

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL CIRCUS ASSOCIATION  
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM – TERMS OF REFERENCE

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**Duration:**

One year (12 months), starting in late January 2015, in three social circus organizations across Asia – Red Nose Foundation in Jakarta, Indonesia (Jan-May 2015); Phare Ponleu Selpak in Battambang, Cambodia (May-Sept 2015); and Mobile Mini Circus for Children in Kabul, Afghanistan (Sept 2015 – Jan 2016).

**Background:**

ASCA is an association for social circus groups (social, community, and for-profit) in the Asia-Pacific region. Founded in 2013, ASCA is committed to building a stable and reliable network for circus programs through the region and intends to be a reliable source of information and resources for its members.

ASCA's core objectives are:

1. Connect those who support arts and education, and personal development, for young people in the Asia-Pacific region
2. Create a volunteers exchange program
3. Be a source of news, information and resources about social circus for its members
4. Organize meetings, workshops, and seminars for ASCA members

Many of ASCA members are facing various societal issues across the continent, including extreme poverty, child trafficking, civil wars, and others. Through social circus techniques, these organizations work with underprivileged and/or at-risk local communities to help them develop resilience, self-reliance, confidence, trust, and ultimately happiness and hope for a better future.

One of the needs most often voiced by ASCA member organizations are qualified volunteers – individuals highly trained in the techniques and arts of circus and is willing to take a plunge into the world of deprived communities in the Third World to help the inhabitants build dreams.

On the other hand, ASCA has often received e-mails from willing volunteers from across the globe who are facing difficulties in finding the right circus organizations in Asia where they can participate in worthy causes while also sharing their circus knowledge to spread joy to others.

Through this volunteer program, ASCA plans to connect the dot between these two groups (member organizations and willing volunteers) in the hope of building a stable network between people in the West and the East, the North and the South, so that together we are able to build a better world – using circus arts!

### **Goals of Program:**

We at ASCA hope that this volunteer program will satisfy the following goals:

1. Providing a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to contribute positively to the development of underprivileged and/or at-risk communities in third-world countries while also immersing themselves into the unique local cultures across Asia.
2. Providing volunteers with experiences of teaching the beneficiaries of each ASCA member organization as well as capacity building with the organizations' local staff.
3. Providing qualified volunteers for ASCA member organizations.
4. Providing a great opportunity for ASCA to strengthen our presence in the global social circus scene and help our members increase the global awareness on the plights that cripple Asia even today, including extreme poverty, child trafficking, civil wars, and others.

### **Eligibility to join program:**

In this first phase of the ASCA volunteer program, ASCA will open registration in October and November 2013. Following a series of rigorous background checks, two volunteers will then be chosen from the pool of applicants. In order to be able to participate in this program, applicants must:

1. Be 18 years or older.
2. Be an expert in the circus arts.
3. Have five-year experience of working in circus-based organizations.
4. Have five-year experience of working with children.
5. Have strong passion, energy (mental and physical), and willingness to work in social circus causes.
6. Have strong interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic environment with and respect for diversity.
7. Be enthusiastic and willing to learn about the role of social circus in peace and development.
8. Be willing to take a plunge into the environment of Third World underprivileged communities, which can be a little harsh.
9. Have internet proficiency as well as proficiency in MS Word or other word processor software (volunteers are required to write about their experiences periodically for the ASCA Blog).
10. Experience in volunteering a strong asset.
11. Experience in non – formal education an asset.

**Expenses:**

During the volunteer program, ASCA will cover the following expenses:

- Room & board (with a minimum standard of comfort)
- Local transportation
- 3 (three) meals per day or an equivalent stipend
- Monthly stipend based on each country's standard minimum wage

Volunteers will be responsible for:

- International travel expenses, approx. \$2,200 - \$2,600 (depends on the volunteers' domicile) for 1 year worth of travelling
- Required vaccinations
- Visa expenses

## About the Organizations:

### RED NOSE FOUNDATION (<http://www.rednosefoundation.org>)

Red Nose Foundation (RNF), or Yayasan Hidung Merah, is a non-profit arts and education outreach organization based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Established in 2008, the foundation works at the grass-root level to help local underprivileged kids build their dreams. By teaching these kids circus skills and other arts while honing their mathematical and English-speaking abilities, we hope they will develop the confidence and courage to accomplish any dream they have for their future.

Currently, the foundation operates two centers across Jakarta: one in Cilincing, North Jakarta, and the other in Bintaro Lama, South Jakarta.

Through these two centers, numerous events held across the city, as well as Red Nose Relief tours to various conflict-ridden and disaster-affected areas across Indonesia, the foundation has reached over 75,000 people across the archipelago

In achieving its goal to improve the quality of life of underprivileged children and the communities in which they reside, RNF runs a number of different programs. The three major programs that serve as foundational structure to RNF's outreach are:

- **Arts and Education Outreach Program** is the foundation's flagship program that currently provides 75 hours of **arts and education classes for more than 240 underprivileged children across Jakarta every week.**
- **Formal Education System Support Program** is the foundation's attempt to create systematic change by working within the channels of education and government organizations. This program encompasses **School Renovation** projects and **Full Scholarships** and **Partial Scholarships** provision for students.
- **Hidung Merah Performance Troupe** is the foundation's program for advanced students to gather with like-minded teenagers and children from several international schools and other arts-based foundations to share skills and experiences. The troupe also holds **Red Nose Relief** tours to conflict- or disaster-affected areas.

Through these pillar programs, RNF has reached thousands of children and their families. In 2013, the Arts and Education Outreach Program had over 200 participants, 94 scholarships were successfully secured and implemented, and the Hidung Merah Performance Troupe performed for over 7,000 people.

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**PHARE PONLEU SELPAK (PPS, <http://www.phareps.org>)**

"Phare Ponleu Selpak" which means "the brightness of the arts", began life in 1986 in the Site 2 refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodian border. A group of 9 of children who took part in drawing workshops in the camp had the idea to form a creative association to help other children express the trauma of war.

Following repatriation, PPS was founded in Battambang in 1994 by Srey Bandaul, Tor Vutha, Khuon Det, Lon Lor, Chea Yoa, Svay Sareth, Chan Vuttouk, Dy Mala and Rin Nak together with their French drawing teacher, Véronique Decrop.

PPS is an association which supports community development through providing children, young adults and their families with social, educational, emotional and cultural support. PPS's work with children is driven by the acknowledgement of each child's individuality and need for specifically tailored support. Artistic practice and development is at the heart of the formal education, life and social skills offered to the young people we work with. Alongside a governmentally run public school for about 900 children, the PPS campus comprises:

- **Arts schools:**
    - Visual and Applied Arts School with, Visual Arts Department and Applied Arts Department.
    - Performing Arts School with a Music Department, a Theatre Department and internationally renowned Circus Department
  - **Social Support:** Social Services and a Child Protection Unit.
  - **Education:** a public school, a Kindergarten, a Child Development Center and a library.
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**MOBILE MINI CIRCUS FOR CHILDREN (MMCC, <http://www.afghanmmcc.org>)**

The Mobile Mini-Circus for Children (MMCC) and its local partner, the Afghan Educational Children's Circus (AECC), together form a cooperative International/Afghan non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people. MMCC is the supervising umbrella organization under which AECC operates. Activities, however, are run jointly and cooperatively. Both organizations are registered with the Afghan Ministry of Economy.

Established in 2002, MMCC/AECC has grown into a countrywide education program focusing on teaching children to lead. MMCC/AECC's basic philosophy is that children know best how to communicate with other children. The goal is to give children the tools they need so they can themselves develop creative and novel ways of spreading fun education throughout Afghanistan.

The MMCC/AECC'S flagship urban capacity center, the Children's Culture House, is located in Kabul. It gives 120 permanent students, both boys and girls, the space to learn and develop their skills on a daily basis. This main center is the place where new ideas and pedagogical methods are developed.

The transformative power of circus connects education, physical art and social development. Social Circus is more than teaching circus skills. It is a tool for transformation, discipline, creativity and artistic expression.

In its modern form, circus has gone beyond mere entertainment: At the MMCC/AECC games and circus arts are a tools for teaching social skills, overcoming trauma and developing essential capacities and the ability to take responsibility.

Educational Entertaining performances are central to MMCC/AECC's methodology. A typical performance last for up to one hour and always include one or more educational shows about essential themes such as hygiene, Peace, or traffic safety. Partnering with MACCA/UNOPS, for example, has produced performances geared toward teaching and protecting children from the dangers of landmines and unexploded ordnance, in ways they can easily and much better understand.