

November 2009 Newsletter

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GFSC Can Help

Taiwan Update, 30 October 2009

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We deeply appreciate all of the effort that you and others at GFSC put into responding to our request for help after the Taiwan typhoon — the care, concern, insights and information, materials, energy and time. It helped us in talking with people and organizations here as well as sharing more widely, the materials and information we had available. All of you did a fantastic job in communicating what works and what doesn't from your own extensive experiences, and we passed that on as best we could. Our thanks to you.

As a next step in continuing our dialogue, we would like to share with you what we have learned from and about the typhoon experience and relief work. Much of it focuses on growing local competency, building on the work and training Gil Brenson did here 10 years ago.

Currently many different psycho-social recovery programs have started after "88 floods" stemming from the Morakot typhoon. Many professional alliances (psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors, aromatherapy, massage, meditation, etc.) jumped in to help. One example is the Psychology Department of National Taiwan University which created a website, Disasters and Trauma, <http://www.psychology.org.tw/wordpress/?p=485>. They provided lots of useful information and how-to manuals, including, from time to time, a listing of training programs for professionals and volunteers.

It seems we have enough resources at this moment. We are grateful for the contri-

butions from participants at the recent IAF-Asia conference and donations from Compassion International and China Television System. With these donations, we were able to print 2,000 more sets of the 3 GFSC handbooks (*...And Now What, A Light in this Dark Valley and Facilitating Psycho-social Reconstruction*) and the *How to Use the GFSC Manuals*,* extending an invitation to all who might find them useful. We each distributed manuals to groups and individuals we know personally and who are working with the affected population. We continue to keep track of the recovery process and do whatever we can to support them.

The four of us put our organizations behind an Open Space event focused on **Challenges and Opportunities Arising From Typhoon Morakot ~ Resilience: Healing, Thriving...Preparing for the Future**. Since a news report of it in the China Times there has been a request for OS in the disaster zone.

At the October World OSonOS (Open Space on Open Space) conference in Taipei, we had conversations with about 12 people working directly with aborigine communities. They mentioned that many guided

"conversations" had taken place in all kinds of gatherings (schools, etc), some in open space format, others more like dialogue or community building. These discussions help people breathe, do some grief work, storytelling and really talk together about their future and making plans.

Political hassles continue as to who allowed or did what to cause more flooding potential and who should get more benefits for damage done. It will take time for the rebuilding of structures and lives, but healing is happening and people are moving on.

After seeing the status of local resources in skills and funds, we feel that, right now, it is better to use what we have here rather than bringing in outsiders that cost money. There

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is always a great need for service providers to learn how to care for themselves (secondary and tertiary trauma), but right now is not the time.

We, in Taiwan, want to keep our dialogue with GFSC going so that we continue to support and learn from each other. Again, our appreciation and gratitude for GFSC's quick and thorough support.

Gail, Jorie, Shufang, Jackie

GFSC will continue to keep in touch with and support Gail, Jorie, Shufang and Jackie and other contacts in the area. We ask our readers to email us with other suggestions and available resources for this project.

**The GFSC manuals are available in English, Spanish and Chinese in the GFSC Library, http://globalfacilitators.org/VirtLib/VirtLib_D CI.htm as well as the Chinese translation on*



http://www.frontier.org.tw/taiwanfloods/?page_id=708



Since September the **Philippines** has endured horrible disaster. Ketsana brought the worst rainfall to metro Manila among recorded typhoons since the start of rainfall record-keeping. Flood water levels reached a record 20 feet high in rural areas. As of October 24, 2009, at least 464 deaths were officially reported. Metro Manila and many adjoining provinces incurred damage to both infrastructure and agriculture, devastating rice farms and corn plantations. Homes, schools, factories and stores were soaked in flood and mud. [Source: Wikipedia]

If you have contacts in the Philippines, please forward GFSC's concern, and links to our free materials, http://globalfacilitators.org/VirtLib/VirtLib_D CI.htm

GFSC Can Help

Disaster strikes everywhere: natural disasters, human tragedies and economic hardships creates crisis, chaos and loss—of homes, livelihood, loved ones and community support. People and communities can benefit by learning how to recognize the trauma and stages of the process they are going through; what they can do to help themselves and their communities; what is normal, natural and necessary, and what is not; what choices and control do they actually have in determining their current condition and their future. Organization and community leaders can benefit by learning what styles of leadership best apply to the different stages of the recovery/resilience-building process.

GFSC can help. Our workshops, mentoring, methods and materials have been used effectively in many areas around the world. Contact us (info@globalfacilitators.org) if you wish to arrange for a workshop in your community, or discuss other ways that GFSC might be able to help.

Support our work with our colleagues in Taiwan.

[Yes, here's my donation!](http://globalfacilitators.org/donation.html)
<http://globalfacilitators.org/donation.html>

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Gratitude/Gracias

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