voices rising

ICA E

Celebrating ICAE's 40th. anniversary

1973-2013

Part II
I thank the hardworking ICAE staff for the opportunity to pen some thoughts to celebrate the Council’s 40 year history.

ASPBAE is in a similar moment of reflection and celebration on the eve of our 50th anniversary in 2014. We, too, have been recalling important milestones in our rich history – collecting narratives from members and leaders, old and new - learning valuable lessons that can help us shape the future direction of a regional, civil society network that is passionate and effective in its advancement of the right to learn, throughout life.

At many points in our weaving of the narratives of ASPBAE’s 50 year lifespan, ICAE has figured prominently, profoundly, warmly.

ASPBAE was after all, a founding member of the International Council. Prof. Chris Duke, ASPBAE’s Secretary General from 1974-1985 recounts ASPBAE’s presence at ICAE’s founding international meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 1976, inaugurated by no less than Tanzania President Julius Nyerere, with Paulo Freire among the participants. He recalls that organisationally, this international meeting was important as it agreed the federated structure of the Council, grounding its work and drawing energy from the regional associations, notably in Europe, Latin America and the Asia South Pacific. ICAE Vice Presidents were drawn from the regional associations, cementing the organic ties between ICAE and the regions. For ASPBAE, being part of ICAE offered it a global stage, expanding its access to new ideas, learnings and opportunities for its causes and concerns to be articulated in a wider platform. Politically, the Dar es Salaam meeting was also important since it provided the arena for civil society actors to draw up collective positions to lobby with UNESCO during the historic November 1976 UNESCO General Conference which adopted the ‘Recommendation on the development of adult education’. This became UNESCO’s key normative instrument on adult education, offering guiding principles and a global approach to promote and develop adult education within UNESCO member states. This is currently under review as part of the 2009 Belem Framework of Action commitments, with ICAE and its partner regional associations continuing to play a strong role in its revitalisation and strengthening.

Dr. Rajesh Tandon, President of ASPBAE from 1990 to 2000 and ICAE Vice President for the Asia Pacific in the late 80’s to 1994 recollects that it was the energy and vitality of ICAE in full display during its World Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand in 1990 that solidified the then-tentative processes underway in ASPBAE to rise from its organisational crisis and define its relevance to a world much changed. ICAE’s philosophical influences advancing a more participatory, community-based and liberating adult education prompted a fundamental rethinking within ASPBAE – a realisation that the highly creative practice of adult education in the Asia Pacific region had grown and flourished no longer in its traditional bastions in universities or education departments of governments. It was thriving in communities as farmers organized to call for genuine land reform; within indigenous people’s struggles for self-determination and rights to ancestral domain; among women’s groups demanding an end to discrimination and inequality; in the anti-dictatorship movements and struggles advancing popular democracy; within peoples organizations asserting participation of citizens in polity and decision-making to craft for humanity, a more just and sustainable development path. The ASPBAE of today – persistent, grounded in the practice of civil society organisations, and advancing a rights-based, transformative adult education framework and practice grew from the restructuring process that began in 1989-1990.

There have been many partnerships and collaborations between ICAE and ASPBAE since: in influencing global policies, building alternative visions and movements for change, nurturing global leadership that is inclusive, accountable and dynamic. There are more stories to tell on the power of a global civil society partnership advancing the right to learn - from Rio Conference in 1992, the World Conference of Women (Beijing 1995), the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), CONFINTEA 5 (Hamburg, 1997), the World Conference on Education for All (Dakar 2000) and CONFINTEA 6 (Belem 2009) – to the current struggles shaping a post 2015 development and education agenda.

But in honour of ICAE’s 40th year, I choose to specifically recall those moments when the inspiration, solidarity and philosophical influences of ICAE made a difference to an ASPBAE that was young, uncertain and vulnerable – how ICAE rallied ASPBAE to survive and its influences, profoundly changing its course.

My deepest congratulations and gratitude to ICAE on its 40th.
A BETTER PLACE
Astrid Thoner
Voksenopplæringsforbundet
The Norwegian Association for Adult Learning

Life begins at 40? Definitely not. The ICAE has been remarkably vital from the start. Many of us were still students when the wiser and elders of adult learning, idealists from the Nyerere era, created our own World Wide Web of Lifelong Learning in 1973. When we entered the field some 5 years later, the whole network was there, ready for us to enter. A network of learning idealists, world changers, all deep believers in our common faith: That adult learning would make the world a better place for everybody.

We didn’t even have to knock at the door. The very small staff from Prince Arthur Avenue in Toronto came visiting, on their way to or from Finland to start with. We felt incredibly included at once, and very motivated to participate in building the ICAE Network, organizing contacts and meetings with Nordic sister associations, development agencies and foreign ministries in Norway and the other Nordic countries. We felt like participants in a global movement of adult learning, and this feeling never left us.

We had the privilege of participating in the ICAE General Assemblies, in Marly le Roi, in Bangkok, in Ocho Rios, in Nairobi, in Malmö, in international conferences, especially in Toronto and Montreal, in Nordic meetings, especially in Kungälv, with the faithful leadership of Yusuf, Budd, Jackie and Margaret, Lynda and many others for a long time, and afterwards, with Celita, Cecilia and Marcela as extremely inspiring and including members of the ICAE staffs.

The general assemblies were very special. Some of us, who also worked with the national UNESCO Commissions, always compared the ICAE General Assemblies and the CONFINTEAs, considering them to be very different. The GAs were colorful, involving, multiactive, varied, and included study visits to local grass root organizations and activities. The small women’s centre in Bangkok, receiving women directly from the street, creating a learning arena for them, developing motivation and empowerment in them, the adult learning activities in a women’s prison, also in Bangkok, the local library in Jamaica, using youth theatre learning methods, are all examples of study visits full of strong impressions. Deep involvement in grassroot activities, in gender issues and also in the burning topic of sustainable development, have always been an ICAE trade mark. We were not only included, but also actively involved in the ICAE work. Important thematic networks were delegated and coordinated from regions or national members. We were asked to organize and lead seminars at the GAs, and I still laugh at the memory of an episode during a planning meeting of the Bangkok General Assembly: Budd asked me to coordinate and lead a seminar on sustainable development, and I hesitated: “shouldn’t somebody closer to the ICAE do that?”, and Budd’s lovely answer: “How close can you get?”

The CONFINTEAs – fortunately, the ICAE importance and responsibility in the planning and during the CONFINTEAs have been increasing. From the 1985 CONFINTA in Paris, where ICAE people gathered in a small room in the basement of the UNESCO building for NGO planning meetings, to Hamburg and Belem, a huge progress and essential development.

We had the privilege of organizing the two first IALLAs in Norway. Dynamic groups of young possible adult learning leaders gathered in a Norwegian Folk High School in the middle of nowhere, wondering where the Norwegians were. But important work were developed during the three weeks they were together, and a new base of knowledge and experience was built to be developed for the IALLAs to come.

Many memories come to mind, it would just have been lovely to have a big, nostalgic meeting, recalling them together. But the ICAE has never been concentrated on the past. The present secretariat has run an incredibly dynamic organization for many years already, and new horizons and perspectives appear all the time. The concept of adult learning as an essential factor for authentic development, maybe the most essential factor, never leaves the ICAE, and never leaves us.

Any worries and challenges in the field of adult learning, in the global and local societies in general, in the organization of the ICAE? There have been plenty on all levels. Many many problems to be solved along the road. But the ICAE has
survived through many a storm, has put itself and adult learning in an increasingly central position globally, and deserves all our respect and admiration on this occasion. Big bow to the secretariats in all periods of the ICAE history!

Congratulations from all our heart, and all our best wishes for prosperous and productive adult learning in the 40 years to come! We would love to move on with you, even when we retire from our own jobs in a few years, we would love to keep developing with you.

Nirantar
ICA EB Member

Congratulations to the ICAE team on completing 40 years!

ICAE, as the only network on Adult Education, is vibrant and active and works with organisations, individuals and other networks in over 75 countries. The people involved in ICAE are feminist and look at education with a feminist lens. This is especially important in a world filled with so many gender-based inequalities and violations. With this perspective, ICAE does capacity building of young people and advocacy with international actors such as UNESCO, ECOSOC and UIL. It promotes young leadership.

Not only does ICAE provide a platform to share information, but it also provides opportunities for member organisations and networks from different countries to share country/region-specific issues and debates, and receive feedback and/or inputs, thereby enriching and strengthening the current discourses on Adult Education. This sharing between groups, countries and regions helps create strong linkages between global discourses and ground level realities. One platform where linkages between the global and local are made particularly well is the IALLA course. This annual course is always conducted in a different place each year which helps participants learn in depth about the context in that specific country and take back to the learnings to apply to their own context. By doing this, ICAE increases its outreach and also promotes leadership, both in the host country and the countries people return to.

ICAE also tries to make linkages and work with other networks. For instance, ICAE’s work with WSF is a good example of networking with other networks.

Nirantar is pleased to be part of such a live, vibrant network and we hope that ICAE continues to reach out to more and more countries. Further, we hope that in the coming years, IALLA course will be organized in South Asia region.

Warm Regards,

Nirantar team
As brutal inequality grows, fighting for education as a human right, with wide repercussion and governments’ engagement, with an impact on educational policies further than schools and with quality, is still urgent. In this sense, referring to the transformative potential of education could seem an obvious remark, but it is not. These are part of the challenges we as popular educators face every day with love, professionalism and passion for a world with more justice, solidarity and humanity.

The 40 years of existence of ICAE are full of life stories from women and men who, in several contexts and with several participative strategies and projects, open new paths, share embraces, dreams and pain. Through their practice, they generate theory and new horizons, they paint sunrises and they light stars in the darkness. They have even offered their lives and they still feed hope.

I want to thank you also for the IALLA courses. In these opportunities for us to meet and gather, participants share our various contexts and stories, we feed from the others’ knowledge and from a shared vision. We energize ourselves and we go back home with the commitment to bring some lights of hope to the distant communities, build citizenship and demand from governments their engagement with the people.

From Health, Education and Arts, I send a very big hug to that big family that is ICAE. To the persons who have held managerial posts, to those who work in operational teams, to the member organizations and networks, donors, foundations, partners and participants from all around the world: congratulations and thank you.

Thank you and keep on walking.


The ICAE Academy of Lifelong Learning Advocacy (IALLA) is an international course held for the first time in 2004, in Norway. Since then, a total of six editions have taken place in Africa, Europe and Latin America; in 2012 the first advanced, second stage IALLA was held. This year, its seventh edition was organized, for the first time, in the Arab Region. Until now, there are 189 IALLA graduates from 68 different countries.

Read more here: http://www.icae2.org/index.php/en/component/content/category/24-ialla?layout=blog
Filomena Siqueira  
IALLA Graduate  
Unidade Educação Desenvolvimento e Relações Internacionais  
Ação Educativa

I had the opportunity to get closer to ICAE through the organization which I work for, Ação Educativa, that is part of ICAE network.

The first activity where I met some of the ICAE members was at the World Social Forum, in Dakar, 2011. After that I had the opportunity to be a IALLA in a short edition held in Porto Alegre during the Thematic Social Forum in January 2012. It was amazing!

To gather with people from so different parts of the world and with such interesting life experiences willing to discuss and reflect about what is education after all and how can it change the world was really an extraordinary experience!

This kind of initiative is so important not only for the individual knowledge, but because it creates links worldwide, it approximates the distances (both geographical and cultural).

When you approximate people you collaborate to overcome the social fragmentation in this world. When you get in touch with people with different experiences you enrich your own life, you open your mind as you discover that the there’s more in the world to know and to share.

Since then I'm very glad to keep in touch with ICAE, be part and share the productions and contributions for building a world worth living in.

Networks such ICAE provide an inestimable contribution for changing the world for better. Linking people around the world expand the understandings and meanings of education and reinforce the constant process of strengthening the right to education to all human being of any age through a democratic and pluralistic society.

Congratulations for its 40th anniversary!!

Carlos Vargas  
IALLA Graduate

To me, getting to know ICAE closely has meant a joyful confirmation of the passionate work carried out by a group of people who are equally passionate about and committed to education, human rights, and the construction of that other world which is possible. Being touched by ICAE’s work, ever since I took part in the Montevideo IALLA in 2010, has translated into a contagiousness of the spirit of work, humour and hope that characterises ICAE’s works, campaigns and strategies. Personally, this spirit has led me to share the need to continue the struggle for the right to education and lifelong- and life-wide- learning for all amongst my students and my closer environment. Being part of ICAE means to belong to that group that shares the dream of a world worth living in, and to participate, actively, in its construction with our everyday tasks; mobilising, encouraging, teaching and learning, campaigning, researching and advocating for public policy. Accounting for the achievements of 40 years of ICAE’s work must be a difficult task; surely, as difficult as trying to count the people whose lives have been impacted by it. In any case, I feel blessed to be part of this network for congratulating ICAE means a confirmation of my personal commitment. Congratulations ICAE!!!

I still remember the wonderful moment and experience I had in IALLA VII 2013 Madaba Jordan, the time of great exchange, learning, friendship & lots of fun. Wow ... an unforgettable experience in my life!

Through that training I learned different culture; I build new family, and understand different languages from my colleagues. I can’t forget music, songs, dances, physical exercises. I liked the way we used to do recap! Dear I have a lot to say, but I grateful for the ICAE to give me the opportunity to participate in the Academy of IALLA VII. In my mind I remembered nice staff of ICAE and our teachers.

“Adult Education is the Light of the Children”. I came with this massage after attending the IALLA VII in Madaba Jordan 2013. Thank you very much ICAE.

Sharing Knowledge* and…

Paola Díaz

The opportunity to speak freely...that’s what ICAE gave me. The opportunity to get to know some brave women... that's what ICAE gave me. Being deeply moved by the stories of women who struggle tirelessly... that's what ICAE gave me. Transmitting without fear the voice of women from the interior of Uruguay... that's what ICAE gave me. Feeling I was appreciated because of what I think...that's what ICAE gave me. Sharing life stories with other women...that's what ICAE gave me. Learning about my rights as a woman... that's what ICAE gave me. Courage to keep on fighting for women's rights... that's what ICAE gave me.

Being involved with ICAE and feeling I am part of ICAE has been a wonderful experience, especially for a woman from the north of the country, mother of two daughters, who needs to keep on giving explanations about her job as a sociologist, even if she graduated 18 years ago, in a world where men keep on questioning women who work outside their homes as if they were bad mothers... that's what ICAE gave me, the strength to keep on fighting!!

Thank you for being in the world!


*“Sharing Knowledge” is a capacity building programme designed and developed by the Gender Education Office of ICAE to promote women's active citizenship through a theoretical and practical training.

Silvia Cabrera Luzardo

*Sharing Knowledge*

When I met ICAE I already worked with women from years ago. But ICAE offered me the opportunity to refresh myself, energize myself, renew myself.

Struggling wears oneself out so we need to get new strength and renovate. It is so important to be enthusiastic when you already have experience, it is so beautiful to regain motivation when you feel wise and you still have the time...

It’s like having grandchildren...a great bet on happiness to enjoy innocence when, in some way, you feel you have been through everything...

And ICAE backs the young, their strength, their eagerness to change the world, but it doesn't discriminate against the not so young and offers the opportunity to share your stories and keep on participating. As the world turns around, the new and the old nourish one another and bring harmony...

So, with capital bold letters: **THANK YOU ICAE!!!!**


Ana María Prieto

*Sharing Knowledge*

*Dir. Dptal del Mides en Colonia*

What could I say...? You moved me, you brought me back to the public sphere and, especially, ...you helped me getting aware everyone is able to contribute and we all hold that famous “suitcase” full of knowledge that we can use to benefit ourselves and the others. I’ve been always been the supporter of my family and I always worked to earn a living. I also worked at the political and labor union level, but I always avoided the managerial posts. You showed me **everything is possible: you only need to dare**, give the best of yourself in every moment, develop your abilities as much as possible and be always ready to challenge yourself with training and constant learning. Today I hold an executive job...I learn everyday... as ICAE always puts it... I feel so grateful... because you enlighten... especially those women to whom you transmitted everything is possible if they dare, if they don’t give up...you sow the seeds to empower ourselves...you empower us and you acknowledge us... and you stimulate our self esteem and self confidence. So, **THANK YOU VERY MUCH, ICAE!!!**


Maria del Verdún Meroni

*Sharing Knowledge*

I loved what Paola wrote...I feel very identified!! ICAE offered me a lot of knowledge and tools to struggle for a better world, together with the opportunity to meet wonderful women!!

Thank you!!
Rafaela García

*Sharing Knowledge*

Describing my experience with ICAE is very moving for me. I received the call for “Sharing Knowledge” and I leaped myself to share my humble labor and contribution. To my great surprise, I was chosen to participate in a wonderful experience of exchanging with other women who, in the same way as me, do different things in different parts of the country. Those were days full of emotion and learning. We recovered the significance of those things we do, things that we consider so small compared to the wideness of the world. My greatest surprise in the first meeting was discovering not only what the other women had to share but what they saw in me and the feedback I got from them. This made me aware of the value every piece of knowledge has. After that, I participated in other encounters with women from different countries from our dear Latin America. Those were additional chances to learn really a lot and to exchange. Currently, our network is not only national but also international. I can say I met women from every country who work to better this world, we know each other, we share knowledge and information, we share our struggles, happiness and sadness. Personally, **ICAE marks a milestone in my life.** I must highlight the human warmth of the women that form its team. I don’t mention their names so as not to leave anyone behind, but I would like to mention Celita, her strength to encourage the youngest and her ability to work in a team. I could keep on filling leafs of paper, but the most important thing I have to say is **THANK YOU ICAE!!! SALU MUJERES!!**


Stella Moraes Astray

*Sharing Knowledge*

Hello ICAE, hello everybody!

I endorse everything that has been said and I also thank ICAE. Thanks for the wonderful chance to participate in the 11th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in Brasilia in 2010, it was a wonderful experience.

Thank you for your confidence, and thank you for everything I learnt standing next to such capable people!! I loved the program “Sharing Knowledge” and when I think about it, I still love it. Gathering and sharing our experience among all of us was really enjoyable. I would like to send a big hug to Celita and to her great team and a big hug for all the participants of “Sharing Knowledge”.

Nedy Davila

*Sharing Knowledge*

What I feel I need to say is: “Great Thank You” for everything I learnt from you. Since the first time I participated in “Sharing Knowledge” till the day I was chosen together with other women from Uruguay to participate in the Thematic Social Forum in Porto Alegre 2012, I can say I learnt, I interacted, I met people from every part of the world, I laughed, I got emotional, I cried. And I understood the way of life I had chosen was shared by a lot of people in the world. That really
fills my soul up to now, understanding that another world is possible, where solidarity and engagement are the values that guide us forward. Thank you very much for offering me the privilege to be part of ICAE and be able to use and to share in my community all that I learnt! Very big hug and congratulations!


ICAE has a new web!

At the end of the year of our 40th anniversary, we are pleased to launch our new website: http://www.icae2.org. It will allow us to communicate with our members and friends in a much more direct and easy way.

In the new website you will find every document delivered by ICAE:

- VOICES RISING http://www.icae2.org/index.php/en/resources-2/voices-rising/previous-issues,

In addition, you will find all the information about our work, programs, members and a new section dedicated to the social networks. So as to ensure a constant exchange of information, members and users are invited to subscribe to our e-bulletin, twitter and Facebook.

This website is permanently being renovated, so we invite all of you to visit it and we look forward to receiving your comments and contributions.

HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE GREAT ICAE FAMILY!
May the year 2014 fill us with renewed energy so as to continue our fight for the right to education and lifelong learning and for more just societies.

ICAЕ