



## TACTics Journal

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### TOCfE 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference: **the RESULTS!**

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The 13<sup>th</sup> TOC for Education International Conference was attended by over 225 Polish teachers and international delegates from 8 countries on 4 continents.



This is a pretty impressive audience especially given that, by the time we had secured essential local funding, we had by then less than 2 months to arrange all the logistics, translations, marketing and travel arrangements of speakers and facilitators. BRAV-O to our conference organizer extraordinaire, Maciej Winiarek (inset)

Although numbers may be one measure of success of an event, assuredly we need other criteria. A common practice is to gather feedback. Almost all of the Polish teachers attending were just being introduced to TOC and attended introductory 3 hour workshops each day. Maciej noted how open minded the teachers were and that many had expressed frustration that they could not attend all of the workshops being taught through so many relevant applications! In the words of just one: *“This workshop has actually taught me how to analyze my own work and how to help students do the same. In my opinion it teaches taking the*

*responsibility for one's process of learning (from the student's perspective (and of teaching (from the tutor's perspective))."*

Some of the many informative, written evaluations of the 53 Polish students attending Debi and Emma Robert's workshop (2 three hour sessions) include:

- ✚ *"I will be able to learn better and faster because now I know how to help myself."*
- ✚ *"I will use what I learned to make decisions for my future. This workshop has changed my mind and my view of life."*
- ✚ *"My emotions were getting in the way but these tools reveal I may have been living with mistakes".*

Ultimately, we know that the real measure of success is what happens as a result of an event...outcomes such as:



**Several Polish newspaper articles** on our conference. To view one of them:  
[http://plock.gazeta.pl/plock/1,35681,1054397,szkoln\\_zwierzaki\\_sposob\\_na\\_Skonflikto\\_wanvch\\_nauczvcieli.html](http://plock.gazeta.pl/plock/1,35681,1054397,szkoln_zwierzaki_sposob_na_Skonflikto_wanvch_nauczvcieli.html)

- ✚ **Radio Interview** with Maciej on Oct 28 broadcast **throughout** Poland
- ✚ Very active **TOCfE Polish Face book group** established by Maciej prior to the event and that now has more than 50 members.
- ✚ Expressed commitment in Keynote address of Dr. Elena Ruiz (Director, National Capital Region, DepED, **Philippines**) to **integrate the TOC tools with a government mandated program** (UBD: Understanding by Design). Go to [www.tocforeducation.com/what.html](http://www.tocforeducation.com/what.html) to see full presentation. Click on Philippine delegation presentation.
- ✚ **6 active TOCfE Polish facilitators** attended the conference—4 of whom were plenary speakers and/or facilitators-- giving evidence of the increasing capacity of our Polish team to spread the TOC tools to more and more children!
- ✚ One of these facilitators, Dorota Kaminska, has written a **book for early childhood educator teachers** that explains the tools and how to use them to teach stories and fairy tales.
- ✚ A **project to implement TOC in all levels of education in Plock City Schools** (nursery, primary, secondary, high school) has been accepted! Plan is to start with 2-3 schools in each level and is based on Jeni Corpuz's project in the Philippines to improve results in the school. Maciej is still working the details. Watch this space!!!



**Yes, but...** what about progress in understanding ... deepening our conceptual knowledge so that we can fill the caps to bigger and bigger impact?

The fourth day of our conference was completely focused on keeping our international TOCfE ‘*experts on a POOGI.*’ This was followed by a 5th day Leadership Summit for National and Regional Directors; Lead facilitators; and Senior Advisors. To prepare for these 2 events I studied my notes and the TOCICO DVD presentations on the materials Eli developed as a farewell gift to the TOC community. Within the context of this wealth of insights, I reread (4th time) **THE CHOICE** to distill the essence of the underlying logic of the 4 TOC Pillars in order to (try to) summarize it in a simple, succinct, yet comprehensive 1 hour power point presentation.

A particular focus of Eli’s last work was on the 4<sup>th</sup> Pillar: “Every Situation Can be Improved”. He cautioned us to “Never Say You Know’ because it limits our perspectives and particularly our **aspirations**. A particularly good example of synthesizing the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar with the concept of “standing on the shoulder of TOC’ --and the giant who created it- is the project of Yuji Kishira and his team in Japan. This was shared in a phenomenal “How to Build a Dream” presentation given by Motoi Tobita (“Tobi”). (We will share the details of this presentation in next month’s TACTics as well as how Eli verbalized a process to create new knowledge)

The rest of these two days was spent exploiting Eli’s “Engines of Disharmony’ to improve TOCfE as an organization. A particular focus was engine #2. Many times we are unaware of what our colleagues are doing unless it fits the criteria for sharing during general conference sessions or has been otherwise conveyed--and read—in TACTics. This year I requested summary presentations or reports even from those who could not be physically present but whose inspiring work needs to be shared. Toward that end, please read the beautifully presented account of the work ‘in the trenches’ being done by Flavio Arias and Rolando Serdio in Mexico (attached). We will continue to publish these presentations and reports through TACTics and our web site (pending permission of authors).

In compiling and analyzing all of these outcomes, I realize to what extent those creating them embody what Eli characterized as ‘**practical visionaries**.’ What is a **group** of practical visionaries called?

I think it is a TOC organization, such as **TOCfE—a family of people united through a common goal and the willingness to make THE CHOICES needed to achieve it.**

This vision of our group is so eloquently expressed in an unsolicited letter from Rosy Pérez Servín that I asked her permission to share it with you. She writes:

*“I must tell you, Poland's experience has been one of the more important events in the last years for me, in professional field as well as in personal area.*

*As you know, I strongly believe we have the duty of making a difference in the world, and it has a special meaning when it is about children. It is very good to see how a group of people can do such efforts, I mean in all those countries, in all those areas into educational field. For me, it is plenty of hope, I can see the world will be better in the reality.*

*Every child we can touch with these possibilities will be an adult with more tools to make changes for himself and for others. I think this is what God asks from us, in every religion, in every spiritual thought. Then, what we are doing is beyond our current reality, we are talking about genuine transcendence, about fulfilling our mission in life. I hope I have expressed these ideas clear and properly, just to share with you what I think and feel about our TOCfE, and how it has impacted my life. I feel a lot of gratitude because now my life is better, in many ways, thanks to this organization.”*

To see the TOCfE family at our 2011 reunion in Poland:

<http://secure.smilebox.com/ecom/openTheBox?sendevent=4d6a63344d7a6b304f44413d0d0a&sb=1>

## **And Finally – from Alan ...**

Oh how I wish I had been there. I'm looking forward to attaching hereto more of the presentations in the next few months.

The report from Mexico is simply a 'must read'. Even in its un-edited (by me) form it conveys such powerful messages to us all. More power to Lucrecia and the rest of the team in Mexico; well done.

And, I simply must quote this paragraph and I'm sure that Lucrecia will not mind;

“When students understand their own possibilities about things they can do and transform, they and their commitment are really surprising; they become the engine and authors of their own development and promoters in their communities and consolidate as leaders. “

How true; how very true.

Following the conference, Agnieszka Szepielow from Poland sent me a link to part of a speech by Dr. Ken Robinson suggesting that; 'school kills creativity' (read it carefully). I think it's worth a look.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkPvSCq5ZXk&feature=related>

Happy Thanksgiving to those to whom it refers and best wishes to you all.