



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



# **Quadrennial Report 2012-16**

## Message from the President

I am pleased to present the report on the work of ICEVI for the quadrennium 2012-16. It covers the relaunch of our flagship Education for All Visually Impaired Children (EFA-VI) campaign, our work to support visually impaired students into higher education supported by the Nippon Foundation, whom we gratefully acknowledge, our strategic partnership with the DAISY Consortium to use technology to enable visually impaired young people to learn alongside their sighted peers in the same school, our global networking and advocacy, and much more besides.

The EFA-VI programme has now reached over 110,000 children in 30 countries, and over 650 capacity building programmes run by our regions have benefited 120,000 parents and teachers. As a result, the initiative was recognised as an exemplar of innovative practice by the Zero Project. Of particular note on the networking and advocacy front was the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the holding of joint capacity building activities with SEAMEO-SEN, the Special Education Centre of the South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation.

I take this opportunity to thank all those many people who make ICEVI's work possible, and express our special gratitude to our International Partner Member organisations without whose support there would be no ICEVI.

**Colin Low**  
President, ICEVI

### Our International Partners and Members of the Executive Committee





## Symbol of Synergy

The 2012-16 Quadrennium of ICEVI was marked by synergy and networking. The collaboration between ICEVI and the World Blind Union (WBU) during the Quadrennium symbolises a new beginning of combined strength in confronting global challenges in promoting the education of children with visual impairment. Our voices were heard jointly in many international forums and we complemented the initiatives of each other in addressing the totality of the blindness field. Following the successful conduct of the first ever WBU-ICEVI joint assemblies in Bangkok in 2012, there was an overwhelming response from both constituencies to continue the joint initiative. This has resulted in the second joint assemblies in Orlando in 2016.

A special session of the Global Campaign on Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) was also organised in Bangkok in conjunction with the 2012 Joint Assemblies. The special session was attended by representatives from UNESCO, UNICEF and other global bodies.



ICEVI-WBU Joint Session



EFA-VI Strategy Day at the General Assembly 2012



A section of the WBU-ICEVI delegates who took keen interest in the expansion of the EFA-VI Campaign



## The EFA-VI Global Campaign - A Progress Report

In 2004, members of the ICEVI Executive Committee discussed “why a global campaign” would be required to create demand for education of children with visual impairment. The collective think tank of ICEVI’s international partners and officers suggested that there should be evidence of success in a small number of focus countries before replicating the campaign in other countries and implementing policy changes. We are proud that the EFA-VI Campaign launched in 2006 by ICEVI, acting in partnership with the WBU, has contributed to the quantitative and qualitative growth in education inclusion of children with visual impairment in the last decade.



Launch of the EFA-VI Global Campaign at the 2006 World Conference of ICEVI in Kuala Lumpur

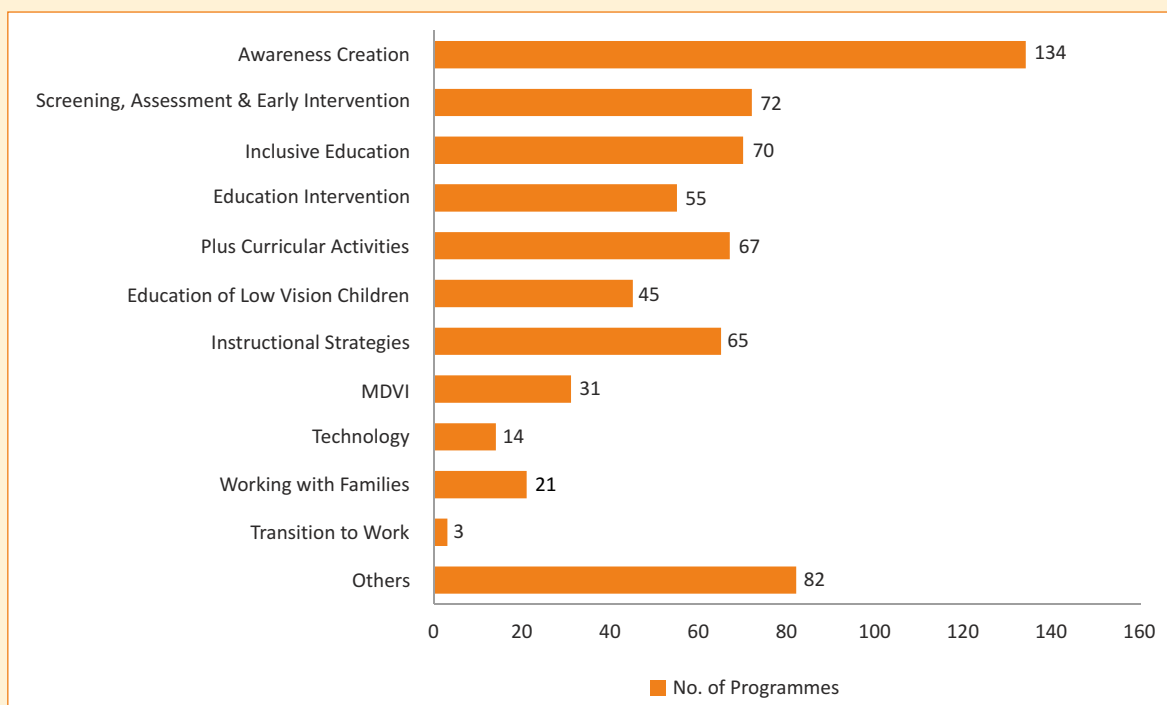
“Start little, grow slowly and don't expect results overnight” became our approach and we started the campaign in a select group of focus countries. Our previous annual reports carried statistics on how the enrolment increased significantly in most of the countries which participated in the campaign. Recognising the success of the consolidation phase of the campaign till 2014 which facilitated school enrolment of nearly 110,000 children with visual impairment, the ICEVI EXCO suggested expanding the campaign by involving more mainstream players and also switching our focus on more awareness and networking instead of facilitating direct delivery of services. This approach proved a positive step as national Governments enacted laws to promote inclusion. ICEVI's task has become more focused on providing guidance on the “How to do” part of the campaign. As a result, the number of countries participating in campaign activities has increased.

### Countries which participated in the EFA-VI Global Campaign since 2007:

- |                      |              |                    |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| • Bangladesh         | • Ghana      | • Pakistan         |
| • Bhutan             | • Guatemala  | • Palestine        |
| • Bolivia            | • Honduras   | • Papua New Guinea |
| • Burkina Faso       | • India      | • Paraguay         |
| • Cambodia           | • Kenya      | • Philippines      |
| • Dominican Republic | • Malawi     | • Rwanda           |
| • Ecuador            | • Mali       | • Sri Lanka        |
| • El Salvador        | • Mozambique | • Swaziland        |
| • Ethiopia           | • Nepal      | • Thailand         |
| • Fiji               | • Nicaragua  | • Uganda           |
|                      |              | • Vietnam          |

## Capacity Building Programmes

During the 2012-16 Quadrennium, ICEVI expanded its capacity building programmes to include such audiences as policy makers, general public, teacher educators and parents. ICEVI has organised or supported a record number of 659 programmes in all seven regions of ICEVI. These programmes have helped in the training of over 60,000 teachers and 60,000 parents and general public. Capacity building programmes on such themes as inclusion, instructional strategies and low vision were organised in countries where the EFA-VI Campaign was active.



The Latin America region organised the maximum number of capacity building programmes through its sub-regional structure and also produced many training materials. The region took an active role in the seminar on “Inclusive Education” organised in Brazil, which highlighted the importance of inclusion as a strategy to bring the unreached children with visual impairment to schools.



Since 2013 the Africa region has been working with national representatives of the African Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA) and its national coalitions to promote the EFA-VI Global Campaign in the region. ICEVI Africa region was also a part of the Marrakesh treaty signing and ratification advocacy campaign committee steered by the Africa Union of the Blind (AFUB).

A European Survey on Early Intervention was carried out by the DATO Group in Spain, a group devoted to boosting Early Intervention (EI) all around the country, in cooperation with ICEVI –

Europe, as an initial starting point in organizing the Early Intervention Interest Group by investigating the current status of EI in various European Countries.

ICEVI acknowledges that the additional enrolment of children with visual impairment was possible because of the proactive policies of Governments and the work of our International partners and local voluntary organisations in many regions. ICEVI is convinced that the role it has played as a “catalyst” to promote education worldwide is yielding the desired results and it will continue to do so in the future to ensure that no child with visual impairment is “left behind”.

## EFA-VI Campaign re-launch

The ICEVI EXCO initiated a relaunch of the EFA-VI campaign at the IDP Africa Forum in Kampala, Uganda in October 2015. The relaunch served to reaffirm the commitment of WBU and ICEVI to this important global initiative, and to raise awareness of the ongoing expansion of the campaign globally. The relaunch ceremony during the IDP Africa Forum was attended by more than 500 delegates and representatives of INGOs. The ceremony included



A section of ICEVI team at the EFA-VI re-launch

theatrical performances by Ugandan students with visual impairment, who demonstrated through poetry, plays and song, how education had made a significant difference in their lives. The students urged Governments and international bodies to facilitate education for millions of children like them the world over. The re-launch ceremony was addressed by Lord Colin Low and Arnt Holte, Presidents of ICEVI and the WBU, and provided special impetus to education activities in the vast Africa region.

A highlight of the EFA-VI campaign relaunch ceremony was a video message of support from Mr. Gordon Brown, Special Envoy to the United Nations on Global Education. Mr. Brown’s message included the following extract:



*...Let me say that your efforts on behalf of the visually impaired children of the world will have the support of the United Nations. Let me say also that I will be prepared to go to countries and ask them to provide the resources that you need. This launch of the Education For All Visually Impaired Children initiative is of such consequence, that I want to congratulate you that what you have done, the conference what is achieving and I want to congratulate you in advance on the work we can do together. You deserve the support of the whole world in your efforts and I wish you all well - not just to have a successful conference but that the next few years see the most major advances in delivering education to visually impaired children in the history of the world.*



ICEVI is honoured that Mr. Brown has extended the support of the UN and other nations for the EFA-VI campaign. His commitment to the campaign will help the ICEVI EXCO and regional chairs to work closely with national Governments in each of ICEVI's seven regions.

## Recognition to the EFA-VI Campaign

Colin Low, President; Larry Campbell, President Emeritus; and Mani, CEO, ICEVI attended the Zero Project Conference in Vienna on 10-12 February 2016, and took part in discussions about various innovative practices in inclusive education. The Zero Project is an initiative of the Essl Foundation, and focuses on the rights of persons with disabilities globally. The Zero Project recognised 86 innovative practices and the EFA-VI Global Campaign was one of them.

The recognized projects were not ranked and all practices were given equal importance. The

projects that were recognized during the award ceremony ranged from localised projects to Global Campaigns such as the EFA-VI campaign. ICEVI is proud to be recognized for its significant contribution in formulating quality practices, and believes the time has come to scale up our activities so that we may have a greater impact on the larger community. The Zero project used three indicators, namely 1) Innovation, 2) Impact and 3) Scalability in selecting the projects for recognition. The EFA-VI campaign scores well on all 3 indicators. There is a need to strategize within ICEVI to promote the EFA-VI campaign as a strong global movement. We thank all our International Partner Members for their support in making the EFA-VI Campaign successful, and recognize that there is a long way to go before all children with visual impairment are included in education. ICEVI-Europe was invited to speak at the Conference and Mrs. Panagiota Leotsakou, President of ICEVI-Europe spoke on the topic of inclusive education and the use of ICT in Greece.



Lord Low receiving the award from  
Mr. Martin Essl, Founder, Essl Foundation



Participants at the Zero Project Award Function

ICEVI became an International Member of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) during 2014. GCE membership provides ICEVI with the opportunity to highlight the disability agenda in mainstream education programmes. The General Assembly of the GCE was held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 23-26 February 2015. In addition, a special event was also organized on 27-28 February under the auspicious of the Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF). ICEVI was represented by Dr Praveena Sukhraj, ICEVI's Principal Officer, and Martin Osangiri Oikyo, Regional Coordinator, Africa Region.

ICEVI's collaboration with the Global Campaign for Education has brought us in contact with many National Coalitions on Education, and as a result, our regions have used these platforms to advocate for the education of children with visual impairment. ICEVI actively celebrated the Global Action Week (GAW) in many of its regions. The activities brought many mainstream organisations and ICEVI face-to-face to initiate measures to hasten the enrolment of children with visual impairment.



GAW Awareness Rally on Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities:  
Inclusive Education for Children with Disability, Nairobi, Kenya



Global Action Week and Day of  
African Child Sports event in Uganda



Visually Impaired students at the Global Action  
Week Competition in Ethiopia

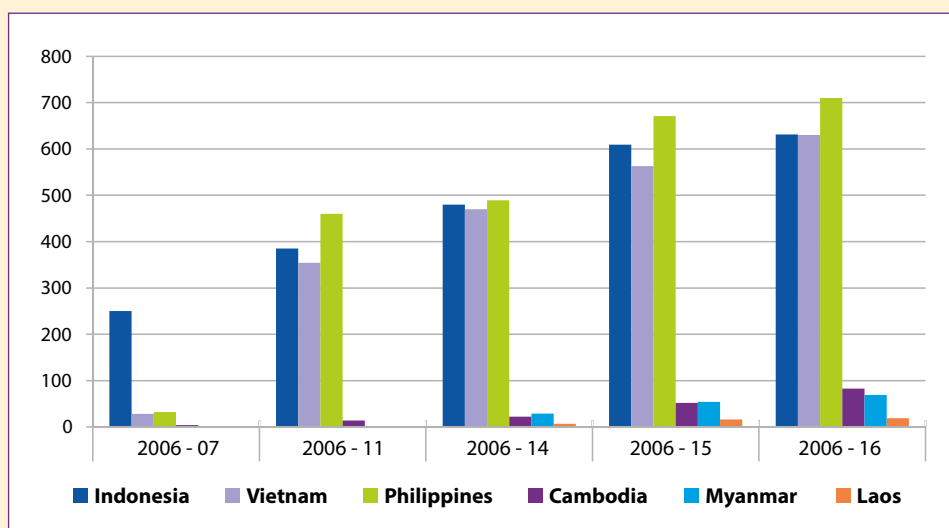


## Higher Education Project – Steady Growth



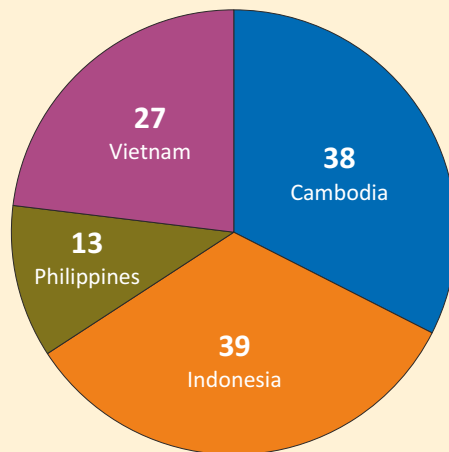
The ICEVI Higher Education project supported by The Nippon Foundation commenced in Indonesia in 2006-2007. Evaluation of the project was positive and as a result, the project was extended to the Philippines and Vietnam in 2008, Cambodia in 2010, Myanmar in 2013, and to Lao PDR in 2014. The broad objective of the project was to promote inclusive higher education institutions and to develop the skills and performance of students with visual impairment in each of the project countries, by providing them with technology training. The project has resulted in significant increases in access to university education in the project countries, with 177 additional students benefitting from the Higher Education programme during 2015-16. Since commencement of the project in 2006-2007, a total of 2,142 students with visual impairment have been project beneficiaries.

**Figure: Growth in the number of project beneficiaries between 2006-7 and 2016**



From 2012-2013 onwards, the focus on employment became an integral part of the project, with the project partners focusing on preparation for employment, technological applications, and advocacy towards inclusive universities. The training initiatives of all project partners on “soft skills” and employment preparation were offered to the students with visual impairment while they were undergoing higher education courses. This resulted in the generation of gainful employment for a number of the students. Vietnam has provided job placements for 27 persons, Cambodia has placed 38 persons in employment, of whom 11 are concurrently studying and working part time. The Philippines has placed 13 persons with visual impairment in employment sectors, and Indonesia has facilitated employment opportunities for 39 persons.

**Figure: Employment data for students participating in the Higher Education Project**



The successful employment outcomes of the Higher Education Project are leading to increasing demand for education by having a positive impact on the general attitudes of parents of younger blind and visually impaired students. Parents of children with visual impairment are encouraged to send their visually impaired children to school when they encounter in their own communities beneficiaries of the project who are confident, well-educated and employed. The ICEVI-Nippon Foundation higher education programme is having a positive impact on the lives of persons with visual impairment at many levels, from early intervention to the creation of gainful employment opportunities.



Employment Counselling in Vietnam



Employment in Radio Station, Cambodia



Precilia Oktaviana working at the Call Centre, Indonesia

## Meeting of the ICEVI President and Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

The ICEVI President, Lord Colin Low met with Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, at the House of Lords on 24 November 2015. The Nippon Foundation has generously supported ICEVI's Higher Education project in South East Asia for the past 10 years, and Lord Low took the opportunity to express ICEVI's heartfelt appreciation of this support.



Mr Sasakawa was honoured to receive an award from ICEVI during his visit, and spoke about the Nippon Foundation's support of the UN's efforts to combat leprosy, a particular passion of his. Mr Sasakawa also emphasised his commitment to supporting vulnerable people, including people with disabilities, and spoke about his work with the government of Myanmar in promoting peace in that country. Mr. Sasakawa and Lord Colin Low also discussed Nippon Foundation's work in Africa, and Mr. Sasakawa asked to be kept up to date about ICEVI's progress in this region.

## Award to the Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation was given a special award at the Regional Conference of ICEVI East Asia region held at Bali, Indonesia from 28 September to 1 October 2015. The award was presented to The Nippon Foundation in grateful recognition of their support and partnership in expanding educational access and full inclusion for persons who are blind or have low vision in the East Asia Region. Mr. Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation received the award and delivered a special address.





## ICEVI and ICT

UNESCO organized an international conference entitled “From Exclusion to Empowerment: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities” in New Delhi, India from 24 to 26 November 2014. Lord Low, President of ICEVI met Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO at this event and discussed the ICEVI Technology initiative that is designed as a tool to reach out to an increasing number of children with visual impairment. MNG Mani, CEO of ICEVI attended the UNESCO-supported



Ms. Irina Bokova and Lord Low at the Conference



Dr. Mani at ICT conference in Qingdao, China

International Conference on ICT in Education in Qingdao, China on 23 June 2016, and made a presentation on ICT in Special Education. Mani highlighted the Higher Education project of ICEVI and how the ICT training, together with the laptop loan programmes and soft skill training help students with visual impairment in their higher education. The UNESCO regional office in Latin America has invited ICEVI to be a partner in their regional conference on ICT, which will be held in Costa Rica later in 2016.

ICEVI has formed a strategic partnership with the DAISY Consortium to provide practical ICT solutions for people with print disabilities. Colin Low, President of ICEVI and Richard Orme, CEO of the DAISY Consortium are leading the technology initiative and jointly visited Mauritius to work on a pilot ICT project. The emerging strategy of this initiative has three drivers - “kit”, “content” and “confidence”. “Kit” refers to the devices we need for accessing information using ICT, and “Content” refers to the materials we need to access information in an accessible form. The ICEVI solutions include a shift from textbooks in hard copy to electronic format, providing people with print disabilities with flexibility to choose the best format (braille, large print, synthesized speech) for each situation. The final driver is “Confidence”, which refers to the skills needed to use this kit and content with confidence, both on the part of users and trainers. ICEVI's aim is to serve as coordinator and facilitator. The Technology Initiative will be integrated into the EFA-VI Global Campaign as a tool to make quantitative and qualitative improvements in the education of children with visual impairment.



Lord Low, Richard Orme and Praveena Sukhraj with visually impaired children in South Africa

## Regional Development

Regional development is one of the thrust areas of ICEVI and the Executive Committee has encouraged the ICEVI Regional Committees to consider the possibility of registering their regions in order to become legal entities. Until 2015, the Europe and Pacific regions were the only ICEVI regions registered as legal entities. While discussions are underway in other regions, the Latin America region took the lead and registered the region as a legal body in Uruguay on 27th April 2016. The Latin America region has the full support of ICEVI's international partners, including ONCE FOAL, CBM, Perkins School for the Blind, and Royal Dutch Visio. It is hoped that the registration as a legal body will help the ICEVI Regional Committee to strengthen its networking with Governments and Global bodies and its ability to influence policy decisions and to mobilise the required resources to expand educational services for persons with visual impairment in the Latin America region. The Africa and East Asia regions have also initiated discussions and further work will be undertaken after the ICEVI EXCO Strategic Review meeting in 2017.



ICEVI extends its thanks Hans Welling, former Vice-President of ICEVI who has served as the Advisor for Regional Development during the Quadrennium 2012-2016. ICEVI also thanks the "Stichting tot Verbetering van het Lot der Blinden" Foundation of the Netherlands for supporting Hans and ICEVI in the regional development process.



The Africa, East Asia and the West Asia regions organised regional strategy development meetings and brought out appropriate strategy documents, which may be useful in the forthcoming Strategy Review Meeting of ICEVI in early 2017. The West Asia developed its Regional Strategy on 8th April, 2013 at Ahmedabad, India with the participation and involvement of CBM, Sight Savers, Asian Blind Union, Vision 2020, and leading national level organizations, which suggested registering ICEVI India and this proposal was further endorsed by the ICEVI Executive Committee. Registration in India was considered necessary as the ICEVI Secretariat operates from India and subsequently this registration was done. Discussions are underway regarding the registration of the entire Region as a legal entity and further work will be initiated after the overall Strategic Review of ICEVI in 2017.

## Regional Conferences

Regional Conferences are an integral part of the ICEVI's networking and advocacy work. These conferences bring together large numbers of parents and professionals to discuss region-specific issues as well as priorities. During the Quadrennium the following regional conferences were conducted:

S.No.	Regional Conferences	Venue	Date
1	ICEVI and Deaf Blind International (DbI) Joint West Asia Regional Conference	Ahmedabad, India	5-7 April 2013
2	ICEVI 8th European Conference on Education and Rehabilitation of People with Visual Impairment	Istanbul, Turkey	30 June to 5 July 2013
3	ICEVI Sixth International Conference for East European Countries	Chernigiv, Ukraine	10-12 October 2013
4	South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI) Biennial Conference	Auckland, New Zealand	13-18 January 2013
5	Pacific EFA-VI Forum and SPEVI Biennial Conference	Melbourne Australia	9-15 January 2015
6	The International Conference on Enabling Access for Persons with Visual Impairment (ICEAPVI - 2015)	Athens, Greece	12-14 February 2015
7	ICEVI East Asia Regional Conference	Bali, Indonesia	28 Sept.-1 Oct. 2015
8	ICEVI West Asia - Asian Blind Union Regional Conference	Ahmedabad, India	13 March 2016



ICEVI-DbI West Asia Regional Conference, New Delhi, India, 2013



Colin Low inaugurating the ICEVI West Asia-ABU Conference

The ICEVI Africa region organised a number of technical and interactive sessions on EFA-VI Global Campaign, Vision Alliance, Early Childhood Care and Education, Education of Multiply Disabled Visually Impaired Children, Teaching of Mathematics, etc., for the participants of the IDP Africa Forum held in Kampala in October 2015. Tigabu Gebremedhin, Regional Chairperson and



Martin Osangiri Okiyo, Regional Coordinator held meetings with the Regional Executive Committee of the region and also encouraged more countries in the vast Africa region to get involved in the EFA-VI campaign.

Kay Ferrell, the ICEVI Regional Chairperson of North America and the Caribbean was the keynote speaker of the conference of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI) organised in New Zealand in January 2013. Kay stressed the importance of inter-regional cooperation within ICEVI regions.

ICEVI NA/C spearheaded the creation of a new Division of the USA-Canada professional organization, the Association for Education and Rehabilitation (AER) of the Blind and Visually Impaired. This new Division will be mutually beneficial to both AER and ICEVI by bringing new individual members into each organization and by sharing resources.

The national conference of the ICEVI West Asia region and Asian Blind Union was organized in Ahmedabad, India from 11 to 13 March 2016. Though it was planned as a national conference, participants from abroad too attended including Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen G.O.S.K., Founder-President Global Rainbow Foundation, Founder-President University of Third Age (Mauritius) and a former Minister in the Government of Mauritius who delivered the keynote address at the inaugural session. Lord Colin Low, President ICEVI inaugurated the conference and Dr. Bhushan Punani, West Asia regional chair and Mr. Santhosh Rungta, Chairperson of the Asia Blind Union chaired key sessions of the conference.

## EFA-VI Pacific Forum

The ICEVI Pacific Committee holds EFA-VI Forums in conjunction with the biennial conferences of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI). The 2015 Pacific EFA-VI Forum was held at the University of Melbourne and attracted 40 Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Island leaders and practitioners working in the related fields of education, health and rehabilitation of children and youth with vision impairment and other disabilities. The



Forum program included a keynote address by Lord Colin Low, ICEVI President, and presentations and workshops addressing such topics as the ICEVI Pacific Education Development Framework, Vision Impairment (PEDF-VI) 2011-2015, direction-setting and implementation of the EFA-VI campaign in the Pacific region, and the New Zealand education model for learners with vision impairment.

## Global Networking

ICEVI enjoys consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC) and UNESCO, and participates in various policy formulation meetings of the UN agencies. At the global level of policy formulation and advocacy, ICEVI works with the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GPCwD), Global Campaign for Education (GCE), Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Special Education (SEAMEO-SEN), World Blind Union (WBU) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

ICEVI was invited by the UNESCO Office in Bangkok to attend the High Level Asia-Pacific Regional Educational Conference (APREC), held in Bangkok on 6 - 8 August 2014. The meeting was attended by Ministers of Education of countries in the Asia-Pacific region and key policy makers, including Secretaries and Directors of Education of member countries. ICEVI was represented at the APREC meeting by Dr. M.N.G. Mani, CEO, and Dr. Suwimon Udombiriyasak, Regional Chair, ICEVI East Asia region. ICEVI is pleased to advise that the Bangkok Statement, endorsed by the Ministers of Education of countries in the Asia-Pacific region (which has the largest number of persons with disabilities globally), includes significant policy statements concerning education in each country. ICEVI also attended the Pre-conference Planning Meeting that was organised by the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) on 5 August 2014 at the Bangkok venue. This meeting was attended by around 25 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and ICEVI was the only organization representing the disability sector. ICEVI used this opportunity to highlight the EFA-VI Global Campaign and the IDDC movement to raise disability concerns in the mainstream programmes of national governments.

Kay Ferrell, the Regional Chair of ICEVI NAC region was appointed to represent ICEVI at United Nations meetings in New York. In July 2015, Dr. Ferrell was invited to present her statement about "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: What It Will Take" to the Economic and Social Council High Level Segment. ICEVI statement was also submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)'s Half-Day General Discussion on Girls'/Women's Right to Education.



ICEVI interaction with members of National Coalition



Asia-Pacific Regional Educational Conference, Bangkok

## ICEVI and SEAMEO-SEN Activities



ICEVI and the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation, Centre for Special Education (SEAMEO-SEN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Malacca on 3 November 2014 to work together in the area of visual impairment. The MOU was signed on behalf of ICEVI by Dr. Suwimon Udompiriyasak, Regional Chair of ICEVI East Asia, and Datin Yasmin, Director of SEAMEO SEN. ICEVI was invited to participate in the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting on 8-10 June 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. ICEVI was one of the organising partners of the first International Conference on Special Education (ICSE 2015), organised by the Office of the Basic Education Commission, Ministry of Education Thailand and SEAMEO-SEN in Bangkok, Thailand from 28 to 31 July 2015. Colin Low, ICEVI President, delivered a keynote address at the first plenary session and gave an account of the current status of the EFA-VI campaign and the way forward in the East Asia Region.

Following the International Conference on Special Education, SEAMEO-SEN invited ICEVI to participate in its Board Meeting in Kuching, Malaysia on 14-16 September 2015. The ICEVI CEO, M.N.G. Mani and Dato Kulasegaran, Deputy Regional Chairperson, ICEVI East Asia region, attended the meeting and shared the educational needs of children with visual impairment in the 19 countries of the East Asia region. A regional workshop on the ICEVI publication, *Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual Impairment*, was also organised jointly by ICEVI and SEAMEO-SEN during November and December 2015.



Participants of Math Workshop

## Strategic Review to define the future road map

The last fully-fledged Strategic Plan of ICEVI was developed in 2002, with subsequent reviews and modifications of the strategies wherever necessary. The ICEVI EXCO believes that the role of ICEVI as a “convening organisation” in the future will have ramifications for its activities, including its future partnerships and networking, and advocacy and research activities. The ICEVI EXCO is planning to carry out an extensive Strategic Review in early 2017. The review will include revisiting ICEVI's Vision, Mission, Goals, and international and regional structures and activities.



## Vision Alliance

The Vision Alliance is an initiative of ICEVI, WBU and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). The aim of the Alliance is to create greater synergy and collaboration between the three organizations at global, regional and national levels in order to improve services and programs of each organization. The Vision Alliance meetings were organised on a number of occasions during the quadrennium, including a Vision Alliance exhibition stand at the Lions Convention in Toronto on 3-8 July



2014 which attracted many local Lions members. Penny Hartin and Mani, CEOs of WBU and ICEVI respectively, organised a workshop for members of Lions Clubs, with a focus on initiating educational activities with the support of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Following the Toronto Convention, the Vision Alliance representatives met with Mr. Barry Palmer, President of Lions Club International to discuss the possibilities of joint programmes between the Lions movement and the Vision Alliance.

Nepal has already established Vision Alliance coordination team for augmenting the implementation of the EFA-VI campaign. Dr. Bhushan Punani, ICEVI Regional Chair, West Asia was a member of the Strategic Planning Group of Vision 2020 India which developed a National Strategy.

ICEVI-Europe is continuing to enhance its cooperation with the European Coalition for Vision by participating in its activity of promoting indicators on the prevention of visual blindness. The European Forum Against Blindness (EFAB), a member of the European Coalition for Vision (ECV), has produced the second edition of the "Your Eyes" Manual. In continuation of its ongoing cooperation with the ECV, ICEVI-Europe has endorsed this Manual, which aims to encourage early diagnosis in blindness prevention and highlight the issues of vision loss.

Kay Ferrell, ICEVI's Regional Chair of NAC represented ICEVI at the World Health Organization meeting on standards for vision rehabilitation in Rome in December 2015. The goal of the meeting was to establish primary, secondary, and tertiary standards for countries in providing services to individuals with visual impairment. ICEVI was able to insert education for all visually impaired children as a primary (basic) standard.

## Activating Parents' Movement

ICEVI is a strong supporter of the Parents' Movement in the area of Visual Impairment. Representatives of Parents' Organisations are regularly invited to ICEVI executive committee meetings and to special events. The CEO, ICEVI had a meeting with representatives of the Parent Advocates for Visually Impaired Children (PAVIC) in the Philippines in June 2016, and discussed ICEVI-PAVIC collaboration. The PAVIC will be organising its next conference in May 2017 where an initiative to expand the parents movement to the entire East Asia region is likely to be discussed. ICEVI will support this conference in 2017 and will also take an active role in expanding the Parents' movement in the East Asia region and beyond.

The ICEVI Latin America region is also very active in promoting parents' movement. Many capacity building programmes for parents were organised in the region. Educators and partners are also working together to ensure that children with visual impairment are identified early and provided with appropriate interventions.



Parents from Guatemala undergoing blindfold simulation training

## Math Project – A much awaited Initiative

ICEVI, with the support of The Nippon Foundation, has initiated a project to develop Mathematics video packages for facilitating teachers to effectively teach mathematics to children with visual impairment. The core group of this initiative comprises representatives of ICEVI, Texas School for the Blind and the Visually Impaired (TSBVI), Perkins School for the Blind, and the Overbrook School for the Blind. The group has met in Austin, Texas twice and developed a concept note for the pilot phase of development. An academic team consisting of members with expertise in teaching mathematics to visually impaired children has been formed and their preliminary work will commence early in the next ICEVI quadrennium. The project team plans to prepare video lessons for teaching about 200 mathematical concepts covering the K-12 curriculum during the project period 2016-19.

The Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) and ICEVI Africa region have a memorandum of understanding to promote inclusion of needs of learners with visual impairment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and their expertise will also be used in the ICEVI's mathematics project.

## ICEVI Awards

ICEVI recognises individuals who have made a significant contribution to the field of education of children with visual impairment and also to the activities of ICEVI. The Awards Committee for the 2012-16 quadrennium, chaired by Lucia Piccione, 1st Vice President of ICEVI, has reviewed the nominations submitted by the ICEVI regional chairs and the principal officers and selected the following people who will be presented with awards and citations during the ICEVI General Assembly in Orlando in August 2016.



**Harry Svensson**, Sweden, who served as the Vice-President of ICEVI and as the editor of ICEVI's official magazine *The Educator* from January 2007 issue to January 2011 issue.



**Nandini Rawal**, India, who has served as the ICEVI Secretary (1997-2006) and Treasurer (2006-present), and has significantly contributed to the accounting procedures of the organisation. Nandini also serves as the Executive Director of the Blind Peoples' Association, Ahmedabad, India.



**Phalla Neang**, who has conducted many ICEVI capacity building programmes and was adjudged as one of the top 10 inspiring teachers of the world as per a global voting initiative.



**Rima Canawati**, who has served as the Deputy Regional Chairperson of the ICEVI West Asia region and has contributed significantly to coordination of work in the region. Rima has also been instrumental in fostering a partnership between ICEVI, CBM and the Government in Palestine.

## Key recognition to the EXCO Members



**Dr. Aubrey Webson**, UN Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda

Dr. Aubrey Webson, Editor of ICEVI's official magazine, *The Educator* and also a member of the ICEVI Executive Committee representing the Perkins School for the Blind, was appointed as the UN Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda in 2014. The ICEVI constituency congratulates Aubrey. We are sure his link with the UN will help us to push the disability agenda in mainstream programmes.



**Nafisa Baboo** on GCE Board

Nafisa Baboo, member of the ICEVI Executive Committee representing the Light for the World, was elected as a member of the Board of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) in 2015. The ICEVI constituency congratulates Nafisa for this great recognition. ICEVI anticipates that Nafisa will use this international platform to advocate for disability related issues.



## Other Key Events

Besides ICEVI EXCO and regional meetings, ICEVI took part in the following key meetings during the quadrennium.

S.No.	Meeting/Conferences	Venue	Date
1	ICEVI at the High Level Meeting of UN	New York, USA	23 September 2013
2	ICEVI in Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GPCwD) Meet	New York, USA	24 September 2013
3	ICEVI and WBU submission - Joint Response to the CRPD Committee's Draft General Comment no. 4 Article 24, The Right to Inclusive Education		8 January 2014
4	ICEVI at National Inclusive Education Programme Launching Ceremony	Ramallah, Palestine	29 January 2014
5	ICEVI in the IDDC Task Group Meeting	Brussels, Belgium	February 2014
6	ICEVI Meeting with Parents Advocates for Visually Impaired Children (PAVIC)	Manila, Philippines	22 April 2014
7	ICEVI supported PAVICs 4 <sup>th</sup> National Parents Congress	Manila, Philippines	9-11 May 2014
8	ICEVI in CCNGO-EFA Meet	Santiago, Chile	21-23 May 2014
9	ICEVI in IDDC Inclusive Education Task Group Meeting	UK	May 2014
10	ICEVI in IDPP Advisory Board	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	10 August 2014
11	ICEVI in Inclusive Education Multi Stakeholder Roundtable	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	12 August 2014
12	ICEVI in WBU-Asia Pacific Mid-Term Regional General Assembly	Hong Kong, China	21-24 November 2014
13	ICEVI at the UNCRPD Education Discussions	Geneva, Switzerland	15 April 2015

## EXCO Meetings

The Executive Committee, the highest policy making body of ICEVI, consists of 5 Principal Officers, 3 Founding Members, 3 Members of umbrella organisations and 9 International Partners. The EXCO meets at least once a year to review the work and also to plan its future work. The Executive Committee of ICEVI met five times during the quadrennium 2012-16.

EXCO Meetings	Venue	Date
Meeting 1	Bangkok, Thailand	18 November 2012
Meeting 2	London, UK	09-10 February 2013
Meeting 3	Vienna, Austria	14-15 November 2013
Meeting 4	London, UK	08-09 April 2015
Meeting 5	Kampala, Uganda	03-04 October 2015

## ICEVI Website

ICEVI website is used as a vehicle for dissemination of information to the ICEVI constituency. The website contains a wealth of materials covering the EFA-VI Global Campaign, Higher Education, Regional activities, Publications, etc. The ICEVI website has a separate page for important links to databases, resources and services for persons with visual impairment. The page also contains links to organisations, associations of and for the blind, education and employment links, and links to global and UN bodies supporting people with disabilities.

S. No.	Type of Links	Number
1	Assistive Devices, O&M, Guide Dogs	05
2	Association, Organisations	13
3	Disability Information	13
4	Education	23
5	Employment	03
6	INGDO	13
7	Prevention	04
8	UN & World Bodies	09

### In Memory of Paul Manning



**Mr. Paul Manning**, the regional chair of the Pacific region stepped down from his position in mid-2013 due to poor health. On 7 May 2014 Paul passed away due to severe illness. Paul was the first parent who became the regional chair of ICEVI region. All officers of ICEVI expressed their deep condolences to the bereaved family.

## Scope for Global Networking

The consolidation phase of ICEVI commenced in 2002, and included preparation of a thorough Strategic Plan, invitations extended to organisations to become International Partner Members and to serve on its EXCO, and establishment of a fulltime Secretariat. The year 2002 was significant for ICEVI as it celebrated its golden jubilee. The 2002 strategic plan listed the following six goals for the organisation.

- To ensure access and full participation in education for all visually impaired children and youth by 2015.
- To promote and assist in building of local capacity to develop curricula, to provide training and to identify and provide equipment and materials to children and youth with visual impairments and their parents, teachers and others in their communities.
- To collaborate with and make use of networks to ensure that substantially more visually impaired children and youth receive quality and comprehensive education.
- To ensure that ICEVI initiatives are based upon current evidence of best practice.
- To provide information on ICEVI and its services through all possible and appropriate media to all target groups.
- To build a strong base for ICEVI.

The achievements of ICEVI over the past decade are noteworthy, and include the launch of the EFA-VI Global campaign, advocacy with global bodies, networking with international partners and umbrella organisations, research and development activities, preparation of concept and position papers, regional development activities, higher education programmes, and employment. ICEVI has compiled a significant body of evidence and models that have the potential to make education for all children with visual impairment a reality. ICEVI wishes to increase its advocacy and networking roles in the future, and to work with mainstream organisations and global bodies to influence education policies and practices. ICEVI has served as a “Convening Organisation” and catalyst, and has the potential to effectively contribute to global networking in the years to come. The ICEVI Strategic View planned for early 2017 offers the opportunity to establish a broad framework for the future of ICEVI.



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