



WFD NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

NOVEMBER 2009



INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF CELEBRATIONS



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We welcome all news, articles, letters to the editor, and other contributions. We reserve the right of acceptance or rejection and the right to edit all submissions that we publish.

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Layout Laura Pajunen

WFD, the World Federation of the Deaf, is an umbrella organisation providing a wide range of support and advocacy services for national Deaf associations. The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established in 1951 in Rome, Italy during the first Deaf World Congress. As an international non-governmental organisation, it has a special consultative status in the United Nations (UN) system, where it is represented at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); the Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the International Labour Organization (ILO); and World Health Organization (WHO). It also has participatory status with the Council of Europe (CoE). WFD currently has 130 national associations of the Deaf as its members. WFD provides a platform for cooperation and information exchange among its members and partners. As an international organisation and through national organisations, WFD is emphasizing on improving the human rights for Deaf persons, the status of national sign languages, better education for Deaf people, and improved access to information technology and services.

Cover picture (below) by Darren Frazier. It was taken from the Finnish International Deaf Week celebrations. Other pictures are from celebrations from France, Uganda and Iran.



CRPD COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ITS SECOND SESSION

Signed treaties at the United Nations

UN Photo by Paulo Filgueiras

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is setting up guidelines detailing which information States are expected to give in their implementation reports. Monitoring of the Convention starts for the first time in its history next year 2010.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concluded its second session, during which it adopted its Reporting Guidelines and held a day of general discussion on Article 12 of the Convention on the right to equal recognition before the law.

During the session, which was held from 19 to 23 October at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the Committee largely concentrated on procedural issues. It discussed ways and means of expediting its work and worked on its draft Rules of Procedure and draft Working Methods.

On 21 October, the Committee held a day of general discussion on Article 12 of the Convention on the right to equal recognition before the law, during which it addressed the legal contents of the right to equal recognition before the law; and the practical measures necessary to implement the obligation to promote the right to equal recognition before the law. The discussion will serve for the future formulation and adoption of a general comment on Article 12.

During the session, the Committee also decided to conduct further elections so as to adjust its Bureau according to Article 14 of the rules of procedure. From the third session on and throughout 2010, the membership of the Committee will be as follows: Mr. McCallum, Chairperson; Mr. Al-Tarawneh, Ms. Peláez Narváez, Ms. Yang will be the

Vice-Chairpersons; Ms. Maina will be the Rapporteur.

Ronald McCallum, member of the Committee, said that the Committee was composed of 12 independent persons and when he would take the Presidency of the Committee next year he wanted to follow in the steps of his predecessor, continue his work and continue the collaboration with the civil society. He looked forward to work with those that had participated in the drafting of the Convention. Reporting to the Committee could only be successful if civil society was involved in the drafting of reports of States parties and in the submission of a shadow report to the Committee. The discussions in the Committee were a tripartite discussion.

Mohammed Al-Tarawneh, Chairman of the Committee, in closing remarks, said that it had been the intention of all of them to adopt the working methods and rules of procedure but due to time limits they had not been able to move to this stage. It always took a while to harmonize oneself. He also echoed the comments of his colleague. He was grateful and thanked everyone for their wonderful job. He hoped that the momentum in the Committee would continue to increase.

The next session of the Committee will be held from 22 to 26 February 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Source: OHCHR Media Centre - 23 October 2009

CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY

Although it was expected that the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities would adopt its working methods, rules of procedure and reporting guidelines during its second meeting, much of the time was used to elect a new chair to the committee. Professor Ron McCallum from Australia will commence as Chairperson at the third session of the Committee in February 2010 and continue until the end of his tenure on the Committee at the end of 2010.

Civil society was disappointed that most of the sessions

were closed and that despite the initial plan to accept the above mentioned documents only the reporting guidelines were adopted by the committee. No NGOs have seen the final document which will come available sometime before the end of the year. The Day of General Discussion was about Article 12, equal recognition before the law. Often the days of general discussion are used by committees as a starting point in creating a General Comment.

Source: Dpi and IDA

THE TIME IS NOW TO START LOBBYING FOR A DEAF MEMBER



"After the Convention has achieved 80 ratifications, the Committee will expand into 18 members."

UN flag

UN Photo / John Isaac

WFD strongly encourages its national members to start lobbying and making preliminary discussions with their government representatives to propose a Deaf candidate when the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expands.

Today, the CRPD Committee consists of 12 independent human rights experts, of which nine are persons with disabilities. It is a disadvantage that there are currently no Deaf members in the Committee. After the Convention has achieved 80 ratifications, the Committee will expand into 18 members. This is expected to take place during next Conference of States Parties in next autumn 2010. There are currently 71 ratifications of the Convention.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a crucial body that monitors implementation of the UN Convention by examining reports given by states and addressing its concerns and recommendations to states. States will nominate and elect members to the CRPD Committee. Consideration is given to geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities.

Source: WFD Secretariat

FACTS ABOUT THE CRPD COMMITTEE

§§§

§ TASKS:

- To monitor states' implementation of the Convention
- To examine reports given by states that have ratified the Convention
- To give suggestions and recommendations on state reports
- To examine individual complaints to alleged violations by states that have ratified the Optional Protocol
- To review if reliable evidence is provided on grave violations against the Convention
- To report on its activities to the UN General Assembly

§ REPORTING MECHANISMS:

- States report to the Committee two years after ratification
- First reports are followed by regular reports at least every four years
- States must follow reporting guidelines set by the Committee
- States must prepare reports openly and in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities
- States must establish a focal point/s within government on implementation
- States should establish an independent mechanism to promote the domestic implementation, such as national human rights institution

§ THE COMMITTEE:

- Contains 12 human rights experts from different countries
- Expands into 18 members after 80 ratifications is achieved, most likely in autumn 2010
- Members are nominated and elected by governments
- Each member acts in a personal capacity not representing one's government or any other organisation
- Meets twice a year in Geneva and has held two sessions by now
- Was established in November 2008

§ COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The members of the Committee are:

Amna Ali Al Suweidi (Qatar)
 Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan)
 Lotfi Ben Lallohom (Tunisia)
 Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri (Bangladesh)
 María Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chile)
 György Könczei (Hungary)
 Edah Wangechi Maina (Kenya)
 Ronald McCallum AO (Australia)
 Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain)
 Germán Xavier Torres Correa (Ecuador)
 Cveto Uršič (Slovenia)
 Jia Yang (China)

Members serve for four years and can be re-elected once. Six members of this first committee serve only for two years.

NEWS FROM THE WFD

WFD BOARD MEETING

The 93rd WFD Board meeting was held in Kampala, Uganda from 22 – 24 September 2009. In conjunction with the meeting, WFD Board visited the Parliament of Uganda and celebrated the International Week of the Deaf. (See more information in International Week of the Deaf)

Mr Bruno Druchen gave a report on WFD World Congress proceedings to the Board. For the first time in history, the congress is arranged in Africa. WFD General Assembly will be held from 16 – 17 July 2011 and the Congress from 18 – 24 July 2011 in Durban, South Africa. This biggest Deaf event will gather experts from different fields, discuss latest topics in the Deaf world as well as offer a number of exciting events. The Board decided on reduced rates for developing country participants. Registration is not yet open, but it will be opened in the World Congress website soon at www.wfd2011.com.

Photo by Laura Pajunen



Markku Jokinen and Niten Gordhan, Vice president of the World Congress Organising Committee, discussing World Congress contract, which was signed in Uganda



Photo by Bruno Druchen

WFD Board and UNAD representatives met Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda Hon. Edward Ssekandi Kiwanuka (middle)

The WFD Board would like to express its gratitude to Ugandan National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) for hosting the meeting, which was excellently well arranged. Uganda is known as “Pearl of Africa”, a beautiful landlocked country in East Africa. This can also be extended to UNAD, which showed extraordinary organisational and advocacy skills. UNAD is a strong association that is working hard to improve the rights and wellbeing of Ugandan Deaf people. It provides a great example not only to its neighbouring countries, but to all Deaf associations by closely cooperating with the Ugandan disability movement. Uganda has five Members of Parliament (MP) with disabilities and it belongs to those rare countries that have a Deaf person as a Member of Parliament. Congratulations to UNAD for its effective and goal-achieving work.

The location of the next 94th WFD Board meeting is not yet confirmed, but it will be arranged in spring 2010. The 95th Board meeting is confirmed and it will be in South Korea hosted by WFD Ordinary Member in South Korea.

OM ITALY LAWSUIT

Photo by Colin Allen



The first court hearing in the lawsuit filed against the World Federation of the Deaf by the Italian Deaf Association Ente nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei sordi (ENS) took place on

Tuesday, 22nd of September in Rome, Italy.

In this short court hearing the judge decided that he will

only consider the question of jurisdiction of the Court of Rome which means that all substance matters that ENS refers to in its writ of summons won't be measured.

The next court hearing is scheduled for 19th of January 2010 where both parties will present a summary of their case exclusively with regard the jurisdiction.

Per request of ENS, both parties of the case met in ENS headquarters after the court hearing and negotiated over some of the disputed questions. WFD Board has made a formal proposal to settle the case to ENS, in the hope of reaching a final, peaceful, solution before the January 2010 court hearing.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS

In August and September 2009, the project staff members started their intensive training programme at WFD Headquarters in Helsinki, Finland. The Regional Co-ordinators, Ms Lucy Upah, Abuja, Nigeria and Ms Ablavi Dziku, Lome, Togo first had their project and financial management training led by the Project Co-ordinator, Mr Colin Allen. A week later, the Regional Trainers, Ms Megan Youngs, Toronto, Canada and Ms Caroline Conlon, Sydney, Australia joined Ms Dziku and Ms Upah.

All four project workers received intensive training programme on Sign Language work, Deaf Education, Sign Language Interpreting Services, Capacity Building of a Deaf Organisation, Deaf Awareness and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The regional teams also had a specialised training on how to assess the

strengths and weaknesses of partner organisations; in this case the analysis would be used to obtain a comprehensive picture of the situation of national deaf associations. WCAR-project uses as an evaluation method a tool called "Octagon" which was introduced to the project workers by Mr Stefan Nisson from Shia, the main funding organisation of the project.

After the intensive training sessions the regional teams designed a related series of training materials on capacity building that include:

- Introduction
- Deaf Awareness/Deafhood
- Deaf People and Human Rights
- Sign Language Work
- Deaf Education
- Sign Language Interpreters and
- Building Capacity of Deaf Organisation

These materials will be used in trainings of the National Associations of the Deaf in Western and Central Africa. By the time when this WFD October newsletter appears the regional teams have commenced the training programme in Nigeria, Cameroon, Gambia and Senegal. In next issues of the WFD Newsletter, the regional teams will provide short snapshot stories of their field work in different countries.

The project wishes to acknowledge generous support from the dynamic presenters who have given their time for the intensive training programme:-

Mr Markku Jokinen, Ms Kaisa Alanne, Ms Karin Hoyer, Mr Selman Hoti, Ms Corrie Tjisseling, and Ms Maija Koivisto.

If you have any further questions on the project, please contact Mr Colin Allen, Project Co-ordinator, at deafhumanrights@yahoo.com.au

Photo by Colin Allen



Training session in Helsinki

BRIEFLY ABOUT THE WCAR PROJECT

Deaf Human Rights and Capacity Building Training Project in Western and Central Africa (WCAR-Project) is a project initiated by the Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR) and funded by the Swedish Organisations' of Persons with Disabilities International Aid Association (Shia) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). WFD is the implementing organisation of the project.

Project aims to reach board and staff of 19 deaf associations in Western and Central Africa as well as members of the deaf community in these countries. Concretely the project concentrates on evaluating the capacity of each deaf association, reinforcing the positive aspects and strengthening the fragile sides of these associations. Increasing the awareness and knowledge of the overall Deaf community on their linguistic and human rights is another concrete objective. Thirdly the project promotes regional networking and establishment of the Western and Central African Regional Secretariat (WCARS).

The overall objective is that Deaf people's human and linguistic rights are better regarded in Western and Central African countries. The Deaf have equal opportunities to participate in the society and Deaf people's access to information, services and bilingual education is improved. The project aims at empowering Deaf people to defend their rights.

Photo by Colin Allen



The WCAR team: Ms Caroline Conlon (Australia), Ms Ablavi Dziku (Togo), Ms Lucy Upah (Nigeria) and Ms Megan Youngs (Canada)

PROJECT COORDINATOR MR COLIN ALLEN TO LEAVE THE WCAR PROJECT

WCAR-project will greatly miss Mr. Colin Allen who has successfully coordinated the development co-operation project in Western and Central Africa in which WFD acts as the implementing organisation. A new Project Co-ordinator to replace Mr. Allen will be appointed soon. No new applications are accepted at this point. WFD once again congratulates Mr. Allen for having been selected to his new position as a Director of Services at the Deaf Society of NSW Australia and thanks him for his superb job within this project.

WFD REPRESENTATIVE ELECTED TO THE GPDD BOARD



Ms. Deborah Iyute was selected to serve at the board of GPDD as one of its 12 members. The voting took place in the second annual membership meeting, held in Turin, Italy, October 14-17. Ms Iyute is also a Board Member of the World Federation of the Deaf.

The Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD) is an initiative to accelerate inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families into development policies and practices.

The GPDD was formed to increase collaboration among development agencies and organizations to reduce the extreme poverty and exclusion of the substantial number of children, women and men with disabilities living in poor countries.

UNESCAP BOOSTS ACCESSIBILITY

WFD appreciates that United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNESCAP, has decided to respect Deaf people's right to use sign language and also to have better accessibility for deaf representatives to use sign language interpreters during the UNESCAP meetings. These great efforts on lobbying came from the assistance of Mr. Eiichi Takada, WFD Honorary Member, WFD RS for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Ichiro Miyamoto and Mr. Soya Mori, WFD Expert on Developing countries.

WFD AND WASLI: GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETING IN UN

WFD and the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) have started co-operating on a draft guideline which aims at assisting United Nations and its specialised agencies as well as other international organisations and institutions to determine their responsibilities in providing an accessible environment to Deaf participants. With the help of this guiding document WFD and WASLI intend to increase the knowledge of congress and event organisers of the necessity to provide sign language interpreters to deaf attendants. In its daily work WFD has noticed that many prejudices still prevail on deafness, sign languages and interpreter services which need to be addressed.

WFD'S OPEN LETTER ON UNIFICATION OF ARAB SIGN LANGUAGES

WFD issued an open letter with regard the unification project of Sign Languages in the Arab region in October. In its letter WFD continued opposing the idea of a unified Arab sign language for the detriment of the local/national sign languages. WFD calls all organizations working with and for Deaf people in the Arab region to co-operate in order to guarantee that Deaf individuals' right for local/national Sign Languages is guaranteed. Content of the letter is placed on WFD web site at: <http://www.wfdeaf.org/>

COCHLEAR IMPLANT SURVEY

WFD encourages all of the members and individuals to answer a survey on Cochlear Implant (CI), which was set up by an Assistant Professor, Dr. Gregor Wolbring, Faculty of Medicine Department of Community Health Science Program in Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, University of Calgary, Canada.

The purpose of this study is to better understand the sentiment of Deaf/deaf and hard of hearing people and groups and people linked to them towards a) today's hearing aids in general; b) hypothetical future hearing aids with various and different features that might surpass the 'normal' hearing and c) the sentiment towards sign language and what the respondents think about the impact of hearing aids onto sign language.

Link to the questionnaire:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=00jR3aFM_2fTyJr5rp1xlsKg_3d_3d

Visit The Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Program (CRDS): <http://www.crds.org/index.shtml>



Conference interpretation. Ugandan and Finnish sign language interpreters in the UN in November 2008

WFD REGIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN

The National Association of the Deaf of Panama will organize the First Deaf Youth Meeting for Mexico, Central American and the Caribbean in the capital city of Panama, Panama City from 10 – 15 November 2009. It is a great achievement to have this meeting in this regional area.

WFD MEMBERSHIP

The WFD General Secretariat would like to inform that the membership fees for Associate Membership and Individual Membership are divided into four (4) groups, depending on which country you live, by following the World Bank classification system. At the 89th WFD Board meeting in October 2007, the WFD Board decided that the WFD members are divided into four (4) groups, (groups of membership fees).

Photo by Laura Pajunen



If you are interested to apply as Individual Member, please do find the Individual Membership form attached to this newsletter.

Associate Membership is open to all other organisations, whether national, local, and whether Deaf- or hearing run. Associate Membership must be accompanied by a letter from the WFD Ordinary Member (national association of the Deaf in your home country) to support your application to become an Associate Member.

If your organisation is interested to apply as Associate Member please do contact to Ms. Phillipa Sandholm, who is responsible for membership issues, memberships@wfdeaf.org and we'll send you the application form.

WFD CONFERENCE 2013

For Ordinary Members only:

If your organisation is interested to host a small WFD conference in 2013, you are welcome to send the bid to WFD General Secretariat and this will be discussed at the WFD Board meeting after the World Congress 2011.

If you would like further information about to bid the conference, please do contact to Ms. Phillipa Sandholm, WFD Administrative Secretary by email: phillipa.sandholm@kl-deaf.fi

ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

WFD wishes to thank warmly to those persons, institutes and organisations that have made a kind contribution to support WFD's human rights work by honouring President Markku Jokinen's 50th birthday.

Here are the names of the contributors of September. Other donors were published in the last issue. Thank you for your support:

Hend Al-Showaier

Eun-Sun, Son

Espoo Sign Language Club



Photo by Laura Pajunen

Markku Jokinen cutting a cake in a project launch event.

Please see President Markku Jokinen's signed thank you note for all those who contributed to this campaign at the WFD website: www.wfdeaf.org

CORRECTIONS TO THE LAST NEWSLETTER

In Page 6, WFD Regional Secretariat for Mexico, Central American and Caribbean, the elected members of the committee are from Cuba, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic. In the last newsletter, Panama was not mentioned.

In Page 8, the last paragraph (Sixth National Congress of the Deaf Community in Colombia, Sixth Meeting of Deaf Latin Americans & First Meeting of Latin American Sign Language Interpreters, July 2009), The participants in the meeting for Deaf Women agreed to arrange a meeting for Deaf Women, 2nd Latin American Meeting for Deaf Women in Mexico City, Mexico from 17 - 21 May 2010. In last newsletter, it said to be taken place in Peru in November 2010, which is not correct.

INTERNATIONAL AND UN NEWS

PRELIMINARY NOTICE:

SEMINAR ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MONITORING OF THE CRPD BY IDA

International Disability Alliance (IDA) will organise a seminar on “Capacity Building of NGOs of persons with disabilities in preparation of shadow reporting”. This two-day seminar will be organised in Geneva, Switzerland, on January 7-8 2010.

The seminar will deal with issues such as key challenges related to the national and international monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the role of NGOs in influencing state reports to the CRPD Committee, strengthening of national NGO coalitions and involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in all the national monitoring work. The seminar will also deal with mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the whole United Nations human rights work (Human Rights Council, UPR and Special Procedures).

WFD, as the umbrella organisation, will send one or two representatives to Geneva, depending on the financial situation of the IDA. However, WFD would strongly like to recommend this seminar to its Ordinary Members as a good opportunity to acquire new tools for their advocacy work. As a result of the seminar IDA will produce a guidance document on shadow reporting.

It is likely that if the premises of the seminar hall permit national organisations of persons with disabilities can also send representatives to this seminar. If you are a WFD Ordinary Member and interested to send a participant, please send an email to wfd@kl-deaf.fi by **Monday, 30th of November**.

Express in your email clearly the name of your organisation, name of the participant(s) and explain briefly why you are interested to take part. **NOTE THAT ALL THE EXPENSES RELATED TO YOUR TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION AS WELL AS SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING WILL BE ON YOUR CHARGE.** In addition, IDA is planning to charge a small participant fee to cover extra costs related to lunch and seminar materials. IDA will be responsible for confirming your participation - WFD will only transmit your expression of interest to the IDA Secretariat which will be the last substance to approve the participation.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) will be commemorated on 3 December. The theme for this year promotes the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities through the MDGs. The Day provides an opportunity to mobilize action to achieve the primary goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities. Find out more at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1484>.

Source: UN Enable Newsletter October 2009

OHCHR

CONSULTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE CONVENTION

A consultation on national implementation and monitoring frameworks of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities took place in Geneva on 26 October 2009. The event was organized in the context of preparations of a study by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the topic, as requested by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in resolution 10/7.

International Disability Alliance (IDA) where WFD is an active member was represented in this event by its current chair, Mr. Jan-Peter Strömrgren (IFHOH). He thanked for the opportunity to present IDA's view and stated that so far very few States have started to implement the provisions contained in article 33 of the CRPD (National Implementation and Monitoring).

All the submissions by states, institutions and non-governmental organizations are available at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/disability/submissions.htm>

Source: UN Enable Newsletter October 2009

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)

5 ARTICLES REFER DIRECTLY TO SIGN LANGUAGES AND THE DEAF:

- Article 2: Definitions
- Article 9: Accessibility (2 e)
- Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (b and e)
- Article 24: Education (3b, 3c, 4)
- Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (4)

BY NOW

- 143 signatories to the Convention
- 87 signatories to the Optional Protocol
- 71 ratifications of the Convention
- 45 ratifications of the Optional Protocol

LATEST

- Seychelles ratified the Convention on 2.10.2009
- Turkey ratified the Convention on 28.9.2009
- Czech Republic ratified the Convention on 28.9.2009
- Turkey signed the Optional Protocol on 28.9.2009

See more on <http://www.un.org/disabilities>

UPDATE ON THE CONVENTION

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RATIFIED THE CONVENTION

Argentina - 2 September 2008
 Australia - 17 July 2008
 Austria - 26 September 2008
 Azerbaijan - 28 January 2009
 Bangladesh - 30 November 2007
 Belgium - 2 July 2009
 Brazil - 1 August 2008
 Burkina Faso - 23 July 2009
 Chile - 29 July 2008
 China - 1 August 2008
 Cook Islands - 8 May 2009
 Costa Rica - 1 October 2008
 Croatia - 15 August 2007
 Cuba - 6 September 2007
 Czech Republic - 28 September 2009
 Denmark - 24 July 2009
 Dominican Republic - 18 August 2009
 Ecuador - 3 April 2008
 Egypt - 14 April 2008
 El Salvador - 14 December 2007
 Gabon - 1 October 2007
 Germany - 24 February 2009
 Guatemala - 7 April 2009
 Guinea - 8 February 2008
 Haiti - 23 July 2009
 Honduras - 14 April 2008
 Hungary - 20 July 2007
 India - 1 October 2007
 Italy - 15 May 2009
 Jamaica - 30 March 2007
 Jordan - 31 March 2008
 Kenya - 19 May 2008
 Laos - 25 September 2009
 Lesotho - 2 December 2008
 Malawai - 27 August 2009
 Mali - 7 April 2008
 Mexico - 17 December 2007
 Mongolia - 13 May 2009
 Morocco - 8 April 2009
 Namibia - 4 December 2007
 New Zealand - 25 September 2008
 Nicaragua - 7 December 2007
 Niger - 24 June 2008
 Oman - 6 January 2009
 Panama - 7 August 2007
 Paraguay - 3 September 2008
 Peru - 30 January 2008
 Philippines - 15 April 2008
 Portugal - 23 September 2009
 Qatar - 13 May 2008
 Republic of Korea - 11 December 2008
 Rwanda - 15 December 2008
 San Marino - 22 February 2008
 Saudi Arabia - 24 June 2008
 Serbia - 31 July 2009
 Seychelles - 2 October 2009
 Slovenia - 24 April 2008
 South Africa - 30 November 2007
 Spain - 3 December 2007

Sudan - 24 April 2009
 Sweden - 15 December 2008
 Syrian Arab Republic - 10 July 2009
 Thailand - 29 July 2008
 Tunisia - 2 April 2008
 Turkmenistan - 4 September 2008
 Turkey - 28 September 2009
 Uganda - 25 September 2008
 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland- 8 June 2009
 Uruguay - 11 February 2009
 Vanuatu - 23 October 2008
 Yemen - 26 March 2009

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RATIFIED THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL

Argentina - 2 September 2008
 Austria - 26 September 2008
 Azerbaijan - 28 January 2009
 Bangladesh - 12 May 2008
 Belgium - 2 July 2009
 Brazil - 1 August 2008
 Burkina Faso - 23 July 2009
 Chile - 29 July 2008
 Cook Islands - 8 May 2009
 Costa Rica - 1 October 2008
 Croatia - 15 August 2007
 Dominican Republic - 18 August 2009
 Ecuador - 3 April 2008
 El Salvador - 14 December 2007
 Germany - 24 February 2009
 Guatemala - 7 April 2009
 Guinea - 8 February 2008
 Haiti - 23 July 2009
 Hungary - 20 July 2007
 Italy - 15 May 2009
 Mali - 7 April 2008
 Mexico - 17 December 2007
 Mongolia - 13 May 2009
 Morocco - 8 April 2009
 Namibia - 4 December 2007
 Niger - 24 June 2008
 Panama - 7 August 2007
 Paraguay - 3 September 2008
 Peru - 30 January 2008
 Portugal - 23 September 2009
 Rwanda - 15 December 2008
 San Marino - 22 February 2008
 Saudi Arabia - 24 June 2008
 Serbia - 31 July 2009
 Slovenia - 24 April 2008
 South Africa - 30 November 2007
 Spain - 3 December 2007
 Sudan - 24 April 2009
 Sweden - 15 December 2008
 Syrian Arab Republic - 10 July 2009
 Tunisia - 2 April 2008
 Turkey - 28 September 2009
 Uganda - 25 September 2008
 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland- 7 August 2009
 Yemen - 26 March 2009



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (front of screen, white t-shirt) leads students from the United Nations International School (UNIS) in standing up at the end of a pledge they recited to end world poverty, as part of the Stand Up Against Poverty campaign. The campaign urges world leaders to meet the Millennium Development Goals by their 2015 deadline. Date: 16 October 2009

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Currently, there are no references to persons with disabilities either in the MDGs themselves or in the accompanying body of guidelines and policies, programmes and conferences that are part of the on-going MDG efforts. In addition, the new revisions of the MDGs currently in process do not include persons with disabilities. Earlier this year, a United Nations Expert Group Meeting worked to develop a “roadmap” for

how the achievement of the MDGs could benefit persons with disabilities. Read the report of the Expert Group Meeting and summary to find out more:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1470>.

Source: Enable Newsletter / UN

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICAN DECISION-MAKERS

Mobility International USA (MIUSA), a U.S.-based non-profit organization, arranges an Advanced International Leadership, Employment and Disability (ILEAD) Exchange Program to Latin American women and men with or without disabilities from 6 – 18 March 2010 in Eugene, Oregon, USA. MIUSA’s mission is to empower people with disabilities around the world to achieve their human rights through international exchange and international development.

ABOUT THE ADVANCED ILEAD EXCHANGE PROGRAM:

MIUSA’s Advanced ILEAD Exchange Program will bring together high level professionals with and without disabilities from nine countries in Latin America to conduct on-site visits and interactive discussions with government policy makers and officials such as Mayors, Senators, Congress people and City Commissioners, business management teams and school district administrators in the U.S., to build the capacity of governments, businesses, schools and disabled peoples organizations to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

WHO CAN APPLY:

Women and men with and without disabilities who are in decision making positions, from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru.

MIUSA will select prominent government, business and community leaders who are responsible for programs and policies in education, city planning, transportation or employment, and who demonstrate capacity and commitment to implement policy, planning, administrative, and/or funding priorities that expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities at the local, regional, national and/or international level.

LANGUAGE:

The official languages of the Program are Spanish, English and American Sign Language (ASL). Spanish-English translation and sign language interpretation will be provided during formal program workshops, discussions and site visits only.

For application and more information: http://www.miusa.org/exchange/ileadadv/index_html

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF

UNITES AROUND THE WORLD

This year for the International Week of the Deaf (21-27 September) WFD encouraged its members to bring forward Deaf culture and launched an idea of signing hands. Initiative to decorate gloves which tell stories and wishes of the Deaf community and which are handed over to politicians and other decision-makers was used at least by one country. The week was also widely celebrated by joyful Deaf marches, campaigns, seminars and other cultural events all around the world. Here is a photo gallery on the festivities and events sent by WFD members to be shared by WFD Newsletter readers.

ECUADOR

WFD Ordinary Member Ecuador organised a march to give proposal to the government to have an Official Act on Ecuadorian Sign Language, bilingualism in education, accessibility in communications, interpreting rights and deaf persons right to have driver's license.



Advocacy campaigning in Ecuador

Source: Federación Nacional de Sordos de Ecuador (FENASEC)

FINLAND

Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) in cooperation with WFD arranged a successful campaign to give a petition to the Finnish parliament. The aim was to appeal to decision makers to prevent deafness based discrimination. The petition also called the MPs to secure general funding of the World Federation of the Deaf. Dr Liisa Kauppinen and Mr Colin Allen, representatives of the WFD, handed the petition to the Finnish Speaker of Parliament together with FAD representatives Ms Kaisa Alanne and Ms Jaana Keski-Levijoki. Accompanied by the petition the Finnish deaf and hearing community had prepared and decorated 200 gloves that identified Deaf community and signing hands. They were given to each of the Finnish Members of Parliament.

To gain visibility for important Deaf issues both internationally and nationally, a sign language café was set up

in the premises of the parliament cafeteria. Parliamentarians showed keen interest in learning how to order their morning coffee and tea in Finnish Sign Language and at the same time they were offered information on Deaf issues by the FAD and WFD employees. This was a real hit and greatly enjoyed by all the participants.

Last but not least the International Week of the Deaf concluded with a party, also organised by FAD and WFD, with the intention to raise funds to support WFD. Both deaf and hearing participants enjoyed programme that included shows like “Who wants to be a millionaire”, FAD theatre group, and deaf rap artist Signmark. The event also raised funds for WFD’s human rights work.

By Tiina Vihra



Each Finnish Member of Parliament received a pair of gloves that were decorated by Deaf community



WFD and FAD representatives handing a petition to the Finnish Speaker of the Parliament Mr Sauli Niinistö (left).

By Annika Posti

By Annika Posti



Coffee or tea? Finnish MP's ordering morning coffee in sign language in the Parliament's cafeteria

► Dr. Liisa Kauppinen (right) discussing at the WFD booth.



By Annika Posti

By Annika Posti



Ms Salla Lähteenmäki (left) teaching an MP how to order a bun



Cultural celebrations. Actress of the Finnish Deaf Theatre Totti welcoming everyone on board to “Deafair flight WFD1951”.

Photo by Darren Frazier

FRANCE

In France, two organisations, WFD Ordinary Member, Fédération Nationale des sourds de France and M.A.I.N.S. organised a huge deaf march that gathered around 3000 people in Paris.

WFD Board Member, Mr. Colin Allen was invited to the

seminar to present WFD. He was having a busy schedule during the week, because besides France he also participated in Deaf week events in Finland and Hungary (Colin's picture below). Have a look at the website to find out of the news and photos of the French march: www.mains-france.com



HUNGARY

On the occasion of the International Day of the Deaf, SINOSZ, the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, organised an international conference on the 25th of September 2009 under the title: “Human Rights. Yes!”.

The event was hosted by the Council of Europe’s European Youth Centre Budapest aimed to launch Human Rights. Yes! - An educational handbook on human rights and disability, which was published by SINOSZ in July 2009. The conference invited activists, human rights advocates, educators and persons with disabilities to reflect together, to exchange and co-operate, since it is still a fundamental problem that most people are not aware of their own rights.

WFD Board Member, Mr. Allen Colin was invited to present the results of the survey on Deaf people and human rights” at this conference.

In the afternoon session, two different workshops were running at the same time. One for human rights educators

– with the facilitation of Marianna Szebenyi and Gábor Gombos; and another for persons with disabilities who have experienced rights violations – with the facilitation of Marianne Schulze, dr. Zita Retkes és dr. Sándor Gurbai (the Parliamentary Commissioner’s colleagues). While the first working group was given the task to rephrase an article from the Convention in everyday language, the participants of the other group were tested by the ombudsman’s colleagues who also explained them, who to turn to with specific problems in Hungary today. The participants with disabilities were active in answering the questions of Marianne Schulze, who was curious about the international relations of Hungarian persons with disabilities. She also mentioned that every person may submit an individual complaint to the expert committee in Geneva at any time, which might have an influence on the local decision-makers, as it can discredit Hungary.



Source: Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

IRAN

Iran Deaf People Family Society organised a ceremony to celebrate the IWD event by inviting government representatives to give knowledge that Deaf people in Iran need to have their human rights improved and brought to the same level with the hearing population.



Source: Iran Deaf People Family Society



PANAMA

In the Parliament in Panama, an IWD celebration event took place with the deaf deputy Member of Parliament, Mr. Diego Enrique Lombana Franceschi along with the Panama Deaf community.



Diego Enrique Lombana Franceschi



President of the Panamanian Association of the Deaf Digna Barsallo and the Deaf community handing a gift to President of National Assembly Mr. Jose Luis Varela (second from the left)

Source: Asociación Nacional de Sordos de Panamá (ANSPA)

UGANDA

Ugandan Association of the Deaf organised various campaigns and advocacy events during the International Deaf Awareness Week celebrations in September 20th – 26th in its capital Kampala. Theme of the week was “Promoting Deaf People’s Rights: From Legislation to Action, Time is Now!” The week highlighted achievements that the Ugandan Deaf community had achieved, but also raised attention to social barriers that Deaf people face in today’s Uganda by looking at prevailing gaps between law/

policy making and implementation.

Even though political climate is favouring Deaf people through advanced legislation and for example access to sign language services is secured by law, many deaf persons have raised their concern that implementation is not always following the spirit of these laws and policies. Deaf children’s access to schools and education is a great concern. In the whole of Uganda there are only ten government primary schools where lessons are conducted in sign language, and two secondary schools with provisions to teach deaf



WFD Board joined the Ugandan Deaf March in Kampala

students. Private schools are expensive so most deaf children in Uganda either struggle in government schools that have few resources to support them; or they stay at home.

UNAD arranged a wide range of activities during the week, such as press conference, community cleaning, seminars, debate at the Makerere University, sports and a project launch event to name only few. The celebrations culminated in Deaf march that gathered hundreds of Deaf people from all districts of Uganda and neighbouring

countries. Mr Ambrose Murangira, chairman of UNAD, handed a petition to Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development as well as to Uganda Broadcasting Council to advocate returning of sign language news to television. UNAD's advocacy was supported and backed by the WFD Board Members and the Ugandan Deaf community that participated in the march. "The International Deaf Awareness Week helps to scale up our efforts in advocating for dignity of every Deaf person in Uganda. It specifically informs us what has failed to work and why, what can work better in promoting and protection of human rights of Deaf



Joyful Deaf March gathered hundreds of Deaf individuals



Two young leaders. President of UNAD Mr Ambrose Murangira and WFD Youth Section President Mr Juan Angel de Gouveia walking side by side.

people in Uganda", Mr Murangira stated. In the evening, a social event was arranged to celebrate the Ugandan Deaf community and its spirit of solidarity, which was greatly enjoyed by all participants.

UNAD was founded in 1973. It has branches in 43 districts of Uganda. The focus of UNAD's work is on sign language training for deaf children and their parents, and improving access to services such as schools.



Cultural performances from different districts of Uganda.

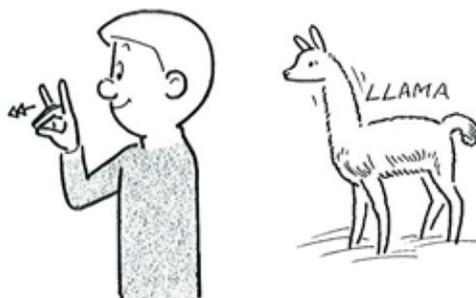
Text and pictures by Laura Pajunen

NEWS FROM THE WFD MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

BOLIVIA

BOLIVIAN SIGN LANGUAGE OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED

On 14 October 2009, the government of Bolivia has recognised Bolivian Sign Language (LSB) as the official medium of communication, which was greatly lobbied by Ms. Anibal Subirana, from Bolivian Association of the Deaf, and the deaf community of Bolivia. Congratulations to the Deaf community of Bolivia for their efforts!



Country sign of Bolivia originates from llama

Source:
Country Name-Signs/WFD

BRAZIL

BRAZILIAN SIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN BRAZIL: INTERPRETER'S AND TEACHER'S EDUCATION: FROM VOLUNTARY WORK TO FORMAL E-LEARNING¹

by Ronice Müller de Quadros and Marianne Rossi Stumpf

This project is a Sign Language Program to educate teachers, translators and interpreters of Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) that aims to take into account the Deaf protagonist of Deaf education, and the Sign Language mediating of all learning. This intention is manifested in practice when the video, the face classes, and presentations of the work of the students are in Libras, the mediating language of all learning.

Bilingual concept of using the writing Portuguese, and when they wish without the concern of formal correction but seen as secondary vehicle of communication. There is a reversal of practice, treat Libras as the language being studied, developed and formal language of instruction. The Portuguese writing is taught as a second language aimed at communication and accessibility to the literate world.

The search for respect for universal rights was the advent of a more democratic standard of hierarchy that allows any person holding the knowledge, to participate in the public sphere and obtain social recognition, that in turn, are only developed in the sphere of interaction that is only possible

through language socialization.

The concept of inclusion seeks to break with the prejudices and views of the world that own common sense, allowing the Deaf to belong to a specific group where they are able to start the construction of border identifying the other, and achieve recognition of other social groups. The formation of the Deaf identity is related to the presence of a language that gives them the opportunity to present itself as signaling that can establish social and discursive practices.

The course is organized in order to express the knowledge in the language of signs, and to capture the forms of teaching and learning of the deaf. The course is of letters, degree in LIBRAS, this is a course that is committed to training teachers and interpreters of the sign language. Besides the challenge of translating those seeking ways of teaching and learning of deaf people in Brazilian Sign Language, the course is being conducted in the distance mode. The effective participation of deaf people in this process has been essential, because only when the Deaf themselves participate in the decision-making on the path to be followed is that we find a different way of thinking about education of Deaf. Think a course in LIBRAS requires a course in a deaf way to understand the concepts and process knowledge.

The Sign Language Program is a undergraduate course of four years with the goal of training teachers of sign language, giving to Deaf people priority to take it as provided in Federal Decree 5626. The method uses e-learning system

¹ **Ronice Müller de Quadros** has a PhD in linguistics. She is professor at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. Her research activities focus primarily in Sign Language Studies. She has written a number of research papers as well as some books on Sign Language acquisition, sign language Grammar, bilingualism, deaf education and sign language interpretation. **Marianne Rossi Stumpf** has a PhD in Information Applied to Education. She is professor at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. Her research activities focus primarily in SignWriting, literacy, lexicography, and deaf education. She has written a number of research papers on SignWriting, literacy of deaf students and dictionaries of Brazilian Sign Language.

that permits the democratization of the training process. Different regions of the country are taking the opportunity to train teachers and interpreters of sign language in the perspective of the deaf teachers with highly specialized. The course is being offered in fifteen Brazilian states through other universities, overall the country.

This program is an action of the Federal University of Santa Catarina with these institutions and agreements with the Ministry of Education, through the Department of E-learning Education.

The design works as a collaborator of the strategies for learning, creating a method of teaching based on learning “visual” as a differentiator from traditional learning (Pereira,

2007). Deaf people participate in processes that include the preparation of materials online, digital and printed, or all the contents go through this team that organizes and monitors the implementation and development in progress. This team works, collaboratively, with teachers and specialized people of production (hypermedia, video production and graphic) in the planning and execution of the actions and course preparation materials (development of hypertexts, planning of activities for assessment, approval of the roadmaps DVD-Video, preparation of terms of study). It also participates in the production process of materials since the arrival of the texts produced by teachers to their deployment in the Virtual Learning Environment, completion of the production of

IRELAND

The Irish Deaf Society (IDS) has set up their news in Irish Sign Language on You Tube, which you can find at: <http://www.youtube.com/irishdeafnews>

Source: Irish Deaf Society

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE CONVENTION

The New Zealand Sign Language version of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is now available. New Zealand is the second country after Hungary to produce a full translation of the CRPD into its national sign language. Produced by Handmade Productions, the translation proved to be challenging due to its length and legal jargon. It is as close to the original English text as possible. The translation is found at: <http://www.odi.govt.nz/nzsl-video/un-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

Source: G3ict Newsletter

SLOVENIA

In August, a press conference was held at the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, which was made accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing in their Slovenian Sign Language for the first time in history. In the future, the government of Slovenia will transmit their press conferences live at their web page through links, so it would be accessible to deaf and hard of hearing.

Source: The Association of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired of Slovenia (ZGNS)

SOUTH AFRICA

The Deaf Women Leadership Development training has taken place, focusing on the Deaf community, with emphasis on Deaf women in South Africa, based on the areas of South Africa. The objectives of the training were empowerment of Deaf Women, leadership skills, financial skills, abuse of women and children, HIV/AIDS, gender equality, communication skills, reports, and fundraising.

The Deaf Federation of South Africa has set up the Deaf Youth development as an integral part of the Deaf Community development. The reason why it was needed to set up this programme is because many young Deaf people in South Africa are marginalized from the society, such as not being able to enter higher education institutions, unemployed or included to crime. The Deaf Youth group will be trained under the pilot project in the national level this month – development of Deaf learner’s leadership skill and interpersonal skills, peer pressure, awareness on disability related issues, knowledge of opportunities and employment and further education.

Source: Deaf Federation of South Africa - DEAFSA

UKRAINE

From 15 -16 August 2009, in the sports complex of the Educational-Recreation Centre of the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf (USD), the international competition in sea billiard Novus took place. This IV European sea billiard championship was organized by Novus Federation of Ukraine (FNU) under the auspices of the International Federation FINSO and under the support of the Department of Non-Olympic Sports in the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, with the active support of the Central Board of the USD. On the eve of the competition, day ahead of the USD Mr. Y. Maksymenko met with the president of the International Federation of Novus Juris Kiriks and the president of Novus Federation in Ukraine (FNU) Ivan Lisovenko. Among other issues were discussed were the prospects of development of this sport in the USD and expanding of its table’s production by the USD’s Brody small-enterprise “Yavir” (Sycamore) with the aim of widely playing this game.

At the championship in Pushcha-Voditsa forest region we were impressed by the magnitude of the events never seen before - Ukraine welcomed the best Novus players from 5 European countries. Large sports game complex of the Educational-Recreational Centre of the USD was decorated with state flags of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Latvia, Estonia, Germany and banners of the championship's sponsors, flags of Ukraine's Novus Federation.

At the opening ceremony of the championship, all were warmly welcomed by vocal folk-ethnographic dance ensemble "Well-spring" and the Children's Dance Ensemble. With their bright performance, they created a bright national colourful atmosphere. The president of Ukrainian Federation of Novus, Ivan Lisovenko declared the tournament open. Behind 53 tables in the spacious hall of the sports centre of USD 85 participants "crossed" their cues: fans and pros, candidate masters and professional master craftsmen, youth and "sea wolves of billiards".

The championship has proved once again that Novus is a game, being fond of by people of all ages. Thus, the most experienced member, Victor Muilyu from Estonia recently became 80 years old, and 75 out of his 80 years, he played Novus. Incidentally, to the delegation led by him comprised two national sport masters of the game. Overall, the Estonian delegation consisted of 18 players.

Latvia was represented by 43 delegates, who drove two thousand (2,000) miles by bus and on their own automobiles. Latvia has not eventually produced 'the youngest ever champion of Novus in Europe'. This title won 20-year old Juris Hrosene. He was introduced to this game since he was only 5-year old by his father, who won at these competitions only at 16th place. Yet the father enjoyed the highest joy in his life - the student surpassed his teacher.

Ukraine was represented by 9 players from Kyiv, Sevastopol and Odessa (apart from the participants from the USD). By the way, it was the city of Cherkassy, from where the youngest participant of the tournament came

into the competition — a seventeen (17) year old boy Kirill Demchenko. Besides them, for the first time ever in the history of Novus competitions, there participated 7 Ukrainian disabled sportsmen. Totally the USD put forward a team of 8 players (4 men and 4 women).

In a tense, struggle non-hearing Nicholas Povkh won the first place in the first European championship in Novus among the hearing disabled people (he is from Kiev organization of the USD). The third place was won by the employee of the editorial board of the newspaper "Our Life" Anna Sokol. Employees of the Central Board of the USD, Vladimir Reshetnyak and Irina Skolotova took up 4th and 7th places.

All the winners of the European Championship were awarded valuable gifts, and all participants were given commemorative medals, and organizers (the USD) were awarded many thanks from Novus Federation of Ukraine. Nobody was left without attention.

By the way, some words about the judging: scoring accuracy was guaranteed by a computer system, thanks to which one could see each moment of the competition. In addition, filming through video camera was held, and one could possibly "wind back" game's record and see everything in a past time in a slow pace. However, during the whole game there were no negative comments on the work of judges and also on the work of the organizers received. Probably, because of this reason, the Latvians proposed to hold the next championship in Novus in Ukraine.

What have we gained from participation in the international competition in Novus? Firstly, we have gained a lot of experience of organization of the events of European scale and have been assured ourselves that we can do that at the most appropriate level. In addition, our team had the opportunity to demonstrate its abilities and was invited to take part in international Novus tournament in St. Petersburg (March 2010) and in Germany (2011). By participating in the IV European Championship, the USD has won the first place in this kind of sport — in the name of the champion



Nicholas Povkh. Another important fact: USD's Brody Small Enterprise "Yavir" entered a license agreement with the Novus Federation of Ukraine on production of 4 versions of the tables for a novus game. Incidentally, these tables require special covers, which can be made in our upholstery enterprises.

Finally, novus - is not only "extreme sports" and "adrenaline", but also a serious, noble kind of sports, which opens new opportunities for everyone.

Source: Ukrainian Society of the Deaf

UNITED KINGDOM

SignHealth (UK) works to improve healthcare and achieve equal access for deaf people. It works with the deaf community, health services and other charities. Its report provides information of the current health situation in the UK.

There is a system for commissioning highly specialist services. This was reviewed by Department of Health (DH) with the publication of the Carter Report. SignHealth has been working for the last two and a half years (2½) with funding from DH to improve the commissioning system. To date, we have succeeded in getting Mental Health and Deafness as a mandatory condition on the Highly Specialist Definitions Set (which means all Strategic Health Authorities/Social Care Groups (SHA/SCGs) must coordinate the purchasing of services in their region), we have now got approved Standards of Care for Deaf people which apply across secondary and tertiary services, the National SCG has approved a commissioning document which tells the regional SCG how they should commission, we are trying to formulate a common contract for the services in London, Birmingham and Manchester, and finally we are trying to get the SCG's to purchase the whole care pathway rather than just the tertiary specialist care.

SignHealth has been working with Department of Health to ensure the General Practitioner (GP) Patient Survey now asks questions in sign language so we can get the views of Deaf people. Last year's survey and this year's show that Deaf people have far poorer health than their hearing counterparts and we are now working with DH and the National Health Service (NHS) in introducing change. The survey results were published by SignHealth in the reports, 'Why do you keep missing me?'

Mr. Steve Powell is involved in the DH work stream GP Access Programme. The aim of this Programme is to improve access for Blind, Deaf, Learning Difficulties (LD) and Black Minorities Ethnic (BME) groups. Mr. Powell is trying to give every d/Deaf person the ability to book appointments online or by text message service (sms), to have an auto alert on their patient record which identify they have communication needs (e.g. being informed appropriately when it is their turn to see the doctor/nurse), that they have appropriate communication support once in the consulting room (online interpreting being an example if a face to face interpreter isn't available for the same day appointment), and that the information they are given on their treatment is accessible.

The research project undertaking, called DeafHealth, will hopefully give the most comprehensive database available anywhere in the world on the health of Deaf people. The first stage of the research will start on January 2010 and will continue for 3 years, but with interim reports after every stage. SignHealth is trying to get 10,000 people involved in the project.

You also can find more information in the website:
www.signhealth.org.uk

By Steve Powell
SignHealth

USA: GALLAUDET

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

The Gallaudet Leadership Institute in partnership with WFD organized 28 June – 4 July 2009, a leadership training program on grassroots advocacy. 13 deaf and hard of hearing participants from around the world took a leap toward achieving their dreams. This group of community leaders, organization officers, and advocacy benefactors came from Albania, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Honduras, and the United States. After the training they came away with new tools and a network of fellow leaders—two key necessities for achieving their objectives. WFD Board Member, Mr. Joseph Murray, was one of the presenters.

More information on the leadership program which will also be organized next year, click: <http://pr.gallaudet.edu/family/Article.asp?ID=15915>

GALLAUDET NAMES ITS TENTH PRESIDENT

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz has been appointed by the Board of Trustees as Gallaudet University's tenth president. Currently Dr. Hurwitz serves as president of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), within the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and vice president and dean of RIT. Throughout his career, he has been active in a variety of professional organizations, and served as president of both the National Association of the Deaf and the World Organization of Jewish Deaf.

Dr. Hurwitz will take office in beginning of 2010 in January, succeeding Dr. Robert Davila, the University's president since 2007.

WORLD DEAF INFORMATION RESOURCE PROJECT LAUNCHES

A new initiative enables users to find deaf organizations and schools in 149 countries around the world. Launched by the Gallaudet University Center for International Programs and Services (CIPS) in October 2009, the World Deaf Information Resource Project provides contact information for hundreds of international-, national-, and local-level organizations and schools globally. The website also links to on-line reports about the human rights conditions and living situation of deaf people around the world and other information resources for deaf individuals and organizations. "Deaf people always benefit when deaf organizations, schools, and individuals are able to exchange ideas and information," says Mason. "But before organizations can communicate with each other, they need a way to find each other. The new World Deaf Information Resource Project lets them do that. It is our hope this can become a powerful information resource for the global deaf community."

In addition to browsing the website, users also may download most of the same information in an electronic file in either Word or PDF format. The file provides users an easy way to produce a hard copy for contacts who might not have Internet access. The new website can be accessed

at <http://cips.gallaudet.edu/wdi.xml>. CIPS intends to continue expanding the website and file over time. People are invited to submit information about deaf organizations or schools not already included in the project to World.Deaf.Info@gallaudet.edu.

CIPS is a unit within the Gallaudet University College of Professional Studies and Outreach and is the university's one-stop office for all things international. Gallaudet University is the only liberal arts university for deaf students in the world. Dr. Asiah Mason, director of CIPS, credits the website as being the brain-child of Dr. Amy Wilson, Director of Gallaudet University's International Development program, and Dr. Jay Innes, the Dean of CPSO. Andrea Shettle began the work of gathering information for the website during an internship for the MA degree program in International Development at Gallaudet.

WFDB

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAFBLIND CONFERENCE

WFDB 3rd General Assembly and 9th Helen Keller World Conference was held 23-27 October in Uganda. The National Association of DeafBlind people Uganda, NADBU, hosted this event where WFD was represented by one of its board members, Ms. Deborah Iyute from Uganda.

DEAF STUDENTS LEARN TO COMMUNICATE ROUND THE WORLD

Go Round is a special e-mail project for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in which they learn to communicate – in English – with people from other cultures all around the world. Letsgoround.com offers a free educational program that perfectly fits in the curriculum of most schools for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in the age from 6 to 25 years.

Initiator and co-ordinator Sophia Havinga (Deaf herself) wishes to attain a better communication and participation of deaf students (people) within society. She likes to let students (people) realise that their world doesn't end at the borders of their own micro-society or even at the borders of their own country. So she made a program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to help them learn (written) English, meet people and characteristics of other cultures and to realise the possibility of communicating with people abroad is accessible.

TOOLKIT FOR TEACHERS

The website www.letsgoround.com offers teachers lesson programs with English teaching materials, tips and support for getting their own 'lets go round' project. Besides it gives facilities to find your partner school. The toolkit will make it easier especially for English teachers to give their students the opportunity to correspond in English by e-mail with their

own age category abroad. In the mean time the students will be extra motivated to learn the English language. Everything is for free.

More information you will find at www.letsgoround.com. Even so by using the site it will be possible to contact the co-ordinator of 'lets go round.'

RESULTS OF THE REVIEW FROM THE PILOT PROJECT OF LETSGOROUND.COM

We have had many good e-mails. They often make me laugh. We stay in touch and get to know more and more of each other. We chat on MSN. I have learned a lot of English through the e-mail project.
German boy (15)

It was a nice project because it was the first time to have contact with a deaf girl from another country. This contact was very exciting. I did my best with English. We had a good contact. I am happy with to have contact with German girl.
Dutch girl (14)

For more information you can contact Sophia Havinga
Email: info@letsgoround.com

RIADIS

FOUR DEAF PERSONS NOW INVOLVED IN RIADIS MANAGEMENT

The Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS, is a network formed by disabled persons organizations from 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In recent elections which took place at RIADIS - IV Latin-American Conference Julio Fretes Portillo four deaf persons got elected to the management positions of the organisation.

Congratulations to Victor Baute from Venezuela representing Federación Venezolana de Sordos (FEVENSOR) (board member), Henry Mejía from Colombia representing Federación Nacional de Sordos de Colombia (FENASCOL) (fiscal committee), Colombian José Leal representing FENASCOL (ethics committee) and Pamela Molina from Chile representing CRESOR (President of Ethics committee).

COMING EVENTS

International Festive Pantomime of the Deaf

Date: 10 – 15 November 2009

Place: “Theatre of Bolek Polívka”, Jakubská 5, Brno, Czech Republic

Organiser: The Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Czech Republic and European Center Pantomime of the Deaf (ECPN) under financial support of Ministry culture in Czech Republic and corporate town Brno.

E-mail: snnrc@snnrc.cz or ecpn@ecpn.cz

The Rehabilitation International – (RI) Regional Conference- Arab Region

Theme: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities “Ratification and Strategies for Implementation “

Date: 10 -12 November 2009

Place: Nadwat Al-Thaqafah W a-al-‘Ulum, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Contact: INDEX Conferences and Exhibitions

Organisation Est.

INDEX Holding FZ LLC.

Address: P.O. Box: 13636

Dubai

United Arab Emirates

Telephone: +971 4 3624717 – Ext:120

Fax: +971 4 3624718

Email: hana.holy@index.ae

Website: <http://www.ridubai.com/nv/eng/index.php>

20th International Deaf Pantomime Festival

Date: 10 – 15 November 2009

Place: Brno, Czech Republic

Contact: Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Czech Republic

Karlínske nám 12

186 03 PRAGUE – Karlín

CZECH REPUBLIC

Telephone: +42 541 212 401

Telephone/Fax: +42 224 816 829

Fax: +42 541 211 389

Email: [snnrc \(at\) snnrc.cz](mailto:snnrc(at)snnrc.cz)

International Conference on Sign Languages in Belgium

Date: 16 – 20 November 2009

Place: University of Namur, Belgium

An International Colloquium dedicated to the Sign Languages (CILS) will be held from November 16-20, 2009 at the University of Namur in Belgium.

Website at <http://www.cils-namur.be>

Deaffest 2009 – Gala Awards

Date: 28 November 2009

Place: Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Contact: Zebra Uno Ltd & Zebra Access

Creative Industries Centre

Wolverhampton Science Park

Glaisher Drive

Wolverhampton, WV10 9TG

UNITED KINGDOM

Fax: +44 1 902 837 401

Telephone: +44 1 902 421 919 / 331 871

Email: [info\(at\)zebra-uno.com](mailto:info(at)zebra-uno.com)

Website: www.deaffest.co.uk

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Theme: Realizing the MDGs for All: Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Their Communities around the World

Date: 3 December 2009

Contact: Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Division for Social Policy and Development

United Nations Headquarters

Two United Nations Plaza, 13th Floor

New York, N.Y. 10017

USA

Fax: +1 (212) 963-3062

Email: [enable\(at\)un.org](mailto:enable(at)un.org)

10th International Theatre of the Deaf for Youth

Date: 4 – 7 December 2009

Place: Barcelona, Spain

Email: xmostracs@gmail.com

Fax: +34 93 228 98 070

Website: http://www.casalsordsbcn.org.es/paginas/noticias_general.php?idioma=castellano¬icia=571

International Deaf Conference for Spiritual Life and Vision

Date: 5 – 6 December 2009

Place: Mumbai, India

Contact: Universal Sanatana Dharma for the Deaf,

#303, Shalaka, Telli Galli Cross,

Andheri (East)

Mumbai - 400 069

INDIA

Mobile (SMS): +91 932 3121 949

Fax: +91 22 220 765 27

Email: info@usdd.org

Website: <http://www.usdd.org/index.htm>

SIGN4

Date: 17 - 19 December 2009
(+ pre-conference workshop 16 December)
Place: Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India
Organisers: Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, International Centre for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies, Preston, UK, Ishara Foundation, Mumbai, Deaf Empowerment Foundation, The Netherlands
E-mail: sign4conference@uclan.ac.uk

Supporting Deaf People 2010 (Online conference)

Date: 3 - 6 February 2010
Website: <http://www.online-conference.net/sdp2010/introduction.htm>

Global Deaf Muslim Conference 2010 Theme: The Spirit of Islam: Inclusiveness and Religious Equality

Date: 14 – 16 February 2010
Place: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Contact: Global Deaf Muslim
P.O. Box 46759
Cincinnati, OH 45246
USA

Email: contact@globaldeafmuslim.org
Website: <http://globaldeafmuslim.org/conference/>

First International Conference on Heritage/ Community Language Education

Date: 19 – 21 February 2010
Place: National Heritage Language Resource Center (NHLRC)
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
Contact: Gerda de Klerk, The Conference Organizing Committee
Email: gdk@asu.edu
Website: www.nhlrc.ucla.edu/conference

13th World Deaf Magicians Festival

Date: 23 – 30 May 2010
Place: Cattolica, Italy
Email: info@2010wdmf.com
Website: www.2010WDMF.com
Also it is possible to see more information in Facebook

21st International Congress on Education of the Deaf (ICED)

Theme: Partners in Education
Date: 18 – 22 June 2010
Vancouver, Canada
www.iced2010.com
Email: iced2010@advance-group.com

4th Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS)

Theme: Gesture – Evolution, Brain, and Linguistic Structures
Date: 25 – 30 July 2010
Place: European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder, (near Berlin)

Germany
Website: <http://www.isgs2010.de/>

2nd International Deaf Expo: Conference on Empowering Technologies in Education of the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing

Date: 13 – 17 December 2010
Place: New Delhi, India
Contact: DEAF LEADERS,
DEAF EXPO 2010
C/o. S.K. Rai,
16/10, New Faiz Road,
Crossing, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi 110 005
INDIA
Website: www.deafexpo2010.com
E: Mail: info@deafexpo2010.com / deafleaders@airtelmail.in
Mobile: +91 98940 58898

16th World Congress of the WFD

Theme: Global Deaf Renaissance
Date: 18 – 24 July 2011
Place: Durban, South Africa
Telephone: +27 11 482 1610
Fax: +27 11 726 5873
Email: [secretariat\(at\)wfd2011.com](mailto:secretariat(at)wfd2011.com)
[personalassistant\(at\)wfd2011.com](mailto:personalassistant(at)wfd2011.com)
Website: <http://www.wfd2011.com>

Deaf World Cruise 2013

Date: August 2013 (after the 22nd Summer Deaflympics in Athens, Greece)
Contact: Ben Pena, CEO
VIP Travel Network LLC
DBA: Deaf Cruise
14700 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd #157 PMB #379
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
USA
Email: mark.morales@deafcruise.com
Phone number: +1 480 553 8350
Fax Number: +1 480 657 0744
Website: <http://www.DeafWorldCruise.com>

If you know about an upcoming conference of regional or international interest, be sure to send us information about it for our Calendar of Coming events in WFD newsletter and also in the website.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS ON UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)

EASY READ VERSION

A new Easy Read version of the UNCRPD has been published by Inspired Services

The website is www.inspiredservices.co.uk and a direct link to the document can be found at <http://www.inspiredservices.org.uk/dwp.html>. It is another very useful document to have to add to the library on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

HANDBOOK FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE CONVENTION

Likewise, we would like to remind our readers of the possibility to order for free a "Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention". For more information and order instructions can be found through <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>.

This handbook, a joint publication of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), was released in October 2007 and has since the first English version been accompanied by versions in French, Spanish and Arabic.

DISABILITY RIGHTS, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT: A RESOURCE TOOL FOR ACTION

As part of its global strategy to promote the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in development activities and to mainstream disability in all aspects of its work, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD/DESA) and the Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW) at Wellesley College have developed a compilation of resource materials on innovative approaches to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities, especially women and children in inclusive people-centered development. Download a copy at <http://www.wcwonline.org>.

DEAF PEOPLE & HUMAN RIGHTS

A report written by Ms Hilde Hualand, researcher and Mr Colin Allen, project coordinator and report assistant.

The "Deaf People and Human Rights" report is based on a survey that is, up until now, the largest knowledge database on the situation of Deaf people. The lives of Deaf people in 93 countries, most of which are developing countries, are addressed. The Swedish National Association of the Deaf and the World Federation of the Deaf initiated the survey, with funding from the Swedish Agency for

International Development Co-operation (Sida) and the Swedish Organisations of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (Shia).

The report is available on the WFD Website in English and International Sign. You can also order a DVD of the report in International Sign for postage fee (5 €).

If you wish to receive the DVD, please contact WFD General Secretariat Office at orders@wfdeaf.org.

SILENT MAGIC

Dr. Simon J. Carmel (USA) announced his new book called *Silent Magic: Biographies of [59] Deaf Magicians in the United States from the 19th to 21st Centuries* (2008). This book is not only a great historical resource, but also it illustrates many personal struggles and triumphs of deaf magicians as well. These men and women all shared two very strong common interests: they are or were all deaf, and they all have or had a love for the art of magic. Carmel is currently a secretary-general of the Society of World Deaf Magicians.

Dr. Carmel is currently writing another book on the biographies of approximately 100 international deaf magicians around the world and hopes to complete it in two or three years from now. It is a fact that there are approximately 300 amateur and professional deaf conjurers in the world today.

He shall greatly appreciate to receive the information from readers of the WFD Newsletter who happened to know any past or present deaf magicians in their respective countries. He needs deaf magicians' full names, addresses and e-mail addresses, and photographs if any.

Dr. Carmel's email address is simoncarmel13@aol.com

DEAF PEOPLE, SIGN LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION, IN OTTOMAN & MODERN TURKEY

"Deaf People, Sign Language & Communication, in Ottoman & Modern Turkey: observations and excerpts from 1300 to 2008, from sources in English, French, German, Greek, and Italian, Latin and Turkish, with introduction and some annotation" is now open online, at: www.independentliving.org/miles200907.html and it is available in PDF format.

"Hittite Deaf Men in the 13th Century BC", within the context of ancient and medieval evidence of deaf people in the Middle East, at: www.independentliving.org/docs7/miles200809.html and it is available in PDF format.

HUMAN RIGHTS.YES

"Human Rights.Yes!" can be downloaded from the SINOSZ (Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) website: <http://oi.webstar.hu/sinosz/ftp/Emberjogok.pdf>



Legal Seat – Helsinki, Finland

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

An International Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with ECOSOC, UNESCO, ILO and WHO

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FAX: +358 9 580 3572
www.wfdeaf.org

President
MARKKU JOKINEN
Email: wfd@kl-deaf.fi

APPLICATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

I would like to become an INDIVIDUAL Member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

Understanding that my application is subject to approval by the President or General Secretary of WFD, I give below reasons for my interest in membership.

If my application is approved, I agree to pay the membership fee fixed for Individual Members, which is currently 50, 00 € (EUROS) annually.

I understand that payment of the annual fee entitles me to receive the **WFD NEWS** magazine for one year, plus other information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____ Email address: _____

I am DEAF / HARD OF HEARING / HEARING
(Please circle which applies)

Reasons for interest in membership of the WFD:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail or fax this form to:

WFD General Secretariat
PO Box 65
FIN 00401 Helsinki
FINLAND
Fax: +358 9 580 3572
Email: memberships@wfdeaf.org