



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

NGO Leadership and Governance: *Why they matter*

April 28 - 30, 2020

This is a three-day conference designed for organization leaders and managers. If you are a trustee or a member of the senior management team of Non-profit Organizations (Charities, Social Enterprises, Non-Governmental Organizations, Voluntary Organizations), expect to gain insights and new ideas on critical organizational matters as you lead your organization to achieve its mission and goals.

BACKGROUND

Several influential western liberal democracies are introducing authoritarian or nationalist frameworks and retreating from the Global leadership, development and policing roles they assumed after WWII. Many international institutions and alliances created to advance global peace, security, economic and social development are being forced to reconsider alternative futures. New uncertainties created by economic growth in Asia and the rapid advancement of information technologies and artificial intelligence, and a more informed understanding of the realities and impact of climate change, are facilitating a world of greater insecurity, fear, anger and uncertainty about the future and its previous reliance on the economic and political foundations of capitalism and liberal democracy.

International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs)

Analysts and commentators talk of the end of a golden era for INGOs, as the paradigms they were built upon lose practicality and relevance. Furthermore, as economies in the Global North stagnate and tiger economies of the Global South achieve consistently high growth rates, it is clear that INGOs have to completely reposition themselves if they are to survive and effectively achieve their ambitions. Historical government and corporate partners have transformed themselves into contractors and competitors to INGOs, threatening those without a strong base of private individual supporters. High profile reports of isolated cases of development malpractice and the misuse of power have also damaged the once pristine image of this sub-sector. Compounding the challenges of traditional INGOs, the rapid and multi-faceted dynamics of globalization in the 21st century have greatly informed people's understanding of the various nature and causes of poverty in different situations, and it is enabling them to direct their assistance directly to those who needed it. The comparative advantages of INGOs and their Unique Selling Propositions are dissipating.

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

The impact of global contextual change is encouraging increased engagement by civil society organizations (CSOs) in sustainable nation building, community and human development initiatives, wherever political space allows. An ever-increasing number of people of all ages and backgrounds are beginning to take direct action to advance a wide range of social, economic and political causes. The more empowered people become, the more they are engaging with social change agendas that are important to them. NGOs tend to be larger, more diversified, active at national, regional and across many communities; more sustainable, financially self-reliant, professionally managed and publicly accountable.

NGOs generate funding from many local and foreign sources and one of these has frequently been INGOs, who have recognized the potential comparative advantages that local NGOs have in delivering effective and efficient development benefits to grassroots communities and their ability to more easily engage in local issues that are politically sensitive. However, threats and significant change within INGOs is having significant impact on the operations of local and national NGOs. In many countries national and local governments are also beginning to take their nation building and human development roles more seriously, and this has implications for local NGOs.

Why Leadership and Governance of NGOs

Good governance ensures public accountability and credibility; good leadership ensures clarity of vision and purpose, growth and sustainability; and good management delivers effective and efficient results. A few high achieving individuals, some of whom have founded NGOs, have exhibited proficiency and strength in all three areas, in particular the first two - governance and leadership! At the very best of times NGOs require all three areas of competence. In the current environment they are indispensable. Leadership is a critical component of social interaction. Collectives, organizations and societies all require leadership. While leadership roles are formally assigned to designated leaders, they may not necessarily provide the strong leadership required. In contrast, informal leaders emerge in situations requiring their contribution to achieve specific group tasks, solve problems or complete assignments. Founders of successful NGOs are examples of strong organization leaders. Many, like James Yen, founder of the Mass Education Movement and the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), have been truly great leaders, although not all of them will have received global awards. Successful political leaders have consolidated and used power for positive influence in the world. Successful corporate leaders have accumulated resources and produced goods and services that have generated great wealth. Successful NGO leaders will have built sustainable organizations that have had significant positive impact on many disadvantaged people. They are owners of the strategy, they are accountable for results, they provide policy, oversight, institutional memory, continuity and organizational integrity. Strong leadership sets an organization apart from others, it clarifies purpose, it ensures sustainability and it delivers effective and efficient programming.

SCOPE

The conference aims to bring together NGO leaders and managers in Asia to learn from select speakers and to share and exchange their experiences. The following topics will be explored:

A. Evolving Development Models

*Urban, peri-urban and rural development
Levelling-Up
Organizing, confrontation, advocacy
Social enterprises*

B. Learning to be effective and efficient; to expand/consolidate

*Current trends in NGO management
Challenges and opportunities*

C. Changing Roles of INGOs

*Localization models and drivers
Managing transition*

D. Sustaining NPOs

*Strategy and delivering strategic results
Resource mobilization
Impact and accountability*

E. New Generation Leaders

Inspiring and facilitating future leaders

F. "After the Founder!"

*Impacts on governance and leadership
Succession generation*

G. Developing Good Governance

*"Governance Matters"
Getting the Board on Board*

VENUE

Yen Center, Km. 39, Biga 2, Silang, Cavite, Philippines

CONFERENCE FEE

USD850.00 per participant; Group Booking (>2): USD750.00 per participant (inclusive of board, lodging and conference materials)