

ANNOUNCEMENT

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

**Training Workshop on
Re-engaging the Generations:
Intergenerational Programming in Social Services**

Organized by
**Asian MetaCentre
for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis**

Supported by
**The Wellcome Trust
United Kingdom**

**Lee Foundation
Singapore**

Date
4 – 6 March 2002

Venue
National University of Singapore, Singapore

Context and Scope

Societies in the twenty-first century are increasingly characterized by similar developments in social demography, with urbanization and industrialization, there is a trend towards higher life expectancies and aging of the society. At the same time, the nuclearization process of families is contributing towards the isolation of alternate generations in the family – ironic in an aging society where more grandparents and great-grandparents than ever are present.

The disengagement of old and young reflects one of the most unnatural occurrences in a society. An increasing amount of research has found negative effects of age segregation. The negative consequences found include a reduction in the extent and quality of both the children's and the elders' social support networks; an increase in feelings of loneliness and increased vulnerability to depression experienced by the elderly; an increase in the younger generation's negative perceptions toward, and decrease in people's familiarity with aging as a natural process in the continuum of life.

In response to this, many countries have developed social programs aim at bringing the generations together. Intergenerational programming in the U.S., for instance, include the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Community Service Program, and more problem-focused programs like Intergenerational Programs for At-Risk Youths and Intergenerational Arts for At-Risk-Age Children.

Compared to American and European societies, intergenerational programming is novel in the realm of social services among countries in Southeast Asia, in particular. However, we cannot deny the significance of developing such initiatives to cater to changing demographic and social challenges facing these societies. The Singapore government's recent announcement on its intention to build more multi-service centers providing services for all ages under one roof points to the necessity of intergenerational programming to maximize interaction among users of the different services.

Objectives

This workshop has several objectives:

- to identify the needs for intergenerational programming
- to heighten the awareness of intergenerational programming in the social services
- to build local capacity to plan, implement and evaluate intergenerational program models.

Contents

The workshop will provide training sessions to encourage the implementation of intergenerational programs by social service providers. This will be the first time ever that an intergenerational programming workshop is launched in Southeast Asia. The workshop also seeks academic output in its plan to publish a joint paper/monograph after the workshop. The organizer hopes to invite researchers on intergenerational issues, social service providers and policy makers interested in building a caring society where the generations stay connected to actively participate at the three-day workshop.

Workshop Programme

The workshop will cover six sessions which include presentations of papers and active discussions on Intergenerational issues, as well as hands-on exercises and field trips. The sessions include:

Perspectives on Intergenerational Programming: The US Experience

Matt Kaplan and Nancy Henkin from USA will discuss the anthropological / psychological / social work perspectives on bridging the generations; creativity in intergenerational programming and solving social problems through intergenerational programming.

Keeping the Generations Connected: Experiences from the Region

Speakers from Japan and other Southeast Asian countries will share their experiences in social/welfare services and programmes that are intergenerational in focus, catering to both the elderly and the young. Through this workshop, participants can explore and share intergenerational strategies that are and could be developed to address the socio-demographic, education, economic development issues facing different societies.

Initiating an Intergenerational Programme: Building Local Capacity to Plan, Implement and Evaluate Intergenerational Programme Models

Led by Nancy Henkin and Matt Kaplan, this session will address the concerns of starting intergenerational programmes, highlight the issues to consider, and to discuss ways to overcome problems that one may encounter at the initial stage of implementation.

Creative Approaches to Re-engage the Generations

In this session, the leaders, Nancy Henkin and Matt Kaplan will bring the participants together in sharing hands-on exercises and suggesting programmes to link the generations. Participants will be grouped to discuss ways to implement intergenerational initiative at their respective centers / institutions.

Presentation and Discussion on Possible Issues to Handle in Different Settings

Participants will be engaged in presenting and discussing possible scenarios that may occur, the issues that may arise and various ways of handling such diverse situations.

Field Site Visits to Integrated Institutions in Singapore

In this last session, the leaders will take the participants on fieldtrips to integrated centers in Singapore.

Invitation to Apply

The workshop will include both invited and submitted papers. The organizers invite submissions in the form of abstracts for their proposed contribution of about 500 words, or full-length papers. Interested participants should also submit their Curriculum Vitae (including a list of their recent publications) together with their abstracts to:

The Organiser

Intergenerational Programming Workshop
Asian MetaCentre
c/o Institute for Asian Research
National University of Singapore
5 Arts Link
Shaw Foundation Building, AS7
Singapore 117570
SINGAPORE

Applicants are encouraged to send in their abstracts via email (popnasia@nus.edu.sg). The deadline for submission of abstracts (or full papers) is 30 November 2001. Notification of acceptance of papers can be expected by January 2002.

Application for Funding Support

Limited funding to cover economy-class return airfare, accommodation for the duration of the workshop and a small per diem allowance is available and will be awarded on a competitive basis to successful applicants.

If you are applying for funding support, please indicate clearly in your cover letter whether you are applying for full support or a partial subsidy (in which case indicate the type of support needed (e.g. accommodation only)).

All participants supported in part or in full are required to give first right of refusal to the organizers to publish their papers, after revisions if necessary, in a book or journal special issue planned for the workshop.

In the case of self-supporting participants, registration fee will be waived if your paper is accepted for presentation at the workshop.

Applications should reach us by 30 November 2001 and the results can be expected in January 2002.

Registration Fee

For those who will not be presenting papers but would like to attend the workshop, registration fee of S\$120 inclusive of 3% Goods and Services Tax is applicable. The registration fee covers the workshop papers and meals (lunches and tea-breaks only) for the 3-day event. Applicants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Interested applicants should send in their cheques or bank drafts of \$120 in Singapore Dollars, made payable to the "National University of Singapore" together with a completed registration form (attached below) to the Asian MetaCentre headquarter. Please state your name and "Intergenerational Programming Workshop" on the reverse side of the cheques or bank drafts. Interested applicants are to respond by January 2002.

Registration form (downloadable in .rtf)