Global Buzz

OCTOBER 2022

CONTENT

ICA Asia Pacific • 2
Engaging Civil Society in Authentic Discourse

ICA Kenya • 4
Africa ICAs Conference Updates

ICA Nepal • 5
What's Happening?

ICA UK • 8
Ukraine and Group Facilitation Methods

ICA USA • 12
Celebrate with ICA USA

Global Schedule of Events • 13

ICA INTERNATIONAL

Engaging Civil Society in Authentic Discourse

A sharing and dialogue series hosted by the Institute of Cultural Affairs Asia Pacific with sharing from ORP, CPYen Foundation, HarmonyWorks, Leadership Inc. Shenzhen and others.

We are globally and locally at a time of crisis and separation. We hope by exploring some of the successes in profound dialogue, it will reveal approaches that might be used by others to move toward reconciliation and healing.

We invite you to a series of four 2-hour sessions. Each sharing is a local Asia Pacific successful or ongoing case. Our intention is to use this opportunity to explore experiences and ways to deepen discourse toward peace and authentic respect.

Click here to register!

The sessions

- **October 19, 2022o**

Korea: Social Dialogue For Peace And Unification Building of Korea with ORP Korea

- **October 26, 2022:**

Taiwan: Revealing the Power of Dialogue - cases from Dialogue Impact Award hosted by CP Yen foundation (CPYF)

- **November 2, 2022:**

China: "Promoting Children's Public Participation and Women's Leadership Shenzhen" hosted by Leadership Inc. Shenzhen

- **November 9, 2022:**

Malaysian Building Bridges in Cross Cultural Dialogue Harmony Works and others

- **November 16, 2022:**

Regional Dialogue: Emerging Story and Next steps – ICA Asia Pacific with participants from any of the earlier sessions.

Times

17:00-19:00 China/Taiwan/Malaysia
18:00-20:00 Korea/Japan
14:30-16:30 India
21:00-23:00 Wellington

Language: The sessions include tri-lingual language support in English, Chinese and Korean.

Registration Fee: We will not charge a fee since the collection costs are so high across so many countries, we invite you to give a donation to a local organization that is promoting authentic dialogue. In the program we will share some options.

For 60 years the Institute of Cultural Affairs has explored ways to collaboratively engage people to build self-reliance and human development. We are honored that other individuals and organizations aresharing their work and expanding the reach of the invitation. The Institute of Cultural Affairs International (ICAI) is a global community of non-profit organisations advancing human development worldwide.

Each session is composed of three parts:

- Sharing experiences from a specific Asia Pacific context
- Reflection on the sharing
- A group dialogue to share experiences, with the intent to impact the future of civil discourse locally.

Africa ICAs Conference

In October ICA Kenya continued to prepare for the Africa ICAs conference taking place in Nairobi from 23rd to 29th. So far the following activities have been carried out: seven air tickets have been bought and sent. We are anticipating 30 participants (ten Kenya staff and five Board members, ten from other parts of Africa, three ICA USA and two ICA Nepal). The venue and accommodations have been secured. A field trip to a successful model project on climate change and food security in Yatta has been planned. The banner, nametags and participant bags have been secured. The six day program overview has been prepared. The Senior Manager from D.light in Nairobi has been invited to carry out a demonstration on climate change solar innovations. The funds for the Africa ICAs budget has been contributed by the ICA International, and ICAs in Australia, United Kingdom and the United States.

Henry Mpapale, ICA Kenya: mpapalehenry@gmail.com

Project Proposal Writing and Fundraising Training

ICA Nepal has coordinated a Country Fundraising Stream, to create awareness of how the fundraising apparatus works. Eleven organizations participated in this initiation. In this context, ICA Nepal conducted a three-day training on Project Proposal Writing and Fundraising from 1st to 3rd September 2022. ICA Nepal provides training for members from Togo, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania in Africa and other countries - Bangladesh, India and Nepal. This is a platform for learning about the process and techniques to write an effective proposal. The training was designed to provide ideas for effective pitching, donor research, and fundraising.

Handover Ceremony of New School Building Supported by ICA Nepal

The official handover ceremony of the new school building for Shree Jalpa Devi Basic School, located in Makalu Barun Rural Municipality, a mountainous village in the Sankhuwasabha district was held 16 September 2022. The school building construction was supported by ICA Nepal with financial support from the late Ms. Stella Park and Shema Foundation through the Korea Hope Foundation. The local implementing partner was NPO Volunteer Social Service. Korea Hope Foundation, ICA Nepal, and local partner NPO Volunteer Social Service visited Sankhuwasabha for the project ceremony.

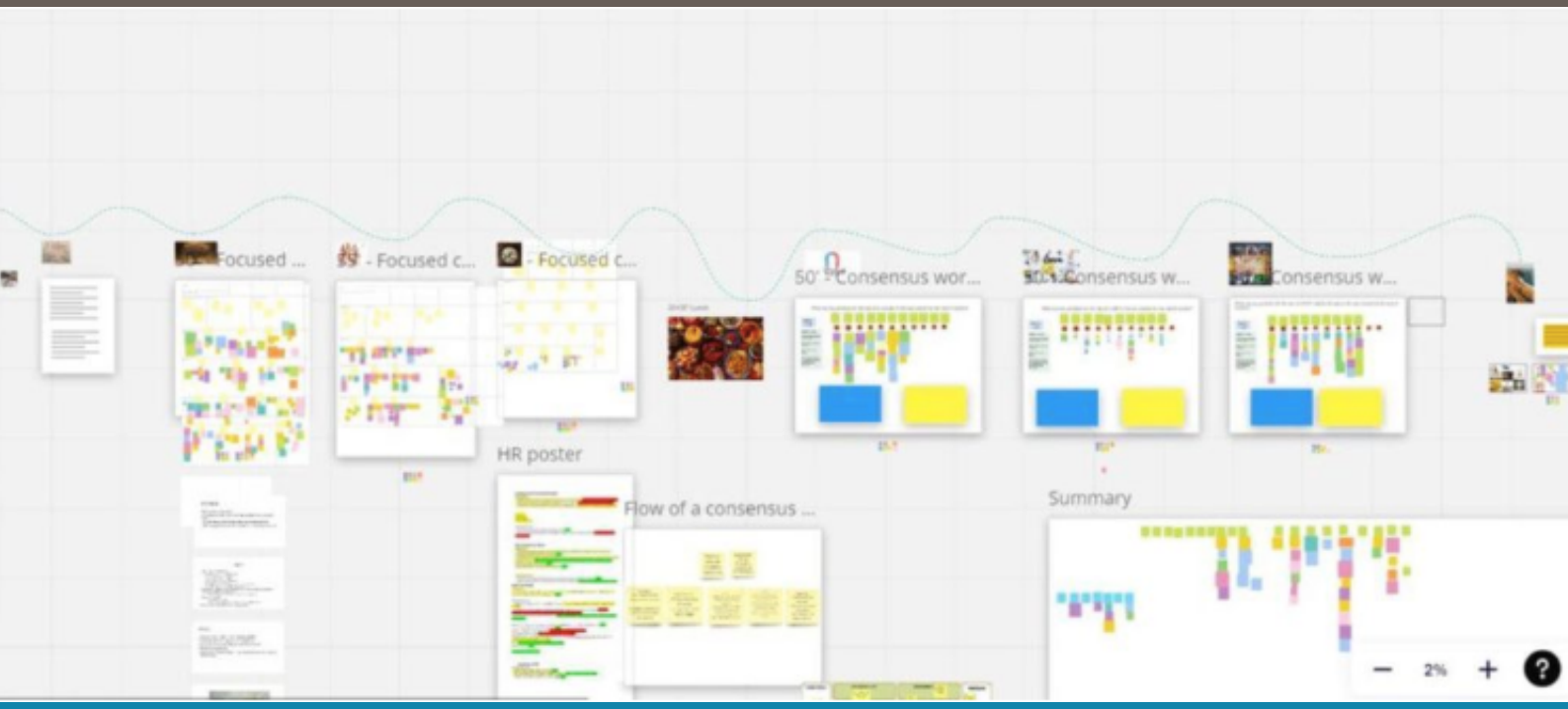
Being a Part of the Himalayan Vegan Festival 2022

The Himalayan Vegan Festival 2022 was held 15-20 September, 2022. It was the biggest and first Himalayan Vegan Festival all over the South Asian countries and also known as Carbon Neutral Event. The Himalayan Vegan Festival lasted six days, starting in Kathmandu, Nepal on the 15th - 17th of September 2022 and continued from the 18th - 20th in Pokhara, Nepal. In addition, there was a pre-festival event called "Climate Change, Conservation, a Plant-Based Diet, and Buddhism in the 21st Century" at the birthplace of the Buddha in Lumbini, Nepal on the 13th and 14th of September.

Promotion of STEM Education

ICA Nepal is actively involved in promoting an integrated approach to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in schools and among youth in Nepal. From this perspective, ICA Nepal in coordination with Rotract club has facilitated the promotion of STEM Education in Adarsha Kanya Niketan Secondary School in Patan, Lalitpur. Students are very grateful for this training and look forward to more exciting training related to STEM in the upcoming days. In addition, it is working with like-minded organizations to make access to STEM kits for the children where they can have hands-on education.

Karuna Mahat, ICA Nepal: ica.icanep@gmail.com



Ukraine and Group Facilitation Methods: Working for Human Resources in a War-torn Country

By Anastasiya M. (Participant of Group Facilitation Methods Online Course, 2022)

In late summer 2022, ICA:UK received a request from Anastasiya. Anastasiya had been displaced months earlier as a result of the Ukrainian war and was looking for facilitation training to help bring her team together. Thanks to the help of our donors, we were able to offer her a scholarship to attend the course. Anastasiya writes about her experiences of war, group facilitation training, and how it helped her team to take time to reflect on their experiences and forge a path forward.

Working for Human Resources in a war-torn country. Working with people suffering from the effects of war. Can you prepare enough? Can training help?

In January 2022, I was working as part of a seven person Human Relations team for an IT company. The team worked in a 400-person office in Kyiv, Ukraine. Just like any other company we were planning the year ahead. Yet, in the news we were reading about the possibility of a war. "Should we be preparing for a war?", one of us said to a silent room. "No, no, it is not possible for a war to start, " replied others. We raised the question with the local management team, but everybody thought the threat of war was just Russia flexing its muscles or would take the form of an information war. However just weeks later, the potential of war had become a real prospect on the horizon for our headquarters.

So, we started preparing for the possibility of a war. How do you even start to do that?

First, we developed a few possible scenarios of what could happen to focus our efforts and energy on risk management where it was possible. Secondly, we made people safety and business continuity plans.

We considered an evacuation plan for the Kyiv office, designed a policy for mobilised people and looked for an alternative office in West Ukraine. Then, together with business units in the HQ we made plans for business continuity with involvement of other offices' capabilities

We also set up special communication channels in our corporate communication tools and in alternative messenger, conducted information sessions for all workers telling them about possible scenarios, our preparations and possible further actions.

Despite our preparations, we could not believe the war was still a reality, even one day before it began. And then it all happened...I received a call from a friend at 5 am on Feb 24, 2022: "Hello. Where are you? The war has started!" Sirens started going off. The children and I hid in a bathroom which was in the middle of the house. I had my laptop and continued working.

The first week was a nightmare. We lost contact with some of the people who were near Bucha and in Kherson. There was no electricity in those towns and people could not charge their phones. In Kherson it was dangerous; calls could be intercepted. People started to evacuate in masses. The borders closed on day one in the afternoon for men. The "military condition" had been announced by the President of Ukraine; and it meant that our men had to defend the country.

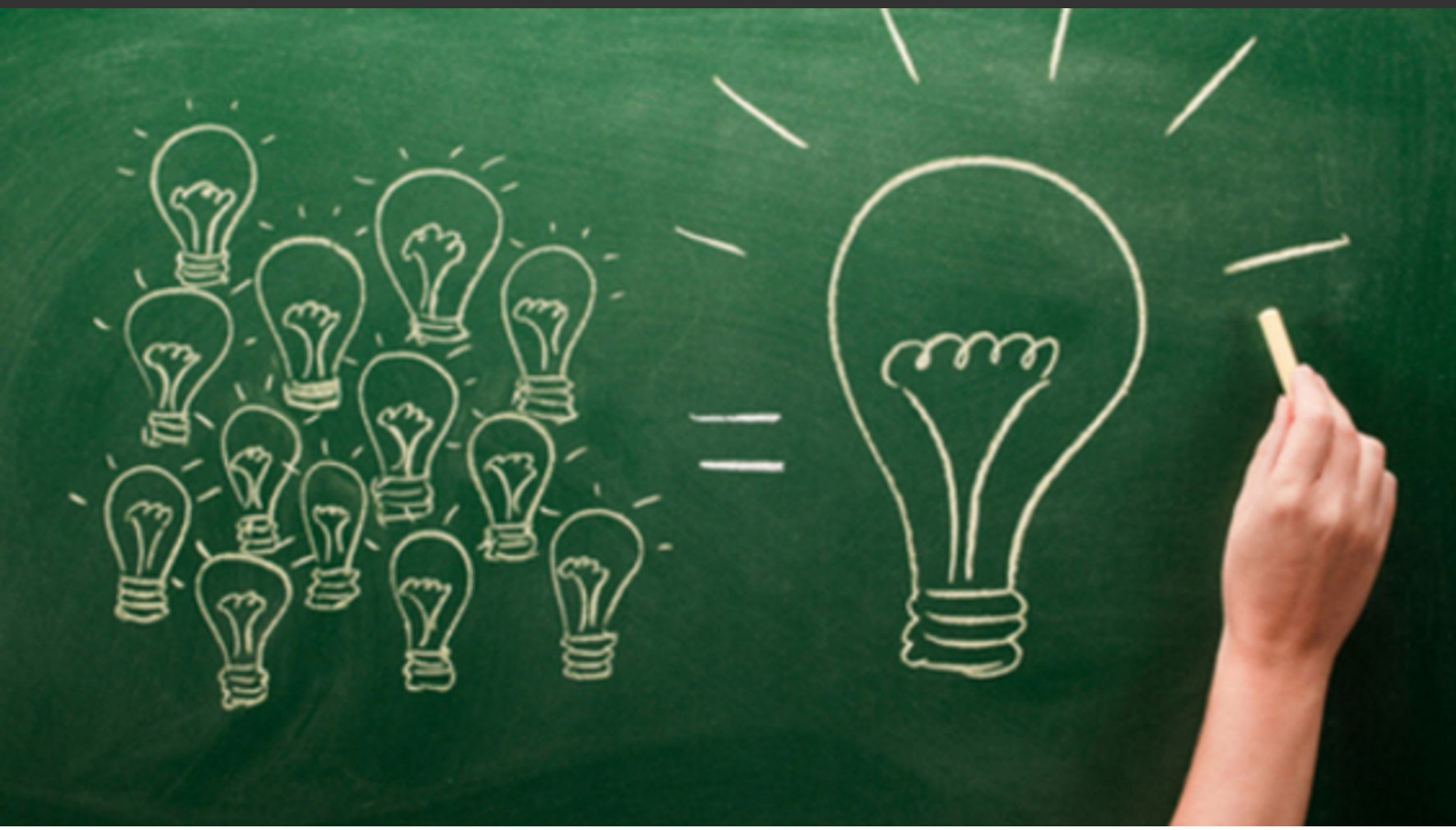
All of us in HR did our best to organise evacuation from Kyiv for those willing to evacuate and were looking for housing for people in Western Ukraine and in Poland. We worked with little sleep.

Half a year passed and we continued working. Then we reached a stage where we all as an HR team wanted to stop, breathe, draw conclusions and understand how we wanted to move further.

During these crazy six months, my children and I moved to the UK under the "Homes for Ukraine" scheme. I then decided to apply to the Group Facilitation Methods course run by ICA:UK. Very generously, I was offered a scholarship to participate. At the ICA:UK Group Facilitation course we learned the Focused Conversation and Consensus workshop Methods for working with groups. And when, as an HR team, we decided to run a workshop for ourselves to draw conclusions of our "wartime HR" experience, I, together with a colleague of mine, designed a workshop using these group facilitation techniques. Here is how we structured the workshop over 1.5 days:

1- Check-in. We asked people to draw pictures of their source of energy in these difficult times
2- Focused conversations. Before lunch, we had three structured focused conversations. We had input from HR people from Israel of what they did during the war. So the first Focused Conversation was about Israeli input and what conclusions we can draw from it. The second focused conversation was about feedback about our work that we gathered from Department Managers and Team leads of our organisation. And the third focused conversation was about HR goals we set for ourselves in 2022, which, it emerged, needed to be revised.

In between the sessions, rather than eating lunch separately, we decided to sit together online and eat lunch together. This meant we were able to exchange our different stories.



3- The afternoon was quite heavy work – we facilitated two consensus workshops to be followed by a third on another day. During these consensus workshops we analysed the roles of (a) recruiter, (b) HR Business Partner and (c) LnD specialist during the war and what our colleagues need from different members of the HR team during this unique and difficult time.

We drew many interesting conclusions, but the key question was – "How do we use these conclusions to improve our work?" Thus we placed all possible actions and take outs onto a clean board with Impact/Efforts axis and drew a curved line, taking into work actions that would bring the most impact while costing us less effort.

4- We ended the sessions by asking participants to add pictures in the chat of their "main conclusion". These 1.5 days involved very intense thinking but were ultimately very rewarding. I am very thankful to ICA:UK for providing me the tools to work with my team and put our thoughts in order.

Thank you!

If you would like to learn more about our Group Facilitation Methods course take a look **here.**

17th Annual Emerald Awards for Green Buildings gives ***Lesley Showers***, *ICA USA Executive Director*, **"Path to Zero Hero Award"**

Awardees Reflect the Leadership of Municipalities and Nonprofits in Net Zero Building

ILLINOIS GREEN ALLIANCE announced the recipients of this year's Emerald Awards, dubbed the 2022 Path to Zero Heroes, for their ongoing efforts to mainstream net zero buildings in Illinois. The Illinois Green Alliance Emerald Awards were launched in 2008 and today reflect the focus on making Illinois a national leader in net zero actions that reduce carbon pollution. This year, one individual and one organization are being honored for their continued commitment and advocacy.

Lesley Showers, this year's Path to Zero Hero honoree for individual leadership, serves as the Executive Director of the Institute of Cultural Affairs USA and has spent more than a decade leading the restoration of GreenRise, the organization's headquarters and a historic 1921 Chicago Landmark in the Uptown neighborhood. The building houses 19 nonprofits and social service agencies, making it the largest nonprofit social service center in the Midwest. The building is a living laboratory to inspire action across the region. Building on lessons learned, Lesley is sharing her experiences to reduce the energy burden of nonprofits and affordable housing buildings. She has proven a truly passionate leader for climate action by volunteering her time to educate the broader green building industry, speaking at conferences and serving as a board member of the Phius Alliance Chicago Chapter that helps buildings use passive house guidelines.

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Global Schedule of Events

To see four types of events: studies, significant conversations, training and impactful global events visit the Global Schedule at:
https://icaglobalarchives.org/social-research-center-events/

Remember, YOU are invited to:
1- Offer a presentation you are interested in giving;
2- Recommend other people to present;
3- Participate in any of the events and encourage your friends to attend; and
4- Give feedback by emailing: icaglobalschedule@gmail.com

The vision for the Global Schedule of Events is to make this easily accessible and globally friendly to all no matter where and what!

Alan, Karen, Robyn, Sunny, and Virginia

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social@ica-international.org