Apply today and you could be...

A Volunteer Centre Development Adviser at Beijing Huizeren Social Services Centre in China

What's the context and purpose of the role?

The 2003 Human Development Report described China's recent development as 'the fastest sustained economic advance in human history'. As a result a large number of people have been lifted out of poverty, but around 200 million still live on less than 1 U\$ a day and the gap between rich and poor is widening. VSO is supporting the development of the voluntary sector in China to encourage professionals to share their skills and expertise with poorer communities in their country. The Huizeren Social Services Centre promotes sustainable development of volunteering in China through capacity-building of Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs). The organisation is setting up a Volunteer Centre and is looking for an experienced volunteer manager to provide support and advice for the development and management of the centre.

What does the role involve?

- > Facilitating the strategic planning process for the Volunteer Centre
- > Setting up management systems and procedures
- > Providing support to strategic partners and VIOs on aspects relating to volunteer programme development and management as required
- > Developing partnerships and networks with national and international VIOs to share learning
- > Supporting fundraising initiatives to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation

What skills, experience and personal qualities are needed for the role?

You'll have a degree-level qualification and substantial experience in developing and managing volunteer centres, including strategic planning, partnership and programme development and setting up management systems. Some experience in training or mentoring others would also be beneficial. You'll need to be open-minded, patient and flexible and enjoy working and living in a different culture.

And the rest...

China is a vast country with the world's biggest population. It's also hugely diverse, with the shop-till-you-drop metropolises in the east, the desert landscapes of Xinjiang in the west and lofty mountains and sub-tropical climate in Sichuan Province. You'll be based in China's capital Beijing with a population of just under 15 million! Needless to say for a city that size, plenty of shopping and entertainment facilities are available. Beijing is one of the 6 ancient cities of China and has been the heart and soul of politics and society throughout its long history, so there's plenty to see in your free-time. The Great Wall is also nearby and make for a nice walk on the weekends! You'll live in a flat with reliable electricity and water supply as well as good heating in the winter!