

EMPOWERMENT

APCD Newsletter

Volume 26: January 2009



First CDSHOD in Central Asia adopts the Bishkek Statement

Bringing partners together and forming the foundation for partnership

APCD organized the "Regional Workshop for Central Asian Countries on Capacity Development of Self-Help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (CDSHOD): Rights-based Approach to Disability in Central Asia", in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, the Government of Kyrgyz Republic, JICA, UNESCAP and organizations of persons with disabilities (PWDs) of Kyrgyz Republic at Ak-Keme Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, from 21 to 24 October 2008.



CDSHOD Opening Ceremony

The Workshop was the first-ever international disability-related workshop of this scale held in Central Asia with participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, many of whom were the leaders of PWDs. The Workshop was also significant in bringing representatives from both governmental and non-governmental sectors together, including those from UN organizations and agencies. APCD resource persons from Pakistan (Mr. Ghulam Nabi Nizamani), the Philippines (Ms. Geraldine Pilapil Ruiz) and

Thailand (Ms. Saowalak Thongkuay), who are the leaders of organizations of PWDs, contributed as speakers as well as moderators. Over one hundred persons, including volunteers and observers, joined the event.

At the opening ceremony, H.E. Ms. Ibraimova Elmira Sultanovna, the Vice Prime Minister, and H.E. Ms. Abdullaeva Uktomhan Avazovna, the Minister of Labor and Social Development, the Government of Kyrgyz Republic, reiterated the Government's commitment to support persons with disabilities and emphasized the significance of this Workshop. The Government of Kyrgyz Republic has recently adopted the Law on Rights of and Guarantees for Persons with Disabilities, and the Government sees it an important task to implement the Law.

Mr. Kalyk Baryktabasovich Mambetkunov, President of the newly established Association of Persons with Disabilities of Kyrgyzstan, made an inspiring speech to encourage all the participants to work together, which received an enthusiastic round of applause.



L-R: H.E. Ms. Ibraimova Elmira Sultanovna, Vice Prime Minister, H.E. Ms. Abdullaeva Uktomhan Avazovna, Minister of Labor and Social Development

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Bishkek Statement

Resource Center in Kyrgyz Republic to coordinate a Central Asian network of organizations of PWDs

The Workshop concluded with the participants adopting the Bishkek Statement. The Statement notes the participants' intention to establish a network among organizations of persons with disabilities in Central Asia and delegates the coordination function of the network to the Resource Center of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development which will open on 3 December 2008 in Bishkek.

"Bishkek Statement" is available at <http://www.apcdproject.org>

Four days of lively discussion

Through the Workshop consisting of a keynote speech, country reports, presentations, panel discussions and group discussions, the participants shared experiences and information concerning the situation of PWDs in the respective countries, acquired knowledge on important international instruments concerning disability (CRPD, Biwako Millennium Framework and BMF+5), discussed the importance of mainstreaming PWDs in society and development processes as well as strengthening Self-Help Organizations of PWDs by adopting a rights-based approach.

The principles and importance of SHOs were explained by APCD resource persons. Through group discussion, the participants considered how they can practically strengthen SHOs in their countries. The importance of networking among SHOs and, sharing of information and training of leaders were mentioned when reporting the results of group discussion on how to strengthen SHOs in Central Asia.

The participants expressed their intent to advocate for their respective governments to sign the CRPD as well as promote an understanding of the CRPD among PWDs. For example, the Society of Disabled People of Dushanbe, represented by Mr. Asadullo Zikrikhudoyev (Tajikistan), organized a Central Asian regional workshop in Dushanbe and translated the CRPD into their languages. Participants from Turkmenistan, the only country in the region which ratified the CRPD, emphasized the need to monitor its implementation. At the Closing Ceremony, the Minister of Labor and Social Development of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic spoke of the Ministry's intention to advocate for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Active participation and participants' great contribution from Central Asia

The representatives from each country shared a country report in which the lack of public awareness on disability as well as the insufficiency of state support were mentioned repeatedly. Similarities in the situation facing PWDs in countries of the Central Asian region were recognized. By sharing experiences, solutions to overcoming difficulties can be enhanced. Kyrgyz resource persons, Mr. Alexander Dubina and Ms. Ukei Muratalieva facilitated the workshop "Rethinking Disability", in which they introduced the social model of disability. The workshop included group exercise, analyzing specific cases which were based on real experiences of PWDs from a social model perspective. The participants' analytical results exhibited their understanding of the social model.

Throughout the Workshop, participants from the five Central Asian countries actively contributed to discussions; many of them also gave presentations as speakers and facilitated sessions as moderators. They eagerly talked among themselves during the breaks and after sessions each day (women with disabilities organized a meeting in the evening), promoting further mutual understanding and information sharing.

Towards establishing a Central Asian network

The Workshop provided an opportunity for PWD leaders from Central Asia to meet and form a foundation for future collaboration. It is expected that the Resource Center in Bishkek will play a key role in setting up a sub-regional network and the organizations of PWDs in the Central Asian region will work together closely to promote an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for all.



Participants Sharing Information



Group Discussion

SbKM Activities Expanding in the Philippines! APCD Mission to the Philippines (9-14 November 2008)

The APCD mission team visited the Philippines in November 2008 for several preparatory meetings on Story-based Knowledge Management (SbKM). With support from our focal points, associate organizations and other collaborators, the mission was successfully conducted.

Further collaboration with NCDA

One highlight of this mission was to confirm further collaboration with the new National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), Office of the President, as one of APCD's focal points in the Philippines. The Hon. Ms. Rosie Lovely T. Romulo, Chairperson of NCDA, signed a Memorandum of Meeting along with Ms. Geraldine P. Ruiz, the Executive Director.

At the meeting, NCDA confirmed their support to internationalize APCD to promote an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society and empowerment of persons with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region.

NCDA will also collaborate with APCD in documenting good practices in the area of community-based inclusive development on Non-handicapping Environment (NHE) and ICT based on Story-based Knowledge Management (SbKM).

The newly appointed Executive Director of NCDA, Ms. Geraldine P. Ruiz, is an ex-participant of APCD's training on NHE in 2005 and Independent Living in 2006. Ms. Geraldine played an important role as a resource person for the Regional Workshop for Central Asian Countries on Capacity Development of Self-help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (CDSHOD) in Kyrgyz Republic held in October 2008.

NCDA and JICA Philippines have started a four-year project to promote rural community inclusive development on NHE in Ilo-Ilo and the Mindanao Islands. APCD will continue to support this project, especially through SbKM activities.



Confirming Collaboration between NCDA and APCD

Documenting a story of a NHE project according to SbKM

In the 1-day workshop on SbKM conducted at NCDA, the various stakeholders of a NHE project included NCDA, United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), Christian Blind Mission (CBM) and the JICA Philippines Office. They agreed to collaborate positively with APCD. Mr. Ryuhei Sano, JICA Expert on Knowledge Management, introduced the concept, "SbKM" and facilitated the session for outlining documentation on NHE according to SbKM.



Sharing a "Story" by DVD with Life Haven Incorporated

The mission also had intensive discussion with APCD's ex-participants, Mr. Jaime G. Silva (Chairman, Committee on Accessibility) and Mr. Armand Michael R. Eustaquio (Deputy Chairman, Committee on Accessibility) from UAP. UAP confirmed that they will continue to collaborate with APCD in SbKM activities on accessibility along with NCDA.

As a result, a documentary video concerning a development story of the NHE project will be produced by mid 2009 in partnership with NHE project stakeholders and APCD.

Visiting various stakeholders and developing collaboration

A story of good practices on ICT in the Philippines was also outlined in another meeting. NCDA and APCD's Associate Organizations, namely MCCID College of Technology, Inc., (formerly Manila Christian Computer Institute for the Deaf) and Resources for the Blind will work together to document their ICT practices by video-filming in cooperation with APCD.

A meeting with Ms. Annie S. Garcia (President, SM Supermalls) and her staff was very productive. APCD and SM Supermalls discussed prospective collaboration on SbKM from the perspective of "Inclusive Community Business Development". It has been recognized that SM Supermalls in the business sector demonstrates good initiatives to promote an inclusive barrier-free and rights-based society in the Philippines. Currently SM Supermalls is practicing inclusive community business development with the National Retailers Association. In this context, APCD will follow-up the discussion for documentation. Great achievement of the Independent Living Movement was illustrated when the two IL sites, Valenzuela City in Metro Manila and Sta Rosa in Laguna were visited. Mr. Abner Manlapaz (President, Life Haven Incorporated) and Mr. Edwin de Villa (President, Spinal Cord Injury Foundation), both ex-participants of APCD Independent Living Course (ILC), are the key persons in promoting the IL movements in their communities. Both leaders



With SM Supermalls Board Members

requested that a captioned text in Tagalog be put in the APCD video "Nakhon Pathom Independent Living Center (NILC)" so that people in local communities can share the documentary. As requested, APCD will reproduce the DVD in collaboration with Life Haven Incorporated and Spinal Cord Injury Foundation.



Working on SbKM

Peer Support from Japan to Kyrgyz Republic: Donation of Wheelchairs by AJU

AJU Center for Independent Living (AJU), established and run by persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Nagoya, Japan, has been supporting their peers in other countries (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand) by providing wheelchairs under its Asia Wheelchair Project. Mr. Kunio Ogura, coordinator of this project and a wheelchair user for over 30 years, is an expert on wheelchair maintenance and provided advice for the participants of the Workshop. In conjunction with CDSHOD, AJU donated 40 wheelchairs to the Association of Persons with Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan and conducted a workshop on wheelchair maintenance. The Association will distribute these wheelchairs to those in need across the country.

“CRPD: Dignity and Justice for All of Us”

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is celebrated annually on 3 December around the world in many different ways. This year marked a major milestone since the first international human rights law for persons with disabilities was ratified by 44 countries as of 31 December 2008. More countries are seeking the feasibility of ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD). The 2008 theme of IDPD is “CRPD: Dignity and Justice for All of Us”.

Regional News: International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)

A New Perspective of Disability with CRPD Thailand

In Thailand, the IDPD was celebrated at Thammasat University, Bangkok on 3-4 December 2008.

Mr. Monthian Buntan, a blind senator in Thailand as well as one of APCD board members, gave a presentation on “How important is this Convention to Thai persons with disabilities?” He emphasized the significance of the CRPD as a tool to help all persons with disabilities moving from a charity-based society to a rights-based society.

He also stated that according to the CRPD, persons with disabilities have a disability due to their inaccessible environment. Regarding disability, the environment and the impairment of individuals are clearly related. Environments include old traditions, laws, policies or whatever created by people in their communities. The CRPD is written in general principles i.e. accessibility, equality of opportunity, non-discrimination, and provision of information and services in accessible and usable formats. It's time for all of us to carefully recognize those principles to create a society for all.

In and around the hall, there were many services for persons with disabilities such as job placement, other related technical information by governments and NGOs, the sale of products made by persons with disabilities, performances by persons with disabilities, and awards for governments and NGOs who support employing persons with disabilities. A training on CRPD was conducted for government officers of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and PWD leaders from 75 provinces, expecting them to disseminate knowledge on CRPD in local communities.



Promotion of CRPD in Braille



Presentation by Mr. Monthian Buntan



Products Made by Persons with Disabilities

IDPD in the Memorial Year 2008 - Kyrgyz Republic

The year 2008 has illustrated various achievements in the disability field in Kyrgyz Republic. Since July, the National Alliance of Disabled Peoples' Organizations (DPOs) called the "Association of Persons with Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan" has officially formed as an outcome of collaboration among DPOs supported by APCD. With the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), JICA Kyrgyz Republic and APCD, the "Capacity Development of Self-Help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (CDSHOD)" was then conducted from 21-24 October to strengthen persons with disabilities and their own initiatives in partnership with the Association of Persons with Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. As a result of these efforts together with APCD, a ceremony was organized on IDPD to celebrate the opening of the Information and Resource Center on Disability. Established in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Development of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic and JICA Kyrgyz

Republic, the Center is expected to provide timely information to PWDs as a hub of networking among DPOs in Central Asia.



Information and Resource Center on Disability

One Month Celebrating the IDPD - Pakistan

The 2008 IDPD was celebrated with many events that were organized by different DPOs, NGOs and government authorities. Throughout the month, action was taken by APCD's associate organizations in different parts of the country to make society aware of persons with disabilities and their needs.

Appealing for accessibility, education and employment in the context of the Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), All Sanghar Handicapped Association (ASHA) arranged a walk in November to celebrate the IDPD in a rural and remote area of southern Pakistan.

In joint collaboration with the mass media, Special Talent Exchange Programme (STEP) also organized an event on IDPD to raise awareness on issues of disability and promote human rights of persons with disabilities with H.E. Minister Samina Khalid Ghurki from the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education as the main guest. More than 70% of the participants attending were persons with disabilities.



A walk for awareness-raising



An Event on IDPD

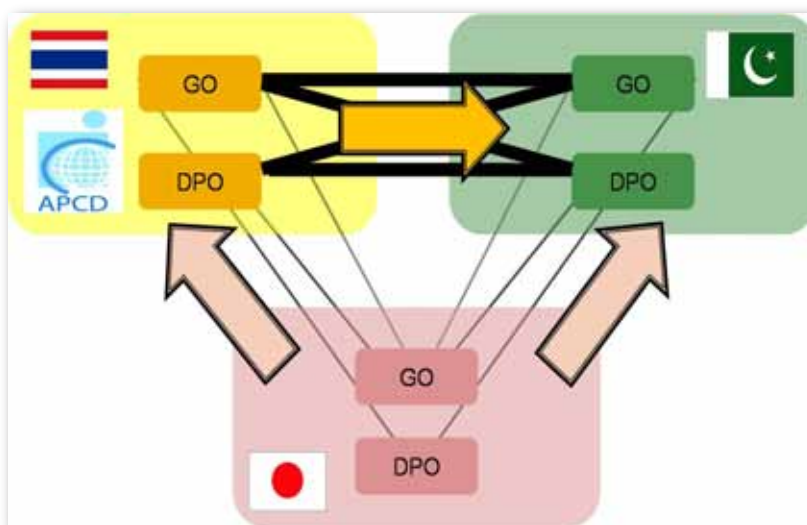
APCD Project Presented at UN as a Good Practice of South-South Cooperation

“Asia-Pacific Development Cooperation Forum (DCF): Regional Workshop on Trends and Progress in Triangular and South-South Development Cooperation” was organized on 21-22 October 2008 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand. This workshop was designed in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU-SSC).

During the workshop, a presentation, “Civil Society Engagement in a Participatory Approach of an Ongoing Triangular Development Cooperation Project” was jointly made by Ms. Jirat Wachiraserechai (Chief, Human Resource Development Section, APCD / Chief, International Cooperation Division, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Government of Thailand) and Ms. Mariko Kinoshita (Representative, JICA Thailand Office).

After presenting general information regarding APCD, reconstruction in the Kashmir earthquake area in partnership between Thailand and Pakistan was introduced as a case study of “Triangular and South-South Cooperation”. In this context, both Ms. Jirat and Ms. Kinoshita stressed the importance of incorporating persons with disabilities (PWDs) and Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) into existing South-South Cooperation programs, rather than maintaining them as separate programs of PWDs and DPOs. Such an approach was repeatedly mentioned as a successful factor to enable accessible environments in local societies from lessons learned in both Thailand (Tsunami in 2004) and Pakistan (Kashmir earthquake in 2005).

Participants shared how APCD’s strategy as a facilitator, effectively utilized PWDs in developing countries as resource persons for other developing countries. In regards to similar situations of PWDs, Ms. Jirat emphasized that this approach has resulted in stimulating dialogue and cross-fertilizing ideas among PWDs, DPOs and other stakeholders including high-ranking government officials.



Triangular South-South Cooperation



Presentation by APCD



Dialogue with Other Participants

APCD ACTIVITIES

Tentative APCD activities for the next 6 months (January 2009 - June 2009)

January 2009

12-23	Mission to Viet Nam
26 Jan -7 Feb	Lao Deaf Leaders' Internship in Thailand
29-30	Mission to Lao PDR

February 2009

11-20	Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Counterpart Training in Japan
18-21	CBR Congress and Post-Congress Workshop
22-28	Mission to the Philippines

March 2009

2-14	Regional Training on Disability, Gender and Development
3-6	South-South Cooperation Seminar with UNESCAP
8-14	Mission to Papua New Guinea
16-20	Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Workshop in Thailand

April 2009

To be decided

May 2009

To be decided

June 2009

To be decided

Tentative APCD activities 2009	January	February	March
Mission to Viet Nam	12-23		
Lao Deaf Leaders' Internship in Thailand	26 Jan. -7 Feb.		
Mission to Lao PDR	29-30		
ID Counterpart Training in Japan		11-20	
CBR Congress and Post-Congress Workshop		18-21	
Mission to the Philippines		22-28	
Regional Training on Disability, Gender and Development			2-14
South-South Cooperation Seminar with UNESCAP			3-6
Mission to Papua New Guinea			8-14
ID Workshop in Thailand			16-20

Announcement

1st Asia-Pacific CBR Congress: 18th - 20th February 2009 Prince Palace Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

The 1st Asia-Pacific CBR Congress has been rescheduled from 18 -20 February 2009. In the context of "Community-based Inclusive Development", various perspectives on CBR will be addressed during the Congress. With CBR leaders and grass-root practitioners, the Congress will illustrate future direction of CBR in the Asia-Pacific region.

Please check <http://www.cbr-asiapacific.org/> for more details.

South to South Cooperation Seminar: 4th – 5th March 2009

In collaboration with UNESCAP, APCD focal points and associate organizations, the South to South Cooperation Seminar will be organized from 4th – 5th March 2009.

- (1) To strengthen collaboration among APCD, its Government Focal Points, Associate Organizations and UNESCAP by sharing good practices and discussing the direction for future collaboration with an aim to further promote APCD's international activities; and
- (2) To update the invited senior government officials with developments concerning the international instruments for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities; and
- (3) To inform the invited senior government officials of issues concerning gender and disability by holding joint sessions with APCD Regional Training on Disability, Gender and Development.

JICA Award 2008

APCD Project was honored to be selected by the JICA Headquarters for the JICA Award 2008. Model projects are selected globally by JICA Headquarters every five years from several hundreds of JICA projects from approximately 100 countries. As an inter-national model project, it is encouraged to disseminate the project performance within the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as world-wide in order to promote JICA's effective Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Mrs. Kingkaew Inwang, Secretary-General of the National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NEP), the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, received the JICA Award from Dr. Sadako Ogata, President of JICA on 6 November 2008, through the Chief Representative of the JICA Thailand Office.



Receiving JICA Award 2008

WHAT IS KM ?

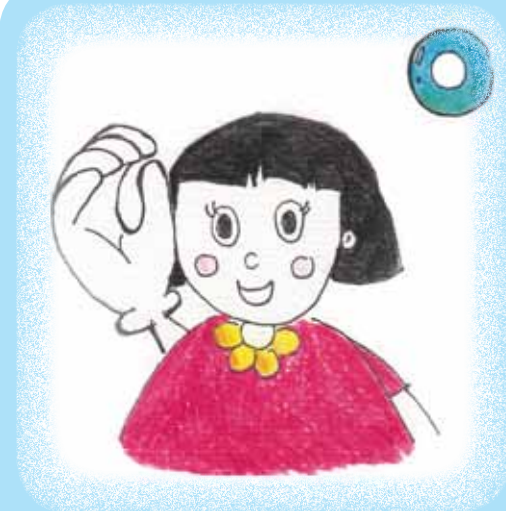


"Ba" such as a "empowerment" cannot be illustrate an empowerment process of persons with disabilities as knowledge. Believing that empowerment is a key to disability and development, how "Ba" is designed and utilized for successful knowledge management activities is important.

A "Bar" is a place where some people drink alcohol. With a similar pronunciation, a key word in Knowledge Management activities is "Ba", which is a platform for creative interaction between explicit and tacit knowledge. Documenting a "story" generates a different session to share various aspects of disability. Since measured by numbers, stories through "Ba" can illustrate an empowerment process of persons with disabilities as knowledge. Believing that empowerment is a key to disability and development, how "Ba" is designed and utilized for successful knowledge management activities is important.

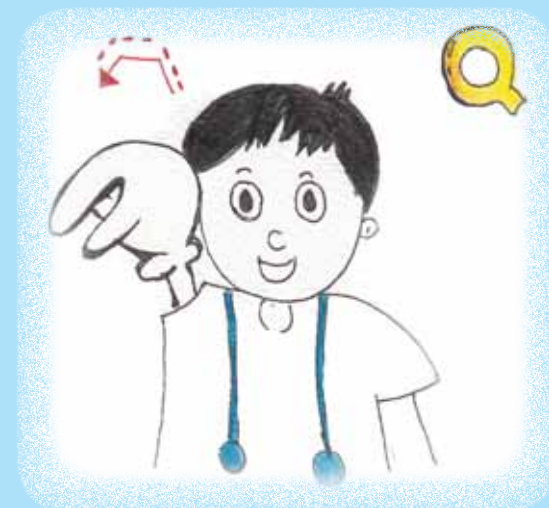


International Sign Language



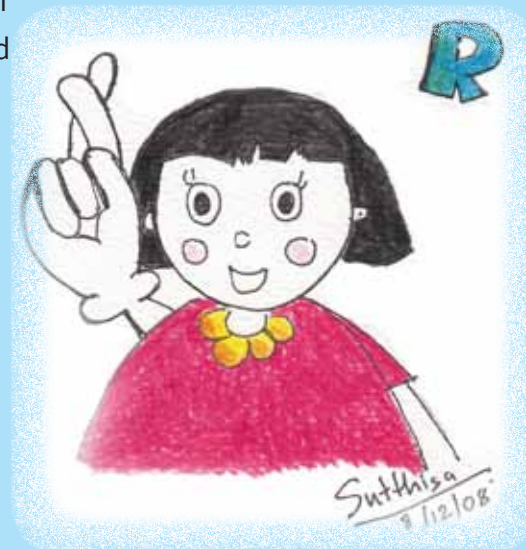
Happy New Year in 2009!! Best wishes to the fan club of Kana-chan & Juk. In this issue, we not only for us to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, but also the 1st anniversary of this column. Thank you for following us

As usual, four consonants are presented by Kana-chan & Juk. Starting with "O", Kana-chan gestures her hand as a ring shape by holding four fingers down to the tip of the thumb. To say "P", firstly, Juk follow the "K" step (opening index and middle fingers with all others are closed, the thumb in between the two raised fingers), then bends the wrist down.



Likewise for "Q", Kana-chan makes a "G" step by making a fist with the right hand, with the thumb and index finger pointing straight but turns the fist down at the wrist instead of turning left sideways. For "R", Juk says this hand gesture is similar to crossed fingers, by curling the middle finger over the index and facing the viewer.

There are many beliefs about crossed fingers; some use it to wish for good luck or to nullify a promise.



EDITORIAL MESSAGE

Happy New Year!! APCD members would like to wish you much happiness and prosperity in 2009.

Last year, APCD conducted various activities such as the Regional Workshop for Central Asian Countries on Capacity Development of Self-Help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (CDSHOD) in Kyrgyz Republic as a new approach to networking & collaboration on disability in the sub-region. Story-based Knowledge Management (SbKM) activities are expanding step by step in our target countries.

In 2009, we promise to work even harder to build a better society for persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. Your continuous support for APCD activities is highly appreciated. Let's keep in touch!

With warmest regards,
The Editorial Team

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