



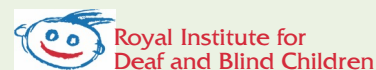
**International Council for Education of
People with Visual Impairment**



Annual Report

February 2017 - September 2018

Our International Partners and Members of the Executive Committee





President's Message

It gives me great pleasure to present the ICEVI Annual Report for February 2017 to September 2018. The period covered in this report spans 18 months of my first two years as ICEVI President. During this time, I have come to appreciate the breadth and depth of activities undertaken by our members and partners at the global level and across the seven regions of ICEVI. It is difficult to capture in the words the positive impact of ICEVI activities reported here on the lives of children and adults with visual impairment, their families and their communities. ICEVI members generally work in low-income countries where 90% of the world's estimated 285 million people with visual impairment live. Less than half of the children with visual impairment living in low-income countries receive an education, and girls with visual impairment receive less attention and often experience discrimination on the basis of their gender and disability. The ICEVI Mission, Vision and Values reflect our belief that inclusion in education positively impacts on the social, health and economic outcomes of all children, including children with blindness, low vision, deafblindness, or visual impairment with additional/multiple disabilities.

This Annual Report includes a progress “score card” on our achievements to date in implementing the priority goals and activities for the 2017-2020 quadrennium that were determined by the ICEVI Executive Committee (EXCO) in February 2017. The EXCO members spent considerable time reviewing the Mission of the organization to ensure that it is closely

aligned with the United Nations Education 2030 Agenda and Incheon Declaration, the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We believe that ICEVI is uniquely placed to provide the UN and global education community with technical expertise and support in the field of education for persons with visual impairment, and strive to foster global cooperation and innovation in teacher training and disability-inclusive curriculum design. To achieve our Mission, we connect and support our members, promote knowledge sharing and innovation, and collaborate with UN agencies, the global education and disability communities, national governments and civil society stakeholders.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks, the contributions of our CEO, Dr M.N.G. Mani and the ICEVI Secretariat in producing this annual report. I also take this opportunity to thank our Principal Officers, Regional Chairs and Boards, and International Partner organizations who have provided global and regional leadership and technical expertise in the field of visual impairment. Together, we have advanced the implementation of the ICEVI Mission to promote access to inclusive, equitable and quality education – whether formal, non-formal or in-formal education – for all people with visual impairment.

Frances Gentle
President, ICEVI

Preamble

This is the first Annual Report of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) since conducting the Strategic Review meeting of the organization in Pretoria, South Africa in February 2017. The members of the Executive Committee (EXCO) undertook a review of the organizational Mission, Vision and Values, with the purpose of taking ICEVI to the next level of its networking, global advocacy and information sharing as a means of promoting education for all persons with visual impairment.

Renewed Mission, Values and Goals of ICEVI

The 2017 strategic review meeting offered the EXCO members the opportunity to reflect on the role of ICEVI as a global education body in promoting the United Nations "Education 2030 Framework for Action" and associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Mission, Vision and Goals of ICEVI, presented below, are aligned with the principles of SDG4 and reflect the commitment of ICEVI members to promoting the right to education of persons with vision impairment or other disability, leaving no-one behind.

Our 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, ICEVI's Mission is to promote access to inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all people with visual impairment.

Our Values

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

- ▲ equitable access and participation in the full range of educational services and programs on the basis of equal opportunity;
- ▲ receive early intervention and early childhood care and development services, and pre-primary education;
- ▲ support by teachers and other professionals who possess knowledge and skills in education of children with visual impairment;
- ▲ educational materials, teaching methods and programs that are of a high standard, conform to best practices, and address each student's learning needs;
- ▲ live in communities that are free of barriers and discrimination, where all people are valued; and
- ▲ lead productive lives, according to their aspirations and capabilities.

Experiences to expansion

ICEVI experienced significant success with the implementation of the Global Campaign on Education for All Children

with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI), in partnership with the World Blind Union (WBU). Between the campaign's launch in 2006 and 2016, an additional 110,000 children with visual impairment were enrolled in the general education system, particularly in the developing regions of the world. The campaign also enabled training of thousands of teachers and parents, and sensitized government and civil society stakeholders about the importance of education of persons with visual impairment. The Zero Project, Austria (2016) recognized the EFA-VI Campaign as an exemplary and innovative program in inclusive education for persons with disabilities. All these positive impacts motivated the ICEVI EXCO to transform the strategy from "program" to "policy" status as a means of effecting a larger impact on national education sectors.

During the first decade of the EFA-VI campaign, the ICEVI regions selected focus countries for implementation the campaign. The regional Chairs and Committees worked with ICEVI members, partners and other stakeholders to facilitate the training of teachers and awareness raising of parents, educators and other professionals, governments and civil society. These initiatives resulted in the influencing of policy changes that enabled the successful inclusion of persons with visual impairment or other disabilities into mainstream education systems. ICEVI had also developed a range of supporting information to assist schools and educators, including student needs

assessment tools, education system evaluation procedures, and guidelines for inclusion. The Executive Committee of ICEVI has recommended that these proven practices be shared with national governments and global bodies through appropriate forums in order to build on the momentum of the EFA-VI campaign and reach other countries where children with visual impairment continue to be marginalized from education.

Strategic Goals for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Building on the achievements of the first decade of the EFA-VI campaign, the ICEVI EXCO has established a strategic plan for the 2017-2020 quadrennium that focuses on strengthening our capacity to influence the development of disability-inclusive policies at global, regional and levels. The strategic plan includes priority activities that address the following three strategic 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;

and

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

ICEVI is prioritizing the strengthening of partnerships and links with the global education and disability communities and United Nations agencies pertaining to education of persons with disabilities. At the regional and national levels, ICEVI is prioritizing teacher training and curriculum development, innovative practices in education and technology, and the compiling of information about policies and systems of education for persons with visual impairment across ICEVI's seven global regions.

Formulation of a robust structure to ensure sustainability

With the renewed mission of ICEVI and its alignment with the UN Education 2030

Framework for Action and SDGs, the Executive Committee has prioritized the need to further strengthen the regions through regional development. This will include the establishment of legal entity status for each region and a greater focus on regional projects and capacity building. The EXCO also appointed a Governance Committee to set out the interconnected governance structures and processes of the ICEVI at the global and regional levels. The Framework serves to ensure that all activities carried out under the ICEVI name are compliant with the Vision, Mission, and Values of ICEVI. It is anticipated that amendments to the ICEVI Constitution will be required following the adoption of the governance framework by the ICEVI EXCO.



Strategic goals to priority actions – A Report Card

Model Curriculum for Teacher Training

One of the first priority actions following the strategic planning meeting was to establish a working group to develop a model teacher training curriculum that supported SDG4 and in particular, the SDG4 target to “By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states”. Some of the goals and assumptions guiding the working group were as follows:

- ▲ To support the enrolment of children with visual impairment in the existing educational system of countries that do not yet educate children with disabilities, or who do so without a supporting system of teacher training;
- ▲ To address the concern that general education teachers and ministers of education have little experience with children who are visually impaired and have low expectations for them. ICEVI wanted to change that perception.
- ▲ To focus on teacher training in developing countries with limited resources, without supplanting the work accomplished by ICEVI partner members or faculty in institutions of higher education, and

- ▲ To release the teacher training curriculum via the ICEVI website in “html format” for easy download to a computer or mobile phone.

The ICEVI Start-up Teacher Training Curriculum is available for free download on the ICEVI website, www.icevi.org. The 17 chapters include the topics of anatomy and physiology of the eye, child assessment, principles of optics, preschool and early childhood, instructional approaches, braille and areas of the expanded core curriculum for children with visual impairment.

ICEVI acknowledges with thanks the substantial contributions of the following members of the working group: Kay Ferrell (Chair), Kevin Carey, Suwimon Udompiriyasak, Celene Gyles, Mary Zatta and Sabine Fijn van Draat.

The ICEVI Secretariat also assisted by providing the working group with relevant information from ICEVI’s extensive databases. The formal launch of the teacher training curriculum will take place at the ICEVI East Asia regional Conference to be held in Manila in October 2018. ICEVI has shared the curriculum with UNICEF and has promoted its use in the ICEVI journal, *The Educator*. ICEVI is proud that this is one of the significant developments post the strategic review meeting and we record our special thanks to Dr. Kay Ferrell

for her leadership in the design and development of the curriculum.

Governance Strategy

By way of background information, ICEVI commenced in 1952 as a world body to bring together organizations working in the area of blindness to discuss key issues. Since 2002, ICEVI has received increased support from leading international organizations that work in developing countries to improve the quality of life of children with visual impairment and other disabilities. ICEVI has become a convening organization that facilitates networking, collaboration and the sharing of information, technical expertise, resources and innovative practices. ICEVI provides a platform for its members to voice their views on educational priorities and policies which may have impact at the global level.

As regional development is a key priority of the 2017-2020 quadrennium, the first tasks undertaken by the ICEVI Governance Committee have been to analyze the factors that contribute to a robust relationship between the ICEVI global and regional bodies, and to ensure that the long-term sustainability of ICEVI is founded upon governance structures and processes that, in UNESCO's terms, are "designed to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment, and broad-based participation" (2017).

The Governance Committee members include Frances Gentle (Committee Chair),

Lars Bosselmann from CBM, Andrew Griffiths from Sightsavers, Sabine Fijn van Draat from Royal Dutch Visio and Mike Delaney from the Perkins School for the Blind. Hans Welling, Chair of ICEVI Europe, represents the regional chairs on this committee; and Nandini Rawal, ICEVI Treasurer, represents the Principal Officers. M.N.G. Mani, ICEVI CEO, is an Ex. Officio member. The Committee has had a number of conference calls, with topics discussed including the membership structure of the ICEVI EXCO, review of strategies to directly support the ICEVI regions for specific project activities, and utilization of the membership fee of ICEVI International Partners Members to support the administrative structures of ICEVI, including the Secretariat and Regional Committees.

The Governance Committee is grateful to Sabine Fijn van Draat who has led the development of the Governance Framework which will be tabled for endorsement by the EXCO at its annual meeting in October 2018. Once the "in principle" approval is obtained from the EXCO, the Governance Committee will further refine the Framework and create a list of potential amendments that will be required to the Constitution of ICEVI. Progress reports on the work of the Governance Committee will be communicated to the ICEVI constituency through the ICEVI email network and regular publications.

Country Champions Program

The ICEVI underlined the need to mobilize leadership among youth with visual impairment in all regions to become change agents who can influence policy and program development at country and community levels. The first country champions program took place in Manila in June 2017, with 30 graduates and students from higher education institutes across the Philippines in attendance. A model program schedule was created which encouraged the participants to speak about the empowerment opportunities for persons with visual impairment in the Philippines, and the barriers they need to overcome in school, employment and in society in general. Employers, representatives from parent bodies, the Government and the organization of disabled persons were involved in the program. As a result of the program, the participants have decided to form a pressure group to influence policy change at all levels in the Philippines, and to serve as role models to influence parents to send their children with visual impairment to school.



The program was replicated by the Blind Peoples' Association, Ahmedabad India in December 2017, with 25 students in attendance. Similar programs have taken place in Cambodia in February 2018, Fiji in July 2017, and Nepal in August 2018. All of these programs were facilitated to bring out the strengths and abilities of young adults with visual impairments, and to develop their communication skills and foster the spirit of teamwork. ICEVI is motivated by the outcomes of these country champion programs and plans to organise more in the years ahead. One of the objectives of the EFA-VI Global campaign is to create a demand for education through role models who are persons with visual impairment and the impact is evident from these country champion programs. The participants are being supported and encouraged to work as motivating change agents at the country level, and to communicate with parents, students with visual impairments, and with decision-makers in the educational and employment sectors to provide more opportunities for persons with visual impairment.



The participants of the Philippines country champion program are organizing a

concurrent session at the ICEVI East Asia Regional Conference in Manila, Philippines in October 2018. They will share their views and plans for strengthening this program in the future. The program has demonstrated the power of self-advocacy and it is a credit to the young participants that the four programs to date have yielded such remarkable results. We shall share more details of this program through ICEVI website, www.icevi.org.

WBU-ICEVI joint initiatives

The World Blind Union and ICEVI have been working together on a range of joint initiatives since the implementation of the EFA-VI campaign in 2006. Several joint policy and position statements addressing education and braille literacy have been developed and used for advocacy purposes at country level. The WBU and ICEVI revise these joint publications on a regular basis to ensure they reflect current international perspectives and practices. The most recent publication is the ICEVI-WBU Joint Education Position Statement that has been drafted for executive approval by a working group consisting of ICEVI and WBU members, Frances Gentle, Praveena Sukhraj-Ely and Rima Canawati, A.K. Mittal and Nantanoot “Apple” Sawannawut.

ICEVI has nominated Dr. Shreeram Mittal as its representative on the World Braille Council (WBC). We extend our thanks to Ms. Cathy Donaldson of Blind SA who represented ICEVI on the Council prior to

Dr Mittal’s appointment. The WBC met in Ottawa in May 2018 and as a result, a working group consisting of ICEVI, WBU and WBC members will be formed to address the resolutions relating to education for children with vision impairment and multiple disabilities (MDVI) and the development of on-line training materials for teachers of children who are blind.

Working with the UN and other International organizations

As a result of the recommendation of the strategy review meeting of 2017, ICEVI and WBU have jointly strengthened their collaboration with such global bodies as UNESCO, UNICEF, the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) and the International Disability and Development Consortium’s Inclusive Education Task Group. Meetings of representatives of ICEVI and Disability Section of UNICEF have taken place during 2017 and 2018 in New York, to discuss the potential for collaboration in the area of education. As a result, ICEVI has provided input into UNICEF’s accessible digital textbook guidelines and eBook prototype. ICEVI participated in a UNICEF three-day Experts’ Workshop at Gallaudet University Washington in September 2017, and provided input and support for UNICEF’s five-day training workshop in Nairobi in September 2018. The aim of the workshop was to provide training for staff of the Ministry of Education and the Kenya Institute of Curriculum who will be

responsible for piloting the Accessible Digital Textbook Guidelines. ICEVI Africa Vice-Chair, Martin Keiti, took part in the Kenya workshop and shared his knowledge and perspectives on the production of accessible digital formats.

ICEVI and WBU have also provided input into the work of the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team in developing guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. At the invitation of Gopal Mitra and Rosangela Berman Bieler of the UNICEF Disability Division in New York, ICEVI provided comment and feedback on the IASC guidelines' section that addresses education inclusion in emergencies. The content of this section is structured around the Minimum Standards that have been developed by the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE). ICEVI has also contributed to the 2018 review and update of the UNHCR Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action that have been published by the United National High Commission for Refugees.

The purpose of the review was to improve the standards and make them more inclusive for children with disabilities.

ICEVI has further contributed to the work of the UN agencies and global education community by compiling an extensive list of the policies on inclusion that have been approved by more than 60 countries. This document has been shared with the EXCO members of ICEVI, UNICEF officials, and posted on the ICEVI website. ICEVI will be preparing similar compendiums for teacher preparation, assistive devices, legal issues on disability, etc., in the future.

ICEVI will use every opportunity to advocate for disability-inclusive education, including equitable quality education for children and young people with visual impairment. ICEVI members include some of the world's leaders in the field of visual impairment who contribute their technical expertise in countries that are implementing inclusive education policies.



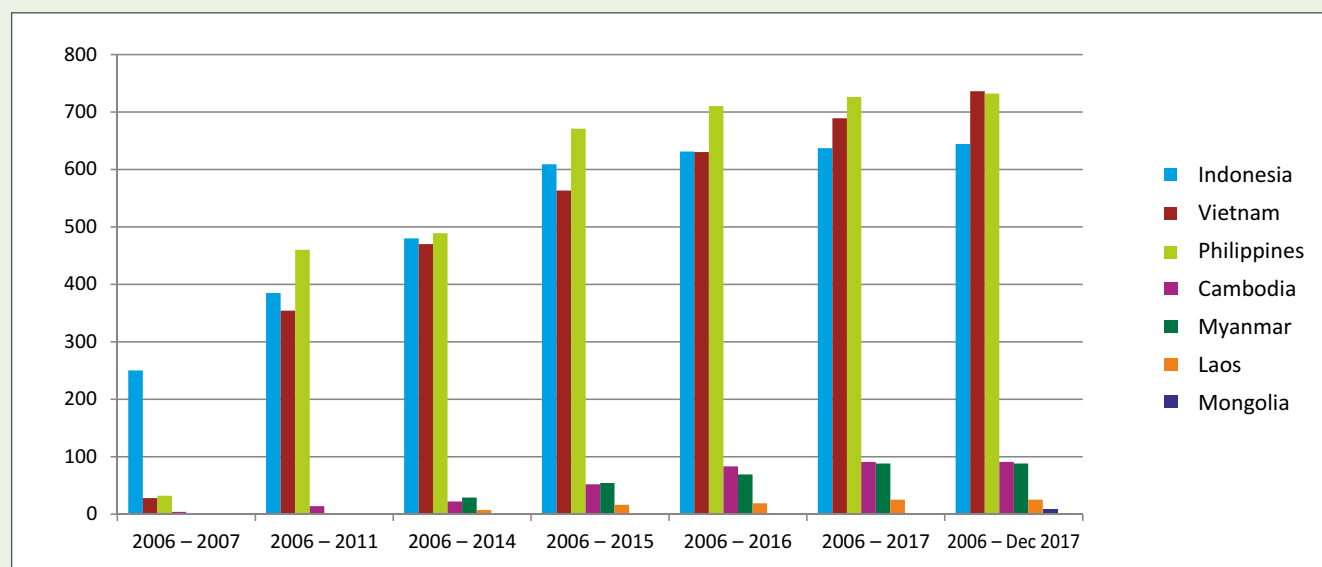
Higher education

The higher education program being implemented in Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Vietnam and Laos with the support of The Nippon Foundation, is one of the flagship activities of ICEVI. This program has made a profound impact in the field of higher education in the ASEAN region. The project is implemented with the objective of creating inclusive environments at the

higher education institutions and improving the technology skills of visually impaired students to cope up with their studies. The program, which was started in 2007 in Indonesia and is currently operating in the seven countries, has assisted more than 2300 students with visual impairment in pursuing higher education. The project has also facilitated employment for 239 graduates. The project data to the end of 2017 are as follows:

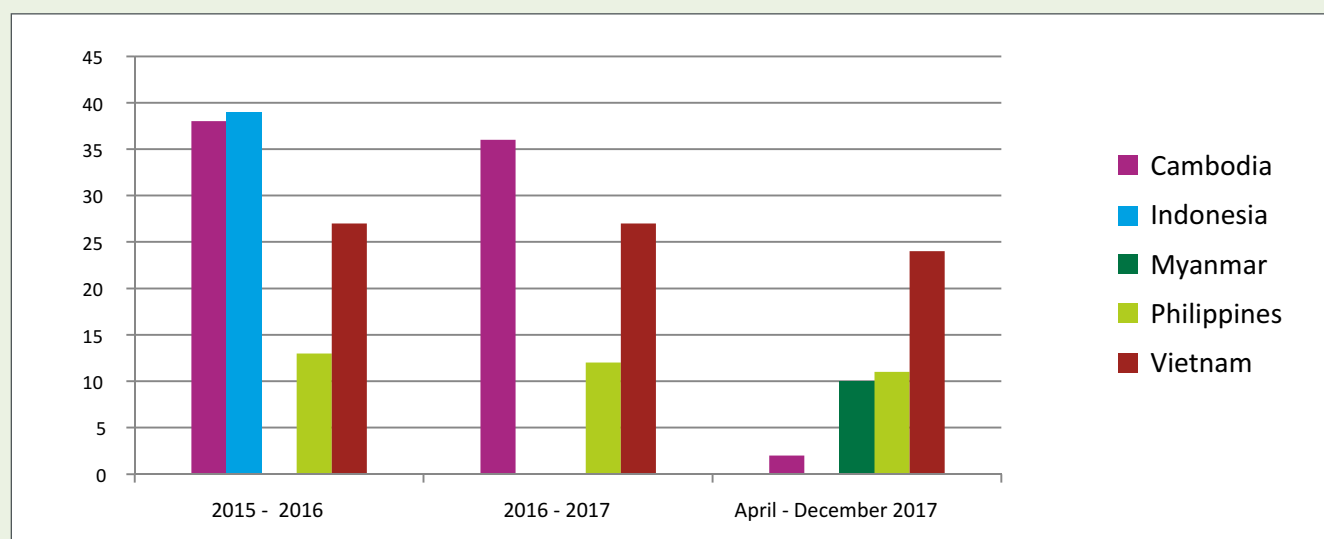
Enrolment

Country	2006-07	2006-11	2006-14	2006-15	2006-16	2006-17	2006-Dec 2017
Indonesia	250	385	480	609	631	637	644
Vietnam	28	354	470	563	630	689	736
Philippines	32	460	489	671	710	726	732
Cambodia	4	14	22	52	83	91	91
Myanmar	0	0	29	54	69	88	88
Laos	0	0	7	16	19	25	25
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Students enrolled	314	1213	1497	1965	2142	2256	2324



Employment

Country	2015-16	2016-17	April-December 2017	Total Since 2015
Cambodia	38	36	2	76
Indonesia	39	0	0	39
Myanmar	0	0	10	10
Philippines	13	12	11	36
Vietnam	27	27	24	78
TOTAL	117	75	47	239



ICEVI is pleased that the Zero Project Austria recognized the Higher Education project as one of the innovative practices in employment in 2016. ICEVI and the Overbrook School for the Blind are collaborating with The Nippon Foundation to release a publication that highlights the positive impact of The Nippon Foundation

on the lives of persons with visual impairment through their funding and support of the ICEVI Higher Education program and the Overbrook-Nippon Network on Education Technology (ON-NET) program. This publication is likely to be released in 2020.



Mathematics Project

One of the concerns of the partners implementing the Nippon Foundation-supported higher education program was that not many students graduating from the school system were successfully enrolling in higher education. One of the significant reasons identified was the limited teacher training in mathematics instruction for students with visual impairment. The resultant lack of confidence and skills of teachers was directly impacting on the students' access and achievement in mathematics in schools. ICEVI recognized this gap in teacher knowledge and developed a publication titled "Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual Impairment" in 2005-06. This publication is available on ICEVI website for free download. The Nippon Foundation came forward to support the mathematics project of ICEVI to develop video instructional materials to improve the expertise of teachers to teach mathematics effectively to visually impaired students. The CEO of ICEVI, Dr. M.N.G. Mani, is heading this initiative as his expertise is in the area of Mathematics.

The first set of concept videos have been developed by Dr. Mani and piloted in a workshop in South Africa involving teachers of mathematics, teacher educators, and teachers who are visually impaired. The participants worked through the concepts and instructions presented in each of the sample videos, and successfully understood methods of

teaching Mathematics. The project aims to develop about 150-200 instructional videos by the end of 2020 and the first set of videos (about 40-50) will be launched in early 2019.

Regional Development

The ICEVI Constitution clearly states that the members of ICEVI are essentially members of the region. Each of the seven ICEVI regions has a Regional President/Chair and Board, however, the organisations structure varies according to the unique attributes of each region. Some regions of ICEVI have sub-regional structures whereas other regions operate through national structures. Some regions work through multiple deputy regional chairpersons whereas other regions have country level representatives to strengthen local ICEVI activities.

One important strategy that is used to strengthen each the ICEVI regional network is through regional conferences. During the last 18 months, many of our regions have organised regional conferences. As these conferences require substantial resources and energy, ICEVI encourages the regions to conduct either an independent conference, if it is economically viable, or alternatively, conduct ICEVI-focused sessions or promotion activities in conjunction with other planned conferences by organisations that are similar to ICEVI.

The following regional conferences were held during the reporting period:

- In **Africa**, an ICEVI regional conference is being planned in conjunction with the Africa Forum in late 2019. ICEVI is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Africa Forum and we shall use this opportunity to bring as many delegates as possible from across the Africa region to discuss ICEVI activities.
- The **East Asia** Regional Conference will be held in October 2018 in conjunction with meetings of ICEVI Executive Committee. The conference will include a one day 'Philippines Education Forum' and about 250 to 300 delegates are expected to be in attendance.
- The **Europe region** organised its regional conference in Bruges, Belgium in July 2017, which was attended by about 280 participants. It was a well-structured conference with focused day presentations.
- In **Latin America**, the ICEVI regional conferences are conducted in conjunction with the Latin America Blind Union (ULAC) regional assemblies and we hope to have a regional meeting in 2020. In November 2018, the Regional Board of ICEVI Latin America region will be meeting in Madrid at the invitation of ONCE, in conjunction with attendance at a conference on higher education.
- In the **Northern America and Caribbean region**, the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)

International Conference was used by the ICEVI regional chair to discuss regional issues. This was an effective approach as many members involved with AER are also associated with ICEVI.

- In the **Pacific region**, ICEVI works in collaboration with the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI), with SPEVI conferences used as an opportunity to bring together Pacific Islanders working in the field of education for children with vision impairment. For the first time, there is a proposal to conduct a joint SPEVI-ICEVI conference in Fiji, and there is a possibility to organise ICEVI Education Forum in conjunction with this event.
- The **West Asia region** conducted its National Conference in collaboration with Sense India, in Ahmedabad, India, with participants invited from other countries and regions. Over 400 participants, including 40 international delegates were in attendance. The ICEVI West Asia region also organised a sub-regional conference in Bhubaneswar, Odisha that attracted nearly 300 participants.

In summary, all regions of ICEVI are strengthening their regional networks and activities, and the regional conferences provide an effective mechanism for information sharing and discussion of topics and issues that are specific to the region. ICEVI will continue to promote its regional conferences in the years to come.

The classification of ICEVI publications

ICEVI is recognised by the disability sector for its substantive contribution to the development of literature. There are two types of literature that ICEVI has contributed in the past; firstly, through the publication of ICEVI conference papers and articles, and secondly, through articles published in *The Educator*, ICEVI's official journal.

Since 2010, ICEVI has been focusing on thematic issues of *The Educator*, whereby one topic is selected and contributions are invited from authors. To date, ICEVI has compiled about 400 to 500 such articles and papers from its global and regional conferences and *The Educator*. At the request of the ICEVI Executive Committee, the articles and papers have been thematically classified by the ICEVI Secretariat under ten topics that include inclusion, teacher preparation, technology, low vision, MDVI, human resource development and employment. These publications are now available on the ICEVI website for easy access.

Mapping of Services

ICEVI is in the process of mapping the various activities carried out by our international partner members of ICEVI in different parts of the world. We have selected the 16 focus areas of Advocacy, Human Resources Development, Low Vision, MDVI, Inclusive Education,

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), Assistive Devices, Prevention, Early Intervention, Technology, Braille Book Production, Vocational Education, Parents' Networking, Sports, Self-Help Groups and 'Other'. Nearly 50% of the mapping exercise has been completed, and final completion is expected in early 2019. The data will be shared with our international partner members and will facilitate greater synergy between member activities at country level. In addition, the ICEVI regional boards have been asked to include our international partner members who are working in specific regions.

The ICEVI members' database, together with representation on the regional boards, will enable greater information sharing and synergy between our international partner members that are working in particular countries and addressing specific areas of education for persons with visual impairment. The ICEVI Secretariat will be updating this information on a regular basis.

Updating ICEVI website

On the basis of the recommendation of the EXCO that the ICEVI website should be used as an effective tool for dissemination of information, the website www.icevi.org has been upgraded. ICEVI is giving a lot of importance to the accessibility rather than the visual structure of the website. A search engine option has been added which enables easier location of specific content. The website includes the renewed

mission, values and goals formulated at the 2017 Strategy Review meeting, together with a Links Page containing useful resources and services for persons with visual impairment worldwide. Going forward, ICEVI wants to use the website as an interactive tool for exchange of professional information pertaining to services for persons with visual impairment.

Finalizing Country Assessment tools

During the first decade of the EFA-VI campaign, ICEVI developed a number of assessment tools for gathering information about the impact of the EFA-VI campaign on educational services in the focus countries across ICEVI's seven regions. The ICEVI Executive Committee has recommended reviewing the various assessment tools with the aim of

developing a single tool for gathering and documenting national-level progress in the area of education of children with visual impairment. One of the ideas discussed within ICEVI is to support the preparation of shadow reports by civil society stakeholders that may be submitted to the government, and would include such information as general prevalence data for particular disabilities, types of services available and types of services that have to be initiated, together with other information gathered through the revised country assessment tool. ICEVI may not be directly involved in the preparation of shadow reports, but will be able to provide technical support or assistance to those organisations which are involved in preparing the shadow reports. An ICEVI committee has been formed to create a single country assessment tool and this task will be completed in early 2019.

Key Meetings attended by ICEVI Officers

ICEVI Officers have been attending key meetings at the global and regional levels. Following are some of the key policy making meetings where ICEVI has made professional contributions:

- ▲ The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) hosted a two-day meeting on 22nd and 23rd February 2017 in London involving the international NGOs and Northern Education Coalitions on the theme of “Strengthening the education movement and joint planning for 2017”. Dr. Frances Gentle and Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely represented ICEVI at the meeting.
- ▲ Frances Gentle, President ICEVI was invited by Inclusive Education South Africa (IESA) to host two workshops in Cape Town on the theme of “Including children with vision impairment in pre-school and school settings” on 18th

and 19th February 2017. The workshops focussed on inclusive approaches to modifying the curriculum, teaching pedagogy and learning environments for children and young people with vision impairment.

- ⤴ ICEVI supported the conduct of the 5th National Parents' Congress of PAVIC, the association of parents of persons with visual impairment in the Philippines in May 2017. Dr. Frances Gentle, President, ICEVI took part in this conference.
 - ⤴ UNESCO New Delhi organized a meeting of the Inter-agency Working Group at Gandhinagar in India on 18th May, 2017. ICEVI was represented at the meeting by Dr Bhushan Punani, the West Asia Regional Chair and Nandini Rawal, the ICEVI Treasurer.
 - ⤴ The East Asia regional chairperson, Aria Indrawati, attended the meeting of ICEVI-The Nippon Foundation Higher Education coordinators meeting held in Kuching Malaysia on 2nd and 3rd August, 2017.
 - ⤴ UNESCO, Delhi organized the National Consultation meeting of Promoting the Right to Quality Education for Children with Disabilities in New Delhi on 23rd August, 2017. Dr Bhushan Punani represented ICEVI West Asia at this meeting.
 - ⤴ Cristina Sanz, the Regional Chair of ICEVI Latin America, attended the meeting of Women organized by the
- Argentinean Federation of Organizations of the Blind (FAICA in Spanish) in September 2017, and delivered a lecture on the topic "Women and Disability."
 - ⤴ Cristina Sanz attended a Course on Disability at a University in Uruguay in October 2017 and coordinated a panel discussion. The course was organized by FOAL and AECID.
 - ⤴ Cristina Sanz attended a Regional meeting in November 2017 about public access to ICTs for users with disabilities in Ecuador. The meeting was attended by representatives of UNESCO and the Pan-American Health Organization (*OPS in Spanish*).
 - ⤴ Cristina Sanz also attended the 43rd meeting of FOAL's Partners in Spain during December 2017 and attended meetings for the follow up of the Memorandum of Understanding between FOAL and ICEVI Latin America.
 - ⤴ Dr. Kay Ferrell, Chair of the North America and Caribbean region, attended a meeting at UNICEF, New York, together with the ICEVI President and CEO in November 2017 to discuss the possibilities of collaborative activities between ICEVI and the UNICEF.
 - ⤴ Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely, 1st Vice-President ICEVI attended a meeting of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) in London on 12-14 March 2018.

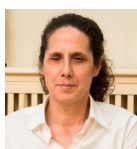
She represented both ICEVI and the World Blind Union at this meeting and highlighted joint initiatives.

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

co-hosted by the UK government, the International Disability Alliance and the Government of Kenya, and was attended by 700 leaders from organisations of persons with disabilities, governments, donor agencies and technology companies.

- ▲ ICEVI President, Frances Gentle and CEO, Dr Mani, attended meetings of ICEVI's Vision Alliance partners, the World Blind Union (WBU) and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). This included the WBU Executive Committee meeting in Ottawa Canada in May 2018 and the IAPB Council of Members meeting in Hyderabad in India in September 2018. The meetings offered opportunities for information sharing between the leaders of the three organisations and identification of areas for global collaboration in the field of vision impairment.

Congratulations Ana and Getty



Ana Peláez Narváez, a member of the ICEVI EXCO representing the ONCE, Spain has been elected to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. ICEVI congratulates Ana and with this election, she will be a strong voice for ensuring the rights of women and girls with disabilities.



Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, our Regional Chair of the ICEVI Africa region has been elected to the CRPD Committee of the United Nations and we congratulate Getty for this coveted position.

The election of Ana and Getty to these important UN committees will give voice to the rights of persons with visual impairment and the opportunity to influence policies supporting disability-inclusive educational services.

The Orbit Reader 20 – collaboration and innovation

ICEVI extends its congratulations to Kevin Carey and our international partner members who have contributed to the development of the Orbit Reader 20, a low-cost braille notetaker with a refreshable braille display and stand-alone functionality for reading, writing and file management.

The project evolved from Kevin Carey's commitment in 2012 to find a way to reduce the cost of braille computers by 90% so that people, particularly children, in poorer countries could learn alongside their sighted peers. Kevin established the Transforming Braille Group (TBG), consisting of ten blindness organisations world-wide, who contributed the human and financial resources needed to design and produce the Orbit Reader. The TBG organisations included ICEVI partner members, the American Printing House for



the Blind, the Norwegian Association for the Blind and Partially sighted, Perkins School for the Blind, the Royal National Institute of Blind Persons, and Sightsavers.

The first Orbit 20 came off the production line in 2017 and a prototype was couriered to South Africa in time for the ICEVI EXCO meeting and Education Forum. In 2018, Kevin Carey presented the Orbit Reader 20 to the Government of Kenya, with presentations planned for Tanzania and Malawi.

Update on the ICEVI – WBU General Assembly

We are delighted to announce that the third WBU-ICEVI General Assembly will be conducted in Madrid in 2020, and ONCE, a key member of WBU and ICEVI, will be the Host Organisation. The venue selection underwent a scientific process, and included site visits by ICEVI and WBU officers to venues in Madrid and Istanbul from where the bid documents were received. The evaluation of the venues was conducted in

terms of affordability, accessibility and security, and a decision was made by both organisations that Madrid should be the venue for the 2020 General Assembly. This resolution was passed at the Executive Committee meeting of WBU in May 2018, which was attended by the President and CEO of ICEVI. Future updates on the General Assembly will be posted on the ICEVI website.

In summary, this report provides a clear perspective of what has happened in ICEVI during the 18 month period since the strategy review meeting held in Pretoria, South Africa in February 2017. ICEVI takes this opportunity to thank all members, partners and stakeholders who have contributed to ICEVI priority activities at all levels of the organization.

We thank all the regional boards of ICEVI who are our frontline implementers of the ICEVI mission and goals, and we sincerely recognise the great contribution of our international partner members. The extensive achievements detailed in this report would not have been possible without their support. ICEVI is also grateful to our key supporter The Nippon Foundation for assisting with the specific projects in the East Asia region which are having a significant impact in the lives of persons with visual impairment.

We hope to maintain the current momentum and continue to ensure that future activities of ICEVI are vibrant and meaningful for the children and adults with visual impairment worldwide that we serve.



ICEVI Audited Accounts of 2016

Summary

The audited accounts of 2016 were submitted to the Companies House before the end of September 2017. Our Auditors who are based in the UK – Lubbock Fine are handling the audit process since 2006 and they are satisfied with the accounting system of ICEVI.

OPINION OF THE AUDITORS ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2016 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Executive Committee Members' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with those financial statements and this report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements. In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified materials misstatements in the Executive Committee Members' Report. The summary of the audited accounts is as follows:

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
INCOME	3	651,766	701,349
Administrative expenses		(675,301)	(608,095)
		-----	-----
OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT		(23,535)	93,254
Interest receivable and similar income		2	3,225
		-----	-----
(LOSS)/PROFIT BEFORE TAX		(23,533)	96,479
		-----	-----
(LOSS)/PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		(23,533)	96,479
		-----	-----

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand	5	450,426	443,300
		-----	-----
		450,426	443,300
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	6	(38,453)	(7,795)
		-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS		411,973	435,505
		-----	-----
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		411,973	435,505
		-----	-----
NET ASSETS		411,973	435,505
		-----	-----
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Income and Expenditure Account		411,973	435,505
		-----	-----
		411,973	435,505
		-----	-----

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A – small entities.

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Executive Committee Members and were signed on its behalf by:

Lord Low of Dalston, CBE
Company Secretary

Nandini Rawal
Treasurer

Company Registration Number: 04521195

INCOME

Name of Organisation	Designated Funds	Undesignated Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2016	2016	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Subscriptions				
ACAPA Association	-	-	-	500
American Foundation for the Blind	-	-	-	750
Caribbean Council for the Blind	-	-	-	100
Blind South Africa	-	730	730	-
CBM International	-	19,954	19,954	20,000
High Wycombe Corn Market	-	92	92	-
Koninklijke Visio (Royal Dutch Visio)	-	20,010	20,010	20,010
Les Doigts qui revent	-	273	273	212
Light for the World	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Lions Club International	-	1,500	1,500	737
Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted	-	19,970	19,970	19,970
ONCE	-	19,954	19,954	20,000
Opetusallitus	-	-	-	100
Overbrook School for the Blind	-	1,500	1,500	750
Panhellenic Association	-	-	-	100
Perkins School for the Blind	-	19,995	19,995	19,995
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children	-	-	-	737
Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities	-	200	200	100
Royal National Institute of Blind People	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sightsavers)	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Senses Australia	-	150	150	-
The Society of Blind & Dyslexic in Israel	-	-	-	500
Vancouver School	-	150	150	-
Stichting Tot Verbetering Van Het	-	-	-	20,000
Stichting Tot Verbetering Van Het (EFA-VI Africa Project)	-	-	-	20,000
Subscription Total	-	164,478	164,478	204,561

Name of Organisation	Designated Funds	Undesignated Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2016	2016	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Donations				
CBM International	-	73,975	73,975	107,735
Light for the World (EFA-VI Africa Project)	-	-	-	13,116
Light for the World	-	2,425	2,425	-
National Centre for the Blind	-	4,992	4,992	-
Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sightsavers)	-	49,997	49,997	58,111
Perkins School for the Blind	-	4,995	4,995	-
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children	-	25,000	25,000	-
Koninklijke Visio (Royal Dutch Visio)	-	-	-	13,566
Stichting Tot Verbetering Van Het	-	-	-	1,734
Others	-	1,354	1,354	5,526
The Nippon Foundation	324,550	-	324,550	297,000
Total	324,550	162,738	487,288	496,788

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Item of Expenses	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Project Expenses	392,892	406,844
Hotels, Travel and Subsistence	60,812	43,115
Legal and Professional	22,673	2,489
Auditors' remuneration	6,293	8,231
Bank Charges	5,373	4,924
President's Office Expenses	143	1,425
Secretary General's Office Expenses	144,501	121,728
Meeting Expenses	21,661	-
Difference on Foreign Exchange	20,160	11,607
Sundry Expenses	793	7,732
Total	675,301	608,095

ICEVI Audited Accounts of 2017

Summary

The audited accounts of 2017 were submitted to the Companies House before the end of September 2018. Our Auditors who are based in the UK – Lubbock Fine are handling the audit process since 2006 and they are satisfied with the accounting system of ICEVI.

OPINION OF THE AUDITORS ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Executive Committee Members' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and the Executive Committee Members' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

The summary of the audited accounts is as follows:

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
INCOME	3	476,393	651,766
Administrative expenses		(523,778)	(675,301)
		-----	-----
OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT		(47,385)	(23,535)
Interest receivable and similar income		3	2
		-----	-----
(LOSS)/PROFIT BEFORE TAX		(47,382)	(23,533)
		-----	-----
(LOSS)/PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		(47,382)	(23,533)
		-----	-----

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand	5	714,473	450,426
		-----	-----
		714,473	450,426
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	6	(349,882)	(38,453)
		-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS		364,591	411,973
		-----	-----
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		364,591	411,973
		-----	-----
NET ASSETS		364,591	411,973
		-----	-----
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Income and Expenditure Account		364,591	411,973
		-----	-----
		364,591	411,973
		-----	-----

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A – small entities.

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Executive Committee Members and were signed on its behalf by:

Lord Low of Dalston, CBE
Company Secretary

Nandini Rawal
Treasurer

Company Registration Number: 04521195

INCOME

Name of Organisation	Designated Funds	Undesignated Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2017	2017	2017	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Subscriptions				
Blind South Africa	-	-	-	730
CBM International	-	20,000	20,000	19,954
High Wycombe Corn Market	-	-	-	92
Koninklijke Visio (Royal Dutch Visio)	-	-	-	20,010
Les Doights qui revent	-	179	179	273
Light for the World	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Lions Club International	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted	-	19,970	19,970	19,970
ONCE	-	19,954	19,954	19,954
Overbrook School for the Blind	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
Perkins School for the Blind	-	19,995	19,995	19,995
Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities	-	200	200	200
Royal National Institute of the Blind People	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sightsavers)	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Senses Australia	-	-	-	150
Vancouver School	-	-	-	150
Other Subscriptions	-	2,585	2,585	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Subscription Total	-	145,883	145,883	164,478
	-----	-----	-----	-----

Name of Organisation	Designated Funds 2017 \$	Undesignated Funds 2017 \$	Total Funds 2017 \$	Total Funds 2016 \$
Donations				
CBM International	50,559	-	50,559	73,975
National Centre for the Blind	-	-	-	6,346
Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sightsavers)	-	-	-	49,997
Other Donations	-	-	-	2,425
The Nippon Foundation	251,100	-	251,100	324,550
Perkins School for the Blind	-	-	-	4,995
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
Others	-	3,851	3,851	-
Total	301,659	28,851	330,510	487,288

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Item of Expenses	2017 \$	2016 \$
Project Expenses	334,185	392,892
Hotels, travel and Subsistence	21,796	60,812
Legal and Professional		22,673
Auditors' remuneration	8,137	6,293
Bank Charges	6,230	5,373
President's Office Expenses	9,281	143
Secretary General's Office Expenses	141,979	144,501
Meeting Expenses	1,720	21,661
Difference on Foreign Exchange	73	20,160
Sundry Expenses	377	793
Total	523,778	675,301

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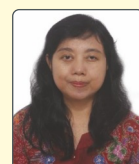


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