International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

ICEVI - Nippon Foundation Higher Education Project

A Snapshot (2007-15)







ICEVI is grateful to the Nippon Foundation for their support and partnership in expanding educational access and full inclusion of blind and low vision persons in the East Asia Region

Higher Education Project - A Snapshot

2007 - 2015

A Prelude

In the year 2006 ICEVI undertook a study on the status of higher education of persons with visual impairment in the Asia region and the data revealed the following key facts:

- Percentage of children with visual impairment enrolled in higher education was less than 3% of the number who enrolled at the primary level.
- As not more than 10% of children with visual impairment had access to any type of education in the region, the percentage of children entering into higher education when compared with the total population of persons with visual impairment was not even 0.5%.
- Most of these individuals were not able to avail higher education because of financial and other barriers.

The study revealed that the following factors contribute to the creation of conducive learning environment for students with visual impairment in higher education:

- Openness of the institutes of higher education to the admission of students with visual impairment
- Classroom based support services to facilitate effective learning
- Proactive legislative measures pertaining to inclusive higher education
- Availability of accessible learning materials
- Availability and training in the use of technology for learning
- Choices of courses for students with visual impairment
- Pre-employment skills training



Pilot Study

ICEVI presented the results of this Needs Assessment study to The Nippon Foundation, which approved a pilot project in 2006 to study the efficacy of interventions in selected higher education institutions in Indonesia. An interim evaluation of the project was carried out in February 2007 to suggest mid-year course corrections and the following major observations were made:

- Most of the beneficiaries demonstrated good skills in using access technology including the Open Book software to access information.
- The students appeared to becoming more independent, sociable and self-confident as a result of their use of the technology.
- Parents were also happy that their children were becoming independent despite their visual impairment
- The general attitude of the teachers and sighted students towards the abilities of persons with visual impairment appeared to becoming more positive and supportive.
- The stress level around the examination period seemed to be reduced among the visually impaired learners as they were able to use technology to keep pace with their classmates.

Expansion to other countries

Based on the positive outcomes of the pilot project, the project was extended to the Philippines and Vietnam in 2008, Cambodia in 2010, Myanmar in 2013 and Laos in 2014 with the following common objectives based on the experiences of the programme implemented in Indonesia.

1. Equal access to all learning materials and all areas of academic pursuit,
2. Enhanced awareness on the needs and capabilities of visually impaired students,
3. Improved university and other public policies concerning equal access as defined in Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD),
4. Increased access to appropriate employment through the establishment of effective linkages between visually impaired students enrolled in higher education and
5. Internship opportunities and special programs for placement centers and employers.

Brief profiles of Partner Institutions

Krousar Thmey, Cambodia

Created in the refugee camps at the border with Thailand in 1991, Krousar Thmey ("New Family" in Khmer) is the first Cambodian foundation supporting underprivileged children. It is a non-political and non-religious organisation. Since its creation, Krousar Thmey, aims at enable the integration of underprivileged and disabled children through education and appropriate support in accordance with their traditions and beliefs.

Website : **www.krousar-thmey.org**

Pertuni (Indonesian Blind Association) Indonesia

Pertuni is a national blind member based organization in Indonesia and it has its chapters in 33 provinces and branches in 210 cities/districts throughout Indonesia. The Pertuni plays an important role in lobbying for the rights of persons with visual impairment. For the period of 2015-2019, Pertuni elected Mrs. Aria Indrawati, as its first female president.

Website : **http://pertuni.idp-europe.org**

Myanmar National Association of the Blind (MNAB), Myanmar

The Myanmar National Association of the Blind (MNAB) was formed in 1996 by over 100 visually impaired persons. In 2013, it became a legislative organization with the recognition by the Government. International bodies including ICEVI, Overbrook School for the Blind, The Nippon Foundation and the Danish Association of the Blind are supporting various activities of the MNAB.

Website : **www.mnab-myanmar.org**

Resources for the Blind, Inc., Philippines

RBI was started in the Philippines in 1988 with a goal to develop and implement programs that will remove the hindrances, and to provide services, training, materials, and equipment needed in order for those who have visual impairment to reach their fullest potential in life. The main office is in Cubao, Quezon City, with two regional offices in Cebu City and Davao City, which serve the central and southern Philippines, respectively.

Website : **www.blind.org.ph**

Sao Mai Vocational & Assistive Technology Center for the Blind, Vietnam

Sao Mai Vocational & Assistive Technology Centre for the Blind was established in 2001 with the main goal of promoting the usage of assistive technology in education and employment of persons with visual impairment. The Centre has also offered consultancy to other organisations in assistive technology.

Website : **www.saomaicenter.org**

Lao Association of the Blind, Lao PDR

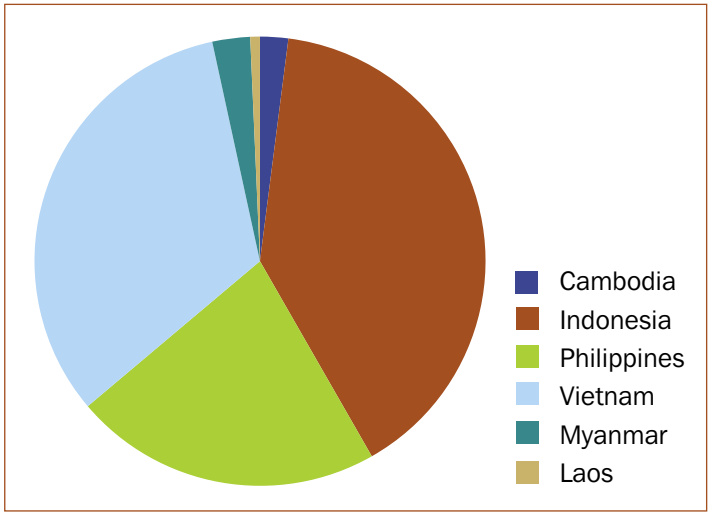
In 2004 the Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NABP) initiated the establishment of the Lao Association of the Blind (LAB). At present, LAB has 4 provincial chapters in Savannakhet, Luangprabang and Xiengkhouang and Champassak and has nearly 1,000 members residing in Vientiane and provinces.

Website : **www.lablao.org**

Beneficiaries

Till 2013-14 academic year, 1436 students had been benefitted by the Higher Education programme and the number is steadily growing. The country wise data are provided in the table below:

S. No.	Country	Students Supported
1	Cambodia	29
2	Indonesia	570
3	Philippines	318
4	Myanmar	39
5	Vietnam	470
6	Lao PDR	10
Total		**1436**



Training Activities

The project partners organised various training programmes since the inception of the project to enrich the educational experiences of students with visual impairment. The details of training activities conducted since 2007 are as follows:

ICT for Students	12
Skill training (including soft skills) for Students	31
Awareness Programmes for administrators and teachers	42
Training related to management of inclusive classrooms	29
College / University Preparation training for Students	09

123
TOTAL



Some Highlights

- The Government of Indonesia has issued a Decree on Higher Education facilitating all Universities to become inclusive for persons with disabilities and our partner Pertuni (Indonesian Association of the Blind) played a key role in this landmark initiative.

- The Prime Minister of Cambodia took keen interest in the project and attended an exhibition and presentation about special education at KohPich Exhibition Hall on the occasion of International Day for the Disabled. He also had personal interaction with higher education students.



- The MNAB has developed a Text To Speech (TTS) Engine for Burmese language and successfully completed the first stage in developing voice making diphone system. It has also signed a Non - Disclosure agreement with Google in the development of the TTS and its wide ranging applications.

- The STEM Training (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) promoted by the Project partner in the Philippines is receiving special attention in other countries in the region.

- Sao Mai Center has completed the transferring of 1720 book titles and handouts to new server to upgrade online system with the aim to better serve the users and interact effectively with other partners to share information.

- A website named http://www.sinhvienkhiemthi.org (in Vietnamese) has been created to serve as a portal for blind students, volunteers, related organizations and university faculties to get information, sharing common interests, implementing volunteer projects for the blind students, who can post their support requests and also download materials.

- Indonesian Association of University Blind Students (Amasti) was established.

- A channel named “Audio book for the Blind” has been created to get blind people connected with and get them updated with new published books and computer tutorials. https://www.youtube.com/user/AudioBooksForBlind

From the Project Sites



SENG Vandy (Cambodia)

SENG Vandy, completed high school successfully and started to pursue higher education at Angkor University (in Siem Reap province) with Business Administration as his major. Besides, he also studied English course at Pannasastra University of Cambodia. "I am happy and would like to thank Krousar Thmey and donors for helping me to have opportunity to study as other people", said Vandy.



Dendi Arifianto (Indonesia)

Dendi Arifianto, called “Dendi” is currently studying in Brawijaya University in Malang, East Java, majoring in “law”. Dendi has learnt the use of talking computer to enhance his learning experience. He was one of the participants of the orientation meeting held in October 2014 and he was very glad having the opportunity to meet and discuss with other university blind students who came from other parts of the country.



Dinh Viet Anh (Vietnam)

Viet Anh successfully defended her master thesis majored in administrative management at National Academy of Public Administration (2014). Her proficiency in both English and Japanese has brought her chances to participate in a lot of international special courses and conferences for the disabled. Her success both at work and in family life has made her a fine example to not only the disabled but also to every woman.



Khamphone Konasing (Lao PDR)

Lao Association of the Blind assigned me to conduct an IT training course for 2 blind and partially sighted students who are ready for the first academic year (2015-2016) at the National University. These 2 students have never had IT skills before, hence the IT training provided is at the primary level. The trainees need to practice typing a lot of English texts because they chose to study English language as the main subject at the university.

Christoper N. Planas, 1st Year B.S. Computer Science, STI, Cubao (Philippines)

As a visually impaired student, I am so thankful to ICEVI and the Resources for the Blind (RBI) because they assisted me to use gadgets like netbook. I was able to save my teachers' lessons and review them independently anytime through netbooks. I also had opportunities to use the internet for my research and assignments and the netbook served as my personal electronic notebook. I pray and hope that the higher education program will expand so that the college life of the visually impaired students would become easier and accessible.

Way forward

Over the past project years a solid base has been established that has addressed such identified needs as: providing training and assistive technology that allows the blind students access to course materials in a much more timely manner; increasing production of course materials in accessible formats and peer counselling and special short courses to prepare blind students for their entry into the university. This work has resulted in dramatic increases in access to university education by qualified blind students ranging from a low of 154% in Indonesia to a high of nearly 600% in the Philippines as well as an expansion in the number of universities that are enrolling qualified blind persons.

While these results are gratifying, all involved with this initiative are aware of the many remaining challenges that will be addressed by the next phase of this project between 2015 and 2018. Specifically these are:

1. Expansion to underserved geographic regions in the existing four countries and to one or two additional countries in the region;
2. Expanding access to allow blind students to study in any academic area for which they are qualified; with special attention to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics);
3. Developing linkages that result in a more effective transition of blind students from higher education to gainful employment.
4. Achieving sustainable change by impacting public attitudes and public policies concerning higher education for all persons with disabilities.



Soft skills training for employment

As a part of the project cycle 2015-18, the project partners have started preparing students with visual impairment in soft skills too besides equipping them in using technology. The following curriculum, which has been developed by the project team will feature in the training activities in all the six countries where the project is implemented.

- Communication skills – spoken and written skills
- Resume preparation skills
- Interview facing techniques
- Career planning skills
- Coping with disability conditions
- Goal setting
- Decision making
- Coping with situation when jobs obtained do not commensurate with the qualifications
- Learning to optimise productivity in work
- Learning to work together
- Understanding the potential in self
- Coping with external criticism
- Peer group interaction
- Initiative to become unique
- IT skills
- Self-esteem
- Diplomacy skills
- Work ethics
- Knowledge of legislations on employment
- Developing proper gestures
- Coping with work environment
- Personal grooming
- Dealing with superiors
- Dealing with subordinates
- Coping with challenges in mobility and transportation
- Professional enrichment goals

Key regional network

ICEVI is collaborating with following organisations in the East Asia region:

IDPP	:	Serves on the advisory board and takes part in multistake holders meeting to promote public policy activities.
SEAMEO-SEN	:	Signed MoU for offering capacity building training and been a partner of the First International Conference on Special Education conducted by SEAMEO-SEN.
WBU Asia Pacific	:	involved in capacity building activities.
UNESCO	:	involved in policy formulating activities.
UNICEF	:	involved in policy formulation activities.

Partner Institutions

The students with visual impairment supported by the project are studying in more than 200 higher education institutions and we thank them for creating an inclusive learning environment for visually impaired students. The country-wise lists of higher education partner institutions are as follows:

Cambodia

1 Asia Europe University
2 Angkor University
3 Build Bright University
4 Battambang school for blind or deaf of Krousar Thmey
5 Chea Sim Kamchaymea university
6 Institute of Foreign Language
7 Institute of New Khmer
8 Kampong Thom Krong high school
9 Khemara University
10 Puthi Kak university
11 Provincial Pedagogy of Kampong Cham Province
12 Phnom Penh Thmey school for blind or deaf of Krousar Thmey
13 Pannasastra University of Cambodia
14 Royal school of Administrative
15 Royal University of Fine Arts
16 Royal University of Law and Economics
17 Royal University of Phnom Penh
18 University of Battambang

Indonesia

1 Admajaya University – Jakarta
2 Airlangga University – Surabaya
3 Bandar Lampung University
4 Bandung Islamic University
5 Bandung State Islamic University
6 Brawijaya University – Malang – East Java
7 Dian Nuswantoro University
8 Diponegoro University
9 Education Institute – Jember - East Java
10 Gajahmada University – Jogjakarta
11 Indraprasta University
12 Institute of Social Welfare – North Sulawesi
13 Institute of Cristian of Jogjakarta
14 Institute of Cristian Religion
15 Institute of Education – Cimahi – West Java
16 Institute of Hindu Dharma – Denpasar - Bali
17 Institute of Islam – Banyuwangi – East Java
18 Institute of Islamic Religion – Martapura – South Kalimantan
19 Institute of Social Welfare – Bandung
20 Institute of Social Welfare – Manado
21 Institute of Social Welfare – North Sulawesi
22 Islamic Institute – Banyuwangi – East Java
23 Islamic Institute – Cimahi – west Java
24 Jakarta Islamic University
25 Jakarta Muhamadiyah University
26 Jakarta State Islamic university
27 Jakarta State University
28 Jogjakarta State Islamic University
29 Lambung Mangkurat University – South Kalimantan
30 Langlang Buana University – Bandung
31 Makasar Muhamadiyah University – South Sulawesi
32 Makasar Muslim University
33 Makasar State University
34 Malang State University – East Java
35 Manado State university
36 Muhamadiyah University of Jakarta
37 Mulawarman University – East kalimantan
38 Nusantara Islamic University – Bandung
39 Nusantara University – Bandung
40 Padang State Islamic Institute
41 Padang State University – West Sumatra
42 Samratulangi University – Manado – North Sulawesi
43 Surabaya State University
44 Surakarta State Islamic University
45 Syahkuala University – Banda Aceh
46 Tomohan Christian University – North Sulawesi
47 UIN Sunan Kalijaga – Yogyakarta
48 University of Education – UPI
49 University of East Indonesia
50 University of Education
51 University of Education – UPI – Bandung
52 University of Education of Indonesia Bandung
53 University of Indonesia
54 University of North Sumatra
55 University of Prima Indonesia
56 Widya Mandala University – Surabaya

Philippines

1 AMA Business Education International Business College
2 AMA Computer College-Cubao
3 AMA Computer Learning Center-Paco
4 AMA University-QC
5 Bible School in Naga
6 Brokenshire College of Gensan
7 Brokenshire College Socsargen Inc.
8 Bulacan State University
9 Cagayan Valley College of Information and Technology
10 Calos Mission Arts College-Baguio City
11 Cavite State University
12 Cebu Normal University
13 Central Philippine State University
14 Central Philippine University-Jaro Iloilo City
15 Colegio de Dagupan
16 College of Maasin
17 College of St. Benilde-Manila
18 Columban College-Olongapo City
19 Computer Communication Development Institute
20 Consolacion Community College
21 Data Center
22 De Lasal University-Bacolod City
23 Deaf Ministries Inc.
24 Don Mariano Marcos State University-La Union
25 General Santos SPED Integrated School
26 Holy Child Academy-Butuan City
27 Holy Cross of Davao
28 Holy Trinity College
29 ICCT College-Cainta
30 Informatics-QC
31 Isabela State University
32 Lapasan Bible College-Cagayan de Oro City
33 Lyceum
34 Mabini College
35 Macrohon SPED Maasin City College
36 Malaybalay
37 Mandaue City College
38 Manila Central University
39 Meuycauyan Bulacan
40 Negros Oriental State University
41 North Negros Baptist Bible College
42 Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela
43 Philippine Central College of Arts and Science and Technology
44 Philippine Christian University-Manila
45 Philippine Normal University-Cadiz
46 Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Manila
47 PUP Distance Education
48 San Francisco College
49 San Pedro College
50 Skill Power Institute-Antipolo
51 Soliman University, Dumaguete City
52 South East Asian Institute of Technology
53 Southern Mindanao University
54 Southern Tech College
55 St. Anthony's College
56 St. Claire College of Caloocan
57 St. Louis University-Baguio
58 St. Mary's College-Tagum
59 St. Michael College of CARAGA
60 St. Paul University-Manila
61 St. Paul's College
62 STI-Baguio
63 STI-Balagtas
64 STI-Cainta
65 STI-Caloocan
66 STI-Cubao
67 STI-Dagupan
68 STI-Fairview
69 STI-Ilocos Norte
70 STI-Munoz
71 STI-Naga
72 STI-Novaliches
73 STI-Recto
74 STI-Tanauan
75 Surigao City Trade School
76 Trinity University of Asia
77 University of Baguio
78 University of Cebu
79 University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos
80 University of Nueva Caceres-Naga City
81 University of Rizal System-Cainta
82 University of South Eastern Mindanao
83 University of St. Louis-Tuguegarao
84 University of the Assumption
85 UP-Diliman
86 Wesleyan Bible College-Rosales
87 Western Mindanao State University
88 Western Visayas State University
89 Xavier University

Vietnam

1 Chu Van An School
2 College of Culture and Arts of Ho Chi Minh City
3 College of Culture and Arts of Hue

4 College of Teacher Training of Ho Chi Minh City
5 Culture and Art College
6 Dong Tien School
7 Ha Noi Academy of Music
8 Ha Noi Medicine College
9 Ha Noi Nguyen Dinh Chieu High School
10 Ha Noi Nguyen Van To High School
11 Ha Noi Open University
12 Ha Noi Tran Nhan Tong High School
13 Ha Noi University of Law
14 Hanoi National University of Education
15 Ho Chi Minh City International University
16 Ho Chi Minh City Open University
17 Ho Chi Minh City Teacher Training College TW
18 Ho Chi Minh City University of Culture
19 Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics
20 Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance
21 Ho Chi Minh City University of Foreign Languages and Information Technology
22 Ho Chi Minh City University of Industry
23 Ho Chi Minh City University of Law
24 Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities
25 Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology
26 Ho Chi Minh City University of Pedagogy University
27 Hue Academy of Music
28 Hue University of Science
29 Music College
30 Nguyen Dinh Chieu School
31 Nguyen Tat Thanh University
32 RMIT International University Vietnam
33 RMIT University
34 Sai Gon University
35 School of Theatre and Cinema of Ho Chi Minh City
36 Tan Tao University
37 Ton Duc Thang University
38 Tran Nhan Tong High School
39 University of Education
40 University of Social Science and Humanities
41 University of Technical Education Ho Chi Minh City
42 Van Hien University
43 Vietnam National Academy of Music

Myanmar

1 Dagon (Yangon)
2 Eastern (Yangon)
3 Mandalay
4 Miketilar
5 Monywa
6 Sagaing
7 Western (Yangon)

Laos

1 Art and Music College
2 Dongkhamxang Pedagogical College
3 Hirusuka University
4 Lao-America College
5 Luangnamtha University
6 National University of Laos
7 Oudomvilay Secondary School
8 Phiavat Secondary School
9 Vientiane Secondary School

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