



Asia Buzz

Facilitation News for IAF Asia

March 2020 | Quarterly Release

Retrospective: Looking Back, Looking Forward

1. Regional Director's Note

2019 has been one of incredible learning, connection and growth. It has been an honour to join the Board and I am grateful to be working on initiatives we care about. I have a better understanding of Board Governance and the closer I get to the work we do globally, the more passionate I have become! I have been truly enriched by amazing and compassionate fellow Board colleagues who live and breathe facilitation.



It has been incredible working closely with **Asia Chapters Leadership teams** in our vision of **"One Asia"** I have been touched by their energy and commitment to growing the practice of facilitation and making a difference to the community.

A team of volunteers drawn from across Asia joined the **Regional Leadership Team (RLT)** to support and execute the strategic initiatives and projects.

Some of the strategic initiatives we brought in through the Chapter Leads/RLT were:

- Member Engagement across Asia with webinars, learning events, Facweek sessions, Coffee Conversations, Food for Thought sessions Lucky Luke Program, and more.
- Chapter development by supporting new and upcoming chapters through swapping stories, experiences, best practice sharing around our shared mission, creating buddy chapters, and membership surveys.
- Enhanced communication through our updated website, quarterly newsletter "Asia Buzz".

My gratitude goes out to all of you for the brilliant work. We celebrated 2 Facilitation Impact Awards from Asia, a vibrant Asia FacWeek 2019 with over 70 facilitation events, successful Regional Conference in Malaysia and 2 outstanding Annual Conferences in China and India.

What's New?

- ✓ Bi-Monthly Welcome Webinars for new members in Asia region started in Jan 2020.
Upcoming webinar on 30 Mar 2020
- ✓ Quarterly Release of Asia Buzz Newsletter
- ✓ IAF Asia Social Media updates

Announcements

Congratulations to the following newly minted IAF CPF Masters in Asia

Ng Choon Seng (Singapore)
Annie Lim (China)
Theresa Ratnam (Malaysia)
Lilian Wang (Hong Kong)
Shawn Chung (Taiwan)
Jerlyn Tang (Singapore)



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Vision: Looking Ahead

2020 is looking to be challenging with the global crisis we are all facing AND we are united as a community and will be there at the other end to celebrate together. First things first, I thought I'd simply thank you for allowing me to represent you in Asia for the second time. And I hope you will find immense value in the professional development and sense of belonging you can find at the IAF, as well as in the credibility it provides us, in part by showcasing its impact.

Here are a few global updates. The IAF Board Face to face meeting was held in Jan 2020 in Kuala Lumpur and for the first time in many years, we had the full board present at the meeting. I returned full of ideas and energy about how we could focus on our 3 priorities of creating **Impact, Community & Belonging and Professional Development**.



IAF Global Board 2020



IAF Priorities for 2020



Reviewing 2019

Here are my plans for IAF Asia 2020 and what we hope to achieve with your support.

- Build connectedness with our Chapters/Members
- Increase opportunities to learn across Chapters and boundaries
- Support various Outreach initiatives and new Chapter Development
- Help the IAF Global Summit in Oct 2020, Sweden be successful

To make this a reality, I'm going to need your help. There are many ways to get associated and be involved in strengthening facilitation in Asia. I can assure you that the more involved you get, the more value you will get from the IAF. Would you like to:

- Write an article for the quarterly newsletter/monthly updates via social media?
- Volunteer for specific once-a-year initiatives, like FIA (Facilitation Impact Awards) and IFW (International Facilitation Week)?
- Support your local chapters by organizing activities and inviting new members?
- Promote and educate non-IAF members about the power of facilitation, being an IAF member, and the value of certifying as a CPF? If yes, Please connect with your Chapter lead or connect with me anytime for more information.

I am leaving you with a quote from a letter from F. Scott Fitzgerald "On the Spanish Influenza Outbreak".
"And yet, amongst the cracked cloudline of an evening's cast, I focus on a single strain of light, calling me forth to believe in a better morrow". My thoughts are with you and your families in these difficult times.

Stay well, Farah



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2. In the Spotlight – Theresa Ratnam Thong (IAF CPF Master)

Congratulations to Theresa on becoming IAF CPF Master in Asia. RLT reached out to Theresa requesting her to share her journey as a professional facilitator and her thoughts on the future of facilitation.

1. How would you describe the moment when you received the IAF CPF Master certification?

Theresa: I was excited and overwhelmed

2. What does this certification mean to you?

Theresa: This certification does validate the years of being in the profession

3. How do you keep your edge as a professional facilitator?

Theresa: Constantly being available to opportunities and no matter how "insignificant" they may appear to be. Every situation is a learning opportunity. I remind myself to be present, to be in the now and I reflect on how I should do things differently next time around. Learning to trust the wisdom in the room has helped me along.

4. What advice would you give to facilitators in the region aspiring to seek IAF professional certification?

Theresa: I am afraid I am not into giving advice. All I can say is I remind myself to focus and be humble to learn. I permit each situation to be a platform for discernment for me.

5. What is your vision or dream for the future of facilitation?

Theresa: Facilitation becomes a way of life. This permeates every strata of our lives where people are enabled and empowered to discern, to decide, to dignify humanity.

Thank you Theresa for your insightful sharing!

Warmly,
RLT Team

If you want to know more about our IAF Certifications, please find all the information [here](#)





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3. Region Highlights

Thailand

IAF members in Thailand had 3 meetups. Thank you to our IAF members, Kavi and Stephen for your passion in growing the facilitation community. (Watch this space for more news from Thailand.)

Nepal

Farah had an opportunity to connect with Prafulla Pradhan, IAF member since 2003. Prafulla is the only member in Nepal. Looking forward to more connectedness.



4. Cross Chapter Collaboration

Collaboration is the right way to go! We want to encourage cross Chapter sharing and collaboration to provide a wider perspective of facilitation for Asia Chapter members. Through these events, we hope members can gain deep insights and best practices on professional facilitation from fellow members. Look out for these events in the coming months and be sure to participate.

- Quarterly Asia Webinars
- Global Facilitators Virtual Café

5. Calling for Enthusiasts!

We are calling for members who are passionate and enthusiastic to partner us on a few breakthrough ideas to promote the power of facilitation in Asia. We are looking at forming small teams of members across Asia Chapters to drive conversations that matter. If you are interested, please stay connected.

- Inter-Ethnic Dialogue
- Hearing the Voice of Millennials

6. Who are we?

We are a bunch of fellow enthusiasts from the facilitation community who want to make a difference by spreading the power of facilitation in Asia. If you feel the same way as us, join us as a volunteer **NOW!**

Email us at asiachapters@iaf-world.org

