

# Joining Hands

Sharing Good Practice In Rehab Between The Western Pacific WHO CCs

E-Newsletter- Issue No. 2 (February, 2012)

Edited by Sheila Purves and Ortal Shamay-Lahat

This is the second issue of a new e-newsletter aimed to enhance communication and collaboration among the Western Pacific WHO CCs, the WPR office and DAR office in Geneva. It is planned to be issued twice a year and distributed via email.

Let's continue to communicate, share and stimulate each other in our roles as WHO CCs, to promote and support rehabilitation in the Western Pacific Region!

## In This Issue

### Part 1

Highlights of WHO CCs Work in the Western Pacific Region

### Part 2

Useful Resources

**A Letter from Ms. Pauline Kleinitz**

*Technical Officer Disability, WPRO*

### Part 3

Special Announcements

### Part 4

Past & Upcoming Events

## Abbreviations Used In The E-Newsletter

<b>CBR</b>	Community-based Rehabilitation
<b>CDPF</b>	China Disabled Persons Federation
<b>DAR</b>	Disability & Rehabilitation Office, WHO, Geneva
<b>Guangzhou</b>	Zhong Shan #1 Teaching Hospital WHO CC for Rehabilitation, Zhong Shan University, Guangzhou, China
<b>HKSR</b>	Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, WHO CC for Rehabilitation, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China
<b>NORFI</b>	Negros Occidental Rehabilitation Foundation Inc WHO CC for Rehabilitation, Bacolod, The Philippines
<b>NRC, S Korea</b>	National Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities, South Korea
<b>NRCD</b>	National Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Japan
<b>PWD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WCPT</b>	World Confederation of Physical Therapy
<b>WHO CC</b>	WHO Collaborating Centre
<b>WPR</b>	Western Pacific Region
<b>WPRO</b>	Western Pacific Regional Office, WHO
<b>Wuhan</b>	Tongji Hospital WHO CC for Rehabilitation Research and Training, Hua Zhong University of Science & Technology, Wuhan, China

## Part I Highlights Of WHO CCs Work In The Western Pacific Region

### From HKSR

Reported by Ms. Sheila Purves, Hong Kong



### Launch of the World Report on Disability and CBR Guidelines (Chinese translation)

On December 6th 2011, these two influential documents were launched at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, by the China Disabled Persons Federation with the WHO and World Bank Country Offices. The three WHO CCs (Tongji, SUMS and Hong Kong) were all deeply involved in the translation and the launch.

*The question now: so how can we facilitate action, based on the documents?*

The World Report: at country and government level it will be used to support policy, but how can we interpret it for individuals, rehabilitation departments and communities? I have listened to several experts in China lecturing on the World Report and several points seem to stand out for them. It is about (1) change: in our own attitudes, so that we perceive the social and rights perspectives; in our working approach, so that we see the value and the mutual benefits to working with other sectors. (2) investing: in manpower and training, and promotion and awareness. (3) ensuring access: we need to analyze our own work initially in terms of physical, communication and social environments, acknowledging and

rectifying where there are access issues. (4) research and knowledge transfer.

The CBR Guidelines: we need to involve the stakeholders, but for government officials: they are unlikely to read this tomb? The matrix is a simple way to describe most of the CBR content, but officials will only look at their own sector, where we want to focus on links and mainstreaming. As a start, in China, we decided to print the summary in Chinese (initially put together in English by Diane Mulligan and Sue Stubbs), added photographs from Chinese context and then disseminated this among the leaders and other official stake-holders to wet their appetites.

Your comments and ideas are welcome!



*The launch of the World Report and CBR guidelines in Beijing. From left to right: Prof. ZHUO Dahong, Guangzhou, Mr. Benny CHEUNG, Chairperson, HKSR, Dr. Joseph KWOK, Vice-chairperson, Executive Committee, HKSR.*

## The 8th CyberRun for Rehab

November 6th 2011, saw 1000 participants walk, run or volunteer. This year, the funds raised will support exploratory activities to come up with a relevant approach to “self management of chronic disease” training in less-resourced areas of China. CyberRun combines fund-raising, awareness raising of our work, and participation in healthy activities.

Please send us a photo of your activities for the next newsletter.



For further information please contact Ms. Sheila Purves: [sheila.purves@rehab society.org.hk](mailto:sheila.purves@rehab society.org.hk)

## From Wuhan

Reported by Prof. Nan Dengkun, China



## Wuhan and HKSR - Joint Work on Translation of a New Booklet

Ms. Sheila Purves read a newly published document called ‘Joint Position Paper on the Provision of Mobility Devices in Less Resourced Settings’ on WHO DAR website. This document provides authoritative descriptions and guidelines on providing mobility devices for less resourced settings. This document will greatly assist rehabilitation professionals, community leaders, disability workers and people with disabilities. Recently, it was discussed between Wuhan and HKSR to collaboratively translate, print, and publish this document in Chinese. WHO Press has been contacted regarding the permit to translate and publish this document in Chinese. Meanwhile, we are actively seeking funding to support this. It is estimated that this joint work will be completed this year if everything goes smoothly.

The document is available online at:  
[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502887\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502887_eng.pdf)



For further information please contact Prof. Nan Dengkun: [nandk@126.com](mailto:nandk@126.com)

## From Guangzhou

Reported by Prof. Zhuo Dahong, China



### PT/OT Education and Practice: Making Important Progress in China

A significant breakthrough in the education and training for physical therapists and occupational therapists in China was seen in 2011. Heading to an important goal to upgrade the PT and OT education onto the international track, two task-forces organized by senior PTs and OTs in China have been working hard to develop national standardized educational curricula following the international guidelines and minimum requirements. It is expected that by August, 2012, the draft curricula will be finished and submitted for review. With the approval of the curricula by the National Steering Group on PT and OT Education, hopefully, the curricula will be officially adopted and implemented in China starting from the academic year 2013.

Thus, the standards and quality of PT and OT education programs in China will be greatly improved. Supports from abroad such as from WCPT, WFOT and the Norwegian fund (NMA) give assistance to the design and implementation of the above-mentioned project.

Meanwhile, the year 2011 also saw the remarkable growth of the PT and OT professions in China. In October 26, 2011 the National Academic Committee of Occupational Therapists inaugurated in Guangzhou, and in November 12, 2011, the National Academic Committee of Physical Therapists inaugurated in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. This marks that the leadership of the two important professions /specialties have been strengthened, which will lead to

the development of national guidelines on PT and OT practice. The two Committees also serve as organizational resources to give guidance, consultation and monitoring on national PT and OT education.



Student exchange session with students from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University at Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong.

For further information please contact Prof. Zhuo Dahong: [dhzhuo@gmail.com](mailto:dhzhuo@gmail.com)

## From NRCD

Reported by Dr. Fumio Eto, Japan



### International Seminar

NRCD held an international seminar entitled "Large-scale Disasters and Support for Persons with Disabilities" on Feb. 11, 2012. Japan suffered from earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011 which is called as the Great East Japan Earthquake.

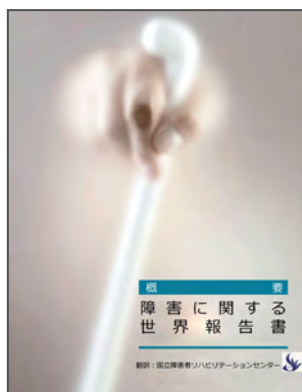
In the seminar, lecturers from Sichuan of China and Indonesia, who have similar experiences with Japan, introduced the establishment of rehabilitation system in the acute stage. Japanese people with disabilities and support organizations reported the actual status of persons with disabilities in the affected area. Disaster, persons with disabilities, rehabilitation and support were the focus of the seminar.



## Translation of the Summary of the World Report on Disability into Japanese

NRCD was granted translation rights and publication rights for an edition in Japanese by the director general of WHO and published on the web site of NRCD to disseminate its concept to Japanese people.

[http://www.rehab.go.jp/whoclbc/japanese/WORLD\\_REPORT\\_ON\\_DISABILITY\\_Summary\\_Jp.pdf](http://www.rehab.go.jp/whoclbc/japanese/WORLD_REPORT_ON_DISABILITY_Summary_Jp.pdf)



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## Part 2 Useful Resources

### From NRCD

The research group of Hospital and Research Institute of NRCD found the major gene causing retinitis pigmentosa in Japanese population, and published this finding in the journal Investigating Ophthalmology and Visual Science. Retinitis pigmentosa is the major cause of visual impairment among persons who entered rehabilitation centers in Japan. These results are expected to be useful for developing novel methods for diagnosis and therapy of this disease.

*Iwanami M, Oshikawa M, Nishida T, Nakadomari S, Kato S. High Prevalence of Mutations in the EYS Gene in Japanese Patients with Autosomal Recessive Retinitis Pigmentosa. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2012 Feb 2. [Epub ahead of print]*

<http://www.iovs.org/content/early/2012/01/19/iovs.11-9048.abstract>

## A Letter from Ms. Pauline Kleinitz

*Greetings from Manila!*

*I started in October 2011 at WPRO in a new role focused on disability and rehabilitation services in this region. As part of this role I have become the contact person for the disability and rehabilitation Collaborating Centres (CC's) in this region. As a result I will assist in the development of CC work plans and review annual reports. Over the coming months I hope to better understand all the work being done by the CC's and also help to facilitate greater synergy and collaboration between the centres.*

*In my short time here I have observed how important the CC's can be to WHO's ongoing work and I believe they are a great asset to the organisation. I really look forward to meeting all those working on the WHO CC activities and hope there may be a chance to meet up this year.*

*Please email me any time if you have any queries and I encourage you to share information about your activities as I am always interested to know what particular work is occurring.*

**Pauline Kleinitz - Technical Officer Disability, WPRO.**  
[kleinitzp@wpro.who.int](mailto:kleinitzp@wpro.who.int)

## Part 3 Special Announcements

Ms. Sheila Purves (Project Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation, The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation) has conferred honorary doctorate at the 17th Congregation of The Hong Kong Institute of Education on 2 December 2011, to recognize her quarter century of effort working in rehabilitation in Mainland China.

### *Comments from Sheila:*

"It is not possible without a strong organization including management and colleagues, excellent partnerships, and a deep pool of committed volunteers: to be creative, to be active and to be useful: these are important concepts in rehabilitation and we try to apply them to our training projects as well."



## Part 4 Past and Upcoming Events

### *Reports from Past Events*

#### **The 2nd Occupational Therapy 24-Hour Virtual Exchange** *October 26-27, 2011*

*Reported by Ms. Ortal Shamay-Lahat, China*

"Online Technology 4 Occupational Therapy" (OT4OT), a small international group of Occupational Therapy volunteers, hosted a free 24 hour virtual exchange in celebration of World Occupational Therapy Day (October 27). The theme of the event was 'Pay It Forward' and it was sponsored by the University of Salford that allowed free access to its virtual classrooms. The program included 24 inspiring live sessions with clinicians, researchers, students, policy-makers and service-users; all shared their experiences, practice and knowledge with participants from all around the world, in the hope that all of them will keep 'paying it forward'.

The recorded sessions are available online at <http://ot4ot.com/world-ot-day-2011/>

#### **The 4th International Congress of AVAPE on Rehabilitation and Inclusion: Social Entrepreneurship - Interactions, Innovations and Solutions** *November 7-9, 2011, Sao Paulo, Brazil.*

*Reported by Ms. Sheila Purves, Hong Kong*

AVAPE – The best in everyone: Introducing an NGO from South America.

Mr. Joseph Kwan, Global Chair of Rehabilitation International's International Commission on Technology and Accessibility (ICTA) attended

the congress and recently discussed with us how impressive this organization is. First the name: AVAPE: The Association for Valuing Persons with Disability. The headline on their web page is: "the best in everyone", which speaks for their enthusiasm and passion.

AVAPE calls itself a "philanthropic social assistance organization dedicated to serving, defending the rights and promoting the inclusion and training of persons with all kinds of disabilities, in addition to persons in situations of social risk." They consider partnerships (with companies as well as social organizations) as a crucial strategy which will promote "greater participation in the community; decentralization of responsibilities and actions; improved service quality; more beneficiaries; and greater disclosure".

One interesting project reported is the Accessibility Partnership. AVAPE provides a "detailed technical assessment [for an organization or enterprise] which aims to provide guidance... in regard to the adaptations required to their buildings, so as to render them accessible, from the architectural and functional point of view..." Mr. Joseph Kwan told us that AVAPE is working with passion to get people where they want to be.

We look forward to your reflections from conferences you may attend in the coming year or introduction to an interesting organization you know!

[www.avapenuttre.com.br/congressointernacional/index.php?lang=en](http://www.avapenuttre.com.br/congressointernacional/index.php?lang=en)

## **The 5th Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Congress**

*November 19-24, 2011, Chiang Mai, Thailand.*

*Reported by Dr. Kit Sinclair, OT, Hong Kong*

**Opening World: Optimizing Occupational Therapy Practice and Cultural Understanding as a Subtheme:**

Understanding other people requires that we understand their thinking from their own cultural perspective. This was a strong theme of the APOTC held in November 2011 in Thailand. Often we do not think about 'culture' because it is so much a part of our personal psychological and social makeup. It is only when we leave our own communities and partake in someone else's that we actually realize the subtleties of culture. Ethnicity and culture are not the same.

Shared perspectives at the congress ranged from 'social responses in disaster situations' to 'defining the meaning of occupation from different cultural viewpoints'. Expectations for occupational therapy outcomes may emphasize self directed independence in one country or social cohesion and interdependence in another.

<http://www.apotc2011.org/>

## **The 2nd Asia Pacific Community-based Rehabilitation Congress**

*November 29- December 1, 2011, Manila, The Philippines.*

*Reported by Ms. Wei Guorong, HKSR, China*

At this conference there were over 600 participants from 64 countries: it was a delight and inspiring to learn from people from all walks of life, who are endeavoring to move CBR forward together.

I was overwhelmed with the vast amount of information and the many different aspects people are working on. A few issues that really resonated with me include: (1) even when I focus on the small things at the individual level, it is also important, since each individual links with other people, and the network grows; (2) it is essential that people with disabilities have a positive perception about themselves, and this is the key to inclusive development – to have people with disabilities in leadership positions; (3) CBR implemented mainly by people with disabilities is the key to empower themselves, once they are empowered and given opportunity they are the precious resources who can promote the development of their communities; (4) the role of professionals is to support and facilitate with relevant information and actions, so that people with disabilities can make informed choices and decisions.

[www.ncda.gov.ph](http://www.ncda.gov.ph)

## **The World Report on Disability: Implications for Asia and the Pacific**

*December 5-6, 2011, Sydney, Australia.*

*Reported by Ms. Ortal Shamay-Lahat, China*

The two days symposium was organized by the University of Sydney in partnership with the WHO. The involvement of 220 people from 21 countries offered a forum for discussion of the World Report on Disability and its implications for the Asia Pacific region.

The session “Closing Remarks and Way Forward for WHO” was presented by Alana Officer, Coordinator, DAR. Alana introduced interesting future projects related to the recommendations in the World Report, such as: (1) a guidance note on inclusive emergency, preparedness, response, and recovery with a checklist; (2) guidelines on monitoring CBR; (3) a training package on CBR which will accompany the CBR guidelines that were launched last year; (4) a disability survey that countries can implement to gather more comprehensive data on disability; (5) guidelines on rehabilitation which will help DAR bridge between policy level work that was done on the World Report and the CBR guidelines. Alana also encouraged the participants to sign up to the Disability and Rehabilitation Facebook page and Twitter account. These networks can provide a great opportunity for all of us to exchange information and get regular updates.

The full presentations and recorded sessions are available online at [http://sydney.edu.au/health\\_sciences/disability-symposium/index.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/health_sciences/disability-symposium/index.shtml)



## Upcoming Events

- **The 28th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity**  
*March 26-27, 2012, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States.*  
<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/>

- **The Second China Rehabilitation Educators' Conference**, including PT/OT students exchange sessions.  
*August 11-15, 2012, Kunming, Yunnan, China.*  
For further information please contact Ms. Sheila Purves at: [sheila.purves@rehabociety.org.hk](mailto:sheila.purves@rehabociety.org.hk)

- **The 6th International Forum on Disability Management**  
*September 10-12, 2012, London, England, UK.*  
<http://ifdm2012.rsm.ac.uk/index.html>

- **The 13th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons**  
*September 17-21, 2012, New Delhi, India.*  
<http://www.transed2012.in/>

- **RI World Congress**  
*October 29- November 3, 2012, Incheon, South Korea.*  
<http://rikorea.freeget.net/>

- **The 8th Pan-Pacific Conference on Rehabilitation**  
*November 17-18, 2012, Manila, The Philippines.*  
<http://www.ppcr2012.com/>

- **The 1st CBR World Congress**  
*November 26-28, 2012, Agra, india.*  
<http://www.cbrglobal.org/>

*The next issue is planned in August 2012; please send your news to Ms. Sheila Purves:  
[sheila.purves@rehabociety.org.hk](mailto:sheila.purves@rehabociety.org.hk)*