



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



**(FORMERLY ICEVI NEWSLINE)**

**OCTOBER 2011**

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## Message from the President

At the end of my message in the last edition of the Educator, I said I would report to you again after the next meeting of our Executive Committee which took place in Leipzig, Germany, on 1-2 October 2011. We had a productive two-day meeting and there was a certain amount of discussion about our finances and profile. It was agreed that it would be helpful to both if we were to publish an annual report each year, and we will do this, beginning with 2011. It was also agreed that the contributions which our international partners make directly to the EFA-VI countries and the regions, which all go to augment the campaign and for which we remain enormously grateful, should in future be reflected in the budget of ICEVI. The Principal Officers will review our reserves policy to make sure we always have enough in reserve for all eventualities, and a small group representing the Principal Officers and international partners will be set up to review the subscription for international partner membership given that it has remained at \$20,000 since 2002. A recommendation will be made to the next meeting of the Executive so that it can take effect in 2013. Members observed that it would be necessary to raise more funds if the EFA-VI campaign was to be expanded, and applications are already being made to Foundations who have interests in East Asia and to the UK's Department for International Development for expansion in Africa.

As the Executive coincided with the end of the Braille21 conference organised by the World Braille Council, we received a report on Braille literacy from Diane Wormsley, our representative on the Council. Catherine Naughton of CBM made a presentation on inclusive development, and it was agreed that we should seek to align the EFA-VI campaign more with those of larger organisations in the field of education, such as the World Bank's Global Partnership for Education (formerly the Fast Track Initiative) and with more generic organisations in the field of disability, such as Handicap International. We also need to push the case for the education of children with disabilities within the post-Millennium Development Goals agenda, and to coordinate our input into this with our Vision Alliance Partners WBU (World Blind Union) and IAPB (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness), with whom we are working increasingly closely, beginning with the high-level meeting which is taking place next year.

Finally, there was considerable discussion of a couple of papers which had been submitted by the Principal Officers on the subject of regional development, which was agreed to be a priority for ICEVI at the London meeting in December 2010, and governance. There was a proposal to develop regional resource centres which could act as a catalyst for regional development by undertaking capacity building, training and leadership programmes, etc., and it was agreed that this should be taken forward in the context of future regional strategic planning events. It would be important to be sensitive to what other organisations were doing, to phase in gradually and to test the concept out as we went. Different models might be appropriate for different regions, but essentially it is a matter of cascading the organisational partnerships which are beginning to develop at global level down to the regions. Accordingly it was agreed that the organisations present in each region might be contacted with a view to identifying potential partners who could form a consortium to bolster the human and material resources available for the EFA-VI campaign.

On governance it was agreed that we still need further discussion on just what is the best way forward. We will be in a better position to conduct a review after the WBU-ICEVI joint assembly to be held in November 2012.

Turning to other activities I have been engaged in since my last message, Dr Mani and I had a couple of very successful meeting with CBM in which a number of actions to strengthen our level of cooperation, together with increased support from CBM were agreed upon. I should like to take this opportunity to place on record our huge appreciation of the support we receive from CBM.

I attended the Regional Executive Committee of our East Asia Region in September. Dr. Suwimon Udompiriyasak, Chair of the East Asia Region, had made excellent arrangements for the meeting at the Suan Dusit Rajabhat University, Bangkok, where she works. Holding the meeting there will undoubtedly help us to forge closer links with the University which will strengthen support for ICEVI activities in the future. The meeting decided to organise a strategic planning event for the region jointly with the WBU Asia-Pacific Region, involving leading international non-governmental development organisations working in

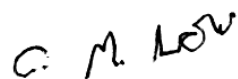
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the East Asia region and international agencies such as UNESCO and UNICEF. This was originally scheduled to take place in February but has had to be put back to April on account of the floods in Thailand. The Regional Committee also resolved to work closely with the host committee for the WBU-ICEVI joint assembly in November 2012 to make the event a great success. I was also able to sit in on part of a meeting of those involved in the higher education project which has been running for the last three years in the Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia, with Mr. Chiba-San of the Nippon Foundation, to develop proposals for the next phase of the project, and found the work and those carrying it out truly impressive and inspiring.

In my last message in the Educator, I mentioned that Bernard Mogesa, our Coordinator for the Africa region was leaving us for pastures new. I am delighted to report that his place has already been taken by Martin Osangiri Okiyo. Martin comes to us from Handicap International with a good background of skills and experience which make him very well qualified for the post. Dr. Mani has undertaken Martin's induction, Bernard has been very helpful with the hand-over, and Martin is already well advanced in turning the outcome of the Accra strategic planning event into a strategic plan for Africa. We extend to Martin a warm welcome to ICEVI.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to tell you that at their meeting in Leipzig, the Principal Officers decided to redesignate Dr. Mani's post as Chief Executive rather than Secretary General to recognise the level of work he carries out for ICEVI.

I must apologise for the fact that this message is coming to you somewhat later than I would have wished, but I hope it may still be in time to wish you a pleasant and relaxing break over the holiday period, and all possible success in whatever you are doing in 2012.



**Colin Low**  
(ICEVI President)

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## Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee of ICEVI was held at Leipzig, Germany on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011. Some of the highlights of the discussions are as follows:

- The good practices of the Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) being implemented in the focus countries need to be documented for the purpose of information dissemination.
- It was also suggested that ICEVI should develop guidelines for inclusive education.
- The members recommended that EFA-VI Campaign should be linked to larger generic initiatives on inclusion and also with disability related global initiatives.
- Regional strategies for ICEVI activities should be developed for all regions in a phased manner.
- It was recommended that a consortium of organizations at the regional level may be promoted to serve as regional resource centres/centres of excellence for the expansion of EFA-VI Campaign.
- In terms of governance, the ICEVI Executive Committee recommended that a smaller group of representatives from each region may be invited for the General Assembly once in 4 years to plan the regional activities provided each region organizes regional conferences or sub-regional activities in such a way that the members attending the global General Assembly are properly selected to make an impact on ICEVI activities in the region.
- As 2015 is going to be the year of review of the Global EFA initiative, the executive committee of ICEVI suggested that the Vision Alliance may organize a joint event in 2013 to formulate necessary statements and recommendations that can be presented for consideration at high level meetings expected to be organized by international organisations in that year.
- The need for increasing the membership fee for the International Partner Members of ICEVI was also discussed.

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## New Regional Coordinator for the Africa Region

Mr. Martin Osangiri Okiyo has been selected as the new Regional Coordinator of EFA-VI for the Africa Region. The EFA-VI Regional Secretariat is located at the African Union of the Blind, Nairobi. A selection committee consisting of Alimata Abdul Karimu, Executive Director, AFUB, Simon Bush, Director for Advocacy and African Alliances, Sightsavers, Wilfred Maina, ICEVI Africa Regional Chairperson and MNG Mani, Secretary General, ICEVI interviewed the 5 short-listed candidates and unanimously selected Mr. Martin Osangiri Okiyo for the position. Martin has considerable experience in working with African countries and also has functional knowledge in French which will be useful for extending the EFA-VI Campaign in the French speaking countries. ***Welcome Martin to the ICEVI family!***

## EFA-VI Global Campaign – Current Status

The Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) being implemented by the ICEVI acting in partnership with the World Blind Union is currently underway in 13 focus countries including Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, The Dominican Republic, and Vietnam. A research study pertaining to inclusion of children with visual impairment was conducted in China that resulted in changes in the policy formulation. The preparations for implementation of the campaign are underway in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Bolivia, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Data from 10 countries (Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, The Dominican Republic and Vietnam) reveals that **41,993** additional children with visual impairment have been enrolled in schools and **17,146** teachers and parents have been trained in areas such as Low Vision, Early Detection and Assessment, Adapted Learning Materials, Abacus, Braille, Education of Multiply Disabled Visually Impaired, Inclusive Education, Visual Stimulation, Orientation and Mobility, Child Protection Policies, Role of Parents in Education of Children with Visual Impairment, and Activities of Daily Living. The campaign has demonstrated that education for all

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initiative will become a reality when children with disabilities in general and children with visual impairment are included in the mainstream education system.

## **ICEVI-WBU Joint Statement**

ICEVI and the World Blind Union have prepared a joint statement on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment. This statement highlighting the present scenario and the need for including children with visual impairment in the overall EFA initiative will be used as awareness creation document at various levels. The full statement is available on the ICEVI website and will also be published in the January 2012 issue of The Educator.

## **ECOSOC statement disappointing**

The Draft ministerial declaration of the 2011 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education comes as a disappointment for the disability sector. While the statement was very strong on gender, there appeared to be less priority given to disability, despite efforts made by many international organisations to include disability issues at this meeting. The references about disability appeared in a very few places of the declaration. Para 18 states "We call for the development of inclusive policies that ensure access to education for vulnerable children and young people often excluded from educational systems, such as the poorest children in cities and remote areas, children affected by and living with HIV, refugees and children of migrants ...". and Para 22 states "We stress the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities, in particular children and youth, have equal opportunities to participate fully in education and community life, including through the removal of barriers that impede the realisation of their rights, and of fostering at all levels of the educational system, including among all children from an early age, an attitude of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities."

ICEVI feels that the statement is not laying adequate emphasis on disability. As Education for all Children in any country will not become



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a reality without the inclusion of children with disabilities, more efforts are needed for advocacy at the global level to raise issues on disability. WBU and ICEVI will jointly take up these advocacy issues in collaboration with the International Non-Governmental Development Organisations.

## Nominations Committee appointed

ICEVI Executive Committee has appointed a Nominations Committee to elect the Principal Officers for the organization for the period 2013-2016.

- **Kathleen Huebner**, Regional Chairperson, NAC - Chairman
- **Bhushan Punani**, Regional Chairperson, West Asia - Member
- **Suwimon Udompiriyasak**, Regional Chairperson, East Asia - Member
- **Pete Osborne**, RNIB - Member
- **Simon Bush**, Sightsavers - Member

The nominations committee will initiate the process of identifying principal officers for the next quadrennium and report its recommendations at the General Assembly in 2012.

## Meeting with CBM

Colin Low, President and Mani MNG, Secretary General, ICEVI had a meeting with Rolf Muggenburg, Director, Programme Development Unit, CBM on August 25, 2011 and discussed the possibilities of expanding the Campaign in many developing countries where CBM is present. The possibility of co-funding opportunities to support the EFA-VI Campaign was also discussed. ICEVI and CBM have agreed that awareness of the Campaign will be developed among the Regional Directors of CBM whenever opportunities arise.

## Meeting of the Regional Executive Committee

A meeting of the Regional Executive Committee of ICEVI East Asia Region was held on 18-19 September 2011 at the Suan Dusit University, Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was also attended by



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Colin Low, President, Larry Campbell, Immediate Past President and Mani MNG, Secretary General. The meeting resolved to administer needs assessment questionnaire to all the countries in the East Asia Region and also decided to use the data for formulating strategies for the region. A meeting of the INGDOs working in the East Asia Region, Government Officials, members of the Regional Executive Committee, National NGOs, DPOs etc., will be held in early 2012 to develop a regional strategy similar to the one developed for the ICEVI Africa region. The region is also proposing to organize a regional conference prior to the ICEVI-WBU joint event in November 2012.

### **Higher Education Meeting**

ICEVI in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation is implementing Higher Education programme in Cambodia, Indonesia, The Philippines, and Vietnam that has enabled more than 1000 visually impaired adults peruse higher education. A review meeting of this programme was held in Bangkok in September 2011 which was also attended by Colin Low, President, ICEVI and Larry Campbell, Immediate Past President (who also monitors the higher education programme), and Mr. Chibasan from the Nippon Foundation. Representatives of the participating countries made presentations on the current status of the programme. ICEVI has appealed to the Nippon Foundation to extend the higher education programme and also invited them to actively get involved in the EFA-VI Campaign.

### **ICEVI on IDPP Board**

The Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) for the ASEAN region is a collaborative effort among four founding academic institutions: the School of International Service at American University; Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand; the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore; the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York; and two supporting partners: the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability in Bangkok, Thailand; and the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI). ICEVI has

been invited to serve on the Board of IDPP. The Board of Directors will ensure that the IDPP successfully fulfills its four key objectives:

1. Master's Degree in Comparative and International Disability Policy
2. Executive and Continuing Education Programs
3. Outreach and Capacity Building
4. Collaborative Research

More information on the IDPP activities can be found from the website of IDPP ([www.aseanidpp.org](http://www.aseanidpp.org)) and ICEVI ([www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org))

## Potential topics for The Educator

The Perkins School for the Blind has assumed responsibility for the editorial work of The Educator, the official biannual magazine of ICEVI and it is inviting readers to send potential topics for the future issues. 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 Educator may contact Aubrey Webson ([Aubrey.webson@perkins.org](mailto:Aubrey.webson@perkins.org)), Editor or MNG Mani ([sgicevi@vsnl.net](mailto:sgicevi@vsnl.net)), Associate Editor.

**ICEVI E-News comes to your mailbox in April and October 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.**

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