



WAsia Chairperson visited Taiwan

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EnAble India Won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award



New member, CareER From Hong Kong



KYOSAREN had an advocacy campaign and PWDs join on Disabled Person's week in Japan



WORKABILITY ASIA

Newsletter

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Mr. Supornthum Mongkolsawadi, WAsia Chairperson visited two of WAsia members in Taiwan

Mr. Liang Cheng, the president of Eden Social Welfare Foundation and Mr. Patrick Yeh, the Board director of Workability Asia gave a warm welcome to Mr. Supornthum Mongkolsawadi, the secretary general of The Redemptorist Foundation for People with Disabilities and currently Chairperson of WAsia, who visited Taiwan from 17th to 21st October 2019.

Mr. Cheng, Mr. Yeh and Mr. Supornthum, discussed on WAsia's activities. Mr. Cheng is delighted to support WAsia. First of all, Eden would like to cooperate and work with the WAsia Secretariat Office and members in Thailand. The Redemptorist Foundation for PWDs (Mahatai) and Eden will exchange knowledge and support each other more frequently through WAsia network.

Eden will give support to Mahatai by accepting 4 staffs to develop potential, share experiences and inspect activities for PWD in Taiwan. This mission will promote the employment for people with disabilities on Greater MeKong Subregion, GMS.

Furthermore Mr. Supornthum visited Joyce Agape Polio Care Association of Changhua County, was well received by Mr. Chung-Sheng Chen, the CEO, one of WAsia members. Joyce Agape Association is a group of people with disabilities (PWDs), called Erhlin Happy Christian Homes. Mrs. Joyce McMillan from America founded the Joyce Concern Association, but sadly passed away in 2007. The Joyce Concern Association continues to show their appreciation and love for their founder. Their missions are as follows: To establish shelters and workshops, build up Polio Home and supply PWDs with concern consultation network & health consultation service.





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Mr.Chen has worked very hard to keep Joyce Agape Association for helping PWDs to become productive people of society. Their jobs are very various. The work progress has updated such as growing rice, green tea and coffee, the personalized products in attractive packages. The processes of production are modern and hygienic. It also has its own publishing or printing.



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TALENT NO BOUNDARIES



My name is Walter and I was born with severe low vision.

I am currently running a charity called Care ER Association in Hong Kong. It is my honor to share with you about my story and our work here. By way of introduction

CareER was founded in 2013 by myself with two co-founders and a group of passionate higher educated students and graduates with disabilities and SEN in Hong Kong. We aim to support each other to find suitable jobs, connect with peers and leverage on alumni experiences. We were first of its kind to create this charitable job matching platform bringing together a group of Human Resource professionals, career coaches and counsellors to provide employment support, as well as bridging inclusive employers with the right talents based on candidate abilities and meeting business needs. We have been working closely and partnering with a wide range of employers including MNCs, local conglomerates, SMEs, social enterprises, early start-ups and other NGOs. In other words, CareER is a free-of-charge recruitment agency to help screening and shortlisting prospective candidates, building disability & inclusion (D&I) recruitment strategy with corporate teams. We gain resources from corporate sponsorships, charitable foundations and through our annual fundraising events to provide full range of trainings and support to the SEN community. As of today, more than 230 jobs were placed successfully with 100+ employers in Hong Kong which benefited 150+ talents with different kinds of disabilities and SEN.





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Since 2016, CareER has the first student committee formed by SEN representatives in different universities and tertiary institutions, who wish to support their peers with similar kinds of physical and mental conditions. Through this powerful peer support network, along with scholarship programme and alumni sharing sessions, we were able to build a connection with 500+ students and graduates with disabilities and SEN. Bringing together our two main pillars of services, peer support and a job matching platform, we believe the true value of CareER could make a real impact. There are multiple meanings in our name: “Care in Education and Recruitment” and “being a Care(er)” of which we work together to support a smooth transition from school campus to employment and further to individual capabilities in career development. In other words, people with disabilities and SEN are no longer being taken care of, instead to become a contributing members in our community.

I am so grateful to be able to experience this entrepreneurial journey with many good friends, volunteers and my teammates who are just as passionate and sharing the same enthusiasm as I do. It was a tough journey to grow from a one-man-show to now running a NGO with team of ten. I have always reminded myself humbly to aim and fly high together with all CareER members. We have started in Hong Kong and wishing there is the chance to extend the platform beyond to other countries via Workability Asia to create a better and more inclusive society for all.

CareER website: www.career.org.hk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/careerhk
Walter's personal website: <http://waltertsui.hk/>



Author : Mr.Walter Tsui

Founder of CareER

KYOSAREN has an advocacy campaign every year



**PWDs joined the campaign
on Dec 6 during Disabled Person's Week.**

KYOSAREN has an advocacy campaign every year to inform the public for the actual situation for persons with disabilities near Shinjuku station. The station has the highest number of passengers in the world, and it is certified in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Since the Japanese government defines the week or Dec. 3 to 9 as "Disabled Person's Week", we held the campaign on Dec. 6. Approximately 330 persons including persons with disabilities, support staff and their families gathered wearing orange scarves and appealed for donations and signatures which will be submitted to the Diet next May. At the same time, over 50 speakers including persons with disabilities, Members of Parliament and other disability

organizations' representatives made speeches wearing a yellow sash in a relay for 6 hours (10am-4pm), which is called a "Marathon Speech".

This campaign started when KYOSAREN was established in 1977, so we have run it 43 times. By collecting over 1 million signatures all over Japan and submitting them, we will ask the government to solve these 5 issues below.

1. The "Law Concerning Provision of Temporary Payments for Victims of Forced Sterilization Based on the Old Eugenic Protection Law" should be strengthened to be a law appropriate for the recovery of human rights of victims, such as stipulating the national government apology and reviewing the amount of payment.
2. Raise the disability pension to a level where persons with disabilities can live with peace of mind, and expand programs that support their desired lifestyle, such as group homes and helper systems.
3. In "Revision of Remuneration in 2021," please raise the basic remuneration so that staff numbers are sufficient to provide needed support for persons with disabilities.
4. Please abolish the Long-term Care Insurance Priority Principle so that people with disabilities can choose and use the support they need even after they are over 65 years old.
5. Please investigate the actual situation under the responsibility of the national government and expand programs and resources the system so that local activity support centers can operate properly.



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EnAble India Won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award



The Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2019, India (Co-presented by Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation)

This puts Myself and Shanti Raghavan (Board member of Workability International and my wife) as part of Schwab Social Entrepreneurs community and members of the World Economic Forum. We are very excited that this will help further representation of the Disability movement at the Economic forum. We are elated with the tremendous recognition and are thankful to our incredible support system that makes it all possible. Our team, our beneficiaries and each and every friend and mentor of EnAble India has contributed and is an equal stakeholder in this fantastic experience.

Mr.Dipesh Sutariya,
Vice-chairperson, Workability Asia

CEO and cofounder,
EnAble India and President DNA
(Disabilities NGO Alliance)



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From the Secretariat Team

WAsia Board meeting was held on Nov. 25, 2019 at Bangladesh Protibondhi Kallyan Somity (BPKS), Dhaka, Bangladesh. 5 Board members out of 7 attended the meeting.

5 Attendances

- Supornthum Mongkolsawadi/ Chairperson (Thailand)
- Hiroshi Ayuha/ Director (Japan)
- Siu Yu Hong, Hetzer/ Director (Macau)
- Patrick Yeh/ Director (Taiwan)
- Shamim Ferdous/ Director (Bangladesh)

2 Absentees

- Dipesh Sutariya/ Vice Chairperson (India)
- Chan Pui Shan Florence/ Director (Hongkong)

Just before the last Board meeting, the Board received a Resignation letter from Ms. Sakulthip Keerathiphantawong who used to be WAsia Secretary General. The Board approved her decision and selected Ms. Chanasta Ruenyen from Thailand as acting Secretary General.

The Board had a discussion with Mr. Abdus Sattar Dulal, a representative of BPKS, the organization for WAsia conference 2020. They decided the date of WAsia conference 2020 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Date: November 4th – 6th (2 days' conference and study visit)

Please save the date!

Before the meeting, the Board visited two hotels to select the venue of the next WAsia conference, and on the morning of Nov. 26, they visited the State Minister and in the afternoon they had a discussions with about 10 local organizations of PWDs how to make the conference a success.

Workability Asia Newsletter would like to invite you to :

- Share your relevant information, knowledge or experiences with WAsia members and our network.
- Send your articles (1-2 pages) with some photos.
- Send your stories to WAsia Secretariat Team via workabilityasia@gmail.com to be part of the next newsletter **by 15 February, 2020.**

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