



# AGHE PAKISTAN

Association of Global Humanists & Ethics Pakistan

KVM

A brief Report on

## THE OATH CEREMONY OF KARAKURAM VOLUNTEERS



Oath ceremony of KVM volunteers

## Karakuram Volunteer Movement

خدمت انسانیت کے لیے ہر دم کار

An Initiative by

**AGHE** آگہی

Northern Areas of Pakistan

Report Developed By

Research & Information Section of AGHE

The oath ceremony of the volunteers of Karakuram Volunteer Movement was held on the special occasion of International Volunteer Day 2006 at Gilgit. Malik Maskin speaker Northern Areas legislative Council took oath from the volunteers.

## **KARAKURAM VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT**

(An AGHE's Initiative)

### **Introduction**

Volunteerism is the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without the expectation of pay or other tangible gains. Volunteers are the blood of society; they offer their time, energy, and skills of their own free will. Volunteers as agents of change decrease suffering and disparity, while at the same time gaining skills and self-esteem, equally changing their lives. They work to improve the lives of their neighbors and in return, enhance their own. This service contributes to the well-being of an individual or community and as such is usually coordinated by a nonprofit or public sector organization. The Association of Global Humanists & Ethics (AGHE) is a non-profit and volunteer organization which promotes volunteerism by undertaking various activities in the fields of health, environment, education, and human rights in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.

Soon after its establishment in September 2005 (less than a month), AGHE actively participated in the relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake on October 8, 2005 in the north eastern parts of Pakistan. In addition, a number of AGHE volunteers at the national level offered their services in support of the local relief activities.

A second major success was achieved when, for the first time in the history of the Northern Areas of Pakistan, AGHE organized a peace rally to coincide with International Volunteer Day 2005. It was organized at a time when the two major religious groups in region were engaged in an armed conflict, and no one dared to speak up against the violence; in the end it was AGHE volunteers who first raised their voice in opposition to sectarian violence. The AGHE volunteers also played a crucial role in the establishment of the first women "AMAN JIRGA" (peace committee) in the Northern Areas of Pakistan and other peace building activities in the area. Equally, AGHE volunteers with financial and technical support of World Conservation Union (IUCN) commemorated International Mountain Day under the theme "Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Alleviation in the Northern Areas of Pakistan" by arranging a variety of activities in two of the most remote districts in the region Skardu & Ghancha. With this project, AGHE volunteers successfully raised a voice against poverty that suppresses life's potential, hunger that weakens the human body, unemployment that continues unabated, and the economic disparities that threaten so many families with ruin.

Though only in existence for about one and half years, AGHE volunteers introduced and undertook numerous activities for the first time in the region. Please visit our website to read about their efforts at [www.aghepakistan.org](http://www.aghepakistan.org). They proved that the lack of resources could not stand in the way of the determination to move forward to serve humanity. As truthfully said by Mother Teresa, "we can do no great things -- only small things with great love".

### **Initiative of Karakuram Volunteer Movement**

The earthquake of October 8, 2005 taught many lessons to the Pakistani nation. Thousands of casualties and other destruction occurred because the nation was not

prepared for such a natural disaster. There were no proper arrangements to manage the disaster nor was any volunteer force ready to help the army and other developmental agencies to provide relief to earthquake victims. Keeping in view the importance of trained volunteers, the Government of Pakistan established the National Volunteer Movement (NVM) on November 1, 2005. Its purpose is to provide a platform for public participation in community building and create a ready pool of individuals that can be mass mobilized to act swiftly and effectively in times of natural and man-made disasters. AGHE which has been witnessed the destruction caused by the earthquake, decided to build a volunteer force to deal with disaster management. It was also decided by the executive body of AGHE to initiate a volunteer movement similar to that of the NVM in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. The ideas and activities of the NVM were used as a foundation of the AGHE program. This was done in consideration that the northern area of Pakistan is located in remote areas and the AGHE sought to provide those services which were more readily available in the region as the government has a national focus. On International Volunteer Day 2006 AGHE initiated a volunteer movement as “Karakoram Volunteer Movement”. Initially twenty five volunteers were registered and took oath. Malik Maskin Speaker Northern Areas Legislative Council took oath from the founder members of KVM on the special occasion of International Volunteers Day November 5, 2006. Karakoram Volunteer Movement was initiated with the following aims and objectives which untimely support the NVM’s goals:

## **Objectives of KVM**

- Mobilizing the community organizations and other NGOs to build the capacity of their volunteers in the field of disaster management.
- Facilitating workshops and trainings on the aspects of volunteering to include volunteer policies, procedures, recruitment, and volunteer support.
- Accredited training and short courses for volunteers in collaboration with other national and international organizations on subjects such as:
  - Preparing to volunteer
  - Skills for self-management
  - Skillfully conducting meetings
  - Working to good practice standards
  - Understanding needs, issues, and responses
  - Handling difficult situations in a team environment
  - Presentations, public speaking, equal opportunity, and diversity
  - Active listening (basic counseling) skills
- Undertaking selected relief / rehabilitation / reconstruction projects in affected areas.
- Providing a platform for positively channeling the energies of the youth.
- Coordinating with the government, NVM, and other international volunteer movements in the areas of mobilization, deployment, and recruitment of volunteers.
- Networking and building partnerships with national and international NGOs, civil society organizations, and international volunteer agencies

- Organizing public awareness programs on the recognition of volunteerism and awarding the volunteer services.

## **Proposed Activities of KVM for 2007**

In the initial stage AGHE will undertake the following activities in collaboration with governmental organizations such as the Department of Civil Defense and non-governmental organizations such as Focus Humanitarian Assistance, affiliated with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), and has a very successful track record to assist people struck by natural and man-made disasters in South and Central Asia and Africa:

- Training of the master trainers on disaster management in the six districts of the Northern Areas.
- Networking and building partnerships with the National Volunteer Movement and other civil societies such as Focus Humanitarian Assistance.
- Organizing workshops for the youth on themes such as career counselling, HIV/AIDS, etc.

## **Membership of KVM**

Membership of Karakoram Volunteer Movement is with out any fee. It is open to all and all are welcome. Volunteers of varied backgrounds, gender, age and communities are encouraged to join KVM. To do so, one must only by fill in a form available on our website [www.aghepakistan.org](http://www.aghepakistan.org) .

## **Annexes**

- A. A pictorial overview of the First Oath Ceremony of KVM
- B. Resolution of the Day presented by AGHE
- C. Oath of the Volunteers
- D. Membership form
- E. Newspapers Cut pieces

### **CONTACTS**

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**IVD-1-** Malik Maskin Speaker Northern Areas Legislative Council is taking oath from the founder members of KVM.



**IVD-4-** Founder members of KVM are taking oath during a ceremony held on November 5, 2006 which is also known International Volunteer Day



**IVD-2-** President of AGHE Ijaz Hussain is sharing the objectives of KVM with the participants of oath ceremony.



**IVD-3-** Zaib-U-Nisa Coordinator Women & Children Section of AGHE presented a resolution with especial reference of promotion of volunteerism and voluntarily activities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.



**IVD-5-** Participants of Oath ceremony on the Volunteer Day 2006 are listening the guest speakers attentively. A large number of honorable citizens, social activists, media persons and public representatives attend the oath ceremony.



## قرقرم والئیر موومنٹ

(An Initiative by NCHRI)

رضاکاروں کے عالمی دن 2006ء کے حوالے

### قرقرروادو



رضاکاروں کے عالمی دن 2006ء کے حوالے آج کا یہ اجتماع مطالبہ پیش کرتا ہے کہ شمالی علاقہ جات کی انتظامیہ علاقے میں Volunteerism کے فروغ کے لیے درج اقدامات اٹھائے:

۱۔ علاقے میں موجود تمام رضا کار تنظیموں کے تحصیل، ضلع اور علاقائی سطح پر نیٹ ورکس بنائے جائیں اور ان نیٹ ورکس کے ممبران بالخصوص نوجوان والئیرز کو مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی خاص طور پر Disaster Management میں تربیت فراہم کی جائے۔

۲۔ علاقے میں ہر سطح کے تعلیمی اداروں بالخصوص کالج اور یونیورسٹی میں Volunteerism کے فروغ کے خصوصی نصابی و نیم نصابی سرگرمیاں متعارف کروائی جائیں جس سے نوجوانوں میں ہر قسم کے مذہبی، لسانی، علاقائی، سیاسی، جہمی اور ذات پات کے تعصبات سے بالاتر ہو کر انسانیت کی خدمت کا جذبہ فروغ پائے۔

۳۔ قرقرم والئیر موومنٹ کو نیشنل والئیر موومنٹ کی سرگرمیوں اور پروگرامز سے استفادہ حاصل کرنے کے لیے تکنیکی سطح پر ہر طرح کی معاونت فراہم کی جائے

### Translated Version in English



انسانی حقوق کی پاسداری کے لیے کلائم



مذہب انسانیت کے لیے ہرماہ

## قراقرم والٹیر موومنٹ

(An Initiative by AGHE)

### حلف نامہ

میں \_\_\_\_\_ بطور نمبر قراقرم والٹیر موومنٹ  
 عہد کرتا/کرتی ہوں کہ میں ہر قسم کے مذہبی، لسانی، علاقائی، سیاسی،  
 صنفی اور ذات پات کے تعصبات سے بالاتر ہو کر اپنی حیثیت، قابلیت  
 اور صلاحیت کے مطابق پورے خلوص کے ساتھ انسانیت کی خدمت  
 کرتا رہوں گا/کرتی رہوں گی۔ بنیادی انسانی حقوق کی پاسداری  
 کروں گا/کروں گی اور یہ کہ میں KVM کے اغراض و مقاصد سے  
 پوری طرح متفق ہوں اور ایسے کسی بھی فعل یا جرم سے اجتناب کروں  
 گا/کروں گی جس سے تحریک کے مقاصد کو نقصان پہنچنے کا اندیشہ ہو یا  
 ملکی و بین الاقوامی قوانین کی خلاف ورزی ہو۔

Translated Version in English



