CRC4D

Jaap van der Straaten

Profile

Co-founder and Senior Partner CRC4D—Civil registration centre for development, The Hague, The Netherlands

Contact details

68 Fioringras, 3068PG Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
E-mail: jvanderstraaten@crc4d.com Telephone: +31 653330028

Overview

Modern civil registration makes use of the latest information and communication technology, supported by modern law. In developing countries intelligent solutions to expand affordable government outreach, given many people's financial inability and willingness to reach and access civil registration offices, are key. These especially involve the use of mobile technology in combination with interoperability between the health sector and the civil registration authority. In addition to such organizational solutions that become the cornerstone of a future e-government development, there are intelligent solutions to pricing policies that take into account the variation among the public in ability and willingness to pay and the product offerings of the civil registration office. Incentives for civil registration are essential. International learning will help the application of good practice. Universal birth registration is second to none as basis for reliable identification of a country's citizenry. Registration at birth is also the right of every child (Article 7, 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child)—a right currently denied about one-third of children born in the developing world.

The industrial revolution in England would not have occurred if not for civil registration, according to historian Simon Szreter, Cambridge University (UK). Every developed country has an adequate civil registration system (and identification systems based on it). No developing country government could afford to not repeat history and not lay the basis for a sophisticated society, the rule of law and the enforceability of contracts for economic transactions through complete registration. The quiet revolution in the provision of social protection through cash transfers in more and more countries offers an excellent opportunity to provide incentives for registration, empower beneficiaries and get the targeting right. The total cost of India's Aadhaar project to provide an ID to every Indian citizen, that cost $2 per person, is equivalent only to 4% of the country's annual expenditure on social transfer programs. But national IDs require the civil registration system to generate the breeder documents for the national ID as a structural, long-term solution.

CRC4D is both a resource and training centre and brings together consultants in a variety of disciplines to offer integrated solutions for civil registration improvement and ID management.

Professional interests

Economic, organizational and managerial aspects of civil registration; training; workshop facilitation

Achievements

Drs. Jaap van der Straaten, MBA obtained his Masters Degree in economics at Erasmus University in 1973—where he was a student of Nobel price laureate professor Tinbergen and the later minister of development cooperation, Jan Pronk—and his Masters Degree in business administration at Erasmus University and at the Simon School, Rochester University, New York, in 1991 (Honors).

After working for five years in Suriname as technical expert for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, he joined the Research Institute for Management Science (now Maastricht School of Management) as a senior lecturer in regional planning and location economics. While continuing for another five years as a guest lecturer, Jaap became a Research Sector Manager at the province of South Holland Economic-Technological Institute. During this time he was both an active member of the Suriname section of the Labour Party (PvdA) Committee for Development Cooperation and was a committee member for the Socio-Economic Council (SER), which advises the Dutch central government. In 1985 Jaap returned to the work abroad he loves most and became a project manager for the Netherlands Economic Institute (now ECORYS) in Indonesia. He did also give guest lectures in regional economics at Pattimura university during this time. After working for another five years as a CEO of a for-profit, privately held company in the Netherlands, Jaap returned to work for Plan International in Indonesia (from 1991, country management), the Philippines (from 1996, regional management) and finally in the United Kingdom (from 2001, global management). In Indonesia, Jaap's low-cost housing project in West Timor was nominated for the prestigious Aga Khan Award, before then in Indonesia only bestowed on Jakarta's Sukarno-Hatta airport.

Jaap's signature projects at Plan are the development of its non-sponsorship (grants) income portfolio (which increased from 2001 through 2010 at a clip of 20-40% per annum from 8% to 35% of total revenues), and the introduction in 1998 and subsequent development of its birth registration advocacy to a global activity second in the world only to the one from UNICEF with which Jaap forged unprecedented levels of durable, productive partnership.

After almost two decades of work for Plan, Jaap moved towards establishing his current consultancy practice in civil registration, advising the likes of organizations such as UNICEF and UNHCR. Jaap is working on a PhD on the subject of the economics of civil registration.

Affiliation with organizations

Current: STUSECO, board director; various alumni organizations (Erasmus University, Simon School and Rochester University)

Previous: Commissie Ontwikkelingssamenwerking PvdA, Socio-Economic Council, Resource Alliance

Publications

In *Economisch-Statistische Berichten*, *Socialisme en Democratie* and *Derde Wereld* (all with Marein van Schaaijk, PhD, co-author), and articles in *NRC-Handelsblad* and *Economisch Dagblad*.

Languages

Dutch, English, French, German and Indonesian

Previous experience in UN employment or consultancy

1. Consultancy contract with UNICEF ESARO, 2010
2. Consultancy contract with UNICEF ESARO, 2010/2011 (sub-contractor, through Public Health Solutions Ltd., Hong Kong)
3. Consultancy contract with UNICEF Montenegro, 2011
4. Consultancy contract with UNICEF ESARO, 2011 (sub-contractor)
5. Consultancy contract with UNICEF ESARO and WCARO, 2011-2012 (CRC4D)
6. Consultancy contract with UNICEF South Sudan, 2011 (CRC4D
7. Consultancy contract with UNICEF Cameroon, 2011
8. Consultancy contract with UNHCR Sudan, 2012 (CRC4D)
9. Consultancy contract with UNICEF ESARO and WCARO, 2012 (CRC4D)

References

See my LinkedIn profile: http://www.linkedin.com/in/jaapvanderstraaten