

December 2009 Newsletter

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Appreciation & Inspiration

On behalf of GFSC I thank all of you for your help and support during 2009. We wish you continued strength, insight, good health and good fortune to continue pursuing your passion(s) in the coming year. And we hope we can find ways to work together to improve our communities, our world and ourselves.

BJ Diamond

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"As the year winds to a conclusion, I share my thanks for the many forms of support provided to GFSC which in turn enabled us to continue our work with individuals wanting to build resilience within their communities in times of crisis and change. Warm wishes to you for a healthy and fulfilling 2010."

Lenny Diamond

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"[Holiday} greetings to you all as we reflect on another year and another long list of "what we're grateful for", as well as new learning about how to "live effectively in the (ever) new society"...We learn to live with the real world we're in now because "It's the only world we have". In the midst of that, we continue to live our lives....Most of all...we experience more clearly than ever how important it is to live a life of significant engagement. We give thanks often for the amazingly (still) relevant context created some 40 years ago out of which we still live....We look forward to 2010 with great anticipation for connectedness, new possibility, hope and health (and of course even more significant engagement) - for ourselves and all of you."

Gail & Richard West, ICA, Taiwan

Whatever your celebration may be—Christmas, Chanukah, Day of Bodhi, Eid-UI-Adha, Oshogatsu, Kwanzaa or the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh – at this time of year and as we prepare to go through the doors of 2010, I want to share with you five learnings I greatly value:

1. The transcendence of what happens to us comes from how we react to it.
2. The transcendence of what we have comes from how willing we are to share it.
3. The transcendence of what we do comes from how it contributes to the greater good.
4. The transcendence of what we know comes from how it helps us to understand ourselves and others.
5. The transcendence of what we are comes from how we show our love of God, of the environment, of others and of ourselves.

I also greatly value your friendship and your participation in our activities this year, and I hope you have a very happy holiday and a new year of great personal, family and organizational fulfillment.

Gil Brenson-Lazan

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Adapting GFSC Materials

We are very excited and energized about continuing our adaptation of our workshop concepts and materials to dynamic, interactive, online learning. We are searching for personal accounts (2-3 minutes) of how a GFSC technique or concept helped you deal with a change or crisis situation. If you are interested in helping us with this project, please contact Marieann or BJ at info@globalfacilitators.org.



Taiwan Update, December 2009

from Gail West, Jorie Wu,
Shufang Tsai, Jackie Chang

The GFSC manuals and the pamphlet, *Using GFSC Manuals**, have been reprinted (again). Twelve hundred have been sent to one county for their communities, schools and social workers. Shufang Tsai has offered facilitation help in that area if needed. A professor at a local university, who had participated in a Disaster & Crisis Intervention workshop 10 years ago (with Gil Brenson-Lazan) introduced the GFSC manuals to several NGO's in Taiwan.

While there is progress, there are also some stumbling blocks related to a few of the NGOs that are working with the affected indigenous communities. Even though with good intentions, some suggested solutions are inappropriate for this unique culture. When this happens, the work is at a standstill.

We are encouraged that many people, through schools as well as NGOs are finding the GFSC materials available and helpful in rebuilding their lives and the life of their communities.

* The pamphlet, *Using GFSC Materials*, offers suggestions specifically for working with people under stress. This pamphlet and the GFSC manuals are available in English, Spanish and Chinese in the GFSC Library, http://globalfacilitators.org/VirtLib/VirtLib_DCI.htm



Philippines Update, December 2009

from Mark Pixley

Mark is Managing Director of Leadership Inc, *Facilitating Organizational Change in Greater China* and has participated in GFSC's Disaster & Crisis Intervention Workshop for Facilitators. He has actively introduced the GFSC model and materials to many NGO's and communities in Southeast Asia. For the past few years Mark has been doing work in Manila several times each year.

Since Typhoon Ketsana in September, Mark has been in contact with several colleagues in the Philippines. One of the challenges they identified is trying to help the thousands of people who need to process through their grief and loss, then regroup and move forward. Mark did an introduction/overview of the GFSC model with 20+ people in the psychology department at a local university. They realized that the 1:1 counseling methods that they are used to will not address the huge need there. So they are seeking alternatives. They are very interested in learning how the GFSC social learning model can effectively reach many more people more quickly. Mark explained that the GFSC "cascade" model* can help them reach many more people in a much shorter time. There is a lot of interest in bringing this model to Manila.

Another group is interested in expanding the availability of GFSC methods and materials across Southeast Asia, through various educational institutions. Mark pointed them to the GFSC website and materials available there for helping people through and after crisis.

With Mark's help, we are continuing to explore these options and will report back to you early in 2010.

* In the GFSC "cascade" model a core group, e.g., educators, social workers, psychologists and others who use facilitation techniques in their work, learn the GFSC concepts/techniques for building personal and community resilience. Then this core group replicates/shares these concepts in ever-widening circles so that the process and techniques can spread quickly throughout affected communities. Additional benefit is having a trained core of people before (another) disaster strikes. These concepts can be adapted and applied to many types of crisis and change situations.

Facilitation Skills Self-Evaluation

Facilitation skills are useful and effective in many professions and situations. We have updated our informal assessment tool to help you evaluate your facilitation skills: [GFSC Facilitator Self-Assessment](#).

Visit our online library for readings and links to organizations that can help you enhance your skills.



Share links to our free materials,
http://globalfacilitators.org/VirtLib/VirtLib_DCI.htm

Two new items of interest:
Using GFSC Materials, gives helpful suggestions for working with people under stress and can apply to many situations, not just GFSC materials.

Accentuate the Positive, by Izzy Gesell, brief describes types of negative self-talk and one method for changing that thinking (and stress) to positive self-talk.

Support our work with
our colleagues in Taiwan & Philippines.

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

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Gratitude/Gracias

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