

OVERVIEW OF VOLUNTEERING PROMOTION in HIGHER EDUCATION, JAPAN

1st National Conference on Volunteerism

7th – 8th May, 2015

Dhurakij Bundit University, Bangkok, Thailand



7th May, 2015

IAVE Japan

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GENERAL INFORMATION

(Information source; 2011 Youth Vision Report, Government bulletin and Zenshakyo book)

1. **Young volunteers** got the public attention at the time of ;

① Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in January 1995

② Heavy oil spill in Japan Sea by Vessel Nakhodka in 1997

2. Government launched “**Good Practice**” program in 2007 / 2008 to cope with social needs and provide assistance grant funding to the schools who proposed the program of fresh idea, effective means and unique way.

Funding support continued 4 years for university and 2 years for college

Total 93 proposals were accepted and implemented by school

(note) Government in charge; Student Support and Exchange Division,
Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and
Technology - Japan

3. How many schools have function to deal students' volunteering?

Out of 1,254 schools (10.8% of National or Public university/college
89.2% of Private ones) Excludes 2,995 vocational school

80% schools answered “We have function to deal students' volunteering”.

↓ **90% hold the concurrent post like Student Affairs Dept.**

10% (119 schools) has independently established volunteer center (*)

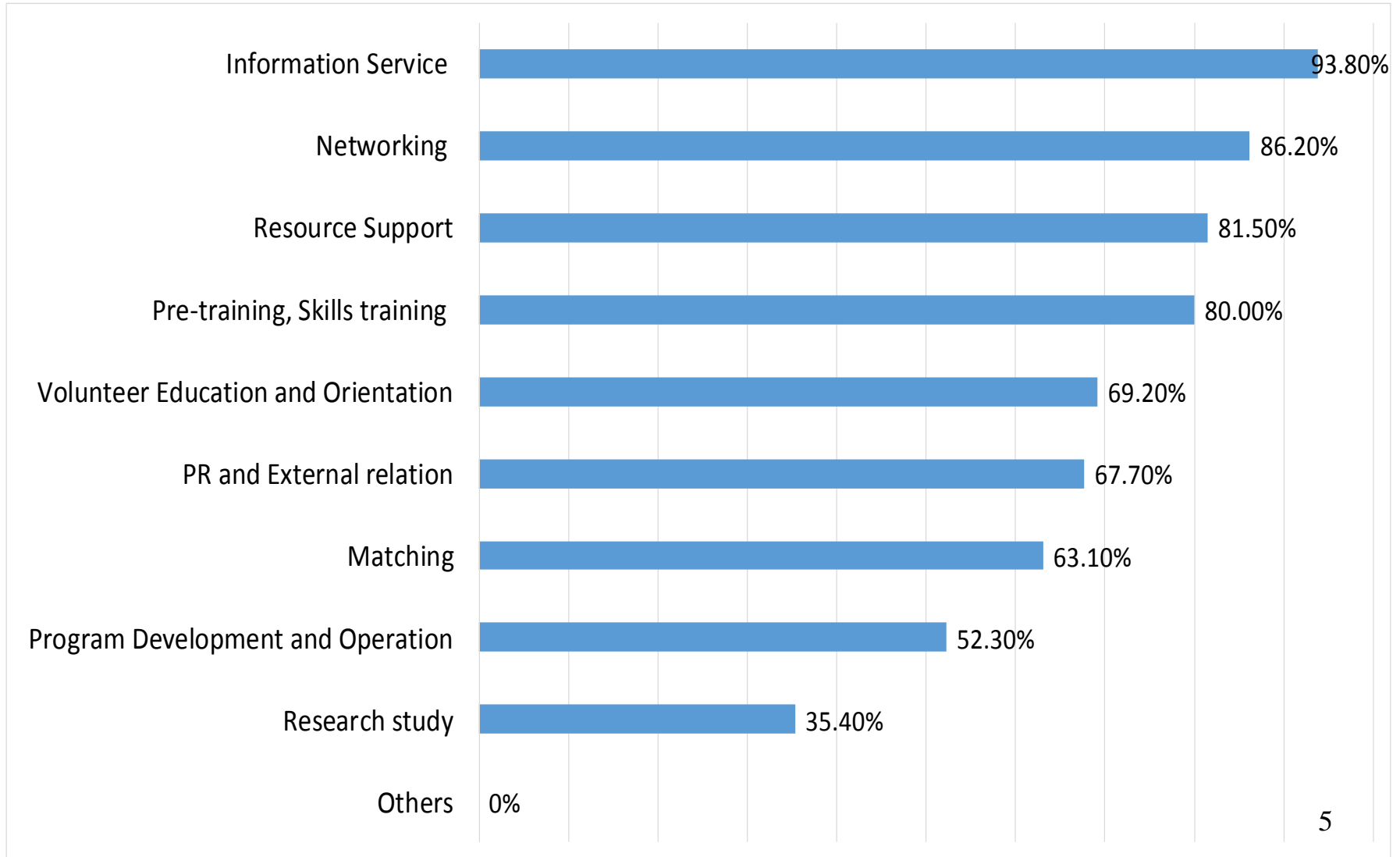
(*) Various Naming such as ; Volunteer Center, Volunteer NPO Action Center, Volunteer Support Center, Volunteer Room, Volunteer Support Office, Community Exchange Center, Community Cooperation Center, Community Collaboration Center, Service Learning Center

Main Purpose and Reason to establish UVC

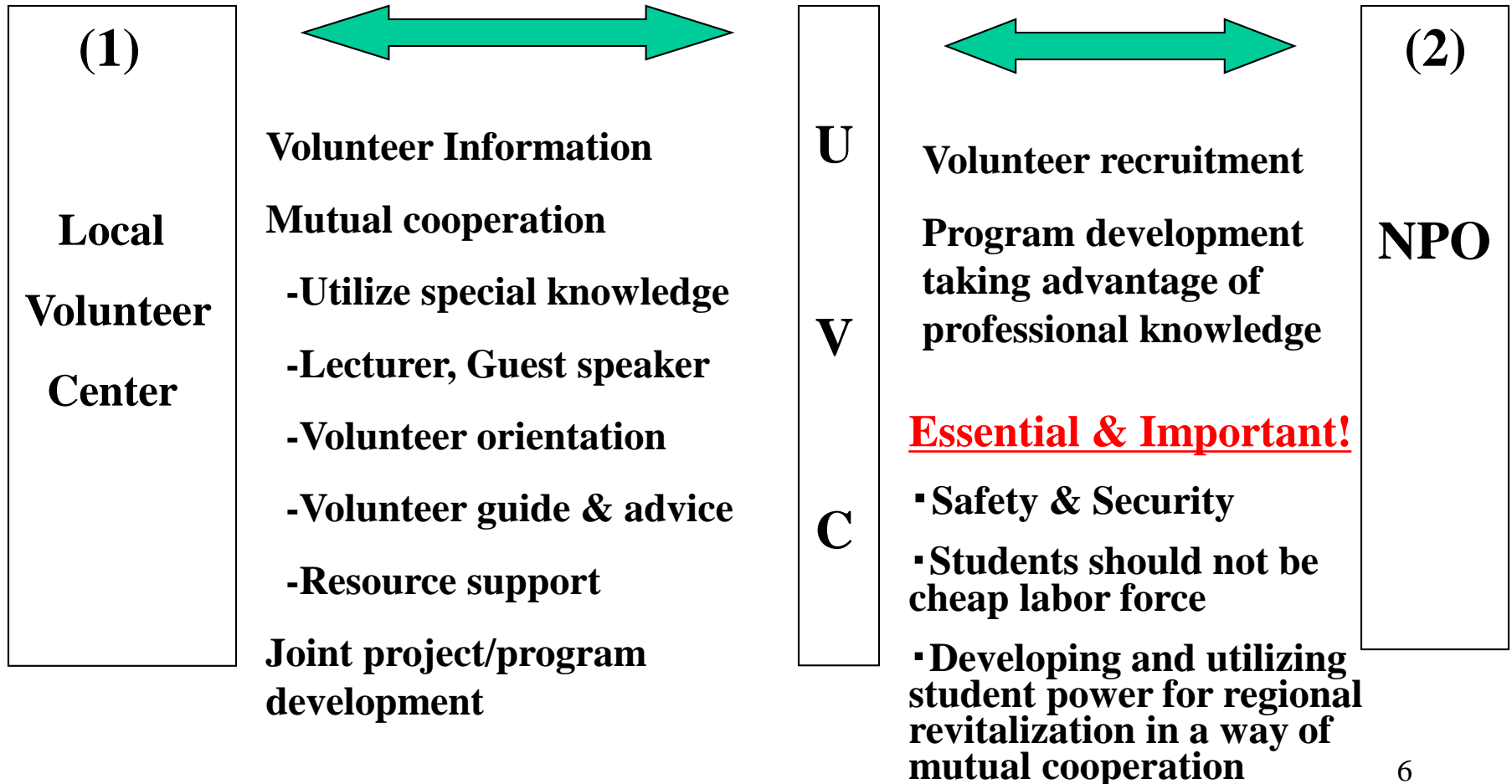
- 1. Educational Significance based on School Philosophy:**
 - Development and education of the students through volunteering for whole person
- 2. Contribution to the community:**
 - School should be more opened and responsible as good citizen



UVC Activities



CLOSE RELATIONSHIP between UVC and (1) INTERMEDIARY SUPPORT ORGANIZATION and (2) NPOs To share/solve Community issues and problems



Major Association engaged in UVC / Student Volunteering

IVUSA (1993~) (International Volunteer University Student Association)

- It was started with “Dream Plan” that Kokushikan University announced to empower the young students in apathetic generation. Receiving all kinds of application over the country, the university people found their strong enthusiasm to make a social contribution. Three program were accepted and actually run. The students’ motivation lead to organize the IVUSA for the action continue.
- **Now it becomes the BIGGEST student organization in Japan, holding 2,300 student members from over 90 universities. IVUSA is association that respects students’ autonomy and they choose board members/president every year by election. To become members is all at his/her own will.**
- **Main Activities; International cooperation, Environmental conservation, Local revitalization, Disaster-relief (3,266 students to Tohoku earthquake)**

YOUTH VISION (1996~)

- It was started by the volunteers who participated in Hanshin-Awaji earthquake in 1995. The first 4 students volunteer from Ritsumeikan University established “Kyoto Student Volunteer Center” in 1996 and then renamed to “Youth Visiton” in 2005 to reinforce its stability.

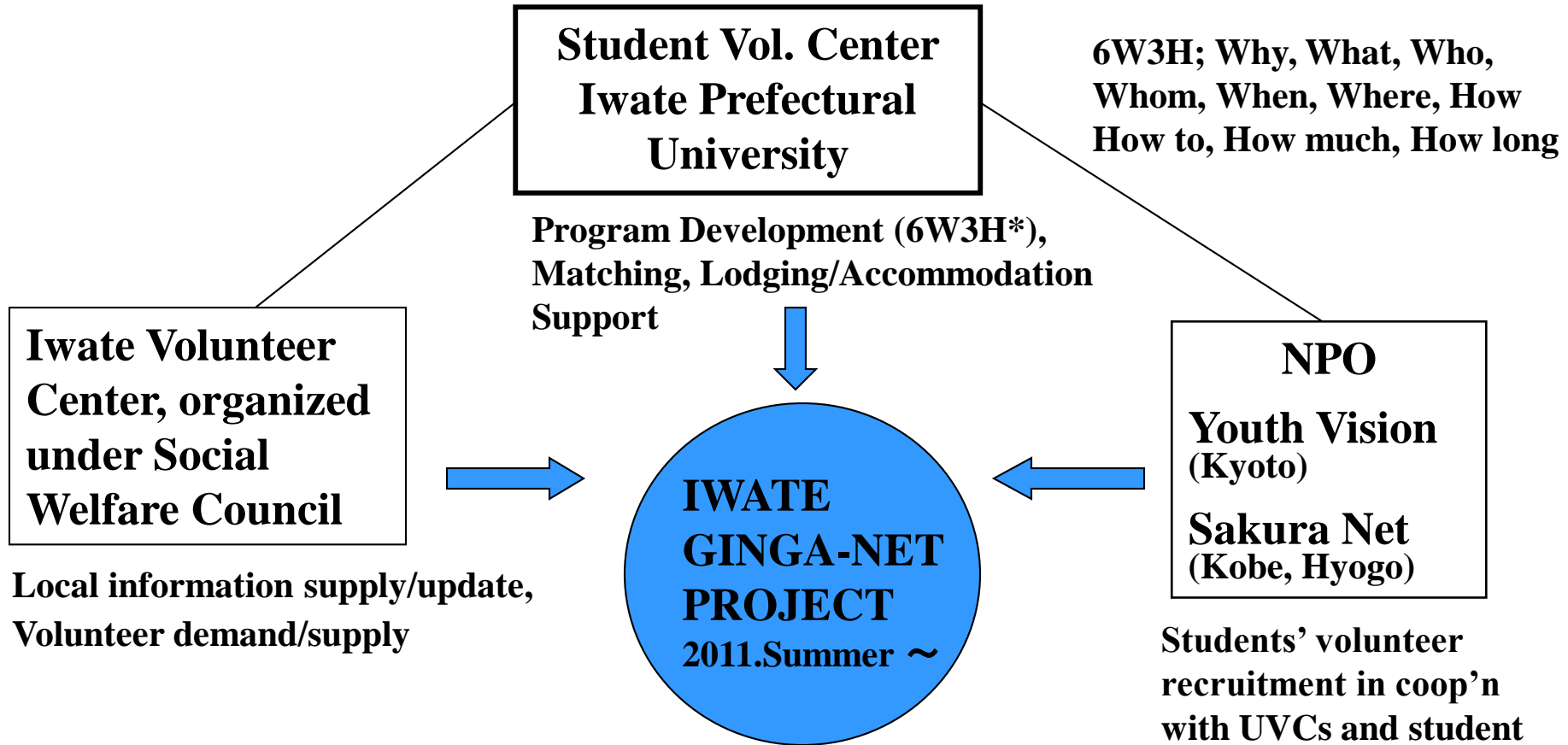
- **Main Activities;**
 - **Advisory support and Seminar/Forum for ;**
 - **Establishment of youth volunteer receiving system or structure**
 - **Settling up of university volunteer center**
 - **Coordination for ;**
 - **NPO Internship program to nurture the young leader**
 - **Job information and placement at NPO**
 - **Networking among NPO young staff and volunteers for career-up**

GAKUVO (2012~) (GAKU=Students/VO=Volunteer)

- It was started by Nippon Foundation to inspire and develop the young students and university volunteer organization after the “Tohoku” earthquake.

- **Main Activities;**
 - **Gakuvo Style Fund**
 - **Financial support to the youth organization**
 - **Lecture and Seminar on volunteering at university**
 - **Coordinate students volunteers to join and experience volunteer activities in the school curriculum or ex-curriculum**
 - **Training, Seminar and Symposium**

PROJECT MODEL of STUDENTS' ENGAGEMENT in Iwate Pref. for reconstruction assistance



(1) 2011.4/27~5/8; 512 SV from approx.20 univ.

(2) 2011 Summer ; 1,300 SV from 147 univ.

(3) 2012 Summer ; 3,856 SV from 119 univ. →

**Proj. Con'd
SV 10,000**

To empower the youth initiated voluntary action and intensify their effort in solving local/regional problems

Current Major Activities ;

- 1. As Student Volunteer Base, improve operation quality and establish a connecting model of youth manpower and social/community needs**
- 2. Students' human and skills development to respond immediate request and build a better connecting system between students and local needs**
- 3. Iwate Student Community Café to be a focal place of the youth' new gathering, encounter, exchange and inspire their creative idea for a better society**

POINTS to be CONSIDERED for Further Development

- 1. Reconsideration on UVC Purpose and Activities**
 - Acceptable as school credit or not?
 - Recognition of educational effect of volunteering
- 2. Lack of Understanding by other faculty and staff**
 - Less support and cooperation from others inside school
- 3. UVC Evaluation Criteria**
 - What and how evaluate and what should be counted as achievement? Should be both quantity and quality?
- 4. Undefined Role and Position of UVC coordinator**
 - S/he should bear the dual stances, one is university staff with educational views and the other is community contributor to society as citizen. What sort of qualification required to fulfill the role and position?