

ACTION FOR LIFE

Developing leaders for the 21st Century

Liliana Botnaru, Moldova

'Afl taught me to deal with inner struggles and conflicts with others. It shows that generational gaps, cultural incompatibilities and clashes of faith are mere excuses people use to avoid dealing with the root problems.'

Before and after Afl1 Liliana Botnaru helped to facilitate numerous Initiatives of Change conferences in Caux, Switzerland. She has worked with an NGO in Moldova focused on community development that has helped to build a care centre for seniors. Today, Liliana organises exchange programs for American volunteers in Moldova with the Peace Corps.

Kim Vuth, Cambodia

'In Vietnam I was reminded of the history our countries share and I was aware of the desire for revenge. A new spirit needed to grow in me: instead of waiting for society to do something for me, I have decided I should take the initiative and do what I am meant to do for society.'

Since participating in Afl2, Kim Vuth has acted with conviction and worked with friends to develop the Cambodia-Vietnam Dialogue – a series of ongoing exchanges to build better relationships between the two nations at the grassroots level. His team established the Initiatives of Change office in Phnom Penh, which serves the community through training workshops, environmental projects and food programs for the poor.

Hairul Umam Achmad, Indonesia

'I took responsibility for my part in corruption in my country as I had regularly bribed the ticket collector on long train journeys. I wrote a letter of apology and returned the money I owed. The exposure to many cultures on this journey and small decisions based on values have utterly changed my life and mindset.'

From the small decisions he made in Afl 3 Umam Achmad has finished his English teaching degree and is working with friends in Jakarta developing a network which holds camps and training programs for University students. They have also hosted an international conference looking at how to heal the past, fight corruption and strengthen relations between Islam and other cultures.

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1st October, 2008 – 9th May, 2009

Be the change you want to see in the world

- Mahatma Gandhi



Action for Life aims to develop a new generation of change makers equipped with integrity and faith who are committed to transformation in the world by starting with themselves.

Initiatives of Change

Action for Life is facilitated by Initiatives of Change, and draws on its 60 years of considerable experience in international reconciliation and peace building. It is a movement of people from all races and faiths who work towards change, locally and globally, by starting with change in their own lives.

They work across all sectors of society and have special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

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Action for Life (AfL) is a seven-month leadership development program. The course uses a combination of interactive training and fieldwork to expand the capacity of each participant. Distinctively, participants and staff come from different generations, nations, and faiths to form a diverse learning and working community that represents an increasingly globalised world.

AfL develops people who will bring change by focusing on personal and spiritual growth leading to service for others. Participants learn the discipline of silence and listening to the call of conscience/wisdom/ God as a foundation for discerning direction and making decisions in their life. It also seeks to develop a commitment to living the values of honesty, purity, selflessness and love with the belief that personal change leads to global change.

An international faculty delivers a curriculum focused on team-building, cross-cultural communication, conflict transformation and program development and management.

Participants put this training into practice throughout Asia by working in small teams to develop value based seminars, workshops and conferences for schools, universities, businesses and government bodies. AfL participants travel extensively to meet and interact with private citizens, social leaders and organisations through homestays, internships, meetings and meals. These personal encounters offer participants a better understanding of the region and culture.

Program Objectives:

Operating since 2001, the Action for Life program has produced a network of emerging change makers who work in the corporate, government, academic and not-for-profit sectors with the skills to bring vision and transformation in challenging regional and global contexts.

Many AfL graduates have set up their own organisations and community networks to develop projects in the fields of self-development, family relationships, cultural reconciliation, and social justice.

Based on a philosophy of service and integrity Action for Life gives participants:

- **Personal development**
 - training and practice in methods for discerning moral clarity and taking action
 - space for reflection in the daily practice of quiet contemplation
- **Practical Leadership Skills**
 - team-building and management in diverse and challenging environments
 - well-developed frameworks for operating between cultures, religions and generations
 - study of conflict resolution and prevention; examination of personal, corporate and regional conflict and the transformation that comes through the dynamic of individual and collective healing
 - training and hands-on experience in creating and presenting workshops, conferences, camps and cultural events
- **Community Experience**
 - experience in the development and maintenance of a diverse community
 - education on the key issues impacting Asia through lectures, personal encounters and travel

Action for Life gives the world:

- A living example of global community that supports and inspires others to bring positive change
- A platform for young people to bring their vision for their communities and nations into reality
- A new generation of leaders equipped with integrity and faith



Action for Life starts in India with further fieldwork in South-East and East Asia.

At the completion of the AfL program there will be further opportunities for participants to work with Initiatives of Change teams around the world. This extension is a link to the ongoing projects and communities of the international network.

What does it cost?

- Action for life is budgeted to cost US\$210 000. This covers food, travel, accommodation and other program expenses for 40 people during the 7 months.
- Participants are required to raise US\$3000 towards these costs as well as the cost of a return ticket, vaccinations, travel/health insurance and a six month visa to India.

How can you support AfL?

Emphasis is placed on selecting a range of participants from diverse racial and economic backgrounds. Many of them require financial support. AfL gratefully acknowledges that it could not happen without generous financial help from individuals, foundations and grant funding bodies from around the world.

Contributions – large or small – will be gratefully accepted at any time, or you might like to sponsor somebody from a particular region. Please contact us at info@afl.iofc.org

Subscribe to our newsletter at www.afl.iofc.org

When will the next AfL take place?

1st October, 2008 – 9th May, 2009

Due date for applications:

15th October 2007.

To apply or for more information go to:

www.afl.iofc.org

or write to the secretariat at:

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