

Philippines

Providing assistance to a local school to develop a strengths-based curriculum and strategy through AUSAID's Volunteering for International Development from Australia (VIDA) program (starting date to be determined in consultation with the local school, anticipated start end 2009 / beginning 2010)



South India

Discussions with agencies in South India about how best to collaborate to develop local strengths projects in areas such as

- Prevention and Control of Child Trafficking and HIV/AIDS and prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS.

International Presentations

Last year the President of the BISBP was invited to 'Strengths-Based Practice: with vulnerable populations' at the 4th Asia Pacific Conference on "Exploring New Frontiers in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights". Talk on – held under the auspice of Family Planning Association of India and a number of agencies belonging to the United Nations October 29-31, 2007 Hyderabad, India



Dr. Venkat Pulla at Asia Pacific Conference

Activities in Australia:



Within the region and Australia Brisbane Institute members have offered one day strengths based training and strategic facilitation initiatives to Agencies such as Anamcara and the Queensland Counsellors Association.

The institute ran *collaborative* workshops with University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba, Sydney and in Brisbane on human values at work. The human values refer to five Human Values that are found cross-culturally in all spiritual traditions: Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence.



Coralie Graham, Rita Kugler and Venkat Pulla at USQ workshop

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Brisbane Institute of Strengths based Practice

An information Sheet: October 2008



The Brisbane Institute of Strengths-based Practice (BISBP) is a not-for profit organisation made up of professional people. It is an organisation of good will and all members voluntarily donate their time and skills to the institute and its projects.

Purpose of the Institute

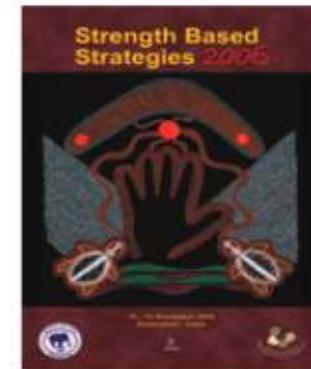
The Brisbane Institute of Strengths based Practice (BISBP) propagates, supports and encourages strengths based human resource development; counselling; group and community training activities and projects; through studies, visits, conferences and workshops and major training events. Its purpose is to promote:

- Individual and community resilience
- Assets-based community development
- Appreciative Enquiry
- Strengths-based strategies and
- Strengths-focussed therapies

The Institute's Activities

Although located in Brisbane in the Asia-Pacific region; expertise of the Institute's members is sought after and deployed anywhere in the world as necessary. Current and identified areas of BISBP activities include: Sri Lanka, Nepal, South India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Australia, Timor Leste (East Timor), Vietnam, Philippines, Bosnia, Croatia, and USA. The Brisbane Institute has concluded - or is progressing - projects in the following countries:

India



Inaugural International Strengths based Strategies conference, Hyderabad, India (November 2006)



Prof. Lesley Chenoweth with participants & Fr John Vattamattom, CEO Sanghmitra, NGO India

Sri Lanka

A land of tradition and modernity, peace loving diverse society caught in ethnic strife:



Collaboration with the National Institute of Social Development, (NISD) Colombo, Sri Lanka to develop a five-year plan of teaching and training resource development, including the inauguration of Strengths-based social work qualifications (established 2007 and ongoing)



Training of Social Welfare Officers in progress

Initiatives with the Udana special school for the Handicapped

Some recent and on going project discussion is around supporting some of the special education and training needs in the field of disability in Sri Lanka. The Udana Special School is held in the Temple precincts.



The Institute hopes to develop a sound project for this agency. (start date to be determined) For more information on this particular School initiative please see www.bodhi.net.au and more specifically



http://www.bodhi.net.au/aahtml_files/lanka_school.html

Nigeria

Discussion of a Nigerian and African regional strengths-based conference in Lagos with local NGOs, with the development of plans for the introduction of strengths-based strategies as a new social work and general development strategy within Nigeria - in collaboration with a new Nigerian NGO established for this purpose (2007)



Mr Chris Montgomery (far right) discusses plans for establishing Strengths-based Strategies within Nigeria with (from left) Mr Nduka Ozor, Ms Uche Odita and Dr Chika Nwosu, Lagos. Photo: C Montgomery 2007

Vietnam

Voluntary work through the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) auspiced by the Australian Federal Government (AUSAID), with an Institute member currently posted to Vietnam to assist with a local micro-financing project in Hanoi (2008)



Future Plans: Europe

Coping and Resilience (our second international strengths-based strategies conference) in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with an exploration of resilience and peace-making in times of conflict (October 2-6 2009)

