



The Network

Dec 2006 – Feb 2007

Special Edition

Papua New Guinea

Get ready for this edition!

THEME:

Access to communication, information & assistive technology

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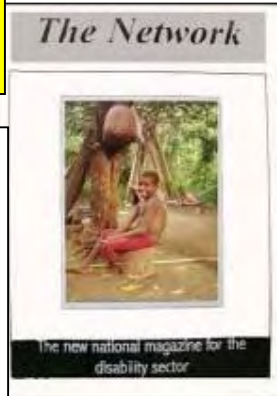
Empowering persons with disabilities through the CBSHOD Seminar

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**The Network Anniversary
10 editions!**

A milestone achieved!

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The National Disability Magazine



From the editors

Welcome to this Anniversary edition of The Network, it is our 10th issue! We are proud to celebrate we have been able to publish the magazine, always filled with informative and inspiring news and views from all over Papua New Guinea!

As said, this is a very special issue. Also because I am incredibly happy to introduce you to some one special. Since January Watson Gabana has been appointed by Divine Word University as Coordinator for National Disability Resource and Advocacy Centre (DRAC), of which The Network is a important part. Watson will be taking over from me since my placement with VSO at DWU will be finishing May this year.

Please allow me to introduce Watson to you. Watson comes from Markham area, is 32 years old, married and he has three children. He has been working with Lae City Council as its Community Information Officer before joining National DRAC. Watson has been reporting on, and advocating for disability rights in Morobe Province. Now, he is really excited to be working together with all of you to make disability as a developmental and mainstream concern for the entire country, from urban and especially to rural areas.

I have full confidence The Network will continue and expand much further, as well as many other needed disability activities. I am happy to be

part of such an innovative initiative and I feel honoured to now pass on the baton for Watson.

Indeed, it's a great honour to receive this responsibility at this time of The Network's history. The challenge of carrying this load is obviously not easy...however with support from all who have contributed to the success of this special and unique magazine, we can all continue towards sustainability.

One thing that surely motivates me to become party to this magazine and the National DRAC is the sense of ownership that the magazine encourages. It is you, our readers that make the difference!

As you read, we hope you are inspired and think about what you can contribute for our next edition – and that is sustainability. As you explore the pages of this edition, you can see for yourself what I mean. A few of the pages that pop into my mind are the Hello we are..., Personal Profile, Honour of the Edition and the Readers' Reactions.

As part of the theme: Access to information, Communication and Assistive Technology, we introduce to you the Braille and Sign Languages. We also have articles on the recent Capacity Building Seminar for Self Help Organizations for persons with disabilities (CBSHOD), including the Port Moresby Declaration.

We believe this declaration is a big-step forward so the government could recognize disability as a mainstream developmental issue.

The Network is happy also to announce the winner of the "Contest 10". Dominic Kuli from Alotau is our winner and will receive The Network T-shirt. On page 10 you can admire his artistic presentation and tireless input to the disability movement.

Above all, this is the BIG 10. From a humble beginning at a coffee table, it has grown to be the well known national disability magazine, received by ever increasing readership. Again, the baton is in our hands and the enjoyment and challenge of continuity is our joint goal.

Cheers and happy reading,



Nienke and Watson

What is the Network?

The Network, started in 2004, is a quarterly magazine for all people involved and interested in the disability sector in Papua New Guinea. The aims are to empower, share views and spread accurate and inspiring information about disability. The Network is one of the activities of the National Disability Resource and Advocacy Centre.

The Network is free of charge; however we do like to encourage anyone who can, to make a donation.

The production of The Network is supported in different ways by:

- Divine Word University
- Creative Self Help Centre
- Voluntary Service Overseas
- Callan Services
- Government of Papua New Guinea

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Hello, we are...



By: Kanitta Kamolwat, APCD Director, Thailand

The "Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability" (APCD) is a regional center on disability established in Bangkok, Thailand on 1 August 2002. The Centre is a legacy of the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2012, under joint collaboration of the Government of Japan and the Royal Thai Government. APCD has been endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) as a regional cooperative base for its Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012.

The APCD project was implemented through the technical cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand; the necessary infrastructure was provided by Japan's Grant Aid.

Presently, there are 24 staff working with APCD, two of them are persons with disabilities (one using wheelchair and one being visually impaired). APCD is mostly working with developing countries in Asia Pacific and has 36 focal points, government organizations from 32 countries and 141 NGO associate organizations. We have identified organizations using social approach in development of disability-related activities as our focal point and associate organisation. We also would like to develop mutual cooperation and contribution with associate organisations in order to achieve our target goals. For those interested to become associate organisations, please visit APCD website (www.apcdproject.org) to get an Application form. Those who don't have access to internet can contact National DRAC.

The Overall Goal of the APCD project is to promote the empowerment of people with disabilities and a barrier-free society in developing countries in the Asia and Pacific Region.

Our Activities are:

- Networking and collaboration.
 - Information support.
 - Training implementation.
- (an example is the Capacity Building Seminar for Self Help Organisations, conducted in February 2007 in POM)



Our Outputs are:

- Facilitate networking and collaboration among relevant organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Develop disability-related human resources in cooperation with relevant organizations.
- Take the necessary administrative measures to ensure its sustainability.

→ Subscribe to our Free Newsletter: *Empowerment*

Subscribe via writing to us or by visiting our website (where also all previous editions can be found). More information on *Empowerment* can be found on page 12 of The Network.

Contact details:

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Biwako Millennium Framework

The Network covers in each edition a priority area based upon the 'Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) for action towards an inclusive barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities'. This BMF has been prepared by UNESCAP during this Decade for Disabled Persons from 2003 to 2012 as a specific disability supplement to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. The BMF outlines priorities on issues, action plans and strategies towards an inclusive barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region.

An "inclusive society" is a society for all; "barrier-free society" refers to a society free from institutional, physical, and attitudinal barriers including social, economic and cultural barriers. "Rights-based society" means a society based on the human rights of all individuals where people with disabilities are also valued and placed at the centre of all decisions and activities affecting them.

The BMF identifies 7 priority areas for action, and strategies to support the achievement of all the targets. To pursue the targets and strategies, consultations with an involvement of civil society, self-help organizations and concerned NGOs are very important. The 7 BMF priority areas for action are:

1. Self Help Organisations of people with disabilities and related family and parent associations
2. Women with disabilities
3. Early detection, early intervention and education
4. Training & employment, including self-employment
5. Accessibility: built environments and public transport
6. Access to communication, information & assistive technology
7. Poverty alleviation through capacity building, social security & sustainable livelihood programs

This edition focuses on the priority area no. 6 'Access to communication, information & assistive technology'. Each priority area identifies critical areas, and sets targets and strategies.

BMF Targets: There are five targets declared in 2003 by the BMF to be implemented by 2012. It states that these targets should be implemented so the priority area No. 6 on Access to communication, information & assistive technology is met. The five targets are;

- By 2005, persons with disabilities would have at least the same rate of access to the Internet and related services as the rest of citizens in a country of the region.
- International organizations responsible for international ICT standards should, by 2004 incorporate accessibility standards for persons with disabilities in their international ICT standards.
- Governments should adopt, by 2005, ICT accessibility guidelines for persons with disabilities in their national ICT policies and specifically include persons with disabilities as their target beneficiary group with appropriate measures.
- Governments should develop and coordinate a standardized sign language, finger Braille, tactile sign language, in each country and to disseminate and teach the results through all means, i.e. publications, CD-ROMs, etc.
- Government should establish a system in each country to train and dispatch sign language interpreters, Braille transcribers, finger Braille interpreters and human readers and to encourage their employment.

During the recent Capacity Building for Self Help Organization for persons with disabilities, held in Port Moresby in February 2007, it was recommended that in the next five (5) years, these targets should be met. It was agreed that each country should take on the ownership and establish action plan to implement these targets. In the mid-term review to be held this year, all targets areas would be accessed and recommendations made for participating countries to refocus their plans towards meeting these targets.

Action required achieving targets:

- Encourage government laws, policies and programs
- Set up ICT accessible unit in the government and encourage private companies to establish an equivalent unit
- Encourage universal, open and non-proprietary standards
- Develop standard character encoding and modelling
- Support donor agencies to include ICT accessibility in award criteria
- Establish a regional working group to develop ICT standards



Biwako Millennium Framework document in Braille



Dame Carol Kidu's Point of View

The time that I had been looking forward to for so many months was suddenly on top of us and I was being briefed on the status of preparations for the first Pacific Regional Training Seminar on Capacity Building of Self-Help Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (or simply said CBSHOD). The organizing committee members were undoubtedly exhausted but the exciting week was about to begin.

Often disability is invisible in our society because many people with disabilities find it difficult to participate in daily activities and stay in their homes. This important seminar changed that for one week in Port Moresby when participants arrived from the Asia Pacific region as well as from every province in Papua New Guinea. The issues of disability became very visible and the walk from Holiday Inn to Sir John Guise Stadium for the opening ceremony stopped the early morning city traffic. I really enjoyed that walk and the feeling of solidarity of purpose.

Persons with disabilities know that the best way to have their motto "Nothing about us without us" heard is through self-help organizations.



Dame Carol Kidu has been a member of the PNG Parliament since 1997, representing the electorate of Moresby South. Since 2002 Dame Carol has served as the Minister for Community Development, implementing programs to reduce poverty and secure the fundamental rights of all Papua New Guineans. In each issue of The Network Dame Carol shares with you her views on communities, development and life.

One of the priority areas in the Biwako Millennium Framework plan of action emphasizes the establishment of a national forum for self help organizations. However to do this, the first step must be the empowerment of people with disabilities through capacity building and leadership training. That was the main purpose of this historic seminar for PNG and the Pacific region.

In Papua New Guinea and I would think probably other Pacific nations we traditionally had a caring and inclusive society. People with disabilities were cared for by their families and took part in traditional village activities to the best of their abilities but often they were invisible inside their homes because their mobility was limited by their disability. However as our society has changed, the inclusiveness of the family has not transferred to the modern development process. People with disabilities have been very low on the government agenda since Independence. Access to even basic services is difficult because most physical environments are not accessible for people with disabilities.

Often also social attitudes are not empowering. In the Motu language when talking about or to a person with a disability the word "Madi" is often used – it is a word of pity, a word of compassion, a caring word but not an empowering word.

It is now time for PNG to move forward from this mental attitude of "madi" attached to disability. It is time for a paradigm shift in thinking to recognize that the issues of disability should not be about pity and charity but about human rights – the right to access, the right to an independent life, the right to education, the right to employment, the right to self determination.

The seminar was about building the capacities and skills of people with disabilities and self help organizations to be able to take the lead role in claiming those rights. The seminar was also very significant for us as a nation as well as for our people with disabilities. Our national policy framework for disability is ready for NEC but we have held it waiting for the outcomes of this important seminar because those outcomes will guide the work-plan for the policy. I am confident that this milestone for our disabled population will be ready for endorsement before the end of our term in Government.

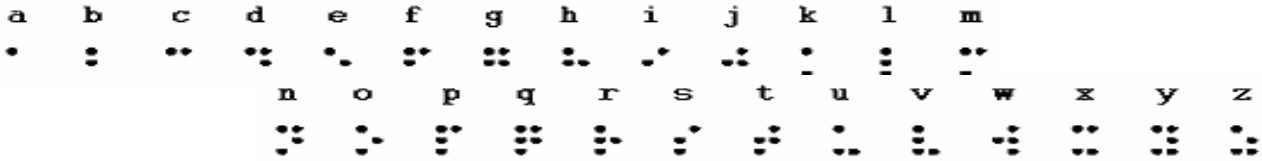
This week was a very important week in the development history of PNG and I trust that when all of our friends from other Pacific nations returned home with many happy memories and also a toolkit of skills and knowledge that they can share with other disabled people as they establish strong self-help organizations throughout our region.

I thank the Asia Pacific Centre for Disability, Disabled Persons International, the Government of Japan, the Royal Government of Thailand and of course our own Government of Papua New Guinea for providing the financial and technical support to make this important seminar possible.



Access of information through Braille

Braille is a medium which allows a person with visual impairment to read text by touch. The Braille code is physically presented as raised dots, usually arranged in cells of up to 6 dots. The signs are embossed on special paper either by hand or by Braille typewriter. A person using Braille writes from right to left; when the sheet is turned over, the dots face upward and are read from left to right.



Braille language was invented by Frenchman, Louis Braille in 1829 and is still used all over the world. Louis became blind at the age of three in an accident that occurred while he was playing with tools in his father's harness shop. An awl slipped and plunged into his eye. Sympathetic ophthalmia (eye infection) and blindness followed. Nevertheless, he became an excellent organist and cellist. Upon receiving a scholarship, he went in 1819 to Paris to attend the Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles (National Institute for Blind Children), and from 1826 he taught there. In 1824, when he was only 15 years old, Louis developed the six-dot "cell" system.

Braille is used in every language as the standard form of reading and writing by people who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf blind. Usage of Braille in Papua New Guinea is in its early stage. There is a need to teach Braille to blind and visually impaired persons especially starting at young age. Discrimination and misguided ideas deterred many children from accessing Braille. People may have little knowledge and understanding about Braille and its application as a communicative tool for visual impaired persons. However, when Braille is fully recognized and supported by the government, educators, parents and donors it creates an avenue of equal learning and access to information. Organizations using Braille in PNG are St. John Blind Association in Port Moresby, Mt. Sion in Goroka and Callan Services in Wewak. These organizations can be contacted for specific information directly or through the National DRAC in Madang. Their contact details are mentioned at the Resource Page of this issue.



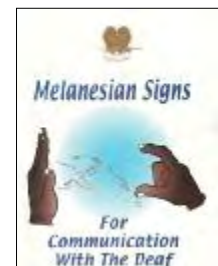
Reading Braille, finger tips touching embossed paper

Access of information through Sign language



Through out the world, persons with hearing impairment have developed visual languages. Sign Language is a tool of communication through bodily movements, especially of the hands and arms, rather than through speech. It has been used by people 'speaking' different languages and is widely used for communication by persons with hearing impairments. There are several types of sign languages used. Most sign languages derived from France in the early 19th century. Sign languages generally express concepts rather than elements of words and thus have more in common with each other than with their countries' spoken languages.

Sign language is also vital in Papua New Guinean context. The common sign language used in PNG is the Melanesian Sign Language. Government and non government organizations, field officers serving in the organizations with hearing impairment in PNG and other Melanesian countries came together to establish the Melanesian Sign Language. It was found that many Melanesian words did not have signs and so field officers created many of the signs in this book. The National Board of the Disabled Persons Professional Staff Conference held in Goroka in 1990, resulted in the formulation of standardized signs to be used in schools and communities through out Melanesia. Many of the Papua New Guinea cultural words are used in other Melanesian countries. This book can be seen as a basis for developing a Melanesian Sign Language.



It is hoped that this book will support persons with hearing impairment to communicate easily with each other and the rest of the society helping them to be more active participants in their communities. Information on where to order this book can be seen on page 12.



Personal Profile

Inspiring people are all around, however you might not meet, see or hear them. The Network wishes to empower people and create more understanding of the lives of persons with disabilities. In each edition, through Personal Profile, we will show you opinions and experiences from an inspiring, special and/or empowering personality living with a disability. You will read their views on six set questions. In this edition please meet:

Elina Seko

Age: 26
Home Province: Madang
Current Residence: Madang
Occupation: Personal Assistant at TNT/D & S Seko Ltd
Marital Status: Single
Disability: I had Aneurysm when I was 22 years old
 (a weakness of a blood vessel that bled in my brain)



Question 1: Can you tell us about a typical day in your life?

I start my day off reading the Bible before heading to the office. I work with my father at our family business. A typical day for me is, working through the Customs Manual and tracking down cargo for clients. After work I am enjoying reading and playing with my new puppy, called Leigh.

Question 2: What are you most proud of having done?

I actually look forward to all that I intend to achieve in the future. Creating awareness for those physically impaired and destroying the stigma that being handicapped means you can't go out in public and you don't have anything to offer others.

Question 3: What difficulties have you faced as a disabled person?

Where do I start?! Public transport for starters. Access into public buildings, another. People tend to equate being physically challenged with being mentally retarded. If only they gave us a chance, they'd see that what we lack in mobility, we make up with our brains.

Question 4: What is your advice to other disabled people on how difficulties can be overcome?

Where there's a will there's a way. Just because we can't do things the way other people do, it doesn't mean we can't do the same thing just as well. There is a reason why we were put on the Earth, make it your mission to find out why.

Question 5: What things would you like to change in PNG to remove the barriers disabled people are facing?

Make all things more accessible! Put ramps on all public buildings. Introduce buses that can cater for those wheelchair bound people- the physically challenged. Educate the public that all men and women are equal in the eyes of the Lord and just because someone has a disability, it doesn't mean they deserve any less from this life.

Question 6: What is your motto in life?

"Who says we can't?"

→ **We are looking for people with disabilities who would like to give their opinion in Personal Profile and inspire other people. Please contact the editor for more details.**

This theme "Access to communication, information & assistive technology" ends here. The theme for next edition to be published in May is... **"Poverty alleviation through capacity building, social security & sustainable livelihood programs."**

® **Call for stories!** Are you involved in some kind of income generating activities for sustainable living? Can you express why it is important to be trained or empowered as person with disability? Are you engaged in the area of this theme? We need to hear from you! Write and tell us about yourself, what you are doing and the people who are being affected and/or benefiting from your activities. Send your material **before 16 April 2007** to: DWU • Editor of The Network • PO Box 483 • Madang • Fax 852 2812 • thenetwork@dwu.ac.pg.

EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH THE 'CBSHOD' SEMINAR



Persons with disabilities in the Asia Pacific region met for the first time to discuss and plan their destination in February this year. Representatives, all persons with disabilities from 13 countries of the region, attended a week-long regional leadership-training seminar on Capacity Building for Self Help Organisations of persons with disabilities (CBSHOD) at the Holiday Inn in Port Moresby. Facilitators of the seminar were Frederick Miller from the South Pacific Forum Secretariat – disability desk, Setareki Macanawai, CEO of Pacific Disability Forum, Topong Kulchachit, regional development officer of APCD, Shoji Nakanishi, Director Human Care Association of Japan and Saowolak Thongkuay, assistant regional development officer of APCD. The seminar was co-sponsored by Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Asia-Pacific Centre on Disability (APCD) and the government of Papua New Guinea through the Department for Community Development.

The objectives of the seminar were aimed at;

- Empowering persons with disabilities to take on responsibilities in the decision making mechanism at all levels of the developmental process.
- Persons with disability to plan and start their own self-help organisations.
- Countries to establish work plans in effecting the Biwako Millennium Framework objectives and targets.
- Collaborating and learning from each other during report presentations and group discussions.
- Participants to take responsibility and ownership in raising disability awareness within their country/area.
- Stopping primary focus on issues of funding for their Self Help organisation and start focusing on measure they can take to promote disability rights in a way that is cost affective.



Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea reading
The Network issue 9

The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Grand-Chief Sir Michael Somare was at hand to officially open the seminar. The Prime Minister highlighted in his speech the need for persons with disabilities to take the lead in addressing their needs.

“This new era brings with it a focus on addressing the physical and attitudinal barriers that limit persons with disabilities participating on an equal basis...a focus on empowerment,” Chief Somare said. “This is a shift from paternalistic models that define people by their disability towards a rights-based approach where all people, regardless of their needs, circumstances and abilities, are supported to meaningfully participate in all areas of life.”

“Sustainable change and the realisation of a truly inclusive society is not as simple as political leadership alone. It is about leadership at all levels. It is about partnership at all levels. It is about resources and the development of skills. It is about change agents,” said the Prime Minister.

Mr. Kanji Hanagata, Ambassador of Japan to Papua New Guinea told the participants that understanding the situations and aspirations of persons with disabilities leads to promotion of participation in education, employment and other sectors. Such empowerment will surely advance our society as a whole.

At the CBSHOD seminar there was a march between Holiday Inn and Sir John Guise stadium. Persons with disabilities displayed posters and banners stressed that;

“Nothing for us without us”

“Your ignorance is our disability”

“Make PNG a Barrier Free, Inclusive Society”

“Make public buildings accessible”

“Persons with disabilities have the same rights as others”

“We want full participation!”

The Port Moresby Declaration

We, the participants from 13 countries of Asian and the Pacific region, also representing self-help organizations of persons with disabilities, including the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga and Vanuatu, attending the Pacific Sub-Regional Training Seminar on Capacity Building for Self-help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (CBSHOD), held from 12-16 February 2007 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, would like to profusely thank the Ministry of Community Development of Papua New Guinea, the Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APCD), Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) Asian and Pacific Region, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the people of Papua New Guinea for their warm hospitality and support in the successful implementation of this event.

We would like to record our deepest gratitude and warmest appreciation to the Right Honourable Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and Honourable Lady Dame Carol Kidu, Minister for Community Development for their presence and support to CBSHOD.

Further, we would like to declare our collective statement as follows:

1. We acknowledge the commitment and efforts of APCD towards the strengthening of self-help organizations of persons with disabilities, and encourage them for their continuous promotion of the disability movement in the Asian and Pacific Region.
2. We propose that Governments in the Pacific Sub-region as well as relevant partners in the Asian and Pacific Region support and recognize the formation of a national cross-disability as well as national single disability self-help organizations of persons with disabilities in each country of the Pacific Sub-region.
3. We encourage all Pacific Island countries to actively pursue the implementation of the targets, actions and strategies of the seven priority areas of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF), as well as to fully participate in its review and development of the Biwako Plus Five in 2007 as facilitated by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Region (UNESCAP).
4. We appeal to the countries of the Pacific Sub-region to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006, and to ensure that persons with disabilities themselves are consulted, included and represented in this process including its implementation.
5. We declare our commitment to the building of the capacity of national grassroots self-help organizations of persons with disabilities in the Pacific Sub-region, the development of useful network arrangements among countries within the Asia and Pacific Region, and the effective collaboration of such organizations with the international disability movement. Further, we request the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) to facilitate the establishment and strengthening of Pacific Sub-regional cooperation and information sharing mechanism on disability-related concerns.
6. We strongly urge all national self-help organizations of persons with disabilities in the Pacific Sub-region to develop, support and promote future leaders both at the grassroots and national levels, and to ensure equal participation of women with disabilities as well as persons with hearing, psychiatric, and intellectual disabilities in their activities. We also recognize the potentials of persons with disabilities to actively engage in all areas and at all levels of society, including social, cultural, economical and political participation.



Opening march between Holiday Inn and Sir John Guise stadium.

Further, we appeal to the Government of Papua New Guinea to consider the following recommendations to build the capacity, strengthen the participation, and improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in Papua New Guinea.

7. That the Papua New Guinea National Policy on Disability be adopted by the Government immediately after the CBSHOD.
8. The Government to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with persons with disabilities in the country.
9. The Government to recognize the Papua New Guinea National Assembly of Disabled Persons (NADP) as the national representative and collective voice of persons with disabilities in the country, and to provide necessary support, including financial, technical and others.
10. The Government of Papua New Guinea and relevant stakeholders to put into place policies, plans and strategies for people with disabilities in the event of natural disaster.

Dominic Kuli's poem

*Owen Stanley mountain range reaches East
Plunges down deep into the coast of East Cape
Mountains of razor tip kunai plain
With freshness of breeze blowing to my face
Cooling this thought of being dis-ABLED*

*Reflections in the pool of water assures
With crushing of waves to sandy shores
Encourages DIS I must remove
Replace this with ABLED*

*From Owen Stanley mountain range
To East Cape coast
Razor tip mountain kunai plain
My fellow friends who are just like me
Together we will remove DIS
Let alone our mindset settle
With ABLED*

The Magic Hand from Milne bay

By: Dominic Kuli, Promoter Milne bay

Explore the "Magic Hand". This is the hand of a person that does wonders in the Milne bay province. Dominic Kuli, one of our promoters in Milne bay has established networks and contacts around parts of the province. The portrait on the right is Dominic Kuli's exact hand. "This is my disabled hand. I am able to hold something that is not too heavy. Explaining the fingers stressing – Dominic shows how far he had gone promoting The Network, as well as advocating disability issues. "My fingers resemble that I have reached every corner of the five districts of Milne bay; Misima, Goodenough, Agaeu, Esa'ala and Rabaraba. I have contacted and established networks with selected persons



**Dominic's contribution receives
"Honour of the edition"**

with disabilities. I've done this through letter writing, calling on the radio (VHF) and talking one-to-one or visiting different offices," Dominic said.



There is a lot of misunderstanding about HIV/AIDS. It is important that the right information is communicated to everyone so we can fight the epidemic. Tokaut Aids program is doing that through The Network. In each edition we report on facts, figures, stories and experiences of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

For further information please contact:
VSO Tokaut AIDS • Kristine Seko
PO Box 1061 • Madang • Phone 852 1924/1925
Fax 852 1926 • Email Kristine.Seko@vsoint.org



People living with HIV & AIDS Tokaut in Madang

By: Michelle Jeffery, Communications Manager, VSO Tokaut AIDS, Madang

The Madang Good Samaritan Support Group is a new initiative set up and supported by VSO Tokaut AIDS for people living with HIV & AIDS (PLWHA) in Madang. It provides a network of information and support to PLWHA in a confidential and secure environment.

In addition to monthly PLWHA meetings, workshops provide information on treatment, nutrition, dealing with stigma and discrimination, stress management and practical information on living with HIV & AIDS. The monthly meetings and workshops also provide the opportunity for PLWHA to share their experiences and support each other.

Thomas Keleya, a PLWHA for the past 12 years, regularly speaks out on HIV & AIDS issues. He recently attended a VSO Tokaut AIDS workshop to share his experience of living with HIV & AIDS to a group of PLWHA's and their care-givers. Thomas described his experience of overcoming discrimination and gaining the acceptance of his family.



From left to right: Yanga Treppe, Thomas Keleya and Patrick Wambua, HIV & AIDS Mainstreaming Officer

A PLWHA and member of The Madang Good Samaritan Group commented: "When my husband died and I found out I had contracted HIV I had no idea where to go to find help. The information that I get from the meetings and workshops has been a great help to my family and I've learnt so much and I've been able to pass this on to my children so they are not scared and we are all now informed." She continued: "PLWHA in Madang need to come out and join this network. If you try to deal with this alone it can cause a lot of frustration and anger and can kill you from the inside. Since attending the workshops I don't feel worried anymore. I live life and feel like a normal person." Yanga Treppe, HIV & AIDS Coordinator, VSO Tokaut AIDS, commented: "VSO Tokaut AIDS is trying to create a supportive environment. We want PLWHA's to know that they are not alone, there is hope and we are here to help."

If PLWHA's would like more information about the group or are interested in attending the meetings please contact Yanga Treppe on; PO Box 1061 Madang • Phone 852 3385 • Fax 852 1926 • Email: teppey@datec.net.pg.

National Day for Disabled Persons – 29 March 2007

Every year in Papua New Guinea, the country observes two important days for persons with disabilities: The National Day for Disabled Persons on March 29th and International Day for Disabled Persons on December 3rd. Persons with disabilities and organizations working with the disability movement utilize these days to advocate for disability rights and expose their activities. The aim of this is to promote full integration of persons with disabilities in the society.

Last December, all over the country many activities were carried out during International Day for Disabled Persons. For the coming National Day for Disabled Persons, you can get a few ideas of some of the activities carried out by colleagues of the disability sector.

During the International DDAY Milne Bay Disability Action and Advisory Committee (MBDAAC) worked tirelessly putting together information and resources for a major awareness program on disability issues in the province. Forty people with disabilities attended the celebrations in Alotau town. The activities were well documented and reported in the media.

In Madang the newly formed Madang Disability Group, together with service users and CBR staff, organized a float, songs and speeches. The public interest was captured with demonstrations of support aids such as Braille, sign language, white canes and wheelchairs. In Port Moresby, the Cheshire Homes was the venue of the celebration. FM100 covered the whole event including the speeches presented by prominent persons like Sir Brian Bell, NCD Governor Wari Vele, Rigo MP Anderson Vele and other distinguished guests. In Wewak besides a float to town from Kaindi teachers college (Dagua) and speeches, they displayed assistive devices, songs and drama activities.

Coming March 29th, Papua New Guinea would be celebrating the National Disability Day. The theme "E-Accessibility" is being carried forward from last International DDP, as decided by United Nations. We all need to organize events and programs to advocate on disability issues in the country. For persons with disabilities this is our important day to be seen and heard.

Some tips to celebrate the day: Posters and banners with advocating messages • Floats and marches • Sports • Unity in Orange colour • Let the public experience various disabilities • Displays of activities • Speeches • And don't forget to invite and include all kinds of media! **Each year the colour ORANGE marks the event at national level.**



Disability Rights Campaign in Mt. Hagen

By: Brenda Peter, Disability Advocate WHP



Person with Disability, Kupini Lewa, who represented PNG in Power weight lifting, addressing the crowd on Disability Rights. Picture taken by Moses Kamba.

An unusual campaign was witnessed by the people of Western Highlands Province this month after it was discovered that many parents did not know how to treat their children with disabilities. The awareness campaign was on the rights of people with disabilities, which attracted more than 200 people in Mt. Hagen City. This followed a report on the death of four children age between four (4) and 12, assumed to be murdered by their parents. Children, youths and adults with disabilities marched the streets of Mt. Hagen with police escort and openly talked about their rights while displaying their banners. Speaking to a curious audience, John Rumba, a teacher by profession who is blind, called upon all the parents with children with disabilities to send them to school. "Children with disabilities have the right to go to school. If I had not gone to school, I wouldn't be a teacher now! Parents must send children with disabilities to school," he said. Highlands Regional Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Coordinator Moses Kamba urged the public to understand that persons with disabilities have equal rights to education, health care and other services. He said the CBR program within the Callan Services for persons with disabilities aims at "ensuring equal opportunities, social integration and rehabilitation. Creating disability rights within the public is one of the activities within CBR. It is important to appreciate the capabilities and contributions of the persons with disabilities", Mr Kamba said. The first disability rights campaign was an eye opener for many parents and families of persons with disabilities as there was lack of awareness and exposure to disability rights in the province. "There is a lot of work that needs to be done here, because our people with disabilities are stigmatised and discriminated against most of the time. This needs to change", he said. Present at the first Disability Rights Campaign were community leaders, parents and guardians of persons with disabilities. Mr Kamba thanked all the individuals, business houses and organisation including Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), Foundation for Rural Development (FORD) and the radio station in the province for their generous support that made the Disability Rights Campaign a success.

Wider Readership

Please copy, print, hand out and send The Network to people whom you think might be interesting in receiving copies.

Or you can advise them to contact the editor to give their full contact details; name, address, email address.

The Network can also be found on the Internet, for those who have access. You can download previous issues of The Network and find more information on website: www.dwu.ac.pg

Empowerment



The "Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability" (APCD) is a regional center on disability

established in Bangkok, produces every 3 months the newsletter, *Empowerment*. The APCD provide accessible information services through their homepage and *Empowerment* by utilizing an accessible information system such as Braille, audio and multimedia products.

® Subscribe free of charge to *Empowerment*. Please contact: APCD, APCD Bldg. 255 Rajvithi Rd., Fax: 66 (0) 2354 7507 / 3530 Website: www.apcdproject.org Email: info@apcdproject.org

A Health Handbook for Women with Disabilities



Women with disabilities often discover that the social stigma of disability and inadequate care are greater barriers

to health than the disabilities themselves. The new handbook will help women with disabilities overcome these barriers and improve their general health, self-esteem, and abilities to care for themselves and participate in their communities.

Health professionals, caregivers for women with disabilities, and trainers working with disability groups will also find the book an essential resource.

® The Handbook can be entirely downloaded free of charge via the Internet, for those who have access. The book can also be purchased as hard copy. For details see column below.

Disabled Village Children



This is a very useful book full of information and ideas for all who are concerned about the well-being, of children with disabilities. It is an incredibly

good book for those who live in rural areas where resources are limited. The book is also 'a must' for therapists and professionals who assist community-based programs or who want to share knowledge and skills.

® Both Disabled Village Children (US\$25) and A Health Handbook for Women with Disabilities (US\$20) can be ordered via Hesperian Foundation. Discounts are available for bulk purchases. "Poor Country Price" might apply to certain orders from low-income individuals or organizations in developing countries. Contact via: Fax: (510) 845 0539 Email: bookorders@hesperian.org Post: Hesperian Foundation 1919 Addison Street, #304 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA www.hesperian.org/publication

The Network T-shirts



Promote our National Disability Magazine, buy a T-shirt... and expand "The Network!" The T-Shirts, with collar,

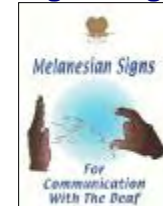
cost K30.00 (incl. registered postage).

RESOURCES

Colours available: Blue shirt/white text or Yellow shirt/black text. Sizes available: Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large.

→ Contact the editor for your order.

Sign Language Book



The common sign language used in PNG is the Melanesian Sign Language. In over 150 pages signs are explained with

clear images and wording. The book is on sale for K5 incl. postage.

→ To order this book contact: Callan Studies PO Box 542, Wewak, ESP Phone: 856 1081 Fax: 856 2924 callan_studies@global.net.pg

Braille Machines

There are currently three organizations in PNG using the Braille machine in educating persons with visual impairment. Callan Services in Wewak, Mt. Sion Centre for the Blind in Goroka and the St Johns Association for the Blind in Port Moresby. Braille Machines are very expensive to purchase, and meetings with several organisations and departments are planned to discuss how PNG can get easier access to the devices. When organisations are interested to receive further information on Braille machines they can contact National DRAC.



Contact Details

These organisations are currently using a Braille Machine:

- Mt Sion Center for the Blind Cecillia Bagore PO Box 1068, Goroka, EHP Phone: 732 2850, Fax: 732 3189 Email: cfcmtsion@global.net.pg
- Callan Services for Disabled Persons, PO Box 542, Wewak, ESP Phone: 856 1081 Fax: 856 2924 callan_studies@global.net.pg
- St Johns Association for the Blind Ruth Sangkol PO Box 6075, Boroko, NCD Phone: 325 1238, Fax: 325 4637

EDITORIAL NEWS

A milestone for The Network; 10 editions published!

We would like to celebrate with you a milestone in information sharing for persons with disabilities. The national disABILITY magazine began production in 2004, and this issue is the 10th edition! It has gone through a major transformation, although the aim and messages stayed the same: **to empower, share views, spread accurate and inspiring information about disabilities issues.**

With great support of Divine Word University (DWU) and at that time, Friends of Disabled Association, VSO volunteers like, Fedor Raatgeber, Samantha Hancock and Michel Duinkerke and others were able to sow seeds for the first edition, which was a fact in April 2004. Since its establishment The Network has been

experiencing tremendous growth. Starting the first edition with 50 recipients in PNG, it now counts over 500 recipients all over the world, and from various sectors and levels in society. Our Promoters Team has now 16 motivated persons spread throughout of PNG. Two youths with hearing impairment have received basic computer training, in order to support the typing of articles for the magazine. DWU community members are enthusiastically involved in various ways. And with this edition it is the first time that the editor has been able to work side by side with a national person, Watson Gabana, who will become the driving force. This all contributes to the aim of being sustainable.

The Network has received a lot of positive feedback and input from a variety of people, from persons with disabilities to politicians. And because of the success and the ongoing support from key stakeholders, The Network has been the catalyst for the establishment of the National Disability Resource and Advocacy Centre (DRAC). This centre is now located within DWU. The National DRAC will be the central and linking organisation especially formed to establish disability as a mainstream development issue in Papua New Guinea by utilising a rights-based approach with an emphasis on independence and social inclusion.

The Network acknowledges the invaluable effort of individuals such as Dame Carol Kidu, Sir Peter Barter and Ian Boden, and disability services such as Creative Self Help Centre. However, most of all DWU with its leading president Fr. Jan Czuba, receives special acknowledgement and appreciation. Without their continuous support, starting from edition 1, it would not have been possible to produce and disseminate The Network. Of course also your great support – by contributing the articles, reading the magazine and giving feedback – has been indispensable. Your news and views are the foundation of the magazine. Ten editions, we are proud of our mile stone!



The cover of the first edition of The Network, published in April 2004

Reactions of readers

Halo na Gut moning tru, long nem bilong God triwan.

Tenkyu tru long mi kisim dispela gutpela naispela magazine. Namba wan taim long laef bilong mi no bin lukim kain magazine olsem, taim mi opnim, mi amamas na smael bikpela tru. Mi bai stori long mi yet insait long magazine wantaim photo, sapos menesmen bilong magazine I orait. Mi amamas tru long harim dispela nem Creative Self Help Centre, gutpela nem tru. Mi wanpela painia long dispela Centre taem em stat long Yagaum Hausik. Mi amamas tru long harim dispela nem gen, olsem em I no lus. Tenkyu tru olsem em stap aninit long DWU. Sampela taim mi bai kam visit, sapos mi I gat moni. Mi passim na tok mekim gutpela wok yet I go moa yet na tenkyu tru. Sori olsem mi rait long Tok Pisin.

God Bless,

Amugi Buttick • Hedsback Clinic • Finschaffan

Greetings from APCD! Thank you for updating APCD with each volume of the Network. We are impressed with the disability movement and activities in Papua New Guinea.

Best regards,

Lasapan Toomsawasdi • APCD Info Support • Thailand

Let me congratulate you once again on a brilliant Issue! I was pleasantly surprised to see Vanuatu being mentioned re the Fred Hollows Foundation as well as the proportion of eye care specialists here! I didn't know that and I was glad to find it in The Network.

Andonia Piau-Lynch • National Coordinator
Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association • Vanuatu

® Do you have a question to ask of professionals in disability issues and/or do you want to share your opinion on any articles published? Please write to:

Divine Word University • The Editor of The Network
PO Box 483 • Madang • PNG • thenetwork@dwu.ac.pg

Call for material

The Network needs to hear from you and we would like to invite you to submit materials! Any person can submit any material in **Tok Pisin** or in **English** at any time.

We especially welcome:

- Your daily experiences as person living with a disability;
- Your opinion -or call for change- on disability issues;
- Your achievements and encouragement to other people;
- Information about your organization / work;
- Pictures, drawings, poems or cartoons etc.

Advertise in The Network!

Via The Network you can advertise your business, services, products or other information. The Network is widely received; currently the estimate readership of over 1400 people and organizations in PNG and abroad... And our recipients list is growing with every issue!

If you have any information to advertise targeting the entire society, just use The Network!

With your advertisement you will directly support disability advocating activities. **The flat rate for ¼ page is K150.** Please contact the editor for more information.

Promoters of The Network

The Network wants to include articles from all over the country and to have great involvement from persons with disabilities. Local knowledge of what is happening on disabilities issues is easier to access through people who are living in that area. So we have established a 'promoters network team'.

The editor of The Network is regularly in contact with all promoters and gives guidance if needed. Our promoters are looking for inspiring stories and relevant information and they are encouraging other organisations and persons in their region to submit material to share with the National Disability Magazine. **Welcome to our new promoters: Lyna Maku for Oro Province, Isabell Buruau and Thomas Ruhin for Autonomous Region of Bougainville.**



Is there no promoter in your area above? Do you want to be The Network promoter in your area? Please contact the editor for more information on the duties and terms of reference.

Important dates to remember:

- National Day for Persons with Disabilities = 29 March
 - Deadline for material for The Network = 16 April
- Inform the editor if you have events for The Network agenda!

Acknowledgements

We thank all who supported and contributed to the 10th edition of The Network!

Our special acknowledgement goes to the Divine Word University and Creative Self Help Centre in Madang for their continuous and much appreciated support.

We also thank all people who sent material, which unfortunately could not be published in this edition.

Suggest themes for future issues...

For the past editions, The Network has been focusing on themes from Biwako Millennium Framework. Our next edition will cover the last listed priority area. We therefore are asking for suggestions of themes for our future editions. Tel us your ideas!



The next edition will be published in May 2007. The theme for this edition is "Poverty alleviation through capacity building, social security & sustainable livelihood programs". Don't forget to send your news and views for the next edition. Please send your contributions **before 16 April 2007.**

The Network, started in 2004, is a quarterly magazine for all people involved and interested in the disability sector in Papua New Guinea. The aims are to empower, share views and spread accurate and inspiring information about disability.

This edition has over 500 recipients and an estimate readership of 1400. Among the recipients are individuals with and without disabilities, Government, media, business houses, donor agencies, church groups, NGOs within PNG as well as overseas in the Pacific, Europe, Asia, America and Africa.

The production of The Network is supported in different ways by: DWU, Creative Self Help Centre, VSO, Callan Services and Government of PNG.

Editorial and design team:
Watson Gabana, Nienke van der Zwan-Spruijt and Ian Boden
Typing support:
Rosela Simoi, Elizabeth John & Simon Sire
Mailing:
Children and Staff of Creative Self Help Centre
Printing:
Divine Word University

- Individual views expressed are not necessarily those of The Network.
- The Network encourages the reproduction of articles for non-profit uses. Please clearly credit as the source and send a copy.
- The editor will try to publish all material received but reserves the right of refusal and to edit stories for space and clarity, as appropriate.
- When you send original drawings, pictures etc. and you would like them returned, please mention this in the letter and give your return address.

- Like to receive The Network?
- Got editorial material?
- Change of address?
- Wish to make donation?

Please contact:
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The Network is free of charge; however we do like to encourage anyone who can, to make a donation.

Bank details:
ANZ Bank, Madang Branch
Bank account number:
1248 8197
National DRAC – DWU