



Advancing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities worldwide

RI Global: Office of the International Commission on Technology and Accessibility

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FACT SHEET: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Purpose/Mission

RI Global's Commission on Technology and Accessibility (ICTA) broadly focuses on the promotion of accessibly built and virtual environments, including assistive technology, as well as the creation of a forum that facilitates the exchange of ideas and good practices, notably in the areas of housing, public transportation, communications, technical aids and universal design. ICTA also works to sensitize decision makers in the public and private sectors regarding the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities and offer possible solutions through technologies. The members of the various ICTA sub-commissions constitute a voluntary network of experts in the area of technology and accessibility, notably specialists in the integration and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, developers of technological aides, human resources specialists, experts in the design of accessible environments and representatives of civil society.

Chair: Joseph Kwan

Joseph Kwan, architect and access consultant, was the inaugural Director of a Hong Kong NGO which specialized in helping the HKSAR Government make Hong Kong more accessible for the elderly and people with disabilities, in particular in the area of built environment and public transportation. In 2005, he founded Universal Design and Accessibility Consultants (UDA Consultants Ltd.). Kwan has been a consultant to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and to the Asian Development Bank (ADB); and is a member of the ISO (International Standardisation Organization) Working Group, a member of the International Steering Committee for TRANSED (International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons), and the advisor of the Asia Pacific Network on Accessible Tourism (APNAT). In 2007, the Prince Salman Center for Disability Research engaged Kwan to develop a Universal Accessibility Programme (UAP) for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that focused on accessible built environment, land and marine transportation infrastructure, and inclusive tourism programs. Under the ICTA Commission, he also prepared the Qatar Access Strategy (QAS) and the Kuwait Access Strategy (KAS) for these two countries. In 2001, he was awarded the "Medal of Honour" (MH) by the Hong Kong SAR Government. Kwan received his architectural training at the Queensland Institute of Technology (1976) Australia, and later obtained a M.Sc. in Environmental Psychology from the University of Surrey (1979) United Kingdom.