

## **INCLUSION AROUND THE WORLD**

## CONTENT

2 INTERNATIONAL 8 EUROPE 10 ASIA 12 THE AMERICAS 13 AFRICA 14 MIDDLE EAST 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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## INTERNATIONAL

# Message from the President October, 2009

By the time you read this report, two of our major activities will have been completed. The first was the preparation of the global report on inclusion education, and the second is the joint project with the government of Panama, Living Without Barriers.

The report, **Better Education for All: When We're Included Too** recounts the situation of our members around the world – how inclusion works, but how exclusion is the norm. It demonstrates how children and youth with disabilities are being left out of mainstream global processes to achieve Education for All (EFA) , and how inclusion can improve education systems and ensure that the goals of EFA are reached.

Although only a limited number of our members can participate in the conference in Salamanca, we had a huge network involved in the research process. The list of our member organizations who contributed to the report fills 6 pages in very small type! Several members used the process of gathering information as a way to mobilize around the issue of inclusive education, and as a way to gather information that they can use in monitoring their government's activities. In all, 75 countries participated in the research.

The report is being launched in Salamanca at Global Conference on Inclusive Education. Return to Salamanca-Confronting the Gap: Rhetoric, Rights and Reality. 21-23 October, 2009. We are very grateful to Miguel Angel Verdugo, Director of INICO at the University of Salamanca and all of his team for them assistance in organizing the conference, and to our sponsors, Fundación ONCE, United Nation Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Spanish Ministry of Education, Spanish Confederation of Organisations in favour of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (FEAPS) and to Inclusion Europe for co-hosting the event. We also thank UNESCO, UNICEF, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, the World Bank and many other agencies, governments, and advocacy organizations for their collaboration and support. At the end of September, we submitted the final reports to the government of Panama for our project Living Without Barriers. The project was a joint initiative of Inclusion International and the Panamanian National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS) for the period December 2007 to July 31, 2009 with a total budget of \$4,275,000US.

The objective of the project was to promote accessibility, independent living and the full exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities and their families. It was jointly administered by SENADIS and Inclusion International.

The main activities of the project were providing economic support to individuals and families through direct subsidies or economic development; infrastructure support; and strengthening of capacity to support inclusion.

Never before had Panama contracted with a non-government organization to carry out such a project, so both parties learned a lot in the process. Many families received financial support, many people were trained to support inclusion, accessible infrastructure has improved, and our Panamanian member is still reaping benefits and will be able to undertake a major activity to promote the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with funds generated by the project.

Diane Richler



### Global Conference on Inclusive Education. Return to Salamanca-Confronting the Gap: Rhetoric, Rights and Reality. 21-23 October, 2009



The Conference is organised by Inclusion International, Inclusion Europe & INICO (Universidad de Salamanca) and it will take place on 21-23 October, 2009.

#### Sponsored by:

**Fundación ONCE** 

United Nation Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education Spanish Ministry of Education Spanish Confederation of

Organisations in favour of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (FEAPS)
Fifteen Years have passed since <u>The Salamanca Statement</u> (1994-2009) and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education was adopted by the World Conference on Special Needs Education: Access and quality, (Salamanca, Spain, 10 June 1994).

As the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities comes into effect, it is time to assess the progress made and set the agenda for renewed action in the years ahead.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE IS AVAILABLE AT http://inico.usal.es//

Inclusion International will release a Global Report on the status of children with disabilities in education to be released on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Salamanca Statement.

The Global Report - **Better Education for All: When We're Included Too** - was developed by Inclusion International and its members around the world to tell the story of our continued exclusion from education.

The report documents information from parents, self-advocates, and family based organizations in 75 countries about our experiences with inclusive education over the past 15 years since the adoption of the Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education by UNESCO in 1994.

The Report will be available shortly after the Conference on the Inclusion International website: <a href="https://www.inclusion-international.org">www.inclusion-international.org</a>



### 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Inclusion International on 16–19 June 2010, Berlin



Patron of the event is Horst Köhler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

#### Welcome!

We invite you to join us at our 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Berlin. This Congress is a unique opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends to:

- meet each other.
- learn from what is happening elsewhere, and
- join together to make a world in which we are all valued equally.

#### Our goal

All the countries of the world belong to the United Nations. The United Nations (UN) has agreed an important new *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. Now we have to ensure these rights become a reality for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

#### Our programme

We will draw from many countries to learn about the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities and their families throughout their lives. We will identify how we can achieve improvements using the UN Convention. We will focus on:

- The right of disabled people to make decisions for themselves.
- The right to be included in the community.
- The right to inclusive education.
- The right of families to get the support they need.
- The right to live without poverty and discrimination.

#### Wide participation

We look forward to welcoming many people with disabilities, parents and other family members, allies in civil society, professionals in service organisations, researchers and policy-makers. We want everyone to be active participants in the Congress and members of the stronger networks required to support us all in taking effective action afterwards.

#### An inclusive community

The Congress will be very accessible to disabled people and support the participation of people speaking different languages. There will be many opportunities to meet others inside and outside the Congress hall to strengthen friendships, share ideas and reflect on different experiences. Our aim is to make the Congress itself an inclusive community in which everyone is a valued member.

We hope to meet you in Berlin!

For more information on the Congress visit <a href="http://www.inclusion2010.de/">http://www.inclusion2010.de/</a>



### **Appointment of Executive Director to Inclusion International**



The Officers of Inclusion International are pleased to announce the appointment of Connie Laurin-Bowie as Executive Director. Connie has worked for Inclusion International since November 2002 as Director, Policy and Programmes and will take on this new role through to 30 June 2012. Reporting to the President, Connie will have responsibilities for the strategic and operational management of Inclusion International in line with the general principals and decisions made by the General Assembly and the expectations of members. The Executive Director will assist

Inclusion International in the following areas:

- Developing and implementing strategic and operational planning
- Financial and operational management
- Develop and manage communication strategies for II membership and for communications with international agencies
- Developing and implementing policy and programme strategies
- Developing and overseeing policy initiatives
- Leading on the development of policy partnerships and mobilisation of programme resources
- Leading on Inclusion International's duty to fight for full legal capacity of all persons with an intellectual disability and new support systems under Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Connie's knowledge and experience of intellectual disability internationally will be of huge benefit to us and we congratulate her in taking up the position.

Connie assumes the role immediately and a copy of the Executive Director's job description will be made available shortly on our web site at <a href="http://www.inclusion-international.org/">http://www.inclusion-international.org/</a>

#### II Convention Action Teams (CATs) Promote Implementation of the CRPD

Il's Convention Action Teams are working to support demonstration projects in Mexico, Czech Republic, Zanzibar and Lebanon on the implementation of key articles (education, legal capacity, living in the community and families) in the CRPD. The CATS which are composed of individuals who have expertise in key areas are working to assist Il's member organizations to work with their governments to implement the CRPD. With support from the Open Society Institute, II has launched a project which will draw on the knowledge and experience at a country level to develop resources for member organizations to use in working with their governments. For example, the CAT on education is in the process of developing guidelines for implementation of Article 24. For more information on this and other initiatives contact: Connie Laurin-Bowie <a href="mailto:conniel@inclusion-international.org">conniel@inclusion-international.org</a>



## Focus on Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

To access the report issued by the European Coalition for Community Living on Article 19 on the UN CRPD visit the following site:

http://www.community-living.info/documents/ECCL-Focus-Report-2009\_TextVersion.doc

### New website for the International Disability Alliance

IDA now has a new website. The site is loaded with the most up-to-date information available on IDA's advocacy efforts, meetings and all other relevant information.

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to examine the new website at:

#### www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org

Note that the new site was designed to be fully accessible for users with screen readers and related software. For more information contact: Stephan Tromel at <a href="mailto:stromel@fundaciononce.es">stromel@fundaciononce.es</a>

## Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society

This is a new, user-friendly and authoritative publication on United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms – explaining how they work and exploring the many important ways that civil society actors including NGOs can contribute to their work.

This publication is addressed to the civil society actors who, every day in every part of the world, contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, and it ultimately aims at enabling more people to access and make claim to their human rights through effective use of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms.

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/CivilSociety/Pages/Handbook.aspx

The entire Handbook (PDF) may be downloaded in <u>English</u>, <u>French</u>, <u>Russian</u> or <u>Arabic</u>, and individual chapters can be accessed by clicking on the links below. The Handbook will also be available in French, Spanish and Russian in 2009.



## South African disability rights leader named United Nations special Rapporteur of commission for social development

http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2009/bio4105.doc.htm



**Shuaib Chalklen** of South Africa has been appointed the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development for the period 2009-2011.

The newly appointed Special Rapporteur is a prominent leader who has made extensive contributions to the advancement of persons with disabilities within both regional and global frameworks.

Mr. Chalklen earned a bachelor's degree in social science from the University of Cape Town in 1991. He also studied at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and at the Senior Executive Programme at Harvard University.

His appointment brings considerable national and regional experience to the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities in the global arena. He has assumed numerous positions in the fields of disability, governance and administration at the national, regional and global levels, including: Senior Policy Analyst in the Presidency of South Africa (2006-2007); Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat for the African Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2006); and Director of the Office on the Status of Disabled Persons in the Presidency of South Africa (1996-2001). He has worked closely with the United Nations, the World Bank and other entities of the United Nations system, as well as with bi-lateral donor countries in Europe and other regions.

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur is to monitor the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in 1993, and to advance the status of persons with disabilities throughout the world.

**Bengt Lindqvist** (Sweden) was the first Special Rapporteur, holding the position from 1994-2002. The second Special Rapporteur, **Sheikha Hessa Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani** (Qatar), was appointed in 2003 and served until June 2009



## **EUROPE**

## **Europe in Action 2009: My Life!**

Katrina Ward-Inclusion Europe

With five more ratifications of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities under Europe's belt this year, the Europe in Action Conference 2009 took place from 24-27 June in Tampere Finland, attracting some 300 participants from over 20 countries worldwide!

The Europe in Action annual conference of 2009: 'My Life!' was organized by Inclusion Europe together with our Finnish member association, KVTL. It brought together people with intellectual disabilities, their support people, family members and representatives of their organisations to discuss the implementation of the fundamental and human rights of persons with intellectual disabilities in all areas of life.

Debates and workshops then ensued, with a focus on areas such as:

- housing and services;
- legal capacity and supported decision-making;
- employment.

Information about the programme and meeting documents can be found here:

http://www.kvtl.fi/mylife/en/programme

## New Hungarian Civil Code on Legal Capacity

www.efoesz.hu

On 21 September 2009, the Hungarian Parliament voted to pass the new Civil Code whose regulation on legal capacity brings fundamental changes to the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

The Codex which is due to come into force on 1 May 2010, forms guardianship into a system which is based on the actors' co-operation and respects the individual's personal autonomy to the greatest possible extent. The new Codex abolishes plenary guardianship and guardianship generally limiting legal capacity. The new Civil Code introduces the legal institution of supported decision-making as well, which is a new paradigm in helping the individual to exercise his legal capacity, with the support of the natural support networks around him.

With this change not only the defenceless of persons with intellectual disabilities ceases but they can have - if needed, with the help of adequate support - the opportunity to live Independently, according to their own wishes.

They can exercise the rights, which are given to other citizens of the society from birth to death. The Hungarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ÉFOÉSZ) welcomes the new Civil Code and highly appreciate the significant progress towards the full reform of guardianship system in Hungary, however we aim to bring Hungary in line with all the obligations of the CRPD, and realize the equal recognition of persons with intellectual disabilities before the law.



## **Putting the UN Convention into Practice**

#### **Camille Latimier**

#### Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe, in collaboration with the national German Organisation Lebenshilfe and Inclusion Czech Republic, is organising a Training Programme on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, thanks to a grant from German Lottery Fund, Aktion Mensch. The Training Programme comprises 10 seminars dedicated to crucial issues of the Convention for people with intellectual disabilities.

**The first seminar** addressed the significance of the Convention for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Participants from twelve countries, mainly from Central and Eastern Europe attended the seminar. Strategies on ratification and implementation were discussed and defined.

**The second training seminar** on legal capacity gathered 28 participants from 15 countries together in Prague. The seminar focused on legal and policy aspects of legal capacity as well on the social, sociological and pedagogical aspects of legal capacity. Participants exchanged news about some very promising developments in some countries, notably in Hungary and the Czech Republic, but also reported several difficulties.

The **third training seminar** was organized for self-advocates and dedicated to the issue of living in the community.

The remaining training sessions will take place on a monthly basis throughout the rest of the year and will focus on the following issues:

- Legal capacity and supported decision-making: initiating practical models;
- The meaning of the UN Convention for self-advocates with intellectual disabilities;
- Achieving Education for All: conditions for the successful implementation of the right to inclusive education;
- Accessibility for people with intellectual disabilities: Information, communication and attitudes;
- Living in the community: community support services mobility.

All information about forthcoming seminars will be available at <u>www.rights-into-action.eu</u>



## L ASIA

# **Empowerment of Family Members and Self-Advocates in Asia Pacific Region**

Keiko Sodeyama, Inclusion Japan

Inclusion Japan has signed the contract of Associate Organization with APCD (Asia Pacific Development Center on Disability) in April 2009. We had already sent Japanese Experts to Thailand in November 2007, January and August 2008 and March 2009. We also accepted self-advocates, supporters, Family members, and professionals as counterpart trainees from Thailand in February and August 2009. These two training sessions were the very first ones for JICA to have self-advocates as trainees. They had a discussion with Japanese self-advocates and family members, attended regional congress for self-advocates, did a study tour to various places such as community based workshops, day care centers, group homes, café restaurants operated by self-advocates and family members, and so on. As a result of these activities self-advocates in Thailand started their first self-advocate group called "Dao-Reuang" which is the name of the flower in March 2009. They elected their president, vice-presidents, an accountant, and a secretary. They also decided their supporters and rules of the group. We expect to empower self-advocates and their family members so that they will be able to enjoy the full citizenship in their own community.

For more information contact Ms. Keiko Sodeyama: <a href="mailto:sodeyama@ikuseikai-japan.jp">sodeyama@ikuseikai-japan.jp</a>

# Active Attendance of Self-Advocates at Asian Federation on Intellectual Disabilities Conference, Nov.22-26 Singapore

The theme of the Conference is **"Towards Holistic Development"** and a wide array of topics will be discussed such as early intervention, education, family, ageing, community living and quality of life.

Please note that we are also encouraging families/parents and individuals with intellectual disability to share their experiences regarding employment, community living, advocacy, amongst other topics.

For more information visit: <a href="http://www.afmr73.org/19Afid2009/Call4Paper2009.htm">http://www.afmr73.org/19Afid2009/Call4Paper2009.htm</a>



### 2nd Regional Conference on Women with Disabilities,

http://www.wdconference2010.org/en/



The Conference will be held on 29-31 March 2010 on Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province, the Peoples Republic of China. It will be the second grand gathering for women with disabilities in Asia following the last Regional Conference on Women with Disabilities held in Hong Kong in January 2008.

With a theme of Innovation with Vitality, Development for Inclusion, the conference is hosted by Guangzhou Disabled Persons' Federation and co-organized by Guangzhou Association of Disabled Women.

The conference aims to share the experiences of countries or regions to safeguard the rights and interests for women with disabilities. It is also an aim of the conference that we will communicate and exchange the policy for improving the life quality of women with disabilities, and discuss and seek forward-looking solutions and new ideas to the problems that obstructing the development of women with disabilities. Another aim is to improve regional cooperation and communication of women with disabilities.

Registration fee Special Price for early bird: CHY¥700 before Jul.31 2009. After that date: CHY¥900

The final registration deadline is Oct.31, 2009. Places are limited, register as soon as possible.

Should your require any further information, please feel free to contact the conference secretary, Ms Amy Ge Hongying at 86-20-38465940 or email to:

wdconference2010@gmail.com

You are also welcomed to visit the conference website at <a href="http://www.wdconference2010.org/en/">http://www.wdconference2010.org/en/</a>



## THE AMERICAS

### New Solidarity Net on Education established.

The main goal is "unite persons interested in giving friendly support to teachers who wish to change school situations which bother them."

http://nucleoestudoseducacaoinclusiva.blogspot.com/

The Net has been the fruit of a suggestion made by Professor José Pacheco an expert in inclusive education. Marina Almeida, from Santos, state of São Paulo, a fine educator is very much involved with inclusive education in Brazil.

Email: nucleoestudoseducacaoinclusiva@gmail.com.

## 2nd Inter-American Conference on Disability, Family and Community



The ratification of the UNCRPD by our country, has presented us with new challenges and the need to reflect about the way we have been behaving up until now. At the same time, these changes have given us opportunities for development and obligations towards persons with disabilities.

This is the motivation behind **ASOCIACION AMAR**. We are organising this conference to engage families, persons with disabilities and professionals into thinking about their contribution towards building full inclusion.

#### Goals:

Rise awareness about the situation of person with disabilities as full citizens
Promote the involvement of families as essential in the process of full citizenship
Promote inclusion of persons with disabilities and the development of the required support
Promote quality of life and services as essential to achieve full citizenship
Reflect about our contributions to promote change.

http://www.asociacionamar.org.ar/index.php



## AFRICA

## A Year of Achievements for Inclusion Africa

#### inclusionafrica@gmail.com

The year since the establishment of IA in October 25, 2008 in Windhoek, Namibia has seen the beginnings in activities made possible by the continuing support from Inclusion International, the Secretariat of the African Decade for persons with Intellectual disabilities, and other partners.

IA has now its constitution put in effect. In a meeting held on April 25, 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan which is critical for undertaking focused and concerted efforts towards achieving its vision and mission. The focus of the action plan is the building of the capacity of IA and strengthening its ties with partners and ultimately promoting the rights of persons with intellectual disability.

Inclusion Africa has now 18 members. With an objective to ensuring representations of the different regions and language clusters, the Board is working on a strategy to bring the Francophone and Portuguese speaking countries on board.

As part of the promotional and branding work that IA is now undertaking, it has developed its own logo. The logo is designed to reflect its vision and mission and to illustrate its link to Inclusion International.

### **Encouraging Beginnings**

IA has begun work on the development of project proposals that would help it work in partnership with other organizations. It has developed a project proposal - "Strengthening Inclusion Africa for the Promotion Rights of People with Intellectual Disabilities in Africa" upon the invitation of NFU together with the Atlas Alliance which is the umbrella organization for the development work of disabled people's organizations ( DPOs) to submit a proposal for partnership for the period between 2010-2014. The major thrust of the project is strengthening Inclusion Africa's capacity for increased partnership with the relevant organizations and partner states for the promotion of the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Africa.

The General Assembly of IA will hold its second meeting on October 1, 2009, in Zanzibar. It is hoped that the General Assembly and the Board will discuss and decide on *priority areas* to focus on in 2010. Generally work on building capacity and partnership programs will continue. IA will work with partners very closely and it will work for forging strategic partnership with all organizations with common objectives and goals working regional associations of II. IA's engagement with organizations- such as the Secretariat of the African Decade for Persons with Intellectual Disability and with other AU bodies- is envisaged to be enhanced.



## -MIDDLE EAST

### **Self Advocates of MENA**

Self Advocacy has been a focus for our members at MENA for the past few months. We are Happy to



report that our young members have been networking to develop strategies to improve the rights of persons with disability in the region in hope to have an active voice in influencing government agencies in countries that have ratified the convention.

To date we have 10 countries that ratifies of whom 5 in 2009 have ratified with signing the protocol out 21 countries. Our goal is to have a model for self advocate to be used by the countries of the region to give information, training and support for people with disability and their families so that their voices may be heard.

#### Manal- You cannot work

To be sure that the voice of people with disability is heard and act on what people are saying.



To promote awareness in the communities regarding the rights of people with disability using their voice and what they would like to be achieved. To create a forum to disseminate information about human rights, and help parents to fight for their children. Improve family advocacy skills and create channels of communication at all levels of the local spectrum. *Nasser-You cannot make a decision* 

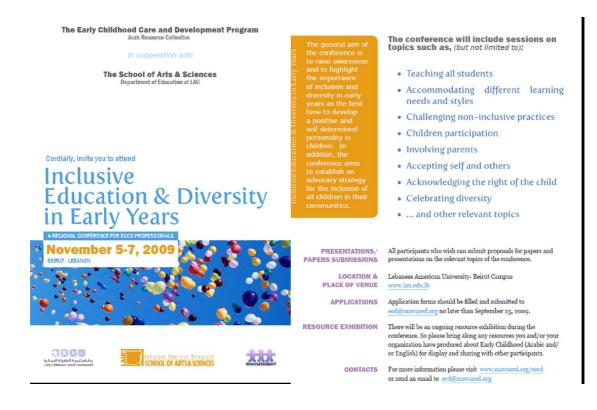
People with disability especially those with intellectual disability are full member of the society. They will have the support they need to make their voice heard and all their rights respected. As a first step a group of self advocates and their families have helped in developing a presentation that will be presented by our council member of self advocates Miss. Mia Farah at the *Global Conference on Inclusive Education. Return to Salamanca-Confronting the Gap: Rhetoric, Rights and Reality. 21-23 October, 2009* 



### **Inclusive Education and Diversity in Early Years**

**Beirut-Lebanon from Nov. 5-7, 2007** The 3 days "Inclusive Education and Diversity in Early Years Regional Conference" is intended to review the general guidelines and elements of inclusion and diversity programs in early years, discuss latest trends and policies, map challenges and implementation barriers, present positive models, and share successful stories from Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Qatar, Palestine, Yemen, and other countries form the region.

The event is going to be held with the cooperation of the American Lebanese University (LAU) Arab Resource Collective, (ARC). For more information please visit <a href="https://www.mawared.org/eccd">www.mawared.org/eccd</a> or send an email to ecd@mawared.org





## www.inclusion-international.org



The Spanish and French Newsletters will soon be available on our website <a href="https://www.inclusion-international.org">www.inclusion-international.org</a>

#### **Inclusion International**

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