



Gesundheit **After Work Lectures**

WFOT response to Asian Tsunami: using action research

Kit Sinclair, PhD

**WFOT (World Federation of Occupational Therapists) President
2002-2008**

Donnerstag, 22. Oktober 2009, 18-19 Uhr
Eulachpassage TN EO.46, Technikumstrasse 71, Winterthur
Die After Work Lecture findet in englischer Sprache statt



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WFOT response to Asian Tsunami: using action research

Following the Asian Tsunami in December 2004, the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) set up a team to undertake a situational analysis, respond to the concerns of occupational therapists in the region through regional and national training workshops, and develop an information package suitable for international use. This presentation will provide some background on the theory of action research and explain the action research process through the example of a major project carried out by WFOT. Action research offers a flexible framework for creative planning and evaluation which is usually carried out in a participatory process using a continuing improvement approach (Dick, 2007). This example will show how the action-review-reflection-action process was effective in providing significant outcomes which could not be predicted.

Kit Sinclair led the development of the WFOT project after the Tsunami in Asia on disaster management which eventuated in the production of an informational package on disaster preparedness and response for occupational therapists. She continues to work in this emerging area of occupational therapy service by supervising students working in the earthquake affected region of China.

Kit Sinclair was on the 1978 founding faculty of Hong Kong's only occupational therapy education programme. She was one of only 25 practicing foreign occupational therapists at that time where now there are over twelve hundred local occupational therapists working, most of whom have been her former students. As the occupational therapist with the longest record of practice in Hong Kong, she has made immense contributions to the growth of the Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association from its inception; including being its chairman, Vice Chairman and Delegate for Hong Kong to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). Her leadership helped to secure WFOT membership status for Hong Kong in 1984.

In her outreach effort to propagate the practice of occupational therapy globally after leading the way in Hong Kong, Kit served two years as WFOT delegate on the Education Committee, then became the WFOT Treasurer for ten years. During this long tenure on the WFOT's Executive Committee, she provided significant voluntary consultation to many developing countries such as Venezuela, Chile, Italy, Australia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa, Singapore, South Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand. In 1998 she received the highest honour from the WFOT in being named Honorary Fellow of WFOT.

She was the first non-resident American occupational therapists to be made a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association in 2000. She gained her PhD in 2003 for her research into clinical reasoning of occupational therapists. She is presently Adjunct Associate Professor of Curtin University in Perth, Australia and editor of the WFOT Bulletin. She is involved in writing a book chapter on disaster and development and in producing an education module on the subject which will be made available to WHO.

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