



EMPOWERMENT

APCD Newsletter Volume 30: January 2010

CBR Asia-Pacific Network Moving Forward!



Regional Council Members

We believe that you still have a vivid memory of the enthusiasm and commitment of the participants at the 1st Asia-Pacific CBR Congress in February 2009 to promote community-based rehabilitation (CBR) which led to the establishment of the CBR Asia-Pacific Network (the Network). Representatives from 18 countries/territories met at APCD on 14-16 December 2009 to discuss key issues to set the Network in motion.

After active discussion, participants ratified the Constitution and agreed on the Plan of Actions. It was agreed that the Network has a vision of inclusive development, inclusive society and, a mission to promote, develop and support CBR in the region and globally. The structure of the Network consists of: 1) the Network Congress (held every four years and open to any individual or organization); 2) the Regional Council (held every two years and attended by the representatives selected in respective countries); and 3) the Executive Committee (elected by the Regional Council will meet every year). The Secretariat, which will be responsible for day-to-day activities of the Network, will be managed by the APCD Foundation.

Represented at the meeting were: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Este, Thailand and Viet

Nam. Also present were the organizing secretaries of the 2nd Asia-Pacific CBR Congress to be held in the Philippines in 2011 and the CBR World Congress to be held in India in 2012. In addition, observers from Brunei Darussalam, India,



Executive Committee Members

Pakistan, Viet Nam, UN organizations and international NGOs joined the meeting.

Every member of the Network is its owner. Let us all share our rich resources, including information and expertise, to make it an active network! The Network website will be developed and all the documents from the meeting will be made available. Meanwhile, enquiries on the Network can be addressed to Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Networking and Collaboration Manager, APCD.

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Japan International
Cooperation Agency

What We Have Learned From JICA Counterpart Training on Knowledge Management 20-28 November 2009 in Tokyo, Japan

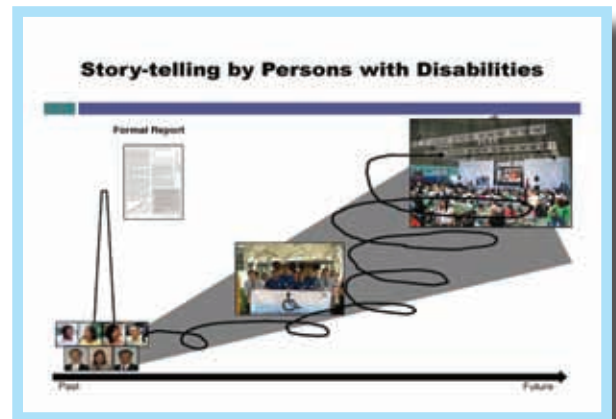
Eighteen leaders from 8 ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand) joined the “Seminar on Knowledge-based Management for Asia” conducted by JICA. Dr. Ikujiro Nonaka, Professor Emeritus, Hitotsubashi University, a well known international scholar on KM, was the main resource person. Dr. Ryoko Toyama, Professor, Chuo University gave lectures regarding the KM method to strengthen organizational management in private companies. Mr. Yoshio Niizeki, JICA Senior Advisor, had APCD and its KM team consult with Dr. Nonaka for further advice to effectively implement KM perspectives.



Participants from APCD

Currently, some private sectors have utilized the KM method to develop and improve implementation of their businesses. There are also some humanitarian and social development organizations applying the concept of KM with their activities.

APCD believes that persons with disabilities (PWDs) at a grass-root level have had many experiences as well as wisdom and knowledge. PWDs also have their own unique knowledge: some deaf PWDs gain knowledge by talking in sign language; blind persons can understand complicated matters by listening to sounds.



Story-telling by PWDs

However, many persons are unfamiliar with report formatting or academic terminology. In this regard, the question asked was, “How can this knowledge be utilized for social development?”

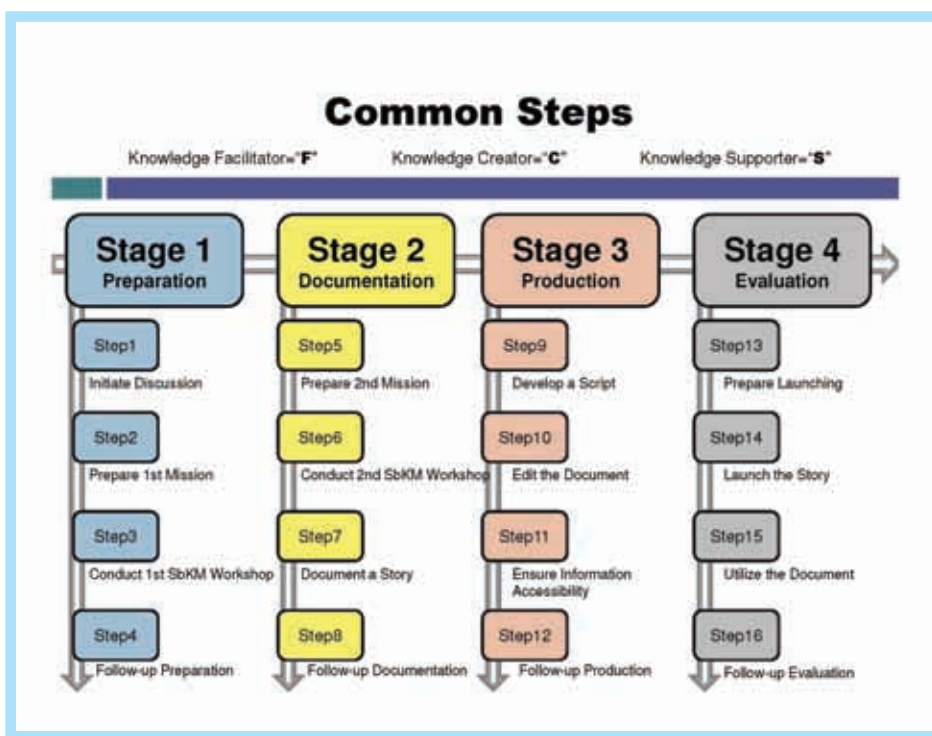
In response, APCD has applied the KM theory as one key driving approach: Story-based Knowledge Management (SbKM) to conduct documentation of good practices by disability-related organizations. The seminar was a great opportunity for APCD representatives as observers to make presentations and get feedback on APCD’s new approach. Since most participants were from different sectors, APCD gained confidence in SbKM documentation style (story-telling by PWDs) as the main approach to promote networking and collaboration to empower PWDs as “agents of change” and promote a barrier-free society.

As a knowledge facilitator, APCD has documented 10 good practices by ex-participants of APCD’s training/organizations/stakeholders in different areas such as Community-based Rehabilitation

(CBR), Self-help Groups of PWDs (SHGs), Non-handicapping Environment (NHE), ICT, and Inclusive Community Development. Through APCD representatives, Common Steps on the SbKM approach were shared through the presentation.

With the experience of the seminar as well as advice from KM initiators, APCD will continue

to develop the SbKM approach in a more innovative way by using lessons learned from past experiences. At the same time, KM can be utilized to strengthen networking and collaboration with different stakeholders, particularly private sectors which disability-related organizations tend to communicate with infrequently.



Common Steps by APCD's SbKM

Prof. Nonaka / Prof. Toyama's advice



Professor Nonaka and APCD's team

The essence of KM is not "Managing Knowledge" but "Knowledge-based Management", or "Knowledge Creation Management". The origin of knowledge can be initiated by BA: time, space, and relationship including the dialogue or discussion among people with different backgrounds. Through the dialogue and discussion, we can learn from each other by exchanging experiences, or what we call, tacit knowledge. In this sense, "process" is more important than "product" since "process" is action-oriented. Innovation can be initiated from "out-of-box" approach. The documentation method through SbKM can be developed in line with this essence.

Networking and Collaboration News

Thai Resource Persons Sharing Similar Background of Social Development, Vientiane

Laos

In October 2009, a workshop was organized by the Deaf Unit, Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA) in collaboration with APCD. As APCD's focal point, LDPA is the largest organization working for persons with disabilities in Laos. The Deaf and their families met in the capital, Vientiane to discuss topics related to deaf persons.

The workshop was facilitated by APCD's resource persons from Thailand, Mr. Boonlert Khanapornworakarn from the National Association for the Deaf in Thailand (NADT) and Ms. Panomwan Boontem from Thai Deaf Children and Women Network Federation (TDCWNF). The "family" of deaf persons, deaf culture and self-help groups/organizations were the focus for discussion among more than 30 participants during the 2-day workshop.



Leaders reviewing their past steps

Malaysia

Developing Collaboration with Corporate Sectors Unique Initiatives, Kuala Lumpur



After SbKM Workshop

An approach by the Barrier-Free Environment and Accessible Transport Group (BEAT) is very interesting in that its work is practical collaboration with corporate sectors. Key leaders, who have joined APCD training in the past, are now resource persons of disability-related training at private companies. Particularly, the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB), Persatuan Mobiliti Selangor & Kuala Lumpur, United Voice (Self-Advocacy Society of Persons with Learning Disabilities Selangor & Kuala Lumpur) and Young Men's Christian Association of Kuala Lumpur are very powerful as resource persons at Air Asia Academy (staff training institute of the low-cost air-career company in Asia). From the viewpoint of cross-disability, key leaders with disabilities/organizations plan to develop a document as a Story-based Knowledge Management (SbKM) activity in collaboration with APCD in 2010.

Pakistan

“Beyond the Voice of Our Own” A Video Documentary, Islamabad

One endeavour of STEP as a Story-based Knowledge Management (SbKM) project was launched in conjunction with observing International White Cane Safety Day on 14 October 2009. Over 500 persons from all walks of life attended the event. The video documentary was completed in collaboration with the National Institute of Science and Technical Education under the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education (MSWSE), Sightsavers International Pakistan (SSI Pakistan), JICA and APCD.



Launching Ceremony in Islamabad

“We pledge to implement the policy”, said Mr. Imtiaz Qazi, Federal Secretary of MSWSE. Mr. Niaz Ullah Khan, Country Director of SSI Pakistan expressed his appreciation to APCD for facilitating international collaboration.

Impacts of this initiative included: MOE and MSWSE committing to invite STEP as resource persons for teachers’ training with the film presentation at their training institute; some diplomatic missions and corporate entities present in the launching ceremony appreciated the efforts of STEP highlighted in the film, and ensured their practical support to mainstream disability into their development initiatives and businesses.

We really think the production process was great learning in itself. We are determined to follow up this success and expand our international collaboration with APCD.

Atif Sheikh (President, Special Talent Exchange Program)

Exciting! Cartoon Creation by Ourselves, Karachi



SbKM Workshop attended by PWDs

It is not new for us to share our story. But we never thought about “creating a story document with our knowledge” until APCD facilitated Danishkadah in developing our own document. It was exciting for us to know the Story-based Knowledge Management (SbKM) approach in collaboration with APCD. Initially it seemed very easy to just shoot some interviews but it proved otherwise. Unlike other reports or documents, we soon realized that it was a big project since we needed to utilize our own knowledge, effort and resources. Finally, it was decided to produce a story book in a cartoon format, with a deaf cartoonist.

Two different workshops were organized by Danishkadah in cooperation with APCD. At the first workshop we learned about SbKM, its philosophy and the initial approach to the project. In the second workshop, we drafted cartoons and, a story script in Urdu, Sindhi and English. Since the agreement was to develop the cartoon on paper and in digital format, we made a plan for a Pakistani sign language shooting as well as a voice recording.

In any case, it was the greatest challenge for us to implement this project by ourselves, with minimum assistance from technical professionals. APCD’s commitment as our facilitator inspired us, working for many hours, from morning to night. This great opportunity to learn and develop our organization empowered our team at the same time.

Muhammad Akram (President, Danishkadah)

Myanmar

1st Conference of Self-help Groups/Organizations, Yangon



Participants of CDD training

The overall goal of our “Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)” is to promote a new understanding on disability, the social model since we believe that understanding the social aspects of disability can positively impact the life of persons with disabilities (PWDs) according to the global community. CDD is trying to share this new perspective through various kinds of disability-related trainings such as “Disability Awareness Training (DAT)”, “Disability Equality Training (DET)”, “Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR)” and “Disability and Development Training (D & D)” as core trainings. Other trainings such as “Basic Care Giver Training”, “Volunteer Training”, “Inclusive Education Training” and “Independent Living Training” may be implemented.

Each core training is conducted twice a year with other trainings as needed. Through these trainings we have set the following specific goals:

1. To enable our partner organizations to raise awareness on disability by mainstreaming disability perspectives in their work;
2. To promote social inclusion and active participation of PWDs in communities;
3. To empower not only PWDs but also their families for quality of life.

In order to achieve these specific goals, the role of the “Department of Social Welfare (DSW)” and the United Nations are important. A livelihood session, experience sharing, and a field visit are included to disseminate disability-related knowledge and information.

In Myanmar, the understanding of disability is generally the medical model. The number of disability-related organizations is less than other developing countries. Services to meet the basic needs of PWDs are still inadequate.



Training on Inclusive Education

In October, the “Workshop: Sharing Experiences of Conducting Training Activities: Collaboration between Eden Center for Disabled Children (Center for Disability and Development) and APCD” was conducted at Eden Centre, Yangon, Myanmar. We are now working together on curriculum for the trainings. In 2010, we hope to conduct trainings using our new curriculum and schedule. After the workshop, CDD and APCD signed an agreement to collaborate for the next three years. This is a milestone for CDD.



Certificate Conferred by
Dr. Zaw Moe Aung, TLMI

Tha Uke
(Director, Eden Center for Disabled Children)

Welcome DPDO New Self-Help Organization!

In November 11, 2003, two participants of “Self-Help Group (SHG)” training at APCD have shared their experiences and vision with some friends with disabilities at the office of “Association and Aid and Relief (AAR), Japan”. They all agreed to form the SHG called “Disabled People’s Development Organization (DPDO)” which has more than 150 members at present.

Mr. Nay Lin Soe / Mr. Zin Min Htet
(Contact persons, Disabled People’s Development Organization)



Myanmar has taken steps in terms of disability since Cyclone Nargis in May 2008. A comprehensive nationwide disability survey was completed which provides a clearer picture of the situation of PWDs. Following the Emergency Plan of Action after the cyclone, a National Plan of Action (POA) was approved to be implemented in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

According to the POA, an estimated 100,000 PWDs or 2.32% of the total population have disabilities. CBR would be helpful for inclusive development and other specific services for PWDs.

Based on networking and collaboration through training, information support and other necessary initiatives, all activities need to be carried out with a wider focus. Disability issues can be addressed in all areas of development in collaboration with the Government. While cooperating with organizations of PWDs like EDEN, it is expected that APCD will be engaged in a variety of activities with our Government and other disability-related organizations.

Dr. Zaw Moe Aung
(Country Operations Manager, The Leprosy Mission International)

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2009

IDPD in Karachi

Pakistan

Ms. Sharmeela Farooqui, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh Province, joined DPOs in Karachi to pay homage to the Founder of Pakistan on Observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2009. The Association of the Physically Handicapped Adults (APHA) in collaboration of other DPOs laid flowers at the mausoleum of Qaid-e-Azam.

Mr. Jaffer Shah, Programme Coordinator, Mr. S.M Nishat, Secretary General of APHA, Mr. Mubin Uddin, President of DPI Pakistan, and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Nizamani, Vice-Chairperson of DPI Southeast Asia, highlighted problems and difficulties faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs) especially, mobility and transport problems, accessibility, non-availability of ramps and railings at public buildings, notably at Quaid's Mazar, a national monument at the grave of the Founder of Pakistan. They emphasized the need to include PWDs in policy-making channels, such as Local bodies, Provincial and National assemblies to advocate the problems and their solutions. They also demanded that the Government implement the various Concessions and Quota that were announced and legislated.

As the main guest, Ms. Sharmeela Farooqui promised to provide employment to PWDs in the Government and also to be an advocate for PWDs at all governmental levels.

Ghulam Nabi Nizamani (Coordinator, ASHA)



Kyrgyz Republic **The Road to Create a Barrier-Free Society**

On 2 December, a symposium entitled: 'Towards Realization of a Barrier-Free Society for Persons with Disabilities and All', was held in Bishkek, capital of the Kyrgyz Republic. The event was organized by the State Agency on Social Security under the Government of Kyrgyz Republic and the Japan International Cooperation Agency for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The main purpose of the event was to share good practices to create a barrier-free environment for people with disabilities in our society and discuss further development. Eight persons including representatives of Disabled Peoples' Organizations and Government representatives shared their experiences. Some examples included the employment of several people with disabilities by private enterprises, construction of a ramp at the entrance of a government school in Karakol city that can help children in wheelchairs to access the school and study with their peers, and steps taken by Bishkek city administration to make public buildings more accessible. All this was in response to an appeal by Disabled Peoples' Organizations.

The Moderator, a lady with a disability, concluded the discussion with the comment, "We, Persons with Disabilities are not to complain or beg but we are to take action together with other members of our society."

Aleksander Safronov
(Member, Kyrgyz Association of the Blind and Deaf)



Thailand **Disability Leaders Emphasizing to Make MDGs Inclusive**



The theme of the International Day of Person with Disabilities 2009, "Making the MDGs Inclusive: Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Their Communities Around the World" was observed in Nonthaburi by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security through the National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NEP) in collaboration with the Council on Disability in Thailand. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva as chief guest at the ceremony presented awards to individuals and organizations contributing to the disability movement and development. "Participation of Persons with Disabilities at the

policy-making level is one way to make policies inclusive" said Senator, Mr. Monthian Buntan while talking about empowering PWDs and their communities. One hundred PWDs registered to receive a compensation allowance and concessions offered by government. An exhibition was well represented by public, private and development sectors recognizing the organizational efforts towards the mainstreaming of PWDs.

Executive Director's Message



Akiie Ninomiya

On behalf of the Foundation of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation), I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the stakeholders working together to empower persons with disabilities (PWDs) and promote a barrier-free society in the Asia-Pacific region. As the Executive Director of APCD, I would like to share this message with our stakeholders and supporters.

APCD has been developing networking and collaboration with 33 countries, approximately 200 associate organizations, and over 800 ex-trainees in the Asia-Pacific region. We would like to utilize these resources to develop our activities in four areas:

(1) To empower organizations of PWDs to be more effective and sustainable “Agents of Change” in their communities.

(2) To develop cooperation and collaboration among APCD’s stakeholders according to sub-regional mechanisms such as ASEAN, the Pacific, South Asia, Central Asia and East Asia.

(3) To provide and facilitate new projects with APCD stakeholders in terms of grass-root level organizations of PWDs, government sectors and international government sectors such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as donor organizations and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs).

(4) To increase training programs to develop more effective and sustainable networking and collaboration in the sub-regions such as community-based rehabilitation (CBR), capacity development of self-help organizations, knowledge management, non-handicapping environment, disability equality training, and independent living.

APCD has been recognized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UNESCAP as a model international agency to promote south-to-south cooperation. APCD would like to promote this south-to-south cooperation to Governments, NGOs and international organizations as well as business corporations.

Through your collaboration with APCD Foundation, our resources in the Asia Pacific region can be mobilized, utilized and maximized. We can then effectively promote an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for all.

APCD Activities

Tentative APCD activities for the next 3 months (January 2010 – March 2010)

January 2010

11-14

17- Feb 5

26-29

Mission to Myanmar

Mid-term Evaluation for APCD Project Phase II

Regional Workshop on Capacity Development of Self-Help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (CDSHOD)

February 2010

15-19

22-26

Mission to Myanmar

Mission to Malaysia

March 2010

8-19

16-17

Training on Disability, Gender and Development (DGD)

South-to-South Cooperation Seminar

Tentative APCD activities 2010	January	February	March
Mission to Myanmar	11-14		
Regional Workshop on Capacity Development of Self-Help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (CDSHOD)		26-29	
Mission to Myanmar		15-19	
Mission to Malaysia		22-26	
Regional Training on Disability, Gender and Development (DGD)			8-19
South-to-South Cooperation Seminar			16-17
Mid-term Evaluation for APCD Project Phase II	17Jan - 5 Feb		

Announcement

Our email address has a new domain!!!

Please change the bookmark
www.apcdproject.org >> www.apcdfoundation.org

Please change our contact email address
 (The domain of other emails is also changed in the same way.)
info@apcdproject.org >> info@apcdfoundation.org

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

At the end of the year, it's good for all of us to jointly celebrate the coming new year, as well as review lessons learned in our life. A philosopher once said that an unexamined life is not worth-living. Beyond that, we may also need to look at life, nature and the world as a whole, so we can better understand the world around us from all angles.

As to disability perspectives, it is important for all of us to look at and consider things comprehensively. We can then believe that persons with disabilities can participate in society. Lastly, we wish readers all the best throughout the New Year in 2010!!

With our best wishes and Happy New Year!

"Empowerment" APCD Newsletter
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