

Facilitation as a way of life



*In organizing a session, workshop or meeting,
who do we look for to facilitate the event?*

27 Good Shepherd Mission Partners (sisters and lay) from Asia Pacific gathered in **Ipoh, Malaysia from 3 May to 12 May, 2018** for a training session on **The Art of Skilled Dialogue**, facilitated by Ms Paula Sgherza in partnership with Sr Anne Dalton and Ms Jill McCorquodale. This workshop was a follow up from The Art of Skilled Facilitation, held in April 2017. See details of this workshop at: <http://www.goodshepherd-asiapacific.org.au/project/221>

These training sessions were initiated by the Asia Pacific Circle of Leaders to prepare the region with a community of skilled facilitators which practised curiosity.

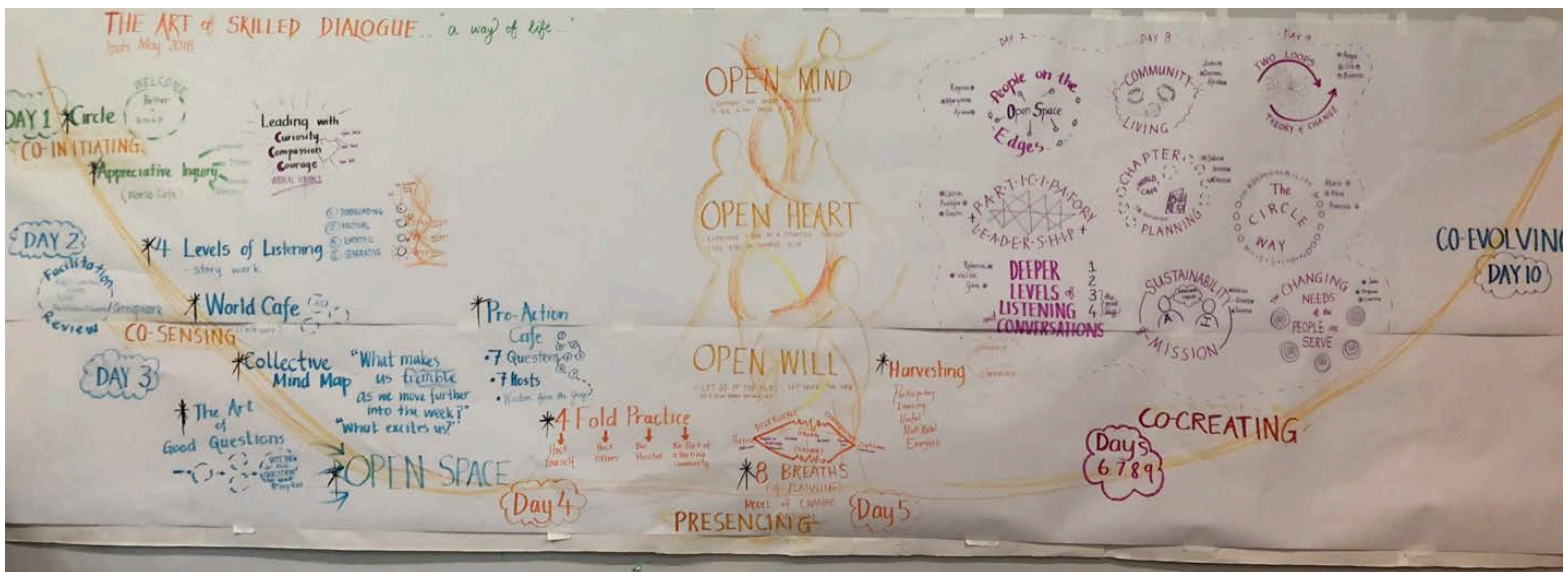
During The Art of Skilled Dialogue, the participants were introduced to the Theory U as a framework for effective dialogue and facilitation. The methodologies and processes used in the workshop included World Café, Appreciative Inquiry, Circle, Open Space, Pro Action Café, Two Loops and Collective Mind Map.

See - [Learnings of the Art of Skilled Dialogue](#)

Gathering the impact of this year's workshop, the participants acknowledged that it has deepened their listening and conversation skills which are essential to mission communities. The mission partners said that it was an answer to the 30th Congregational Chapter Direction statement that challenged everyone to 'build joyful and inclusive communities for mission characterized by friendship, compassion and reconciliation.'

The new learnings also led the mission partners towards personal transformation and shift of mind-sets that can contribute to healthy life giving relationships. Participants also gained more self-confidence in facilitation and are committed to share resources in the region and are courageous to create a pool of facilitators for Asia Pacific.

Among the fruits of the workshop identified by the groups and called them to action are: Shift towards participatory leadership, deepen our listening in mission communities, design processes for collective wisdom, embody head, heart and will in all processes of facilitation and apply the various methods in facilitation.





Facilitation,
*as the sisters and lay mission
partners saw it unfolding during
the past week,*
is a way of life.