

Global Buzz

NOVEMBER
AND DECEMBER 2023



ICA 
INTERNATIONAL

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A tribute to Elaine Telford

From dawn to dusk— a life fully lived
left us a lasting legacy that shone light
from her labour of love, her devotion to bridge
our nation's fate of non-recognition with the first peoples'
descendants, so we can catch a fruitful glimpse
of a better tomorrow, here in this place we call home—
the ground of being, the soul of the earth,
soil and water nurtured and cared for
by ancient dwellers who respected the wisdom that oozed
from the terrain they had tracked from time immemorial
for thousands of years despite the suffering
and pain that we, new dwellers
had inflicted upon them to this day.
Yet, the embers of faith and hope
could never be extinguished in Elaine Telford's world.
She had left us an ever-lingering smile to carry on
this loving task of living the dream, the vision
of carrying the torch for togetherness
in Caring for Country, in acknowledging all
of God's marvellous Creation.

Deborah Ruiz Wall
Newtown, 8 November 2023

Telford, Elaine.
24.12.1939 - 1.11.2023

*"When you do things from your soul
you feel a river moving in you, a joy."*

- Rumi

A woman of indomitable spirit. Beloved wife of John (deceased). Loving mother of Kathryn, Michelle and Amanda. Cherished Gran of Jessica and Hamish. Dearly loved elder sister of Kathleen, Ian and Frank.

A lifelong commitment to social justice which touched the lives of many.

The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 November 2023

Women's Reconciliation Network celebrates 20 years of shifting attitudes about Aboriginal people.

Elaine Telford has been focused on inspiring others to help "change the psyche of the nation". (702 ABC Sydney: Amanda Hoh)

She decided to start the network after meeting "many Aboriginal lone beacons in Sydney" who worked for various organisations but had little support.

Ms Telford shed a tear when she spoke about the volunteers involved in the network. "These women ... have a passionate energy to try and wedge something in this arrogant colonial-based country where we have the oldest continuous living culture," she said.

During her welcome speech at this week's event, Ms Telford told the room how she met her first Aboriginal person in the 1960s and spent 15 years living among Indigenous communities.

She used the analogy of water to explain the network's determination to "change the psyche of the nation".

"Water can look very soft and clear but can wear out rocks, but that doesn't happen overnight," she said.



Activity Report

Activities over the past two months have focused on four programs, namely education, savings education, the environment and agriculture. The management of the Institute of Cultural Affairs has assigned agents as part of these three programs given that we are moving towards the end of 2023 and that we would probably have to take stock of our actions undertaken in each of our programs.

Given that the education program straddles two years, namely 2023 and 2024, management estimated that the facilitators should give us a report on the period of the current quarter at the end of the year as a report for the year 2023 while taking into account the results of the two quarters of the year 2022. Also the 2023 – 2024 school year which has just started in October with registrations in all sections is a satisfaction given the number recorded.

The school management has decided for this new school year to open a canteen to relieve parents who in the past were obliged to come and drop off the children in the morning at 8 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m. and bring them back at 2 p.m. and finally pick them up at 4:30 p.m. The facilitators considered that the opening of this canteen is of capital importance to not only make the task easier for parents but also to allow students, given their age, to better rest for the afternoon classes.

It should be noted that the project to open the canteen follows the construction of the fence thanks to our colleagues from ICA Japan, so the school benefiting from security could keep the children after school hours and offer them a meal and a setting for their nap before 2 p.m. In order to offer them more substantial meals, we submitted a project to open a canteen to ICA Nepal, ICA Japan and ICA Canada.

The preschool education project ICA Côte d'Ivoire initiated at the start of the 2020-2021 school year and is now in its fourth year. Also to help parents and students we have added the canteen component which is part of government projects in the educational sector. Thanks to the canteen this year we already have 27 students.

The savings education project in the Adahou Residential district was initiated in 2022 following the project that we carried out with funding from the World Bank from 2019 to 2020 in the Agneby Taissa region. For this second year, forty women came together to get to know each other better while saving. In addition to this activity, they have strengthened their living together with their neighborhood women's association called "Association Moyé"

At the beginning of November 2023, the women of AVEC, after a good 10 months of activity, decided, in accordance with the operating rules, to share their savings. After the sharing meeting, they agreed to meet in January 2024 for the resumption of activities.

In the environment section the program is in three parts: Solar energy, reforestation with fruit trees and training.

The solar energy component will be associated with a self-help group program to allow the women beneficiaries of this project to save to help themselves each acquire a solar lamp. This option is chosen for the sustainability of the project to combat climate change.

Despite the total lack of funding currently, the NGO continues to follow the beneficiaries of past projects and also develop its own agricultural project. For 7 years, ICA Côte d'Ivoire has planted improved palm trees around its office to beautify its surroundings and also to generate financial income from the sale of palm seed bunches.

This phase of palm seed marketing will begin with the first sale in the month of October and the second will take place on November 22. Thus ICA Côte d'Ivoire wants to begin a new start for its future empowerment because given that donors are becoming increasingly rare and that NGOs are also becoming more and more numerous, we must necessarily create conditions for survival.



Rapport D'activité

Les activités de ces deux derniers mois ont été focalisées sur quatre programmes à savoir l'éducation, l'éducation à l'épargne, l'environnement et l'agriculture. La direction de l'Institut des Affaires Culturelles à mis en mission les agents dans le cadre de ces trois programmes vu que nous tendons allègrement vers la fin de l'année 2023 et que nous aurons probablement à faire un bilan de nos actions entreprises dans chacun de nos programmes.

Vu que le programme éducation est à cheval sur les deux années à savoir 2023 et 2024, la direction à estimé que les animatrices devaient nous faire un rapport sur la période du trimestre en cours en fin d'année comme rapport de l'année 2023. En tenant compte des résultats des deux trimestres de l'année 2022. La rentrée 2023 – 2024 qui vient de débiter en ce mois d'octobre avec les inscriptions dans toutes les sections est une satisfaction vue le nombre enregistré.

La direction de l'école à décidé pour cette rentrée scolaire d'ouvrir une cantine pour soulager les parents qui étaient obligés par le passé de venir déposer les enfants les matins à 8 h et revenir à 11 h 30 et les ramener à 14h pour enfin les reprendre à 16 h 30. Les animatrices ont estimé que l'ouverture de cette cantine est d'une importance capitale pour non seulement faciliter la tâche aux parents mais aussi permettre aux élèves vu leur âge de mieux se reposer pour la reprise des cours de l'après -midi.

Il note que le projet d'ouverture de la cantine fait suite à la construction de la clôture grâce à nos collègues de ICA Japon, ainsi l'école bénéficiant d'une sécurité pouvait garder les enfants après les heures de classe pour leur offrir un repas et un cadre pour leur sieste avant 14 h. Dans le souci de leur offrir des repas plus consistants nous avons soumis un projet d'ouverture de cantine à ICA Népal, ICA Japon et ICA Canada.

ICA Canada, nous a informé qu'il ne peut pas financer ou trouver un bailleur pour ce projet, quant à ICA Japon il n'a pas encore réagi surtout que nous avons fini la construction de la clôture en cette année 2023, mais avons l'assurance qu'il toujours nous accompagner dans le financement de nos différents projets. ICA Népal à son niveau a commencé à approcher des bailleurs de fond pour le financement des repas à la cantine pour les enfants en cette rentrée scolaire.

Le projet éducation préscolaire est une expérience que ICA Côte d'Ivoire à initié à la rentrée scolaire 2020-2021 et cela est dans sa quatrième année. Aussi pour aider les parents et les élèves nous avons ajouté le volet cantine qui fait partie des projets du gouvernement dans le domaine scolaire. Aussi grâce à cette cantine cette année nous avons déjà 27 élèves et nous espérons atteindre le nombre de 30 au moins.

Le projet d'éducation à l'épargne dans le quartier Adahou Résidentiel à été initié en 2022 suite au projet que nous réalisons grâce au financement de la banque mondiale de 2019 à 2020 dans la région de l'Agneby Tiassa. Pour cette deuxième année, ce sont quarante femmes qui se sont mises ensemble pour mieux se connaître tout en épargnant. Elles ont en plus de cette activité renforcé leur vivre ensemble avec leur association des femmes du quartier dénommée «Association Moyé»

En début de ce mois de novembre 2023 les femmes de l'AVEC après 10 bon mois d'activité ont conformément aux règles de fonctionnement décidées de faire le partage de leur épargne. Après la réunion de partage, elles se sont données rendez-vous en Janvier 2024 pour la reprise des activités AVEC.

Dans le volet environnement nous avons travaillé sur le projet changement climatique 2024-2025. Le programme est en trois volets: L'énergie Solaire, Le reboisement avec des arbres fruitiers, La formation.

Le volet énergie solaire sera quant à lui associé à un programme de self help group pour permettre aux femmes bénéficiaires de ce projet d'épargner pour s'aider à acquérir chacune une lampe solaire. Cette option est choisie pour une pérennisation du projet de lutte contre le changement climatique.

Le programme d'agriculture, malgré l'absence totale de financement actuellement, l'ONG continue de suivre les bénéficiaires des projets passés et aussi développer son propre projet agricole. Ainsi depuis 7 ans ICA Côte d'Ivoire a planté des palmiers améliorés au tour de son bureau pour l'embellissement de son cadre et aussi pour avoir des revenus financiers lors de la vente des régimes de graines de palme.

Cette phase de commercialisation de régime de graine de palme a commencé avec la première vente dans le mois d'octobre et la deuxième a eu lieu le 22 novembre. Ainsi ICA Côte d'Ivoire veut amorcer un nouveau départ pour son autonomisation future car vu que les bailleurs de fonds deviennent de plus en plus rares et que les ONG aussi deviennent de plus en plus nombreuses, il nous faut nécessairement créer des conditions de survies.





Training of Agricultural Extension Workers in Benue and Nasarawa States

The training, with the theme: Improving the Performance and Capacity Development of the Extension Agricultural Services for Benue and Nasarawa States, implemented by GIZ and Sasakawa Africa Association Nigeria, for Extension agents working with rice farmers in the two states. It was co-funded by the European Union and German Cooperation Deutsche.

The purpose of the training is to strengthen agricultural extension agents' knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them succeed in their role in the field based on competence and skills.

The training is being done in batches of about twenty persons per week. Two batches (one each in Benue and Nasarawa states) from Nov 13 -24, 2023, while the next two batches will take place from December 4 – 15, 2023, with Hannah (EPDI) as the lead trainer/facilitator.

Focused Conversation Method Training for Teachers in Noel College, Kwali, Abuja

Conducted training in ORID for the teachers to enhance their communication skills with their pupils and enhance their ability to process information and arrive at meaningful conclusions/decisions. Sixteen participants (made up of the Principal, Vice, teachers and others) attended the training which was held at the school premises.



Africa ToP Training Course

The inaugural Africa's Technology of Participation (ToP) Course took place online from October 26th to 28th, 2023, spanning every day from 5 pm to 11 pm Kenyan time. Generously funded by the Global Fund ICA-USA, this virtual training targeted participants from ICA Kenya, ICA Zimbabwe, and ICA Zambia. Noteworthy representatives included Nathan Ambunya from ICA Kenya, Samuel Vingo from ICA Zambia, and Beauty Mangere and Rugodo from ICA Zimbabwe.

These four individuals were the first beneficiaries of this groundbreaking course, which is currently undergoing a trial/research phase to utilize ToP in training a new generation of Africa ToP trainers. The ultimate goal is to establish a self-funding system for ICAs in Africa by having trained facilitators recruit participants.

Facilitated by Beth Marie and Kim Howe, the course covered the Technology of Participation in group facilitation methods, with a focus on conversation methods, consensus workshop techniques, and action planning. Participants also delved into navigating virtual platforms, using both Zoom and Google Slide applications—a departure from the traditional in-person format.

ToP Training by SCR Kenya

SCR Kenya organized a five-day Technology of Participation (ToP) Group Facilitation Methods Training at Celpa Apartments on Mariakani - Kaloleni Road, Kilifi County, from October 8th to 13th, 2023. This course, supported by funding from the Village Volunteer Programme by ICA-UK, aimed to equip participants with essential skills.

Facilitators Patrick Mbulu and Nathan Andika from ICA-Kenya, along with support from Beatrice Imali of SCR, conducted a comprehensive training that included theory, group practices, and reflections on the application of ToP methods. Thirteen participants, primarily linked to SCR—comprising board members, staff, volunteers, and associates—engaged with openness and enthusiasm.

On the final day, John Cornwell joined the facilitation team, showcasing the effectiveness of ToP methods in strategic planning for the network's future.

Climate Change Educators Training

From September 18th to 21st, 2023, a four-day training on Climate Change for Community Educators was held at Kyanduya Community Technical Training Institute (KCTTI) in Watema Location, Kee Ward, Kaiti Sub-County, in Makueni County.

SHG Training and Solar Energy Home Kit Demonstration

Leaders from eight Self-Help Groups (SHGs) participated in a training session facilitated by the Global Fund ICA-USA. The 22 participants not only embraced the home solar energy kits project but also expressed interest in initiating a water tank project using a similar collaborative approach.

Committing to organizing regular group meetings, participants aimed to share information and identify those without home solar energy kits, fostering mutual support within the community.

During the SHG training, a practical demonstration of home solar energy kits was conducted, showcasing the potential benefits and practicalities of the project.



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, beating plastic pollution, etc 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 worked with the Korea SHE Foundation, and others to raise Plastic Pollution Awareness in five different schools in Kathmandu and neighboring districts at Skylight School, MaryBert School, New Vision Academy, and Prabhat School including additional follow-ups. The workshops emphasized 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 youths 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.

The students are eager to act as primary activists, raising awareness about plastic pollution and minimizing single-use plastic pollution from the root level. The students also got a chance to engage in a Quiz Competition, Drawing Competition, Crossword Puzzle, Good Earth Bad Earth, and Waste Segregation. An Eco-Club was formed at each school highlighting the Green School Guidelines designed by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology Nepal. The club's mission statement is Plastic Free School, and its members were elected in the presence of the school committee. The Eco Club received three types of dustbins for waste segregation and management, along with a Single-Use Plastic Free Zone Sign. The club will conduct environmental-related programs on school premises, focusing on knowledge transfer and awareness sessions for junior students.

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, hence; we are seeking Technical and Financial support to reach out to more individuals and communities.

School Effectiveness: Building Classroom as a Community

ICA Nepal with the support of Gathering Inc., Janet Sanders and Blasé Sands conducted training on School Effectiveness: Building Classroom as a Community for 50 teachers from Kali Devi Secondary School and Arunodaya Secondary School in Kathmandu, emphasizing the importance of skilled teachers for quality education.

Prof. Tatwa P. Timsina, Ms. Ishu Subba, Pramila KC, and Prakash Dhakal from ICA Nepal, and Prof. Loren Weybright and Deepak Adhikari from Rotary Club took part as the trainers of the program. The training focused on school effectiveness, including teachers' leadership, school vision, mission, coordination, environment, monitoring, feedback system, and community participation. ICA Nepal has been involved in the promotion of school effectiveness since its inception in 1998.

The trainers also emphasized the judicious use of social networking which has become one of the major issues in various schools, urging students not to misuse it. The trainers also highlighted the importance of social artistry leadership and compassionate civilization. ICA Nepal is planning similar programs in various other public schools in Nepal.

Occupational Health and Safety

ICA Nepal has successfully received a grant Steelworkers Humanity Fund (SHF) to promote the socio-economic rights and occupational health safety of women waste workers in Kathmandu. The project aims to improve the health and well-being of women, advocate for policies and regulations that support waste workers, improve wages, and enhance their leadership skills. ICA Nepal is currently in its initial phase and has been actively conducting various meetings and collaborating with local organizations, municipalities, and waste associations.

Training and Skill Enhancement

A two-day intensive training was conducted on Brain Structure/ Mechanism, Hacking, and its Alignment by Prof. Dr. Tatwa P. Timsina. The training included an in-depth understanding of neural networks, glands, synaptic connections, the nervous system, and the role of different brain regions in cognitive functions along with their development. The participants gained insights into the importance of each gland and the release of hormones, parts of the brain, the wheel of life, neurological alignment, and so on.

Partnership Beyond Borders

ICA Nepal in coordination with Common Earth, Canada is conducting a 20-week virtual program on Youth Course on Climate Crisis. The primary course themes include The Climate Crisis, Systems Thinking, The Journey of the Universe, The Human Experience, and The Wisdom of Nature. The youths 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.

Festive Celebration

Embracing the vibrant spirit of Teej, Dashain, and Tihar, ICA Nepal celebrated the festival with the team.

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 September and October, ICA Nepal organized the session on "Karuna Lifestyle Practice for Healthy Aging" by Mr. Ravi Pradhan and "Practicing Appreciative Inquiry Under the Clouds of Ideological Crisis" by Dr. Saroj Dhital. This initiative further aims at youths 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.



Committed to Carbon-Free Uptown!

Sierra Johnson has returned to the ICA for a second year as ICA-USA's Program Assistant. Over the past year, she has been instrumental in fostering collaboration with the Uptown Building Collaborative, a program for twelve Uptown buildings that want to decarbonize. Sierra has played a pivotal role in enhancing ICA's online presence and increasing its social media reach locally and globally.

Also, ICA welcomed two interns, Alyssa Rickert (Loyola University) and Gabriel Gonzalez (Roosevelt University). Both of them are deeply committed to advancing the mission of transforming the Uptown community into a carbon-free zone. They tabled at Nature Fest, sparking meaningful conversations about ICA, sustainability, and our collective journey toward becoming carbon-free. In addition, they converse in Spanish with the newly arrived Venezuelan immigrants, design sustainability curricula for public schools, and set up information tables at community events. Their involvement plays a pivotal role in fostering awareness of ICA's environmental mission.

To stay up-to-date on all things ICA, we encourage you to explore our LinkTree (https://linktr.ee/ICA_USA), which consolidates all our social media platforms in one accessible place.

Sierra Johnson, **ICA USA**: sjohnson@ica-usa.org



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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