

**Asia/Pacific Region  
North America/Caribbean  
Latin America  
Europe  
Africa**

**Disabled  
Peoples'  
International  
April 21-26, 1992  
Vancouver, B C Canada**

**'Equalization of Opportunities'**

*In conjunction with Independence '92*

## **Welcome delegates!**

### *To the 3rd World Congress of Disabled Peoples' International*

It is a great privilege to welcome to Canada, on behalf of the Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped, the delegates attending DPI's Third World Congress. COPOH, the Canadian member of DPI, is proud to share the hosting role with its provincial member, the British Columbia Coalition of People with Disabilities.

Established in 1976, COPOH co-ordinates the views of disabled people's self-help organizations to improve the status of Canadians with disabilities. Member organizations must be controlled by people with disabilities, and there currently are 10 member organizations.

COPOH's motto is A VOICE OF OUR OWN, reflecting the organization's emphasis on the disabled people's self-representation.

Equality issues remain fundamentally important to people with disabilities. COPOH has worked to achieve protection of disabled Canadians under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian constitution, and the Canadian Human Rights Acts. COPOH ranks the inclusion of disabled people in these laws among its most important achievements.

Despite equality guarantees, however, Canadians with disabilities continue to confront many barriers, which impede their participation in society. As a result, all disability organizations in Canada are advocating passage of an omnibus piece of legislation that would bring many offending pieces of legislation into accordance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

COPOH has prioritized four issue areas: employment, transportation, independent living, income security. With its Diary Project, COPOH provides a mechanism for disabled people at the grassroots level to express their concerns on these and other issues.

Submissions to the Diary Project, which may be made in any medium (prose, poetry, photography, audio/video cassette), are presented at public forums to educate Canadian politicians and the general public.

On International Human Rights Day, December 10, 1991, COPOH had its first public reading of Diary Project material on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada's capital. At that event, the invited diarists, all people with disabilities, urged the politicians and government officials in attendance to **DO THE RIGHT THING: SUPPORT EQUALITY**

COPOH has been involved in international issues since the 1980 Rehabilitation International conference, which gave rise to DPI. In 1984, COPOH became involved in international development work. COPOH works in partnership with disability organizations in the Caribbean and Latin America and is exploring the possibility of developing working relationships in other parts of the world. This World Congress presents an excellent opportunity to strengthen global ties among disability organizations and also to establish personal connections.

*Raleigh Orr*  
*COPOM National Chairperson*

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*Raleigh Orr*

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*Printed by Buchanan Printers of Winnipeg Mb., Canada*

**A message from Joshua T. Malinga**  
*Chairperson of Disabled Peoples' International*

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the third World Congress of Disabled Peoples' International and Independence '92.

It is appropriate for me to thank Independence '92, the Canadian Government, and all the funders who have made it possible for us to meet. I hope and implore all of you to take this opportunity to participate in all the activities and to take the Opportunity to meet each other and all members of the World Council.

Personally, I would like to meet as many of you as I can to discuss issues concerning disabled people in your regions and in your countries. I also want to take the opportunity to listen to you on what DPI can take on as priority matters and what you yourselves can do for DPI.

DPI is 12 years old now and some of us have been with the organization since its inception. It is time for new people to be involved and inject new ideas to the movement and our meeting in Vancouver presents that opportunity. Please, let us make use of it.

For the last four years and in the future, our objectives have been to achieve a united, world-wide, cross-disability movement of disabled people in which there is total communication, grassroots participation at all levels, and a "voice of our own" at all levels (nationally, regionally, continentally and internationally). We wanted an organization with a completely different identity from charities to spearhead the liberation of disabled people and stop the denial of human rights to disabled people.

The question I am asking is - have we achieved our objectives or not? If not - let us use the opportunity in Vancouver to discuss how we can create a DPI that will bring development to disabled people and empower them.

May I take this opportunity to singularly thank Independence '92 for everything and for bringing us together to chart a new course for the integration of disabled people within their communities and societies.

Once again, welcome, and please bring new ideas and suggestions to rejuvenate DPI. The struggle continues!!

*Joshua T Malinga*

## WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?

*Henry Enns*  
*DPI Executive Director*

It has been said that where there is no vision, the people perish! What is our vision as a movement for the third World Congress of DPI and, specially, what is your dream and what are your expectations as an individual?

So often our dream is blurred by the continuous struggle of oppression in our daily lives. Disabled people are still the poorest of the poor and struggling to liberate themselves from the oppression of poverty, disease, malnutrition, attitudinal and environmental barriers. So often society sees the wheelchair, the white cane, the crutch or the hearing aid, but not the person. Disabled people in their everyday lives are struggling for technical aids, jobs, meaningful relationships - even food.

In our organizations, our vision is often clouded by internal conflicts, petty politicking, issues of power and control. Our leaders sometimes become dictators and discourage the involvement of grassroots membership. Grassroots membership becomes apathetic and the leaders become discouraged for lack of involvement.

These issues are real and by no means trivial. Yet, at times we need to step back and get a picture of the broader vision. Today our world is experiencing gigantic changes. While the movement of democratization has positive benefits, it also has negative aspects.

The struggle for self-determination by groups of people in different countries has brought to the fore, prejudice and ethnic discrimination. The cessation of the cold war between the super powers has, in some cases, led to a search for new enemies. These new enemies often become our neighbors as racial tensions and divisiveness between ethnic minorities appears to be increasing.

In a world of ever-increasing economic difficulties, as the global recession affects the lives of people in virtually every country, we are also faced with the reality of continued pollution and destruction of the environment.

Add to this the rapid spread of diseases like AIDS, which will have a profound impact in shaping health and social services in the next decade, and we get a picture of global trends that will severely affect the future of the world. And, of course, there is always the ongoing issue of war and armed conflict that continue to disable thousands of people every year.

So what does the disability movement have to contribute to the discussion of these global trends?

It is my perception that in a world divided and filled with conflict, disabled people have learned something about acceptance, understanding and solidarity that can be shared.

In a time of economic distress, we can share our experiences of self-help projects and businesses that demonstrate to the world that we have something to contribute.

As limited and faulty as our structures may be, we have developed democratic processes that often have overcome cultural and political barriers. Through our peace initiatives, we can not only show the world the horrendous results of war, but also alternative ways of using resources, let us also take up the challenge of not becoming oppressors as we liberate ourselves.

We must struggle with the realities that disabled people face. We must struggle with these realities in the form of specific and concrete thinking and action to liberate ourselves and the disabled people at the grassroots level. Our discussions and direction must always keep in mind the everyday life of disabled persons at the grassroots level. Whatever we do, it must in some way have an impact on the individual to make his/her life a little better - the individual must have better access to services, to opportunities for jobs, to better accessibility, and to greater dignity in his/her life.

But, I believe it is also important that we do these things within the context of the greater global issues of liberating humanity to create a more caring society for all people.

Sometimes these issues become so overwhelming we forget that each of us can make a difference. Each of us can have a dream and work towards its realization.

In 1980, a group of individuals in Winnipeg had a dream of creating a world-wide movement of disabled people.

That dream has become an overwhelming reality against all hope and expectations.

Today, the disabled people's movement has virtually spread around the world. As I travel in various regions, I see groups of disabled people who have picked up that dream and are finding ways of incorporating it with their own, and implementing it at the local level.

Martin Luther King had a dream of liberating the black people in United States and was prepared to pay the ultimate price for that dream.

Rick Hansen, the chairperson of Independence '92, had a dream of wheeling around the world. He accomplished his dream and one of the outcomes is Independence '92, which, in conjunction with the DPI World Congress, is the largest event to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

At the first training seminar that DPI conducted, in 1983 in Dakar, Senegal, Jim Derksen had a dream also. He said, "I sometimes think human society is asleep and dreaming a dream where some people are perfect, beautiful, and powerful, and others are flawed, unbeautiful and power-less. In the dream, the perfect people play their immortal parts and the imperfect people are rejected from human life.

We are helping to awaken humanity to the reality that all people are flawed and yet beautiful, and each one limited in his/her unique way and yet powerful." So the question is, as you come to In-dependence '92, what is your dream? You are the people who will make the difference. You are the individuals who will set concrete direction for DPI for the future. You are the people who will carry out that dream. What is your dream?

## **The DPI of my dreams: past, present and future**

*Joshua Malinga, DPJ Chairperson*

It is not easy to talk about the history of DPI without starting from the beginning. The concept of a worldwide coalition of disabled people was conceived in Winnipeg (Canada) in June, 1980, and vigorous plans and activities were put into motion to "concretize" the idea.

In 1981, the First Congress of Disabled Peoples' International was held in Singapore, where a plan of action, manifesto and constitution were adopted. The first four years were very important in putting the organization on the map and in just under 18 months, the United Nations and some UN systems granted consultative and observer status to DPI.

We established the headquarters in Sweden and the development office in Canada. Since the last World Congress in the Bahamas in 1985, DPI has faced many challenges and struggles. In 1989, for example, we had to postpone the third World Congress as a result of the violence in Colombia. The challenges and difficulties made us stronger as an organization and membership has grown to 100. The development program has placed emphasis on leadership development and training among disabled people in the developing countries. Last year, 46 per cent of our budget was spent on development, but what are to be the future priorities for DPI as more of the development work is being taken over by the national and regional bodies.

What we aimed to achieve during the period between congresses was to create a united grassroots, worldwide movement of disabled people, bring about total communication within the organization and among all disability groups, and to consolidate the "voice of our own" at national, regional, continental and international levels.

We also wanted an identity that reflects our unique experiences, knowledge and expertise, to be able to bring about required social and political changes to enable disabled people to be part of society.

The 1990s have seen the consolidation of our two offices into one office in Winnipeg and the effective centralization and strengthening of our administration. Our communication through Vox Nostra and other administrative channels has improved. The consolidated infrastructure has also increased DPI's credibility with funders. So while we are continuing to enjoy the support of Canada and Sweden, Finland, Japan and Denmark have started to become important supporters of DPI activities.

In 1985, disabled women's issues played an important role at the Congress. Since then, disabled women have become increasingly involved at the regional and World Council level, as well as within many member organizations. Training seminars have been held to enable disabled women to discuss their own issues, but we still have a long way to go to ensure equal representation.

The involvement of other under-represented groups has also been facilitated through the training programs. The DPI World Council will be recommending changes to the constitution to provide the opportunity for international bodies like the WBU, WFD and ILSMH to have full representation on the World Council. This will also facilitate greater involvement of a broader disability representation within the organization. Greater co-operation with the UN has been another objective since the last World Congress.

In 1987, largely due to the efforts of DPI, a majority of the Experts at a UN Experts' Meeting held to evaluate the Decade, were people with disabilities. The overwhelming consensus was that the development of the international disability movement was the major success of the Decade.

IN 1990, DPI again had substantial influence in the UN Experts meeting in Finland. Both Experts meetings were chaired by DPI representatives and every year, DPI has participated in the UN Inter-Agency meeting and continually co-operated with the Centre in Vienna. Opportunities for co-operation around training programs and development projects have also been provided with the ILO and other UN bodies. In many of the UN activities DPI has co-operated and co-ordinated activities with other NGOs. In 1987, an NGO FORUM in New York was carried out jointly with ICOPD. Joint meetings with WBU, WFD, ILSMH have led to a strong untied position at a number of international meetings.

The world has changed significantly. War and violence have continued to dominate the international scene. In response, DPI has established a Peace Committee and Peace marches have been held in several regions.

To take advantage of political structures, the Commonwealth and Francophone committees were established. This has further provided opportunities for greater democratization and involvement.

But what about the future? Where should DPI as an organization and the World Council focus their priorities for the next four years?

It has been said an organization exists for its members. So what do DPI members want? Communication is a two-way street. What are the ways that we can make it easier for you to have input into directing the policies of DPI? As an organization, we are still faced with the challenge of making all of our structures more democratic. The tendency is for people to want to retain their positions. This often discourages greater involvement.

DPI members have become increasingly political within their countries and regions; I believe this must become a greater priority for all of us. While we have to be sensitive to cultural and political situations in countries, the reality is that DPI is a liberation movement. As such, advocacy is at the top of our priorities. We must discuss and debate strategy in order to mount effective action. This should become a greater priority for the World Council in the future.

How do we balance advocacy with practical development projects?

In my view, liberation and development go hand in hand. We liberate ourselves from poverty, hunger and oppression through both advocacy and development. Nevertheless, the question must be raised, what priority should be given to development in the future?

How do we balance advocacy with practical development projects? In my view, liberation and development go hand in hand. We liberate ourselves from poverty, hunger and oppression through both advocacy and development. Nevertheless, the question must be raised, what priority should be given to development in the future?

The next four years will provide many opportunities and challenges within the UN System. DPI will participate in the Working Group to draft Standard Rules in ECOSOC.

As we near the end of the Decade, there is a need to lobby the UN to continue to be actively involved with disabled people. What priority should we give DPI's work within the UN? This will have budget and human resource implications. The year 1994 is the International Year of the Family. Again, this presents new and challenging opportunities. Families can provide support and foster liberation or they can be paternalistic and oppressive. What ideas do you have for involvement for DPI in the International Year of the Family?

As an organization, we continue to be faced with the reality of building a sound financial base. Should we establish international business ventures? Should we promote more active contributions to the Endowment Fund of DPI members? What ideas do you have for DPI fund-raising?

As you think about DPI priorities for the next four years, it is important to realize we cannot do everything. We will only be effective if we can focus our priorities clearly and in such a way that we also have the resources to implement them.

I believe that while the third World Congress will allow us to discuss and debate issues, we will need a World Assembly in 1994 to establish internal direction for DPI. Those who were involved in the founding of DPI has a clear vision and a dream of changing the world so that disabled people can achieve full participation and equality within their communities and society. There is no doubt in my mind and in the minds of my colleagues that DPI has achieved great things and is destined to achieve greater social and political changes in the future.

I personally, would like to see DPI become a high-profile organization that can perform political acts on behalf of disabled people and stop the world from oppressing and exploiting disabled people.

I encourage you to think about these ideas as you come to the Congress. I'm looking forward to meeting each one of you and hearing your individual opinions on these matters.

## What has DPI done since the second World Congress?

### THE CONSTITUTION

*Anneli Joneken*

*Constitution Committee Chairperson*

DPI's constitution originates from the First World Congress in Singapore in 1981. In the current draft, changes are included that have been discussed in the organization during this 10 year period.

Some of the changes are major in their character, like the establishment of a World Assembly, the introduction of new membership categories, and changes in the article on how to change the constitution. However, it is mostly a question of modernizing the regulations and moving the more detailed rules to the bylaws. The draft has been discussed in the various DPI organs in several versions during the past two years. It is my belief that there actually already exists a common agreement on most of the changes proposed, and that only minor adjustments need to be made during the World Congress in Vancouver in April 1992.

According to the present constitution, it is regional assemblies who adopt an amended constitution. It is my hope that there will be a possibility for the five regional assemblies to accept this draft.

The following is a short review of the draft proposal with some comments.

Through the DPI Secretariat, anyone interested can receive the full text of draft proposal as well as the existing.

#### **Preamble**

No changes have been proposed in the preamble, which includes some of the ideological background.

#### **Article 1:** (name, purpose, seat)

The purpose of DPI is to obtain social justice through the equalization of opportunities for all people with disabilities. The preamble, DPI Manifesto from 1981 and the UN World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons are mentioned as guiding principles.

#### **Article 2-6:** (participation)

Additional membership categories are introduced. There will continue to be full members and provisional, but also corporate members (interested international uni-disability organizations upon application) and associate members (interested local organizations of disabled persons, which do not fulfil the requirements to become full or provisional members).

Observer status is also introduced. Article 5 deals with membership fees and Article 6 with the termination of membership.

**Article 7-14:** (structure)

The organs of DPI: National Assembly (Article 8), Regional Assembly (Article 9), Regional Council (Article 10), World Council (Article 11), executive officers (Article 12), World Assembly (Article 13) and World Congress (Article 14).

The World Assembly and the executive officers are new in the constitution. In the World Assembly, the highest authority in DPI, each National Assembly, representing its membership, has full voting and speaking rights. The Assembly is to meet at least once every four years. In between the meetings of the World Assembly the World Council is the highest authority.

The World Congress is to continue to act as a consultative forum for discussion, to be held when so desired, upon the decision of the World Council. (The responsibilities of each organ are listed in the articles.)

**Article 16:** (financial and budgetary arrangements)

**Article 17:** (bylaws)

In addition to the constitution, a set of bylaws is to be adopted by the World Council, to include more detailed rules and regulations to be followed in the organization. A first draft will be discussed by the World Council at the Vancouver meeting.

**Article 18:** (amendments to the constitution)

This article tries to make it easier to modernize the constitution in the future. Decisions are to be taken in the World Assembly where all full members have a vote. These decisions require a two-thirds majority.

**Article 19:** (dissolution of the organization)

**Article 20:** (entering into force)

When the new constitution can enter into force will depend on discussions in Vancouver - ie, when application from interested international uni-disability organizations can be dealt with, when the new World Assembly should have its first meeting and when the period of the new World Council, to be elected, should commence.

It would probably be wise to introduce a transitional; period when the changes can be prepared, applications and other matters, such as the bylaws, can be dealt with and decided upon, and they can then enter into force at a specific date later on.

**THE UNITED NATIONS**  
*Rachel Hurst*  
*Disability Awareness in Action*

**1. Why is it important?**

*The UN provides another important channel for the voice of disabled people, and ensures our recognition at the highest level.*

**Background**

Past influence has been crucial: DPI has had substantial input into the formulation of the World Program of Action: into reporting on human rights and disabled people; consultation with ILO, ECOSOC, WHO and on disabled women's issues has had a substantial effect. Members of DPI have contributed to many UN Expert's meetings on the Decade and supported the finding from those meetings - that the most important progress made in the Decade has been the growth and work of disabled people's organizations at all levels.

DPI's involvement with the Global Project has supported public education and awareness of the Decade and World Program of Action. This Reaffirmation, particularly, has provided a level for national assemblies when lobbying their governments or influencing the media. It has also provided an opportunity for co-ordination with other INGOs.

UN programs, resolutions and recommendations provide international instruments that can be used at the regional, national and grassroots levels. These instruments, based on equal opportunities, can have a profound effect on individual disabled people in many ways by influencing policy on community-based-rehabilitation, independent living, development and income-generation programs, and by emphasizing the need to support and encourage the participation of disabled people in their own societies.

It should be noted that although the Decade has had achievements, there has been no resourcing at the UN level, nor has there been an increase for disability issues within the regular budget.

*Suggestions:*

*That this work and influence should be a high priority within DPI and that the UN should significantly increase funding within the regular budget and to disabled people's organizations through the Trust Fund.*

## 1. How do we do it?

### Suggestions:

- By emphasizing equal opportunities as a priority and through an agreed strategy.
- By consultation and advisory groups with ECOSOC, ILO, Human Rights Commission, UN Department of Public Information, DPU and the Women's Unit.
- Lobbying - General Assembly, Expert's Meetings, and through National Assemblies.
- Monitoring - human rights (Ombudsman).
- Support the strengthening of the CSDHA and encourage the formation of an advisory committee of 50 per cent disabled people.
- Liaise with other INGOs - WED, WBU, ILSMH having a voice within DPI; attending the Inter-Agency meeting.
- Access funding that is available in the UN system for development i.e. Trust Fund, ILO and UNDP

## 3. Who does it?

### Suggestions:

1. Permanent and occasional delegated input in Vienna/New York.
2. Delegated individuals given responsibility for monitoring and evaluating certain areas i.e. human rights (DPI and Human Rights Committee), ECOSOC, ILO, women (DPI Women's Committee), ICIDH.
3. Budget for and resource DPI attendance at and involvement in Experts Meetings/General Assembly/Inter-Agency etc.
4. Support public education campaigns such as the UN Department of Public Information symposium and Awareness in Action '92.

## DEVELOPMENT

*Yutta Fricke,  
Development Program Officer*

To report on the progress of DPI's development program is to reflect on the growth of the disability movement itself. The increase in DPI membership from 70 members in 1985 to 100 in 1992 is the greatest indicator of development.

Based on the conviction that our organization is development, this review of the development program since 1985 focuses on the inter-relationship and activities of DPI's major component parts: the international body, regional development offices and organization and membership.

This progress report then sets the stage for a glimpse into the future, beginning with your participation in the third World Congress of Disabled Peoples' International!

### **International Body**

Perhaps the most common understanding of a development program is that of overseas assistance from industrialized countries to improve the standard of living among the poor in Third World countries, or from North to South. Because DPI's former development program office, and now DPI headquarters, is based in Canada, we seem to be perpetrating this false perception.

In fact, DPI's development program does intend to improve the quality of life and hence the integration of persons with disabilities. However, whereas the vast majority of the funds raised by DPI head-quarters travels the North-South route, the most vital organizational resources are found among DPI's 100 member bodies, whose common struggle for the equalization of opportunities transcends all borders, cultures and classes.

### Regional development offices and organization

It is this grassroots self-help bias, along with a conviction that development is a process, not a project, that oriented the development program since 1985.

With the aim of strengthening regional structures, including regional councils and regional development offices, the strategy of DPI was to develop its membership through leadership and project management training, and through long-term development program planning and implementation facilitated at the regional level.

The successful fulfilment of this aim is demonstrated in the list of accomplishments. Whereas in 1985, DPI had one regional development office in the Caribbean, today there are offices in Southern, Western and Eastern Africa and in Asia and Europe.

Latin America, whose well-developed regional program has received a three-year commitment of funds from FINNIDA, is being co-ordinated by the regional executive, considered more effective by the regional council in this case.

Already DPI is charting new paths into further regional development in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Well aware that those who live marginalization carry with them the best solutions to their problems, DPI's development program is directed by the grass-roots. The development program office and headquarters merely co-ordinate the efforts by linking program initiators with funding bodies, with material resources and with each other. The smooth amalgamation of DPI's former Swedish headquarters with the Winnipeg development program office reflects the similarity of the roles the two have always carried.

The existence of strong regional structures has resulted in a large number and variety of seminars. The types of themes include "Technical Aids Production" (Africa), "Human Rights and Disability" (Latin America), "From Care to Self-Help" (Asia), "Equalization of Opportunities" (Caribbean) and "Development Activist Training" (Africa).

Consistent with the directives of the last World Congress throughout DPI, an effort has been made to increase the representation of women to reach equity at seminars and to encourage leadership among women, including through structural provisions.

In all regions, with the exception of Europe, which is only now consolidating, at least one regional training seminar was conducted for women with disabilities.

The aims of the last World Congress action plan to increase rural participation and that of deaf persons have been addressed less systematically on the regional level, though these are integrated into most national plans and future regional seminar topics.

The international support for regional development has in turn been vital to national and local development; hence, the substantial increase in membership. Development activities at this level integrate training, public awareness raising, advocacy for systemic change (i.e. legislation), income generation, and in some cases, business endeavors for organizational sustainability.

Some of the many businesses under way are: wheelchair production; bicycle manufacturing; pottery, wicker furniture, Alpaca sweater production; agro and horticultural projects; manufacturing for import substitution (i.e. intravenous fluid, in Mauritania) and manufacturing and repairs for industry.

Many members have also benefited from national scholarship programs and international exchanges and training. Training between sister DPI organizations across the globe has led to particularly dynamic interchange of experience and resources. The Canada-El Salvador (COPOH-ACOGIPRI) co-ordination of a "Central American Seminar of Functional Writing" is one such example.

Synergy is the process by which the energy or power of the whole is greater than its individual parts. The synergy that is DPI is also "development".

By working as a democratic, mass movement of persons with disabilities, isolated individuals have recognized their power in numbers... 10 per cent of every population, 500 million worldwide. They are using this power to move beyond individual solutions to changing public attitudes and legislation that impede their integration.

As individuals empower their local organizations, so do these legitimize national bodies and leaders, and these in turn create the global movement, which is the foundation of Disabled Peoples' International.

At the international level, DPI has used its power to influence the United Nations and its agencies on many occasions in the last five years, including at the UN Experts' meetings regarding the Decade of Disabled Persons and in lobbying for inclusion of persons with disabilities in international aid and disaster on refugee relief.

As the demand for equal rights and opportunities attracts more voices from more nations, at more international gatherings, it is becoming increasingly difficult not to pay attention.

Truly, the systematic approach to development by DPI is unique among international disability organizations. It has provided DPI with considerable credibility in the international community.

As we face the future, major challenges face us:

How can we influence the international community and the UN to accept DPI's philosophical approach to development - that all we do as an organization is development!

Development and liberation are interwoven. Through development, disabled people liberate themselves from poverty, hunger, malnutrition and starvation. They gain a sense of dignity, solidarity and empowerment.

What are some ways DPI can effectively promote practical development at the grass-roots level?

As regional offices take over an increasing role in development, the question becomes, what role should DPI play at the international level, and what role should the DPI headquarters play in development?

Should DPI continue to have a development program at all at the international level? If so, what are practical steps to be taken for continuing to fund development?

When we have accomplished much, can we rest on our laurels?

## DPI OFFICERS

JOSHUA TEKE MALINGA

*DPI chairperson, 1990-1994*

### **Affiliations:**

Chartered secretary/accountant by profession; founder/former chair of National Council of Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe; World Treasurer of Disabled Peoples' International 1981-1984; World Deputy Chairperson of DPI (1985-1989); Secretary General of Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled; National Chair of the National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped, Zimbabwe; President of Zimbabwe Sports Association of the Disabled; Bulawayo City Councillor and Chairperson of Finance; member of Lions Club of Bulawayo; Director of Companies and Businessman of the Year, 1991; Commissioner of Oaths (Zimbabwe).

### **Comment:**

Started adult literacy classes and rehabilitation at age 13 at Jairos Jiri Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled and the Blind in Bulawayo. In 1966, attended Bulawayo Technical College, attaining a Diploma in Business Studies and was awarded the Group Certificate in Commercial Studies by the Royal Society of Arts in London.

In 1967, started employment with the Jairos Jiri Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled and the Blind as an accounts clerk.

In 1970, spearheaded the formation and foundation of the National Council of Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe as a protest movement against the Jairos Jiri Association. In 1975, was promoted to the position of National Secretary by Jairos Jiri Association.

In, 1977, was awarded a six-month scholarship by the Commonwealth Foundation to study the rehabilitation and provision of service to the disabled in the United Kingdom, Ghana, Nigeria and Malawi.

In 1980, attended the Rehabilitation International Congress in Winnipeg and was elected to the steering committee to prepare for the First World Congress. Attended the First World Congress of DPI in Singapore and was elected World Treasurer.

In 1985, was elected deputy chair of DPI at the Second World Congress in the Bahamas. In 1986, spearheaded the formation and foundation of Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled and was elected secretary general.

1987 - elected Bulawayo city councillor 1990 - elected Chairperson of Finance (Bulawayo City).

1990 - elected in Finland to the position of DPI Chairperson.

1991 - elected Bulawayo city councillor for a second term, and Chairperson of Finance.

**Personal:**

Born, April 28, 1944, at FILABUSI (INSIZA). Currently married to Ronia, also a disability activist, with eight children.

IRENE FEIKA

*DPI Canadian representative, Information Officer 1990-*

**Affiliations:**

Manager of Client Services, Bissel Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. (Serves economically disadvantaged people.)

Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities, past-president 1981-1986, member since 1979; Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped (COPHO), member, past chairperson, 1986-1990; Dialogue - magazine about issues related to disabilities, board member 1991-

**Education:**

Bachelor of Arts Honors - University of Victoria, 1978 - major in neuropsychology

**Personal:**

Single parent of two adult daughters, three grandsons, one dog "Snuffy".

KALLE KONKKOLA

*DPI deputy chairperson and chairperson of the Independent Living Committee of DPL*

**Affiliations:**

Founder of The Threshold 1973, consumer organization of disabled people; Member of Parliament, 1983-1987; one of the first Finnish Green parliamentarians; member of Helsinki City Council since 1984; many local political responsibilities in the City of Helsinki and the Finnish Green League; member of DPI World Council, 1986; vice-chair of DPI, 1990;

Chair of DPI Europe, 1990; chair, DPI Independent Living Committee, 1990; chair of Finnish Disabled People's Development Association 1992, attending UN Experts meeting in Stockholm, 1987, Tallin, 1989, Jervempaa, Finland, 1990 and Beijing, China, 1990 (chaired the Jervempaa meeting).

Many trips abroad in the area of development co-ordination to Africa and Asia. Many lecturing trips in Europe and North-America.

**Education:**

B.Sc. 1974- major mathematics. Born Jan. 16,1950.

ZOHRA RAJAH

*DPI Deputy chairperson*

**Affiliations:**

Since 1980, a director of a company for Import/Export. Became involved in the disability movement in 1974; founding member of the Fraternité mauricienne de Malades et Handicapés; since then have been involved in many organizations catering to the disabled. Secretary General for the Mauritius Handisport Federation; president of the Federation of Disabled Peoples' Organizations 'Mauritius'; member of the executive committee for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

The only one representing the disabled at the executive committee of the Mauritius Social Service, consisting of 99 organizations; recently nominated by the government to the Trust Fund Board for the Disabled. Working to integrate disabled children in kindergarten.

**Education:**

Due to staying in and out of hospital, nearly all my primary studies were done at home. Finished secondary school up to school certificate at the age of 18. At home, I was taking correspondence courses to improve myself.

**Personal:**

Born in Port Louis, Mauritius. Became physically disabled at the age of three.

SENATOR EITA YASHIRO

*DPI Honorary Secretary to 1994*

**Affiliations:**

A director of the House Committee on Health and Welfare; member of the House Special Committee on Science and Technology in Japan. Within Liberal Democratic Party, vice-chairperson of Policy Research Council and chairperson of Special Committee on International Year of Disabled Persons.

Joined Yamanashi Broadcasting Corporation after high school and worked as a director and MC; 1963, became a freelance TV entertainer/commentator; 1973, fell from a stage and suffered spinal cord injury; 1974, resumed stage life in a wheelchair while involved with disability movements; 1977, elected as first wheelchair member of the House of Councillors; 1983, elected chairperson of Asia-Pacific Regional Council of DPI (re-elected for the third term - 1988-1992); 1983, re-elected to the House of Councillors; 1984, joined Liberal Democratic Party; 1985, served as a parliamentary vice-minister of Science and Technology; assumed the co-chairperson of Japan-U.S.A.

Conference of Persons with Disabilities (to-date); 1988, elected chairperson of the House Committee on Social and Labor Affairs; 1989, re-elected to the House of Councillors for third term, to serve until 1995; 1990, elected as an Honorary Secretary of DPI, to 1994.

**Education:**

Isawa High School graduation in 1956.

**Personal:**

Born in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, 1937. Married in 1964 and has two sons and one daughter. (*Eita Yashiro was a stage name but he prefers to use it since most people are more familiar with it. Officially he is Eizaburo Maejima.*)

## *Vancouver/Canada*

***Before you leave for Independence 92 and the 3rd World Congress, check out the following:***

*At this writing in January, the DPI office in Winnipeg is a hub of activity. Staff members are busily doing what they can to ensure a successful visit for all delegates going to Vancouver in April. As the date draws near, we are concerned that we are giving our delegates all the information they might need, and in turn, that we have been provided with the correct information from each national assembly regarding delegates' names, itineraries, and special needs. Let us know how we can help you, we want this trip to be the highlight of your DPI experience.*

*Andrea Cibinel*

### ***Delegate check list:***

**Climate** - April in Vancouver may require a warm jacket or raincoat and an umbrella. The average temperatures for April range from a high of 14C (57F) to a low of 6C (44F).

**Foreign exchange** - The Canadian dollar is the accepted currency in Vancouver. Most stores and restaurants accept American Express, Visa and Master Card as well.

Travellers' cheques and foreign currency can be exchanged at the Vancouver International Airport or at most down-town banks. There will be on-site banking at Independence 92 through the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, which will cash DPI subsidy cheques.

**Ground transportation** - Vancouver International Airport is located 19 kilometres from downtown and the site of Independence 92. There will be a regular shuttle service from the airport to downtown hotels free of charge to all registered Independence 92 delegates. In order to schedule this service, Independence 92 needs to be informed of your arrival and departure times in and out of Vancouver.

**Insurance** - Delegates must make their own arrangements for health and accident insurance.

**Medication** - Please bring whatever you may require for the duration of your visit. It is strongly advised that you bring a letter from your doctor as well, indicating that the medication is necessary and not optional (in case the prescription does not meet Canadian guidelines).

**Passports and Visas** - International guests should check with the Canadian Consulate, embassy or high commission in their home country for entry requirements into Canada. Citizens of some countries may require non-immigrant visas. In addition, international participants who wish to stay longer than the period for which they are first admitted, should report to the nearest immigration office. Persons from outside the United States wishing to enter the United States before or after Independence 92, should make arrangements before leaving their home countries. Please be aware that, with international travel, even short stops made for connecting flights may require special visas in certain countries.

**Exposition** - All national assemblies are strongly encouraged to bring samples of resale items that can be sold at the Exposition. DPI has reserved two booths and will handle the sale of items, with the proceeds returning to the supplier. There will be no storage facility, however, and you will be responsible for the delivery and pick-up of items. (We could put them under the covered tables during the evenings, but at your risk.)

Please mark each item with the country of origin, contact name, organization, and desired price. Also, please provide DPI with a detailed list of what you are planning to bring. It is advisable that you first contact a Canadian government representative in your country to ascertain whether the items in question present problems in crossing any borders. Posters or large photos of the areas from which the items come could be used to enhance the display.

**Raffle** - Don't forget the DPI raffle! We need a contribution from each country. This might be something made at a development project site, art by a disabled artist, or just something typical from your part of the world. Please mark the items with the country of origin and the donating organization. We plan to have one grand prize and two secondary prizes, so any extras will also be appreciated. The raffle should serve to demonstrate the wealth of culture, diversity and talent within our organization. Please support DPI in this small fund-raising effort.

**Independence Street** - This is your opportunity to show the struggles and successes of the DPI Development Program. Gather your best photos and project products to show the rest of the world what we can do!

## YOUR CONGRESS AGENDA

### TUESDAY APRIL 21

7:30-9:30 p.m. COPOH/DPI RECEPTION

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 22

9a.m. OPENING PLENARY  
"WE ARE MAKING HISTORY!"  
*CHAired BY: IRENE FEIKA*

10:30 a.m. BREAK

11 am. "WHAT HAS DPI DONE SINCE THE  
SECOND WORLD CONGRESS"  
*CO-CHAired BY ZOHRA RAJAH &  
KALLE KONKKOLA*

12 p.m. LUNCH

2:30-4:30 p.m. DPI WORKSHOPS:  
DISABILITY & DEVELOPMENT  
BEYOND THE DECADE

#### TOPICS:

1) DPI & the UN Beyond the Decade

*Facilitators.' JOSHUA MALINGA & RACHEL HURST*

2) DPI & Development, Experiences, Challenges and Future  
Initiatives *Facilitator.' KALLE KONKKOLA*

3) DPI, Women & Under-Represented Groups

*Facilitators.' ANNELI JONEKEN & ZOHRA RAJAH*

4) DPI & Independent Living

*Facilitator.' ADOLPH RATZKA*

5) DPI & Human Rights

*Facilitator.' JAMES DONALD*

4:30-6:30 p.m. DINNER BREAK

6:00-8 p.m. INDEPENDENCE 92 RECEPTION  
AND EXPOSITION OPENING

**APRIL 23-25** INDEPENDENCE 92

**FRIDAY APRIL 24**

8-12 a.m. INDEPENDENCE STREET DANCE

**SATURDAY APRIL 25**

6-10:30 p.m. INDEPENDENCE 92 BANQUET

**SUNDAY APRIL 26**

10 a.m~12 p.m. WORLD CONGRESS III PLENARY SESSION  
*MODERATOR: EILEEN GIRON*  
*PRESENTER: ANNELI JONEKEN*

12-2 p.m. LUNCH

2-3:30 p.m. PLENARY SUMMARY  
*MODERATOR: TAMBO CAMARA*  
*DRAFTING COMMITTEE: RACHEL HURST (CHMR), IRENE FEIKA, WILLIAM ROWLAND, RODRIGO JIMENEZ, YUKIKO OKA*

1) "WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM WORLD CONGRESS III?" - Report and summary from the Drafting Committee.

2) ACTION PLAN

3:30-4 p.m. WORLD CONGRESS III CLOSING CEREMONY

1) Presentation of the President's Medal to Henry Enns by Justin Dart

2) This session and, consequently, the Congress will end with brief (2-3- minute) inspirational speeches given by individuals in the audience.

3) CLOSING REMARKS *JOSHUA MALINGA*

**APRIL 28-29**

9 a.m.-5 p.m. DPI WORLD COUNCIL MEETING

## COMMONWEALTH

*Ron Chandran-Dudley,  
Commonwealth Committee Chairperson  
DPJ officer Carlos Botero*

The long trek to Harare commenced several years ago when a few members of the Commonwealth felt a need for such a committee under the aegis of DPI. The first Ad-hoc Committee was elected from among 14 representatives from the Commonwealth of Nations and was approved by the DPI World Council in Finland in May, 1990. That Committee, under my chairmanship, was mandated to convene a more formal arrangement.

Aug. 30, 1991, the DPI Commonwealth Committee was formally instituted in Harare, Zimbabwe. The members present elected the office bearers and drew-up a plan of action.

Committee members also resolved that they would approach the Heads of State of the members of the Commonwealth to place all matters pertaining to disability issues and disabled people on the agenda of the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Harare.

The plan of action:

The inclusion of disability issues on the agenda at the meeting in Zimbabwe in October, 1991.

*(We were encouraged by the announcement by the Deputy Minister of Labor, Manpower Planning and Social Welfare, that His Excellency Comrade Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe would be placing the items of disabled people's issues on the agenda.)*

DPI's Commonwealth Committee be granted full non-governmental status, which will enable its representatives to attend and participate fully and equally at all future Commonwealth NGO Forums.

It should also enjoy similar privileges and rights of these members.

To request that DPI Commonwealth

Committee representatives attend all relevant Commonwealth Ministers meetings as observers.

DPI Commonwealth Committee shall be the main advisory body to the Secretary General of the Commonwealth or his representative/nominee on all matters and issues impinging on the lives, functions and development of people with disabilities and their organizations within the Commonwealth.

Further, that this Advisory Committee shall, through the Secretary General of the Commonwealth or his representative/nominee, influence all relevant activities, training, exchanges and technical assistance, women and youth units, human rights, education and others to include people with disabilities at all levels.

That the CHOGM support the principle and the implementation of the proposed further 10 years of specific activities of people with disabilities and program through financial and physical commitments.

The above resolution would be handed to the High Level Advisory Committee of CHOGM, which would meet prior to CHOGM, at which most of the priorities and financial allocations would be drawn up.

The DPICC was mandated to make necessary preparations for the forthcoming DPICC meeting and of the DPI Committee of the Whole in Vancouver to coincide with the third World Congress and Independence '92, April, 1992.

To develop a long-term action plan embodying the following decisions, together with time-frames and a budget.

Collating common legislative measures from member nations that have legislation supporting people with disabilities and safe-guarding their rights. This shall be based along the lines of the Harare Declaration of the South Africa Federation of the Disabled - to develop a mechanism of influencing Commonwealth governments to implement legislation concerning people with disabilities.

- Environmental sustainable development.
- Technical and systematic approaches to education at all levels. The support for
  - a Commonwealth Endowment Fund in support of DPI's proposed Technical and Education Fund.
- Human Rights: in support of DPI's initiatives in the successful tabling of the Special Rapporteur's Report on Human Rights and Disability at the Sub-commission of the UN Human Rights Commission.
- Research and information sharing: to develop a data base and to plug into the Commonwealth network of information so as to provide access to information and documentation through the various media, including braille, recorded tapes, large print and other forms, enabling disabled people to be equally well informed.
- Exchange program between regions - South-South and North-South.
- Encourage and urge Commonwealth countries to support and publicize the work done by the Commonwealth Foundation and Secretariat and thus bring the Commonwealth family of nations nearer to the people with disabilities.

As a first step, it may be expedient to have a person with a disability employed within the Human Rights section of the Commonwealth Secretariat to attend to and mount program on all matters concerning human rights issues of people with disabilities and their organizations.

It is our expectation that, at last in the 90s and at the end of the UN Declared Decade of Disabled Persons, (1983-1992), and after the adoption of the Human Rights Committee Report on the UN Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in August in Geneva,

the Commonwealth Secretariat will include and finance program concerning people with disabilities as the Commonwealth Secretariat has done for women, youth, education, environment and other areas of equally great concern in terms of the effective and efficient deployment of all human (including disabled people) and economic resources within the total national plan of developing Commonwealth.

Brothers and sisters with disability and their organizations within the Commonwealth must continue to toil and keep within focus of their respective heads of government, the burning desires of their disabled grassroots citizens to be equal citizens contributing to the national development.

This year is the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formal constituting of DPI in Singapore, which has now spread to 100 countries around the world. It is hope that we can spawn yet another international movement of grassroots with disabilities and develop a vibrant movement of self-help organizations.

## **EDUCATION**

*Khalfan H. Khalfan*

*Education Committee Chairperson*

Education for disabled people, be it formal or informal, including literacy education, received very little attention until recently. It is disheartening to realize so many governmental and non-governmental agencies are little bothered in either formal or informal education programs involving disabled persons.

It is estimated that nearly a billion persons around the world cannot read nor write. However, have we ever thought how many of the world's over half a billion disabled people cannot read or write?

To be realistic, more than 75 per cent of the disabled people in developing countries are in that situation. Because of this, DPI decided to join hands with the International Task Force on Literacy in order to support the ultimate objective - education objective - education for all and education for empowerment. In 1990 in Helsinki, Finland, the DPI World Council adopted a recommendation to set up a DPI Education Committee, which was mandated in Harare in 1991 by the same council.

### **What have we done?**

DPI has been more and more involved in the work of ITFL, and set up an important step in directing ITFL focus at the Chantilly meeting in 1988 where DPI diverted the focus on learners. Learners as grassroot consumers of the education were to be more involved and listened to. This initiative was well received and gave the 1989 Mombassa meeting a new and dynamic dimension. DPI must be proud to see that the 1989 Mombassa ITFL meeting, for the first time, organized what was termed a "Learners Panel", which was facilitated in the local language - Kiswahili - and chaired by the DPI representative. This means the International level meeting was brought a little closer to the grassroots level. At least the ITFL, shared the experiences of DPI in this context.

Undoubtedly, from Toronto to Chantilly, there has been a growing recognition of the need to get closer to the reality: educational activities have to take a "bottom-up" approach, and this means involving learners who are the ultimate consumers. In Mombassa, the organised visits to literacy centres and the Learners Panel helped provide this dimension.

In 1990, DPI was also represented at the Fourth World Assembly on Adult Education and the launching of the International Literacy Year. In this meeting the very few disabled persons present were able to put forward a statement to emphasize the importance of people with special needs in the field of education.

*“In this UN Decade of Disabled Persons...with one of its goals to include expanded educational opportunities for over 500 million people throughout the world with physical, mental or sensory impairment...learners with disabilities share the right of “Education for All” with their fellow citizens...ICAE takes the responsibility for ensuring that these rights to “Education for All” are met and that while ICAE will not be the only party involved, it must take active leadership and ensure resources to achieve this goal”*

Where are we headed?

1. Establish a strong dedicated committee. People from regions have already been contacted to become members of the Education Committee after consulting the DPI Regional Chairs.
2. Develop a plan of action.
3. Develop awareness on the need for education among disabled persons.
4. Develop co-operation and collaboration among organizations and agencies in the field of education.
5. Influence governments to pass legislation and policies on the rights of people with disabilities to equal educational and training opportunities.
6. Organize seminars/workshops.
7. Co-operate and collaborate with ICAE and its affiliates to involve people with disabilities in various programs/activities.

## **Conclusion**

One of the slogans of adult education is “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” All of us must work together to mobilize and use this human resource that we are. We must accept this challenge and realize education with empowerment as we enter the 21st century.

The gap between the rich developed nations and the poor developing nations and within nations continues to grow and increase the challenges we face.

It's time to make 1992 a literacy year for disabled people within DPI. Literacy is one of the most important needs of many of our developing countries. It is therefore, time that DPI should give special attention to literacy and popular education, for without literacy, our development efforts could not be fully realized.

We need to develop new structures so that people with disabilities/learners may speak for themselves in ways in which they are not seen as incomplete human beings in need of learning but in ways that give credit to their knowledge, their skills and their wisdom.

It's worth winding up by quoting the motto of the Ban Goog Kae village in Thailand ( describing development:

- *If you are going to plant, you must prepare the soil*
- *If you are going to eat, you must prepare the meal.*
- *If you are going to do development work, you have to prepare the people.*
- *If you are going to develop mankind, you have to develop an attitude of moral wholeness.*
- *If you are going to develop anyone else, you have to develop yourself first.*

## **FRANCOPHONE COMMITTEE**

*France Picard, Francophone Committee Chairperson*

The committee has an 11-member executive committee, elected for two years, which implements decisions of the General Assembly. Aside from representation from the five DPI regions, also represented are each of the disability groups, including mobility, intellectual, hearing and visual disabilities.

The Francophone Committee is an organ of DPI and therefore subject to the internal regulations and constitution of DPI. The secretariat of the committee is located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

### **Activities**

In October, 1989, DPI organized a meeting of representatives from 12 Francophone countries in Dakar, host city for the third Francophone Summit. The priority of the meeting was to ensure the adoption of a resolution for the implementation of the World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons and the Plan of Action of the committee.

The nine areas of priority identified:

education; prevention; training and rehabilitation; communication, information and public education; training, employment and income generating initiatives; organizational development; sport; legislation; and international co-operation.

In 1990, the executive committee met for the first time in Helsinki, Finland. The objectives of the meeting: to review the plan of action drafted in Dakar; to collect a list of projects that need assistance in the Francophone countries; and to enlist new members into the Francophone Committee.

Throughout 1990, The Francophone Committee continued to establish new contacts with various organizations and ministries, in order to obtain financial and political support, as well as to contact potential members for the committee. Co-operation was established with the United Nations in Vienna, the ILO in Geneva, the Ministry of Health and Social Services in Quebec, and the ministries of foreign affairs in Ottawa.

In April, 1991, the second executive committee meeting and the first General Assembly of the Committee of Francophone countries in DPI was held in Yaounde, Cameroon. The objectives of these meetings:

- To adopt the resolution and plan of action ratified by the ministries of foreign affairs in francophone countries.
- To review the projects for international co-operation according to priorities and to adopt general principles for the elaboration of projects.
- To discuss peace and tolerance and to promote appropriate action in DPI.

- To create a co-ordinating body for European activities.

In November, 1991, the Francophone summit in Paris approved the resolution presented by the Francophone Committee, including two projects:

- 1) Financial support for the creation of income generating activities in agriculture, gardening and fishing.
- 2) Financial support for the education of disabled children and of children of disabled adults.

The ILO has demonstrated particular interest in technical and financial assistance for the education project.

In April 1992, prior to the World Congress, the second General Assembly of the Francophone Committee of DPI is being planned for Montreal, Quebec. Thirty-six of the 47 members are expected, including representatives of the Americas, the Caribbean, Africa and Europe.

The growing importance of the Francophone Committee allows this group to be in contact with and to support the many projects of its disabled organizations throughout the French-speaking world.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

*Jim Donald*

While in most countries human rights violations take the form of unconscious discrimination, in many countries there have been deliberate actions taken, which not only discriminate against disabled people, but also endanger their lives. In 1987, Henry Enns visited 10 African nations and was repeatedly told that disabled refugees are left to die in refugee camps because countries would not accept disabled members of a family.

In some countries, disabled people have been deliberately eliminated by governments, as was done in Nazi Germany. This situation continues today in many countries under the rationale that governments do not have the resources to deal with disabled people. Other governments have done away with wounded war veterans so as not to be reminded of a recent conflict.

The appalling situation of disabled children in Romania was recently publicized to the world. Similar conditions still exist in other countries, unknown to the rest of the world.

In areas of conflict, we hear of the numbers of people killed or wounded. Few people hear of the tremendous suffering and disabilities produced by this violence. Visits by DPI officials to the Middle East and Latin America have provided evidence of its existence.

In other countries, disabled people are used in scientific studies without their consent. They are forced to go through incredible torture and suffering.

DPI established a Human Rights Committee in 1983. In the same year, the committee was successful in getting the UN Human Rights Commission to appoint a special rapporteur, Leandro Despouy, to study human rights among disabled people.

The DPI Human Rights Committee investigated the bombing of 30 mentally ill persons during the invasion of Grenada and presented their findings to the UN Human Rights Commission. It has also investigated the horrendous condition of disabled refugees in Central America.

DPI officers recently decided to explore the establishment of investigative teams to explore the conditions of people with disabilities in places such as Romania.

In mid-August, 1991, several representatives of DPI attended the Geneva meeting of the United Nations Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for the long awaited submittal of the Special Rapporteur's Report on Human Rights and Disability.

That report addresses the worldwide status of the human rights of disabled people, including violations that cause disability, discrimination and other such violations, and specific problems of disabled women, refugees, migrant workers and indigenous populations.

Its primary recommendation is to establish an ombudsman to receive the investigate complaints of human rights violations of disabled individuals, and generally to monitor the status of the human rights of disabled people.

Also recommend is giving to the UN Committee on Economic Cultural and Social Rights the overall responsibility for this issue, including the responsibility to respond to relevant reports from states, the ombudsman and non-governmental organizations.

After submittal of the report and the numerous comments in support from other subcommission members, government representatives, DPI and other NGOs, the subcommission unanimously passed a resolution accepting the report, adopting all of its recommendations do the same at its meeting in February, 1992.

DPI made the strongest showing yet during this subcommission meeting, which undoubtedly had a very significant effect on the successful passage of such a strong resolution.

Participants from DPI were Jim Donald, Rodrigo Jimenez, Michael Masutha, Jureeratana Pongpaew, Knut Onarheim, Ron Chandran-Dudley, Theresia Degener and Karen Parker, who participated by telefax.

Although the subcommission passed its resolution to adopt the report's recommendations unanimously, its passage was even more important at the February, 1992, meeting of the Commission on Human Rights. DPI promised the special rapporteur we would attend that meeting and participate with him in a press conference in Geneva upon passage of our resolution there.

Other UN meetings that are important to attend for this effort were the ECOSOC meeting in New York in late 1991 and the August, 1992, subcommission meeting.

As reflected in DPI's statement to the subcommission, this effort is not completed until the resolution passes the General Assembly, and our recent success at the subcommission in effect only starts the significant opportunities for the realization of respect for the human rights of the disabled. Now is the time to act on those opportunities;

## **INDEPENDENT LIVING**

*Adolf. D. Ratzka,  
DPI Independent Living Committee  
Secretary*

Independent Living is both a movement and a philosophy. The movement works for more personal and political power of persons who have a disability and for their organizations. We use peer support as our foremost educational tool in helping each other on our way to self-respect and dignity.

The philosophy emphasizes our right to self-determination, both as individuals and as a group. Self-determination implies that we take responsibility for our own lives and see ourselves, not as objects of care or humanitarian concerns, but as citizens with all the rights and duties that full citizenship entails.

The Independent Living Movement has been very successful in improving the quality of life of citizens with disabilities in several industrialized countries. DPI, in order to introduce this approach to its world wide organization, started the Independent Living Committee in May, 1990. I summarize here the committee's mandate.

To contribute towards the situation of disabled people through individual empowerment.

To work on building an international network on independent living.

To carry out educational events on independent living, e.g. seminars, workshops, development of resource materials.

To work on developing international concepts, principles and definitions related to independent living.

To promote the philosophy and concept of independent living to governments and international bodies.

### **Regional activities**

#### **North America**

The Independent Living Movement started in North America about 20 years ago. It was in this region that most of the existing literature, research and development work and models of independent living originated. It is here that the Independent Living Movement has had its greatest impact on national disability politics, through umbrella organizations, the National Council on Independent Living and the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres.

In the United States, federal and state governments are recognizing the work of over 200 centres for independent living by awarding them contracts. Among the most recent successes is the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which, to a large extent, was the work of the American In-dependent Living Movement.

The present task of our American friends is the work for a national personal assistance services policy.

The Canadian Independent Living Movement has had a powerful impact on international disability politics through its prominent position in Disabled people's International. The Independent Living Movement in the United States and Canada has attracted numerous visitors, study tours and trainees from overseas, mainly Japan and Europe.

## **Europe**

In the European Region, the UK has had the longest exposure to the Independent Living Movement and its philosophy. There are about seven centres for independent living under the umbrella of the Independent Living Forum of the British Council of Organizations of Disabled People (BCODP). It is interesting to note that most of the leaders of the disability movement in the UK have an independent living background.

In Germany, the Independent Living Movement now consists of 10 centres of independent living, which are joined in a national coalition, IsL. Following the example of the American movement's struggle for ADA, IsL is the prime motor behind a wide coalition of disability organizations, which work for anti-discrimination and disability rights legislation.

IsL has organized workshops on legislation with resource persons from the Independent Living Movement in the United States.

In Italy, as a result of a seminar on independent living and personal assistance, several individuals have started a national independent living organization.

Sweden currently has four independent living coalition in order to influence national disability politics.

The European Independent Living Movement was organized in ENIL., the European Network on Independent Living. ENIL., founded in 1989 and consisting of close to 100 individuals from 20 countries, has organized annual meetings in France, the Netherlands and Sweden. ENIL is also the vehicle for influencing disability politics at the level of the European Community and the Council of Europe. Recently, ENIL participated in the first conference on disability organized by the Council of Europe. The theme was "Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities". ENIL's goal is to introduce anti-discrimination legislation throughout Europe. Under the leadership of its German members, ENIL will organize a day of protest against discrimination throughout Europe on EPROM Day, May 5 1992.

## **Asia and the Pacific**

In the Asia/Pacific Region, independent living as a term is not much known outside of Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

The Japanese disability movement has been influenced by the American independent living centres. Nearly 100 young disabled persons have been trained at US centres under a grant from a Japanese company. Numerous study tours have been organized by the Japanese movement to the United States and lately, also to Europe.

Following the model of the American National Council on Independent Living, the current 10 Japanese independent living centres formed the Japanese Council of Independent Living Centres last fall.

## **Africa and Latin America**

The DPI Independent Living Committee recently organized a seminar in Zimbabwe. Two seminars are planned in Latin-America this year, one in Uruguay in May, the other in Rio de Janeiro in November.

Brazil is perhaps the underdeveloped country where independent living is best represented. There are two independent living centres in that country. Apart from a few areas and isolated efforts, for most disabled persons in the developing countries, independent living is unknown as a movement with a particular philosophy.

This does not mean, of course, that some of the concepts that independent living stands for are not shared by disabled people in these countries.

## **Future work**

In the DPI Independent Living Committee we need to intensify the sharing of experiences among Western and developing countries, particularly among persons with significant disabilities. The South-South dialogue, however, is as important as the North-South exchange.

In expanding the independent living network, disabled people in developing and industrialized countries can join forces and develop new approaches, each drawing from their own experiences. Such work should include self-help schemes, in particular, for income generation and employment. This will also benefit those of us who live in the so called developed countries where we face unemployment rates of 60 percent and higher.

If we want to expand the independent living network to disabled people in developing countries, we need to reformulate our philosophical foundation. Many of our colleagues in developing countries will argue that independent living cannot be achieved in their countries unless a number of material prerequisites are present, such as food, sanitation, primary health care, rehabilitation services, assistive devices, housing, income support, education and so on.

It is easy for us living in the West, who have most of these things, to claim that independent living is not the result of material progress but the result of a change in our minds, which we can accomplish by ourselves. We need to come to a better understanding of the relationship between material progress and independent living.

Also, we need to ask what the term “independence” means to disabled people from different cultures. Obviously, there will be differences in interpretation, depending on whether we live in a culture that emphasizes individualism or in a culture that places greatest value in the collective. A redefinition is in order, if independent living is to be more than an export item from the West.

## PEACE

*Ron Chandran-Dudley*  
*Peace Committee Chairperson*

During the decade of the existence of the Peace Committee, which had been established with the founding of Disabled Peoples' International, the Committee has not carried out any significant collective act under DPI. Nevertheless, the influence of individuals as members of DPI has been great.

Although, many plans were drawn up due to the fast changing world scenario, the lack of readily available funding and political will among member nations imposed constraints on DPI's committee on peace. This very fast changing world can prompt DPI and its members into another new area for action, namely to work in teams assisted by professionals who can go into the regions that have been devastated by wars and conflicts, to work with people with disability through wars and their aftermath's.

Organizations of people with disability will need to rise up, phoenix-like from the ashes to ensure that these organizations will be strong enough to hold the peace that had been expensively bought in terms of life and limb, economy and ecology.

During the 1990's, the DPI Peace Committee must develop linkages with other legitimate international movements for peace. Particularly, the Peace Committee should address issues of human rights violations and refugee problems, where the basic human rights of people with disabilities are neglected and not considered.

This committee has to receive more funding if it is to be meaningful and effective. We acknowledge with great satisfaction the work done by Friends of the Handicapped Association of Lebanon. DPI should continue to support the effort of Nawaf Kabbarra and endeavor to strengthen his organization and its objectives.

DPI also wished to support initiatives taken by individuals and national assemblies within the DPI family. Antonio Lampreia's letter to members is commended and we await a positive response.

The Middle-East Peace initiative should be supported and DPI can take the lead by inviting representatives of the various nations, including those that are directly involved in the current discussion, to establish a rapport and a working group for peace among the people with disabilities with these middle-eastern nations.

The violence and tortures, conflicts and aggression resulting in the maiming of all peoples of Burma, Sri Lanka, East Timor and other people, within the African and Latin American sub-continent need our urgent attention. These are but the glaring and obvious headlines. DPI must be mindful and alert to the needs of people with disability ~ smaller enclaves.

The devolution of the Soviet Union and the regrouping of the European countries throughout gave rise to many negations of basic human rights of people with disabilities. Each regional assembly and national affiliates of DPI have to take on board these issue as being contributory to peaceful co-existence. As the first step, DPI has to collate all areas of concern which go towards the disturbance and disruptions of peace. Secondly, these issues need to be analyzed and priorities delineated. An action plan should be drawn up with methods of approach. The 1990s may well herald a new era that will need new strategies for peace. Think about how these objectives can be accomplished as you head for Vancouver.

## **UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS**

*Zohra Rajah,  
DPI Deputy Chairperson*

It has been said that groups of disabled people, which include women, people with an intellectual handicap, deaf people, and blind people, were not well-represented in organizations at the grassroots level, at the national assembly level, and on the World Council of DPI.

In 1990 at the DPI World Council, it was decided to have two deputy chairpersons - one to represent these under-represented groups. I was elected to represent this group.

I observed that the disabled poor as a group deserve special mention. In developing countries in general, some 80 per cent of populations live in poor rural communities.

In fact, the majority membership of organizations of disabled people are very poor people. How could it more effectively be ensured that the poor are able to effectively participate? It is on this issue that I think DPI must play a big role - access to education becomes particularly relevant.

The issue of under-representation, in its widest dimension, may possibly presuppose over-representation of some sectors. Is over-representation a reality that may be accepted? The important point here is that the issue of under-representation should not be considered in isolation from other relevant factors.

It was quite clear that a danger exists with "delivering a solution" to a problem that is perceived at one level only, without any indication of what the people affected say and feel about the "problem". In the absence of this indication, how could DPI be assured that the "solution" will be a lasting one?

### **Leadership responsibility**

The leadership at all levels bears a special responsibility to ensure that the movement is as inclusive as possible of all disability groups that exist within their situation.

The issue of process and structure is one that requires particular care, as the membership is not on equal terms with regards to education for instance, and yet a movement is worthy of the name only if there is mass participation.

### **Communications and language**

Particular care ought to be taken about the way meetings are conducted and how documents and materials are prepared that are being distributed. What languages are currently in use?

Blind people and deaf people will not feel that they are taken seriously if they are not communicated with adequately. Their participation will thus be limited to the extent that DPI and its member organizations are prepared and able to communicate with them.

### **Relationships with other international organizations of disabled people.**

The achievement of meaningful relationships with other bodies representing disabled people internationally can be a function of a policy of open and sincere dialogue between DPI and such bodies as represent psychiatrically disabled people, deaf people, blind people, disabled women, etc.

Such relations will take time in some cases to develop due to mutual suspicions, but the doors should remain open.

### **Structure**

DPI should assist its affiliates to establish, and the grassroots organizations should very carefully consider, setting up appropriate structures that should allow for the effective involvement of all disability groups in their affairs.

### **Communications**

Grassroots organizations and DPI affiliate bodies, assisted by D~I top leadership, should take careful consideration of the need to cause effective communication with people who are deaf, blind, multiply or severely disabled, and between people speaking and writing different languages.

## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

*Anneli Joneken,  
Women's Committee Chairperson*

Through the efforts of women and men in DPI, there is now an awareness of the need to equally involve both genders in the further development of our organization. But how deep and sincere is this awareness? How has it affected the composition of leadership structures in our organizations at various levels? Have enough changes occurred in the possibilities for women to get involved? Despite the growing awareness, decision-making in DPI is still, to a large extent, done by men, especially in some regions of the world, like Africa and Latin America.

It has been an important aim of the Standing Committee of the Affairs of Women with Disabilities since its establishment in 1985 to raise gender awareness. Activities undertaken by the committee in this regard have been many and varied.

Examples include: **ADVOCACY** -writing articles, publishing a newsletter, giving speeches, arranging seminars, participating in seminars, networking with other organizations, holding meetings to co-ordinate efforts, planning strategies, organizing committee structure at international, regional and national levels, training women to become active members in the leadership of organizations at various levels and initiating projects and activities.

Seminars and workshops in the regions have often focused on education and training.

In Asia, these have included leadership training seminars at the regional level and a number of national activities in member countries.

Seminars at the regional level with special focus on women were organized in Korea in 1986, Pakistan in 1987, Bangkok in 1988 and Fiji in 1990.

In Africa, leadership training seminars were organized in Mauritius in 1987, Zimbabwe in 1989 and Mauritania in 1990. A special Southern African Women's Regional Development Pro-gram, since 1990 has been an active part of sub-regional work.

Europe has seen seminars at the Nordic Women's Forum, 1990; the DISWEB-seminar in Finland, 1990; DISWEB annual meetings; an annual newsletter; the Swedish project, Women And Disability

Since 1989; SHIA seminar, November, 1991 on disabled people in developing countries.

The DPI Regional Council is planning activities at all levels in Europe.

Latin American activities: In 1991, a literacy seminar was arranged in San Salvador, with 40 disabled women participants from seven Central American countries, including representatives from rural areas. The seminar helped participants understand how important it is to be able to speak for oneself. A literacy program has followed up the seminar.

North America and the Caribbean: In 1988, a Disabled Women's Development Seminar was held in Dominica. There is now equal representation of men and women among the regional and World Council members in the region.

At the international level, the committee has been deeply engaged in co-operation with the United Nations. In February 1990, the committee participated in seminars and organized a seminar at the NGO-Forum in connection with the annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

In August, 1990, the committee helped the UN organize and carry out a large seminar on disabled women in Vienna. The seminar resulted in 90 recommendations in 30 priority areas of concern to disabled women.

A report and seminar papers are being distributed.

Since the seminar, it is important for the committee to follow up and push for the implementation of the resolutions.

Committee members write resolutions in connection with other relevant meetings at international, regional and national levels asking the organization in question to include the issue in the decisions of that meeting.

The committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in February, 1991, decided to ask governments to report to the committee on the situation of disabled women in their periodic reports, and the Commission on the Status of Women made several decisions in 1991 regarding the seminar resolutions.

The ECOSOC working group, which is to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, is also to pay attention to the particular needs of disabled women.

### **Newsletter and books:**

The name of the committee newsletter is EXPRESSION. Nathalie Giraudel Rolle is the editor. The committee is working on editorial, distribution and funding policies and is aiming at more frequent publishing. At the same time, articles will appear in Vox Nostra and other media in the DPI system.

Several DPI members have been active in producing books. Former SCAWD chair-person Fatima Shah in 1990 published a book called Disability, Self-help and Social Change.

Special books on disabled women have been published in Australia, Canada, Norway and Sweden. In 1991, a special UN publication was issued and is being distributed through ILO.

### **Income generating projects:**

Among issues discussed in the committee is a method of finding a world-wide marketing mechanism for products made by disabled women in local projects within DPI member organizations.

Structure of the committee is being developed so that there will be a possibility for individual membership, according to decisions made by the committee in Harare in 1991. There is a DPI Women's Executive Committee with 10 members; at least one of the two regional members is a World Council member. In addition, the committee welcomes individual members. A special pamphlet will be distributed at the DPI World Council meeting in Vancouver with more information.

What are the challenges for the future?

~ DPI still has to increase the involvement of women at the national level. How can this be done?

Through training seminars, women's caucuses exist throughout the organization.

~ At the regional and international level, DPI still has to include more disabled women. What does equal representation mean? These are issues we need to discuss at the World Congress.

~ What should DPI be doing in regard to disabled women's issues within the UN? At the political level and program level with UN agencies?

~ Should DPI be promoting projects run by disabled women? How can this be done?

~ How can we make the DPI Women's Committee even more effective in the future? What ideas do you have about an action plan and structure?

~ Should the First World Assembly of DPI have a major session on issues of concern to disabled women? These and other issues will need discussion at the Congress and workshops in Independence '92.

## **Still plenty to think about...**

It is hoped that your thinking has been stimulated in reading through this Congress Magazine. Its intent was to increase your familiarity and appreciation of the achievements and wide range of activities that DPI has been involved over the past seven years. We hope it has also motivated you to think about the future.

However, before you put it down you should also know that several additional new initiatives have been under-taken that, for a number of reasons, were not adequately explored in the previous pages.

The Francophone Committee of DPI, for one, has developed a network among francophone countries and presented their concerns to the highest level of the Francophone Summit. As a result of the subsequent support received from the Francophone Summit, the committee is now working on developing an action plan that includes practical grassroots projects at the local level.

The Francophone Committee will be holding an international assembly in Montreal, Canada, April 18-20. The challenges that face the committee are to build upon the cultural and political commonalties within the francophone countries and to promote the concerns of disabled people at the grassroots level. How can this be translated into practical initiatives that will make a difference in the life of disabled people within francophone countries?

In addition, the DPI Commonwealth Committee was formally established at the World Council meeting in Zimbabwe in August, 1991. A recommendation was presented to the Commonwealth Heads of Government when they met in October, also in Zimbabwe.

As a result of this recommendation, the Commonwealth Heads of Government, for the first time, acknowledged that the Commonwealth must take action to include disabled persons. But this is only a first step.

The challenge now faces the Commonwealth Committee to put this acknowledgement into practical terms. What are the political, legislative and cultural commonalties within the Commonwealth countries that can facilitate the promotion of the cause of disabled people within those countries?

How can networking be more effectively carried out by disabled people within the Commonwealth countries? Are there practical ways of carrying out projects through which disabled people can learn from each other within Commonwealth countries in terms of ideas, concepts and funding of projects?

Disabled people within the Commonwealth should come to the Congress prepared to grapple with these issues. Furthermore, illiteracy and lack of educational opportunities foster powerlessness and dependency. In establishing the Education Committee, the DPI World Council recognized that this issue needed to be addressed. Illiteracy among disabled people is considerably higher than among the general population.

Enhancing literacy skills provides opportunities for employment, self-respect and the ability to contribute to society.

Many challenges face disabled people in the area of literacy and education.

How can DPI promote the concept of integrated education? How can DPI be involved in promoting functional literacy skills? What can DPI learn from other organizations that are working in the area of literacy and education?

In establishing the Peace Committee, DPI recognized that human rights development and education mean very little in areas of conflict and war. The greatest violations take place during war. The Middle East war last year is only one example.

The promotion of peace has become a major agenda for DPI. This is not an easy task. In 1983, DPI developed a Peace Statement that is being promoted all over the world. Are there other ways that we can promote the concept of peace?

It has been suggested that DPI should be establishing investigative teams to go into countries where there is conflict and bring the attention of the situation of disabled people to the international community in these countries. How can DPI more effectively promote the concept of peace through educational programs? Should peace initiatives be part of regional training programs?

If human rights and development and liberation are the aspirations that disabled people strive for, then Global Peace is the only framework through which these aspirations can be achieved. In that effort, we need to work together with all humankind. Disabled people have led Peace marches in Lebanon where it was impossible for others to initiate such action.

As you come to the Congress, it is hoped that each one of you will ask yourself how you can contribute toward making this world a better place for all people, including disabled people.

*Henry Enns*

## *HONOUR ROLL*

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