

2017 AVP World Gathering

Item of business 3

In-Person World Gatherings

Accompanying document

See [Business at the 2017 AVP World Gathering](#)

In-person world gatherings

Introduction

The AVP International World Gathering is our opportunity for face-to-face work together. We share the latest exercises and facilitation techniques, promote consistency and quality of programming and training in AVP throughout the world. Together we discern the priorities for AVP International for the coming years. Participants in the World Gathering become part of the global AVP community through ongoing work with AVP International.

Some statistics for previous world gatherings (also known as international gatherings or international conferences):

Year	Location	No. of participants	No. of countries
1990	New York, USA	63	3
1992	Maryland, USA	100	4
1994	Pennsylvania, USA	70+	5
1996	Canada	90+	8
1998	Texas, USA	50	9
2000	England	130+	22
2002	Nigeria	50	
2004	New Zealand	70+	
2006	South Africa	104	23
2008	Kenya	120	23
2011	Guatemala	80+	21
2014	Ireland	164	43

Source: *The Transformer* (AVP USA publication) and AVP International data

Why is this question coming to the world gathering?

We all enjoy getting together as an AVP community of facilitators at a world gathering. That is not in debate. Rather, with this item of business, AVP International shares with the community some of the concerns that have been discussed regarding the in-person world gathering.

Financial cost

The cost of holding an in-person world gathering has grown exponentially. The 2011 Guatemala gathering, for example, had a cost of US\$35,242 with 80+ people attending, while the 2014 Ireland gathering cost \$136,614 with 164 people attending. Of course there are many cost factors to consider. Concerns have been raised as to whether in-person world gatherings are a responsible use of funds.

Effort

Thousands of volunteer hours go into preparing for a world gathering. In addition to the organisers, each participant at the gathering has also given of their time to prepare for and attend the gathering.

Although these volunteer hours are given freely, it means time taken away from other projects and activities.

Ecological

Global warming is a concern. Holding a world gathering necessarily means flying people around the world on commercial airlines. There is simply no other way to do it and ensure each world gathering has a global presence.

A person traveling from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Kathmandu, for example, is responsible for generating 2.41 tons of CO₂, while someone traveling from Dhaka, Bangladesh to Kathmandu is responsible for generating 0.10 tons of CO₂. (*Source: carbonfootprint.com*) This information is provided simply to raise awareness. Planting trees is a good way to offset our individual carbon footprints generated by air travel.

When and where will the next in-person world gathering be held?

AVP International is looking at planning the next in-person world gathering between 2021 and 2023. The decision for the date will be based on criteria of finances, resources and the global political situation, among others.

Gatherings Committee will consider the history of where previous world gatherings have been held and identify the region it recommends to host the next world gathering. The committee will then reach out to the known active AVP groups in that region with a call for invitations. Some of the factors involved in deciding where the world gathering is held include: benefit for local and regional development; opportunity for facilitators to attend; political stability; availability of quality internet; total financial cost of travel, accommodation and venue, and visa availability and cost.

What does holding the in-person world gathering every 4-6 years means for decision making and terms of service in AVP International?

See business item 4.

What is being asked at the 2017 World Gathering?

The World Gathering will be asked to approve that in-person world gatherings be held every 4 to 6 years as possible, which means that the next world gathering may be held between 2021 and 2023.

Questions to think about to prepare for this item of business

- What does it mean for me and my local AVP group to attend the world gathering?
- How could I stay connected with the global AVP community between world gatherings?

Please send any concerns or questions to Bronwen at president@avp.international