



Inclusion

International and Regional News

International

UN Convention Ratification and Implementation: II Member's Report on Participation

For many of Inclusion International's member organizations, participation in the ratification and implementation of the Convention has been limited by their exclusion from the disability community's network in their countries or by the lack of consultation by governments in the implementation process.

As we collect information about the processes for consultation being established by governments, II will share updates to encourage our members and their governments to create opportunities for inclusion.

Please share what you know about the ratification and implementation process in

your country by completing the following short chart available at http://www.inclusion-international.org/site_upload/File/SURVEY.doc and emailing it to info@inclusion-international.org (Attention: Raquel Gonzalez)

INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON THE CONVENTION

The workshop took place in London last Nov 2007 and it was organised by II for its Council members. The two main objectives were:

First, to share with each other the story of how the Convention was achieved – drawing lessons for how II and its members can best be effective in influencing important policies at the global level.

Second, to use these lessons in starting to plan the future action - globally,

regionally and nationally - required to ensure that the Convention does indeed deliver better lives for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

The notes from this meeting are available on the II website.

INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY. OTTAWA CANADA

Inclusion International General Assembly will take place in Ottawa, Canada on 18 November. The GA will be part of the **Global Forum for Inclusion 2008: Transforming Rights into Action**, which will be hosted by the Canadian Association for Community Living and Inclusion International on November 18-26, 2008.

More details on the event will be posted on the following websites shortly:

www.inclusion2008.org
Or
www.inclusion-international.org

Inclusion International has adopted a Policy on 'A Right to life'.

The policy was adopted at the last Council meeting, which took place in London last November 2007. The paper will be subject to confirmation of the General Assembly next November 2008.

The policy is available at www.inclusion-international.org

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WORKING WITH INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL

Inclusion International depends on a large network of people, organizations and agencies to advance our global vision of a world where people with intellectual disabilities and their families can equally participate and be valued in all aspects of community life.

In order to ensure that our partners or individuals acting in the name of II, have a clear understanding of the principles upon which we work; the activities and areas of action that we engage in and our expectations of accountability to our membership, we have developed a following

guidelines for working with or in the name of Inclusion International.

To read the guidelines visit: http://www.inclusion-international.org/en/about_us/14.html

World Status Report on Inclusive Education

Inclusion International and Inclusion Europe will be working with UNESCO to produce a World Status Report on Inclusive Education. The report will be launched in an International Conference that will be held in Salamanca, Spain in 2009.

Mia Farah, Council member of II, will continue Robert Martin's work as a representative of II in the Panel of Experts

Mia Farah will participate in her first Panel of Experts as representative of II in Amman, Jordan on March 25-29, 2008.

In a farewell letter to Robert, the UN Rapporteur on Disability Ms Hissa Al Thani thanked Robert for his contribution to the meetings and his interventions, which "were always moving and to

the point and managed to articulate not only the needs rights and issues of persons with intellectual disabilities but their feelings as well, the difficulties that are particular to them and which many of us tend to forget'.

She also pointed out how Robert inspired another young man with intellectual disabilities from Lebanon, "who thanks to you is now taking computer courses and English language lessons, and doing very well"

Inclusion International would also like to thank Robert for his commitment and his inspiring work as Inclusion International ambassador during his term with the Panel of Experts.

Zdenka Petrovic, Council member of Inclusion International has been appointed II's representative to the IDA.



Following Robert Martin's resignation as representative of Inclusion International at the IDA, we

are pleased to announce that Zdenka Petrovic, a self-advocate from Croatia and Council member of Inclusion International has accepted to take over this position. Zdenka will attend the next IDA meeting that will take place in New York on 9-11 Feb.

We would like to thank Robert for the work he has done throughout the years representing II to the IDA.

Europe

EUROPE IN ACTION 2008

The sixth annual conference of Inclusion Europe focuses on policies and practices that support the implementation of inclusive education for all. The main topics of the conference will be:

- Education objectives for young people and families
- Structure and organisation of inclusive schools
- The policies, structures and systems of inclusive education.

Lebenshilfe Austria and Inclusion Europe invite all interested self-advocates parents and professionals to this important event. It will take place on **10 - 12 April**

2008 in the Kardinal König Haus, Vienna.

For more information visit

<http://www.inclusion-europe.org/main.php?lang=EN&level=1&s=84&mode=nav1&n1=167>

Interview with Diane Richler, President of Inclusion International on the CRPD. By

FEAPS- CONFEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE ORGANIZACIONES EN FAVOR DE LAS PERSONAS CON DISCAPACIDAD INTELECTUAL

Spain is one of the countries to have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On December 2007 a conference organised by ONU and financed by ONCE with the support of the Spanish government took place in Madrid.

The aim of the conference was to discuss the role of civil society in the development of the Convention.

Diane Richler, President of Inclusion International attended this conference and was interviewed by VOCES, a newsletter published by FEAPS, Inclusion International's Spanish full member.

To read the full interview in Spanish visit:

http://www.feaps.org/comunicacion/documentos/voces_368.pdf

The Americas

Inclusion International participates at the Global Campaign for Education's World Assembly (January 22-24, 2008)



Marie Farah (Mia), Council member of Inclusion International, last week attended the Global Campaign for Education to ensure that our voices our heard in the efforts to meet the goals of Education For All (2015).

"On the first day, I noticed that no one was talking about the education of people with disability. I spoke up to remind the group of our right to an education" Says Mia.

Inclusion International is a member of the Global Campaign and has for several years tried to raise awareness about the systematic exclusion of

children with disabilities from education.

Mia with support from Fadia Farah worked to raise awareness of delegates of the need to listen to people who have a disability. Mia had an opportunity to speak to the General Assembly about her experience with education and her presence was an important illustration of the need for inclusion.

"With the help of my two friends, Ruthy from World Vision and Boneta from Leonard Cheshire Disability, we worked on the amendments on the texts being worked on.

And guess what?! The text was accepted. I think our lobbying was very good. "

To read the full report from Mia Farah visit:

www.inclusion-international.org

Middle East and North Africa

CONFERENCES FOR 2008

1-In Tunisia, UTAIM- The Tunisian Union of Parents will hold a **Conference on Disability and Globalization** on Feb 8-10/2008 in Jerba. Dr Moussa Charafeddine, Vice-

president of Inclusion International, will deliver a presentation about MDG, and II MDG. For more information email Dr Mongi Ben Hamuda. utaim_elmay@yahoo.fr

2- Mother & Child Regional Organization in Kuwait conference, on Legislation and Rights of Children with Disability. My presentation will be about the UN Convention and the basics of Legislation. In order to have Human Rights Based legislation. That will be in Kuwait March 3-5.

Contact person is Mariam Mutawa'a mariam.almutawaah@gmail.com

3- Rehab Dubai 2008 will be held in Dubai March 10-12. I will deliver presentation about the current policy in the Arab World and how can we cope with UN Convention. The First Lady of Panama, Vivian de Torrijos will have the keynote speech in the opening ceremony.

For more information: <http://rehab.ae/>

4- The women Rights Union in Bahrain will be holding a conference on the mothers challenges on 1-3 May. Dr Moussa Charafeddine will deliver a presentation about the importance of capacity building for parents specially

parent of persons with intellectual disability.

Contact person is Dr Zahra Al

Zeera info@bised.org

Royal University for Women/ RUW is hosting it in conjunction with BISE.

The next Panel of Experts meeting will take place on MARCH 25-29, 2008 in Amman, Jordan.

The meeting will be preceded by the launch of Phase II of the Global Survey Results and a Parliamentary Symposium focusing on "research, information and statistics" as it relates to both the Standard Rules and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Launch activities and the Parliamentary Symposium will take place from March 25 to 27.

Inclusion International Vice-President, Dr Moussa Charafeddine and Council member Mia Farah will be representing II at the meeting.

More information will soon be posted on the II website.

www.inclusion-international.org

**United Nations (UN)
Adoption of Arab
Disability Day**

Endorsing a proposal by the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Disability, Hissa Al Thani, the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs has adopted a resolution marking 13 December of every year as Arab Disability Day.

This resolution marks a significant step towards widening the circle of concern for the rights of persons with disabilities in the Arab region. The date of 13 December, which is also the date of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, will allow for a unified campaign across the region to highlight and advocate for the signing, ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

The theme of Arab Disability Day for 2008 will be "Equal Rights and Full Participation through the Implementation of the Convention."

<http://v1.dpi.org/lang-en/resources/newsletters>

Asia Pacific

Self-Advocates participate as Experts at the APCD Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand

Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APCD), Technical cooperation project between Thailand and Japan, organized its first Regional Workshop for Networking and Collaboration on Intellectual Disabilities, in Bangkok, Thailand, 22-25 January 2008.

For the first time, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan's development assistance arm, dispatched a self-advocate, Ms. Narazaki Mayumi, as an expert. This was also the first time JICA acknowledged the need of support person for a self-advocate and sent Ms. Saito as a support person.

Inclusion International collaborated with APCD and its council member, Nagase Osamu (Inclusion Japan), served as a resource person. Nagase also joined the APCD missions to Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos from mid-November to mid-December 2007 to conduct national workshops for the empowerment of self-advocates and family members.

The workshop has proved as a timely opportunity to promote self-advocacy and family-advocacy in this part of the world.

Please visit the following for more information with photos;

http://www.jica.go.jp/english/resources/field/2008/jan22_02.html

<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/resources/field/2008/jan23.html>

APDF GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH, 27-29 FEBRUARY 2008

Inclusion International will participate in the Asia Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) General Assembly and Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 27-29 February 2008. The host organization is National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled. The theme of this Conference "Disability & Development – Practical Strategies"

For further details please see the following website.

<http://www.nfowd.com>

Robert Martin is awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Our friend, Robert Martin, who is on the council of Inclusion International, has been awarded the New

Zealand Order of Merit for his services to persons with disabilities.
<http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/lists/list.asp?id=40>

Robert, who is serving his third term on the council, has been a great source of encouragement for self-advocacy movement in Japan, around the region and beyond, of course, in addition to his country of New Zealand. His important role in educating and supporting family members is also crucial.

This is a great honour for Robert as well as the movement in New Zealand and the region.

Once again, congratulations, Robert!

We are really proud of you.

Sterilization of girls with intellectual disabilities in Thailand

By Nagase Osamu. Council Member for Inclusion International.

A number of women with intellectual disabilities are sterilized in their adolescence in Thailand. It seems many medical professionals, as a standard practice, advice parents of girls with intellectual

disabilities to have their children sterilized and many parents follow this advice. There is no legal basis for this.

To read Nagase's report about this very disturbing practice visit www.inclusion-international.org

Inclusion International is prepared to work with those who respect the reproductive rights of persons with intellectual disabilities in and outside of Thailand.

Africa

SUPPORTING SELF-ADVOCACY

Inclusion International, NFU, Self Advocacy task force Group, ANDD and Groups of Self Advocates in Africa have been working in a document on supporting Self-advocacy, which will be available on the II website soon.

Inclusion International and NFU have agreed to collaborate on an initiative to conduct **self-advocacy seminars in each of 7 countries**. These seminars will contribute to the development of training materials for self-advocacy and to support the development of self-advocacy groups.

Quincy Mwiya and James Mugomba from Inclusion International will assist National Member Organizations to organize and conduct self-advocacy sessions.

The aim of this initiative is to provide support to II's African organizations to further develop the work related to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to support self-advocacy.

So far the following workshops have been confirmed:

- Uganda - 1st to 3rd February 2008
- Namibia - 21st to 25th February 2008
- Swaziland - 18th to 20 March 2008
- South Africa - 22nd to 24th March 2008 (Tentative dates)
- Zambibar - 24th to 26th April 2008 (Tentative dates)
- Tanzania 28th to 30th April 2008
- Malawi 20th to 22nd May 2008

More information on this workshops and materials will soon be available on

www.inclusion-international.org

NETWORK FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN EASTERN AFRICA

To support the growing interest in the area of Inclusive Education throughout Eastern Africa, an Eastern Africa Discussion Group has been set up to help facilitate discussions, networking and information sharing on this topic. This discussion group is associated with EENET – The Enabling Education Network, which is a UK based information sharing network which promote the inclusion of marginalised groups in education world wide.

If you would like to join the Eastern Africa Discussion Group, please send an email with “EENET Eastern Africa” in the subject title to eastafrica@eenet.org.uk. If you join and decide later you do not want to be a part of the group any longer, you can unsubscribe at any time.

General enquiries email:
info@eenet.org.uk
Website: www.eenet.org.uk

CALENDAR

1/As part of its 20th Anniversary, [The Center on Disability Studies](#) is pleased to host [The Pacific Rim Conference, International Forum 2008](#).
http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/ad/international_forum/

2/The 2nd General Meeting of the Africa Campaign on Disability and HIV & AIDS will be held in **11- 13 March 2008** in Kampala, Uganda. For information, email sgirois@handicap-international.org

3/Europe in Action. **10 - 12 April 2008** in the Kardinal König Haus, Vienna.

4/A Call for Action on Poverty, Lack of Access and Discrimination. **Ethiopia 19 - 22 May 2008**

This Conference will support governments' efforts to ratify the UNCRPD as well as help ensure that the process of implementation is transparent, meaningful and fully inclusive.

Please check www.icint.org/?lid=4048 for more detail.

5/ Inclusion International General Assembly. **18-19 November 2008**. Ottawa, Canada.

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Please send your contribution for the next issue as soon as possible to Raquel Gonzalez at:
contribute@inclusion-international.org

All contributions and suggestions are welcomed. It is up to Inclusion International discretion to select the material received and to edit it according to its policies.