

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**21-23 FEBRUARY**



**SOUTH AFRICA**  
**PORT ELIZABETH**



**ABCD IMBIZO 2018**

**“Deepening our understanding of ABCD  
by exploring what unites us”**

Every nation and every culture worldwide shares a binding concept of caring for the next person, being aware of another’s suffering and wanting to reach out and support another – a recognition of the humanity in each of us. In South Africa, this concept is called “Ubuntu” – loosely translated it means “I am because you are”.

Asset-Based Citizen-led Development (ABCD) embraces the concept of Ubuntu, in that it gives expression to our humanity and the value that each one of us holds in our community. By realizing our value and our assets, we are able to shift our power and act as citizens to build the community and country we desire.

Following on from the Blackpool and Goa ABCD Festivals, the 2018 ABCD gathering of ABCD practitioners, community members, academics, government and business partners will take place in South Africa – and will be called an “imbizo” (isiZulu word meaning an important gathering of the community). At this Imbizo, the unifying elements of ABCD across the globe will be explored and debated, in plenary and small group sessions, as well as fun, interactive, skills-sharing events.

Apart from the first element of “Ubuntu” (recognition of another’s humanity), there are more structured unifiers such as the principles that underpin ABCD and the global SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). One contribution of the South African ABCD Imbizo could be a collaborative drafting of the ABCD Principles that unite participants of this event and indeed of the global ABCD community, that could stimulate further discussion locally and within the global ABCD context.

Although the concept of recognising and building on one’s own assets is not new, the approach is receiving renewed interest and focus in the academic space, within government, the private sector as well as on the ground – in response largely to the less sustainable needs-based paradigm.

The South African Imbizo will be an exciting time to hear local stories of success, share experiences from other countries and celebrate achievements. It will be the opportunity to share research findings, learn more about how we can all advance this paradigm or lifestyle that ensures upholding the dignity of another, respecting and mobilising assets (both tangible and intangible), and promoting healing in our communities. In particular, how ABCD can help to facilitate socio-economic development in our respective countries and begin to address inequality.

**Pre-Imbizo Session - Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA,  
19 - 20 February 2018:**

An invitation-only series of sessions (1.5 – 2 days) will be held for those engaged in the local governance spaces, those working with youth and those addressing economic transformation (including entrepreneurial development models). The critical focus is how we achieve economic transformation that begins to close the inequality gap and the potential of the ABCD paradigm in this regard.

These sessions will bring together relevant stakeholders with common interests and aim to develop practical outcomes that can be shared at the larger Imbizo later in the week.

**Post-Imbizo session - Port Elizabeth, SOUTH AFRICA,  
24 February 2018:**

A debriefing session will be held for those able to stay on, to consolidate the outcomes and lessons from the Imbizo and prepare a press statement of recommendations for attendees and the wider ABCD global community.