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CONNECTIONS

Raleigh International Alumni Magazine

Winter 2016/17



Raleigh
International



About Raleigh

Raleigh International connects communities wanting to improve their lives and their environments with passionate people from around the world who want to take positive action.

We believe, and you have seen, that when local communities and young people work side by side, it empowers them all. And it's the energy and motivation of empowered people that creates lasting change.

As a former volunteer with Raleigh, you are part of a global alumni community of more than 42,000 inspiring and inspired people. Whether you volunteered this year, or 30 years ago – we would love you to stay involved with Raleigh.

Our vision is for a world in which people live and work together as a global community to build a sustainable future. Together, we can make this a reality.

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Welcome

It is an exciting time as we come to the end of our 2013-2016 strategy. We are reflecting on some of the incredible successes of this period, as well as the changes and challenges that the organisation has faced.

We have been consulting a wide range of people involved in our work to understand what the priorities should be for the next strategy. We want to ensure we make the most of our strengths and achieve all we can together.

The Global Alumni Conference gave us the opportunity to hear from you, our alumni, about how we can build our global alumni community over the next four years. We look forward to sharing the new strategy with you.

The conference brought together alumni from throughout Raleigh's long history as well as members of the national societies from 11 countries around the world.

It was overwhelming to hear all the stories of what our alumni have gone on to achieve and to share our hopes for working together to harness the power of change.



In this magazine we celebrate the important work being done by volunteers with communities, as well as the outstanding actions by our alumni around the world. We hope it inspires you.

With thanks and very best wishes,

Stacey

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stacey'.

Raleigh news

Alumni stand up for girls' rights at the Girls' Education Forum

Thirty Raleigh International Citizen Service (ICS) alumni attended DFID's Girls' Education Forum to support the campaign to ensure all girls have the chance to go to school. Influential figures spoke about their commitment to improve education for girls around the world.

Currently there are 63 million girls out of school. Many of those who are in school don't get the quality of education they deserve.

Alumni took part in talks and workshops, and questioned

government officials on their actions. Together they voiced their determination to eradicate the barriers to girls' education, standing against early marriage and challenging social norms.

Raleigh alumna Radhia travelled from Tanzania for the event. She said: "Girls' education is an issue that is very close to my heart. Back home in Tanzania I had to leave education early because my family could not afford for me to do A-Levels. I am happy to see young people and the government dedicated to educating all girls."

"I am happy to see young people and the government dedicated to educating all girls."





“Our project idea was... a bus to reach communities vulnerable to climate change.”

Rose takes the climate express to the UN

Raleigh alumna Rose Mmbaga from Tanzania was one of 360 young global leaders selected to take part in the UN’s Merit360 programme.

World Merit is a platform for young and collaborative global citizens trying to make a positive change.

Rose joined delegates from across the world in New York to create an action plan for tackling the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Our project idea was the Climate Express. It will assemble a team of

global climate advocates on a bus to reach communities vulnerable to climate change. The Climate Express will connect marginalised communities with scientists, local NGOs and agricultural experts and will provide hands-on knowledge that will help communities prepare for the changing environment.”

Rose’s team was successful in their pitch. The pilot project of the Climate Express will begin in Ghana, targeting vulnerable communities where flooding and droughts affect locals.





“I’ve always wanted a business, but what I was missing was the opportunity to learn more about how to start one.”
- Ivania

Raleigh news

Success for Costa Rica’s female entrepreneurs

Raleigh Costa Rica celebrated the completion of the Young Female Social Entrepreneurs in Protected Area Buffer Zones (FemBuz) scheme. This was run in partnership with the British Embassy in Costa Rica and aimed to stimulate a spirit of entrepreneurship among young women from communities bordering national parks, where economic opportunities are limited.

After the seven month programme, Noilyn, Ivania and Frenesy were just three of the entrepreneurs who were awarded seed funding to help start their own businesses:

- Noilyn Ramírez is running an eco-tourism business that revives traditional local cultural practices and offers sustainable voluntourism options for visitors.
- Frenesy Cordero will set up and run a nursery. She will seek sponsorship for children of low income families allowing mothers to dedicate themselves to work.
- Ivania García is starting a honey business with native bees. Ivania said: “I’ve always wanted a business, but what I was missing was the opportunity to learn more about how to start one. It’s thanks to FemBuz that my dreams are becoming reality.”

Alumni celebration

We're regularly blown away by how amazing our alumni are. The Raleigh Global Alumni Conference only served to reinforce that further.

Former Raleigh volunteers from around the world joined us for the second global conference on Saturday, September 10 in London.

The action-packed day saw more than 200 attendees from 21 countries hear from seven inspiring speakers and attend eight incredible workshops. We celebrated our Raleigh family and took

time to 'Connect, Collaborate and Create'.

From our research about the lasting social impact of Raleigh programmes on host country venturers, to personal stories of incredible achievements since taking part in Raleigh, we had a lot to catch up on.

Thanks to everyone who contributed their ideas about how we can work together to build a global Raleigh alumni community. We're currently developing Raleigh's new strategy for 2017-2020, which your input will help to shape. We will keep you updated.

To watch the highlights of the event, visit youtube.com/raleighinternational

Inspirational day at the @Raleigh_Alumni conference
#globalchange #RaleighAlumni

A breathtaking speech from @101Greig gets a huge ovation from #RaleighAlumni.
Spine-tingling story

'Young people can be trusted to change the world.' Amelia Womack, Deputy leader of the Green Party #raleighalumni

After finishing her @Raleigh_ICS placement Jenny Wilson set up an adult learning centre at a refugee camp, Dunkirk. Just wow. #raleighalumni



National Societies Conference



It was an honour to welcome 40 representatives from 11 of our national societies to London for a three-day conference.

All of Raleigh's national societies support Raleigh International to achieve our aims and objectives. They operate in different ways depending on their country context, so it was wonderful to share the work that is being done. Together, as part of the Raleigh family, societies form a strong Global Alliance that advocates for and showcases youth action and engagement.

We celebrated the amazing work being done by individual societies, both from Raleigh's current programme countries and those led by alumni in other regions, and learnt more about how Raleigh can further develop as a global network in the future.

A special mention to those representatives who, for various reasons, were unable to join us. The days of hard work were combined with sightseeing and socialising around London, including a walking tour of the capital's landmarks.

National societies news

A huge Raleigh welcome to Japan, Jersey and Singapore. They have joined our Global Alliance for Youth Framework – the guiding principles of how we all work together.

Congratulations to Kuala Lumpur President Chin Liang Keat, who won an NGO Leadership Award at the Golden Globe Tigers Awards 2016 (see photo to the right).

More than 1,400 runners took part in Hong Kong's annual Wilson Trail (see photo below). Money raised will support young people from Hong Kong to go on Expedition as well as fund a water, sanitation and hygiene project in Tanzania.

Japan has welcomed home its first volunteer to go on Expedition since the national society reformed. Shohei took home lessons about positivity and living in the moment from his placement in Tanzania.

A total of 12 volunteers from Bermuda went on Expedition this year. Great job Bermuda.

Hong Kong, Singapore and India societies are working with a local NGO in India on plans for a sustainable development project which will return to a former Raleigh ICS project site.



Celebrating entrepreneurship

Raleigh brings together communities, project partners, in-country and international volunteers to create lasting change.

People from around the world worked in partnership to improve the futures of budding entrepreneurs in the rural village of Mlangali in Tanzania.

Community

Few jobs exist for young people in the area, which means that many are unemployed. The jobs that do exist are in the informal economy.



Project

Raleigh ICS volunteers worked with partners to provide vocational training for young people and promote youth entrepreneurship. Budding business-people then pitched their ideas for a start-up grant.

Entrepreneur

Fariji (photo above), 26, is the village executive officer. He initially joined the training lessons to demonstrate his support for Raleigh and encourage the community to get involved. But he quickly realised it could also help him realise his dream of opening a chicken farm. “Mlangali faces a lot of problems – problems I believe could be directly addressed by small businesses. More businesses in the area also means more jobs and a boost to our economy. For me, the training has been just as important as receiving the loan. Education is so important.”



“For me, the training has been just as important as receiving the loan. Education is so important.”
- Fariji, entrepreneur

UK team leader

Lucy: “Fariji’s support meant the community knew the work we were doing was serious and a good opportunity for them. He has had a lot of hardship in his life, but he is an extremely motivated and inspirational guy. He was not just doing it for himself but for his family and the rest of the community. One of the most important things is to have the community behind you.”

Tanzanian volunteer

Patrick: “The people we have trained have now got the self-esteem to start on the journey of employing themselves. And I think they will impart their knowledge and skills to the rest of the community. I believe what we have done in Mlangali has a very huge, positive impact in changing people’s lives, specifically eradicating poverty.”



Business class

Raleigh alumnus creates Nepal partnership

We know that Raleigh alumni are a very special breed of people – the kind of people who want to have a positive impact on the world, and take action. One is Philippe Penet, Head of Department of Soft Commodities at investment bank BNP Paribas (Suisse) SA.

Philippe was a Volunteer Project Manager for Raleigh in Belize on Expedition 97F, where he oversaw the construction of a school in the community of Santa Cruz. His experiences and passion for creating lasting change have brought him back to Raleigh many years later, as Philippe has spearheaded the creation of a new corporate partnership between Raleigh and BNP Paribas (Suisse) SA.

Over the course of three years the bank has pledged to support Raleigh’s programmes in Nepal with funding, skills and volunteers – a concrete action from “the bank for a changing world”.

Philippe said: “We share the values of inspiring young people to make a positive change, values that are embedded in Raleigh International’s work in Nepal. That is why we are proud to support such projects and to contribute to a sustainable future through providing safe water and sanitation and creating young leaders.”

With the partnership underway, the bank is already funding vital sanitation work in Gorkha as part of Raleigh’s WASH programme, and in November employees from the bank volunteered for two weeks on a skills-based volunteering programme.



BNP PARIBAS

“We share the values of inspiring young people to make a positive change...”



The personal and professional legacy of Raleigh

Yuyun Ismawati

Yuyun Ismawati was a host country volunteer on Operation Raleigh expedition 10F on Seram Island, Maluku, Indonesia in 1987. Since, she has set up her own NGO, won an internationally acclaimed award for her work to protect the environment and seen her daughter go to India with Raleigh International.



“Operation Raleigh expedition 10F was a scientific expedition inside Manusela National Park in Seram Island, Maluku.

I was an engineering student at that time. I was hoping that I would learn how to live in a scientific expedition, cut-off from the world and enjoy the wildlife and the rainforest jungle.

What I got out of Raleigh most of all is friendships that last until now after 30 years, we are still in touch and grew up together like a big family. The challenges that we had to face together made us rely on each other to get through it all safely.

I also enjoyed the experiences helping the enclave communities renovate the school and assist the scientists collecting specimens.

Yes, indeed, it changed my life. Joining a Raleigh expedition gave me more confidence, made it easier to make friends, opened my horizon and mindset to face any challenges. The cross-culture interaction also gave me confidence to face the world and strangers.”

“What I got out of Raleigh most of all is friendships... we are still in touch and grew up together like a big family.”

After graduating Yuyun worked as an environmental engineer for consultancies, but soon shifted her focus to NGOs. Bali Fokus was set up in 2000 to expand Yuyun's community-based urban environmental management programme across Indonesia. Nine years later she was honoured as the Indonesia winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize for her work to help poor communities to design safe and organised waste management systems, which also prioritise health and the environment.

"I received the Goldman Environmental Prize 2009, an environmental Nobel prize if you like, that is only given to six people every year from six continents/regions."

Yuyun was pleased when her daughter also decided to volunteer with Raleigh and found they were able to understand each other's experience.

"I knew she'd be in good hands. It was funny that she finally understood what

I'm doing for life - my work involved helping communities build biodigesters for cow manure, pig farms and slaughterhouses, as well as promoting community-based sanitation in urban and rural poor settlements. So when she wrote a letter that said she had built four biodigesters and 12 dry toilets, I knew she was having fun and really understood what she was doing.

It is important to introduce volunteerism to young people to teach them empathy and solidarity. When more people volunteer their time and themselves, they find satisfaction too.

For parents: send your teens to join a Raleigh experience. For young people: open your mind, challenge yourself, connect with others through Raleigh projects!"

"It is important to introduce volunteerism to young people to teach them empathy and solidarity."





Connect with us! Get in touch and give us your email address.

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