



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



**(FORMERLY ICEVI NEWSLINE)**

**OCTOBER 2013**

## Message from the President

I'm sorry this issue of ICEVI E-News is coming to you a little late. The fault is entirely mine I'm afraid. It was an exceptionally busy time on special education in the House of Lords in the months before Christmas. However the revised schedule does give me the opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year and express the hope that it will not only be a rewarding and fulfilling one for you personally, but that it will also be one in which ICEVI continues to go from strength to strength.

This issue contains encouraging evidence of this already. With our Vision Alliance partners the World Blind Union (WBU) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and otherwise, we have been playing our part in the efforts to ensure that disability, particularly as regards education, has a higher profile in the international development framework which will follow the Millennium Development Goals when they run out in 2015. We have also been raising our profile with UN bodies. I represented us at the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development in New York on 23<sup>rd</sup> September when governments from around the world came together to agree a document on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities: "The Way Forward, a Disability Inclusive Development Agenda Towards 2015 and Beyond" and say what they were doing to deliver it. You can also read about our growing involvement in UNICEF's Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities.

In recent years we have become clear that we need to work more closely with broader education and disability organisations and this issue contains encouraging evidence of the progress we are making in this direction. The Executive Committee agreed last February that we should affiliate to the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)

and the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), a broad alliance of organisations concerned with education. You can read here how these decisions are being taken forward. The last of these is particularly important given the fact that the Global Campaign has identified "disability" as its theme for 2014. It is organising a worldwide Global Action Week in May to raise awareness, and it is hoped that we will be able to get involved at regional and national level.

As part of the Vision Alliance, we hope to take part in the international convention of Lions Clubs International in Toronto next July. Dr. Mani, our CEO, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the National Education for All Mission of India, and Martin Osangiri Okiyo, our Regional Coordinator for Africa, has been appointed as the President of the African region of IBSA (the International Blind Sports Association). All these things testify to the growing influence of ICEVI and the regard in which it is held. Our congratulations go to Martin and Mani.

Thanks to the hospitality of our International Partner friend Light for the World, we held an excellent Exco meeting in Vienna, Austria in November. More of that in the next edition of The Educator. In the meantime, renewed good wishes for 2014.



**Colin Low**  
(ICEVI President)

## **BETTY LEOTSAKOU – the New Regional Chair of ICEVI Europe Region**

The ICEVI Europe Regional Conference was held in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2013. The Conference was attended by about 200 participants from the whole of Europe. Hans Welling, the Regional Chair of the Europe Region relinquished office at the Conference and the region elected Betty Leotsakou from Greece as the new regional chair for the quadrennium 2013-2016. ICEVI places on record its gratitude to Hans Welling for his contributions as the Regional Chair of Europe Region and also as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of ICEVI. ICEVI also welcomes Betty Leotsakou and wishes her an eventful quadrennium of ICEVI activities in the Europe region.

## **JAMES D AIWA – the New Regional Chair of ICEVI Pacific Region**

The Regional Committee of ICEVI Pacific Region elected Paul Manning, an advocate of Parent's Movement at the global level, as the regional chair of the region for the quadrennium 2013-16. Due to sudden illness in the recent past Paul is not able to continue as a Regional Chair and therefore, the Pacific Regional Committee resolved to invite Mr. James D Aiwa from Papua New Guinea as the Regional Chair of the Pacific Region for the rest of the quadrennium 2013-16. James Aiwa is serving as a Lecturer of Special Education and also works very closely with the Ministry of Education on matters dealing with the Education of Special Needs Children. James brings a lot of grassroot level experiences from the perspectives of developing countries and ICEVI hopes that he will be able to do a lot of constructive work in the region. *A warm welcome to James!*

## **ICEVI in IDDC Task Force**

The Executive Committee which met in London in February 2013 resolved that ICEVI should work in close collaboration with the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and to begin with it was suggested that ICEVI became a member of the Inclusive Education Task Group of the IDDC. Thanks to the

recommendations of international partner members of the ICEVI particularly CBM, Light for the World and Sightsavers that ICEVI has already become a member of the Inclusive Education Task Group of the IDDC. The CEO participated in a few conference calls of this task group and ICEVI has also submitted country level case studies and human interest stories to the IDDC for possible inclusion of the same in the report of the Global Campaign for Education.

## **ICEVI Regions to celebrate Global Action Week in May 2014**

ICEVI is glad that the Global Campaign for Education has identified "Disability" as the theme for its Global Action Week to be observed in May 2014. This occasion will be used all over the world to create awareness about the abilities of persons with disabilities. ICEVI has already requested its Regional Chairs of Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Caribbean, Pacific and West Asia to design specific programmes in their countries of operation to observe the Global Action Week. The ICEVI initiative to celebrate this special occasion will include conduct of awareness programmes, advocacy activities, publication of literature on disability that may be of interest to the common public, etc. The specific programmes of each region will be posted on ICEVI website.

## **ICEVI in the high level meeting of UN**

The ICEVI enjoys consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC) and UNESCO and also participates in various policy formulation meetings of the UN bodies along with the World Blind Union (WBU) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). The high level meeting organized by the United Nations in New York on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 was represented by Colin Low, President, ICEVI. The meeting was also attended by Penny Hartin, CEO, WBU and both Colin and Penny used this opportunity to interact with the Government officials, diplomats etc., about the need to include education of children with disabilities as an integral part of the larger initiatives on education. ICEVI will also follow-up on the recommendations of this high level meeting and

attend subsequent events to continuously raise issues dealing with disability.

## **ICEVI in GPCWD Meet**

ICEVI was well represented at the Global Programme for Children with Disabilities organized by UNICEF at its head quarters in New York on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The meeting was attended by Colin Low, President and Mani, CEO, ICEVI. During the interventions it was proposed that ICEVI be involved in activities dealing with teacher preparation, advocacy, curriculum development etc., as ICEVI has the requisite experience in these areas. Subsequently, UNICEF had sent an invitation to ICEVI to join different working groups to take the GPCWD programme forward. ICEVI has already expressed its willingness to be part of two task groups dealing with "Policy Beyond 2015" and "Teacher Preparation." Colin Low, President and Mani, CEO, ICEVI will be ICEVI's representatives on the policy task group whereas Frances Gentle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Mani, CEO, ICEVI will become the contact persons for the teacher preparation task group. More updates on these programmes will be shared with members through ICEVI website in the days to come.

## **ICEVI Regional Strategy Meeting in Latin America**

ICEVI organizes regional strategy meetings to formulate implementation strategies in specific regions of ICEVI, particularly to promote the Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment and also to raise the profile of ICEVI. Strategy development meetings were already conducted in the Africa, East Asia and West Asia regions and other regions are expected to complete the task in the near future. The Latin America regional strategy development meeting was organized in Buenos Aires on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 which was chaired by Cristina Sanz, Regional Chair, ICEVI Latin America Region. The meeting was attended by representatives of international organizations such as the CBM, ONCE FOAL, Perkins School for the Blind and ULAC. The meeting was also attended by Colin Low, President ICEVI, Lucia Piccione, First Vice

President, ICEVI and contact persons working in different countries of the Latin America. The meeting came up with practical suggestions for networking within the region to optimize educational services for children with visual impairment. The members also outlined measures to be undertaken to register ICEVI Latin America Region as a legal entity.

## **WBU-ICEVI General Assembly being planned**

In continuation of the successful conduct of the WBU-ICEVI Joint Assemblies in Bangkok in November 2012, both the organizations have resolved in their respective executive committees to continue the joint assembly concept in the future too as the joint event brought out many positive aspects leading to stronger collaboration between WBU and ICEVI at the global, regional and national levels. WBU and ICEVI have circulated a joint bid document to potential bidders and the deadline for sending bid application is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. The preparation work for the Joint Assemblies will start from early 2014 once the venue is finalized based on competitive bidding. The Joint Assembly will be held in 2016 which is the final year of the quadrennium. More details about the joint event will be published through the websites of WBU and ICEVI and also shared with the members through e-mail.

## **ICEVI in IDP Forum**

The ICEVI Africa Region is proposing to organize a regional event of ICEVI in conjunction with the IDP Africa Forum to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014. As the Africa Forum brings a large number of participants from different countries within the region it would be an excellent opportunity for ICEVI to share its vision particularly with reference to the Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) being implemented in collaboration with the World Blind Union. ICEVI will conduct plenary sessions as part of the Africa Forum, organize specific thematic workshops etc., and it is hoped that this event will provide the necessary fillip for the expansion of ICEVI activities in the region. More information on the IDP Forum can be found on the websites [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org) and [www.perkins.org/idp](http://www.perkins.org/idp) .

## **Accessing Learning Sources from ICEVI Website**

The ICEVI website has become popular among teachers, parents and research scholars who look for information dealing with various aspects of education and other services for persons with visual impairment. All publications of the ICEVI such as The Educator, E-News and also Conference Papers of the previous assemblies organized by ICEVI at the global and at regional levels have been posted in the publication section, which is most often visited on the ICEVI website. ICEVI also provides links to various organizations involved in providing a variety of services to persons with visual impairment. It has been proposed to group these links and also the learning materials under different categories such as Inclusive Education, Braille, Orientation and Mobility, Employment etc., and on similar themes in order to enable the user to access information easily. The Secretariat will undertake this task with the assistance of Scott Traux, American Foundation for the Blind.

## **ICEVI CEO in National EFA Mission of India**

Dr. MNG Mani, CEO, has been appointed as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Education For All (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) Mission of Government of India, which is a proud moment for ICEVI. The General Body of this Mission is headed by the Prime Minister of India and the Executive Committee is chaired by the Minister for Human Resource Development. ICEVI congratulates Dr. Mani for this appointment and it is hoped that he will keep the flag of ICEVI fly high in such policy making bodies.

## **Martin Osangiri, ICEVI's Regional Coordinator – IBSA Africa President**

Martin Osangiri Okiyo, the Regional Coordinator of ICEVI Africa region has been appointed as the President of IBSA Africa region. As ICEVI and IBSA have a memorandum of understanding to promote sports, Martin's involvement in IBSA would unite both the organizations for promoting sports activities. ICEVI congratulates Martin for this recognition.



## Potential topics for The Educator

ICEVI has been focusing on thematic issues such as inclusion, teacher preparation, technology, early intervention, low vision, Braille literacy, etc., for The Educator and the past issues can be accessed through the website of ICEVI [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org). Those who have suggestions with the new topics for the future issues of The Educator may contact 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  
Tamil Nadu, 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)