



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



**(FORMERLY ICEVI NEWSLINE)**

**APRIL 2013**

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## Message from the President

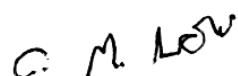
Three weeks after surgery to remove a tumour from my right kidney I'm just beginning to get back to work. I'm happy to say the operation appears to have been a complete success, but I still have to pace myself, so I'll keep this message fairly short. There are just four points I'd particularly like to underline:

First, the Executive at its meeting in London in February decided to reinstate the Global Task Force for driving the EFA-VI campaign. Members felt that this was a more inclusive approach than the four committees set up to replace it in 2009, which had not worked terribly well. You can read more about the membership on page 3 below.

It was generally considered that the joint Assembly with the World Blind Union (WBU) had been a success and, with feedback so far pretty positive and collaboration between our organisations growing all the time, it was agreed in principle to repeat the process in 2016. But before going nap on the idea, it was decided to collect further feedback from our members, not least to see how things could be improved. Accordingly you will find a questionnaire for you to contribute your views on page 6. We have agreed to let WBU know our views by the end of May, so please fill in the questionnaire and return it to the Secretariat by 15 May. We need to know what you think in order to be sure that we are acting in accordance with your wishes.

If ICEVI is to be a vibrant and effective organisation, much of its life must take place at national and regional level. I'm pleased to note an increasing amount going on at regional level which you can read about on pages 4,7,8,10 and 11. And finally, please make a point of responding to the request from the Secretariat on updating database to make sure that they have your most up-to-date contact details.

The spring has reached London at last. I am confident it is ushering in another successful year for ICEVI,



**Colin Low**  
(ICEVI President)

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## EFA-VI GLOBAL TASK FORCE REINSTATED

In 2006, a Global Task Force (GTF) was formed to monitor the implementation of the Global Campaign on Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI), launched by ICEVI, acting in partnership with the World Blind Union. As the campaign was underway, the tasks of the GTF were reviewed and the ICEVI Executive Committee, in its meeting held in December 2009 suggested the formation of four committees namely, Global Advocacy and Networking, Media and Materials, Programme Review & Monitoring and Resource Mobilisation in lieu of the GTF to focus on specific components of the Campaign. The Executive Committee meeting held in London in February 2013 reviewed the work of the committees and resolved to reinstate the Global Task Force to develop ownership for the campaign by larger stakeholders and the reconstituted GTF consists of the following members:

- Colin Low - President, Global Task Force
- Arnt Holte, NABP and also representing WBU as its President
- Lucia Piccione, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, ICEVI
- Catherine Naughton, CBM
- Manuela Kraeuter, Light for the World
- Ana Pelaez , ONCE
- Aubrey Webson, Perkins School for the Blind
- Adelaide Addo-Fening, Sightsavers
- Marten de Bruine, The Royal Dutch Visio
- Bhushan Punani, Regional Chair, West Asia
- Suwimon Udompiriyasak, Regional Chair, East Asia
- Mani, M N G – Convener

This Global Task Force will meet in Madrid, Spain on May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 to take stock of the present implementation of campaign activities and also to formulate action plans for working with larger initiatives on education. ICEVI is thankful to ONCE for hosting this meeting and the deliberations will be communicated to the ICEVI constituency through our website [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org) .

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS OF ICEVI EXCO MEETING

The ICEVI Executive Committee meeting held in London on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013 made a thorough review of the activities of ICEVI for the quadrennium 2013-16. Members discussed the recommendations of the committee constituted under the chairpersonship of Steve Rothstein, President, Perkins School for the Blind to review the ICEVI strategy document and suggested that the identity of ICEVI as an organization meant for education of children with visual impairment should be maintained while taking part with the larger initiatives on education for the purposes of advocacy, networking etc. Another key discussion that featured at the EXCO was pertaining to the development of Shadow Reports on disability that should be submitted to international organisations like UNESCO, UNICEF, etc. The committee under the chairpersonship of Frances Gentle, 1st President of ICEVI is reviewing this concept and expected to formulate guidelines on how this idea can be carried forward by the ICEVI regions. The EXCO also suggested that the membership pattern of ICEVI should be reviewed, so that more organisations and individuals can become part of the ICEVI membership structure at various levels. A committee under the chairpersonship of Arnt Holte, President, World Blind Union and also a representative of the NABP on the ICEVI EXCO is reviewing this proposal.

As per the constitution of ICEVI, the regions should play key roles in the functioning of the organisation and in order to address this, a full day meeting of the regional chairs was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February in conjunction with the ICEVI EXCO meeting. There was unanimous agreement that ICEVI should promote regional development by encouraging our regions to register themselves as legal entities. The regional chairs have been given directions to discuss this idea with the regional committees and come up with feasible regional structures, taking into account the local taxation laws, liability issues, structure of regional membership, fee to be levied for membership, etc. The proposals of the regional chairs will be reviewed at the next meeting of the ICEVI Executive Committee and it is hoped that most regions of ICEVI will have formal legal status at the regional level by the end of the quadrennium.

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## **HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT EXTENDED**

One of the key activities of ICEVI is the implementation of Higher Education project in Cambodia, Indonesia, The Philippines and Vietnam with the support of the Nippon Foundation, Japan. The project has already assisted more than 900 visually impaired students in higher education institutes in these countries and the outcome of the project is encouraging. The visually impaired students in this project have acquired adequate skills in technology that helped them to improve their academic achievement and social skills. Some of them have also been able to secure meaningful employment after the completion of their studies. Encouraged by the positive outcomes of this project, the Nippon Foundation has approved the proposal of ICEVI to extend the project for one more year and has sanctioned a grant of US\$ 263,400. In addition to these countries the project will also be extended to Myanmar in 2013-14. A planning meeting of the project partners namely Krousar Thmey (Cambodia), Indonesian Blind Union, Resources for the Blind (Philippines), Sao Mai Computer Center for the Blind (Vietnam) and the Myanmar National Association of the Blind was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 to orient them on project implementation, data gathering procedures, documentation mechanism etc. Larry Campbell, the President Emeritus of ICEVI who is also the Director of the Higher Education Project, M.N.G. Mani, CEO, ICEVI and Suwimon Udombiriyasak, Regional Chairperson, East Asia Region attended the meeting and exchanged ideas with the project partners.

## **WBU-ICEVI JOINT ASSEMBLIES – YOUR INPUTS**

The ICEVI Executive Committee reviewed the conduct of the WBU-ICEVI Joint Assemblies held in Bangkok in November 2012 and expressed general satisfaction about the event. However, the members of the EXCO suggested that we should get the suggestions of the larger constituency of ICEVI before planning future joint events. In response to this suggestion of the ICEVI EXCO, the Principal Officers have come out with a set of questions that should be circulated to ICEVI constituency, particularly to those who attended the joint event in Bangkok. The regional chairs of ICEVI are also requested to get in touch with the delegates who attended the joint event and get their responses for taking appropriate decisions on the format of future

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events. The ICEVI has agreed that its views will be conveyed to the WBU latest by mid May 2013 and therefore, the Principal Officers are requesting the ICEVI members through this E-News to respond to the following questions and send the reply to the ICEVI Secretariat at [officevi@gmail.com](mailto:officevi@gmail.com) latest by May 15, 2013. The responses will be consolidated by the ICEVI Secretariat and the summary shared with the table officers of WBU who will meet in Madrid, Spain at the end of May 2013. The questions are as follows:

1. How would you rank your overall satisfaction with the joint WBU-ICEVI General Assemblies and events? Poor/Average/Excellent/Not applicable?
2. Would you recommend ICEVI and WBU hold joint General Assemblies and events in the future? Yes/No?
3. What are your comments on the quality of the presentations and the choice of speakers?
4. What were the most positive features of the ICEVI General Assembly and joint events? When answering this question, consider the program, opening ceremony, venue and event facilities, IT support, volunteer services, gala dinner, social events, etc.
5. What improvements do you consider could be made to future ICEVI General Assemblies?
6. What improvements could be made to future joint WBU-ICEVI events, such as the regional meetings, workshops, presentations, and smaller specialist sessions?
7. What is your opinion of the overall length of the WBU-ICEVI General Assemblies and events?
8. Were there sufficient opportunities provided for ICEVI delegates to attend joint events and to socialize?
9. Were there sufficient opportunities provided for WBU and ICEVI delegates to socialize?

The summary of responses will also be posted on ICEVI website.

## **ICEVI-DBI WEST ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

The ICEVI West Asia Region and the Deaf Blind International hosted their Joint Regional Conference in Ahmedabad, India on 5-7 April 2013.

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The conference was attended by over 400 participants from 19 countries and the deliberations were productive. The participants included officials from Governments in the region, international non-governmental organizations, professionals from universities, teachers, parents, persons with disabilities, voluntary organisations, social workers and general education institutions. The conference was inaugurated by Mrs. Stuti Kacker, Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. Mrs. Gillian Morbey, President, DbI and MNG Mani, CEO, ICEVI welcomed the participants on behalf of DbI and ICEVI. ICEVI and DbI are grateful to Dr. Bhushan Punani, Regional Chairperson, ICEVI West Asia Region and Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Treasurer, ICEVI, both representing the Blind People's Association and Akhil Paul, representing the Sense India for jointly hosting the event in a grand manner. The participants resolved to thank the management, staff and volunteers of the Blind People's Association and Sense India for their hospitality and the successful conduct of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICEVI-DbI West Asia Regional Conference. More information on the deliberations of the conference, photographs etc., will be posted on the West Asia page of ICEVI website [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org) in the near future.

## **ICEVI WEST ASIA REGIONAL STRATEGY MEET**

ICEVI has been conducting regional strategy development meetings since 2011. In July 2011 a regional strategy development meeting for the Africa Region was held in Ghana which came up with specific strategies for the Africa region. In April 2012, the East Asia regional strategy meeting was held and these regional meetings have certainly created sound networking opportunities in the respective regions and also increased the visibility of ICEVI. In continuation of these regional strategy meetings, the West Asia strategy meeting was held in Ahmedabad, India on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013, which was attended by members of ICEVI West Asia Regional Committee, Treasurer and CEO of ICEVI, representatives from the Asian Blind Union, CBM, Sightsavers, Sense International, IAPB, Perkins School for the Blind, and other international organisations present in the region. The members acknowledged that the regional activities can be further strengthened by registering ICEVI as a legal entity in the region. The Regional



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Chairperson was authorised to constitute a committee which should study the rules pertaining to the registration of ICEVI in one of the lead countries of the West Asia region. In addition, the members also suggested that the regional committee of the West Asia region should have representations to the INGDOs present in the region too and the activities, as far possible, should be dovetailed with the existing national initiatives of the governments. The meeting resolved that Education For All Children with Visual Impairment should be highlighted wherever possible and also decided to take an active role in the beyond 2015 initiatives. For more details of the regional strategy please contact Dr. Bhushan Punani, Regional Chairperson, ICEVI West Asia Region at [blinabad1@bsnl.in](mailto:blinabad1@bsnl.in) .

## **ICEVI AFRICA REGIONAL EXCO MEET**

Africa is one of the important regions of ICEVI as far as the EFA-VI Global Campaign is concerned. The regional secretariat which functions from the premises of the African Union of the Blind (AFUB) augurs well for the collaboration of ICEVI and WBU at the regional level. Following the WBU-ICEVI Joint Assemblies, the Africa Region reconstituted its regional committee with the inclusion of leading INGDOs present in the region. It also constituted a smaller Regional Executive Committee (REXCO) to focus on specific strategies to be followed in the region to expand the campaign activities and also to strengthen collaboration between the Vision Alliance Partners (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, ICEVI and WBU) at the regional and national levels. The regional executive committee meeting of the region will be held in Pretoria, South Africa in May 2013 and this event is expected to come out with a specific action plan for campaign activities, networking, holding regional conference etc., in the region in the quadrennium 2013-16. The key highlight of the Africa Region is that the ICEVI, AFUB and the African Decade for Disabled Persons have agreed to work very closely in the future to complement the efforts of each other. The African Decade for Disabled Persons has already included the EFA-VI Global Campaign as one of its official programmes. For more details of the regional strategies of the Africa Region, please contact Martin Osangiri Okiyo ([martin@afub-uafa.org](mailto:martin@afub-uafa.org)), the Regional



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Coordinator of the EFA-VI Campaign and Tigabu Gebremedhin ([tigabucbr@gmail.com](mailto:tigabucbr@gmail.com)) Regional Chairperson, ICEVI Africa Region.

## UPDATING ICEVI DATABASE

The ICEVI E-News is sent to nearly 4,000 individuals and institutions. The ICEVI Secretariat is currently updating the database and we request the members to send their updated mailing addresses including the e-mail ID, telephone contacts, etc., to the ICEVI Secretariat. In the case of the distribution of The Educator, it has been noticed over the years that some copies are returned to the Secretariat for want of clear address, change in the location of the organisation, etc. The Secretariat has written to all those who are receiving The Educator with a request to update the contact details. Members are requested to assist the ICEVI Secretariat in updating the database by sending the details to [officevi@gmail.com](mailto:officevi@gmail.com).

## MATH PUBLICATION ON ICEVI WEBSITE

Sightsavers, one of our longstanding International Partner Members requested ICEVI whether its publication "Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual Impairment" could 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 believes that this publication will help organisations and teachers to popularise the teaching of mathematics to visually impaired children.

## MEET OUR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

The ICEVI General Assembly held in Bangkok elected the following Principal Officers for the quadrennium 2013-16. Though this information is available on the website of ICEVI and also communicated through The Educator, we are publishing this in the E-News for the

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benefit of the larger audience who are reading ICEVI E-News:

**PRESIDENT****Lord Low of Dalston**

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)  
105 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE, UNITED KINGDOM  
E-mail: [colin.low@rnib.org.uk](mailto:colin.low@rnib.org.uk)

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT****Lucia Piccione**

Urquiza 2659, 5001 Cordoba, ARGENTINA  
E-mail: [lpiccione@arnet.com.ar](mailto:lpiccione@arnet.com.ar)

**SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT****Frances Gentle**

The Renwick Centre, Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children  
Private Bag 29, Parramatta NSW 2124, AUSTRALIA.  
E-mail: [frances.gentle@ridbc.org.au](mailto:frances.gentle@ridbc.org.au)

**TREASURER****Nandini Rawal**

Blind People's Association, Jagdish Patel Chowk, Surdas Marg,  
Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380 015, INDIA.  
E-mail: [bpaiceviad1@sancharnet.in](mailto:bpaiceviad1@sancharnet.in)

**PRINCIPAL OFFICER****Praveena Sukhraj**

42 Windswawel Street, Monument Park Extension 4, Pretoria 0181,  
SOUTH AFRICA  
E-mail: [psukhraj@justice.gov.za](mailto:psukhraj@justice.gov.za)

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS****Lawrence F. Campbell**

1, Center Street, Rockland, Maine 04841, USA  
E-mail: [larry.icevi@gmail.com](mailto:larry.icevi@gmail.com)

## MEET OUR REGIONAL CHAIRS

Our regional chairs for the quadrennium 2013-16 are as follows:

**AFRICA****Tigabu Gebremedhin**

CBM Country Office Ethiopia, P.O.Box 694,  
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA  
E-mail: [tigabucbr@gmail.com](mailto:tigabucbr@gmail.com)

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**EAST ASIA****Suwimon Udompiriyasak**

Faculty of Education, Suan Dusit Rajabhat University,  
295 Ratchasima Road, Dusit Dist., Bangkok 10300, THAILAND  
E-mail: [suwimonu@gmail.com](mailto:suwimonu@gmail.com)

**EUROPE****Hans Welling**

Visio, Amersfoortsestraatweg 180, 1272 RR Huizen,  
THE NETHERLANDS  
E-mail: [hanswelling@visio.org](mailto:hanswelling@visio.org)

**LATIN AMERICA****María Cristina Sanz**

avda. 14 n 1207, flor 9 dpto. A,  
(1900) LA PLATA, ARGENTINA  
E-mail: [latinoamericaicevi@gmail.com](mailto:latinoamericaicevi@gmail.com)

**NORTH AMERICA/CARIBBEAN****Kay Alicyn Ferrell**

Professor of Special Education, University of Northern Colorado  
Campus, Box 146, 501, 20th Street, Greeley, CO 80639, USA  
E-mail: [kay.ferrell@unco.edu](mailto:kay.ferrell@unco.edu)

**PACIFIC****Paul Manning**

Executive Officer  
Parents of Vision Impaired (NZ) Incorporated  
PO Box 366 Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240, NEW ZEALAND  
E-mail: [paul@pvi.org.nz](mailto:paul@pvi.org.nz)

**WEST ASIA****Bhushan Punani**

Blind People's Association, Jagdish Patel Chowk,  
Surdas Marg, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380 015, INDIA  
E-mail: [blinabad1@bsnl.in](mailto:blinabad1@bsnl.in)

**NEXT MEETING OF ICEVI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the ICEVI Executive Committee will be held in Vienna, Austria on 14-15 November 2013. The Light for the World has come forward to host this meeting. A meeting of the regional chairs and principal officers will also be held in the same venue prior to the meeting of the EXCO.

## ICEVI EUROPE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The ICEVI Europe Regional Conference will be held in Turkey from 30 June to 5 July 2013. For more information and registration please log on to the website [www.icevi-europe.org](http://www.icevi-europe.org) .

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND – OUR NEW ORGANISATIONAL MEMBER

ICEVI is glad that the Royal Society for the Blind has agreed to become an organizational member of ICEVI from 2013. The Royal Society for the Blind is an important organisation in Australia and they will bring in their expertise for strengthening the ICEVI Pacific Region. Welcome RSB to the ICEVI family.

## 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). The July 2013 issue will focus on the uses of DAISY and the Guest Editor for this issue is Pete Osborne from the Royal National Institute of Blind People. Those who have suggestions with the new topics for the future issues of The Educator may contact its Editor Aubrey Webson ([Aubrey.Webson@perkins.org](mailto:Aubrey.Webson@perkins.org)), or 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 Secretariat**

3, Professors' Colony, Palamalai Road, S.R.K.V. Post  
Coimbatore – 641 020, INDIA

Phone: 91-422-2469104, Fax: 91-422-2693414

e-mail: [sgicevi@vsnl.net](mailto:sgicevi@vsnl.net), Visit us at [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org)