

Global ICA Virtual Gathering - 11 and 12 December 2021

Honoring 2021 and Anticipating 2022

Fifty people representing the ICA in sixteen nations participated in two Zoom conversations, sharing their experiences of 2021 and reflecting on their hopes and dreams for 2022.

The following pages give you a taste of the conversations.



Honoring 2021

Imagining sitting around a campfire together, we reflected on our experiences of 2021. Each person drew a “**Mood Line**” across the past twelve months. The mood line revealed participants had experienced a year of:

- * *ups and downs and ups and downs and ups and downs; a rock and roll year*
- * *discovering strengths and self-awareness; depth explorations; going within and gathering strength; taking chances; eye-opening experiences*
- * *uncertainty; internal turmoil, depression, and rethinking my life*
- * *learning new skills and methods to use in a difficult time*
- * *connecting globally, going virtual; a new set of discoveries and hybrid reality*
- * *experiencing the power of networks taking collective action*
- * *stepping into my grandchildren's world*
- * *dealing with life and death issues - death in the family, friends; health issues*
- * *stepping into experiences that felt scary and nerve wracking and then coming out the other side and feeling something expansive has taken place because of going through the experience*

New Global Connections Among ICAs

- Canada led a Courage to Lead study for youth from Bangladesh, Canada, Taiwan, and United States. Africa staff are being trained to lead the study.
- 150 in social change conversations; 1,000 participated in the Global Schedule.
- Revitalization of African ICAs - Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania, Togo, Zimbabwe - meet monthly. Kenya has partnered with Canada, Nepal and USA.
- Japan continues to provide resources ICAs globally.
- Malaysia trains a facilitator team in Vietnam in The Facilitator Way. Taiwan continues to offer training throughout Asia and Africa
- ICAI Board reorganized in July and now includes one person from each of 18 national ICAs. Teams have conversations on fundraising, facilitation training, community development, communication, the role of language in cultural development, and membership development - sparking a new sense of renewal.

A Year of Contrasts

Uncertainty has been a central theme
No work yet life seamlessly coming together
Advantages and benefits as well as disadvantages and costs
The pandemic restricting and working online expanding contact
Gratitude for little things like employment, connection and community
Challenges and breakthroughs. Loss and restriction, technology and learning. integration and balance
Loss and isolation contrasting with reconnection and recovery and experiencing the sacredness of now, of life.

The 2021 STORIES that touch the heart are found in the videos and transcripts links on page 4.

REMEMBERING COLLEAGUES

who passed during the COVID years

2020

Marianna Bailey
Patricia Balm
Molly Clements
Bain Davis
John Epps
Sally Fenton
Neva Forbes
Jaye Gammel
John Gibson
Nan Grow
Charles Hahn
Roxana Harper
George Holcombe
Norm Lindblad
Teresa Lingafelter
Marge Philbrook
Ray Richmond
Roseann Sands
John Singleton
Jim Wheeler
David Zahrt

2021

Joe Ayres
Forrest Craver
Lee Early
Dick Howie
Joy Richert Huber
John Hutchinson
Marileen Johnson
Kathy Hamm Jones
Rod Rippel
Dick Sims
Oliveann Slotta
George West
Joel Wright



Glimmerings of 2022

Continuing ICA Care for the World

Swirling of images:

Encouraging a Slow Movement, Environmental Movement, Human Movement. Becoming navigators in complex, ambiguous times. Connecting with indigenous.

ICA participants connected across generations, across continents, across past experiences and locales, rediscovering our commonality - a collegiality and a familiarity, that even with people we didn't know until this moment, we feel we have known them for many years. Our hearts had a connection that we recognized when we came together, touching and supportive and uplifting and curious.

“Recently attending a class with strangers, the people felt alive and awake and wanting to engage in the realities of our world - like colleagues. I wonder to myself whether this is a connection to something that is loose in the world. We keep bumping into those parallel people who've been on different journeys who are infiltrating various networks and organizations that we find ourselves in and so 'the way' becomes that larger we all the time. That for me is the hope for the future.”

Strengthening collaboration: United Kingdom encouraging Africa to apply for its Village Volunteers program. Expanding Asian connections (Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia) to encourage a slow movement, environmental movement, and human movement. Deepening dialogue to support deeper conversations on difficult topics.

Rethinking everything: Questioning our global identity and how we have structured ourselves. ... Sharing stories from our past and the archives with people doing new work also sharing their stories - a coming together of the old and the new, a balance of stories, of people's real lived experience as well as reports. Create an ICA commercial to help figure out what the ICA has to offer in 2022 and what wisdom is held within this global group.

“We know some things are working, but we don't really know why it works. It's like using magician's tools, but not really knowing where the source is coming from. So one of the reasons why I delved into ICA was because there was so much history; one could go back and see where it's coming from. ICA Taiwan brings it home looking at image learning. I'm reading things for the first time that I should have read 30 years ago when I started, the roots of what makes groups work, and the values that drive it. How do we articulate this in a way that is real and acceptable to people today who have so much unnecessary information that they get caught up by the glamor of how well it's written. We need to find a way to translate the wisdom of the past.”

What the world needs now: “The social change conversations are trying to get a grasp on the next 50 years while reflecting on our ICA legacy. What has worked and not worked; what do we need to hold on to and what let go of in response to what's coming next in the world.” “Struggling to keep faith with the cause that is ICA from year to year, week to week and day to day. You make a decision and you're rehearsing that decision, every hour of every day of every week of every year Wisdom lies in meta structures from conversation to consensus to community building to collective action.”

Cultural process research: The cultural dynamics are woven into us. Taiwan tries to do that with their fourth module, “The Spirit of Facilitation”. A 20 year journey into both indigenous realms and into the possible human, There is breathing room to allow us to weave in some of those strands. That is the research that needs to continue to go on.

What is the ICA point of difference, our uniqueness, our contribution in these times? “We live and breathe the legacy that is the ICA every day of our lives. I do, it's what keeps me going with the particular social action that I'm engaged in. It is that lived experience on virtually a daily basis that keeps us going.” What is the point of difference between something any group would have, and what we might have - we being the conscious intent of having these conversations.

We are at a time when the ICA means different things to different people. There was a time when there was absolute clarity about who and what the ICA was; then post 1988, we became multiple. One is the institutional ICA, that dynamic that always remains in being so long as there are people who are anchored in it that is represented by the registered ICA at a national level and international level. There's the community coming together at the institutional and the diaspora. That is a conscious intent of why we would do these things and make known who we are.

What seeds might ICA plant in 2022? What actions might we take? I've shifted from our methods to that phrase about meta structures that allows the populating of a meta structure with everyone else's methods and techniques and whatever else is being done. allowing us to have these conversations, more frequently with more people. Looking again at the megastructure: how to look at the past, the future and then what is my existential ground? What is the question I'm asking right now?

Part of the function of a group like this, is to create, again, a broad **common vision** that moves things forward, wherever people are right now, grounded in the local. We have two immediate clues. One represents urgency - **Neighborhood Climate Action** work

- and the other represents the internal transformation - the **Courage to Lead** course. They are both linked to the marginalized people of our world that includes the displaced and our indigenous people globally. Some of us are moving in that space, whether with migrants or asylum seekers or indigenous people.

Another urgency that concerns me going forward: I'm tired of living in a world where grandparents are scared about the future of their kids. And where people are not being asked to question in a way that lets them tell the story and acknowledge and appreciate the fear that's in their life over the mystery of what's going on in their world, and being able to embrace that as what motivates them to greatness as human beings. It's also a question of reaching out with courage.

ICA as 'People of the Question': As these conversations today demonstrated, ask a couple of good questions, then getting out of the way to let the universe work itself out. I tell people I train that the simplest resolution in the world is a question to which the answer to begets a response. That's what's out there. And I think during the pandemic that being online allowed us the opportunity to have more conversations. So what's loose in the world is this yearning to be asked the question that then allows me to tell my story to respond.

Paul Hawken, an environmental leader, recently said nobody wants to talk about the future because they don't know how to do it. That is an ICA challenge, figuring out how to have wonderful exciting conversations that everybody wants to participate in. Hawken said, “I think the approach is to have dinner parties to ask people a question.” I appreciate Pat's willingness to try this out in Malaysia. And maybe we'll come up with a couple of really good questions.

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves.
RAINER MARIA RILKE

These conversations were led by the Global Schedule Team and the ICAI Communications Team.

Thank you to the team who provided the process and the supportive technology:

Irene Asay, Alan Gammel Puri Lestari Robyn Hutchinson Virginia Kanyogonya
 Lauren Lyga Janet Sanders Pat Nunis Sunny Walker Jim Wiegel
 Michelle Zhang

If you wish to see videos of the conversations or see the documentation in Miro:

Conversation I [Video](#) with Access Passcode: z\$JNj6f and [Miro](#)

Conversation II [Video](#) with Access Passcode: ihMf8N&Be and [Miro](#).

A 14-page transcript summary of the conversations: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W0D_wbYgn3GjXjt4ixkKEYQoYkjUY9ZGRmM5LI4alyk/edit

In her reflections on action research, Jan Sanders shared the work she and David Dunn have done.

She has made it available on the Global Archives website here: [Rituals in the Field: Nepal](#).

The ICAI General Assembly welcomes your participation at 12:00 PM Togo time January 15th. Write secretary@ica-international.org to receive a Zoom link.

Participants

EAST		WEST	
CHINA		EUROPE	
Mark Pixley ~ Michelle Zhang		Spain	
SEAPAC		Blanca Quiroz	
Australia Kevin Balm ~ Craig Cromelin (from Murrin Bridge) ~ Robyn Hutchinson		United Kingdom	
Indonesia Puri Lestari		Martin Gilbraith ~ Derek McCauley	
Japan Don Hinkleman		NORTH AMERICA	
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Taiwan Irene Asay ~ Larry Philbrook		United States Dick Alton ~ John Cock ~ Lynda Cock ~ Susan Erickson ~ Alan Gammel ~ Muriel Griffin ~ Bob Griffin ~ Beret Griffith ~ Laura Grover ~ Milan Hamilton ~ Ellen Howie ~ Joan Knutson ~ Lauren Lyga ~ Paul Noah ~ Marilyn Oyler ~ Karen Snyder ~ Carl Stock ~ Ellie Stock ~ Sunny Walker ~ Jean Watts ~ Jim Wiegel ~ Rob Work	
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