



WORKABILITY

ASIA

NEWSLETTER

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Workability Asia Conference 2015

8 - 10 July 2015, Pattaya, Thailand

TOGETHER we can make the DIFFERENCE!!

485 participated to discuss about employment of persons with disabilities from the world

Annual Conference of Workability Asia was held with a great success in 8th – 10th July 2015 at Hilton Pattaya Hotel in Pattaya, Thailand hosted by Thai Organizing Committee which was consist of the Government of Thailand, Chonburi Province, Pattaya City, business sectors and disability organizations. According to Thai Conference Secretariat the number of participants was 485 in total including 74 from 16 countries/areas. Among total participants around 150 were with disabilities.



Guest Speakers

Honourable guest speakers Ms. Aiko Akiyama, Social Affairs Officer of UNESCAP, Mr. Patrick Maher, President of Workability International, Mrs. Napa Setthakorn, Director General of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand gave speeches on realizing an inclusive society where the rights of persons with disabilities are fully protected and enjoyed. Keynote Speaker Ms. Kelly Vincent, the female youngest member of the South Australian Legislative Council spoke about her experiences to actively participating to the society.



Sessions

Plenary sessions with very interesting and significant themes, concurrent sessions of 24 different topics and networking sessions were conducted subsequently. Every presentation was so informative and many discussions and interactions were exchanged among participants in all session to create and promote more employment opportunities of persons with disabilities.

WAsia Conference ...cont.



Nepal Disaster

Mr. Ram Prasad Dhungana, President of National Rehabilitation Centre of the Disabled Nepal made a special report on devastating earthquake hit Nepal in April this year. Still huge damages have remained above people of Nepal and need more supports in any forms from the world. It was put a donation box in the registration desk at the conference room and donation was delivered to Mr. Dhungana at the closing ceremony for people of Nepal.

Launch Workability Thailand

The highlight of the conference was the creation of Workability Thailand (WTH). It was launched with participation of 8 organizations to aim to reinforce strength and develop the operation standard of enterprises for persons with disabilities and for socially disadvantaged. WTH may seek their links to ASEAN countries in the future.



Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting of Workability Asia was held on 9th July after the conference close at the same Hilton Pattaya Hotel. More than 50 persons including authorized representatives from 20 member organizations attended the AGM. Following the reports on operational matters of the network by Directors and Secretariat many valuable suggestions were raised by attendees for future development of the network.



Conference 2016 in Bangalore, India

Mr. Basavaraju from Association of People with Disability invited all to next conference to be placed in Bangalore, India in 2016. Date will be advised as soon as determined.



Workability Asia would like to extend our sincere appreciation and congratulations to Thai organizers for their great contribution in preparing and holding such a successful conference.

Laxmi Rani: Successful overcome the barrier

Dr. Shamim Ferdous Ferdous

Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF)

Photo reference : Syed Antu

Story

Laxmi Rani Pal is a 5 years old girl with disability in cerebral palsy (CP) and speech delay. She belongs a very poor family. Poverty and discrimination goes simultaneously in her family lives. According to religion she borne in a lower caste Hindu family. Still discrimination from many aspects are existing towards her family from society. The neighboring people of Laxmi Rani pay a very narrow outlook towards her family being the lower caste status. They are seldom invited in any social or cultural program due to their caste status. Her father is Shantosh Pal and Mother is Bisnoka Rani Pal. She has one younger sister in the family. Her father is a day labour in a factory earns 4000 BDT (44 Euro) per month. With this minimum income her father has to run the entire family. Her father Shantosh don't have any cultivable land. They live in a tinny home comprising 3 decimal land. Everything they could not rearing homestead animal due to not having own land.



Laxmi Rani is going to centre with her mother



Laxmi Rani is receiving physiotherapy in the centre

Laxmi Rani was identified when a survey was conducted in her village. Her parents were suggested to send her to inclusive education of BPF. But her parents could not believe first that their child will be enrolled in a school. Besides her physical condition was not good enough to be enrolled in a school. She could not sit and stand properly and even could not delivery speech accurately. Physically she found very weak. She was suffering from malnutrition for long.

Successful overcome the barrier ... cont.

She was provided direct therapeutic service like physiotherapy, speech therapy, cognitive stimulation. She was also given necessary assistive device (AD) like standing frame as suggested by the assessment. The staffs from BPF had made frequent home visit to her family to provide activity daily living (ADL) training to her and her mother to be a care giver. Through visiting her home her parents received psychosocial support and technique of physio service which enabled them to provide service twice at home in the absence of BPF staffs. Laxmi Rani had opportunity to have one time nutritious food from school which have improved her nutrition status. Also from the organization a small grocery shop is given to her father. Earning From the shop they can purchase essential medicine for the entire family. Apart from the direct service to her and her family BPF has conducted several awareness raising session with the community member regarding protection and education rights of Children which have shifted outlook a bit towards the family.



Laxmi Rani is assisting her mother in grocery shop given by BPF



Now Laxmi Rani is happy

Through receiving a series of service for about two and half years her physical condition is improved. Now she can walk well can move alone, can deliver speech clearly and can perform her activity daily living independently. Now her life and livelihood status is not like as before. Still she is receiving physiotherapy and speech therapy after class time. She expressed her satisfaction through reciting poems. She attends school regularly and felt like very happy at school. **She told – " I want to study and play with all. I want to do good work and I want to be a very efficient goldsmith and want to sell it in my own jewelry shop in the market. Replying a question from the interviewer her parents replied " My daughter will be a noted personality when she will be grown up"**

2015 Workability International Photo Competition **Winners announced!**

Workability International has a photo competition every year during the Annual conference.

We are pleased to announce the winners, two organizations from WAsia got the 1st and 3rd places.

The winners for 2015

1st place: Sadayanodai Ilaingar Narpani Mandram (SINAM) , India



Congratulations!

2nd place: Southland, NZ



3rd place: National Rehabilitation Centre of
the Disabled Nepal
(NRCD Nepal)



From the Secretariat

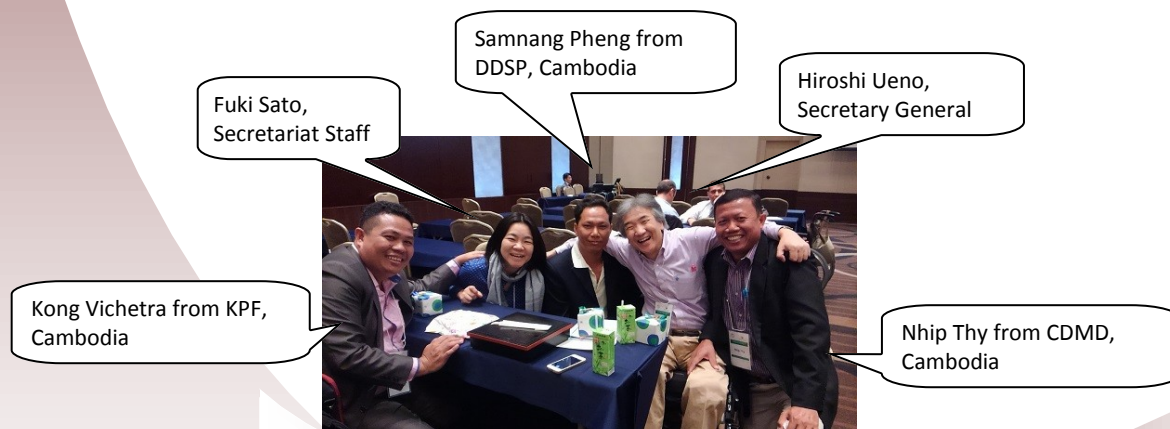
Welcome New Members to WAsia

5 new members joined us after the WAsia conference 2015!

1. Shwe Minn Tha Foundation, Myanmar
<http://www.smtgroupmyanmar.com>
2. Cambodian Development Mission for Disability (CDMD), Cambodia
<http://www.cdmdcambodia.org/>
3. Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF), Cambodia
<http://www.komarpikar.org/>
4. Disability Development Services Cambodia (DDSP), Cambodia
http://www.ddspcambodia.org/crbst_3.html
5. Malaysian Foundation for the Blind (MFB), Malaysia
<http://www.mfb.org.my>

Workability Asia Family

We met each other during the third Asia-Pacific CBR Congress, 1-3 September 2015, Tokyo.



EDITORIAL NOTES

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Your contribution to the WAsia Newsletter is always welcome.

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