**2013 Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit**

*Youth Do Change the World* Educational Session #4

Social Network Sharing – Facebook, Twitter, WordPress and Global Webinars

**Purpose**

* Feedback, assessments and evaluations are often given at the end of events or conferences, to identify the successes and ascertain the challenges. From this data, future events can be created with this important information to enhance its impact and affect. However, after having a Process Session (Session #1), a Knowledge-Building Session (Session #2) and a Skill-Building Session (Session #3), youth engaged in a comprehensive reflection period to see what was working well, and what can be improved. Rather than relying on the perspective of those leaders wanting to share with the group, we utilized the World Café Protocol. From this activity, we co-created an Action Plan on best practices to use for the rest of our time in Korea.
* After participating in this activity, youth learned about the various Social Networking Sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and WordPress, which are free venues to share our knowledge with the world. Modeling the practice of a 10-minute learning session, coupled with a table group-activity, helped solidify the content acquired and provided time for leaders to ask questions or share concerns.
* We also reviewed the many Video Conferencing Options that we can utilize to connect with anyone in the world, with just a video camera and the Internet. Youth were provided information on some of the most popular options, with a corresponding Resource with details for further explanation and advice.

**Logistics**

1. Each table was given a large piece of paper, with a question that was written in the middle. Each table would have 5-minutes to discuss, write and connect with the responses that were already written down on the paper. When the facilitator indicated that no time was remaining, participants would move to another table to either discuss the same or a new question. The three questions (or open-ended prompts) used were:
	1. *What is Going Well?*
	2. *What is Challenging?*
	3. *How Can We Do Better?*
2. Social Media was described in a “Who? What? When? Where? Why?” Type of Presentation. After each venue was explained, delegations developed Facebook Statuses, Tweets and Blogging Moments that explained their experience thus far. An easy-to-understand, and informative resource was created to support this Session.

**Highlights**

* Successes:
	+ Warm welcome; motivated people; friendship; dance breaks; session agendas; emphasis on social media; sharing stories; positive attitudes; saying ‘hi’ with a open heart; videos;
* Challenges:
	+ Communication barriers (i.e. translating); food options; few rest breaks; many PowerPoint Presentations; not enough icebreakers.
* Action Plan:
	+ Talk Slower; Ask if People Understand the Instructions; Make Sessions Interactive; Incorporate Icebreakers meeting new people.
* *By changing the young people’s mentality we will have an exceptional future, as we are the future leaders of nations*.” – Team Paraguay

**Action Considerations**

1. Identify how you can use the World Café Protocol at either a Meeting or a Youth Summit, but with different open-ended questions, that encourages collaboration and active learning.
2. Create a “Sharing Plan” of how you will write and share your experiences and insights with your family, friends, classmates, Special Olympics Programs, and the world!
3. Check to see if you are an active follower of Special Olympics (and Special Olympics Project UNIFY®) on Facebook, Twitter and WordPress.
4. Review the Video Conferencing Options in the Resource given, and think of how you can use that to stay connected with your new friends and collaborate with colleagues back in your home community, regardless of physical geographic location.

**Personal Reflection**

* It can take just one story to change a mindset, to change an attitude and to change a person. Why is sharing our experiences through Social Media important to you?

**For More Information**

Contact Clement Coulston (clement.coulston@gmail.com) and/or Rachel Ward (wardlilfishy@aol.com).