



URI Young Leaders Program: Southeast Asia and the Pacific Appreciative Inquiry

"Appreciative Inquiry is intentional inquiry and directed conversation and story-telling that leads to a place of possibility. Possibility is fresh, new, and sacred."

- Appreciative Inquiry Commons, <http://appreciativeinquiry.case.edu>

"Appreciative Inquiry is founded on a practice that might be called sacred listening and on the core democratic value that every voice matters."

- Birth of a Global Community, Charles Gibbs and Sally Mahe

Why Appreciative Inquiry?

Over the years, since the first URI summit, we have found that Appreciative Inquiry creates a generative learning atmosphere and safe space in which people from different backgrounds can listen deeply to each others' stories, and learn to see one another with new eyes. It is also a tool for bringing in the values of our traditions in order to create a collective vision for the world we wish to create together. "Rather than focusing on what [is] wrong in a system, AI asks people to focus their work on a positive outcome for the future. Building on this focus, people are asked to discover the best practices and resources of the past and present, to co-create a positive vision of the future, and to plan how to use these as tools to create that future."

Process:

Get into pairs with someone, preferably of a different tradition, someone you don't know very well. Take turns asking the following questions of your partner and listening deeply to their response. Take a few notes about your partner so that you can introduce them later to the group.

First Question: (10 minutes per person – 20 minutes total)

Tell me of a time in your life when you experienced a sense of deep connection and inner peace. What happened? How did it feel? What difference did it make for you?

Second Question: (10 minutes per person, 20 minutes total)

Who in your life, or in your tradition, would you consider to be a hero of peace? What would you say is her or his message to the world? What message do you have for the world? How would you share this message with a little child?

Come back to your table groups. Each person will have the chance to introduce his or her partner to the rest of the group, sharing some highlights of your interviews. (about 15 minutes)