



UNITES



UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICE

Digital Divide: the gap in making use of opportunities available from the digital revolution, due to insufficient access, capacity and content

VOLUNTEERS HELPING TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT): technologies for acquiring, processing, storing, and sharing information

Human Development: the process of expanding people's choices

What is UNITEs?

An initiative of the UN Secretary-General, announced in his Millennium Report, to stimulate and facilitate the contributions of volunteers to help bridge the digital divide.

It is a collaborative framework within which people share their knowledge and skills. Its purpose is to support the efforts of people in developing countries to build their capacity in the use of ICT for human development.

UNITEs builds on the added value of volunteerism and complements other initiatives aimed at bridging the divide.

Who can volunteer?

Anyone with good skills in ICT and/or its applications for development. UNITEs volunteers have a strong sense of solidarity and are willing to share their knowledge.

UNITEs encourages South-to-South volunteer placements and participation of nationals in their own countries.

Professionals released temporarily by their employers as Corporate Volunteers are also encouraged to participate.

<http://www.unites.org>

U N I T e S

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How can institutions get involved?

UNITEs works through an open and inclusive Coalition of institutions from the North and the South, comprising volunteer agencies, institutions from civil society, governments, the private sector and development organizations, including those of the UN.

Participating organizations make tangible contributions. Many have experience in volunteer management and/or applying ICT to human development.

Contributions are mainly in the form of human and financial resources, but also include knowledge resources, in-kind donations and media outreach.

How does it work?

UNITEs is a mechanism to broker demand and supply of volunteers, adding value through common programme support services to the beneficiaries, the volunteers and Coalition members.

Taking a hands-on approach, the volunteers identify and implement ICT applications in areas such as health, education, income generation and small scale enterprises, gender equality, environment and humanitarian aid.

UNITEs volunteers work in face-to-face assignments as well as online, through the Internet.

The United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV) is the facilitating and coordinating agency for UNITEs.

