Ricardo Coronel Lemus
*Volunteer Group Consul, Paris*

What is your home country and for how long have you been living in Bangkok?

I am from Mexico and I have been living in Paris for 6 years. I love Paris, it’s a beautiful city.

For how long have you been a Volunteer Group Consul and what is your motivation for being a Consul?

I have been a Volunteer Group Consul for the last 3 years. I took on the Consul position because I felt the need inside of me to help other people; I wanted to do something to contribute, even if it is just a drop in the ocean.

*‘It is really special when I am at a Paris Volunteer Group activity; they surround me with like-minded people that enjoy helping others. It gives a lot of hope and energy.’*

Which non-profit organization are you supporting and what do you like about it?

I support the non-profit organization *Le Rire Médecin* which is located in France. The organization is bringing relief to children that have to stay in the hospital due to their sickness. For these children and their parents, the stay at the hospital is often synonymous with anguish of loneliness and distress. To help them make their life at the hospital a bit better, 100 clowns from *Le Rire Médecin* are visiting 43 pediatric services to provide annually more than 72,000 improvised or custom performances while mixing magic, humor and tenderness.

*‘Children are very innocent and sincere; if I would be in the same situation, then I would be very happy to have this organization visiting me in order to forget my sickness.’*

What are the achievements that you are most proud of as a Consul?

The best achievement I made so far is to make more people aware about *Le Rire Médecin* by for example my own organized fundraising dinners. By making more people aware about *Le Rire Médecin*, more people will be able to provide time to volunteer or give donations to this wonderful NPO.

What one tip would you pass on to a new Consul?

My tip for a new Consul is to be patient, organise activities that people like and try to change the topic or the places you meet, so that you can figure out what suits you and the members best. When you do not have a lot of time to organise activities, organize simple activities, when you do, look if you want and can organize bigger ones.

*‘Learn from past activities and try to build a team with the members of your Volunteer Group.’*