



WFD NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

MAY 2011



Organising Committee of XVI World Congress of
the World Federation of the Deaf,
20 Napier Road, Richmond 2142, South Africa
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www.wfd2011.com



XVI WFD WORLD CONGRESS 2011, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

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Cover picture:

World Congress Secretariat, DEAFSA

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 Anja Hurtamo

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.

WFD BOARD MEETING

The 97th WFD Board meeting will take place in Durban, South Africa from 12 – 13 July 2011, prior to the WFD General Assembly and the WFD Congress, hosted by the Deaf Federation of South Africa. After the World Congress, the new and old WFD Board members will have their 98th WFD Board meeting.

DONORS

WFD wishes to thank to those WFD members who have made a contribution to support the WFD.

Here are the names of the contributors:

Serena Corazza

Jerry Nelson

Nancy J. Bloch

Satu Worseck

Tan Keng Ying

Hend Al-Showaier

ICED PETITION - TAKE ACTION

World Federation of the Deaf is calling individuals to sign an online petition, New Era Document, which rejects the resolutions of the 1880 Milan Congress that banned the use of sign language from educational programmes for deaf children.

TO SIGN THE PETITION, PLEASE VISIT:

www.petitions24.com/wfd

WFD MEMBERSHIP FEES

FOR WFD ORDINARY MEMBERS ONLY

All of the membership fees must be paid fully (including debts from previous years) before **15 July 2011** in order to have voting rights at the WFD General Assembly in Durban, South Africa (**16 – 17 July 2011**).

Payments can be made in cash until the end of the workshop prior to the General Assembly.

The nomination for election for the **WFD Board 2011 – 2015** will be accepted if the membership fees (including debts from previous years) have been paid by **15 July 2011**.

XVI WORLD CONGRESS REGISTRATION

Have you registered for the XVI World Congress of WFD yet? Don't miss out! The Congress is shaping up to be a terrific event. There is something for everyone within the programme.

You can:

- Meet up with old friends and make new ones
- Find out what is happening for deaf people around the world at the plenary sessions, commissions and special interest group presentations
- See deaf theatre performances
- Spend your evenings with new and old friends at the Deaf Pub
- Visit the trade and craft exhibitions
- To chat, eat and drink at the welcome cocktail party and the Congress dinner.
- Go on a tour – before, during, or after the Congress – with other deaf people.

If you have not registered yet, relax – registrations will be accepted right up until the Congress begins.

For further information, check on WFD Congress website: www.wfd2011.com The WFD Congress Registration is available online. For fees and registration, please visit: <http://www.wfd2011.com> and <http://www.wfd2011.com/registration>

COME AND JOIN US!

Registration for the
XVI World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf
18-24 July 2011, Durban, South Africa is
NOW OPEN

Please contact Susi Wheel Barber or Lenie Viljoen at registration@wfd2011.com

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GLOBAL DEAF RENAISSANCE
WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF
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socialevents@wfd2011.com'."/>

Official Deaf Pub
XVI World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf
18-24 July 2011, Durban, South Africa

Networking
Socialising

Come and do some networking and socialise with the world!
Open from the 18 -23 July 2011
At Miami Night Club, 500m from the Congress venue
Contact Atiyah Asmal at socialevents@wfd2011.com

MIAMI NIGHT CLUB

Organising Committee of XVI World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf,
20 Napier Road, Richmond 2142, South Africa
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GLOBAL DEAF RENAISSANCE
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ABOUT WFD

THE WORLD FEDERATION
OF THE DEAF
is an international
organisation representing and
promoting the human rights
of approximately
70 million people
worldwide.

Location: Helsinki, Finland

130 ordinary members

**7 regional secretariats
worldwide**

**WFD has a consultative
status in the Union
Nation including:**

-Economic and Social Council
(ECOSOC)

-UN Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)

-International Labour
Organization (ILO)

-World Health Organization
(WHO)

World Federation of the Deaf

Full Equality & Quality of Life For All Deaf People



**WFD HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE FIRST HUMAN
RIGHTS TREATY OF THE 21ST CENTURY; THE FIRST BINDING TREATY
SPECIFICALLY PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN
ALL AREAS OF LIFE.**



**The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities will have a great impact on many
Deaf people's lives after it has been ratified.**

**The Convention acknowledges recognition of
sign language, deaf culture and linguistic
and cultural identity, quality education in
sign language, professional sign language
interpreting and acceptance and
facilitation the use of sign language.**

**With your help and support, we can
continue to make a difference!**



www.wfdeaf.org

**SUPPORT
WFD'S WORK
FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS!**

DONATE NOW

**Any amount you can
give will make a
difference.**

**MONTHLY
GIVING**

**What an easy way to
support our work on a
monthly basis!**

WFD SHOP

**T-shirts, pins,
Country Name Sign
book, and much more!**
www.wfdeaf.org

JOIN US!

To become an individual member, you will
receive a member bulletin 6 times per year
and the latest news from our e-mail service.
You also will be able to buy a cheaper ticket
to WFD's Congress, which is held from 18
to 24 July 2011 in Durban, South Africa.
For more information, check
www.wfd2011.com.

How can you join? Go to our website for
Individual Membership form. You also can
contact our office and we can send you the
application form. Once you fill the form out
and pay, we will send you a member
certificate.

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WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16–17 JULY 2011

FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS ONLY

WFD has sent a registered letter along with documents to all Ordinary Members on 17 June 2010 for the upcoming XVIII General Assembly, which will be held from 16 – 17 July 2011 in Durban, South Africa prior to the World Congress. The General Secretariat would like to remind Ordinary Members to send the

- **TWO (2) ORIGINAL ENTRUSTING POWER FORMS BY 15 JUNE 2011.**

63 Ordinary Members have already sent their Entrusting Power forms to represent for the General Assembly.

FINAL AGENDA AND ATTACHMENTS

WFD had sent a package along with the final agenda with attached reports and other documents on 15 April 2011 (at three months in advance, as stated in **WFD Statutes Article 28.1.**), prior to the General Assembly, to its Ordinary Members.

Documents inside the package:

1. Cover letter
2. Invitation of the General Assembly Workshop
3. Workshop and General Assembly Programme
4. Agenda

Appendixes:

- List of Delegates
- Call to XVIII General Assembly
- XVII General Assembly Minutes
- Report of the Board on WFD Activities during the Period 2007- 2011
- Financial statement for the Period 2007 – 2010
- Proposals for amendments to the Statutes
- WFD Vision and Action Plan 2011 - 2015
- Nominations to the WFD Board

WORKSHOP

A workshop for the General Assembly (GA) will be held on 15 July 2011, prior to the XVIII General Assembly for Ordinary Members

The WFD Secretariat highly recommends all of OM delegates to participate in the General Assembly workshop since the programme is extremely useful to prepare for the next day's WFD General Assembly and as well as information on the United Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Further information about the General Assembly: please be in contact to Ms. Phillipa Sandholm (phillipa.sandholm@kl-deaf.fi).

WFDYS CAMP

SOUTH AFRICA

6 – 14 JULY

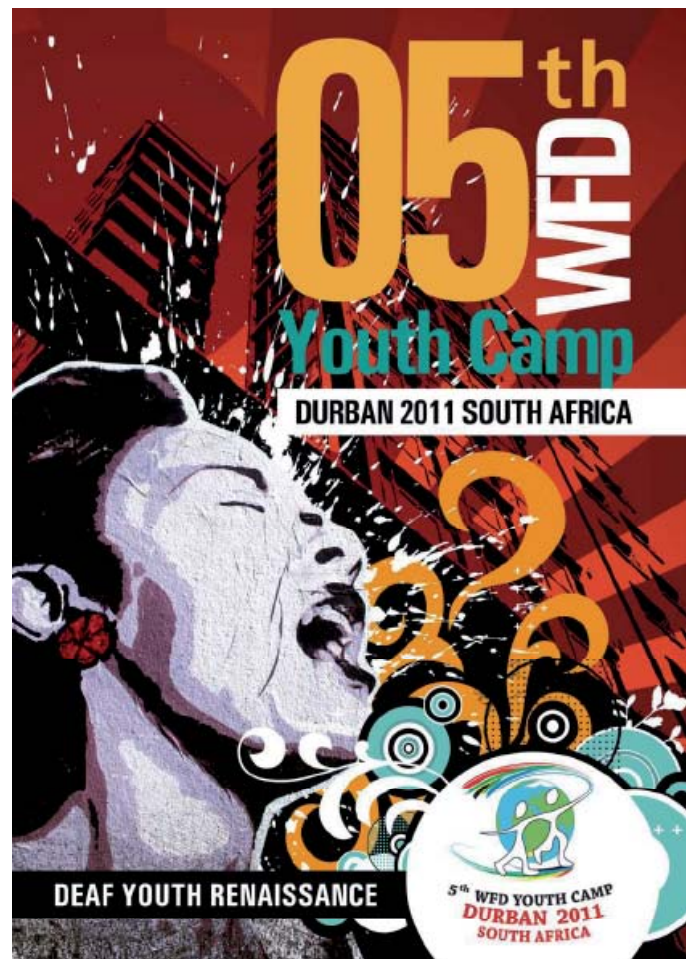
Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA) will be hosting the 5TH WFDYS Youth Camp from 6 – 14 July 2011 in South Africa.

The main objectives of the WFDYS camp are:

- To train and develop organisational and leadership skills in Deaf Youth
- To facilitate networking among Deaf Youth

Selection Criteria:

- Ordinary Members of the WFD are invited to nominate two (2) participants per country – 1 male and 1 female representatives
- All participants must be deaf
- Must be between the ages of 18 – 30 years
- Copy of the passports must be sent by fax or email with the registration form
- Deadline for all registrations are 30 April 2011



Registration fees:

Developed countries – R 6 000.00

Developing countries – R 4 200.00



For more information about the camp: please visit <http://www.wfd2011.com/wfdys/> and also www.wfdeaf.org

EEMARS - SUMMIT IN MOLDOVA

In the capital of the Republic of Moldova, Kishinev on 19 - 20 November 2010 in "Europe" Hotel, the regular meeting of Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf on Eastern Europe and Middle Asia was held.

Leaders and representatives of eight (8) Member-countries of the WFD EEMARS: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and also representatives of the government of Moldova took part in the meeting.

In the agenda, there were following points:

1. Deaf Education and Sign Languages Issues in the WFD EEMARS Countries;
2. Realization of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the WFD EEMARS Countries;
3. Miscellaneous.

Newly elected president of Association of the Deaf of Republic Moldova, Mr. Ruslan Lopatyuk opened the meeting, he addressed to the participants with greetings, in which he thanked colleagues for having the possibility to arrive to Moldova, to note the importance of WFD EEMARS for development of the international cooperation and wished participants of success in work. The greetings of the WFD President Markku Jokinen in connection with 15th anniversary of the WFD EEMARS were also received.

Regional Secretariat (RS) Director and VOG President, Mr. Valery Rukhledev could not attend the meeting, therefore participants voted for the proposal of the Adviser of the RS Director, Mr. Nikolay Filatov to let the WFD EEMARS Secretary General, Mr. Dmitry Rebrov conduct the meeting.

On the first point of the Agenda reading the Statement, "A New Era: Deaf Participation and Collaboration" of 21st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf in Vancouver (Canada). They noticed the problems of Deaf Education in the WFD EEMARS Countries, in many ways, similar, actual, and directly connected with presence of measures of the state support Sign language and to demand the immediate decision on the level of the legislation.

WFD EEMARS decided:

1. To continue active work and to strengthen interaction with governments of the countries with view of perfection of its standard-legal base and Education standards of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
2. Recognizing an important role of Sign Language in the Education and lives of the Deaf, WFD EEMARS Members support the basic principles stated in the Statement "A New Era: Deaf Participation and Collaboration" of 21st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf in Vancouver (Canada).

On the second point of the Agenda note was taken that the process of realization of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the WFD EEMARS Countries was not easy to implement, since it depends on available resources and possibilities of the state, efficiency of perfection of the legislation, from active work of public disability organizations and civil society, and also on a position of the Government in question to form a state policy concerning Persons with Disabilities.

Regional Secretariat's Decisions:

1. To speed up work and interaction with Governments for prompt reduction of the legislation in conformity with the rules of the UN Convention;
2. To spend explanatory work and inform members of the organizations on the importance of the UN Convention;
3. To give charge to RS Director to consult with the WFD about creation of the WFD EEMARS Advisory Council on realization of the UN Convention.

The next day after the meeting, on 20th November, ceremonial meeting in connection with the 70th anniversary of Association of the Deaf of Republic Moldova was taken place. The awards were given to the active members of Deaf Association of Moldova by the state was taken place as well.

On 21st November 2010, the participants of the international summit left hospitable Kishinev.

Dmitry Rebrov

WFD EEMARS & VOG (All-Russian Society of the Deaf)



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

- 99 ratifications of the Convention
- 147 signatories to the Convention

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION

- 61 ratifications of the Optional Protocol
- 90 signatories to the Optional Protocol

RECENT SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS:

- Togo ratified the Convention on 1 March 2011
- Togo ratified the Optional Protocol on 1 March 2011

New web resource page on Disability and HIV / AIDS at Enable

A new web page has been launched on the United Nations Enable website that draws attention to the growing relationship between HIV/AIDS. This emerging issue is a cause for concern as persons with disabilities are at higher risk of exposure to HIV and seldom recognized as a group to be included in national responses to HIV/AIDS. The web resource page also provides links to policy documents, websites and forthcoming events related to disability and HIV/AIDS. More information:
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1560>

Source: UN Enable

Launch of the first World Disability Report on 9 June at UN Headquarters

The CRPD has drawn global attention to the situation of persons with disabilities in their societies and mandates States parties to address these issues. A new publication, the first ever World Report on Disability, produced jointly by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, reviews evidence about the global situation of persons with disabilities, and offers directions for policy and practice to address exclusion. The report contains chapters on health; rehabilitation; assistance and support; enabling environments; education; and employment. Importantly, the report also includes the first new disability prevalence estimates since the 1970s and makes the case for better data collection. This pioneering report demonstrates how removing barriers, investing in rehabilitation and more accessible environments can enable millions of persons with disabilities to participate in education, employment and wider society. At the intersection of human rights, development, public health and disability studies, the World Report on Disability is an important publication for policy-makers, professionals, persons with disabilities and their families. More information:
http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/en/index.html

Source: UN Enable

OHCHR Interactive panel on disability and international cooperation

The Human Rights Council held its third interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities on 4 March 2011 on the theme "The role played by international cooperation in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the CRPD". The Panel was opened by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay. Panelists were Shuaib Chalklen, Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission on Social Development, Monthien Buntan, Senator of Thailand, Theresia Degener, representative of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, María-Verónica Reina, Executive Director of the Global Partnership for Disability and Development, and Nathalie Herlemont, Head of the Strategic Policy Service at Handicap International. Panelists shared best practices in the field and discussed mainstreaming disability rights in development, the diversity of disability in international cooperation, the alignment of international cooperation with standards set out in the CRPD and disability rights in humanitarian action. More information: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/DebateMarch2011.aspx>

Source: UN Enable

Human Rights Council resolution on international cooperation and disability

In response to the above panel, the Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted a resolution on the role of international cooperation in supporting national efforts for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and called on Member States to consider the findings and recommendations in the OHCHR thematic study on the issue. The Assembly invited the High Commissioner to make the study available to the forthcoming High-level meeting at the 67th session of the General Assembly on strengthening efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts. The Assembly further requested OHCHR to prepare its fourth thematic study on the CRPD, this time on participation in political and public life. OHCHR will contact States, UN agencies and civil society partners, as well as National Human Rights Institutions for contributions to the study later in 2011. The study will be considered by the Human Rights Council in March 2012. More information: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/DisabilityIndex.aspx>

Source: UN Enable

GPDD Development Partners Forum and membership meeting

The Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD) "Development Partners Forum", was held

in Oslo, Norway (30 March). Disability focal points from Government donor agencies, the United Nations system, multilateral donor organizations and private foundations met to discuss ways to align their strategies with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Later this year, from 21-23 September, GPDD will hold its 3rd Disability and Development Forum and Membership Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where members and partners will focus on options for implementing development actions towards the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly in light of Article 32 of the CRPD. The meeting will also discuss issues related to women with disabilities in development, children with disabilities, disability and disasters, and South-South cooperation. More information: <http://www.gpdd-online.org/>

NORAD Seminar on disability mainstreaming in development cooperation

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) in collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on Disability held a seminar to examine the challenges of mainstreaming disability in both official development programmes and projects, as well as in civil society projects. The seminar brought together representatives from both donors and recipient countries, as well as the UN system, disabled peoples' organizations (DPOs), international NGOs and the business sector to identify ways to mainstream disability in international development cooperation. The seminar lays the foundation for action to include a disability perspective in development cooperation. More information: <http://www.norad.no/en/About>

Source: UN Enable

Dr. Liisa Kauppinen, representative of IDA and WFD along with Dr. Joseph Murray, WFD Board member attended the NORAD Seminar.

UNCRPD – Easy French Version

Belgian intellectual disability rights organization, AFRAHM, has created a French language, easy-to-read version of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD).

The CRPD entered into force in 2008. It is a landmark document in disability policy which outlines and guarantees the rights of people with disabilities.

Recently, the European Union ratified the convention, making it the first human rights treaty ratified by the European Union as a whole.

This new French language, easy-to-read version of the CRPD will allow French native speakers with intellectual disabilities to read and understand this extremely important document.

You can download the French easy-to-read version of the CRPD at this location.

Source: Inclusion Europe

Report Released for Emergency Communications Needs of People With Disability in Times of Natural Disaster

The Australian Communications and Media Authority welcomes the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) report, The Queensland flood disaster: Access for people with disability to phone services and emergency warnings, released today.

'ACCAN's report contributes a range of valuable messages about the emergency communications needs of people with disability, in particular for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment,' said ACMA Chairman, Chris Chapman.

The report has made a number of recommendations regarding the provision of both emergency and non-emergency calls in such incidents.

The severe flooding risk caused the temporary suspension of most services provided by the government's National Relay Service (NRS), which provides telecommunications services (including an emergency call service) to people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment. The NRS Brisbane call centre was evacuated for 24 hours on 12 January 2011 due to concerns about staff safety and access during the floods.

Importantly, due to the sustained efforts of the Australian Communication Exchange (ACE), as the NRS relay provider, and our grateful support from Telstra, the text-based emergency access via 106 was not interrupted over this period.

The public acknowledgement from ACCAN and peak bodies including: Deaf Australia, the Australian Federation of Deaf Societies and the World Federation of the Deaf for the efforts of the ACMA in using AUSLAN as part of fully informing the NRS community to the disruption was appreciated.

'The ACMA has been working with ACE to assess how to better mitigate such disruptions in the future and both parties are committed to ensuring that the integrity of the NRS is maintained,' said Mr Chapman.

'More broadly, the ACMA has received regular briefings from the major telecommunications providers during the recent run of natural disasters, outlining their preparatory actions, assistance to emergency services, customer support and infrastructure restoration.

'Given the severity and overlapping demands placed on the telecommunications sector by these recent natural disasters, the ACMA applauds the sector for responding quickly and appropriately. With the combination of power outages, access difficulties and damage to physical infrastructure, the telecommunications providers should be recognised for their dedicated and responsive endeavours.

'In such natural disasters, it is nonetheless important to examine how responses can be further improved. The ACCAN report is an important contribution to that examination by governments, emergency service providers, the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors and the community,' Mr Chapman said.

In addition, the ACMA is currently working with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) on a range of issues related to ACCAN's report, including giving consideration to how the current NRS, including access to emergency services, could be improved and how best to establish mobile text-based access to emergency services for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment.

Source: NEW-4-US, Queensland, Australia 11 March 2011

BRAZIL

The Brazilian deaf community is asking for assistance from all over the world to defend a school for the deaf called INES-RJ National Institute of Education of the Deaf in Rio de Janeiro. Professor E. Huet of France was a student of Michel Abbe L'Epee, went to Brazil in 1855 and had made a contact with the Empire Dom Pedro II to sign the foundation for a school for the deaf and for the students to learn sign language.

The Brazilian government ordered the closure of the INES and together the deaf community in Brazil is so outrageous. The Brazilian deaf community is asking to sign for the support of INES. Please go to sign on this online petition: "In defense of Deaf Education in the INES - <http://www.peticaopublica.com.br/?pi=LutaINES>



COLOMBIA

"Success is a matter of attitude"

In order to honour to the successful women that have gone through adversities and stood out as people and professionals, performing in an adequate way in different life settings, the first lady of the city of Manizales, Caldas, Colombia Julia Leonor Valencia de Llano and the communitarian council of women celebrated the women's day on 8th of May 2011, in el Fondo Cultural del Café in the city of Manizales (Caldas), Colombia. In this event, was given to recognition for their personal and professional career to Martha Lucia Osorno Posada, deaf person, along with other women with disabilities.

Source: Martha Lucia Osorno Posada, WFD Expert on Deaf Women



Photos: Martha Osorno Posada

ITALY

The 2nd Summit of the Deaf of Mediterranean- the role of the deaf people within society for the acknowledgment of their identity, legislation and human rights will be organized by the Italian Association of the Deaf for deaf people who live surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea. The aim of the summit is to establish the Mediterranean Union of the Deaf, to cooperate with deaf associations of this area and to cooperate with the country governments on the social needs of deaf people, like education, professional training, labour and participation in political, cultural and recreational life. The organising committee is hoping to receive suggestions and proposals by Associations of the deaf in the Mediterranean area. The 1st summit was taken place at Montpellier, France in 2005. The dates for the summit have not been decided yet. For more information, contact to the Italian Association of the Deaf: foreignoffice@ens.it

JAPAN

It was with great sadness that the WFD learnt about the earthquake which struck the north-east of Japan on 11 March 2011 causing a tsunami and the tragic loss of life and extensive damages in the region.

WFD has expressed its sorrow and sympathy by sending an email/letter to the Japanese Federation of the Deaf, to the population of Japan as the country deals with the aftermath of the devastating natural disaster and the destruction it has caused.

WFD hopes that the deaf people in Japan receive information and all help they need.

UNITED KINGDOM

Deaf Parenting UK: Enabling & Supporting Deaf Parents

For many of you who are Deaf Parents and have deaf/hearing/ disabled children or professionals working with Deaf parents, have you heard of **Deaf Parenting UK?** Some of you have read about our work and achievement

however if you are new to **Deaf Parenting UK**, let me explain what we do.

We have heard stories from Deaf parents and professionals on barriers they faces in accessing to maternity care, health care, social services, parenting support and their children's education. Case studies are explained below.

About Deaf Parenting UK:

Deaf Parenting UK is seen as unique and the first ever registered charity in the UK run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents, representing the needs of deaf parents in the UK who are sign language users and are 90% likely to have hearing children.

Following a lack of interest from mainstream Deaf organisations in developing a range of projects and programmes to work with Deaf parents, a decision was made in October 2004 to become a registered charity as an independent organisation and to seek funding to deliver a range of programmes/services targeted at Deaf parents.

The aims of Deaf Parenting UK as an independent organisation are:

- * To enable confidence, empower and support Deaf Parents and Deaf parents to be.
- * To highlighting the gaps in services in UK and address those gaps.
- * To work with various organisations including Health, Social Services, Deaf & mainstream parenting organisations to improve access to information and services to Deaf Parents.

Reasons for Deaf Parenting UK – evidences on gaps in services:

Deaf Parenting UK was established by Sabina Iqbal as a project in 2001. The project became an independent organisation in 2004, following her research done on gaps in services for Deaf parents within the UK. Sabina's research, revealed a scenario of risks to families of Deaf parents – services demonstrating the lack of awareness and appropriate consideration of the needs of Deaf parents.

Because of varying hearing-led communication issues within the home and at school, Deaf children often lack reasonably adequate access to basic information in the area of personal, social and health, such as growing up, sex education, pregnancy and parenting. The reality of such backgrounds and statistics expose these facts:

* 90% of Deaf children are born to hearing parents. As well as mainstream support and information, which is available to parents in general, parents of deaf children have access to information, resources and support via Social Services and Deaf children's organisations. There is information on parenting (for hearing parents) of deaf, hearing and disabled children which is readily available in print, Video/DVD material and Parenting Classes etc.

* When those Deaf children grow up into adults and become Deaf parents, what is appropriate for them to get resources, information and support in accessible formats, is scarce or fragmented locally and nationally. Therefore the lack of such access creates an acute issue when Deaf Adults have a 90% chance of having hearing children.

The following is common in Deaf parents' daily lives, as services offered to Deaf parents are sometimes non-existent, very limited or patchy as compared to those available to hearing parents:

* Deaf parents are unable to easily access mainstream information - parenting skills classes, midwives or health visitors. Deaf parents find it difficult to access or adequately participate in their health, maternity care and their children's health & school life due to inability of staff to appropriately communicate in sign language or lack of Deaf awareness.

There are an estimated 60,000 Deaf people who use BSL in the UK however recent survey by the Department of Health puts the figure for England at over 100,000. 90% of Deaf parents have hearing children. 90% of Deaf people have hearing parents however 16% of hearing parents learn to use BSL. (source: Deaf People in the Community 2000, Deaf Studies Trust, Bristol)

Parental Responsibility - Every Parents Matter & PEAL Programme:

The British Government paper - Every Parents Matters (EPM 2007 p.21) stresses the importance of being informed of services, **"...In order for parents to take advantage of services designed to help them, they need to know what's available. If they're not aware of what's there, they could be missing out."** This has a high relevance to Deaf parents whose first and preferred language is British Sign Language and therefore not always able to follow the literatures but also where the information is conveyed by word of mouth.

The topic of parental responsibility came to light with the 1944 Education Act which pointed the responsibility of a child receiving, "efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise", this has led to the development of partnership between the parents and practitioners, legislation came to force

where the promotion of partnership is supported with the Education Reform Act 1988 which places the school accountable to parents.

The importance of parental role was articulated with the National Children Bureau's (NCB 2007) PEAL programme (Parents, Early years And Learning) as "parents are deeply interested in their child development, and their involvement is crucial, what parents do matter more than who they are" however it admitted that some parents are finding it hard and on the other side of the fence, members of staff find it hard to help the parents too.

At Deaf Parenting UK's recent National Conference July 2010, and previous conferences, June 2009 & October 2008, delegates reinforced the need for its services to be delivered locally and impartially.

To alleviate these issues, the Deaf Parenting UK continues to work tirelessly to campaign for equality for Deaf parents. To date, they are 'voiceless members' of our society, whose needs have not been adequately met by mainstream resources as demonstrated above. Despite current Equality legislation, DDA and the Human Rights Act many of those parents are unable to fully enjoy their own family lives or effectively participate within their parental roles to decide their children's futures rationally.

Examples of Support/ Services from Deaf Parenting UK:

Deaf Parents and professionals have contacted Deaf Parenting UK for support and as a result, we offered the following:

1. Parenting Skills Course Workshops

Pacesetters Project based in Bristol, working in partnership with the local PCT on community issues, tackling on health inequalities for Deaf people including Deaf parents and mental health of deaf people. Pacesetters received funding and commissioned for **Deaf Parenting UK** to run two parenting skills workshops in Bristol, which ran from October 2008 – January 2009. The workshops were hailed as a success and have been proved to be beneficial for the Deaf parents.

Pacesetters have asked **Deaf Parenting UK** to run a 2nd series of parenting skills workshops, subject to further funding and from there, Pacesetters and NHS Bristol have commissioned DPUK to run 2 years project of parenting support workshops in Bristol to take place June 2010- Dec 2011.

The following testimonials were given after the course:

* "This course has been great for accessing information and get this support; thank you for giving me the opportunity to join"

- * "I found this course very useful and made me feel a little more confident"
- * "Interesting course with lots of great ideas and information"
- * "Good experience and worth it!"
- * "Fantastic and a brilliant course"
- * "It is also good to know that the other mothers share the same feelings about"
- * "It is good to have a deaf mum as a facilitator, a role model who can empathise and give support if or when needed"

Our Deaf Parenting Skill programme is unique as Deaf parents are British Sign Language (BSL) users and have been delivered by Deaf trainers who are parents themselves and use BSL directly with Deaf parents thus remove the needs for interpreters unless we have speakers who are hearing e.g.: health visitor. The programme need to be adapted in more visual way e.g. in BSL by Deaf trainers to Deaf parents, and the materials are adapted to be more pictorial/ easy to read format with plain English which are reinforced during the workshops for parents to take home to reflect, try out with their children/family unit.

1:1 Parenting support

We offer 1:1 parenting support for Deaf parents who were often in crisis stage and need immediate support. It is often the result of the social services/ health referrals that commissioned Deaf Parenting UK to provide 1:1 parenting support.

Furthermore, most Deaf parents benefited from 1:1 parenting support especially if there is no parenting skills course workshop available near them or if their needs are better met on 1:1 basis e.g.: Deaf with learning disability/ mental health support needs.

Gaps in services for deaf parents

We have unsuccessfully approached local and health authorities for funding to deliver parenting supports and awareness training for deaf parents. Many of them have said that their money has already been allocated by their parenting commissioners for their local groups and none of them realise about the gaps in provision for Deaf parents. We have tried reaching out to children centres and they were interested in our work but do not have the money needed to fund our work.

As a result, we have received referrals from social

services where Deaf parents were at the crisis point of having their child removed that they commissioned us to provide 1:1 parenting support.

For the parenting programme to a group of Deaf parents have proved more difficult as many of them don't know where Deaf parents are. Also Deaf parents have tried approaching to children centre who couldn't meet their deaf needs that resulted in Deaf parents giving up and tried to manage by themselves or asking their hearing family for help. This in turn has serious consequences as giving up can lead to downward spirals of not able to approach others agencies for help and in our experiences of crisis calls from social services and family courts, resulted in family breakdown or even has their children removed.

Also asking hearing family to help resulted in Deaf parents being disempowered as 'not good enough' parents and enabled hearing family member to 'take over' the parental responsibility.

Deaf parents felt their confidence plummeted and they couldn't communicate with hearing people including professionals involved in their children's life ranging from health visitor, early years practitioners, schools and even social services' children & family teams were unaware of deaf parents' needs.

This is why it is vital for us to continue to reach out to as many Deaf parents as possible via our outreach and parenting programme that we can empower, enable confidence and support Deaf parents.

We also can offer support to professionals who work with Deaf parents by offering training, consultation meeting and even organise annual conference to raise awareness on gaps in service provisions. Many found our resources very useful, it has taken us a long time to get where we are due to insufficient funding, limited staff and there is still a long way to go in raising the standards among the professionals.

Case Studies/ Typical barriers that Deaf parents faces:

Typical problems arise from our enquiries/helpline are that many Deaf parents found attitudinal barriers among staff ranging from maternity care/ health services, social services, education, parenting/ family services, together with lack of Deaf awareness and understanding of their needs.

In lights of the following common examples of situations that arise in Deaf parents' daily lives, the services offered to Deaf parents were non-existent or very limited and patchy as compared to hearing parents.

Common examples:

- * Deaf parents often believe children start learning at school. This means that for the first few years, children do not develop their language skills and fall behind their peers when they start to access education
- * Deaf people are unable to access mainstream parenting classes, midwives or health visitors due to staff inability to communicate in sign language or who are not Deaf aware
- * Deaf people are unaware of their rights and when Social Services become involved, they are unable to self-advocate so families face risk of having their child removed or put into care placements or have their child's name onto the child protection register
- * Deaf people are more likely to experience mental health problems and depression as a result of isolation due to communication barriers (Source: St George and South West London NHS Trust). Therefore, there are significant risks of post-natal depression

Specific examples:

- * In Sept 2004, the BBC showed a documentary about a couple expecting their first baby. Communication during birth and in situations afterwards such as with a GP, took place by pen and paper. Deaf Parenting UK was involved in advisory capacity to raise awareness about Deaf parenting issues.
- * In March 2005, Ch4 showed a documentary about a Deaf couple of which the mother is also Deaf blind with two children. Deaf parents experienced frustration by lack of awareness among professional about their ability to parent their children. Issues of concerns especially came from the children's grandparents about how the Deafblind mother can cope with children. Deaf couple felt grandparents rather than being criticized about their parental ability would better support them.
- * A Deaf lady had two children, both by caesarean with no information provided on birth options. During her third baby, with a different partner, full information was provided and a different birth option chosen.
- * A small self-help Deaf parents group was established in Ealing. This showed a big demand for training especially in health. Deaf parents have little or no understanding of various diagnoses eg: the difference between HIV positive and negative.
- * Oct 2008, a Deaf worker emailed us: "I am working with a deaf young BSL mother, who recently had a baby 4 months ago. The baby is now at child

protection register. I am having to battle with social services who are not paying for BSL Interpreters in the nursery where she attend with her baby to learn the skills she require to learn such as baby bottle cleaning, nappy, weaning and so on. The Social Services now not willing to pay for interpreter but the course she is attending is part of the requirement arising from the child protection conference. I was wondering if you know where she can apply for funds to pay for interpreters to gain, or is it social service responsibility to carry on providing for one?"

Maternity Care/ Health Services

* The following case studies/ examples on maternity care: are extracted from the book entitled: **'Pregnancy and Birth, a guide for Deaf women':**

* "Because my first language is BSL, I really wish all information pregnancy and birth was available in BSL, but nothing is available. It was difficult to access information from any bookshop or library in general parenting books because of the high level of English and I had to rely on my husband or someone to explain the information from English into BSL."

* "When I found out I was pregnant I was so shocked as it was unplanned. A few days later, I went to see a doctor. An interpreter was present and the doctor referred me to a midwife. I told the midwife I needed to have an interpreter throughout my pregnancy and I wanted to choose the interpreter who is also my friend. Later on, [in the pregnancy] my GP was trying to make me choose other ways to have someone who can relay for me, for example, asking if my partner is hearing (actually Colin is Deaf), or a hearing friend or my mum, because the interpreting fees are high and they wanted to save money."

• "Though I speak well for myself, I am still Deaf. My midwife has often told me that to book an appointment, I could just call her on the phone as I speak well. I explained that I can't hear the phone and prefer to use a fax, for ease of communication, knowing that they are not aware of 'Typetalk.* She hesitated, saying that it would be difficult as the fax machine is held in a different office and there is no guarantee they will check my fax."

* This is also a problem at my GP's surgery. Once I used my fax to book an appointment with my GP and he was annoyed at the number of faxes sent between us and told me to get my hearing husband to arrange the appointment for me. Why should I? I am a very independent person and want to do things for myself."

* "I put in big capitals on my birth plan that I was hard of hearing and how they could help me. I think that helped a bit, but when the crunch came, nobody told me what was going on. I was cut when I didn't

want to be and I did feel ignored. When the baby was born, they told my husband it was a baby girl – and I was lying on the bed, exhausted and forever asking whether I had a baby boy or a girl while the midwife and the nurse were cleaning my baby. The midwife was stern and told me that I had a girl. That midwife came on shift while I was in labour so she wasn't aware that I am hard of hearing."

* "I had a tour of the maternity ward. I had to phone a couple of times beforehand to make sure that the hospital got me an interpreter. I went, and it turned out that they had booked a communication support worker, who had only Level 2*. Worse still, it was someone who didn't have any experience with childbirth, so he didn't have a clue what all the terms were about."

BSL Level 2 is a qualification in British Sign Language. It does not include any interpreting skills.

* "The midwife came for a check up of the baby and me. I made sure that my hearing mother wasn't around then, because then the midwife would only talk to her, and not to me."

* "During the first night after my baby was born, I was asleep and I couldn't hear my baby crying. The baby alarm that vibrates wouldn't work as the ward had many crying babies and the alarm kept going off. So I told the nurse to alert me if my baby cried while I was sleeping, but she didn't. Instead, she woke me and had a go at me, saying "your daughter has been crying". I told her that I couldn't hear my daughter crying so how could I know if she had been crying?"

* When we wanted to attend the local health centre's antenatal classes, we made some enquiries to see whether they would provide a sign language interpreter. I was amazed that they would not provide interpreting support for a Deaf father if his partner is not Deaf.

* I had poor access to communication support during antenatal classes. I had a 'communicator' but she was BSL Level 1*. The hospital booked her. I missed out on lots of information. I saw a video about preparing for labour but it had no subtitles and no BSL translation on the video. The communicator wasn't much help as I didn't understand the video. I would have preferred to go to antenatal classes specifically for Deaf parents so that I was in a signing environment. Maybe I would have understood more from those classes and shared more enthusiasm with other Deaf parents. Instead, I had classes where I was the only Deaf parent and I was so isolated, I couldn't interact with other parents so I become quiet and felt left out from the chit-chats between them.

BSL Level 1 is a basic qualification in British Sign Language similar to a short introduction course to a spoken language eg: French. It does not include any interpreting skills.

Deaf Parenting UK are keen lead as a model of good practice, based on social model as first ever organisation that are run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents to share with other countries. If you are interested in learning more about our work and set it up in your country or already have similar model as Deaf Parenting UK in your country, please let us know.

Also any information/ news about Deaf parents in your country that you wish to share with us and can be included onto our website and newsletter to share with our readers, please contact with Asif Iqbal, Media/ Project Manager of DPUK on media@deafparent.org.uk.

To learn more about Deaf Parenting UK, go to our website: www.deafparent.org.uk and our news are updated regularly.

Deaf Parenting UK's 10 years Anniversary

Finally Deaf Parenting UK will be celebrating their 10 years Anniversary and to make it more special, we are organising an exclusive Awards event in Summer/ Autumn 2011, to recognise people for their valuable contribution and positive differences to the lives of Deaf parents, their children and their communities.

Sabina Iqbal,
Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK.

About Sabina:

In recognition of her personal and professional life, she also won the Women of the Future Voluntary Award 2008, a prestige award for women breaking the high glass ceiling, the Beacon Prize 2008 (High Commended) She has been named as one of the 13 on the first ever Muslim Women Power List 2009, Equality and Human Right Commission, Tesco Mum of the Year 2010, also she was named as one of the 10 European Muslim Women of Influence List 2010, Madrid, Spain and UK won the Mum and Working: Working Parent of the Year 2010 Award.

Deaf Parenting UK as Winner of TFPL's first Social Impact Award 2008, Berlin, Germany, voted by the world business leaders for charity/third sector on innovative use of knowledge and information management.

Grant Helps RIT/NTID Improve High School Educations Around the World

NTID / - A new collaboration designed to improve high school education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in developing countries is being established at Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Since 2001, the RIT/NTID-based Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-International), a collaboration of colleges around the world serving deaf and hard-of-hearing students, has received more than \$11 million in funding from the Nippon Foundation of Japan and worked with partners in more than a dozen countries, primarily in Asia. The new collaboration, known as the Pre-College Education Network (P-CEN), will be funded with \$600,000 for the first year of a five-year partnership with The Nippon Foundation and will start by working with schools in The Philippines and Vietnam; schools in other developing regions in the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) are also expected to join.

"Every university with whom PEN-International worked determined that entering students did not have the expected level of skills," says PEN-International Director James DeCaro, professor and dean emeritus of NTID. "P-CEN is an attempt to rectify that challenge." The new project seeks to improve teaching, learning, and curriculum and instructional development for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the ASEAN Region and to improve career education opportunities for them. P-CEN will share new technologies and teaching models to train faculty at participating schools. Through RIT/NTID's Center on Access Technology, educators from partner countries will participate in workshops in Rochester, and RIT/NTID experts will visit schools in foreign countries to assist in educating faculty and staff there. "Through P-CEN's efforts, attitudes, practices and policies involving education and employment of deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the ASEAN Region should change over time so that barriers to education, technology and employment that currently exist are removed," says DeCaro. Schools in Indonesia and Malaysia also are expected to join P-CEN in this first year. The network's headquarters are expected to move from NTID to the College of St. Benilde in The Philippines in 2015. Although funding for PEN-International will be diminished, it will continue to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between PEN partner institutions.

Source: World Without Hearing

Early Sign Language Acquisition Helps Deaf Children Learn Spoken and Written Languages

Washington, DC [February 21, 2011] – “To sign or not to sign” is a question that has long been a source of disagreement among medical and educational professionals who work with very young deaf and hard of hearing children.

While some hold that teaching a deaf child to communicate in sign language before he/she learns to read lips or is provided with a cochlear implant (or some other assistive hearing device) significantly decreases his/her ability to acquire spoken or written language, research conducted at Gallaudet University shows the opposite to be true.

A recent Research Brief published by Gallaudet’s Visual Language and Visual Learning Center (VL2) and authored by Sharon Baker, states that early sign language acquisition by deaf and hard of hearing children actually helps them learn spoken and written language later on.

“Sign language is sometimes withheld from deaf children in the belief that it interferes with speech development,” Baker writes. “However, there is no evidence [that proves this].”

What is fact is that a child’s early language experiences provide him/her with a lifetime ability to learn. The key is for the child to develop fluency in a first language as early as possible in his/her life.

Encouraging deaf children to communicate in sign language at a very early age will not impede their ability to learn English or any other spoken language. Indeed, VL2 researchers are trying to understand exactly why and how so many deaf and hard of hearing students whose first language is ASL achieve such high levels of English literacy.

Gallaudet’s VL2 is a Science of Learning Center (SLC) on Visual Language and Visual Learning, one of six SLCs funded by the National Science Foundation. The purpose of VL2 is to gain a greater understanding of the biological, cognitive, linguistic, sociocultural, and pedagogical conditions that influence the acquisition of language and knowledge through the visual modality.

Gallaudet University, federally chartered in 1864, is a bilingual, diverse, multicultural institution of higher education that ensures the intellectual and professional advancement of deaf and hard of hearing individuals through American Sign Language and English. Gallaudet maintains a proud tradition of research and scholarly activity and prepares its graduates for career opportunities in a highly competitive, technological, and rapidly changing world.

Source: Gallaudet University, USA

NAD demands training for police officers on how to work with the deaf and hard of hearing

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) sent a letter to the Seattle Police Chief John Diaz regarding the tragic killing of John T. Williams, a hard of hearing First Nation artist, by then Seattle Police Officer Ian Birk on August 30, 2010. Williams was shot four times by the officer while working with a knife on a board and allegedly did not respond to an officer’s repeated warning to drop his knife.

While Mr. Birk has resigned from the police force, the NAD urged Chief Diaz and the Seattle Police Department to take measures to avoid a similar situation like this from ever happening again. Such measures include but are not limited to requiring training for all officers on how to work with deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

The NAD website has a guide for police and law enforcement agents working with deaf and hard of hearing individuals and also a guide on communication access with police and law enforcement agents for deaf and hard of hearing individuals:

“The killing of John T. Williams was needless and is a terrible loss of a life. Police officers and law enforcement agencies across the United States need to provide training to their officers on how to work with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. This must never happen again” said NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins.

Source: National Association of the Deaf, USA



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ITEMS OF INTEREST

VIETNAM: Deaf Community to Benefit From Sign Language Books

According to the Vietnam News, The Swedish National Association of the Deaf has helped the Ha Noi Deaf Association complete a set of books and a DVD with a sign language dictionary that will be distributed to deaf people, their families and teachers. The chairman of the association, Le Van Anh says that lack of sign language materials and books is causing communication problems for the deaf community. He says the lack of instruction materials means that deaf people, including the 360 members of the association, are not learning to communicate with their families or teachers. There are two main sign language books: Sign for the Deaf, with three volumes, and the Viet Nam Sign Language Dictionary, edited by HCM City Teacher's Training University but it is difficult to find copies. Publishers are not interested in publishing these books because of they won't make a profit on them.

Source: World without Hearing

American Sign Language Makes Debut in CDC Scientific Journal

Thanks to a group of deaf and hearing Rochester, N.Y., pioneers, a medical journal for the first time has served up a scientific article online with a new twist: an accompanying web video in American Sign Language (ASL), produced by the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Preventing Chronic Disease, a journal published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in its March 2011 issue published a peer-reviewed article about health inequities experienced by deaf people. Steven Barnett, M.D., associate professor of *Family Medicine and Community and Preventive Medicine*, led the team of URMC physicians (which included two deaf faculty members) who wrote the article. They explained the four factors underlying the inequities and proposed several solutions.

Given the topic, however, it seemed especially important to reach out to the broadest possible audience, Barnett said. And in this case ASL is the primary language of approximately 500,000 Americans who have been deaf since birth.

The editor of *Preventing Chronic Disease*, Samuel F. Posner, Ph.D., suggested airing the video, which was produced as a collaboration of the *Deaf Wellness Center* and the *Rochester Prevention Research Center: National Center for Deaf Health Research* (NCDHR), both at URMC.

"Preventing Chronic Disease is committed to making public health research, program and policy advances accessible to all invested stakeholders," Posner said. "Publishing in American Sign Language is an innovative step that scientific journals don't commonly take. We believe doing so will enhance efforts to include and

address the public health issues important to the Deaf community."

"The bottom line is that this project reflects an attitude shift from being unaware of the Deaf community to one that focuses on the needs of the Deaf community -- and for that we are thrilled," said Barnett, associate director of the NCDHR, which was funded by the CDC in 2004 as the nation's first center to focus on improving public health with the Deaf community.

Thomas A. Pearson, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., director of the NCDHR, agreed. "We congratulate the editors of *Preventing Chronic Disease* for their offer to provide the Deaf community with a summary of this report on the health of deaf persons," he said. "This is a creative first step toward inclusion of the Deaf community which has almost always been excluded from information about health promotion and disease prevention."

The article points out the striking absence of health care data on deaf people, due to the way researchers have traditionally collected such information -- via telephone surveys and written mail. The problem with trying to reach deaf people solely through written English, Barnett noted, is that adults who have been deaf since birth have a wide range of English reading skills, from limited to proficient.

A lack of the most rudimentary health statistics in the deaf population make it impossible to set priorities, make improvements, or prevent disease, Barnett said. The authors also addressed the issues of low health literacy, poor doctor-patient communication, and emerging research on a possible biologic basis for some health differences between deaf and hearing people.

The article's six recommendations for better public health are:

- 1) The need to address language barriers, such as using captions, transcripts and videos to communicate public health information.
- 2) Include more deaf people in health research by finding ways to overcome the mistrust stemming from prior negative health care experiences.
- 3) Collect new data and analyze existing data in more culturally appropriate ways. For example, a 60-year-old man deaf since birth and a 60-year-old man deaf since age 59 have very different life and health-care experiences.
- 4) Encourage deaf sign language users to participate in public health initiatives.
- 5) Encourage deaf sign language users to consider health careers.
<http://www.rit.edu/ntid/hccd/>

6) Advocate for more funding for interpreter services and other programs that increase public health programs and research.

Tiffany Panko, M.B.A., a deaf member of the NCDHR research team, said it is her goal to go to medical school and she hopes this type of project will encourage others. “Personally, I’m inspired by this,” she said. “I’m thrilled and hope that this video gets more deaf people interested in pursuing careers in health care, public health, and health research.”

Robert Pollard, Ph.D., director of the URM Center for Deaf Wellness and producer of the ASL video, said it is unprecedented that a scientific article about deaf people was made accessible to deaf people in their primary language.

He noted that the folks at PCD understood that adapting health care material for deaf sign language users would involve more than simply translating it into ASL and producing a “talking head” video. Instead, the video takes the form of a 40-minute adapted film (in two parts), with a dynamic story line and dialogue between deaf characters.

“We have created many of these adapted films as a more interesting and relevant way to disseminate health education materials to the deaf community,” Pollard said, “and we are proud of this particular effort.”

Co-authors of the PCD journal article are: Pearson; Michael McKee, M.D., M.P.H., of the URM Center for Deaf Wellness; and Scott R. Smith, M.D., M.P.H., of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine.

Co-producers of the video include: Steve Fasone, Tiffany Panko, Robyn Dean, and Kim Kelstone.

Source: University of Rochester Medical Center, USA

California State University Northridge (CSUN) Releases DVD on American Sign Language Benefits for Babies

The image is simple, but the message speaks volumes. The girl on the screen is 11 months old and is looking at book. She points to a picture of a lion and, using her hands, signs “lion.”

California State University, Northridge, working with the California Department of Education, has released a DVD that underscores the benefits of American Sign Language for all babies. The target audience is families with newly identified Deaf and hard-of-hearing babies and toddlers for whom communicating the most basic needs—hunger, thirst, love—can at first seem impossible.

“Research supports ASL as beneficial for babies who can hear fully,” said Roz Rosen, director of Cal State Northridge’s *National Center on Deafness*. “Language is a human right that belongs to every child. ASL is an invaluable component of bilingual language acquisition leading to positive family dynamics, effective communications, critical thinking and educational mastery.”

Rachel Friedman Narr, associate professor in CSUN’s *Department of Special Education* and the project’s co-principal investigator, agreed. “This DVD will afford parents the opportunity to see the value of American Sign Language in the earliest stages of their child’s life,” she said.

The 13-minute video was developed in collaboration with a CSUN committee and producer DJ Kurs using funds from the Annenberg Foundation. It is available to the public at www.throughyourchildseyes.com. Information on obtaining or buying the DVD is also on this website or at the website for the Deaf Education and Families Project, www.csun.edu/deafproject. It is captioned in both English and Spanish. In its first two weeks on youtube, it had over 70,000 hits from over 30 countries.

The filmmakers set out to demonstrate the value of American Sign Language as a natural, beneficial visual language for all people and its benefit in English acquisition.

“The intent of this project is to elicit a positive notion of ASL with respect to the dramatic benefits for people in the Deaf community,” said Andrew Laufer of the California Department of Education. “We believe that providing this message in a compelling DVD to parents of newborn children will help to assure them that the birth of a Deaf child is not a tragedy.

Nancy Grosz Sager, a Deaf and hard-of-hearing programs consultant with the California State Department of Education, added, “This DVD accomplishes exactly what it set out to do. It shines a positive light on ASL for families of Deaf children, but it does so much more. “It invites parents to meet and talk with Deaf adults and other families of children who are Deaf,” she said.

“It takes the pressure off parents to make a ‘choice’ between signing and speaking. They can have both. It demonstrates what is known from research: that using sign language does not prevent a child from learning to speak, in fact, the opposite. ASL helps with the most important goal of early start, the establishment of a bond of communication between parent and child.”

Parent and educator Tomas Garcia grew up deaf in a family of hearing people. He told the filmmakers that he felt his parents did not really know him because they could not communicate. Now the father of a Deaf daughter, Garcia said he is determined not to repeat that mistake. “I wanted to make sure we had a relationship,

that I knew her and she knew me,” he said in the film. “I knew the key was language. The first language she learned was sign language. Through ASL, I now feel I know my daughter.”

“Students arrive at school, usually long after the critical period of acquiring language—zero to five years of age. This DVD will help more students to come to school prepared with a full language, ready to learn,” said Erika Thompson, a community resource coordinator for the California School for the Deaf Riverside who served on the project oversight committee.

California State University, Northridge is nationally recognized for its dynamic programs serving Deaf and hard-of-hearing students and those who seek careers related to this population. CSUN was the first university in the country to establish Deaf Studies as a discipline and to employ professional interpreters and captionists, starting in 1964.

(NORTHRIDGE, Calif., USA, Mar. 14th, 2011)

Media Contact: *Carmen Ramos Chandler* carmen.chandler@csun.edu (818) 677-2130



Adrian became a TV star celebrity in Asia

“You should follow your dreams”

Adrian Yap from Singapore is not like other deaf people. He became a deaf celebrity in Asia after he starred in the TV program, *Amazing Race Asia*. Together with a gym buddy he traveled in 10 countries and solved various tasks. They won the competition.

Amazing Race was aired for the first time 2001 in the US and became instantly a huge success, which have since then resulted in 17 seasons. The program has had so called spin offs in various countries and regions. Two of them are Asia and Latin America.

The show's concept is based on several teams' strive to reach the next destination by handling different challenges. The team that arrives last to a destination is terminated from the competition and in the end of the season there are only three groups left for the final. The challenges always have a connection to a specific country and its culture. An example is the task that was given to teams from the American version of “*Amazing Race*”, when they visited an IKEA store in Sweden and had assignments such as assembling furniture, counting stuffed animals and frying pans (correct number was 2,304 pieces!)

32-year-old Adrian Yap from Singapore became the first deaf participant in the *Amazing Race*. He starred in the second season of the Asian version, which was aired in 2008. He and his gym buddy Collin Low, who is hearing and knows sign language, travelled exactly 51,534 kilometers and visited 10 countries in a month.

Was the trip "amazing"?

– Yes, really. It's something you only do once in a lifetime. For me it was like a long free-of-charge holiday, says Adrian Yap.

He and Collin visited among others countries the Philippines, New Zealand, South Africa and Germany. One of the favorites was Hungary because of its architecture and warm and open people.

– But the food was so-so. I still prefer Asian food, says Adrian Yap with a smile.

In the first leg of the race, they came seven out of ten and in the second leg, they had the fifth place. In the remaining legs, they always remained first or second.

– We never thought we would be successful. Quick thinking and ability to respect each other's personality were the two most important secrets for winning the race, says Adrian.

Neither Adrian nor Collin was embarrassed to use body gestures to communicate with local people that did not speak English.

Why do you think you won the contest?

– I think we learnt to respect each other and accept our differences. Whenever any dispute came up, we reacted to it calmly and reasoned with each other in a rational way. Issues were quickly resolved and would not significantly slow down our progress.

What do you think your participation in the Amazing Race Asia has meant for deaf people?

– Many deaf people have low self-esteem. I hope that my participation in the race contributed to improve self-esteem for deaf people. You should follow your dreams.

Adrian and Collin won \$100,000 U.S. dollars. Adrian preferred to save his share of money in the bank for future use. He hopes to use his winning to pursue a Master's degree in International Relation in Japan. Adrian is currently working as a home tutor teaching in mathematics and natural science subjects to speaking children, from elementary to high school level. He implanted Cochlear Implant (CI) in February 2010.

– I had to fund half of the total cost of my CI. It cost me \$10,000 Singapore dollars.

Adrian thinks he has a good life as a deaf in Singapore. However, he feels that he wants to increase the awareness among the general public about deaf people's situation in Singapore since the group remains marginalized.

As a child he received a flag book by his mother. He could remember most of the countries' flags in a week and he still remembers them. Speaking of travel:

– I want to see more of the countries with four seasons, says Adrian.

Name: Adrian Yap

Age: 32

Location: Singapore

Family: parents and two siblings

Works: as a private tutor in math and natural science subjects

I like to do: trekking, jogging, swimming

Likes to read: newspapers, non-fiction books about current events, and history of Asia.

Likes to watch TV: Action-packed show and sentimental TV

Favorite sign: "Wonderful".

Text: Niclas Martinsson - niclas.martinsson@dovastidning.se

This article has been published in the Swedish Deaf Magazine (#1, 2011).



Photo: Niclas Martinsson

Deaf Malaysians play Chinese drums

A beat for the dream

The DeafBeat group has played Chinese drums for more than three years. Their dream is to be famous in Malaysia. Recently the group had a show in connection with the opening of government.

Just a stone's throw away from the railway station, seven deaf individuals are practicing in the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. The room where they stay vibrates. Sometimes they go around the floor toms. The mallets occasionally are held in the air. And the group members also change place with each other from time to time, or so are they hiding in order to later resurface.

– Earlier I performed the traditional lion dance. Therefore, it was natural for me to join the DeafBeat band, says Albert Law, who is 32 years old.

The famous Malaysian drummer, Bernard Goh, wanted deaf people to defeat their disability by demonstrating that they could play drums. He founded the DeafBeat group in 2007 with 20 deaf youth participants and today the band consist of 14 individuals between the age of 20 and 40 years old. Bernard Goh is still teaching the group. It is possible since he knows little sign language. He shows first different patterns that are repeated by the band members.

Difficult patterns

This Wednesday, when the Swedish Deaf Magazine visited, the exercise was not teacher-directed. Albert Law and his cousin, Joseph Liew, were instead functioning as leaders.

– It is not always easy. Sometimes I go home and think of patterns, says 32 year-old Joseph Liew, who also performed the lion dance.

There are up to 30 patterns. The higher the number is, the harder it is. The group has had shows for companies, organizations, and events abroad. Last show was in Delhi, India, and last January, they had a performance in connection with the opening of the Malaysian government.

– I dream that the group becomes famous. Deaf people in Malaysia know us, but not so many speaking recognize us, says Albert Law, who wants to teach deaf children to play Chinese drums.

If he can start classes, the way is shorter to achieve the dream according to him. The other group members answer yes when they are asked if they also want to become famous.

– I want to show that deaf people can, says Ke Xin, who otherwise is the only deaf teacher at her school, and who has an academic education under her belt.

How do you do if you make mistakes in the middle of the show?

– By smiling and holding up the mallets for a short time. We take a look at where the other members are so that we can be back at the right moment. The audience usually does not notice that, says Dino N. Hassan.

When it comes to religion, the group composition mirrors the Malaysian society. There are Muslims (Islam is the state religion in Malaysia), Buddhists, Christians, and Hindus.

– It works fine, just like the country itself, says Morley Ng, who is hearing, and administrator for Pusat Majudiri for the Deaf (PMY).

PMY offers, among other things, support for parents to deaf children, interpreting, and clubs for deaf teenagers and older youths.

Facts about deaf people in Malaysia

According to the book named "Understanding Deaf Culture – Malaysian Perspectives" (published in 2006), there are about 26,000 deaf in Malaysia. Malaysian Sign Language (unknown origin), is based on American Sign Language but has also local signs and borrowed signs from Shanghainese Sign Language, which was taught by Chinese at a deaf school in Singapore during the sixties. But the deaf schools funded by the government are using "Signing Exact English", a method that is not popular in the deaf community. There is no widespread interpreter service. Ke Xin, interviewed in the article above, did not have any interpreter when she studied to become a teacher at a college. She got notes instead. There are interpreted news programs, but are being showed in a little box.

Text: Niclas Martinsson - niclas.martinsson@dovastidning.se

This article has been published in the Swedish Deaf Magazine (#1, 2011)



Photos: Niclas Martinsson

Phanom sells on the street

Deaf pitchmen are a common sight in Thailand. Phanom Phimsorn from Bangkok is one of them. He has a small workshop at his stall.

The clock shows 8 PM and the darkness settles over the capital, Bangkok. A crowd is seen at the famous night market, Patpong. The bustling commercial establishment is situated, between two major parallel streets, Silom and Surawong. Phanom Phimsorn has his strategically placed stall on the last named road. He sits and makes a colorful paper card with an airplane motive. The idea of the card is that when you open it, the wing unfolds.

There are other card motives such as swans, boats and elephants. These cards do also pop up.

A tourist is looking at the cards. She asks Phanom how much they cost. He uses a calculator and buttons until the display reads 100 Thai Baht. The visitor turns

down his offer and walks away. Pretty soon there will be another person who buys key chains and after her new customers encounter Phanom. They look at small Buddha statues, cushion covers made of silk, candlesticks and more.

– Last Christmas I sold a lot, says Phanom.

From a poor peasant family

He grew up close to the border to Laos and went to school for only four years. His parents could not pay for further education and Phanom had to work on the family farm. When he was 19, his father and mother suggested him to move to Bangkok since there would be better job opportunities.

– I worked at a restaurant and picked up plates and washed. I earned 1500 baht a month. It was hard.

Five years later, he quit. He began instead as a salesperson at Patpong. The salary was insufficient. In 2002 he decided to run his own company. Today he is 40 years old and business is good during the high season, but less successful during the rainy season (June-October).

– I send money to my parents, and to my eight year old daughter, whom my ex takes care of, says Phanom.

His girlfriend also works as pitchman and is deaf. She has a stall on the Silom Street. In their neighborhood there are two or three additional deaf pitchmen who sell handmade cards. They do not cooperate according to Phanom. Even in Hua Hin and Pattaya you can find deaf people who sell similar things.

– I learned to make cards from a deaf man in 2003. After that, it spread to other deaf street sellers, says Phanom.

I see that your customers haggle sometimes. What do you think about it?

– I'm just happy when someone haggles. When deaf people come, they get better prices. But most customers are hearing, says Phanom.

Text: Niclas Martinsson - niclas.martinsson@dovastidning.se

This article has been published in the Swedish Deaf Magazine (#1, 2011)



Photos: Niclas Martinsson

Jimmy believes in Signing Exact English

The Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf) is a warm adherent of the method: Signing Exact English. Jimmy Wong, Deaf Access Officer of SADeaf, explains why.

Research in Sweden showed in the eighties that “Signing Exact Swedish” is a constructed and artificial language, which was not used among deaf people. Instead Swedes were using a genuine sign language with its own grammar system. During the same decade SADeaf, over 9,600 kilometers away from Sweden, decided to adopt the “Signing Exact English” (SEE2) method. The year was 1978, and the method was from the USA. Since then, this communication method is widely used among deaf people and taught at the Singapore School for the Deaf (SSD).

– The main language in Singapore is English, and it is the first language for the Deaf. We argue that SEE2 makes it easier for the Deaf to practise reading and writing, says Jimmy Wong, who also can use genuine sign language after meetings with deaf foreigners and his overseas trips.

Better school results

He emphasizes that he respects other deaf associations that do not adopt the Signing Exact English method. SADeaf employs both deaf and hearing teachers for SSD. SEE2 is a part of the “Total Communication Approach”, which means that you use speech, hearing, lip reading, signing, and spelling. According to SADeaf, results have shown that the total communication has increased the number of deaf pupils that pass primary school (six years long), before they enter secondary school (takes up to five years).

Jimmy Wong shows an example:

– If a teacher wants to explain that the word “watch” has two different meanings, she can do so by using both voice and gestures and first point at her wrist (time), and later at her eyes (look), says Mr. Wong.

Few pupils

He is aware that SEE2 consumes more time and can make pupils tired, but he reckons that the method is considerably more advantageous. He has not heard of any protests from the deaf people. According to him, there is no universal genuine sign language in the Deaf Community but a more mixed one. It depends

on whom they meet. An example is that older deaf people use a sign language based on Shanghainese sign language, which was popular in Singapore during the sixties. It means that when you meet them, you have to make some adjustments.

Today SSD has 16 students. Other deaf and hard-of-hearing pupils attend mainstream schools or special needs schools.

Jimmy Wong, who works in the Deaf Access Services Department, teaches SEE2 to companies, government bodies, schools and to the general public. He also conducts Deaf Awareness Programmes to the hearing community.

SADeaf offers a range of services, such as interpreting, hearing care, financial assistance, job placement, sports, recreation and also legal advice (dispensed by a hard-of-hearing lawyer). The objective is to provide a one-stop service centre to our Deaf Community according to Ms Sandra Cheong, Deputy Director of the Association.

The World Federation of the Deaf Congress in South Africa is getting closer and SADeaf will send some participants.

– The Association is continually building its resources, knowledge and expertise in serving the Deaf Community better. We are still learning and hope to be able to organize a World Federation of the Deaf Congress in the future, says Sandra Cheong.

Text: Niclas Martinsson - niclas.martinsson@dovastidning.se

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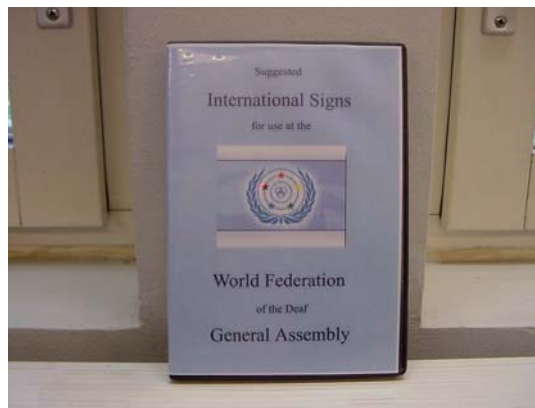


Photo: Niclas Martinsson

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

COUNTRY NAME-SIGN

A popular book published for WFD (2003) - Collection of data: Japan Institute for Sign Language Studies and Tomas Hedberg, Swedish National Association of the Deaf. The Country Name-Sign books are available in the WFD General Secretariat. If you would like to order a copy, please do contact by email: orders@wfdeaf.org and then we will send you an invoice for payment of the order.



DEAF PEOPLE & HUMAN RIGHTS

A report written by Ms Hilde Haualand, 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 (11 €).

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



WFD MERCHANDISE

If you are interested in ordering items from WFD, such as **DVD – Suggested International Signs for use at the WFD General Assembly**, T-shirts (golf, woman and ordinary), **WFD Pins**, water bottles, watches, **pens and caps**, you can make an order through email, which is orders@wfdeaf.org. Here is the price list of the items:

COUNTRY NAME-SIGN BOOK – 10 €

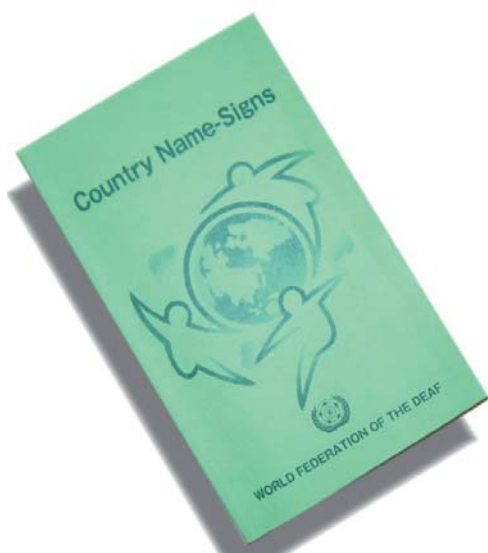
DVD – SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL SIGNS FOR USE AT THE WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 15 €

DVD - DEAF PEOPLE AND HUMAN RIGHTS - 11 €

ORDINARY T-SHIRT (BLUE OR WHITE) WFD LOGO ON THE FRONT – 10 €

WFD PIN – 2 €

WFD CAP – 5 €



COMING EVENTS

Deaf Managers – Facing the Challenge

Date: 16-17 May 2011

Place: Training Course at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

How to get the best out of Deaf staff and managers?
How can Deaf People succeed in management?

A new course aimed at breaking down the barriers faced by Deaf people in management.

Essential lessons in management for:

- Managers responsible for Deaf Staff, including Deaf Managers
- Deaf Managers and Executives
- Aspiring Deaf Managers

Run by top management experts and top BSL experts from Heriot-Watt University's School of Management and Languages. Guest lecturers with experience in Deaf management from the UK and other countries, including Finland.

More details - webpage:

<http://www.sml.hw.ac.uk/business/cpd/deaf-managers-facing-the-challenge.htm>

BSL video:-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nBYrsoh6kM>

International Sign video:-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9prTI5NKraY>

To enrol:

<http://www.eventelephant.com/thedeafmanagerfacingthechallenges>

Business Convention and Expo of the Deaf

Date: 8 – 12 June 2011

Place: Washington, DC Area, Reston, Virginia, USA

Website: <http://deafbusiness.org>

ISB8 – International Symposium on Bilingualism

Date: 15 – 18 June 2011

Place: Oslo, Norway

Organiser: University of Oslo

Contact: [isb8-contact\(at\)iln.uio.no](mailto:isb8-contact(at)iln.uio.no)

Website: <http://www.hf.uio.no/iln/forskning/aktuelt/arrangementer/konferanser-seminarer/2011/isb8/>

1st International Deaf Lesbian Festival

Date: 22 – 26 June 2011

Place: Dublin Ireland

Contact: [irishdlf2011\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:irishdlf2011(at)gmail.com)

Website: www.irishdlf.ie

WASLI Conference

Theme: Think Globally, Act Locally

Date: 14-16 July 2011

Place: Durban, South Africa

Registration to the conference: <http://www.wasli.org/ThinkGlobally-ActLocally.htm>

Website: <http://www.wasli.org/registration-for-conference-14-16-july-2011-p94.aspx>

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>

2nd International Exhibition of Deaf Artists in Croatia- Split

Theme: "Silence embraced in the Adriatic Wave"

Date: 24 September – 1 October 2011

Place: Split, Croatia

Contact: NGO for Culture of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in Croatia „Word of Silence“

Nehruov trg 20

Zagreb

CROATIA

Fax: +385 1 6520 478

Email: vsagovac@xnet.hr

Website: <http://www.svijet-tisine.hr>

Disabled Peoples' International 8th World Assembly

Date: 10 – 13 October 2011

Place: Durban, South Africa

Contact: DPI 2011 8th World Assembly Secretariat
The Conference Company

Tel: +27 31 303 9852

Fax: +27 31 303 9529

Website: <http://www.dpi2011.co.za/en/home>

SIGN5 - Conference

Date: 21 - 23 October 2011 (+ pre-conference workshops 18 - 20 October)

Place: Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey

Organisers: Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey – International Institute for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK

Email: sign5@uclan.ac.uk

Website: http://www.uclan.ac.uk/schools/journalism_media_communication/islands/sign5.php

I International Festival of Short-Movies in Sign Language

Date: 12 November 2011

Place: Tolosa, Spain

Email: culturasordatolosa@hotmail.com

Website: <http://gainditzen.blogspot.es>

Deaf Business Exhibition

Date: 22 – 24 July, 2012

Place: London, United Kingdom

Organiser: Nazia Bidi

Contact: The Executive Centre
344-354 Gray's Inn Road

London, WC1X 8BD
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: +44 207 164 2140

Email: deafexpo2012(at)btinternet.com

Website: www.deafbizexpo2012.com

8th Deaf History International Conference

Theme: Telling Deaf Lives: Biographies & Autobiographies

Date: 24 – 29 July 2012

Place: Toronto, Canada

More information will be announced later

Deaf World Cruise 2013* along with *Miss Deaf International Events*

Departure: Rome, Italy

Arrival: Athens, Greece

Date: July 2013 (prior the 22nd Summer Deaflympics in Athens, Greece.

More small exotic tours will also be offered prior very special Deaf World Cruise and after Deaflympics.)

Contact: Michael Ubowski

Email: sales@deafcruise.com

By mail: Deaf Cruise
14700 North Frank Lloyd Wright
Boulevard #157, PMB #379
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260

Phone: +1 866 922 3090

Fax: +1 480 657 0744

Website: http://www.DeafWorldCruise.com

22nd Summer Deaflympics

Date: 31 July – 13 August 2013

Place: Athens, Greece

Email: info@2013deaflympics.org

2nd International Conference of the WFD

Theme: Equality for Deaf People

Date: 16 – 18 October 2013

Place: Sydney, Australia

Website: www.deafsocietynsw.org.au

If you know about an upcoming conference or 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.

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF IN SYDNEY

The World Federation of the Deaf announces that the Deaf Society of New South Wales has received the right to host the next World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Conference in Sydney, Australia in October 2013. The Conference theme will be **"Equality for Deaf People"**. In particular, progress in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be in the spotlight of the conference.

WFD Conferences are held in between the World Congresses. The last International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf was arranged in Finland in 2005.



Deaf Society of New South Wales:
World Federation of the Deaf:

www.deafsocietynsw.org.au
www.wfdeaf.org



Legal Dept – Helsinki, Finland

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

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

PO Box 65, 00041 KAARLA, FINLAND
FAX: +358 9 580 3572
www.wfdnet.org

President
MARKKU JOUKINEN
Email: wfd@wfd.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 00041 Helsinki

FINLAND

Fax: +358 9 580 3572

Email: memberships@wfdnet.org