

Global Buzz

MARCH AND APRIL 2025



CONTENT

ICA CANADA

Courage to Lead Gatherings • 2
Navigating the Digital Era as a Social
Change Agent • 2
Join Us for the Next CTL Gathering • 3

ICA COTE D'IVOIRE

USA Global Fund for the ToP Training
and Climate Change Project • 4
French Translation of the Article • 5

ICA INTERNATIONAL

9th Global Conference
on Human Development • 6

ICA KENYA

Report on AI-Video Animation Club
for Kenyan Children at Machakos
School for the Deaf • 7

ICA 
INTERNATIONAL

These days, it feels like compassionate, authentic leadership is needed in our communities now more than ever, but what does that look like? How can we, as leaders, show up and care for our communities? Together, we'll discuss the communities we're a part of, the ways we can demonstrate care for those communities, and how that translates into real, transformative leadership.

Courage to Lead Gatherings:

A Global Connection for Transformative Leadership

Since the beginning of the year, ICA Canada has hosted free online Courage to Lead (CTL) Gatherings. Each Gathering delves into themes of leadership, self-reflection, and transformation, all rooted in the core principles of the Courage to Lead program. These sessions bring diverse voices and perspectives together in a supportive space and helps cultivate a network of compassionate leaders dedicated to both personal and collective growth.

The CTL Gatherings also offers a space where current and aspiring CTL Guides have the opportunity to lead a discussion. Guides are able to practice and strengthen their skills, share insights and engage with other members of the CTL Guide Community.

Navigating the Digital Era as a Social Change Agent

Recent CTL Guide Training participants Mireille Ménard (ICA Canada CTL Guide) and Catalina Quiroz-Niño (ICA Spain), led the March CTL Gathering which focused on Navigating the Digital Era as a Social Change Agent. This was a timely and critical conversation on how technology is reshaping leadership and activism. Participants reflected on their relationship with digital tools, tackling the pivotal question: How can we, as social change agents, rethink our relationship with technology? As leaders striving to drive positive change, we must balance technological advancements with positive human-centered decision-making. This discussion encouraged deep reflection on the ways digital technology influences our leadership styles, activism, and ability to create lasting impact.



THE COURAGE TO LEAD

April Monthly Gathering

Join Us for the Next CTL Gathering: Care in Our Communities

Looking ahead, our upcoming CTL Gathering will explore Care in Our Communities, addressing the essential question: How can we, as leaders, show up and care for our communities?

We invite you to **register** for this free online event on Tuesday, April 29th, from 12–1 PM ET, as we continue our journey of transformative leadership. Whether you're a returning participant or new to the Courage to Lead approach, this is a valuable opportunity to engage, reflect, and grow with a global community.

(Shown in Photo) Something to smile about: Adriana Gaspar (Finance Manager) and Emily Marks (Program Coordinator) inside the recently reconfigured ICA Canada office space in downtown Toronto, Canada.



Emily Marks, **ICA Canada**: emily@icacan.org

USA Global Fund for the Top Training and Climate Change Project

The year 2025 began with a loan agreement from the USA Global Fund for the Top training and climate change project. This sum allowed us to conduct a training activity in the Bouaké department, specifically in the village of Mlankouassikro, with members of the Village Savings and Credit Associations. Although this training was not planned for this location, it was successfully organized, with approximately thirty people attending.

The theme of this training, "using the structured discussion method in a business," was the basis for the significant mobilization of participants in this training. It should be noted that we have been receiving financial support from the USA Global Fund project in this fight against climate change for four years.

Our goal is to enable beneficiaries to develop resilience in the face of this reality facing the world, since in its fifth report published in 2013, the IPCC recognized that "human influence on the climate has been the dominant cause of the warming observed since the mid-twentieth century." It is considered that:

- Since the Industrial Revolution (mid-19th century), human impact on climate change has been significant,
- Since the mid-20th century, human activities have accelerated the process.

Also, as we all know, defining climate change is one thing; taking concrete action is another. Unfortunately, few states have taken sufficient steps to address the problem.

So, ICA USA, with its funding, now allows our office to carry out a number of initiatives, such as training and support for solar equipment, to help combat this scourge.



L'an 2025 a commencé avec l'accord de prêt de USA global fund du projet de formation Top et de lutte contre le changement climatique. Cette somme nous a permis de faire une activité de formation dans le département de Bouaké précisément dans le village de Mlankouassikro avec les membres des groupes des Associations Villageoises d'Épargne et de Crédit. Cette formation bien que n'étant prévue dans cette localité a été organisée avec succès puisque nous avons eu une trentaine de personnes.

Le thème de cette formation « utilisation la méthode de discussion structurée dans une entreprise » a été la base de la grande mobilisation des participants à cette formation. Il faut noter que cela fait quatre ans que nous avons l'appui financier de projet USA Global Fund dans cette lutte contre le changement climatique.

L'objectif pour nous est de permettre aux bénéficiaires de développer une résilience face à cette réalité à laquelle le monde est confronté puisque dans son cinquième rapport publié en 2013, le GIEC reconnaît que « l'influence humaine sur le climat a été la cause dominante du réchauffement observé depuis le milieu du vingtième siècle ».

On considère que:

- à partir de la Révolution Industrielle (moitié du XIX^{ème} siècle), l'impact des hommes sur les changements climatiques est notable,
- Depuis la moitié du XX^{ème} siècle, les activités humaines accélèrent le processus.



9th Global Conference on Human Development



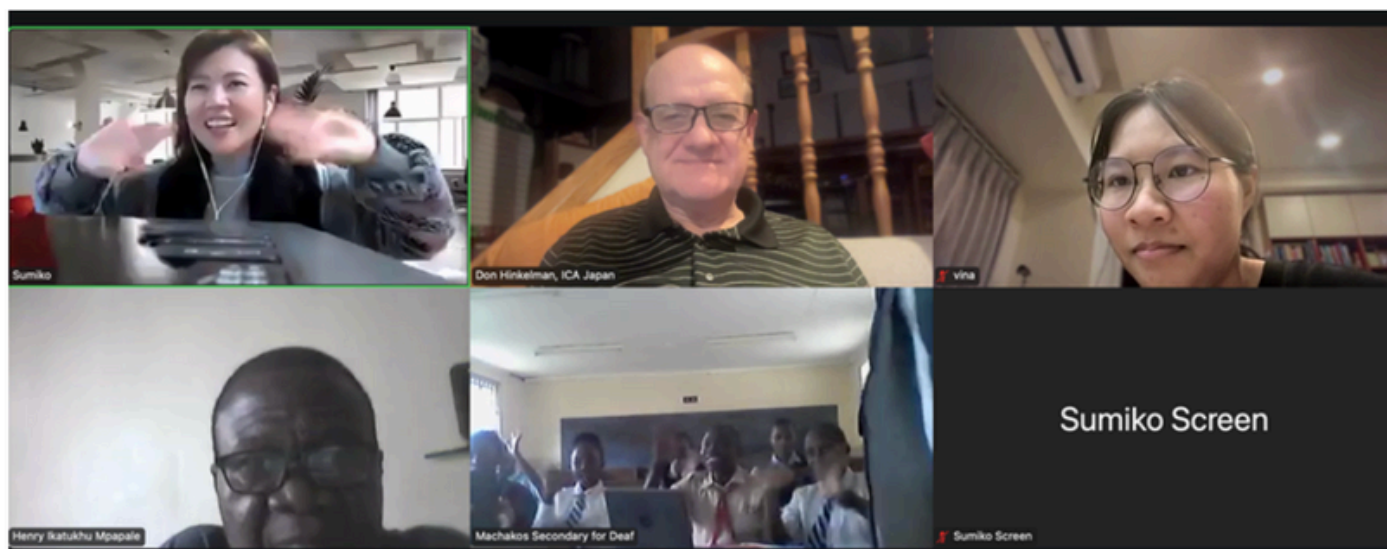
Since 1984, The Institute of Cultural Affairs International (ICAI) has hosted eight international conferences concerned with the human factor in development and re-emergence of civil society.

These conferences were highly participatory and focused on practical sharing of approaches that work, interchange, dialogue and designing creative responses to particular areas of concern in society.

Learn more about our upcoming 9th Global Conference on “Linking Sustainable Development to Key Issues of Our Time” which will take place 27-31 October, 2025 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe by **clicking here**.

You can also watch the Global Conference video on YouTube by **clicking on this link**.

Report on AI-Video Animation Club for Kenyan Children at Machakos School for the Deaf



ICA Japan, in collaboration with ICA Kenya, conducted a review of the AI-Video Animation Club project, which commenced in early 2024 at Machakos School for the Deaf. In 2025, the club expanded from five to ten students, reflecting its growing impact. This initiative, supported by ICA Japan volunteers, aims to foster creativity among children through animation and digital storytelling.

Program Overview

The program ran from February 7 to April 11, with weekly sessions held every Friday from 9:30 PM to 10:30 PM Japan time (3:30 PM to 4:30 PM Kenya time). A special event was held on March 11, aligning with the UN-designated day for highlighting children's artwork, which also included a charity donation collection.

Participants

- Machakos School for the Deaf: 10 children
- Teachers: 1-2 educators
- ICA Japan Volunteers: 5-7 members, including:
 - Mr. Hashi, Ms. Sumiko, Mr. Ninomiya, Ms. Vina, Mr. Sota, and new interns

Web Software & Technical Setup

- AI account shared (capacity of 20 users - confirmation needed)
- Video-sharing platforms (e.g., TikTok) for adding images
- Zoom as the primary communication tool
- Limited tech resources: Only three computers available at the school

Sessions

Session 1: Let's Think of a Subject (February 7)

- **Theme:** Sketch dreams and appreciation for Kenya
- **Activities:**
 - Brainstorm ideas
 - Sketch and present drawings
- **Examples of Dreams:**
 - Family and travel by airplane
 - Tree planting to address climate change
 - Owning houses to solve Kenya's housing problem
 - Passion for volleyball and cars

Session 2: Creating AI-Generated Images (February 14)

- **Theme:** Using AI to turn sketches into images
- **Activities:**
 - Learn and practice AI image generation
 - Adjust images based on feedback
- **Observer Notes:**
 - Some students struggled with inputting size commands
 - Suggest using visual examples and structured command logic to improve learning

Session 3: Refining AI-Generated Images (February 21)

- **Theme:** Improving image accuracy with AI tools
- **Activities:**
 - Adjusting AI prompts for better accuracy
 - Using AI editing tools
- **Observer Notes:**
 - Internet delays caused a 15-minute late start
 - Students completed all homework and engaged well

DECIDE ON YOUR
FAVORITE ONE
AND CREATE MANY
IMAGES



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



All rights reserved.

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