

## Irish Aid's First Volunteering Fair in Cork



**Minister Michael Martin with OLA Sisters, Volunteers and Irish Aid staff at the OLA Stand**

Irish Aid, the Government's overseas development programme, hosted a major overseas volunteering fair in Cork on the 20th February, 2010 to highlight long and short-term volunteering opportunities.

Minister Martin hosted the event which featured twenty-two organisations and took place at Devere Hall, in the student centre of the main campus of University College.

Speaking at the Fair, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., said:

"This event provides the perfect opportunity for individuals who want to get involved in volunteering abroad to discuss their options with volunteer-sending organisations and to gather the practical information they need to make a more informed decision.

"Events such as this also promote cooperation between organisations involved in volunteering. The health and safety of development workers and volunteers overseas is of crucial concern and it is very important that volunteers are organised and managed in a professional manner. The Volunteering Fair will showcase the Code of



**Srs. Grace Rowan and Mary Cahill**

Good Practice for Sending Organisations which supports organisations that adhere to best practice in managing and working with volunteers."



**Sr. Grace Rowan chats with a prospective Volunteer**

Among the organisations represented at the fair were local volunteering organisations including ACARA, Chernobyl Children's Project International, EIL Intercultural Learning, Friends of Londiani, Haven, Presentation Volunteer Programme, Serve and the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles. Visitors to the Fair had an opportunity to meet with representatives of the organisations and past volunteers, and attend workshops on volunteering

options. In addition, staff from a range of organisations gave presentations on their work, the skills they are seeking and the opportunities available.

This was the first time Irish Aid has organised an Overseas Volunteering Fair in the Munster area.

Pictured below, Sr. Julie Doran, a prospective Volunteer, Úna O'Donovan (Volunteer) Sr Grace Rowan and Eithna O'Donovan (recent Volunteer to Bugisi) at the Volunteer Fair in UCC





Sr Julie Doran talks with Eithna O'Donovan who recently returned from a short term volunteering experience in Bugisi Tanzania.

In addition to Irish Aid, the following volunteering organisations had information stands at the Fair:

ACARA

Chernobyl Children's Project International

Comhlámh

EIL Intercultural Learning

Friends from Ireland

Friends of Londiani

Global Schoolroom

Habitat for Humanity

Haven

Hope Foundation

Niall Mellon Township Trust

Presentation Volunteer Programme

Serve

Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles

Skillshare International Ireland

Suas

UCC

USIT

Viatores Christi

Vincentian Lay Missionaries

Voluntary Service International (VSI)

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)