

Dear Liberal Friends

Thank you. I have to start with 'thank you' because you have given me the opportunity to serve an organisation that I love. My very first interaction with IFLRY was in Istanbul in 2011 and so there is some poetry to me ending my Vice Presidency in this same city just over five years later. It has quite simply been the best time of my life and the last two years on the Bureau in particular have been the pinnacle of it all.

In my last report, I reflected on how I believed we had made great progress in each of the key areas we set out in our Plan of Action. In this year's Annual Report you can see the evidence of that. IFLRY truly has become more global, a more effective advocate, a leading capacity builder and more sustainable for the future. I am extremely proud to have been part of a Bureau that has progressed the aims of this organisation and will be leaving solid foundations to build upon.

Personally, I feel most connected to our work as capacity builders and becoming more sustainable. My active years for IFLRY before taking office were marked by my love for Non Formal Education and this has continued. I have been a trainer, Course Director or remote support for facilitation teams on over a dozen occasions as well as creating a range of template resources and helping to lay the foundations for the Pool Of Trainers. On the sustainability side, I have improved IFLRY's communication with more purposeful and regular ISSUE newsletters, an improved website and assisting the establishment of our global blogging platform Libel.

It's tempting in these final reports to just reflect on the positives. There have, of course, been challenges. We did not achieve every single thing we set out to do. But I would concede that this is down to the realities of holding office. The grand visions that you are able to set out as a candidate are always held back by the nuisance of capacity. But this for me is a reason to make a few specific thank yous: to my fellow Bureau members who collectively go above and beyond the call of duty. It is easy to forget that we all hold these posts voluntarily and need to squeeze out extra hours each working week to try and keep up with the high standards we all expect of this organisation. To the many interns that have each served us with the passion and out of hours duty that can all too easily be taken for granted. And to one special individual who has not only been the professional core of our organisation but a source of great personal support to myself and others - Mane Manukyan. Mane, you are IFLRY.

So I'll end my final report with a good luck to the incoming Bureau. You are taking on the most wonderful challenge that will give you some of the best experiences of your life and will help shape you as a person. I will always make myself available to you in an informal, voluntary capacity because international youth issues are my passion.

Yours sincerely

Bobby Dean, Vice President
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