

South & East Asia/Oceania Circle, July 25th, 2006

In attendance:

X Linda Rysenbry, Australia	Linda@nowrelate.com
X Cate Crombie, Australia	cate@powerup.com.au
X Ron Ngata, New Zealand	rsn5@waikato.ac.nz
X Liz Gay, Singapore	liz@nvcinbusiness.com
X John Buck, USA	johnabuck@comcast.net
X Dorset Campbell-Ross, Australia	dorsetcr@inet.net.au
X Aniruddha, India	ghaniruddha@hotmail.com

Absent:

X Katherine Singer, South Korea	katherinesinger@sbcglobal.net
X Kumarjeev Moon, India	d_kumarjeev@yahoo.co.uk
X Chris Rajendram, Sri Lanka	cprajen@sltnet.lk
X Shari Macree, Australia	sharimacree@yahoo.com.au

Opening round:

John:	Only just completed a previous teleconference.
Linda:	Feeling some regret and sadness around the lack of priority given to indigenous people.
Cate:	Looking forward to agenda item referring to indigenous people.
Ron:	Eager to begin our talk.
Liz:	Calming down now after responding to a technical crisis.
Dorset:	Happy to connect with everyone.
Aniruddha:	Happy to be connected to the call. Looking forward to meeting.

Administrative matters:

Our next meeting will take place on August 22nd at 01.30 GMT. John Buck will be present to facilitate.

The minutes from our previous meeting and present agenda were accepted by consent. John Buck agreed to facilitate today's meeting.

Content:

1) MAKING FUNDING FOR CALLS A PRIORITY

Liz reported that CNVC has agreed to make a space for a 'South & East Asia/Oceania Project' at its website and to allocate a link through which we can receive donations electronically. She does not consider this an 'ideal' solution to the problem of managing donations, but is happy to identify a 'temporary' solution.

Dorset has raised A\$520 to be donated specifically towards the cost of phone calls made by members calling from India and Sri Lanka.

Informal strategy:

He will connect with Liz between meetings to sort out where to store these funds.

2) UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES IN SRI LANKA AND INDIA

Following our last meeting, Chris has submitted a written report on latest activities. He was not present for today's meeting and could not answer questions relating to that report. (Ron Ngata registered a desire to hear if Chris' organisation is affiliated to any larger group through which funds could be contributed without 'wastage' incurred by bank charges. Other members have other questions.)

Strategy determined by consent:

Bump this item a future meeting and, in the meantime, reconnect with Chris in order to request his further participation.

3) GCC PROGRESS REPORT

3.a. Liz asked for reactions to a recent amendment to the GCC proposal such that it now includes the words, 'Due to U.S. non-profit corporate law, GCC representatives would not automatically become CNVC Board members although GCC representatives' consent will carry equal [Sociocratic](#) weight in Board decisions.'

Reactions:

Linda: Clear about the legalities concerned having observed a Board/GCC teleconference where this matter was discussed. Wants to understand what steps are being taken to amend the legal structure to be in alignment with global focus of the organisation.

- Cate: Doesn't understand a structure that doesn't allow representation on the Board. Seems like a radical change to what we thought.
- Ron: Wondering about the increasingly international nature of our organisation? Does something need to be re-organised. Suggests 'Board liaison' to 'keep everything greased'. Uncertain whether GCC members need to be actual Board members or merely present during Board discussions.
- Dorset: Requests more information. Wants to explore other strategies to support amalgamation of Board and GCC.
- Aniruddha: Wants more information.
- Liz: Feels anxious differentiation won't support unity.

Informal Strategy:

Liz will connect with the Board Secretary to request more information and then share whatever she learns with the rest of the group.

3.b. Liz reported a request from CNVC that Members of the Board/GCC each contribute around US\$460 towards the cost of food and accommodation for a face-to-face meeting that is scheduled to take place in October 2006. She estimates the cost of a flight from Singapore to Atlanta to be around US\$2000+, and requested quick reactions to a request to receive financial support towards this.

Reactions:

- Linda: Sees coming together as critical. Asks if CNVC funds can be channeled towards this.
- Cate: Sees meeting as essential. A valuable investment.
- Ron: Received funding from CNVC in order to attend a previous face-to-face meeting as an observer. Confused to understand request for contribution.
- Liz: Sees it as an important investment.
- Dorset: Would like to receive a clear message from the Board that GCC reps might have access to the same funding put aside to support participation of Board members.
- John: Doesn't believe there is any funding set aside at this point in time. Suggests that a meeting could include a request to make funds available in the future.
- Aniruddha: Considers it important. Would like to see Liz representing us at the meeting. Suggests 'We need to find ways to find funds'.

Informal Strategy:

Liz will send an email to members of the Board/GCC requesting confirmation that the Board intends to amalgamate with the GCC. She will copy her mail to members of this group in order that they can keep abreast of this issue.

5) UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Dorset shared the following information, sent earlier, via email, to Ron.

- *Linda is developing connections to do a workshop for indigenous folks in Alice Springs in October. Details are still being worked out.*
- *Cate has several 'irons in the fire' but nothing actually happening at the present.*
- *Shari has talked with, and wants to work with, 'Uncle Bob', and indigenous man with a retreat/centre that hosts indigenous meetings, workshops and healing, and has recently made a film called "Kanyini" (<http://www.kanyini.com>)*
- *Art has nothing going on at present, but would like to be doing more. His focus is on meeting his immediate financial needs at present.*
- *Dorset has nothing going on at present. He is focusing on building himself a house!*

I imagine that taking NVC to the indigenous community will be a road that involves getting grants to support trainers doing this, unless they are independently wealthy, and in cultivating 'bridges' – indigenous people that can appreciate the gift of NVC and can make it applicable to the indigenous culture and language. Right now we are at the stage of building trust and connections.

Reactions:

- Cate: Personally involved in a crisis situation. Wanting to formulate some sort of project - 'Perhaps some sort of gathering in the park'. Doesn't know what yet and doesn't know how.
- John: Wants to stay with this topic to see if a project can emerge.
- Ron: Heart goes out to Cate. Requests an opportunity to connect with her following this call.
- Liz: Grateful and touched by Cate's sharing. Pleased to hear the germ of an idea (a gathering in the park) emerging. Happy to stay with this and uncover something more concrete.
- Dorset: Requests an opportunity to connect with Cate 'after Ron does'.
- John: Resonates with his experience around Native Americans. Huge problems. Wouldn't it be something to focus on one bit of that problem?
- Aniruddha: Really touched by Cate's sharing. So much pain around the world. Hears Cate's longing for support and understanding.

Cate again: Longing especially for understanding of the despair experienced in these situations.

Linda: Despairing. How to contribute nvc with reverence and respect? Go with humility and seek to understand. Likes the idea of a gathering to explore nvc with indigenous people.

Strategy determined by consent:

Cate will provide further ideas for possible action at our next meeting. Others will offer thoughts for her to incorporate.

6. FUND RAISING IDEA

Liz shared a suggestion individual members of this group (and anyone else they know who is currently offering NVC-related training), might ask workshop participants to contribute whatever small change they have with them towards running costs for our Circle and its projects. Those gathering such small change would later pass it into a collective bank account somewhere.

Reactions:

Linda: Likes this idea.

Dorset: OK to run with this, and would like to raise larger amounts of money more quickly.

John: Likes the idea that a legal entity might come into being.

Aniruddha: Backs the idea. Likes the look of the flyer.

Liz: Resonates with Dorset's wanting to raise larger amounts. Inclined to run with what we have for now, whilst holding the intention a more effective idea can emerge in the future.

No further strategy was determined during this discussion.

7. UPDATE ON RESOURCE AUDIT

Liz did not find the time to create or mail out a form to gather information for a resource audit, and will do so between now and our next meeting.

Informal strategy:

When Liz send the form, she will remind others in a covering email of the needs she hopes can be met through completion of this audit.

8. REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

Bumped to the next meeting owing to time constraints.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Ron will get back to our next meeting with some information he has gathered around funding contributed by the NZ government to various projects in Africa and Asia.

Closing comments:

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| John: | Hoping a concrete organisation can emerge from our meetings. Enjoying ideas and the energy around Cate's sharing. Missed Chris. |
| Dorset: | Missing Chris. In awe of facilitation. Gratitude to Liz for preparing our agenda. Needs for connection and community are met. |
| Liz: | Hugely grateful for John's facilitation. Grateful to others for their commitment to this group. |
| Ron: | Thanks to Liz for technical wizardry that allowed this call to take place. Looking forward to connecting with Cate. |
| Aniruddha: | Touched by Cate's sharing. Grateful to John for facilitation. |
| Cate: | Feeling moved. Grateful to others for their contributions and especially to John for creating a 'safe container'. |
| Linda: | Celebrating the diversity of topics and different levels we are working at. Excited to notice energy building around Indigenous issues. Appreciating the 'container' of our meetings. |

Our call ended with a moment of silence and appreciation.

Next meeting will take place on the fourth Tuesday of the month – i.e. Tuesday, 22nd August starting at 1.30am GMT (9.30am Singapore, 11.30am Australia etc.)