



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

NEWSLINE

OCTOBER 2004

Message from the President:

October 19, 2004

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Later this week I leave for San Jose, Costa Rica to participate in the ICEVI Central American sub-regional conference and a meeting of the ICEVI principal officers. This marks the start of what promises to be a very busy year ahead.

ICEVI has regional conferences scheduled for the West Asia and Pacific regions in January, East Asia in February, and Europe in August. Add to this, other important meetings at The World Bank, the United Nations and in South Africa, Spain, Ghana, China and Vietnam and you will see that ICEVI is making important contributions at many levels and in many places. In the pages that follow you will find more details related to these and other activities that your organization is working on.

As you can imagine, all of this does not happen without a lot of hard work. I am truly grateful to have a team around me that makes all of this possible; including a Secretary General whose capabilities and energy are unmatched anywhere. This level of activity is, I believe, a barometer of the increasing presence of ICEVI in all regions of the world as we work toward our shared vision of a world in which all children and youth with visual impairment have access to appropriate high quality education.

It also takes financial support and commitment to achieve these goals. For example, without the support of my own organization, the Overbrook School for the Blind, much of what I do on behalf of ICEVI would not be possible. This is just one small example of the loyal support that ICEVI has been blessed with for many years. While we are grateful to this cadre of traditional supporters we are also very conscious of the need to broaden our base of support if we are to continue the momentum that has been achieved in the past few years

In the near future many of you will be receiving a direct appeal from ICEVI that will ask you to pitch in and support the work that we have begun and that we must expand. I hope we can count on you to move forward this campaign to assure no child with a visual impairment is denied access to an education.

This issue of NEWSLINE will provide you with a glimpse at the many varied activities ICEVI has undertaken to move forward our commitment to "education for all".

We hope that as you review what has been achieved and what is planned you will become as convinced as I am that "***an investment in ICEVI is an investment in the future of blind and low vision children everywhere***".

With my warm personal wishes I remain,

Sincerely,



Larry Campbell
President

INGOs Policy on EFA in the offing

Individuals and organizations around the world are applauding the joint educational policy statement of the ICEVI and the World Blind Union released at the Africa Forum in May 2004. The Christoffel Blindenmission, which had already finalized a joint policy statement on education in collaboration with the Sight Savers International, has proposed that a joint INGO policy be formulated by incorporating appropriate strategies listed in educational policies of various organizations. As ICEVI is seeking the assistance of Governments, UN bodies, and international non-government developmental organizations to become stakeholders in the EFA campaign, a joint committee comprising representatives from ICEVI, World Blind Union, CBM, and SSI has been constituted to work on this INGO strategy of education for all children with visual impairment. This policy will be finalized during the early 2005 to provide guidelines to the international community to implement EFA. The Educator will carry more information on this INGO policy on education in its subsequent issues.

ICEVI China Meeting

China is the largest country of the world and has significant population of persons with visual impairment. The China Network of ICEVI organized a meeting of the Principals of the School for the Blind at Kunming City, China from 22 to 24 July 2004 to create an awareness on inclusive education approach as one of the viable options to achieve education for all children with visual impairment. More than 40 Principals from the Special Schools attended this meeting. Grace Chan, Treasurer and Mani, M.N.G. Secretary General of ICEVI made a joint presentation on the activities of ICEVI to the participants. The participants unanimously endorsed the resolution that a national network meeting involving Government and Non-Government agencies be organized in the near future to discuss at length the process of inclusion and also deliberate on how special schools can serve as resource centres for the promotion of inclusion. Based on the resolution of the Kunming meeting, the China Network has sent a proposal to ICEVI to organize a national conference on inclusion in the city of Nanjing during the first quarter of 2005. This is a step forward to formulate strategies for inclusion in the vast continent of China. International Non-Government Developmental Organisations are also invited along with various Government and Non-Government organizations in China to deliberate on this key issue. Look for more news on the website of ICEVI or in the January 2005 issue of The Educator, ICEVI's Magazine

Strengthening ICEVI Contacts in North Africa Region

ICEVI believes that only strong networking at the regional level can enrich services for persons with visual impairment. ICEVI has been working on this regional

networking in all seven regions and the results are rewarding. The networks have resulted in appropriate policy formulation, sharing of human resources, exchange of knowledge, materials, and technology, to name a few. ICEVI has been attempting to build a network in the north Africa Region and in this connection, the Secretary General Mani and Dr. Sawsan El Messiri, Deputy Regional Chairperson, North Africa region of ICEVI met with Dr. Akef El Maghraby in Dubai on 22 August 2004. Many contacts from the Northern Africa countries have been obtained for this networking and as an initial step, ICEVI will be making a presentation at the North Africa Conference of Ophthalmologists to be held in Tunis on November 27, 2004. ICEVI believes that the Tunis meeting will establish a close network of medical professionals, educators, government agencies, parents, disabled peoples' organizations, etc., to work together for augmenting services to persons with visual impairment in the vast north-African continent.

ICEVI uses Technology for Information Dissemination

ICEVI is taking maximum advantage of the technology for the dissemination of information around the world. The website of ICEVI has been refined over the last two years, and the current website www.icevi.org is fully accessible to persons with visual impairment. Besides its accessibility, the website provides a wealth of information about visual impairment. The past issues of The Educator, Newsline, and other publications of ICEVI can be downloaded from the website without any difficulty. The website also provides a link page consisting of more than 60 reputed organizations working in the area of visual impairment so that a person logging on to ICEVI's website has the facility to access the websites of all these leading organizations around the world. Log on to ICEVI's website to experience a world of difference.

Though the information about the regions of ICEVI is updated periodically on the main website, three of the seven regions have also launched their own website providing more information about the regional activities.

The Europe website was the first regional website of the ICEVI. It covers a wealth of information from the countries in Europe region and it can be seen by logging on to www.icevi-europe.org

The Latin America region's website is in Spanish and it is used for disseminating ICEVI's activities to the Spanish speaking countries. Enjoy this website by logging onto www.icevi-americalatina.com.ar The West Asia region's website is the latest one to be launched. It can be seen at the address www.iceviwestasia.org Other

regions of ICEVI are also working on regional websites and all these are linked with the main website of ICEVI.

One of the strategic goals of ICEVI finalized in 2002 and being put into action since the beginning of the current quadrennium purports to make use of technology for the optimum dissemination of information to its clientele. ICEVI is glad that this objective is being realized and hopes that technology can be further used for information exchange for professionals in the nook and corner of the world. Visit our websites and get yourself acquainted with ICEVI's multifarious activities around the world.

Projects under the Drs. Richard Charles and Esther Yewpick Lee Charitable Foundation Grant (LFG)

Unlike 2003, the projects in 2004 under Drs. Richard Charles and Esther Yewpick Lee Charitable Foundation have been more focused on specific areas. A total of 64 projects are underway in the Africa, East Asia, Latin America, and West Asia regions of ICEVI and most of these projects are centred around effective teacher preparation, teaching of mathematics and science, low vision, multiple disabilities, and inclusion strategies. Wherever possible, the support of the international organizations working in these regions is enlisted for these projects. ICEVI is grateful to the Lee Charitable Foundation for its continuous support to help thousands of teachers in building their capacities to provide effective services to children with visual impairment throughout the world. The experiences gained from these projects during 2003 and 2004 will be useful in planning various capacity building strategies in ICEVI's global campaign of education for all children with visual impairment.

IAPB General Assembly

ICEVI is glad that the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) is focusing on education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities under its comprehensive eye care services. The substantial progress made at the international level with the Vision 2020 programme launched by the IAPB in collaboration with the WHO provides a testimony to the synergistic effects of international non-governmental development organisations, WHO, and a professional body like the IAPB to prevent avoidable blindness by the year 2020. As services for persons with visual impairment are spread over a continuum such as prevention, curative measures, education, and comprehensive rehabilitation, the IAPB brought together a number of organizations involved in education and rehabilitation to its General Assembly organized at Dubai from 19 to 24 September 2004 to interact with the medical professionals on how they can work together to address the needs of incurably blind persons too. ICEVI organized a symposium during the IAPB General

Assembly, which was attended by Kicki Nordstrom, President World Blind Union, Dr. Hannah Faal, outgoing President of IAPB among others. An ICEVI poster session was arranged and viewed by a majority of the medical professionals in attendance. ICEVI made a suggestion that education and rehabilitation related matters be presented in the plenary sessions of the future conferences so that all medical professionals attending the general assembly are exposed to the need and methodologies of rehabilitation measures. As ICEVI is in the process of finalizing a perspective plan for Education For All children with visual impairment by 2015, the General Assembly was useful in incorporating IAPB's success strategies in ICEVI's plan of action for EFA.

Congratulations Dr. G.N. Rao, the new President of IAPB

ICEVI congratulates Dr. Gullapalli Nag Rao, LV Prasad Eye Hospital, India on his election as the President of the IAPB for the period 2004-08. Dr. Rao is a visionary and is a strong advocate of comprehensive eye care services including education and rehabilitation as the components of eye care services. He has also accepted to be a plenary speaker at the 12th World Conference of ICEVI to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in July 2006 and therefore, the collaboration between IAPB and ICEVI is becoming stronger.

Round Table on Inclusion at the World Bank

ICEVI will participate in a round table discussion on "Inclusion" at the World Bank, 29 November to 1 December 2004. ICEVI will share its strategic plan and EFA campaign with the participants of the round table discussion and hopefully bring them on board to our EFA campaign. ICEVI has already assisted the World Bank to develop their publication "EnVISIONing education in low income countries". This World Bank "tool kit" guides and encourages World Bank development programs to include services for and persons with visual impairment in ongoing World Bank development initiatives.

Research and Development Activities of ICEVI

The research work initiated by ICEVI in Uganda to identify factors that contribute to effective inclusion of children with visual impairment at the local primary schools is nearing completion. Data have been collected from teachers, parents, visually impaired children, sighted children, policy planners, and other community members. Children were also observed in regular schools and resource centres. The final report of the study will be available during the first quarter of 2005.

The Overbrook School for the Blind through its regional program in Southeast Asia is working with ICEVI on an initiative to develop a comprehensive mathematical package that both organizations feel will be of tremendous help to teachers throughout the world. The prototype materials have already been developed and are being field-tested. Overbrook and ICEVI hope to have the final package ready for distribution by mid to late 2005.

World Conference Update

The mood is upbeat for the forthcoming World Conference of ICEVI in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 21 July 2006. A reasonable registration fee, inspiring academic sessions, affordable hotels, excellent flight connections, and nice weather – what more could you ask for in getting away from your routine and enjoying the experience of a lifetime. Come to Malaysia, an experience that is “truly Asia”. For the first time, we will offer on-line registration and abstract submission. Just click “12th World Conference” on the menu bar of ICEVI’s website www.icevi.org; you can see how exciting the 12th world conference will be. All plenary and focus day speakers have been finalized and abstracts have started coming in.

EFA Subscription

ICEVI is appealing to the international community to join its global campaign of education for all. Be a subscribing member and take part in this global work with visually impaired persons. For more information of the EFA subscription mechanism, please see the July 2004 issue of The Educator or log on to the website of ICEVI.

Regional and Sub-regional Conferences

During January and February 2005, ICEVI will be involved with the following three major regional conferences.

S. No.	Regional Conference	Theme	Venue and Dates	Contact Person
1	The Regional Conference of the South Pacific Educators of the Visually Impaired (SPEVI)	Families and Educators – Facing Challenges	Melbourne, Australia 9 to 14 January 2005	Dr. Jill Keefe Regional Chairperson University of Melbourne Dept. of Ophthalmology Locked bag 8, East Melbourne 8002 AUSTRALIA jillek@unimelb.edu.au
2	The ICEVI West Asia Regional conference	“Inclusion – the Right Approach”	India International Centre, New Delhi: 23 to 25 January 2005	Dr. Bhusan Punani Regional Chairperson Blind People’s Association Jagdish Patel Chowk Surdas Marg, Vastrapur Ahmedabad 380015 INDIA blinabad1@sancharnet.in

3	The East Asia regional conference	"Education For All: So Near Yet So Far"	Jomtien, Pataya, Thailand, 20 - 23 February 2005	Mavis Campos Regional Chairperson Cataract Foundation Philippines Door # 4 Clejal Bldg, B.S. Aquino Drive, 6100 Bacolod City, PHILIPPINES mcampos@info.com.ph
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Register now and also make your colleagues get registered. You can also become a speaker at these conferences. Contact the Regional Chairs immediately.

Important Forthcoming Events

Larry Campbell, President ICEVI, will attend the 6th General Assembly of the World Blind Union to be held at Cape Town, South Africa from 6 to 10 December 2004. ICEVI and the WBU have also started the initiative of developing a standard catalogue of equipment used by persons with visual impairment for their education and rehabilitation activities. ICEVI will also be taking part in the Collective Consultation of NGOs (CCNGOs)-UNESCO annual meeting to be organized at Beirut, Lebanon from 9 to 11 December 2004 to review the progress made by various organizations in achieving the global agenda of education for all. Vision 2005, an international conference will be organized by the Royal National Institute for the Blind in London from 4 to 8 April 2005. ICEVI will be organizing a symposium at this conference.

Other International Collaborations

As a follow-up of the MOU signed by ICEVI with International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), the two organizations are contemplating on joint projects in the area of sports and games for persons with visual impairment. ICEVI believes that such collaborations will yield more constructive results in the regions. ICEVI has also initiated discussions with the CBM International to organize a national conference in Vietnam to develop a network of Government and non-Government organizations to develop inclusive education and other context specific strategies to achieve the goals of education for all children with visual impairment. This conference is likely to take place during March 2005. ICEVI's Africa region has come out with a master plan of activities for the period 2004 – 2006 and the CBM and SSI have come forward to co-fund many of the development projects initiated by this region.

Paralympics

Nearly 700 persons with visual impairment participated in various events at the recently concluded Paralympics held in Athens. The International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) took an active role in the activities pertaining to persons with visual

impairment. ICEVI together with IBSA will take forward the momentum created at Athens. The July 2005 issue of The Educator will be devoted to Sports and Recreation and it will give an opportunity to sportspersons who are visually impaired to share their experiences. As sports is a vital area for the overall development of children, its importance will be emphasised by ICEVI in various forums in the future.

New Deputy Coordinator of UN-NGLS

Ms. Zehra Aydin has joined UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) as Deputy Coordinator and Chief of NGLS's New York office. The Contact information is Ms. Zehra Aydin, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), 1 UN Plaza, DC1-1106, New York NY 10017. Telephone +1-212/963 3125, Fax +1-212/963 8712. General e-mail: npls@un.org

Principal Officers in Latin America Sub-Regional Conference

A meeting of some Principal Officers of ICEVI will be held in Costa Rica from 25 to 29 October 2004 to review ICEVI's activities. The Sub-Regional Conference of the Latin America region will also be organized at the same time in the same venue and therefore, the Principal Officers will serve as resource persons for various sessions of the conference and also discuss ICEVI agenda. The strategic update of this meeting will be published in the January 2005 issue of The Educator.

EXCO Meeting in Madrid

The third meeting of the Executive Committee of ICEVI for the present quadrennium will be hosted by ONCE and held in Madrid, Spain from 4 to 5 March 2005. As the EFA Policy Paper of INGOs is likely to be endorsed at this meeting, this EXCO assumes special significance.

Information Technology – Theme of the next issue of The Educator

The next issue (January 2005) of The Educator will be devoted for Information and Communication Technology. ICT has tremendous application in the services for persons with disabilities in general and visual impairment in particular and therefore, the forthcoming issue is likely to bring ideas from all over the world about the advancements in this field. As technology is being acknowledged as a vehicle for augmentation of educational services by both developed and developing countries, the January 2005 issue will bring perspectives of technological impact from various parts of the world. Visually impaired persons who have conquered the world of technology will be introduced through this issue. Those who are desirous of sending articles may send a soft copy of the article to the Editor Steve McCall s.mccall@bham.ac.uk with a copy to ICEVI Secretariat sgicevi@vsnl.net

Reminder from Steve McCall, Editor, The Educator

Dear Readers, July 2004 issue of The Educator, the bi-annual magazine of ICEVI was the last you had received free-of-charge. If you wish to continue receiving your personal copy of the magazine there will be a US \$ 50 subscription fee for the quadrennium; pro-rated to US\$ 25 for the balance of the current quadrennium. ICEVI will continue to send The Educator to schools and other organizations free-of-charge. If you wish to receive a personal copy of The Educator for the balance of the current quadrennium please remit a check for US \$ 25 made payable to ICEVI and mail it to: Treasurer – ICEVI, C/o. “Hong Kong Society for the Blind” 248, Nam Cheong Street, Shamshuipo, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China. E-mail: ce@hksb.org - **Steve McCall, Vice-President, ICEVI and Editor, The Educator.**

This electronic Newsline of ICEVI comes to your mailbox in April and October every year. Please provide us the e-mail addresses of individuals and organizations that may be interested in receiving the Newsline and The Educator.

For further details, contact:



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