



# Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

December 2013



*World Conference Baby IFYE , Hazel from Scotland and some Thai friends .....*

**From all of us to all of you...**

**IFYE life in Luxembourg**

**World Conference 2013 Thailand**

**IFYE conference 2014, Welcome to Germany**



# Greetings from the President – Gerhard Steinberger

Dear all,

The time is running that fast that I think I just have written the last comment a month ago, but lots of things happened since August.

First of all I hope you had a fantastic fall and enjoyed also the time when the nights got longer and you could sit together with your family and/or some friends.

You know there are many opportunities to see some IFYE's again over the year like the UK reunion or the special date this year in Fareast.

Some of you had the chance to be in November in Thailand at the world conference and met old & new friends from all continents; Former President Martyn Quayle & Anna Persson from the board and lots of many more friends - we all know - has been there too and represented Europe. As may you have seen on Facebook the lots of pictures - this is always a nice way to be part of such a stunning event while you are not there.

I was very sorry because I could not attend out of my job but I am sure Martyn with his great experience did a fantastic job at the official part. I am looking forward to hear some stories from Thailand maybe the next chance will be in 2 month. In mid February we will have our midterm meeting in Frankfurt / Germany to work further on the topics we create last summer & will get some deeper look at the next conference in July 2014 in Germany.

Over the last weeks it was getting winter with some snow at my area – but we had almost no influence from the massive storm last week, hopefully this storm "Xaver" did not hurt your area too much, sadly enough to see the damage in Scotland, Denmark, Germany - in this moments we realize what really is important.

As our thoughts turn to the end of this year, and all that Christmas and the New Year means, may I take this opportunity to send best wishes to you, your family and friends for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Gerhard Steinberger, (Austria)



**European IFYE Alumni Association**

Web address: [www.ifye.org](http://www.ifye.org)

e-mail: [ifye\\_europe \(A\)hotmail.com](mailto:ifye_europe(A)hotmail.com) (A)= @

Deadline next issue:

1. February 2014



# Greetings from the Editor

In between all Christmas preparations it's time for another Newsletter!

In this Newsletter you can read about the World Conference that took place in Thailand in November, Mary Turner from Scotland has given a report and shared some pictures. There are also some news on IFYE life in Luxembourg and some snap shots from the UK YFA reunion in Buxton in November. We are also happy to share the report from the German IFYE club on what to expect on the European Conference in July 2014.

Thanks to the members and Contact members who have helped me out in making this edition! It is because of to your help that we have a newsletter worth reading, and that we have enough stories to have four editions a year.... a good sample of contribution to the Newsletter was a member sending me this postcard as the joke on the card was meant for sharing in the upcoming edition!

I will take the opportunity to wish you all the best for the rest of the year and for 2014.  
As we say in Norway: God jul og godt nytt år alle sammen!

Hilde W. Riser (N)



---

## Executive committee: 2013-2014

**President:** Gerhard Steinberger, Austria  
**First Vice President** Anna Persson, Sweden  
**Second Vice President** Katharina Steinrücke, Germany

**Treasurer:** Norbert Winkler, Austria  
**Secretary:** Linda Steele, Northern Ireland  
**Newsletter editor:** Hilde W. Riser, Norway

# World Conference Thailand 2013

*text and pictures by Mary Turner, Scotland*

Many Europeans travelled to Pattaya, Thailand for the 10<sup>th</sup> World IFYE Conference being held at the Ambassador City Jomtien Hotel, from 11 to 18 November, 2013. It is not every day you get the chance to interact with so many people from all over the world, so I took the opportunity. Going to a country like Thailand, is as much about the pre and post conference adventures, but here are some of the highlights from the conference, "Towards a Green and Happy Society":

**Exhibition** – each country was asked to take a table to display items from their country and we did one from the entire British Isles. What proved to be most attractive at our display, was the sampling of shortbread and whisky. In return, we had some wear our tartan novelty hats!

**Thai Cultural performance**, showed how much dance means to them. Many of the dancers made up to be women, were actually men!

**Going by police convoy everywhere we went** and the first was to Phrommanukroh 4H School Club. Here we could see the many different projects that 4H are involved with, including fish farming, herb and vegetable growing and we could see that it was truly making a difference.

**Study tour and Home Stay** – there were four choices and my trip first headed to the Birds and Bees Resort, which is the brainchild of Mechai Viravaidya, a Thai who was educated in Australia of Scottish & Thai parentage. The complex consisted of a huge vegetable growing area, beach resort, school and restaurant. Mr Viravaidya gave a very inspirational speech which concentrated on the school, known as the Bamboo School. He feels that Thai education teaches them to be followers rather than leaders and here the students are given responsibilities in teacher selection as well as many other areas of creativity, encouraging them to think out of the box. He owns a chain of restaurants called Cabbages and Condoms and instead of an after dinner mint with your bill, it would be a condom! We then headed to the Baan Bang Nam Community where we were welcomed by the local band. This is a protected green zone, and here we heard about their waste water treatment project as well as their bio compost process. We were then shown to our overnight accommodation, mines was in a house with one room dedicated for this purpose – four thin mats touching each other on the floor! Meals were in the community restaurant and after that we had a boat trip to see the Fireflies glowing in the night.





Too bad that the rain decided to come on, and when it rains there, you get absolutely soaked to the skin! Next morning up by 5.30 am, to go and feed the "monks", well actually it was one monk, and we each had to give him a spoonful of rice or other item. We then learned how to make various Thai desserts with coconut and bananas; soap making and then taking a relaxing Thai Massage.

For Angela Southern, it was a visit and overnight stay at Khlong Khone Mangrove Forest Conservation Centre, a great trip, experiencing how the local people live in small villages along the coast of the Samut Songkhram Province. We went to sea on "long Tail" boats, first of all stopping off on a man-made island on stilts in the middle of the sea where we had a lovely lunch of all fresh fish caught locally. After lunch we all had the chance to take part in saving the planet by planting our very own mangrove plants. This is a very important part of the eco-tourism which the locals have been maintaining over the last few years. Staying overnight was comfortable for some of us sleeping in smaller rooms with beds but most of the men were sleeping on mats in a dormitory of 24 – not a lot of sleeping! Early next morning we were back out in the "long tails" when we went cockle picking in the silted waters. The cockles with other local produce were cooked for our lunch, prior to which we visited a local temple in a near-by village to feed the monks.

Back to Pattaya and it was the second of the entertainment nights with Scandinavia, British Isles and Australia and New Zealand up on the stage. We were really up for a party now, so it was into the bar area for a sing-song and fun time, just like we have in Europe!

Afternoon at Nong Nooch Garden with cultural displays and elephant show. It was the chance to be picked up by an elephant's trunk! It was also the Loy Krathong Festival – the festival of floating boats celebrated on the Full Moon on the 12<sup>th</sup> month of the lunar calendar. We were treated to a delicious Thai buffet, and entertained by Thai traditional dancers as well as the final of the Miss Loy Krathong junior beauty competition! After which we all floated our small boats with candle and flowers in the river, watched lanterns flying in the air and a fireworks display to end the evening.

The farewell dinner and candle lighting ceremony was a fitting end to a totally different IFYE experience, with wonderful memories of another culture. The real adventure started with the meeting up of IFYEs in Bangkok's busy bars and restaurants, but that's another story!





# IFYE get-together in Luxembourg

## **"The IFYE spirit is still alive in Luxembourg."**

This is what many IFYEs and IFYE families felt very clearly on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2013, as they followed the invitation of the new IFYE committee to spend a Sunday afternoon together. Some of them hadn't met in years, but hearing and seeing them talking and laughing right from the start, gave a true meaning to the saying: "Once an IFYE, always an IFYE!" We all share exchange experiences and are proud to belong to the very special IFYE family.



For the time being, there is no exchange program going on in Luxembourg. The future of IFYE Luxembourg is uncertain, but there is one thing we're sure about: our friendship is well worth being cultivated and that's what we intend to do.

Marie-Anne Kayl, contact member

## YFA reunion, Buxton, England

Every year the UK IFYE members, that have travelled as Young Farmers Ambassadors have a reunion in the end of October. This year England hosted the reunion in Buxton. The editor have received some pictures from the event. Which I can promise is a great event for any IFYE to attend (after attending four myself). This year Mr Darcy was a part of the fancy dress party which is the traditional Friday party, then it's trips and games during the weekend and a formal dinner on the Saturday. Thanks to Mary Turner for the pictures.





# Welcome to Germany 2014

**European Conference 19-26 July: Europa - bei uns dahoam!**

While writing these lines winter is arriving in our area. This week we had the first snow and Christmas Markets are opening everywhere in the towns around. A good time to take you to the town of Dinkelsbühl - close to the Hesselberg, where we will meet next summer.

After the conference in Wales we felt we should take you all to this enchanting and very beautiful medieval town. Especially as during our Conference week one of the most important events in Dinkelsbühl is taking place: "Die Kinderzeche".

The historical festival "Kinderzeche" (performed since 1897) is one of Germany's oldest and most colourful festival plays. Legend has it that, when Swedish hordes under the command of Colonel von Sperreuth laid siege to the town in 1632 the gate-keeper's daughter Lore, together with the children of the town, pleaded for mercy and saved the town from pillage and destruction. The festival goes on the whole week and we will visit it on Monday. We will provide guided walks through the city and you will have the opportunity to see the pageant. There will be time to visit the field camp of the Swedish hordes, to visit the Historical Museum "House of History - of war and peace" and to stroll around the town.

And there might be a few surprises on the way...

At this time of the year we visit in Dinkelsbühl the delightful Christmas market in the idyllic Spitalhof. Nooks and alleys are decorated for Christmas. The crib in St. George's Minster (approx. 60 m<sup>2</sup>) is showing a model of the historic town. And of course we will have "Glühwein" – a hot spiced red or white wine to warm us up and there are lots of places where you can buy Waffles, hot sweet chestnuts and Bratwurst.



**56th European IFYE Conference  
Hesselberg - Germany, July, 19th - 26th 2014**



The organising committee met in November at Helga Späths place and up to now all the planning is coming along well. Helga and Annemie cooked for all of us and I think it was one of the culinary highlights for us this year!

And even better: Helga and also Irmi will share their cooking expertise with you and offer cooking classes during our week at the Hesselberg. We can already tell you: it is delicious!

Also other IFYE's will share their skills with you and we hope you enjoy participating in these activities.

Sadly our webmaster for the Conference homepage, Horst Singer, died in October. So at the moment our homepage is not up to date but we are working hard on a solution.

Many of you have asked how to travel to the Hesselberg.

You find a map on our homepage [www.ifye.de](http://www.ifye.de).  
If you come by car you travel either the highway A7 (exit 111 or 112) or the A6 (exit 52)  
If you travel by plane the closest larger airport is Nuremberg. Better connections might be flying to Munich or Frankfurt. Frankfurt airport has the advantage that there is a train station direct at the airport.

The closest trainstation is Gunzenhausen. A transfer will be arranged from there.

**You can register online: [www.ifye.de](http://www.ifye.de)  
or send an e-mail to: [registration@ifye.de](mailto:registration@ifye.de)**

Now we wish you all  
a peaceful Christmas time  
and a Happy New Year.

The German IFYE's are looking forward to meet you all in July 2014 at the Hesselberg!

