



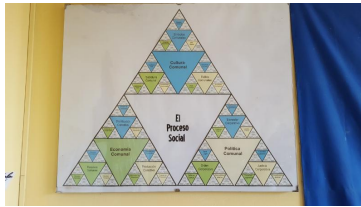
North and South American Regional Conference



From May 10 - 14th of 2016, North and South American ICAs gathered for a Regional Conference in Peru. The gathering marked the first time the ICAs in the region had met face-to-face in over 10 years. [ICA Peru](#) hosted the meeting at their beautiful training center in Azpitia, a quaint town 2 hours outside of Lima. Azpitia was one of the ICA Peru's main project sites a few decades back, and the training center that was created during that time has been wonderfully maintained and still serves groups that ICA Peru works with.

Over 15 colleagues attended the conference, representing [ICA Guatemala](#), ICA Peru, [ICA Chile](#), [ICA Associates in Canada](#), and [ICA-USA](#). The gathering started with each ICA sharing their current projects and initiatives, and the direction the ICA is headed. This was followed by methods skill share - each ICA showcased how they have created new and innovative ways to adopt ICA's participatory process methodology, [Technology of Participation](#) (ToP), to fit their community, culture, and programmatic efforts. The entire conference was held in Spanish, allowing maximum participation from conference attendees.

In the evenings, conference attendees went on field visits inside the town of Azpitia to see the results of ICA Peru's previous comprehensive community planning efforts. The projects included a local [pisco](#) distillery that grew their own grapes to make pisco and wine, which was part of the 'economic development' component of planning, and a preschool that had been started as part of the 'social development' component of planning. Every meal was eaten at a local restaurant that ICA Peru's programming had helped launched many years ago.

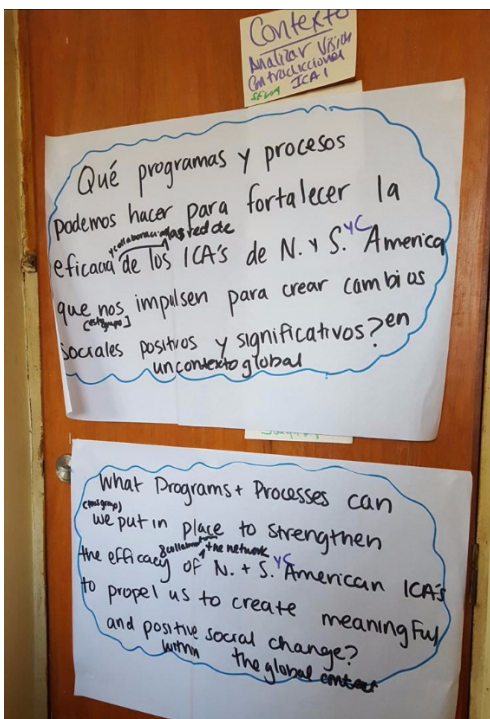


During the final two days of the conference, the ICAs came together and crafted a strategy for the region, and the process was co-facilitated by many of the conference attendees. The strategies included:

- Increasing partnership, projects, and communication among the region;
- Creating a space in all the ICAs to be able to engage a new generation; and
- Increasing methods training and marketing, specifically in Latin America.

The conversation around the expansion of ToP methods training in Latin America was very timely due to a larger ToP Policy conversation that is currently happening around the world (read more in the following article below).

This regional conference was significant for many reasons. From a world-wide perspective, it was the 5th and final regional conference that occurred within one year's time. Each region of the world's ICAs (East Africa, West Africa, Europe, Asia/Australia, N&S America) came together between May 2015 and May 2016 to look at ways to better collaborate, broaden, and deepen ICA's social change work. Although the traditional cadence of a global conference every four years was not kept in 2016, the regional gatherings could arguably be much more powerful in the long run. The localized conferences allowed all interested ICAs the chance to meet with colleagues outside of their country and will undoubtedly catalyze future global initiatives.



Facilitation Abroad - IAF, ToP Global, and More!

[ICA-International](#) (ICAI) and the [International Association of Facilitators](#) (IAF) have come together to form a working group consisting of three members/facilitators from each organization. The intent of the group is to explore ways the organizations can work together and

support one another. Potential collaborations areas include conferences, events, complementary certification, and training endorsements.

The relationship between ICAI and IAF is longstanding and well integrated. From the ICAI side of the group, the members (Larry Philbrook of ICA Taiwan, Eduard Christiansen of ICA Chile and Jane Stallman of the ToP Network in the US) will report back to [Martin Gilbraith](#), ICAI's Board President. Martin has been involved with IAF since 1998 and served a four-year term as a Chair on their board in 2012. Members on the IAF side of the working group will report back to John Cornwell, their Regional Director for Africa, who has worked in the past with ICA in South Africa, and recently attended and ICA East Africa Regional Gathering.

While the group has only met twice, they have effectively identified the issues and key questions to be addressed by both ICAI and IAF. In the coming months, they will look to:

Implement and uphold their common, core values and:

- Launch and follow through on other initiatives that pertain to both groups' work,
- Discover other areas of collaboration, promotion, and research beneficial for both organizations,
- Support each other with materials and individuals when need be, and
- Promote IAF in ICAI courses, and vice versa.

This conversation is one of many going on about strengthening ICA's facilitation and training brand, the [Technology of Participation](#) (ToP), world-wide. In addition to the IAF-ICAI working group there is also a current Global ToP policy working group that aims to establish internationally recognized ToP trainer competencies and criteria, build ToP trainer training capacity globally, develop global ToP resource repositories, and to set up a global ToP coordination structure. For more information, contact sgandhi@ica-usa.org.

Colleague Spotlight: Martin Gilbraith

How/when did you first encounter the ICA?

I first met ICA as a participant in the ICA:UK international volunteer programme in June 1986, so I have just passed 30 years with ICA this year - of course I was very young at the time!

I volunteered with ICA India in the Jawale Human Development Project near Pune, and then with ICA MENA in the Bayad El Arab project in Egypt. After I returned from Egypt in 1995 to take my masters degree in Manchester, I worked with colleagues in Britain to re-establish ICA:UK and stood down as Chief Executive in 2012.

What is your current role at the ICA?

Since I went freelance in 2012 I have remained involved with ICA:UK as an Associate and licensed ToP trainer, but my main involvement with ICA has been in a voluntary capacity as President of [ICA International](#) (ICAI). I am about to complete my 4 year term on the Board (my third, after two terms from 1998-2006), and am looking forward to being able to take a new relationship to ICA - perhaps a greater role with [Winds & Waves](#) magazine - and making more of the potential of the new ICAI website.



ICAI President Martin Gilbraith

What are your favorite things about the ICA?

I think what first attracted me was the comprehensive approach, world-wide and history long, and the realization that I was not only free and capable, but also responsible to contribute to creating the future for myself and the world. That blew me away in my Volunteer Orientation Weekend in 1986, and I think what has kept me involved ever since is that ICA provides a vehicle and a community with which to pursue that calling - and all the scope in the world for me to make it my own.

What is an interesting fact about you?

I can still speak and understand Arabic surprisingly well after 20 years. Also I am very excited to have just passed my [Certified Top Facilitator](#) assessment - making me (I think) only the third CTF in Europe, and the first who is also a CPF, an IAF Certified Professional Facilitator!

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