The 2005 GLADNET Annual Meeting

The upcoming GLADNET Annual General meeting (AGM) will be held in Manama, Bahrain on November 10-11, 2005, presented in English (please note date change from original announcement). This Annual General Meeting precedes the Rehabilitation International Arab Conference, being held in Manama on Nobember 14-16, 2005 (see http://www.ri-arab.org/index.htm)

The GLADNET AGM program theme is "'Doing the Right Things Right': People with Disabilities in the Labor Market."

Proposed symposiums are:

- The Right to Work: Socio-Economic Perspectives
- Examples of Successful Employment and Self-Employment Initiatives
- Accessing Information and Communication Technology: A Way to Work
- Successful Employment Policies and Practices

The AGM venue is the five-star Crowne Plaza Hotem, Bahrain-Manama, King Faisal Hyw, Manama, 5831, Bahrain. Click here for details.

The telephone number for lodging reservations is 00973 17531122 and Fax - 00973 17530154. Ask for the GLADNET rate of 52 BD single; 58 BD double (approximately $138 and $154 U.S. respectively)

Gulf Air is the official Airline for participants of Rehabilitation International Arab Conference. Gulf Air company offers the conference participants travelers special prices on the Air Ticket; the offer is available on Gulf Air, Gulf travelers and airlines operated by their code share partners only.

You will be expected to arrange for your lodging and travel arrangements independently. To register for the GLADNET Annual General Meeting, please complete the the registration form found here.

For more information, contact:
Sharon VanCampen
GLADNET
E-mail:info@gladnet.org

Minutes of the Fifth General Assembly Meeting

Kyoto International Community House

Kyoto, Japan, 16 — 18 May 2001

Attendance

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network on Employment and Training — GLADNET — was held at the Kyoto International Community House, Kyoto, Japan, May 16 — 18, 2001. A total of 79 participants from 12 countries were in attendance.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Aldred H. Neufeldt, Chair of the GLADNET Association.

Welcoming Remarks

- Mr Hiroshi Kawamura welcomed participants on behalf of our hosts, the Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.
- Dr. Neufeldt, Chair, welcomed participants, especially newcomers to our meeting. He gave a brief history of the GLADNET Association. He also provided participants with an overview of the GLADNET approach to collaboration. In his remarks, Dr. Neufeldt stressed the need to find ways to disseminate information to where persons with disabilities are in low income countries. He also explained the underlying concepts of the proposed Knowledge Network, as well as providing an overview of the meeting on mental health held at the International Labour Organization in May, 2001.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Wing Tai Chan, seconded by Michael Kamp, approved.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker, Mr. Yutaka Takamine, Project Expert on Disability, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok, was introduced by Dr. Neufeldt.

Keynote Address — Employment and income generation of persons with disabilities in developing countries with special reference to information and communication technology

In his address, Mr Takamine spoke of the digital divide and the UNDP report on information and communications technology as an indispensable tool to fight

poverty. He also gave an overview of developments in the Asia and Pacific Region. A question and answer session followed.

Presentations

The IT agenda — Private Sector, Donor Agency and Consumer Perspectives

* Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities — Hiroshi Kawamura

    Mr Hiroshi Kawamura provided an overview of the activities of the Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, focussing on information technology (IT), noting that its IT centre was established in 1996. He also explained the Society's project, Disability Information Resources (DINF), and its role to capture on line research information and journals. He also gave an introduction to JSRPD's interests in the Asia and Pacific, and introduced its trainee program. He introduced their 10 trainees. Finally, he gave a demonstration of the Society's DAISY technology.

* Prop Station — Nami Takenaka

    Ms Nami Takenaka is the founder of Prop Station, a nonprofit organization. Using computers and the Internet, they offer training in employable skills and promote job opportunities to people with disabilities. She traced the organization's growth from their original concept to their current activities.

* The Independent Living Movement and Employment Support System for Persons with Disabilities in Japan - Masako Okuhira, Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

    Formerly the Secretary General of the Japan Council of Independent Living Centres, Mr Okuhira provided an overview of the Japanese employment law as it relates to persons with disabilities. He traced the development of independent living movement and the establishment of independent living centres, in Japan.

* Toshihiro Wakita, Chief Personnel Affairs, and Kayoko Tsuda, Employee, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka

    Mr Wakita provided an overview of his company's multi—year oprogram to advance integrated employment for persons with disabilities. Ms Tsuda, a disabled employee, provided a perspective of the company's program from a participant employee point of view.

- Takashi Ito, Nippon Foundation — A Donor Perspective

  In his presentation, Mr Ito spoke about the need for equitable sharing of resources between countries of the "north" and the "south." He noted that Japanese statistics relating to disability differ from those in other countries, due to definitional issues. Finally, he addressed the question of funding accessible computer hardware and software.

- Monthian Buntan, acting president of the Thailand Association of the Blind

  Mr Buntan spoke on the topic "Best Practices of Information and Communication Technology: the Matter of Equal Access for Equal Participation." In his talk, he provided an overview of information and communications technology for persons with disabilities in Thailand. He noted that innovation takes place at the margin, and that impacts on the rest of society.

Forum

Youth Employment and Older Workers Partnership Building and Good Practices

Speakers

- Susanne Bruyère, Director, Program on Employment and Disability, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, USA

  In her address, Dr. Bruyère gave an overview on the implications of technology for employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the USA. Her topics included Employment rates of people with disabilities in the USA, the issue of disparities in equitable employment preparation , technology opportunities, the opportunities and challenges posed by technology for employment of persons with disabilities, the aging US workforce and future employment considerations, and the implications for rehabilitation/disability research, training, and service provision.

- Barbara Murray, International Labour Organization, Geneva

  In her talk, Dr. Murray gave a global overview from the perspective of the ILO. She noted that it is necessary to understand the issues in order to identify possible solutions. She explained the ILO goal of decent work: to promote opportunities for women and men, including persons with disabilities, to obtain decent work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Dr. Murray then gave a survey of the global

situation faced by persons with disabilities, noting the marketplace changes, the labour market implications, and what must be done.

The GLADNET Community

Members of the GLADNET community made presentations concerning their program and regional activities.

Speakers

- JB Munro, Asia/Pacific Regional Chair, Inclusion International

  Mr. Munro gave an overview of Inclusion International, noting that it was founded in 1960, and now has members in more than 100 countries. He provided some of the achievements of the organization, noting that in his country, New Zealand, all children with intellectual impairments are now mainstreamed in the nation's schools. He closed with an invitation to attend the Inclusion International World Congress, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, 22 — 26 September 2001.

- Beverly Beckles, CEO, National Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Trinidad

  Ms Beckles gave a regional perspective. She noted that there is a lack of information and statistics throughout the Caribbean. The estimate is that there are 200,000 persons with disabilities in the region, not taking into consideration individuals with mental disabilities and AIDS. Services for persons with disabilities are provided mostly by charities or non-governmental organizations, not government. Furthermore, there are limited educational, training and employment opportunities, and the region is way behind in information and communications technology.

- Michael Kamp, World Association of Supported Employment, Netherlands

  Mr. Kamp gave an overview of Project Worknet, an activity in the Netherlands. The project seeks to create jobs for severely disabled persons. He identified the support needs required.

GLADNET Collaboration

Dr. Neufeldt gave a presentation on the GLADNET knowledge network, and issued an invitation to collaborate.

GLADNET Association General Assembly

The GLADNET Business meeting was held from 9h00 to 11h30 on Friday, May 18, 2001.

Welcome

Dr. Neufeldt welcomed everyone and thanked Hiroshi Kawamura, Misako Nomura and the staff of the Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. He gave special recognition to the contribution of the exchange trainees present. In his opening remarks, Dr. Neufeldt noted that the goal of the meeting was to increase our Association's visibility in the Asia and Pacific Region. This goal was met and expectations were exceeded.

Motion to adopt agenda

Moved by Susanne Bruyère, seconded by JB Munro. Carried

Motion to adopt the minutes of 2000 Annual General Meeting, Washington

Moved by Bev Beckles, seconded by Wing Tai Chan. Carried.

Annual Report

The Chair discussed the GLADNET activities undertaken in 2000. Activities highlighted include the Washington Annual Meeting, the Geneva 2000 NGO Forum, and the Nordic Conference. He thanked the Board and other members. In the ensuing discussion, the idea of a need to have an incentive for membership was addressed. Another idea was that GLADNET funding could be increased by organizations providing for a budget line for dissemination.

The motion to adopt the Annual Report was made by JB Munro and seconded by Michael Kamp. Carried.

Auditor's Report

Moved by Hiroshi Kawamura, seconded by Susanne Bruyère. Carried.

Budget

Moved by Michael Kamp, seconded by Wing Tai Chan. Carried

Amendment of the GLADNET By-laws

There is a need to revise the By-laws with reference to the terms of Board membership. The By-laws at present don't allow for much continuity over time, particularly as this relates to nurturing knowledgeable leadership for GLADNET. It is proposed that:

- Board members be elected for 3 year terms, for a maximum of 9 years consecutively;
- Executive members would be elected to a position for two years for a maximum of 2 terms in a given position;
- Board members may serve for more than 9 years, if it allows them to complete their cycle of Executive positions.

This will be put to the membership in good standing via an e-mail vote.

It was moved by JB Munro that "the present Board as constituted to remain in office until the 2002 annual general meeting, and that in the interim we submit a notification of motion to all members proposing that the term of service of Board members to be from two to three years, and that the consecutive terms be extended to three terms rather than the current two." Seconded by Wing Tai Chan. Carried.

Other Business

- Hiroshi Kawamura extended an invitation to all those present at the meeting to become members of GLADNET. He also indicated that the Nippon Foundation should be invited to become a sustaining member.
- Barbara Murray noted that various trust funds can be called upon to sponsor members. Barbara also advanced the idea of setting up a GLADNET communications network in various regions of the world.

Next Annual General Meeting of GLADNET

The next Annual General Meeting of GLADNET will take place in Paris France, hosted by AGEFIPH. It will be in association with ICTA, the International Commission on Technology and Accessibility, of Rehabilitation International.

Close

There being no new business, the meeting closed at 11h30 hours on May 18, 2001.