



Vol-e-Tin AMVIAC

# AMVIAC JOINS THE CLIMATE HERITAGE NETWORK

BY NICOLÁS AGUILAR

## Climate Heritage Network Welcomes New Members *(as of 15 February 2021)*

### Units of Government, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations

- Cadw (Wales UK)
- Finnish Heritage Agency
- Persepolis Foundation (Iran)

### Businesses, Artists, Design Professionals

- Goody Clancy
- IS Architecture
- Lake|Flato Architects
- L - P : Archaeology
- Sons and Daughters of Africa
- Space Architects
- Web2Learn

### Universities/Higher Education

- Athabasca University (Canada)
- Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft for the advancement of applied research
- PRAXIS/University of Leeds
- School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh

### Cultural Institutions

- Cornwall Museums Partnership
- Ethnographic Park & Botanical Garden Piramides de Guimar
- Guild of St George
- National Galleries of Scotland
- San Francisco Heritage

### NGOs/Civil Society

- ACKlimate Nantucket
- ASOCIACION MEXICANA DE VOLUNTARIADO INTERNACIONAL A.C.
- Chisomo Mission Group (Malawi)
- ENCATC
- For Africa (Cameroon)
- Indonesian Heritage Trust (BPPI / Badan Pelestarian Pusaka Indonesia)
- Sendzimir Foundation (Poland)
- Union REMPART
- Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance
- Youth for Creative African Art Focus
- Youth Foundation of Bangladesh
- World Monuments Fund



#ClimateHeritage  
[www.climateheritage.org](http://www.climateheritage.org)

On **February 15th, 2021 AMVIAC**, along with **30 other organizations** from various sectors and various countries, was accepted into the **Climate Heritage Network** which brings together more than **200 institutions and organizations** that work in the field of **arts, culture and heritage** and committed to **tackling climate change**.

AMVIAC hopes to strengthen its capacities and share them with its partner organizations in **Mexico, Morelos, and Cuautla**, as well as carry out actions that contribute to **mitigating climate change**, always linking them to art, culture and heritage.

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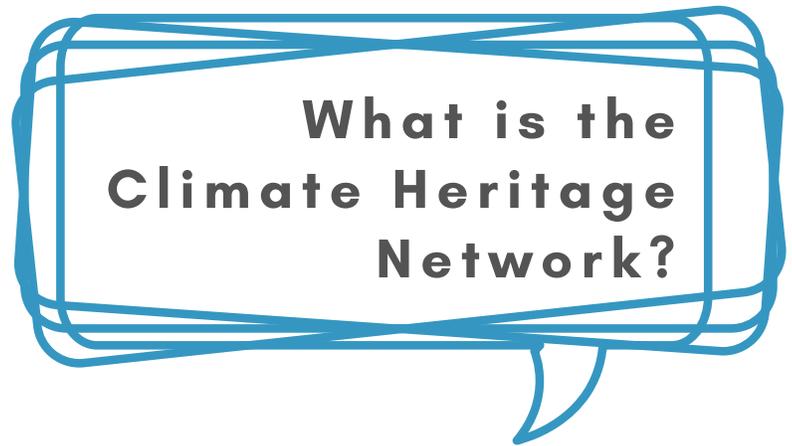
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The Climate Heritage Network is a voluntary network of mutual support between agencies, offices, ministries, non-governmental organizations, universities, companies and other organizations, whether local, municipal, state/provincial and regional, indigenous, tribal related to art, culture and heritage that are committed to supporting their communities in tackling climate change and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Topics the **CHN** addresses include:

- How **art, culture and heritage actors** can inform climate policies and help jurisdictions meet their **GHG reduction targets**.
- Support to **art, culture and heritage offices and agencies** to understand their role in planning the path towards **deep decarbonization**.
- **Scaling up innovative policies that provide solutions**: replicating and disseminating best practices and new approaches for the arts, culture and heritage that activate communication, education and climate action strategies based on cultural heritage.
- **Connect actors related to art, culture and heritage** at the local, regional and national levels with experts in climate change and government colleagues around the world.
- **Support commitment to climate change** by cultural heritage officials and **promote climate solidarity** with art, culture and heritage offices and agencies in underserved and / or frontline communities.
- **Facilitate the participation of leaders** of the arts, culture and heritage in **regional and international forums**.
- Emphasize the role of art, culture and heritage actors in promoting integrated **nature-culture approaches** that highlight the links between the **ecological and social values and functions of land and other natural resources**, and the connections between the **production and consumption**, in a way that promotes **healthy and low-carbon lifestyles**, in harmony with nature.
- Share **best practices in modeling and evaluation** to understand projected **climate impacts**.
- Develop **metrics and indicators** that can help track progress in **reducing GHG emissions** and the **risk that climate change** would pose for communities and their cultural and heritage systems.
- Share **innovative models to finance and support climate adaptation**, including **public-private partnerships, resilience funds and competitive approaches**.

# ROSCA DE REYES

BY ROSI NAVA

An event was held in the community of **El Hospital** to deliver **toys to the children and families of the Ejido, trees in donation simultaneously**. The event was organized by the **Asociación Mexicana de Voluntariado Internacional, A C** and the **Environmental and Cultural Coalition of Cuautla**.

Previously, the associations carried out **a collection of toys, educational materials, magazines, books, and electronic toys**, as well as the acquisition of **small trees of species such as guayacanes, golden rain trees, jacarandas, plumbrees and other endemic plants** that are important for the environmental conservation of the place.

On **January 9, 2021**, all families from the Ejido were invited to attend the local community centre to assist the event. It should be noted that all **health safety measures were followed**.

Each family was given **a small tree to their liking along with an adoption certificate**. At the same time, each child was given a toy chosen by him, a teaching material, a book or a magazine. Recreational and competitive activities were also carried out. The traditional **Rosca de Reyes** festival was held accompanied by hot chocolate, obviously, without the use of disposable plates and glasses.



Families from "El Hospital" during the event

# PLANTING LIFE

BY PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

Last **January 16th** of the present year we met in the town of **El Hospital**, the **Mexican Association of International Volunteering, AC (AMVIAC)** and the **Environmental and Cultural Coalition (COAMC)**, in one of many other efforts to **improve the environmental situation of our municipality**. I find it incredible how much a seed can contain that, first of all, harbors life. And not only its own, but the one that depends on all the services that **are potentially going to be generated from its germination**. In each seed there will be shelter for **birds and insects**, there will also be **protective shade** that, in turn, will capture the sunlight and convert it into energy that will make a sophisticated laboratory work converting **CO2** from the environment into the material that will make up the structure of its **trunk, branches and foliage** and, as if that were not enough, and without finishing enunciating the innumerable benefits of each tree, it will **release oxygen to the environment**. All this increases as each tree grows, that is, **the older a tree is, the greater its environmental services**.

Before you think about throwing down a tree, even if it will be replaced by a younger one, remember that it will be many years before you can reap the current benefits and that it will only take you a few hours to destroy.

That day at the **Hospital**, **several trees were planted hoping they reach maturity and give all kinds of fruits to that community**.



Volunteers during the reforestation

# CYCLIST RIDE TRIP

BY ENRIQUE ANZURES

On **March 13th 2021**, as part of the activities of the **General Assembly** of the Asociación Mexicana de Voluntariado Internacional **AMVIAC** and as a member of the **Climate Heritage Network**, a **cyclist ride** was carried out between **two of the aqueducts** found within the **municipality of Cuautla**.

The first of them went to the **Hacienda de Santa Bárbara de Calderón** that began in the year 1609 when Don Francisco Fernando Calderón requested several land grants to plant **sugar cane** and with it, **he started one of the most important Hacienda in the region**, not only in the production of sugar but also in the trade of **sugar rum and piloncillo** (brown sugar). It is important to mention that, in the year 1763, there was a rebellion of slaves by the mistreatment of its new owner, Don Manuel Ruiz de Castañeda. Also, the aqueduct of the Hacienda de Calderón has a double arch that, as a work of hydraulic infrastructure is **unique in the region**.

A visit was also made to the aqueduct of the **Hacienda de la Concepción of María from the Hospital de la Santa Cruz to Huaxtepec**. According to available data, construction began around 1620 when the friars of San Hipólito were granted permission to change an old **animal traction mill, by one moved with hydraulic force**, these waters came from the ancient spring of the forest of Chiconahuapan in the town of Cuautlixco, known today as Las Tazas.

During the tour the participants had the opportunity to see the **different processes of obtaining sugar** because it was the **harvest season**, the volunteers watched **the cut, transport and milling of sugar in the Ingenio de Casasano**, whose origin dates back to the **XVI century**.

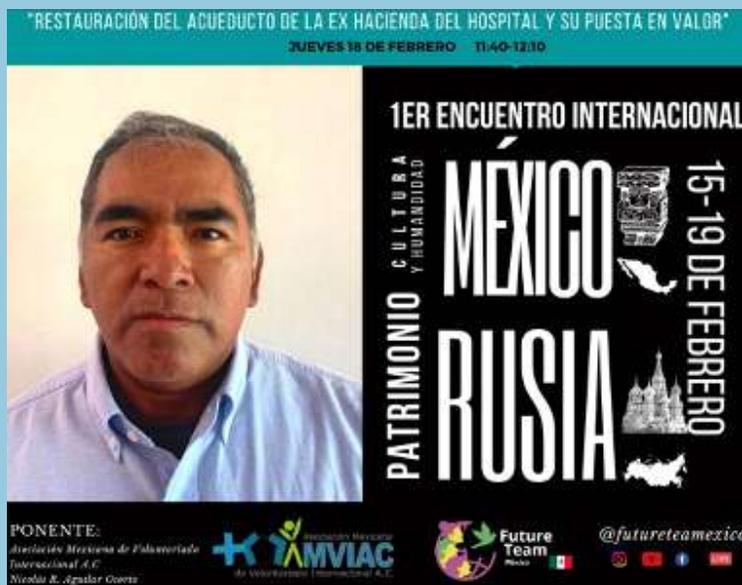
The participants witnessed the **hard work of the labourers dedicated to this activity**. Besides the volunteers promoted the exercise and use of the bicycle as an alternative means of transportation to contribute to actions related to **climate change**.



Aerial shot of cyclists heading to Casasano

## FIRST ENCOUNTER ON HERITAGE

BY NICOLÁS AGUILAR



"RESTAURACIÓN DEL ACUEDUCTO DE LA EX HACIENDA DEL HOSPITAL Y SU PUESTA EN VALOR"  
JUEVES 18 DE FEBRERO 11:40-12:10

1ER ENCUENTRO INTERNACIONAL  
PATRIMONIO CULTURA Y HUMANIDAD  
MÉXICO  
RUSIA  
15-19 DE FEBRERO

PONENTE:  
Asociación Mexicana de Voluntariado Internacional A.C.  
Nicolás E. Aguilar Ochoa

AMVIAC  
Future Team Mexico  
@futureteamexico

In **February**, the association participated in the **1st Heritage Meeting** organized by **Future Team Mexico**, a non-profit organization, in collaboration with the **Russian Agency for Cooperation Rossotrudnichestvo** and the **UNESCO Hypatia Club**. These organizations presented the initiative to create a **bridge of cooperation** between **Mexican and Russian universities** as well as to expand opportunities for participation and strengthening with **institutions and professionals in the heritage sector**, both **tangible and intangible** of humanity as the main topic. Thus, the **director of AMVIAC**, presented "**International Volunteering in the protection and enhancement of Cultural Heritage.**" We thank **Mariana Aguilar** for having put us in contact with Future Team Mexico and thus being able to make more people **aware of international volunteering**.

# MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION AT AMVIAC

BY ANA LUISA MEJÍA



Aristóteles, guardian of the Office 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

In this last quarter there have been **favorable changes for AMVIAC in terms of Management and Administration**, two areas that are completely necessary for the proper functioning of any organization, because **AMVIAC has grown** considerably in terms of links with different associations and referring to issues of social, environmental, cultural, heritage projects, among others. Therefore, the creation of the management and administration area and its consequent strengthening by opening an **extra position in the operational team** at the beginning of this year was considered. It helps to improve the communication between members, partners and the community in general; **manage, plan and organize the area of finance, accounting, financial resources and human resources, mainly**. Among the activities that are being carried out is the regularization with the **SAT** of salaried collaborators, formalization of the employment relationship by signing employment contracts, regularization with the SAT of the reports corresponding to the 2017 - 2021 period, in addition to **the organization of official documents in the office, inventory records, among others**. In a personal way, as a result of my pleasant experience as a volunteer at AMVIAC, my interest in supporting went further and my academic profile (**Master's in Organizations student**) allowed me to offer my collaboration with even more focus, so now I am collaborating in the management and administrative part of AMVIAC in the operational team.

## P-ACTION

BY P-ACTION TEAM



Harim, Claudia and Roberto in virtual meeting for the P-Action project

The participants of the **P-ACTION Project** found a way to **generate a positive impact on the community** through their social projects **"Plant of life"** and **"Learning without school"**. Adapting to the new normality, they are creating **multimedia content** so that more people know and understand that despite the pandemic, the planet can continue to be improved by being **inclusive, creative, eliminating barriers of gender, social class and social stigmas**. In addition, it seeks to awaken in young people their ability to empower themselves through their **creativity and imagination**, encouraging them to observe their environment and see the areas of opportunity from their own perspective. As part of social awareness, it is sought to activate them and turn them into **agents of change in their communities** in the current situations that arise. So that you can follow these two projects, we will publish on social media, wait for news of this activation that will take place in the **Ejido de El Hospital, Cautla, Morelos** with its community.

# GLOBAL MAYORS CHALLENGE - BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES

BY NICOLÁS AGUILAR

AMVIAC participated in the preparation of a project for the implementation of a **network of bicycle lanes** in the city of **Cuatla, Morelos** within the framework of the **Global Mayors Challenge - Bloomberg Philanthropies**. Also participated the **College of Civil Engineers of the East of the State of Morelos (CICOEM)**, the **College of Architects of Morelos Section Cuatla A.C. (CAM)**, the **College of Biologists of Morelos Cuatla chapter**, the **office 33 Grados Arquitectos**, all of these chaired by **members of AMVIAC**, as well as several municipal directorates, who make up a work team, under the coordination of the director of **Sustainable Urban Development of the Cuatla City Council**, which is also a **member and president of AMVIAC**. For three weeks we prepared the proposal of a bike path as an alternative for **the economic reactivation of Cuatla, environmental mitigation and social inclusion, including the health issue**. In addition, an innovative element was integrated, which was the use of the bike path as a system for **channeling rainwater** to increase the freatic level. **Only 50 projects out of 600** will be selected in the first stage, and out of those 50, only **15 projects will be awarded with 1 million dollars each**.

We hope that we can be recognized. The preparation process has been very enriching, rewarding and fun. In **June we will know the results**.



Work Team



Wayward Volunteers and Albanta Foundation

## WAYWARD

BY WAYWARD TEAM

The **WAYWARD** project within the **ERASMUS+** program, aims at the **inclusion and social, labor and sports participation of people with intellectual disabilities in Mexico**, derived from these works arises the project to create a **DISABILITY NETWORK** among the different civil associations that exist in the community of **San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas**. Thanks to the diversity and experiences that are shared among the members of the group and conducting research on the needs of the cities where we live, we realized that in San Cristóbal **it is necessary to unite these associations** so that they support each other and thus maintain a balance, among the community. Currently, we are in the development and planning stage of the project, for which we will disseminate through the different social and communication networks that exist. We will provide information for all the families and friends of people with and without disabilities in San Cristóbal. More news coming soon.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# COLLABORATION WITH THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNAM

BY LENNIN VICK PACHECO



View of the interior of the Ex-Hacienda El Hospital

As part of the **collaboration agreement** signed between the **UNAM-AMVIAC**, we continue to carry out activities with the students of the **Faculty of Architecture** in the **specialty of restoration of historical monuments**.

In the past, when the Sars-Cov2 pandemic allowed us to work personally, the students carried out **in situ surveys of the current state of conservation** of the aqueduct of the ex Hacienda El Hospital. Currently, under the modality of **distance work**, we have determined, together with academic personnel and professors, a **methodology** that allows the students of the faculty to continue with the intervention proposals in their restoration matter. **AMVIAC** carries out **photographic, videographic and architectural surveys** to provide tools for identifying damage in a part of the interior of the Hospital Hacienda.

This will make it easier for the students to deliver an **intervention project** (restoration) where they solve the problems of a poor **state of conservation** through **liberation, consolidation and restitution approaches**. Finally, the Faculty of Architecture of the UNAM will deliver a proposal for a project that will be used to restore the proposed space of the hacienda.

## RAÍCES DEL SUR - PASSPORTS AREA

BY AMANDA TAPIA

Perhaps for many people a **passport process is something simple**, however, that is not a collective reality. It is a process that requires three determining questions: **patience, courage and commitment**, this can become so stormy that people could very easily give up the application, however, it is essential to acquire the passport to later apply for the **American visa**, and it is a great step to reach the common goal, **to embrace the migrant family after so many years!** But how is it possible that something so easy for some is a headache for others? The answer is simple, we are a population mosaic and the applicants are **without certain privileges**, but in the **RAÍCES DEL SUR MÉXICO team** we always maintain the same political will not to abandon the goal, since as Seneca said **"we are waves of the same sea, leaves of the same tree and flowers of the same garden"**.



Activity in the passport area

The process works as follows: first **the application is filled out** with the RAÍCES DEL SUR USA team, their documents are checked and people are notified and then all the **possibilities are corroborated** so that they can have it safely, in time and he forms his documents to attend the appointment and now they have to face two monsters: **racism and the bureaucratic vices** of Mexican institutions. Therefore, they are made aware that they are people with rights and it is important to recognize themselves in this way and under no circumstances will they be able to tolerate the racism that officials exercise towards them, and if it happens, they have the support of the Raíces team del Sur to make the **corresponding complaint**, in case they do not obtain it due to some external circumstance, the necessary appointments are rescheduled until they obtain it.

For the Raíces del Sur team in Mexico, it is a **great satisfaction to collaborate** in this significant process for the **fulfillment of a dream without borders**.

## IMPROVEMENT OF THE CUAUTLA LIBRARY

BY NICOLÁS AGUILAR

**AMVIAC** continues its active participation for the benefit of the community and, together with local civil associations and people interested in **improving the facilities** of the **Abraham Rivera Sandoval Library in Cuautla**, coordinated the reupholstery of **43 chairs** that were already in **poor condition**. These actions do not date from now, but rather it is the follow-up of what others have done in the past, specifically, credit must be given to personnel from the municipal culture department who in the **2009-2012** administration also carried out the task of upholstering the chairs. For this period, AMVIAC has managed the **donation of furniture** by the **ADO Foundation**, an institution with whom our organization collaborates within the framework of the **Mexican Volunteer Platform**. And it was through **Jorge Camacho and Alberto González** (rip) with whom the furniture rehabilitation project has been carried out. On this occasion, it was the turn of the chairs to be the subject of an improvement. AMVIAC acknowledges the contribution of the **Colegio de Ingenieros Civiles del Oriente del Estado de Morelos**, the **Colegio de Arquitectos de Morelos Section Cuautla AC**, **SAYER Cuautlixco**, the **Raices del Sur Migrant Club**, the **Environmental and Cultural Coalition of Cuautla** as well as of **Gloria Lerma, Claudette West, Robert Mónico, Indalecio Ortega, Héctor Camacho, Juan Castaneda y Ramón Preciado**, the last five are former colleagues of the AMVIAC's director at the **East Los Angeles College in California**, who teamed up to support this initiative. Thanks to all of them for their solidarity and sensitivity to have adequate facilities for the users of this library that is so important to our community.

We also thank the director of the Library, **Jaime Martínez**, for facilitating this initiative.



Abraham Rivera Sandoval Library  
in Cuautla



# ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

BY NICOLÁS AGUILAR



Attendees to the 2021 Ordinary General Assembly

On **March 13th, 2021**, the **2021 Ordinary General Assembly** of **AMVIAC** was held, attended by **29 members** of **56 registered** and **4 online members**. Nominations were presented for the **new Board of Directors**, which was made up of **Juan Gómez Santoyo (President)**, **Jara Itzel Molina García (Secretary)**, **Maurice Edgar Aguilar Osorio (Treasurer)**, **María Isabel Cervantes Tapia (member)** and **Lennin Vick Pacheco Sánchez (member)**.

As is customary, the **Moral, Activities and Financial reports** were presented by the outgoing president, **Lorenzo Elizalde Noria**, the director, **Nicolás Rodrigo Aguilar Osorio**, and the treasurer, **Maurice Edgar Aguilar Osorio** respectively. The President addressed a few words to the assembly thanking the outgoing board of directors for their support. He welcomed the **new proposals** from incoming board members.

In a general and brief way, the Director of the association presented a **report of the actions** carried out during **2020**, beginning with the 2020 annual meeting and each and every one of the actions carried out in terms of alliances with strategic partners both local, state, national and international. Likewise, the report of the **4 multilateral projects** with international organizations that are currently under development was rendered.

**AMVIAC** proposes a **political debate** in each assembly and this year the debate was **The role of international volunteering in today's world**. Groups of **5 and 6 participants** were organized to discuss the proposed topic. For this purpose, a document with a bit of history was presented in order to contextualize volunteer work over time and thus project ideas for the future. The participation of the members was dynamic and considering the **2030 Agenda and the SDGs (UN Sustainable Development Goals)**. Each of the groups of both (**virtual and presential assistants**) presented their conclusions.

The **modification of two articles of the Statutes** was also put to a **vote**, as well as the **update of the membership fees** for the year **2021**.

Finally, in this assembly we had the presence and participation of two partner organizations, **Raíces del Sur** and the **Cuautla Environmental and Cultural Coalition**, who briefly presented activities of their organizations.

This assembly was held inside a historical monument, the **Ex Hacienda de Nuestra Señora de la Concepción** located in the ejido of the Hospital, a marvelous exceptional decorum.



Members of the new board of directors, and the director of AMVIAC

# Message from Marie-Georges, President of REMPART

My dear friends,

I wanted to take advantage of your general assembly to send you a fraternal message and once again express our satisfaction at having you as partners. You will see the balance of 2020 and will have the opportunity to discuss what REMPART has represented in terms of support, like the creation of the VSI (Volunteering International Solidarity) position or the economic contribution of the French association ALIPH. You will find that we try to be active and present when necessary. You will also see that, as everywhere, things are not always simple and easy, for my part, I always hope to find something positive and that generates change or turns out well. Anyway, life is made that way and each difficulty should inspire us and allow us to overcome ourselves individually or collectively. We still have many projects to imagine, carry out together, more than ever in these times of pandemic, complicated, demotivating, we must continue to be citizens, staying strong and united. This is what we want to continue doing with you. Have a great day at the General Assembly!

*Yours sincerely, Marie-Georges PAGEL-BROUSSE, President of REMPART*

## PARTICIPATION IN THE ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BY RICARDO ROJAS

I have been a member of AMVIAC for a very short time, being last **February** in which I officially made my registration to the association, although some time ago, I have already had the opportunity to participate with it thanks to the invitation of its director Nicolás Aguilar in the development of recreational activities, specifically, **mountain biking**, with the aim of making a route between the **neighborhood roads** and being able to visit important points around the aqueduct of the former hacienda of El Hospital, this being a space in where AMVIAC develops an important restoration project.

Last **February**, I was invited to participate in the **organization of the 2021 Ordinary General Assembly** in two ways: one, together with Dr. Enrique Anzures, **to take a bike ride through the aqueducts** of the Ex Hacienda Calderón and the Ex Hacienda of the Hospital, a recreational activity that had the purpose of inviting people to know part of the activities carried out by AMVIAC and offering recreation for the members and non-members of the association. The attendance was approximately **40 local people and from other municipalities bordering Morelos** such as Amecameca in the State of Mexico. The activity was carried out without problems, guided by **Dr. Anzures** and I was myself in the rear, the cooperation of many active members of the association helped to make the "rodada" (colloquial name given to a cyclist ride) was a success; There was a **support vehicle** and at the end, some refreshments, such as seasonal **fruit, water and cookies** were provided and made the participants feel very comfortable thanks to the collaboration of the entire **team of the association**.

The second way in which I was invited to participate was in the **photographic recording and support for the live broadcast of the event**, which left me a very good personal experience, working together with Ana Luisa, Claudia and Karla, who are part of the staff, made me see that AMVIAC has responsible and dedicated people who can be entrusted with the activities of an event as important as this, thanks to this team the **face-to-face General Assembly** could be developed in parallel, in a way that physical with the necessary amenities for local guests, as well as **live and direct transmission for members** who due to health restrictions in the country could not attend. I am very pleased to have supported the staff in the organization of the assembly and I have the satisfaction of being a member with the possibility of supporting **AMVIAC** in the activities it develops. I reiterate my commitment and support to the association and its members.



Presentation of the director of AMVIAC and live broadcast team

# 1ST INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER WORKCAMP OF THE YEAR AT THE AQUEDUCT

BY NICOLÁS AGUILAR

From **Saturday, March 27th to Saturday, April 3rd, 2021**, the **first international volunteer workcamp of the year** was held in the **aqueduct of the Ex Hacienda Hospital**, located in the Hospital ejido. With the participation of **11 volunteers** from **Greece, France and Mexico - Guadalajara, Monterrey, CDMX, Yautepec and Cuautla**, the activities to **enhance and restore part of the aqueduct** were carried out with **great enthusiasm and motivation**

The president of the association, **Ing. Juan Gómez Santoyo**, accompanied by members of the **Board of Directors of AMVIAC** as well as representatives of the Hospital community, **Doña Gonzala and Biol. Verónica García Serrano**, welcomed the group of volunteers.

The works carried out by the volunteers were **masonry** in the restitution of the channel of the section where the water ran, the search, **hauling and carving of stone** that is used in this enhancement, the manufacture of the **nopal slime mucilage**, the **Carpentry work** to continue with the truss that will be used for the restoration of one of the arches and the **slaking of lime**. Activities were also carried out in and with the Hospital community, an **archeology workshop**, a **bicycle tour**, a **papermaking workshop with the sugar cane leaves**, a **garbage archeology workshop** and a **visit to the ex Hacienda of Coahuixtla**. They had the opportunity to see a **theatrical performance about Emiliano Zapata** as well as several first aid sessions. In addition, they witnessed the **burning and cutting of sugar cane** in the cane fields surrounding the aqueduct.

The group was led by **Jaz Bel Gómez, Jorge Pekas Mendoza, Eduardo López and Roberto Ballesteros**.

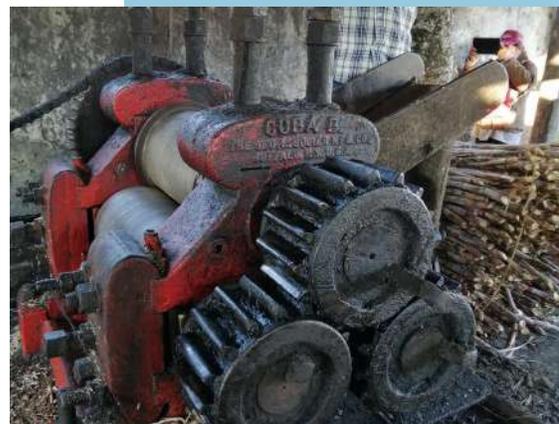
## TRAPICHE PROJECT

BY CLAUDIA VEGA

The enhancement of the Aqueduct of the Ex Hacienda de Nuestra Señora de la Concepción, in the **Ejido of El Hospital, Cuautla, Morelos**, is leading to the development of **community projects** that are being coordinated by AMVIAC, generating the necessary links for the viability of the those projects. **The Trapiche** is a project of a group of **sugarcane women** whose plots are surrounding the Aqueduct. They are interested in creating a **new way to generate income and jobs for their community**. AMVIAC has partnered in **Chiapas** with the **Tsomanotik** through the association **Viva Voluntariado** association, in the village of **Tzimol**, whose main activity is the production of **panela or piloncillo** (brown sugar) as we know it. It was thus that the **Biologist Verónica García**, one of the sugarcane women of the Aqueduct, **Eng. Enrique Ocaña**, an expert in organic production and community projects and on behalf of AMVIAC, the **MVZ Ana Luisa Mejía and Claudia Vega**, went to know the **extraction of cane juice** for the elaboration of panela. Now the proposal for the **manufacture of the trapiche** in El Hospital has been presented to the **Tecnológico de Cuautla** seeking alliances in the municipality itself that involve young students in the social projects of their community. The stone, the lime, the wood are the vehicles for the reconstruction of the social tissue that little by little involves more actors of the community.



Masonry works



Trapiche of the Tzimol community in Chiapas

# URBAN IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP 2021

BY NADIA MORALES



Finished job: Two adobe benches in the play area



Consejo Nacional de Estudiantes de Arquitectura  
MÉXICO

# VOLUNTEERING IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

BY KARLA DORENE



National and international volunteers in Aqueduct Workcamp

For the **second time**, students from the **Faculty of Architecture of the Autonomous University of the State of Morelos** carried out **urban image work in the Ejido el Hospital, Cuautla from March 27th to April 3rd**. The objective was to show the advantages of the application of **slaked lime in urban development** tasks and to serve as a practice for **students, architects and restorers**. During **3 days** the students carried out **retouching and lime paint application** tasks, preparing the paint with **lime, salt, alum and mineral pigments**, to protect the walls of the main frontage of the assigned area. They also made a proposal for the **design and construction of urban furniture**, making **2 benches** around the children's games. For this, **adobe blocks and clay mortar, lime and nopal slime mucilage** were used to join each block. Once the benches were finished, a layer of lime paint was applied to protect the adobe pieces and a varnish to protect the wood of the seat of one of the benches. The **varnish** was prepared by **melting copal** to which turpentine was added. All activities were carried out by members of the **National Council of Architecture Students (CONEA)- Cuernavaca Coordination and the Morelense College of Conservative Architects and Restorers of Monuments (COMACREM)**, under the guidance of **Dr. Juan Eduardo Cruz Archundia**, president of COMACREM, and with the support of the **Asociación Mexicana de Voluntariado Internacional A.C. (AMVIAC)**.

Without a doubt, **2020** was a different year for many sectors of the population, where there were important changes, which in some cases, activities had to stop. **International volunteering** was one of the areas in which the **impact** was seen, due to the **closure of borders** in some countries, as well as the fact of staying at home, as a preventive measure. In AMVIAC, medium and long-term **volunteering programs were paused** (in France and Belgium) that had been previously scheduled before the pandemic started, since the **European Union** did not give access to countries outside of it, as well as **World Heritage Volunteers (WHV)** workcamps in Mexico, they were canceled. However, in this situation it was an opportunity to **redesign and reinvent** ourselves, adapting to the new normality, and to tools that were not considered before, such as **virtual platforms**, which have been a great support, giving us the possibility to participate in **international and national events** from our own homes and continue **exchanging experiences**. For all international volunteering associations it has been a challenge but nothing that prevents us from continuing. In Mexico, despite the pandemic, citizen **participation has increased**, motivating more **national and local volunteering**, which has been very enriching to have more participation of our own culture. Last year we received volunteers from: **Chiapas, Guadalajara, Mexico City, State of Mexico, Veracruz, Monterrey, Guerrero and Morelos**. And in this first workcamp of 2021, international mobility began to be seen a little more and we received **2 foreign volunteers** from: **France and Greece**, without being left behind with the participation of 18 national volunteers during all the workcamp. This year will definitely be different, new formats may be unleashed, but the important thing is to **keep adapting and renewing ourselves**.

# CUAUTLA RIVER FESTIVAL

BY ENRIQUE ANZURES



Poster: 3rd Festival of the Cautla River

On **March 23rd**, **Enrique Anzures Carrillo**, member of **AMVIAC**, was invited by the **Cautla Environmental and Cultural Coalition** to participate in the **Third Festival of the Cautla River** to commemorate **World Water Day**, and in his presentation he presented **colonial cartography** regarding the **Cautla River Basin** and other **Historical-Geographical** aspects in the **16th to the 20th centuries**, as well as the importance of the **Barranca del Amatzinatl** and the springs of **San Cristóbal, Santa Lucia, Tres Puentes, Las Moras** that exist in the **Cautlixco Protected Natural Zone** for society to preserve them and at the same time create a natural **thematic corridor** on the banks of the Cautla River. This activity reinforces collaboration between groups to contribute to **SDG # 13**, in which AMVIAC is strongly committed.

## VIRTUAL WORKCAMP FROM COLOMBIA

BY KARLA DORENE

Based on the creation of **international alliances and partners**, we had the opportunity to collaborate with **WeCollab**, an **international volunteering association in Colombia**, who invited us to participate in a **virtual First Aid camp of 4 sessions** of approximately 90 minutes each. The objective of this was for the participants **to be trained with basic first aid knowledge** that can be useful and of great help during a **volunteer camp or in any life situation**, being that knowing how to **react during an emergency can save lives**. With this experience we were able to live another side of the pandemic, giving the opportunity to create new spaces and formats to continue in the world of volunteering, as well as **live and exchange experiences with other cultures**. In total **6 Mexicans**, representing **AMVIAC: 2 from Morelos state, 3 from Mexico City and 1 from Veracruz**, led by a **Colombian medical student**, also having the opportunity to meet people from **Colombia, Spain and Belarus**. The volunteers expressed great satisfaction, receiving **useful and practical learning**, in a dynamic way and doing their practices with materials that are easy to get at home. Thus, we will continue to promote and invite people to participate in **international** spaces either from home or if everything improves in the situation of the pandemic, that they can experience it in person, both being beneficial options to be able to connect with the world.



Participants in the course via Zoom

# GLOBAL HOPE LIBRARIES PROJECT

BY MAURICE EDGAR

The **Samsung company**, through its subsidiary **Samsung Engineering**, coordinates the **Libraries of Hope project**, which aims to **renovate dilapidated public libraries or build new libraries**, and **provide books and training materials**, and thus provide an **environment where children can play and enjoy learning safely**. This project has already been carried out in **India, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Bolivia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Algeria, Thailand, Malasia and Nepal, and now in Mexico**. AMVIAC coordinates on the Mexican side the actions carried out in the **Municipality of Paraíso, Tabasco**. Requested by the **South Korean organization Better World**, our association undertook the task of combining a technical team with members of the **College of Civil Engineers of the East of the State of Morelos - Eng. Wendoline Mata and Eng. Jaime Leana**, and of the **33 Grados Arquitectos firm**, under the direction of **Arq. Lennin Vick Pacheco**, to monitor the design and rehabilitation of the **José Coffin and Santiago Wilson Libraries located in Dos Bocas**. Under the general coordination of **Yonghan Kim**, director of **International Cooperation at Better World**, the project began in March of this year with the works launching with the participation of the **secretary of Promotion of Reading and Publications of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of the State of Tabasco**, Melina Pedrero Hernández, the **Director of Libraries of the State of Tabasco**, Rodrigo Landero Cruz, as well as the **municipal president of Paraíso**, C. Antonio Alejandro Almeida and the **director of AMVIAC**, Nicolás Aguilar Osorio. The work is carried out by the **RODAS company** in coordination with the **Paraíso public works department**. The company **L.T.G and Interworld Corp S.A. de C.V.** also participates as a supplier of furniture, computer equipment and security, under the direction of C. David Martínez Pereyra. The completion of the rehabilitation works is expected at **the end of May**. We acknowledge and thank the participation and work of **Dr. Ariel Gutiérrez Valencia, Isidra Sánchez and Jesi Domínguez**, with whom we began the entire process of preparing this project, as well as **Arch. Laura Guevara** and the librarians of both libraries.



Library "Professor Santiago Wilson" /  
Project render



Taking measurements of the land

## CHAMILPA ECO TOURIST PARK PROJECT

BY CLAUDIA VEGA

It is the **Albanta association**, which links us to the **Chamilpa Eco Tourist Park** for the **Temazcalli project**. It involves the **design and construction** of an area for **curative temazcales (sweat lodges)**, within a common land that has several recreation areas for ecological tourism. A construction for dry temazcal and another for a wet one are the central buildings, however the general design includes the **parking lot, a meditation area, a path, bathrooms, a stone oven and a dining room**.

The Park is administered by an **ejidal board of directors** who has requested the support of AMVIAC for the realization of the **general design of the area and the participation of volunteers** for the construction. We have invited **Bio Atelier**, an architecture office of which two architects are **members of AMVIAC**, in addition to being a company concerned with the environment using sustainable and ecological materials in each project they develop. Making it clear that alliances are essential for the development of society and that volunteering provides these opportunities. At the time of this bulletin, the works are going into the second review of the design. We will keep you updated of the project for the next newsletter.

## WHY TO BELONG TO AMVIAC?

BY ANA LUISA MEJÍA

The answers can be infinite depending on the needs of each individual, however for us having as a vision "**the transformation of Mexican society, particularly youth, through international volunteering**", it is important that you know that you belong to the association will allow us to provide timely and effective follow-up, which will serve as the basis for its perpetual continuity.

A significant fact is that from **28 members in 2015** we went to more than **90 members** in total this year, of which there are **70 active** and **20 that have not yet renewed**. It is worth mentioning that of the currently active members we have **14 new and 33 who renewed** their memberships in this first quarter.

Some of the benefits that you can enjoy by being an **AMVIAC MEMBER** are:

- **Travel and live unique experiences** of cultural exchange as a volunteer both in **Mexico and abroad** through our network of partner organisations.
- **Funding opportunities** for volunteers in Mexico and abroad
- **First-hand information** on our own **national and international events** and trips and our network of associates.
- Create **worldwide links** according to your personal interests.
- Right to **elect members of the Board of Directors** and **propose changes** in its constitution.

There are four different ways to be part of the transformation of the Mexican society that we promote:

1. **Adherent member** (100 pesos): Member who belongs to the association but cannot be active within the association.
2. **Active member** (150 pesos): Member who actively participates within the association.
3. **Partner organization** (300 pesos): Any legal person (institution / organization) or physical person who wishes to join the association.
4. **Benefactor** (500 pesos): Anyone who wishes to be a member, not exactly active within the association and who contributes an extra amount.

## AMVIAC Membership



# CUAUTLA IN VIDEO

BY NICOLÁS AGUILAR



Various actions have recently been carried out that benefited the population in which different actors from the **Cuatla community** are actively involved and participating.

The most visible cases are the **enhancement of the Hospital aqueduct**, in which more than **25 institutions, organizations and individuals participate**. In the same way, the project to improve the **Buenavista aqueduct** located in the historic center of Cuatla, brought together colleges of architects and engineers, civil society organizations, the municipal government and political actors, to improve this historical monument.

Taking these examples, at the initiative of AMVIAC, several of the organizations met in January 2021 to reflect on **the need to make visible, through thematic videos, the characteristics and realities of our city**, with the aim that these videos can serve as a work and **promotion tool for different sectors of the population**.

Thus, a work of preparation for the realization of these videos in a professional way began. The first meetings have thrown the following topics as priorities: **Cuatla River, Zone of Historical Monuments, Buenavista Aqueduct, Nursery Zone, Water, Network of cycle paths, Haciendas and Aqueducts, and Roads**. From all these, a consensus was reached that the **Historical Monuments Zone and the Buenavista aqueduct** could be the spearhead to start the video series. **Kualicomunicación** would be the company in charge of generating the video in a joint effort with the Directorate of **Social Communication of the City Council** and **INAH Morelos**. The coordination would be in charge of the **Directorate of Public Works and AMVIAC with the participation of the College of Civil Engineers of the East of the State of Morelos, of the College of Architects of Morelos Section Cuatla AC, of the Environmental and Cultural Coalition of Cuatla, of the office 33 Grados Arquitectos**. Other institutions could eventually join.

**AMVIAC** started an **online training in volunteer project management** called "**Empowerment of youth - Improving capacity for EuroMed youth projects**", a total of **5 modules**, starting on **March 31st** and **ending on April 28th, 2021**. It was an invitation of the **CCIVS** (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service), which was **created in 1948** after the Second World War to promote volunteering at a global level, is represented in **79 countries** and more than **5000 projects** on different topics around the world, as well as being part of the coordination of projects of **World Heritage Volunteers (WHV)** endorsed by UNESCO to which AMVIAC belongs, and this year it promotes two camps in sites recognized as **world heritage**: Archaeological Zone of Xochicalco and the route of former convents on the slopes of the Popocapépetl.

Given this, **AMVIAC** reinforces its training to **optimize the association's management and coordination skills**, also developing innovative **online tools to ensure participation and promote volunteering**. The seminars will range from **identifying needs, objectives, schedule, logistics, intercultural dimension, conflict resolution to tools to measure the impact on participants, the local community**, etc. We are sure that this seminar will give new tools to continue offering volunteers a **pleasant experience**.

## TRAINING: EMPOWERING YOUTH

BY KARLA DORENE

**EMpowering Youth - Improving capacity for EuroMed youth projects**

Partners: CCIVS, Concordia, etc.

Activities:

- Networking meeting Dec 2020
- Webinars on Project management April 2021
- Training for Trainers Hybrid Version May 2021
- Online Conference June 2021
- Local Actions June - August 2021

Digital platform - communication - visibility

zoom

# VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES



*I had the immense fortune to be able to do this volunteering, although this pandemic has brought us many life lessons, a very important one is not to be paralyzed if you have the opportunity to help despite the emergency situation that is being experienced. "Por la Montaña" is a project committed to a pleasant work environment, it is a good opportunity to learn agricultural techniques in a sustainable way avoiding the use of chemical products, understanding how plants and insects interact with each other and also some tips from how these techniques can be performed on a smaller scale. The fact that the volunteer house was in the heart of San Cristóbal de las Casas gives you the opportunity to experience the countryside as the city, and with it, be able to have a broader vision of the multicultural relationship that exists in Mexico.*

**Carolina Yado | February, 2021**



*The best experience I have ever had. "Por la montaña" connects you with nature, allows you to know how friendly it is with the human being and the price that it has to be able to harvest.*

*I am grateful for the teaching that Miguel and Pablo gave us, those in charge of the place and people who caused me great admiration for doing this hard work.*

**Eduardo López | February, 2021**



*Being a volunteer is a vocation of service! Thank you Chiapas for making me more and more humble, more friendly, more human. I take countless lessons from both life and learning. Returning to the mountain will always be pleasant and even more so for a person with a hunger to learn. Thank you AMVIAC for giving me and my colleagues the opportunity to participate in this project in Chiapas. "The greatest reward for a volunteer will always be the humblest smile."*

**Jorge "Pekas" Mendoza | February, 2021**

# THANKS



## Lorenzo Elizalde Noria

Volunteer in various projects both in Mexico and abroad, a worthy representative of AMVIAC, Lorenzo served as president of the association since its foundation. We appreciate your willingness, dedication and leadership in these 6 years and we wish you the best in your future associative projects.

## Pierre Denou

Since March 2020, Pierre joined the association's operational team after having participated with other members of his French association REMPART, in a project in the former San Bernardino convent in Xochimilco. Pierre participated in AMVIAC as leader of technical works essentially in the aqueduct of the Hospital. Thank you very much Pierre for your participation and contribution to the AMVIAC project. We wish you a good return to France and a better integration again in your personal and professional projects.



## Fabrice Duffaud

In mid-2018 Fabrice made contact with AMVIAC and this meeting materialized with the participation of REMPART in a Symposium on historical heritage held in the city of Cuautla, Morelos in Mexico. After this first cooperation action, a series of activities followed, strengthening and consolidating the cooperation between both associations. Fabrice's vision and experience made the collaboration with AMVIAC very fruitful and visionary. Fabrice leaves his organization and therefore will no longer be the interlocutor of AMVIAC. The entire operational team has fond memories of you. We wish you the very best in the near and distant future!!



## Master Luis de Antuñano

With sadness for his departure but with great pleasure we also bid farewell to maestro Luis de Antuñano. And it is with pleasure because he leaves us many fond memories, teachings, talks and a very good taste in the mouth for his participation in the closing of the project to enhance and restore the Aqueduct of the former Hacienda de Nuestra Señora de la Concepción in the Hospital. His words were music to our ears and we will always keep him in mind because we were also able, with his permission, to reproduce a painting that he made of the Aqueduct to offer to all the partners of the project at the final event of 2020.

So long Maestro!!!



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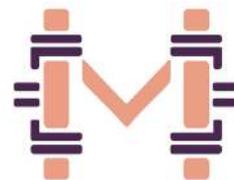
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*"I have blessed the stones I have stumbled on; I have embraced them. The stone you trip over lets you see a perspective of the landscape that you would not have seen of your own free will; it shows you a different vision, and then you conclude that, that stone is probably millions of years old, and that the intruder is you, that you are a breath that passes, at a given moment, through something that remains much longer than you".*

**Luis de Antuñano (R.I.P.)**



ENTRETEJIENDO MÉXICO  
PLATAFORMA MEXICANA DE VOLUNTARIADO



Climate Heritage  
NETWORK



**Be volunteer!**