

Usa Duongsaa's Report on Presentation and Facilitation in ICAAP10, Busan, South Korea, 26-30 August 2011

Sharing of CLCP experiences through posters and photos at the Constellation's Booth



ICAAP10 venue



Constellation's Booth



Risya+IndoCompetence poster



Invitation to Constellation meeting



Chantry + Cambodia Competence poster



Usa + Thai ACP Network poster



Rain + PinoyCompetence poster



Risya and visitors to the booth

There were 2,998 participants from 64 countries participating in the 10th ICAAP in Busan. The Constellation's was one of 35 booths present in the conference.

We decorated the booth's 2 walls with the Constellation's logo, photos from 6 countries participating in the ADB-funded project, the Constellation's poster, and the posters from the competence teams from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Invitation to the Constellation's meeting, instructions on how to join the Ning platform, introduction to Blended Learning, and JL's note for ICAAP, were also put up on the wall. We put hand-outs on the table for those who might be interested: the Constellation's brochures and Annual Report 2009, documents on Oxfam/Novib's Emotive and Reverse Development initiatives (since the organization kindly sponsored my participation in the congress), Invitation to the Constellation's meeting/introduction of the ACP on 29 Aug., IndoCompetence's brochures, PinoyCompetence's brochures, PAMACQ hand-outs, and hand-outs of my oral and poster presentations.

Poster presentations



Usa and 2 posters from Thailand



PAMACQ Poster from the Philippines

Around 1,700 abstracts for poster were presented during the congress. I presented 2 posters:

1. On 27 Aug., OP-02006 "Factors Affecting Success in Promoting AIDS Competence in Cambodia, Thailand, and the Philippines", by Dusit Duangsa & Usa Duongsaa

2. On 28 Aug., OP-02406 "Understanding HIV/AIDS-Related Stigma Is Crucial to HIV/AIDS Work!" , by Usa Duongsaa & Dusit Duangsa

For each poster presentation, I was at the poster during 12.00-13.30 hrs to and to give hand-outs and discuss with those who were interested in the poster. The hand-outs are included here as attachments.

Additionally I put up the poster for the Philippines' PAMACQ on 29 Aug. since the authors could not be in Busan to present it and the poster and hand-outs were carried from the Philippines to Busan by Rev. Dan through co-ordination by the PinoyCompetence team.

Presentation of South-North learning

Altogether 279 abstracts were presented in oral sessions during the conference. I gave 1 oral presentation on 28 Aug. in session D01 titled "Invoking Empathy In The Spiritual - The Religious Response", which included 6 presentations:

- Successfully Turning Diverse Voices to United Actions of Interfaith Communities in Addressing HIV/AIDS in Myanmar
Abdul Kader (Myanmar)
- Reaching Islam Young Leaders To Support HIV Prevention program in Surakarta, Indonesia
Titin Rejeki (Indonesia)
- The Pathway to "Strategy and Policy of Communion of Churches in Indonesia (CCI) on HIV and AIDS"
Alphinus Kambodji (Indonesia)
- Religious Leaders and Open Communication as a Key to HIV Prevention
Shamim Jahan (Bangladesh)
- Reverse Development - When Dutch NGOs learned from Thai NGOs on Interfaith Work and HIV/AIDS
Usa Duongsaa (Thailand)
- Faith-Based Organizations Involvement in HIV/AIDS Care and Support
Phichet Munpa (Thailand)

My presentation was the only one of 6 presentations in the session which looked beyond the border of country work in to inter-country and presented an experience on south-north learning/sharing. There were about 100 participants in the room. I put documents on Oxfam/Novib's Emotive and Reverse Development initiatives as well as the hand-out of my presentation on the table in front of the room. Both the 10-minute presentation and hand-outs were well-received.

Overall the 6 presentations conveyed a similar message that faith leaders and faith communities are crucial actors in the response to HIV/AIDS because they can make a lot of difference if they are engaged in the response. My and the other presentation from Thailand also sent a clear message that there are tried and tested ways to involve faith leaders and faith communities and promote their roles in the response, and that interfaith work on HIV/AIDS is essential, and possible, because we are all human. My presentation also added 2 other important messages: it is important to learn and share our experiences and lessons learned because they help us do better work, and the north can learn from the south as well as vice versa, because we all have something to learn and something to share. Unfortunately there was not sufficient time to engage in any discussion after the presentations. It is hoped that the audience found the session useful and the session's key messages will enable them to do better response to HIV/AIDS, networking, and partnership-building when they go back to their work.

Facilitation of events at the Constellation Booth

For the first meeting meant for Constellation friends on 26 Aug. Risya Kori (ILO, Indonesia) and Usa Duongsaa (AEP, Thailand) first arrived and together set up the Constellation booth and put up the Constellation's poster, the posters from the country competence teams, and photos from the 6 countries participating in the ADB-funded project. We were joined later by Rapeepun Jommaroeng (UNESCO, Thailand) so we managed to discuss briefly our plan A and plan B for the second meeting. We dispersed to different meetings and the opening ceremony.

The second meeting on 29 Aug. was meant for those interested to learn more about the Community Life Competence approach. We had distributed the invitations in many areas in the conference venue, to people we met during the conference, as well as on the table in the booth and on the wall in the booth. Unfortunately there were not that many participants while there were a number of workshops going on at the same time, resulting in us having 4 facilitators (who struggled to be there despite their busy schedule) on hand but no participant. The 4 facilitators consisted of Risya Kori (Indonesia), Rapeepun Jommaroeng (Thailand), Mom Chanthay and Va Sopheak (Red Cross,

Cambodia), as I had to facilitate another session at about the same time. Therefore no meeting really took place and the facilitators dispersed to their respective engagements.

The event that I went to facilitate on behalf of John-Piermont Montilla (who could not get to ICAAP) was a skills-building session on self-assessment. Even though it was a huge room consisting of 2 connecting conference rooms, only 2 participants showed up: Pradeep Hawaibam (from NACO at Manipur, India) and Alan Li (from Inspiract, Toronto, Canada). We decided to go ahead with the session by ourselves after waiting for about 10 minutes during which we introduced ourselves and I explained the circumstance that I was filling in for John-Piermont Montilla. Then I introduced the ACP diagramme (prepared the night before), summarizing the way of thinking, way of working, methods and tools. I introduced the concept of self-assessment, the level description, and the self-assessment tool (brought over from Thailand, just in case). We spent some time discussing the self-assessment, how it's done in homogeneous and heterogeneous groups, how it can lead to action, etc. Since Pradeep and Alan were interested in learning more, I promised to send him the ADB resource package and invite them to Ning. We hoped to remain connected for learning and sharing.



Lessons learned turned into suggestions for future participation and preparations

Pre-conference

- Co-ordinate well before hand, and encourage national teams, facilitators, etc. to mobilize resources (money and others) early. Communications and co-ordination usually require more time in actuality than in principle.
- Keep pestering as needed!
- Plan for doing the introduction session in the early days of the conference (when there is a high level of energy and interest in the conference), rather than later (when energy level is lower and participants start to turn their attention to non-conference issues such as sightseeing, shopping, or early departures).
- If possible, aim at doing a skills-building session, rather than an informal meeting. Need to keep in mind that there always are a number of sessions being organized at the same time so participants have to choose where to go and which one to participate in. Many also hop from one session to another. A session which is formal/official (which is publicized in the official programme, and which is conducted in a formal room) likely carries more weight and hence attracts more participants than an informal event at a small booth.
- If budget allows, consider adding incentives when publicizing the session, such as snack/beverage, small souvenirs, certificate of attendance (in case of skills-building session), etc.
- Be prepared, bring different types of tapes, scissors, color markers, color papers, etc. to decorate the booth and put up posters, because the conference organizers may not provide enough or not at all. Also, bring some documents that may be needed such as Ning instructions, intro to Blended Learning, self-assessment tool, some photo of ACP/CLCP events, etc. These are useful for decorating the booth, providing info, or just sharing with others who are interested.

During conference

- Be ready to hand out name cards, brochures, invitations etc. to conference participants at all times.
- Continue to look for strengths no matter what happens.
- Be flexible, be open, create the space and opportunity but also prepare for disappointment.
- Hope for the best but prepare for the worst 😊