



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

WFD NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

WFD GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Welcome to the first issue of WFD Newsletter for 2008! We look forward to have cooperation with you all and wishing the best for 2008, especially that we have to lobby hard to have our rights to equality, especially with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Assistant to the President, **Ms. Nanny Nordström** resigned in the middle of December 2007. The WFD General Secretariat and WFD Board would like to express to say thanks for her work for the past eight (8) months. We wish her the best for the future with her new job. A new replacement will be Ms. Meri Hyske-Fischer who will start on the 14th of February. The General Secretariat and the Board warmly welcomes her to work with us.

WFD BOARD INFORMATION

The 90th Board meeting will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 25 – 27 April 2008. In over 50 years of WFD history, this Board meeting would be in the Arab region for the first time. It is hosted by the Prince Salman Center for Disability Research (<http://www.pscdr.org.sa>). After the Board meeting, some of the Board members will attend the 8th Symposium of the Arab Federation of the Organs of the Deaf, organised by Saudi Deaf Sports Committee. It is going to be a great opportunity for the Arab deaf people to meet the Board members.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees

The WFD General Secretariat is going to send out invoices for membership fees for the year 2008 to Ordinary, Associate and Individual members. The invoices will be sent out quite late, due to that having not enough staff resources.

During the 17th General Assembly of the WFD in July 2007 at Madrid, Spain, the delegates of Ordinary Members (OMs) approved that from now on, we use the currency EUROS (€) for membership fees.

At the 89th WFD Board meeting in October 2007, the WFD Board approved that the Ordinary, Associate and Individual Members to be divided into four (4) groups, following the World Bank classification:

Ordinary Members (OMs):

National Associations of the Deaf

Group 1: High income economies (60 countries) – 1 000, 00 €

Group 2: Upper-middle-income economies (41 countries) – 500, 00 €

Group 3: Lower-middle-income economies (55 Countries) – 100, 00 €

Group 4: Low-incomes economies (53 Countries) – 50, 00 €

Associate Members (AM):

Deaf Associations

Group 1: 250, 00 €

Group 2: 150, 00 €

Group 3: 100, 00 €

Group 4: 50, 00 €

Corporations, Universities, Service providers

Group 1: 500, 00 €

Group 2: 300, 00 €

Group 3: 200, 00 €

Group 4: 100, 00 €

Individual Members:

Group 1: 50, 00 €

Group 2: 30, 00 €

Group 3: 20, 00 €

Group 4: 15, 00 €

ORDINARY MEMBERS

129th Ordinary Member

Great news to tell you!!! WFD warmly welcomes this new Ordinary Member, Somali National Association of the Deaf, admitted as the 129th Ordinary Member, which the Board accepted at its 89th Board meeting in Denmark, October 2007.

Title changes of the two Ordinary Members

Australian Association of the Deaf (AAD) informed WFD that their title of the association has changed to Deaf Australia Incorporated. This will help make the Deaf Australians more visible with this title that says who they are and a move forward to a better future for Deaf Australians.

Mongolian Association of the Deaf has changed the title, which was formerly known as Mongolian Association of the Blind and Deaf.

Tanzania

Tanzania Association of the Deaf (CHAVITA) was selected as the best Non-governmental organization (NGO) in Tanzania last year in November.

CONGRATULATIONS to CHAVITA!!!

United Kingdom - UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

The British Deaf Association (BDA) had response to UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, in which they addressed to the proposed change in Clause 14, section 4, number 9 (Lines 23 – 30, Page 10), which states:

Persons or embryos that are known to have a gene, chromosome or mitochondrion abnormality involving a significant risk that a person with the abnormality will have or develop –

- a) a serious physical or mental disability
- b) a serious illness, or
- c) any other serious medical condition must not be preferred to those that are not known to have such an abnormality.

They requested to the government that the Clause 14, number 4, section 9 be omitted from the proposed UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. The bill has not yet passed.

The 4th **WFD Regional Secretariat for the Asia and the Pacific Youth Camp** will be held in Jakarta and Sukabumi, Indonesia from 22 – 27 June 2008. For more information, please contact by email to: info_4thAPDYC2008@yahoo.com or iawd1981@yahoo.com

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 Togo – AST Siege Social

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

JOIN WFD AS AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AND SUPPORT WFD FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Council of Europe – represents Human Rights for the 47 member States of Europe

It is with good news that WFD was granted to be on the participatory status with the Council of Europe, in which WFD applied early last year. For information, do click on the Council of Europe website: www.coe.int

International Labour Organisation (ILO) - Resource Guide for Inclusive Vocational Training

WFD was asked to comment this important document, *Resource Guide for Inclusive Vocational Training*. The comments were sent last year in November and include viewpoints, advice and hints on how deaf students can study equally with other students. WFD is very grateful with ILO. The document is now back in the hands of the ILO and will be published in the near future.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

So far a lot of United Nation member states have signed the Convention: 123 signatories to the Convention (rights) and 67 signatories to the Optional Protocol (individual's right to file complaints). 15 countries – Bangladesh, Croatia, Cuba, El Salvador, Gabon, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, South Africa and Spain have made their commitment to ratify the Convention. Nine (9) countries have ratified the Optional Protocol. For more information about this convention: do click on the website: www.un.org/disabilities

COMING EVENTS

Handicap International – What future for INGOs in International Policy-making?

This conference will take place from 12 – 13 February 2008 at Lyon, France, in which the role of the NGOs in global governance to launch a forward-looking and constructive debate between the different stakeholders in international relations. For more information about this conference, do click on the website: www.hiconference2008.org

Spring 2 – International Conference – Ageing Deaf

It is organised by the Health Centre for the Deaf in Austria, in collaboration with the Austrian Association of the Deaf and the Provincial Association for Deaf in Upper Austria. The problems of the services for Deaf senior citizens will be discussed in this international conference with the goal to develop ideas, which can be applied in other countries. The dates of the conference are from 22 – 25 April 2008 and takes place in Wels, Austria. For more information, please click on their website:

<http://www.agedeaf.org>.

The 8th Symposium of the Arab Federation of the Organs of the Deaf

The theme for this symposium is Improving Education and Rehabilitation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing People. It will take place from 28 – 30 April 2008 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The deadline for submitting abstracts is on the 25 December 2007. For more information, send by email to sma2006@hotmail.com. This event is organised by the Saudi Deaf Sports Committee.

12th World Deaf Magicians' Festival

The 12th World Deaf Magicians' Festival will take place in Riverside, California, USA from 6 – 13 April 2008. If you would like more information, please contact to Mr. Samuel Ruiz, Jr., Organiser and Chair by email (magic2008wdmf@aol.com) or fax +1 951 653 3271.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A Call for Action on Poverty, Lack of Access and Discrimination

This conference will take place at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 19 – 22 May 2008. The conference will examine what changes are required to combat poverty, lack of access and discrimination that people with disabilities face. This will also draw up a global call for action to ensure that persons with disabilities have full and equal enjoyment of all human rights. More information is available from the website: www.lcint.org/conference2008

International Symposium – Instructional Technology and Education of the Deaf

The symposium is to provide a forum for educators throughout the world who support Deaf and Hard of hearing learners to share information about current and future developments in educational technology for the teaching/learning process. It will be held in Rochester, New York, USA from 23 – 26 June 2008. For more information about this symposium, go to <http://www.rit.edu/~techsym>

4th Deaf Academics International Conference

This will take place in Dublin, Ireland from 25 – 27 June 2008. For more information, please do contact to the coordinator, Mr. John Bosco Conama by email: info@da08.ie

and do also click on the website: www.da08.ie. It is not open to all, as it is for Deaf people who work at universities as lecturers and researchers.

International Film Festival

This festival will take place in Milano, Italy from 27 – 28 June 2008. For more information about this festival, go to their website: www.teatrosenzaparole.it

8th International Federation of Hard of Hearing Congress

The theme of this congress is A Global Community of Communications that reflects the growing momentum to recognising the significance of hearing loss. The area of topics will be covered, such as early detection and intervention programs, educational, self-help support, education, awareness of hearing loss, technological supports and medical care. This Congress will take place in Vancouver, Canada from 2 – 6 July 2008. For more information, click on www.chha-ifhohcongress2008.com or to email: congress2008@chha.ca

11th International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs

This conference will take place at the University of Linz, Austria from 9 – 11 July 2008. The topics covered are Usability, eInclusion, Accessibility, Design for All, Assistive Technology and Ambient Assisted Living. Do click on this website address: www.icchp.org for more information.

World Library and Information Congress, 74th IFLA General Conference and Council

The theme of the congress is Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding. It will take place in Québec City, Québec, Canada from 10 – 14 August 2008. Do click on their website for more information: www.ifla.org. Online registration is available through this website.

4th German Culture Days of the Deaf

The festival is to take place again from 21 – 23 August 2008 at Cologne, Germany. There will be many visitors from all over Germany, as well as from Germany's European neighbours. It is good to meet new people and old friends and to experience interesting highlights such as art exhibitions, workshops, seminars, theatre, panel discussions, and a film festival. You can register online at www.gehoerlosen-kulturtag.de

21st World Congress of Rehabilitation International

The Theme of this congress is “Disability Rights and Social Participation: Ensuring a Society for All” It will take place in Quebec City, Québec, Canada from 25 – 28 August 2008. For more information, do click on www. <http://www.riquebec2008.org/>

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

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

European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters Conference 2008, Voorschoten, The Netherlands

On the 12th of September, the Annual General Meeting will take place. Observers are welcome to register for the Annual General Meeting. On the 13th and 14th of September is

the conference with a theme “Third Language Interpreting”. The website address for this conference is: www.nbtg.nl/efsl2008

5th European Deaf Arts & Culture Festival – SALVIA

This festival will be held at the capital city of Ukraine, Kiev, hosted by the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf from 6 – 12 October 2008. They welcome Deaf actors/actresses, theatre groups and filmmakers from Europe only. For more information, please do contact to the director of the festival, Ms. Iryna Chepchina: chepchina@bigmir.net or by fax: +380 44 287 1561

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

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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

Country Name-Signs – Many people need to know what the name sign is for each country. This popular book, costs **10, 00 €** is published for WFD by Japanese Federation of the Deaf (JFD). Publisher WFD (2003), Collection of data: Japan Institute for Sign Language Studies and Tomas Hedberg, Swedish National Association of the Deaf. These above items are available for sale from the WFD General Secretariat. If you would like to order one of the items, please email to orders@wfdeaf.org and we will send an invoice for payment.

A Handbook on International Sign

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

It is available by ordering through the website: <http://www.faxpg.es/> or Fundacion CNSE website <http://www.fundacioncnse.org/distribucion.htm>.

WFD MERCHANDISE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION OF WFD SECRETARIAT

Please do send all correspondence to:

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

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

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

Please do feel free to submit us newsworthy articles for future editions. You can forward articles at anytime to us at info@wfdeaf.org, and we will do our best to include them in the next issue. Also, any feedback and comments on the newsletter would be most welcome!

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