

SOARing to Positive Transformation & Change November 21-23, 2013

Prepared by
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Assumption University Business Administration College (ABAC), the Graduate School of Business and the Organization Development Institute (ODI) invited Dr. Jacqueline Stavros and Dr. Matthew Cole to co-facilitate an ABAC-ODI Summit 2013 under the theme “**SOARing to Positive Transformation and Change**”. This summit was specifically designed for OD students, consultants, practitioners, and HR professionals, with over 150 people from 15 Asian nations and several from Germany and Brazil. This summit also increased awareness and promoted OD Consciousness based on Positive Psychology and Positive Organization Development (“Positive OD”).

The Summit ended with a group of doctoral students sharing the applications of SOAR with three key Asian organizations, and presentation of the first peer-reviewed journal issue of *The ABAC ODI Vision-Action-Outcome*. This is Asia’s first international peer-reviewed publication sponsored by the Asian ODI and ABAC. The bi-annual publication accepts submissions of original articles from OD experts, International OD Association (IODA) Members, OD Consultants and Practitioners, Visiting Professors, ABAC Alumni, and doctoral candidates in OD and MMOD Programs. All submitted articles are double-blind peer reviewed by experts in the field covered by the article. Jackie and Matt’s article, “SOARing Towards Positive Transformation and Change”, was accepted for this maiden issue.

The day prior to the summit, Jackie and Matt hosted a “**SOAR Facilitation Workshop**” with close to 100 participants. The workshop was an opportunity for participants to experience SOAR utilizing the new SOAR Profile Instrument for strategic thinking, leading, and planning developed by Jackie and Matt. The workshop engaged participants in the application of SOAR to teams and organizations, and helped participants understand the positive impact that SOAR has individual and team performance in the organization.

SOAR, which stands for **S**trengths, **O**pportunities, **A**spirations, and **R**esults, is a strategic thinking and planning framework. SOAR has been validated with over ten years of research and practice to have a positive impact on the success of individuals, teams, and institutions in transformative learning and change.

The day after the summit involved a debriefing session with community and business leaders and faculty and students from ABAC and ODI to dialogue and draw insights from the SOAR workshop and summit. The three day event was sponsored and held at the John XXIII Conference Center, Assumption University Suvarnabhumi Campus, Bangkok, Thailand.

Figure 1. Participants of the ABAC-ODI Summit 2013, “SOARing to Positive Transformation and Change”, November 21-23, 2013, at Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand



Figure 2. Jackie and Matt with Perla Rizalina M. Tayko, Ph.D., Organization Development Institute (ODI) Director.

