



International Council for Education of
People with Visual Impairment



Annual Report 2012



Our INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



Message



Dear Readers,

I am extremely happy to present the 2012 Annual Report of ICEVI. 2012 was unique for ICEVI in several ways. The historic joint assemblies of the World Blind Union (WBU) and ICEVI, organized in Bangkok, Thailand, brought our two organizations closer together than ever before. Though I was unfortunately unable to be present on account of health problems, our Principal Officers and other ICEVI colleagues ensured that this event was a memorable one. I personally thank the delegates of ICEVI for re-electing me as President for the quadrennium 2013-16 - a quadrennium in which, with the support of a fine group of Principal Officers and able Regional Chairs, ICEVI is embarking on exciting new developments.

Our flagship programme, the Global Campaign on Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI), implemented by ICEVI in partnership with WBU, continues to show significant progress. In 2012 the campaign added more than 23,000 children with visual impairment to those already in school - an increase of nearly 45% on the year 2011. Similarly more than 5000 teachers and parents have been trained. You will find the details later in this report.

The strategy development day organized in Bangkok recommended that ICEVI should position itself as a global advocacy organisation by working more closely with broader education and disability organizations. In pursuit of this recommendation, we either have or will be getting involved in the Beyond 2015 initiative to ensure that disability features more prominently in the framework which succeeds the UN's Millennium Development Goals

when they run out in 2015, the Global Campaign on Education (GCE), the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), UNICEF's Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities and other UN initiatives. Our Higher Education programme also continues to make excellent progress, and in 2013 we will be adding additional countries from the East Asia region. We are hugely indebted to the Nippon Foundation for their most generous support, without which none of this would be possible. As part of this programme, ICEVI led a successful mission to Myanmar under the umbrella of Vision Alliance in order to help our colleagues in Myanmar formulate comprehensive plans for the education of children with visual impairment. We will take these forward with our international partners in the period ahead.

I take this opportunity to thank all who are assisting ICEVI in achieving its mission of facilitating education for all children with visual impairment. We express our special gratitude to our International Partner Member organizations who provide such solid support in all our endeavours to ensure the rights of millions of children with visual impairment to education, particularly in developing countries.

Yours

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

Colin Low
President, ICEVI



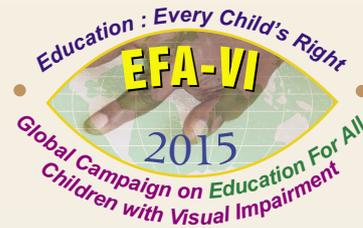
WBU-ICEVI Joint Assembly – Symbol of Synergy

The year 2012 was marked by collaboration between ICEVI and the World Blind Union. Both organizations conducted the historic joint assembly in Bangkok in November 2012, which was hosted by the Thailand Association of the Blind. The event was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Princess of Thailand on 11th November 2012. Over 1000 delegates from ICEVI and the World Blind Union attended the event which provided opportunities for both the organizations to maintain their identity through specific programmes and at the same time conduct joint deliberations on common topics. The joint days organized on 15th and 16th November created a fellowship among the members of ICEVI and WBU that will go a long way in strengthening relationships between the two organizations.



A review of the joint event revealed many positive points than limitations. The funding organizations, which usually support participants from both the organizations to attend world conferences, also found the joint event effective. We are pleased that the first ever historic joint assembly resulted in great trust building between ICEVI and the WBU, which is being translated into the regional activities of the organizations. We are also proposing to organise similar joint assemblies in the future.





EFA-VI Global Campaign

The Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) is a global campaign and program of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI), acting in partnership with the World Blind Union (WBU), to ensure that all girls and boys with blindness and low vision enjoy the right to education. The development of the EFA-VI Campaign can be analysed in terms of the following 4 stages:

- 1) **Conceptualization Stage (2003 to 2006)** when the campaign was conceived, Global Task Force formed, draft Business Plan developed and the Campaign launched at the 12th World Conference of ICEVI held in Kuala Lumpur in 2006.
- 2) **Experimentation Phase (2007 to 2011)** when ICEVI introduced the campaign in 12 focus countries which resulted in the development of good practices that could be emulated in other countries.
- 3) **Consolidation Phase (2012)** which is characterised by ICEVI analyzing the strengths and limitations of the campaign by doing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) and
- 4) **Expansion Phase (from 2012 onwards)** when ICEVI is expected to strengthen its regions to collaborate with international agencies, larger initiatives on Education For All, INGDOs, UN Bodies, etc., to strengthen the advocacy front

and also actively work with the Governments, local NGOs, organisations of Blind people etc., to facilitate quality education for children with visual impairment.

Tangible results of the EFA-VI

Since the launch of the EFA-VI Global Campaign in 2006, both ICEVI and the World Blind Union continue to increase awareness of the importance of including the education of children with disabilities in national general education initiatives. Our international partners including CBM, Francophone Blind Union, Light for the World, ONCE, Perkins School for the Blind, Royal National Institute of Blind People, Sightsavers, The Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted, The Royal Dutch Visio, Vision Australia etc., were promoting education of children with visual impairment in many countries in the developing regions and strongly supported the EFA-VI campaign activities. Though only a few focus countries were taken up for EFA-VI implementation in early years of the campaign, the ICEVI regions started implementing the campaign activities in multiple countries within each region since 2012 and the countries include Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Uganda and Vietnam. ICEVI used all mechanisms to collect reliable data on enrolment of children with visual



impairment in these countries to see whether the enrolment rate was really increasing as a result of collective interventions of all stakeholders that included local Governments, ICEVI, WBU, International Organisations, local bodies etc.

In the Annual Report of 2011, we reported an additional enrolment of 49,662 children with visual impairment and we are happy that the enrolment is steadily increasing. In 2012, data available from some of these countries reported an additional enrolment of 23,556 students thus raising the total to 73,218, since the inception of the EFA-VI global campaign.

Our regional chairs and country representatives of the EFA-VI campaign were instrumental in gathering country level data, which have already been shared with the local Governments. Besides, 5,293 teachers and parents were also trained in 2012. The progress in the campaign is heartening and ICEVI and WBU are striving hard to bring as many children with visual impairment as possible to realise the goal of the EFA-VI campaign.

Enrolment data in 2012

Country	Students Enrolled
Dominican Republic	255
Ecuador	2040
El Salvador	284
Ethiopia	7694
Guatemala	2401
Honduras	459
Mozambique	315
Nepal	882
Palestine	1743
Vietnam	7483
TOTAL	23556

Training details of 2012

Country	Participants
Dominican Republic	335
Ecuador	1865
El Salvador	272
Guatemala	1193
Honduras	487
Mozambique	275
Nepal	173
Palestine	196
Uganda	22
Vietnam	475
TOTAL	5293

Comprehensive EFA Strategy for the future

One of the highlights of the WBU-ICEVI joint assembly was the conduct of a focus day session for discussing strategies to strengthen the EFA-VI Global Campaign. A background document on this subject that was developed as a result of a series of discussions held in 2012, was presented at this meeting, which was attended by representatives of ICEVI, WBU, International Organisations and global bodies such as UNESCO, UNICEF, AusAID etc. The strategy aimed at positioning ICEVI as a catalyst organization to lobby with global bodies, local governments and international organizations, to ensure that education of children with disabilities in general and children with visual impairment in particular, is included in the national education plans of governments.

The day-long deliberations resulted in the following broad recommendations, which will be reviewed by ICEVI and WBU from time to time:

1. ICEVI should work with mainstream organisations involved in education for all movements so that the EFA-VI campaign becomes an integral part of such initiatives.
2. In terms of advocacy, the campaign needs to address education for all children with disabilities, but in terms of actual intervention it will focus on children with visual impairment. This approach is pertinent to establish effective collaboration with broader initiatives on education.



3. Though ICEVI may work with a few focus countries in each region in order to create models and formulate strategies, the campaign should be advocated in more countries in order to reach out to the unreached children with visual impairment.
4. ICEVI needs to promote country level resource centres and such centres may be existing centres run either by the Government bodies or reputed NGOs.
5. Active involvement of INGOs in each region should be enlisted for joint advocacy, human resource development, and resource support for the campaign activities.
6. Strategies should be worked out for the active involvement of ICEVI in the Beyond 2015 initiative.

ICEVI takes forward these suggestions and works through its Executive Committee to ensure that the said objectives are realized in the years to come.

Reconstituting Global Task Force

The strategy day discussions and also the deliberations of ICEVI Executive Committee held in Bangkok suggested reinstatement of the Global Task Force consisting of members from ICEVI, WBU and International Non-Governmental Organisations to regularly deliberate on the strategies for augmenting the EFA-VI Campaign and also for strengthening collaboration at the global, regional and national levels. The reconstituted global task force will get into action from 2013.

Welcoming Principal Officers of ICEVI

The year 2012 was the end of an interim cycle in ICEVI's governance. Until 2010, ICEVI was following a quadrennial cycle of 4 years. With the idea of organizing joint assemblies of ICEVI and WBU, ICEVI wanted to align its quadrennium with that of the WBU and as a result, the years 2011 and 2012 were considered transition years and ICEVI decided to switch back to quadrennial cycle from 2013-16 onwards. The General Assembly in Bangkok elected the Principal Officers of ICEVI for the quadrennium 2013-16 including President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Treasurer.

Larry Campbell, the Immediate Past President of ICEVI was made President Emeritus and therefore, there was a proposal to bring one more nominee to the group of Principal Officers. The Executive Committee of ICEVI which met in Bangkok soon after the ICEVI General Assembly suggested that Dr. Praveena Sukhraj from South Africa be included to serve as a Principal Officer of ICEVI.

Meet our Principal Officers who represent various regions of ICEVI:



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Higher Education Initiative

ICEVI and the Nippon Foundation have been implementing a project for Higher Education of students with visual impairment in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. This project is primarily focusing on the use of technology to increase the higher education opportunities for students with visual impairments and it has already benefited nearly 1000 students in these countries. The Nippon Foundation is pleased with the outcomes of this project and has agreed to extend support in 2012-13 to assist more students.

In addition to these four countries, ground work will also be initiated to extend the programme to Myanmar and probably in another country in the East Asia region in 2013.

The higher education initiative focuses on three critical areas in an effort to improve and expand access to higher education for students with visual impairment: 1) expanding use of assistive technology to improve access to curricula materials, 2) creating more welcoming university environments for all

disabled students through programs of awareness and training for faculty and non-disabled students and 3) working with universities and Ministries of Education to create policies that expand the number of inclusive universities in these four countries.

The project partners of the higher education initiatives are Krousar Thmey (Cambodia); the Indonesia Union of the Blind (Indonesia); Myanmar National Association of the Blind (Myanmar); Resources for the Blind (Philippines); and in Vietnam, the Sao Mai Computer Center for the Blind and the Vietnam Blind Association.

Under the auspices of the WBU-ICEVI joint assemblies, an exclusive session on higher education was organised by Larry Campbell, who is the Director of the ICEVI-Nippon higher education programme. The project coordinators from the member countries along with students who participated in the higher education programme spoke on the impact

Prime Minister Hun Sen shares a laugh with students in Cambodia



of the programme on hundreds of visually impaired students. The session attracted over 200 international participants who applauded the initiative of ICEVI and the Nippon Foundation to empower students with visual impairment. ICEVI is pleased that Mr. Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation also attended this session.



ICEVI views this initiative as an integral element of the education continuum embraced by our global campaign Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI). While the higher education

initiative specifically focuses on students with visual impairment, it is having a much wider impact that is improving the university climate for all students with disabilities.

Vision Alliance Activities

Vision Alliance is an initiative of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) and World Blind Union (WBU) to create greater synergy and collaboration between the three organizations at global, regional and national levels to improve services and programmes of each organization.

Vision Alliance Mission to Myanmar:

A Vision Alliance Team consisting of representatives from the ICEVI, World Blind Union Asia Pacific (WBU AP), CBM, The Nippon Foundation, Perkins School for the Blind, The Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NABP), and Overbrook Nippon Network on Educational Technology (ON-NET) visited Myanmar on 24-27 September 2012 to get first hand information on the status of services for persons with disabilities in general and persons with visual impairment in particular. The team headed by ICEVI had a meeting with important stakeholders in Myanmar on the 25th followed by a meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Social Welfare on the 26th. The team



came up with important recommendations covering the aspects of prevention, education, employment and empowerment, to the Government and also to the Myanmar National Association of the Blind (MNAB).

The Vision Alliance Team requested the MNAB to capitalize on the momentum built up through this visit and follow up with the Government in order to make further plans for services for children with visual impairment. Meetings of small teams of the Vision Alliance or specific International Partners will be arranged in Myanmar to have theme based discussions with the Government and also with other players, such as the World Vision, Save the Children etc., in planning and implementing various services for persons with visual impairment.

Success of ICEVI – Regions hold the Key

The constitution of ICEVI clearly indicates that the members of ICEVI are primarily the members of its regions. The Executive Committee of ICEVI is reinforcing the principle that the ICEVI regions should be strengthened in order to facilitate greater ease of face-to-face communication; greater accessibility of conferences, seminars and other events; a better framework for identifying potential leaders and nurturing them for national, regional and global roles, for developing our international partnerships in depth and cascading them down to the grassroots etc. Therefore, regional development is emerging as a priority for ICEVI. Keeping this in view, the ICEVI organised regional development meetings for the East Asia region in April 2012 and the Latin America region in November 2012.

A regional strategy for the Africa region had already been developed in 2011. ICEVI is proposing to focus on the following key aspects in 2013-2016 to nurture regional developments:

- Registration of ICEVI regions as legal entities
- Forming strong regional committees
- Identifying a mechanism to collect membership fees at the regional level
- Holding regular regional conferences

The ICEVI General Assembly held in November 2012 elected the following regional chairpersons who will work with their regional committees to strengthen each region of ICEVI during the quadrennium 2013-16:



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Other Key Events

Regional Strategy Planning Meeting, Bangkok

A meeting of the ICEVI with the UN Bodies and the International Non-Governmental Development Organisations (INGDOs) present in the East Asia region was held at Suan Dusit Rajabhat University, Bangkok on 11-12 April 2012. The broad objectives of the meeting were: 1) To devise a framework within which we can work together to advocate for the education of children with visual impairment; and 2) To identify ways of sharing human resources and exchange good practice for the effective implementation of the Global Campaign. The meeting was attended by officers of WBU, ICEVI and representatives of INGDOs, United Nations Economic and Social Commission (UNESCO) for Asia and Pacific and the Secretariat of South East Asia Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO).

Strategy Development Meeting with Allen Foster, President, CBM

A brainstorming session consisting of Colin Low, President - ICEVI, Allen Foster, President - CBM, Larry Campbell, Immediate Past President - ICEVI, Dr. Jill Keefe, First Vice President - ICEVI, Peter Ackland, CEO - IAPB and MNG Mani, CEO - ICEVI was conducted in London on 21st March 2012. Discussions were held to develop a comprehensive strategy document to expand the Global Campaign in all dimensions addressing advocacy, policy formulation in countries, promoting promising practices on inclusion, capacity building programmes etc.

Vision Alliance Stand at the General Assembly of IAPB

On the occasion of the IAPB General Assembly held in Hyderabad, India on 17-20 September 2012, a Vision Alliance stand was arranged and the materials displayed there highlighted the concept of Vision Alliance, areas of synergy, information on ICEVI and WBU and literature on the Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI). The stand attracted a large number of visitors who were appreciative of the idea that such an alliance would contribute to the totality of eye care services including prevention, education and rehabilitation.

MATH publication on ICEVI website

Sightsavers, one of our longstanding International Partner Members proposed that ICEVI's publication "Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual Impairment" be made accessible for the use of visually impaired children and professionals at large. The ICEVI Principal Officers discussed this in detail and suggested that the PDF version of this publication be made available through the website of ICEVI as it is likely to encourage teachers and visually impaired children to learn Mathematics, which is considered to be one of the neglected areas in many countries. While the print version of the publication will be available from ICEVI for a nominal price, the PDF version can be downloaded free of cost. ICEVI is working with Sightsavers to popularise the teaching of mathematics to visually impaired children.

ICEVI's Efforts – Ensuring Rights to Education

The effort of ICEVI to ensure rights of education to children with visual impairment through the EFA-VI Global Campaign is just a beginning and its cherished goals can be realised only with the collective initiatives of Governments, international non-governmental development organisations, parents, teachers and organisations of people with disabilities.

Why don't you join our collective mission?



Who are we?

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.

ICEVI Regions

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

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

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.

What is the situation at present?

Of the reported 61 million children who are not attending primary school throughout the world, it is estimated that about a quarter are children with a disability, of which 4 million have visual loss. Of particular concern to ICEVI are the rights and needs of children and youth in developing countries where blindness is most prevalent and where, on an average, less than 10 per cent of these children have access to any education.

Is it fair that 9 out of 10 children with visual impairment are denied their right to education?

What are we all about?

ICEVI brings together at the global level educators, administrators, parents, rehabilitation professionals and others to promote equal educational opportunity for children with visual impairment. ICEVI works closely with UN member agencies, government and non-government organizations concerned with education, as well as with organizations of persons with visual impairment. ICEVI carries out these efforts through seven regional committees which develop their own plan-of-action that builds upon needs articulated by national level committees.

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