

Global Buzz

SEPTEMBER
AND OCTOBER 2023



CONTENT

ICA Bangladesh • 2
Bangladeshi Indigenous Peoples

ICA Benin • 4
Local Led Dialogues

ICA Canada • 5
Courage to Lead
Virtual Monthly Gatherings

ICA Kenya • 6
ToP Conference

ICA Nepal • 7
Recent Activities

Global Schedule of Events • 10

ICA 
INTERNATIONAL

the facilitative leader

Organized by ICA Bangladesh



ICA Bangladesh Starts a Project with Bangladeshi Indigenous Peoples

Youth empowerment, skill development, climate change, and gender inequality are the common thrusts for development among the Indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. To deal with these social issues and increase participation at different levels, ICA Bangladesh has initiated a project for the CHT Indigenous communities. The first component is the Training of Trainers (TOT) in ToP for indigenous Youth as Facultative Leadership (YPL). On August 6, a training workshop was held for the members of the Youth Empowerment Association for a Sustainable and Compassionate Civilization (YEASCC).

The facilitators of this workshop were Mr. Aziz Rahman, Director ICAB Bangladesh, Mr. TM Abdullah Al-Fouad, and Mr. Tapan Bhattacharjee. Participants were trained about the basics of ORID and expressed that their practices of ORID can be very useful to ethnic groups to discuss and act on climate change issues, awareness, and prevention, through increased participation of all genders. In response, they will work within their own nations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bandarban, Rangamati, and Khagrachari are the three districts of Bangladesh that form the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Forests cover a large part of this that is inhabited by 12 different ethnic groups, and the Bengalis. Marma, Chakma, Tripura, Bawm, Khian, Mro, Khumi, and Lusai are the main ethnic groups, and each of these nations has its own language, culture, religious customs, and separate existence.

Hilly people have a very different way of life and are disadvantaged compared to the mainstream people of Bangladesh. Their livelihoods depend on jhum (shifting) farming or agriculture that can be stocked for the whole year, which is mostly primitive or and passed down through generations. Due to increased population, the jhum farming environment has been affected, and food production has been decreased resulting in a considerable adverse effect on hilly people's lives.

The indigenous people in the hills used to re-cultivate a place at intervals of 10-15 years. As a result, the cultivated plants would have time to re-fertilize naturally. Now the break time to cultivate a land is less than 3 to 5 years. As a result, the land does not have time to be fertile again. As a result of increasing production, we have to use chemical fertilizers in a dangerous way, which has damaged the natural quality of the soil and also caused the emergence of various types of harmful plants. In this short period, forests cannot be developed as before. As a result, the habitat of wildlife has led to food shortage. Many wild animals have become extinct in the last few decades.

As we look back over the past decade, it is quite noticeable that due to insufficient food production from jhum cultivation and due to economic demand, people are moving towards different forms of work. For example, during winter monsoon economic crops are being produced along the river banks and the use of pesticides is also increasing. As a result, the river is filling up or the river is losing its navigability. This has significantly reduced biodiversity in the river. We have seen the worst floods in Bandarban this year due to the loss of river navigability.

Based on his own training experience at ICA Bangladesh, Shing Marma, learned the four types of questions asked in an ORID conversation. He learned that ORID is a foundation of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) Technology of Participation (ToP) method and amazed to see how this four-stage process is so powerful to engage the participants to work actively together, and generate consensus. He is ready to learn and practice it to train other young fellow community members.

ICA Bangladesh Director Dr. Azizur Rahman introduced the ORID theory. Mr. TM Abdullah Al Fuad and Prof. Tapan Bhattacharjee focused on practices in breakout sessions. Facilitators observed the activities of the trainees in each group. The trainees are taught how to be good facilitators through corrections and how to get the attention of the participants. In the second stage, the trainees got the opportunity to practice the ORID Method directly. After training all the trainees, the director of ICA Bangladesh announced the end of the workshop and reflected on how the young society can play an effective role in social change and what opportunities should be given to the young people by using the next ORID method.

Reported by: Shing Marma, Founder of YEASCC

Edited by: Aziz Rahman, ICA Bangladesh: aziz.uoft@gmail.com



Local Led Dialogues

ICA Benin is involved in the process of Local Led Dialogues with women groups with the support of Huairou:

1. Loss and Damages
2. Food Stocktaking

The duration of these activities is six months. They are ongoing in the localities of Assodè, Gorobani and Daringa.

Through this collective exercise we aim to:

1. Gain understanding of the main characteristics of those food systems where HC members are engaging and problems you are trying to address
2. Create an inventory of HC members' best practices and innovations that can serve as a foundation for peer learning and to generate evidence for policy advocacy
3. Estimate contributions made by HC members to the transformation of food systems
4. Confirm a knowledge framework that can guide HC in organizing a learning and a political agenda to position grassroots women priorities in relevant policy spaces

COURAGE TO LEAD MONTHLY GATHERINGS

Tues, September 26, 2023

Tues, October 24, 2023

Tues, November 28, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 PM ET



Courage to Lead Virtual Monthly Gatherings

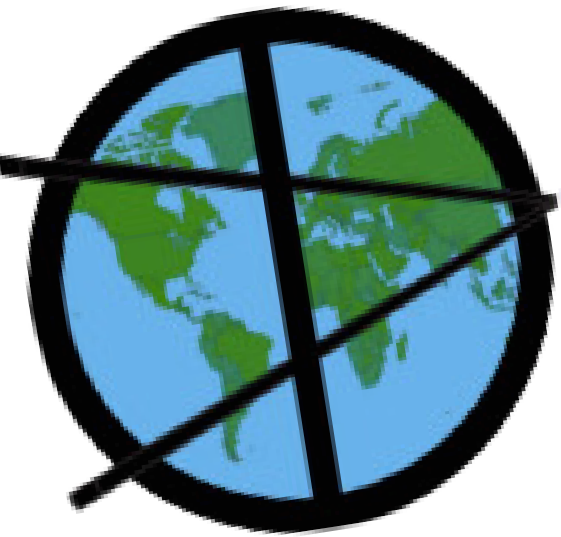
ICA Canada is launching monthly one-hour virtual gatherings for Courage to Lead (CTL) alumni and anyone who has an interest in thinking through how to overcome current leadership challenges.

Each month we will focus on a different theme, issue or CTL concept and enjoy rich discussion as a whole community and in small groups. We also welcome your ideas and suggestions for topics you'd like to discuss in future sessions.

Below are some topics we hope to unpack together:

- Care in leadership
- Responsible decision making
- Meaningful collaboration

Click [here](#) to learn more and register.



ICA Kenya

ToP Conference

Navigating the
Dynamics of Group
Communication
through the Technology
of Participation (ToP)

 **NAIROBI , SHALOM HSE
- OFF NGONG ROAD**

 **23rd - 24th
November 2023**

CHARGES: KSHS 4000/DAY

Target Audience

- **NGOs & DEVELOPMENT WORKERS**
- **TRAINING INSTITUTIONS**

GET IN TOUCH NOW!



**+254 (0) 733 771 861 /
+254 (0) 721 824 815**



icakenya21@gmail.com





Beat Plastic Pollution

Nepal's environment is exceedingly vulnerable to the effects of Climate Change due to its high altitudes, diverse terrain, and weather variability. The country experiences flooding, landslides, monsoons, food shortages, and a rapidly changing ecosystem. Climate change will have far-reaching consequences on Nepal's population, especially among rural and marginalized communities, and cause economic, social, and health problems. ICA Nepal stands with its government, and international bodies to act against the Climate Crises both at national and global levels.

Realizing the needs and present contexts, ICA Nepal launched various Campaigns, Workshops, Interactive Meetings, and Follow-up sessions in schools, youth groups, and local communities on dynamic interrelated issues of climate change such as food waste, regenerative development, and beating plastic pollution through the ToP approach. ICA Nepal believes that children play a crucial role in developing and implementing new practices if nurtured with proper knowledge and awareness, as they are the future generations who will be affected by today's impact on Climate Crisis. Hence, we have been successful in generating financial support for our initiative.

ICA Nepal Youth Wing is working with the Korea SHE Foundation, and others to raise Plastic Pollution Awareness in a number of schools in Kathmandu and neighboring districts. The workshops emphasize 3R practices, adopting plastic alternatives, minimizing single-use plastic, and highlighting the history and disadvantages of plastic pollution along with its consumption and degradation pattern across the globe. The campaigns highlight the catalyst role of youth in reducing the volume of such plastic waste which either ends up in a landfill or is dumped into the river. The ORID method is used to commit students to make their classrooms a single-use plastic-free zone and maintain a journal for a month. These workshops are carried out by the ICA Nepal Youth Wing and led by Ms. Swikriti Parajuli. So far, we have reached more than 800 students.

ICA Nepal Environmental Team has been receiving good responses from schools. More and more schools are reaching out to us and requesting Plastic Free Programs, therefore, we are seeking technical and financial support to reach out to more individuals and communities.

Planting the Seeds of Change

On 28 July 2022, World Nature Conservation Day was celebrated with school children by motivating them to participate in plantation activities. ICA Nepal Youth Wing collaborated with Saraswati Secondary School, a public school located in the neighborhood of ICA Nepal's head office, and conducted a Gardening Workshop and Awareness Program for students. The program was based on the theme for 2023 which was "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet" which was attended by a total of 56 students. It highlighted and made students aware of their responsibility to take action and protect nature from the threats of Climate Change, Pollution, and Habitat Destruction. Students planted flowers and shrubs in their school garden. The teachers and students were grateful and shared their commitment to taking care of these plants and looking after their school garden.

Partnership Beyond Borders

ICA Nepal in coordination with Common Earth, Canada is offering a Youth Course on Climate Crisis. A series of Orientations was conducted by both the host organizations. The Youth course is a 20-week virtual program that will commence on 15 September 2023. The primary course themes include The Climate Crisis, Systems Thinking, The Journey of the Universe, The Human Experience, and The Wisdom of Nature. The youth are committed to joining us on a journey of reflection, and insight to leverage positive environmental change and ensure a healthy planet for every generation.

Training and Facilitation

Prof. Dr. Tatwa P. Timsina has been facilitating various trainings on the Prosperity of Bagmati Province, Prosperity and Innovation along with Events for the Human Rights Alliance and GEFTONT to youth groups and local communities.

Fundraising Strategic Plan Meeting

ICA Nepal conducted a Strategic Plan Meeting for one of the exclusive members, Holistic Development Service Centre (Samagra Nepal). The major objective of the meeting was to explore the possible projects and mechanisms for fundraising. The Strategic Plan Meeting was attended by the Board Members and staff of Samagra Nepal along with the local Fundraising and Proposal Development team. The meeting highlighted the expertise areas, weaknesses, and possible project identification along with the formulation of the 5-Year Strategic Plan for Samagra Nepal.

The In-country Fundraising Taskforce has been hosting a series of Fundraising Meetings and Plan Formulation along with weekly fundraising announcements to ICA and International members. The fundraising unit conducted a meeting session with Charles Luoga from ICA Tanzania where we discussed possible projects and funding opportunities.

Envisioning Nepal for the 21st Century through Monthly Talk Series

ICA Nepal in coordination with Imagine Nepal has been conducting a Friday Talk Series on the first Friday of every month. In July, and August ICA Nepal organized the session on Appreciative Inquiry in Search of Prosperity and Happiness by Prof. Dr. Tatwa P. Timsina and समृद्धिको हुटहुटि (The Rush of Prosperity) by Mr. Ashbin Kumar Pudasaini. This initiative further 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, and dialog discussions for the future.

Courage to Lead

In peer-to-peer facilitation with ICA Canada, ICA Nepal hosted a Guide Training to facilitators in regard to The Courage to Lead book by R Brian Stanfield. Next, the team is planning to offer a Youth Course on Courage to Lead with the facilitation of experts and youth.

Local Women Empowerment

Ms. Purnima Subba, Ms. Anita Gurung, and Ms. Karuna Mahat from ICA Nepal conducted an intensive training on Scrunchie-making for local women in the Sidhupalchowk district. After the successful completion of training, the local women are now producing and selling the scrunchies which has improved their financial security. ICA Nepal has been supporting local women's groups to find a market and ensure successful distribution.



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

Published by
The Institute of Cultural Affairs International
401 Richmond Street West, Toronto, ON. M5V 3A8 Canada



All rights reserved.

For more information, to give feedback, or to unsubscribe, email:
social@ica-international.org