Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 80th Edition of VIVAT Newsletter!

This edition of VIVAT Newsletter comes to you almost at the end of Summer Season in the northern hemisphere. The dominant theme of this edition is climate/environment related issues. We begin with the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference (UNCSC 2019) on SDG 11 taking place in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, 26-28 August 2019 (p. 2); followed by an article on UN Climate Action Summit in New York, 21-23 September 2019 (p. 3). Other climate-environment related issues and stories are, Climate Strikes held on September 20 2019 (p. 5); Interreligious and Spiritual Alliance Agreement for COP25 Preparation in Chile (p. 6); Statement by VIVAT Brazil in support of CIMI on the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and the Amazon (p. 8); reforestation activities in Flores, Indonesia (p. 9) and Madagascar (p. 10).

Another story shared by Paul Rahmat, SVD of VIVAT International Indonesia highlights the Advocacy activities to combat Trafficking in Persons (pp. 7 and 10); and Br. Thaddeus Nyanuba, SVD shares about the African Child Day Celebration in Mozambique (p. 4).

This edition also covers a sharing of experiences by Sr. Aprilia, SSpS and Ms. Jalom Wells who did a short Internship at VIVAT Office in New York (p. 11).

Finally, SDG education program continues by introducing Goal 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production (P. 12).

We thank all of you for your support in many and various ways to make VIVAT Newsletter continue to survive and looking forward to more stories from you.

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August - September, 2019

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The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference (UNCSC 2019) was held in Salt Lake City, Utah from 26 – 28 August 2019 that deliberated on “Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities” based on Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11): Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The theme is considered very relevant due to the rapid growth in cities and urban settlements, which is expected to rise by 68% by 2050. SDG11 calls forth for collaboration between governments and stakeholders at the local, national and global levels and those of us working on the ground know well the importance of collaboration and participation.

UNCSC 2019 is said to be the most attended with over 5000 participants from all walks of life representing UN entities and civil society groups. Throughout the conference it was more than clear that SDG 11 is so very connected with other SDGs which were highlighted by thematic sessions, workshops, youth climate declaration and civil society outcome document. Salt Lake City was the first city, other than New York to host such a conference in the United States and made the entire experience a positive one for all the visitors through their planning and effective implementation, prior to and during the conference.

Some of the themes focused were impacts of climate change, migration, importance of multilateralism, good practices highlighting the collaboration between governments and civil society, and role of civil society as the need of the hour. In the opening video message by the UN Secretary General, António Guterres stressed on the importance of well-planned and managed cities for inclusive growth and harmony among diverse people. These themes are highlighted in the Outcome Document of the Conference, which was deliberated through the civil society organizations, an effort in which VIVAT also participated. It was adopted at the closing session. [https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/content/68th-united-nations-civil-society-conference-outcome-statement](https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/content/68th-united-nations-civil-society-conference-outcome-statement).

Youth participation was enlivening from the preparatory stage. Youth Climate Change Declaration 2019 shows their commitment to change [https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/content/youth-climate-compact-0](https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/content/youth-climate-compact-0).

Seven VIVAT members participated in the UNCSC 2019. Holy Cross Sisters, living and working in Salt Lake City through their Congregational Justice Coordinator Florence Deacon OSF, played an important role in planning for the workshop during the conference along with New Office and VIVAT members in USA. The theme chosen for the workshop resonated with their commitment to integrating migrants into inclusive and peaceful communities. The panel, moderated by Florence Deacon had three resource persons, namely Myrna Trillo MCSC, Emmie Gardner CEO of Holy Cross Ministries and Veronica Fajardo CSC, Peace House with a brief introduction on Global Compact on Migration and civil society action by Helen Saldanha. Rose Therese Nolta SSpS, Province JPIC Coordinator of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters recorded the minutes of the event. NGO Committee on Migration (a network of over 55 UN NGOs) and many UN NGO organizations cosponsored and supported this workshop.

In conclusion I would like to say that UN Civil Society Conference is an opportunity to dialogue, reflect and deliberate on the role and contribution civil society to the world. This is a space for interaction on different issues. Civil Society Unit of UN Department of Global Communications, throughout the year and most specifically through these biennial conferences provides space for dialogue between government and nongovernmental initiatives, and delves into important issues such as people’s participation, multilateralism, inclusion of civil society, and SDGs.

Helen Saldanha, SSpS
VIVAT International
A United Nations Climate Action Summit was held at the United Nations Head Quarter in New York from September 21st to 23rd, 2019 focusing on concrete action to address global climate crisis. Leaders of the states from around the world with civil society and private sector gathered together to share about their concerns, best practices and their dreams and expectations of a better world for every one.

During this summit the many faces of climate crisis such as more destructive category 5 hurricanes, tornados, and storm; monster fires in the Amazon region, Indonesia, Congo Basin, and Siberia; massive deforestation; increasing global warming; drinking water shortages; the lost of biodiversity; longer drought; the more warming and acidic ocean resulting in the destruction of coral reefs and endangering fish populations; but also the massive flooding and the increase and rise of new tropical diseases everywhere were mentioned. All of these were part of common concerns during this 3 day summit.

The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, in his closing remarks states: “In planning this Summit, I had one overriding objective. This had to be a Summit of action plans, not platitudes….You understand that climate emergency is the fight of our lives, and for our lives. I thank young people around the world for leading the charge – and holding my generation accountable…. Today, in this Hall, the world saw clear ambition and concrete initiatives.”

The Secretary General mentioned in specific some facts that indicate the concrete actions and plans by governments, banks, private sectors and civil society to address climate crisis. “Many countries around the world -- from Pakistan to Guatemala, Colombia to Nigeria, New Zealand to Barbados – made major commitments today to plant more than 11 billion trees…”

But he further states: “We need more concrete plans, more ambition from more countries and more businesses…. And we need to see much more progress on carbon pricing and ending coal and other fossil fuel subsidies in the months to come…” (Source: https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2019-09-23/secretary-generals-remarks-closing-of-climate-action-summit-delivered).

What is interesting in this summit was the presence of youth who also made appeals to the world leaders to take concrete actions. Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old Swedish environmental activist and one of the youth representatives emotionally saying: “We are watching.” By saying this, she expressed her strong wish that world leaders really have a sense of urgency and take concrete actions jointly to address climate crisis this time without which it will affect the future generation significantly. They also shared their initiatives and best practices in their countries to address climate related issues and asked for governments’ support.

Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement

This Climate Action Summit is based on and an implementation of Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty which extends the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that commits state parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, based on the scientific consensus that (part one) global warming is occurring and (part two) it is extremely that human-made CO2 emissions have predominantly caused it. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. There are currently 192 parties to the Protocol. The Protocol acknowledges that individual countries have different capabilities in combating climate change, owing to economic development, and therefore puts the obligation to reduce current emissions on developed countries on the basis that they are historically responsible for the current levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. More on Kyoto Protocol, see: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-kyoto-protocol/what-is-the-kyoto-protocol/kyoto-protocol-targets-for-the-first-commitment-period.

Meanwhile, Paris Agreement (2015) is called for a balance of climate finance between adaptation and mitigation, and specifically underscoring the need to increase adaptation support for parties most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. More on Paris Agreement, see: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement.

At the end of this Climate Action Summit all expected that multi-stakeholders—governments, private sector and civil society—at all levels will work hand in hand to make this agenda of climate action possible. It is not too late.

By Robert Mines, SVD
VIVAT International
On Sunday 16th June, 2019, we celebrated the African Child Day in our parish here in Maputo as part of the parish program for animating children. Most of these children are in the group called “Infância Missionária” (infant missionaries). A total of about 170 children, 15 youth who are animators of the children group from the parish and its outstation call Saint Kizito as well as a couple in charge of the parish family ministry participated in the program.

It started with the Holy Mass, followed by lunch and various social activities, such as singing, dancing, poetry and theater etc. The children enjoyed very much as most of them do not often have such opportunities to socialize with others. It is because, the parish is in the heart of a semi-slum area where most of the families are poor and their houses are small and simple which the poor can afford to rent. They are either domestic workers, vegetable or second hand clothes sellers or unemployed. Furthermore, recently, there is a fast growing trend of single parenthood whereby mothers need to take full responsibility to raise their children.

Since many of such mothers are still an adolescent and as they no means of taking care of the children, they leave their children at their aged parents who also do not have or have limited possibilities to meet the basic needs of these children. For such children, it is difficult to find a place to play since the only space they can play with ball is the busy streets. Therefore, as a way of animating these children to be happy and grow in the love of God, the parish created a children group known as “Infância Missionária” whereby all children in the parish are supposed to join. Every Sunday between 2:00PM to 4:00PM the group come together for various activities such as simple prayers, catechesis and religious formation as well as social programs such as dancing, singing, drama and theatre, playing games etc. In addition, the parish organizes activities for them on important days. The Africa Child Day was celebrated in such context.

Br. Thaddeus Nyanuba, SVD
JPIC Coordinator, VIVAT Mozambique
The September 2019 climate strikes are a series of international strikes and protests to demand action be taken to address climate change. The protests are taking place across 4,500 locations in over 150 countries. The event is a part of the school strike for climate movement, inspired by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.

The climate strike of 20 September is of great significance as it was held just before the UN Climate Action Summit, 23 September 2019. It brought together young activists, movements, civil society organizations, academicians, innovators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers who are committed to combating climate change. Climate justice is at the heart of this movement.

The demands of climate strikes call for accountability from world leaders to listen to scientific reports that include data on rising sea temperatures and demand that the leaders to put people and planet over the profits, phasing out to keep fossil fuels in the ground, transition to renewable energy, to implement Paris Agreement.

Chicago, USA: For me it was marvelous to be a part of about 3000 strong young people and not so young activists marching for action against climate change in Chicago on Friday, September 20th. All present were standing and marching for action to save our earth, our water and our air. During this Season of Creation and week of prayer and action, let us make our personal choices be ones for the earth and ones lessening our use of plastics.

India: Janvikas Society, an NGO initiated by the Divine Word Missionaries in the city of Indore, India joined hands with other likeminded people and organizations of the city in support of the Climate Strike on 20th September 2019. Youth from the slums who are members of youth clubs organized by Janvikas staged a street play on “Protection of Environment” and urged everyone present to demand ‘Climate Justice for everyone’.

New York: About 250000 participated in the Climate Strike in New York City as estimated by the organizers of the strike. Several young activists spoke, Greta Thunberg, being the last speaker said “This is an emergency. Our house is on fire….and we will do everything in our power to stop this crisis from getting worse.”

It is heartening and at the same time shame to the adults, to witness the young people demanding accountability and action to save the planet. The issue of climate change has threatened human survival and it is the young people who are most threatened to be victims of the greed of the powerful adults who have created this mess. They are not the ones who have created the crisis, but they will be impacted by it in their lifetime. Our hotter planet is already hurting millions of people. The intensifying natural disasters such as wildfires, droughts, impacts of sea rise, floods, and hurricanes will be catastrophic if the world leaders do not act on it. The Young demand that there is climate emergency and major change is urgently required in the way governments form policies. Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish activist and a school going girl, who listened to her inner voice to respond to this crisis has sparked the international movement, forcing the world to recognize the power of the young and cry of Mother Earth.

Rose Therese Nolta SSpS, Roy Thomas, SVD and Helen Saldanha SSpS

VIVAT International
Chile: Interreligious and Spiritual Alliance for the Climate Compact

Sunday, July 21st, 2019 at the Brahma Kumaris central office in Santiago, Chile, diverse religious and spiritual communities celebrated an agreement that unites them in their commitment with the care of Mother Earth, in the context of the XXV Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25), which will take place in Chile in December 2019.

The aim of this Alliance, as expressed in the compact, is to promote a systemic, cultural and spiritual change that may be translated into economic and political transformations against the existing climate crisis. Consequently, the organizations that adhere to the agreement manifest their vocation of service to the community, in order to facilitate relationships that can generate public-political advocacy through their respective identities.

One of the principal actions of the Interreligious and Spiritual Alliance for the Climate will be the installation of a tent, in which it will develop celebrative, meditative and ritual actions for the care of Earth. The celebration aims to continue day and night, during the course of COP25.

The agreement was celebrated by twenty-one religious and spiritual communities as listed below. The Executive Committee of the Alliance expressed the wish that in the coming weeks other organizations and communities join the agreement so that it will be as wide and inclusive as possible. Religious and spiritual organizations from abroad that will be present at COP25 are also invited to support the initiative.

List of 21 religious and spiritual communities of the Alliance:
- Amerindian
- National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Chile
- Chilean Association of Interreligious Dialogue for Human Development (ADIR Chile)
- Drikung Kagyu Chile Tibetan Meditation Center
- Diego de Medellín Ecumenical Center (CEDM)
- Islamic Center of Chile
- Ecumenical Coalition for the Care of Creation (CECC)
- Óscar Romero Sur Austral Base Ecclesial Community
- Evangelical Theological Community of Chile (CTE of Chile)
- Conference of Religious of Chile (CONFERRE)
- Brahma Kumaris Spiritual Corporation
- Fourth Baptist Church of Santiago
- Ecology in your Neighborhood
- Provincial JPIC team, Claretianos San José del Sur
- Chilean Chilean Friendship and Education Waterfall Foundation
- Chile Humanity Foundation
- Group of Multidisciplinary Studies on Religion and Public Incidence (GEMRIP)
- The River of His Presence Christian Church, La Granja, Santiago
- Lutheran Church in Chile (ILCH)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH)
- Methodist Church of Chile
- Network of Laity and Laity of Chile
- Franciscan Province of Chile
- Missionary Society of San Columbano.

Shared by Fr. Fernando Diaz, SVD, VIVAT Chile
Indonesia is one of the main countries of origin of trafficking in persons and at a certain level becomes a destination and transit country for Indonesian men, women and children for forced labor and sex trafficking. All 34 provinces (34 in Indonesia are both the origin and destination of trafficking in persons with the highest rates are in West Java, Central Java, Banten, East Java, NTB and NTT Provinces.

According to a report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Indonesia, from March 2005 to June 2019 there were 9,133 victims of trafficking in persons, including 6,258 women, 2,285 men and 1,128 children.

The East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Province is one of the largest sources of human trafficking in Indonesia. From 2013 to September 2019 there have 282 migrant workers died abroad, especially Malaysia, among whom were victims of human trafficking. This amount is only a small part that is recorded and known. In recent years, the number of migrant workers who have died abroad is quite significant, an average of 2 or 3 persons per week.

JPIC-VIVAT Indonesia’s Efforts To Combat Trafficking in Persons

Various initiatives at the grassroots level have been carried out by SSpS sisters, SVD brothers and priests in Indonesia to combat trafficking in persons. These initiatives can be categorized into 5 main programs namely: economic empowerment, awareness raising, capacity building, advocacy, data collection and mapping. JPIC Commission SSpS and SSpS of West Timor Provinces, for example, have been and are making joint efforts to prevent human trafficking through economic empowerment programs with some main activities such as traditional weaving and organic farming. The program included women (mothers) and farmers in villages.

In Sikka Regency on Flores Island, Sr. Eustochia, SSpS and Truk F assist human trafficking survivors by providing small business capital and providing opportunities for survivors for driver courses.

Socialization about human trafficking and the "stop trafficking!" Campaign were carried out in villages, parishes, schools and dormitories, as well as religious communities. The Syuradikara Catholic High School in Ende, Central Flores, a high school run by the SVDs, campaigned on the issue of human trafficking and migrant workers through a colossal theater performance titled "Tungku Haram" in several towns in Flores and Timor, NTT. In addition, STFK Ledalero published books and articles and held seminars on human trafficking issue through academic journals, wrote articles in the SVD Flores Pos newspaper, local and national newspapers. JPIC activists often give radio and tv talks shows about human trafficking in the area and at national level.

To increase capacity, a seminar was held on the Anti-HumanTrafficking Law, workshops, and paralegal training. The audience were teachers, women’s groups and young people in rural areas, monks, police, prosecutors, judges, village government officials and religious leaders.

VIVAT members advocate policies and regulations related to the issue of human trafficking both at the district (regional) and national levels. JPIC encourages local government leaders and parliament members (DPRD) in Kab. Sikka, Flores to establish regional and local regulations and Regents Regulations (PERBUP) regarding human trafficking and safe migration.

Efforts to collect data about NTT migrant workers were carried out by the Chandradiya Research Center at Maumere in collaboration with Ledalero Institute of Philosophy students. The study provides an overview of the situation and conditions of migration in NTT and the possibility of human trafficking with migration as a mode of operation. The results of the study were presented at the Synod session of the Catholic Bishops of the Nusa Tenggara Region in Atambua, NTT in July 2019. The research also contributed to the situation of migrant workers and human trafficking in Southeast Asian countries (ASEAN). (cont. to p. 10...
VIVAT Brazil: Statement of Support to Cimi on Indigenous Peoples and the Amazon

VIVAT Brazil, a coalition and network of religious congregations affiliated with VIVAT International, true to its mission to:
• Work with people and groups living in any kind of poverty and share their efforts to restore and preserve welfare, dignity and freedom;
• Promote human rights; promote sustainable development, understanding and harmony among peoples, cultures, classes, religions and beliefs; strive to create a world society and local communities that encourage the inclusion and participation of all;
• Work for ecological sustainability, the protection of biodiversity and the preservation of the planet's wealth for future generations;
expresses its solidarity with the indigenous peoples who, in the current conjuncture of the country, are facing persecution and disrespect for their rights with the murder of some of their representatives; invasion of their territories by ranchers, land grabbers, loggers, prospectors and hydro-businesses, destruction of their environment by pesticides and arson, and extinction of public policies favorable to environmental preservation, demarcation of their lands and support and protection agencies.

Similarly, VIVAT Brazil supports the Amazon Synod as one of the participatory processes in which the Catholic Church has listened most to indigenous peoples and their claims. We will only be able to defend life, the Amazon and all other biomes by protagonism of indigenous and traditional communities and peoples, respecting their self-determination and learning their lifestyle and relationship with the entire creation.

That is why we make our denunciations presented by the 23rd General Assembly of the Indigenous Missionary Council - Cimi, held from September 9 to 13, 2019, in Luiziânia-GO, with the theme “In Defense of the Constitution, against the theft and devastation of indigenous territories."

Internationally, we also seek to support initiatives that sanction Brazilian products when illegally produced on indigenous lands and the basis of criminal practices such as burning, invasions, leasing and land grabs, as proposed by Cimi.

Therefore, as an expression of commitment and support, we ask all members of the Congregations affiliated to VIVAT International and VIVAT Brazil, as well as their supporters to disseminate in their social networks and contacts this Statement of Support and the Final Document of the 23rd General Assembly of Cimi, which we transcribe below (see page 9).

São Paulo, September 19th, 2019,

VIVAT International Member Congregations:
• Society of the Divine Word
• Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit
• Congregation of the Holy Spirit
• Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit
• Comboni Missionaries Sisters
• Comboni Missionaries
• Little Sisters of the Assumption
• Sisters of the Holy Cross
• Scalabrinian Missionaries
• Dehonian Missionaries
• Sisters Adorers the Precious Blood of Christ
• Oblates of Mary Immaculate
• Sisters of the Holy Rosary
CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

50 Students of STFK Ledalero Planted Banyan Trees

As many as of 50 STFK Ledalero students were involved in the environmental care action in the form of planting trees around the Wae Gajon-Kojagelo spring located in the ulayat (indigenous) forest area of the Pomat village community, Sikka Regency, on Flores Island, Indonesia.

The activity of planting saplings of banyan trees was held on Saturday (9/2). The activity was a collaborative action between social action section of the STFK Ledalero Golden Jubilee Committee and Students Senate (SEMA) of STFK Ledalero. The Wae Gajon-Kojagelo spring is used by the people of the village of Pomat and Urun Pigang. However, lately the volume of water has diminished, causing water to flow discontinuously into the Urun Pigang community. Realizing the problem, the Pomat community enthusiastically welcomed the environmental care program offered by the STFK Ledalero Golden Jubilee Committee.

Fransiskus Minggus, a Pomat community leader who accompanied the students during the activity, said that the water from Wae Gajon has been decreasing lately, especially in dry season. This is caused by the reduction in large trees around the spring which can't function as water absorption.

Illegal logging in the forest area of the Wae Gajon spring is one of the causes of the reduction of large trees. "Before there was strict enforcement of rules for people who cut timber in the forest, and people often cut large logs in the forest around the spring," added Frans.

The presence of rules that protect forest areas at least discouraged residents in the illegal logging activities. People no longer do illegal logging. However, as added by community leaders as the chairman of the St. The Agnes Pomat division, there are also other problems that damage the forest area.

Concrete action

Patrisius Haryono, one of the students at STFK Ledalero who was involved in the environmental care program, stated that the tree planting activity was one of the forms of application for one of the higher education tridarma, namely serving the community.

Besides that, continued Patrisius, the activity was also a valuable lesson for students of STFK Ledalero and the general public to remain committed to and active in preserving the earth. The staff of the SEMA STFK Ledalero also continued that the activity was also a follow-up of various sciences learned in classrooms especially in relation to addressing environmental issues.

"This activity is a valuable lesson. The students can be directly involved in social action activities in the form of community service. In addition, this activity is also an invitation for students and university students to remain committed to preserving the earth and in maintaining our survival in the future," said Patrisius.

Further Action

Yohanes P. Selai is a member of the social action section of the STFK Ledalero Golden Jubilee Committee stressed that there are still many programs to be carried out in the future organized by the social action section in order to enliven the year of the Ledalero STFK Golden Jubilee.

"Various programs will still be carried out in the future. One example is the donation of books to the reading park in the city of Maumere," Yohanes said when asked by the media.

Hendrikus Maka, SVD
STFK Ledalero/
VIVAT International Indonesia
Networking, Lobby and Advocacy

Efforts to combat human trafficking in Indonesia are also carried out at the national and international levels. VIVAT International-Indonesia in Jakarta is actively involved with national ranks both within the Indonesian Catholic Church and anti-human trafficking civil society organizations (CSOs). In early November 2018, VIVAT Indonesia and Mensen met een Missie from the Netherlands organized a national anti-trafficking consultation group meeting in Labuan Bajo Flores which was participated by 33 national CSOs from all over Indonesia along with two international organizations, IOM and ILO Indonesia. The meeting encouraged the formation of a national anti-human trafficking NGO coalition called the Zero Human Trafficking Network (ZTN). On March 19, 2018, VIVAT International in Geneva raised the issue of human trafficking and Indonesian migrant workers working in Malaysia through joint oral statements at the UN Human Rights Council session. Since then, the issue of human trafficking in Indonesia has always been raised and voiced in the UN Human Rights Council session by VIVAT International and Franciscan International in Geneva.

Meanwhile, the VIVAT International executive team in New York is actively involved in NGOs Committees and sub-Committees that discuss advocate human trafficking issue at the United Nations. The VINY team together with other NGOs conducted side events and attended hearings at the UN through the UNDOC and ILO meetings. In addition, they provide written reports or make oral statements about trafficking in persons, the data and information from Indonesia.

Conclusion

Trafficking in persons is a transnational organized crime, a crime of contemporary humanity or in the words of Pope Francis, "a terrible ulcer to the human body of contemporary times". This is a prophetic and apostolic task which is quite challenging today. Members of VIVAT International in Indonesia through JPIC, communities and institutions belonging to have taken part in the global solidarity chain against modern slavery and human trafficking ranging from initiatives at the grassroots level to the United Nations.

Paul Rahmat, SVD
VIVAT International-Indonesia
“Together for life, dignity and human rights”

Sr. Aprilia’s and Jalom Wells’ Internship at VIVAT Office in New York

Sr. Aprilia, SSpsS and Jalom Wells—a student of Elmira College, New York—had the opportunity to take internship at VIVAT Office in New York between June and September 2019. Following are their witnesses and sharing of experiences during this time of internship.

Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpsS:
“Together for life, dignity and human rights” through Vocation Ministry

From September 3 – 6, 2019, I had the opportunity to learn about the work of VIVAT International. After spending a few days with VIVAT by attending meetings, presentations and discussions, my understanding of social justice has been broadened. As Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, social justice is something we have embodied for a long time through our faith and life experience. It has been shaped by our ministries, events and people we have encountered. Like Jesus, we seek out the lost, excluded and voiceless. I realize that social justice is our lifestyle, our habit and our spirituality. It is about praying with our hands, feet and whole body.

I am a Vocation Director for the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters. In our work to promote religious missionary life, we collaborate not only with our two other Congregations: the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters and the Society of the Divine Word, but also with other Congregations and vocation service agencies. Through such collaboration, we try to promote, cultivate and introduce the spirit of social justice, bringing about the Kingdom of God through our ministry and witness as religious missionaries.

God through our ministry and witness as religious missionaries.

In my conversations with the young women at retreats or any other gatherings or programs, I promote right and loving relationships with all people, especially the poor and disenfranchised. One of our aims in the vocation ministry is to help the young women to be the best they can be and to have courage to make a difference in our world. We give young women the opportunity to practice what they have learned about building the Kingdom of God. They are invited to participate in our Summer Peace Camp program with one of our institutions in Chicago: the Holy Spirit Life Learning Center. There they learn intercultural living and how to help the children grow in values like faith, peace and harmony.

Jalom Wells:
My Experience In The United Nations

My internship started in the beginning of June 2019 and I was representing the Vivat Office. When I first began I was very hesitant because I did not know much about what was going on, it was a very well qualified position that I was and still am very grateful to have gotten. In this internship I went to conferences that involved the topics of climate change, sex trafficking, world peace, education for the world, and how everyone especially the young people can make a gigantic difference by trying to help out. I have not just learned about ways on how the community can help out but I have actually started to change my ways of living. I use reusable bags and if I don’t I always try and recycle them in the correct manner. I take shorter showers and try to buy my food locally from farmers markets. These conferences have inspired me greatly and has made me realize that life is so beautiful and many of us take it for granted. Even doing small acts of kindness can help our planet.

I have also heard many stories from other youth representatives about how climate change affected their country and how they live. Many of them who live in smaller islands are having shortages of crops and farming. Due to the climate change of weather, it is hard for the farmers to provide food for the people. They also have talked about how many of the fishes have decreased tremendously because of climate change and pollution. We do not realize how much of an impact it creates for other people. Many are starving, many are suffering and even some are dying. Experiencing these discussions made me more humble and woken up to the everyday crisis.

Attending these meetings and becoming more educated about these topics made me want to know more about what is going on. After learning more about how little the school system educates children about sex trafficking and how they rarely know about sexual harrassment, I did not know what I could do to help prevent that because it is such a big topic with huge solutions. I have decided to participate in my college’s amnesty club during the school year and further my education and hopefully see if I can make a bigger change.

This opportunity for becoming an intern at the United Nations has opened my eyes to helping people and helping the world. I plan to further my knowledge by engaging in activities in school and hopefully making a career on helping better people’s lives. I am so grateful to have met many wonderful people along my journey in the United Nations and hearing their stories on where they are from and why they are here. Whether it is a nun who is coming for a retreat or another intern who is working for UNICEF, they all inspired me everyday and left me walking out with a full heart and mind full of ideas.
INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (PART 13)

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

GOAL 12 TARGETS

• Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
• By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
• By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
• By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
• By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
• Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
• Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
• By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
• Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
• Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
• Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

FACTS AND FIGURES

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-12-responsible-consumption-and-production/targets.html), some important facts and figures on SDG 12 as follows:

• “…An estimated one third of all food produced – equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around $1 trillion – ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices.
• If people worldwide switched to energy efficient light-bulbs the world would save US$120 billion annually

Water

• Less than 3 per cent of the world’s water is fresh (drinkable), of which 2.5 per cent is frozen in the Antarctica, Arctic and glaciers. Humanity must therefore rely on 0.5 per cent for all of man’s ecosystem’s and fresh water need
• Man is polluting water faster than nature can recycle and purify water in rivers and lakes
• More than 1 billion people still do not have access to fresh water
• Excessive use of water contributes to the global water stress
• Water is free from nature but the infrastructure needed to deliver it is expensive

Energy

• …energy use in OECD countries will continue to grow another 35 per cent by 2020. Commercial and residential energy use is the second most rapidly growing area of global energy use after transport
• In 2002 the motor vehicle stock in OECD countries was 350 million vehicles (75 per cent of which were personal cars). A 32 per cent increase in vehicle ownership is expected by 2020.
• Households consume 29 per cent of global energy and consequently contribute to 21 per cent of resultant CO2 emissions
• One-fifth of the world’s final energy consumption in 2013 was from renewables

Food

• 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted every year while almost 1 billion people go undernourished and another 1 billion hungry
• 2 billion people globally are overweight or obese
• Land degradation, declining soil fertility, unsustainable water use, overfishing and marine environment degradation are all lessening the ability of the natural resource base to supply food
• Overconsumption of food is detrimental to our health and the environment
• The food sector accounts for around 30 per cent of the world’s total energy consumption and accounts for around 22 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions.”