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Our International Partners





Message from The President & CEO



Dear Readers

Welcome to this first issue of The Educator for 2023. We are delighted to share information about the activities of ICEVI members and partners. Included in the issue are several outcomes and initiatives that are the result of the Executive Board meeting in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in October 2022. The meeting was hosted by Royal Dutch Visio and the location was chosen as it is considered the birthplace of ICEVI in 1952. The 70th anniversary of ICEVI was celebrated during the three-day meeting with a gala dinner hosted by Visio, presentations by Visio staff, and reflections by former leaders of ICEVI.

The Executive Board is conducting a strategic review of the mission, values, goals, and organisational structure of ICEVI during the first half of this year. The Board has recruited an external facilitator to lead the review process and we are making use of accessible digital technology to gather information and conduct online meetings with member organisations and the ICEVI regional boards. Included in this issue is the “terms of reference” for the review process. The outcomes of the review will be shared in future issues of The Educator and E-News.

ICEVI is currently preparing for the ICEVI East Asia and ICEVI Africa regional conferences in September and October 2023. ICEVI West Asia is also planning its regional conference in September 2023 and information about this conference will be shared in the next issues of The Educator or E-News. Also included in this issue is the first announcement of the ICEVI World Conference and General Assembly which will take place in Ahmedabad, India in November 2024. This event will mark the end of the current quadrennium. The Principal Officers and regional Presidents will be appointed during the General Assembly by voting delegates. We look forward to welcoming you as a presenter or delegate to these important regional and global conferences in the field of education for children and young people with vision impairment.

On behalf of the Executive Board of ICEVI, we extend our thanks to members, partners and supporters for your contributions to progressing the right to education for all children with blindness, low vision, deafblindness, and multiple disability.

Frances Gentle
President

M.N.G. Mani
Chief Executive Officer



Message from The Editor

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

ICEVI Global has been quietly busy these past few months, as you will understand when you read this issue of *The Educator*. It has adopted a strategy for global advocacy and created several task groups to carry out key initiatives over the next few months, leading up to the November 2024 ICEVI General Assembly in Ahmedabad, India. I am personally very excited about the next General Assembly, because India, to me, is a land of mystery and beauty, of contrasts and contradictions, of triumphs and tribulations. It has long been my dream to visit the country, and this will make my dream come true.

Our thanks to Blind People's Association (BPA), India, and Sense International India, for hosting the 2024 World Conference and General Assembly. Both organizations are composed of committed people dedicated to improving the lives of people with visual impairment. The event promises to address the latest ideas about equity, accessibility, diversity, technology, and advocacy. You do not want to miss the opportunity to network and learn from colleagues from all over the World. Submit your abstract today!

There are other ICEVI regional conferences coming up that you do not want to miss:

East Asia Regional Conference

September 18-21, 2023

and

1st ICEVI Africa Conference

October 9-12, 2023

Registration forms and the call for papers for these upcoming conferences are available at the end of this issue, along with the official announcement of the 2024 World Conference and General Assembly.

Also in this issue is news about ICEVI's strategic planning process, which started in January. It should conclude in July, so look for information about the process in this issue. The outcomes and consensus decisions reached by this process will be available in the July 2023 issue.

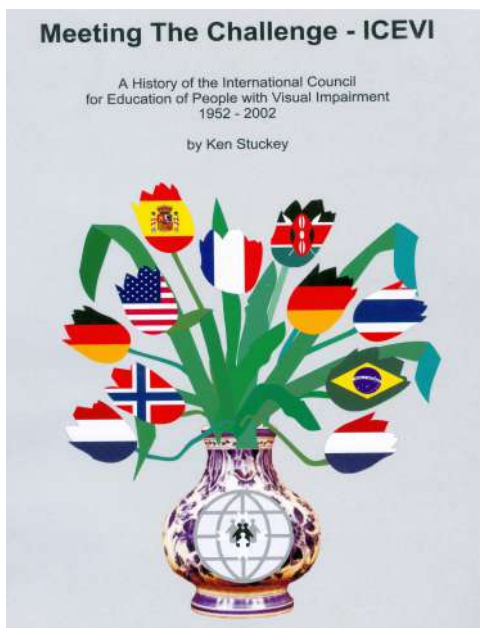
And don't forget to read about Deafblind International's LET ME IN: Global Education Campaign later in this issue. Children with deafblindness are 23 times less likely to attend school than children without disabilities—isn't it about time they did?

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2022 - An anniversary year



The year of 2022 heralded the 70th anniversary of the formation of ICEVI in 1952 in the Netherlands. The late Ken Stuckey penned a history of the first 50 years of ICEVI, entitled “Meeting the Challenge”. The 50-page publication is available on the ICEVI website at <https://icevi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/History-Book-ICEVI.pdf>. The publication serves as an excellent source of information on how ICEVI responded to the context of education for children with vision impairment over time.

In his introduction, Ken Stuckey noted that when ICEVI was founded in 1952, approximately 90 percent of blind children in the world who were granted an education were placed in schools for the blind. He also noted that “from its inception, ICEVI looked beyond the boundaries of the schools and organizations it represented to the world in general and to other areas of special education for inspiration and direction. The integration of technology into educational methodology has been the most notable example of this expansive view.”

The Principal Officers are planning a supplementary publication in recognition of the 70th anniversary and passage of an additional 20 years since ICEVI's formation. Using multi-media content, we anticipate the publication will capture contemporary approaches to education for persons with blindness, low vision, deafblindness, and multiple disability across the seven world regions of ICEVI.

In-person meeting of ICEVI Board of Directors

The ICEVI Board of Directors (called Executive Board or EXBO) took advantage of the re-opening of national borders for air travel to hold an in-person meeting in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in October 2022. The meeting was hosted by Royal Dutch Visio and members appreciated the opportunity to reconnect in person after three years of online meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Executive Board of ICEVI consists of the Principal Officers (President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Immediate Past President, and Treasurer), international partner member organisations, founding members, International Non-Governmental Organizations, and the Presidents of the seven world regions. During the three-day meeting, the Board addressed the annual governance and administration requirements of registration as an incorporated organisation in the United Kingdom. This included approval of the ICEVI audited accounts for 2021, the Financial Statement for 2022 and Budget for 2023. Decisions and actions taken during the meeting included discussion of the Global Plan of Activities for 2022-2024, the 2024 ICEVI World Conference and General Assembly, current research in VI education, collaboration with World Blind Union and international disability consortia, and formation of thematic task groups. The regional Presidents presented reports on the activities that took place in their region and tabled their 2023 plans and budgets for consideration by the Executive Board.

Two important areas of discussion during the Executive Board meeting in October 2022 were the retirement of Dr M.N.G. Mani, CEO, at the end of 2023; and implementation during the first half of 2023 of a strategic review of the purpose, shape and direction of ICEVI going forward. Presented below is the “Terms of Reference” for the strategic review process. We will share information about Mani's retirement and the outcomes of the strategic review process in the July 2023 issue of The Educator.

ICEVI Strategic Review

The following Terms of Reference have been approved by the ICEVI Executive Board and Mr Jonathan Dudding (UK) appointed as facilitator of the strategic review process. The review will include an online survey and individual and small group discussions with Executive Board members and members of the seven regional ICEVI Boards. The review will conclude with two online meetings of the entire Executive Board in July 2023.

Terms of reference

Purpose of the strategic review

The purpose of the strategic review is to reach consensus agreement among members of the Executive Board (and their respective member organisations and regional boards) about the medium to long term purpose, direction, and shape of ICEVI, as articulated through the mission, values, goals, and structure of ICEVI.

Review process

The review may be considered as a two-stage process:

Stage 1: Desktop research by the Facilitator to gain an overall understanding of ICEVI.

Members of the ICEVI Executive Board, supported by the Facilitator, consider the current external environment of disability-inclusive education for children and young people with vision impairment, in relation to the role, relevance, value, and contribution of ICEVI, as articulated through our mission, values, and goals.

Stage 2 Framing: With consideration of the outcomes of Stage 1, how do we, as members, structure ICEVI and build capacity and sustainability within ICEVI to achieve its purpose, direction, and shape, as articulated through our mission, values, and goals?

The Consultant shall perform his duties independently and on his own responsibility in consultation with the President and CEO.

Principles underpinning the Facilitator's approach

The Facilitator will use the set of group facilitation methods known as the [Technology of Participation](#) (ToP). The core principles of ToP, as detailed in Section 8 below, are inclusive participation, teamwork and collaboration, individual and group creativity, ownership and action, and reflection and learning.

Scope of Work

Listed below are the tasks of the Facilitator and a tentative timeline for the strategy review process. Throughout the review process, the Facilitator will “check in” monthly (as required) with the President and CEO.

December 2022 – January 2023

- Meeting of the Principal Officers and Facilitator to discuss the strategy review process and to reach agreement about the scope of the review, the role of the Facilitator, how the process will be conducted, the projected hours of work required, and an estimate of the Facilitator fee.
- The Principal Officers and Facilitator will draft the Terms of Reference (ToR) and Contract for approval by the Executive Board.
- The Principal Officers will seek Executive Board approval during January, noting that some revisions to the draft ToR and Contract may result from Executive Board feedback prior to approval.

February 2023 - Stage 1 of strategic review

- The Facilitator will conduct desk research to gain an overall understanding of ICEVI's current organisational structure, members and partnerships, policies and position papers, publications, projects and achievements. The information reviewed will include the ICEVI global and regional websites and publications and the websites of similar non-profit organisations in other sectors. A synopsis of the documents used to inform the design of the first stage of the strategic review will be submitted to the Executive Board by email or verbally.
- The Facilitator will gather information from members of the Executive Board using an accessible questionnaire or other data collection tool (e.g., Word and Google Docs, Google forms), allowing time for members to consult with their respective member organisations and the ICEVI regional boards (estimated time for completion is 2 weeks). The information gathered will be collated and a synopsis circulated to the Executive Board in order to inform the small group discussions of the mission, goals and values.

March – May 2023 – Stage 1 of strategic review (cont.)

- The Facilitator will meet online with members of the Executive Board (small group, and/or individual meetings) to consider the current external environment of disability-inclusive education for children with vision impairment, and to gather information and

members' perspectives and ideas about the medium to long term purpose, direction and shape of ICEVI, as articulated through ICEVI's mission, values and goals.

- Drawing on analysis and synthesis of the information gathered during the previous months, the Facilitator will draft a set of statements outlining the recommended medium to long term purpose, direction, and shape of ICEVI, and the consequent changes required to the mission, values and goals of ICEVI. The draft statements will first be submitted to the President and CEO for review and revision (if required).
- The President and CEO will (a) circulate the draft set of statements to the Executive Board for review and (b) schedule an online Board meeting for discussion and affirmation of the draft statements.

June - July 2023 – State 2 of the strategic review (Framing)

- Following Executive Board affirmation of the set of statements, the facilitator may conduct a second desk review to investigate compatible organisations in other sectors.
- The facilitator will undertake a second round of online meetings with members of the Executive Board (small group, individual), to gather individual, organisational and regional perspectives on how best to structure ICEVI and build capacity and sustainability within ICEVI to achieve the agreed-upon purpose, direction, and shape of ICEVI.

July 2023

- A final Executive Board meeting will be held with the Facilitator to complete the strategic review process.

Key Deliverables – Stages 1 and 2 of strategic review process

- a) Desk research completed to develop an understanding of ICEVI's mission, values, goals, organisational structure, membership, partnerships, publications, projects, and achievements. A synopsis of the documents used to inform the design of the first stage of the strategic review submitted to the Executive Board by email or verbally.
- b) Environmental scan completed of global disability-inclusive education context, including education for children and young people with vision impairment.
- c) Information gathered from Executive Board members, member organisations and regional boards, using a questionnaire or other collection tool.
- d) Online meetings conducted with Executive Board members (phase 1 of review process), following the principles of inclusive participation, teamwork, and collaboration.
- e) Draft set of statements prepared and circulated to the Executive Board outlining the recommended medium to long term purpose, direction, and shape of ICEVI, and the consequent changes required to the mission, values, and goals of ICEVI.

- f) Online meetings conducted with Executive Board members (phase 2 of review process), to facilitate consensus and ownership of decisions regarding ICEVI's structure, and how to build capacity and sustainability to achieve the purpose, direction, and shape of ICEVI, as articulated through the mission, values, and goals.

Mission, Values and Goals of ICEVI

Mission

ICEVI is a membership organisation with a mission to promote access to inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all people with visual impairment.

The Mission of ICEVI is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 4 for Education, with an emphasis on education for children and young people with visual impairments.

Values

ICEVI believes that all children and young people with visual impairment and their families have the right to:

- provision of a full range of educational services and to be included in the educational programs of their respective countries and communities;
- receive early intervention, early childhood development, care and pre-primary education;
- support by teachers and other professionals who are properly trained
- educational materials, teaching methods and programs that are of a high standard, conform to best practices, and to meet their needs;
- live in environments that are free of barriers, social stigmas, and stereotypes; and
- lead productive lives, according to their aspirations and capabilities.

Goals for 2022-2024

- Promote access to quality education for people with visual impairment (VI).
- Influence governments and relevant stakeholders to implement the SDGs and UNCRPD.
- Facilitate networking, information sharing and collaboration at national, regional and global levels.

Principles underpinning the strategic review process

The Facilitator will use the following set of group facilitation methods known as the [Technology of Participation](#) (ToP).

Inclusive Participation

Inviting and sustaining the participation of all members of a group and building respect for any ideas generated. This value is particularly important when working with people who are visually impaired, ensuring that the process, whether in-person or online, enables all participants to participate equally. Online, this extends to the use of appropriate technology which is accessible to people of low or no vision (for example, being compatible with screen readers).

Teamwork and Collaboration

Recognising the “whole is greater than the sum of the parts” and building processes and structures that reflect and value the contribution made by team cohesion and allow participants to build and develop consensus based on all the ideas.

Individual and Group Creativity

Bringing out the best of each person’s rational and intuitive capabilities by making explicit the emotional aspect of human behaviour and its importance in both positive (creativity, intuition) but also negative (anger, frustration) ways.

Ownership and Action

Building a sense of ownership of decisions amongst the group members, positioning them to take action, and ensuring that participants are sufficiently committed to the agreed results to convert them into practice and action.

Reflection and Learning

Ensuring that, in any developmental process, the group has sufficient time and opportunity to reflect on what they have decided so far, to examine the implications of those decisions and to revisit them if necessary.

Global Advocacy – A strategic priority

One of the strategic priority areas of ICEVI is influencing the development, implementation, and accountability of public policy promoting progressive approaches to the education of persons with vision impairment. In preparation for the ICEVI Executive Board meeting in October 2022, Andrew Griffiths, Executive Board member and Head of Advocacy at Sightsavers, prepared an Advocacy Strategy Discussion Paper. The Paper served as a starting point for preparation of a Global Advocacy Strategy. The Strategy has been unanimously approved by the Executive Board of ICEVI and is presented below. We acknowledge, with thanks, Andrew's leadership and substantial contribution to the drafting of the Discussion Paper and Global Advocacy Strategy.

ICEVI Advocacy Strategy

February 2023

Background and process

For 70 years ICEVI has been central to progressing the educational opportunities of people with visual impairment. This progress has been driven by greater awareness of disability rights and better understanding of how to make education more inclusive. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities outlines the quality education (Article 24), whilst Sustainable Development Goal 4 gives a commitment, by 2030, to “eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations.”

These commitments remain welcome, but they have not been met by governments and policy makers. This strategy outlines how ICEVI will play a role in holding authorities to account for their responsibilities to provide access to quality education for people with visual impairment. A significant focus will be to provide resources for those working at the national level, but ICEVI can also help shape global norms and agendas to create a more enabling environment for the education of people with visual impairment. However, this cannot be done in isolation for people with visual impairment – it must be achieved alongside all impairment groups. So, whilst ICEVI will continue its legitimate focus on visual impairment, it will seek to do so in collaboration and in support of wider inclusive education objectives

Advocacy is important, but it does not describe everything that ICEVI does. ICEVI develops teaching resources, builds a network of educators, academics, parents, and others, and provides a legitimate voice for people with visual impairment in many key forums (among many other areas of work). Therefore, this is not a strategy for ICEVI as a whole, but a framework for understanding how ICEVI (at a global level) will seek to influence, and support the influencing of, public policy.

This strategy has been developed in consultation with regions and members of the Executive Board. The process started in 2022, with a round of conversations with principal officers and regional presidents; in October 2022 a paper was presented and discussed at the Executive Board; the strategy was then drafted for consultation before being finalised and approved by the Executive Board.

What is advocacy?

The terminology of advocacy is not always clear and can cause misunderstanding and confusion. Therefore, it is important to be clear on the scope of this paper and the proposed scope of the strategy.

The working definition of advocacy for this paper is: The strategic approach to influencing the development, implementation, and accountability of public policy.

The overarching theory of change that underpins our advocacy strategy is that systemic and sustainable change is only possible when the policy environment promotes progressive approaches to the education of people with visual impairment: Laws need to be in place to tackle discrimination; policies need to promote practices which include people with visual impairment in education; education providers need to be equipped with skills and tools through their training and on-going support; budgets need to provide for the implementation of policies; and decision-makers need to be held accountable for education outcomes. These are only some of the issues that advocacy work needs to address.

Objectives

Objective 1: Strengthening the regions to advocate and support national advocacy

ICEVI has a significant presence within regions and has invested in establishing strong regional centres. ICEVI is, at a global level, an aggregation of members who organise through regions. As a result, much of the work of ICEVI is done through regions.

ICEVI regions have strategies and plans that'll include a range of influencing objectives. The regions both have their own objectives and support national members (in some case, national ICEVI hubs) with their influencing. Examples include support to Nepal to influence the National Education Policy and supporting ICEVI members in Africa to influence the national ratification of the African Disability Protocol.

Influencing begins at the national level, and the regions primarily exist to provide support and link national advocacy. This includes any influencing of regional bodies – the question should always be asked: How does this benefit national policy influencing?

Regions have a key role in supporting smaller members and countries to influence – and providing forums for bigger and better resourced members, often from richer countries, to support others in their region. In most regions there is a disparity between countries, and this is no more apparent than in the North America and Caribbean region, where the United States and Canada have significantly more capacity than smaller Caribbean countries.

ICEVI regions have an important role in influencing relevant organizations in their respective areas (African Union, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), etc.). ICEVI regions can engage more with these bodies and facilitate members to advocate on issues – for example, the Marrakesh Treaty or the African Disability Protocol. ICEVI Global can provide information on these processes and link members with relevant forums or stakeholders. This work will influence national governments, in turn strengthening member engagement on important influencing opportunities.

The regions exist to provide a forum for capacity, knowledge, and resource to be shared. However, they lack capacity to engage comprehensively, and capacity is varied across ICEVI regions. Funding is limited, and more support to build sustainable and greater finances for influencing is needed. Many want to do more influencing but have had to focus on institution building – this needs to be addressed. This will not be easy and requires significant scoping. Exploring partnerships with implementing NGOs will be key, with the aim of becoming regional programme partners.

Finally, there is a challenge with language: English is dominant, but more needs to be done on supporting francophone, hispanophone, lusophone, and Arabic members.

Sub-objectives:

- 1.1. Convene discussions between regions on national advocacy, helping in smaller countries learn from the experience of others
- 1.2. Convene regions to discuss influencing regional inter-governmental bodies
- 1.3. Explore how funding can be obtained to support national advocacy through regions – this may include conversations with international partners and other key stakeholders about potential funding sources
- 1.4. Facilitate shared learning and advocacy capacity building, particularly to support members to plan and implement influencing work in their countries – this will include increased understanding and knowledge of rights in inclusive education
- 1.5. Collect and accessibly share information about effective policy change (such as through case studies) including through its website
- 1.6. Convene discussions within the regions about regional fundraising

- 1.7. Ensure more documents and advocacy material are translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic.

Objective 2: Play an important representative role, particularly through technical support

A stronger global advocacy agenda helps the regions, and ICEVI involvement in global inclusive education policy gives greater credibility to the work at regional and national level. Information about global policy development is important to shaping regional advocacy, and this, in turn, provides credibility for ICEVI Global advocacy. Experiences and evidence from regional and national level can be used to feed into global policy setting; ICEVI has value to add to these policy discussions, in the right context. ICEVI's approach to advocacy is defined by the following characteristics:

- Insider – we will seek to build constructive relationships with decision makers to promote change
- Partnership – we will work with others wherever possible
- Expertise – we will gather and emphasise the knowledge and expertise of members
- Credibility and legitimacy – we will only talk about what we know

ICEVI works within the wider context of influencing networks. It is important neither to undermine nor duplicate these networks, which include the [International Disability and Development Consortium \(IDDC\) task group on inclusive education](#), the [Global Campaign for Education \(GCE\)](#), and the [International Disability Alliance \(IDA\) Inclusive Education Flagship Initiative and Task Team](#). Capacity for advocacy within ICEVI remains a challenge, so the strategy will be to, wherever possible, engage, support, and align with influencing work through the wider influencing networks (see background paper). ICEVI will play an important role in promoting the needs of people with visual impairments within these networks.

The value of ICEVI for influencing lies in the significant technical expertise of members. Advocacy objectives will focus on how policies should be implemented, often in support of wider policy influencing agendas of coalitions like IDDC and World Blind Union (WBU). For example, on standards of education for children with disabilities. ICEVI will continue to focus on building engagement through the IDDC inclusive education taskgroup, in particular. The role of ICEVI is also to connect expertise with where it can deliver change. ICEVI Global will also grow relationships with UNICEF and UNESCO, creating a network of subject matter experts to act as a resource in developing effective multilateral policy support.

ICEVI will also coordinate developing policy papers on key topics. This will involve coordination with regions, bringing in national expertise to contribute on policy issues. The issues in these papers will be identified through consultation with members, with the aim of clarifying implementation questions for policy influencing objectives and to bring groups together.

Sub-objectives:

- 2.1. Continue to develop links with UNICEF, UNESCO, and other international agencies. ICEVI will look at how to develop partnerships with international agencies, particularly in partnership with other inclusive education forums and networks
- 2.2. Identify key issues and develop policy papers to outline a position for member advocacy
- 2.3. Provide updates for regional members, for dissemination, on influencing at a global level
- 2.4. Reach out to and engage with networks at global and regional levels, to align the strategic approach
- 2.5. Work with other likeminded partners (IDDC, for example) to influence, and provide support for influencing, on inclusive education policy, with a focus on technical and implementation questions.

Objective 3: Strengthen role as a network convener

The regional members greatly appreciate ICEVI Global's role as an enabler and convener and seek its continued expansion. This includes sharing information, making links between the influencing work at a regional level, and representing ICEVI in global forums (as noted above). Regular meetings between the President and CEO and regions are extremely valuable and will continue to be important to how ICEVI grows its advocacy. These help with increasing accountability amongst the ICEVI community, hearing about other work in different regions and the global agenda, and getting advice.

Connection between the regions, and coherence with ICEVI Global, is of critical importance. This will be supported by building the structure from the ground. This is not about creating a uniform approach, but about how influencing in one region can support and link with influencing in another. An example of this is the work ICEVI Global did in sharing information about work in the Pacific, with colleagues working to support influencing in the Caribbean. ICEVI Global will build on these examples, to create a more unified and joint approach across its regions.

Sub-objectives:

- 3.1. Continue to use regular meetings between ICEVI Global leadership and regional leadership to update on global policy change processes
- 3.2. Continue to create spaces for sharing of good examples of advocacy work, making the most of the existing huge expertise in ICEVI
- 3.3. Collect and disseminate successful examples and case studies of ICEVI and ICEVI member advocacy – potentially through The Educator
- 3.4. Coordinate the development of more tools to support ICEVI advocacy – building on what works for some regions and members

Implementing the strategy

The strategy outlines an ambitious role for ICEVI as a convener and leader of technical expertise, used to influence and strengthen policy engagement at national, regional, and international levels. These roles are ambitious given the resources and capacity of ICEVI, but much of this work is already ongoing – so the underpinning of this strategy will be linking work and activities together.

To take this strategy forward, ICEVI will create an advocacy task group of the Executive Board. This group will be facilitated by Andrew Griffiths, Member of the ICEVI Executive Board, and will include the President, First Vice President, CEO and Treasurer of ICEVI, in order to demonstrate the importance placed on this task group. Regional engagement with the sub-committee will be critical. Membership of the sub-committee will be open beyond the current Executive Board, with the aim of creating an operational plan for the strategy. The task group will develop plans (initially for 2023-25) to implement the strategy and will report to the ICEVI Executive Board. There is no expectation of a separate budget for this work.

Emergence of task forces

During 2021 and 2022, a series of discussions were initiated by the ICEVI President and CEO with the International Partner Members (IPMs). These discussions included identification of ten priority thematic areas which could be addressed through the formation of task groups. The Principal Officers, in consultation with members of the Executive Board, identified five task group themes for commencement in 2022/23. These are advocacy/influencing, children's participation, gender equality and women's rights, technology in education, and children with deafblindness and multiple disability. The following members of the Executive Board have accepted the invitation to facilitate the Task Groups.

1. Advocacy/influencing task group - **Andrew Griffiths, Sightsavers**
2. Task group on children participation, with the goal of creating a Children's Council in each ICEVI region – **Ana Peláez, ONCE**
3. Gender equality and women's rights task group – **Ana Peláez, ONCE**
4. Technology in education task group – **Marcel Jenssen, Royal Dutch Visio**
5. Children with deafblindness and multiple disability task group – **Mirko Baur, DeafBlind International.**

Presented below are the Terms of Reference and Work Plans for several of the task groups. Each task group is accountable to the Executive Board and will submit annual reports. The task groups will receive support from the ICEVI Secretariat. The ICEVI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be the liaison person for any support the task groups require from the Secretariat in the exercise of task group duties. The CEO and Secretariat staff will also support the task groups to seek to mobilise resources to increase task group capacity and activities.

The working language for the task groups is English, with the expectation that task group members are able to communicate orally (or utilizing interpreter services) and in writing in English or be supported by their own organisations to do so.

ICEVI Advocacy/Influencing task group – Terms of Reference

Background

The constitution of this group on advocacy in 2023 is the first step in the implementation of the ICEVI global advocacy strategy.

Overall aim

The overall aim of the task group is to implement the ICEVI global advocacy strategy. The strategy outlines overarching objectives and sub-objectives, and this task group will be asked to identify approaches, timescales, and prioritisation of the sub-objectives. The task group will also identify who will lead on different aspects of the advocacy strategy.

Composition of the task group

The task group will be composed of representatives of regional Presidents, the global President, the Chief Executive Officer, at least 2 global partner members, and a facilitator to co-ordinate the work of the group. Membership of the task group can extend beyond the ICEVI executive committee.

Working methods

Following a proposal from the facilitator, the task group will draw up an action plan for the period 2023-2025 with activities scheduled for each year within this period.

The task group functions mainly through virtual work by e-mail and on-line meeting platforms, ensuring accessibility for all participants. Three on-line meetings will be held annually. The meetings will normally take place around 11:00 GMT and should ideally last one hour. When funding is available, extra meetings, conferences or other activities may be organised by the ICEVI Secretariat or the members.

The task group's work requires continuity and active participation from all members. If a member is unable to be involved, she or he shall appoint another person to represent them.

Members should agree to respect the confidentiality of the information shared.

The role and responsibilities of the facilitator

The facilitator is responsible for co-ordinating the work and meetings of the task group, proposing the action plan for the group and reporting to the ICEVI Executive Board as and when required. The facilitator will not be responsible for delivering the action plan – that will be a shared responsibility of the task group.

ICEVI Children's participation task group – Terms of Reference

Background

The constitution of this group on Children's Participation in 2022 is identified as a priority action within the ICEVI global activities plan for the period 2022-2024 (priority area 6d).

Overall aim

The overall aim of the task group, as set out in the ICEVI global activities plan, is to begin work on the constitution of a Children's Council in each region. The task group will support regional Presidents in their efforts to set up and monitor regional Children's Councils. Once the regional councils are in place, a global Children's Council will be created with the involvement of the chair from each regional Children's Council.

Children's participation should be established as a principle in all ICEVI's work, activities, structures and procedures to ensure their voices are heard and taken into consideration.

Composition of the task group

The task group will be composed of all regional Presidents, the global President, the Chief Executive Officer and a facilitator to co-ordinate the work of the group.

Human rights-based and intersectional approach

The task group will perform its work using an intersectional interpretation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)¹ and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)². To this end and in addition to these international conventions, it will utilise, among other instruments, CRPD General comment No.7 on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities³, CRC General Comment No. 12 on the right of the child to be heard⁴, and the CRC and CRPD Joint Statement on the Rights of Children with Disabilities⁵.

Task group members are invited to study these documents in detail.

Working methods

Following a proposal from the facilitator, the task group will draw up an action plan for the period 2022-2024 with activities scheduled for each year within this period.

¹<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

²<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

³<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/336/54/PDF/G1833654.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴<https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/advanceversions/crc-c-gc-12.pdf>

⁵https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/CRC-CRPD-joint-statement_18March2022.docx

The task group functions mainly through virtual work by e-mail and on-line meeting platforms, ensuring accessibility for all participants.

Four on-line meetings will be held annually, one each trimester. The meetings will normally take place from 11:00 GMT until noon.

When funding is available, extra meetings, conferences or other activities may be organised by the ICEVI Secretariat or the members.

The task group's work requires continuity and active participation from all members. If a regional President is unable to be involved, he or she shall exceptionally appoint another person from the corresponding ICEVI Regional Board to represent that region.

Members should agree to respect the confidentiality of the information shared within the task group.

The role and responsibilities of the facilitator

The facilitator is responsible for co-ordinating the work and quarterly meetings of the task group, proposing the action plan for the group and reporting to the ICEVI Executive Board as and when required.

Based on her experience and expertise in children's issues and disability, including organising the international congress "Listening to the Children" in Spain in 2008, the ICEVI President has appointed Mrs Ana Peláez Narváez to lead the group. Mrs Peláez, a member of the ICEVI Executive Board, is High Commissioner for Solidarity and International Co-operation at ONCE Social Group and a United Nations human rights expert (former member of the CRPD Committee and currently a member of its CEDAW Committee).

ICEVI Children's participation task group action plan 2023-2024

A. Overall aim

To establish children's participation as a principle in all ICEVI's work, activities, structures and procedures to ensure their voices are heard and taken into consideration.

B. Specific aims

1. Review the ICEVI constitution and other relevant documents.
2. Draw up guidelines to ensure the principle of children's participation in ICEVI international, ICEVI regions and member organisations.
3. Listen to the voices of boys and girls who are blind or have low vision, deafblindness, or multiple disabilities.
4. Support the ICEVI regions in their efforts to set up regional Children's Councils.
5. Ensure children's participation at the 2024 ICEVI world conference.
6. Train the task group members on the principle of children's participation.

C. Specific actions

Specific aim 1

- 1.1 Analyse the ICEVI constitution and other relevant documents (2023).
- 1.2 Propose amendments to these documents in order to ensure children's participation (2023).

Specific aim 2

- 2.1 Draft the guidelines (2023-2024).
- 2.2 Publish the guidelines in electronic format (2024).
- 2.3 Prepare alternative versions to ensure full accessibility (2024).
- 2.4 Translate the guidelines (2024).
- 2.5 Publish an article promoting the guidelines in *The Educator* (2024).

Specific aim 3

- 3.1 Publish a call for these boys and girls from all regions to present their testimonies (2023-2024).
- 3.2 Publish a selection of these testimonies (2024).
- 3.3 Present the selection of testimonies at the 2024 ICEVI world conference.

Specific aim 4

- 4.1 Provide training to the ICEVI regions based on the guidelines to ensure the principle of children's participation in ICEVI regions (2023).
- 4.2 Offer technical assistance to the ICEVI regions to set up regional Children's Councils (2024).

Specific aim 5

- 5.1 Review the draft programme for the 2024 ICEVI world conference in co-operation with the Programme Committee (2023).
- 5.2 Suggest suitable topics and speakers for the conference (2024).

Specific aim 6

- 6.1 Deliver training seminars to the task group members on the principle of children's participation.

ICEVI Gender equality and Women's rights task group - Terms of Reference

Background

The constitution of this group on Gender Equality and Women's Rights in 2022 is identified as a priority action within the ICEVI global activities plan for the period 2022-2024 (priority area 6c).

Overall aim

The overall aim of the task group is to introduce gender equality as a principle in all ICEVI's work, activities, structures and procedures and to promote the rights of women and girls with blindness, low vision, deafblindness, and multiple disability in the context of education.

Composition of the task group

Membership of the task group is open to all ICEVI members as well as independent experts recommended by ICEVI members, with an aim to form a group of between 6 and 8 persons plus the facilitator.

A balanced geographic representation will be sought from all ICEVI regions, as well as a balance of members with experience and expertise in gender issues and blindness, low vision, deafblindness or multiple disability.

Human rights-based and intersectional approach

The task group will perform its work using an intersectional interpretation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)⁶ and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)⁷. To this end and in addition to these international conventions, it will utilise, among other instruments, CRPD General Comment No. 3 on women and girls with disabilities⁸ and No. 4 on inclusive education⁹, and CEDAW General Recommendations No. 35 on gender-based violence¹⁰ and No. 36 on the right of girls and women to education¹¹.

Task group members are invited to study these documents in detail.

⁶<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

⁷<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>

⁸<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/262/56/PDF/G1626256.pdf?OpenElement>

⁹<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/263/00/PDF/G1626300.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁰<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/231/54/PDF/N1723154.pdf?OpenElement>

¹¹<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/398/03/PDF/N1739803.pdf?OpenElement>

Working methods

Following a proposal from the facilitator, the task group will draw up an action plan for the period 2022-2024 with activities scheduled for each year within this period.

The task group functions mainly through virtual work by e-mail and on-line meeting platforms, ensuring accessibility for all participants.

Four on-line meetings will be held annually, one each trimester. The meetings will normally take place from 11:00 GMT until noon.

When funding is available, extra meetings, conferences or other activities may be organised by the ICEVI Secretariat or the members.

The task group's work requires continuity and active participation from all members. If a member expresses the wish not to be involved anymore, or if a member is inactive over a prolonged period of time, ICEVI may seek to fill the vacant position by inviting another person to join the group.

Members should agree to respect the confidentiality of the information shared within the task group.

All task group members will be able to communicate orally (or utilizing interpreter services) and in writing in English or be supported by their own organisation to do so.

The role and responsibilities of the facilitator

The facilitator is responsible for co-ordinating the work and quarterly meetings of the task group, proposing the action plan for the group and reporting to the ICEVI Executive Board as and when required.

Based on her experience and expertise in gender issues and women and girls with disabilities, the ICEVI President has appointed Mrs Ana Peláez Narváez to lead the group. Mrs Peláez is High Commissioner for Solidarity and International Co-operation at ONCE Social Group, a member of the United Nations CEDAW Committee and a member of the ICEVI Executive Board.

ICEVI Gender Equality and Women's rights task group action plan 2023-2024

Overall aim

The overall aim of this task group is to introduce gender equality as a principle in all ICEVI's work, activities, structures, and procedures and to promote the rights of women and girls with blindness, low vision, deafblindness and multiple disability in the context of education.

Specific aims

1. *Strategic actions 1:*

- a) Review the ICEVI constitution and other relevant documents.
 1. Analyse the ICEVI constitution and other relevant documents (2023).
 2. Propose amendments to these documents in order to mainstream gender equality (2023).
- b) Foster the mainstreaming of gender equality in ICEVI regional action plans.
 3. Analyse existing ICEVI regional action plans (2023).
 4. Offer technical assistance to the ICEVI regions to mainstream gender equality (2024).
- c) Ensure gender equality mainstreaming at the 2024 ICEVI global conference.
 5. Review the draft programme for the 2024 ICEVI global conference (2023-2024).
 6. Suggest suitable topics and speakers for the conference (2024).
- d) Propose the adoption of a code of conduct to prevent discrimination, violence and bullying of women and girls with blindness, low vision, deafblindness, and multiple disability within ICEVI.
 7. Draft the code of conduct (2024).
 8. Propose the adoption of the code of conduct to the ICEVI Executive Board (2024).

Strategic actions 2:

- e) Publish and disseminate guidelines for the education community to promote equality and prevent discrimination, violence and bullying of women and girls with blindness, low vision, deafblindness, and multiple disability in education.
 9. Draft the guidelines for the education community (2023-2024).
 10. Publish the guidelines in electronic format (2024).

11. Prepare alternative versions to ensure full accessibility (2024).
12. Translate the guidelines (2024).
13. Publish an article promoting the guidelines in *The Educator* (2024).
- f) Deliver training seminars based on the above guidelines aimed at the following four target groups: the education community; girls and women with blindness, low vision, deafblindness and multiple disability themselves; their families; and their peers.
 14. Prepare seminar content for each of the four identified target groups (2023-2024).
 15. Hold at least two global training seminars, one for this task group (2023-2024).
 16. Hold one training seminar for each of ICEVI's regions (2023-2024).
 17. Set aside time at the ICEVI global conference to promote equality for and prevent discrimination, violence and bullying of women and girls with blindness, low vision, deafblindness, and multiple disability in education (2024).

ICEVI Technology in Education task group

The Technology in Education Task Group is facilitated by Marcel Janssen of the Royal Dutch Visio. The group will hold its first meeting in late June 2023. As technology is a priority area of ICEVI, the first meeting will be organised in the form of a webinar for the entire ICEVI Executive Board. It is anticipated that the task group members will consist of representatives of the international partner members and regional Boards of ICEVI. More information on the activities of this task group will be published in future issues of *The Educator* and ICEVI *E-News*.

ICEVI Deafblindness and Multiple Disability Task Group

The activities of this task group will centre around the formation of writing groups to continue the “Include Me” publications. By way of background information, ICEVI launched a six-page booklet entitled “Include Me: The voice of a child with multiple disabilities or deafblindness” in 2020. The authors intended the publication to help us hear the voice a child who, like all children, is “waiting and wanting to be loved, respected, and included”. The publication is available for download in multiple languages from the ICEVI website at <https://icevi.org/include-me/mdvi/>. As noted on the website, the quality of the publication reflects the expertise and work of ICEVI member organisations, Perkins International, CBM, and Deafblind International, together with the Blind People's Association (India) and Tanne, the Swiss Foundation for Congenital Deafblindness. ICEVI extends thanks to the organisations and individuals who assisted with the language translations.

In June 2021, ICEVI launched a second publication entitled “Include Me: Braille Literacy for children with multiple disability and deafblindness”. This publication is available for download in several languages from the ICEVI website at <https://icevi.org/include-me/braille-literacy/>. ICEVI dedicated the publication to the late Mr Ajay Kumar Mittal, Executive Board Member of ICEVI and Secretary General of World Blind Union. A braille user himself, A.K. was a strong advocate for the right to education and braille literacy for children with blindness, deafblindness, and multiple disability.

We have noted on the website that the origins of the “Include Me: Braille Literacy” publication lie with the World Braille Council, which in 2018 resolved to work with ICEVI and the World Blind Union to provide educational support, including braille access, for children with multiple disability in developing countries. Underpinning the World Braille Council's resolution is the firm belief that all children can communicate and learn, and all children have the right to full inclusion in education and society. We have also noted on the website that a braille font such as SimBraille is needed to correctly show the braille characters included in the Word version of the publication.

Task groups of the future

The ICEVI Executive Board suggested that from 2023 onwards, task groups may be formed based on strategic priorities. The Board recognised climate change and climate education/literacy as one of the potential areas for ICEVI to promote in collaboration with the World Blind Union and other climate action task groups with a focus on persons with disability.

The following concept note was prepared by the Principal Officers and shared with the ICEVI Executive Board. It is published here for the benefit of the larger constituency of ICEVI.

ICEVI's contribution to climate change education for persons with visual impairment

Concept Note

Introduction

This concept note presents a proposal submitted by the ICEVI Principal Officers for consideration by Executive Board (EXBO) members. The proposal is informed by a review of recent climate change publications by United Nations agencies, researchers, and the global disability community, together with discussions with staff of ICEVI member organisations, CBM, and Sightsavers, who are actively involved in global climate change initiatives.

Proposal of ICEVI Principal Officers

With due consideration of current climate change research and publications, the ICEVI Principal Officers propose the establishment of a Climate Change Education Committee. The Committee is tasked with guiding the EXBO in establishing climate change priorities for the ICEVI 2021-2024 term, with the aim of promoting the rights of children and young people with visual impairment or other disabilities in the context of the adverse impacts of climate change.

The Committee will collaborate with ICEVI members and regional Presidents to identify global and regional initiatives. These initiatives may include creation of an ICEVI climate change education “toolkit,” consisting of an ICEVI climate change policy; and guidelines for preparation and action of persons with visual impairment in emergency contexts, including guidelines for persons with deafblindness or multiple disability and visual impairment (MDVI); and climate literacy guidelines for schools enrolling students with visual impairment. The Committee may also explore the creation of a Climate Change Champions program, along similar lines to the current ICEVI Country Champions Program, with the aim of empowering young people with visual impairment as agents of change.

Review of recent climate change publications

Education for Sustainable Development

Education is the cornerstone of sustainable development. The Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (April, 2020) recognised education to be an “enabling right with direct impact on the realisation of all other human rights, and a primary driver of progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals” (p. 3). The central importance of education was emphasised by UNESCO in their “Guide for schools on climate action” (2016), noting that “SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 4 on quality education both recognise the importance of Education for Sustainable Development and the role of education in responding to climate change” (p. 2).

Send My Friend to School (2020), the UK coalition of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), highlighted the critical role of education in preparing communities to confront and fight climate change. The 2020 publication by Send My Friend to School identified the negative consequences of climate change on realising SDG 4 and the right to quality education for all by 2030. With the growing frequency and severity of extreme climate events and the consequent increase in family migration and displacement, children's access to education is disrupted or extinguished. Send My Friend to School noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused serious interruption to education for the 1.6 billion learners worldwide, with large scale school closures further compounding existing educational inequalities experienced by the poorest and most vulnerable children. Education is "woefully neglected as part of the global climate response . . . and too many education systems around the world are inadequately preparing children and young people for a changing climate" (2020, p. 8). Furthermore, Send My Friend to School emphasised that "during climate related emergencies, children and young people with disabilities tend to be invisible and overlooked in emergency relief operations, and increasingly pressurised budgets mean less resources are available for accessible and affordable services" (p. 21).

Impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities

Disability-inclusive human rights approaches to climate change education are an important component of the UN Education for Sustainable Development program. An analytical study by the Office of the UN High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR), presented at the UN General Assembly Human Rights Council (2020, April), stated that the estimated one billion persons with disabilities worldwide may experience the impacts of climate change differently and more severely than others. The OHCHR study, drawn from UN Member States' responses, highlighted that persons with disabilities are often among those most adversely affected in an emergency, sustaining disproportionately higher rates of morbidity and mortality, and are among those least able to access emergency support. "Sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events can seriously affect the access of persons with disabilities to food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, health-care services and medicines, education and training, adequate housing and access to decent work" (p. 3).

The OHCHR concluded that persons with disabilities, because they are disproportionately affected by climate change, must be included in climate action. Persons with disabilities must be empowered as "economic, social, human rights and climate actors," with education and vocational training expanded to include "issues related to sustainable development, environmental degradation and climate change" (2020 April, p. 16). "Active, free and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their diverse representative organisations at all levels of decision-making and action will empower persons with disabilities as agents of change, prevent discrimination against them and make climate action more effective" (OHCHR, 2020 July).

A review of literature conducted by Smith, Jolley, and Schmidt of Sightsavers (2012) identified the following four groups of structural factors acting as pathways to increased disaster vulnerability of persons with disabilities:

- a) Scarcity of disability-related information, and lack of statistical data related to persons with disabilities, and lack of knowledge of the barriers associated with different types of disabilities;
- b) Limited participation of persons with disabilities in disaster management and relief aid processes, highlighting a “worrying gap between policy and implementation” (p. 4);
- c) Inaccessible physical environments, preparedness measures and relief aid, such as inaccessible warnings and evacuation procedures for persons with sensory impairments, inaccessible emergency shelters, and latrines that are unsafe for women and girls with disabilities; and
- d) Stigma and discrimination associated with disability, resulting in discrimination or denial of basic rights and services.

Climate change education

Send My Friend to School (2020) identified the following three key contributions that education systems can make in facing and fighting climate change:

- **Education is protective, lifesaving and life-sustaining during disasters and displacement:** With appropriate knowledge and skills, children and young people have the potential to reduce their own vulnerability, and the vulnerability of their community, to the negative effects of climate change.
- **Education builds the resilience and adaptive capacity of children and their communities in a changing climate:** Investment in quality, safe and inclusive education contributes to poverty reduction and significantly decreases the climate vulnerability of communities by boosting their self-efficacy, autonomy, and ability to migrate and diversify their income.
- **Education empowers children and young people to create a more sustainable future:** The 2019 environmental protests by millions of young people in over 100 countries has shown the potential of children as effective and important agents of change. “When young people have knowledge of climate change issues and perceive their agency to be high, they are more likely to champion sustainability in their communities and provide constructive policy recommendations to local leaders” (UNESCO, 2015, cited in Send my Friend to School, 2020, p.14).

The youth climate movement has been gathering momentum in recent years. A speech by 16 year old Swedish climate activist Greta Thurnburg at the UN Framework Convention on

Climate Change COP24 in December 2018, sparked a global movement of school-age students and the joining together of global youth organisations and movements to demand greater action from governments to fight climate change (Rogers & Kiefer, 2019).

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised awareness of the importance of empowering children with disabilities, and the professionals and families that support them, through the provision of open access education, online training, and information sharing. The teaching of Information and Communications technology (ICT) skills, for example, has enabled young adults with visual impairment in ICEVI's East Asia higher education initiative to successfully continue their studies during university closures. Flexible, learner-centred teaching and learning approaches involving ICT are enabling children with visual impairment or other disabilities to continue their education during school closures.

ICEVI members and partners have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing online webinars, open access publications, policy guidance, and support and advice for educators and families. The International Disability Alliance, including Deafblind International, responded to the pandemic by developing COVID-19 recommendations on inclusive policies for persons with deafblindness (2020). These recommendations address how persons with deafblindness may safely rely on physical touch to communicate their needs without fear of spreading or catching the COVID-19 virus.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) noted that COVID-19 has highlighted our relationship with the environment and tested the world's ability to respond to a health crisis of global magnitude. The pandemic “is perhaps our most illuminating view of how serious the consequences of climate change could be” (2020). Collaboration, information sharing, influencing of governments and other stakeholders, and development of capacity building resources have been identified by Dr Mary Keogh of CBM Global as important considerations for ICEVI and the global disability community. “Responses to climate change start with each of us, with the ways by which we think and act, with our attitudes and behaviours. Education for Sustainable Development “promotes the knowledge, skills, and values we need to take action for a healthier, fairer, more environmentally sustainable society” (UNESCO, 2016, p.2).

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Deafblind International launches global campaign

During the period 2006 - 2016, ICEVI implemented a successful global campaign addressing education for all children with visual impairment (EFA-VI), acting in partnership with the World Blind Union. The campaign was in large part facilitated by ICEVI member and partner organisations and supported by national government ministries and civil society organisations. The EFA-VI campaign was instrumental in promoting the enrolment of over one hundred thousand children with visual impairment in the developing regions of ICEVI.

The EFA-VI campaign included education for children with deafblindness and multiple disability, however, it was evident that an increased focus was required to ensure that the education rights of these children are realised. The marginalisation of children with deafblindness was highlighted in the 2018 and 2023 reports of the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB). Their 2018 report included case studies and analysis of population-based data on 97.6 million persons with deafblindness in 22 countries. The WFDB report of 2023 included analysis of UNICEF's Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys (MICS) and identified over 1.8 million children aged 2-17 with deafblindness, of whom only one fifth of the school-age children are enrolled in primary school.

With consideration of the inequality, marginalisation, and disadvantage that is experienced by children and adults with deafblindness in all aspects of life, the Board of Deafblind International (DbI) has established a global Deafblind Education Campaign entitled "Let Me In." The Campaign calls for the immediate respect of the right to education of all children with deafblindness and children with related needs. The priority targets for the campaign are quality early childhood development and care, increased participation in pre-primary education, and free, equitable, quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

The Deafblind Education Campaign will be implemented over four years, commencing in January 2023 with the campaign launch. The focus regions of the Campaign are Africa, South and South East Asia, and Latin America. DbI is a member of the ICEVI Executive Board, and ICEVI members and partners are actively supporting the campaign at global, regional and national levels.

DbI has released a series of promotional videos and a campaign brochure that can be accessed on the DbI website at <https://www.deafblindinternational.org/category/global-education-campaign/>.

ICEVI REGIONAL CONFERENCES

In 2023, two of ICEVI regions will be holding regional conferences and the registration process has already begun. We are sharing the details of the conferences in this issue of *The Educator* and encourage you to share this information with potential presenters, participants and your networks.



**International Council for Education of
People with Visual Impairment**



East Asia Regional Conference

Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility in Education of Children with Visual Impairment

Organized by
ICEVI INDONESIA NETWORK

VENUE OF CONFERENCE
Hotel Royal Ambarrukmo, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

18-21 September, 2023

International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is a global association of individuals and organizations that promotes equal access to appropriate education for all visually impaired children and youth so that they may achieve their full potential. For more information on ICEVI, visit the website at www.icevi.org.

East Asia Regional Conference

Facilitating successful inclusion of students with visual impairment is one of the objectives of education in the blindness sector. Though there are many parameters contributing to successful inclusion, reasonable accommodation and accessibility are vital ingredients as strongly mandated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Though many students and institutions working for inclusion face challenges in this area, it is also true that there are good practices around the world supporting effective inclusion through strategies addressing reasonable accommodation and accessibility.

The East Asia region, through this regional conference will be deliberating on the challenges and showcase good practices. The region had also demonstrated various strategies of accommodation and accessibility in terms of devices, learning environment, instructional materials and therefore, the presentations to be made by practitioners will be of great value for the participants of the conference.

Theme

“Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility in Education of Children with Visual Impairment.”

The conference theme will be discussed in the light of Global perspectives on education for all, Legislations, Access, Training and Resources and the plenary sessions will focus on the following main topics.

- 1. Reasonable accommodation and accessibility in education for students with visual disability.**
- 2. Employment strategy in blindness sector - Experiences of ICEVI Higher Education Project in South East Asia.**
- 3. Role of Technology in the education and employment of people with visual impairment.**
- 4. Development of youth with visual impairment.**
- 5. Role of parents and organisations of people with disabilities in the education, employment and advocacy of people with visual impairment.**

Focus on Youth Movement: There will be an exclusive plenary session of Youth with Visual Impairment from the Higher Education project of ICEVI discussing the barriers and strategies adopted to overcome those in education as well as in the employment avenues.

Registration fee Details:

Type of Registration	Fees
Early Bird Registration (1 st February to 30 th April 2023)	US \$ 225 (Participants & Companion)
Post Early Bird Registration (1 st May to 15 th September 2023)	US \$ 275 (Participants)
	US \$ 225 (Companion)
Special Registration Fee for Indonesian Participants	IDR 2,500,000

Bank Details:

Overseas Bank Name	: Bank Mandiri KCP Padalarang- Kotabaru Parahyangan Bumi Paranggeling Bussines Office Park – KBP
Bank Address	: Jalan Raya Panyawangan Kav 6A No. 3A-3B Bandung Barat – Indonesia
Account Name	: Perkumpulan Pemerhati Pendidikan. Untuk Tunanetra Indonesia ICEVI
Account Number	: 132-00-3356633-3 (For USD Payment) 132-00-3356666-3 (For IDR Payment)
Overseas Bank Swift Code	: BMRIIDJA

After paying the Registration fee, please email the payment receipt along with Registration Form to: **Rahayu Wijayanti** indonesia.icevi@yahoo.co.id

The conference organisers will then send confirmation letter and Letters of Invitation for the purposes of Visa.

Hotel Accommodation

The Conference Hotel and venue of the conference is **Royal Ambarrukmo Hotel, Yogyakarta, Jalan Laksda Adisucipto** (E-mail: info@royalambarrukmo.com ; Website: www.royalambarrukmo.com. The participants are requested to book rooms directly via email : sean@royalambarrukmo.com cc to reservations@royalambarrukmo.com and inform to Sean : +62 821-3547-0634 (WA).

The organisers of the conference will also be happy to assist the participants with hotel booking, if there is a need.

Room tariff:

Room Type	Period	Price IDR	Price USD
Deluxe	September 18-21, 2023	1,100,000	USD 80.00
Premier	September 18-21, 2023	1,200,000	USD 90.00
Junior Suite		2,600,000	USD 175.00
Executive Suite		4,800,000	USD 320.00

There are also many other hotels located surrounding Royal Ambarukmo that participants may choose from. Those who stay in other hotels have to make their own transport arrangements to reach the conference venue.

Transportation

From Yogyakarta International Airport:

First option facilitated by conference organizer:

- Airport train from Yogyakarta International Airport to Yogyakarta Train Station;
- Shuttle bus : from Yogyakarta Train Station to **Hotel Royal Ambarukmo**.

Other options:

Paid by participants personally:

- Setel Qu : From Yogyakarta International Airport to Hotel: IDR 75,000
- Airport taxi : Golden Bird: approx IDR 500,000

More details on transport will be given nearer to the conference.

Call for Abstracts

There will be 6 concurrent sessions during the conference. Presenters who are willing to share their expertise and experiences may choose from the topics listed below:

1. Inclusive education strategy and implementation in various countries.
2. Accessible Teaching mathematics and science for students with visual impairment: Guided Workshop.
3. Early intervention practices - including role of parents in the East Asia region.
4. Human Resource Development for augmenting education for all children with visual impairment.
5. Reasonable accommodation and accessibility in education for children with low vision and children with MDVI (Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairment).
6. Accessible Technology in supporting education and employment of people with visual impairment – Workshop.

Abstracts should be submitted by email to indonesia.icevi@yahoo.co.id, aria.indrawati@gmail.com and oficevi@gmail.com no later than **30th June 2023**.



International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment
East Asia Regional Conference

Hotel Royal Ambarrukmo, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

18-21 September 2023

“Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility in Education of Children with Visual Impairment”

Secretariat:

ICEVI Indonesia Network, RSKG Habibie, Jl Tubagus Ismail Raya No 46, Bandung, INDONESIA.

E-mail: indonesia.icevi@yahoo.co.id

OFFICIAL ABSTRACT FORM

Full Name :

Position :

Address :

City / Town :

State / Region :

Country :

Postal / Zip Code :

Telephone : Home :

Work :

E-mail :

1. My preferred presentation format is

- Lecture with power point presentation ☐
- Poster Session ☐
- CD Rom/Video (20 minutes) ☐

2. The topic of the presentation is *(Please tick the appropriate category)*

- ☐ Inclusive education strategy and implementation in various countries.
- ☐ Accessible Teaching mathematics and science for students with visual impairment: Guided Workshop
- ☐ Early intervention practices - including role of parents in the East Asia region
- ☐ Human Resource Development for augmenting education for all children with visual impairment
- ☐ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility in education for children with low vision and children with MDVI (Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairment)
- ☐ Accessible Technology in supporting education and employment of people with visual impairment – Workshop

3. My preferred presentation language is

☐

English

☐

Bahasa

4. Title of Presentation (*not more than 25 words*)

5. Abstract (*Not more than 200 words in English only*)

Suggested format:

<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Author/Co-Authors Designation and Institution</p> <p>Block format, Left Margin – 1.5 inches; Right Margin – 1 inch justify</p> <p>References: APA Format</p>

6. Date of Submission for Abstracts : On or before **June 30, 2023**

7. Acceptance of Paper presentation : On or before **July 30, 2023**

8. Date of Submission for the power point presentation : On or before **August 15, 2023**

Please send the Abstract form to:

Sri Soedarsono, Chairperson, ICEVI Indonesia Network
RSKG Habibie, Jl Tubagus Ismail Raya No 46, Bandung, INDONESIA.

E-mail: indonesia.icevi@yahoo.co.id

&

Aria Indrawati, President, ICEVI East Asia region & President, Pertuni (The Indonesian Blind Union)
Jl Kramat Sentiong No. 57 A, Jakarta, INDONESIA

E-mail: aria.indrawati@gmail.com

&

ICEVI Secretariat

No.3, Professors' Colony, S.R.K.V. Post, Coimbatore – 641 020, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

E-mail: oficevi@gmail.com



International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

East Asia Regional Conference

Hotel Royal Ambarrukmo, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

18-21 September 2023

“Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility in Education of Children with Visual Impairment”

Secretariat:

ICEVI Indonesia Network, RSKG Habibie, Jl Tubagus Ismail Raya No 46, Bandung, INDONESIA.

E-mail: indonesia.icevi@yahoo.co.id

PARTICIPANTS REGISTRATION FORM

1. Surname :
2. Given Name :
3. Nationality :
4. Gender : ☐ Male ☐ Female
5. Title : ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Prof.
6. Designation :
7. Address of the Organization/Agency :
8. Country :
9. Telephone (Office) :
10. Telephone (Personal / Mobile) :
11. Email :
12. Diet Preference : ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Non-Veg Halal
13. Are you a Person with Visual Impairment? : ☐ Yes ☐ No
14. If **YES**, are you travelling alone? : ☐ Yes ☐ No
15. If travelling with Escort, name of Escort :
16. Do you present paper? : ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, tick the topic of your choice:

- ☐ Inclusive education strategy and implementation in various countries
- ☐ Accessible Teaching mathematics and science for students with visual impairment: Guided Workshop
- ☐ Early intervention practices - including role of parents in the East Asia region
- ☐ Human Resource Development for augmenting education for all children with visual impairment
- ☐ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility in education for children with low vision and children with MDVI (Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairment)
- ☐ Accessible Technology in supporting education and employment of people with visual impairment – Workshop

17. Registration Categories: *(Please check the appropriate category)*

S No.	Type of Registration	Fees	Check if appropriate
1	Early Bird Registration (1 st February to 30 th April 2023)	US \$ 225 (Participants & Companion)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Post Early Bird Registration (1 st May to 15 th September 2023)	US \$ 275 (Participants)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		US \$ 225 (Companion)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Special Registration Fee for Indonesian Participants	IDR 2,500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Hotel Preference *(Please refer to the details in the brochure)*

Hotel	Room Type	Tariff per day	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Number of Nights of stay	Total Charges
Royal Ambarukmo Hotel, Yogyakarta	Deluxe	80.00				
	Premier	90.00				
	Junior Suite	175.00				
	Executive Suite	320.00				

19. **Total Charges Payable (Registration + Hotel):**

(In case participants want the organisers to book hotel).

In the case of direct booking, the Registration Fee alone is transferred to the Conference Organisers.

20. **Bank Details for Transfer:**

Overseas Bank Name : Bank Mandiri KCP Padalarang- Kotabaru Parahyangan
Bumi Paranggelang Bussines Office Park – KBP

Bank Address : Jalan Raya Panyawangan Kav 6A No. 3A-3B
Bandung Barat – Indonesia

Account Name : **Perkumpulan Pemerhati Pendidikan. Untuk Tunanetra Indonesia ICEVI**

Account Number : 132-00-3356633-3 **(For USD Payment)**
132-00-3356666-3 **(For IDR Payment)**

Overseas Bank Swift Code : **BMRIIDJA**

Please indicate the date of transfer and reference number.

To register, send this completed form with details of payment to:

Sri Soedarsono, Chairperson, ICEVI Indonesia Network
RSKG Habibie, Jl Tubagus Ismail Raya No 46, Bandung, INDONESIA
E-mail: indonesia.icevi@yahoo.co.id

Note:

Conference material would be provided in electronic format; Link for download would be informed in The Conference Book.



1st ICEVI Africa Conference

The Future of Education for People with Visual Impairment in Africa

9th – 12th October 2023

The Panari Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

www.conference2023.iceviafrica.org



About the Conference

The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment - Africa (ICEVI Africa) in collaboration with its local and international partners, is pleased to announce its first conference on the education of people with visual impairment in Africa.

This groundbreaking conference will take place at the Panari Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, from 9th – 12th October 2023, on the theme: **“The Future Of Education For People With Visual Impairment In Africa.”**

The conference will bring together practitioners in education and related sectors, including policy-makers, technology developers and suppliers, educational service providers, researchers, teachers, learners and consumer representatives, to engage on the future of education for people with visual impairment in Africa.



Papers

Call for Abstracts

The Conference Call for Abstracts is now open!!! Abstracts are invited for two types of presentations.

1. Abstracts for Panel Presentations

Abstracts of high quality research, scholarly or empirical papers are invited within the following sub-themes:

- (a) Education For All Learners with Visual Impairment
- (b) Early Digital Literacy
- (c) Access to STEM Subjects
- (d) Transition in Education
- (e) Recognizing Diversity in Visual Impairment
- (f) Preparation for an Inclusive World of Work
- (g) Data, Evidence & Knowledge for Quality Education
- (h) Lifelong Learning
- (i) Towards Universal Design for Learning



Note: Details about each sub-theme are available on the Papers page of the Conference website <http://www.conference2023.iceviafrica.org/Papers>

2. Abstracts for Workshops and Interactive Sessions

Abstracts are invited for Workshops and Interactive Sessions. Workshops and Interactive Sessions are intended to offer opportunities for short trainings and skills development and for focused discussions on specific topics of critical interest in the education of learners with visual impairment. Hosts of Workshops and Instructive Sessions are therefore advised to design sessions that build new skills or stimulate dialogues that contribute to the future of education for people with visual impairment. They are required to submit Abstracts describing the nature of their sessions as well as their recommended participants.

Submission of Abstracts and Full Papers

All Abstracts are to be submitted online at the Papers page of the Conference website <http://www.conference2023.iceviafrica.org/Papers>. Below are important deadlines:

- Submission of Abstracts : 31st May 2023
- Notice of Abstract selection : 30th June 2023
- Submission of full Papers : 31st August 2023

Note: Submission of full papers is not required for Presenters of Workshops and Interactive Sessions.

Conference Registration

Registration to the 1st ICEVI Africa Conference is now open!!! Register now on the Registration page of the Conference website <https://conference2023.iceviafrica.org/Registration> to enjoy the Early Bird Discount!!

Early Bird Registration (Until 30th June 2023)

Online	USD 50
Students	USD 100
Kenya	USD 150
Other African Countries	USD 200
Non-African Countries	USD 300

Regular Registration (From 1st July 2023)

Online	USD 50
Students	USD 100
Kenya	USD 200
Other African Countries	USD 250
Non-African Countries	USD 350



Note: To qualify for the Student rate, a participant must be under 30 years old and currently registered with a basic, tertiary, TIVET or higher education institution. A valid student identity card will be required.

Exhibition

The 1st ICEVI Africa Conference is offering opportunities for public, corporate and non-profit agencies to exhibit and showcase their products, services and work. Below is some information for prospective exhibitors:

- The Conference Exhibition will be located at the beautiful glass-roofed atrium of the Panari Hotel right in front of the Conference Halls. This will provide greater opportunity for interaction between exhibitors and participants.
- Exhibition spaces are very limited and will be allocated on a first-come basis.
- The exhibition cost does not include registration of the exhibition personnel. Exhibition personnel are required to register as participants to the conference and pay applicable registration fees.
- Exhibitors shall be responsible for importation, clearance and transportation of exhibition items to and from the conference.

Exhibition Floor Plan and Pricing

There are three types of exhibition tables as follows:

12ft x 2ft tables	USD 400 or KES 48,000
8ft x 2ft tables	USD 300 or KES 36,000
4ft x 2ft tables	USD 200 or KES 24,000

Note: The Exhibition Floor Plan and booking details are available on the Exhibition page of the Conference website <https://conference2023.iceviafrica.org/Exhibition/>.

Program

The Conference Scientific/Program Committee is putting together an exciting program to ensure that all participants enjoy a memorable experience during the conference. Below is an overview of the Conference Program:

Monday 9th October 2023

9.00 AM – 4.00 PM	Registration, Exhibition Setup, Private Group Meetings
4.00 PM – 5.30 PM	Opening Ceremony
5.30 PM – 6.30 PM	Welcome Cocktail

Tuesday 10th – Thursday 12th October 2023

9.00 AM – 6.00 PM	Conference Business and Related Activities
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Friday 13th October 2023

9.00 AM – 4.00 PM	Excursions, Private Meetings Departure.
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Note: Detailed information on the Program is available on Program page of the Conference website <https://conference2023.iceviafrica.org/Program/> and will be updated regularly.

Conference Venue

The Panari Hotel is a 5-Star Hotel located on Mombasa Road, Nairobi, overlooking the Nairobi National Park. It is 10 minutes from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and the City Centre.

Residents at the hotel can enjoy activities such as ice-skating at East Africa's only ice-skating rink; work out at the Dolphin Spa and fitness centre that comprises a fully equipped gym, in-door swimming pool, sauna, steam baths and a spa that offers various massage treatments, and, wind down with drinks and music at the 'Shooters & Dips' cocktail lounge. Guests also have the convenience of a business centre, access to a bank, pharmacy and several shops.



Panari offers an exciting dining experience that includes the Red Garnet Restaurant (delectable international and local cuisines on the third floor with spectacular views); Black Gold Café (positioned on the ground floor with all day dining) and Fogo Gaucho (Brazilian Restaurant).

Accommodation

We have negotiated a highly discounted rate for accommodation at the Panari Hotel as follows:

Single Room (BB)	USD 80 per night
Double Room (BB)	USD 120 per night

To enjoy this discounted rate, kindly make your reservation through the Accommodation page of the Conference website <https://conference2023.iceviafrica.org/Accommodation/>.

Alternative Accommodation

For participants who may wish to stay at alternative locations, there are several beautiful hotels as well as budget accommodation near the Panari Hotel. For any assistance, kindly contact the Conference secretariat at conference2023@iceviafrica.org.

Meetings

The Conference is offering opportunities for groups to hold private meetings as part of the Conference Program. Meeting spaces are available as follows:

Monday and Friday	: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm.
Tuesday – Thursday	: 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm.

Meeting spaces can be reserved on the Meetings page of the Conference website <https://conference2023.iceviafrica.org/Meetings/>. Meeting spaces will be allocated on a first-come basis.

Note: For meetings on Monday and Friday, certain hotel costs may apply. Please contact the Conference Secretariat for details.

Travelling to Nairobi

Kenya Visa

Applying for an eVisa to enter Kenya is simple! For information about countries that require a visa to enter into Kenya and on how to apply for a Kenyan Visa, kindly visit: www.evisa.go.ke.

Invitation Letter

If you require an invitation letter for your travel to the conference, kindly fill out a request form on the Travel page of the Conference website <https://conference2023.iceviafrica.org/Travel/>.

Airport Transfer

There are several options available for transfer from the airport to Panari Hotel.

- **Uber/Bolt:** Uber and Bolt online taxis are available at an approximate cost of USD 10 to Panari Hotel.
- **Panari Transfer:** You can also book with Panari for your airport transfer at a cost of USD 20 per person and USD 45 per carload of 4 passengers.
- **Airport Taxi:** There are many airport taxis available 24 hours at the Arrival Gate. These are painted yellow. They will charge approximately USD 20 to Panari Hotel.

Additional Information

There is a lot of information on the internet about travelling to Kenya. One of the places to start when looking for information is: <https://www.traveltomtom.net/destinations/africa/kenya/kenya-travel-tips>.

ICEVI Africa Contacts:

International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment – Africa

Kenya Institute for the Blind Compound

P.O. Box 27787 00506, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 202 0922

E-mail: info@iceviafrica.org

Website www.iceviafrica.org

Conference Contacts

Conference Website

www.conference2023.iceviafrica.org

www.iceviafrica.org/conference2023

Conference Emails

conference2023@iceviafrica.org

finance.conference2023@iceviafrica.org

Conference Coordinator's Contacts

Martin Kieti

Tel: +254 722 603 033

E-mail: m.kieti@iceviafrica.org

2024 ICEVI World Conference and General Assembly

It is surprising to note that a period of 18 years will have lapsed since the last ICEVI World Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2006. In the intervening years, ICEVI has partnered with the World Blind Union to host three joint general assemblies in Bangkok (2012), Orlando (2016), and Spain/online (2021). With the approval of the Executive Board of ICEVI at its October 2022 meeting in the Netherlands, and with the mutual agreement of the Executive Committee of the World Blind Union, it was decided that ICEVI would host a world conference at the end of the current quadrennium as a means of promoting membership, strengthening the ICEVI regions, and encouraging the active participation of the ICEVI constituency in global events.

The conference bid submission from Blind People's Association (BPA), India, in partnership with Sense International India, was accepted by the Executive Board of ICEVI in early 2023. These two leading Indian organisations in the field of visual impairment and deafblindness are collaborating with the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU) to hold the conference on the BAOU campus in Ahmedabad. The conference Agreement between ICEVI, BPA and Sense International India was formally signed in May 2023.

Presented below is the first Announcement for the 2024 ICEVI World Conference and General Assembly.



International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

World Conference and General Assembly



14 to 17 November 2024 | Ahmedabad, INDIA

First Announcement – Save the Dates

The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is pleased to announce its World Conference and General Assembly which will take place in Ahmedabad India on 14 – 17 November 2024.

The World Conference is hosted by the Blind People's Association (BPA), Ahmedabad India, which is one of the premier organisations serving persons with visual impairment in India. The Conference Co-Host is Sense International India, a leading organisation in developing services for deafblind people in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

The Host-Committee is organising this world event in collaboration with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad, which is renowned for its higher education program promoting “Education for All”. The University campus is the venue for the conference.

Ahmedabad is well connected by international airlines from various world cities and we will be sharing details with you in further communications.

The Sabarmati Ashram situated on the banks of river Sabarmati was home to Mahatma Gandhi from 1917 to 1930 and served as one of the main centres of the Indian freedom struggle. It was from here on March 12, 1930 that Gandhiji launched the famous Dandi March, the Salt Satyagraha which ultimately resulted in freedom.

Conference Theme and Schedule

The broad theme of the conference is **“Inclusion in Diversity: Equity and Accessibility for All”**.

Following is the tentative schedule:

Day 1	14th November 2024	Official inauguration, one plenary session and 12 parallel sessions
Day 2	15th November 2024	Two plenary sessions and 12 parallel sessions
Day 3	16th November 2024	Three plenary sessions and Closing session
Day 4	17th November 2024	Forenoon : Regional Meetings of the Delegates from ICEVI's seven regions and Regional Elections
		Afternoon : ICEVI General Assembly

The Conference will feature pre- and post-conference workshops and a dedicated exhibition area for trade displays and service providers. Details will be available in the Conference Announcements released in the coming months.

Call for Papers

The Scientific Program Committee, headed by Ms Sian Tesni, is working closely with the Blind People's Association to plan a world class program featuring current research, practice, and innovation in education for persons with visual impairment, deafblindness and multiple disabilities.

The Call for Papers and Abstract Submission Form will be posted in late June 2023 on www.icevi2024wc.org – a dedicated website for the World Conference and General Assembly, ICEVI website www.icevi.org and on the ICEVI West Asia website <https://iceviwestasia.in>. The e-mail address for submitting Abstract will be: icevi2024wc@gmail.com and oficevi@gmail.com. The Call for Papers will invite submissions for seminar and conference style presentations, topics for the parallel sessions, poster sessions, workshops on specific topics, demonstrations of assistive devices, etc.

Registration

The conference will accommodate approximately 700+ delegates. The registration options are as follows:

In-Person attendance

Registration before 31st March 2024	Non-Indian delegates	US\$ 400
	Indian delegates	US\$ 200 / INR 16400
Registration after 1st April 2024	Non-Indian delegates	US\$ 450
	Indian delegates	US\$ 250 / INR 20500
Accompanying person		US\$ 200 / INR 8200

The registration fee is inclusive of conference materials, conference bag, welcome reception and Gala dinner. Additional details, including payment of registration fee, and bank transfers will be posted on the ICEVI website and published through ICEVI's communication channels.

The organisers will also take a decision on offering the conference in the online mode too around November 2023 depending on the registrations for the in-person conference.

Hotels

Details of the recommended hotels for the conference will be announced by the Host Committee in the near future. Assistance with hostel accommodation at affordable rates will also be provided, if required, by the Host Committee.

Visas

The Host Committee, headed by Dr. Bhushan Punani, will assist conference delegates with the issuance of invitation letters to obtain visas for attending the conference.

ICEVI is delighted to host the 2024 World Conference and General Assembly. We look forward to welcoming you in-person to Ahmedabad India.

Save the dates and await more details in the coming weeks!



Dr. Frances Gentle

President, ICEVI

May 2023

Contact details of the Host Committee:

Dr. Bhushan Punani

Chairperson, Host Committee

General Secretary, Blind People's Association (India)

132 Ft. Ring Road, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad

Gujarat - 380 015, India.

E-mail: icevi2024wc@gmail.com

Website: www.icevi2024wc.org ; <https://iceviwestasia.in>

ICEVI Secretariat

No.3, Professors' Colony

Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya Post

& Coimbatore 641 020

Tamil Nadu, India.

E-mail: officevi@gmail.com

Website: www.icevi.org



International Partner Members



CBM
www.cbm.org



ONCE
www.once.es



Overbrook School for the Blind
www.obs.org



Perkins School for the Blind
www.perkins.org



NextSense Institute
www.nextsense.org.au

R N I B

See differently
**Royal National Institute of
Blind People**
www.rnib.org.uk



Sightsavers
www.sightsavers.org



The Norwegian Association of the
Blind and Partially Sighted
**The Norwegian Association of the
Blind and Partially Sighted**
www.blindeforbundet.no



Royal Dutch Visio
www.visio.org

Organisational Members

American Printing House for the Blind
www.aph.org

Canadien National Institute for the Blind
www.cnib.ca

Federazione Nazionale Delle Istituzioni Pro Ciechi
www.prociechi.it

Hadley School for the Blind
www.hadley.edu

LES DOIGTS QUI REVENT (Typhlo & Tactus)
www.tactus.org

Lions Clubs International Foundation
www.lcif.org

**Round Table on Information Access for
People with Print Disabilities**
www.printdisability.org

ICEVI Fact Sheet

Mission

In recognition of the continuing global challenges in achieving access to quality education for the millions of out-of-school children with blindness and partial sight, the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is a membership organisation with a mission to promote access to inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all people with visual impairment.

Goals

Goal 1 : Promoting access to quality education for people with visual impairment including those with blindness, partial sight, deafblindness and additional disabilities.

Goal 2 : Influencing governments' and relevant stakeholders' implementation of the SDGs and UNCRPD in the area of education of people with visual impairment.

Goal 3 : Improving networking, information sharing and collaboration at national, regional and global levels.

History of the Organization

Founded in 1952 in the Netherlands, the ICEVI conducted its Golden Jubilee conference in the Netherlands from 28 July to 2 August 2002.

ICEVI Regions

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

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

Currently, more than 4000 individuals and organizations in over 180 countries are actively involved in ICEVI.

Networking with other organizations

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.

Publications

ICEVI's biannual magazine "The Educator" is available in electronic version in both English and Spanish and is also posted on our website www.icevi.org. ICEVI also publishes a biannual electronic newsletter that is currently distributed to more than 4000 individuals and organizations.

Website of ICEVI

www.icevi.org