



## FSRI 2021 YEAR-END UPDATE

Dear Friends/Supporters:

As 2021 draws to a close, I thought it would be worthwhile to update you on our work during this past year, which your generosity has made possible.

**Program Update.** In addition to our ongoing counseling of mediation centers and personnel in India, Brazil and Eastern Europe, we have now completed our most ambitious 10 month "signature" projects on Reflective Mediation Sessions in Brazil (with the Instituto De Certificacao E Formacao De Mediadores Lusofonos, ICFML), and India (in co-sponsorship with the Center for Advanced Mediation Practice, CAMP). These programs have enabled us to strengthen existing mediation centers and programs, while building quality services, mediator communities, and institutional stability during these challenging pandemic times.

As you will see from the attached sampling of evaluations from the participants, the programs were highly successful and greatly appreciated. Also importantly, consistent with our mission to build sustainable dispute resolution institutions, we are now working with our Brazilian and Indian colleagues to transition them to continuing these sessions under their

leadership and administration. This will involve considerable effort by our FSRI volunteers in 2022, but will undoubtedly be of great value to assure continuation of these programs by our host countries.

Special thanks are due to our volunteer Board Member/Mediators Dana Curtis and Howard Herman, and volunteer Mediator Claudia Bernard, for their outstanding facilitation and coordination of these high quality and well-received sessions over the past year.

I also want to extend our appreciation to our colleagues in Brazil from ICFML- Liana Gorberg Valdetoro, Monica de Salles Lima, Renata Coehlo, Ana Maria Goncalves, and Mariana De Souza; and our colleagues in India- Laila and Tara Ollapally, Jonathan Rodriguez-- for their invaluable assistance in making these programs possible.

**Travel Outlook** -Given the current global pandemic and the new covid variants, no travel is anticipated for the foreseeable future, notwithstanding the expressed desire of host countries to support our continuing delegations on site. Instead, virtual counseling, training and consultation will continue until we can safely resume international travel and visits. We all look forward to the time we can return to personal delegations to oversee the implementation of our projects.

### **Fundraising.**

As you may have already noted, we have, once again, foregone our annual fundraising drive, since our major expense of travel

has not been incurred during the pandemic period. We have sufficient funds to meet our anticipated needs in 2022, assuming no travel and on-site delegation visits. In part, this has been made possible because a number of you, on your own initiative, have graciously and generously contributed to FSRI during this past year, which has put us in a healthy financial situation. This has been most welcome, greatly appreciated, and frankly very heart-warming to all of us doing this volunteer work. Rest assured, however, I will be asking for your renewed support once it becomes clearer when we can resume international delegations and on-site visits.

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As always, please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions about our work or future plans. Thank you for your continued interest and support, and best wishes for a healthy, safe and joyous holiday season and New Year..... Vic

## **SAMPLE QUOTES FROM MEDIATOR FEEDBACK/EVALUATIONS RE FSRI REFLECTIVE MEDIATION SESSIONS- 2021**

### **Brazil:**

Excellent overall quality; format was great; enhanced our confidence as mediators; everything was good; well-organized format; taught us how to deal w difficult lawyers; learning techniques and approaches from others very valuable; hope to continue sessions; good, intense exchange of experiences; created a stronger bond w other mediators; helped strengthen existing ties; learning and reflection w others very worthwhile; promoted a good community feeling; sessions were very enriching and meaningful; encouraged me to improve myself as result of sharing of mediator experiences; wonderful!; precious new skills learned from the facilitators and my colleagues; honored to have participated; experience was a gift.

### **India:**

Excellent; fantastic experience designed carefully to meet our needs; excellent learning experience; very enriching; privilege to learn from the three of you; helped mediators to go deeper, find answers themselves; benefitted from multiple perspectives; gave fresh thoughts, ideas, approaches; strengthened my self-confidence; inspired my commitment to be a mediator; inspirational to share experiences; created a pathway to learn from others; non-judgmental and allowed us to bond closer and build our mediation community; great job; want more; great learning experience; moved us to higher level of skills; greatly benefitted us; great sessions; cherish the experience; highly beneficial.