



**GLOBAL LEARNING FEST TIMES
DAY ONE- 3RD APRIL '16**



In a nutshell...

People arrived from about 11 countries. Conversations flow...the application of SALT is moving to many more areas. SALT is beginning to permeate in all spheres of personal as well as professional life. SALT begins from self, thereafter with the family. Moving to the profession we apply it with our colleagues in the office and in our work with communities. Hence...community life competence! Another message coming through is that strength-based approaches like Appreciative inquiry and SALT need to be applied for a long period of time as mindsets do not change overnight.



HIGHLIGHTS	DETAILED NEWS
<p>*Attending GLF is ...“attending like a co-creator of good hope”: Jan Somers</p>	<p>ATTENDING LIKE A CO-CREATOR OF GOOD HOPE” Hi, I have had the opportunities and good luck to attend many conferences in my life so far.</p>
<p>*My best moment of a SALT visit: Nathalie Legros</p>	<p>And in fact I had the great opportunity to attend the GLF in Chennai – back in 2012 too. Although it has been years ago, it feels still today as if it was only happening weeks ago. Why is it that I do remember attending the GLF so vividly whilst other conferences need some more digging into my memory? Well it must have some reasons. I guess it must be in the lines from what I write here that the reasons for such an impact can be found.</p>
<p>*My previous</p>	

experiences of GLF:
Rituu B Nanda

*See SALT in action
in the video: Susan
Koshy

*Bytes from the
organising team,
they give us a larger
perspective- Luc,
Autry, Phil, Jean
Louis, Celicia,
Marlou, Herve

* First timers follow
their heart to
experience the
learning festival-
Kiran, Diego and
Tricia

*Facilitators begin to
transfer to each
other- Eric and
Eryka, Josaine and
Jean Baby

* SALT with self,
family and office
colleagues- MariJo,
Josaine, Therese,
Santatra

* How SALT helps? –
Sarah, Stephen and
Jonathan

* Share and learn-
Jean- Modeste, Jean
Baby, Loli, Eric

* How communities
can act fast? Tebogo

When you attend a gathering that has nothing to do with titles, diploma's, background, religion, gender, job, richness in terms of money, beliefs, ... it must have everything to do with attending as a human . Meeting humans that appreciate you for being a person with a keen interest in others, is quite uplifting .

So was that the only reason? I guess it must have been an important foundation for the GLF standing out in my memory but there were obviously more reasons to it. The stories I heard, putting my own comfortable life into some different perspective. The encounters with people that were so inspiring – like this “old” professor telling me he likes to work with youth because they give him the opportunity to see into their eyes the future he himself will not be able to live. But so many more inspiring meetings that even lead into building friendships across the globe. The many eye-openers that happened both during the formal but as well as during the informal moments in between the programme.

Attending a GLF is not a matter of “attending like a consumer” but “attending like a co-creator of good hope”. Have a great time in Mauritius. Miss you all ! : **Jan Somers** (Belgium)

HERE IS MY BEST MOMENT OF A SALT VISIT

that moment when, arriving in a group (often, it is a group or team in my experience, within an organisation, not really a community) I notice something; something that they may not see anymore because they are in it; it can be a strength, or a challenge, a difficulty or an element of the context, whatever thing that they take for granted because they are so used to it; something I reflect back; reflecting it back allows the group to see it from a different perspective; that is usually first puzzling and disturbing the usual picture, and trigger resistance but then there is a little moment of self-reflection, and some kind of relaxation, opening a new perspective to see things, a fresh picture of the very same situation; that is my best moment because there is then a release of energy and creativity- **Nathalie Legros** (Belgium)

SOME OF MY STORIES FROM PREVIOUS GLF

I will wait for your comments: **Rituu B Nanda** (India)
<http://aidscompetence.ning.com/profiles/blogs/my-story>
<http://aidscompetence.ning.com/profiles/blogs/how-a-drug-user-became-a>
<http://aidscompetence.ning.com/profiles/blogs/what-i-resist-fate-insists>

"**SEE SALT IN ACTION IN THE VIDEO:** **Susan Koshy** (India)
<https://www.facebook.com/plusbeauxtrompeloil/videos/470142209845216/?fref=nf>"

BYTES FROM THE ORGANISING TEAM, THEY GIVE US A LARGER PERSPECTIVE

I am looking forward to tomorrow as I will use my foot for the first time from the wheelchair after my knee surgery. I have to see how will I facilitate with clutches. **Luc**, France & Switzerland (on wheel chair due to surgery but did not want to miss out on GLF)

I feel elated to see so many persons arrive, can see the bonding, everyone seems enthusiastic about the approach. Thankfully arrivals have been seamless. **Autry**, Mauritius and Guyana

The things that I have seen and heard so far are that people are practising SALT in many ways. With their families, as if SALT has become a part of their lives. It seems to be a state of mind rather than a formal procedure - **Phil**, UK

What a great way to start ! People sharing across continents... I could focus on serving the food... **Jean Louis**, Belgium

We were thinking of ice-breakers for tomorrow. The conversations have begun before the start of the learning festival...we don't need to break the ice anymore- **Marlou**, Netherlands and France

My heart feels dense. Am in a festive mood yet feel a deep connection with people I hardly know. I am amazed how fast we can go deep with people in the Constellation.**Celicia**, Belgium
Here we have people from different countries who speak different languages. We will use a mix of languages but more importantly use SALT to communicate. We will use our eyes and speak from our heart. **Herve**, France

FIRST TIMERS FOLLOW THEIR HEART TO EXPERIENCE THE LEARNING FESTIVAL

I am delighted to come here. I came because Rituu asked me to come! **Kiran**, Singapore (who is currently facilitating a longer term Appreciative Inquiry process with a company in France)

I came to connect with all members of the Constellation. I have heard a lot about them. I am really curious to learn from people all around the world. It will be be first time for me to get the chance to live that kind of experience meeting so many people so rich experiences in community development. I also want to learn from local communities in Mauritius and share this with people from different place in the world and a chance to receive good energies from all of them.At the end of the week , I hope to take luggage full of knowledge and lessons learned to inspire my work and my life. I want to thank the Constellation for this opportunity. **Diego**, Brazil (Laurie from Belgium told him about this event.)

Since you had GLF in India, I wanted to experience what it was. I want to learn from different countries and meet people who love SALT as much I do! **Tricia Francis**, Guyana

Facilitators begin to transfer to each other
Eric from Burundi and **Eryka** from Botswana on community entrepreneurship

SALT with self, family and office colleagues

I am here to re-connect with what SALT means. I don't have the opportunity to connect with communities in my own country. SALT is a way of living not only a way of working. You listen to people, you appreciate strengths even when they are in stress or conflict. SALT can be hard when one is alone. When are with people who apply SALT it uplifts our spirits. **MariJo**, Spain

This is a wonderful opportunity to share experiences and learn from different applications of SALT. I have used SALT at home and in organisations on issues around HIV and 12 essential family practices. **Therese**, Democratic Republic of Congo

I want to learn more about SALT. I got SALT training and have used it in my own family with my boys. I asked them what is their dream. They shared what they might not have done otherwise. I am already inspired by what I learned from Jean Baby of DRC today. **Josiane**, Redon, France

To nurture relations with each other who apply the approach and find out more about SALT and to apply with communities and at home. Professionally because applying it in our work, it gets things moving.

We have started appreciating our colleagues and their value and we have seen a positive evolution. Before we used to do all work but now we realize that by appreciating our colleagues that changes.

Traditionally Madagascar uses community dialogue and SALT will add some spice to it to develop communities and the whole country. **Santatra**, Madagascar

HOW SALT HELPS?

I want to learn from others so that we can do better work in Botswana. SALT is helpful as we go with an open mind which encourages people to open up. Whereas in other cases we go with an agenda to tell communities what is good for them. **Sarah** Ranko, Botswana

Our village Kgotla has 16 smaller Kgotlas. Community leaders can easily mobilise people not outsiders. Similarly we have realised that people should take lead on HIV not us. SALT has helped people to openly tell us about their HIV status. They can encourage each other to take medicine. Men often consume alcohol and miss their dose. Now I find that some have begun to reduce alcohol uptake. **Stephen** Korwe, Village Tlokweg Community leader (5th in the line), Botswana

I am a BCC specialist with 19 years of experience. Botswana has done

well in treating people as HIV prevalence rate has gone down from 38 % to 18 %. ARV uptake is 96%. Our HIV rate had gone down to 17% but we see a rise now because there seems to be a message fatigue, condom use has declined. I am speaking from government lens. We need to focus on communities. If they face the problem, they need to take action as they know the situation best. Its all about community ownership. Women do not bring their babies or partners for HIV testing. All members of the community need to see HIV as their problem and take action. Therefore we need to put people in front.

I have seen many participatory approaches. I think SALT articulates it well. It talks about community owning the issue and taking the lead. There is no mention of donor or government. Therefore I am here to learn more about the SALT approach. I acknowledge that thinking does not take happen quickly. It takes time. SALT is like a social drug which takes some time to release its strength. Once SALT catches up, it stays on for good. It is the answer to sustainability. **Jonathan**, HIV/AIDS Department, Botswana

SHARE AND LEARN!

Most participants expressed the wish to share their work and learn from others.

Personally, I think we are here to share and find out about other people and countries experiences and bring back to Madagascar. I was lucky to take part in SALT initiative in Madagascar and feel it shouldn't stop there, I want to bring it further. I want to become more experienced in SALT and live it.

We had a few occasions to apply the manual after it was validated. We have started to practise it in a couple of places and are going to try in one more place. We don't feel completely at ease yet but we are starting with communities. In one place, a flood gave us an opportunity to start dreaming with the affected community on rebuilding the village. **Jean-Modeste**, Madagascar

DRC is one of the nurseries of the Constellation. We have been applying the approach for past 12 years since 2004. Our entry point was HIV. Now we have used for immunisation and essential family practices. **Jean Baby**, Democratic Republic of Congo

Big opportunity for me to learn what is happening in Botswana, what is happening in Madagascar. Through SALT we see people in a different way! **Loli**, France

I want to learn what other communities are doing as we in the government are employing NGOs for community engagement in Botswana. Most of the time communities with folded arms expect the government to provide everything for them. We have to encourage them to do things for themselves on issues which affect them as they know their situation the best. **Gloria**, Ministry of local

	<p>government and rural development, Gaborone</p> <p>I am happy to be here. I have participated in GLF in Chennai and have interacted with GST many times. I learned a lot from the opportunities. I am here to share my progress in facilitating the communities and to be inspired for continuous progress. This is a great opportunity to meet facilitators from different countries and experiences. Eric Uwintwaza, Burundi</p> <p>Specific learning How communities can take fast action! I am here to learn from experiences of communities in Mauritius, and how do they stimulate communities to take action and to share what we have done in SALT in Botswana since we started in July 2015. According me communities take time their own time to take action, how are Mauritius communities are doing differently so that after planning they can take action fast. Then I can transfer in my own communities. Tebogo Joseph, Humana People to People, Botswana</p>
<p>Thanks to Celia, Laurie, Marlou and Tricia for translation and pictures!</p>	<p>SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO LUC BARRIERE CONSTANTIN LUC@COMMUNITYLIFECOMPETENCE.ORG/ RITUU B NANDA RITUU@COMMUNITYLIFECOMPETENCE.ORG</p> <p>NEWSLETTER WILL BE POSTED IN ENGLISH & FRENCH at http://aidscompetence.ning.com</p> <p>FACEBOOK GROUP HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/1642624679338042/</p> <p>PHOTOS HTTP://AIDSCOMPETENCE.NING.COM/PHOTO/ALBUMS/GLOBAL-LEARNING-FESTIVAL-MAURITIUS-2016</p>