007 to discover French social work through me, a member of CIF in Marseille.

They chose Marseille because Malmo is the third big town of Sweden, a harbor, and they thought the two towns must have similarities about social work. The six graduated from the Superior School of Social Science. They work in the three units of the Arrondissement Centre Sud: Unit Housing, Unit Children and Families, Unit Adults without children (with drug problems and consort). They wanted to find something in France useful for them in Malmo.

They could visit four agencies during the two days linked with their interest, each time with a theoretical approach and a practical

one. They were welcomed first, at the Direction of the Consul General 13 Bouches du Rhine, to discover how we deal with all the problems concerning childhood and with their families in a theoretical way and later they were received by a team of social workers who explained the work with children and about different family problems. They got information about housing problems by the Consul General 13 and by the work of a private association.

Finally they met the Coordinator of Drug Information Service and her team and were able to discuss with another team in a specific center. With their visit they had the opportunity to discover different parts of the town and they saw the challenges and difficult work conditions for the social workers. They were very motivated, enthusiastic and involved, asking a lot of questions. It was a pleasure to welcome them.

We were lucky with the international friendship, because a French social worker from Marseilles living in Sweden did the oral translation; and the daughter of a former Sweden participant of the CIF Program in Marseilles did the translation of their report when they were back home. She is a student in Aix en Provence.

Every thing was great! Thank you for all the cooperation.

*Martine*  
CIF FRANCE





## DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL BRANCHES

July 2008

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Status as of 21st July, 2008  
Updated by Maria Hierlinger-Gudat; Secretary CIF International





# NEWS

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place this autumn in Vienna, Austria October 15 -16 prior to the Board of Directors meeting October 17-19, 2008 hosted by CIF Austria.



## WE MOVED!!!!

NEW CIPUSA ADDRESS:

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CIPUSA...Training for a changing world

## CIFCAM AWARDS EXCELLENCE

### TO SCHOOL OF THE HANDICAPPED-KUMBA

CIF CAMEROON has recently awarded gifts of over 60 T-shirts, school bags and books to the Ephaphatha Institute for the Deaf (EID) Kumba. The occasion took place early June at the school campus during the end of school year ceremony. In a bid to encourage ability in disability, the members awarded prizes to the best academic performance, hard work, punctuality and efficiency to duty holders like prefects, well behaved students among these handicapped youths. The occasion was witnessed by members of the EID staff, members of the Management Board and parents who were all full of appreciation to CIF CAMERON.

EID Kumba (co-educational) is the only handicapped school with second cycle in Anglophone Cameroon, which is managed solely by volunteers and survives mainly on charity.

The students follow the normal curriculum in America sign language and concentrate principally on technical and vocation education.

*Date 20th June 2008, Cifcam. Albert Kalle, President*



CIFCAM on charity mission EID Kumba

## Best Wishes!



Lisa Purdy of CIPUSA married Chad Verhoff last New Year's Eve December 31st, 2007. It was a small wedding filled with family and friends who danced into the New Year!

Issy Bruce, outgoing president of Cif Scotland (UK) reports that they will have a programme in 2009. The programme will be from Saturday 2 May 2009 to 9 June 2009, five weeks and for four to six participants. The programme will be one week shorter than usual but will hold all of the usual exciting experiences for participants and no fees. They also elected a new president, Iain Cameron and vice president, Caroline Mance.

We're on the Web!

[www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com)

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This issue of CIF NEWS was designed and printed in Cyprus by Gregory Hadjimichalakis, e-mail: [thira@avacom.net](mailto:thira@avacom.net)