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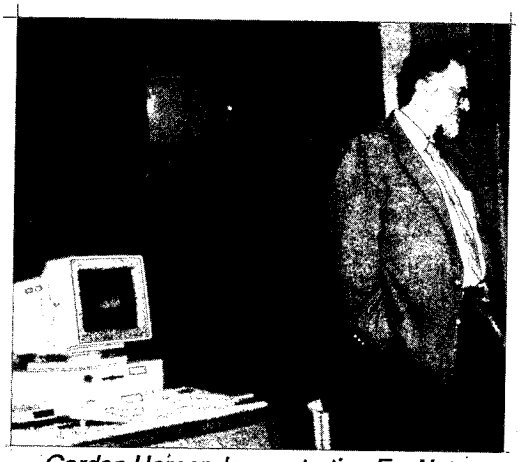
On the Edge of The Pacific Rim: A Snapshot of ICA Taiwan

by Gordon Harper

One of the so-called "Asian tigers," Taiwan is moving through major economic, social and political changes at an historically unprecedented pace. It is learning how to convert its considerable economic power into political clout and coming to be viewed by many developing nations as a potential role model.

At the same time, as a newly rich society that had focused intensely on economic development, Taiwan now finds itself struggling to move to a new level of maturity in handling a wide range of long neglected social, political and cultural issues.



Gordon Harper demonstrating EcoNet at IBM sponsored event in Taipei

ICA has been operating in Taiwan since 1972. It has two divisions: Community Services and Corporate Services. All nine full-time staff are involved in the first, with a strong program emphasis on environmental education and action, as well as leadership development for volunteer and public sector organizations.

The Taipei office serves as a bustling environmental information center and volunteer coordination node for activities like Earthday. The Taiwan Environmental Roundtable, a monthly working session for local action groups, is now into its second year. Last November, ICA co-sponsored a ten-day island-wide symposium on deep ecology, featuring Norwegian professor, Dr. Arne Naess, which drew over 500 people and major media coverage.

In May, ICA teamed up with IBM for a live demonstration of EcoNet, the computer-based international environmental network. ICA offers seminars featuring environmental self-analysis as well as planning for local businesses and schools. It is also preparing to launch an environmental newsletter targeted for the business community.

The Corporate Services Division provides twenty tailored seminars in organizational change for the business community. Three staff and several colleagues facilitate programs in English, Chinese and Taiwanese for local and multinational organizations. The daily radio series, *Meet the Future*, is now in its third year, with strong listener support. A collection of the talks has been published in book form. Corporate Services is working closely with the Asian Organizational Transformational Network to expand ICA's regional capabilities. An International Business Academy is scheduled for early September in India, and a joint EcoNet-based program database is in its development phase. Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Hong Kong and Taipei are now all connected via EcoNet.

Preparations are well underway for November's ICA International conference on "Our Common Future In An Environment of Change." This ten-day event will feature the Asian perspective on the coming decade, with distinguished speakers from the Asia-Pacific region. It will also be a time for network interchange and planning, and for thinking through ICA's future directions. The EcoNet conference, ica.ocf, is dedicated to communications for this event. We look forward to being your hosts in November. □

Gordon Harper has been working with ICA in Taiwan since 1982. A former professor of English and American literature, Gordon has worked in India, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. He is the author of ***Meet The Future,*** *a collection of radio broadcasts on managing change.*

Special Feature!

Turn to page 3 for a four page lift-out on ICA West's Field Offices.

Adults and Youth Join Forces in San Diego

Mid-City for Youth — Creating Solutions, was the title of the forum held on May 19 at Wilson Middle School in San Diego's Third District.

Impetus for the meeting came from councilman John Hartley, an experienced community organizer with deep concern for the problems facing youth in his district. Hartley formed a coalition of interested groups to begin dealing with the situation. He contracted John Oyler from ICA West to help mold this coalition into a united force and build an action plan.

"There is a commitment to involve young people in decision making."

A number of youth participated in the forum. Houston Parker, a 10th grade student, gave the opening address. "There are many youth dying in our nation," said Parker. "They need a positive role model – someone to look up to with respect and dignity. We are the next generation and we must fight through these difficult times."

The morning's work was identifying key challenges facing youth in the community. Drugs, gangs and family disintegration featured prominently. Proposals to deal with the challenges ranged from annual multicultural celebrations to mentoring programs.

San Diego School District Planner Ron Ottinger summed up the day. "Youth issues are now on the agenda in Mid-City, or have the potential to be. Adults are listening to youth and there is a commitment to involve young people in decision making. Moreover, new leadership has emerged in the community." □

Native American Program News

NAM WA WU KA KI - TEAMWORK has been the theme of the planning effort with the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe in Northern Arizona. Evelyn James, the Tribal Spokesperson, reports that the First Annual Pow Wow was a big success and the team is already planning next year's event. The Pow Wow planning team was one of four teams that were created as part to the strategic planning effort.

When this small tribe received its federal recognition, James insisted that ICA West begin facilitating planning sessions with them. She was determined to insure that tribal members decide their own future. "We are committed to plan for the future of our community and set up our own structures for self-government the way people want them, not the way the BIA wants them," says James.

Self-government is an historical tradition for the San Juan Southern Paiutes, and one they continue to empower. Community action teams are organized to carry out plans for building tribal government, developing housing, maintaining cooperative agriculture and continuing to build on recognition through community events such as the Pow Wow.

As this tribe succeeds in strengthening its traditional form of government and building its community, it will provide a strong example of carrying tradition into the present in Native America.

Other developments in the Native American Program:

- The **Hearst Foundation** has just announced a $20,000 grant to the ICA West Native American Program
- ICA West and **Council of Energy Resource Tribes** have entered a partnership to offer ICA facilitation to CERT member tribes. □

ICA Methods Promote Self-Help Movement

"The vast majority of the root causes of the problems we face have nothing to do with illness. They are systemic in nature, things like stigma and the ways we are treated by the mental health system itself."

This is how Joe Rogers, participant in the Mental Health Recipient Empowerment Project (MHREP), described the situation he faced. ICA has worked in partnership with MHREP since 1988 to help people like Joe organize themselves into a powerful self-help movement.

The basic tool used was the Town Meeting, created by ICA during the 1976 bicentennial. year. What people found so helpful about the Town Meeting was naming root causes of their problems.

As a result of the Town Meetings, a number of recipient-run services have sprung up. These range from housing programs and drop-in centers to a food bank and community kitchen. The next step is dialoguing with mental health professionals about healing and dependence.

Work at MHREP has been carried out in consultation with Ike Powell and Len Hockley of ICA New York, together with Ken and Dorcas Rose of ICA Troy. □

"What people found so helpful about the Town Meeting was naming root causes of their problems."

Field Offices Play Key Role In ICA West's Work

Field Offices are one or two person operations working out of private homes and offices. They are spread out across the vast territory ICA West covers, from Eugene, Oregon to New Orleans. There are nine at present, the others being Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, San Diego and San Francisco.

The role of the Field Office is to represent ICA in the local situation and to help market ICA programs and products. In this edition, we asked the Field Office staff to say a little about what they are doing and what their interests are. There is rich diversity represented in the vignettes we received.

In Dallas: John Rader and Nancy Trask with their children, Austin and Ashleigh.

***Nancy Trask** and **John Rader** moved from New York to **Dallas** six months ago. While still settling in, they volunteered to become ICA West's field office. Nancy and John describe several examples of how ICA members are working in the Dallas region.*

Like any metropolitan area, the Dallas/Fort Worth 'metroplex' has its share of challenges. Top of the list are strengthening the economy, participation of minorities in the political system, and restructuring the education system. ICA colleagues in Dallas are working on all three issues.

George Holcombe continues to guide the Changemasters Group, which networks people concerned with the application of participatory approaches in business and organizations. He is also actively involved in the Eastside Church Coalition.

Several members of the Changemasters group – John Rader, Rick Walters and Linda Capuno – are strategizing to involve youth in building a more effective education system. They have been meeting with the Manager of Educational Affairs at Texas Instruments to organize a coalition of business and education leaders to work on the future of education in Texas.

Charlie Blanton, principal of a large high school, continues to pioneer innovative ways to empower youth and teachers. □

In Los Angeles: Allison Gilchrist

***Allison Gilchrist** came to the United States from Britain in 1988 to volunteer with ICA West. She now lives in **Los Angeles** where, between working as a nurse and completing a master's degree in public health, she manages to find time to work with ICA's partner, Food For All.*

In 1988, Food For All invited ICA West to facilitate thinktanks in ten counties of Southern California, as part of their "Consensus for Action" program. Over 400 people have created long-range strategies for dealing with hunger and homelessness.

As a result of one of the thinktanks, the Orange County Hunger Coalition was formed to help service providers network and pool their resources. Subsequent coalitions have been formed in San Diego and Ventura County.

Many of the participants in these events have commented on the effectiveness of the methods used. As one person stated: "It gets agencies thinking about cooperation and the big picture."

One of the residues of ICA's work with Food For All has been an increasing core of trained facilitators to carry on the program. This transfer of skills has allowed local people to take an upfront role in the ongoing work and planning of the program. □

Meet the Field Offices

In New Orleans: Jean Watts

***New Orleans** is the latest addition to the ICA West field offices. This has been made possible through **Jean Watts,** whose energy and enthusiasm have sparked a number of new activities in the south-eastern corner of ICA West's territory.*

ICA West's presence in New Orleans took a major leap forward when a series of a Facilitation Methods courses were held this May. Participants in these courses came from the New Orleans Board of Education and Tulane University.

New Orleans connected with ICA's work in Peru when George West visited to promote *The Space Between* program. Moves are also underway to secure funding for a Training Inc. program in the area. In mid-July, a weekend is planned to work on the New Image of Learning module for the Earthwise Learning Series.

The big event of the year will be the ICA Continental Network Meeting which New Orleans will host from November 30 to December 2. (See announcement on page 7). □

In Eugene: Kate and Richard Guske

***Richard** and **Kate Guske** and their family worked with ICA in Peru. They now live in Eugene, Oregon, where they are both actively involved in local issues. Richard reports.*

Kate and I are engaged in a number of activities related to ICA West's strategic emphases.

I'm a member of an area-wide group formed by the 4-J School District to conduct a patron-based evaluation of operations. We produced a working document which was used as the basis for the District's new educational design. I also help organize a Rotary-sponsored housing project for the homeless.

Kate is part of the Education Equity Committee which is addressing the need to establish educational equity for all children in an atmosphere free of racist, sexist and classist limitations. In addition, she runs a non-profit day-care program in the lowest income area of the city.

We both participate in the Community Schools Advisory Committee and the Citizen Involvement Committee in Eugene. □

In Oklahoma City: Conna Wilkinson

***Oklahoma City's** field office is staffed by **Conna Wilkinson** of the Skyline Urban Ministry. As Director of Central City Jets, Conna has used her ICA experience to create a much needed program for first through twelfth graders in the inner city.*

My mother started the Central City Jets at Christ United Methodist Church in 1973 as a neighborhood outreach program. Modeled on the Fifth City project in Chicago, it has now spread to other inner city communities and reaches over 200 children and youth.

Central City Jets is based on ICA's work with Imaginal Education. This philosophy recognizes that our behavior is shaped by our images of ourselves and the world. The Jets program helps young people build strong, positive images through practical skills, adventuring activities, employment and community service.

continued on next page

Oklahoma City, continued
This summer, the Middle School group went on a week-long 500-mile bicycle trip across the state. All riders trained weekly and worked to earn money for the trip, doing jobs from lawn-mowing to recycling. Some of the 'jets' volunteer in the community food bank and emergency food distribution centers. □

In San Francisco: Beret Griffith

ICA West is represented in ***San Francisco*** *by* ***Beret Griffith.*** *Since moving there from New Jersey, Beret has thrown herself into a number of activities in the Bay Area. Her home frequently serves as a 'wayside inn' to itinerant colleagues.*

As one who's interested in environments that nurture change, I'm currently in the midst of five experiences that are rich, challenging and filled with liveliness and spirit. They are:

- The Four-fold Way, a year-long cross-cultural training led by Angeles Arrien.
- A Master's program at the California Institute of Integral Studies, where several of my instructors are familiar with the work of the ICA. A couple of them have expressed interest in the Earthwise Learning Series.
- Creativity in Business – a gathering of women consultants on the peninsula who try out new group methods and processes on each other. Following a book report on ICA's publication, *Winning Through Participation*, everyone bought a copy of the book.
- Occasional meetings of a group of women exploring organizational transformation.
- Work with ICA colleagues Lela (Campbell) Jahn and Don Bayer creating procedures for a financial planning seminar for women, which Lela leads. The fruits of many years ICA training are noticeable as women experience renewed confidence to transform their dreams into reality. □

In San Diego: John Adam

John Adam *is Executive Director of the Community Congress of San Diego. Coming out of a social work background, John is interested in creating "a higher degree of community and care of the earth within today's urban society." His decision to become ICA West's* ***San Diego*** *field office has set a precedent for others to follow.*

Community Congress is a non-profit, community-based organization that works to improve the quality of life and bring about community renewal in the San Diego region.

Since it began in 1970, Community Congress has been instrumental in bringing forth the human service community in San Diego. It has been responsible for United Way adopting an open member-ship system, county government using CETA workers for community jobs and training community workers in education programs, management assistance programs and the College of Community learning.

Our relationship with ICA began in late 1989 when we entered a partnership to be the San Diego field office. Although the goals and values of the two organizations are very compatible, it was a new step for ICA to ask another organization to represent it. For Community Congress, the relationship is most timely, as we retool for the 1990s and gear our work more towards local neighborhoods. ICA brings a valuable array of concepts and skills to our common task. □

In Denver: Terry Wright & Catherine Welch

***Terry Wright** and **Catherine Welch** staff the **Denver** field office. Terry is a facilitator with the National Corrective Training Institute (NCTI), and Catherine works as an employment counsellor with Jefferson County Employment and Training. Terry reports.*

At NCTI there is a training position called 'participant observer'. This involves being an active participant while keeping the mind's eye tuned to the curriculum from a participant's point of view. While playing this double role has its strains, my training has taught me that one learns by energetically embracing several realms at once, each with its own incredible depth.

One of those deepening realms for me has been ICA's recent study series on Joseph Campbell's book *The Power of Myth*, taken from the Bill Moyer's television interviews. A group of Denver colleagues has met for several evenings to discuss the book and its implications for their lives.

Several of us are also helping prepare for the Western States Mystery School to be conducted by Jean Houston at Estes park, Colorado. Dr. Houston will be making a presentation in Denver in August as a lead-up to the school. For further information, call us at (303) 333-1984. □

In Houston: Susan Wegner

***Susan Wegner** and the Machakos Village Development Simulation Game have become almost synonymous. Susan helped create the game and has promoted it across the U.S. and around the world. As ICA West's **Houston** field office representative, she reports on some of the game's exciting new developments.*

The Machakos Game continues to change perspectives on development. Game Guide Training Workshops are enabling organizations to use Machakos as a training and awareness tool with their own constituencies.

The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church sponsored a workshop in May. Seven people were trained as guides, including the Mission and Outreach Secretaries, Coordinator of Short - Term Volunteers and the Director of Congregational Development.

A recent highlight was a 5-day curriculum pilot module with two academically gifted sixth grade classes of world history students at Lanier Middle School in Houston. Machakos was used as the experiential keystone of their survey unit on Africa.

When asked "How has your picture of the world changed as a result of living and working in Machakos?" one boy remarked: "We're worried about luxuries these kids never dreamed of. They're worried about things like water and wood."

If you're interested in sponsoring or attending a Game Guide Workshop, contact me at (713) 747-7543. □

If you're interested in becoming an ICA West Field Office, or would like more information about the field offices, contact John Oyler in Phoenix on (602) 955-4811. □

ICA Continental Network Meeting

November 30 - December 2, 1990
New Orleans, Louisiana

The ICA Continental Network Meeting will be held Friday night through Sunday noon at the Dominican Conference Center and the Loyola Law School next door.

The meeting will emphasize current ICA work with innovations in education and facilitation. What training, certification, marketing and interchange steps are needed to make ICA's experience available to a wider audience?

The cost of $75 per person includes meals and a great New Orleans celebration with a Cajun band. This amount does not include accommodation. Some colleagues are offering their homes at no cost. Reserve early! Fine two-person rooms with connecting bath are available at the Conference Center for $17 per person per night.

To register, send $25 per person with choice of accommodation to: Jean Watts, 1629 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118. □

The Space Between

A guided intercultural life experience

Now in its third year, *The Space Between* offers the global traveler a chance to encounter other cultures from the inside out. Guided by resident ICA staff, you meet local people from business, politics, development and education, in both cities and villages.

Programs are being offered in Guatemala (July 1990), Mexico (September 1990) and Peru (January 1991). Cost, excluding travel to and from the country, is $1600 per person.

For further information, contact ICA host country offices or Lyn Edwards at ICA Chicago on (312) 769-6363. □

ICA WEST NEEDS YOU!

ICA West is a membership organization. Many of the programs we do come from our members. Many members use their ICA training and expertise in their communities and places of work. And members play a critical role supporting and promoting the organization. If you haven't already become an ICA member, we invite you to join – now!

Membership in ICA West brings:

- The quarterly newsletter, *Initiatives*, with reports on ICA activities locally and abroad, liftout pages for your files, and more
- Discounts on ICA programs and publications
- Linkages to a vast network of people and organizations around the world, committed to serving the needs of the planet

Members have opportunities to:

- Assist with marketing and facilitating ICA West programs and publications
- Contribute financially and in other ways to the work of the ICA
- Shape the future directions of the organization and help design new programs, such as the Earthwise Learning Series

Member fees provide general support of ICA West activities. Other contributions can be designated for particular programs. Current funding needs include the Native American program, the Earthwise Learning Series, Rites of Passage Trips and development projects in Latin America. Donations to the Institute are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone_____(home) _____(work)

Send this form along with your check to: ICA West
4220 North 25th Street
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(602) 955-4811

☐	Regular Member	$ 35
☐	Student Member	$ 15
☐	Sustaining Member	$100 & above
☐	Newsletter Supporter	$ 10

☐ New ☐ Extend/Renew
Date_____

Upcoming Events

July 2 - 23	Rite of Passage Trip	RLC Bothell, WA
July 12 - Aug 2	Tour de Cultures	RLC Bothell, WA
July 13 - 15	New Image of Learning Earthwise Learning Series	Tulane University, New Orleans
July 28 - Aug 6	Summer Think Tank Earthwise Learning Series	ICA Chicago
Aug 17 - 18	Facilitation Methods One	San Diego
Aug 24 - 25	Facilitation Methods Two	Los Angeles
Sep 11 - 12	Facilitation Methods One	Seattle
Sep 14 - 15	Facilitation Methods One	Phoenix
Sep 21 - 22	Facilitation Methods One	San Francisco

For more information contact ICA West in Phoenix at (602) 955-4811.

Slides Needed For ICA Book

Kansas City colleague Donna Woodard Ziegenhorn is preparing a high-quality picture book featuring ICA human development projects. Titled *The Community of Earth*, the book commemorates ICA's 20th anniversary. She needs your quality color slides by November 1st for possible inclusion in the book. If you can oblige, call Donna at Harrow Books toll-free on 1-800-875-7323.

The ICA

The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) is a private, not-for-profit organization concerned with the human factor in community and organization development. Its global network spans 31 countries, with an international secretariat in Brussels, Belgium. ICA programs build motivated and sustained leadership. Its methods are highly participatory and honor the cultural traditions of those involved. They include strategic planning, problem solving, consensus-based decision making and team building.

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