

## Brazil Region Story – Summary Draft

In Brazil NA started in the middle 80's. Our first group was (and still is) in Sao Paulo City named Alvorada, which means "sunrise". It started as a TA (Toxicomanos Anonymous), in 1985. In Rio the community begun with a group named GATA which is still carrying the message.

Fellowship started as TA but NA groups started meeting and, in a few years, the whole region decided to be NA, in 1989. Our regional development was based on Sao Paulo and Rio communities and most of its groups are located in these two states. Although the NA development was proportional to economic and population levels is important to say that today we have groups in all 27 Brazilian States.

We are now working on a statistic research about how many groups actually we have. Our last info estimates in more then 700 groups and if we consider 3 meetings per group per week, we can say we have probably more then 2,100 meetings per week. This is huge considering our age.

Next year we'll held the XIV Brazil Region Convention. Since 2002 we decided to have conventions every two years. The XIII Convention had more then 1,000 people attending.

Also is very common an event called "ENCOMPASSO" which means "steps encountering". In a weekend, the fellowship gathers to share and workshop about the 12 steps. This kind of event is promoted by ASC's.

Brazil region provides, at the various levels of service all basics services. PI, H&I, Help Lines, Reaching Out, Literature Translations and distribution and PR.

Considering our geographic distances and the huge number of groups and ASC's, in 2002 was approved a motion were stated that a single board instead of sub-comities will provide regional services. The regional board is responsible for all for all regional (countrywide) related issues.

The same motion also created a new service structure level: "Nucleos" (nucleus, core). This new experience was created in order to improve our capacity of providing services in general terms. Now ASC's gather in Nucleus provide necessary service to areas and groups and Nucleus send its representatives to the Regional meetings. We just accomplish our first year experience. We can say we are saving money and we are been able to provide more effective services without wasting money, time and human resources. This new format is very peculiar and we haven't heard any other region with an experience like that. Hopefully we'll be able to report more about results.

A bad experience was the theft of funds we had three years ago. More then the lack of money itself (what was relevant) the lack of confidence in regional services brought our region to a breaking point. But the good experience has been recovering confidence and money (of course). After these terrible moments we had a chance to keep moving forward towards unity, strength, faith, hope.

That's a summary of our contribution.

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to us all!

Hugs

Junior – Brazil Region RD