



Action Learning, Action Research Association Inc

Strategic Directions for 2015 - 2020

Background

Action Learning Action Research Association Inc (ALARA) has operated since 1991. In April 2014, the Management Committee asked its members for suggestions to develop its new Strategic Plan. The input led to the development of six options, which the Management Committee put to the members in October 2014. After consideration of these options and the input by members, the Management Committee have prepared the following to describe the future direction of ALARA for the rest of this decade.

Strategic Direction 2015 – 2020: ALARA will identify and develop strategic alliances

ALARA plans to identify one or more significant financial benefactors, who are willing to engage in strategic alliances or joint ventures to further ALARA's aims and grow its recognition and membership base within the AL / AR community. The alliance or joint venture may encompass all of ALARA or operate as a separate branch of ALARA as it conducts the remainder of its activities. Such an alliance must come with compromises. ALARA can negotiate to continue to conduct some of its activities as it has done, with the strategic alliance undertaking other activities, or creating new activities. Some activities must change (become more professional or commercial). ALARA will continue, but its look and feel may change.

ALARA plans to allow organisations with Action Learning / Action Research interests to utilise ALARA's reputation to develop new ideas, new activities and potentially increase membership and the recognition of ALARA. For this option to work, the other organisation would need a relatively free hand to be able to develop its particular area of interest. ALARA could set ground rules or boundaries within which the organisation must operate, but ALARA would have to allow the organisation to do what it proposes to do, with only an oversight role for ALARA's Management Committee. To a large degree, this arrangement is similar to that utilised for the running of World Congresses, except the oversight would be more remote. The advantage of this approach is that ALARA could have several concurrent alliances / joint ventures with one or more organisations. For example, one alliance / joint venture could be for a World Congress, one for the development of an event in one nation / continent, and one for the development of chapters and recognition of skills in Action Learning / Action Research, etc. Each alliance / joint venture would need to be discrete and not directly competing. The Management Committee would oversee these alliances / joint ventures, but the energy / effort and input would be under the control of the partner organisation.

The Management Committee will provide guidance on how an organisation might propose a strategic alliance. That guidance will be in the form of requiring a business case or proposal, so that the Management Committee can assess the other organisation's viability, expectations and intent, and the expected inputs and outcomes from the alliance, as well as the impact on ALARA and its long-term interests.

The Management Committee has developed the following description of ALARA to define the boundaries for these strategic alliances / joint ventures. The statement contains ALARA's Vision, Mission and services (the types of activities it wishes to provide its membership and the community of Action Learning / Action Research in general).

Action Learning, Action Research Association Inc

Who We Are

Action Learning, Action Research Association Inc (ALARA) is a global network of programs, institutions, professionals, and people interested in using Action Learning and Action Research to generate collaborative learning, training, research and action to advance social change and transform workplaces, schools, colleges, universities, communities, voluntary organisations, governments and businesses.

Our Vision

ALARA's vision is that Action Learning and Action Research will be widely used and publicly shared by individuals, groups and organisations creating local and global change for the achievement of a more equitable, just, joyful, productive, peaceful and sustainable society.

Our Mission (Corporate Objective)

To promote by all available means the scientific study, practice, research and teaching of Action Learning, Action Research and Process Management, and to bring together those of whatsoever professional discipline who are concerned with Action Learning, Action Research and Process Management

Our Services and Activities

ALARA accomplishes its mission through direct services to its member institutions, programs, professionals and people by:

1. Centrally

- Advancing and promoting the purpose, values, principles, objectives, and use of Action Learning and Action Research
- Developing, promoting and growing a global network of Action Learning and Action Research practitioners and organisations
- Liaising and collaborating with institutions, schools, colleges, universities, communities, voluntary organisations, governments and businesses interested in Action Learning and Action Research through consortia, alliances and joint projects
- Directly influencing organisational, government and country policies in relation to Action Learning and Action Research
- Organising and conducting (often in conjunction with a local branch, chapter or organisation(s)) Action Learning and Action Research World Congresses
- Organising and co-ordinating (often in conjunction with a local branch, chapter or organisation(s)) Continent / Region Conferences (such as the Australasian Conferences)
- Publishing a globally available peer-reviewed Journal on Action Learning and Action Research
- Providing an electronic publishing location(s) that encourages the documenting of the theoretical and practical work of Action Learning and Action Research practitioners, and in particular, developing practitioners

- Promoting curriculum development and innovation and providing a forum for publication and discussion of Action Learning and Action Research scholarship, practices, and issues
- Developing and maintaining a global electronic resource of Action Learning and Action Research articles, stories, sound, picture and video files, and information for use by those interested in Action Learning and Action Research
- Promoting the establishment of local ALARA branches and chapters across member institutions, programs, professionals, and workplaces for collaborative inquiry to advance social change issues
- Promoting Action Learning and Action Research joint projects with member institutions, programs, professionals, and people
- Developing appropriate Action Learning and Action Research principles and accreditation for member institutions, programs, professionals, and people, and a mechanism for recognition of achievement against those principles and requirements
- Recognising outstanding achievements by Action Learning and Action Research practitioners through a Global Honour Society entitled (for example) Omega Praxis Érevna Gia Tῆn Koinonikῆ Allagῆ (OPEGTKA)¹

2. Locally

- Advancing the purpose, values, principles, objectives, and use of Action Learning and Action Research
- Encouraging the networking of Action Learning and Action Research practitioners at a local level, and with their global peers
- Conducting local events (seminars, workshops, conferences) related to Action Learning and Action Research
- Providing training, coaching, and mentoring in Action Learning and Action Research
- Providing internship / externship opportunities and research publications for students, faculty, and career resources for graduates
- Honouring best practices in Action Learning and Action Research that build towards high achievement within Omega Praxis Érevna Gia Tῆn Koinonikῆ Allagῆ

¹ Omega means Great; Praxis means the process by which a theory, lesson, or skill is enacted, practiced, embodied, or realized; thus simply Action or Practicality; Érevna means Research; Gia Tῆn means For; and Koinonikῆ Allagῆ means Social Change