Contact:

Rehabilitation International
25 East 21st Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10010, USA
Tel.: +1-212-420-1500
Fax: +1-212-505-0871
E-Mail: newsletter@riglobal.org
For RI EC, RIF AND RI Members

Topics

Dates & venues for the upcoming RI meetings ........................................... 3
RI News ........................................................................................................... 3
Upcoming Meetings and Events ................................................................. 11
CRPD Ratification Update ........................................................................... 12
Resource Update ......................................................................................... 13
Resource Material ....................................................................................... 13
Other News ................................................................................................. 13
Inspiration .................................................................................................... 14
### Dates & venues for the upcoming RI meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 13-15, 2014</td>
<td>EC Meeting</td>
<td>Auckland, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7-9, 2014</td>
<td>RI European Conference on Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information please see our website [www.riglobal.org](http://www.riglobal.org)

### RI News

![RI EC/Commission Meetings, General Assembly and HLMDD at the UN in New York City on September 20-23, 2013](image)

Members of Rehabilitation International with Ambassador Luis Gallegos of Ecuador (3rd from right, seated) after the Ambassador addressed the RI General Assembly held in New York on 22 September 2013.

(More pictures from the above events can be found in the last page of this issue).
Huge success for RI meetings in New York

The Executive Committee/Commission meetings/RIF Board and RI’s General Assembly – all held at the UN Church Center in New York from 20-22 September 2013 were a huge success with important decisions having been made that are critical to the future of the organization and a long-list of follow-up work to ensure Rehabilitation International’s continuing role and involvement in various initiatives for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities through the effective and meaningful implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The EC also adopted the provisions for the MoU with the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) during their meeting. The RI President similarly signed an MoU with the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) in Beijing in June this year.

The GA has noted the improvements in the way RI operates, especially in terms of fiscal management and urged both the EC and the Secretariat to continue taking steps to realize RI’s goals through a revitalization plan presented by the RI President and accepted by the GA. A two-year Action Plan will guide RI’s global work from 2013-2014. Progress in the implementation of the plan will be reviewed regularly by the EC and will be reported at the next GA which will be held in Warsaw, Poland in October 2014.

The GA also received with satisfaction, information provided through a power point presentation by the RI President, of a consolidated Executive report which showed the GA work undertaken by the EC from November 2012 to September 2013. The RI members were very impressed with all the activities undertaken by RI Global during this period.

The GA has also adopted a Resolution on Women with Disabilities to jumpstart RI’s commitment of continuing to pursue its work for WWD started at the 21st World Congress of RI in Quebec, Canada where the now independent and strong Global Network of Women with Disabilities, was launched in August 2008.
UN USG notes RI’s work with appreciation

“I note with appreciation RI’s global leadership and tireless efforts to empower persons with disabilities and their inclusion in society and development around the world. The close collaboration between DESA and RI, most recently with your contributions at this year’s sixth session of the Conference of States Parties, is important to achieving our goals. RI’s prominent role as a co-sponsor of the inaugural DESA Forum held immediately after the Conference, is also duly noted and appreciated.”

These were the words of Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations in a recent meeting with RI President Jan Monsbakken held at his office in New York. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Daniela Bas and Ms. Akiko Ito of UN-DESA and RI Secretary General Venus Ilagan.

At the start of the meeting, the RI President provided Mr. Wu with a comprehensive background on the global work of RI, including the organization’s having created the International Symbol of Access, its role in the establishment of the Paralympics, the Abilympics and the development of Community Based Rehabilitation as a way of providing services to persons with disabilities. Mr. Monsbakken said these are among the many accomplishments and contributions of RI in the nine decades of working for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of their communities. The RI President has also informed Mr. Wu of the three important projects RI is planning to undertake for Women and Girls with Disabilities, Disaster Management and Armed Conflict and Assistive Technology.

Mr. Wu said all these are important initiatives that can benefit a significant number of persons with disabilities. He said ensuring the inclusion of disability in the post-2015 development framework is very important to the success of the new development agenda aimed towards poverty reduction.
and sustainable development. “Including the voices and perspectives of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 framework is critical to the success of this new development agenda,” Mr. Wu said in closing.

High Level Meeting in Disability and Development held 23 September

A High Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) was held at the UN in New York on 23 September 2013 to spur international action to ensure that persons with disabilities can contribute to global economy. In his opening statement, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said a significant number of persons with disabilities live in poverty, suffer from social exclusion, and are denied access to education, health care and social and legal support. He stated that an increase in the availability of assistive devices could help improve the lives of hundreds of millions of people, however, persons with disabilities have other hurdles to overcome including discrimination and stigma.

Singer-songwriter Stevie Wonder, a UN Ambassador for Peace, echoed the UN Secretary General’s views, as he urged heads of states and the international community “to make it possible for every person with disabilities to freely pursue their lives and dreams”.

Meanwhile, UN General Assembly President John Ashe, stressed the importance of a global commitment to include persons with disabilities. “Given the size of such a marginalized group, the onus is on us all to ensure that any future Sustainable Development Goals include the disabled”, referring to the new set of goals being debated in the UN for 2015-2030, to fight poverty and promote equality.

Referring to people with disabilities, Mr. Ashe went on to say that “far too many are hidden from view by others, and robbed of any contact, dignity or joy because of poverty, lack of support services and unwarranted sense of shame or terrible ignorance”.

The historic High Level Meeting on Disability and Development was a milestone for one billion people with disabilities, who make up fifteen percent of the world’s population. Daniela Bas, director of the UN Division for Social Policy and Development, a person with a disability herself, has echoed what
many people with disabilities feel about the HLMDD: “We are excited about what’s going to happen”.

For sure, people with disabilities worldwide will follow with utmost interest, the results of this historic event.

**RI co-organized side event on Assistive Technology.**

Rehabilitation International was among the NGO co-organizers of the side event titled “Assistive Technology Opens Doors” jointly organized by the World Health Organization and the Republic of the Philippines in partnership with UN-DESA held in conjunction with UN High Level Meeting on Disability and Development on 23 September. The event offered a unique multi-agency perspectives on the value and importance of Assistive Technology as a tool for facilitating global implementation of a disability inclusive development agenda. The side event was a move towards fulfilling a major obligation of Member States, as stated in Article 32, in its call for international cooperation for the realization of objectives regarding increased access to Assistive Technology (AT).

Both RI Secretary General Venus Ilagan and RI President Jan Monsbakken, spoke in the side event together with speakers from other organizations including the International Disability Alliance, Cambodia Trust, International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, Nippon Foundation, USAID and UNICEF.

RI Global is now working actively on the follow ups from this side event.

*Panelists at the WHO side event have stressed on the importance of Assistive Technology as the first for the next steps, for one billion persons with disabilities to realize their rights as envisioned by the CRPD.*
RI takes proactive step towards closer relations with UN Agencies

RI President Jan Monsbakken and SG Venus Ilagan held a series of meetings with representatives of UN Agencies in New York prior to the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) to strengthen RI’s work relations with UNICEF, UN-DESA, UNDP and UN-Women, among others. In the meeting with Roseangela Berman-Bieler, UNICEF Advisor on Children with Disabilities, Mr. Monsbakken discussed RI’s project on Disaster Management and Armed Conflict, an area of mutual interest with UNICEF which has been actively engaged on the subject relative to children with disabilities. Ms. Berman-Bieler has expressed optimism on some form of future collaboration with RI in this area of work.

A meeting was also held with Mr. Emanuele Sapienza, Policy Specialist & Social Inclusion Coordinator of the UNPRPD Secretariat, who briefed the RI President on the current undertakings by UNDP in support of the implementation of the CRPD. Mr. Sapienza has graciously accepted the invitation to speak to the members of the RI EC in their meeting in NY, to share information on how RI members in the national level, can work with UNDP’s country teams for possible initiatives for persons with disabilities.

Similarly, a meeting was held with UN-DESA through Akiko Ito, Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on preparations for the HLMDD, future collaboration with RI including possible hosting of DESA’s Global Forum on Disability Inclusive Development, in conjunction with RI-Europe’s meeting in October 2014. Ms. Ito has also agreed to speak to the members of the RI EC who are meeting in New York on 20-21 September.

The RI representatives similarly had a very productive meeting with Ms. Elinor Solo of UN-Women who provided valuable information and advice on how RI can more actively engage in the work of UN-Women specifically to bring in the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities whose voices needed to be heard and included in the mainstream deliberation of women’s issues. The RI President talked about the RI project on Women with Disabilities planned for launching in 2014 and ways by which RI can take more active role in UN-Women’s activities, starting with a higher visibility for women and girls with disabilities in the next session of the Conference on the Status of Women (CSW) scheduled for March 10-21, 2014 in New York.
Members of the Nigerian Association for the Blind, Mr. Danlami Basharu (left) and Mr. Ayo Adekanbi, with Ms. Iris Reiss of the RI Secretariat, during their visit to the RI headquarters office in New York while attending the HLMDD at the UN.

Activity Report 2012-2013 of the Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD)

The Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD) shares its various international and domestic activities from 2012-2013 with members of RI as follows:

International Activity. Supported the Asia-Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) by service as secretariat until the end of October last year. At the APDF’s assembly held in Incheon, Republic of Korea end of October 2012, the Korean Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities took over the secretariat functions for the APDF. JSRPD through Mr. Ryo Matsui and Ms. Etsuko Ueno also participated in the Regional Consultation on Disability and Development organized by the Government of Thailand and the 1st World CBR Congress held in Agra, India, respectively. Japan will host the next Asia-Pacific Regional CBR Congress in 2015.

In conjunction with the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development, JDF held a side event on Disaster and Disability at the Hunter College of New York on 24 September.

Other Activities. Among JSRPD’s local activities included providing secretariat support for the Japan NGO Network on Disabilities (JENNET). At its General Assembly held in Tokyo, JANNET welcomed Mr. Ghulam Nabi Nizamani, Chair of the CBR Asia Pacific Network, Mr. Akiie Ninomiya, Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability; and Mr. Ryuhei Sano, General Manager of APCD who visited Japan to sign the agreement with JSRPD and JANNET as co-organizers of the 3rd Asia Pacific CBR Congress to be held in Tokyo early September 2015. JANNET also co-organized a study meeting on the Inclusion of Hansen Disease patients in their communities.
Another highlight of JSRPD’s activities was the visit of RI President Jan Monsbakken who met with various RI members and partners in Japan, including with high level representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Nippon Foundation. As a result of the meetings, a joint seminar on disability and natural disaster/arms conflicts are to be organized with Nippon Foundation in the Asia and Pacific, and Arab regions in 2014.

More information on JSRPD’s activities will be featured in succeeding issue/s of the RI e-Newsletter.

For further information please visit: http://www.jsrpdp.jp or http://www.dinf.ne.jp

– We’d love to hear from you…

Please share with us project summaries/reports, articles and announcements on events which your organization is planning to hold or has conducted, and other information which you may want to share with colleagues in the RI network, our partners and to the rest of the world. Send these to us at this email address: newsletter@riglobal.org and we will make sure that these get included in future issues of the RI Newsletter.
Upcoming Meetings and Events

2013, October 22 - 23 International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) Norway Fall Seminar in Oslo, Norway. The event targets Doctors, Physiotherapists, Nurses, Prosthetics & Orthotics (CPO) and the program includes topics of interest to the P&O community, such as: holistic approach to rehabilitation of amputees; the future of prosthetics and rehabilitation, where does research leads us?; is the biomechanics of prosthetic sockets changing with new designs?; how does the training of amputees change with new developments in surgery, biomechanics and socket design? For further information please visit: http://www.ispo.no/ai1ec_event/ispo-hostseminar-2013/?instance_id=11


2014, June 10 – 13 12th Global Conference on Ageing in Hyderabad, India. Theme: “Be Healthy, Be Safe, Become a Community”. For further information please go to: http://www.ifa2014.in/

2014, June 16 – 18 International Conference on Universal Design in Lund, Sweden. Universal design, design for all and inclusive design all aim at dismantling physical and social barriers to inclusion in all areas of life. This event will bring together a diverse group of practitioners and researchers in a broad conference that focuses on collectively exploring creative and desirable solution proposals that will shape the future of universal design products and practices. For further information please visit: http://www.ud2014.se (available Sept. 15, 2013).
CRPD Ratification Update

Latest Developments

- Kiribati ratified the Convention on 27-9-2013
- Papua New Guinea ratified the Convention on 26-9-2013
- Bahamas signed the Convention on 24-9-2013
- Guinea-Bissau signed the Convention on 24-9-2013

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- 158 signatories
- 137 ratifications

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- 92 signatories
- 78 ratifications

For more Information please visit following website: http://www.un.org/disabilities/
Resource Update

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is launching its first international fellowships in 2014. One Fellow will be appointed in Africa and a second in the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office in Panama. The Foundation is currently seeking applicants for the Panama position which will focus on inclusive early childhood education and inclusive sport. Please note that to meet UNICEF requirements, applicants must be fluent in both Spanish and English. Knowledge of Portuguese and French is an asset. The deadline for applications is October 15. For further information please see: http://www.jpkf.org/

Resource Material

In support of this year’s State of the World’s Children Report, focused on children with disabilities, UNICEF has released a series of short films titled, “2 Lives: 2 Miles Apart”. Each film focuses on a different issue that affects the lives of children around the globe. Check out the video focused on sports for children with disabilities, featuring Azril and Aaron of Malaysia. WATCH THE VIDEO

Other News

Many older women with newly diagnosed breast cancer have difficulty accomplishing daily tasks, and African-Americans seem to be disproportionately affected. These are the findings of a new study published online in CANCER, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society. The study's results suggest that many breast cancer patients could benefit from receiving therapy to improve their physical function. For further information please visit: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130923093033.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Fhealth_medicine%2Fdisability+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Health+%26+Medicine+News+%29
On July 30, Mayor of Los Angeles, California, Eric Garcetti extended his support for the **2015 Special Olympics World Games** in Los Angeles and announced that U.S. President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama have committed to serving as Honorary Chairs of the World Games. In a video statement, President Obama said: "Michelle and I are so honored to serve as Co-chairs of this inspiring event....The athletes coming to these Games represent the grit and determination that's at the very root of the American spirit."

### Inspiration

**Snapshots from the RI EC meeting, General Assembly and the HLMDD at the UN in New York City on September 20 -23, 2013**

*RI President Jan Arne Monsbakken and Secretary General Venus Ilagan at the RI General Assembly on 22 September. The GA took stock of the various initiatives of the EC led by the RI President, to put the organization back on track and jumpstart several new projects earmarked for implementation in 2014.*
RI Treasurer Susan Parker and Immediate Past President Anne Hawker hard at work during the September 22 GA.

Members from Korea, Japan, China and India who attended the GA.

Meeting of the members of the International Abilympics Foundation held at the RI office in Manhattan.
Ms. Munira Al-Muttawa and Mr. Hashem Taqi with a high level official of the Kuwaiti Government, attending the HLMDD at the main Hall of the UN on September 23 as members of the Kuwaiti delegation.
We hope you enjoyed reading this issue of the RI Monthly Newsletter. Tell us about your activities and other stories so we can share it with RI members and the world.

Jan Arne Monsbakken, RI President

Venus Ilagan, Secretary General

Iris Reiss, Rehabilitation Expert

Thank you for supporting RI Global. Let’s make change happen together.