

this, he was Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) and Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA). Dr. Dar has received a number of awards and honours, including the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines, Outstanding Young Scientist of the Year, and Crop Science Society of the Philippines' Achievement Award for Research Management and Outstanding Science Administrator given by the Philippines Department of Science and Technology. He was also awarded as Distinguished Alumnus of UPLB and Most Outstanding Alumnus of BSU and the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (ISPSC). In November 2002, PCARRD honoured him with its highest and most prestigious award, the Symbol of Excellence in R&D Management. In 2003 he was awarded both an honorary doctorate in the Philippines and in Vietnam the "For the Sake of Agriculture and Rural Development in Vietnam Award". Dr. Dar's passion is to help alleviate the conditions of the poor people living in the semi-arid tropics of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.



Dr. Jacinta D'Souza is currently the Principal of School of Social Work, Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore. The School is a pioneer institute in social work education in Karnataka offering Ph.D in Social Work, Masters in Social Work, Bachelors of Social Work and Bachelors of Arts (Criminology, Computer Applications, Secretarial Practice, Psychology, Rural Development and English and Kannada Literature). Additionally Dr.D'Souza is the Director of CHILDLINE, a 24 hour National toll free emergency telephone helpline an outreach service for children in need of care and protection. She is a member of the advisory board of Nehru Yuvak Kendra, Central Board for Worker's Education, Vijaya Rural Development Foundation and is on the Community Advisory Panel of BASF, Mangalore. She has undergone training of trainers by National AIDS Control Organisation

for HIV/AIDS counselors. She has travelled widely in India and Europe and has undertaken evaluation of Government funded projects. Last year she was invited by Volda University College, Volda, Norway to present papers on 'Poverty Strategies and Empowerment' and 'Evolution of the Profession of Social Work'.



Bernadette Edmanson has a wealth of experience working across the community services sector. Bernadette has worked with children and young people, in disability services, teaching, the criminal division of the children's court and managed a Community Legal Service, Child Contact Service as well as early intervention services. Bernadette is a Mallee woman who enjoys living by the Murray River, Australia.



Sandeep Kumar Ganji is a final year Biomedical Engineering student at the Department of Biomedical Engineering, University College of Engineering (Autonomous), Osmania University, Hyderabad. He has published two papers in journals of Cognitive Processing and Applied Informatics. Sandeep's interest in econo-physics and group dynamics provides a fascinating perspective to the conference. Sandeep will be presenting his research papers at International conferences in Lisbon and Rome just prior to Strength Based Strategies 2006.



Paige Garland is the Founder and Director of Plan-it Life Pty Ltd. Paige is a qualified teacher having completed her Diploma of Teaching in 1987 through the now, University of Southern Queensland. She is currently completing a Bachelor of Business and Commerce (Management) and a Bachelor of Arts (Mass Communication) through Monash University. Paige is a member of the Australian Institute of Management, the Project Management Institute, the Queensland Centre for Photography and the Queensland Writers Centre. "I love helping people make their dreams come true....having a life worth living....a life full of love, passion, inspiration and challenge. I incorporate strengths-based practice in a diverse range of ways when developing Life Plans and Business Plans with people."



Dr. Sebanti Ghosh is a Community Health & Gender specialist working for over 10 years in the development sector in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, South India and in neighbouring Bangladesh. Subsequent to completing her graduation from Medical College, Kolkata she did her specialisation in Community Health and later on in Gender & Social Development in institutes in India as well as abroad. Sebanti is a founding member (currently Secretary) of the Association for Social and Health Advancement (ASHA), NGO based in Kolkata, West Bengal implementing development initiatives in socio-economic and health sector as well as providing technical resource support to other organisations and institutions (training, action research and evaluation) and has been working in close relation with UNICEF, Action aid, CASA DIAKONIA, Erikshjalpen, Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Family Health International, GTZ. Moreover she is currently working as Public Health Consultant with Technical Assistance Support Team for Health Systems Development Initiative Government of West Bengal, supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK. She had also earlier worked with World Health Organization (WHO) and had been associated with some leading NGOs in West Bengal and India. She has participated in various state & national level conferences/workshops as well as international conferences and presented papers based on her work and experiences.