



INCLUSION AROUND THE WORLD

Inclusion International (II) is a global federation of family-based organizations advocating for the human rights of people with intellectual disabilities worldwide. II represents over 200 member federations in 115 countries throughout five regions Middle East, Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia Pacific.

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Dear Inclusion International Members,

Welcome to the March 2012 issue of Inclusion International's newsletter. 2012 is off to a busy start and we are excited about the year ahead. Our focus this year and over the last year has been to support our member organizations in your work to promote the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Specifically, our workplan is designed to create opportunities for members to share experiences about how to promote the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD); to provide direct support to those activities through technical expertise and by providing information and resources to support our member's efforts. Your membership fees to Inclusion International have enabled us to:

- Conduct regional forums in each of the five regions of II
 - Establish and support Convention Action Teams in each of the priority areas of II (Inclusive Education; Living in the Community; legal capacity; families)
 - Pilot initiatives in partnership with member organizations
 - Provide direct support to members in implementation and monitoring of the CRPD
 - Advocate on behalf of our members at the UN and in international forums
- And much, much more...

II relies on the fees of our members to enable us to continue to do this work.

This newsletter will highlight some of the many exciting activities and initiatives Inclusion International (II) is involved in. We are pleased to share information about the success of our regional forums. In this issue, you will find articles on our Asia-Pacific Regional Forum held in November 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal and information about our upcoming Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Forum to be held in Amman, Jordan at the end of March 2012.

Regional forums provide a critical opportunity for families and self-advocates to come together to share their lived experience and expertise on building inclusive communities; they help build bridges and partnerships and expand our networks. Coming out of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum, I was asked to review a draft bill from Nepal on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This type of engagement and support is another example of II in action.

April 2012



II is busy preparing for our upcoming General Assembly and Global Forum, *Achieving Inclusion*, being held 25 – 28 October, 2012, in Washington, D.C. II is excited to be partnering with The ARC, our member from the United States, to develop a programme that is engaging and dynamic. Information about registration, accommodation and the programme will be available soon at: www.thearc.org. Check often for updates.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this exciting forum and our General Assembly. Please note that only II members who have paid their fees will be entitled to vote at the General Assembly. If you have any questions about your fees please contact: info@inclusion-international.org.

At the Forum, II will launch its Global Report on Living and Being Included in the Community. II's Global Report on Living and Being Included in the Community will be an outcome of our Article 19 Campaign. If you haven't already become involved with the Article 19 Campaign please visit: www.ii-livinginthecommunity.org to find out more.

II invites you to keep us up to date on your efforts and activities. The newsletter is one of the ways that we communicate with our member organizations and other partners. If you have information you would like to share, have questions about any of these initiatives or would like to become involved in any of these activities of II listed please contact us at: info@inclusion-international.org.

As President of Inclusion International, I wish you all the best for an exciting 2012 and hope to see you in Washington, D.C. for our General Assembly and Global Forum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Klaus Lachwitz".

Klaus Lachwitz
President
Inclusion International

Global Conference on Achieving Inclusion. October 25-28, 2012 in Washington DC. Registration now open!



This International event is organised by Inclusion International and its members in the US, The Arc. Participants from all over the world will come together to discuss the implications of Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: *Living independently and being included in the community*. [Inclusion International's two year Campaign](#) to promote Art.19 will culminate at the Conference with the launch of a Global Report. Information on the Conference and how to register is available on www.inclusion-international.org

Global Report on Art.19: *Living independently and being included in the community.*

Inclusion International is collecting information from self-advocates families and organizations to contribute to the Global Report on Article 19 of the CRPD: *Living independently and being included in the community*. The report will be launched during the International Forum in Washington DC on 25-28 October, 2012.

We are looking for personal stories; tell us about your vision of what Article 19 means; and shared your experiences related to deinstitutionalization or building of community supports and services; existing research and political advocacy strategies. The information collected is being posted on www.ii-livinginthecommunity.org. We have received valuable personal stories from self-advocates from the UK, Japan, Spain and Canada. Ciara Evans from the UK told us "It is important for me to live independently, because I want to have a good life like anyone else..."

In addition to personal stories, we are supporting local groups to conduct focus group discussions with self-advocates and families and we are asking national organizations to complete a short survey of what is going on in their countries related to Article 19. To find out how to participate visit our website www.ii-livinginthecommunity.org or email us at info@inclusion-international.org

Updated Constitution of Inclusion International

Due to changes in the laws under which Inclusion International is registered in England the wording of the Constitution has been updated. These changes were approved by the Council at its meeting in Dec 2011. A lawyer, who is an expert in the relevant legislation, has supported this process.

The changes do not alter the way in which Inclusion International will be governed or operate.

A copy of the new constitution can be found on the Inclusion International Website (<http://www.inclusion-international.org/about-us/governance/constitution>)

If you have any questions on this matter please feel to contact us info@inclusion-international.org

Asia Pacific Regional Forum- Achieving Inclusion: Sharing Strategies for Change

Inclusion International, with support from NFU (The Norwegian Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities) hosted an Asia Pacific Regional Forum “**Achieving Inclusion: Sharing Strategies for Change**” in Kathmandu, Nepal, 28-29 November 2011. The Asia-Pacific Regional Forum was the fourth of five Inclusion International regional events designed to support our members to use the UN Convention as a tool for advancing their work.

The regional forum was an opportunity for families and self-advocates in the Asia Pacific Region to come together to share experiences and discuss their work in promoting the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in the community, in education and in decisions that affect their lives. The forum provided information about the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and helped organizations to develop practical strategies for the implementation of key provisions in the Convention.

Inclusion International welcomed over 100 participants from more than 20 countries; the majority of participants from Nepal and the Asia Pacific Region. For many participants, even those whose organizations are members of Inclusion International, the forum was their first direct engagement experience with Inclusion International. There were plenary sessions and breakout sessions to enable participants to engage in a dialogue on the issues of the conference. On the second day, Inclusion International was pleased to have Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from Bangladesh, deliver an address to participants on the Implications of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for people with an intellectual disability and their family.

Plenary and breakout sessions were focused on three key themes:
The role of families and self-advocates; Living and being included in the Community; Inclusive Education.

The presentations from the Forum are available at www.inclusion-international.org

Inclusion International contributes to the review on draft bill for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Nepal.

The draft Bill has been enacted by the Government of Nepal to Amend and Consolidate Laws Concerning to Persons with Disabilities. In his review of the draft bill the President of Inclusion International, Klaus Lachwitz commended the attempt of the Government of Nepal to execute the Human Rights described in the CRPD, he said *“Nepal in comparison with other States Parties who have ratified the CRPD is planning remarkable and ambitious activities to redefine its disability laws in the light of all human rights as described in the CRPD”* The papers are available at www.inclusion-international.org

Achieving community-living in Europe: The Common European Guidelines on De-institutionalisation

Inclusion Europe has taken a new step forward in its commitment to implement the right of people with intellectual disabilities to live included in the community. After the research conducted in the frameworks of the projects “Included in Society” and of the one focusing on people with severe disabilities and complex needs, we have now started a cooperation with all relevant EU-level networks to elaborate Common European Guidelines on De-institutionalisation. The purpose of this project is to reduce marginalisation and improve the inclusion and life chances of some of Europe’s most vulnerable citizens by accelerating and improving the quality of de-institutionalisation throughout the European Union.

Inclusion Europe’s involvement in this initiative is part of Inclusion International’s Global Campaign on Article 19 of the UN CRPD. This campaign will produce a Global Report 2010-2012 on Promoting the right to live and be included in the community. More information about this campaign can be found at <http://www.ii-livinginthecommunity.org> .

Building Alliances and Capacity in Favour of Inclusion Strategic meeting for the Americas Mexico, 22-23 February

The event - ***Building Alliances and Capacity in Favour of Inclusion*** – was organised by Inclusion Interamericana (IIA), Inclusion International (II) and its member in Mexico, CONFE and the Mexican Coalition COAMEX. Representatives from eleven countries participated in this meeting aimed to establish a solid foundation to strengthen capacities and alliances between the civil society organisations fighting for the rights of persons with disabilities and promoting change towards inclusive and sustainable social developments within the frame of the UN Convention in Mexico and in Latin America. The report for this meeting is available in Spanish at www.inclusion-international.org

David Corner participates at the *VALID Having a Say Conference in Geelong, Australia.*



In February this year I was asked along with a group of other people to go to the VALID Having a Say Conference in Geelong, Australia.

The theme of this year's conference was "My Life, My Way" and it was about people making their own decisions and choices in everyday life. There were about 1000 people at the conference including people from New Zealand and other overseas countries

"My Life, My Way" told the stories of Self Advocates who are making their own decisions and choices taking responsibly for their own lives and telling it their own way.

The night before the conference started there was the launch of "Inclusion Australia". Linking in to Inclusion International, Inclusion Australia will be acting as a informal network of Australian organisations to promote and enhance the community inclusion of people with intellectual disability and their families within the Asia Pacific Region. I was asked to formally launch the network. During the launch, Alan Robertson, Elaine Robb and Estelle Fyffe did a presentation on their trip to Inclusion International's forum in Nepal last year.

At the conference, we discussed the latest in the 'Shut In' campaign to close institutions in Australia that are still home to many people with disabilities. I hope the launch of Inclusion Australia will help to get the institutions closed and people out into the community. I also hope that the launch of Inclusion Australia will give a push to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in the Asia Pacific region.

Inclusion Africa held its General Assembly in Kenya on 7 March, 2012.

Inclusion Africa and Inclusion International successfully organised a session on Article 19 of the CRPD during the Inclusion Africa General Assembly that was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 7 March, 2012. Inclusion International introduced Article 19 Campaign on *being independent and living in the community*. A total of 18 countries participated.

The event was hosted by Kenya Association for the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH), the member organisation in Kenya. This was a good opportunity to introduce Article 19 to our members in Africa and for self-advocates families and member organizations in the region and plan how they will contribute to our *Global Report on living independently and being included in the community* to be released in the international forum on achieving inclusion in October, 2012 in Washington DC.

The African contribution to the report will present the picture of what it means to live and be included in the community from the African perspective(s). Over 15 million people in Africa are believed to have intellectual disabilities and majority live in abject poverty and isolation.

Shikuku Obosi, a newly-recruited Inclusion Africa consultant said: *“The business-as-usual attitude and continued segregation and marginalisation of people with intellectual disabilities even by those who claim to speak for the rights of people with all types of disabilities is not justifiable. I am happy to join Inclusion International to support its Africa region at a time when the global organisation is just about to generate yet another hard-to-ignore piece of evidence on the key priorities for people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Africa and beyond.”*

Inclusion International hires a Consultant for Africa



Mr Shikuku Obosi lives in Nairobi, Kenya, where he works as a consultant. He will be working with Inclusion International in Africa to support Inclusion Africa and its members by mapping out the regional African disability movement and develop a strategy for how Inclusion Africa can strengthen the voices of families and self-advocates in the region. He will work closely with the members to ensure African contributions to Inclusion International’s campaign to promote Article 19 of the Convention. Shikuku has a long background working with disabled peoples organisations across Africa and Asia. Before moving to Kenya he worked in the UK as programme coordinator at Action on Disability and Development (ADD). An organisation that support disabled people in Africa and Asia to challenge disability discrimination.

"I am happy to join Inclusion International to support its Africa region at a time when the global organisation is just about to generate yet another hard-to-ignore piece of evidence on the key priorities for people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Africa and beyond."

II participates at the IDA Governing Body meeting in Athens, 8-12 March, 2012

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) met 8 – 12 March, 2012, in Athens, Greece. The IDA is composed of eight international, and 4 regional, organizations of and for people with disabilities. It is the international meeting body for the international disability movement in global policy matters particularly related to implementation of the CRPD. Inclusion International is a member of the IDA Governing Body.

The IDA provides II an opportunity to shape the international cross-disability agenda and ensure the voice of persons with intellectual disabilities and families are heard. Further, participation in the IDA enhances II's capacity to link local voices to global change and global knowledge to local change. II's past-President, Diane Richler, is the current chair of the IDA. Klaus Lachwitz, President of II is the representative to the IDA.

The IDA Governing Body met to discuss IDA activities and efforts for 2012; IDA's strategic plan for 2013-15; legal incorporation and terms of reference of IDA working groups. IDA is committed to ensuring its activities end efforts are both informed by and include participation of its members.

Additionally, the meetings were used for focused discussion on IDA's capacity building projects, including Training of Trainers and Leaders (ToTAL) and Disability Rights Budget Analysis. IDA, in partnership with its members is developing a training workshop (ToTAL) that will focus on building cross-disability CRPD expertise amongst leaders in the disability community. In the pilot phase, workshops will be held at the regional level. Participants who complete the training will support capacity building and awareness raising about the CRPD at a country and local level. II is engaged in the project and will contribute to the curriculum development and delivery. II will share more information about the workshops as it becomes available.

Each evening, the IDA webcasted a presentation from Athens. The webcasts included presentations from each IDA member on the priorities and efforts of their organizations. Klaus Lachwitz's presentation on II was webcast on Sunday March 11, 2012. The webcasts also included a substantive presentation by IDA staff on international policy issues such as: the UN Treaty Body reporting process; Aid effectiveness and post-Busan; the Universal Periodic Review process; and, the UN Development Assistance Framework. The webcasts can be seen at: http://www.livestream.com/ida_crpd.

Asia-Pacific Disability CSO Workshop on Incheon Strategy

Asia-Pacific Disability CSO Workshop on Incheon Strategy, organized by RI AP Secretariat, RI Korea and Asia Pacific Disability Forum Organizing Committee, met on 5-6 March, in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Inclusion International, represented by Nagase Osamu, Council member, made substantive contributions to the discussions on the CSO preparations for the “Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific” (INGOTS), which consists of goals, targets and indicators.

The government of Republic of Korea (South Korea) is hosting the High Level Inter-Governmental Meeting for the new Asian and Pacific Decade in Incheon, South Korea, 29 October to 2 November. UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing a Regional Preparatory Meeting on INGOTS in Bangkok, Thailand, 14-16 March 2012. As one of 15 nominated CSOs, Inclusion International will be represented there.

Incheon Strategy for the new Asia-Pacific Decade, disability and development initiative



Following the [CSO Workshop on Incheon Strategy](#) in Seoul, Republic of Korea, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific organized an important meeting to prepare the “regional action framework to guide the implementation of a new decade to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, 2013-2022.” which is called “Incheon Strategy”, based on the upcoming intergovernmental meeting to be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, 29 October to 2 November, 2012. The official title of the meeting was “the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the

Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, which met in Bangkok, Thailand, 14-16 March 2012. Inclusion International was represented by Nagase Osamu, council member.

15 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which had been nominated for this ESCAP meeting, met in Bangkok on 13 March 2012, one day before the ESCAP meeting, to prepare a joint CSO statement on the Incheon Strategy. As in Seoul, Nagase served as a member of drafting committee, and made a substantive contribution in making a unified voice of the CSOs. During the ESCAP meeting on 14 March, Nagase made a statement on behalf of 15 CSOs on goal 2 on promotion of participation in political processes and in decision-making.

The Incheon Strategy is following the format of Millennium Development Goals and consists of 10 goals, 23 targets and 48 indicators in the current draft. The Incheon Strategy is expected to be a substantive contribution to the post MDGs process on disability and development, including the High-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on disability and development, 23 September 2013.

MENA Regional Forum in Jordan, 26-27 March, 2012

On 26 – 27 March, 2012, Inclusion International and Inclusion Middle East and North Africa, in partnership with The Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and The Shafallah Centre, hosted a regional forum in Amman, Jordan. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Forum “**RIGHTS, GENDER, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND FAMILIES: A WAY TO MOVE FORWARD**” is the fifth of five regional events hosted by Inclusion International designed to support our members to use the UN Convention as a tool for advancing their work.

The regional forum is an opportunity for families and self-advocates in the MENA Region to come together to share experiences and discuss their work in promoting the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in the community, in education and in decisions that affect their lives. Gender issues were incorporated throughout the forum as a cross-cutting theme. The forum provided information about the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and it helped organizations to develop practical strategies for the implementation of key provisions in the Convention.

Study tour on Inclusive Education-New Brunswick, 21-28 April, 2012 **Education with all and for all!**

Inclusion International, Inclusive Education Canada, Asdown Colombia and la Fundación Saldarriaga Concha will once again unite efforts to develop a Study Tour on Inclusive Education in New Brunswick on 21-28 April. The study tour will include School visits and study sessions on inclusive education strategies and practices. The Study tour is directed to families, teachers and education professionals. For the programme and more information go to www.inclusion-international.org

Inclusion Europe launches a new website

www.inclusion-europe.org

Inclusion Europe has recently launched their brand new website. The new site, available in several languages, has a modern, fresh design and it is easy to navigate. Visitors will be able to access information quickly and effectively.

The website offers information about Projects, Policies and about the work of the European Platform of Self-Advocates. It allows visitors to join Inclusion Europe’s media tools, FaceBook, Rss feeds, Twitter as well as the e-Include magazine which contains information about the latest news.

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Inclusion
international



**For more issues of the Inclusion International
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