

# **ALARA 9<sup>TH</sup> ACTION LEARNING ACTION RESEARCH AND 13<sup>TH</sup> PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH WORLD CONGRESS**

**CONFERENCE DATES: 4 – 7 November 2015  
VENUE: St. George Hotel and Conference Centre,  
Centurion, South Africa**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Announcement and 2<sup>nd</sup> call for papers**

### **A. EVENT INCLUDES:**

- Experiential engagement with the how to and why of Action Research and Action Learning
- The chance to engage with internationally renowned Action Research and Action Learning practitioners.
- Social functions, intellectual stimulation

### **B. CONVOCATION:**

#### **COLLABORATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE LEARNING FOR A FAIRER WORLD: RHETORIC OR REALITY?**

Action Learning and Action Research aims to “generate collaborative learning, research and action” (ALARA, 2013) to attain local and global change in pursuit of a fairer world – fairer meaning more socially just and also more attractive in terms of an improved quality of life for all. The complexity of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century makes such learning essential for all, in both well-resourced and socio-economically challenged contexts. Traditional approaches to research tend to determine what people need, and to address those needs by recommending the allocation of resources – more money, more infrastructure, more services, more programmes. However, due to the top-down nature of the recommendations, those who most need the resources often struggle to access and use them to their benefit, increasing the gap between rich and poor, the advantaged and the disadvantaged. Unless we aim to develop the capacity of people to identify and use resources, they are unlikely to profit from them. Action learning and action research purports to increase the ability of people to learn how to adapt to rapidly changing social, economic and political imperatives. But are we really living up to these claims?

The theme of this conference is a challenge to Action Learning/Action Research practitioners the world over, whether working in resource rich or more socio-economically challenged contexts, to explain how they are contributing to the creation of a fairer world. The ALARA World Congress 2015 will create a space for dialogue as we ponder questions such as:

- How do we know we are asking the right questions to promote sustainable learning?
- How do we capacitate people to address the intricate interplay of social, economic, political and cultural factors that combine to preserve injustice?
- How do we ensure authentic collaboration between stakeholders across all levels?
- How do we use AL/AR to forge innovative, sustainable responses to contemporary complex challenges?
- How do we know we are successful in mediating sustainable change?

In other words, as advocates of AL / AR, what are we doing, why are we doing it and what has our doing done? Are we really making a difference where it is needed or is it empty rhetoric and wishful thinking?

The World Congress will thus create a learning opportunity for delegates to share and to inspire each other to try new approaches and network with people to sustain their own learning as we strive to create a fairer world. The theme “**Collaborative and sustainable learning for a fairer world: rhetoric or reality?**” will be explored through symposia, paper presentations, poster presentations and workshops grouped into the following broad areas of interest:

- **Education:** This strand covers Action Learning/Action Research work being done on local/global scales in both formal and informal education contexts. How has AL/AR been used to align education with life-enhancing values? How has our research promoted learning and development among those previously excluded from formal education? How has AL/AR contributed to transformation, equity and social justice?
- **Organisational Development/Workplace:** This strand covers Action Learning/Action Research in organisational design, organisational development, organisational change, personnel development, systems thinking, soft systems methodology, evaluation, and similar areas of interest - how has AL/AR been used, and to what effect; what could be done differently to gain greater acceptance, use and outcomes; and where to from here?
- **Community:** Action Learning/Action Research has been used in many situations dealing with partnerships, health, welfare, advocacy, gender and community development matters, but are they being acknowledged and lauded at local, national and international levels? are there examples of this work that have been ground-breaking, and have they been or should? How is our AL/AR community engagement contributing to improving the quality of life for all?
- **Innovations:** This strand considers changes or growth in the way in which AL/AR is utilised and interpreted, technological innovations for AL/AR, and use of AL/AR in a global economy, and questions how AL/AR will stay relevant in the ever-increasing speed of change and need for immediate knowledge.
- **Conserving the Environment - Sustainability:** Many local and community Action Learning/Action Research projects have been about or involved the environment and local resources, but what has been the impact of AL/AR on the debate and actions on conserving the environment and resources of nations and the world; what should AL/AR practitioners be doing to ensure the environment for our grandchildren's grandchildren?

We encourage presentations that focus on local, national and international use of Action Learning and Action Research. We also encourage novel approaches to symposia/workshops, using arts-based strategies such as dance, music, and visual arts. If your presentation crosses / covers more than one strand, please indicate your preference for a strand.

### C. SESSION FORMATS

**Paper presentations:** A 30-minute presentation, which allows time for audience interaction. Presentations will be grouped together to form logical themes where possible.

**Symposiums:** These sessions will comprise three/four thematically related presentations which must be submitted as one unit. Each presentation will be allowed 15 mins, followed by 15-30 minutes (depending on number of papers) of facilitated discussion. (90 mins)

**Workshops:** A workshop is an interactive session that is designed to ensure audience participation through activities intended to share the knowledge created by the research in question. (90 mins)

**Poster presentations:** Graphic displays of action research projects, both in progress and completed which will allow the delegates to engage in dialogue with the researcher(s). Poster viewing will be allocated a specific time on the programme but they will be on display throughout.

**Artistic displays:** Music, visual art, drama, dance events that highlight issues relevant to the conference theme are all welcome. These will be allocated space throughout the conference where appropriate.

#### **D. SUBMISSION OF PAPER/SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS/POSTER PRESENTATIONS:**

These should be sent by e mail to [conferencepl@gmail.com](mailto:conferencepl@gmail.com) using the prescribed form.

**Abstracts:** Please compile an abstract of 250 words max, typed in single space Arial 12. In addition, please give a more detailed overview using the following headings as a guide:

**Background:** Give an overview of the issue under discussion, the problem the research addresses and the purpose and objective of the research

**Methods:** describe the study period / setting / location, study design, study population, data collection and methods of analysis used.

**Results:** present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings / outcome of the study. Please summarize any specific results.

**Conclusions:** explain the significance of your findings / outcomes of the study and future implications of the results.  
Please also indicate how you will engage with the audience.

#### **The following review criteria will be used in scoring abstracts submitted:**

1. Is there a clear background and justified objective?
2. Is the methodology/study design appropriate for the objectives?
3. Are the results important and clearly presented?
4. Are the conclusions supported by the results?
5. Is the study original, and does it contribute to the conference theme?
6. Is there information on how the presenter will engage the audience?

#### **Artistic displays:**

Please compose a 300 word max abstract that outlines the purpose of the display, how it links to the conference theme and how it will engage the audience. Also indicate the logistical arrangements (time (max 30 mins); space, etc.)

#### **Workshops:**

**Abstract:** 300 word max, Arial 11, designed to attract delegates to the workshop. Please indicate:

- Purpose of workshop
- What you will do
- How participants will be involved
- What participants will learn

## **E. FULL PAPERS:**

As it has done at previous World Congresses, ALARA will publish an "ALARA World Congress Proceedings" from selected papers presented at this World Congress.

### **World Congress Proceedings**

- Presenters can submit a paper for consideration for inclusion in the ALARA 2015 World Congress Proceedings by the dates listed below.
- Papers will be double blind reviewed, and if decided by the editorial panel to be suitable for publication, will be included in the Proceedings. ALARA makes no guarantee of inclusion of any paper.
- No payment is required to submit a paper for consideration for inclusion in the Proceedings, and no payment is payable by ALARA if the paper is included in the Proceedings.
- Copyright ownership of a paper included in the Proceedings is shared between the author(s) and ALARA.
- Presenters will be able to purchase a soft or hard copy of the proceedings at a special reduced rate for a limited period following the Proceedings' publication.
- Please see the full Submission Guidelines on the ALARA website - <http://www.alarassociation.org/pages/publications/submission-guidelines>. In general, the submission guidelines for submission to the *ALAR Journal* apply for the World Congress Proceedings, except communication is not via the OJS website.
- Presenters may wish to submit an audio-visual / multimedia presentation for consideration. Such submissions cannot be included in the Proceedings, but, if suitable and viable, ALARA will endeavour to publish these presentations on its website <http://www.alarassociation.org>.

Key Dates for the World Congress Proceedings:

- 1 September 2015 - submission of papers for World Congress Proceedings open
- 4 - 7 November 2015 ALARA 2015 World Congress
- 18 December 2015 - final date for submission of papers for World Congress Proceedings
- January to April 2016 - double blind review period, which could involve returning papers to authors for adjustments / revisions
- May to July 2016 - editorial preparations
- August / September 2016 - anticipated publication

Inquiries about (and submissions to) this publication - please email

[editor@alarassociation.org](mailto:editor@alarassociation.org)

## **F. IMPORTANT DATES:**

### **Final date for submission of abstracts:**

*12 May 2015*

### Acknowledgement of receipt of all abstracts:

Within three working days of the abstract having been successfully submitted, an e-mail will be sent to the presenting author(s) to acknowledge receipt. The author will also be provided with an abstract number that should be stated in all further correspondence.

### Notification of acceptance/non-acceptance of abstracts:

Continuous process beginning 1 October 2014 to no later than 30 June 2015

**Closing date for conference attendance registration:***28 July 2015*

Confirmation of registration will be e-mailed within three working days, and invoices will be issued.

**Final date for payment of registration fees:***1 September 2015***G. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:**

Complete the delegate registration form and forward it to Petra Lawson. An official invoice will subsequently be e-mailed to you to confirm your successful registration.

Please fax/e-mail a copy of the deposit slip or proof of electronic transfer, to Ms Petra Lawson at:

Fax no.: +27 (0)86 541 1173

E-mail: [conferencepl@gmail.com](mailto:conferencepl@gmail.com)

**H. REGISTRATION FEES:**

<b>Early bird registration – Full ALARA members:</b> 1. Register before 1 June 2015 2. Provide proof of payment before 1 July 2015	AUD 445.00
<b>Early bird registration – Non-members:</b> 1. Register before 1 June 2015 2. Provide proof of payment before 1 July 2015	AUD 570.00
<b>Standard registration – Full ALARA members:</b> 1. Register before 28 July 2015 2. Provide proof of payment before 1 September 2015	AUD 530.00
<b>Standard registration – Non-members:</b> 1. Register before 28 July 2015 2. Provide proof of payment before 1 September 2015	AUD 635.00
<b>ALARA Life Members:</b> 1. Register before 28 July 2015 2. Provide proof of payment before 1 September 2015	AUD 425.00
<b>Delegates from Developing Countries:</b> 1. Register before 28 July 2015 2. Provide proof of payment before 1 September 2015	AUD 410.00
<b>One day attendance:</b> 1. Register before 28 July 2015 2. Provide proof of payment before 1 September 2015	AUD 260.00

Gala Dinner (Delegate) – 6 November 2015	AUD 42.00
Cocktail function (Partner) – 4 November 2015	AUD 33.00
Lunch (Partner) – 5 November 2015	AUD 22.00
Dinner (Partner) – 5 November 2015	AUD 28.00
Lunch (Partner) – 6 November 2015	AUD 22.00
Gala Dinner (Partner) – 6 November 2015	AUD 42.00
Lunch (Partner) – 7 November 2015	AUD 22.00

**Developing Countries:**

Afghanistan  
Angola  
Argentina  
Bangladesh  
Benin

Albania  
Anguilla  
Armenia  
Belarus  
Bhutan

Algeria  
Antigua & Barbuda  
Azerbaijan  
Belize  
Bolivia

Bosnia & Herzegovina	Botswana	Brazil
Burkina Faso	Burma	Burundi
Cameroon	Cambodia	Cape Verde
Central African Republic	Chad	Chile
China (excl. Hong Kong)	Colombia	Comoros
Congo Republic	Cook Islands	Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire	Cuba	Djibouti
Dominica	Dominican Republic	East Timor
Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea	Eritrea	Ethiopia
Fiji	Gabo	Gambia
Georgia	Ghana	Grenada
Guatemala	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau
Guyana	Haiti	Honduras
India	Indonesia	Iran
Iraq	Jamaica	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kenya	Kiribati
Korea, Dem. Rep.	Kosovo	Kyrgyz Rep.
Laos	Lebanon	Lesotho
Liberia	Libya	Macedonia
Madagascar	Malaysia	Malawi
Maldives	Mali	Marshall Islands
Mauritania	Mauritius	Mexico
Micronesia, Federated States		Moldova
Mongolia	Montserrat	Morocco
Mozambique	Namibia	Nauru
Nepal	Nicaragua	Niger
Nigeria	Niue	Pakistan
Palau Islands	Panama	Papua New Guinea
Paraguay	Peru	Philippines
Rwanda	St Helena	St Kitts & Nevis
St Lucia	St Vincent & Grenadines	Samoa
Sao Tome & Principe	Senegal	Serbia & Montenegro
Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Solomon Is.
Somalia	South Africa	South Sudan
Sri Lanka	Sudan	Suriname
Syria	Swaziland	Tajikistan
Tanzania	Thailand	Togo
Tokelau	Tonga	Tunisia
Turkey	Turkmenistan	Tuvalu
Uganda	Ukraine	Uruguay
Uzbekista	Vanuatu	Venezuela
Vietnam	Wallis & Futuna	West Bank & Gaza Strip
Yemen	Zambia	Zimbabwe

#### **I. DISCLAIMER:**

The organisers reserve the right to change or cancel the published venue, programme, dates and/or fees due to unforeseen circumstances.

## **J. ENQUIRIES: ABSTRACTS, REGISTRATION & GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mrs Petra Lawson

Conference Administrator (ALARA WORLD CONGRESS 2015)

Fax to mail: +27 (0)86 541 1173

Phone: +27 (0)83 231 6538

E-mail: [conferencepl@gmail.com](mailto:conferencepl@gmail.com)

## **K. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

North-West University/South African team:

Prof Lesley Wood (chair/abstract committee: Education)

Danika Alberts (finance)

Saartjie Venter (venue)

Merna Meyer (evaluation)

ALARA:

Colin Bradley (President)

## **L. ACCOMMODATION:**

Please note that accommodation is not included in the conference fee and that delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements and payment.

The conference venue, St George Hotel, Centurion, South Africa offers suitable accommodation for delegates.

### **Contact Details:**

Please see St George's website: <http://www.stgeorgehotel.co.za/saint-george.html>

## **L. TRANSPORT:**

Delegates are responsible for their own transport arrangements and payment, none of which are included in the conference fee. Delegates can arrange with the venue for a shuttle service from OR Thabo Airport (Johannesburg) to the venue and back to the airport.

## **M: SPONSORSHIP AND/OR EXHIBITION**

Interested companies are invited to showcase their products at the ALARA 2015 World Congress. Please contact Prof Lesley Wood (at email: [Lesley.Wood@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Lesley.Wood@nwu.ac.za)) for more information regarding sponsorship and exhibition opportunities.