

News from SI Media & Communications team (SI MCT)

Trending Today

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- Servas Tanzania
- The Youngest

Goodbye, Dijon! SICOGA 2025 Closes!

Dear readers our great moment staying in Dijon has come to the end. What an incredible week! The lights are dimming on SICOGA 2025 here in charming city! We had the pleasure of hosting around 50 delegates, all full of great ideas and enthusiasm.

For days, this vibrant city was the stage for fruitful discussions, important decisions, and, of course, plenty of networking and energy. We leave here refreshed, with a clear vision for the future.

A warm thank you to all participants for making this meeting a resounding success. May the bonds forged in Dijon strengthen, and may the work that starts here flourish.



UNTIL NEXT TIME! AU REVOIR AND **BEST OF** **LUCK TO EVERYONE!**

For those interested in having more information about the motions approved, please check our website

Congratulations!

The **RESULTS** are in

SI President :

- Radha Radhakrishna - USA

SI Vice president :

- Carla Kristensen - Portugal

SI Treasurer :

- Gulsen Elyak - Germany

SI General Secretary :

- Kent Macaulay - Canada

SI Peace Secretary :

- Francisco Salomon Luna Aburto -Mexico

SI Membership and Technology Secretary :

- Paul Nielsen - Australia

SI Development Committee :

1. Pamela Yang - Taiwan
2. Jamie Robertson - UK and Ireland
3. Tatjana Negi - Germany
4. Neuma Dantas - Brazil
5. Moses Kigozi - Uganda

SI Youth and Families Committee :

1. Elena Olivera Begué - Spain
2. Mehmet Ates - Turkey
3. Mehmet Akif Yegin - UK and Ireland
4. David Leonard Kabambo - Tanzania
5. Bhudeb Chakravarti - India

SI Internal Audit Committee :

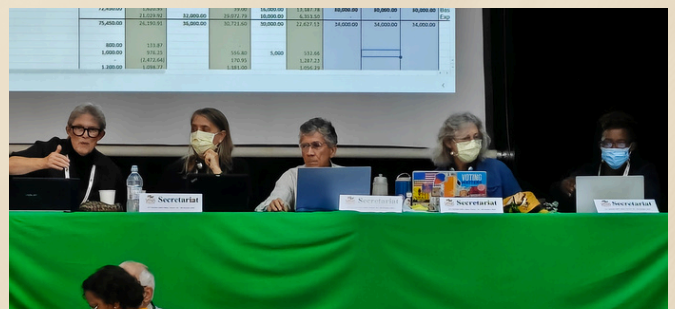
1. Salvador Da Matta - Brazil
2. Richard Wolfe - USA

SI Conflict Resolution Committee :

1. Richard Weaver - USA
2. Francisco Domínguez González -Spain

SI Distant Vote Administrator :

1. Pramod Kumar - India



Peace and Art Exhibition Closing

After being open to the public for 4 days and attracting around 400 visitors, the art exhibition on peace organized by Servas Artists concluded with a closing ceremony. The exhibition showed 120 works of art by 60 Servas Artists from 20 different countries as well as local artists. The local artists and members of local peace-building associations dedicated were invited.

On stage:

Christine Joder, representing Servas France Board, presented Servas.

Then Jean-Luc Turlure, artist and artistic adviser for the exhibition, presented Servas Artists and reminded us of the fragile peace that everyone must build each day.

Yolande Broyer and Pierre Sarbach read a poem on peace written by Yves-Jacques Bouin, a local poet who was unable to attend at the last minute.

Michel Gallard, baritone in the Dijon Opera, enchanted the place with two peace songs to the music of Handel and Schubert.

The ceremony ended with a friendly drink, the famous and obligatory kir and cheese bread (gougères) of Dijon.



I've been a member of Servas for almost 20 years, and each time I travel, the cultural exchange with Servas hosts remains the most enriching part of the experience. Although I haven't attended many international conferences, this was my second SICOGA, and I continue to learn so much from every single one.

At every SICOGA, Taiwan always prepares a performance to share our culture. This year, after the usual applause, we looked around, wondering what else we could contribute. Taiwan and South Korea had performed, but Japan hadn't yet. Perhaps it was because only four from Japan. So, we decided to create an event that would let Japan participate. We found a song familiar to all three countries, and we could sing it in different languages. This reflected the spirit of Servas — working together harmoniously, despite our different countries and cultures. It turned into a truly beautiful performance.

During rehearsals, the Japanese members' voices were quite soft, so the Korean National Secretary, Youngbom Yun, assigned a Korean member who could speak Japanese to support the Japanese group. What a heartwarming sight!

I also witnessed some young members making a statement condemning war, but the wording wasn't entirely thoughtful, which led to some hurt feelings among the Israeli members. In the end, they listened to each other, developed a deeper understanding, and, on Oct. 7, the day Gaza War started 2 years ago, stood together on stage to make a peace declaration and everyone kept 1-min silence for people suffering. What a moving scene!

Indeed, we are not a government or the United Nations, and we cannot stop wars. But through Servas, we learn to listen and understand one another, paving the way for less conflict and more peace among people.

— (Mei Wang, Taiwan)

SERVAS FOR THE WORLD - THE STORY

In September 2023, I went to a Servas event in Moraira, Spain with my Italian wife. I am from London but now live in Bologna, Italy. There, I met Mei Wang from Taiwan. Mei told me about a French Servas song written by Jean Bourdan. She asked me to make English words for that song. She sent me the original recording, so I wrote new English lyrics and sang the song. This song is now called Servas for the World. Jean and I tried to share the main values and beliefs of being part of Servas.

*In August 2024, at the Servas Italian Peace Camp near the border with Slovenia, we filmed a version of Servas for the World. You can watch it on YouTube, listen on Spotify, and download it here! - **Charles Goodger***



SERVAS FOR THE WORLD by Charles Goodger and Jean Baudan

E	From wherever you come from	Servas Travel Freedom
B7	You are welcome in my home	Cross the globe without fear
E	We can share our time together	Servas trust and giving
B7	Building friendships as we roam	Respect and peace to all
A	We come together	Discovery and travel
G#m/B	To share what we have	Experience the life that
A	Sharing values of respect, love	That Servas will provide you
G#m/B	and peace	In loving harmony
E / A	Servas opens doors,	Servas opens doors,
G#m/B	Opens hearts, opens minds	Opens hearts, opens minds
G#m/B	Servas knows no borders	Servas knows no borders
E / A	No restrictions, no confines	Servas knows no borders
G#m/B	Traveling with Servas	No restrictions, no confines
G#m/B	You'll make friends everywhere	Traveling with Servas
E / A	Servas is a life-style	You're friends are everywhere
G#m/B	Feel the joy in the air!	Servas is a life-style
	No matter who you are	Servas for the world
	Or where you come from	
	In every corner of the world	
	You'll meet new people	
	Glad to host you	
	Glad to share the common ground	
	Of friendship and simple humanity	
	We are Servas	
	Living life how it should be	



First of all, my heartfelt congratulations to the entire organizing team and to all respected "EXCO members of Servas International. "Your efficient planning, thoughtful agenda, beautifully designed inaugural ceremony, excellent arrangements , glass of wine and starters, and well-managed transportation were truly remarkable with timing

Radha's presidential address was so short, sweet, and full of energy, confidence motivated everyone. Carla's & Jony's proper involvement creates perfect blend this beautiful evening.

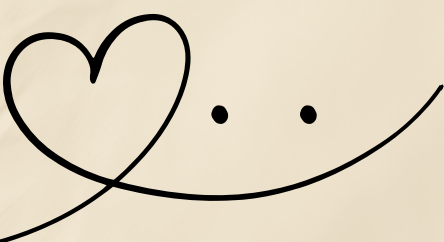
Our Servas motto is "connecting people"and today I personally experienced this. I am grateful to have made 29 new friends who I am sure will never forget me.

The games, laughter, and warm conversations we shared will remain memorable. Special thanks to all the French families who supported this With gratitude and friendship,

Nitin Wankhede
National Secretary, Servas India



A heartfelt thank you to our incredible Chefs and staff for their hard work and dedication. Your teamwork and passion made it possible to accommodate 190 guests seamlessly. We truly couldn't have done it without you!



thank you!



We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our EXCO members. Your tireless efforts, guidance, and commitment have been instrumental in our achievements. Thank you for continuing to lead with passion and excellence.



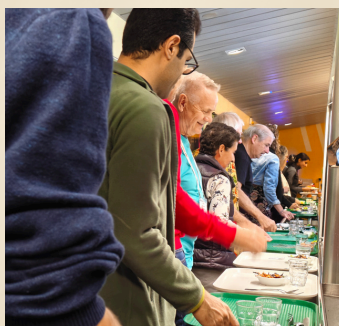
Special Thanks to Servas France! Merci beaucoup! As we wrap up the unforgettable SICOGA 2025 conference here in Dijon, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to the entire team at Servas France. Your dedication and incredible efforts in preparing and hosting this event were truly outstanding. From the overall organization to the smallest, most thoughtful details, your team's meticulous care ensured a smooth, welcoming, and highly successful conference for all delegates.

Thank you for your tireless work, your professionalism, and for embodying the spirit of hospitality that made this SICOGA so special. You set a wonderfully high bar!

Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery



SICOGA 2025 News Bulletins is produced by a team of volunteers
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Special thanks to Sarwar Aman and Jim Leask

