



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

WFD NEWSLETTER

President
Markku Jokinen
Email: wfd@kl-deaf.fi

Newsletter Editor
WFD General Secretariat
Email: info@wfdeaf.org

Website: www.wfdeaf.org

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The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established in 1951 in Rome, Italy during the first Deaf World Congress. As an international non-governmental central organisation of national associations of Deaf people. It has B-category status in the United Nations (UN) system, where it is represented at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); the Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the International Labour Organization (ILO); and World Health Organization (WHO). It is also has participatory status with the Council of Europe (CoE). WFD currently has 130 Ordinary Members (national associations of the Deaf). WFD provides a platform for cooperation and information exchange among its members and partnerships. As an international organisation and through national organisations, WFD is emphasizing on improving the human rights for Deaf persons, the status of national sign languages, to have better education for Deaf people, and improved access to information technology and services.

WFD GENERAL SECRETARIAT

WFD General Secretariat would like to send good wishes for peace and fellowship to all WFD partners and friends around the world. Also WFD would like to say thank you for your wonderful cooperation this past year 2008.

The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, based on the proposition of the United Nations Association of Finland, chose President Emeritia Liisa Kauppinen to participate to be the expert member and the civil society representative in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York, 10.-16 November 2008, as a member of the Finnish UN delegation.

In case you have something you would like to inform about the international deaf community, please be in contact with Ms Phillipa Sandholm who compiles the WFD Newsletter.

WFD General Secretariat staff will be on holidays from 22 December 2008 – 4 January 2009, so there will be nobody in the office at this time to respond to your messages. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

WFD CONFERENCE MAY 2009

The WFD Conference is scheduled to be from 14 – 16 May 2009 in Monterrey, Mexico. More information about this conference will be distributed through WFD website and also Mexican Federation of the Deaf (FEMESOR) home page. The registration fee for WFD members is USD \$80 and for non-members is USD \$100.

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF YOUTH SECTION (WFDYS)

If you would like to learn about the WFDYS and their news, do visit their website:
www.wfdys.org

PROJECT

The WFD is a partner organisation in a project called Global Education Pre-planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People. We have updated information, such as the second progress report and five power point presentations from our August seminar, available our web site at:
<http://wfdeaf.org/projects.html>

In addition, seven Regional Survey Reports can be downloaded from this site shortly.

Swedish Organisations' of Persons with Disabilities International Aid Association (Shia) decided in its Board meeting on Friday, 12th of December, to grant money to a project called Deaf Human Rights and Capacity Building Training Project in Western and Central Africa.

This project will be carried out in co-operation with the Swedish Deaf Association (SDR) and WFD and it will cover a time period from 2009 to 2011.

The three-year project will focus on capacity building of Western and Central African associations of the Deaf aiming at strengthening their organisational basis and to give them tools for more efficient lobbying and advocacy work in human rights of Deaf people. The project aims at increasing Deaf awareness and knowledge in human rights, especially on the most important issues for Deaf people in the recently adopted UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other human rights treaties. These include Deaf education, sign language work, access to information and services including sign language interpreting services.

Based on the pre-planning project that was conducted in seven WFD regional secretariat areas in 2007-2008 Western and Central Africa (WCAR) was one of the most vulnerable regions together with the WFD Interim Regional Secretariat in the Arab Region (RSAR). WFD hopes to conduct or be a partner in similar type of regional projects also in the future if funding is granted.

Preliminary notice: The project will recruit persons to the following posts:

- Project Coordinator (full-time)
- Central African Regional Coordinator (full-time)
- Western African Regional Coordinator (full-time)
- 4 Regional Trainers on capacity building and human rights (part-time)
- part time vacancy to update WFD's manual on capacity building

Job advertisements and requirements will be available on WFD home page in January.

WFD ORDINARY MEMBERS

Brazil

The teachers of the Deaf and pupils themselves lobbied to the State legislature in Rio Grande, Brazil a month ago to stop the closure of the deaf schools in the Rio Grande area. The local government insisted that special schools in regular institutions would be opened, instead of integrating deaf pupils into hearing schools. This kind of politics is an exclusion of deaf people.

Honduras

The Deaf community, parents, teachers and Sign Language interpreters had sent a report to the University of Honduras director to show that according to the survey of National Statistics Institute of Honduras in 2002, there were 34, 775 Deaf people at the national level, from which 85% are excluded from the fundamental rights like education, employment and participation in political and public life. The Law of Article 18, the education will have to be formulated and to incorporate into the National Education system for the programs that are necessary to be taken care of the requirements of technical assistance and services of support for special education needs. At the moment, the deaf community is lobbying to have more interpreters and also for the interpreters to be trained professionally in the university level, as there are only eight (8) professional Sign Language interpreters in this country.

Hungary

The Sign Language Conference in GödörKlub, Budapest was organised by Hungarian National Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ) on the International Day of the Deaf in September.



Photo: SINOSZ

Sign Language Conference in Hungary

MEMBERSHIP FEES

It would be much appreciated if Ordinary, Associate and Individual Members paid their 2008 fee before the end of December 2008. WFD Secretariat depends on membership fees to cover part of the expenses of running the office - without your support we cannot continue to function.

ORDINARY MEMBERS - It would be much appreciated if you pay the fees from 2004 to 2007. WFD General Secretariat had sent a letter in October 2008 to those who have not paid the fees for these years.

If Ordinary Members need a reduction or postponement in paying their fee this must be communicated to us in writing so this can be added to the agenda for Board action. If you have not received your membership fee invoice, please contact WFD Secretariat immediately and we will re-issue you another invoice.

ORDINARY MEMBERS' CONTACTS

Please let WFD office know if your contact details have been changed. Sometimes members miss out WFD information due to old contact information. Also, please make sure we know of any changes in your administration or activities. For example, if you have a new President, please let us know! We need your correct contact person, information and addresses.

We need updated address for this WFD Ordinary Member. Our mail to them was returned:

Kazakhstan Society of the Deaf

If you happen to have an up-to-date address for these above, please notify the WFD General Secretariat. Thank you.

JOIN WFD AS AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AND SUPPORT WFD FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Do you want to be part of our international team? Become an individual member! Anyone can join us. You'll receive a member newsletter 6 times per year and the latest news from our e-mail service.

How can I join? Please go to our website for the application form at www.wfdeaf.org or be in contact with our office, and we'll send you the application form. Once you have filled the form, paid the membership fee and sent the application to our office, we'll then send you a membership certificate.

The WFD has currently less than 200 Individual members. Our target is to increase this number rapidly to thousands of people supporting the work of WFD. We have created a leaflet, which we would ask you to distribute to your networks, members, friends and colleagues. Anyone can join the WFD, and more information can be obtained from the WFD General Secretariat (contact details are at the last page of this newsletter).

Please spread out this information freely. We would like to see a great increase of members in your respective country!

If you are publishing a magazine or a website, please add IM campaign information to your news. Please note that this should not create any costs to the WFD, but instead be a gesture of goodwill and benevolence from our members.

UNITED NATIONS (UN) NEWS

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Forty-three (43) countries have by now made their commitment to ratify the UN Convention. The countries that have ratified are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica (ratified on 1 October 2008), Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Uganda. There are 137 signatories to the Convention (rights) and 80 signatories to the Optional Protocol (individual's right to file complaints). For more information about this convention, click on the website: www.un.org/disabilities

Mr Markku Jokinen and Ms Deborah Oyuu Iyute, WFD President and Board Member, travelled to New York to take part in various International Disability Alliance (IDA) meetings, namely IDA CRPD Forum and IDA CRPD Forum Steering Committee.

IDA CRPD Forum is gradually taking shape and strengthening its activities with regard to the CRPD. The composition of the Forum and the membership criteria as well as the incorporation of representatives from indigenous groups, women and children, was discussed in the meetings. Recently IDA CRPD Forum has contributed to a study launched by OHCHR to evaluate the legal measures to be taken into consideration by the states parties in order to fully implement the CRPD. WFD participated, as a member of IDA CRPD Forum Steering Committee, to this common endeavour and took up issues

that are important for Deaf people. IDA will also continue co-operation with UN Special Rapporteurs and mainstream disability in their agendas.

The first Conference of States Parties of the United Nations (UN) on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) elected the new Committee of CRPD on 3 November 2008 in the UN, New York. The selected committee members are in charge of monitoring the implementation of the CRPD. The Committee comprises seven men and five women, of which nine are persons with disabilities. WFD President Markku Jokinen and Board member Ms. Deborah Oyuu Iyute were involved with the interview of the selected committee members. More information of the twelve (12) Committee members elected is available in the website:

<http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/forum.html>

Six (6) Committee members are serving for a two-year mandate, while the other six members have a four-year mandate.

The Committee will hold its first one-week meeting in Geneva in February 2009.

Do click on this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzZtV7s8QRY>

to watch the video on the 1st Conference of States Parties. WFD President Markku Jokinen signs towards the end of the video.

Human Rights Council's Forum on Minority Issues

Mr. Markku Jokinen, president of the WFD and Ms. Jaana Keski-Levijoki, president of the Finnish Association of the Deaf were present at the Forum on Minority Issues hosted by the Human Rights Council from 15 - 16 December 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. The forum provides a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. The forum identifies and analyzes best practised and challenges for the further implementation of the [Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities](#). For further information, please visit [OHCHR's website for minorities](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Disability Rights Fund

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which was on 3 December 2008, the Disability Rights Fund received USD \$1.3 million from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for 2009 grant-making supporting the human rights advocacy of disabled persons' organisations in the Global South. For more information on Disability Right Fund, do click on this website: www.disabilityrightsfund.org.

Information on Aid program

There is information on the Australian aid program that has decided to place focus on the disability issues. This would be useful information for development programs, especially to WFD Ordinary Members. Do click on this website for more information:

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/disability.cfm> There is a word copy available in this website: AusAID Development for All - Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009–2014

Canada

The Canadians with Disabilities won another Historic Transportation Access Battle on 20 November 2008. The Supreme Court of Canada denied Air Canada and WestJet's request to appeal the decision of the Canadian Transportation Agency which requires the airlines

to accommodate persons who need additional seating space because of their disability. The Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) launched this action in 2002 to remove a long-standing barrier to the travel of persons with disabilities. People with disabilities who required an attendant in flight to assist them with services not provided by flight attendants and persons with disabilities who required additional seats has to be paid for two airfares. This decision now brings planes into line with other modes of transportation such as rail, bus and sea travel who do not charge for additional seats. More information Council of Canadians with Disabilities: Issues: Transportation is available in the website: <http://www.ccdonline.ca/issues/transportation/index.htm>

Iran

The Iran Deaf People Family Society (IDPFS) had celebrated International Week of the Deaf in September. WFD General Secretariat received lots of photos and some interesting information on the history of this organisation. The Iran Deaf People Family Society was established in 1972 and there are ten (10) branches in different states of Iran serving to Deaf people, under the supervision of the central society. This organisation is a service provider serving Deaf people in different areas, such as social services, employment, teaching sign language and culture.



Photos: IDPFS



Sign Choir groups during IWD celebration



Deaf inventor displays his inventions during IWD celebration Photo: IDPFS



Poster displays during IWD Photo: IDPFS

ITEMS OF INTEREST

In the United Kingdom, there is a very active organisation for Deaf parents, which is called Deaf Parenting UK (DPUK). Their website is very informative with many tips on how to raise children and many other things. Do click on their website:

<http://www.deafparent.org.uk>

COMING EVENTS

Supporting Deaf People Online Conference (Direct Learn Services Ltd, United Kingdom)

In the online conference from 28 – 31 January 2009, two topics will be discussed: Deaf Education and Ethics and Professionalism in Interpreting. For more information about this online conference: do click on <http://www.online-conference.net/sdp2009/introduction.htm>

GW 2009 – The 8th International Gesture Workshop (ZiF – the Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Bielefeld University, Germany)

The GW 2009 (25 – 27 February 2009) aims to bring people together from different research strands that concern themselves with gesture-based communication. The workshop will provide a well-known forum to present recent approaches to using gesture or sign language as a means of interacting with machines. Do click on the website for more information: <http://www.gw2009.de/index.html>

3rd International Conference on Rehabilitation and Disability (Prince Salman Center for Disability Research)

The conference's theme is Research and Disability, which will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 22 – 26 March 2009. For more information about this conference, do click on this website below:

<http://www.pscdr.org.sa/en/news/Pages/ThirdInternationalConferenceonDisability.aspx>

New Zealand Deaf Short Film Festival (Deaf Association of New Zealand)

This film festival will take place in Wellington, New Zealand from 4 – 10th May 2009 during New Zealand Sign Language Week. For the first time, they will host an international Deaf cinema showcase. For more information on this festival, do click on www.deaffilmfest.co.nz

International Society for Cultural History and Cultural Studies (Enkidu Magazine, a news agency specialized in Human Rights, Culture, Gender, Sexualities and Society and International Society for Cultural History and Cultural Studies (CHiCS), Mexico City) The theme of this conference is storytelling, memories and identity construction, which stated that there is storytelling in sign languages. This takes place in Mexico City, Mexico from 1 - 5 July 2009. The website address for this conference is: <http://enkidumagazine.com/chics/esc.htm>

Multimod 2009 (Psychology Training & Research Unit, Department of Developmental Psychology, University of Toulouse, France) This international conference is to assess research on theories, concepts and methods relating to multimodality in children – Multimodality of communication in children: gestures, emotions, language and cognition. It will take place in Toulouse, France from 9 – 11 July 2009. More information is available on the website: <http://w3.eccd.univ-tlse2.fr/multimod2009/index.php?pg=acc&lg=en>

7th Deaf History International Conference (Swedish Deaf History Society) At the same time of this conference, in Sweden they will celebrate 200 years of Deaf education. The dates of the conference are from 4 – 8 August 2009 and the conference takes place in the capital of Sweden, Stockholm. Do click for more information on this conference for registration and Call for papers: www.schs.se/dhi2009

10th Asia Pacific Congress on Deafness (APCD 2009) (Otolological Center, WHO-HI-IFOS-ISA Collaborating Center for prevention of hearing impairment & Deafness, Dept. of ORL, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok) The APCD 2009 will be held in connection with 10th Hearing International – HI Annual meeting and 2nd ASEAN Academy of Neuro-Oto-Audiology at Bangkok, Thailand from 4 – 7 August 2009. Information about this congress is available in the website: www.apcd2009.org

21st Summer Deaflympics Games (Chinese Taipei Sports Association of the Deaf) The Deaflympics Games will take place at Taipei, Taiwan from the 5 – 15 September 2009. More information about the Games is available in the website: www.2009deaflympics.org

5th International Deaf Clownery Festival (Ukraine Society of the Deaf) The festival will take place in Kiev, Ukraine from 23 – 25 September 2009. For more information, do contact the Ukraine Society of the Deaf by email: chepchina@bigmir.net

Participation for All (Conference arranged by the 4 different organisations in Sweden) The topic of the conference is Opportunities and Supporting Technology, which focuses on Education, Interpreting and other issues concerning the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Language Impaired. It takes place in Örebro, Sweden from 14 – 16 October 2009. The website address for this conference is: www.partforall.se

World Federation of the DeafBlind, (WFDB) 9th Helen Keller World Conference and WFDB 3rd General Assembly (The National Association of DeafBlind people Uganda) The theme of the conference is the Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), changing the lives of persons with deafblindness. It will take place in the capital

of Uganda, Kampala from 22 – 27 October 2009. Information on registration fees and abstracts are available in the website: www.wfdb.org

4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness (Deaf Services Queensland & Deaf Children Australia)

The theme for this Mental Health and Deafness congress is ‘A life to be lived’, focus on deaf children and adults’ well being. It will take place in Brisbane, Australia from 27 – 30 October 2009. For more information, please go to www.mhd2009.org

13th World Deaf Magicians Festival

This festival will take place in Cattolica, Italy from 23 – 30 May 2010. Do click on the website: www.2010wdmf.com. More information about this festival will be informed later.

21st International Congress on Education for the Deaf (ICED) - Partners in Education

The 21st ICED Congress will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from 18 – 22 July 2010. More information about this congress, do check on their website: www.iced2010.com

If you know about an upcoming conference of regional or international interest, be sure to send us information about it for our Calendar of Coming events in WFD NEWS or, in the WFD newsletter and also in the website.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

DVD - Suggested International Signs for use at the World Federation of the Deaf General Assembly, Norwegian Association of the Deaf, Ål Experiential College and Conference Centre for Deaf People. It is produced by Døves Media.

This DVD is intended as a guide to signs commonly used at the quadrennial General Assembly of the WFD. The cost of the DVD is **30, 00 €**. It contains 11 sections of signs on the following topics:

WFD and United Nations
General Assembly
Board
Geographical Signs
Meeting Procedures
Meeting Communication
Projects and Fundraising
Finance
Numbers
Other Signs
WFD Youth Section

A Handbook on International Sign

This Handbook on International Sign, costs 25, 00 € is intended to be, above all, a tool for deaf people. It is a proposal that will contribute to ease the life of our collective group. It is also important to note that this book is a collective work which has been conceived, developed and produced by CNSE Foundation and FAXPG Foundation (with the support of the WFD) and in collaboration with FESORD CV Foundation.

It is available by ordering through this email: faxpg@hotmail.com

Disability & Deafness in the Middle East, A Bibliography – WHO Disability and Rehabilitation by M. Miles

This information was first web published in 2002, revised and extended in 2008 with more items listed. It is comprised with technical, cultural and historical relevance to child and adult impairments, disabilities and deafness. This work is open online, full text, at: <http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/bibliography/mideast/index.html> It is also available in PDF format.

Audism Unveiled by Ben Bahan, H. Dirksen Bauman and Facundo Montenegro (DVD) Audism Unveiled exposes and explains another form of oppression prevalent in the Deaf community. Going beyond definitions, this powerful documentary uses real life experiences from Deaf people of varied social, racial, and educational boundaries -- showing how this form of oppression does lasting and harmful damage. This DVD has English and Spanish subtitles.

WFD MERCHANDISE

Many people need to know what the name sign is for each country. The popular book, Country Name-Sign, was published for WFD by Japanese Federation of the Deaf (JFD). Publisher WFD (2003), Collection of data: Japan Institute for Sign Language Studies and Tomas Hedberg, Swedish National Association of the Deaf. **All of the books have been sold out. We hope in the near future that there will be more books to be published and we will let you know when they are available through the website.**

If any of you are interested in ordering items from WFD, such as **T-shirts (golf, woman and ordinary), WFD Pins, water bottles, watches, bracelets, pens and caps**, you can make an order through email, which is orders@wfdeaf.org

CONTACT INFORMATION OF WFD SECRETARIAT

Please do send all correspondence to:

WFD General Secretariat
PO Box 65
FIN- 00401 Helsinki
FINLAND
Fax: +358 9 5803 572
Email: info@wfdeaf.org

Also please check on WFD's website which is www.wfdeaf.org for more information, updates and contacts. (On WFD website, please do go to the Contacts section for specific direct contact on memberships and orders of WFD merchandise). If you would like to contact directly to WFD President, his email address is wfd@kl-deaf.fi.

If any of you is interested to contact to one of the WFD Ordinary Members' contact details (national associations of the Deaf), please do go to the WFD website to click on 'National Members'.

Please do feel free to submit us newsworthy articles for future editions. You can forward articles at anytime to us at info@wfdeaf.org, and we will do our best to include them in

the next issue. Also, any feedback and comments on the newsletter would be most welcome!

For more information on what is happening within WFD, look at the WFD website:
www.wfdeaf.org