



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

IFYE Update - February 2021

What can You do for IFYE?

In IFYE surveys last summer, more than 93% of respondents said the IFYE mission is still relevant in today's world. Nearly 85% agreed IFYE is still meeting the need of today's young adults. Many have asked how they can help carry on IFYE's mission. Below are some of the ways in which IFYE family members can help.

Of course, IFYE needs financial support. Through the Organizational Capacity Campaign (OCC), the Annual Giving Campaigns and other generous donations, we have been able to maintain the program while researching and seeking additional resources. If you have not donated recently, we ask that you consider giving. See the website at ifyeusa.org on ways to donate.

Equally important is our need for volunteers to serve on the IFYE Board of Directors and our various committees. The committees support the responsibilities of our Executive Director and our National Program Director. This year, the Board added two new committees: website content and membership.

The Website Content Committee was created to continuously improve and update our website. Potential IFYEs and donors search the website for program information and our IFYE family uses the website to stay up to date on activities and conferences.

The Membership Committee was created after the Board strategic planning session in September. Membership is now one of our four strategic goals. An ad hoc Membership Committee was established and discussed

the potential goals of this committee. Now is the time to convert the committee to a permanent status.

IFYE worldwide suspended the program in 2020 because of Covid-19. As a result, our staff, Board, and committees used the time wisely to strengthen our relationships with potential host countries, increased numbers of candidates, implemented the United Soybean Board grant, formed a partnership with Foreign Ag Service (FAS) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and continued to seek additional partners.

We look forward to a successful 2021 program (if COVID-19 allows)

Thank you for your donation of time, finances, and helping to ensure the continued success of the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Jan Wood, President
jwood@ifyeusa.org



Rachel Manning (Maryland to Thailand and South Korea 2016) enjoying orchids in Thailand

IFYE Needs You!

The best way to know what is happening with IFYE USA is to become involved by volunteering to serve on a committee or on the Board of Directors. We can always utilize your talents, skills, and interests to benefit IFYE.

Committees, including sub-committees, are: nominating; bylaws, policies and procedures; membership; finance; 2021 conference; program development; marketing and resource development; digital media; and website content.

The Board of Directors also meets monthly. A term is three years; you may serve two consecutive terms.

Contact Wayne Shull, Chair of Nominating Committee, for more information or to volunteer. wshull@ifyeusa.org

Program Update

IFYE USA is accepting applications, conducting interviews, and making tentative country placements. At this time, we have sixteen (16) IFYE applicants; most have been interviewed. Six (6) of these individuals have submitted their applications as part of the IFYE - United Soybean Board Leadership Development grant. These participants will learn more about U.S. soybean exports in their host countries as an enhancement to their host family stays.

There continues to be concern about the COVID-19 pandemic; a few of our partner countries have already cancelled their 2021 programs. IFYE USA will decide to continue, reduce or suspend the 2021 program in the coming months. At this time, we expect to have an outbound program; however, there may be some adjustments. Our IFYE experience taught us to be flexible. We will continue to work with our participating countries to examine all options.

We continue to look forward. We are expanding our relationships with universities

to offer academic credit for outbound IFYEs, adding additional commodity groups and corporate partners for enhanced leadership and job shadowing opportunities, and searching for more host countries to meet the growing number of IFYE applicants.

Alan Lambert, National Program Director
alanelambert@ifyeusa.org

IFYE is Growing.

Spring is almost here. With the warming temperatures, the blanket of white snow that has covered most of the country will soon be gone. Along with the seasonal change, we will soon welcome another change as the COVID-19 vaccine becomes more widespread. That change will be welcomed for many, including IFYE. Countries will open their borders to visitors once again and our program will again be back on track.

Like the new growth in spring, IFYE is growing. Our participant numbers for 2021 have increased, thanks to the hard work of our National Program Director, Alan Lambert. We have aligned with the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) so every IFYE will have an experience at the U.S. embassy in their host country. We have interest from commodity organizations to form partnerships for programs similar to the work we're doing with the United Soybean Board.

All the growth and positive activities that are happening for IFYE are a direct result of the guidance, vision, and work of your IFYE Board of Directors. IFYE is well positioned for the future.

Ken Gordon, Executive Director
kgordon@ifyeusa.org



United Soybean Board Partnership

Survey Results

Thank you to all IFYE alumni who responded to the survey sent this past December to 1990-2019 program participants. Ten percent (10%) of the returnees responded from 300 outbound surveys emailed.

Sixty-five percent (65%) of respondents stated that IFYE currently provides the kind of benefits they would seek from an alumni membership organization.

Eighty-three percent (83%) of IFYEs would like our Association to help them stay connected to their travel peers, as well as to help with networking and/or mentoring with career decisions/advice upon return from their program participation.

Twenty-four percent (24%) said it would be beneficial to have a free five-year membership upon return from program. This was recently approved by our Board of Directors.

Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents would appreciate some sort of IFYE gift or logo item, for membership, for the outbounds and/or for purchase later. We are researching options for IFYE items.

You asked for additional payment methods. We listened. You will soon be able to make an annual renewable credit card payment through our website. Look for further information to come soon.

Sheri Swackhamer, Membership Committee Co-chair, sswackhamer@ifyeusa.org

2021 National IFYE Conference

Mark your calendars! Missouri is hosting the 2021 National IFYE Conference in Branson, Missouri, September 23-26 at the Radisson Hotel. "Piecing Together World Peace" is the theme. More information is coming soon. <https://ifyeusa.org/news-events/upcoming-conferences.html>

Stay Connected

Find us on

Facebook: IFYE USA

Twitter: #ifye

On the web: ifyeusa.org

Instagram: @ifyeusa

2020 Donor Level List

The 2020 Donor Level List [is available online to view and print by clicking here](#). Thank you to all who donated during this past year.

Spotlight for Guiding Principles

In the 2020 Fall/Winter IFYE NEWS, we mentioned the 12 Guiding Principles which were to be placed on our website with one planned to be featured each month. This spotlight began earlier this month.

Although another principle will be featured each month, previously-featured principles may still be seen after the spotlighted time is past.

As an example of the stories featured, please view [Guiding Principle #01](#) by Kyle von Kamp (2002 Ohio to Botswana).



Mud stove built in Lesoma, Botswana