



Participatory Research International Networking Memo



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August 1, 1987

The Detention of Vincent Cheng

In the early hours of May 21, 1987, the Internal Security Department of Ministry of Home Affairs of Government of Singapore arrested Vincent Cheng Kim Chuan and fifteen others.

Vincent and his colleagues have been essentially working for the awareness raising and non-formal education of the poor, the deprived, the migrants, the unemployed in Singapore.

Vincent has also been very active in the Asian Participatory Research Network and acting as key contact for the Network in Singapore.

The Government of Singapore has levelled no specific charges against them and called them guilty of "a Marxist conspiracy to subvert the existing social and political system in Singapore". They have been accused of championing the "freedom of the poor and the oppressed"; believing in the effectiveness of "popular theatre as one of the entry-points in the community"; of attempting to "arouse the class consciousness of the people by exaggerating the disparities between the lower and upper-income groups"; of "subjecting the people to conscientization."

These and many more baseless and ridiculous conspiracy charges have been drummed up to arouse fears of a communist takeover and political instability in Singapore.

The fact is that Vincent and his colleagues and friends have essentially been involved in grass-roots work, promoting awareness-raising among the have-nots. They have been made "prisoners of conscience", according to Amnesty International.

The propaganda by the Singapore Government continues.

We need your urgent support. Perhaps telegrams and letters to the Prime Minister of Singapore from a large number of people may help. If you have any other suggestions, please let us know.

International Forum on PE

In the July Memo we had mentioned about the International Forum on Participatory Evaluation to be held in New Delhi, India, from March 1-6, 1988. This is a collaborative venture of the International Network of PR of the ICAE, ASPBAE and PRIA. About 40 practitioners of Participatory Evaluation (5 or so from each region) are expected to attend the Forum.

In this context, we would like you to respond to the following:

a) What are the issues in PE which should be addressed in the Forum?

b) How should the Forum be structured? We were thinking of requesting two case studies from each region be presented during the Forum.

c) Who are the key practitioners of PE linked to grass-roots efforts and social movements who should be invited to this Forum? Please suggest 5-6 names along with a brief description of their current work.

d) How should we raise funds? We have some support for local costs in India but not funds as yet for travel of participants. We would like you to think of how such funds could be raised, preferably from each region.

Kindly send in your suggestions and ideas to Rajesh Tandon, PRIA, with a copy to Lynda Yanz, Coordinator PRG, 229 College Street, Suite 309, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4, as soon as possible.

Regional Update

AFRICA

AALAE General Assembly

More than 150 educators from most of the countries of Africa assembled in Nairobi, Kenya from July 22-24, 1987, for the first General Assembly of the African Association of Literacy and Adult Education. The General Assembly was the culmination of a year long effort for democratising and strengthening the programming, structure and functioning of AALAE. The Assembly approved a three-year programme and plan of action, a more democratic and decentralized constitution and elected a new set of office bearers of AALAE. The revitalization of the African Participatory Research Network has also been initiated

For further details, write to: Derek Mulenga, Regional Coordinator, University of Swaziland, Division of Extra Mural Services, P/Bag Kwaluseni, Swaziland, Southern Africa; Paul Wangoola, Secretary General, AALAE P.O. Box 50768/72511, Old East Trading Co. Ltd., House Tom Mboya Street (4th Floor), Nairobi, Kenya.

ASIA

Action Research Network in Indonesia

The work of this action research network includes action research case studies on community education in poor rural and urban areas of Indonesia concerning environmental management, education regarding the adverse effects of pesticide misuse, and "alternative" education programmes for youth and school drop-outs in rural and suburban areas. This network will also publish a bulletin on action research for national distribution; organise workshops on action research concepts, methods, and outcomes; and produce an analysis of case studies which will be used as a research guide and training resource in the future. The secretariat of this network is located at: Institute for Social and Economic Research, Education, And Information (LP3ES), Jakarta, Indonesia.

PR Project in Philippines

Six NGO's within the Philippines partnership for the Development of Human Resource in Rural Areas (PHILDHRA) will set up and test a participatory research project using a recently developed model of community education and organisation called the Community Infor-

mation and Planning System (CIPS). With the system, community members will conduct research on self-identified development problems and use the results in planning and implementing appropriate follow up projects. For details, please contact:

PHILDHRA, Metro Manila, Philippines.

1986 J. Roby Kidd Award

Ms. Anthya Madiath of India was named Adult Educator of the year for 1986, at the Executive Meeting of the International Council for Adult Education held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in October of last year. Ms. Madiath helped to found Gram Vikas, a non-government organization located in the poorest state in India and has worked among tribal women and men of Orissa for over ten years. The focus of Gram Vikas has been on organizing poor tribal people of Kerandinals in the Ganjam District of Orissa to regain their land and trees from money lenders and liquor merchants.

Ms. Madiath's vision and work are based on an education philosophy which combines development and social transformation work. She is a young adult educator and activist with a commitment to work in the most difficult and backward area of India.

Study of PT Methodology

During 1986 five case studies of training efforts in the field of Adult Education were documented by PRIA. On February 11-12, 1987, a consultation of concerned persons was organised at Delhi for the purpose of analysing these case studies in the context of participatory training methodology. A report of this consultation along with the case studies will be published soon.

CARIBBEAN

Regional PR Meeting

The Caribbean P.R. Network (CPRN) is planning to conduct a regional PR meeting in September to discuss participatory research methodologies and share information on the various uses of the PR methodology in community development and adult education in the region, as well as network on PR with other regions. For details write to: Leith Dunne, Association of Development Agencies, 14 South Ave., Kingston 10, Jamaica.

EUROPE

Documentation for PR Bibliography

The South-European PR Network has prepared a Participatory Research Bibliographical Index. They have requested documentation details from all regions on PR to update the information. For details write to: Paulo Orefice, SEPRN, Via Alessandro Lougo, 25-80127 Napoli, Italy.

Seminar on Adult Education

An International Seminar on Adult Education, Minorities and Displaced Persons was organised by SEPRN at Portugal. Adult educators from several countries including Spain, Italy, Cyprus, France, U.K. and Ireland participated in this event. A reunion of the various practitioners of PR of SEPRN was also held.

LATIN AMERICA

CEAAL Assembly

The Latin American Council for Adult Education (CEAAL) has summoned a meeting with the purpose of evaluating what has been done during the last few years and programming strategies for future action. The event will be called "Popular Education Towards the Decade of the Nineties - For life, from the people, always". The meeting will be held in Guanajuato, Mexico from November 9-15, 1987, using an active participatory methodology round the basic principle of action-reflection-action.

At the end of each day, the programme will include a Popular Fair of educational materials (videos, theatre, forums etc.) which will be useful both to strengthen experiences exchange as well as to achieve participation of the local community.

CEAAL Mexican Members (PRAXIS), IMDEC, CESE, ALIANZA EJIDAL and CLASEP), have formed an Organizing Committee, responsible for the coordination with CEAAL Executive Secretariat, of methodologies and policies to be followed in this Assembly-Process.

For further information, contact: CEAAL Diagonal Oriente 1604, Casilla 6257-Santiago 22, South America.

NORTH AMERICA

Adult Education Conferences

The University of Calgary, Canada has announced three important adult education conferences for adult education research and practitioners.

- 1) CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF ADULT EDUCATION (CASAE) 1988 Seventh Annual Conference to be held from May 4-6, 1988 at Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
- 2) ADULT EDUCATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE (AERC), 1988 Twenty-ninth Annual Conference to be held May 6-8, 1988 at Calgary, Alberta.
- 3) COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON ADULT (CAETA), Third Annual Conference to be held May 10-15, 1988 at Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada.

For details of conference and papers to be presented, please contact: Ms. Madeleine Aldridge, the Conference Office, the University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

J. Roby Kidd Award

The J. Roby Kidd Award has been established by ICAE in the honour and memory of Roby Kidd (a pioneer in the field and founding Secretary General of ICAE) and to the contribution of his work in the development of adult education.

This award is offered to any individual who in the opinion of their peer have made a particularly significant contribution to adult education both at the local and national level. The closing date for submissions is August 15 of each year. For more details, write to: J.R. Kidd Award Committee, ICAE, 720 Bathurst Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2R4 Canada.

PR Anthology

There is a proposal to produce an international anthology on PR. The book would be organized with sections on each region and one international chapter. The details of this will be discussed at a meeting of Regional Coordinators in the second week of January 1988. Regional efforts on this would represent the state of the practice and debate

of PR, as well as focus on some key issues, given the diversity of experience and regional context in PR.

For more information, ideas and suggestions, please write to Rajesh Tandon, PRIA, 45, Sainik Farm, Khanpur, New Delhi -110062, with a copy to Lynda Yanz, PRG, 229, College Street, Suite 309, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R4.

New Materials

"Anubhav"

The Ford Foundation New Delhi, is publishing a series of booklets entitled "Anubhav" which aims to synthesize the experiences of selected voluntary organisations implementing innovative health and family planning programmes in India. These publication series are addressed to an audience of policy planners, service providers, and other interested persons. For details, write to Dr. Saroj Pachauri, Programme Officer, Child Survival, Ford Foundation, 55, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi - 110 003.

Self-Employment

Self-Employment: Ideas for Participatory Evaluation of Rural Community Development Project, is a book written by Jim Rugh and published by WORLD NEIGHBORS, a USA based International development organisation working hand-in-hand with people in Asia, Africa and Latin America to promote effective development, human dignity and self reliance. The book is a comprehensive manual on evaluation supplemented with information on resource materials on the subject, and two case studies.

Available from:
WORLD NEIGHBORS DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION
5116 North Portland Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73112, U.S.A.

African PR Network

African Participatory Research Network has brought out its first Newsletter in January, 1987. Along with the information about participatory research activities in different African countries, it also gives a list of materials of interest.

Contact: African Participatory Research Network, P.O. Box No. 35043 Dar Es Salaam, TANZANIA.

Partners in Evaluation

This is a book written by Dr. Marie-Therese Feuerstein and published by Macmillan Publishers. "Partners In Evaluation" is both a practical field handbook and a text book. This is designed to help those who want to know more about monitoring and their own work. Write to:

Dr. Marie-Therese Feuerstein, 49, Hornton Street, London W8 7Nt ENGLAND.

Primary Health Care & People's Movement

This book is a product of the proceedings of an international conference on Primary Health Care & People's Movement held on February 23-28, 1986 at Cholburi, Thailand. The conference was organised by the Coordinating Committee for Primary Health Care of Thai NGO's (C.C.P.N.). About 60 participants from nine countries have taken part in the deliberations of the conference.

Available from:
C.C.P.N.
132/14, Soi Orapin, Rama 6 Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.

Training of Trainer's Manual

This training manual in English highlights the key principles of Participatory Training philosophy and methodology that has been evolved over the years.

Designed in a way so as to continuously update the knowledge of the subject, it has several illustrations of training designs, innovative training methods and techniques. This is specially brought out for activists/trainers in the field of development and adult education.

Available from PRIA for \$20 (including postage).

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