



JANNET News Letter 2010

Japan NGO Network on Disabilities

Contents

Essential documents for Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons
1993-2002 : UN ESCAP Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons
2003-2012 : UN ESCAP Second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

Foreword

JANNET was established in 1993. It coincided with the first year of Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (A/P Decade), 1993 - 2002. It was proclaimed by UNESCAP in 1992 with its main objective of achieving the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities in the region, which was originally intended by the UN International Year of Disabled Persons, 1981 and the following UN Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983 - 1992.

In response to the A/P Decade increasing number of Japanese NGOs, including both disability-specific NGOs and mainstream NGOs, have been actively promoted some disability-related projects mainly in the Asian and Pacific Region. Though the 1st A/P Decade with its agenda for actions contributed to raising the awareness of disability issues mainly through the campaign activities of the Regional NGO Network (RNN) to promote the Decade, it could not necessarily achieve tangible results in improving the living situations of persons with disabilities in many countries in the region.

In reflecting the shortcomings of the 1st Decade, UNESCAP introduced the targets to be achieved with time tables to the Biwako Millennium of Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF) and the Biwako Plus Five, the supplement to the BMF, which are the policy guidelines of the 2nd A/P Decade, 2003 - 2012. In response to the 2nd Decade RNN was reorganized and expanded to Asia Pacific Disability Forum (APDF), of which inaugural meeting held in Singapore in 2003. Its secretariat is located at Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD). One of the major target of the BMF was to contribute to the realization of a UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2006 and became effective in May 2008.

As less than half of the countries, including Japan, in the region ratified the Convention as of the end of September 2010, the ESCAP Social Development Committee held at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok on 19 to 21 October 2010, decided to recommend to the ESCAP Commission to be organized in May 2011, to proclaim the 3rd Decade with the main theme of "Make the Right Real" to promote the ratification and implementation of the Convention in the region.

A new policy guideline for the 3rd Decade, which will replace the present BMF and BMF plus Five, is to be drafted at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003 - 2012, to be organized in Inchon, Korea toward the end of October 2011.

JANNET is also expected to play a more role in realizing the rights of persons with disabilities through its activities in the coming years.

Ryosuke Matsui
Chairman of JANNET

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1. Essential documents

1-1. Economic and Commission for Asia and the Pacific Resolution 48/3 adopted by General Assembly at its the forty-eighth session on Apr.23, 1992

Sponsored by: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Palau, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling all General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions on disability matters, including General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982 on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action, and resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1982 on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, in which, inter alia, the Assembly proclaimed the period 1983-1992 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Recalling also Commission resolution 207 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980 on the international Year of Disabled Persons, concerning effective implementation and follow-up of the objectives of the international Year of Disabled Persons: "Full Participation and Equality"

Mindful that the risk of disability increases with age, and that, with the expected rapid ageing of the societies in the region, the number of disabled persons will increase substantially,

Recognizing that while the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons has increased awareness of disability issues and has facilitated considerable progress in the

prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled persons in the ESCAP region, progress towards improving the situation of disabled persons has been uneven, particularly in the developing and least developed countries,

Taking note of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in October 1991, which expressed its support for the declaration of a second decade of disabled persons,

Noting further the recommendation of the Expert Group Meeting to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in the Asian and Pacific Region, held in August 1991, and convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, that there is need for a second decade of disabled persons to consolidate the gains achieved thus far in the ESCAP region,

1. Proclaims the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, with a view to giving fresh impetus to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons in the ESCAP region beyond 1992 and strengthening regional cooperation to resolve issues affecting the achievement of the goals of the World Programme of Action, especially those concerning the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities;
2. Requests the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage, at the global level, support for its implementation;
3. Urges all member and associate member Governments to review the situation of disabled persons in their countries and areas, with a view to developing measures that enhance the equality and full participation of disabled persons, including the following:
 - (a) Formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in economic and social development;
 - (b) Establishment and strengthening of national coordinating committees on disability matters, with emphasis on, inter alia, the adequate and effective representation of disabled persons and their organizations, and their roles therein;

- (c) Provision of assistance, in collaboration with international development agencies and non-governmental organizations, in enhancing community-based support services for disabled persons and the extension of services to their families;
 - (d) Promotion of special efforts to foster positive attitudes towards children and adults with disabilities, and the undertaking of measures to improve their access to rehabilitation, education, employment, cultural and sports activities and the physical environment;
4. Urges all concerned specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake an examination of their ongoing programmes and projects in the ESCAP region, with a view to integrating systematically disability concerns into their work programmes and supporting national implementation of the present resolution;
 5. Calls upon non-governmental organizations in the field of social development to utilize their experience and expertise in strengthening the capabilities and activities of organizations of disabled persons;
 6. Urges organizations of disabled persons to cooperate with government agencies in strengthening means by which citizens with disabilities may realize their full potential, and to strengthen linkages among disabled persons in developed and developing countries to enhance their self-help capacity;
 7. Requests the Executive Secretary to assist, subject to available financial resources, member and associate member Governments in the following:
 - (a) Developing and pursuing national programmes of action during the forthcoming Decade;
 - (b) Formulating and implementing technical guidelines and legislation to promote disabled person's access to buildings, public facilities transport and communications systems, information, education and training, and technical aids;
 8. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially until the end of the Decade on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, on action to maintain the momentum of the Decade.

1-2. Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region

Adopted by the Meeting to Launch the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, on December 5, 1992

1. We the government leaders of ESCAP members and associate members recognize that:

- Every day in this region people are being disabled due to malnutrition and disease, environmental hazards, natural disasters, traffic and industrial accidents, civil conflict and war.
- As a concomitant of improvements in child survival, the numbers of children surviving with disabilities are increasing.
- As more people survive to older age, the numbers of elderly people with disabilities are rising.
- The living conditions of large numbers of people with disabilities, especially those in rural areas, need to be further improved.

2. We note that in Asian and Pacific societies, minimum care and service are, to a large extent, provided for people with disabilities in the traditional family and community context,

However, much more must be done to enable persons with disabilities to develop their full potential so that they may live as agents of their own destiny in the rapidly changing economic and social conditions of the region.

3. Throughout the region, the opportunities for full participation and equality for people with

Disabilities, especially in the fields of rehabilitation, education and employment, continue to be far less than those for their non-disabled peers. This is largely because negative social attitudes exclude persons with disabilities from an equal share in their entitlements as citizens.

Such attitudes also curtail the opportunities of people with disabilities for social contact and close personal relationships with others. The social stigma associated all too often with disabilities must be eradicated.

4. The built environment throughout much of Asia and the Pacific has been designed

without consideration for the special needs of persons with disabilities. Physical obstacles and social barriers prevent citizens with disabilities from participating in community and national life.

The various impediments to participation and equality are especially formidable for girls and women with disabilities. With improved attitudes, increased awareness and much care, we

can build social and physical environments that are accessible for all, i.e., we must work towards a society for all. In this regard, we urge the free exchange of information.

1-3. The Achievements of RNN

(Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons)

Ichiro Maruyama

Secretary General of RNN

RNN, the first and a unique Network in the Asian and Pacific region with membership of both national and international organizations of / for people with disabilities, was established in October 1993 which is the beginning of the Decade in Okinawa, Japan as a result of a resolution of Campaign '93 Regional NGO Conference.

RNN's mission is the promotion of the A/P Decade through action resulting in concrete achievements. Its function is to enhance the linkage among NGOs, to encourage and support NGOs and UN agencies in implementing the Agenda for Action of the A/P Decade and to create and enhance public awareness of the Decade at all levels in the region.

As a main event of the RNN's various activities, The Campaign '94 Manila was the first held after the Okinawa resolution. Since then, members have met at Campaign '95 Jakarta (Indonesia), Campaign '96 Auckland (New Zealand), Campaign '97 Seoul (Korea), Campaign '98 Hong Kong (SAR China), Campaign '99 Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Campaign 2000 Bangkok (Thailand) and Campaign 2001 Hanoi (Viet Nam). The final Campaign 2002 to mark the end year of the Decade was in Osaka, Japan.

Oversea participants to the Campaign varied 300 (Manila) to 1,600 (Hong Kong). More than a half of them were PWDs with various kinds of disabilities. RNN is especially happy to get a quite number of participants with intellectually disability and some participants with psychiatric disability. `

Those Campaigns served as an avenue for the community of organizations for/of persons with disabilities to demonstrate our capability to influence the challenges and systems that will advance our cause. Furthermore, the involvement of governments in addition to the non- governmental sector in the Campaign had also led governments to focus more attention to the plight of persons with disabilities. All Campaign had succeeded to invite the top of the nation, presidents and prime ministers to express their recognition and intention to promote the measure for his fellow persons with disability.

Other RNN undertaking is information Services the publication of various materials on disability related concerns. In addition to the RNN Newsletter, the Journal is also published. Among the RNN Planned Projects, we did the translation of important

documents into members' native languages, Support specific NGO projects from proposals submitted to RNN and other co-operative projects. RNN set up the Research Task Force to evaluate the Decade. The report was submitted to our End-Year Campaign 2002 and to the ESCAP High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on A/P Decade as an NGO input.

RNN did promote the decision of UNESCAP to extend the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons from 2003 to 2012.

We must expand our efforts by the New Network APDF and continue actions for the coming Decade, the very important humanitarian initiatives in our region. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to those numerous people who joined to RNN activities and the fullest ` support of UNESCAP and her member governments to RNN.

1-4 Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific decade of Disabled Persons (RNN) 1993 – 2002

I .National| NGOs Members

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| (1) Australia | ACROD Ltd. |
| (2) Bangladesh | Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV) |
| (3) China | |
| (4) Hong Kong | Joint Council for the Physically & Mentally Disabled |
| (5) Indonesia | Indonesia Disabled People's Association
Persatuan, Penyandang Cacat Indonesia (PPCI) |
| (6) Japan | Promotional Council of the New Decade |
| (7) Korea | Korean Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities
(KSRPD) |
| (8) Malaysia | MAJLIS PEMULIHAN MALAYSIA (Malaysian Council for Rehabilitation) |
| (9) Nepal | |
| (10) New Zealand | Disabled Persons Assembly (NZ) Inc. |
| (11) Pakistan | Pakistan Disabled Foundation (National) |
| (12) Philippines | Katipunan ng Maykapansanan sa Pilipinas Inc. (KAMPI) |
| (13) Singapore | Handicaps Welfare Association |
| (14) Thailand | Wheelchairs & Friendship Center of Asia (Thailand) |
| (15) Vietnam | Bright Future Group for People with Disabilities |

II. International NGOs Members

- (1) Rehabilitation International Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RI)
- (2) World Federation of the Deaf, Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific Region (WFD)
- (3) World Blind Union, Asian Blind Union (WBU)
- (4) Inclusion International (II), Asian & Pacific Region (II)
- (5) Disabled People's International Asia and Pacific Region (DPI)
- (6) Rehabilitation Action Network for Asia and the Pacific (RANAP)
- (7) South Asian Disability Network (SAN)
- (8) Handicap International (HI)

Secretary General
Secretariat

Ichiro Maruyama
Etsuko Ueno
Yoshiko Hirano

2. 1993-2002 :

UN ESCAP Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons



2-1. The 1st International NGO conference in Okinawa

Outline: To Promote the participation of Persons with Disability in Society

The 1st International NGO Conference in Okinawa

Theme: To Promote the participation of Persons with Disabilities in Society

International NGO conference, Okinawa conference on the social participation of Persons with Disabilities was held at Okinawa Convention Center in Ginowan city on 18th and 19th of October, 1993, and had 1600 participants from 17 countries.

Persons with Disabilities themselves managed the conference, like M.C. and the declaration of the conference. The Okinawa conference had an active participation of people with disabilities, who performed a main role of the conference, 300 with various disabilities. Opening Ceremony was started with "Shimauta" by students of Okinawa School for the Blind. Disability NGOs around the world including RI, DPI, WBU, WFD, ILSMH and RANAP sent representatives to the conference with one accord, which proved its historical significance. The keynote address by ESCAP Executive Secretary emphasized on "intensifying the cooperation between developed nations and developing nations." A member of the House of Representatives Mr. Eita Yashiro, Chairperson of DPI Asia Pacific bloc, regarded year 1993 as "the first year of the new welfare" and said, "we should go forward encouragingly and verify it in the following ten years." Each program during the conference such as Keynote Speeches, Country Reports, Exchange Meetings and Symposium had positive opinions and suggestions about future regional cooperation to promote social participation of people with disabilities in the Asia and Pacific. They also had the reports from some countries such as China, Hong Kong and Malaysia, which put an emphasis especially on the difficulties in solving the issues of Persons with Disabilities and NGO's support policies in the future. The leaders of Persons with Disabilities of each country deepened their relationships, which resulted in the formation of RNN. It was also confirmed that they would take turns providing a conference place from the next year.

Resolutions and Recommendations / 19 October 1993, Okinawa, Japan

RESOLUTIONS

1. A regional NGO Network for the promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade should be established.

- 1.1 interested NGOs will meet at 8:30 a.m. on 20 October to initiate the founding of Network.
- 1.2 To organize annual NGO Conferences during the whole new Decade. The following venues have been suggested: 1994-Philippines, 1995-Indonesia, 1996-New Zealand.
- 1.3 A Working Committee who will examine details and implement recommendations of the Network should be established.

2. To implement and promote the following programme proposed at the Okinawa Conference.

- 2.1 To establish a centre that would supply prosthetics/orthotics and technical aid; and request the support of Governments.
- 2.2 To support the idea of establishing an Asian Rehabilitation Training and information Center to develop manpower and promote exchange of relevant experiences in the region.
- 2.3 To establish a "manpower bank" to promote regional cooperation.
- 2.4 To cooperate with the World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat in the Asian and Pacific Region in implementing their training programmes.
- 2.5 To cooperate with the World Blind Union's East Asia Art Pacific Regional Committee.
- 2.6 To cooperate in the organization of the Asia Art Festival of the Disabled.
- 2.7 To collaborate in other activities, related conferences and events to be organized in the region.
- 2.8 To promote all of the above items, a "private regional cooperation fund on disability" should be established.

3. To encourage all NGOs in each country/territory to actively promote public awareness of the Decade.

- 3.1 Important documents adopted by the United Nations and other organizations concerning disability should be translated and printed into the respective native

language of each country/territory and be distributed widely.

- 3.2 To issue a newsletter promoting the Decade.
- 3.3 To promote public awareness of the Decade by making most of mass media.
- 3.4 To conduct relevant activities promoting the international Day of Disabled Persons.
- 3.5 To cooperate in the designing and publicizing of a logo symbolizing the Decade.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Request ESCAP, UN agencies and each Government in the region to support and cooperate with the regional NGO Network for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002.
2. Request each Government to draw up and implement a Long-Term Programme in their own country with the cooperation of relevant NGOs including organizations of persons with disabilities, based on the Agenda for Action of the Decade adopted by ESCAP, with each Programme to be reviewed periodically.
3. Urge each Government to ratify related international treaties and conventions such as the ILO Convention 159 on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of the Disabled.
4. Urge Governments to give a much higher priority to disability issues in the bilateral/ Multilateral programmes of the Overseas Development Assistance.
5. Further strengthen the relationship between NGOs and related government agencies in each country/territory.
6. To support the ESCAP Secretariat of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 through the contribution of financial and personnel resources.
7. To request Governments to contribute to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Decade.
8. To effectively implement the above recommendations, Governments are requested to hold a Regional Summit Meeting on Disability in the midterm year of the decade.

2-2. The 2nd International NGO conference in Manila

Outline: Enhanced Social Enlightenment by Regional Cooperation

The 2nd Campaign Conference in Manila

Theme: Enhanced Social Enlightenment by Regional Cooperation

"Action, action, and action!" President Ramos's powerful keynote address encouraged all 300 participants from 13 countries who attended the 2nd Campaign Conference, held from July 20 to 22, 1994, at the Hyatt Regency Manila, Philippines. During the conference, there were five plenary sessions and eight separate meetings to discuss various issues, including the media's role, cooperation between government organizations and NGOs, accessibility, independent living, CBR, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and education. In the session on the media's role, participants voiced their concerns about mass media that foster new prejudices against people with disabilities by conveying false information.

Vice President Estrada mentioned in his address at the closing ceremony that the Philippine government had started to put emphasis upon education for children with disabilities and to provide special classes for them, which could be considered one of the Campaign effects.

A resolution was declared at the closing ceremony, reflecting lively discussions during the conference. At the RNN general assembly held simultaneously with the conference, Mr. Ichiro Maruyama (Japan) was approved as the Secretary General. A logo contest was also held during the conference, and the work of Mr. Sil. R. Mangao from the Philippines won the grand prize.

Manifesto of Commitment / Manila Conference: Campaign' 94 on Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

Manifesto of Commitment

We, the delegates of the Manila Conference: Campaign'94 on the Asian Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons commit ourselves to working together on a common platform of:

Respect for the dignity and citizenship rights of all persons with disabilities and Empowerment of persons with disabilities to participate fully and equally in all aspects of life.

We pledge to participate in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in its resolution 49/6 of 29 April 1993.

In particular, we resolve:

To actively support national and regional networking for effective exchange of information, expertise and resources;

To mobilize diverse sectoral agencies and organizations to integrate people with disabilities into their programs and allocate specific resources to support the integration process especially at the grassroots level.

To promote the organization and strengthening of self help organizations of people with disabilities including the participation in national coordination mechanism on disability matters;

To assist in the development of effective mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of legal and policy provisions pertaining to equalization of opportunities to persons with disabilities;

To encourage the further development of community based rehabilitation and other alternative approaches in order to increase disabled peoples access to rehabilitation services and to enable families to provide appropriate care and support;

To promote the implementation of programs on the prevention of causes, early detection and intervention of disabilities;

To strengthen the skills of persons with disabilities for mobilizing the media to support the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

To develop cooperation with media personal regarding honest and realistic communication of disability issues; and

To formulate and implement with media agencies strategies that will improve attitudes and behavior towards people with disabilities.

Signed this 22nd day of July 1994, Metro Manila, Philippines.

2-3. The 3rd International NGO conference in Jakarta

Outline: Realization of the Support for All the people

The 3rd Campaign Conference in Jakarta

Theme: Realization of the Support for All the People

The 3rd Campaign Conference was held in the Indonesian capital Jakarta, from September 12 to 16, 1995, with 500 participants from 41 countries. It was when Indonesia marked 50 years since the country had become independent from Holland.

President Suharto and the first lady attended the opening ceremony at the palace, and after giving a welcome address, the President shook hands with all the participants. On the afternoon of the first day, following the opening ceremony, a welcome reception was held at a national park, Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature). The program included performances by children with disabilities, introduction of the RNN theme song that won a prize at the contest held in Seoul in the spring of that year, and, as a finale to the event, a ceremony where representatives of participating countries came out on the stage and signed a stone monument to commemorate the conference. Meanwhile, it was reported that on that day, polio vaccine had been given to children throughout Indonesia to commemorate the conference. Polio has already disappeared in developed countries; however, it is still a serious cause of physical disabilities in Indonesia. Simultaneously with the Campaign Conference, the RI Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference was held, and commemorative stamps were issued for it. From September 17 to 19 after the conference, seminars on "vocational rehabilitation" and "arts and people with disabilities" were held respectively at Jogjakarta and Bali as post-conference sessions.

2-4. The 4rd International NGO conference in Oakland

Outline: Step to Equality

The 4th Campaign Conference in Oakland

The 4th campaign conference was held in Auckland from 14th of September to 20th of September 1996 and had 1400 participants from 88 countries. The 18th Rehabilitation international World Congress was held at the same time.

At the joint opening ceremony, Prime Minister Bolger and a special lecturer, ex-Costa Rica President Oscar Arias Sanchez who won Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 entered the hall after the Maori welcome. The highlights of this conference program were sessions and symposiums on human rights, the census and services for people with disabilities.

The participants from each country reported on their current circumstances and exchanged opinions on 6 themes: physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, psychiatric illness, workshop (on working and working places) and care to Persons with serious Disabilities. At the symposium, there was discussion on the human rights laws and statistics particularly in relation to the Agenda for Action with the purpose of promoting the decade and its goals. As a summary of the Campaign'96, the resolution made by a drafting committee was declared and adopted.

Resolutions on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

Auckland Conference: Campaign '96

15 September 1996

Resolutions

As we complete the first four years of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,

we are glad to have started the course towards the fulfilment of our goals for the Decade.

The UNESCAP Meeting to Review the A/P Decade was held in 1995 and its recommendations were approved by the UNESCAP General Assembly in 1996. We look forward to the targets set for the remainder of the Decade under the Agenda for Action. Aware of the strengths and weakness encountered in our efforts to advance the interest and well being of people with disabilities, and keeping our focus on the objectives of the Decade, we put forward the following resolutions:

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolve that organizations of and for people with disabilities lobby their governments for the achievement of the targets set and adopted by the UNESCAP in each area of the Agenda for Action within the stipulated time frame.
2. Adopt a review process wherein NGO reports, in addition to Governments are included in the major Review report undertaken every two years by the UNESCAP.
3. To implement the Targets under the Agenda Action approved by the UNESCAP General Assembly.
4. To urge Governments in the region to actively support the annual RNN Campaigns of the A/P Decade. In particular, Governments are asked to join the 1997 Review Meeting with UNESCAP to be held in Seoul, Korea in September. Delegations should include representatives of self-help organizations of people with disabilities.

5. To urge Governments to support self-help organizations of people with disabilities to get more involved in the Campaigns.

Member of a Drafting committee

Ms. Anne Hawker, Chairperson of 1996 RNN

Mr. Frans Harsana, Chairperson of 1995 RNN

Captain Oscar Taleon, Chairperson of 1994 RNN

Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, Secretary General of RNN

Dr. Joseph Kwok, Hong Kong, RANAP

Mr. Eiichi Takada, WFD RSA! P

Mr. Rungta, Network of South Asia, India

Mr. Shahid Ahmed Memon, WBU, South Asia, Pakistan

2-5. The 5th International NGO conference in Seoul

Outline: Toward the Success in the Latter Five Years

The 5th Campaign Conference in Seoul

Theme: Toward the Success in the Latter Five Years

The Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons reached its halfway point in 1997. To mark the midpoint, the Campaign Conference in Seoul was held September 24-27, 1997, at the Hotel Lotte, Seoul, as a part of the 1997 Seoul International Conference on Disabilities in conjunction with the second UNESCAP regional meeting of senior officials and RI General Assembly. With 1000 participants from 45 countries, it was not only the biggest gathering in Korea since the 1988 Paralympics, but also the first conference for people with disabilities on such a large scale. The joint opening ceremony attended by Korean Prime Minister Kun Koh was broadcast on cable TV in Japan via satellite. Representatives of participating countries made speeches sharing the understanding that the next five years should be a period to enhance collaboration within the region and call on each government for practical promotion of the agenda whereas the previous five years was a period to initially clarify and discuss problems. A medical and healthcare products exhibition was held in the conference venue; approximately 20 Korean companies participated. There was a poster contest following the previous logo and theme song contests. The work of an artist from the Philippines, where a large-scale national contest was supported by governmental organizations and mass media, won the grand prize. The most noteworthy achievements of this conference were an exchange meeting that for the first time included mental disabilities in its topic categories and a first-time seminar on foundations for people with disabilities. ‘

2-6. The 6th International NGO conference in Hong Kong

Outline: To Put Together the Results from Both Worlds

The 6th Campaign Conference in Hong Kong

The 6th Campaign Conference was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, August 23-28, 1998, with 1600 participants from 36 countries, together with the 11th RI Asia and Pacific Regional Conference. The venue was the same spot where the ceremony marking the Hong Kong handover had been held the year before. The opening ceremony started with an address by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Tung Chee-hwa, followed by a message from Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China, read by Deng Pufang, President of the Chinese Federation for the Disabled. The conference, as symbolized by its theme, "A Brave New World", drew attention to the many partnerships between global and local communities, developed and developing countries, South and North, East and West, disability experts and people with disabilities themselves, and Hong Kong and China. Workshops were held on issues such as women with disabilities, laws and statistics, and adaptive equipment, as well as exchange meetings organized around types of disabilities. Eight different observation tours were offered, and visited sites included the spastic society and a rehabilitation institution for people with mental illness. At the spacious exhibition hall, a large-scale exhibition with more than 100 booths developed the "A Brave New World" theme. A continuous stream of visitors totaling over 60,000 people, including primary and junior high school students, people with disabilities, and elderly and female groups, visited the exhibition on sightseeing busses. This was evidence of the effort that Hong Kong had put into a publicity campaign to educate the public on disability issues. After the conference, 158 participants took part in an exchange tour to Guang Zhou, China.

The Hong Kong Statement

11th Rehabilitation International Asia and HONG KONG Conference: Campaign'98 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

27 August 1998

THE HONG KONG STATEMENT

We affirm that all enabling processes should be **people-centered, holistic and interdisciplinary**. This affirmation should be in all initiatives and practices, and consistently so at the global and local levels.

We acknowledge our need to **learn from each other**, regardless whether we are disabled or not, regardless our professions, whether we work in institutions or in communities, whether we live in rural or urban environment, whether we are working at global or grass-roots levels regardless of our economic conditions or whether our country is developing or fully industrialized.

We recognize the sterling **progress** our region has made in recent years, in the areas of legislation, public awareness, disability prevention, human resource development, rehabilitation services, equalization of opportunities, accessibility, social integration, and community-based initiatives. At the moment, however, these advances and benefits have only reached a small population in this region.

We pledge to **actively participate** in Rehabilitation International and its World Commissions to achieve the goals of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

We urge that all initiatives and services have **direct input from people with disabilities**.

We urge that appropriate **community oriented** programs and **self-help** programs be made as priority.

We urge all Rehabilitation international's World commissions at both global and regional levels to work in **closer partnerships** with all relevant international professional organizations.

We urge that even in times of **economic difficulties**, we do not allow our progress to slip.

People with disabilities and their families should not bear the consequences of these crises disproportionately in any community.

We urge national governments of Asian Pacific countries to request the **United Nations** to engage Rehabilitation International and its World Commissions to be its facilitating arm in all rehabilitation services.

We regard it timely for Rehabilitation International to elect an **Asian** President in the near future to lead the world's disability community to deal with the immense challenges ahead, in particular the challenges to achieve a successful consummation of the Asian Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

2-7. The 7th International NGO conference in Kuala Lumpur

Outline: Encourage Persons with Disabilities to Participate in the Industry Society

The 7th Campaign Conference in Kuala Lumpur

The 7th Campaign Conference was held at the Golden Horses, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 29-December 4, 1999, with 760 participants from 16 countries. The country was having its first general election in 12 years, and the city was adorned with election posters. Minister of National Unity and Social Development Paduka Zaleha Ismail presided at the opening instead of Prime Minister Mahatir, who was unable to attend the ceremony because of the election. At the Conference, Malaysian government officials outlined in detail their policy for people with disabilities for the first time and also released an assessment of the current situation in the country based on the Agenda for Action. During the Conference, five plenary sessions were held, including a symposium and 17 workshops on issues such as accessibility, CBR, and education. Attracting considerable interest from the business world, the Conference gained approximately 20 sponsors to enable a number of people from disability organizations within the country to take part. This was the first national gathering of the government sector, disability experts, and people with disabilities themselves where frank views and demands and criticism of policies were freely exchanged.

At the exchange meetings, lively discussions in five separate categories-physical disabilities, visual impairment, hearing impairment, intellectual disabilities, and mental illness-took place. Eight observation tours were also made available during the conference. December 3-4, at the end of the Conference, the national meeting for people with disabilities in Malaysia was held for the first time in 20 years at Bangi industrial and Rehabilitation Centre. About 400 people participated in the meeting and discussed requests to the government, which were passed as a resolution.

Recommendations of the Post-Conference Workshop of Campaign '99

Malaysia Conference: Campaign '99 On the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

Malaysia held its domestic conference of/for disabled persons as the Post Conference Workshop of Campaign '99.

After two days of deliberations on December 3rd and 4th (Friday and Saturday) 1999, the recommendations of the participants were adopted and presented by Godfrey Ooi.

1. Access:

- 1.1. Effective enforcement of the laws regarding access is required.
- 1.2. The voting process during the General Elections should be accessible to the disabled by locating the booths in accessible places rather than upstairs.
- 1.3. The driving school should have at least one disabled-friendly car available so that the disabled can take the driving test without having to first possess their own cars which they may probably not be able to afford at that point of the time.
- 1.4. The public buses should be more user-friendly to the disabled (rather than allocating special seats). For example, the seats are rather high, the railings on the roof are often out of reach and the seat arrangement as well as the TV, radio or loudspeaker (Which occupies much space) make it quite difficult for the passengers to grab at the seat railings.
Generally, in fact, there is less railing space for the passengers to hold on to in the new buses compared with the old ones.
- 1.5. Buildings, especially schools, universities and other institutions, should be accessible to the disabled in terms of public toilets, ramps, covered drains, etc.
- 1.6. In the future revisions of access guidelines and laws, suggestions should be included regarding the kind of special facilities that need to be provided in certain areas (for example, special lifts at the pier).
- 1.7. The Bangi Industrial and Rehabilitation Center should be upgraded so that it will function properly as a purpose-built building for the disabled (including air-conditioning and better acoustics for the hall, ramps and slopes rather than steps, covering of trains, improved toilet facilities and sanitation, metal rather than wooden beds to reduce the problem of bed-bugs, etc.)
- 1.8. Light signals (besides audio signals or announcements) should be provided on

transportation such as the LRT so that both the deaf and the blind can benefit at the same time from such services.

2. Public Awareness:

- 2.1. Dialogues should be held between the disabled and the relevant ministries (including the minister) from time to time.
- 2.2. Disabled representatives should be included on various Government bodies, especially the local councils of the Housing Ministry.
- 2.3. Regular clippings or jingles should be included on TV regarding the disabled for more effective awareness impact upon the public.

3. Needs of the Deaf:

- 3.1. Government grants should be made available to such groups as the UMCA Deaf Club and the Malaysian Federation of the Deaf (besides the interpreters' Society) since their interpreter services are much more accessible to the deaf than those of the Society.
- 3.2. Greater flexibility should be expressed in allowing deaf children to enter primary school so that they can have the advantage of starting earlier (for example, at six years old).
- 3.3. Deaf children should be allowed to make their own choice between academic and vocational education and it should not be presumed that the deaf are only good for vocational schools.
- 3.4. Some system (including visual communication and identification tags) should be devised for the deaf so that they will be able to enjoy the use of public transportation without discrimination.
- 3.5. A24-hour hotline should be installed to help the deaf and perhaps other disabled persons during of emergency (e.g. the services of a sign language interpreter may be required during the weekend for the delivery of a baby by a deaf lady).
- 3.6. Sign-language should be introduced as a course in the co curricular programme of schools, thereby exposing schoolchildren to the skills from a young age and building up a reserves of potential sign language interpreters.

4. Sports for the Disabled:

- 4.1. The disabled Paralympics should be given equal recognition and status as SUKMA (National Sports Games), thereby creating equal opportunities for the disabled for participation in sports in the country.

- 4.2. Greater emphasis should be given by the Special Education Department to the development of sports for the disabled at the school level. Properly trained teachers and equipment should be made available for the purpose.
- 4.3. Public awareness programmes on sports for the disabled should be publicized through the mass media, thereby motivating the disabled to develop to the skills and participate in sports activities.
- 4.4. The development of sports activities for the disabled should be the responsibility of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

5. Arts and Culture:

There should be an official group or programme to help develop arts and culture among the disabled.

6. The Exemption Status:

The new NGO(s) should be granted tax exemption status in order to enable them to obtain financial support more easily to finance their activities.

7. Senior Citizens:

Home nursing service for senior citizens should be looked into.

8. Business Opportunities:

The Ministry of Entrepreneurial Development should explore the possibility of creating business opportunities for the disabled.

9. Slow Learners:

- 9.1. Special facilities for the slow learners and people with learning difficulties should include schools for children, vocational centers for adults and group homes to help them socialize and integrate into the community.
- 9.2. Community networking and support services should be established to help in the mobilization of resources for the slow learners.
- 9.3. Effort should be made to help the slow learners and people with learning difficulties participate in or form their own self-help and self-advocacy groups.

10. Braille:

- 10.1. More thought should be given to the development of a compensatory skills programme for the blind in both primary and secondary education.
The compensatory skills could include Braille shorthand(useful to the blind using

the Braille frame during such activities as taking lecture notes), music, orientation and mobility, map-reading for mobility purposes, use of the abacus. mathematical models and graphs, use of science equipment, games such as chess and scrabble, sports, leadership development programmes, and social etiquette.

2-8. The 8th International NGO conference in Bangkok

Outline: To promote the Social Integration of Disabled Persons

The 8th Campaign Conference in Bangkok

December 11-15, 2000, the 8th Campaign Conference was held at the United Nations Building in Bangkok, Thailand, with 500 participants from 30 countries. The plenary session was held with the attendance of the Thai Crown Princess, and Japanese Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Eita Yashiro, and the President of the Chinese Federation for the Disabled Deng Pufang respectively delivered keynote speeches on the promotion of measures in favor of people with disabilities in the region; the current status of the movement to barrier-free environments in each participating country was also reported. The foremost achievement of the Conference came out of the heated discussions to arrive at the 107 targets in the 12 policy areas of the Agenda for Action by 2002. At separate meetings, where an animated debate by women with disabilities was especially impressive, participants discussed evaluation of the last eight years based on the 12 policy areas.

At the exchange meetings, people with visual impairment, hearing impairment, and intellectual disabilities had lively interchanges, and participation of people with mental illness was also quite active. Various events such as workshops, an exhibition, and a movie session were held during the Conference as well as observation tours to five different destinations.

Bangkok Millennium Declaration the Promotion of the Rights of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region

Bangkok Conference: Campaign '00 On the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

We, the participants of Campaign 2000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Bangkok from 11 to 15 December 2000:

Recalling that the Governments of the Asian and Pacific Region, through Commission resolution 4B/3, had declared the period 1993 to 2002 as the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,

Recalling that Commission Resolution 54/1 on "Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century" requests that the Executive Secretary of ESCAP explore the means of organizing, by the end of 2002, a high-level meeting to consider the lessons learned from national and regional efforts towards the fulfilment of Decade targets,

Mindful that the Beijing Declaration on the Rights of People with Disabilities in the New Century, adopted on 12 March 2000 by the World NGO Summit on Disability in Beijing, calls for the adoption of an international convention on the rights of all people with disabilities that will legally bind nations to reinforce the authority of the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,

Recognizing that numerous organizations of people with disabilities and disability service providers have actively contributed to, and collaborated for, the advancement of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,

Recognizing also that since its inception in 1993, the Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (RNN) has been active in raising awareness of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons through annual campaigns, held in Okinawa, Japan (1993), Manila (1994), Jakarta (1995), Auckland (1996), Seoul (1997), Hong Kong, China (1998) and Kuala Lumpur (1999),

Recognizing further the advent of information and communication technology, and its potential benefits and challenges for persons with disabilities,

Recalling that the Commission at its fifty-sixth session in June 2000 had endorsed 107 targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons that were formulated and adopted by the Regional Forum on Meeting the Targets for the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, and Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the ESCAP Region, held at Bangkok in November 1999,

Appreciating the Commission's endorsement of the 107 targets for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons as recognition of the inclusion of disabled persons in the development process as a key strategy for equalization of their opportunities,

Appreciating that RNN, the National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, ESCAP, and the Royal Thai Government have jointly taken the initiative to co-organize Campaign 2000 to discuss progress relating to fulfilment of the 107 targets and other emerging regional issues concerning equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities,

Noting that two years remain before the conclusion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,

Noting further that, following Campaign 2000, that will be two additional campaigns to be held in Hanoi, and, Osaka, Japan, in 2001 and 2002, respectively,

1. Commit ourselves to promoting, and participating in, collaborative action towards the fulfilment of the 107 targets.
2. Further commit ourselves to contributing information on target fulfilment to the regional review of the achievements of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.
3. Support the establishment, by, 2002, of the Asian and Pacific Centre on Disability, in Thailand, as a living legacy of the spirit of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities in the

Asian and Pacific region, under the joint auspices of the Government of Japan and the Royal Thai Government.

4. Call on ESCAP to provide guidance and technical support the proposed Asian and Pacific Centre on Disability, and, in collaboration with it, to countries in the ESCAP region, towards fulfilment of the Decade targets.

5. Affirm that the targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, as reviewed, revised, and further strengthened at the conclusion of the Decade in 2002, will form the Framework for Action of the Asian and Pacific Centre on Disability.

6. Urge all members of the United Nations system, intergovernmental bodies, governments, nongovernmental organizations, private sector bodies, and the mass media, in the Asian and Pacific region to:

a) **Recognize** the importance of the Asian and Pacific Centre on Disability as a viable means of ensuring long-term follow-up to the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, and to support Centre operations and activities with financial, technical and other in-kind contributions;

b) **Support** actively the process for the development of an international convention on the rights of all people with disabilities, to be further considered at the second World NGO Summit on Disability to be held in 2003;

c) **Adopt** policy and awareness-raising measures for the inclusion for disabled persons and disability issues in all development activities, including support for strengthening the further empowerment and technical skills enhancement of the self-help movement of disabled persons in the Asian and Pacific region;

d) **Support** the training of disabled persons as trainers and resource persons for awareness-raising, advocacy, and policy formulation and monitoring on the promotion of disabled persons' access to information and communication technology, development programmes, the built environment and public transportation infrastructure;

e) **Support** special efforts and programmes for the participation of women and girls with disabilities in the development process;

f) **Develop** strong inter-linked mechanisms at local, national, sub regional and regional levels for more effective sharing and dissemination of best practices, expertise and information on means of developing disabled persons' capabilities, and

on improving the situation of disabled persons, their families and their communities;

g) **Strengthen** policy, funding, training and incentive schemes to ensure that disabled persons have access to information and communications technology for education, training, employment, recreation, communication among diverse disability groups and non-disabled persons, partnership development, and participation in civil society, as well as to overcome mobility, gender and rural-urban barriers, and for other participation and development purposes;

(h) **Advocate**, with policy makers responsible for national action plans in follow up to the Dakar Framework For Action on Education for All, the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in the national action plans;

i) **Promote**, in national and area assessments of Education for All, the inclusion of indicators of the status of children and youth with disabilities in formal and non-formal education programmes;

j) **Work** strategically towards explicit and stronger recognition of disability-related concerns and needs, in the context of human rights, at all United Nations meetings in 2001, particularly in preparation for, and during the:

- Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (May 14-20, Brussels)
- Asia-Pacific Youth Forum of the United Nations System (May 30-June 1, Bangkok)
- Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resource Development for Youth June 4-8, Bangkok)
- Special Session of the General Assembly for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children September 5)

7. Request ESCAP to make further effort, and to promote, dissemination and fulfilment of the 107 Targets for Decade action to: .,

a) **Undertake** a regional review of target fulfilment concerning national coordination and legislation.

b) **Advocate** for the targeting of families of persons with disabilities for special assistance and support and in policy development and resource allocation towards fulfilling the targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

8. Decide to work collectively to advocate with all members of the United Nations system, intergovernmental bodies, governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector bodies and the mass media, in the Asian and Pacific region to promote multispectral collaboration for the inclusion of disabled persons in the development process and the implementation of this Declaration.

2-9. The 9th International NGO conference in Hanoi

Outline: Promoting Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities

The 9th Campaign Conference in Hanoi

The 9th Campaign Conference, the biggest international event ever held in Vietnam on disabilities and even on people's daily lives, was held December 11-15, 2001, at Giang Vo Exhibition Fair Center in Hanoi with 1800 participants from 37 countries. The conference started off with an energetic opening ceremony attended by President Tran Duc Luong and the Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Nguyen Thi Hang. Separate meetings were held on 12 topics, including policies and enlightenment of the public, education and vocational rehabilitation, employment, business promotion, equal opportunities, and independent living at home and in society. One significant aspect of this conference was the establishment of a consensus to realize the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons. It is expected that there will be future collaboration among countries in the region to guarantee the human rights of people with disabilities. At the conference venue, about 40 organizations and enterprises ran exhibition booths. Four different observation tours to see the current situation of people with disabilities in Vietnam, such as a visit to a vocational school, were held after the conference. Culminating the three days of lively discussions, appeals were unanimously adopted as a joint statement of RNN, the United Nations, and the Vietnamese government. The resulting Hanoi Declaration of Campaign 2001 on the Facilitation of Community Integration of People with Disabilities, in which an extension of the Decade of Disabled Persons was requested to UNESCAP, was another highlight of the conference.

Hanoi Declaration of Campaign 2001 on the Facilitation of Community Integration of People with Disabilities

Hanoi Conference: Campaign '01

On the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

Hanoi Declaration of Campaign 2001 on the Facilitation of Community Integration of People with Disabilities

We, the Participants of Campaign 2001 for the Asian and Pacific of Disabled Persons held at Hanoi, Viet Nam from 10 to 15 December 2001:

Whereas the Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (RNN) and the Organizing Committee of Campaign 2001, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam (MOLISA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Viet Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH) organized the 9th Campaign for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons to promote the Decade Agenda for Action with a view to promotion of equal opportunities for people with disabilities in the region;

Whereas over 1,400 delegates from 37 countries and territories within and outside the Asian Pacific region, with over 1,000 being people with disabilities, gathered in Hanoi to Exchange views and discuss progress made in the fulfilment of the goals of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons during the past nine years;

Whereas the delegates met in both plenary and group sessions to discuss numerous issues and formulated recommendations in the areas of national legislation and policies, education and vocational training, employment and small business enterprises, access to the built environments and public transport systems, prevention of causes of disabilities, community-based approaches to rehabilitation services, cultural and athletic expression, barrier-free tourism, women with disabilities and children, access to information and communication technologies, and international cooperation;

Whereas in the age of the 21th century most of 350 million people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region are still among the least educated, most impoverished

and marginalized or excluded groups subject to discrimination;

Whereas the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted, on 30 November 2001, a resolution on "Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities", which decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of elaboration of such international convention;

Whereas the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons will conclude in a year in 2002 and Campaign 2002 will be held in Osaka in October 2002;

Whereas we unanimously recognize that persons with diverse disabilities as agents of change in making a barrier-free society for all and their contribution to the national development;

1. Therefore urge all peoples and governments in the ESCAP region to support the development and elaboration of the international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and call upon the governments, in cooperation with ESCAP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant organizations to convene a regional meeting or seminar to contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by making recommendations regarding the content and practical measures that should be considered in the international convention;

2. Further urge governments of the ESCAP region to extend the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002) for another 10 years as a regional mechanism to facilitate the elaboration and implementation of the international convention of rights of persons with disabilities with an approach focusing on;

(a) Key strategic areas, including education, training and employment, access to built environments and information and communication technology (ICT), social security and income maintenance;

(b) Strengthening sub regional cooperation and collaboration;

as well as with extension of interregional support for the African Decade of Disabled Persons (2000-2009) and a proposed Arab Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012);

3. Call upon the United Nations, international funding organizations, donor governments and organizations to explicitly include persons with disabilities as a major target group of their support for the national rebuilding of Afghanistan and East Timor;

4. Request governments and non-governmental organizations to support the formation of self-help organizations of persons with diverse disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, with a view to empowering their members and becoming contributing members of 21st century barrier-free society;

5. Resolve to work collectively to advocate with all members of the United Nations system, intergovernmental bodies, governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector bodies, and the mass media, in the Asian and Pacific region to promote the inclusion of disabled persons in the mainstream development process and in the implementation of this Declaration and attached recommendations that have been formulated by group discussion sessions of Campaign 2001.

2-10. The 10th International NGO conference in Osaka

Outline: Partnerships for Disability Rights

The 10th Campaign Conference in Osaka

The Osaka Forum was organized as part of the International Forum on Disabilities to Mark the End Year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, from October 21 to 23, 2002, under the theme of "Partnerships for Disability Rights," with 2470 participants from 55 countries and areas. In the opening ceremony at the Osaka International Convention Center, which was graced with the attendance of His imperial Highness Prince Hitachi, Mr. Eita Yashiro, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of the international Forum made a special speech and emphasized the importance of the adoption of the convention on human rights of persons with disabilities. The opening ceremony was followed by the plenary session with keynote speeches delivered by Sir Harry Fang of Hong Kong, SAR China, RI Advisor, Dr. Maya Thomas of India, Policy Advisor and Training Manager in Disability Rehabilitation, and Mr. Bengt Lindqvist of Sweden, Special Reporter on Disability of the United Nations Commission for Social Development.

A panel discussion was presented subsequently. On the second day, the 12th Rehabilitation International Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference, the 25th National Rehabilitation Conference, and the International Research Meeting on Vocational Rehabilitation were held simultaneously at three different venues within Osaka Prefecture, along with various sessions where participants discussed different issues surrounding persons with disabilities such as education, vocational rehabilitation, barrier-free environment and accessibility.

Field visits in eight different courses were also made on the second day, including a tour to the Universal Studios Japan that many of the participants had been looking forward to. On the third day, all the participants gathered at the international Communication

Center for Persons with Disabilities (nicknamed BiG - i) in Sakai City, to hold plenary sessions and discuss wide range of topics such as achievements and further tasks of the Decade and formation and activities of the Asia and Pacific Disability Forum (APDF), a new organization to replace RNN. At the closing ceremony, "Osaka Declaration on Partnerships for Disability Rights" was adopted.

At the foyer of the Osaka international Convention Center, many people were

attracted by panel exhibitions to introduce achievements of the Decade and to show realities of measures for persons with disabilities in various countries. There was also an exhibition corner showing artwork of those who appeared on a TV program "Kiratto-kiru," produced by NHK Osaka Broadcasting Station to introduce activities of people with disabilities. Prior to the Osaka Forum, the 14th World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat in Asia / Pacific Representatives Meeting, and the Asia Pacific Blind Summit Conference were also held in Osaka.

Osaka Declaration on Partnerships for Disability Rights

Osaka Conference: Campaign '02

On the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

23 October 2002 in Osaka, Japan

For the past three decades, progresses have been made in promoting full participation and equality of persons with disabilities. The foundation for this progress, at the global level, has been the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (1971), the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (1975), the UN World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (1982), the ILO Convention concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) (ILO,C159,1983), the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities (1993), the Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education (1994), and the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All (2000). Progresses in the region are based on the Agenda for in Action in the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,1993-2002 (1993), the 73 targets (1996) and the 107 targets (2000) for the implementation of the Agenda for Action in the Asian and Pacific region. Although the gains are significant, the reality is no less challenging as there are still many issues to be solved for the fulfilment of the goals in nations and regions, especially in developing nations.

We, the participants of the International Forum on Disabilities to Mark the End Year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, welcome the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution (56/168) adopted in December 2001 on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asian and Pacific (ESCAP) proclamation on the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons for another decade, 2003-2012, by resolution 58/4 on Promoting an Inclusive, Barrier—free and Rights—based Society for People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region in the 21st century.

We commend the active contribution of RNN (the Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons) to the promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, though a series of regional

campaigns held annually since 1993 in Okinawa, Japan (1993), Manila, Philippines (1994), Jakarta, Indonesia (1995), Auckland, New Zealand (1996), Seoul, South Korea (1997), Hong Kong SAR, China (1998), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (1999), Bangkok, Thailand (2000), Hanoi, Vietnam (2001) and Osaka, Japan (2002). It is necessary in the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons starting in 2003 to undertake even more vigorous promotion campaigns in a cooperative and coordinated framework which will involve all concerned organizations including a larger number of disability NGOs and the private sector at regional and national levels as well as the existing RNN member organizations.

In so doing, we hope to strengthen national efforts, through forming public opinion to promote relevant decision and actions of the governments in the region, toward the adoption of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, which will be the most powerful tool in the new Millennium in achieving the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities.

Recognizing the above, we declare to take steps to achieve the following.

Toward **the early adoption of a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities**, we will make all-out efforts in cooperation and coordination with relevant agencies and organizations. In this connection, we request the governments in the region to:

- make active efforts toward the early adoption of the convention;
- ensure the inclusion of representatives of relevant disability organizations, beginning with representatives of persons with disabilities, in the national delegation to the UN Ad Hoc Committee to be held to discuss the convention;
- reinforce the monitoring mechanism within the nation and ensure participation of specialists of relevant disability organizations, beginning with specialists with persons with disabilities, in the monitoring process, thus actively utilizing the six existing human rights instruments (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment), as well as in the process of implementing and strengthening the UN Standard Rules on the

Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, to guarantee rights of persons with disabilities.

We will make active efforts for the promotion of **the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons** and request the governments in the region to:

(1) take necessary financial measures to promote the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

(2) establish a common concept on disabilities, improve domestic statistics based on surveys of actual situations while introducing the common concept, and by taking into consideration the relationship between social environment and disability, utilize the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as an index, to promote measures for persons with disabilities based on the statistics.

(3) (i) formulate national-and local-level programs with a fixed time deadline and numerical targets for the improvement of accessibility, support for communication, community-based rehabilitation (CBR), education, training & employment/working We also advocate support for community living and family support, alleviation of poverty as a cause of disabilities, prevention of war, conflicts and terror, elimination of land mines, prevention of HIV/AIDS, and efforts to ensure that persons with all types of disabilities Including women, children, and the elderly with disabilities are able to participate in all activities in the community; (ii) ensure inclusion of representatives of relevant disability organizations, beginning with those of persons with disabilities, in the formulation process of the programs; and (iii) also ensure participation of representatives of relevant disability organizations, beginning with representative of persons with disabilities in the periodic monitoring of the implementation of the programs.

(4) ensure participation of representatives of persons with disabilities, including those of the member organizations of a proposed Asian and Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) (see the attached document) in the working groups in the region for the periodic coordination and monitoring of the sub- regional – and regional-level implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework of Action toward an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities (to be discussed and adopted at the high-level intergovernmental meeting in Otsu City, Shiga, Japan), and to provide

financial support for that purpose.

We will widely urge relevant regional and national organizations to participate in and give support to APDF, which is to be a new network with a platform for more multidimensional and continuing activities in the region, building upon the achievements of RNN. We therefore request international agencies, governments in the region, foundations and the private sector to:

- secure financial resources to facilitate its participation in the periodic monitoring of the national-, sub-regional -and regional - level fulfilment of the targets such as the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and continuous activities equipped with research and planning abilities to present effective recommendations and take follow-up measures; and
- ensure financial support to campaign conferences for the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons to be held by APDF in conjunction with the periodic monitoring at sub—regional and regional levels.

We shall actively provide our cooperative support to the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (Bangkok) which was established to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities and a barrier-free society under the joint auspices of the Government of Japan and the Royal Thai Government. We shall also urge international agencies, the governments in the region, foundations and the private sector to support the Center.

We shall make active efforts to exchange experiences and work jointly with the African Decade of Disabled Persons (1999-2009), Arab Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012) and the European Year of People with Disabilities (2003), and shall request international agencies, governments in the region, foundations and the private sector to participate in and give support to such activities.

2-11. New Decade: To Achieve the Targets BMF

The High - level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade for Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 met in Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture, Japan from 25 to 28 October 2002. Twenty-seven members and associate members of ESCAP attended the Meeting. Also in attendance were representatives of six United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, two intergovernmental organizations and many non-governmental organizations and other organizations involved with disability issues.

The Meeting reviewed the achievements in the implementation of the Decade goals, highlighted the best practices in policy and programme development in the implementation of the Agenda for Action and adopted the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, which incorporates the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their relevant targets, identified seven priority areas for action. In each of which critical issues were identified, targets with specific timeframes were adopted and required actions were spelt out. In all, twenty - one targets and seventeen strategies supporting the achievement of the targets were identified.

In May 2002, ESCAP adopted the resolution 58/4 on "Promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty—first century". The resolution proclaimed the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons for another decade, 2003-2012. The Meeting adopted the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action as a clear guide for the next decade, to ensure that the paradigm shift from a charity-based approach to a rights-based approach to protect the civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights of persons with disabilities would be put into practice.

The Meeting noted that sub regional priorities varied and that more emphasis on sub regional activities and implementation would facilitate the achievement of the targets of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action during the next decade. The meeting also noted that, in order to pursue the targets and strategies in the Framework, consultations with and involvement of civil society, especially self-help organizations and concerned NGOs, were essential.

3. 2003-2012 :

UN ESCAP Second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled
Persons



3-1. In 2003

Adopted recommendations (Adopted by the Regional Workshop towards a Comprehensive and Integral Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities) / 17 October 2003

The Convention should build on human rights laid down in the existing UN human rights treaties and norms.

Human rights are universal, indivisible, inter-related, and interdependent and fully apply to people with disability notwithstanding the development of this Convention. The crucial role of this Convention is to articulate how the specific human rights protections required by people with disability will apply.

The Convention should aim to achieve the highest levels of the full range of human rights for people with disability.

The most fundamental elements of the Convention cannot be subject to a State reservation. This would be incompatible with the purpose of the Convention. The fundamental elements of the Convention must be clearly identified.

Detailed implementation guidelines should be developed to elaborate the obligations set out in the Convention.

There is a need to stress pro-active obligations on State Parties to take legislative and administrative measures to ensure equality of opportunity and outcome for people with disability. There is a need to clarify the different types of active measures that might be necessary to achieve the obligations set out in the Convention. Such active measures would not be regarded as discriminatory.

A broad, inclusive and flexible definition of disability, which accommodates evolving understandings of that term, should be included in the Convention.

A definition of accessibility is required in the Convention. This definition should be comprehensive, based on the proposed definition put forward by the Bangkok Forum on

Women and Disability, incorporating issues from the Manila Declaration, Bangkok June recommendations, and the New York presentation by Brown.

States parties should recognize that women and girls with disability may be subject to multiple discrimination and that focused, gender-specific measures and protections will be necessary to ensure that women and girls enjoy human rights and fundamental freedom on the basis of equality of outcomes with men.

States parties should recognize that:

- People with severe and multiple disability
- People with psychiatric disability
- People with intellectual disability
- Indigenous people with disability, and
- Members of minority population groups who have disability

may be subject to multiple discrimination and that focused, population group specific measures and protections will be necessary to ensure that these groups enjoy human rights and fundamental freedom on the basis of equality of outcomes with others.

The Preamble ought to refer to the potential and actual contribution made by people with disability to the overall economic, social, cultural, civil and political well-being and diversity of the community.

The Preamble should include a statement about the critical importance of the inclusion of people with disability as the basis for policy and program development, and the economic and financial advantages of inclusion.

People with disability should enjoy the same rights as people without disability at the standards prevailing in that State.

The role of international cooperation in implementation of this Convention was noted. Disability impact assessments, and disability action plans, should be key criteria in the grant of aid to States.

State parties must recognize the human rights of people with disability, and family members of people with disability, and their supporters, to form independent associations for representation and self-help. State parties must provide recognition

and financial support to such associations as a pre-condition to the realization of the civil and political rights of people with disability.

This Convention should include "achievement of independent community living" in the Preamble as a major cross-cutting goal. Independent community living should be defined in detail.

An appropriate definition of 'informed consent' ought to be included in the definition section of the Convention.

Review and monitoring of the application of the Convention should be timely and regular. The review process should be informed by people with disability, recognizing the vital role played by people with disability and their organizations.

States parties shall establish a framework to monitor, promote and enforce compliance with this Convention which includes an independent national institution which follows the "Paris Principles" (UN GA resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993). That independent national institution will be established in consultation with people with disability and organizations representing people with disability.

Statistical resources should include both quantitative and qualitative data for monitoring and reporting purposes. Data collection should have scientific rigor and international comparability.

Intergovernmental organizations and corporations should recognize and respect the human rights of people with disability set out in this Convention.

In relation to the articles concerning individual communication procedures and inquiry procedures, the Group failed to reach consensus, although the majority felt that these articles should be included in the Convention text. Therefore, this issue will be brought to the attention of participants in the forthcoming intergovernmental meetings (including the intergovernmental meeting to be held in Beijing, 4-7 Nov. 2003) and the Working Group commissioned by the Ad hoc Committee.

Statement of Recommendations / 22 August 2003

We, the participants in the UNESCAP workshop on women and disability and the promotion of full participation of women with disabilities in the process of elaborating an international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, having met from 18-22 August 2003 in Bangkok,

Representing governmental and non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions, and independent experts, unanimously recognize that,

1. Despite their significant numbers, women and girls with disabilities, especially in the developing countries, remain hidden and silent, their concerns unknown and their rights unrecognized;
2. Throughout the region, in urban and rural communities alike, they face triple discrimination - because of their disabilities, being female and poor;
3. Studies on women with disabilities in rural areas of many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have found that more than 80 percent of women with disabilities have no independent means of livelihood, and are thus totally dependant on others for their very existence;
4. UNICEF has reported that women and children receive less than 20 percent of rehabilitation services;
5. Disabled women are less likely than men to make use of many other existing social services, including residential services, due to social, cultural and religious factors;
6. The problems that confront women with disabilities are even more severe in the rural areas due to lack of information, awareness, education, income, and contact resulting in extreme isolation and invisibility;

We, further recognize that,

7. CEDAW is a human rights treaty, which seeks to promote de facto equality for women with men, but lacks a clear disability perspective. As a consequence, the State Parties inadequately report on instances of discrimination and violations to the rights of girls and women with disabilities;

8. Article 32 of the Beijing Platform for Action recognizes that certain groups of women face multiple barriers to their empowerment because of, inter alia, race, age and disability, but in reality, disability mainstreaming in gender empowerment initiatives remains unaccomplished;

9. The launch of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons in 1993 gave a definite boost to the gender issues within the disability movement by adopting additional targets for gender strengthening of the Decade Agenda;

10. To give further impetus and visibility to the concerns of girls and women with disabilities, Biwako Millennium Framework, policy guidelines for the Second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, (2003-2012), has identified gender equity as one of its seven priority areas.

While women the world over are striving for equality with men, women with disabilities struggle to be recognized first as human beings and secondly as females. Therefore, we the participants of the workshop on women and disability in the ESCAP region, strongly urge all actors involved in the treaty elaboration process to ensure,

That the elements of the Convention be so structured and its provisions elaborated in a manner that girls and women with disabilities enjoy the full range of human rights and freedom with dignity and without any discrimination,

The new Convention should reaffirm and build on human rights norms laid down in the existing United Nations human rights treaties, including CEDAW, and treaties adopted by the specialised agencies and norms in the soft instruments such as Beijing Platform of Action and Biwako Millennium Framework,

The Treaty should be founded on the principle of non-discrimination and equality; in particular, it should address the compound effect of discrimination on grounds of gender and disability,

It is further recommended that the preamble to the new Convention should inter alia stress the impact of dual disadvantage and multiple discriminations caused by the intersection of gender and disability,

The convention should primarily contain rights that are enforceable, and should incorporate measures for equal and effective enjoyment of rights by women and men, girls and boys with disabilities,

The definition of equality should recognize that equality of opportunity and of outcome requires that any relevant restrictions or limitations caused directly or indirectly by a disability, or the intersection of disability with gender, poverty, race, caste and class should be remedied by appropriate modifications, adjustments or assistance and requires affirmative action, reasonable accommodation or special measures,

The term "access" is not an act or state, but a liberty to enter, to approach, to communicate with, to pass to or from, or make use of physical, environmental and societal structures, systems and processes regardless of type and degree of disability, gender or age.

State parties should have an obligation to implement various provisions of the treaty ensuring equal protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls with disabilities. In pursuance of this objective, gender sensitive measures must be consistently deployed.

State Parties have an obligation to provide support for other stakeholders, including care-givers and families of persons with disabilities.

Existing human rights bodies and mechanisms are urged to intensify their efforts to address issues of disability; particularly the monitoring body under CEDAW must adopt a more progressive rights based approach with regard to discrimination faced by girls and women with disabilities,

An independent, effective and dynamic monitoring mechanism must be an integral element of the new Convention. The composition of the structure should ensure disability, gender and regional balance, with particular emphasis on the participation of women with disabilities. The guidelines for the preparation of reports must be evolved to ensure gender disaggregated reporting by the State Parties. This approach must be consistently maintained and adequately resourced in the national monitoring mechanisms.

The meeting noted that the rights and freedoms guaranteed through existing instruments be tailored to the specific circumstances of girls and women with disabilities and highlighted the need for further elaboration of certain human rights.

The meeting strongly recommends equal participation of women with disabilities throughout the treaty elaboration, implementation and monitoring process.

Workshop Recommendations (Report Workshop on Improving Disability Data for Policy Use) / 23-26 September 2003

1. The Workshop on Improving Disability Data for Policy Use was organized and sponsored by the Statistics Division (SD) and the Emerging Social Issues Division (ESID) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). It was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 to 26 September 2003. The workshop was conducted within the framework of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF). The Workshop made the following recommendations:

1. Governments in the UNESCAP region are encouraged to:

- (a) Take action to (i) implement BMF recommendations relating to disability data requirements, particularly through collection of disability data on a regular basis for better policy formulation and (ii) strengthen the participation of disabled persons in mainstream society and in the development process, and in the regular monitoring of progress towards BMF targets.
- (b) Allocate adequate resources to ensure regular and improved disability data collection, analysis and dissemination, especially in countries where there are no disability data, for example, Afghanistan.
- (c) Initiate implementation of the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as a framework for conceptualizing and measuring health and disability, to provide a common framework for use in national health and disability information systems.
- (d) Designate a focal agency to assume responsibility for the coordination of disability data collection, analysis and dissemination, in close consultation with government ministries and agencies, institutions, disability organizations, and other stakeholders. The focal agency should establish a forum to hold continuous dialogue between producers and users of disability statistics.

(e) Promote awareness building and inform stakeholders about the concepts of ICF and its possible policy implications, and request WHO for technical assistance and support in disability data collection and analysis consistent with the ICF.

2. Agencies responsible for data collection in countries should:

(a) Collect and disseminate in accessible formats adequate information about persons with disabilities to support the policy needs of the country.

(b) Initiate action to implement the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as a framework for collecting, processing and disseminating disability statistics, so as to provide common definitions and terminology, as well as improved data comparability nationally and internationally.

(c) Encourage education of staff in ICF concepts and applications, for example, by sending them to available training courses or self-study.

(d) Use the upcoming census round to collect information on disability, following the UN recommendations as closely as possible in the formulation of questions concerning disability, and taking into account ICF definitions.

(e) Take account where appropriate of the following principles in the design and conduct of disability related surveys and censuses:

(i) Disability is a result of dynamic interaction between individual and environment. Disability should be placed on a continuum with health and defined as a decrement in health, which comprises impairments in body functions and structures, activity limitations, and participation restrictions.

(ii) Disability questions should start off with questions on activity and participation domains, followed by a branching structure with questions on impairments in body functions and structures and questions on environmental facilitators and barriers.

(iii) Particular attention should be given to identifying sensitive and specific disability screening questions and to develop response scales and question phrasing consistent with the ICF.

(f) Involve stakeholders in the process of developing data collection instruments to measure disability and in various activities in the planning process to collect, compile and disseminate data on disability. Stakeholders should include government institutions responsible for policy formulation and implementation on disability matters, producers of the data, persons with disabilities and their associates, disability non-governmental organizations, as well as researchers. The participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the user/producer dialogue is highly recommended.

(g) Ensure data quality through use of appropriate statistical techniques such as:

(i) Survey testing and validation;

(ii) Training of interviewers in disability-sensitive techniques to elicit information from respondents with disabilities.

3. UNESCAP and SIAP should:

(a) In collaboration with WHO, organize training courses in the use of ICF as a framework for disability information and to enhance statistical competency and comparability in disability statistics.

(b) Make sure that training courses in ICF are offered in subregions of UNESCAP and include both producers and users of disability statistics, so that a sustainable number of resource persons and trainers with expertise in ICF are locally available in the region.

(c) Constitute a disability statistics forum to provide regional impetus to the fulfillment of BMF recommendations on disability data collection and use. The objective of this forum should be to promote the implementation of the ICF and to develop a set of protocols, based on good practice, for use in the development, collection and analysis of disability data.

(d) In collaboration with WHO, the Washington Group on Disability Measurement and other interested parties, embark on an action plan for implementing the ICF as a framework in disability statistics. The action plan consists of the following components for consideration in UNESCAP countries:

- building awareness and promoting the ICF at national and sub-national level;

- developing, testing and piloting ICF based disability survey questionnaires, census questions and other instruments for UNESCAP countries;
- outlining policy implementation strategies and implications for ICF based disability data;
- developing ICF training tools for use by producers of disability statistics;
- establishing a working group of interested countries to plan and coordinate the implementation of the action plan;
- providing an electronic platform for the exchange of information on progress on issues concerning disability statistics in the UNESCAP region.

(e) Continue to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the BMF concerning disability statistics and the use of a common definition of disability to support policy-making and programme planning, and for that purpose allocate the necessary resources.

(f) Encourage and assist members and associate members to incorporate the targets of the BMF in the data collection and analyses required to assess the achievement of the goals incorporated in the Millennium Declaration.

(g) Collaborate closely in the implementation of these recommendations with key stakeholders such as UN bodies and agencies, the Washington Group, the Asia Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), and disability NGOs.

(h) Mobilize and channel technical and financial assistance from international organizations and other sources to UNESCAP countries in implementing ICF.

3-2. In 2005

Bangkok Statement on Partnership to Improve the Educational Opportunities and Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Twenty-First Century / 18 October 2005

18 OCTOBER 2005

We, the 280 participants representing Governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society including academic institutions, disabled peoples' organizations and non governmental organizations as well as the private sector from 54 countries, meeting in Bangkok on 17 and 18 October 2005 at the ESCAP/LCI Conference on Disability: A Global Perspective on Rights to Education and Livelihoods,

Having recalled:

The purposes and principles of the World Programme Action concerning Disabled Persons;¹ the United Nations Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;² the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention;³ the Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education;⁴ and the Dakar Framework for Action, Education for All: Meeting Our Collective Commitments;⁵ the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities,⁶

Having considered:

The United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted in September 2000,⁷ whose goals include eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, and development of a global partnership for development, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, adopted in September 2005,⁸ which recognizes

¹ General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982.

² General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex of 20 December 1993.

³ ILO Convention of 20 June 1983.

⁴ Adopted by the World Conference on Special Needs Education: Access and Quality, in June 1994.

⁵ Adopted by the World Education Forum in April 2000.

⁶ ESCAP resolution 58/4 of 22 May 2002.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

the need to guarantee the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities without discrimination,

The decision of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific in 2005 calling upon members and associate members to renew their commitment to the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework in advance of the mid-point review in 2007, and encouraging the promotion of disability-inclusive international and regional cooperation,⁹

The work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities,¹⁰

RECOMMENDATIONS

We jointly affirm the importance of:

- 1) Partnership and networking between Governments, international organizations, civil society including academic institutions, disabled peoples' organizations and non governmental organizations as well as the private sector in the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes aimed at improving educational opportunities and promoting economic empowerment, sustainable livelihoods and the human security of persons with disabilities;
- 2) Incorporating the disability perspective into the international development agenda. In particular, action aimed at further implementing the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome would result in effective and sustained realization of the goals of improved standards of living, well-being and human security on the basis of equality and inclusion for all;
- 3) Capacity-building and institutional development for the realization of effective participation by persons with disabilities and their families as agents and beneficiaries of development at all levels;
- 4) Increased participation of people with disabilities, particularly from developing countries, in the process of elaborating the Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, since their

⁹ ESCAP resolution 61/8 of 18 May 2005.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001.

knowledge and experience would provide vital contributions to the timely completion and promulgation of its final text;

- 5) Documentation of best practices and appropriate technologies, practical exchanges of knowledge and experiences, and research on education, sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment from the disability perspective in efforts to improve the inclusion of disability in policy analysis, planning and evaluation, and to promote public awareness of those developments;
- 6) Enhanced accessibility to information and communications, including improvement of sign language acquisition and its interpretation provision, as it provides a foundation for the realization of quality education and sustainable livelihoods;
- 7) Early detection, intervention and inclusive early childhood development programmes for continuous improvement in well-being and standards of living for all;
- 8) Strengthened teacher training, development of inclusive curricula, and effective involvement of families and communities for the realization of quality education for all children, particularly for girls and women with disabilities, and children and young adults with multiple disabilities;
- 9) New and innovative practices in economic empowerment, including improved access to mainstream financial institutions and increased opportunities to exercise individual choice in the pursuit of livelihoods in both urban and rural settings;
- 10) Appropriate interventions, counseling and related support services that respond to natural disasters, post-conflict situations, and accidents related to work or transportation, as they are among the sources of increased disability in the population.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Leonard Cheshire International (LCI) and ESCAP for their cooperation, support and excellent organization of this conference.

The Bangkok Statement was adopted by the participants of the ESCAP/LCI Conference on Disability: A Global Perspective on Rights to Education and Livelihoods, held in Bangkok on 17 and 18 October 2005.

The designations employed and the presentation of the Bangkok Statement do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The opinions, figures and estimates set forth in this Statement are the responsibility of the authors, and should not necessarily be considered as reflecting the views or carrying the endorsement of the Governments of the members or associate members of ESCAP or the United Nations.

Joint Statement on CBR and other Community Initiatives for Poverty Alleviation among Persons with Disabilities / 5 July 2005

Drafted by the rapporteur, Dr. Joseph Kwok

(Agreed upon by the group, 5 July 2005)

1. We the participants, representing governments, non-governmental organizations and organizations of people with disabilities met in Bangkok on 5 July 2005 at the Workshop on Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and Poverty Alleviation of Persons with Disabilities.
2. We recognize the efforts that have been made by many countries to improve the levels of living and well-being of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific; however, we also recognize that persistent poverty impacts on the quality of life of persons with disabilities, and poverty alleviation deserves the top priority for immediate action.
3. We recall that the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (the BMF) has identified poverty alleviation as an important priority, and CBR as an effective measure.
4. We therefore recommend the following points for immediate action:
 1. Upon review of the evolution of concepts in CBR, promote and strengthen community approaches including CBR as an important component of a key poverty alleviation strategy and social inclusion of persons with disabilities;
 2. Adopt the rights-based concept of CBR and its strategy as addressed by the Joint Position Paper 2004 about CBR (WHO, ILO and UNESCO) ;
 3. Governments in this region are urged to promote holistic and comprehensive approaches to community-development programmes and policies that are disability responsive, gender sensitive and effective in realizing the potentials and under-utilized human resources of persons

with disabilities to make tangible contributions to society. This can be achieved by emphasizing the positive economic advantages of training persons with disabilities and the proven business case of successful employment of disabled workers;

4. Allocate on sustainable basis the budget and other resources for pro-poor policies and programmes particularly for poverty alleviation among persons with disabilities;
 5. Consider the potential for effectiveness of disability inclusive credit schemes for disabled entrepreneurs;
 6. Emphasize the critical role of partnerships among the public and private sectors and civil society in effective and sustainable poverty alleviation;
 7. Promote disability inclusive international and regional cooperation as well as the twin track approach composed of empowerment of PWD and disability mainstreaming;
 8. Governments in this region are urged to address disability issues in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and ensure effective implementation of proposed activities;
 9. Forming self-help groups should be encouraged in the process of CBR as 途ole models and peer support are essential and effective for empowerment of PWD in the community.
5. We further recommend that UNESCAP and other UN agencies bring our recommendations of this workshop to the process of regional preparation for the first five-year review the implementation of the goals of the UN Millennium Declaration and its follow-up papers.
 6. We wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to UNESCAP, ILO, the China Disabled Persons Federation (CDPF), APCD and members of TWG-DC for their cooperation, support and excellent organization of this successful workshop.

Joint Statement on an UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / 27 July 2005

We the participants, representing governments, disabled people's organizations, non-governmental organizations, UN specialized agencies, civil society from the Asia-pacific region, meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, from 26 to 27 July 2005 at the UNESCAP Workshop on Regional Follow-up to the Fifth Session and Preparation for the Sixth Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on an UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

Having reviewed:

1. the latest progress of elaborating and negotiating the draft convention by the Ad-hoc Committee (AHC) and while expressing appreciation at the progress made so far;
2. the recent progress in strengthening existing national legal frameworks and national policies to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, note with appreciation the ongoing efforts in the region towards adoption of new anti-discrimination and rights-based laws and policies with enforcement mechanisms.

Having considered the following priority themes:

1. Participation of governmental organizations, disabled people's organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society in the process towards the Convention and at AHC sessions (e.g. representation of persons with disabilities and disabled people's organizations/ non-governmental organizations in a national delegation team, national negotiations and dialogue prior to each AHC session, etc.);
2. Effective monitoring mechanisms at the national level;
3. development of anti-discrimination and rights-based legislation and policies, and effective implementation in countries of the ESCAP region;
4. International cooperation in the context of the Convention;
5. Towards ratification of the Convention;
6. Gender perspective in the context of the Convention.

Hereby:

Reaffirm the critical roles of partnership between governments, persons with disabilities and disabled people's organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society in realization of the goal of full participation and equality in a society that is inclusive of people with disabilities;

Encourage the continued active participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities and disabled people's organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society in the on-going negotiation process and work leading to the adoption and implementation of the Convention, including being a part of the national delegations to the AHC;

And in anticipation of the early adoption and ratification of the Convention:

Encourage each state to direct a national action for timely and efficient implementation and monitoring of the Convention;

Encourage each state to develop, strengthen and implement policies and practices of reasonable accommodation in order to achieve the equality of persons with disabilities in all activities of society;

Recommend the establishment or strengthening of, where appropriate, national mechanisms such as national human rights institutions, national coordinating committees, equal opportunity commissions or other equivalent independent and autonomous bodies to ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and to create awareness about it in all sectors of society;

In the spirit of solidarity and partnerships among states, recommend that international cooperation^[1] in the context of the Convention should

1. adopt a broad-based approach, including disability-specific and mainstream cooperation contributing to the elimination of discrimination against people with disabilities and promoting inclusive development; and
2. be carried out in bilateral, regional and other multilateral forums, including specialized agencies and financial institutions.

Recommend that due considerations be given to marginalized and disadvantaged groups in rural and urban areas, in particular children and women with disabilities for

enjoyment of the rights elaborated in the Convention.

Finally, the workshop urges adoption of the Convention in a timely and effective manner.

[1] International cooperation may include capacity building, sharing of information, good practices and technical, financial and human resources and effective evaluation of outcomes of the cooperation (including disability impact assessment).

Bangkok Declaration on National Action Planning and Disability-Inclusive Development / 21 October 2005

We, the participants representing Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society, including disabled persons organizations, as well as the private sector met at Bangkok from 19 to 21 October 2005 at the UNESCAP Regional Workshop on Comprehensive National Plan of Action on Disability; towards the Mid-point Review of the *Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific* (BMF),

Having recalled:

The United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted in September 2000,^[1] whose eight development goals include eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, and development of a global partnership for development;

The *Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific* (BMF),^[2] whose targets incorporate Millennium Development Goals in its priority areas of education and poverty alleviation and whose strategies urge Governments to develop and adopt a national plan of action to implement all of these goals;

Having considered:

The 2005 World Summit outcome, adopted in September 2005,^[3] which recognizes the need to guarantee the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities without discrimination;

The decision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific in 2005 calling upon members and associate members to renew their commitment to the implementation of the *Biwako Millennium Framework* (BMF) in advance of the mid-point review, in 2007, and encouraging the promotion of disability-inclusive international and regional cooperation;^[4]

The work of Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities; [\[5\]](#)

The Regional Workshop on Monitoring the Implementation of the *Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific* (BMF), during which establishment and development of indicators of progress in implementing BMF were considered.

We have met to consider progress, issues encountered and options to further implement the goals of and commitments to BMF and to exchange views on key issues concerning national action planning and realization of disability-inclusive development,

In the light of our plenary discussions, interactive dialogue and group work, we have noted:

1. the strong support for the goals of and commitments to BMF, which is evident in policy and programme initiatives of governments and the many activities of civil society organizations, particularly by organizations of persons with disabilities;
2. the continued progress in implementing the targets and strategies of BMF, which is reflected in priorities for action identified in response to the relative stage of development, and needs and capacities of persons with disabilities in countries;
3. the vital importance of international cooperation in relief, rehabilitation and redevelopment, which should provide accessibility with reasonable accommodation for all, both in continued efforts to address the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 and in response to the tragic earthquake of October 2005 affecting India and Pakistan, that resulted insignificant increases in the number of persons with disabilities in the region;

We stress the essential role of disability-inclusive development in both achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration and promoting and realising the human rights, enhanced standards of living, well-being and human security of persons with disabilities as set forth in BMF; and recognize the importance of the following actions:

1. linking micro-level action with macro-level strategies and policies;
2. promoting public-private partnership at all levels;

3. ensuring current and reliable national data and statistics on disability for accurate analysis, planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation, building national capacities with a view to identifying quantifiable and verifiable disability-sensitive measures of progress;
4. promoting participatory monitoring and evaluation of national action plans, based on full and effective involvement of persons with disabilities;

We thus recommend:

1. governments, which have not already done so, are urged to formulate immediately and adopt a comprehensive national action plan, as set forth in implementation strategy 1 of BMF;
2. national action plans, as presented in the attached Bangkok recommendations on national action planning and disability-inclusive development; towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities • shall incorporate time-bound targets and disability-sensitive indicators of performance and outcomes;
3. national action plans shall direct special attention to women and girls with disabilities, children and young adults with disabilities, persons with multiple disabilities, and persons who experienced disability as a result of natural disasters or conflicts;
4. governments, which have not already done so, are further urged to establish and develop mechanisms, by the mid-point of the Decade, in 2007, to facilitate analysis, planning and coordination of disability as a horizontal consideration in the activities of all ministries, departments and agencies with a view to efficiently and effectively implementing national development goals and objectives and producing outcomes that benefit both persons with and without disabilities;
5. resource allocation decisions by governments, development cooperation agencies and development finance institutions • both multi- and bi-lateral, as well as the private sector shall, on a predictable and sustainable basis, shall promote accessibility to the general systems of society and removal of barriers;
6. resource allocation decisions shall reflect performance, results and outcomes in terms of improved standards of living, well-being and human security for all persons with and without disabilities on equal basis;
7. governments in partnership with civil society organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities in particular, shall take practical measures to promote

and support implementation of national action plans, which may include creating or reinforcing national legislation and administrative guidance, and organising public awareness and public information efforts concerning disability issues in accessible formats;

8. international cooperation shall provide, on request, support for building and strengthening national capacities and developing partnerships between governments, civil society as well as the private sector, for national action to implement the BMF targets and goals and further achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration for all.

We therefore enjoin Governments to take appropriate action towards the full realization of goals and commitments of BMF.

Annex

"Bangkok Recommendations on National Action Planning and Disability-Inclusive Development"

Annex I

Issues and recommendations on national action planning on disability

Issues:

1. Securing financial resources to ensure the implementation of the plan;
2. Lack of measures (i.e., training) for persons with disabilities to play key roles in formulating, implementing and monitoring national action plans of any kind;
3. Lack of political awareness and will regarding BMF;
4. Devolution of implementation to localities-localising implementation process;
5. Poor/ lack of inter- ministerial/departmental coordination;
6. Lack of disability inclusive ODA (Official Development Assistance) policy;
7. Poor involvement of corporate bodies throughout the process;
8. Lack of and poor enforcements of relevant legislations;
9. Inadequate/superficial target setting;
10. Lack of accountable monitoring bodies;
11. Lack of disability-sensitive human resources;
12. Lack of funding for research relating to issue on disability.

Recommendations:

1. Setting time frame for implementation of the plan;
2. Mobilizing resources on sustainable and predictable basis;
3. Linking disability policy to I/NGOs, DPOs, and at all levels of government;
4. Mobilization of governmental and non-governmental resources;
5. Ensure involvement of all ministries in coordination of policy implementation;
6. Clear identification of national priorities on disability issues;
7. Translating priorities into measurable objectives;
8. Ensure participation of DPOs in overall monitoring process;
9. Capacity building of effective administration;
10. Development of partnerships and networking among civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities;
11. Ensuring persons with disabilities taking the position of decision-making at a higher level;
12. Consolidation of fragmented disability movements;
13. Evaluation of outcomes influence the decision on further resource allocation;
14. Effective political engagement and representation;
15. Allocation of fund and facilities for research on disability issues;
16. Engaging and gaining commitment of private sector;
17. National action plan explicitly stating BMF links to national development plan such as PRSP.

Annex II

Reasons and Strategies for Disability-inclusive Development

Why is Disability Inclusive Development?

1. Disability inclusive development: Primary responsibility of government • illustrate what society will gain • enhancement of quality of life of persons with disabilities/ community convince government;
2. Disability inclusive development would enlarge consumer base for market & contribute to overall economy of country;
3. Encourage full participation and empowerment of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society • to shift from dependency to independence to take responsibility for own life & contribute to the development of the community & society;

4. Improve enjoyment of human rights & freedom by persons with disabilities.

Strategies to Ensure Disability Inclusive Development:

1. Institute formal mechanism for participation of persons with disabilities and parent associations in policy planning, and monitoring at all levels of govt. from micro-macro;
2. For inclusive development all decision making bodies at all levels of the government, including Parliament should have a representative of the disabled with wide experience in the rights & development issues;
3. Development professionals and experts from the disability sector should work in close co-ordination for disability inclusive development programmes & schemes of the government;
4. Government should incorporate disability dimensions in mainstream policy and programmes for women, children, youth and older persons;
5. All ministries & departments responsible for infrastructure development and public services should institute a permanent mechanism to advice disability inclusive measures & shall review the accessibility of infrastructure;
6. Govt. should increase awareness & capacity in disability issues of all development workers, administrators & field functionaries;
7. The academic sector should introduce formal & non-formal programmes in disability & development & human rights;
8. All bilateral & multi-lateral initiatives should include a disability dimension for full inclusion;
9. The government should strengthen self help organizations of the disabled by allocating budget for training in development planning, human rights & monitoring & evaluation of policy •such training programmes should also target awareness about bi & multi lateral programmes, new laws & schemes;
10. Systematically raise awareness & build capacity of the Ministry of Finance, Planning, Foreign Affairs/ External Affairs to ensure disability inclusive development;
11. A multi-pronged strategy should be deployed to promote employment of persons with disabilities in the formal & non-formal sectors. Appropriate legislation, preferential funding, credit schemes & other measures should be put in place;
12. To ensure disability-inclusive development representation through affirmative action schemes, anti-discrimination, reasonable accommodation measures and

should be ensured in all services, jobs in government, the government aided sector including the private sector;

13. Govt. should develop & disseminate guidelines on Disability inclusive development;
14. To create awareness of advantages of inclusive development for both of persons with disabilities & society at large. Models of good practices collected and should be shared with public & development agencies & civil society organizations.
15. To sustain inclusive development all community institutions where services; goods & products are delivered should be made fully accessible to persons with disabilities;
16. All employer associations, trade unions, federations & development consortiums & co-operate federations should have a disability adviser and ideally a permanent member in these institutions for the interests of persons with disabilities;
17. Disability inclusive development should be achieved through the introduction of special disability programmes and by incorporating a disability perspective in all the mainstream developmental activities of the country and such initiatives should be supported by disability focused budget as well as special budget within all these sectoral programmes & schemes;
18. Government should ensure all international agreements & the monitoring reports clearly reflect the disability status.

[1] General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2005

[2] ESCAP Commission resolution 58/4 22 May 2002

[3] General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005

[4] ESCAP Commission Resolution 61/8 of 18 May 2005

[5] Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001

Joint Statement on Capacity Building of Grassroots Self-help Groups of Persons with Disabilities / 18 August 2005

We, the participants representing governments, non-governmental organizations and civil society met in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China, from 16 to 18 August 2005 at the • strong>UNESCAP/CDPF Field Study and Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Grassroots Self-help Groups of Persons with Disabilities•

Reaffirming the value of partnership between governments, self-help groups and organizations of persons with disabilities, non-government organizations and civil society in realization of the goal of full participation and equalization of opportunity for persons with disabilities in a society for all,

Recognizing the efforts that have been made by many countries to improve the quality of life and well-being of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing also that poverty alleviation of persons with disabilities deserves the top priority for immediate action by all concerned, as persistent poverty impacts on the quality of life of persons with disabilities and their families,

Recalling also that the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF) identified self-help organizations of persons with disabilities and related family and parent associations as the most qualified and best equipped to support, inform and advocate for persons with disabilities and their families,

Noting that a rights-based approach does not mean any reduction of services, rather it affirms the entitlement of persons with disabilities to free and appropriate supportive services and the necessary assistive devices as their basic human needs,

We therefore recommend that:

Governments in the region should:

1. Take action to include ***explicitly*** persons with disabilities in the targets of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as a major target population, in particular in the areas of poverty reduction and universal primary education;

2. Provide the necessary financial and technical support to empower grass-roots self-help groups and organizations of persons with disabilities, with a view to strengthening their participation in decision-making, speaking out on their own behalf, promoting the proper design and implementation of policies, programmes and strategies which will ensure their full participation in socio-economic and cultural and political life in their rural and urban communities;
3. Encourage development of disability movements represented by both cross-disability organizations and single-disability organizations in rural and urban areas to ensure that public provision is appropriately meeting the specific needs of persons with diverse disabilities;
4. Promote holistic and comprehensive approaches to national development programmes including community-development programmes, such as poverty alleviation programmes, and policies that are disability responsive and gender sensitive by encouraging the formation of self-help groups of persons with disabilities and families, and their federations particularly in the rural communities.

Self-help groups and organizations of persons with disabilities, and other civil society groups should:

1. Encourage the inclusion of most vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psycho-social disabilities, and those with extensive and/or multiple disabilities, in all endeavors, including decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation of activities,
2. Particularly in rural communities, pay special attention to the dynamics of disability and poverty, with a view to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities and their families through promoting income-generation schemes and their access to credits,
3. Train and develop younger potential leaders through the transfer of management skills and knowledge such as accountability, fund-raising, gender sensitivity, organizational skills, leadership, project management, advocacy, self-evaluation and appraisal in order to ensure the sustainability of disability movements.
4. Empower and respond to the needs of disabled persons in rural communities, by promoting and strengthening:

- a. The formation of grassroots self-managed groups of persons with disabilities and their village and district-level federations, with extensive social mobilization as a component of key poverty alleviation strategy and social inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- b. Community-based approaches, including community-based rehabilitation/habitation and independent living which involves self-help groups of persons with disabilities as the key stakeholder.

We further recommend that UNESCAP bring our recommendations of this workshop to the higher level inter-governmental meetings on social development.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to China Disabled Persons Federation (CDPF), the Government of China, the municipal government of Chengdu and UNESCAP for their cooperation, support and excellent organization of this successful workshop.

Joint Statement on Full Realization of Goals of the BMF

(adopted 15 October 2004)

1. We the participants, representing governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and disabled people's organizations (DPOs), met in Bangkok, Thailand from 13-15th October 2004, at the UNESCAP Regional Workshop on Monitoring the Implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF). In our review of the progress in implementing the BMF at the inception of the renewed Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012), we noted the strong support of governments and effective partnership of NGOs and DPOs in furthering goals and targets of the BMF.

2. We note that further review of the progress in implementing the BMF will take place at the mid-point of the Decade in 2007.

3. We therefore jointly reaffirm:

- a. the importance of monitoring the implementation of the BMF by the national institutional mechanisms and the national forum of NGOs/DPOs until the end of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons;
- b. the relevance of the goals and targets of the BMF and developed a set of parameters and indicators for monitoring the progress of the BMF implementation;
- c. the importance of developing a comprehensive and rights-based national policy and plan of action in order to realize the BMF goals;
- d. the significance of the paradigm shift from charity to rights-based development in all strategies, policies and plans of action;
- e. the need for convergence of disability issues into all national policies, plans, programmes and projects.

4. We therefore enjoin Governments to take appropriate action towards the full realization of the goals and targets of the BMF.

3-3. In 2006

Japanese Federation of the Deaf – BMF Review Information / 2006

Report on the Implementation and Review of BMF

1. Name of Organization:

Japanese Federation of the Deaf, Advisor: Eiichi Takada

2. Implementation of the Targets of BMF:

Target 1:

1. Does your Government have any policy to support the development of SHOs? If yes, please tell the year when the policy was established, and please tell the main component of the policy. According to the policy, do SHOs receive any financial support? What about support of SHOs in slums and rural areas? If the answer is no, is there any development towards it?

The government of Japan and local administrations have policies to promote the development of organizations of persons with disabilities. These have existed since the end of World War II in 1945.

The names of the policies are varied. Support has been provided both continuously and temporarily depending on the motivation of the organization to undertake the project.

There are support policies for the rural and slum areas as well.

2. Do any of international agencies or non-governmental organizations you know of have policy to support the development of SHOs? If yes, please tell the year when the policy was established, and please tell the main component of the policy. According to the policy, do SHOs receive any financial support? What about support of SHOs in slums and rural areas?

There are numerous NGOs and other civil society institutions supporting the development of self-help organizations of persons with disabilities. To give a few

examples: Nippon Foundation, Japan Keirin Association, Mitsubishi Fund, Marubeni Fund, etc.

3. Have your Government taken any measures to support the formation of parents associations? If yes, please describe the measures.

There are government policies for the formation of parents' associations, just as in the case of associations of persons with disabilities themselves.

Target 2:

4. Does your Government include persons with disabilities in any decision-making processes that affect their lives? Please give us examples and the impact of the inclusion. Can you give us the year when that practice started? It can be a mechanism at the central governmental level, or local governmental, community levels. If the answer is no, can you explain what the reasons might be and if any measures have been taken to achieve this target?

Yes, the government has included persons with disabilities in decision-making processes. For example, persons with disabilities attend the Welfare Council Meeting on Persons with Disabilities. PWDs are included in the policy-making in the local level as well. I think such practices started around 1945. However, I feel that persons with disabilities are still not able to exert sufficient influence on the government. In order for organizations of PWDs to be included in such a way as to be able to have a decisive influence on the government policy-making process, we still have to work harder. We are not at that stage yet.

Target 3

5. Does your Government have any anti-discrimination measures to safeguard the rights of women with disabilities? If yes, please describe the measures (name, year of the establishment, how does it help women with disabilities etc.). If no, then, has there been any measures taken towards the achievement of the target?

There are anti-discrimination measures for women in general, but there are no policies specifically for women with disabilities. We do not have sufficient policies to realize this target.

Target 4:

6. Do self-help organizations of persons with disabilities in your country have any policies to promote participation of women with disabilities? If yes, please describe them (name, year of the establishment, how does it help women with disabilities, what are the impacts etc.). If no, then, has there been any measures taken towards the achievement of the target?

We do not have such policies. There has not been any measures toward the achievement of this target.

7. Do women's associations or organizations in your country include women with disabilities? If yes, please describe ways in which they are included (i.e., inclusion in terms of general membership, collaboration with disabled women's groups, inclusion of disabled women in a decision-making bodies of women's associations etc.). If the answer is no, has there been any measures taken towards the achievement of the target?

Most mainstream women's organizations include women with disabilities. There is no organization consisting only of women with disabilities. Women with disabilities are integrated into mainstream women's organizations and associations, but there are no organizational endeavors to collaborate with disabled women's groups. No measures are taken to improve this situation.

Draft Process of the BMF plus 5 (Text version of a PowerPoint Presentation / 17-19 July 2006)

Presented by UNESCAP Secretariat

Slide 1

Draft process of the BMF plus 5

United Nations ESCAP Secretariat

**The First Session of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) Stakeholders'
Coordination Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 July 2006**

2

Mandates for the mid-point review in 2007

- Para 53 of the BMF • A mid-point review of the BMF, and based on the review, a new targets and strategic plans to be formulated.
 - UNESCAP resolution 61/8 on 18 May 2005, on mid-point review.
 - Twin-track approach of (1) the major review of implementation in first Q of 2007 and (2) the process of drafting a set of new strategies for the 2nd half of the Decade, 釘 MF plus 5 • which is to be endorsed and adopted by the High-level Inter-governmental Meeting to be held in Bangkok, in October 2007
-

3

Modality

- The First Session of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) Stakeholders' Coordination Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 July 2006.

- Participatory process in consultation with the stakeholders with this meeting, and all other forthcoming ESCSAP workshops (e.g. workshops on convention, accessible. tourism, etc. plus national workshops, etc.).
 - National workshops (Bangladesh on 5 July 2006).
-

4

Proposed process

- The outcome of this meeting as a base.
 - Supplemented by joint statements (outcome docs) of sectoral workshops of ESCAP.
 - APDF GA Conference to be held 16-17 October 2006, in Bangkok;
 - Framework to be adopted by the Committee on Emerging Social Issues (Dec. 2006).
 - Finalization of the Text for 2nd session of this meeting (to be held in June/July 2007).
 - Submission of the text to the expert group meeting (Gov. meeting) to be held prior to the Intergovernmental meeting in October 2007, for endorsement by the latter.
 - In 2008, ESCAP resolution for blessing the 釘 MF plus 5 •
 - The outcome of the major survey to be integrated into the process, parallel to this process.
-

5

Why dual track approach is required?

- Time frame, and time pressure (cannot wait until the outcome of the major review).
- With your expertise, experiences, and anticipation (participatory research approach: ownership by our stakeholders).
- Government report of the progress supplemented by Shadow report - informal comments - informal assessments

- ESCAP's previous work on assessment of the implementation, in 2003, 2004, and 2005 (we did undertake the surveys).
-

6 & 7

Major events and progress since 2003 (Human rights approach and development approach to disability)

1. Human rights approach
 - The progress in drafting the international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (concluding stage, 8th session of the AHC, and maybe adopted by GA 2007).
 - Rights-based approach is recognized.
 - Many countries in the world enacted anti-discrimination law on disability (Australia, NZ, Hong Kong-China, Philippines and UK, Denmark, USA, EC committee, many European states)
 - Rights-based national policy formulated, based on the BMF (Pacific island countries)
 - Social model of disability advocated, world wide
 2. Development Approach (disability mainstreaming into development)
 - Disability focal points in Banks (e.g. WB, etc.);
 - Twin Track approach of empowerment of PWD and disability mainstreaming into development (by International ODA agencies, such as DFID, USAid, Jica, etc.).
 - APCD project
 - 2004 Joint Position Paper on CBR (by WHO, ILO, UNESCO) --- more developmental and rights-based CBR
 - 2005 World Summit Outcome Paper (rights of PWD, para 129, indeed very week)
-

8

Structure and contents of the BMF plus 5

- Preamble and Principles
 - Rights-based disability policy and legislation including the convention follow-up
 - Special groups (children with disabilities, older persons, persons with psychiatric disabilities, those with chronic diseases, hard of hearing, and others)
 - Disability and development (disability inclusive development approach)
 - Secoraal issues (inclusive education, life long learning, e-learning, resource centers, bridging of regular school and special education, public-private partnership for employment, provision of reasonable accommodation in education, employment and accessibility, accessible tourism, recognition of sign language as national language, etc.)
 - Participation (self-help groups, regional networking such as APDF, APCD, South-South dialogue/decade activities, self-help groups)
-

9

Convention follow-up

- Smooth ratification and signing
 - National monitoring mechanism
 - Rights-based law: formulation of anti-discrimination law • and its enforcing mechanism
 - Easy access to the judicial system (tribunal, small court, etc.)
 - Participation of PWD
 - Proactive measures
-

10

Disability inclusive development

- Holistic mode of CBR (re-vitalization of CBR)
- Disability inclusive development projects
- Capacity building (national ownership)
- Disability mainstreaming into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and the MDGs follow up

- Donor agencies • policy: Twin Track approach (DFID, Usaid, Jica, etc.)
 - Disability sensitizing of development workers
 - International cooperation in emergency, relief, humanitarian and development work
 - Adoption of WHO-ICF as well balanced definition reflecting social model and the need for empowerment of PWD
-

11

Focus of the stakeholders • consultation (ex. TWG-DC)

- Until October 2007, the focus should be inputs to the drafting of BMF plus 5
 - Contribution to the major review paper on implementation (a. national review, b. regional review, c. development of indicators for monitoring further progress)
 - Coordination of our work and exchange of information (similar to TWG-DC)
 - Less sectoral than TWG-DC, and more focus on the BMF plus 5
-

12

Tasks for the group sessions

- Inputs to the draft paper (for the purpose of structuring your valuable comments)
 - Comments on the structure, itself
 - BMF goals, targets and strategies remain valid • until the end of the Decade
 - Avoid duplications and repetitions
 - Easy to use document for policy makers (to-do-list, check list)
 - Golden occasion for incorporate elements of your country policy
-

13

Thanks for patience and friendship

- Thanks a lot for your friendship !
- Continue supporting ESCAP work on disability !
- Hope to see you again somewhere in the world, either in NY or an Asia-Pacific country!
- My commitment for mainstreaming disability into international cooperation policy
- So Long !

Joint Statement on an UN Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities / 21 July 2006

(Adopted on 21 July 2006)

We the participants, representing Governments, disabled people's organizations (DPOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN specialized agencies, and civil society from the Asia-Pacific region, meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 to 21 July 2006 at the UN ESCAP Workshop on Regional Follow-up to the Seventh Session and Preparation for the Eighth Session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly on the elaboration of a Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities:

Hereby:

GENERAL

1. *Encourage* member States to complete their work on the drafting of the Convention in order to enable its adoption by the General Assembly during its 61st session in 2006 and 2007,

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2. *Urge* member States to adopt a provision on international cooperation which will be conducive for the realization of the human rights of persons with disabilities and, in particular, assisting developing States in appropriate ways to fulfill their obligations under the Convention. Appropriate measures might include:

(a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, are inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities;

(b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;

(c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;
and

(d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies^[i],

3. *Urge* all member States to ensure that disability is included in development assistance programs and other forms of international cooperation as appropriate and, in particular, consult with disabled people's organizations in the design of programs and in the formulation of requests for development assistance,

SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF THE CONVENTION

4. *Call on* member States to ensure:

(a) that any definition of "disability" included in the Convention^[ii] should reflect a social model approach;

(b) that the Convention includes a definition of "reasonable accommodation" which uses the term "undue hardship" rather than "disproportionate burden" (since reasonable accommodation of the rights of persons with disabilities is inappropriately described as a "burden");

(c) that the Convention reflects current international human rights jurisprudence regarding the nature of economic, social and cultural rights;

(d) that the Convention contains provisions which specifically reflect the rights of women and girls with disabilities and the particular violations to which they are subject, and which recognize that in some societies traditional views of the value and role of women mean that women with disability are devalued as human beings;

(e) that the Convention contains provisions which specifically reflect the rights of children with disabilities and the particular violations to which they are subject,

(f) that the Convention refers specifically to the need to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of natural or other disasters and emergencies; and

(g) that the Convention contains a provision to ensure that where there is a violation of a right guaranteed under the Convention, the person whose right has been violated will be entitled to an appropriate remedy under national law,

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

National level implementation and monitoring

5. *Welcome* the recognition in draft article 33 of the Convention of the primary role of national agencies and institutions in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention at the national level,

6. *Suggest* that member States consider the inclusion in the Convention of a reference to adoption of a National Action Plan on Disability as a means of giving effect to their obligations under the Convention,

7. *Encourage* member States to recognize the role that National Human Rights Institutions may play in the implementation of the Convention at the national level, in light of their extensive experience with the promotion of human rights in that context, and to urge those institutions to make disability a priority for action,

8. *Encourage* member States to promote the participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in the process of monitoring and implementation of the Convention

9. *Urge* member States to commence or continue the progress of reviewing existing law, policies and programs, with a view to adopting or enhancing a comprehensive legislative and policy approach to ensuring equality for persons with disability, in particular the adoption of legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability and promoting employment and other opportunities for persons with disability,

International monitoring

10. *Call on* member States to:

(a) adopt^[iii] an effective international monitoring procedure for the Convention;

(b) ensure that any monitoring procedure established under the Convention should provide for effective participation by persons with disabilities and their organizations in all aspects of that procedure;

(c) ensure that the monitoring procedures under the Convention draw on the best practices available at the international level, avoid undue duplication with other procedures, and are coordinated with existing procedures;

(d) ensure that, if a unified standing treaty body is eventually established, the functions of the monitoring body under this Convention shall be transferred to that body only if there are sufficient guarantees of the participation of persons with disabilities in the work of such a body, and if the representation of expertise in disability and human rights on that body is guaranteed,

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

11. *Encourage* the UN System including the UN ESCAP, member States, National Human Rights Institutions (as well as the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions), civil society organizations, in particular DPOs and academic institutions, to identify the particular needs for capacity-building (including the need to translate the Convention as soon as possible into the national languages and make it available in accessible formats) that will arise with the adoption of the Convention,

12. *Request* the UN ESCAP, in collaboration with other partners, to initiate a program of work in preparation for the adoption of the Convention which will

(a) include a study of how the commitments adopted by Governments under documents such as the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society relate to the obligations contained in the new Convention;

(b) as appropriate, enhance the capacity of all the States in the region to assess the steps that they need to take in order to ratify and implement the Convention, and encourage in this regard the sharing of experience between Governments,

(c) ensure that the position of persons with disabilities in situations of risk is fully taken into account, particularly in the context of natural or other disasters and emergencies, to which the Asia-Pacific region is particularly vulnerable;

(d) develop the capacity of civil society organizations to argue for the ratification of the Convention and monitor its effective implementation; and

(e) develop resources for Governments, judicial institutions, national human rights institutions and other civil society institutions in relation to the obligations under and implementation of the Convention.

[Notes]

[i] These sub-paragraphs were derived from draft Article 32 of the "Working Text: International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities," available at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahc7ann2rep.htm>

[ii] Participants noted that conclusion on the inclusion of article on definition of "disability" or "disabled persons" were not reached yet at the Ad Hoc Committee; some participants considered that it was not desirable to include a definition of "disability" in the Convention..

[iii] Some participants in the Workshop proposed replacing the word "adopt" with the phrase "consider adoption of."

Sanya Declaration on Accessible Tourism in Asia and the Pacific

We, the participants representing Governments, disabled people's organizations, tourism business sector, accessibility experts, media, and other civil society organizations, meeting in Sanya City, Hainan Province, China from 30 October to 1 November 2006 at UNESCAP/CDPF Regional Workshop on Promotion of Barrier-free Tourism,

Appreciating the China Disabled Persons' Federation and the City Government of Sanya for their commitment and efforts to host and support the above-mentioned Workshop, which was jointly organized with the UNESCAP,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities (BMF), adopted as the regional policy guideline for the extended decade (2003-2012), at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002), held in Otsu, Japan, in October 2002,

Recalling also UNESCAP resolution 61/8 of 18 May 2005 on the mid-point review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, which calls upon members and associate members to renew their commitment to the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action in advance of the mid-point review in 2007,

Recalling further the "Bali Declaration on Barrier-free Tourism for People with Disabilities," which was adopted at the Asia-Pacific Conference on Tourism for People with Disability, in September 2000, in Bali, Indonesia, and which embodied the participants' commitment to the promotion of accessible tourism,

Noting the progress made thus far and challenges regarding realization of the targets 13 to 20 under the priority areas of access to built environment and transport and access to information and communications, including information, communication and assistive technologies of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action,

Recognizing the changing landscape of tourism, which was brought about, *inter alia*, by the increasing number of persons with disabilities and older persons, growing levels of affluence and wide range of travel options,

Welcoming the agreement made on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Draft Optional Protocol at the Eighth Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in August 2006 at New York, in particular, relevant articles on accessibility, personal mobility, and participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport,

1. Reaffirm our commitment to further implement the accessibility-relevant targets of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and contribute to its mid-point review process towards the high-level intergovernmental meeting in 2007;

2. Encourage member states in the region to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and translate it into national actions accordingly;

3. Reaffirm also our commitment to promote tourism for all and accessible tourism, which include removal of attitudinal and institutional barriers in society, and which encompasses accessible physical environment, transportation, information and communications and other facilities and services that consequently benefit not only persons with different disabilities, but also older persons, families with young children and all other travelers,

4. Urge Governments at all levels to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of applicable accessibility-related laws and regulations by strengthening multi-sectoral coordination;

5. Urge also Governments to mainstream accessible tourism in overall tourism development policy and action plans;

6. Urge further Governments as well as other concerned stakeholders to promote awareness on the importance of accessible tourism and on the travel needs of persons with different disabilities and other travelers;

7. Encourage partnership among Government focal points on disability and tourism policy, tourism industry, accessibility experts, disabled persons' organizations and other civil society organizations for effective promotion and implementation of accessible tourism;

8. **Reaffirm further** the significance of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes concerning accessible tourism;
9. **Request** relevant authorities/bodies of member states to develop and improve curriculum on accessible tourism to be included in travel-related training and education;
10. **Encourage** stakeholders and tourism industry to utilize appropriate technology to improve on accessible tourism,
11. **Encourage** International funding agencies to incorporate accessibility compliance in their policies and programmes,
12. **Encourage** Governments to include the promotion of accessible tourism as an effective strategy in the Biwako Plus Five, a proposed supplementary document for the second half of the Asian Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,
13. **Encourage** travelers with disabilities to identify challenges they face in air, land and sea transport, and request relevant authorities to take appropriate actions for the improvement of existing regulations and practices;
14. **Encourage** service providers to improve their facilities and services to enable participation of persons with disabilities in wider range of leisure and recreational activities;
15. **Encourage** various forms of media to promote accessible tourism;
16. **Request** UNESCAP to extend its technical assistance to Governments in the region in promoting accessible tourism through, *inter alia*, the following:
 - (a) Organizing forums to facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices as well as to enhance cooperation on promotion of accessible tourism;
 - (b) Coordinating the establishment of the regional network, by involving Governments and various sectors, to facilitate data collection, information gathering and good practice sharing on accessible tourism,

(c) Supporting human resource development training programmes aimed at raising disability awareness, increasing capacity and skills required for the provision of improved services in accessible tourism.

(d) Facilitating the provision of advisory services to member states to enhance their capacity in promoting accessible tourism.

3-4. In 2007

High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review
of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 /
19-21 September 2007

Bangkok

**ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL STRATEGIES FOR THE FURTHER
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIWAKO MILLENNIUM FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

(Item 6 of the provisional agenda)

DRAFT

**BIWAKO PLUS FIVE:
FURTHER EFFORTS TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE, BARRIER-FREE AND
RIGHTS-BASED SOCIETY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC**

As adopted by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the
Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, on 21 September 2007

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Also available in PDF in: Russian, French and Chinese.

. PREAMBLE

1. The Asian and Pacific region is the home to two thirds of the 650 million persons with disabilities in the world. In order to ensure greater recognition of their rights, Governments and other stakeholders in the Asian and Pacific region have taken a number of measures. By its resolution 58/4 of 22 May 2002 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century, the Commission extended the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002,[1] for another decade, that is, from 2003 to 2012. Since then, a number of initiatives have been launched in line with the extended Decade. Among them was the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society in Asia and the Pacific,[2] which was adopted by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, held in Otsu, Shiga, Japan, in October 2002, as the defining policy guideline for the new Decade. The extension of the Decade carried forward the goal of the previous Decade, 1993-2002, and the commitment made by

Governments signing the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region:[3] the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities.

2. The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action builds on both the achievements and the lessons learned from the implementation of the policy guideline adopted for the previous Decade: the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (E/ESCAP/APDDP/2). It emphasizes the paradigm shift from a charity-based approach to a rights-based approach for the development of persons with disabilities. It also promotes a barrier-free, inclusive and rights-based society, which embraces the diversity of human beings. Further, it enables and advances the socio-economic contribution of its members and ensures the realization of those rights by persons with disabilities. The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action identifies 7 priority areas and 4 major strategic areas, with 21 targets and 17 strategies. Through Commission resolution 59/3 of 4 September 2003, Governments of countries in Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with other stakeholders, such as United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and civil society organizations, reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. In its resolution 61/8 of 18 May 2005 on the mid-point review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to hold a high-level intergovernmental meeting on the midpoint review of the Decade in 2007.

3. One of the most significant developments during the first five years of the extended Decade was the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol[4] to the Convention. This marked the beginning of a new era in the global efforts to promote and safeguard the civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of persons with disabilities, and to promote disability-inclusive development and international cooperation. In adopting the Convention, the General Assembly called upon States to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol as a matter of priority. The Convention represents the latest thinking of the States Members of the United Nations about this issue. It recognizes that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty. Building on regional

experiences in the formulation and implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, members and associate members of the Commission contributed to the global drafting process through a series of efforts that included the submission, in 2003, of proposals and a regional draft entitled the "Bangkok Draft" to the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. Both the Convention and the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action pursue the common goal of achieving a barrier-free, inclusive and rights-based society. The effective implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action will contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention, and the steps taken by the States that ratify the Convention will contribute to the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action by those States.

4. The first five years of the extended Decade witnessed other significant developments as well. For example, in 2004, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) published a joint position paper^[5] in which they expounded the rights-based approach to community-based rehabilitation and services. The World Summit on the Information Society adopted the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society^[6] on 18 November 2005, which addressed the importance of universal design and assistive technologies that promote access for all persons, including those with disabilities. WHO addressed the need to research and implement the most effective measures to prevent disabilities in collaboration with communities and other sectors.^[7] The World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in adopting the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,^[8] recommended, inter alia, the strengthening of the implementation of social safety-net mechanisms to assist the poor, the elderly and the disabled.

5. Research for the midpoint review shows that the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action has resulted in many positive developments. Increasing numbers of Governments in the region have shown their commitment to disability issues by signing the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities.^[9] Thus far, 46 Governments have become signatories. Many Governments have also taken steps to incorporate the concept of the rights of persons with disabilities into their constitutions, legislation, national plans of action, and policies and programmes. Persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific have proven

their capability in this regard. They have addressed their needs and engaged in policy discourse during the drafting of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They have also become increasingly active in the decision-making process at the regional and national levels. An increasing number of international aid and development cooperation agencies have started to explore and adopt "disability-inclusive development", which focuses on mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities into general development policymaking and operations.

6. Despite such progress, challenges and obstacles still remain. The lack of availability and the quality of demographic data and socio-economic indicators concerning disability continue to be major problems. Many Governments and other stakeholders report that the lack of financial and human resources, technical knowledge and capacities hinder their implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. Although the Asian and Pacific region enjoys steady improvement in the development of disability policy, the implementation of such policies has to be ensured and their impact measured. While more persons with disabilities are becoming increasingly empowered, due attention should be paid to marginalized groups, such as those with psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities or multiple disabilities and those living in rural and remote areas. ESCAP is also tasked with promoting the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action in subregions such as North and Central Asia and mainstreaming the disability perspective in subregional intergovernmental mechanisms. During the last five years, the efforts being made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals have been reviewed vigorously. The Goals relating to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and achieving universal primary education have been translated into targets for two of the seven priority areas of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. Later, the rights of persons with disabilities were specifically recognized in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[10] as the attention they received in the Millennium Development Goals had not been adequate from a disability perspective. Natural disasters and other situations entailing heightened risk, including armed conflict, exacerbate the physical, institutional, attitudinal and informational barriers facing all people, but in particular, persons with disabilities. Such situations underline the need for better disability-inclusive disaster management with regard to both natural and man-made disasters.

7. In taking forward the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, ministerial-level representatives of countries in the region discussed and finalized the present document at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and

Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, held in Bangkok from 19 to 21 September 2007. The Biwako Plus Five outcome draws upon the findings of the five-year review, taking into consideration global developments, the emerging needs of the region with regard to disability and the challenges and obstacles which need to be overcome. It supplements the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action in the hope of making a significant contribution to the enhanced implementation of the Framework over the remaining five years of the Decade (2008-2012) by promoting the creation of an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for all.

II. NATURE AND OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES OF BIWAKO PLUS FIVE

8. Biwako Plus Five supplements the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. In terms of content, Biwako Plus Five distinguishes itself from the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action by (a) providing additional actions in the 7 priority areas, (b) reconfiguring the 4 strategy areas into 5 areas with 25 additional strategies, and (c) adding 3 strategies under "cooperation and support and monitoring and review".

9. Biwako Plus Five should be implemented on the basis of the same principles and policy directions delineated in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. However, the following three aspects should be amplified:

- a. First, Governments shall, within the limit of their economic capacity and development, take appropriate measures to devise national strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five. Governments should recognize the importance of international cooperation and partnership, in support of national efforts, including through the transfer of resources and technologies, as appropriate;
- b. Second, partnership among different stakeholders, namely, Governments, representatives of disabled people's organizations, international, regional and national non-governmental organizations, development organizations and agencies, and the private sector, as appropriate, should be promoted in all relevant activities, including research, data collection, needs assessment, policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, capacity-building and awareness-raising;
- c. Third, the diversity of persons with disabilities should be respected not only because they are the targets of policies, programmes and projects but also

because they are partners in the decision-making process concerning disability as well as implementers and evaluators of projects and policies.

III. PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION UNDER THE BIWAKO MILLENNIUM FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

10. The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action contained 21 targets categorized under

7 priority areas. Although the dates for achieving targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 17 and 18 were set before 2007, the Governments and other stakeholders that have not yet attained those targets may need to strengthen their efforts in order to achieve them as soon as possible.

11. Further efforts need to be made in order to achieve those targets where progress has been found to be inadequate and where action has been lagging. The following are additional actions that may help countries to achieve the targets under each of the priority areas.

A. Self-help organizations of persons with disabilities and related family and parent associations

Actions required

12. Governments at all levels are encouraged to support:

- a. The development of organizations for persons with disabilities and related family and parent associations at the local and national levels, and the promotion of their networking at the regional, subregional and interregional levels, paying particular attention to the self-help organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, psychosocial disabilities and multiple disabilities;
- b. The participation of persons with disabilities in the political and civil processes as well as in the development, implementation and monitoring of economic and social policies and programmes at all levels;
- c. The development of young men and women with disabilities as leaders;
- d. The development of partnerships with self-help organizations, in particular cooperation between urban-based self-help groups/organizations of persons with disabilities and their rural counterparts.

13. Self-help organizations and related family and parent organizations, with the support of Governments at all levels, should mainstream themselves into the self-help organizations of other vulnerable groups and communities.

B. Women with disabilities

Actions required

14. Governments should promote:

(a) The inclusion of gender perspectives in disability-relevant policies, programmes, plans and legislation;

(b) The inclusion of the perspectives of women with disabilities in the development of gender-relevant policies, programmes, plans and legislation;

(c) The participation of women with disabilities and organizations of women with disabilities in the processes of developing both gender-relevant and disability-related policies, programmes, plans and legislation.

15. Governments recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination and, in this regard, together with self-help organizations, should support the economic, social, cultural and political empowerment of women with disabilities, in particular through leadership and management training on a sustained basis. Governments should take appropriate measures to address discrimination against women with disabilities in all matters, including those relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, to ensure their full development, advancement and empowerment.

16. Self-help organizations should review their existing structure, policies, plans and operations, taking into account the needs of women with disabilities, and actively support their empowerment, with a view to helping them to participate fully in decision-making processes.

17. Self-help organizations and networks of women with disabilities, in collaboration with community-based development organizations and Governments at all levels, should sensitize communities in remote areas to the potential negative impacts of

culture on women and girls with disabilities and address their issues through community-based development processes.

C. Early detection, early intervention and education

Actions required

18. Governments should:

- a. Explore the possibility of establishing efficient coordination and communication mechanisms among government bodies responsible for health and education matters in the provision of services to infants and young children with disabilities in terms of early identification, assessment, referral to, or enrolment in, early intervention and health-care services, preschools and schools;
- b. Pay increased attention to ensuring that the number of trained personnel in early intervention services is sufficient to provide services for all children with disabilities and their families in urban, rural and remote areas;
- c. Promote the access of persons with disabilities to an inclusive education system, including the acquisition of literacy skills, and to adult education and life-long learning;
- d. Promote the education of all children, including those with visual and hearing disabilities, deafblind and those who have learning and intellectual disabilities, so that it is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication;
- e. Take appropriate measures to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education and to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are adept in sign language, Braille, augmentative or alternative communication;
- f. Take appropriate measures, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to involve persons with disabilities in sports, both as spectators and as active participants.

D. Training and employment, including self-employment

Actions required

19. Governments should:

- a. Recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others, and promote the realization of the right to work for persons with disabilities, including those who become disabled during the course of employment;
- b. Develop comprehensive strategies to address the barriers to employment of persons with disabilities, especially those in remote, rural, agricultural and economically depressed areas, while paying particular attention to new developments in community-based approaches, in order to ensure improved access to resources and services, such as cooperatives, social enterprises, self-employment initiatives, microfinance schemes and on-the-job and peer training;
- c. Develop national and multinational partnerships, with support from non-governmental organizations, self-help organizations and other stakeholders, aimed at increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities by providing incentives to facilitate hiring, retention and advancement, promoting positive awareness of their skills and employment, and operating joint training and employment programmes;
- d. Include persons with disabilities in mainstream public employment services and provide with support services persons with disabilities and their employers so that they could assist with the recruitment, placement and retention in jobs of persons with disabilities and maintain rosters of job-ready persons with disabilities for referral to potential employers;
- e. Adopt policies and practices related to job-readiness training and/or skills redevelopment or retraining for adults with disabilities who lack employment experience or whose skills are obsolete or who can no longer return to their former jobs owing to their disability.

E. Access to built environments and public transport

Actions required

20. Governments should:

- a. Take appropriate measures to enforce accessibility standards effectively and to promote accessibility in both existing and newly built environments and public transport;

- b. Promote the concept of universal design among public and private entities, with a view to benefiting persons with different disabilities;
- c. Ensure, in collaboration with other stakeholders, that all services which are open to or provided for the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- d. Encourage and promote the research into and the development of good quality mobility aids and devices at affordable prices in order to enable access by persons with disabilities to built environments, public transport, information and communications, and other services;
- e. Take appropriate measures to promote accessible tourism.

F. Access to information and communications, including information, communications and assistive technologies

Actions required

21. Governments should:

- a. Actively promote accessibility in respect of information and communications, including information and communication technology, for persons with disabilities in order to ensure the full enjoyment of their rights and, in so doing, comply with the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda of the World Summit on the Information Society;
- b. Promote the production and dissemination of public information in accessible languages and the modes and means of communication, including plain language, via accessible technologies;
- c. Take appropriate measures to recognize and promote the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative means of communication and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication chosen by persons with disabilities in facilities and services open or made available to the public, and in all other forms of official interaction;
- d. Take appropriate measures, in collaboration with the private sector, to promote the availability of various forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign-language interpreters, to facilitate the accessibility of persons with disabilities to built environments, services of a public nature, including banking and postal services and those which are provided electronically;

- e. Promote, together with other stakeholders, research and development, as well as the procurement of information and assistive technologies that abide by universal design concepts and internationally recognized accessibility standards;
- f. Take appropriate measures to support, in collaboration with national organizations of the deaf, the development of sign language and the training of sign language interpreters, and recognize the use of sign language in educational, employment-related and legal processes.

G. Poverty alleviation through capacity-building, social security and sustainable livelihood programmes

Actions required

22. Governments should:

- a. Mainstream disability perspectives in national development frameworks, such as poverty reduction strategy papers;
- b. Review existing social security policies and practices and modify them, as necessary, to promote personal mobility, health, rehabilitation and rehabilitation services, education and an adequate standard of living and social protection for persons with disabilities. Where they do not exist, policies aimed at providing basic services should be developed and implemented. The provision of basic assistive devices that meet the needs of persons with disabilities as well as any personal assistance needed should be promoted.

IV. KEY STRATEGIES

23. The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action has 10 strategies categorized under the following 4 areas of "strategies to achieve the targets of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action:

- a. National plan of action (five years) on disability;
- b. Promotion of a rights-based approach to disability issues;
- c. Disability statistics/common definition of disabilities for planning;
- d. Strengthened community-based approaches to the prevention of causes of disability, rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

24. The following strategies build on and expand the strategies set out in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. They reflect the lessons learned from the efforts already undertaken to implement the Framework, and the need to address new issues and concerns which have emerged since the adoption of the Framework. Accordingly, the four strategic areas in the Framework were reexamined and restructured as follows:

- a. Reinforce a rights-based approach to disability issues;
- b. Promote an enabling environment and strengthen effective mechanisms for policy formulation and implementation;
- c. Improve the availability and quality of data and other information on disabilities for policy formulation and implementation;
- d. Promote disability-inclusive development;
- e. Strengthen comprehensive community-based approaches to disability issues for the prevention of the causes of disability and for the rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

25. The restructured strategic area, "reinforce a rights-based approach to disability issues", expands on the existing strategy: "promotion of a rights-based approach to disability issues," in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, taking into consideration the greater importance of the rights-based approach embodied in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Another restructured strategic area, "promote an enabling environment and strengthen effective mechanisms for policy formulation and implementation", was added because it is necessary to reemphasize the institutional and other factors that would enable undertaking what is promoted in both the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five. The existing strategy in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, "national plan of action (five years) on disability", was integrated into this revised strategy. The restructured strategic area, "improve the availability and the quality of data and other information on disabilities for the purposes of policy formulation and implementation", expands on the existing strategy: "disability statistics/common definition of disabilities for planning" in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, taking into account the need to intensify efforts to obtain and utilize effective data and information on disabilities. The restructured strategic area, "promote disability-inclusive development", was added because the mainstreaming of disability perspectives into development assistance activities has been increasingly deemed effective in attaining the goals of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. The restructured strategic area, "strengthen comprehensive community-based approaches to (a) prevent the causes of disability, (b)

the rehabilitation and (c) the empowerment of persons with disabilities", expands an existing strategy: "strengthened community-based approaches to the prevention of causes of disability, rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities", which reflects the evolving concept of community-based rehabilitation. Furthermore, although the target dates for strategies 1, 8 and 9 in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action were set before 2007, Governments and other stakeholders that have not achieved the targets will need to continue their efforts to achieve them as soon as possible. Strategies 6 and 7 of the Framework, which have been nullified with the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, were reformulated as strategies 4 and 5 in the present document.

A. Reinforcing a rights-based approach to disability issues

Strategy 1

26. Governments take note of a newly emerging trend in understanding disability as an evolving concept and are encouraged to recognize disability as a result of the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Governments are encouraged to incorporate this understanding of disability into their existing and new policies. Particular attention should be paid to the removal of any barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from fully participating in society and exercising their rights.

Strategy 2

27. Governments should consider steps to amend or repeal any laws that are not consistent with the international instruments on human rights and disability to which they are parties, and to adopt laws that would promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

Strategy 3

28. Governments are encouraged to take appropriate measures, including development and implementation of antidiscrimination legislation, to effectively promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

Strategy 4

29. Governments are encouraged to consider the establishment of an effective, independent, advisory and representative mechanism, or the designation of an existing mechanism, to assist in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the legal, administrative and institutional systems aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Strategy 5

30. Governments are encouraged to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention as a matter of priority, and to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities so that they may enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Strategy 6

31. Governments, in collaboration with all stakeholders, should take positive measures in facilitating the provision of reasonable accommodation to equalize the opportunities that exist for persons with disabilities in all areas of life. Reasonable accommodation refers to necessary and appropriate modifications and adjustments that do not impose a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, in order to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy or exercise, on an equal basis with others, all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Strategy 7

32. Governments should promote access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

B. Promoting an enabling environment and strengthening effective mechanisms for policy formulation and implementation

Strategy 8

33. Governments at all levels are encouraged to develop or update an action plan on disability with time-bound targets and to allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the plan and the monitoring of implementation. Where appropriate, lessons learned from the previous action plan should be taken into account.

Strategy 9

34. Governments should, if they have not already done so, establish or designate an institutional mechanism to coordinate and monitor policies and programmes concerning disability; this should ensure both the effective and regular participation of representatives of all ministries and the participation of persons with disabilities. Local government should be an integral part of this mechanism.

Strategy 10

35. Governments should, within the limits of their economic capacity and level of development, adequately and on a sustainable basis finance the implementation of relevant policies and programmes, data collection and capacity-building for government officials, experts and persons with disabilities as well as the operation of a mechanism for coordinating disability-related matters.

Strategy 11

36. All stakeholders should raise awareness of the rights-based approach and disability-inclusive development through effective networking and collaboration with the media, research institutions, legal professionals, donor and development agencies and the private sector.

Strategy 12

37. Governments, together with other stakeholders, should ensure that the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the present document are disseminated in an appropriate manner.

C. Improving the availability and quality of data and other information on disabilities for policy formulation and implementation

Strategy 13

38. The importance of collecting data on disabilities should be stressed and advocated not only within the United Nations system but also among decision makers at the national level, including national statistical offices, as well as academic institutions, self-help organizations and other civil society organizations.

Strategy 14

39. Governments are encouraged to develop policies or laws to mandate the collection of data on disabilities, as well as the allocation of the requisite resources. Such policies and laws should, among other things, respect the privacy of persons with disabilities.

Strategy 15

40. As far as possible, data should be classified by the socio-economic status of persons with disabilities, including the type of impairment, sex, age, education, employment and income.

Strategy 16

41. Governments should build national capacity so that data on disability can be regularly collected through population censuses and surveys and disseminated.

Strategy 17

42. Governments are encouraged to develop innovative methods of data collection in order to capture the needs of persons with disabilities, in particular those who are illiterate or who live in remote areas.

Strategy 18

43. Governments are encouraged to undertake regular assessments of the impact of policies and programmes which are intended to improve the situation of persons with disabilities and to ensure that they fully enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Strategy 19

44. Governments, in cooperation with ESCAP, should, as appropriate, take measures to ascertain the concerns of disabled persons and to develop future action plans through questionnaires and surveys, depending on the availability of resources.

Strategy 20

45. ESCAP, other United Nations organizations, agencies and intergovernmental organizations, should, upon request, assist Governments in setting statistical standards and in formulating policy regarding persons with disabilities.

D. Promoting disability-inclusive development

Strategy 21

46. Governments at all levels, in collaboration with United Nations development organizations and agencies, international, regional and national development organizations, the private sector and other civil society organizations, should mainstream disability perspectives in the development and implementation of all social and economic development plans, in particular those related to the Millennium Development Goals. The development of disability indicators for the Millennium Development Goals should be considered.

Strategy 22

47. International, regional and national development organizations and agencies, including United Nations development organizations and agencies, are encouraged to mainstream disability perspectives into the development and the implementation of their general policies and programmes. Economic and technical cooperation should also be an integral part of this endeavour.

Strategy 23

48. Disability-inclusive disaster management should be promoted. Disability perspectives should be duly included in the implementation of policies and initiatives in this area, including the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, an international framework for promoting the commitment of Governments to disaster management. Universal design concepts should be integrated into infrastructure development in disaster-preparedness and post-disaster reconstruction activities.

E. Strengthening comprehensive community-based approaches to disability issues for the prevention of the causes of disability and for the rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities

Strategy 24

49. Governments, in collaboration with United Nations development organizations and agencies, international, regional and national development organizations and agencies, the private sector and other civil society organizations, are encouraged to apply comprehensive community-based rehabilitation (CBR) measures, taking into account the recommendations contained in the ILO/UNESCO/WHO joint position paper referred to in paragraph 4 above.

Strategy 25

50. Governments are encouraged to take appropriate and effective measures to reduce the preventable causes of disabilities, such as traffic accidents and diseases.

V. ENHANCING COOPERATION AND SUPPORT IN PURSUANCE OF THE BIWAKO MILLENNIUM FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

51. The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action has seven strategies categorized under three areas of "cooperation and support in pursuance of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action", namely "subregional cooperation and collaboration", "regional collaboration" and "interregional collaboration". The following are additional strategies to reinforce the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action targets.

Strategy 26

52. Together with such partners as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and relevant funds, agencies and other entities within the United Nations system, ESCAP should enhance inter-agency coordination to implement the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five effectively.

Strategy 27

53. Governments and international organizations are encouraged to enhance subregional cooperation and collaboration through their involvement in subregional governmental organizations and through regional programmes and projects, such as the

United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. Collaboration with regional and subregional disability-related organizations, projects and activities, such as the Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, the Asia and Pacific Disability Forum and the Pacific Islands Forum, should be encouraged.

Strategy 28

54. In support of the effective implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five, ESCAP is encouraged to develop knowledge networks and disseminate and exchange information throughout the region concerning good practices in cooperation with stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector, and in partnership with international and regional forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Asia and Pacific Disability Forum.

VI. ENHANCING EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND REVIEW

55. A review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five should be conducted at the end of the Decade, in 2012, at the regional, subregional and national levels.

[1] See Commission resolution 48/3 of 23 April 1992.

[2] See Commission resolution 59/3 of 4 September 2003 (for the text of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, see E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1).

[3] Adopted at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Launch the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, held in Beijing, 1-5 December 1992. See also Commission resolution 49/6 of 29 April 1993 on the Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

[4] General Assembly resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006, annexes I and II.

[5] International Labour Office, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and World Health Organization, *CBR: A Strategy for Rehabilitation*,

Equalization of Opportunities, Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004).

[6] See A/60/687.

[7] World Health Assembly resolution WHA58.23 of 25 May 2005 on disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation.

[8] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap.I, resolution 2.

[9] E/ESCAP/902, annex I.

[10] General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

3-5. In 2010

Bangkok Statement on South-to-South cooperation on Disability / 20 August 2010

We, the senior government focal points on disability and business representatives from the region of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and implementers of community-based rehabilitation from 19 countries in Asia and the Pacific, participating in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)/Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) Senior Officials' Meeting on South-to-South Cooperation on Disability at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand on 19 and 20 August 2010:

Reaffirming the significance of the partnership between ESCAP and APCD in accelerating the promotion of further implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the Biwako Plus Five, as recommended in ESCAP resolutions 58/4 of 22 May 2002, 59/3 of 4 September 2003, 61/8 of 18 May 2005;

Recognizing the importance of active governments' participation in the preparatory process leading up to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, as well as the participation of multi-stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, as recommended by ESCAP resolution 66/11 of 19 May 2010;

Hereby unanimously agree to recommend as follows:

1. ESCAP should proclaim a new regional decade on disability (2013-2022) before the conclusion of the current decade (2003-2012);
2. The prime focus of the new decade should be the promotion of the ratification and the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and disability-inclusive development;
3. Strategic priorities for the new decade should include "leadership development of persons with disabilities", "the promotion of community inclusive and

gender-sensitive development” and “the promotion of socially inclusive business development”;

4. ESCAP and APCD should enhance their collaboration in preparing for the conclusion of the current decade and in forging a set of priorities and plans for the new decade;
5. ASEAN members should provide a model of sub-regional cooperation and should work closely with the other four sub-regions of ESCAP in the implementation of the new decade in Asia and the Pacific.

Representative from Senior Government Officials:

Baykham Khattiya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Representative from Disabled People’s Organizations:

Boonlert Surakittidech, Member, Association of Deaf Persons of Chonburi, Thailand

Representative from the Business Sector:

Annie S. Garcia, President, SM Supermalls, Philippines

20 August 2010

Bangkok, Thailand

Bangkok recommendations / 21-22 June 2010, Bangkok

Asian and Pacific Disabled Peoples' Organizations United: Regional Congress
toward the Establishment of the Regional Decade on Effective Implementation of
the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
21-22 June 2010, Bangkok

We, the representatives of disabled peoples' organizations (DPOs) from 24 countries participating in Asian and Pacific Disabled Peoples' Organizations United: Regional Congress toward the Establishment of the Regional Decade on Effective Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand on 21 and 22 of June 2010:

Recognizing the significance of all international and regional documents on disability, in particular, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF) and the Biwako Plus Five, the supplement to the BMF,

Acknowledging the commitment made by the Governments of the Asian and Pacific region and the leadership of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in promoting the first and second Asian and Pacific Decades of Persons with Disabilities, and the CRPD,

Mindful that, despite significant achievements during the two decades, there still remain challenges to realizing the rights of persons with disabilities in this region, including, recognition of the diverse rights of persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, indigenous persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities living in remote and rural areas, persons with severe disabilities and minorities with disabilities; the need to harmonize national laws with the international obligations under the CRPD; and the need for inclusive disability data collection and prioritization of disability in national plans and budget allocations, ensuring independent living in communities and adequate resourcing, and financial support to DPOs,

Appreciating ESCAP resolution 66/11, which, inter alia, requests the Executive Secretary to encourage the participation of all key stakeholders, including DPOs, in the preparatory process leading up to the ESCAP High-level Meeting in 2012 to review the implementation of the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012,

Also, appreciating the initiatives taken by ESCAP to ascertain the views of stakeholders on the feasibility of a new decade of persons with disabilities,

Recognizing that mainstreaming disability perspectives in subregional mechanisms to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities works effectively in that regard,

Further recognizing the central role of persons with disabilities in decision making and the need to further build the capacity of persons with disabilities to participate meaningfully in this process,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Korea and its disability community to mark the end of the second decade of persons with disabilities through hosting in 2012 the ESCAP High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012.

Showing commitment of DPOs through their participation in the forthcoming Expert Group Meeting-cum-Stakeholder Consultation to Review the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 2003-2012: The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, organized by ESCAP from 23 to 25 June 2010,

Hereby unanimously agree to recommend as follows:

1. ESCAP should consider adopting a resolution to proclaim a new decade of persons with disabilities (2013-2022) at its next annual Commission session in 2011.
2. The title of this new decade could be “the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons

with Disabilities: Towards Accelerating the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”.

3. The leadership of DPOs regarding ratification, implementation and monitoring of the CRPD at regional as well as national levels should be recognized.

4. The new decade could focus on the promotion of ratification and implementation of the CRPD by Governments in the region.

5. To implement the new decade, ESCAP should adopt a strategic framework to effectively protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities at its High-level Meeting in 2012. This framework could include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Principles which are in line with those of the CRPD;
- (b) Target areas and measurable goals which are consistent with the CRPD and reflect the actual situations of persons with disabilities in the region;
- (c) Implementation mechanism:
 - (i) Mainstreaming disability perspectives in subregional and national mechanisms to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities;
 - (ii) Establishing national committees to harmonize national laws and policies with the CRPD, which involve leadership of and majority representation of DPOs;
 - (iii) Active involvement of DPOs in implementation and monitoring mechanisms;
 - (iv) Promoting joint efforts of multi-stakeholders including Governments, United Nations bodies, regional cooperation bodies, DPOs, civil society organizations and the businesses sector, and
 - (v) Strengthening the function of ESCAP through employing persons with disabilities as professional officers at ESCAP Headquarters in Bangkok and its subregional offices to promote the implementation of the new decade;
 - (vi) Encouraging the United Nations country teams, led by the United Nations resident coordinator, to promote the CRPD and mainstream it into the United Nations country development assistance framework.

6. DPOs should unite and promote the engagement of civil society towards the successful and effective implementation of the CRPD and the new decade.

7. ESCAP should be encouraged to mainstream disability perspectives in a sustainable manner in its programme of work and operations. This effort should include:

- (a) Providing a barrier free access environment in existing and new buildings and facilities through universal design codes;
- (b) Establishing a system to cover the costs for information communication technologies and assistive technologies to enhance accessibility, including, but not limited to, sign language interpretation, real-time captioning, Braille transcription and the cost for personal assistants;
- (c) Providing international sign language interpretation, when required, for ESCAP meetings;
- (d) Promoting employment of persons with disabilities. If they require reasonable accommodation, including personal assistants, accessible transport and assistive technologies, ESCAP should provide this;
- (e) Promoting mainstreaming of disability perspectives into the diverse sectors of ESCAP development programmes and projects, including accessible tourism;
- (f) Raising awareness and capacity of all staff about the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, including the gender dimension;
- (g) Encouraging Governments to develop and support the profession of sign language interpretation and support availability at the country level.

DPI Thinking Ahead for an 'Extended' Decade! For People with Disabilities in Asia-Pacific / April 13, 2010

Dear Colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region,

Greetings to you all from Korea.

As some of you might be aware that the final review of the 2nd Decade of Asia-Pacific Persons with Disabilities will be held in Korea in 2012 (it is expected to be officially announced at the 66th Commission in May). With regard to conclusion of the Decade, there have been some thoughts and suggestions beyond the 2nd Decade amongst people working in the disability field. To co-ordinate flows of thinking in exploring the issue around the region, a Steering Group was formed at the beginning of this year by people representing disability fields including academics and DPOs .

We are writing to you to share some views about how we might pool ideas together with the approaching end of the Second Decade of Asia-Pacific Persons with Disabilities (2003-2012). The subject we wish to explore with you is the rationale for moving towards extending the current Second Decade further. No doubt, this will invite observations and comments from you all in thinking about the achievements and shortcomings of the Second Decade.

With the above in mind, we thought it might be useful to share some ideas as we all represent views from different regions and DPOs. We would like to express our thinking at this stage in the first place and would invite your views re. the above matter.

Views of Korean Steering Committee on the Post-2nd Decade

We are still in the process of forming our position. However, we are of the view that nations within the region should act collectively to encourage ratification of the CRPD and actively participate in monitoring the subsequent implementation of the CRPD. In this context, we might recall that the UN's Secretary-General in his Day of Persons with Disabilities speech had called for the implementation and universality of the landmark United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He noted that persons with disabilities encounter many disadvantages, and are often among society's poorest and most excluded".

1. The DPOs in the Region have every reason to be proud of themselves in making a concrete contribution in the UN's adoption of the CRPD with sustained efforts through BMF + five and other activities to support it. However, UNESCAP that has been the backbone of the 1st and 2nd Decades have concerns about the fact that the Region is still lagging behind in achieving specific objectives which are critical in achieving inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society. To cite but one specific example with specific reference to the overall objectives of MDGs' with its 18 general objectives and 48 monitoring indices, it is clear that persons with disabilities have not been a part of mainstream development efforts and the majority of them are still trapped in poverty and remain powerless.
2. We are of the view that if we would ever to launch the Third Decade, the overall goal and objectives should be directed to ensuring capacity building of individuals, communities and DPOs.
3. It is our strong view that the Region exploits the International Co-operation (as noted in CRPD Article 32 International Cooperation), as one of the main strategies in achieving goals of the Third Decade.
4. Having experienced the last 2 Decades, we envisage whether another 'Decade' continues to be adopted or a new time-scale might need to be introduced.
5. We have also thought about the strategic goals to be pursued as a Pan Asia Pacific Vision or Sub-regional Visions. In connection with the above, we shall be most grateful if you could provide your comments by returning your comments to the attached questions by 23th April, 2010.

With best regards,

Dr. Il-Yung Lee, M.D. President of RI Korea

Kim, Dae-Sung, General Secretary DPI Korea

Post-2nd Decade Steering Committee

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Hanjin Jo, Prof. Social Work, Daegu Univ

Jaeyoung Yoon, Team leader, Planning and Development, Sahmyook Welfare Foundation

Jogbae Kim, Team leader, National Rehabilitation Center, Ex-prof. University of Pittsburgh

Dongchul Yoo, Prof. Social Work, Dongeui Univ.

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Yeja Lee, Chair, National Coalition of Disabled People

Mijoo Kim, Chair, Cultural Community of Women with Disabilities Consultant, World Bank

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Wongyu Choi, Prof. Social Work, Jeonbuk Univ, Chair, Commission of 'R&D' of APDF

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*Pictures in this document are adopted from “Video library - Report from Bangladesh in 2008-” produced by Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

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