



Samsung and UNV announce an innovative partnership to promote volunteerism for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Aiming to leverage online volunteering to connect volunteer expertise with community action, this collaboration is the first result of a co-creation process between the private sector and the United Nations Volunteers programme

São Paulo, April 18th, 2016 – Leader in technology, Samsung Latin America, has just announced an unprecedented partnership with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. UNV values volunteerism as a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges.

UNV's Online Volunteering service connects volunteers with organizations working for sustainable human development. Volunteers contribute their skills online to help organizations address development challenges. Organizations collaborate with online volunteers over the Internet to strengthen the impact of their development work.

UNV aims to expand the global reach of the UNV Online Volunteering service and explore innovative methods to ensure the broadest possible participation by all members of society. UNV and Samsung are partnering to harness this largely untapped and vast resource for peace and development, and where possible scale up corporate, online and mobile volunteering.

In addition to enhance the exchange of best practices with UN Volunteers, Samsung aims to diversify its volunteer practices, impact a higher number of people positively and become a global benchmark in these activities

The UNV-Samsung cooperation will start as a pilot in Brazil, which hosts the headquarters of Samsung's operations in Latin America. Initially, the company will contribute to promoting online volunteering and UNV's service in Brazil and later will extend the activity to other Latin American countries. Samsung will provide support to partner non-governmental organizations from several sectors to leverage the services provided by the UNV Online Volunteering service and will encourage its employees to volunteer online in the new environment, which aims to engage as many volunteers as possible. Representing a first for the private sector, Samsung aims to expand online volunteer activities that can benefit organizations and people around the world and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Pedro Kim, President and CEO of Samsung Latin America, and Amanda Mukwashi, Chief of the Volunteer Knowledge and Innovation Section of UNV announced the partnership on Monday 18 April 2016 in the Samsung regional office in São Paulo.

"We are very proud of this innovative partnership with UNV. For us, at Samsung, this action represents a major step in our commitment to volunteer actions, which have been established in the Company for over 20 years", said Pedro Kim, President and CEO of Samsung Latin America. The executive explains the company's expectation on this partnership: "Samsung's partnership with UNV will also increase Samsung's capabilities to build a volunteer program even more solid. This is just the beginning of a partnership that we expect to grow stronger."

For Amanda Mukwashi, this is a ground-breaking partnership. “The new sustainable development agenda cannot be achieved without volunteer engagement. Connecting the specific expertise and means of the private sector with complementary, yet essential, community voluntary action bears an enormous potential to drive inclusive growth and achieve a truly transformational agenda.”

This cooperation with UNV further strengthens the commitment that the South Korean company has made to volunteering. Samsung promotes global and local programs, in order to dedicate human and technological resources to improve the local community and positively impact people taking part. Engaging its employees in online volunteering, the company hopes to promote networking between its offices in Latin America to foster volunteerism and thus enhance their positive impact.

UNV is strengthening its innovation by pursuing co-creation related to corporate volunteering for the SDGs with multiple and new partners, including the private sector, governments, the UN and volunteer-involving organizations. This will allow for a better mix of skills that are more attuned to the challenges of the local and national context.

Volunteering at Samsung

Samsung promotes local volunteering actions throughout the year involving its employees in visits to social institutions, such as NGOs, and in the development of activities with children and adolescents.

Helvio Kanamaru, Senior Manager of Corporate Citizenship at Samsung for Latin America, mentions the importance of voluntary action for the company: “Our volunteers complete the initiatives we developed with students, communities and entities supported by the company in the countries where we operate. Through volunteering, Samsung also enables its employees to take part and learn more about the company’s Corporate Citizenship platform”.

Every year, in October, Samsung also promotes Global Volunteering Month, an activity that aims to benefit hundreds of people, through a schedule of diverse actions to serve the community. In the last three years, Samsung’s volunteering program counted on the participation of nearly 1,500 Samsung employees in Latin America. These volunteer activities have taken place globally since 1994.

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About United Nations Volunteers

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Samsung works with partners to integrate qualified, highly motivated and well-supported UN Volunteers into development programming and promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism. UNV is active in around 130 countries every year. With Field Presences in over 80 countries, UNV is represented worldwide. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP Executive Board. UNV was created by the UN General Assembly in 1970 and has operated in Brazil since 1998.

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