



promoting the power  
of facilitation worldwide

## PRESS RELEASE

### International Association of Facilitators

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The International Association of Facilitators is pleased to announce that **Daniel Osterwalder** was recently awarded the accreditation of Certified Professional Facilitator. Daniel Osterwalder lives in Bern, Switzerland and is employed by Osterwalder & Stadler GmbH.

Facilitation is a rapidly expanding, worldwide profession that plays a key role in helping shape the world we live in. Today, facilitation plays a vital part in the workings of businesses, governments, and communities across the globe. In the early 1990's IAF recognized that there was no clear way for clients to assess the capability of those who offered facilitation services. With facilitation becoming a crucial tool for accelerating productivity and strategic alignment in organizations, a reliable and accurate assessment tool was needed. IAF, a worldwide professional body established to promote, support and advance the art and practice of professional facilitation, sought to answer that need. A global team of dedicated IAF members identified the core facilitation competencies required for skillful facilitation of meetings and workshops, and upon those core competencies, the IAF assessment based certification program was created. IAF now takes pride in offering the IAF Facilitator Certification program to facilitators all over the world.

The assessment process is based on rigorous peer review of knowledge, experience and demonstration of skills. The IAF Certified™ Professional Facilitator designation indicates attainment of these core competencies. The professional facilitator designation offers clients an assurance that those who are certified are qualified to design and provide basic group facilitation services. The CPF credential is granted for a three-year period, after which the facilitator must renew the credential through demonstration of continued professional growth and development. Membership in IAF is a prerequisite for maintenance of the credential.

Professional facilitators provide process facilitation services for groups and organizations in areas such as decision making, strategic planning, and goal setting. Members work in government, non-profit, educational, community, and corporate environments and hold

positions such as consultants, teachers, in-house facilitators, negotiators, mediators, organizational specialists, coaches, and more. Group facilitation is a process in which a person whose selection is acceptable to all the members of the group, who is substantively neutral, and who has no substantive decision-making authority diagnoses and intervenes to help a group improve how it identifies and solves problems and makes decisions, to increase the group's effectiveness. IAF members are committed to the IAF values and code of ethics providing impartial facilitation so that all voices and ideas are heard and considered.

The International Association of Facilitator's mission is to advance the art and science of facilitation world-wide. We are the global Professional Association for Facilitators, providing globally recognized professional certification credentials. This dual purpose of advancing facilitative practices and representing/advocating on behalf of Professional Facilitators allows us to offer a set of rich and diverse benefits to our global membership. As credentialing authority for the Certified Professional Facilitator designation we will hold certification/accreditation events on almost every continent this year. In addition, the Association will host professional development conferences, on 5 continents, will support original research into the science of facilitative processes and we will offer professional development and networking opportunities around the world. The Association was formed nearly 20 years ago by a group of facilitation professionals desiring an avenue for interchange, professional development, trend analysis and peer networking.

Contact: Gerardo de Luzenberger, CPF  
Director of Professional Development and Certification  
Email: [prof.dev@iaf-world.org](mailto:prof.dev@iaf-world.org)

Gary Austin, CPFM  
Director of Communications and Publications  
Email: [communications@iaf-world.org](mailto:communications@iaf-world.org)

## **BACKGROUND:**

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