



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

## MEMBERS' CIRCULAR

SEPTEMBER 2006

### **WFD BOARD INFORMATION**

The next Board meeting will be in 1-3 October 2006 hosts by All Russian Society of the Deaf, Moscow, Russian Federation. After the Board meeting, All-Russian Society of the Deaf will be celebrating its 80th anniversary of its foundation.

### **NEWS**

#### **First WFD General Secretary passed away**

Dr. Cesare Magarotto passed away on 24 August 2006, at 89 years. He was born in Padua, Italy. He was the last founder for WFD, in which WFD General Secretariat was established in Rome in 1951 and was the General Secretary for 36 years from 1951 – 1987.

Dr. Magarotto contributed so much to Deaf people all over the world, such as he set up the first meeting in Rome in 1951, bringing delegates to represent national associations of the Deaf from different countries. He had played an important role in cooperating with the United Nations and other organisations.

He was so good at communicating with any Deaf people from other countries, as he began to develop International Sign (formerly known as Gestuno) along with Dr. Dragoljub Vukotic former WFD President 1955 - 1983.

We would like to pass our condolences to his family and thank him what he has done to Deaf people over the world in establishing an international organisation of the Deaf.

#### **First Human Rights Convention for Persons with Disabilities opens for adoption by the United Nation's General Assembly**

The Ad Hoc Committee adopted a draft text for the Convention on Friday, August 25, 2006 as a result of five years of negotiations at the United Nations. It was a historical moment to Deaf people and sign languages over the world as it will be the first human rights treaty of the 21st century, and a first binding treaty specifically protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas of life. Above all, the Convention will acknowledge recognition and promotion of sign language, deaf culture and linguistic and cultural identity, quality education in sign language, professional sign language interpreting and acceptance and facilitation the use of sign language. World Federation of the Deaf is very satisfied with the accomplishments concerning the protection of rights of Deaf people in the draft Convention.

However, some items in this draft need to be considered. WFD was very disappointed to notice that at the last minute a footnote was added to article 21 on legal capacity in Arabic, Chinese and Russian languages. This footnote may prevent also Deaf people to enjoy legal capacity in many parts of the world. WFD supports the

initiative made by many countries and International Disability Caucus to reconsider the footnote before final Convention is adopted by the General Assembly.

The draft Convention is scheduled to be adopted by the General Assembly in the 61st session this year. After the adoption, the Convention will be ready for signing and ratification by UN countries. Before the treaty can enter into force, it requires ratifications of 20 countries.

WFD would like to thank to all the Deaf representatives who attended the Ad Hoc Committee meeting in August. We were pleased to see 14 Deaf representatives from 10 countries at this last meeting. Members of the WFD's delegation were WFD President Mr. Markku Jokinen, WFD President Emerita Dr Liisa Kauppinen and Board Members Colin Allen and Martha Lucia Osorno Posada. Also Board Member Valery Rukhledev attended the meeting as a member of Russian state delegation. Special thanks go to Dr. Liisa Kauppinen who has been following this process from the very beginning. Her support and endless work to cover Deaf people's rights in this Convention has been significant. Thank you Liisa for all your work!

More information on the Convention, please do go to check on [www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org).

### **1ST WFD Camp for Deaf Children**

This camp was organised by the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS) and the Danish Deaf Youth Association, which took place in Jutland, Denmark from 29 July – 6 August 2006. There were about over 40 participants in this camp. A report about the camp will be available soon and can be seen on the websites: [www.ddu.nu/wfdcc2006](http://www.ddu.nu/wfdcc2006) and [www.ddu.nu/wfdcc2006/news](http://www.ddu.nu/wfdcc2006/news). This information will also be added into WFD website. Many thanks go to WFDYS and the Danish Deaf Association for organising the camp, which is wonderful for children to have the chance to meet other children from different countries.



### **International Week of the Deaf**

As this month (September) on the last week, there will be an International Week of the Deaf, so please encourage individuals and organisations in your country to join WFD as either Individual or Associate Member. Enclosed in this circular you will find Individual Membership application form, which you can photocopy. The form is also available on the WFD website. Include these forms in your organisation's newsletter or magazine - put them in a visible place - hand them around to participants at your International Week of the Deaf activities. It would be worth for you to apply as an Individual member because the registration fee to the World Congress of the WFD for members, such as Ordinary, Associate and Individual members; is cheaper than the normal registration fee. Please find enclosed Fact Sheet on 'International Week of the Deaf' for you and organisations.

## The XV World Congress of the WFD

The next WFD World Congress will be 16 - 22 July 2007 in Madrid, Spain. This World Congress will include many different programs, ranging from presentations, special interest groups, workshops and training, cultural and theatre presentations, exhibits and related events for people of any ages from all over the world.

The General Assembly will be held on 14-15 July 2007, prior to World Congress. Delegates from 128 WFD member countries will discuss and determine the future and policy concepts for WFD.

DATE	EVENT
13 July 2007	General Assembly (GA) Workshop (to prepare for the GA)
14-15 July 2007	General Assembly (GA)
16 July 2007	Congress Opening Ceremony
16-21 July 2007	Commissions, Special Interest Groups, Theatre, etc.
22 July 2007	Closing Ceremony, Gala

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

The call for papers is available now, in which you could go into the World Congress website and click on 'Tips of abstract submissions'. This Congress is to focus on the following topics of the Congress commissions and Special Interest Groups (SIGs): **Human Rights: Linguistic and Cultural Rights, Sign Languages, Education, Technology and Accessibility, Mental Health, Medicine – Biotechnology and Bioethics, Developing Countries and Women.** SIGs topics will be covered: **Deaf Youth, Deaf Immigrants, Deaf Senior Citizens, Deafblind, Deaf people with other Disabilities, Indigenous People and Ethnic Minorities, Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual People (LGBT), CODAs – Children of Deaf Adults, Sign Language Interpreting and Deaf Business.**

**The deadline for sending the abstract is on 6 October 2006.**

The Pre-Programme booklets are available from the organising committee of WFD Congress, in which you could contact directly to ask for the booklet. **The deadline for early bird registration has been extended to 15 April 2007.** For further information, please do check on WFD Congress website: [www.wfdcongress.org](http://www.wfdcongress.org)

## WFD General Assembly 14 – 15 July 2007

**For Ordinary Members only** – WFD has sent a letter along with the documents on 7 June 2006 for the upcoming XVII General Assembly, which will be held on 14 – 15 July 2007 in Madrid, Spain, prior to the World Congress.

The important deadlines for the documents must be reached to the General Secretariat in Finland (address at the last page):

- 1) Two (2) original Entrusting Power forms – **15 November 2006**
- 2) Inclusions in the Agenda and Proposals/Motions – **15 November 2006**
- 3) Nominations for WFD Board position – **31 December 2006**
- 4) Nominations for WFD Awards – **31 December 2006**
- 5) Bids to host the XVI World Congress in 2011 – **31 December 2006**

It would be much appreciated that these documents must be sent before the deadline. WFD will send a final agenda with attached reports and other materials in April 2007 (at three months in advance, as stated in **WFD Statutes Article 4, Section 2**), prior to the General Assembly.

A workshop for the General Assembly (GA) will be held on 13 July 2007, prior to the XVII General Assembly.

If you would like further information about the General Assembly or documents, please do not hesitate to contact to WFD General Secretariat – email address is on the last page of this circular.

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **International Cinema and Video Festival of the Deaf**

This festival will be held in Milan, Italy from 20 – 21 October 2006, which is organised by Compagnia “Senza Parole” in partnership with the Italian Association of the Deaf (ENS). For more information, go on to website: [www.teatrosenzaparole.it](http://www.teatrosenzaparole.it) or contact to by email: [senzaparole1979@yahoo.it](mailto:senzaparole1979@yahoo.it)

### **International RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program) – The Deaf Way**

This event will take place in Ichalkranji, Maharashtra State, India from 5 – 10 November 2006. The topics of the event will be covered are Human Rights, Sign Language, Interpretation of Bilingualism in developing countries, Deaf Business People, Deaf Women and Deaf Culture and Arts. For more information, contact to Dr. Dilip Deshmukh by email: [drdilip1@sancharnet.in](mailto:drdilip1@sancharnet.in). Do check on their website for more information: [www.irylothedeafway.org](http://www.irylothedeafway.org)

### **2nd International Festival of Humor of Deaf Community**

This will take place in Bratislava, Slovakia from 16 – 19 November 2006, which is organised by the Basic Youth Organization of Slovak Association of the Deaf Handicapped. This festival is for actors/actresses, comedians, film makers, artists (cartoonists and photographers), which is open to everyone. For more information, contact Mr. Jaroslav Cehlarik: [jaro.cehlarik@gmail.com](mailto:jaro.cehlarik@gmail.com) and also check on their website: [www.slovakdeaf.unas.cz/enindex.htm](http://www.slovakdeaf.unas.cz/enindex.htm)

**1st International forum of the Deaf in Morocco organised by the Association Forum Marocain des Sourds** (Association of the Deaf in Morocco) will be held in Fez, Morocco from 30 November – 4 December 2006. The topics at this forum will be about the Deaf & HIV/AIDS, education of the Deaf, Sign language being used in Deaf schools and management of Deaf associations (projects). Anyone is very welcome to attend this forum. For more information: contact by email to Association Forum Marocain des Sourds - [amsourds@hotmail.com](mailto:amsourds@hotmail.com) or [abuanass2002@caramail.com](mailto:abuanass2002@caramail.com).

### **Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research**

This conference is for sign language researchers to know about the world's sign languages that seeks explanation for linguistic facts. It is the first time that this conference will be held outside Europe and North America. It will take place in Florianópolis, Brazil from 6 – 9 December 2006. Please find contact details below:

Contact: Email: [tislr9@tislr9.ufsc.br](mailto:tislr9@tislr9.ufsc.br)

Fax/Phone: +55 48 3222 4030

Website: [www.tislr9.ufsc.br](http://www.tislr9.ufsc.br)

**India Deaf Expo** is an International Conference on Innovative Technologies and Education of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing. It will take place in Pollachi, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu in India from 14 – 16 December 2006. This conference is for researchers, teachers, parents of Deaf children, social workers and any other professions. Any Deaf or Hard of Hearing participants are welcome to attend and to meet anyone to exchange

ideas and share their knowledge. For more information about this conference, please do check on their website: [www.indadeafexpo.org](http://www.indadeafexpo.org).

### **Critical Link 5 - 'Quality in Interpreting: a shared responsibility'**

It will take place in Sydney, Australia from 11 – 15 April 2007. Critical Link 5 is good for interpreters who work in the interpreting agencies, plus many other professions who work in any places such as in courts, government departments, academics, educators, translation services, etc.

More information about this conference, please contact to the Congress Secretariat by email: [info@criticallink2007.com](mailto:info@criticallink2007.com) and also do go to check their website: [www.criticallink2007.com](http://www.criticallink2007.com)

### **Deaf Arts Now! 2007**

This festival which will be held in Stockholm, Sweden from 15 – 17 June 2007 is for Deaf and hearing to meet, interact and to take part a big Deaf culture event. It will also provide a workshop for European Deaf professional artists from 18 – 22 June 2007. The Deaf Arts Now festival has been going since 1998, and is arranged every third year. For more information: go on their website: [www.deafartsnow.com](http://www.deafartsnow.com) and contact by email: [info@deafartsnow.com](mailto:info@deafartsnow.com)

### **WFD NEWS**

The last issue of the WFD NEWS was December 2004. Due to budget limits, we had to reduce the number of issues per year, and we are hoping to have one issue coming out this year. If any member has information or news to be considered for publication in any issue of WFD NEWS, please do send a clean copy or a diskette to the WFD Secretariat, along with good photo quality logos or photographs to [wfd@kl-deaf.fi](mailto:wfd@kl-deaf.fi).

### **MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS**

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

We need updated addresses for the following. Our mail to them was returned.

- Belize National Association of the Deaf
- Association Des Sourds du Niger
- Asociación de Sordos de Panamá

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

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

If Ordinary Members need a reduction or postponement in paying their fee this must be communicated to us in writing so this can be added to the agenda for Board action.

If you have not received your membership fee invoice, please contact WFD Secretariat immediately and we will re-issue you another invoice.

Ordinary, Associate and Individual Members who have not paid for the year 2006, please do pay as soon as possible, as we will be sending invoices again sometime before at the end of this year.

### **BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS**

**Making PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (Handicap International & Christoffel-Blindenmission, January 2006)** – This handbook is recommended for everyone working in the field of disability, (non-governmental organisations (NGOs, service providers, professional associations, etc) and presents experiences, proposes, ideas, and comments on how DPOs (Disabled People's Organisations) and

people with disabilities may enter and participate in national PRSP processes. This would be a good resource for preparing a training course or a workshop. This handbook is available on the website and can be downloaded here.

**Signs of Development in Deaf South & South-West Asia, histories, cultural identities, resistance to cultural imperialism by M. Miles, UK – 2006**

This article offers evidence and hypotheses for a cultural history of Deaf people, culture and sign language in South and South West Asia, using documents from antiquity through 2005. The past five years have seen some remarkable progress of Deaf people, sign language and education in this region.

Inside it also includes an appendix on a new bibliography of 110 items on “Deafness and Signing in the Arab Middle East” with some historical material and light annotation. This article can be seen in the website:

<http://www.independentliving.org/docs7/miles200604/html>

**Country Name-Signs** – Many people need to know what the name sign is for each country. This popular book is published for WFD by Japanese Federation of the Deaf (JFD); orders can be made to JFD. Publisher WFD (2003), Collection of data: Japan Institute for Sign Language Studies and Tomas Hedberg, Swedish National Association of the Deaf.

If you would like to order a copy, please do contact Japanese Federation of the Deaf. Their contact details are:

*Japanese Federation of the Deaf (JFD)*

*SK Bldg 8F, Yamabuki-cho 130*

*Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0801*

*JAPAN*

*Fax: +81 3 3267 3445*

*Email: [inquiry@jfd.or.jp](mailto:inquiry@jfd.or.jp)*

**WFD MERCHANDISE**

If any of you are interested to order items from WFD, such as T-shirts, WFD Pins, Water bottles, watches, paperweights, and Bilingualism in Deaf Education book, the WFD Order form will be available on the website soon, so keep an eye for this.

**CONTACT INFORMATION OF WFD SECRETARIAT**

Please do send all correspondence to:

*WFD General Secretariat*

*PO Box 65*

*FI- 00401 Helsinki*

*FINLAND*

*Fax: +358 9 5803 572*

*Email: [info@wfdeaf.org](mailto:info@wfdeaf.org)*

Also please do check on WFD’s website which is [www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org) for more information, updates and contacts. (On WFD website, please do go to the Contacts section for specific direct contact on memberships and orders of WFD merchandise).

If you would like to contact directly to WFD President, his email address is [wfd@kl-deaf.fi](mailto:wfd@kl-deaf.fi).