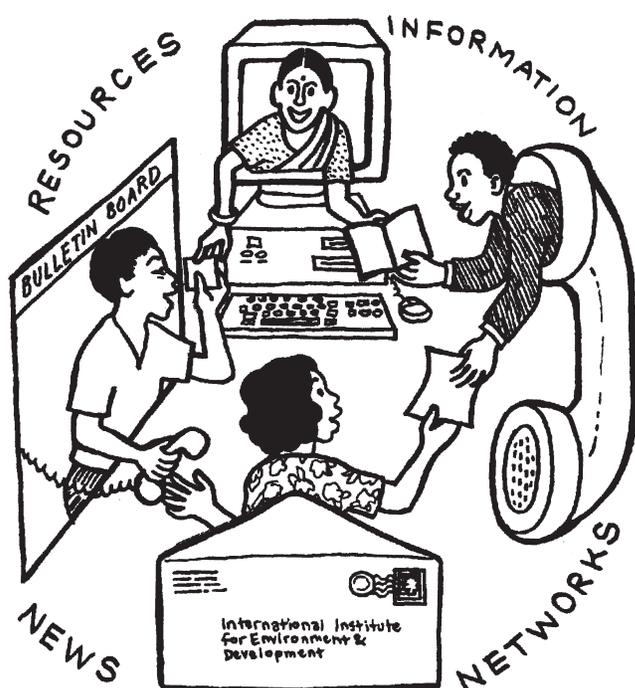


in touch



Welcome to the In Touch section of *Participatory Learning and Action*. Through these pages we hope to create a more participatory resource for the *Participatory Learning and Action* audience, to put you, as a reader, in touch with other readers. We want this section to be a key source of up-to-date information on training, publications, and networks. Your help is vital in keeping us all in touch about:

- **Networks.** Do you have links with recognised local, national or international networks for practitioners of participatory learning? If so, what does this network provide – training? newsletters? resource material/library? a forum for sharing experiences? Please tell us about the network and provide contact details for other readers.
- **Training.** Do you know of any forthcoming training events or courses in participatory

methodologies? Are you a trainer yourself? Are you aware of any key training materials that you would like to share with other trainers?

- **Publications.** Do you know of any key publications on participatory methodologies and their use? Have you (or has your organisation) produced any books, reports, or videos that you would like other readers to know about?
- **Electronic information.** Do you know of any electronic conferences or pages on the Internet which exchange or provide information on participatory methodologies?
- **Other information.** Perhaps you have ideas about other types of information that would be useful for this section. If so, please let us know.

Please send your responses to: *Participatory Learning and Action*, IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK.

Fax: + 44 20 7388 2826;
Email: pla.notes@iied.org

Book reviews



All together now! Community mobilisation for HIV/AIDS

● International HIV/AIDS Alliance, 2006

ISBN: 1 905055 15 3

Tools together

now! 100 participatory tools to mobilise communities for HIV/AIDS

● International HIV/AIDS Alliance, 2006

ISBN: 1 905055 11 0

All together now! is a practical and accessible resource book for facilitators working with communities on HIV/AIDS programmes. It describes the process of community mobilisation, using tried and tested approaches to help facilitators encourage communities to become actively involved in the assessment, design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and scaling up of HIV/AIDS projects and programmes.

The resource book takes the facilitator through each stage of community mobilisation, suggesting appropriate tools and resources to be used at each stage, and is to be used alongside *Tools Together Now!* The resource book contains many diagrams, drawings and figures and includes a foreword by Robert Chambers.

Tools together now! provides a selection of 100 participatory learning and action tools to be used for HIV/AIDS programmes, enabling communities and organisations to learn together about HIV/AIDS in their community, develop a plan, act on it and evaluate and reflect on how it went. The toolkit is easy to use and uses very clear language. It begins

with an introduction to PLA, which includes the roles of the PLA facilitator, their skills, attitudes and behaviour, and how to plan a PLA session. Each tool is numbered and each includes diagrams and/or figures. Some of the tools included are community mapping, community drama, participatory video, storytelling, matrix scoring, force field analysis, transect walks and problem trees.

Used together, these two resources provide a powerful way for organisations and communities to work more effectively together to address HIV/AIDS.

■ Available from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Queensberry House, 104-106 Queens Road, Brighton BN1 3XF, UK. Email: publications@aidalliance.org. Also downloadable at www.aidalliance.org

Beyond Article 12: Essential readings in children's participation

● Compiled and edited by Henk van Beers, Antonella Invernizzi, Brian Milne
Black on White Publications, 2006

This is part of the Black on White Publications 'Essential Readings' series, which provides basic texts and references to build a personal or institutional knowledge base. The series provides an overview of legal, philosophical and practical texts on the broad debate of children's participation. *Beyond Article 12* aims to influence the process of implementing children's rights to participate and in particular by contributing to the discussions on Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which gives children a voice in judicial proceedings.

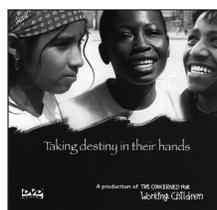
This is not a manual or toolkit, nor a record of children's experiences, but

a collection of statements and theories, some legal information and as well as some practical examples, edited by experts from the field. It provides excerpts from key works of established writers and is divided into three sections:

- what does participation mean?
- are children citizens? and
- children's participation in practice.

This resource is aimed at policy makers, planners, project workers and researchers, and advocates for children's participation and professionals working with children.

■ Available from: Knowing Children, Room 3084, Siam Court, 130 Soi Sukhumvit 4, Bangkok 10110, Thailand. Website: www.knowingchildren.org



Taking destiny in their hands

● The Concerned for Working Children, 2005

This is one of many DVDs produced by CWC on children's rights and participation. The film documents the relevance of the International Movement of Working Children and provides an overview of the long process that organised working children's movements of Africa, Asia and Latin America have undergone to create their own national and regional movements and then a united international movement. The film highlights their struggles and successes in the international policy arena. Spanning three continents and three decades, the film depicts the similarities of the movements and highlights the diversities that bring rich nuances to their struggle. It provides a children's analysis of global problems, their strategies to overcome them and their

call to adults and policy makers to give them due recognition as social actors.



The Media Code of Conduct to realise children's rights

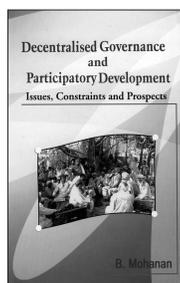
● The Concerned for Working Children, 2006

There are a few existing guidelines and codes of conduct for the media that refer to children and seek to regulate their coverage in the media, but several gaps still remain. These codes focus only on children's right to privacy and confidentiality. Significantly, none of the charters or codes focuses on the rights of children to be 'producers' of media in society.

The Media Code of Conduct aims to fill this existing gap. It is intended to be a tool with which children can demand their space in the media – it is dynamic in that it will continuously evolve through a process of debate and discussion.

This Code aims to create a paradigm shift in the media's approach to children – from that of being recipients of adult benevolence to being viewed as full partners in society.

■ Available from: The Concerned for Working Children, 303/2, L.B. Shastri Nagar, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore, 560 075, India. Email: cwc@pobox.com; Website: www.workingchild.org



Decentralised governance and participatory development: issues, constraints and prospects

● B. Mohan
Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi,

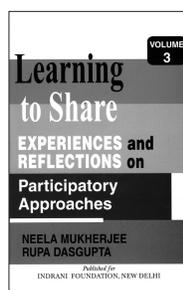
India, 2005

ISBN: 81 8069 162 4

This book analyses the constraints and possibilities in participatory planning and democratic decentralisation, with special reference to Kerala. Examining various aspects of the concept of people's participation, it presents an overview of a people's campaign for decentralised planning in the State. Also, it presents a report on decentralised planning based on two field studies at two of Kerala's Gram Panchayats, and discusses the political process at the grassroots level. This book is aimed at researchers, policy

makers and development workers.

■ Concept Publishing Company, A/15 and 16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi, 110 059, India. Tel: +91 11 2535 1460; Fax: +91 11 2535 7103; Email: publishing@conceptpub.com



Learning to share: experiences and reflections on participatory approaches, Vol III

● Neela Mukherjee and Rupa Dasgupta
Published for the Indrani Foundation,

New Delhi, India by Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, India, 2004 ISBN: 81 8069 176 4

This book is the third volume in a collection of 12 papers and field notes in the area of community participation a PRA/PLA-type methodological innovations. This edited volume is a sequel to two other volumes in the series, *Learning*

to Share with contributions from PRA practitioners. The book contains eight topical papers on participatory approaches, with topics including: measuring social capital to livestock assessment, women's worldview on HIV/AIDS, institutional processes in watershed management, rural weavers' livelihoods, integrated human development, stakeholders in Grameen bank, and livelihoods-based conservation activities. The four papers based on methodological innovations relate to resource mapping, mobility and well-being, ownership/empowerment chapatti, and participatory technology. The book is aimed at development practitioners, project managers, extension agencies, field workers, field researchers, policy makers, donor agencies and students.

■ Concept Publishing Company, A/15 and 16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi, 110 059, India. Tel: +91 11 2535 1460; Fax: +91 11 2535 7103; Email: publishing@conceptpub.com

Events and training

MSc Course: Governance and spatial information management

● September 2007, ITC, The Netherlands
ITC have just established a new MSc course together with the University of Twente, called Governance and Spatial Information Management. The first course will be run for a small number of participants but the intention is to increase intake as of September 2007. For more details of this course please contact Johan de Meijere. Email: meijere@itc.nl

Connecting people, participation and place: an international conference of participatory geographies

● 14th and 15th January 2008, University College, Durham University, UK
Organised by the Social Well-Being and Spatial Justice research cluster at Durham and the Participatory Geographies Working Group of the RGS/IBG. Participatory approaches to research, learning, action and change have in some ways become a new orthodoxy in social and environmental science disciplines, voluntary sectors, statutory agencies and community-led organisations across the world. The development of conceptual insights, creative techniques and radical

practices is exploding. At the same time participatory approaches are highly contested and debated, and are profoundly affected by environments, settings and institutional webs they occupy. This conference will showcase original and collaboratively produced contributions to theory, practice and social change, which focus on the relations between people and places. The conference will coincide with the publication of a Routledge text of the same name (eds Sara Kindon, Rachel Pain and Mike Kesby). The themes are:

● the difference participation makes to understanding, investigating and acting upon issues connecting people and places; and

- charting the geographies of participation: settings, scales and spatialities.

The conference aims to:

- be open to anyone with an interest in participatory methods and approaches for research, learning, action and change;
- encourage discussion and debates around the conference themes between academics, practitioners, and all those in between;
- include a range of different forms of participation, papers, workshops, performances and technologies; and
- consist of invited papers and workshops (Day 1), and an open space format (Day 2) where content and format are decided by participants through email/web/live discussions before and during the conference.

■ A small fee will be payable to cover registration, tea, coffee and lunch over the two days. For more information please contact: Dr Rachel Pain, Department of Geography, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3LE, UK. Tel: +44 191 334 1876; Email: rachel.pain@durham.ac.uk; Conference website: www.geography.dur.ac.uk/Conf/Default.aspx?alias=www.geography.dur.ac.uk/conf/cppp

Training by ICA:UK Participation and Partnership:

Introduction to Group Facilitation

- 18th September 2007, Belfast, Ireland

This one-day course explores the role and skills of the facilitator. This is an entry-level course and has no pre-requisite. It is recommended as a first course for newcomers to facilitation, and for those with some prior experience of facilitation but little previous training. It is suitable for all those who want to be able to facilitate groups more confidently

and effectively, including team leaders and managers within organisations, those working with partners and external stakeholders, youth and community workers and independent facilitators. This course introduces key facilitation skills, their uses and practical considerations. It offers an opportunity for participants to develop and practice some of these skills in a supportive, learning environment. It provides an invaluable foundation for further training and development in our approach, and indeed any approach, to facilitation.

The course uses a combination of short interactive presentations, practical exercises and supported facilitation skills practice with guided reflection and feedback.

Group Facilitation Methods

- 19th–20th September 2007, Belfast, Ireland
- 25th–26th September 2007, London, UK
- 9th–10th October 2007, Manchester, UK

Introducing the foundations of ICA:UK's Technology of Participation (ToP) approach – a two-day course. This course has no pre-requisite, but is the pre-requisite for all our intermediate and advanced courses. It is recommended both to newcomers to facilitation, and to experienced facilitators who are new to our approach. It is suitable for all those who want to be able to facilitate groups more confidently and effectively, including team leaders and managers within organisations, those working with partners and external stakeholders, youth and community workers and independent facilitators. This is our most popular course. This course provides a structured introduction to

the Focused Conversation and Consensus Workshop methods, which form the foundations of the Action Planning method, Participatory Strategic Planning and other applications.

■ Download a case study of how the Focused Conversation method and Consensus Workshop method were used in developing a mission and values statement: www.ica-uk.org.uk/images/downloads/ToP_case_study_-_Salvation_Army.pdf

Action Planning

- 21st–22nd November 2007, Manchester, UK

Participatory planning for short-term projects and events. This new one-day course introduces a structured, participatory process to enable the successful implementation of a group project or event. It has no pre-requisite, but Group Facilitation Methods or some prior experience of facilitation or participatory planning is recommended. It is suitable for all those who want to be able to involve people more effectively in planning and implementing short to medium term projects together, including team leaders and project managers within organisations, those working collaboratively with partners and external stakeholders, youth and community workers and independent facilitators.

The course presents the method in a practical and participatory way. The method is first demonstrated, using a scenario with which participants can identify without having to role-play. It is then analysed and discussed, and then elements of the method are practiced individually or in small groups. Finally, participants plan how they will apply the method in their own situations.

Group Facilitation Methods Refresher

- 23rd October 2007, London, UK
- 20th November 2007, Manchester, UK

Refresh and advance your understanding and practice of ToP – one-day course. Group Facilitation Methods is a pre-requisite for this course. This course is scheduled directly before Participatory Strategic Planning and Designing Participatory Events to allow from one to three days of training at once.

Designing Participatory Events

- 24th–25th October 2007, London, UK

The course is suitable for all those who want to make the best of the skills and methods they have by improving their process design and event planning to best meet the needs of a group and its task. This might include team leaders and managers within organisations, those working with Boards, management teams, partnerships and external stakeholders, youth and community workers and independent facilitators.

This course introduces some powerful tools for planning and designing participatory events, to enable participants to apply the skills and methods they have to best meet the needs of their own particular groups and situations. It offers an opportunity to work individually or small teams, with support from experienced facilitators, to design a facilitation solution of your own.

The course uses a combination of short interactive presentations and practical exercises, with facilitated group reflection and discussion. Group Facilitation Methods is a pre-requisite for this course, and prior facilitation experience is recommended.

Participatory Strategic Planning

- 21st–22nd November 2007, Manchester, UK

Bring people together to create strategies for action – two-day course. Group Facilitation Methods is a pre-requisite for this course, and Action Planning is recommended. The course is suitable for all those who want to be able to involve people more effectively in planning and implementing medium to long-term strategies together, including team leaders and managers within organisations, those working with Boards, management teams, partnerships and external stakeholders, youth and community workers and independent facilitators.

The course presents a structured long-range planning process, which incorporates the Consensus Workshop method for building consensus, the Focused Conversation method for effective group communication and an implementation process for turning ideas into productive action and concrete accomplishments.

■ To download the Participatory Strategic Planning Method overview visit: www.ica-uk.org.uk/images/downloads/ToP_PSP_method_overview.pdf

■ Download a case study of how this method was used in community planning in North London: www.ica-uk.org.uk/images/downloads/ToP_case_study_Ponders_End.pdf

Participation Paradigm

- 29th–30th November 2007, Manchester, UK

This two-day course is a guest course of ICA Canada. It is suitable for those who would like to dig beneath the surface for an in-depth

understanding of ToP processes, and particularly for those who intend to make ToP methods a central component of their facilitation practice. This might include team leaders and project managers within organisations, those working collaboratively with partners and external stakeholders, youth and community workers and independent facilitators. By the end of the course, you will have

- enhanced your capacity to use and adapt ToP methods to specific challenging situations
- developed your ability to respond appropriately to individual and group struggles
- deepened your understanding of the compelling nature of the ToP processes
- seen through the techniques of facilitation to grasp the human drama of participatory processes

The course is structured into four sessions, each drawing on a chapter of the ICA Canada book *The Courage to Lead* (a copy of the book is included in the cost of the course and mailed in advance, on receipt of your booking): www.ica-uk.org.uk/facilitation/publications.htm#courage

The course combines participatory study and reflection of each chapter of the book, with individual and small group exercises. Group Facilitation Methods is a pre-requisite for this course, and prior facilitation experience is recommended.

■ For full details of these and other training courses by ICA:UK, and online bookings, please contact: ICA UK, PO Box 171, Manchester, M15 5BE, UK. Tel: +44 845 450 0305 or +44 28 4277 2671; Website at www.ica-uk.org.uk; Email: top@ica-uk.org.uk

Training courses offered by Mosaic International:

Stakeholder participation in planning, needs assessment, monitoring and evaluation using PRA/PLA tools

● 9th–14th July 2007, Ottawa, Canada
This workshop focuses on core participatory concepts, tools and their application. This is an intensive six-day workshop set in the community to maximise learning, group interaction and networking. Topics include the origins of participatory development, learning and application of PRA/PLA tools, the application of participation to project design, monitoring and evaluation, developing effective facilitation skills, building action plans and team-building. Two-day community assignments proposed by community-based organisations in the Ottawa region will allow participants to apply tools learned in the workshop to real-life situations. This is also a great opportunity to network with other practitioners, NGOs, donors, and action researchers from all over the world.

Results-based management, appreciative inquiry and open space technology

● 16th–20th July 2007, Ottawa, Canada
This new workshop introduces participants to results-based management, appreciative inquiry and open space technology. Demonstrate the effectiveness of your programmes with results-based management. Master what we mean by results, develop programme/organizational plans, which are results-based and design performance monitoring systems based on indicators and participatory methods. You will also expand your repertoire of tools to also

learn about appreciative inquiry and open space and how they can be applied to your organization, programme and/or project. These approaches are increasingly being used around the world to tap into new ways to do our work in ways that are more results-oriented, more appreciative and less problem-focused and more self-organised versus top down.

Participatory monitoring and evaluation

● 23rd–28th July 2007, Ottawa, Canada
Participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) involves a different approach to project monitoring and evaluation by involving local people, project stakeholders, and development agencies deciding together about how to measure results and what actions should follow once this information has been collected and analysed. This intensive six-day experiential workshop is practically focused with daily excursions into the community and a three-day community assignment. Topics covered at the workshop include: origins of PM&E, skills and attributes of a PM&E facilitator, learning PM&E tools, designing a monitoring and evaluation framework, quantitative and qualitative indicators and building actions plan.

All workshops organised by Mosaic are sensitive to issues of gender, ethnicity, race, class and sexuality and how these can influence outcomes and how we see the world if they are absent from our assumptions, direct participation, our analysis and conclusions.

■ For further information, please contact: Francoise Coupal, Founder of Mosaic.net international, Inc. Email: wkshop05@mosaic-net-intl.ca; Website: www.mosaic-net-intl.ca. Send us your full mailing address and we will send you a brochure.

■ From the Communication Initiative Partnership Drum Beat Classifieds <http://www.comminit.com>

■ To find out more about courses advertised in the Drum Beat, or to submit details of a course that you would like to advertise, visit: www.comminit.com/training2007.html

Summer School: Advocacy Plus

● 2nd–13th July 2007, Oxford, UK
This year INTRAC is holding a two-week residential Summer School on advocacy. The aim of this new learning event is to introduce and integrate diverse aspects of advocacy and to offer perspectives on global trends and best practices. The Summer School will enable participants to study this popular subject more in depth in an atmosphere conducive to reflection, analysis and synthesis. It will be facilitated by international experts on advocacy. There will also be guest speakers from international non-governmental organisations.
■ www.comminit.com/events_calendar/2007-events/events-4724.html
Contact: training@intrac.org

Global Course: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Health Sector Reform

● 20th–31st August 2007, Bangkok, Thailand
Organised by the World Bank Institute, this course explores key elements in designing efficient, equitable and financially sustainable population policies and reproductive health programmes in the context of health sector reform and the Millennium Development Goals.
■ www.comminit.com/events_calendar/2007-events/events-4733.html
Contact ljoo@worldbank.org

Balkan Kids For Kids Festival 2007

● 21st–24 September 2007, Belgrade, Serbia

This event is a regional festival of films made by and for children (from Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey). The deadline to submit films is June 30th.

■ www.comminit.com/events_calendar/2007-events/events-4718.html

Contact please see individual post page for details

DB Classifieds – Training, Materials Events (TME)

● First Wednesday of each month

Organisations can now post training and events related to international

development in the classifieds section of the CI website as well as within the DB Classifieds – TME.

■ For more information on posting training and events within the Classifieds section of The CI, please visit <http://www.comminit.com/classifiedsservices/dbclassifieds/sld-2553.html>

■ To promote training, books, events, and consultant services through The DB Classifieds – TME, contact Jennifer Savidge. Email: jsavidge@comminit.com

The Workshop 07: 11th Praxis Annual Commune on Participatory Development

● 11th to 22nd September 2007

National Institute of Small Industry Extension and Training (NISIET)

Yusufguda, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

This year the following modules will be covered:

1. Community Led Monitoring and Evaluation
2. Community Led Local Level Planning
3. Participatory Methods and Approaches
4. Facilitating Participation- Training of Trainers
5. Community Participation In Corporate Social Responsibility
6. Community Led Disaster Preparedness and Management
7. Participatory Research
8. Community Led Broadcasting

■ For more details on cost and logistics please visit www.theworkshop.in or write to info@theworkshop.in



e-participation

The LearningForSustainability Website

<http://learningforsustainability.net>

Designed for government and agency staff, NGOs, researchers and other community leaders working to support multi-stakeholder learning processes in sustainable development arenas. This guide to on-line resources highlights a number of activity areas or strands that are prerequisites for social learning, and points to how these strands are woven together in practice. These strands include networking, dialogue, adaptive management, knowledge management and evaluation. The growing role of the Internet is treated as a separate section. A short introduction to each section outlines the nature of the resource links provided, and provides pointers to other topic areas which are closely related in use. A separate section links to key manuals and guides on the Internet for facilitating participation and engagement.

The research methods and approaches section has links to action research resources, material on doing integrated and interdisciplinary research, a listing of on-line journals in these areas, and it hosts the IntSci (Integrated Science for sustainability) discussion network.

This new site will replace the NRM-changelinks site which has provided links in this area since 1998. The new Learning for Sustainability website is designed to provide agency staff and community leaders with improved layout and easier navigation. The change is not just cosmetic – you will find significantly new content, and a new structure guides the site content and navigation.

Feedback on the site is welcomed. If you have particular guides on the Internet that you find useful in practice please suggest them as a future resource to add and share with others.

Public Participation/Participatory Geographic Information Systems Custom Search Engine

www.ppgis.org

The PGIS/PPGIS custom search engine project is ongoing. The interface has been improved and new participants are welcome. The objective is to develop a highly specialised Custom Search Engine reflecting knowledge and interests in PGIS/PPGIS practice and science. Researchers and practitioners are invited to contribute to its development.

Community Mapping: The Community Planning Website

www.communitymaps.wordpress.com

Post resources and tools on community mapping, profile your community or project. Discuss perceptions, aspirations, preferences and develop plans for action. Not restricted to planning issues.

African Religious Health Assets Programme

www.arhap.uct.ac.za/research_who.php

An African Religious Health Assets Programme/World Health Organisation collaboration has resulted in a fascinating case study of the use of PGIS for health in Zambia and Lesotho. See Chapter 2: Mapping Religious Health Assets. The project facilitates a community-based response to HIV/AIDS. Of interest to all involved in health applications of PGIS, this effort maps elements of religious communities in Africa that work to improve health.

A Periodic Table of Visualisation Methods

www.visual-literacy.org/periodic_table/periodic_table.html

A reference guide in the form of a periodic table of various methods of presenting data visually. A pop up gives an example of each method, such as timelines, bar charts, process event chain, mindmaps.

Capacity Development Consultants (CADECO)

www.cadeco.mw

CADECO is a development organisation dedicated to helping NGOs improve their performance. CADECO's interventions are based on the African philosophy of ubuntu (the essence of being human). CADECO seeks to contribute towards organisational health by using and promoting indigenous wisdom found in African Proverbs and stories as a tool for development. The website includes a monthly African proverb with insights on organisational performance improvement, explanations on how to use indigenous wisdom in organisational performance improvement efforts, and CADECO's publications on indigenous wisdom as a tool for (organisational) Development.

The Communication Initiative: The Drum Beat – Issue 381 – Participatory Communication: The Case for Quantitative Assessment

www.comminit.com/drum_beat_381.html

This Drum Beat is one of a series of commentary and analysis pieces. In this piece, Tom Jacobson examines the issue of assessing participatory communication programmes and strategies. He suggests a method of quantitative assessment through measuring participatory dialogue based on Habermas' theory of communicative action. Jacobson here asserts that such assessments could provide the kind of hard data that donors need to justify their support.

The Drum Beat continues to feature a range of critical analysis commentaries of the communication for change field. These appear regularly on the first Monday of most months to inspire dialogue throughout the month. To contribute contact Deborah Heimann dheimann@comminit.com Subscribe at www.comminit.com/subscribe_drumbeat.html