



the 16th World Open Space on Open Space (WOSonOS)

A dynamic and interactive conference in Open Space
for facilitators, organizations and colleagues who use Open Space

www.wosonos2008.org

What is Open Space?

Open Space (also known as Open Space Technology) is a method, a process where one facilitator can convene groups of 10 to 2000+ people -- for knowledge exchange, strategic planning, conferences, task work, forums, program and product development and conflict resolution around the world. Originated in 1985, to-date it has been used in over 130 countries and a diversity of cultures, companies and communities across the world. Open Space is an 'open source' tool - there is a book and a method and it is taught internationally - however it is not copyrighted or owned in any way - intentionally designed to be shared across the world. An international community of practice - facilitators - shares tools, knowledge, education and information around the world.

What is the World Open Space on Open Space?

The World Open Space on Open Space (WOSonOS) is an annual international participatory conference for facilitators and others who use the method of Open Space around the world for everything from corporate strategic planning processes to community development to conflict resolution in high-stakes conflict zones around the world. Participants will gather for several days using this process as they explore best practices, share issues and opportunities, discuss tools and challenges, and share experiences across culture and in diverse regions of the world. This event will also include an Author Evening with Harrison Owen, originator of the method, as he launches the new Third Edition of the fundamental book on Open Space, "Open Space Technology: A User's Guide". Associated events include a workshop teaching the method to new learners, a post-event facilitators' luncheon, and a virtual conference one month after the live event (see the website for details on how to participate). Each year the conference is hosted by a different country - it is our great honor to host it in the USA this year.

Clients who see the power in engaging the knowledge, experience and passion of their organizations and communities through the use of Open Space include Heifer International, Boeing Corporation, the International Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, Owens / Corning Fiberglas, Rockport Shoes, the US Departments of Labor and Transportation, the International AIDS Conferences, Ikea, the US Forest Service, the World Bank, AT&T, Lucent Technologies, the US Scholar-Athlete Games, the National Forum on Geosciences Information Technology, One Ocean Marine Forum, the Gates Foundation, Earth Island Institute, and many others.

Who will be There? How Do They Use Open Space around the World?

Facilitators and peace builders from around the world.

- engaging democracy and improving literacy in Haiti
- bringing together Israelis and Palestinians to hear and witness each others' experience
- helping community leaders in Northern Iraq keep community services moving forward in the midst of war
- creating safe, respectful and dynamic interchange between union and non-union workers in the trades as they work together on the future of federal highway construction training programs

Process experts unleashing the knowledge and wisdom of organizations and communities.

- bringing together entire companies - from the receptionists to the chief executive officers - to discover new approaches to productivity and profitability
- engaging a global corporation's worldwide Information Technology division to identify opportunities, issues and strategies for the company's strategic planning process
- creating a dynamic work environment where chemists create a new polymer, shoe companies develop a new line of shoes, aviation experts design an airplane door, architects design an Olympic pavilion

Collaboration guides bringing people together to understand each other across differences and work for a better world.

- engaging youth from urban and rural areas of Colombia and Cambodia in the health of their own communities
- helping doctors, nurses, educators and advocates share urgent information, knowledge and best practices in the fight against HIV/AIDS
- engaging immigrant and refugee farmers from around the world who gather together to exchange knowledge and wisdom about agriculture in a new land

- convening international environmental educators to create a world network for education and advocacy for the ocean planet
- inviting dialogue and interchange amongst policy makers, non-profit organizations, educators, advocates and scientists for the future of tobacco control in Canada

Donate Funds to Support this Dynamic Event

Facilitators and clients who use Open Space will come together from around the world to meet, share tools and case studies, explore research and training approaches, and share their stories and discoveries of using Open Space in a diverse settings, countries, situations and cultures. This will be several days *in* and *about* Open Space. You can donate to this worthy and dynamic event - and show the true measure of how citizens and businesses support dialogue, interchange, peace work and dynamic workplace productivity through engaging organizations and individuals in spirited knowledge exchange and co-creation. The greater the level of sponsorship, the greater opportunity we have to host and offer scholarships to diverse, skilled and dedicated people from around the world.

One of the unique cornerstones of our WOSonOS is the element of true invitation and inclusion of people from all cultures and all levels of financial ability - thus enriching not only the diversity of the event but the range of world experience and wisdom in and through this event. Our registration fee is a 'pay-the-most-that-you-can' so that each registrant can afford to come and enrich us by sharing their wisdom and experience from the field. We invite donations from the smallest to the largest - so that everyone registering and everyone supporting feels the power of contribution.

We are an all-volunteer event - with top facilitators from around the world donating their own time and resources to create a highest-caliber, low cost opportunity for anyone who wishes to join us and share their learning. And every single penny over costs goes into scholarship. Before and during the event, we are using scholarship money to help lower-income participants from American neighborhoods and schools, peace and community workers from countries such as Uganda, Burundi, Russia, Korea and the Philippines join us to share their learning and experience in Open Space. And even after the event is over - every penny over our costs for this event goes into a 'pay-it-forward' account for scholarships for the 2009 WOSonOS (which will be in Taiwan). This is done in the tradition of our conferences.

What Your Presence Will Be

An Open Space is a fully participant-driven, interactive conference, with zero presentations and zero PowerPoint. It is a dynamic series of high-spirited discussions and self-organized working groups. Participants take running notes of their discussions and co-create a full Book of Proceedings recording all of the issues and working sessions during the event. Post-event this is a living document used both for reflection and review of the many discussions and for furthering networks and working groups post-event.

An Open Space conference is an 'unconference' focusing totally on participant-generated sessions, so we will have no speeches, no sponsors speaking from the front, no presentations by sponsors or 'experts'. Instead, your presence will be evident throughout this entire process. You will be thanked verbally and warmly at key points in the event. Your logo will be placed throughout the event site and also in the Book of Proceedings. The Book is a record of all of the working groups and discussions, plus participant contact information - it is used as a reference guide post-event for continued networking and is also saved by participants for both archival and for teaching purposes. For higher level sponsorships, you may wish to place a congratulatory page or 1/2 page in our Book of Proceedings. You are welcome to register for the event and join this stimulating process (yes, to register, and to pay for the registration, ideally - we are asking that every single person pay something to attend - even sponsors - so that all of our funds over costs go towards scholarship). Those of you who participate will form strong and stimulating professional relationships with change experts from around the world, and be part of some of the most thought-provoking discussions you may have ever had, with people who do real peace and change work around the world.

I look forward to conversing with you about how your financial contribution can support this knowledge exchange and community of change agents and conflict resolution specialists from around the world.

Lisa Heft

Chair, 2008 WOSonOS Host Team; President, Open Space Institute US; and Fellow, Columbia University
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Join me at the World Open Space on Open Space this July in San Francisco -- www.wosonos2008.org



And: A warm thank you to our sponsors, Neuland - <http://neuland.biz> and Trader Joe's - <http://www.traderjoes.com>

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS SCHEDULE

	Passion and Responsibility Sponsor	Circle Sponsor	Opening Space Sponsor	Bumblebee * Sponsor	Butterfly * Sponsor
	\$25,000+	\$15,000-24,999	\$10,000-14,999	\$5,000-9,999	\$1,000-4,999
Acknowledgement in Book of Proceedings (post-event conference program)	X	X	X	X	X
Logo in Book of Proceedings	X	X	X	X	X
Paragraph Description in Book of Proceedings	X	X	X	X	X
Handout or Brochure for Sponsor Materials Table	X	X	X	X	X
Logo Signage at Conference Site	X	X	X	X	X
Logo & Link on Conference Web page www.wosonos2008.org	X	X	X	X	X
1/2-page Ad in Book of Proceedings	x		X		
Full-page Ad in Book of Proceedings	X	X			
One Complimentary Registration *	X	X	X	X	X

* Consider paying for your registration(s) rather than taking it as complimentary so that more dollars can go toward sponsorship rather than per-person costs.

* The bumblebee and butterfly are metaphors used in Open Space meetings