

Global Buzz

MAY AND JUNE 2023



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ICA 
INTERNATIONAL



Give Peace a Chance in the Democratic Republic of Congo!

For nearly three decades, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been embroiled in violence. Millions of people have been killed, and an estimated 5.6 million others displaced by civil wars, local feuds and cross-border conflicts. That's why ICA Australia member Lucy Hobgood-Brown, who grew up in the DRC, decided it was past time to do her bit in facilitating conversations about peacebuilding.

In January 2023, Lucy led a team of volunteers to the DRC, carrying the first Rotary Peace Pole to the vast nation of 90 million people. It was Lucy's first visit since 2019, due to the Covid pandemic. Four Rotary clubs representing Districts 9685, 9660 and 9150 participated in the initiative: from Australia the E-Club of Greater Sydney, Rotary Blackheath, Rotary Taree and from the DRC, Rotary Ekanga Mbandaka.

The slogan **"May peace prevail on earth"** was translated into four local Congolese languages, with plaques placed on the Peace Pole in a central hub of Mbandaka, the provincial capital of Equateur Province.

Yves Balo Bokolo wa Nyongo, the mayor of Mbandaka, officiated at the ceremony and declared the town of one million people to be “a city of peace”.

Participating in the ceremony with Lucy was Dr. Grace Maano, president of Rotary Club of Taree, who also provided training in obstetric emergencies at three venues in Congo. One venue was accessible only by dugout canoe, after a journey of 300 km.

The volunteer team also provided visual storytelling training to HandUp Congo/Rotary project partners and evaluated projects HandUp Congo, with support from Rotary and other project partners funding since 2005. These projects included sustainable beekeeping, women’s microcredit, environment protection, farming and sewing training for single mums.

On May 29, Lucy presented the DRC peace pole project to delegates from around the world who are attending Rotary International’s convention in Melbourne, Australia.

ICA members interested in learning more about how Rotarians and other volunteers who are making a difference in the DRC may visit www.handupcongo.org or contact Lucy on handupcongo@gmail.com.





Brief April Activity Report

In April, ICA Nepal focused on Promoting Simple Habits to Save Our Earth targeting the occasion of World Earth Day. ICA Nepal conducted an awareness-raising session at a local school along with various social media posts.

ICA Nepal Environment Team for Sustainable Planet

ICA Nepal is very pleased to share that the Environment Team of ICA Nepal received a Global Seed Grant funded by Korea SHE Foundation. Through this funding, ICA Environment Team is conducting a "Plastic Free School" project with an emphasis on 3R Practices in three local schools. The project will be implemented for six months commencing from May 2023.

Further, ICA Nepal envisions developing youth facilitators who can use ICAs/ToP tools to work in the environment and climate emergency. ICA Nepal Environment Team is currently seeking support in terms of skill enhancement of the group to address these global issues of climate change, ecosystem degradation, poor air quality, plastic pollution, etc. with a system-dynamic approach for integrated holistic interventions.

4th Social Enterprise Advocacy and Leveraging (SEAL) Asia Conference

IIQA, a sister organisation of ICA Nepal participated in the 4th Social Enterprise Advocacy and Leveraging (SEAL) Asia Conference.

Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) in collaboration with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) organised the 4th Social Enterprise Advocacy and Leveraging (SEAL) Asia Conference on 22-24 March 2023 with the theme, Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Partnerships: Towards Inclusive Recovery and Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals. The event was held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, and was enrolled as a pre-event to the 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. The 4th SEAL Asia Conference was also supported by Catalyst 2030, the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism- Social and Community Enterprise Constituency, Oxfam, the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, the Association of Progressive Communications, and Social Enterprise Thailand.

Ms Enusha Khadka, CEO of IIQA represented the conference as a speaker for a session named “Engaging Youth in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation towards Rural Revitalization and Accelerating the SDGs”. Here she presented how LEAN tools could be applied to SMEs concerning her work experience of implementing LEAN tools in Coffee SMEs of Nepal. As IIQA is working for enhancing the quality in SMEs of Nepal for the promotion of business and to increase the competitiveness of Nepalese products in the Global market, she shared her experience and highlighted how the LEAN tools developed by Toyota company are also applicable to SMEs. This world-proven standard has been effective for standardisation, waste minimization, and increase in productivity of the organisation which if implemented seriously could help in reaching out to the rural poverty. This small effort with a big impact could be replicated for increasing the rural economy through the development of system-based SMEs.

Capacity Building through Monthly Talk Series

ICA Nepal is pleased to share that we have started a Friday Talk Series on the first Friday of every month in association with Imagine Nepal. In April, ICA Nepal organised the very first session on Appreciative Inquiry in Eastern Philosophy by Mr. Buddhi Tamang. This initiative aims at youth to promote and share INNOVATION and START-UP Ideas and get support for their Dream Projects. The program consists of a series of sharing sessions, talk shows as well as dialog discussions for the future.



ICA Tanzania Quarterly Update March to April 2023

In this quarter ICA Tanzania focused on conducting two main activities: training of community educators on climate change and tree planting in a school.

Training on Climate Change

Climate Change training was conducted at Bonchugu village in Serengeti district where 15 participants from Bonchugu and Mbirikili village participated. This community has the population of 3670 people and is bordered to Serengeti national park, and the main economic activities are agriculture and livestock keeping.

The overall aim of the training was to increase awareness on climate change and enable the community to take responsibility toward mitigation and resilience to the climate change issues.

The training covered 15 lessons that were divided in modules for five days. The modules covered were: meaning of climate change, how to adapt climate change, overcoming effects of climate change, caring for environment and leading community response toward climate change. A participatory methodology was employed with a high level of participants interaction.

During this training participants had an opportunity of discussing and identifying different climate change components in their community by looking at old images and the current images of climate change features, like water sources, forest, agriculture, livestock keeping. They assessed the major changes occurring and the sources of these changes in relation to climate change.

On the last day of the training; participants prepared the community action plan for combating climate change, prepared the project logo and the campaign song. This training was facilitated by Charles Luoga from ICA Tanzania and Henry Ikhatuku from ICA Kenya.

Tree Planting

ICA Tanzania, through a partnership and networking strategy, managed to get support of 500 trees from Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) that were planted at Bonchugu Primary School. The school will be taking care of the trees through the school environment club. Pupils planted the trees and celebrated together. They promised to take good care of the trees as they know the benefit of trees for their school and for the life of people.

TFS has promised to continue to support the project and the community in supplying trees from the district.

Other Relevant Activities

ICA Tanzania participated in different national and international meeting such as ICA Africa regional meetings, ICAI Board meetings, ICAI General Assembly and different ICAI working groups (Fundraising and Organization Sustainability teams).

Also ICA Tanzania has continued to contact different partners in marketing our consultancy services for in-country fundraising strategy and so far have secured one client, the Tanzania Women Research Foundation- TAWREF.

Lessons Learned

Trainings on climate change must be localized to reflect the real local environment with available/notable evidence.

Tree planting campaigns must focus on how to make planted trees grow well after planting and not just looking at the number of trees planted. It has to focus on how many trees are surviving.

Challenges

The main challenges that the projects and ICA Tanzania are facing now is limited resources (human and financial resources).



Working Groups Update

Over the last couple of months in order to increase our internal capacity and make the most of our network of experienced associates, trustees and wider community, ICA:UK has recently convened four different working groups in Marketing, Business Planning, Fundraising and International work. These working groups meet once a month and are open for anyone to join, so do get in touch if you think you could be of help in one or more of these areas.

Congratulations to our New Trainer: John Cornwell

We were also delighted to welcome John Cornwell officially to our lead trainer team in April. John is based in Kenya and has worked hard on the trainers' journey for a number of years. He was able to complete his trainer's journey with the support of Jonathan Dudding, Megan Evans and our other associates earlier in the month. Read John's blog [here](#) to find out about his trainer's journey and the work he is looking to carry out going forward.

New Course: Taking ToP Methods Online

At the end of March, we delivered our new 'Taking ToP Methods Online' one day course for the first time. The course is designed to help participants, who have attended our in person Group Facilitation Methods course, to use the Focused Conversation Method and more specifically the Consensus Workshop in a virtual environment.

Join the next Taking ToP Methods Online course on October 18th; includes full online templates for using the consensus workshops on Mural, Miro and Google Jamboard. Use code 'GLOBALBUZZ25' for an exclusive 25% discount.

We also continued to deliver our online and in person schedule of ToP facilitation training. Our next Group Facilitation Methods training will take place on 23rd & 24th May in Manchester.





PC Gooden-Smiley, representing the 48th Ward; Karen Snyder, ICA; State Representative Hoan Huynh; Lesley Showers, ICA; and Junee Yang, McCutcheon Elementary School Resource Coordinator.

Celebrating Earth Day, Every Day!

ICA USA celebrated April as **EARTH MONTH** in Uptown Chicago. We created weekly challenges for Mindful Mondays, Walking Wednesdays, and Fun Fridays. The challenges encourage individuals to show appreciation for the Earth and commit to eco-friendly lifestyle changes.

ICA created a collaboration between Wards 46 and 48 and the Uptown Chamber of Commerce to celebrate **EARTH DAY** at the Winthrop Family Historical Garden. On April 22nd, seventy-five people braved the unseasonably cold and sleeting weather to attend the Celebration. During the event, ICA Executive Director Lesley Showers, Illinois State Senator Mike Simmons, and State Representative Hoan Huynh reminded Uptown residents about the importance of Earth Day. We had conversation tables hosted by Truman Middle College giving away seed packets, Uplift Community High School exhibiting its Plant Parenthood Project, two volunteers discussing eliminating plastic and composting, and ICA sharing its Carbon Free Building Demonstrations and Carbon Free Cheerleaders programs. More info about these events is on the ICA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/icausa.org/>.

Earth Day helped create a sense of shared responsibility for our environment and home. We are encouraging everyone to pledge their love for the Earth by making a change in honor of Earth Day, **EVERY DAY!**



ICA Service Ventures Report: First Quarter 2023

Context

The first quarter of 2023 has been about monitoring the climate change project, intensifying fundraising through partnership building efforts, climate change training of earth movers and preparation for ToP training. Plans for each of these have been done in order to have clarity of direction and focus. Two staff have been assigned to ensure that the marketing involving each of these is done in time and as planned.

Climate Change Project

The inspiration for this particular project has been the poultry project which so far has involved three hundred women through the self help group approach and through the climate smart poultry project augmented by solar lighting. Chickens distributed have started to lay eggs for incubation locally using village chickens and then the pass on project will take its full course. The demonstration project is active with mature chickens being reared to ensure we have a local gene pool within the local community. Local chickens of superior genetic make up have been carefully introduced in order to have much bigger but disease resistant chickens. The objective of the climate change project is viewed mainly as a project that showcases what the organization is capable of and is there to attract funding by the donor community.

Partnership Building

Twenty partnerships have been created so far; but these are yet to translate into project funding. We will only be sure when actual Memorandums of Understanding are completed and contracts signed. We have come to learn that this process requires patience and time. We are targeting four sectors: the government, public, voluntary and donor community. We have marked the next quarter as the period of the fundraising blitz in which we will saturate the market with our presence using brochures and more visitations. We are optimistic of major victories judging from initial responses we have had so far. The fundraising blitz will be done concurrently with marketing of ToP.

Climate Change Training

This component focused on creating a team of earth keepers who would pioneer climate change initiatives in the area. A training was done for 20 people even though more women were allowed to attend. Gerald Gomani of Zimbabwe helped facilitate this component. ICA Service Ventures has been monitoring the aftermath of this training and will conduct more training in order for the farmers to gain more confidence, especially in team building. It must be noted that apart from ICA there are no other development organizations in this area and therefore the levels of knowledge about climate change are very minimal. This is a good thing for us because we can start from the basics and build up as we go - at theirs and at our own pace.

Technology of Participation (ToP) Training

ICA SV has prioritized ToP and is inspired to make this a viable income source. As of April, efforts will be made towards ensuring that we are known as providers of ToP and to essentially begin to recruit people to attend our ToP courses. The first one will be in December; but if we become as successful as we have planned, we intend to do a couple before December. We will be sure of this when we begin to test the market beginning April 2023. Although we are viewing this primarily as an income source, we also want to use this moment to develop a new crop of facilitators who will not only view ToP as an important training tool but will also be motivated to make income out of it. To this end ICA Zimbabwe has been of major assistance as they have provided soft copies of ToP brochures and manuals and will help conduct the training in December.

Closing

We are thankful to the ICA Global Fund for the opportunity they are giving us to impact society in matters that are burning issues. Matters of climate change border around food security as well and are vital for sustaining the ecological systems that the farmers depend on. We see ourselves as catalysts of change as we facilitate the development process in the area. As we facilitate communities to deal with climate change we are also aware of the depth human issue that is at play in these communities. That is essentially why we also focus on image change as a way of getting to the human issues that are affecting the pace at which development happens. This is time for us to scale up after one year of learning.



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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