

January - February News

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2008 Board

Introducing the GFSC Board of Directors for 2008:
Lenny Diamond, President
Tim Karpoff, Vice President
Marieann Shovlin, Secretary
Parcia Sansary Gomez, Treasurer



We welcome Parcia Sansary as our newest GFSC Officer. Among her many talents, Parcia is an Dominican Economist with graduate degrees in Financial Administration, Management and Productivity. Parcia has more than ten years of experience in international development

processes, organizational transformation and management training. For the past two years Parcia has served GFSC as Latin American Coordinator.

We want to thank Gil Brenson Lazan for his extraordinary contributions to the Board of GFSC. Gil may be retiring from the Board, but not from GFSC. He will continue to mentor the New Orleans Network (NOLA Network), develop and refine resource materials, as well as co-facilitate workshops as his time allows. We are grateful to Gil for his many contributions up to this point and we look forward to many more.

GFSC in 2008

In 2008 we are concentrating on improving our communications and involving more people in the (less glamorous) work of running the organization.

Strategic Focus

- A - Assuring Product & Service Integrity
- B - Emphasizing Relationship Building Processes
- C - Localizing/Contextualizing the Cascading Model
- D - Securing Contracts & Sponsorships
- E - Improving Administrative Processes
- F - Sharing Learning regularly, interactively, creatively

To better address these issues, we are developing guidelines for creating an Advisory Board to help the Board of Directors access more expertise from a variety of constituents, including facilitators, communities, and sponsors.

Program Focus

Helping communities develop viable, sustainable solutions is key to building self-reliant, resilient communities. GFSC wants to provide a platform for volunteers already working in their communities to share their learning, exchange experiences and applications that work well in various (cultural) contexts. We hope volunteers will share with their communities, agencies as well as with others who use facilitation techniques in their volunteer work around the world. Our plans include:

- Mentoring facilitators delivering workshops in their local communities
- Training experienced facilitators to deliver train-the-trainer workshops and mentor others
- Enhancing current training and resource materials, and expanding our program offerings

- Meeting workshop requests from organizations and agencies that work or sponsor work in building self-reliant, resilient communities
- Improving and expanding our communications delivery systems so that volunteers and communities worldwide can share resources, contribute their experiences to develop new materials based on their successful strategies and techniques

~~~ *RIPPLES* ~~~

**Peru**

Exactly two weeks after the earthquake on the south coast of Peru and exactly two years after Katrina, Dr. Patricia A. Wilson, opened a series of workshops in Lima, Peru.

She was invited as a Fulbright Senior Specialist by the Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria post-graduate program in architecture and planning. The subject was participatory planning for disaster recovery, how to effectively engage stakeholders and citizens.

With a team of planners and facilitators, Patricia co-facilitated a three day community workshop on sustainable tourism in a small Quechua-speaking town outside of Cuzco.

While in Peru, Patricia was a guest on "La Ventana Indiscreta," a national television show on current events, interviewed by Cecilia Valenzuela about lessons from Katrina.

Patricia is a professor at the University of Texas Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning in Austin, Texas and we are proud that she is also a GFSC volunteer.

Thanks Patricia for sharing new of your recent work.



**NOLA Network\* News**

*\*The NOLA Network is composed of individual practicing facilitators, the Loyola University Twomey Center; the Southern University School of Social Work; Tulane School of Continuing Studies; Facilitative Leadership Institute; and Turning Point Partners, with assistance from Shell Exploration and Production.*

Some of the NOLA network internal goals for the year include

- working with previous participants who would like to facilitate sessions to increase the size of the corps of workshop leaders familiar with the "2.0 version" of the workshop.
- upgrading our own facilitator skills
- providing opportunities for newer workshop facilitators to practice along with us slightly more skilled, just slightly more : )

Two "open" workshops are planned for the Elmwood campus: March 14-15 facilitated by Mike Kane and Ted Quant with several new workshop co-facilitators-in-training; June 13-14, lead facilitators to be announced and will also include several new workshop co-facilitators-in-training

**You Can Create Ripples, Too!**

We look forward to sharing more examples of how you are building community resilience and self-reliance within your community, agency or organization. Write to us at [info@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:info@globalfacilitators.org).

\* \* \*

**Help GFSC**

You can help GFSC continue to build local community capacity, as we are in New Orleans, Los Angeles and Australia.\* Click on our donation page or mail a check to

GFSC  
c/o BJ Diamond  
11 Sequin Road  
West Hartford, CT 06117

*\* Your donations offset program costs, volunteers' expenses, as well as the cost of developing and distributing materials.*

## GFSC Volunteers

A bit of clarification on how GFSC supports volunteers:

We provide materials, mentoring, training and a forum to share ideas and techniques that build community capacity to address problems.

We do not match volunteers with local projects.

By completing the GFSC volunteer form you agree to have your contact information shared with other GFSC volunteers in your region and/or in your designated areas of interest.

GFSC promotes collaboration, collegiality and continuous learning.

\* \* \*

## Sharing GFSC Materials

GFSC offers materials to the public in our Virtual Library as well as other materials available to our GFSC registered Facilitator-Mentors.

If you use or plan to use GFSC materials, click here for the [permission request form](#). Remember, if you are getting paid for your work, then a token fee is paid back to GFSC to support the organization. If you are not getting paid (i.e., you are volunteering your time), the Use of Materials fee is waived. In either case, please complete the permission to use GFSC materials form.

Let us know how you are using our materials. What is working well and what needs improvement. Thanks!

\* \* \*

## Gratitude/Gracias

Our thanks to Ximena Combariza for translating our newsletter from English to Spanish.

Our thanks to Peggy Bushee Services for administrative support!



## Other Organizations' Events

### Australia/Asia

IAF Asia  
27 - 28 August 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

### Africa

IAF Africa "Imbizo"  
24 - 25 July 2008, Pilanesburg, South Africa

### North America

IAF North America  
[10 - 12 April 2008, Atlanta, Georgia](#)  
National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD)  
[3-5 October 2008, Austin Texas](#)

\* \* \*

## Learning Opportunities from Our Partner Organizations

Amauta International,  
<http://amauta-international.com/>

Center for Strategic Facilitation,  
<http://www.strategicfacilitation.com/>

Community at Work,  
<http://www.communityatwork.com/>

Facilitator U., <http://www.facilitatoru.com/>

International Association of Facilitators  
<http://iaf-world.org>

National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD), <http://www.thataway.org/>

### 2008 GFSC Board

President: Lenny Diamond  
Vice President: Tim Karpoff  
Secretary: Marieann Shovlin  
Treasurer: Parcia Sansary Gomez  
Executive Director: BJ Diamond

### Visit us:

English: <http://globalfacilitators.org>  
Español: [http://globalfacilitators.org/esp\\_index.htm](http://globalfacilitators.org/esp_index.htm)