



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



**(FORMERLY ICEVI NEWSLINE)**

***October 2009***

## Message from the President

October 9, 2009



Dear Colleagues,

As I sat down to write this message I realized when I typed today's date that we are exactly 10 months from the start of our 13<sup>th</sup> World Conference and General Assembly. I hope that many of you will join us in Jomtien, Thailand for what I believe will be a wonderful week of sharing and learning in a beautiful and historically significant setting where the Education For All movement started.

While the conference is 10 months away the deadline for submission of abstracts is very close. The Program Committee encourages you to submit your abstracts on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>. You will find the process of submitting an abstract quite easy and painless. Just jump onto the ICEVI website, click on the bar under the photos on the homepage and it will take you to the World Conference page. From here you will find all the information you will want about how to submit an abstract if you click on "Call for Papers" along with registration information.

So don't delay! Remember **the deadline for submitting your abstract** is just around the corner, **OCTOBER 31, 2009**.

The past six months have been busy and productive as you will see when you read what follows. Most of what we have to report is positive news.

However, as this E-News reporting period comes to a close we are all deeply saddened by the untimely death of Prof. Dr. Ismail Salleh, our East Asia Regional Chair. I know that all of our readers join me in extending our condolences to his family and to the Malaysian Association for the Blind. We dedicate this issue of ICEVI E-News to his memory.

As always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Campbell".

**Larry Campbell**

President

## Remembering Prof. Dr. Ismail Salleh



It is with great sadness that we inform our readers of the death, on August 27<sup>th</sup> of Prof. Dr. Ismail Salleh, ICEVI's Regional Chairperson of East Asia region. "Prof", as he was popularly known, was a source of inspiration to many persons with visual impairment around the world. From a rural village in Malaysia "Prof" went on to achieve academic prowess in the field of Economics and to serve as a special advisor to two Malaysian Prime Ministers. Despite the demands on his time, the needs of his fellow brothers and sisters with visual impairment always played a central role in his very busy life. He served as the Chairman of the Malaysian Association for the Blind and also represented the disability community in the Malaysian Senate. Many ICEVI members will remember him as the most gracious organizer and host of the memorable 12<sup>th</sup> world conference of ICEVI in Kuala Lumpur in July 2006. It was at this conference that the Global Campaign on Education for All Children with Visual Impairment was launched in the presence of over 1200 participants from all regions of the world.

## RNIB – New International Partner Member of ICEVI

We are pleased to share with you the recent decision of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), United Kingdom to become the newest International Partner Member of ICEVI. RNIB is a founding member of ICEVI and has for many years now been represented on the Executive Committee by Lord Colin Low, whose many contributions to our work are well known. As an International Partner Member, RNIB brings to the EFA-VI Global Task Force vast experience in serving persons with visual impairment. RNIB's depth of expertise in the area of accessibility will be a real asset to ICEVI and the EFA-VI Global Campaign. RNIB will be represented on the Global Task Force by Peter Osborne.

We are gratified that a growing number of the leading National and International Non-Governmental Organizations have become so engaged with our work and the work of the EFA-VI Global Campaign. Working together we can achieve so much more as we strive to reach the more than 4 million children with visual impairment in the developing world who still have no access to education.

The other International Partner Members of ICEVI are the Asian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness, CBM, New York Institute for Special Education, Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NABP), ONCE, Perkins School for the Blind, Sightsavers International and Vision Australia. Without the

support of our International Partner Members the work of the Global Campaign would simply not be possible.

As we welcome RNIB as the newest International Partner Member, we extend a special word of thanks to Leslie-Anne Alexander and Stephen King who were so supportive throughout the discussions on this matter.

### **Flagship Meeting at the headquarters of UNESCO**

A meeting of UNESCO's Flagship Programme on Inclusion was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting was a mid-term review of the UNESCO Flagship on Inclusion and involved a number of organizations directly engaged in promoting the expansion of education for persons with disabilities. The Flagship Secretariat, based in Finland, invited the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) to make a presentation on the Global Campaign on Education for Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) being implemented by ICEVI, acting in partnership with the World Blind Union (WBU). The presentation was jointly made by Larry Campbell, President – ICEVI, Penny Hartin – Executive Director, WBU, and Mani, Secretary General – ICEVI. Members in attendance were quite complimentary on the progress we have made over the past three years and felt that the model we have developed has potential for replication with other disability sectors.

### **Ms. Peng Xia Guang, the new Regional Chairperson of East Asia**

Following the untimely death of Prof. Ismail Salleh, Ms. Peng Xia Guang, Deputy Regional Chairperson has assumed the role of Regional Chair of East Asia. We are grateful to Ms. Peng and to her employer the China National Institute for Educational Research (CNIER) for allowing her to assume this new role.

### **Meeting with the French Associations of the Visually Impaired**

Larry Campbell, President, Mani, Secretary General, ICEVI and Penny Hartin, CEO of the World Blind Union met the French organizational members of the Francophone Blind Union (FBU) on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Association Valentin Haüy in Paris. The meeting was organized by Mrs. Françoise Madrey-Lesigne, President of FBU and also attended by Mr. Andre Kowalski and Ms. Marie-Bernadette Alexandre of Association Valentin Haüy; Mr. Yves Dunand and Mr. Jacques Charlin, International Solidarity Committee of "To See Together" (Voir Ensemble), Mr. Rui Goncalvez, French Federation for the Blind and Mr. Mokrane Boussaid, Executive Director of European Blind Union.

The Francophone Blind Union brings together organizations of and for the blind in French speaking countries of the world to share information and work in solidarity. FBU has been providing assistance to schools and other programs serving persons with blindness in Francophone Africa for many years and we feel there is much to be learned from their experience. ICEVI requested this meeting to explore possibilities for collaboration with FBU, particularly in the much underserved Francophone countries of West Africa.

The meeting resulted in a pledge by both ICEVI and FBU to work more closely together within the framework of EFA-VI in Africa. FBU is also exploring the possibility of becoming more formally engaged with EFA-VI through an international membership. Mrs. Francoise Madrey-Lesigne will attend the next meeting of the Global Task Force as an FBU observer.

### **EFA-VI National Workshops in Africa**

The EFA-VI Global Campaign is off to a good start in the Africa region. CBM, Light For the World and the Sightsavers have come forward to support the Regional Secretariat of EFA-VI, which has been set-up at the premises of the Africa Union of the Blind (AfUB), Nairobi. Following the appointment of Mr. Bernard Mogesa as the full-time Coordinator of the EFA-VI Regional Secretariat, activities have been geared up.

The region conducted two national workshops – one in Ethiopia in July and another in Mozambique in September 2009. Both the workshops were attended by high level government officials, organisations of persons with visual impairment, voluntary organisations and professionals. Both the countries are in the process of forming National Task Forces that will develop realistic national plans for ensuring education for all children with visual impairment. These plans will be discussed at the meeting of the Global Task Force of the campaign to be held at the CBM International Office in Bensheim, Germany in December 2009.

Besides the current focus countries, ICEVI is working to motivate other countries in the region too to raise awareness that “education for all” is not possible without the inclusion of children with disabilities. As many of the countries in the Africa region come under the Fast Track Initiative of The World Bank, helping Governments with the technical input on how to provide quality services to children with disabilities is a top priority.

### **EFA-VI Planning Meeting in Cambodia**

ICEVI's President and Secretary General discussed with the officials of the Ministry of Education, The Kingdom of Cambodia on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 regarding the implementation of the Global Campaign on Education for All Children with visual Impairment in Cambodia. The meeting was organized by Mrs. Cheam Kosal, General Director of Krousar Thmey, who is also the country representative of ICEVI in Cambodia.

Capacity building of regular classroom teachers is perhaps the most vital need in expanding educational services in Cambodia. In this context, ICEVI discussed with the MOE and Krousar Thmey how we might assist them in the development of a national training team with good experience in education of children with visual impairment so that the training of classroom teachers, who will receive visually impaired children in their classrooms, is of a high standard. Cambodia is now working on such a plan and we are optimistic that with the technical support of Krousar Thmey's master trainers, education of children with visual impairment in their own communities will become a reality in the next few years.

### **EFA-VI Interim Evaluation in Vietnam**

An interim evaluation of the implementation of the EFA-VI Global Campaign in Vietnam was conducted by ICEVI's Secretary General, Mr. J. Kirk Horton, Advisor of CBM and also the Regional Coordinator of the Hilton Perkins Programme, and officials of the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training in May 2009. The evaluation revealed that the EFA-VI campaign had increased awareness about education of children with visual impairment, which is evident by the fact that more than 13,500 additional children with visual impairment have been enrolled in the last two years in 24 provinces of Vietnam.

ICEVI congratulates Dr. Ng.Duc Minh, the Secretary of the National Technical Task Force of the EFA-VI Global Campaign and ICEVI Deputy Regional Chair, East Asia, for his creative and tireless work in moving forward the education of children with visual impairment in Vietnam. We are also pleased to share with our readers Dr. Minh's recent appointment to the six-member EFA National Task Force. In this new role we are confident that what has been learned through the work of the EFA-VI Global Campaign in Vietnam will bring benefit to other children with disabilities throughout the country.

### **EFA-VI National Workshop in Nepal**

A national workshop on EFA-VI was organised in Kathmandu on 27<sup>th</sup> July by involving all members of the National Task Force, government officials and voluntary organisations. The workshop was well represented by all stakeholders and a plan of action was evolved to bring more children with visual impairment to schools. The Government of Nepal has adopted inclusion as the strategy to mainstream children with disabilities and supports global initiatives such as the EFA-VI campaign to address specific disability categories. ICEVI was represented at this meeting by Bhushan Punani, the Regional Chairperson of the West Asia region and Mani, the Secretary General.

EFA-VI activities are underway in other focus countries including Ecuador, Fiji, Honduras, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, and The Dominican Republic. The implementation of the campaign over two years has revealed that unique issues have to be addressed in each focus country and therefore, common strategy map for all countries does not work. ICEVI is in the process of documenting good practices of inclusion that may be of use for other countries.

### **Meeting of the Resource Mobilisation Committee**

On June 16-17 the ICEVI Resource Mobilization Committee met in the Netherlands. The meeting was graciously hosted by Visio and attended by the core members Larry Campbell, Christian Garms, Hans Welling and M.N.G. Mani. We also were pleased to have with us at this meeting Mr. Arnt Holte, NAPB who earlier in the year had conducted a very successful fund raising initiative on behalf of EFA-VI. The Committee reviewed current policies and strategies for raising the needed resources to support the expansion of EFA-VI program. The committee suggested that the realities of the EFA-VI Campaign and the resource mobilisation guidelines should be presented at the meetings of the Global Task Force and Executive Committee of ICEVI to be held in December 2009 to take decisions on the future course of action.

### **Keynote Presentation in Coupvray, France**

ICEVI was honored to be invited by CINAL, the international committee set up to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, to present the keynote address on education at the “International Conference VI 2009, Coupvray”. Larry Campbell, President ICEVI, delivered the keynote address on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 that was well received and has subsequently led to the recent meeting with the Francophone Union of the Blind, reported earlier in this issue of

E-NEWS and also discussions with RNIB leading to their decision to become an International Partner Member.

### **Lions Clubs International Foundation**

Having reached their fund raising goal of US \$200 million, the Lions Clubs International Foundation is giving serious consideration to how the education and rehabilitation needs of blind and low vision persons can be integrated into the overall program strategies of their Sight First II campaign. On August 18<sup>th</sup> ICEVI, WBU and the Perkins School for the Blind were invited to present the global situation and challenges facing the education and rehabilitation sectors with particular attention to the needs of children and adults in the under-resourced regions of the world to the LCIF Sight First II Advisory Committee. ICEVI was honored to have this opportunity and more importantly is very pleased that the Lions Clubs International Foundation is considering making education and rehabilitation one of the focus areas of their work under Sight First II. The LCIF has been invited to take active role in the implementation of the EFA-VI Global Campaign and we look forward to working with local Lions Clubs throughout the world as active partners in assuring that every child is afforded their right to an education.

### **13<sup>th</sup> World Conference of ICEVI – Call For Abstracts**

Work is in full swing to host the 13<sup>th</sup> World Conference of ICEVI. The Programme Committee has already invited plenary speakers and chairpersons of Focus-Day workshops of the 13<sup>th</sup> World Conference and the Host Committee is making elaborate arrangements for hosting the conference in Jomtien, Thailand from 9 to 13 August 2010. Quality abstracts are being received from all parts of the world and the **last date for the submission of abstracts is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**. We encourage you to submit abstracts on the themes of the conference listed on the website of ICEVI and be a part of this historic conference which will deliberate on education for all children with visual impairment in the same venue after 20 years of the commencement of the global Education For All movement initiated by UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank.

ICEVI world conferences always attract large numbers of abstracts as is evident from the previous experiences. For the 12<sup>th</sup> world conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2006, more than 450 abstracts were received and the Programme committee could accommodate 392 abstracts for concurrent and poster presentations. The proceedings of previous conferences can be accessed

from the website of ICEVI [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org) We look forward to receive your abstract before the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

### **Human Excellence Award for Rima Canawati**

Rima Canawati, a member of the ICEVI Regional Committee of West Asia has been selected to receive this year's Award for the Defense of the Human Rights of Persons with Disability. Rima has dedicated her professional life to the needs of persons with disability in her community and throughout Palestine. She herself completely lost her sight when she was in her late teenage years but has overcome this disability to rise to the top of her profession. While achieving a high level of professionalism Rima has also become a role model for persons with disability. ICEVI congratulates Rima for this recognition and wish her continued success with her work.

### **Review of Higher Education Projects**

ICEVI, in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation, is implementing a unique higher education project for persons with visual impairment in Indonesia, The Philippines and Vietnam. In 2008-09, the program has benefitted more than 300 visually impaired university students who have been helped to acquire, learn and use technology to assist them with their studies. The implementing organisations of this project [ the Indonesian Blind Union (PERTUNI) assisted by Yayasan Mitra Netra, Resources for the Blind (Philippines) and the Sao Mai Computer Centre for the Blind (Vietnam)] came together on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009 to review the progress made over the past two years and to plan for the future development of the program. The participating organizations were joined by Mr. Hisao Chiba, The Nippon Foundation along with Larry Campbell and M.N.G. Mani, representing ICEVI. The evaluation of project results to date are quite encouraging and, in principle, The Nippon Foundation has agreed to extend the project for two more years based upon an acceptable proposal that will be submitted to them by the end of 2009.

ICEVI is pleased that the higher education projects implemented in these countries have enabled college students to master the use of technology and use it effectively for their development. The leadership skills of the college going visually impaired students are also motivating parents of children with visual impairment to invest in the education of their children. ICEVI treats higher education as a continuum of the EFA-VI campaign as it develops role models to create a demand for education of children with visual impairment.

## DDCI – ICEVI plays a key role

A consortium known as Disability in Development Consortium of India (DDCI) has been formed to discuss latest issues dealing with disability worldwide and in India and the initial participants of this consortium are CBM, Sightsavers, Rehabilitation Council of India, ICEVI, National Association for the Blind, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the Government of India, and Blind People's Association. Dr. M.N.G. Mani, Secretary General of ICEVI has been nominated as the Coordinator of the DDCI. The objective of DDCI is to bring as many organisations as possible on a common platform to discuss professional issues dealing with disability and formulate action plans to empower them. As an initial activity encouraged by the DDCI, the Blind People's Association and the Rehabilitation Council of India have applied for a project with the European Commission to upgrade teacher quality in special education and also to demonstrate best practices of inclusion in India by facilitating exchanges with the partners in the countries of the European Union. ICEVI is happy that it is working as a catalyst to bring organisations together to work for the larger interest of services for persons with disabilities in India.

## Inclusive Education – Theme of the next issue of The Educator

The next issue of The Educator, ICEVI's official magazine, is devoted to the topic Inclusive Education, and the topic is viewed from the perspectives of students and teachers. Those interested in making contributions to this issue are requested to contact the editor Harry Svensson ([harry.svensson@spsm.se](mailto:harry.svensson@spsm.se)), the guest editor Steve McCall ([s.mccall@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.mccall@bham.ac.uk)) or the associate editor M.N.G. Mani ([sgicevi@vsnl.net](mailto:sgicevi@vsnl.net)) for details.

**ICEVI E-News comes to your mailbox in April and October every year. Please provide us with the e-mail addresses of individuals and organisations that may be interested in receiving the ICEVI E-News and The Educator.**

For further details, contact:



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