

September 7, 2007

*Reference for John Engle*

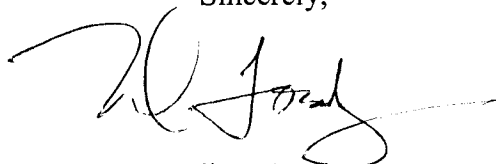
In my work as the World Bank's Communications Network (CommNet) Coordinator, I am charged with managing our annual CommNet Forum, an event bringing together the 350+ staff working on communications, outreach, and engagement for the World Bank around the world. The event is simple because of Open Space but complex because the group dynamics are tricky when you are bringing a group of high-powered professionals from 85 or so different countries, working on sometimes vastly different issues, some of whom are highly resistant to being "facilitated."

When we were looking for an Open Space facilitator for our 2007 Forum, we selected John Engle because he brought a unique combination of skills. Above all, John impressed us with his ability to listen. Throughout our working relationship, which spanned some five months, his focus was always on ensuring we achieved our goals, balancing new thinking and ideas with the need for consistency from one year to the next.

John was always available when we needed him, and was a pleasure to work with. Our meetings in advance of the Forum really helped us focus our thinking, first on the big picture and then on ensuring all the detail work supported our overall objectives. John worked hard and adapted his approach during the course of the meeting as needs evolved. He didn't over facilitate, but he made sure the newcomers had the guidance they needed.

We also were impressed by his comfort in working with people from both developed and developing countries, and at all levels of the organization. I have already recommended John for other work in the World Bank – and my colleagues reported equally positive experiences working with him. I would recommend him highly and would definitely use him again for future events.

Sincerely,



Melissa Fossberg

Coordinator, Communications Network (CommNet)