



W3RKABILITY

Newsletter

ISSUE 4/ Sep-Dec 21

ASIA

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Board Director of WAsia

**Director, Center for Partnership
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Inclusion and Diversity Event in Partnership with Willis Towers Watson July 29, 2021



Benilde SDEAS is a leading learner-centered
Deaf education institution producing
Leader-Advocates.



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Expressing Condolence for Mr. Patrick Yeh



MR. PATRICK YEH

A Kind and Giving Leader

We deeply regret the demise of Mr. Patrick Ying-Ping Yeh who was the former President, Eden Social Welfare Foundation, on 10th, November 2021 evening at Taipei, Taiwan.

At the age of 60s, when Mr. Yeh's second brother, who was two years older, passed away, he felt that his life was limited and he should seize the time to work for the Lord, so after retiring from his own business, he handed it over to his son and joined the Eden Social Welfare Foundation after meeting with the founder, Ms. Liu Hsia, on the recommendation of the board director of Eden.

Mr. Yeh served as the Auditor, Board Director, Executive Director, and two terms of President of Eden Foundation from 2012 to 2018, he was involved into Workability Asia (WAsia) as the Board of Director for 9 years since 2012 and establishing a viable partnership between Eden and WAsia for the implementation of employment and work rights for persons with disabilities.

He always uses Matthew 6:3-4, "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing," to encourage himself to do good works. He is a humble man who never insists on his own opinions in meetings. He always listens patiently to every participant's ideas, and then implements them together after consensus is reached.

Mr. Yeh was devoted himself over 30 years served as the Board of Director in Eden. He was also honored for his contribution of life time to the society in his 90th Birthday Party & the Diamond Marriage Celebration which was held in 2019.

We are grateful to have known Mr. Yeh. He was always supportive of our work as a senior tutor and would offer his opinion if asked, but only after thinking carefully about it. Besides, He was always respect for the conclusion that made by the group and it was amazing that he would have the timing to follow up so accurate. Our only problem was keeping up with him on the ways.

Whenever we were on the overseas duty trip, he was easy to please...a plate of fried rice to eat and a clean bed to sleep on were enough. He was always kind, always generous, always tried to keep things peaceful. We are honored to have him as our leader, and we will try to be as good as he was.

We lost a great man, and we feel so fortunate to have met him in life. His kindness and big heart of giving is always remarkable. He is dearly missed. Thank you Mr. Yeh for always being there for us and all people you know. You will be remembered as a blessing to us always.

With Regards,

Eden Social Welfare Foundation



Turning Adversity into Opportunity

The School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies is among the six Schools of the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) Manila. Established in 1988, DLS-CSB is known for pioneering degree programs that were not considered career-viable decades ago and hence, were not offered in other colleges and universities. At present, Benilde is recognized for innovation as it continues to offer non-traditional programs that are responsive to established industries and emerging fields of specializations.

However, no amount of innovation can fully prepare an institution for the adverse effects of the pandemic on the global economy. In fact, the business of tertiary education has been put to the test years before COVID-19. For one, the implementation of the K-12 system in 2012 and the succeeding lack of college enrollees for two consecutive school years led to a long-term unfavorable impact on the income of most private tertiary education institutions. Moreover, the passing into law of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, which institutionalizes free tuition and exemption from other fees in Philippine state universities and colleges, resulted in a mass migration of students from private schools to public schools. Many parents of college students also lost their primary sources of income during the pandemic, leaving their children with no choice but to withdraw from school.

Prior to the pandemic, the De La Salle-College of Saint, School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies (Benilde SDEAS) has long generated funds to further enhance its programs and support services for the Deaf. However, the prolonged COVID-19 community quarantine, propelled the institution to double its resource generation efforts to sustain its operations and support the needs of its Deaf students and graduates--many of whom suffered from the adverse economic effects of the pandemic. Benilde SDEAS remains committed to its mission of providing quality education for the Deaf despite the difficult situation by offering paid learning and development sessions to organizations employing the Deaf, receiving contributions from its generous allies, and engaging in project grants. In addition to these measures, Benilde SDEAS also further strengthened its existing programs. The school enhanced the curricula of its Filipino Sign Language Learning Program (FSLLP), provided professional development opportunities for its FSLLP instructors, and ensured a seamless transition

Inclusion and Diversity Event in Partnership with Willis Towers Watson

July 29, 2021



Benilde SDEAS is a leading learner-centered
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Young Deaf Summit 2021

July 30-31, 2021



Benilde SDEAS and Paypal's Business Communication and Customer Service Training for the Deaf

August 2 to October 22, 2021



Social Enterprise Business Model

12 November 2021



Rental and Leasing Business Model

19 November 2021



from a traditional classroom setup to a virtual learning environment. All these, along with a well-planned marketing strategy, allowed Benilde SDEAS to accommodate more hearing students wanting to learn Filipino Sign Language. In addition, the passing into law of RA 11106 or the Filipino Sign Language Act compelled several government agencies and various organizations to partner with SDEAS for customized FSL training sessions for their employees.

As a Deaf education institution that provides support services even to its graduates, Benilde SDEAS also had to contend with the loss of jobs of many of its Deaf alumni during the pandemic. This, however, did not hold Benilde SDEAS back from securing gainful employment for its Deaf graduates. Benilde SDEAS provided reskilling trainings to prepare its alumni to take on roles in the Information Technology-Business Process Outsourcing (IT-BPO) and E-Commerce industries. Deaf graduates from various batches attended trainings on Basic Online Customer Service, English for Business Communications, Data Processing, and Digital Entrepreneurship. There may have been a decrease in the number of Deaf Benildeans working in the service industry, but there is also an increase in the number of Deaf Benildeans engaged in IT-BPO and E-Commerce jobs. In fact, Benilde SDEAS is proud to have an employment rate as high as 69% during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the series of setbacks, it has faced for the past few years, Benilde SDEAS has proven that the Filipino Deaf community can rise above adversities by making the most out of available opportunities. The challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic made us stronger as an institution as we designed, implemented, and engaged in new pursuits to sustain our programs. Clearly, no pandemic can hinder our mission to provide quality tertiary education to the Filipino Deaf.

Oscar Sherlo Reyes

Board Director of WASIA

Director, Center for Partnership and Development
School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies
De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde

FSL 1 for Department of Education Closing Program

August 28, 2021



Online Filipino Sign Language Learning Program Orientation 1st Term, AY 2021-2022

September 11, 2021



Changing the narrative of Disability Inclusion - Golfers for Disability Inclusion: What's your handicap?



Golf Association (KGA) in Bengaluru on October 21, 2021. Supported by Brookfield Properties and LSEG India, the event was teed off by famed golfers Shubhankar Sharma and Khalin Joshi to promote golfers for disability inclusion. The game was played in the modified Stableford format with a shotgun start. The event was aimed at raising money for NGOs working towards including persons with disabilities into the mainstream and to sensitize the non-disabled about the problems faced by the disabled population. We saw participation from 77 golfers across the corporate sector, armed forces and members of KGA. 43 golfers also tried playing the game blindfolded, thus getting a first-hand taste of life with blindness and its challenges.

The other main objective of organizing this tournament was to tee off India Blind Golf with a vision to take the sport on world stage with blind golfers from the country. 37 candidates experienced the game under professional supervision at the Golf Clinic for persons with vision impairment. The clinic aims to train and select visually impaired golf enthusiasts who could potentially represent the Indian Blind Golf team. Taking this initiative forward, we have formed a core committee constituting of Persons with Vision Impairment, Golfers and members from the Enable India team who will chalk out the next steps.

Dipesh Sutariya, Co-Founder & CEO, Enable India- The title is very important, it's Golfers for Disability Inclusion. We all love golf but when we say we are golfing for 'something', it makes it different. There is an international tournament which happens for blind golfers. There are associations like the US Blind Golf, Canada Blind Golf, various countries have Blind Golf Associations. So, what's my vision? We need to create India Blind Golf Association. My dream is to have a visually impaired person represent India one day and compete in Paralympics.

Shubhankar Sharma, Professional Golfer- We are all golfers here, we know how special golf is. It's just a sport that connects everyone and gives us so much joy. And it's a sport unlike any other sport, that connects us to nature. And I always say, more than sport, it's a way of life. Just seeing what Enable India has done today and what Nikki Ponappa did in the golf clinic today, I am happy that it's including everyone in the game.

Shanti Raghavan, Founder, Enable India- It's a game which requires temperament, you are playing against the course, there are no winners except the course. So, I think it has to be promoted in the country because one's character will get developed. The support of all companies just shows that the time has come not only for sports to fly but golf to fly.

A post-event sundowner and prize distribution ceremony, 'The Purple Haze' was held in the evening, followed by a cocktail dinner and networking among 100+ participants.

**Written by Shruti Pushkarna,
EnAble India**

CASCADING EMPOWERMENT- FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION



Online session at Ginny's Planet



A trainee at BGCT conducting a session

Trainees Become Trainers

We recently saw the tables turned, when we saw our students Medha and Santhosh facilitating expressive arts session for Bubble's students.

This all started with their exposure and experience of facilitating a diverse group of people online through Ginny's planet.

Ginny's planet has a quarterly event called "A day on Ginny's Planet" where they invite several resource persons from all walks of life to facilitate sessions related to empathy, skilling and diversity.

Medha and Santhosh facilitated their respective session on expressive arts and that led them to further try their skills as trainers, conducting session with the younger students at Bubbles.

Medha and Santhosh are trainees at Pragati, the vocational skilling initiative of BGCT where they are trained in digital skills, hospitality and creative arts.

BGCT (Biswa Gouri Charitable Trust) works with children and adults with Autism and Intellect Disability.

This indeed had several connected impacts:

Cascading Effect- Enabling a young adult with disability to find agency through skills will inspire many like him/her/them.

Representation Matters- Santhosh as a trainer/facilitator has a ripple effect on young adults and children and their families, who can resonate with him.

Inclusive space- Santhosh conducting an online event with diverse audience, creates an example of inclusion and diversity.

Note: Ginny's Planet is a social enterprise which aims to build a world where no one feels odd-one-out. They aim to nurture aware, empathic, and diversity respecting people and spaces through capacity building.

We strive to create many more such opportunities to ensure social inclusion and cascade the impact of empowerment.

Contact person;

POULOMI PAL

HEAD, PRAGATI for LIVELIHOODS

BISWA GOURI CHARITABLE TRUST (BGCT)

Career Building and Online Digital Businesses for People with Disabilities Training.

The Redemptorist Foundation for People with Disabilities and the Department of Skill Development, Chonburi, collaboratively organize the training program to promote occupation and develop the quality of life for People with Disabilities in Chonburi. This project's name is "Career Building and Online Digital Businesses for People with Disabilities". It started from 16 October and finished on 24 November, 2021. This project has trained 325 people. There are 300 PWDs and 25 non-disabled students who can become the caretakers for PWDs, furthermore they could help to promote and support PWDs to sell products online.

This project is run by government to train the vulnerable people after Covid-19 pandemic to generate income from managing digital marketing. The government supported 3,285,050 baht (around \$98,000). It covered food, accommodation and travelling cost for PWDs who were attended the training. After the training, PWDs are able to go streaming on Facebook for their online businesses, to design graphics on the computer and to manage their financial and tax as well.

Mr. Manop Iamsa-ard

Manager of Ray Social Enterprise Co., Ltd

c/o The Redemptorist Foundation for PWDs



Partnering with Persons with Disabilities Toward an Inclusive, accessible, and sustainable post-Covid-19 world

As the world observes the International Day of Persons with Disabilities today, we honour the leadership of persons with disabilities and their tireless efforts to build a more inclusive, accessible and sustainable world. At the same time, we resolve to work harder to ensure a society that is open and accommodating of all.

An estimated 690 million persons with disabilities, around 15 per cent of the total population, live in the Asia-Pacific region. Many of them continue to be excluded from socio-economic and political participation. Available data suggests that persons with disabilities are almost half as likely to be employed as persons without disabilities. They are also half as likely to have voted in an election and are underrepresented in government decision-making bodies. Just about 0.5 per cent of parliamentarians in the region are persons with disabilities. Women with disabilities are even less likely to be employed and hold only 0.1 per cent of national parliament positions.

One of the main reasons behind these exclusions is a lack of accessibility. Public transportation and the built environment in general -- including public offices, polling stations, workplaces, markets and other essential structures -- lack ramps, walkways and basic accessibility features. Accessibility, however, goes beyond the commonly thought of physical structures. Barriers to access to services and information and communication technology must also be removed, to allow for the participation of persons with diverse types of disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities and hearing and vision impairments.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns has exacerbated existing inequalities. Many persons with disabilities face increased health concerns due to comorbidities and were left without access to their personal assistants and essential goods and services. As much of society moved online during lockdowns, inaccessible digital infrastructure meant persons with disabilities could not access public health information or online employment opportunities.

Despite these challenges, persons with disabilities and their organizations were among the first to respond to the immediate needs of their communities for food and supplies during lockdowns in addition to continuing their long-term work to support vulnerable groups.



Ms.Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Executive Secretary of UNESCAP

3 December, 2021

More Info: <https://www.unescap.org/op-ed/partnering-persons-disabilities-toward-inclusive-accessible-and-sustainable-post-covid-19>

FROM THE SECRETARIAT TEAM

Greeting from WAsia secretariat Office,

The Covid-19 pandemic has spread all around the world over the past 2 years. It is likely to be with us for a long time. The pandemic affects the economy, society, politics and the way of life of people including people with disabilities. We in Workability Asia are concerned about this difficult situation. We really hope that the crisis will be gone and everything will get better. Our mission is to support each other and that we will get through it soon.

In 2021, WAsia realized that the Covid-19 pandemic would bring economic recession. Many NGOs face a shortage in their budget and difficulty to find the funding to support their organizations. There are 12 organizations that had a waived of the membership fee in 2021 and there are 5 organizations with a waived of the membership fee in 2020.

We really hope we will meet each other at WAsia Annual Conference in 2022, face to face in Pattaya, Thailand.

See you soon,

Chanasta and the Secretariat Team

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 to be part of the next newsletter **by February 15, 2022.**

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