



## Looking to the future: ASPBAE holds strategic review of its Training for Transformation programme

17 February 2016, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

By Dorothy Lucardie, Adult Learning Australia



Dorothy Lucardie of Adult Learning Australia is conducting the review of ASPBAE's Training for Transformation (TfT) programme.

The review aims to facilitate a better understanding of the role of the TfT programme in the emerging global and regional contexts and link it to ASPBAE's policy advocacy strategies.

ASPBAE Executive Council members and staff gathered in Ulaanbaatar to spend a full day to contribute to the strategic review of the ASPBAE capacity building approach, the Training for Transformation (TfT) programme. The strategic review will inform discussions of the strategic directions for ASPBAE at the forth coming General Assembly later in 2016. The strategic perspective adopted by the review aims to facilitate a better understanding of the role of the ASPBAE Training for Transformation programme in the emerging global and regional contexts and to propose ways to link these capacity building programmes with ASPBAE's policy advocacy and membership strategies and processes.

The consultative workshop, firstly, focussed on the past, reviewing the experiences of Executive Council members and staff in the TfT programme, that has primarily been a leadership development and capacity building programme. Robbie Guevara, ASPBAE President, introduced the purpose of the TfT programme as primarily *"Advancing a particular kind of education that is innovative, pro-poor, rights-based, and gender sensitive"*.

Participants in the workshop shared their experience in the TfT and the outcomes that occurred for themselves and their organisations. These outcomes included meeting new friends, establishing networks, and learning about different contexts for adult education. Skills that were gained included creative and innovative approaches to learning methodologies, inter-generational learning, learning about ASPBAE, and the broader global adult education issues. As they reflected on why these outcomes occurred, participants identified many of the components of the programme such as engaging with others, a good balance between theory and practice, and an environment in the programme that was both intellectually stimulating and emotionally engaging.



The workshop began by focussing on the past, reviewing the experiences of Executive Council members and staff in the TfT programme.

The second part of the consultation turned to the future and considered whether there is a different set of ideas and ideologies in the present age. What does adult education mean now? What are the mindsets or perspectives of the generations coming? In door stop interviews, participants were challenged to identify what had been the TfT's contribution to ASPBAE goals: transformative learning, gender mainstreaming, education sustainability, and education as a right.

Looking towards the future, Robbie facilitated discussion on what was ASPBAE's 'Theory of Change' as this is the rationale for the capacity building programme for the future. How does the TfT influence



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Participants of the workshop were challenged to identify what had been Tft's contribution to ASPBAE goals - transformative learning, gender mainstreaming, education sustainability, and education as a right.

or make change? How do we ensure that the change is transformative towards the goals that are at the heart of ASPBAE's work? Participants shared their vision of the future they believe will happen and the future they want to happen. This enabled the identification of the strategies that could be adopted to work towards the preferred future and the advocacy focus required to mitigate against negative futures.

Executive Council members and ASPBAE staff then turned to the Tft programme and considered what it could be through this future lens. What would it look like? Who could be the participants? What would be the content? How could the Tft programme be sustainable?

This consultation workshop is a key step in the review of the Training for Transformation programme. Individual interviews with participants in the programme, with organisations who have sponsored participants, and with individuals from across the world who can contribute to the strategic context of the review are currently being conducted to gather their views of the current programme, the context that both ASPBAE and the Tft programme are now situated and how the programme can be strengthened for the future.

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