



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



ICEVI E-NEWS

APRIL 2018

Message from the President

Dear Readers

Welcome to the April 2018 issue of the ICEVI E-News. This issue presents a snapshot of ICEVI's recent global and regional activities in the fields of education and disability. Included in the issue are reports of meetings of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). These three organisations are at the forefront of disability-inclusive education and work in partnership with the United Nations Agencies, civil society and international organisations to support national governments in their development of disability-inclusive legislation, policies, educational practices and educational financing.

Also included in this issue are updates on ICEVI's partnership programs with the Nippon Foundation and Overbrook School for the Blind. These programs address higher education and employment in East Asia, the development of mathematics learning materials, and the Overbrook-Nippon Network on Education Technology (ON-NET) program. Plans are underway to produce a publication that charts the history of the higher education and ON-NET programs.

I draw your attention to the Call for Papers for the ICEVI East Asia Conference that will take place in Manila, Philippines, from 16-18 October 2018. The ICEVI website provides information about the Conference, including the abstract submission form and registration details. I encourage you to join us for three days of information sharing and networking with educators, allied professionals and parents who are supporting children and young people with visual impairment.

In closing, I am pleased to announce that the 2020 joint General Assembly of ICEVI and the World Blind Union will be hosted by ONCE in Madrid, the beautiful capital city of Spain.



Frances Gentle, President, ICEVI

Global Campaign for Education - Copenhagen meeting

Dr. Frances Gentle, President ICEVI attended the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Northern Coalitions and INGOs meeting in Copenhagen on 6th and 7th March, 2018. The 40 participants of the meeting included representatives from the GCE national civil society coalitions of Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom, Italy, Norway, USA, Canada and France. Also in attendance were representatives of GCE's INGO member organisations: Oxfam, Action Aid, Plan International, Save the Children, Education International, Light for the World, CBM, Results, and ICEVI.

The meeting agenda included a report on the Financing Conference of the Global Partnership for Education that took place in Dakar, Senegal, in February 2018. Also discussed were the upcoming G7 and G20 meetings, recent activities of "Education Cannot Wait" and the Education Commission's International Financing Fund for Education (IFFed), and GCE activities and publications.

It was highlighted during the GCE meeting that "equity and inclusion" will be the priority focus area of the Education 2030 Steering Committee, that is, the global multi-stakeholder mechanism for education in the 2030 agenda. This focus on equity and inclusion will offer opportunities for engagement of ICEVI members and partners with global activities that promote education for children with disabilities and gender equality in education.

The Copenhagen meeting also highlighted the activities of the GCE Southern Coalitions. The GCE website homepage includes a Members section which provides links and contact details for the national coalitions in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe/North America, the Middle East and International – see <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/>. ICEVI's membership in GCE offers the opportunity to strengthen regional and national links with the GCE coalitions.

Dr. Frances also met with Thorkild Olesen and John Heilbrunn of the Danish Association for the Blind (DAB) at the Disabled People's House, Taastrup, Copenhagen and discussed such topics as braille literacy, curriculum, equitable quality and inclusive education that prepare children with visual impairment for full social and vocational inclusion and independence.

Accessible Books Consortium – Geneva meeting

Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely, 1st Vice-President, ICEVI attended a meeting of the Accessibility Books Consortium (ABC) in Geneva on 25th May 2018. She made a presentation on the technology related activities of ICEVI. ABC is likely to work with the project partners of ICEVI in Vietnam and Indonesia where the higher education project for students with visual impairment is underway. As ABC is now also looking at braille book production, Dr. Praveena indicated that ICEVI and WBU have a joint braille policy and offered to provide technical advice to ABC where necessary.

International Disability Alliance - London meeting

Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely, 1st Vice-President ICEVI attended a meeting of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) in London on 12-14 March 2018. She represented both ICEVI and the World Blind Union at this meeting and highlighted the following joint initiatives.

- ICEVI in partnership with the WBU initiated a Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) in 2006 which has facilitated the enrolment of more than 110,000 additional children with visual impairment. With the positive momentum generated through the campaign, ICEVI regions are working with the mainstream organisations and Governments to make education of children with disabilities as an integral part of the mainstream education system.
- ICEVI's new Strategy involves working closely with the UN bodies and Governments in influencing inclusive policies.
- ICEVI and WBU have developed joint policy statements on education, inclusive education and braille literacy.
- Both ICEVI and WBU will be organising their Joint General Assemblies in 2020.

New website of ICEVI launched

In accordance with the outcomes of the ICEVI Strategy Review meeting held in South Africa in February 2017, ICEVI is expanding the scope of its website www.icevi.org. The new version of the website was launched on 9th April 2018, with thanks to the inputs of the President and Principal Officers. Most of the existing documents have been moved to the new website and the new version is fully functional now. The ICEVI publications have been grouped under various headings and the addition of a search option enables easier extraction of information and navigation of the website's extensive resources. We request the readers to offer further suggestions on content and accessibility of the website.

Higher Education and ONNET Coordinators Meeting - Cambodia

The ICEVI and the Overbrook Nippon Network on Educational Technology (ONNET) have been conducting joint meetings of its project coordinators and both activities are supported by The Nippon Foundation (TNF) and at the same time the projects also share expertise. A joint meeting of the ICEVI-ONNET project coordinators was held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 – 20 February 2018. Mani, M.N.G, CEO, ICEVI and Higher Education Project Director chaired the meeting. Wenru Niu, Project Director, ON-NET Project co-chaired the meeting. Larry Campbell, Co-Director, Higher Education project could not attend the meeting but he greeted the participants by Skype before the beginning of the proceedings. Ms. Shinobu Sasaki, Gender and Diversity Analyst of the UNDP made a special presentation on the UNDP/United Nations Volunteer program at this meeting and appealed to the coordinators to encourage visually impaired youngsters to apply for the volunteer program. The project coordinators also presented country reports for the period 1st April to 31st December 2017 and also the planned activities for 2018.

Mathematics Packages Pilot Workshop - Pretoria

The ICEVI has been working on a project to develop Mathematics learning packages since 2017 with the support of The Nippon Foundation. These

packages are based on school level concepts in mathematics and will help teachers to teach Mathematics in an effective way to visually impaired children. The project is headed by Dr. M.N.G. Mani, CEO ICEVI, and to date about 40 instructional videos on various concepts in Mathematics have been developed. This first set of videos was field tested during a workshop that was held at the South Africa National Council for the Blind, Pretoria on 26-28 March 2018. The workshop participants included 20 teacher educators, maths teachers and visually impaired persons. An extensive review of the learning packages was conducted and constructive feedback was provided by the participants. The videos will also be field tested in the East Asia region in the near future, and revisions will be made to the learning packages in response to the participants' feedback. It is anticipated that the first set of mathematics video learning packages will be released in early 2019.

ON-NET and ICEVI Higher Education Book Development Meeting

The Nippon Foundation has asked ICEVI and the Overbrook School for the Blind to develop a publication highlighting the achievement of their project activities since its inception. The higher education project of ICEVI commenced in 2006 and became an outreach program of the institute-based leadership program that was conducted by the Overbrook School for the Blind for many years.

A core group meeting headed by Larry Campbell, President Emeritus of ICEVI is working on the publication, which will include the following:

- Section 1 - Setting the Scene
- Section 2 - The Overbrook campus based program
- Section 3 – International outreach program:
 - Section 3a - ON-NET activities in the East Asia region
 - Section 3b - ICEVI higher education program model
- Section 4 – Reflections and Future Implications

The publication is likely to be released at the WBU-ICEVI General Assembly in 2020.

ICEVI – ON-NET collaborative Mathematics project

ICEVI and the Overbrook-Nippon Network on Educational Technology (ON-NET) are jointly working with Mitra Netra Indonesia on a project entitled "Capacity Building on Math Teaching for Blind Students in Indonesia". The Mitra Netra will be working with key Universities in Indonesia to develop Math reading software and also cost-effective learning materials to teach mathematics to visually impaired children. Further work in this area and also the possible link to ICEVI's Math package development project will be made on the basis of the outcome of the project in Indonesia later this year.

ICEVI Governance Committee meetings

ICEVI has formed a Governance Committee which is currently discussing the following two priorities:

- i. Defining the relationship between the ICEVI Global body and the Regions in the light of the regions becoming registered legal bodies. This priority includes defining the relationship between the ICEVI global and regional structures and if warranted, revision of certain clauses of the ICEVI Constitution that are associated with compliance.
- ii. Framing ICEVI's governance principles: This includes framing the governance principles associated with education advocacy and networking, to enable ICEVI to effectively engage with such global bodies as United Nations agencies, the Global Campaign for Education, the International Disability and Development Consortium, and organisations addressing disability-inclusive education.

The committee headed by the Dr. Frances Gentle, President ICEVI includes Nandini Rawal, Treasurer (ICEVI), Hans Welling, Regional Chair (ICEVI Europe), Lars Bosselmann (CBM), Andrew Griffiths (Sightsavers), Mike Delany (Perkins School for the Blind), Sabine Fijn van Draat (Royal

Dutch Visio), and M.N.G. Mani, CEO, ICEVI as its members. The Committee held a number of meetings by teleconference in the past four months and is currently working on a governance framework document which includes ICEVI's structure, membership and voting procedures. More details of the governance framework document will be shared with ICEVI members after the ICEVI EXCO meeting to be held in Manila in October 2018.

Indian National Conference of ICEVI and Sense India, December 2017

The ICEVI India and Sense India jointly organized a National Conference on 8 - 10 December 2017 at Ahmedabad Management Association, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad. The theme of the conference was "Two Decades of Inclusive Practices." The conference was attended by over 400 delegates. Dr. Kamaleskkumar Pande, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India inaugurated the conference. Lord Colin Low, ICEVI Past President was the guest of honour for the inaugural function. Mr. Richard Hawkes, Chief Executive, British Asian Trust and Dr. Frances Gentle, ICEVI President delivered speeches at the valedictory function.

An ICEVI Principal Officers' meeting, a Country Champion program and early intervention workshop were held in conjunction with the conference. The Country Champion program brought together 30 visually impaired education graduates for leadership training and soft skills development. The Program was a huge success and the ICEVI West Asia Committee plans to replicate the program in other countries of the region.

The one-day early intervention workshop was conducted by Frances Gentle, ICEVI President. In attendance were 45 professionals from across India who are involved in the provision of early childhood services for babies and young children with vision impairment, including children with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. The workshop was delivered in English and Hindi languages, and included interactive and small group sessions on such topics as the implications of vision impairment for early

childhood development; emergent braille literacy, and vision-specific adaptations to the physical setting, teaching and learning strategies, early childhood curriculum and teacher's program.

ICEVI East Asia Regional Conference

ICEVI East Asia will be conducting its Regional Conference in Manila, Philippines from 16 to 18 October 2018. The conference theme is "EFA-VI 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals". Conference presentations and workshops will address such topics as global perspectives on education for all, Sustainable Development Goals, Legislation and policies, curricular strategies, human resource development, technology and higher education. The conference plenary sessions will focus on the following main topics.

- EFA and Disability: In the light of the SDGs
- EFA-VI – Progress and Asian Perspectives
- Legislation for inclusion – ASEAN Experience
- EFA: Strategies to serve children with low vision children and additional/multiple disabilities (MDVI)
- Role of Technology
- Higher Education and Employment

Abstracts of conference papers not exceeding 200 words should reach the Programme Committee Secretariat on or before July 10, 2018. Abstracts may also be sent by email to Dr. Yolanda S. Quijano, (Chair – Scientific Program Committee) through ICEVI-EA-Manila@blind.org.ph with a copy sent to Dr. M.N.G. Mani , CEO ICEVI - oficevi@gmail.com. The abstract and registration forms are available for download from the ICEVI website - www.icevi.org

The ICEVI Executive Committee will hold its annual meeting on 15th October 2018 in conjunction with the conference. Members of the Executive Committee will also assist the Resources for the Blind (RBI) in organising a Philippines Education Forum on the 14th October. The Forum

will provide an opportunity for local educators and policy makers to discuss global and regional issues and perspectives pertaining to education of children with disabilities in general, with a focus on children with visual impairment.

Up-coming Events in 2018 and recent Publications

The following key events and publications may be of interest to organisations and individuals working in the area of visual impairment

- **24-25 July 2018:** G20 Summit in Argentina. One of the three themes of the Summit refers to the impact of technological change in education, employment and welfare – see <https://www.g20.org/en/g20-argentina/priorities>
- **24th July 2018:** Global Disability Summit, London Olympic Park. The summit is co-hosted by the UK Department of International Development (DFID) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA) – see <https://www.sightsavers.org/news/2017/11/sightsavers-welcomes-announcement-of-uk-global-disability-summit/>
- **12-19 November 2018:** GCE World Assembly in Nepal. Information about the World Assembly will be posted to the GCE website in the coming months – see <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/>

Publications

- 2018 World Bank Development Report on Education – see <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2018/02/01/world-development-report-2018-learning-to-realize-educations-promise>. It was noted that the report is narrowly framed around assessment of a specific set out outcomes.
- UNESCO 2017/18 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, entitled Accountability in education: Meeting our commitments – see <http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/>. The Report raised challenges in establishing accountability of national governments and donors.
- GCE publications – see <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/resources>

- Private Profit, Public Loss: Why the push for low-fee private schools is throwing quality education off track (2016)
Equal Right, Equal Opportunity: Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities (2013)
- Every Child Needs a Teacher: Closing the Trained Teacher Gap (2012)
- Rights from the Start: Early Childhood Care and Education (2012)

ICEVI Nomination to the World Braille Council

Prof. Shree Ram Mittal has been nominated by ICEVI as its representative at the World Braille Council. Dr. Mittal is a special education graduate with a doctorate in special education and his expertise lies in teaching advance Braille mathematics code. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) India, and previously served as Professor at the Central Institute for Education (CIE), University of Delhi, and the Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi. Professor Mittal was the founding Chairperson of the Braille Council of India and has served as a member of various committees of the Rehabilitation Council of India. In recognition of his contribution, Prof. Mittal received the President's Award for the Best Employee in 2002 and the Rajiv Gandhi National Award for Significant Contribution in the Field of Special Education.

Appeal from Dr. Todd Reeves, Guest Editor of the July 2018 issue of The Educator

The theme of the July 2018 issue of The Educator is “**Comparative laws and policies in serving infants, children and young adults who are blind or visually impaired**” and Dr. Todd Reeves, CEO of the Overbrook School for the Blind, Philadelphia, USA is its guest editor. Here is the appeal from the Guest Editor inviting articles for the July issue.

*Greetings! As guest editor of **The Educator**, I appeal to you to submit an article for the upcoming issue that focuses on comparative laws and policies in serving infants, children and young adults who are blind or visually impaired. This next issue is not meant to be a legal journal; rather, an opportunity for*

*authors throughout the world to describe the laws and policies impacting educational services to youngsters who are blind or visually impaired. Keeping with the purpose of **The Educator**, you have a forum which allows us to learn from each other. If you are an educator who can speak to the impact of special education laws in your country -- wonderful! If you are a researcher with particular interest in this area -- wonderful! If you are a lawyer who has experience in special education law -- wonderful! I and others anxiously await reading your article and benefiting from your insight.*

If you have any questions, please contact me at todd.reeves@obs.org

Call for Themes for ICEVI's journal, The Educator

ICEVI has been focusing on thematic issues of The Educator, such as inclusion, teacher preparation, technology, early intervention, low vision and Braille literacy. Those who have suggestions for new topics for the future issues of The Educator may contact Marianne.Riggio, Editor - Marianne.Riggio@Perkins.org, and MNG Mani, Associate Editor sgicevi@vsnl.net. Past issues are available for free download from the website of ICEVI - www.icevi.org.

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.

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