



International Council for Education of
People with Visual Impairment

Annual Report 2014



Our INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS





What is ICEVI?

Founded in 1952, the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is an organization of individuals and agencies concerned with the formal and non-formal educational needs of children with visual impairment throughout the world.

Mission

To promote equal access to appropriate education for all children and youth with vision impairment so that they can achieve their full potential.

Our Values

We believe that all children and youth with vision impairment should:

- receive a full range of educational services.
- be included in the educational programmes of their communities.
- receive pre-school support.
- be supported by teachers and other professionals who are properly trained.
- be encouraged and supported by their parents and other family members in their education.
- have appropriate educational materials and methods available to meet their individual needs.
- be provided with educational programmes that are of a high standard and conform to best practices.
- be able to live in an environment free of barriers, social stigmas, and stereotypes, and to lead productive life according to their aspirations and capabilities.

Our Goals

- Goal 1** : To ensure access and full participation in education for all visually impaired children and youth by 2030.
- Goal 2** : To promote and assist in building of local capacity to develop curricula, to provide training and to identify and provide equipment and materials to children and youth with visual impairments and their parents, teachers and others in their communities.

Goal 3 : To collaborate with and make use of networks to ensure that substantially more visually impaired children and youth receive quality and comprehensive education.

Goal 4 : To ensure that ICEVI initiatives are based upon current evidence of best practice.

Goal 5 : To provide information on ICEVI and its services through all possible and appropriate media to all target groups.

Regions

The 7 regions of ICEVI and their coverage of countries are as follows:

Africa	: 52
East Asia	: 19
Europe	: 49
Latin America	: 19
North America and the Caribbean	: 15
Pacific	: 15
West Asia	: 25

Activities

- EFA-VI Global Campaign
- Capacity Building of Teachers, Parents and other Personnel
- Advocacy
- Working with larger initiatives on Education For All
- Higher Education
- Technical Support
- Research

ICEVI works closely with International Non-Governmental Development Organizations (INGDOs) and UN bodies such as United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC), UNESCO, UNICEF, and WHO.

Our biannual magazine "The Educator" is available in inkprint and Braille in both English and Spanish. It is also posted on our website www.icevi.org. We also publish a biannual electronic newsletter that is distributed to more than 4000 individuals and organizations in over 180 countries.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear All,

We are happy to present the Annual Report of ICEVI for the year 2014, which is marked by many significant events. ICEVI became an International Member of the Global Campaign for

Education (GCE) and we will certainly use this opportunity to include the disability agenda in mainstream education programmes. We also congratulate Nafisa Baboo, a member of our EXCO, on her election to the GCE Board.

Our EFA-VI Campaign is growing from strength to strength and the school enrolment of children with visual impairment is steadily increasing. The campaign has facilitated the enrolment of more than 100,000 students with visual impairment since its inception in 2007 and we attribute this success to the joint work of our International Partner members, local governments and organizations of and for persons with visual impairment. We are happy that our regions have conducted over 600 capacity building programmes for teachers, parents and the general public since 2007 and over 121,000 persons have been benefited through these activities. In 2013-14 alone our regions conducted 52 capacity building programmes benefiting about 6,000 teachers and parents.

As ICEVI is becoming more prominent in the regions, we are in the process of registering the ICEVI regions as legal entities which will provide more autonomy and credibility for our regional committees to work with the local governments.

We are extremely grateful to the Nippon Foundation for extending the Higher Education Project for 3 more years beginning 2015-16 and this project continues to create fine young leaders among visually impaired persons in the Asia region. The East Asia region signed a MoU with the Special Education Centre of the South East ASEAN Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO-SEN), which gives us a

platform to voice our concerns about disability in the general education agenda. Our work with the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) is also getting stronger and our regions conducted a number of activities in connection with Global Action Week which in 2014 focused the spotlight on disability.

We are extremely happy that ICEVI's unique publication "Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual Impairment" is available on our website www.icevi.org for free download and that thousands of teachers and individuals have already accessed this publication. We are also getting requests from different countries to organise capacity building programmes on mathematics for teachers and students. This will certainly become a priority for ICEVI and we are proposing to organise a series of training activities to prepare master trainers in this area.

The Vision Alliance network consisting of IAPB, ICEVI and WBU organised an exhibition stand at the Lions Convention in Toronto in July 2014 and in continuation of this we had a very fruitful meeting with Barry J. Palmer, Chairman of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) recently to strengthen collaboration between our two organisations.

As 2016 is fast approaching we will be discussing the logistics of the next General Assemblies of WBU and ICEVI, which will take place in Orlando, Florida, in August 2016. You will find detailed information on all the subjects mentioned above on our website and we will update this on a regular basis.

Finally, I am grateful to my Principal Officers, our Executive Committee and our exceptionally hard-working Chief Executive, Dr MNG Mani, for their excellent contribution which has made 2014 another Excellent Year for ICEVI.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. M. Low".

Colin Low
President, ICEVI

ICEVI has become an International Member of GCE



The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) has become an International Member of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). This is a great opportunity for ICEVI to highlight the disability agenda in mainstream education programmes.

As a GCE Member, the benefits include:

- Being a part of a truly global, recognised network of national, regional and international campaigners working to achieve the right to education for all
- Participation in decision-making fora within the Global Campaign for Education, including the World Assembly
- Standing for election to the management structures of GCE

- Receiving advocacy support through dedicated secretariat of GCE, toolkits and briefings
- Receiving regular e-mail updates and news on developments in education
- Receiving campaign materials, publications and campaign resources.

The General Assembly of the GCE was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 23 - 26 February 2015. A special event was also organized on 27th and 28th February under the auspicious of the Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF). Praveena Sukhraj, ICEVI's Principal Officer and Martin Osangiri Oikyo, Regional Coordinator, Africa Region attended both the events. Nafisa Baboo, Senior Advisor of Inclusive Education, Light for the World and an active member of the IDDC has become a member of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Board. Nafisa also represents the Light for the World on the Executive Committee of ICEVI. More updates on GCE related activities will be posted on ICEVI website from time to time.

President, ICEVI meets Director General UNESCO



UNESCO, in close cooperation with international, regional and national partners organized an international conference entitled "From Exclusion to Empowerment: The Role of Information and

Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities" in New Delhi, India from 24 to 26 November 2014.

The major objective of the event was to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities and to encourage all stakeholders to take concrete measures for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through the effective application of ICTs. Lord Low, President, ICEVI met Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO at this event and discussed the ICEVI Technology initiative as a tool to reach out to more children with visual impairment.

ICEVI in CCNGO-EFA Meet

Lucia Piccione, First Vice-President ICEVI attended the 7th meeting of the CCNGO/EFA held at Santiago de Chile on 21-23 May 2014. The participants were grouped into 15 Task Forces and ICEVI was in the task force chaired by Camila Croso, the Chairwoman of Global Campaign for Education (GCE). ICEVI was the only organization representing the disability sector at this meeting

and Lucia Piccione highlighted the links of ICEVI with the UN bodies and also shared with the members the impact of the Global Campaign on Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI). ICEVI will continue its active role in UN meetings to press for the inclusion of concerns dealing with disability in the discussions on mainstream education programmes.

ICEVI – SEAMEO SEN MoU Signed



ICEVI and the SEAMEO SEN (Centre for Special Education of the South East Asean Ministers of Education Organisation) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Malacca on 3rd November 2014. The MOU was signed by Dr. Suwimon Udampiriyasak, Regional Chair, ICEVI East Asia region and Datin Yasmin, Director of SEAMEO SEN. The key areas of cooperation between ICEVI and SEAMEO SEN as per the MoU are as follows:

1. SEAMEO SEN will seek ICEVI's technical guidance in the area of visual impairment.
2. Programmes in the area of visual impairment will be organised as joint activities of the SEAMEO-SEN and ICEVI.

3. SEAMEO SEN will contact national governments for organising national level capacity building programmes in collaboration with ICEVI.

SEAMEO will be organising its regional conference on Special Education in mid 2015 involving Ministers and officials from the ASEAN countries and ICEVI will play a key role in partnership with the SEAMEO SEN in making this event successful.

The ICEVI-SEAMEO SEN MOU is certainly another milestone in ICEVI's work and we are looking forward to constructive results through this collaboration.

Participation in IDDC Task Group

Following the inclusion of ICEVI in the Inclusive Education Task Group (IETG) of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), M.N.G. Mani, CEO attended the face-to-face meeting of IETG held at the CBM office in Brussels, Belgium in February 2014. One of the key recommendations of the task group was to celebrate the Global Action Week (GAW) 2014, which laid a special focus on disability. Subsequently ICEVI encouraged its Regional Chairpersons to organize a number of programmes including capacity building, lobbying with governments for strengthening proactive policies about disability etc. The Africa, Latin America, and West Asia regions collaborated with many of our international partners at the regional and national levels to

organize activities to observe the Global Action Week.

ICEVI also took part in the IETG meeting held at the office of Save the Children, UK in May 2014. Colin Low, President and Mani, CEO attended this meeting and presented a report on the Global Action Week activities observed by ICEVI regions. They mentioned that an orientation session on IDDC would be organized as a part of the programme of the Africa Forum planned for October 2014 in Kampala. As the Africa Forum was postponed, the event did not take place and a session on IDDC will be organized for the benefit of members of ICEVI and the participants of Africa Forum when the Forum is re-convened in October 2015.

ICEVI in Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference (APREC)



ICEVI was invited by the UNESCO Office in Bangkok to attend the High level Asia-Pacific Regional Educational Conference (APREC) held in Bangkok on 6 - 8 August 2014. The meeting was attended by Ministers of Education of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region and key policy makers such as Secretaries and Directors of Education of member countries. Dr. M.N.G. Mani, CEO and Dr. Suwimon Udompiriyasak, Regional Chair, ICEVI East Asia region represented ICEVI at this meeting. The outcomes of the Bangkok Conference will have an impact in formulating the Beyond 2015 Agenda for Education, which will emerge at the World Education Forum to be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea in May 2015.

ICEVI also attended the Pre-conference Planning Meeting organised by the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) on August 5th at the same venue. Focused discussions were held at the pre-conference meeting on what to lobby for with the Ministers and policy makers that should find a place in the Bangkok Statement. This meeting was attended by about 25 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and ICEVI was the only organization representing the disability sector. ICEVI used this opportunity to highlight the EFA-VI Global Campaign and the IDDC movement in raising disability concerns in the mainstream programmes of Governments.

ICEVI is happy that the Bangkok Statement endorsed by the Ministers of Education of the Asia-Pacific region, which has the largest number of persons with disabilities, includes significant policy statements concerning their education.

EFA-VI Re-launch postponed

The Executive Committee of ICEVI suggested that the Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) being implemented by ICEVI, acting in partnership with the World Blind Union, should not be treated as a routine affair and periodic re-launch of the campaign with some special thrust would energize its implementation. The committee recommended to the Global Task Force that it may come up with a catchy tagline every year without changing the name of the campaign similar to the annual theme announced by the UN to observe the World Disability Day. The first re-launch of the campaign was expected to be launched in Kampala, Uganda in October 2014 in conjunction with the IDP Africa Forum. With the postponement of the Africa Forum, the campaign re-launch too was deferred and it will take place whenever the Africa Forum is held.

GLOBAL ACTION WEEK ACTIVITIES



Global Action Week in Kenya

Elimu Yetu Coalition (EYC), which is the GCE national representative in Kenya and the Kenya Union of the Blind (KUB) also the nodal agency responsible for ICEVI - EFA-VI Campaign implementation in Kenya among other partners, domesticated the GAW theme and run its campaign on Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Inclusive Education for Children with Disability on 16 June 2014. The coalition rallied the Ministry of Education, Teachers Service Commission, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, development partners, various disability agencies, Civil Society Organizations in Kenya, teachers, students, education campaigners and members of the public to take part in the GAW.

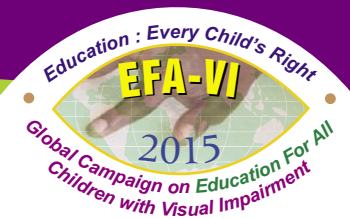
Global Action Week in Ethiopia

The 2014 Global Action Week on Inclusive Education in Ethiopia was observed with the theme focusing on Equal Right, Equal Opportunity: Education and Disability. Accordingly, Ethiopia

Special Needs Professionals Association (ESNEPA) has celebrated the 2014 Global Action Week on Inclusive Education with full participation of different students with disabilities, including blind students, deaf students, physically disabled students, school teachers and directors; and other members of the Menelik II primary school.

Global Action Week in India

CBM's South Asia Regional Office (SARO) collaborated with the National Campaign for Education and partners to establish a kick-off event for Global Action Week. In India, the Global Action Week took place during the week of 19th - 25th May and the culmination event took place in New Delhi on 24th May. A series of prominent speakers from organizations such as UNESCO, the Global Campaign for Education, a government official from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, UNESCO, UNICEF India, ICEVI and other NGOs and INGOs spoke on the occasion.

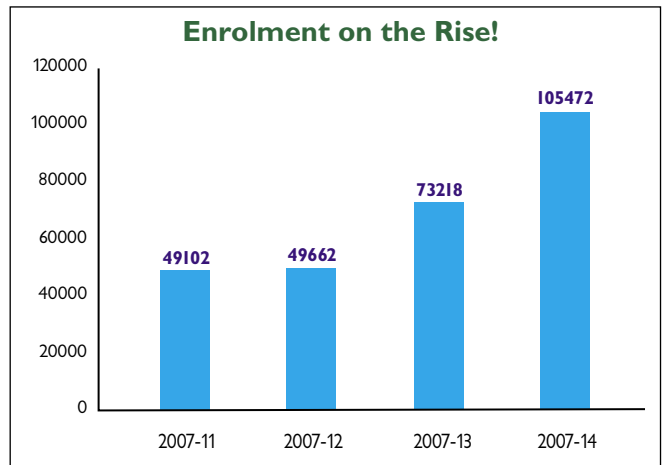
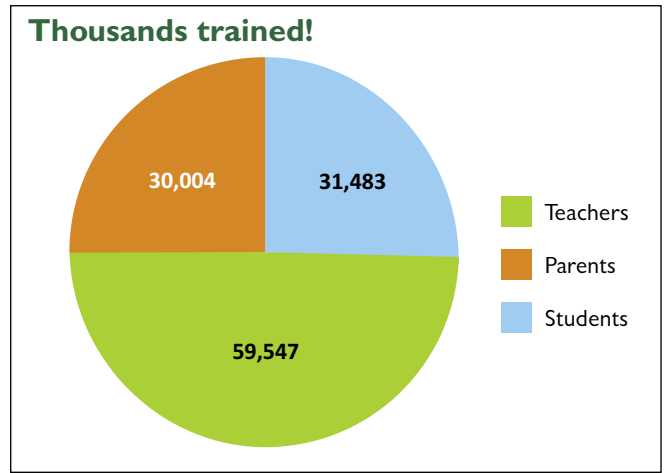


EFA-VI Global Campaign

The Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) is a global campaign and program to ensure that all girls and boys with blindness and low vision enjoy the right to education. The Campaign addresses three key Millennium Development Goals: achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and developing global partnerships for development. The Campaign works within the framework of the general and special education systems of countries and is focusing attention on awareness and demand creation for education of children with visual impairment. Provision of appropriate support in educational settings and creation of alternative settings to reach out to the un-reached are the key aspects of the campaign.

The Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) is being implemented in 16 focus countries including Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Palestine, Uganda and Vietnam. As of December 2014 the data from 15 countries reveals that 1,05,472 additional children with visual impairment have been enrolled in schools since the inception of the campaign.

Capacity Building Programmes were organized on various themes such as Low Vision, Early Detection and Assessment, Adapted Learning Materials,



Abacus, Braille, Education of MDVI, Inclusive Education, Visual Stimulation, Orientation and Mobility, Child Protection Policies, Role of Parents in Education of Children with Visual Impairment, Activities of Daily Living. A total of 121,034 parents, teachers and students were trained in the participating countries since the commencement of the campaign.



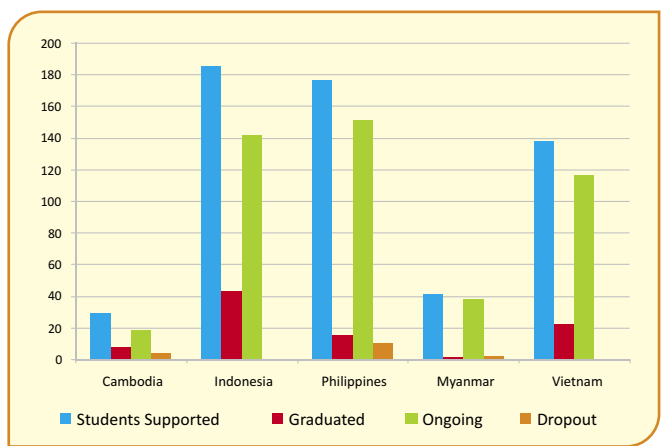


Higher Education Initiative

The Higher Education project supported by The Nippon Foundation commenced in Indonesia in 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 Laos 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.

To build upon achievements to date, the project continued improving and expanding access for qualified visually impaired students to all areas of education through: 1) equal access to all learning materials and all areas of academic pursuit, 2) enhanced awareness on the needs and capabilities of visually impaired students, 3) improved university and other public policies concerning equal access as defined in Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), 4) increased access to appropriate employment through the establishment of effective linkages between visually impaired students enrolled in higher education and 5) internship opportunities and special programs for placement centers and employers.

This work has resulted in significant increases in access to university education in the year 2013 – 2014 by qualified blind students. As per the 2013-14 data, 1436 students had been benefitted by the Higher Education programme since its commencement in 2007 and the number is steadily growing. In addition to the increase in enrolment, initiatives towards policy changes are also on. The Government of Indonesia has issued a Decree on Higher Education facilitating all Universities to become inclusive for persons with disabilities and our partner Pertuni (Indonesian Association of the Blind) played a key role in this landmark initiative. Other participating countries are also encouraged to



bring such legislations, which will make institutions inclusive for persons with disabilities in general and visual impairment in particular.

While these results are gratifying, all involved with this initiative are acutely aware of the many remaining challenges that need and will be addressed by the next phase of this project between 2015 and 2018. During the partners meeting in Bangkok in October 2014, the partners from the implementing countries resolved the following strategies for the 2015 – 2018 project phase:

- Continued attention to the existing programme to increase the enrolment of students in higher education institutions and providing them necessary IT skills to enhance their performance.
- Attention to advocacy and public policy with universities and with the key government agencies.
- Preparing students for admission into a variety of courses in higher education institutions and Universities instead of selecting conventional courses in humanities.
- Attention to better preparing higher education students for the world of work with increased numbers gainfully employed in jobs commensurate with their education.

Here and There...

Vision Alliance Stand at the International Convention of the Lions Clubs

Vision Alliance, a network of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), ICEVI and the WBU put up an exhibition stand at the International Lions Convention held in Toronto from 3rd to 8th July 2014. Penny Hartin and Mani, CEOs of WBU and ICEVI attended the convention and interacted with the Lions Clubs of various regions to augment educational services for persons with visual impairment. They also organised a workshop on Vision Alliance which was attended by members of about 50 Lions Clubs from different

regions of the world. In that session awareness about the Lions International's programme on education and rehabilitation was created and the Lions were urged to work with organisations like WBU and ICEVI at country and provincial levels to formulate education and rehabilitation programmes for persons with visual impairment. The momentum created at the Vision Alliance workshop will be followed up with the regional networks of ICEVI and WBU.

Indonesia Conference of ICEVI

The Indonesia network of ICEVI organised a conference on multiple disabilities in Matram, Indonesia on 10th and 11th October 2014, which was attended by teachers, officials from the Ministry of Education, representatives from the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and national NGOs.



The meeting of the Regional Executive Committee of the ICEVI East Asia region was also conducted in conjunction with this conference, which resolved to hold a regional conference of the ICEVI East Asia region in Bali, Indonesia in 2015.

Promotion of Parents' Activities



ICEVI had a meeting with the officials of PAVIC (Parents Advocates for Visually Impaired Children) in Manila, the Philippines, on 22nd April 2014, to strengthen joint activities. ICEVI supported PAVIC in organising its 4th National Parents Congress in Manila from 9 to 11 May 2014.

Basic Course on Adaptive Mathematics for Learners with Visual Impairment

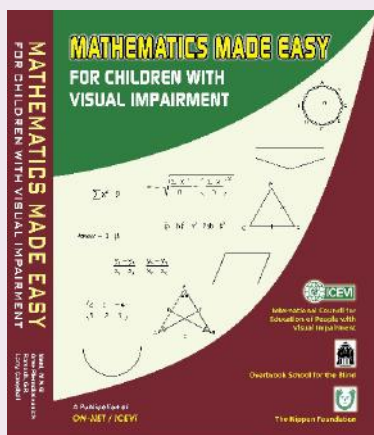
A basic course on Adaptive Mathematics for Learners with Visual Impairment was held on 11th - 15th August 2014 at the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) Nairobi, Kenya. There were a total of 16 participants - 2 facilitators and 14 trainees.

ICEVI in IDPP Advisory Board

ICEVI took part in the Advisory Board meeting of the Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) held in Kuala Lumpur on 10th August 2014. ICEVI also participated in the Inclusive Education Multi stakeholder Roundtable on 12th August 2014 and made a presentation on the global campaign on Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI). The CEO, ICEVI also met Mr. Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation and Derrick Cogburn, Executive Director, IDPP on this occasion and appraised about the outcomes of the higher education programme and preparedness of ICEVI to get involved in the IDPP initiatives in the region.



Math publication on ICEVI Website



ICEVI in partnership with the Overbrook School for the Blind brought out a publication titled **“Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual Impairment”** in 2005-06 and this project was supported by the Nippon Foundation. The resources generated through the sale of this publication was used for the EFA-VI Global campaign. As many teachers, students with visual impairment and parents wanted to access this publication to teach mathematics, which is one of the neglected areas in the education of children with visual impairment, the Principal Officers of ICEVI discussed in detail and suggested that the PDF version of this publication be made available through the website of ICEVI for free download. This gesture is helping thousands of teachers and students all over the world to learn mathematical concepts.

ICEVI is also getting requests from various regions of the world to organise workshops on Mathematics education. The West Asia region will be organising such a workshop for master trainers soon in collaboration with the National Association for the Blind, Mumbai. Other regions have also taken lead in popularising mathematics education among children with visual impairment. ICEVI is also proposing to come out with an audio visual presentation of the demonstration of mathematics skills which can be used effectively in training programmes. ICEVI is happy that this publication on Mathematics is facilitating children with visual impairment in their effective inclusion in mainstream education programmes.

ICEVI in WBU–Asia Pacific Mid-Term Regional General Assembly 2014

The World Blind Union–Asia Pacific Mid-Term Regional General Assembly 2014 was held on 21-24 November 2014 in Hong Kong. On behalf of ICEVI, many members of the ICEVI East Asia region attended the assembly and also put up an exhibition stand on Vision Alliance.

ICEVI Events calendar of 2014

This annual report enumerated key programmes organised by ICEVI globally and also at the regional levels. In addition to these programmes, the ICEVI regions organised a number of capacity building programmes for teachers, students, parents, and administrators on various themes on education and rehabilitation. Following key programmes were organised during the calendar year 2014:

S.No.	Country	Title of Course	Month
1	Dominican Republic	Course on comprehensive approaches in teaching students with visual disabilities in an inclusive environment	February
2	Honduras	Sensitization and Preparation of Adapted Teaching Materials	February
3	Honduras	Sensitization on Visual Impairment and Educational Inclusion	February
4	Honduras	Workshop on Sensitisation on Visual Impairment Educational Inclusion	February
5	Thailand	Exhibition on ICEVI activities at Ratchasuda College Mahidol University	February
6	Honduras	Workshop on Sensitisation on Visual Impairment and Educational Inclusion	March
7	Paraguay	Meeting to discuss 2014 Action Plans, Evaluation visits and activities of Global Action Week	March
8	Cambodia	Training to teacher trainers on topic "Special Education for students with Visual Disabilities"	April
9	Dominican Republic	Sensitization Workshop to promote Educational Inclusion	April
10	Dominican Republic	Course on Methodology for Teaching Mathematics	April
11	Honduras	Workshop on Sensitisation on Visual Impairment and Educational Inclusion.	April
12	Nicaragua	Online Course on Deaf blindness and Multiple Disabilities	April
13	Philippines	Workshop on EFA-VI Global Campaign in East Asia for the Optometric Association of the Philippines and Cebu Optometric Society	April
14	Thailand	Workshop on using RTI for at risk students in the Inclusive Settings	April
15	Bolivia	Training Course on Low Vision Rehabilitation and Ophthalmology for Optical and Visual Rehabilitators	May
16	Dominican Republic	Sensitization Workshop to promote Educational Inclusion	May
17	Ethiopia	Capacity building on SNE strategy and its guidelines. (They were also taken through disability awareness and importance of educating children with disabilities and roles of parents and community in educating learners with disabilities)	May
18	Honduras	Workshop on Sensitisation on Visual Impairment and Educational Inclusion	May
19	Honduras	Training on Educational Inclusion	May
20	Honduras	Training on detection of Visual Difficulties	May
21	Paraguay	Workshop on Low Vision: Information on the Course Work, Visual Methodology for Rehabilitation Instructors	May

S.No.	Country	Title of Course	Month
22	Paraguay	Perkins International Course : Progress and Program Evaluation	May
23	Paraguay	Training Course on Low Vision Rehabilitation Ophthalmology for Optical and Visual Rehabilitators (2nd Phase)	May
24	Thailand	Panel Discussion with the educators from various ministries on “What is the best Model for Early Intervention in Thailand?” held at Suan Dusit Rajabhat	May
25	Thailand	Training courses on Methodology for teaching students with Visual Impairment	May
26	Thailand	Training course on Early Intervention	May
27	Bolivia	Meeting with the authorities of Ministry of Education and Advisory Board of EFA-VI	June
28	Bolivia	Workshop on Curricular Adaptations and Development of Training Materials	June
29	Ghana	One day sensitization seminar organized for parents of visually impaired and deaf-blind children in National Basic Inclusive School and Cape Deaf-blind Unit School in the Central Region	June
30	Honduras	Workshop on Sensitisation on Visual Impairment and Educational Inclusion	June
31	Nicaragua	Classroom Training on Multiple Disabilities and Deaf blindness	June
32	Nicaragua	Meeting with officials and technicians trained by MOE, Teachers UNITE, Optometry Association and Parents of Children with Disabilities	June
33	Nicaragua	Curricular Adaptations Workshop and Course Selection, adaptation, development and use of Mathematics Teaching	June
34	Nicaragua	Course on Visual Rehabilitation in Central America (2nd Phase)	June
35	Nicaragua	Course in Low Vision	June
36	Thailand	Training Course on Orientation and Mobility	June
37	Thailand	Course on Role of Parents and teachers for prevention in Early Intervention Programmes	June
38	El Salvador	Training Course on Visual Stimulation	July
39	Thailand	Training Course on Developing Strategies for Addressing Behaviour of Children with MDVI in collaboration with Perkins International Programme	July
40	Thailand	Collaborative activity on EFA-VI Global campaign at Sri-Nakharintawirote University	July
41	El Salvador	Inclusive Education Course	August
42	Honduras	Course on Perkins Braille machine maintenance	August
43	Honduras	EFA-VI Assessment and Pedagogic Visit	August
44	Paraguay	Visual Stimulation Course and Distance Learning (online)	August
45	Dominican Republic	Sensitization Workshop to promote Educational Inclusion	September
46	El Salvador	Course on Mobility and Orientation	September
47	Paraguay	Course on Methodology and Materials Development	September

S.No.	Country	Title of Course	Month
48	El Salvador	Course on Activities of Daily Living	October
49	El Salvador	EFA-VI Assessment and Pedagogic Visit	October
50	Paraguay	Course on Visual Stimulation	October
51	Thailand	Training Course on Sensory Approach in Teaching	October
52	El Salvador	Course on Family Involvement	November

A total of 3633 students, 3175 teachers and 644 parents benefitted by these capacity building programmes.

In addition to these face-to-face programmes, on-line consultations and conference calls were also arranged amongst the Principal Officers and Regional Chairs.

National Inclusive Education Programme launching ceremony in Palestine



A ceremony to mark the official launch of the National Inclusive Education Programme for Persons with Impaired Vision in Palestine took place in Ramallah on 29 January 2014. The Palestinian Education Development Plan 2008-12 acknowledges that, though there have been some achievements in terms of providing education for all, facilities to support students with disabilities have not been adequate to their needs and services need to be made more available and accessible. The National Programme for Inclusive education of students with impaired vision in Palestine is designed to address this situation. It is a collaborative venture between the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the

International Council of Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) and CBM. It focuses on measures to improve education through resourcing and equipping students and education personnel, enhancing physical accessibility, developing quality health provision and forging strong partnerships among those who undertake inclusive initiatives. Although this initiative is aimed at the inclusion of students with impaired vision initially, it is hoped that it can be extended to include those with other disabilities in due course, not only in the school system but also in higher education establishments. Lord Colin Low, President of ICEVI and Dave McComiskey, President of CBM attended the launching ceremony. Larry Campbell, President Emeritus, ICEVI, Dr. Bhushan Punani, Regional Chair, Rima Canawati, Deputy Regional Chair of the West Asia region and Khadija Abukhader, Ministry of Education contributed to the development of this national programme document. ICEVI also extended full support in bringing senior Government officials from the Ministry of Education to India for observing successful programs on inclusive education and then participating in a series teleconferences.

OBITUARY



Paul Manning

ICEVI is saddened that Paul Manning, Regional Chair, Pacific region passed away on 7th May 2014. His passion for the parents' movement made him a world leader, and parents' organisations emulated his selfless service and compassion for the cause.

Paul was the first parent who became the regional chairperson of an ICEVI region and this has really inspired other regions to bring parents on board.

May his soul rest in peace.

Awards and Recognition

Liberty Human Rights Award 2014



Towards the end of last year, our President, Lord Colin Low, received a prestigious award from the UK human rights organisation, Liberty, for human rights campaign of the year. He worked in Parliament to change the law so that many more users of social care services receive the protection of the UK's Human Rights Act. This involved mobilizing support from right across the political spectrum in Parliament, as well as persuading the Government, who were initially completely opposed to the change. Below is a photograph of Colin receiving the award.

Award to Lucia Piccione

Lucia Piccione was awarded the “Julio de Quirós Bernarolo” award for her professional contribution in Argentina and Latin America at the XXI Conference held in Cordoba from 3 to 5 October 2014 by the Argentine Association for the Study and Recovery of the Blind People ASAERCA.



Nandini becomes the Executive Director, BPA

Nandini Rawal, Treasurer of ICEVI has been elevated to the position of the Executive Director at the Blind People's Association (BPA), which is one of the largest organizations in India working in the disability sector. Nandini takes over from Dr. Bhushan Punani, who has been made the Executive Secretary of the BPA. Bhushan also serves as the Regional Chair of the ICEVI West Asia region. Congratulations to both Nandini and Bhushan.



Congratulations Aubrey

Dr. Aubrey Webson, Editor of ICEVI's official magazine, The Educator and also a member of the ICEVI Executive Committee representing the Perkins School for the Blind, has been appointed as the UN Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda. ICEVI constituency congratulates Aubrey and we are sure his link with the UN will help us to push the disability agenda in mainstream programmes.



Frances Gentle elected as President, SPEVI

ICEVI congratulates Dr. Frances Gentle, its second Vice-President on her election as the President of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI). This will strengthen ties between ICEVI and the SPEVI in organising joint programmes in the Pacific region of ICEVI.



Current Organisational Members of ICEVI

- American Foundation for the Blind
- Hadley School for the Blind
- Overbrook School for the Blind
- Helen Keller International
- Lions Clubs International Foundation
- LES DOIGTS QUI REVENT (Typhlo & Tactus)
- National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI)
- Caribbean Council for the Blind
- Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities
- Svenska skolan för synskadade
- Dancing Dots Braille Music Technology Inc.
- Associação dos Cegos e Amblíopes de Portugal (ACAPO)
- The Royal Society for the Blind
- Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
- Blind SA
- PanHellenic Association of Parents Guardians and Friends of Visually Impaired People with additional special needs "Amimoni"

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