

# REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2022





## PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear RI Global Family,

2022 has been a year of extraordinary challenges and extraordinary results for RI. Despite the continuing challenges posed by COVID-19 to international meetings and travel, RI has been very active in advancing the health and wellness of persons with disabilities worldwide through online, in-person and hybrid activities, and the record of our work in this annual report proves that we are on the right track towards this goal. New executive members have joined our global family, injecting fresh blood and energy into RI.

2023 will be a year of milestone significance. RI Centenary Celebration will be held in Beijing this May. It will be a great opportunity to look back at the path we have walked. Only by remembering how we got where we are today can we set out on the road ahead. With the glorious achievements of RI in the past century, we have every reason to look to the future of RI with confidence and hope and march on with courage and perseverance.

In this beginning year of the new century for RI, we will continue to strengthen partnerships, further develop international collaborations through the RI network and devote ourselves to fulfilling our shared vision and responsibility.

As President of RI, I will carry on working together to ensure that RI contributes to the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities around the world in the coming years, and I also ask for your strong support and enormous cooperation to that end.

Let's seize the day and live it to the full in 2023 together. With all my heart, I wish all of you good health, happiness, and success in the new year!

Sincerely,

Zhang Haidi  
RI&RIF President



## RI Highlights

As 2022 winds down, we take the opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the last 100 years. This was, in many ways, a landmark as Rehabilitation International celebrates **100 Years of advancing the rights and inclusion of People with Disabilities: *Proud of its past and moving forward into the Future.***

The 100th anniversary is a remarkable milestone for RI that grew from its small-town roots in the American Midwest in 1922 to an internationally prominent organization in the past century. Generations of successors of RI members have been making consistent efforts to offer expertise and solutions aimed at providing people with disabilities the chance to lead full and productive lives.

RI has been an important force in advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities globally. RI and its members work to protect the rights of people with disabilities, including ensuring access to and improvement of crucial services for persons with disabilities and their families. RI also promotes collaboration among stakeholders and advocates in order to build strong policies and legislation to identify and remove barriers such as physical, communication, and attitudinal, that hamper individuals' ability to have full participation in society on the international, regional, and national levels.

Rehabilitation International will be celebrating its 100th year anniversary in 2023 in Beijing, China. A Centennial Committee has been created to work on the various activities to celebrate the many achievements of the organization. While we do that, we will continue to leverage the strength of our members, our ground troops who provide in-depth expertise on local and national needs. They help RI address a broad range of issues with their clear understanding of the local context.

RI's Commissions or thematic working groups manned by experts in the areas of education; health and function; technology and accessibility; leisure, recreation, and physical activities; policies and services; social; and work and employment, will continue to provide expertise and leadership to ensure that our members will be able to deliver high-quality programming in line with global standards.

RI will also continue to play its central role in the development of the CRPD by sustaining its campaign for the convention's meaningful and effective implementation. We will create, provide, and share information between and among our members, partners and others who work in the global fields of disability, rehabilitation, and development. Our efforts as an organization will be anchored on the shared goal of ensuring that the CRPD's provisions are enshrined in national laws and practices that create real and tangible change in the lives of persons with disabilities worldwide.

With the same values that have sustained our organization for the past century, Rehabilitation International is leading into the future with a continued focus on rights and inclusion for persons with disabilities globally.



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## **RI GLOBAL STRUCTURE**

RI Global comprises a worldwide network of grassroots organizations, service providers, researchers, academics, professionals, and government agencies with members in more than 100 countries.

A democratic non-governmental organization (NGO) governed by an Executive Committee, RI Global provides both an open forum for the exchange of experience, information, and research, as well as a platform from which people advocate for policies and enact programs that protect the human rights of people with disabilities.

RI Global is the only international disability NGO that is both cross-disability and cross-disciplinary. This approach allows RI Global to address disability, considering the range of disabilities, from physical to mental to psychosocial. Headquartered in New York City, RI Global holds consultative status with the United Nations and its agencies. Because success depends on the unity and strength of the disability community as a whole, RI Global seeks to work collaboratively in all of its activities, with a small staff based in New York that coordinates members and partners in the execution of RI Global's programs.

## **RI GLOBAL ORGANIZATION**

The RI Global Secretariat is led in New York by Secretary-General Teuta Rexhepi, who has spent more than 15 year in the nonprofit sector at national and international level, she specializes in nonprofit management and capacity building, development of membership programs, nonprofit marketing and public relations initiatives and advising on communications strategy and advocacy on rights and inclusions of people with disabilities.

The Secretariat is guided by a 26-member Executive Committee that includes disability leaders from 17 countries, chaired by RI Global President, Madame. Zhang Haidi, who is the Chairperson of China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) and Executive President of Beijing Organizing Committee of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.



## RI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (as of December 2022)

Zhang Haidi - RI President

Christoph Gutenbrunner – President Elect

Susan Parker - Treasurer

### Regional Vice Presidents

Mark Webber - Vice President for Africa Region

Demelash Bekele - Deputy Vice President for Africa Region

Hashem Taqi - Vice President for Arab Region

Abdulla AlHumaidan - Deputy Vice President for Arab Region

Joseph Kwan - Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region

Maria de Fátima Salvador dos Santos Ferreira -Deputy Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region

Chul Jae Lee - Deputy Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region

Francois Perl - Vice President for Europe Region

Krzysztof Michałkiewicz - Deputy Vice President for Europe

Michael Brogioli - Vice President for North America

Mathieu Simard - Deputy Vice President for North America

### Commission Chairs & Vice Chairs

Tone Mork - Education Commission (Chair)

Asha Hans - Education Commission (Vice Chair)

Yueqin Huang - Health & Function Commission (Chair)

Silke Bruggemann - Health & Function Commission (Vice Chair)

Hiroshi Kawamura - Technology & Accessibility Commission (Chair)

Lei Shao - Technology & Accessibility (Vice Chair)

Pauliina Lampinen - Policy & Services (Chair)

Eman Al Tamimi - Policy & Services (Vice Chair)

Zhanxin Tang - Leisure, Recreation and Physical Activities (Chair)

Kimmo Kuulander - Leisure, Recreation and Physical Activities Commission (Vice Chair)

Khaled El-Mohtar- Social Commission (Chair)

Joseph Kwok- Social Commission (Vice Chair)

Gregor Kemper - Work & Employment Commission (Chair)

Madan Kundu - Work & Employment Commission (Vice Chair)



# RI GLOBAL COMMISSIONS



Within the structure of RI Global there exist seven Commissions of specialists and experts on issues in disability, which assist in developing and expanding programming and activities in accordance with RI Global's strategic goals. These Commissions meet throughout the year to examine the most pressing topics for people with disabilities around the world and devise an agenda of action.

RI Global's **Commission on Work and Employment** promotes the rights of people with disabilities to participate in labor, trade unions and other integrated settings, thereby empowering them to be productive members of society. The Commission carries out its mission by, among other objectives, actively:

- Implementing Article 27 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with public and private entities, NGOs and trade unions.
- Developing an online Resource Network of Experts to advise on issues of disability employment.
- Conducting scientific meetings in collaboration with Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network (GLADNET), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations.
- Removing all employment barriers by providing education and training, as well as fostering employment for PwDs in developing countries.
- Providing technical assistance in developing academic and professional opportunities for rehabilitation and placement personnel in local colleges and universities.
- Offering technical assistance to member nations in collaborative research projects designed to identify evidence-based practices capable of enhancing employment outcomes and quality of life for PwDs.
- Sponsoring the International Abilympics, a competition in which disabled people compete in a wide spectrum of work skill activities, which lend support to policies advocating for employment.



RI Global's **Commission on Education** advises on the creation and promotion of educational opportunities for children and youth with disabilities. The Commission also facilitates the provision of integrated services and inclusive quality education for the participation of disabled people. The work broadly comprises:

- Fostering the implementation of the UN CRPD with a with special focus on Article 24: Education.
- Advocating the provision of facilities and services for inclusive education in different regions by Regional Chairpersons of Education Commission.
- Sharing the successful experiences of other countries in inclusive education with a view to replicate the same in respective countries/regions with appropriate modifications.
- Conducting scientific meetings on education related issues at Regional RI Global Assemblies.
- Initiating and following up on distance and e-learning facilities for youth with disabilities.

RI Global' s Commission on **Health and Function** promotes the well-being of persons with disabilities, supports the prevention of disability and strengthens gender sensitive rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. The Commission, through its regular work and meetings around the world, has a mission to:

- Work closely on health issues with the WHO/UNICEF/UN agencies and international or national organizations.
- Provide technical support in health/rehab/assistive technology programmes for persons with disabilities.
- Enable training programmes for medical and paramedical professionals for the welfare of persons with disabilities.
- Encourage Community-based Rehabilitation principles through a primary health care approach.
- Hold technical meetings and general conferences on health-related issues in disability.
- Advocate principles of barrier free/right-based inclusive societies for persons with disabilities.
- Promote global disability leadership.





RI Global' s International **Commission on Technology and Accessibility (ICTA)** broadly focuses on the promotion of accessibly built and virtual environments, including assistive technology, as well as maintains a forum facilitating 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. 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.

**RI Global' s Commission on Leisure, Recreation & Physical Activities (LRPA)** promotes the right for an interactive lifestyle for people with disabilities in educational, physical, social and cultural activities. The primary aim of the commission is to develop and promote best rehabilitation practice and knowledge for all stakeholders to achieve accessibility for all people in the field of physical, social and cultural activities. Generally, the Commission promotes the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities with a special emphasis on Article 30 by:

- Developing and disseminating best practice in the LRPA for persons living with disabilities and elderly people.
- Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues.
- Encouraging the participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels.
- Promoting an active lifestyle. The field of LRPA can provide an important contribution to health, participation, and rehabilitation of people with disabilities.
- Developing cooperative relationships with international organizations.



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RI Global's **Commission on Policy and Service** identifies new policies and programs in each of the world's geographic regions and analyses the ways in which these developments align with the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).

The mission of the Policy and Service Commission is to identify and describe emerging development of new policies and programs in each of the world's geographic regions, including but not limited to those that indicate best practices in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Policy and Service compares rehabilitation program development between different countries and closely follows that development at the UN level.

RI Global's **Social Commission** advances knowledge- and evidence-based practice to support the psychosocial functioning of people with disabilities in order to achieve maximum richness in their participation in society as citizens. It also engages in the capacity building of groups and communities in various situations to promote and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities (CRPD), as well as disability inclusiveness throughout all sectors of society. The Social Commission upholds the principles set forth by CRPD, and emphasizes that:

- Society should be designed to enable full participation by all citizens, if not it is the failure of society not people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities should be enabled to determine the goals of their rehabilitation and to exercise the same choice as others about their human relationships, the community and the environment in which they wish to live.



# RI GLOBAL REGIONS



## RI MENA 2022 Highlights

Most Arab region organizations closed their doors after and during the epidemic. Still, they kept the connection with their staff and families of persons with disabilities served in their facilities. Many resumed their routine work with limited capacity due to the financial and social-economic crisis and severe living challenges.

Some countries had governmental funding, but not all. Some of these organizations created special programs to fit the continuity of maximum benefit for served persons with service provided in their organization.

**National Rehabilitation and Development Center (NRDC)**, RI-member, was very active during the COVID-19 peak spread in Lebanon; they created different initiatives and programs to face the challenges of COVID-19 and the current critical situation in Lebanon, especially on persons with Disabilities and their families

**Al-Amal Association for Development and Social Care**, RI-Member, held some activities on the country level:

- Providing Hearing Aids, heating supplies, and clothes for persons with disabilities and their families.
- Continued their yearly food basket distribution during 'Eid Ramadan and Al-Adha.
- Organized a workshop to raise awareness about diversity and accept others, irrespective of race, color, or persons with disability.

**Dr. Mohammad Khaled Social Foundation (MKSF)** - RI- Member- After two years of temporary work due to the pandemic, MKSF resumed its regular activities. They modified their programs, considering the situation of their staff and impatient persons with disabilities.

Most organizations and Centers in the Arab region maintained good communication with local, regional, and international organizations using applications such as Zoom and Microsoft teams to continue the necessary work.

**Zayed Higher Organization** (from the United Arab Emirates) joined RI.

**The Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities** has been shortlisted for the best inclusive practices among 156 innovative solutions from 63 countries.

**Kuwait** has renewed its commitment to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their complete and comprehensive integration into societies following the 2030 UN sustainable development goals.

Other Arab countries are making progress, too. A new public beach in Alexandria -Egypt, accommodates visually impaired and blind people. Free of charge, Al Mandara has a wheelchair-accessible path to the water, floating ropes for swimmers to hold on to, intensified lifeguard supervision, and free whistles to attract attention.



## RI Asia & Pacific 2022 Highlights

RI Asia Pacific members held several meetings during the 2022 to discuss and to explore activities proposed for RI Celebration. Activities that were proposed/discussed include: Celebratory Video, Anniversary Birthday Greeting Card/Poster Design Contest with all entries included in an e-booklet, a visual animation message of RI 100th Birthday displayed at the city's prominent landmark such as Lotte Tower in Seoul, Taipei 101, Tokyo Tree, KL Tower, Macau Tower, Hong Kong M+ Museum video wall. Macau Fu Hong is currently discussing with Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Center on the use of their Tower or building façade. Joint Council (RI Hong Kong) will similarly explore with the M+ Museum.

In conjunction with the RI Centennial Celebrations, RI A&P Region also hosted a Side-Event during the period of the UN-ESCAP High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting (HLIGM) in Indonesia in October 2022.

### **Global IT Challenge 2022**

- National league: ~July 2022;
- Preliminary Round: Aug. 10~11, 403 youths with disabilities from 16 countries / online;

400 youths from 16 countries, with visual, hearing, physical, and developmental disabilities participated in the Online Preliminary Round of the Global IT Challenge 2022. Youth demonstrated their IT abilities for the first time in the Preliminary Round, which held online and broadcasted at the Eroom Center in Yeouido for two days on Aug 10-11. About 350 youths who passed through the Preliminary Round will undergo additional training for three months and then compete in the Final Round which also will be online on November 15-16, 2022.

### **CSO Capacity Building Project**

- Theme: Pick one of the 26 tasks from the Paradigm Shift COVID-19 and Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 4 CSOs from Nepal, Mongolia, and Pakistan (2) are participating in this project to ensure the rights of the Persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region and to fully participate in society.



## RI Europe 2022 Highlights

RI Europe members held several meetings during the 2022 to coordinate the activities taking place in their region as well as to discuss and to explore activities proposed for RI Celebration. 2022 also marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of RI Norway. The organization has been actively participating in and contributing significantly to the work of RI, decision was made that the RI Europe centennial anniversary to take place in Oslo, Norway.

A high-level 2 -day International Conference took place in Oslo, Norway on October 13 and 14, to celebrate RI Centennial Anniversary, review the past century and witness the opening of a new era of RI. The Conference was attended by all RI members in Europe, as well as representative from the international organizations, such as WHO, UN, etc. as well high-level officials of the Norway governments and other guests and speakers in the field of rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation International President, Mme. Zhang Haidi warmly greeted the guests during the opening ceremony.

Among the many events that took place, invited guests were able to see the unveiling of RI history and its work as an important force in advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities globally.

On October 13, the Deputy Mayor of the Oslo City Hall hosted a special reception for the guests attending the event.



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## **RI Global Projects 2022**

**“Public private partnership on vocational training and education for youth with disabilities in Hanoi, Vietnam” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

In Vietnam, services transitioning from VET to work for (People with disabilities) PWD are limited due to a lack of collaboration between VET providers and employers. Currently, PWD is mainly managed by them or get support from their relationships and DPOs to find suitable jobs after training.

This project aims at piloting an initiative of public-private partnership (PPP) in providing vocational and education training (VET) and employment to youth with disabilities (YWD) in Hanoi to contribute to increasing employment outcomes for youth with disabilities in districts in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The project's main objective is to pilot a model of improving access to formal VET and the labour market for YWD through a public-private partnership between the government, vocational centres, disability employment services (DES), enterprises, and DPOs.







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### Project Results:

- Developed 01 joint action on VET and employment for YWD, signed and implemented by all parties (DP Hanoi, 01 government agency - DOLISA, and 11 public-private partnerships on vocational training and job creation);
- 10 cooperation agreements on vocational training and job counselling have been signed, including 03 public centres for vocational training; 01 private centres for vocational training for PWDs, 03 private enterprises; 01 Employment Service Centre, and 02 Disabilities People Organizations (DPOs)
- 07 agreements on VET programs has signed and implemented between Vocational training centres, enterprises, and DPOs.
- 189 PWDs are able to provide vocational counselling services.
- 189 PWDs (94 males, 95 females) in the project area receive suitable vocational counselling services. Among them, 27/189 YWD in the project area in Hanoi (7%) have demands for VET.
- Develop an action plan on VET for 162 YWD (80 men, 82 women) with the participation of YWD, their parents, DPOs, social workers, and 96.2% of participants (76 YWDs) used plans for their job search
- 196 trainees (92 men + 104 women) received vocational training.
- A YouTube channel about employment services for PWDs has been launched with 06 video clips of the project produced. The number of views and interactions on the YouTube channel for the project's videos is 1,234 reach and 303 views as of March 29, 2022. Videos of the interactive project received 159 interactions as of March 29, 2022.
- 463 YWDs participated in 04 topics to improve the soft skills of the project. 99.78% of participants were satisfied with the activity, 9.78% higher than the required index of the project; 100% of participants said they would use new skills for their job search, recruitment, and job maintenance.
- 500 Handbooks on job orientation and job search for young people with disabilities have been printed. The product has input from experts in related fields. The handbook is also briefly translated into English for posting on the website and fan page of DP Hanoi.



The project has completed 2 main objectives:

Developed and implemented a joint action plan on VET and employment for PWDs through PPP between public and private partners: 01 memoranda of understanding, 10 training cooperation agreements about vocational training, and creating jobs for PWDs with public and private partners and signed businesses. 01 policy dialogue and 01 policy negotiation on television with guests of government agencies and public and private partners. A core team of consultants is trained in career counselling and job counselling for PWDs. Formed A network of enterprises recruiting PWDs and developed to create jobs for PWDs. DP Hanoi's member organizations are enhanced in networking and community mobilization skills.

PWDs have reasonable access to and receive practical orientation and skills according to their abilities. PWDs receive job orientation counselling, vocational education, and training and improve their capacity in soft skills before looking for a job. One handbook on the job orientation and job search for PWDs and an online copy of the manual in Vietnamese and English is distributed and posted on DP Hanoi's website for many interested individuals and organizations to learn. The project's media videos have contributed to raising awareness for the community, businesses, and PWDs themselves about the working ability of PWDs.



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**“Nothing About Us Without Us: Empowering People with Intellectual Disabilities through Self-Advocacy and Leadership in Israel” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**



This year, Beit Issie Shapiro’s National Self-Advocacy Group focused on influencing Israel’s new \$630 million Welfare Law for People with Disabilities. The aim of the reform was to legislate the services to which people with disabilities, including those with IDD, are entitled according to the CRPD. The National Self-Advocacy Group identified serious problems with the new law when it was at the bill stage. They made sure their voice was heard by advising a large forum of disability organizations active in the legislative process, and they sent position papers on key issues of Employment and Housing to the Minister of Welfare which resulted in an in-person meeting. The new Welfare Law will remain the focus of the National Self-Advocacy Group as it will have an enormous impact on the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities for years to come.



### **Meeting to Improve Community-Based Housing with Israel’s Minister of Welfare**

“We were very impressed by the way you develop leadership of people with disabilities.” – Meir Cohen, Israel’s Minister of Welfare. In September, the National Self-Advocacy Group met with the Minister of Welfare and senior Welfare Ministry officials including the Head of the Disability Department, to explain their need for improved community-based housing and more autonomy. The self-advocates described their experiences and their difficulties which include run-down apartments, discrimination by counselors and being excluded from decisions about their daily lives. The officials promised to study the issue further and asked to continue the dialogue with the self-advocates and meet every quarter. Group members told the Minister and officials: “We, people with disabilities from all over Israel, meet once a fortnight to discuss the issues that are most important to us. This is how we had an impact on changing Israel’s Guardianship Law. We deal with issues of housing, employment, relationships, and leisure activities. Issues that are important to everyone, whoever they are



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**“Improving DPO Stakeholders’ Understanding and Monitoring of Disability Inclusive Development and Advancing the Implementation of CRPD Article 32” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

The United States International Council on Disabilities’ (USICD) *Improving DPO Stakeholder’s Understanding and Monitoring of Disability Inclusive Development and Advancing the Implementation of CRPD Article 32* project provides accessible, high quality online training to advance implementation of Article 32 of the CRPD and covers specific models of disability inclusive development in multiple sectors. The overall goal of the project was to ensure that all individuals, including those with disabilities, can actively participate and benefit from donor supported international development and humanitarian aid projects.

The targeted audience for the training is government personnel, disabled peoples’ organizations, civil society organizations and CRPD reporting or shadow report training personnel. With the COVID-19 pandemic and global travel restrictions being implemented, the decision was made that the intended project pilot would shift from a face-to-face pilot to an online pilot.

USICD produced 16 training lessons on Article 32 (<https://usidc.org/education-training/>) The topics covered in the course are:

- Article 32 and its Obligation to Advance Disability Inclusive Development Through the CRPD
- Monitoring Disability Development and Other CRPD Obligations
- Identification for Development and Persons with Disabilities
- Article 32 and the Right to an Education (Article 24)
- Inclusive Vocational Education and Training (VET) Practices
- Greater Disability Inclusion in ICT: Assessing Article 32 Implementation
- Article 32 & Article 27 Work & Employment
- Right to Health for Persons with Disabilities
- HIV and AIDS in Disability Inclusive Development
- Inclusive Health: Disability Inclusion in COVID19 Response in the Dimension of International Development
- Disability Inclusive WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as an Element of Article 32 Implementation
- CRPD Article 11 & Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action
- CRPD & Climate Change Impact on People with Disabilities
- Election Access and International Cooperation Programs
- Access to Justice & the CRPD
- Women and Girls with Disabilities
- CRPD Article 30 Participation in Sport & Recreation & Article 32

# Disability Inclusive Development

Monitoring Disability Inclusive Development and other CRPD Obligations



Each lesson in the course includes closed captions and audio. Additional materials are included in the materials section in each lesson. The PowerPoint version of each lesson is available for downloading so that they can be customized for participant’s training purposes. There are plans to translate the first three lessons of the course into 3-4 languages.

At the course level, participants can download a Facilitator’s Guide, Reporting Guidance for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs): Tips for Reporting on Disability Inclusive Development and Implementation of Article 32 of the CRPD, and Reporting Guidance for States Parties: Tips for Reporting on Disability Inclusive Development and Implementation of Article 32 of the CRPD.

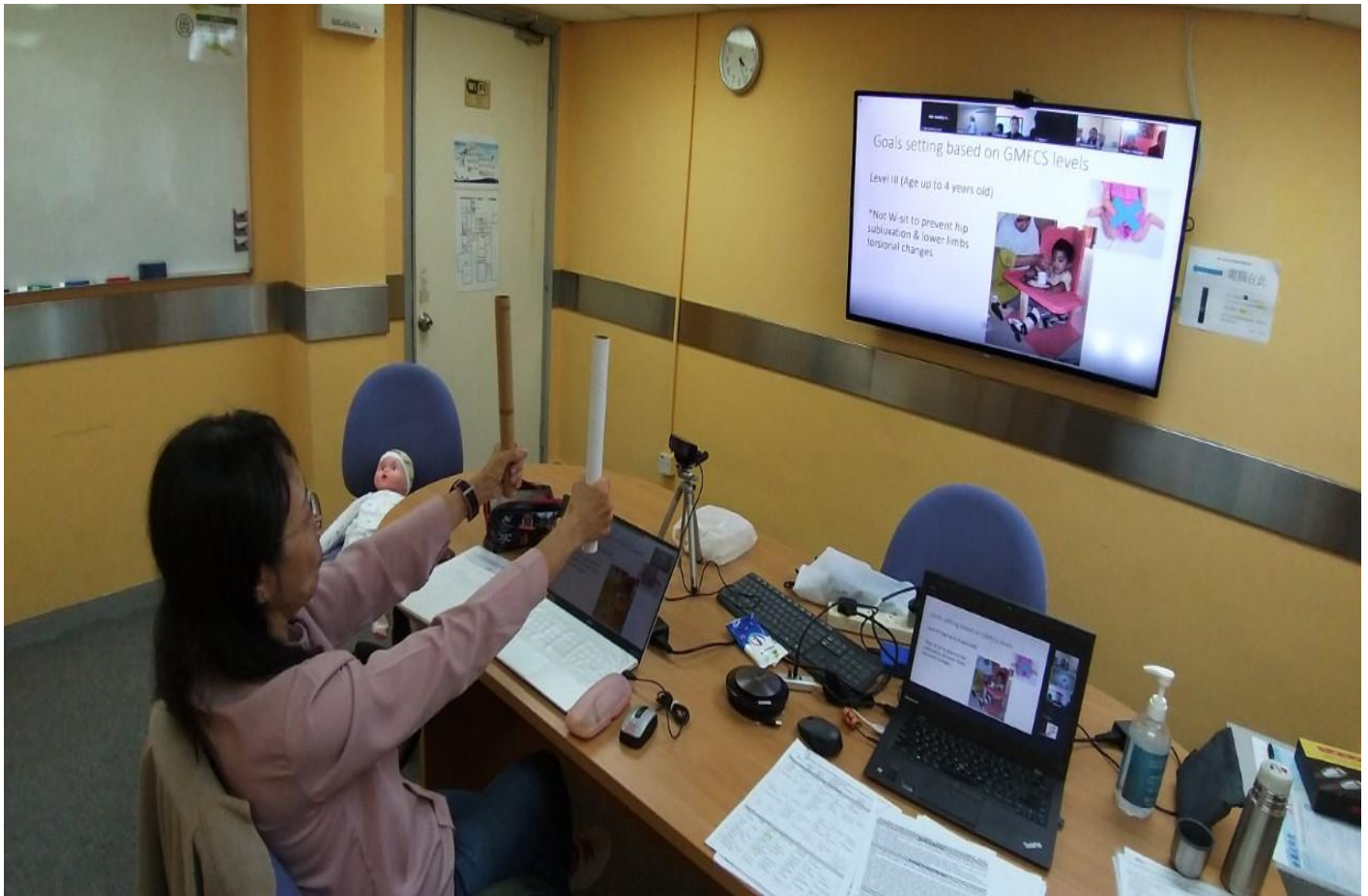
**Quote:** “For someone who is not well versed in the CRPD, the modules offered an interactive way to quickly learn about how the CRPD protects a person with disabilities in a variety of aspects, and the way in which the modules were categorized was great!”



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## “Capacity building on rehabilitation practice with children with disabilities for members of Rehabilitation International in Asia”- funded by the 16th RI World Congress Fund

The project is developed and operated by The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) with support from Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSPRD) and sponsored by RI Social Commission. The local partner in the first stage of this project is Child Welfare Scheme Nepal (CWSN), and in the second stage other RI members from Asia will be invited to join.

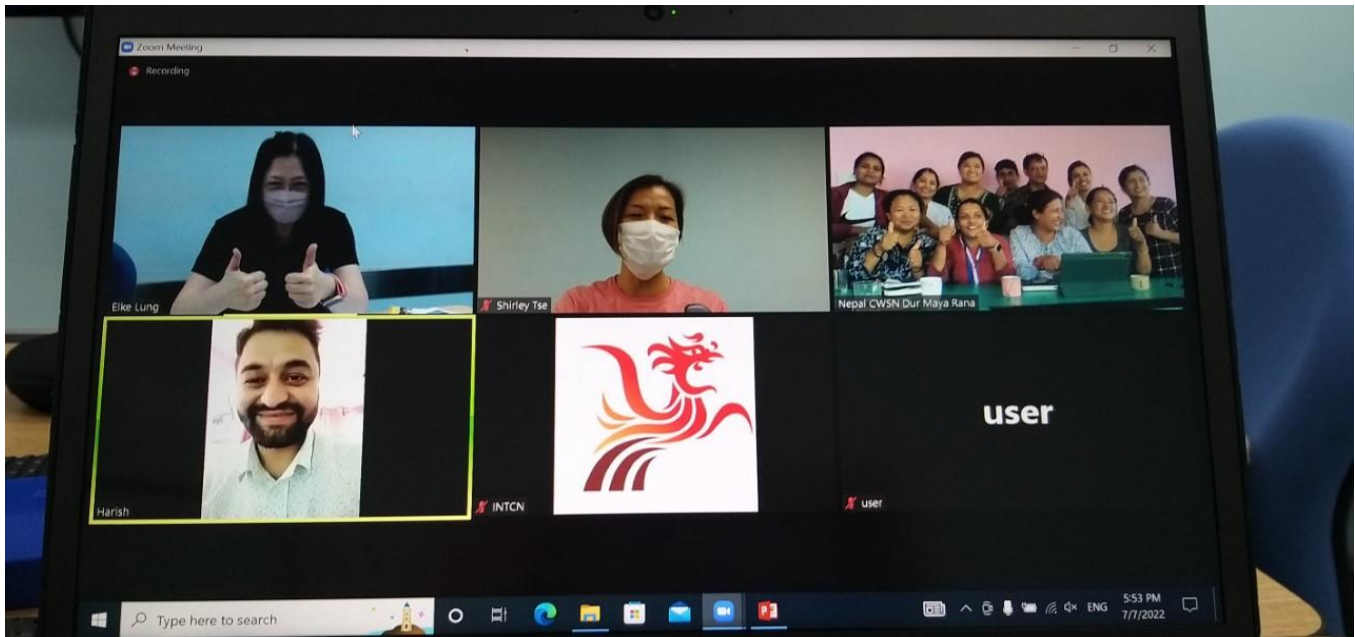


The first stage of this project will last for 24 months starting from November 2020. The budget for the first stage is USD97,700. The 16th RI World Congress Fund provides a grant of USD40,000, and the rest of the budget is supported by Asia Trust whose trustees are Mr. Benny Cheung and Mr. Joseph Kwok.

As a WHO Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation, The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) has been involved in rehabilitation training in Mainland China for more than 30 years. We also have experience co-working with other regional countries providing training, consulting, and development assistance, including India, Indonesia, Laos, Macau, Mongolia, Philippines, Timor Leste and Vietnam.



The objectives for this project are to improve the activity and participation levels of children with disabilities through expanding the rehabilitation knowledge and skills and sharing experience with the local partner's staff teams in Pokhara, Nepal, and to develop and pilot the training modules, consolidate experience with case examples from other cultures, and refine them with the support of International and local experts. The training modules would be a good reference to replicate and conduct similar training in those countries with less resources in rehabilitation training.



The project aims to train 50 trainees, include 10 community health and rehabilitation workers, 10 local teachers and 20 parents. The training outcome is expected to have positive impacts on 500 children with disabilities and their caregivers. The training will be conducted onsite as well as online. The training content focuses on key issues facing children with disabilities such as feeding and swallowing, positioning and mobility management, and significance of play and practical approaches for

children to enjoy and learn from play.



**“Contribute to the protection of students with disabilities in Lebanon from COVID-19 through Mask provision – Phase 2” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

Lebanon like any other country around the world was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that started its rapid spread in 2020 and became top challenging for the government to control and relieve the increasing stress on the health system. Several lockdowns were announced trying to stop it or slow down its spreading which added another burden to the economic, social, and political issues that Lebanon is already passing through and were already stressing the citizens.



Vulnerable people were clearly affected by the pandemic as they couldn't afford to pay for the hygiene products needed (face masks, soaps, bleach...etc.) for all the family members, which unfortunately obliged the families to prioritize their children and leave behind the People with disabilities (PWD) as the most vulnerable part of the community.

Education is one of the fields that was directly impacted by the pandemic where all the students couldn't attend schools or rehabilitation centers and all the learning was done remotely. Once the government decided to start hybrid learning or a full week learning the PWD started going back to the schools, centers, or NGOs to resume their education and rehabilitation process.



Here comes the importance of providing masks to the beneficiaries in order to protect them from the virus. As the government has limited resources to distribute masks to all students and the discriminatory practice, students with disabilities will potentially be left behind in accessing the masks. This project is designed to ensure students with disabilities in the country get the facemasks to protect themselves from COVID-19 as they return to the centers that look after them.



The National Rehabilitation and Development Center (NRDC) started phase 1 of the project by contracting an expert local supplier to purchase 24,000 facemasks and distribute them to 12,000 students with disabilities all over the country. The masks are washable and reusable, FDA approved (three-layer, first layer polyester, second layer polypropylene, inner layer 100% pure cotton breathable, comfortable, premium protective mask with RI logo printed on).

This supplier is already our partner in vocational training where the beneficiaries are integrated at its workshop to produce medical face masks and customized PPEs for local healthcare units. All the workers had already attended a capacity-building session to know how to cooperate and work together with PWD.



By the end of the phase 1, we noticed that the number of PWD was more than 12,000 since not all the PWD were registered on the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) lists to hold the PWD card, so the 24,000 masks were not enough. We requested from RI to expand the project and start phase 2, where we produced another 12,000 masks and were able to reach all the PWD at the NGOs and the Centers.

Throughout the production process, the Social Worker was contacting the NGOs and the centers to get the exact location, assigned the day and time to deliver the masks, arranged transportation, and staff available to raise awareness and disseminate the message to all the staff. When visiting each NGO, we made sure to get a signed delivery note with the number of masks delivered.



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## “Masks for persons with disabilities in South Africa”- funded by the Rehabilitation International Africa Fund

The project aim was to provide cloth facemasks for persons with disabilities and the staff of the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD). This project addressed the direct impact that Covid -19 have on specifically persons with disabilities in South Africa, and their families and staff from the deadly Corona Virus. Most people cannot afford disposable masks and relies on cloth masks that are washable, with the result that some people wear the same cloth mask for months. The average cloth mask has a lifespan of not more than 2 months.



Although the Covid numbers have been going down during March 2022, it is now yet again climbing alarmingly, with the fifth wave making its way. Our government is again preparing to address this. As a result of the devastating results of Covid – 19 as well as the political and economic looting that happened last year, and the astronomical loss of lives of very recent floods in KZN and Eastern Cape, the economy of our country is not strong at all and as usual the most vulnerable group of society is affected the most.

Through RI Africa’s generous donation for cloth Masks, we have been able to contract a number of women with disabilities whom we are paying for the manufacturing of the masks.



Most of the women have lost their previous contracts because of the devastation in our country and this project provides them the income as well as the dignity to manufacture cloth masks which benefit the recipients of this project, and they are very proud to be part of this esteemed project. This brings the women back into the economic market to highlight their workmanship and talent.

It was decided to have the masks in all the languages of our country as well as the colors of our National Flag. This is part of our year - long theme for 2022: # I celebrate South Africa.

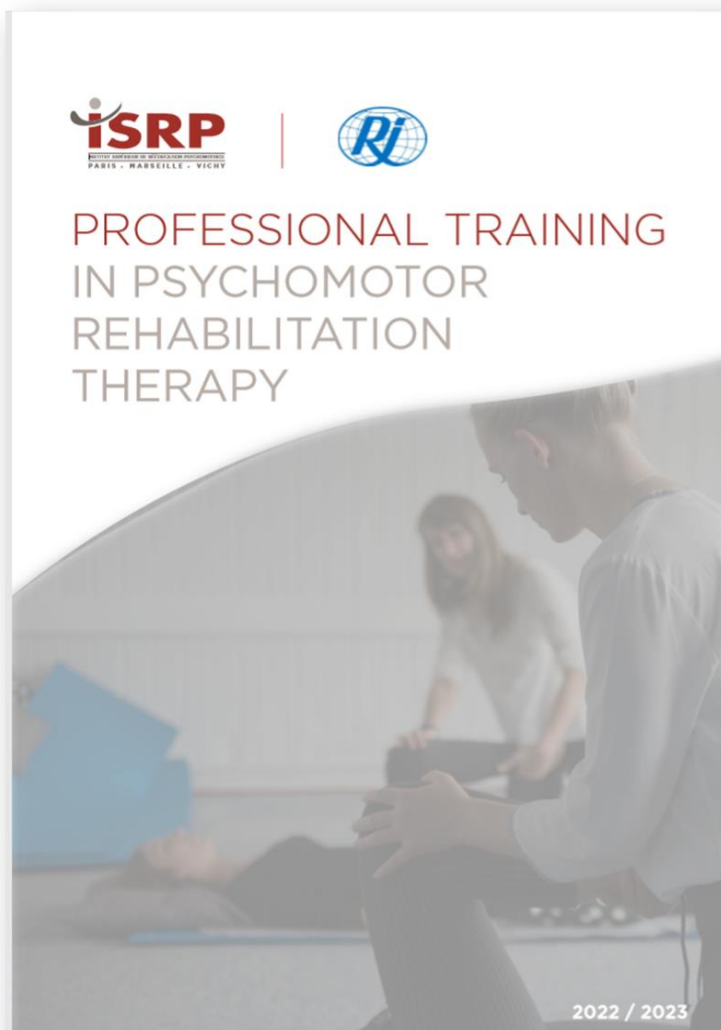
22 000 Cloth facemasks were manufactured and distributed to persons with disabilities and the staff of the NCPD across rural South Africa in all the provinces of South Africa. Each beneficiary received two cloth facemasks.



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## “Professional Training in Psychomotor Rehabilitation Therapy” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund

Based on the data of WHO, there are about 350 million people in the world are suffering the depression and/or anxiety. And there are about 70 million autists and 60 million Alzheimer’s diseases elderly people in the world. Psychomotor rehabilitation is a non-drugs rehabilitation system, and it has been approved be efficiently to neurotic disorders (phobic disorders, other anxiety disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, reactions to severe stress and adjustment disorders, dissociative disorder, somatoform disorder etc.), and cognitive disorder (including but not limited to persons with autism, and a variety of mental disorders).



The RI Social Commission in collaboration with ISRP proposed a training program for psychomotor rehabilitation therapy. The main project objective was to provide psychomotor therapy (PMT) training to rehabilitation practitioners in assessment, therapy and health management, and clinical skills in dealing with neurotic disorder, social and communication dysfunction, and cognitive disorder (including but not limited to persons with autism, and a variety of mental disorders).

Potential trainees include care workers and managers in institutions and community rehabilitation settings, such as front-line rehabilitation workers, doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, special education teachers.

144 participants registered for the training organized from June to November 2022. After each session, the participants needed to take an online exam to obtain the Certificate of Achievement at the end of the training.



**“Improve the economic condition of people with disabilities through capacity building training on the use of Bamboo in Ethiopia” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**



This project is planned to be implemented in two regions of Ethiopia, in Oromia and Sidama Regions. A total of 60 people with disabilities are enrolled in this project. The 60 project participants were identified from the two regions mainly from Hwassa and Ambo towns. Project partners like Vision Community Based Rehabilitation Association (VCBRA), International Network for Bamboo and Rattan East Africa Office (INBAR), Cheshire Services Ethiopia, Disabled People Organization in Ambo and Hwassa towns and Social Affairs office have actively participated in the recruitment of training participants and implementation of the project.

VCBRA and INBAR coordinated resources and managed to set up two training sites in Hawas and Ambo towns. DPOs, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations like Cheshire Services Ethiopia have played a key role in setting up convenient and accessible training sites. The training sites will serve as a permanent training place for future training on Bamboo.

All equipment, tools, and raw materials needed for the training were purchased and delivered to the training sites. The training sites are now well equipped and have become excellent training sites for bamboo training. All required materials and tools were identified and purchased in active collaboration with VCBRA and INBAR. Since all the tools are not available on the market, we engaged local producers to develop the tools, which in fact contributed to the delaying in the training time. The political unrest in the Oromia Regional State has adversely affected the implementation of the training





in Ambo town. Since most areas (Western Oromia) where Bamboo is found were where the rebel group militants were found, we had some challenges to get the material on time. But now, the situation has improved, and we have got everything we need for the training.

The project contracted an expert who has all the required skills and knowledge on bamboo and has been providing training and consultation for people with disabilities who enrolled in this project. A continuous 15 days of hands-on bamboo skill training were provided for 30 training participants in Hawasa town. The first seven training days were focused on teaching participants basic bamboo node removal, bamboo waving, bamboo splitting, and how to make bamboo crafts and furniture. For the remaining eight days, trainees spent their time practicing and producing sample bamboo products. Trainees received a certificate of recognition upon completion of the course and all trainees proved how much they benefited from the training by showing their skill and readiness to start a bamboo business by displaying a wide range of bamboo products at their graduation session. The training session to be conducted in Ambo town, which was delayed due to the unrest situation in the region will resume shortly in the first week of the new year.

The 30 participants who completed the training in Hawasa town formed an association and legally registered to operate as a business entity. To produce and sell bamboo products, members of the association needed to have a workplace from the government. Though getting a working place from the government office took quite a long time, finally were able to secure a workplace. Now all 30 participants have received the equipment and the tools needed to produce bamboo products and finalized all the prerequisites to get the startup capital.

To raise community awareness about the employability of people with disabilities, promote the use of bamboo products, and secure stakeholder participation, we have organized an awareness-raising training session. In this training, 100 stakeholders invited from various offices and organizations participated. Workshop participants pledged to provide a wide range of support to make people with disabilities to be successful in the bamboo business.





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**“Universal Design in Kindergarten and School” - funded by the Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund**

This project is a following up project of the previous project on Inclusive Education where the main aim was to focus on “Vision zero barriers to education”. As a part of the first project, we produced the report named “Challenges to achieving equality between disabled persons and persons without disability”. In the project report we gave four recommendation/question for further discussion and work in RI International. One of the recommendations was focused on Universal design in Kindergarten and Schools.

The project Universal design in kindergarten and school started in autumn of 2022. The project is a cooperation between RI Norway and Education Commission. Representatives in RI Education Commission from India, Finland and Deutschland gives input to the project. Education Commission is the project leader and coordinate the work and the input from the other countries.

The first part of the project is focused on producing guidelines for use in kindergarten and schools to be used all over the world, both developing and developed countries. According to the project work plan these activities should be done during the last part of 2022. The project has finished this work and in the beginning of next year we will print the guidelines and distribute them to the RI Global members. Kindergarten and schools as well as other institutions working with Inclusive Education, need tools for making their institutions accessible for all children, also children with disability. The project wants to make a set of universal tools for use in all countries. For this purpose, there will be produced poster/charts/postcards and check list for use in kindergarten and schools. This part of the project will go on in the first months in 2023.

RI has designed an international symbol for Accessibility. The project wants to inspire the RI members to design a symbol for Inclusive Kindergarten and Schools. A symbol that tells the society that they work in accordance with the principle for Inclusive Education and International conventions. The project is planned to complete in June 2023 and presented at the UN HQ during the side event will take place in conjunction with the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

