

The Power of Facilitation and Communication in partnership #FacPower



Free facilitation webinar, 26 February 2019 in Adobe Connect

Hosted by Martin Gilbraith & Sunny Walker, with Michael Ambjorn

Agenda

3-4pm UK time

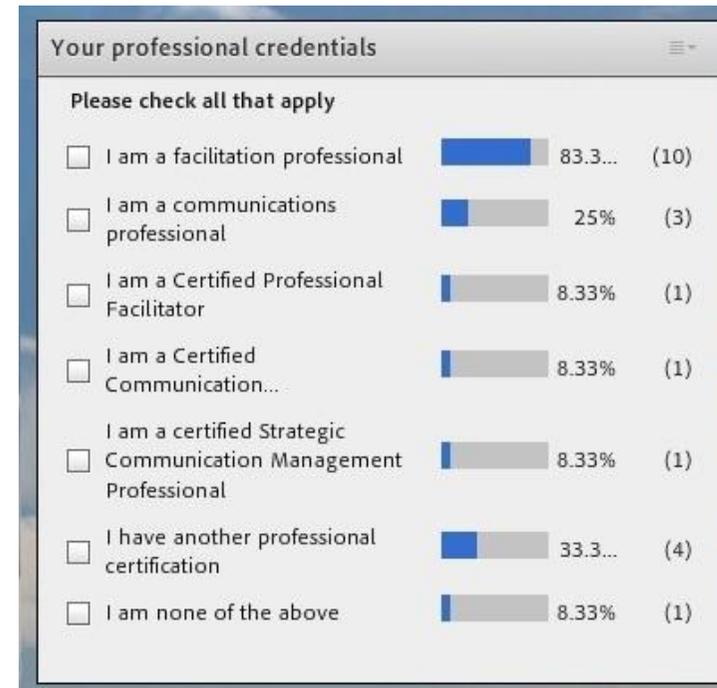
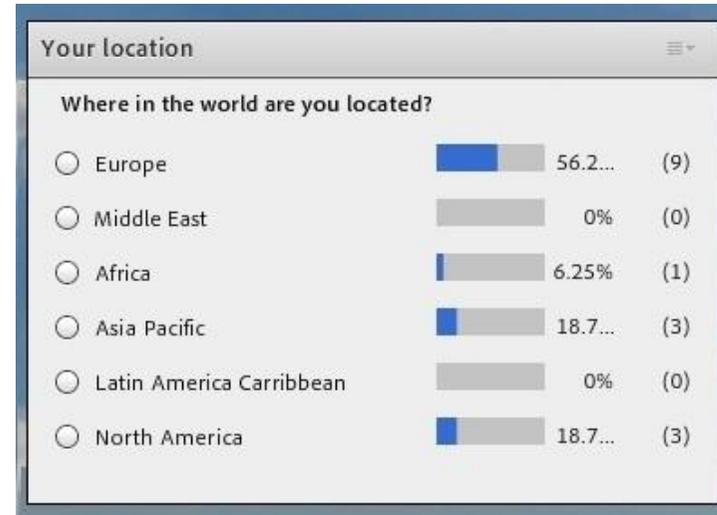
1. Opening, overview & introductions
2. Presentation, Q&A
3. Discussion
4. Reflection & close

Participants

26 from Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Germany, India, Kenya, Taiwan, UK & USA.

Introductions

- **Martin:** Welcome! please type here to introduce yourself and chat, and to share questions, comments and reflections during the session
- **Dawn:** Hello Martin and Sunny, I am able to type as well - hurrah x
- **Martin:** Welcome from a bizarrely warm & sunny February in London
- **Rahul:** Travelling home. logged in to make sure this works. Reaching in short time.
- **Dawn:** Also very lovely and sunny in Gateshead in the North East of England. Think background noise might be me - there is a band rehearsing on concourse - am going to see if I can find another room.
- **Irene:** good evening, I'm joining from Nairobi



- **Sunny:** I'm joining from Denver - lots of recent snow and quite cold! Happy to support you while you are here.
- **Naomi:** Hi all, joining from London, sun is shining here too!
- **Barbara:** Hello from Berlin, my name is Barbara, I'm a facilitator at Book Sprints Limited
- **Becca:** hi, Becca joining from London. founder of visual facilitation service for sustainability 😊
- **Naomi:** Forgot to mention why I'm here - I am a coach and facilitator! Founder of www.less-ordinary.com :)
- **Hector:** greetings from the DR
- **Rosanna:** Rosanna here - greetings from Vancouver, Canada
- **Kavitha:** Namaste! From India, Bangalore. I am a facilitative trainer and Coach
- **Kim:** Hello Kim joining from the sunny Cotswolds. I work with facilitators to deliver ideater on projects
- **Loren:** I am a facilitator, and an Independent Education Development consultant working in rural Nepal, Malaysia and Darjeeling India. I'm joining from Brooklyn, NY. Will this presentation be archived for later viewing?
- **Sunny:** Loren, yes. It is being recorded and will be on Martin's website.
- **Martin:** Hi Loren, yes I'll post the recording, slides and other outputs by the end of the week at <https://martingilbraith.com/free-facilitation-webinars/>

Questions & comments

Please type here to answer & ask questions and to share any other comments or reflections

- **Rosanna:** The terms of "facilitation" and "communication" are very broad and used almost everywhere. If you have to choose one challenge that both realms face, what might that be?
- **Sunny:** For each of you, what is at least ONE learning from the OTHER profession that has been especially supportive of your own work?
- **Archana:** if strategy is already formulated and needs to be only communicated to the tactical level management by the strategic level leadership then can such a workshop be facilitated too?
- **Rosanna:** One key learning - clarity in what you say, write and do to optimize shared understanding. Another learning - professional facilitation skills and effective communications skills are often undervalued, with the assumption that everyone can do it well.
- **Archana:** thanks a lot Martin, Sunny and Michael. It gave me 3 different approaches to use depending upon context
- **Loren:** What are some strategies, to be included in the original agreement, for follow up, after facilitation
- **Laurence:** One of the challenges I often encounter is that groups I work with is trusting groups to achieve a meeting's objectives when individuals are more focused on achieving personal goals. How do you go about gaining buy in to objectives early on to ensure engagement and aligned goals throughout? How do you reinforce your role as guardian of those objectives while trusting the team to be the main stakeholders / content owners?

- **Loren:** I was wondering what commitment you can get from the client that they will follow thru
- **Laurence:** Thanks all!
- **Archana:** what was your question for India, I missed it - can you please re-ask?
- **Sunny:** Archana, it was that in the west, we often talk of "the elephant in the room" as the big, unspeakable item. In India, the elephant is a friend. How is this approached in India?
- **Dawn:** Have been looking at Deep Democracy process as way of welcoming the elephant into the room. Two-day training in London...

Your experience, stories, examples & references

Where & how have you used facilitation & communication in partnership?

- **Kim:** I use them in innovation-led change programmes. This is a team delivery with expert communications professional alongside a consultant
- **Laurence:** Facilitation is key in project management meetings, strategizing and aligning
- **Archana:** Last month I was in communication role as well as facilitation role for my open workshop on Inner Leadership Topic where I used ToP methods, I was working on flyers and videos and messages to post about who the workshop is meant for and how it is facilitated and what are the key takeaways & also gathering what people are looking forward to in their leadership journey and included that in the workshop design
- **Dawn:** Cross sector Arts and Health partnership programmes, working with Local Authority Officers, Residential Workers, foster Carers and 10 artists

- **Rosanna:** Following on the elephant theme, naming the problem / issue / elephant is helpful to minimize beating around the bush conversations
- **Archana:** okay, yeah. We do use that phrase in India too. I have to identify the elephant in the room and make sure as a facilitator I handle it well enough for everyone's safe participation towards the outcomes. Though I don't use the term in front of participants but have to strategize with co-facilitator.

What stories, examples or references can you share to illustrate points made in this webinar?

- **Dawn:** Great Exhibition of The North digital learning programme.... ToP methodology at heart.... not sure - will send through some details!

Your own insights & next steps

What insights will you take away from this session to inform your own professional practice? What will you do to follow up?

- **Dawn:** I am going to use the Strategy Development Horizons poster as a starting point for my appraisal with my line manager next week
- **Kim:** very interested in the "participatory strategic planning" technique and will be exploring that
- **Sunny:** I definitely want to explore the connection from communications to my facilitation work.

Reflection

- **Naomi:** Thanks all, I need to leave. This has been very interesting!
- **Rosanna:** Thank you for taking the time and sharing your knowledge.
- **Kim:** thank you
- **Loren:** Thanks to all!
- **Dawn:** Thank you very much - am now cured of my fear of webinars! Bye all!
- **Archana:** Thank you Martin for Arranging this webinar with Michael and Sunny too
- **Kavitha:** Thank you all :)

