

15th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

18 to 22 April 2016

Written Statement from Institute of Cultural Affairs International

Numerous global examples of the affectivity of these methods are available however, for the efficiency of space we include one current example of the Institute's approach which can be found in the Indian State of Maharashtra not far from Pune. This cluster of villages provides a glimpse of authentic, diverse participation at the grassroots level. The current director of this project was trained in the Institute of Cultural Affairs' training program for village leadership in 1978. By 2000, the Institute opened an Environmental Education Centre in Talegaon where training programs were conducted for village leaders from surrounding areas. Now, in the cluster of villages around Khambole in the Mulshi Taluka, the farmers hold meetings to plan for and expand their production through irrigation, women's groups plan and initiate small scale industries and community leaders take active responsibility for all aspects of their future. The growth and development of this cluster of villages has been accomplished without massive financial inputs but rather was facilitated through application of tested methods which allowed authentic and diverse participation from the community and thereby fostered their active and creative involvement in the process.

Finally, as indicated above, the Technology of Participation is now available to citizens and leaders of communities and organizations around the globe. Through its member organizations, the Institute of Cultural Affairs International (<http://www.ica-international.org/top-facilitation/>) can provide training in using the Technology of Participation for in-depth conversations and planning workshops. The conversations allow groups to review and discuss documents and presentations outlining proposed actions in ways that promote honest feedback and review. The participatory planning workshops coalesce diverse perspectives into concerted results that honor all participants' wisdom and foster commitment to implementing the resultant plan. A cohort of trained facilitators is also available for customizing programs and events which utilize the Technology of Participation to meet specific needs of community groups and government agencies.

In these ways, the Institute's Technology of Participation provides a readily available, and globally common, approach to eliciting participation from the diverse citizenry found in groups and communities in ways that allow concerted action and foster active commitment. This approach streamlines the path from visioning to planning and implementation.