



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

## WFD NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

### NOTE FROM THE WFD GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Welcome to the spring issue of the new WFD Newsletter. This is the first issue with a new name, which the WFD Board decided at its 85<sup>th</sup> Board meeting at Moscow, Russian Federation last year in October, and we hope that you find the articles informative and interesting. The new name of this newsletter replaces previously used name "WFD Circular". **FROM NOW ON, WFD DOES NOT DISTRIBUTE "WFD CIRCULAR" ANYMORE.**

The purpose of this newsletter is to give all our members latest news on the on-going happenings and events from the world. The newsletter will be distributed to members every 2 months. This newsletter will also be displayed into WFD website.

To ensure that we have captured the most important issues from across the world, please feel free to submit us newsworthy articles for future editions. You can forward articles at anytime to us at [info@wfdeaf.org](mailto: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](http://www.wfdeaf.org)

### WFD BOARD INFORMATION

The 86<sup>th</sup> Board meeting was held in Ål, Norway from 22 – 24 January 2007 hosted by Norwegian Association of the Deaf. The successful Board meeting with lots of discussions on the upcoming WFD General Assembly, WFD report and Action plan was held at the Ål Folk High School for the Deaf.

After the Board meeting, the members travelled to Oslo, the capital of Norway to attend the Human Rights Seminar organised by Norwegian Association of the Deaf, which was on 25 January 2007. Dr. Liisa Kauppinen, WFD President Emerita gave her presentation on the UN Convention to the participants from all over Norway and representatives from the Norwegian government.

The WFD Board and staff would like to thank warmly to Ms. Hanne Berge Kvitvaer and Mr. Joseph Murray to host and organising the 86th Board meeting.

The next Board meeting will be in Madrid, Spain from 10 - 11 July 2007 hosted by Confederación Estatal de Personas Sordas (Spanish Association of the Deaf).

WFD Ordinary Members (national associations of the Deaf) are welcome to host the WFD Board meetings in their home countries. If your national Deaf association would like to host the meeting, please do contact to WFD General Secretariat. The contact details are at the last page of this circular.

The World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS) website has been launched a month ago. Please do click on [www.wfdeaf.org/youth](http://www.wfdeaf.org/youth).

The WFDYS Camp will be on from 6 – 13 July 2007 in Segovia, Spain. More information about this camp is on the World Congress homepage: [www.wfdcongress.org](http://www.wfdcongress.org).

## **WFD'S VISITS AND REPRESENTATION**

### **The First International Forum of the Deaf in 30 November – 3 December, Fez, Morocco**

For the first time in the history of North Africa, an international meeting was held in the historical city Fez, northwest of Rabat, November 30 - December 3. About 200 Deaf delegates and professionals working with the Deaf attended this meeting, called the First International Forum of the Deaf. The delegates came from several Arab countries and a few African countries. The presenters, both Deaf and hearing, from France, the Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa and the US offered several subjects, divided into five areas. They were Human Rights for the Deaf, Health and Prevention, Social Participation, Higher Education and Professional Training, and International Cooperation on occupational Opportunities. Dr Yerker Andersson, WFD's former president and honorary member attended the meeting. More information about this conference, please do click on WFD website.

### **United Nation's Panel of Expert meeting 28 – 29 January 2007, Doha Qatar**

President Markku Jokinen attended the UN Panel of Expert meeting, which was hosted by the United Nation's (UN) Special Rapporteur on Disability Sheika Hissa Al Thani. The meeting was gathered to discuss the latest developments in the disability field, such as the relation between the Standard Rules and the newly adopted Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A lot of questions were raised how to arrange monitoring of the Convention, and particularly, how to secure representation of persons with disabilities in the monitoring committee. It was also stressed that there is a great need to place disability issues higher in the United Nation's agenda and to bring more attention to these issues affecting the lives of millions of people around the world. The Special Rapporteur's position is likely to be strengthened in the new UN Human Rights Council. In addition, UN decade programmes on disability in Asia and the Pacific, Arab and African regions and also of the forthcoming Latin American Decade on Disability were discussed. President Jokinen had also an opportunity to visit the Qatari cultural centre of the Deaf. The President sends his warm thanks for the association's hospitality!

**Opening of the International Centre for Sign language and Deaf studies (SiLanDS)  
University for Central Lancashire  
Preston, UK**

In a ceremony to mark the opening of iSLanDS, Vice-President of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Feliciano Sola Limia gave a keynote speech highlighting the Centre's potential to inform government policy on deaf issues and deaf education in Britain and beyond. Also WFD's Board member Mr. Francis Kwame Boison attended the opening ceremony. For further information, please visit WFD website: [www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org).

**International Disability Alliance (IDA) meeting  
16 – 18 February 2007, New York**

International Disability Alliance (IDA) held the first meeting of this year in February in New York. The meeting convened together representatives from its 8 international organisations. WFD was represented by President Markku Jokinen and Board member Ms Martha Lucia Osorno Posada. The meeting discussed the future of IDA and its relations to International Disability Caucus (IDC), the newly adopted convention and disability organisation's role in its monitoring. In addition, on-going procedures with different UN special agencies were discussed. IDA's work and meetings are funded by the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Sida).

**3<sup>rd</sup> National Sign Language Conference by ENS  
9 – 11 March, Verona, Italy**

Italian Association of the Deaf – Ente Nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei sordi (ENS) arranged 3<sup>rd</sup> National Sign Language Conference in Verona bringing together about 1000 experts and professionals from all sectors. WFD's President Markku Jokinen and President Emerita Liisa Kauppinen gave presentations in this occasion among other experts. The conference has had successful implications as the Italian government is now exploring possibilities to recognise Italian Sign Language by legislation. Congratulations for ENS for successful advocacy work!

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be open for signature by all states at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 30 March 2007. Chair of the International Disability Alliance (IDA), Mr Gidion Mandesi, will give a joint statement on behalf of the civil society in this event. WFD will be represented by WFD's expert on law Mr. Jeff Rosen, and the US National Association of the Deaf's (NAD) representative will be WFD's former president and honorary member Dr. Yerker Andersson.

When states sign the treaty, they have made a commitment to start the ratification at the national level. They are also indicating to refrain from acts that are contrary to the convention's regulations. When states ratify the convention, they will implement it into the national legislation and amend those national laws that are contradictory with the convention. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will enter into

force one month after 20 countries have ratified it. It is expected that this takes place in the course of next year 2008.

After the ratification, monitoring work starts. Ratifying governments must follow the convention and give regular reports how it is implemented in respective countries. National associations and the civil society will need to take an active role to ensure that governments follow the ratified convention. Their role is to report and raise attention on those acts that are against the treaty.

All the articles of the convention are important, nonetheless, there are 5 articles that Deaf persons should pay specific attention to. These are the 5 articles with reference to sign languages, which are explicitly prohibiting discrimination against the Deaf (listed below):

<b>Article 2: Definition</b>	
<b>Article 9: Accessibility</b>	<b>9.2(e)</b>
<b>Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information</b>	<b>21(b)</b>
	<b>21(e)</b>
<b>Article 24: Education</b>	<b>24.3(b)</b>
	<b>24.3(c)</b>
	<b>24.4</b>
<b>Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport</b>	<b>30.1</b>

To read the articles and the full text of the Convention and its Protocol, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable>

(available in English, Français, Español, عربي, Русский, 汉语)

WFD plans to set up a manual on the convention for Ordinary Members sometime next year before the General Assembly.

### **Ratification Campaign Handbook**

The Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) has launched a handbook on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The handbook contains useful information on the convention and advocacy tools that are easy to modify to meet with specific needs. All documents can be found from the LSN's website:

[www.landminesurvivors.org](http://www.landminesurvivors.org).

### **UN Stamp**

In the wake of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) plans to release six postage stamps in September 2008. Each of these stamps will be devoted to a specific theme in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities. Sign language will be one theme, others being respect for integrity; disability and education; accessibility; Braille signs; and nothing about us without us.

UNPA is now calling artists with disabilities to submit any design work to the United Nations Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) for consideration either as a stamp or for other UNPA material. Designing stamps differs considerably from other visual designs, as everything needs to be portrayed in miniature. UNPA usually produces stamp designs in-house and/or identifies commercial artists with expertise in this area.

Ordinary Members are welcome to send the WFD their nominations of commercial artists with disabilities who have experience in this field. Please attach CV of the artist and any examples of her/his works and send them to the WFD at [info@wfdeaf.org](mailto:info@wfdeaf.org) as soon as possible.

### **WFD starts new project**

WFD will start preplanning for a global education project on the human rights of the Deaf this year 2007. During the preplanning period in 2007 – 2008, WFD will arrange 7 regional meetings in order to carry out a survey on the regional situation and needs of the Deaf in these regions. On the basis of the analysis, WFD will produce a project application containing a plan for a global educational project in human rights within WFD's regional and national organisations.

The seven regions are South America; Eastern and Southern Africa; Eastern Europe and Middle Asia; Central America and the Caribbean; Asia and the Pacific; Arab Region; and West Africa.

Mr. Colin Allen from Australia is appointed as the project coordinator. Steering committee will include members from WFD, Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR), Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) and Swedish Disabled People's organization for development cooperation (SHIA).

The two-year preplanning project is funded by the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Sida). Sincere thanks goes to Swedish Association of the Deaf (SDR), Finnish Association of the Deaf and also to other Nordic Deaf Associations for supporting WFD in this project.

## **WFD GENERAL ASSEMBLY 14 – 15 July 2007**

### **Registration to the assembly**

#### **IMPORTANT!!!**

**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. Many Ordinary Members have sent their Entrusting Power forms to represent for the General Assembly. If you have not send your Entrusting Power forms yet, please do send two (2) original Entrusting Power forms with original signatures by mail to WFD General Secretariat (postal address is at the last page of this circular) to ensure your access to the assembly. Election of the new board is scheduled to take place in 15 July 2007.

### **Agenda**

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, to its Ordinary Members.

### **Workshop**

A workshop for the General Assembly (GA) (only for Ordinary Members who will attend the GA) will be held on 13 July 2007, prior to the XVII General Assembly. More information about this workshop will be sent in April 2007 by mail/email.

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

### **International Signs**

The DVD of International Signs commonly used at General Assembly of the WFD, *Suggested International Signs for WFD General Assembly* will be available for sale during the World Congress of the WFD in Madrid, Spain.

## **THE XV WORLD CONGRESS OF THE WFD**

*“I wish you every success in the celebration of the Congress and encourage you to keep on working as you have done so far, with the same passion, enthusiasm and professionalism, making sign language a daily occurrence and enforcing the rights of those people who face difficulties in our current society; with all these things, we shall build a better future together.”*

*José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero  
Prime Minister of Spain*

The 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the WFD is the biggest and most prestigious Deaf and sign language related international meeting convening experts, associations, government officials and others from all sectors of life. The congress is from 16 - 22 July 2007 in Madrid, Spain. Program of the World Congress ranges from presentations, special interest groups, workshops and training to cultural and theatre presentations, exhibitions and related events for people of any ages from all over the world.

The General Assembly will be held from 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

### **Abstracts**

The deadline for sending abstracts has ended. For further information on paper submissions, please do check on the website of the World Congress or contact the congress organisers at [wfdcongress@cnse.es](mailto:wfdcongress@cnse.es).

### **Media accreditation**

Mass media seeking to accredit a journalist to cover information about the Congress must complete an on-line form and submit it together with:

- A letter of assignment from a director or editor in chief, providing specific details about the kind of Congress coverage expected (e.g. Congress news report, interviews and so on).
- A recent and signed sample of the applicant's work featuring the coverage of another festival or other cultural or film aspects.

Applicants must duly complete and submit their accreditation form, together with a passport-size photo, **by 1<sup>st</sup> May**. Both the form and the photo can be sent either by e-mail or by post. Accreditations will be granted on the basis of space availability and at the discretion of the organisers of the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the WFD.

Accreditation will allow access to the press room, which will be the meeting point for the media and for organising the press conferences. In no case will the accreditation entitle access to Congress sessions. Those companies wishing to record the sessions for their eventual use or dissemination should ask the organisers by different channels other than mass media, because their use and commercial exploitation rights belong exclusively to the organisers of the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the WFD.

**Please do ask for information to the World Congress Organising Committee** ([wfdcongress@cense.es](mailto:wfdcongress@cense.es)) to send you any further information about media accreditation. The final version will be soon included at the webpage: [www.wfdcongress.org](http://www.wfdcongress.org).

### **Congress programme and registrations**

The final World Congress program booklets will be 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 is on 15 April 2007.** For further information, please do check on WFD Congress website: [www.wfdcongress.org](http://www.wfdcongress.org).

### **Deaf Pub**

As you know in every WFD Congress, there is always a popular spot to chat with your friends and to make new friends. Also this time there will be an international Deaf Night Meeting point in the city of Madrid. It is located near to Castellana Street and Gregorio Marañón Street. Here is the address:

MOMA 56  
c/ José Abascal 53  
C.P. 28003  
Madrid, Spain

## **NEWS FROM THE WORLD**

### **Brazil**

An email message from Brazil was sent to WFD General Secretariat to let us know that the Deaf history website has been launched last year, which is in Spanish only. The website address is [www.cultura-sorda-eu/](http://www.cultura-sorda-eu/)

### **Denmark**

In Denmark, there is the second leadership training programme for Deaf Youth called Frontrunners from all over the world, which is the first of its kind in the world. This training programme is designed to empower the Deaf community to create changes for a

better world. This programme will be on again for the third time, which begins in September 2007. The deadline for application is on 1 June 2007. Please check their website, [www.frontrunners.dk](http://www.frontrunners.dk) to find out more information.

### **Estonia**

**Good news for the Estonian Deaf community!!!** We have been informed by Estonian Association of the Deaf that their Estonian Sign Language has been recognised in legislation as the official language of the Deaf community on 1 March 2007. Congratulations to the Estonian Deaf community!!!

### **Kosovo**

The Kosovar Association of the Deaf has been successful in lobbying the Kosovar Government to include the rights of the Deaf in legislation. The Office of Prime Minister has now established a working group to develop a strategy to recognise the Kosovar Sign Language by legislation.

### **Lebanon**

In Lebanon, a new website for Lebanese Sign Language has been launched. Do click on: <http://ile-signes.usj.edu.lb:8080/lsl/>

### **Madagascar**

The Federation of the Deaf in Madagascar (FMM) met with the Ministry of Education in Madagascar in December 2006. They discussed about the project of the Education for the Deaf. They applied for the project on how to train their Sign Language to the teachers. FMM would have to give the statistics of Deaf children from their visit in the regions of Madagascar. The Ministry of Education suggested:

1. To collect the statistics of Deaf children in the region
2. To collect the teachers who would want and to teach the deaf children in the region.

FMM is hoping to have the training to begin this year. They also met with the UNICEF about financial aid to set up training project for Deaf children.

### **Spain**

A Sign Language café has been set up in Madrid, Spain. For more information about this café, check on their website: [www.cafedelossignos.com](http://www.cafedelossignos.com), which is in Spanish only. The address is:

Café de los Signos  
Paseo Santa Maria de la Cabeza 75  
Madrid, Spain

### **Uganda**

Deaf people in Uganda petitioned to the Parliament of Uganda to have the enactment of their national sign language policy to enable all Deaf Ugandans to have access to information. In a petition, presented by Deaf Hon. Alex Ndeezi, MP for Persons with Disabilities, he said there was the need for approval of such a policy to enable them to fully enjoy their human rights. The speaker of the Ugandan Parliament said that Parliament would ensure to provide an effective way, which the Deaf would communicate, also said that the public would learn sign language to ease the communication with the Deaf and ensure they have access to service.

## USA

At Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RIT/NTID), a website, [www.rit.edu/deafww2](http://www.rit.edu/deafww2) is to help make the experiences of Deaf people during World War II (WWII). This website features videotape clips, testimonies, articles, scripts, artwork, books and related links. This site is designed for students, teachers, scholars, researchers and historians.

## HIV/AIDS and Disability

The first ever launching campaign on Africa HIV/ AIDS disability coalition, was held from 24 - 26 January 2007 in Cape Town South Africa, and brought various stakeholders including both from HIV/AIDS organisations, the governments and experts around the whole continent. Mr. Dickson Mveyange from the Tanzanian Association of the Deaf was invited as the author of Tanzania HIV/AIDS and disability practical manual. There were a lot of blind and physical disabled persons, and the Deaf were the minority. Nonetheless, they tried to ensure that Deaf people are represented under the umbrella of ADU (African Deaf Union) in the technical advisory committee. Mr George Obuya from Kisumu based HIV/AIDS counseling center in Kenya stand for ADU, and he was elected to technical advisory committee to serve for first for one year.

## JOIN WFD AS AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

Do you want to be part of our international team: become an individual member! Anyone can join us. You'll receive a member bulletin 4 times per year and the latest news from our e-mail service.

Our members can also buy a cheaper ticket to WFD's World Congress, which is held from 16 to 22 July 2007 in Madrid, Spain. For more information, check our Congress websites: [www.wfdcongress.org](http://www.wfdcongress.org)

How can I join? Please go to our website for the application form at [www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org) or be in contact to 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 send you a membership certificate.

## 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  
Kenya National Association of the Deaf  
Asociación de Sordos de Panamá  
Association des Sourds du Togo – AST Siege Social

Zambia National Association of the Deaf

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

## 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 is available on the website: [www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org).

## COMING EVENTS

### **Workshop on “Cross-linguistic research and international cooperation in sign language linguistics”**

The Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, The Nijmegen, The Netherlands, in cooperation with the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK is hosting this international workshop. This workshop takes place in Nijmegen, The Netherlands from 10 – 14 April 2007. For more information, check on the website:

[http://www.deafacademics.org/news/show\\_news\\_item.php?id=31](http://www.deafacademics.org/news/show_news_item.php?id=31)

### **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 international 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)

### **World Blind Union (WBU) – International Disabled Peoples’ (DPI) 4<sup>th</sup> Africa Forum – ‘Social Inclusion’**

The topics covered on this forum will be blindness and social exclusion, moving towards inclusive education, blindness is no barrier to employability and leisure and sport as social inclusion. For participants who would like to attend the forum, registration form can be found on the website: [www.sightsavers.org/idp-africa/africa-forum/default.htm](http://www.sightsavers.org/idp-africa/africa-forum/default.htm).

The forum is to take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 – 12 May 2007.

### **WWW2007: 16<sup>th</sup> International World Wide Web Conference**

This conference would be useful for who are interested in the field of technology. For more information, go into the website: [www2007.org](http://www2007.org). The dates of this conference are from 8 – 12 May 2007 in Banff, Canada.

### **International Conference – Linguistic Rights of the Deaf: governmental support, research and the use of Sign Language**

This conference is organised by All-Russian Society of the Deaf in Moscow, Russian Federation from 22 – 23 May 2007 with the support from WFD, Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, and UN Information Centre in Russia. The main goals of this conference are to inform the society of the importance of Sign

Language in Deaf persons' lives, take action on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to increase international cooperation, to support the research and use of Sign Language and work out practical recommendations for the government bodies. For further information about this conference: please do contact by email to [president@vog.su](mailto:president@vog.su) and also information on the website: [www.vog.su](http://www.vog.su)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> European Games without Borders for the DEAF 2 0 0 7**

The Association of Culture and Sports for the Deaf in Vorarlberg, Austria is organising this adventure for the Deaf, which will take place in Dornbirn, Austria from 7 – 9 June 2007. For more information about this Games without Borders, contact to Mr. Thomas Dünser by email: [spiele07@vgskv.at](mailto:spiele07@vgskv.at) or check on the website: [www.gehoerlos.eu](http://www.gehoerlos.eu)

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

This festival in Stockholm, Sweden from 15 – 17 June 2007 is **CANCELLED**. But there would still be a workshop for European Deaf professional artists from 18 – 22 June 2007. 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)

**Deaf Women & HIV/AIDS in Africa: No Time to Wait conference** will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 21 – 23 June 2007. For more information, contact to Ms. Janice M. Johnson, [Janice.Johnson@gallaudet.edu](mailto:Janice.Johnson@gallaudet.edu)

### **Clin d'oeil 2007 Festival – Deaf Europeans' meeting on Deaf Arts**

This festival will be held in Reims, France from 29 June – 1 July 2007. The subjects covered of this festival will be audiovisual, photography, dance, music, theatre, mime, storytelling, poetry, humour, painting, sculpture, craft and fashion. For more information, please do check on their website: [www.clin-doeil.eu](http://www.clin-doeil.eu)

### **11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Minority Languages (ICML 11) – Multilingualism, Citizenship and the Future of Minority Languages: Ideologies and Practices of Linguistic Difference in Europe, Pécs, Hungary, and 5 – 6 July 2007**

Above the topic of the conference is the special focus. This conference will bring together researchers working on linguistic minorities, different aspects by bi- and multilingualism, bilingual education, ideologies of language, language and identity structure, language policy, and especially on maintenance and revitalisation of minority languages in the new Europe. Please do go to check their website: [www.nytud.hu/icml11/](http://www.nytud.hu/icml11/)

### **WASLI 2007 – Diversity and community in the worldwide sign language interpreting profession**

The Federation of Spanish Sign Language interpreters (FILSE) are going to host the conference, which will be held in Segovia, Spain from 13 – 15 July 2007. . For more information on registration to the conference, do check on their website: [www.wasli.org/Conf\\_2007-htm](http://www.wasli.org/Conf_2007-htm)

### **International Junior and Teen Camp 2007**

This camp will be a unique opportunity for a week holiday near Madrid in a natural environment with juniors and teenagers from all over the world, the opportunity to become acquainted with different cultures and to exchange experiences. The camp coincides with the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the WFD from 16 – 22 July 2007, for 6 to 17 years old, in which they could participate in sports and cultural activities, and workshops. For more information: click on <http://www.deafchildrenandteencamp.org>

### **Building Bridges in Africa: Early Childhood Development for children with hearing loss**

The first Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) conference will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 13 – 14 August 2007. The aims of this conference is to highlight EHDI for success within the field of deafness, to facilitate the first ever forum for all stakeholders, giving an equal voice to all parents, teachers, policy makers, etc, to have cooperation between EHDI-South Africa and Africa and to have awareness creation and capacity development within South African and Africa. For more information about this conference, please contact to the Congress Secretariat: Brendy Lacey-Smith, [Brenda.Lacey-Smith@wits.ac.za](mailto:Brenda.Lacey-Smith@wits.ac.za)

### **World Library and Information Congress: 73<sup>rd</sup> IFLA Council and General Conference**

This conference will be held in Durban, South Africa from 19 – 23 August 2007. The theme of the conference is *Libraries for the future: progress, development and partnerships*. Further information about this conference is available from the website: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/index.htm>

### **Disabled Peoples' International – The 7<sup>th</sup> DPI World Assembly**

The theme of this DPI World Assembly is Our Rights, Our Convention, But for All – The Next Steps toward Global Actions. The goals are to analyse the human rights status of persons with disabilities around the world, evaluate DPI activities through country reports, create the long and mid-term plans and urge development plan for persons with disabilities in each country. Information about this Assembly is available in the website: [www.dpiwa.net](http://www.dpiwa.net)

### **Setting Quality Standards – EFSLI (European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters) AGM/Conference**

This conference is hosted by the Swiss German Sign Language Interpreters association, which will be held in Zürich, Switzerland from 14 – 16 September 2007. For more information, please do check on their website: [www-bgd.ch](http://www-bgd.ch)

### **North American Deaf Magicians' Festival**

On 27 – 29 September 2007, there will be a Deaf Magicians' conference taking place in Vancouver, Canada. It will be the first time in history for Canada, USA and other countries within the continent to have this kind of event. For more information, please surf the NADMF (North American Deaf Magicians Festival 2007) website, <http://www.nadmf2007.com>

### **International Exhibition of Deaf Artists' Art**

The Ukrainian Society of the Deaf is hosting this international event from 1 – 10 October 2007, Kyiv, Ukraine. For more information and for applying to enter this festival, contact to Central Board of the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf, 74 Velyka Vasylkivska St., Kyiv, 03150 Ukraine, Tel/Fax: +38 44 287 1561, +38 44 287 5052, Email: [cp\\_utog@ukr.net](mailto:cp_utog@ukr.net)

### **12<sup>th</sup> World Deaf Magicians' Festival**

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

## **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>

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

### **WFD NEWS, Circular and Website**

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 next year before the World Congress. 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).

### **BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS**

#### ***Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)***

This book would be useful for all working sign language interpreters, students of sign language interpreting, teachers of sign language interpreting, members of the Deaf community, researchers and academics. If you would like to order a copy of this book, please go to click on the WASLI website: [www.wasli.org/sales.htm](http://www.wasli.org/sales.htm)

***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)  
K Bldg 8F, Yamabuki-cho 130  
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0801  
JAPAN  
Fax: +81 3 3267 3445  
[inquiry@jfd.or.jp](mailto:inquiry@jfd.or.jp)

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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).