



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION OF  
PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**



**(FORMERLY ICEVI NEWSLINE)**

**APRIL 2016**

---

## Thank you letter from the President to the IPMs

Every year, the President ICEVI sends a "Thank You Letter" (TYL) to the International Partner Members (IPMs) of ICEVI thanking them for their contribution towards the growth of ICEVI and in particular the Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI). The TYL sent in early 2016 was not only a letter but a report card too of ICEVI activities in 2015 and here are the key points of the report being shared with the ICEVI constituency.

- The enrolment of children with visual impairment in the participating EFA-VI countries has exceeded 105,000 with the support of all stakeholders.
- We are glad that the Zero Project Austria had selected our EFA-VI Campaign as one of the most innovative approaches for inclusive education and ICEVI was invited to make a presentation at the conference of the Zero Project held in Vienna on 10-12 February 2016.
- The EFA-VI Global Campaign was re-launched at the IDP Africa Forum held in Kampala, Uganda in October 2015. We could get a video message from Mr. Gordon Brown, Special Envoy of the United Nations for Global Education supporting the EFA-VI Global Campaign and this message was shared with the delegates of the IDP Africa Forum and also posted on ICEVI website.
- ICEVI regions organised activities in connection with the Global Action Week of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). These programmes created greater awareness in the public about the potential of persons with disabilities.
- The ICEVI East Asia region organised its Regional Conference 2015 in Bali, Indonesia from 28th September to 1st October 2015, which was attended by more than 250 delegates.
- The Nippon Foundation (TNF) was pleased with the progress of the Higher Education programme implemented in countries in the East Asia region and extended financial assistance for the project cycle 2015-18. Mr. Suichi Ohno, Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation received a special award at the East Asia regional conference in recognition of the support of TNF to ICEVI. Mr. Sasakawa, Chairman, TNF and Colin Low, President ICEVI had a meeting in London in November 2015 and discussed collaborative activities and future partnership. Mr. Sasakawa has also agreed to

---

deliver the inaugural address at the ICEVI Day of the WBU-ICEVI Joint Assemblies.

- A meeting of the coordinators of higher education programmes was organised in September 2015 to fine tune activities for implementation under the new project cycle 2015-18.
- The International Organising Committee of the ICEVI – WBU Joint Assemblies 2016 met in Orlando in November 2015 to finalise the programme for the General Assemblies.
- ICEVI strengthened its collaboration with the SEAMEO (South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation) during 2015 to influence policy changes to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities in the East Asia region.
- ICEVI has formed a strategic partnership with the DAISY Consortium to provide practical solutions for print disabled people. Colin Low, President ICEVI and Richard Orme, CEO, DAISY are leading the technology initiative and made a visit to Mauritius to work on a pilot project.
- In continuation of the meeting of the Vision Alliance Team with Mr. Barry Palmer, President, Lions Clubs International in London in March 2015, the ICEVI regional chairs have been requested to prepare joint plans of action for implementation of education and rehabilitation activities in collaboration with the local Lions clubs.
- ICEVI made an oral statement at the UN-ECOSOC meeting in New York in July 2015. Kay Ferrell, our Regional Chairperson of North America and Caribbean region represented ICEVI at this event.
- A meeting of the Texas School for the Blind, Perkins School for the Blind and ICEVI was held at Austin, Texas in November to discuss a proposal to prepare Mathematical video packages based on ICEVI's publication "Mathematics Made Easy for Blind Children". A detailed concept paper has been prepared and shared with the International Partner Members of ICEVI for their support.
- Substantial discussions took place at the EXCO meeting of ICEVI to amend the present constitution of ICEVI, which will make ICEVI a strong networking organisation. A Board policy on Partnership has also been developed.

*C. M. Low*

**Colin Low**

President, ICEVI

---

## Strategic Review of ICEVI

In response to the recommendations of the ICEVI Executive Committee meeting held in Kampala in October 2015, an updated Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Global ICEVI was circulated to the EXCO hoping to get endorsement in order to publish the changes in the January 2016 issue of The Educator, which is mandatory as per the ICEVI global constitution to take up the agenda for discussion at the General Assembly. Most of the International Partner Members of ICEVI expressed strongly that it is high time to do a thorough Strategic Review of ICEVI to relook its Vision, Mission, Goals, Structure, etc., and then table the constitutional amendments, should there be a need. In the light of the above development, ICEVI is planning to do a Strategic Review soon after the commencement of the new Quadrennium, preferably in February 2017.

## WBU-ICEVI General Assembly – Program-at-a-Glance

Elaborate arrangements are being made to make the WBU-ICEVI General Assembly a success and registrations are trickling in. Following is the schedule of the entire joint event and more details will be available nearer to the General Assemblies:

### Thursday, August 18

WBU Executive meeting and other WBU Pre-Assembly committee meetings  
**6:00 - 8:00** Opening Reception

### Friday, August 19 – Sunday, August 21

WBU General Assembly

### Monday, August 22

**Morning** Joint Opening Plenary and Welcome to ICEVI

**WBU:** WBU General Assembly Program Resumes

**ICEVI:** ICEVI Papers Presentations and Regional Meetings

**8:00 - 10:30** Cultural Event

### Tuesday, August 23

WBU-ICEVI Joint Plenary and Concurrent sessions

### Wednesday, August 24

**Morning** WBU-ICEVI Joint Plenary and Concurrent sessions continued

**2:00 - 4:00** Joint Closing Ceremonies and Awards Presentations

**4:00 - 6:00** ICEVI Regional Meetings

**4:30 - 6:00** WBU Executive Committee Meeting

**7:30** Gala Dinner

### **Thursday, August 25**

**9:00 - 12:00** ICEVI General Assembly

**2:00 - 4:00** ICEVI Executive Committee Meeting

## **ICEVI Day Tentative Program Outline**

The Program Committee of the ICEVI is preparing a detailed Program Schedule by including the speakers for each session and this will be ready in June 2016. Besides the opening session on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, the ICEVI Day, there will be three parallel sessions, and each parallel session will have about 10 concurrent sessions. The broad outline of the topics that will be discussed during the sessions is given here and the details will be updated soon on ICEVI website.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 – ICEVI Day Programme**

**9:00 – 10:30** *Joint inaugural session of ICEVI and WBU delegates*

**11:00 – 12:30** *ICEVI Concurrent Sessions*

Session 1 : Inclusive education

Session 2 : Access to curriculum, expanded core curriculum, and extra-curricular areas

Session 3 : Assistive and mainstream technologies

Session 4 : Early intervention and early childhood care and education

Session 5 : Higher education: Opportunities and challenges

Session 6 : Education advocacy and awareness creation

Session 7 : Education for children with visual impairment and additional/multiple disabilities or deafblindness

Session 8 : Social, life and independent living skills

Session 9 : Parent and family perspectives

Session 10 : Interactive workshop – Cerebral visual impairment

**2:30 – 4:00** *ICEVI Concurrent Sessions*

Session 11 : Inclusive education

Session 12 : Access to curriculum, expanded core curriculum, and extra-curricular areas

Session 13 : Workshops: Assistive and mainstream technologies

Session 14 : Personnel Preparation: Education of teachers or other professionals

Session 15 : Workshop: ICEVI–The Nippon Foundation Higher Education program

Session 16 : Education advocacy and awareness creation

- 
- Session 17 : Workshops: Education for children with visual impairments and additional/multiple disabilities or deafblindness
  - Session 18 : Social, life and independent living skills
  - Session 19 : Workshops: Parent and family perspectives
  - Session 20 : Special interest session

**4:30 – 6:00 ICEVI Concurrent Sessions**

- Session 21 : Inclusive education
- Session 22 : Orientation and mobility
- Session 23 : Assistive and mainstream technologies
- Session 24 : Educational Practices
- Session 25 : Higher education: Opportunities and challenges
- Session 26 : Inclusive Education and Development (Spanish Session)
- Session 27 : Education for children with visual impairments and additional/multiple disabilities or deafblindness
- Session 28 : Social, life and independent living skills
- Session 29 : Parent and family perspectives
- Session 30 : Special interest session

There may be slight changes in the above schedule and the final program will be shared with the ICEVI constituency in July 2016.

## **Zero Project Award to ICEVI**

Colin Low - President, Larry Campbell - President Emeritus, and Mani – CEO, ICEVI attended the Zero Project Conference in Vienna on 10-12 February 2016 and took part in the discussions on various innovative practices on inclusive education. The Zero Project recognised 86 innovative practices and the EFA-VI Global Campaign was one among them. There was no ranking of the projects and all were given equal importance. Looking at the practices which were recognised that ranged from localised projects to Global Campaigns such as the EFA-VI, ICEVI is proud that we have contributed significantly in formulating good practices and the time has come to scale up our activities that will have an impact on the larger community. The Zero project too used three indicators, namely 1) Innovation, 2) Impact and 3) Scalability in selecting the projects for recognition and we feel that our EFA-VI campaign is scoring well on these indicators and therefore, there is a need to strategize within ICEVI to make this campaign a strong global movement. We thank all our International Partner Members for their support in making the EFA-VI Campaign successful and there is a long way to go.

## Steady growth of the Higher Education Project

The Higher Education project supported by The Nippon Foundation commenced in Indonesia in 2006-2007. Based on the positive outcomes of the evaluation, the project was extended to the Philippines and Vietnam in 2008, Cambodia in 2010, Myanmar in 2013 and Lao PDR in 2014. The broad objective of the project was to make higher education institutions inclusive and also develop the performance of students with visual impairment by training them adequately in using technology. This work has resulted in significant increases in access to university education and during 2015-16, 177 additional students were benefitted by the Higher Education programme. The total beneficiaries since the commencement of the project in 2006-2007 are 2,142.

The enrolment of 2015-16 and the cumulative data since 2006-07 are presented below, which reveal the trend in the growth of the higher education programme.

Country	2006 - 07	2006 - 11	2006 - 14	2006 - 15	2015-16	Cumulative 2006 - 16
Indonesia	250	385	480	609	22	631
Vietnam	28	354	470	563	67	630
Philippines	32	460	489	671	39	710
Cambodia	4	14	22	52	31	83
Myanmar	0	0	29	54	15	69
Laos	0	0	7	16	3	19
<b>Students enrolled</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>1497</b>	<b>1965</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>2142</b>

## Nominations of Principal Officers

The next slate of Principal Officers of ICEVI for the Quadrennium (2016-20) will be suggested by the Nominations Committee chaired by Dr. Bhushan Punani, Regional Chairperson, ICEVI West Asia region, who has already contacted the members of the ICEVI Executive Committee for potential nominations. The process of nominations for the positions of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and the Treasurer will be finalized by June 2016.



---

## **ICEVI Awards**

The Awards Committee of ICEVI, chaired by Lucia Piccionne, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of ICEVI has already contacted the regional chairs to nominate people who have made excellent contribution to the work in the area of visual impairment and also in realizing the goals of ICEVI. These awards with citations will be presented to the awardees at the General Assembly in Orlando.

## **Inauguration of Resource Centre at the NUOL**

The National University of Laos (NUOL) has taken lead in implementing the ICEVI-Nippon Foundation supported higher education project in Laos and established a Resource Centre at the premises of the University. The lead University in Laos with over 20,000 students taking initiative in the higher education project will definitely provide the required momentum for increasing the enrolment of visually impaired students in the future.

An orientation workshop for the faculty members of the University was held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 was inaugurated by Prof. Saykhong, who also attended two sessions on the 29<sup>th</sup> and motivated the faculties of the University to admit students with disabilities for higher education courses. For ICEVI, this is just a beginning and we are confident that the involvement of the NUOL will certainly provide credibility and sustainability to the higher education services. It is gratifying that the media coverage of the programme has already created interest among the public and many persons. With this good beginning, we will be planning a number of activities to create awareness among schools, parents and higher education institutes about the necessity to promote higher education of visually impaired children.

## **Formation of Academic Team for the Math Project**

The ICEVI EXCO meetings of the past discussed the need to assist teachers and teacher educators to acquire skills in the effective teaching of mathematics to children with visual impairment as an overall objective of academic inclusion. A core group met in Austin, Texas in October 2015 and developed a concept note which was circulated to our International Partners seeking their expression of interest for this project. The Nippon Foundation, which is supporting our higher education project has come forward to support ICEVI with a seed money to work on a detailed proposal to development



---

mathematical packages, and we hope this proposal and our further interaction with the International Partner members will bring many of them on board for what is expected to be an exciting project.

The Core team consisting of the representatives of the ON-NET project of the Overbrook School for the Blind, Perkins School for the Blind, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and ICEVI will be meeting in Austin, Texas on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April to develop a detailed proposal with budget estimates, time frame and a clear plan of action for the project.

One of the immediate tasks is to identify an Academic Team consisting of Math experts who will assist the core team in the preparation of video packages once the detailed contents are finalised. As this project will have implications for all the regions of ICEVI, we are proposing to have a team of local experts who can be used for the development of the package and also in the training of teachers in the regions. CVs of at least 5 persons from each region fulfilling the following criteria will be gathered with the help of the Regional chairs and other experts to finalise the Core Academic team.

1. One who has expertise in mathematics and teaching children with visual impairment as well.
2. Good command over English as the package will be initially in English
3. Has got the time to work with the ICEVI team in writing contents for the package
4. Preparedness for providing demonstration video lessons
5. Willingness and ability to serve as a Trainer in the region.

ICEVI will select a maximum of 10 persons in the Academic team to work on the mathematics video packages. More updates of the project will be published in The Educator and also posted on ICEVI website.

### **West Asia Regional Conference – March 2016**

The national conference of the ICEVI and Asian Blind Union was organized in Ahmedabad, India from 11 to 13 March 2016. Though it was planned as a national conference, participants from abroad too attended including Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen G.O.S.K., Founder-President Global Rainbow Foundation, Founder-President University of

---

Third Age (Mauritius) and a former Minister in the Government of Mauritius who delivered the keynote address at the inaugural session. The key resolutions, which have applications for other countries of the West Asia region too are presented below for the information of ICEVI members.

Delegates gathered in Ahmedabad, India for the national conference of the Asia Blind Union and the ICEVI West Asia region recognizing that:

- The Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) states very explicitly that all children with disability have the right to appropriate quality education, and mandates its signatory member countries to develop national education systems that are inclusive of the needs of children with disabilities,
- Most of countries within the ABU - ICEVI West Asia region have ratified the UNCRPD and after the end of the implementation period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have now endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which place further attention on the provision of quality education for all children with disabilities, and
- There is a need to provide all children and youth with visual impairment, including those with additional disabilities and deafblindness with an appropriate and quality education. The range of educational services should include early intervention and preschool service, primary and secondary education and appropriate higher education.

**The conference endorses the following recommendations:**

*(key recommendations, which have application at the regional level)*

- The initiatives to provide education should involve all stakeholders within the region, including but not limited to government, regional inter-governmental bodies and multi-lateral government cooperation which should include: disabled peoples' organizations, parents' associations, teachers and school authorities, universities, donor agencies, the business sectors, and other relevant civil society organizations.

- The quality of teachers should be enhanced to ensure effective inclusion of children with disabilities and for this purpose, adequate budget allocation from the State Governments should be made for inclusive education and the disability sector, which will contribute to its sustainability rather than running services through centrally sponsored schemes, which are adhoc in nature.
- Training modules on inclusion should be incorporated at the diploma, undergraduate and post-graduate levels of teacher preparation programmes.
- Though inclusive education is necessary to reach out to more children with disabilities who are currently left out of the system, attention should be on special schools too to improve their quality and parents should be given a choice to choose the system of education for their children.
- Indicators have to be developed to measure the quality of education of children with visual impairment.
- Data of children with visual impairment needs to be more realistic, accurate on the basis of proper certification from the ophthalmologists as there is huge diversity in the present data.
- Strategies should be developed that expand access to and the improvement in the instruction of Mathematics and the Sciences at the primary and secondary levels; allowing greater opportunity for visually impaired students with the interest and aptitude to pursue higher education.
- Greater focus on transition from school to work should be emphasized in all education programmes dealing with visually impaired children, those with multiple disabilities and deafblindness with specific attention to gender.
- As technology plays a vital role in the empowerment of persons with disabilities, the teachers should be trained in using the devices effectively in order to provide proper training to children with visual impairment including those with low vision, multiple disabilities and deafblindness.

- Research in the area of visual impairment should be encouraged and they should be development orientated rather than becoming mere academic exercises.
- The delegates appreciate the collaboration between the Asian Blind Union, ICEVI West Asia region, and Sense International India and wishes conducting more joint activities in the future not only in India but in the neighbouring countries too. The collaboration need not be restricted to Asia region alone and can be extended to Africa and other regions too particularly to exchange ideas and the supply of assistive devices.

Follow-up activities will be initiated by ICEVI to address each of the above resolutions and the work will continue in the next Quadrennium (2016-2020) too.

### Potential topics for The Educator

ICEVI has been focusing on thematic issues such as inclusion, teacher preparation, technology, early intervention, low vision, Braille literacy, etc., for The Educator and the past issues can be accessed through the website of ICEVI [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org). Those who have suggestions with the new topics for the future issues of The Educator may contact **Marianne Riggio** ([Marianne.Riggio@Perkins.org](mailto:Marianne.Riggio@Perkins.org)), Editor and **MNG Mani** ([sgicevi@vsnl.net](mailto:sgicevi@vsnl.net)), Associate Editor.

**ICEVI E-News comes to your mailbox in May and November every year. Please provide us with the e-mail addresses of individuals and organizations that may be interested in receiving the ICEVI E-News and The Educator.**

**For further details, contact:**



**ICEVI**

**ICEVI Secretariat**

#5030, Third Floor, Sreevatsa Centre,  
Mettupalayam Road, G.N.Mills Post,  
Coimbatore - 641 029,  
Tamil Nadu, INDIA.

Telefax : +91 422 2648104

E-mail : [sgicevi@vsnl.net](mailto:sgicevi@vsnl.net)

Website : [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org)