



## *HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*

As we prepare to say goodbye to the old year and welcome the new, we want to share some exciting developments with all of you.

The Global Facilitators Service Corps had its First Annual Board Meeting on the first weekend of November. The complete minutes of that meeting can be found on the website <<http://globalfacilitators.org>> Following is a rundown of the highlights:

As you all know, the mission of GFSC is to link people, processes and resources worldwide to unleash the potential of communities to collaboratively create solutions to their challenges. In other words, GFSC is an enabling organization, matching qualified volunteer facilitators with sustainable local projects. This carries with it several important implications.

To assure the quality of the facilitation, we are developing a virtual mentoring program which will permit all GFSC Field and Support Volunteers to have access to a series of on-line materials, in several languages, on crisis intervention, conflict resolution and community development, as well as on not-for-profit organizational development and GFSC itself. Each volunteer, depending on her/his interests and abilities, will go through the necessary materials as a competency check-list and work with a virtual "mentor," on those areas that need strengthening. The on-line application form to become a GFSC Field or Support volunteer can be found on the GFSC Website.

GFSC volunteers will work only with clients that do not have adequate resources to pay for facilitation assistance. While GFSC volunteers agree to work pro bono, the organization receiving those services will be responsible for the payment of all travel, lodging and administrative costs, either with their own funds or with grants or other donations.

For GFSC, the sustainability of a project is a priority. We define sustainability as taking care of the present without compromising the future. We will give priority to those projects that establish ongoing processes of participative capacity-building for the people within and those served by client organizations.

In order to achieve the above, one of the strategic priorities for 2004 is the development of the GFSC Global Network. We envision local initiatives as our foundation and focus, both for resource development and for projects. We will begin to use this grass roots approach to network development in those areas where we have people who are already passionate about the need for volunteer facilitation services. Such is the case of Taipei, Taiwan, where Jorie Wu is actively organizing the network with the support of IAF Regional Representative Laura Hsu. They have already held several training events to recruit and prepare volunteers. I had the pleasure of working with them this month, and

we can all learn from the enthusiasm and dedication of the Taiwanese facilitators.

And in the USA, Larry Meeker and María Begoña Rodas, with the support of the Southwestern Facilitators Network, are planning a training session on crisis intervention facilitation for early next year. One of the objectives of that session is the creation of a core group of GFSC volunteers. We have already received one request for the services of these volunteers from an organization in South Texas that works with communities of poor migrant workers from Mexico.

And soon, GFSC networks will be starting up in the Dominican Republic; Quito, Ecuador; Lima, Peru and other cities. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in one of these networks or starting one in your area, please contact us at <[GFSC@amauta.org](mailto:GFSC@amauta.org)>.

Finally, I would like to thank the GFSC Board for their confidence in electing me to chair the organization in 2004 and for their commitment to making GFSC a significant resource for people and groups that need to discover and develop their own potential. We join together to wish you all a very happy holiday season and a very fulfilling and productive New Year.

Warm regards,

*Gil*

\*\*\*\*\*



GLOBAL FACILITATOR SERVICE CORPS

Dr. Gilbert Brenson-Lazan

President - Board of Directors

Email: [gbl@amauta.org](mailto:gbl@amauta.org)

Website: <[www.globalfacilitators.org](http://www.globalfacilitators.org)>

\*\*\*\*\*