



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni

March 2016



*8th Asia Pacific IFYE Conference in India
Lines of people waiting to enter the Golden Temple*

Content of the Newsletter

Content of the Newsletter.....	1
Greetings from the Board.....	2
Mid-term and 60 th Anniversary project meeting in Frankfurt	3
New Homepage – Impressions and Photo competition	4
European IFYE Conference in Estonia (23.-30.7.2016).....	5
2018 World IFYE Conference News.....	5
Impressions from the Asian Pacific IFYE Conference in India	6
IFYE Meeting in Finland.....	8
Just happy to be an IFYE.....	9
News from our IFYE family	11

Greetings from the Board



Spring is coming. Wind of change is blowing. It's sprouting everywhere. To dare as young travel on an adventure as IFYE make you adventurous for life. It's not so hard to dare to break up and move to new places. We know that we will soon find new friends if we only are open to the possibilities. The next few months is just break-up and new opportunities for me. It's just exciting. An adventure you can do is to register for this year's European IFYE conference. It's the first IFYE conference in Estonia and we look forward to learning more about this exciting country. See you all in Estonia.

Your president,

Anna Persson

IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991

European IFYE Alumni Association

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Deadline next issue:

15. May 2016

Mid-term and 60th Anniversary project meeting in Frankfurt

The last weekend in January 2016 the Executive Committee met in Frankfurt for their annual mid-term meeting. Even though Anna had slight troubles to arrive due to a cancelled flight we had a very successful meeting. We were able to cover many topics which were already many times discussed at the last year's conferences. Amongst others, we were discussing about new **proposals** for slight changes in the blue booklet, prolonging the support for Newcomers and also to use the Development fund in a structured way. Furthermore, Norway confirmed that they will organize the **conference in 2019**. Another topic was the **new homepage**. Andreas' brother, Martin is creating it and supporting us in a very professional and cost-saving way. The first steps were to convert the old data to a modern structure and layout, which is e.g. also applicable for tablets and smartphones. The next bigger changes and updates will be done gradually. Further below you can see already some first impressions. During the weekend the hard working team was supported by goodies from Switzerland and Estonia, which were really helpful ☺.



The 60th anniversary team choose the same weekend to progress with their big project. They introduced us to their ideas, how to build the report, which structure they are going to use, limitations etc. It sounds already very good and I think we can be happy that they are investing so much time to summarize the history of the European IFYE conferences.

Your newsletter editor,

Anita Eckerstorfer

IFYE from Austria to Scotland 2007

New Homepage – Impressions and Photo competition

As already mentioned, we are busy creating and designing the new homepage and would like YOU to support us in that process. On the homepage we would like to use your favourite pictures from last years conferences and other IFYE events.



We will do a kind of slide show on the top of the homepage with the most popular 5 to 10 pictures out of the competition (see below: like the group picture of the Scottish conference).

Please send in max. three pictures which are your favourite IFYE pictures and add the following information:

- Date/Year
- Location or Country
- Type of Event

send to: **ifye_europe@hotmail.com**



This is a web site for all who has been on IFYE exchange and for everyone who are interested to learn about our history and activity.

NEWS
★ Country reports January 24 - 2016

Last years conferences

	Gordonstoun, Elgin, Scotland 57th European Conference	15-22. August 2015
	Hesselberg, Bavaria, Germany 56th European Conference	19-26 July 2014
	Thailand, 10th World Conference	12-19 November 2013
	Mounmouthshire, Wales	25 July - 1 August 2012



About IFYE Exchange and the European IFYE Alumni Association



IFYE stands for International Farm Youth Exchange

After World War II, in 1947 the IFYE program was started as a means to rebuild personal relations between youth from the USA and countries all over the world. Funding was initially provided through the Marshal plan. Some of the participating countries developed exchange programmes with other countries, while in other countries the exchange never evolved beyond the bilateral exchange with

European IFYE Conference in Estonia (23.-30.7.2016)

- It takes 2 hours to get to Tallinn from conference place, so FOR EXAMPLE if your plane is leaving 6 am, you should leave 2 am.
- We try to organize your transport between airport and Jõulumäe. There will be buses between certain hours (depends when everybody arrives or leave)
- Somethings, what you might want to take with (something for international buffet (yes, it can be also alcohol ☺), national clothes or something we can see that you coming from that country (matching t-shirts etc) and of course linen clothes for Estonian evening.
- There will be one lamb festival close by to confence place. So if you travel by car you can step in

If you have anymore questions, dont hesitate to write or call.

See you in Estonia 2016!

Reelika Rüütli

Estonian 4H IFYE coordinator

<http://ifye2016.wix.com/ifye2016>



Your support is required!

Hi, hopefully we have great time together this summer on IFYE conference. I have idea how we can share more our lives with each other. Please send for me some photos with you (example: you on your ifye trip or you and your animals, or you and your farm, or you and your favorite tractor etc.). I collect all pictures and i will be making a show with them for all of us to enjoy. Please definitely write your correct name and country if you send pictures for me. Also please make pictures in smaller format, otherwise you can't send them with email. My address cristina.kaska@gmail.com. You are welcome to send me more as 1 picture but not over 10 for one person.

All the best,

Cristina

Estonian IFYE conference

2018 World IFYE Conference News

The USA IFYE Association will host the 2018 World IFYE Conference in North America. The reason was that Dale Yonker, North America World IFYE Board Member, was unable to establish an effective communication link with any potential point of contact to plan and organize a conference in Uganda in 2018. The USA IFYE Association has established a planning committee and will announce a date and location for the World Conference as soon as preliminary arrangements can be established.

Kind Regards,

Dale Yonker

IFYE from the USA to Turkey 1963

Impressions from the Asian Pacific IFYE Conference in India

The 8th Asia Pacific IFYE Conference was held in Chandigarh India from the 18-24 November 2015.

- On arrival in India we visited a Rock Garden and Lake. In the evening we saw a performance of Bharat Natyam by Mandeera.
- On the 19th November after the initial photographs and inauguration we heard a lecture on Water Management. After lunch we heard a lecture by the Director General of Horticulture followed by discussion groups.
- On the 20th November we visited the Golden Temple; this was a 5 hour journey from the hotel but was the highlight of the conference.
- On the 21st November we heard a lecture from a coffee planter followed by a group discussion; this was followed in the evening by a folk dance.
- On the 22nd November we had a visit to a farm followed in the evening by a Punjabi folk dance.
- On the 23rd November we had a visit to Punjam/Haryana Village.
- After a full week it was time to say our goodbyes on the morning of the 24th November.

written by Rachel Harvey, IFYE from England to Turkey 1984

India! The India IFYE Ass'n hosted a wonderful Asia-Pacific IFYE Conference last November. They went all out to welcome the conference participants and show us their culture; and also to educate us on the agriculture, the challenges, and the opportunities India faces today as a country of 1.25 billion people.



I was impressed to learn of modern agricultural practices, such as laser leveling to conserve water on irrigated land and the use of genetically

engineered crops, yet surprised to see the extent of manual labor still being used. The fields of wheat, canola, and vegetables which I saw looked excellent.



During the discussions held at the hotel I heard very similar topics and concerns which I hear here in Illinois; the importance of plant nutrition, concern regarding nutrient run off, economy of scale, food hubs, micronutrients, and the importance of agricultural education. But while on our home farm we often rely on the younger generation to learn about and incorporate new technologies in our

operation, in India the older generation is regarded as the teachers, so adoption of new methods is a challenge. As the country's population continues to grow, the demand for food and water, of course, will grow with it. They are aware of the challenges and are proactively looking for solutions. We were taken on a tour of an agricultural college where we learned of a research project harvesting monsoon rainwaters to recharge wells. We also visited research plots where various methods of irrigation were being evaluated. Worldwide all are recognizing the importance of water conservation.



Leadership at the conference appealed to the attending countries to send IFYEs to India. They are looking for exchangeees who are willing to give their time, knowledge, and experience to learn about, understand, and help India as it rises to its challenges. They especially want to use IFYE as a vehicle to help improve agriculture. In return they said they would find a way to show the participant any of their specific areas of interest.

IFYE events also always include visits to area cultural sites. We spent many hours on buses traversing the countryside to visit places such as the revered Golden Temple and the foothills of the Himalayas. The rides themselves were as educational as the places visited. Riding on a bus for several hours a day on Indian roads in Indian traffic is something to experience! I had heard of

the variety of vehicles and animals all sharing the same roadway, but to see it, and to hear the constant honking of horns was quite unbelievable.



Each of our buses had two armed guards who would get off the bus and direct traffic or move barricades to help get us through various traffic jams. Seemingly everything imaginable was for sale along those roads, from prepared foods being sold from small carts; to cages of chickens; to shoes, scarves, or other articles of clothing; to fruits, vegetables or flowers; to dried manure pies; besides for the regular stores and shops. There was always something different to see.



The final evening the India IFYEs hosted a wonderful good bye party. Gifts were exchanged and there was lively dancing to Indian pop music. I greatly enjoy IFYE events. The combination of multiple nationalities, learning new cultures, and making new friends is always the IFYE best!

written by Beth Gehrke

IFYE from the USA to Switzerland 1979

IFYE Meeting in Finland

written by Marita Pynnönen, IFYE from Finland to USA (Texas) 1992

Finnish IFYEs had a fun get together in the city of Tampere, before Christmas. We had great day and evening there, seeing places like Puijo-tower (where we had fresh big donuts with coffee) and bit of activity after that...like lasergun match (team IFYE won btw) and walks around city, where we found one nice Christmas market. After all exercise... you need to relax, and we found a cool place to do that: beer factory Plevna, at the city center. Tasting beers, presentation of Plevna-and IFYE stories... IFYE evening at its best.



Finnish IFYEs got their best before Christmas-present, for first time in a while we had two new IFYEs that told us their experiences, and also an IFYE 2015 from USA that was in Finland at moment. (Not to mention another IFYE from USA that we had pleasure to have there with us!!!). All of them, plus seeing other new faces in the group of us, made us very happy.

We send you all our greetings and hopes that this new year will be good for everyone!

Marita



Just happy to be an IFYE

written by Marc-André Zuber, IFYE from Switzerland to Finland 1985/USA 1986/87/Australia 1991

In 1984, thx to Iwan Biedermann, may God rest his soul, I, a young Swiss farmer, applied to join the IFYE-program to the USA. The program in 1985 was full, left a place to Netherlands or Finland. Netherlands, stood for modern, interesting agriculture... but I choose Finland, because I was curious: that time, not many people knew much about Finland: lots of wood and lakes, long nights and midnight sun, some prejudice like from every country and from the history lessons the incomprehensible deal with the (at that time) Soviet Union.



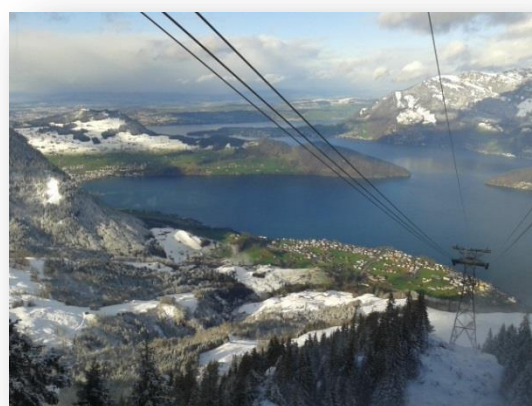
In 1985, I spend an interesting, beautiful, very remarkable exchange, which lasted 6 months (!), met lovely people and made friendships that last till now and even more friendships are added!! This experiences have the effect, that I have a very special relation to Finland. (I went to the USA in 1986/87; to Australia in 1991; had great times too!)

In 1988 I could attend my first European IFYE conference in Seinäjoki, Finland: that week was my “definitely IFYE-vaccination”! 1990 the conferences in Chantilly, France followed. There we could for the first time get the life-time-membership. Some way I foresaw, that I would not be able to get regularly to the European conferences. To be sure,

to not lose the bands, I became one of the first life-time-members (I’m very happy I did that). In this years I attended some of the last francophone IFYE meetings. This gave me the deep friendship to some french IFYEs. 2002 I could attend the European IFYE conference in Guingamp, France. After 12 years of absence, it was a great “meet again” and how it could be else, a week of good contacts, beautiful and interesting sightseeing and of coures long parties and room-parties!

Because the IFYE association gave me so many great experiences and connections, I had more and more the need to give something back and to give other young folks the possibility to make the same experiences. In 2003 my family hosted the first time a trainee. Since then we hosted 16 IFYEs from 9 different countries and had many lovely visitors. I still have many great contacts!

Since 2005 I organize the Swiss IFYE winter weekend with and without snow, but always with a lot of fun!!!



Because I denied to go to the Swiss board (lack of time) I promised them, to organize all 10 years the general assembly weekend of the Swiss IFYE association. This spring, on the 9th – 10th of April,

it will be my third one I organize (always with some great helpers!!).

In December 2014, to my great surprise, I was invited to the 50th anniversary from the Finnish IFYE association. I followed the invitation gladly: it was like a “coming home”, it was a great weekend (I even became, “like the virgin to her child”, a member of the “Finish IFYE sauna club”; I love sauna...). Afterwards I had one of my best weeks in my life!

Here in Switzerland I attended more or less all this years the general assembly weekend and some other activities.

Past August, I finally had the possibility, to attend my fourth European IFYE conference in Scotland and to receive the Silver pin. I can't find words to

describe this “coming back to the family” ... just great: great friendships and talks, superb sightseeing, presentation, activities and meals and last but not least still cranking and smashing parties and room-parties!!! Very special for me was the fact, that two of my nieces and a very good friend of them became a part of that IFYE family!



Just thanks all of you, who contribute in one way or the other to this IFYE experience!!! Let it keep go on!!!

Once an IFYE, always an IFYE!

Marc-André (filou)

News from our IFYE family

Thomas Lennox + Rebecca

IFYE from Northern Ireland to Finland 2008



The wedding took place in Northern Ireland, January 1st.
Afterwards they enjoyed a three weeks honeymoon trip.



Rolf Johansson

IFYE from Sweden to the Netherlands 1967

Rolf died on the 23rd of January after some months struggle against illnesses. The European IFYEs can remember Rolf as the one who was singing in the church service at the World Conference 2003 in Sigtuna. He also was the coordinator for the farewell party at the same conference. The Swedish IFYEs has lost a good friend, a very kind and generous person and we will keep the memory of Rolf in our minds.

Birgitta Sigfridsson

IFYE from Sweden to the Netherlands 1967

