

## Karin Akins

---

**From:** Ami Thakkar  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2005 1:35 PM  
**To:** 'a.brzezinski@pcyf.org.pl'; 'agi@i-dia.org'; 'Andreas Knoke (andreas.knoke@dkjs.de)'; 'Anna Onucová (anna.onucova@nros.cz)'; 'Anna-Margaret Hatz (anna-magarete.hatz@dkjs.de)'; 'csirvas@cedro.org.pe'; 'dir@fundses.org.ar'; 'Dong Gyun Ryou (dgluy0326@empal.com)'; Du Jun Park; 'e.euving@jantjebeton.nl'; Brasil - ABRINQ (Ely Harasawa); 'Elsa Ravelo (eravelo@consuelo.org)'; Turkey - Feza Sengel; 'Gina Thorsen'; 'hana.silhanova@nros.cz'; 'Helina Perttu (helina.perttu@slns.org)'; 'Ildiko Garas (ildiko@i-dia.org)'; 'jgalvez@globenet.com.ph'; 'jmoscoso@cedro.org.pe'; Canada - Thrive; 'Lisa Schmidt (lschmidt@bigthought.org)'; 'maggiep@tegv.org'; 'Marcia Quintino'; 'Margot Aler (aler@jeugdfonds.nl)'; Poland - PCYF; 'Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli (nnwuneli@leapafrika.org)'; 'Nkoli Udeorji (nudeorji@leapafrika.org)'; Russia - NPF; South Africa - YDT; Finland - SLNS (Pieta Hytti); 'Simon Blake (sblake@ncb.org.uk)'; 'Sophie Wood (swood@ncb.org.uk)'; 'srisak@dordek.org'; 'Susana Casaurang (s\_casaurang@hotmail.com)'; 'Szabó Eszter'; 'Teeraphan Penroj (ncyd2004@yahoo.com)'; 'Teresa Lanzagorta (terel@vamos.org)'; Hungary - I-DIA (Zsolt Pethe)  
**Cc:** Michelle Szechenyi; Kim Ascoli; Karin Akins; Susan Pezzullo; Ashok Regmi; Alan Williams; William Reese  
**Subject:** Monthly Check-In (#1, April 2005)

Dear Partners,

Spring has finally arrived in Baltimore and the flowers are blooming. We hope this email finds you well and in good spirits. As promised, this is the first in a series of monthly check-in emails with our Partners to provide updates on various aspects of the Make a Connection program. We welcome your feedback on additional topics you would like to see included in the monthly updates and encourage you to send us your own updates which we can incorporate and share with the rest of the Partners. To send us your comments or follow-up on any of the items listed below, please contact the Regional Managers (Michelle Szechenyi – *Asia and Africa*, Kim Ascoli – *Americas*, and Ami Thakkar – *Europe and Middle East*).

### 1) 2005 Global Make a Connection Partners Meeting

Thank you to all who responded to our survey and provided feedback as we plan ahead for the 2005 annual meeting. Your input is critical in order to make the sessions focused and relevant to your needs and interests. Based on your suggestions, we will craft an agenda and circulate for your review. We are looking forward to an extremely engaging and informative meeting.

**LOCATION AND DATE:** The Make a Connection annual meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland. The timing has not been finalized yet, but we are looking at sometime during September-October 2005. You should receive notification in the coming weeks with the exact dates.

### 2) Outcomes Measurements Update

We want to thank all of the Partners for making themselves available in January and February for telephone interviews with the Brandeis University team. Based on those conversations, they are in the process of putting together a timeline indicating when the three different types of studies (prospective, retrospective and in-depth) begin and end. As of late March, baseline data for prospective studies were being collected in South Africa, Peru, Hungary and the Netherlands with Mexico, Turkey and the UK scheduled to begin in April. By the end of the year we expect to have data on up to 2,000 youth from 12 projects.

Brandeis, with support from the Consuelo Foundation, completed a retrospective study of 181 indigenous youth who participated in the Make a Connection project in the Philippines. The findings were extremely positive, including 100% of youth reporting greater connection and sense of identity with local culture and 91% starting their own livelihood projects. Other retrospective studies are planned for possibly Mexico, Thailand, the Czech Republic and/or Poland this year.

### 3) SPECIAL NOTICE on IGI's

This year marks the end of the IGI's as an assessment and reporting requirement for all Make a Connection projects. In its place, we will rely upon the youth outcome data generated through the new measurement system managed by Brandeis University. After this year-long pilot phase, in which we will fine tune instruments and methods, IYF, in collaboration with the Partners, will be responsible for managing the outcomes measurement system. Over the course of the next 10 months we will develop the needed capacities to manage this system.

We will be adding several questions to the August 2005 on-line report this year, designed to supplement the outcomes data collected from youth participants. We will advise you when the questions have been uploaded to the on-line reporting form.

### 4) IYF Recent Updates

We are proud to announce IYF has three awards for the 2005 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards for Excellence in Communications. We recognize that good programs are what make good publications, and so the congratulations and recognition go to our Partners for your incredible work on behalf of youth around the world. The awards were for:

- **Gold Award -- for IYF's Annual Report**
- **Gold Award -- for IYF's *Perspectives* Newsletter**
- **Silver Award -- in the special reports category for IYF's YouthActionNet publication: *Youth in Action***

Warm Regards,  
*IYF Make a Connection Team*

*Ami Thakkar*  
Director, Make a Connection Program  
International Youth Foundation  
32 South Street, Suite 500  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Tel: 410-951-1569  
Fax: 410-347-1188