



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**RE: ARTFUL CONFERENCES AND EVENTS SPECIALISTS (ACES)**

If you are looking for someone who stays with you during the tough times, celebrates with you in brighter times and who, with sheer hard work and loads of optimism, can turn the banal into the spectacular you will find that someone in ACES.

I have worked with Ms Jacqui Klopper and Ms Carmen Fitz-Gerald from 2006. During this time, the Local Organising Committee were always impressed by their high levels of professionalism and their remarkable work ethics since the beginning of our working together on planning the 34<sup>th</sup> Global Social Work Congress that we hosted on behalf of the IASSW (International Association of Schools of Social Work) at the ICC, Durban in July 2008.

Both Jacqui and Carmen have outstanding interpersonal skills and I have had nothing but compliments from both national and international delegates about their prompt and friendly responses and their excellent organisational skills. Their friendly, warm and professional disposition is equally matched by high levels of business acumen, strategic thinking and years of experience in conference organizing, which they use to the fullest. All of this, combined with the passion for what they do make it a pleasure to work with them. They worked on developing a social work database with over 13 000 people, produced an excellent website, drew up the budgets, recorded all income and expenditure with full financial transparency along with sound financial advice given along the way, helped procure the services of various providers, received all abstracts and communicated with reviewers across the globe and sent out notices of acceptance/rejection to all contributors. They also helped develop the academic programme and sent regular Congress newsletters to all potential delegates on the database. Their capacity for attention to detail is remarkable and it was a relief knowing that if something was mentioned once it would be followed through.

Jacqui and Carmen have provided us with personalized, professional services of the highest caliber and if it were not for them we would not have had what was judged to be an exceptionally well-organized and successful congress. The 34<sup>th</sup> Global Social Work Congress drew the highest attendance in the history of the IASSW. ACES helped to break the record and to make the vision and the dream a reality ... it can certainly do the same for you.

**Professor Vishanthie Sewpaul**

*Chair: Local Organising Committee*

34<sup>th</sup> Global Social Work Congress

C/o School of Social Work and Community Development

University of KwaZulu-Natal

Durban

E-mail: [Sewpaul@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Sewpaul@ukzn.ac.za)

Tel.: 031 – 2601241

Cell: 084 4777 042