

## UN Enable Newsletter

December 2017 – January 2018

### NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS



*Photo 1: The fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD56). #CSocD56, #SDGs, #GlobalGoals, website: social.un.org/csocd*

The [fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development \(CSocD56\)](#) is being convened in Conference Room 4 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 29 January to 7 February 2018. The priority theme this year is **“Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”**. The CSocD56 features four high-level panel discussions, including one on disability with a theme “Towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable development: an evidence-based approach to the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda 2030”, which was held on Wednesday 31 January 2018. The concept note is available at: <http://bit.ly/2EnwU7v> ; The video of the session can be viewed from <http://bit.ly/2GE8qHN> .

During the Commission, the side event on “Persons with Disabilities: Realising Equal Rights and Inclusive Development” was convened by China and European Union on 31 January. Detail of the event is available at: <http://bit.ly/2DXYjji>

### **Disability statistics and data: The UN Statistical Commission**

UNDESA will organize a panel discussion on disability statistics and data during the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York, which will be held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Detail will be available at:

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/>

### **New resolution: International Day on Sign Languages**

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages through its resolution (A/RES/72/161) with a view to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf. This Day will first be observed from 2018. The resolution can be downloaded at:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/161](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/161)

### **NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES**

#### **OHCHR: The 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 14 February to 9 March 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.**

The Committee will examine the implementation of the Convention in the following countries: Haiti, Oman, Sudan, Nepal, Slovenia, Seychelles and the Russian Federation. The Committee will hold an annual public interactive dialogue with National Human Rights Institutions and National Monitoring Frameworks of the Convention on 23 March. It will also have interactive dialogues with UN agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders. The Committee will further discuss a draft general comment on the right to equality and non-discrimination. The accreditation for participating in the session is open and available on the Committee's webpage:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>

#### **UNESCAP: High-level Conference adopted a regional Action Plan**

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and adopted by consensus an outcome document entitled 'Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy' to further the implementation of the regional framework as well as that of the 2030 Agenda and the CRPD. The Conference, with the support of the Chinese Government, took

place in Beijing from 27 November to 1 December 2017 and was well attended by high-level officials from Asian countries. More details about the Conference including its outcome at: <http://bit.ly/2D0kubF> ; the outcome document can be downloaded at: <http://bit.ly/2nnn9z5>

At the margins of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022, a panel discussion entitled “**Language Matters: Sign Languages and Linguistics Rights as Core Components of Inclusive Development**” was held on 27th November 2017. World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat for Asia (WFD RSA), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Nippon Foundation (TNF) co-organized the event. The discussion highlighted good examples of legal recognition of sign languages in Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea, and introduced a regional research program on Sign Linguistics, [the Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program \(APSL\)](#). About 70 participants attended the event. Detail of the event can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2DMVHVx>



*Photo 2: President of Japanese Federation of the Deaf making his presentation at the side event, credit: Japanese Federation of the Deaf*



*Photo 3: Panelists and moderator at the side event, credit: Japanese Federation of the Deaf*

### **Enabling a Global Human Rights Movement for Women and Girls with Disabilities**

Women Enabled International (WEI) produced a comprehensive mapping report of the field of advocates for the rights of women and girls with disabilities globally. This Report helps achieve greater collective impact by providing data, analysis and infographics of the leaders, venues, and locations where women's disability rights advocates and organizations are especially active, where the gaps are, and where there are opportunities for collaboration. Detail of the report can be found at: <https://womenenabled.org/mapping.html>

### **Regional Women's Institute on Leadership & Disability (WILD) – Asia**

Sixteen women with disabilities from China, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka will be selected to participate in an eight-day WILD program in Sri Lanka, 23 - 30 May, 2018, to exchange experiences, explore strategies, strengthen a regional network of support, and create collaborative plans to promote inclusion of women with disabilities in community development efforts. Deadline for application: 5 February 2018. Application available in English and Chinese at: <http://www.miusa.org/news/2017/regional-wild-asia>

### **Nippon Foundation: Japan's latest Public Sign Language Phone**

Japan's first Public Sign Language Phones (Video Relay Service booth) were activated at Haneda Airport in Tokyo on the International day of Persons with Disability, on 3 December 2017. Video Relay Service (VRS) is a video telecommunication service that allows Deaf individuals to communicate over video telephones with hearing people in real-time, via a sign language interpreter. Two VRS booths were set up by The Nippon Foundation and services are provided as

free of charge for Deaf individuals who use Japanese Sign Language. More information can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2nkMeuk>



*Photo 4: Press conference of the launch of the public sign language phones, credit: Nippon Foundation*



*Photo 5: The public sign language phone at Haneda Airport in Japan, credit: Nippon Foundation*



*Photo 6: Demonstrating the public sign language phone booth at Haneda Airport in Japan, credit: Nippon Foundation*