



International Federation of Liberal Youth
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Bureau Report

Date: Thursday, July 10, 2008

From: Paola Silva

To: Executive Committee, Manila 25-26 July 2008

Subject: Bureau report December 2007 - July 2008

Introduction:

Since I started as President I worked with all team in order to have a common work plan, and also a common objective and challenges as a team. This has been a very interesting task to complete, as we all are from different backgrounds and cultures and we have had to overcome many obstacles. Fortunately I have to say that I think this has been indeed a successful task because we have found the way to work together as a team. With indeed many things to solve and improve still, but with same commitment that we all had when we were elected.

As it was decided in last GA we as bureau had to work on IFLRY's Plan of Action for 2008 and 2009, that is the term of our mandate. For this reason, this was decided to be our priority for our work and our first meetings. Our plan was based on those issues we are all interested to change or improve on IFLRY's work and also to complete those objectives we had mentioned in our election campaigns.

Besides that I have been working closely with Bart Woord, Chris Gallaway and Sarah Wong on process to make our administrative and operation work more efficient and professional. Besides we have had a transition period with our new structure that have brought issues to solve

Among those tasks mentioned above I have continued in charge of Latin American region. This has been a big challenge for me, because this region requires a lot of attention and time from my side, as I have been the one in contact with our MO's and contact organizations during last years. Fortunately this time and work have been worth it and we continue getting results of this region.

Tasks:

Elaborate a Plan of Action (PoA)

During these months we as bureau worked on what is our guide of work for our mandate.



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We started a process for building PoA since January 2008, we all wrote our expectations and also we wrote what we thought it would be IFLRY's priorities for this period, after this bureau members had to make comments on each proposal done by our colleagues regarding IFLRY's Plan. Besides, as you all received, we sent a survey where we tried to check what are also preferences of our MO's regarding IFLRY's main goals, and main activities.

During our bureau meeting in London, and along with our regional responsibilities, we divided IFLRY's work in seven departments that we think suit better on what we have to do as bureau, but also with perspective of make our daily work more related with other bureau members job. On each department and as a result of a common agreement, we appointed one bureau member to be in charge of this responsibility. Those departments are 1. Administrative/Operative (Chris Gallaway), 2. Meetings/Events (Jelena Spasovic), 3. Policy Issues (Jan Argy Tolentino), 4. Financial (Chis Gallaway), 5. Membership (Bart Woord), 6. Partnership (Frederik Ferie) and 7. Communications (Bart Woord). This is reason why this time bureau reports include a department section in which bureau members explain their main tasks among each department.

We included several activities and all bureau members have responsibilities on those departments leaded by our colleagues. However in some activites where there is a bureau member appointed we expect to find a high level of expertise among our member organisations in order to find some people who get involved and lead those activities until they are completed.

As it was decided by we all as bureau, I am not in charge of any particular department of our PoA, as I need to have an overall view of work that has been done by each and all of us. For this reason, below I will try to summarize activities related with departments.

Administrative and operations:

On January, at the same time Plan of Action was being completed by all team, I met with Bart Woord, Chis Gallaway and Sarah Wong in Brussels in order to we settle our main administrative and operative issues needed to improve IFLRY's work.

Among this issues have been to complete registration of IFLRY in London in order to fulfill all requirements. This work was started in last bureau mandate, but it has so many things that have to be done, that we are still working on finishing it.

We also settle an internship program that has brought to our office a new skilled person who have brought a very nice energy and work to our daily dues as Federation.



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Chris Gallaway has more details about this department.

Partnerships:

Besides meeting with Bart Woord, Chris Gallaway and Sarah Wong on January, we also use the opportunity to meet some of our partners in Europe to show them new leadership on IFLRY after elections and mention them our interest on improving our professionalism on IFLRY's work.

Besides, as you will see in my schedule section, I attended congress of Relial (Liberal Network of Latin America) last March. In this meeting I have opportunity to include activities about liberal youth organizations inside Relial and had chance to meet new contact organizations to continue our improvements in Latin America.

Last May, and as it is mentioned below, I attended Liberal International General Assembly. As I wrote in our bureau blog it was an important meeting and a great chance to meet some partners and show them what IFLRY has been doing in this new mandate.

Bart Woord has more details about this department on his report.

Events and Meetings:

Taking that into consideration I worked with Jelena Spasovic as VP in charge of events and meetings department and with Sarah Wong as Executive Director in order to make our application for events and seminars coordinated with those interests we settled in our Plan of Action as such Democracy Campaign and LGBT Campaign. This was done as a result of our review as team on the best way to get better results of our events and make that events get better inputs for what has been decided as IFLRY's interests. In this matter I have checked our applications and also I have given suggestions on content. I have to say that they both have done a great job and we indeed have succeeded on what we wanted and we expect next year we could have more coordinated activities.

Besides our applications we have done two seminars during this time. One in Johannesburg led by Ahissata Camara and Bart Woord and the other one in Montenegro with Jelena Spasovic, Sarah Wong and Bart Woord as members of seminar team.

Our next EC in Manila has taken also part of my time on helping with content and some organizational issues that are needed.

Jelena Spasovic has more details about this department on her report.

Other tasks:



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Regarding political statements we still have to make more improvements. We have done some, but we still have to be more accurate on timing and topics we would like to react.

On what is related to communications we have done improvements. We made commitment to send a newsletter per month and we have accomplished our goal. However we are still facing several obstacles that we hope to overcome soon in order to improve our results.

Regional responsibility:

As I mentioned on introduction, regional responsibility has become a big challenge for me as President. I have received a lot of support from my bureau colleagues on my work, but it is necessary to spend an important amount of time due to this region is still on development process as we have many political challenges besides strengthening our MO's, contacting new ones, and building networks and

My regional responsibility continues being Latin America. In this matter I have continue contacts with our member organizations but also increasing our membership with some other organizations in the region.

As part of our interest in our term, we as bureau have decided to give as much chances as possible to our member organizations in order to accomplish better results of our work. Taking in consideration all this, we are working on giving our MO's the chance to attend events IFLRY has been invited, but can not be covered by IFLRY itself. Those events are indeed the result of improvements of IFLRY work during last year in this region, because the increasing of IFLRY presence in region have brought many events to attend and off course many opportunities for our MO's in region to work directly with IFLRY. Organizations like Círculo Liberal from Uruguay, IPL-Peru and UCJD from Colombia have had chance to attend some events. Hopefully in the future we will have some other organizations attending some other events.

JLRA - Paraguay. JLRA elected a new leadership and I have been mainly in process of keep contact with their new international officer to increase their participation on IFLRY's work.

IPL-Peru is organizing a seminar in Peru with a very important support of several international organizations. Among those there is IFLRY, which has become one sponsor of this event due to our interest on promoting spread of liberal values on this region.

I have continue contacts with our Cuban member organisation Coalición Juvenil Martiana in order to support their work done in Cuba, but also to give a short follow up on what was done in during last bureau mandate.



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Application for observer member of PRI Chile. I got in touch with them since last year and after checking their documents we both agree on their application for observer membership in order to have chance to let them us know them better, but also to let them know what is IFLRY and what are our main interest on promoting liberal values.

This is a very good starting point for our work in Chile. We hadn't have any contact with liberal youth organization in this country during last years, and this is a very good chance to bring them to our network.

Iberoamerican Youth Initiative: This is a high level initiative that involves not only organizations from Latin America, but also organizations with work on Iberoamerican Region (Portugal, Spain and Latin America). This initiative has as a main goal to build a exchange platform among organizations from that part of the world, and IFLRY has been working on the way to support the development of this platform.

Agenda:

13-16 January, Madrid, (Spain): Alliance of Civilization event.

17 - 18 January, Brussels (Belgium): Networking Meeting and Bureau Work about administrative issues with Bart Woord, Chris Gallaway and Sarah Wong

21 to 23 March 2008: Bureau Meeting - London, United Kingdom

11 of March 2008: Iberoamerican Youth Platform Meeting, Cartagena, Colombia

25 to 29 March 2008: Congress of RELIAL (Liberal Network of Latin America - Rosario, Argentina

1 to 3 May 2008: LYMEC Congress - Barcelona, Catalonia.

4th of May 2008: Bureau Meeting - Barcelona, Catalonia.

15 to 18 May 2008: Liberal International Congress - Belfast, United Kingdom

Conclusions:

The new leaderships we have in this bureau combined with knowledge of our experienced bureau members have brought a new vision for Federation.

To accomplish our goals have been a tremendous work, and it is a challenge for we as bureau members, but you have to be sure we will make our best effort on make it become true and we know it definitively worth it.

However we know we need as much hands as possible to complete this goals and I want to take this opportunity to invite you all to become involved on



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activities you want to contribute, because if we can combine efforts and experience, then this plan will be a great success not only for all of us, but also for all those young liberals around the world who need our commitment on promoting and spreading liberal values.

You could get in touch with me or directly with bureau members in charge of departments and I am sure we all could find the best way you can contribute to make all this ideas come true.

Best regards and looking forward to see you soon,

Paola Silva

IFLRY President