



IFHOH JOURNAL

May 2015

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The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is an international non-governmental organization representing the interests of more than 300 million hard of people worldwide.

*IFHOH is registered as a charitable organization at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht, Hamburg, Germany
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IFHOH Journal includes information about IFHOH activities, world news related to hearing loss, articles written by IFHOH members, and much more. It is published four times a year and posted on IFHOH's website, www.ifhoh.org. The Editor can be reached at journal@ifhoh.org.

All the views expressed in IFHOH Journal are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of IFHOH.

From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk



Carole Willans, Editor

Dear IFHOH friends,

Volunteers and staff of IFHOH member organizations are regular readers of this newsletter. Many other persons who are either hard of hearing or who have an impact on the lives of people who are hard of hearing also read this newsletter. My question to all of you is... are your advocacy efforts around hearing loss as authentic as possible? Being authentic may increase your chances of success.

I am sure many find this a strange question. Here is how I see it. Being authentic is about being conscious, and then translating that consciousness into right action. There are four phases in this approach, all requiring conscious action.

The first is *naming it* - clearing identifying the core of the issue in question (e.g., our national television station does not caption the news). The second is *claiming it* - selecting the issue that is right for you or for your group and determining that you will do something about it (either as an individual or as a group). The third is *choosing it* - knowing what you want to experience instead, making a considered, intentional conscious choice on the outcome sought (e.g., consistent high-quality captioning of televised news). Finally, the fourth phase is *changing it* - having identified the desired outcome, consciously plan and strategize, and then do it! Plan mini steps that are do-able and bring you closer to your goal.

My point is that as volunteers we sometimes throw ourselves into advocacy efforts without having first made some conscious choices to ensure that we are putting our energies towards the right outcomes - thereby avoiding getting scattered and achieving less than our fullest potential.

You can send me email at journal@ifhoh.org or follow me personally on Twitter @ CaroleWillans.

IFHOH President's Message

IFHOH President's Message



Ruth P. Warick, IFHOH President

From Invisibility to Visibility

A majority of the world's 360 billion persons with a disability are invisible. We, as hard of hearing and deafened people, make up one of the largest contingent of persons who are invisible.

The result is that others often do not identify us as having a significant disability nor do they understand what our disability means in terms of accommodations and access. Sometimes they confuse us with the more visible Deaf population and assume that we are sign language users and are happy to inform us about advances in that area. We can, and do, applaud those advances, but most hard of hearing persons communicate by oral means and we require hearing aids, assistive listening devices, captioning/speech-to-text, aural services, and the use of - sometimes simple but effective - communication strategies.

It is a fundamental purpose of IFHOH to explain our needs at the international level and to be visible for our invisible disability. It means putting ourselves forward and representing the hearing loss community at cross-disability events and topic-specific international forums. It means issuing press releases and holding special events for us to come together as a community.

IFHOH's first press release of the year brought attention to preventing hearing loss through excessive noise in entertainment venues/devices. The release was issued as part of International Ear Care Day on March 3. We also participated in World Hearing Organization (WHO) celebrations of the day; EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk represented both IFHOH and EFHOH at International Ear Care Day festivities in Geneva on March 3. Our thanks to Shelly Chadha, WHO Technical Officer on Prevention of Blindness and Deafness for her leadership in making this day prominent around the world.

IFHOH was represented at the first ever Sound Hearing 2030 Ear Care Conference in New Delhi February 12-14, 2015 to make hearing a part of the global public health agenda. I made a presentation on the role of civil society in action toward better hearing and hearing access.



Ruth Warick, Xingkuan Bu (China) and Shelly Chadha (WHO)
at the Sound Hearing 2030 Ear Care Conference in India

In March I represented the International Disability Alliance (IDA) at the WHO's Aging and Health Consultative meeting in preparation for the development of a world report. It was an opportunity to speak about our issues for awareness, intervention and support.

Louise Carroll represented IFHOH at a WHO meeting on the promotion of hearing care in member states in Geneva April 1-2, 2015. She also attended a Technical Meeting of CRPWD leadership trainers sponsored by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) in Geneva on April 7-10.

Louise and other members of the board, Marcel and Hanh Duong Phuong, have been working hard to prepare for CRPD training sessions. The first will be in Vietnam Sept. 4-6 and the second in Copenhagen, Oct. 22-23, 2015.

A highlight of the year to date was participation at EFHOH's April Annual General Meeting in Essen, Germany and the conference organized by the Deutsche Schwerhörigenbund e. V. (DSB). IFHOH congratulates the organizers on an excellent conference!



(Group on far right) Dr. Harold Seidler, President of DSB, Marcel Bobeldijk and Ruth Warick open the Exhibit Hall for the Essen Conference

IFHOH was proud to sign the Essen Declaration which Lidia Smolarek Best, Vice-President of EFHOH, shepherded during the meeting so capably.



Marcel Bobeldijk holds the Essen declaration
(Back row) Ruth Warick, Hanh Duong Phuong, Louise Carroll and Avi Blau

The Declaration calls for European governments to guarantee access to affordable, good quality, professional approved hearing aids, ALDs, as well as the training and support standards to use them successfully. "No one should be priced out of equal opportunity."

IFHOH is developing a paper on hearing aids for its BGM 2016 in Washington, D.C. (USA) with Avi Blau, our Vice-President, and I taking the lead. The BGM will be an opportunity for a declaration in the same spirit for the international community.

At the IFHOH Board meeting in Essen, we had the opportunity to review our agreement with the President of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP), Sidsel Munkebo Hansen, who was participating in her first IFHOH meeting with us. We also had an opportunity to discuss our Memorandum of Agreement with the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) President Hanh Duong Phuong.



(Left to right) Hanh Duong Phuong, Sidsel Munkebo Hansen, Avi Blau, Ruth Warick and Marcel Bobeldijk in Essen

Finally, I want to close with a note of thanks to former IFHOH Treasurer Niklas Wenman who has stepped down due to health reasons, and I also want to welcome the new Treasurer, Heikki Niemi, as you will read elsewhere in this issue. I also want to express thanks to retiring EFHOH board members Jan Lamby and Ritva-Liisa Schäding for their hard work for over a decade. We are fortunate to have such excellent volunteers doing their part: making our organizations strong and increasing the visibility of our invisible disability.

Ruth Warick
IFHOH President
president@ifhoh.org

Message from IFHOH General Secretary

Dear IFHOH Members and Supporters around the World,

I extend to you warm greetings on behalf of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH).

Amazingly, a year has already gone by since the IFHOH BGM in Jerusalem, Israel! I know that we all left that conference feeling energized and ready to do even more for hard of hearing people. It is my hope that you continue to maintain this dynamic energy and determination in your commitment and efforts in serving your peers in your country.

As you can see from reading *IFHOH Journal* over the past year - including the IFHOH President's message in every issue - the IFHOH Board continues its endeavours on many fronts, all the while listening to the needs of members as expressed primarily through the emails we receive.



IFHOH President Ruth Warick
with IFHOH General Secretary Hanh Duong Phuong

I am delighted to report that IFHOH has welcomed five new members following the BGM 2014. The new general members are: the Union of Association of People with Disabilities (UAPDs) from South Ethiopia, the Icelandic Association of the

Hard of Hearing, and the Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association (BHHA). The new associate members are: the National Association of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened People (SHRUTI) hailing from Nepal, and the Association of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons "Light", headquartered in Solin, Croatia (Hrvatska). IFHOH membership has now reached total membership numbers of 42 general members, 9 associate members, and 2 individual members.

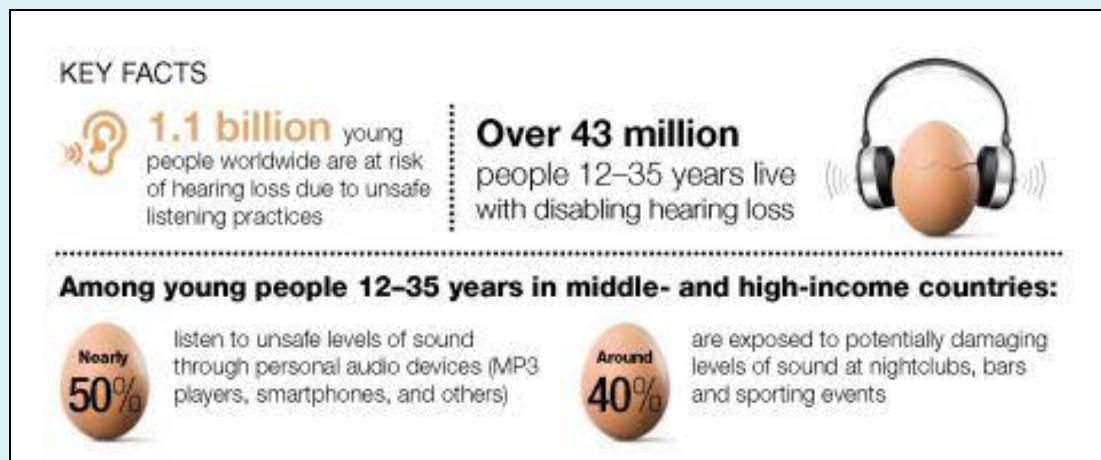
I take this opportunity to thank each one of the newcomers for their collaboration and I wish you all much success in your advocacy work for persons with hearing loss in your country.

Let us not forget IFHOH's gold sponsors and general sponsors! We are all highly appreciative of your kind support which have surely helped us to carry out more and more activities.

Myself, as IFHOH General Secretary, I am very glad to contact you by email from time to time in order to share with you important information about IFHOH initiatives, as well as information received from our key partners, notably the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO). I love this service work and I do need your comments and thoughts on what I can do to better support you. *"Together We Can Change the World!"*

IFHOH Congress 2016 is coming closer. We hope to meet you all there so that we can share our achievements over the two years following the BGM. My wish is for a bright future for your own efforts and for persons with hearing loss all over the world.

Yours sincerely,
Hanh Duong Phuong
IFHOH General Secretary



A New Era for UN Goals

A New Era of Goals for the UN To Include Disability-related Targets

The United Nations is planning to develop a new set of goals to guide the work of its many country missions and agencies as well as influence the work of member states. The goals for the Post-2015 Development Agenda are referred to as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are a successor to the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The difference is that, while disability was not mentioned in the MDGs, it should be different this time with the new SDGs. As well, the SDGs are intended to compliment and advance the work of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



IFHOH, as a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA), has been at work in promoting SDG disability-related goals and meeting member representatives of UN member states for their support. Last July, as Second Vice-President of IDA I spoke at a session of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECSOC) and was also part of a panel presentation with UN officials and member state ministers. Goals related to inclusive education, employment, and equality were promoted, along with the goals of data collection and indicators to measure progress made for persons with disabilities.

Paweł Radomski (Minister-Counsellor,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland),
Vladimir Cuk (IDA Executive Director), and
Ruth Warwick

Earlier this year, I was fortunate to be part of an IDA delegation that attended several meetings with missions and UN agencies as follows: Statistical Commission, Cuba, Poland, Sweden, Japan, Iceland and Ethiopia in order to learn more about their position regarding the Post-2015 process. From February 24 to March 1, attended the IDA board meeting where further work continued on the inclusion of disability in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The SDGs are to be unveiled in the next few months. The inclusion of disability at this high policy level will make a difference to individuals and the quality of their lives in their communities.

Ruth Warwick
IFHOH President



Venue: [Washington Hilton](#), located in the neighborhood of DC known as Dupont Circle. Enjoy walking to some of the top restaurants, shopping and nightlife. The Washington Hilton is the perfect home base for sight-seeing, located only four blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro, so plan to stay a few extra days!

HLAA's contact for the Congress is Nancy Macklin, Director of Events and Marketing, 301.657.2248, extension 106, nmacklin@hearingloss.org. Further information will be available following HLAA Convention 2015. For more information about HLAA, visit www.hearingloss.org. For more information about IFHOH, visit www.ifhoh.org.

**June 23-26, 2016 –
IFHOH World Congress
Location: Washington,
D.C. (U.S.A.)**

The Congress will be held in conjunction with the annual conference of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). IFHOH's Biennial General Meeting will be held June 22, 2016.

The program will include:

- outstanding educational workshops
- a trade show with state-of-the-art hearing technology
- fun social events for all ages
- research symposium (see below)

Frank R. Lin, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, Geriatric Medicine, Mental Health, and Epidemiology at John Hopkins, will moderate and present during the Research Symposium on Friday, June 24, 2016. Dr. Lin's research focuses on how hearing loss impacts on older adults and the role of different treatment modalities (hearing aids, cochlear implants in mitigating these effects.

IFHOH Human Rights Report



Louise Carroll

IFHOH Board member with human rights responsibilities

I have much to report as I have attended many meetings recently on behalf of IFHOH. Firstly I attended meetings of the United Nations Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during their [13th session](#) held in Geneva, Switzerland, from March 25 to April 17, 2015. I also attended a two-day meeting at the World Health Organisation (WHO), in the context of its programme for the prevention of deafness and hearing loss, to consult on the promotion of hearing care in WHO Member States. Finally I participated in a four-day meeting at the International Disability Alliance (IDA) headquarters where discussions focussed on how the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD) can be effectively introduced in developing countries.

Thank you to Dr Shelly Chadha from the WHO Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss Programme for inviting IFHOH to send a representative to the meeting on promotion of hearing care. It was excellent to be able to contribute on this topic with representatives from the UK, Zimbabwe, USA, India, and Oman, to name just a few of the countries that were represented by audiologists, ear/nose/throat specialists and others working in the field of hearing care. It was enlightening to hear of the wide range of service delivery now occurring in many developed countries, and the hardships still being experienced by those who cannot access technology despite living in countries with advanced health care programmes. It also reinforced the significant needs that remain unaddressed in developing countries. At this meeting we worked on designing a model hearing care programme.

It will be interesting to see if the recommendations carry forward into service delivery. Footnote: the WHO ensured my full participation in this meeting through the continued streaming of high-quality captioning, which was much appreciated.



Team B at WHO meeting, including Louise Carroll (second from right)

Thanks also go to Alex Cote and everyone at the IDA and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), as well as to all who contributed to an enlightening four days of discussions and discoveries as to what should go into a training module for in-depth training on the CRPD. This is a work-in-progress as various modules will be piloted and reshaped according to pilot programme reviews. Once again, it is vital that IFHOH be represented at these types of meetings to ensure the needs of people with hearing loss are considered and accommodated. Footnote: the IDA ensured my full participation through the continued streaming of high-quality captioning – thanks!



The 13th Session of the UN Committee on the CRPD, was held at the Palais Wilson,
United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

As for the 13th session the UN Committee on the CRPD, it involved review and interactive dialogue with civil society and State representatives from Germany, Croatia, Czech Republic, Turkmenistan, Dominican Republic, Mongolia and the Cook Islands, and the adoption of the list of issues on the European Union. In addition, the Committee held a [day of general discussion on the right to education](#). Please feel free to email IFHOH at humanrights@ifhoh.com if you experience any problem accessing materials from these reviews on the IDA website at <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/en>.

The CRPD Committee will hold its next [pre-session](#) from April 20 to 24, 2015 during which it will adopt the list of issues on Ukraine, Kenya, Mauritius, Gabon, Brazil, and Qatar.

COUNTRY RAPPORTEURS

The CRPD Committee designated the following members as country rapporteurs for upcoming reviews:

Brazil:	Theresia Degener
Kenya:	Martin Babu Mwesigwa
Ukraine:	Safak Pavey
Qatar:	Mohamed Al-Tarawneh
Mauritius:	Safak Pavey
European Union:	Damjan Tatic and Monthian Buntan

On other business matters, the UN Committee on the CRPD also considered issues related to its Rules of Procedure for research pursuant to Articles 6 and 7 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

In relation to the treaty body strengthening process, it was also decided that the UN Committee will designate two Committee members to contribute to the preparation of the draft guidelines for the [simplified reporting procedure](#).

The Committee also determined that English and Spanish would be its working languages, and that Chinese, Arabic and French would be additional working languages, in instances where a Committee member requires one of these languages in their role as country rapporteur.

The 14th session of the UN Committee on the CRPD will take place from August 17 to September 4, 2015. This will be followed by the 4th pre-sessional Working Group meeting, prior to the 15th session of the UN Committee on the CRPD.

4th PRE-SESSION: September 7-11, 2015

The Committee decided to adopt list of issues regarding the following countries at the 4th pre-session: Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia and Thailand.

IFHOH CRPD Introductory Workshops

Finally, I just wanted to advise you that IFHOH is very pleased with the responses coming from IFHOH member organisations who are nominating representatives to attend the Asia/Africa Workshop in September and the European Workshop in October. For further information on this project, please email humanrights@ifhoh.com.

IFHOH Announces New Treasurer

The IFHOH Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Heikki Niemi of Finland to the position of IFHOH Treasurer, following the resignation of Niklas Wenman of Finland for health reasons. Niklas was serving the first year of a second two-year term. Mr. Niemi's term will go until the next biennial meeting of IFHOH in June 2016.



Niklas Wenman

The IFHOH Board would like to thank Niklas Wenman for his commitment to hard of hearing and deafened persons. In particular, he was always pleasant, forthright and was also a source of many good ideas. We wish you well Niklas!

We take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Niemi and share his biography (see below). Our thanks to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Eija Isaksson, for securing Mr. Niemi's services for IFHOH, and to Katja Vis, former Treasurer, for her support.

Biography of Heikki Niemi --- in his own words

"I'm a 62-year-old hard of hearing man living in Helsinki, Finland. I am working as a financial officer in a home for elderly people. My work includes different financial tasks such as book-keeping, money matters, etc. Before my current job I was a freight forwarder.

I lost my hearing as a very small child but I didn't get my first hearing aid until I was six years old and started school. In school I studied in a normal hearing class. Studying foreign languages was very difficult for me and I don't think that my English teacher would believe it if he knew that I have been working in international organizations. Nowadays, I have an aid in both ears and it helps me in meetings and seminars.

In my free time I like to ski in the winter and roller skate in the summer. I also like to travel and go hiking in the mountains.

I have attended several international rallies. Also, I was a team leader of an organization that put together a very successful international youth rally in Kuortane, Finland in 1980. I have been a Board member of the Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing. I have also been the Treasurer of the Helsinki Association of Hard of Hearing for 30 years. In 1981, I worked as Treasurer for the International Committee of Hard of Hearing Young People (ICHOHYP). At that time, Clas Olof Friberg was the chairman and after him, Stefan Ilg.

I am very happy to have a chance to be an IFHOH Board member, and I look forward to extending my global knowledge."



Sidsel Munkebo Hansen, IFHOHYP President, attended the IFHOH Board meeting, as well as the joint meeting of the IFHOH and EFHOH Boards, both held in Essen, Germany on April 9, 2015. Her role was to represent the interests of young hard of hearing people.



Sidsel Munkebo Hansen (right) attends IFHOH Board meeting in Essen
with (left to right) Hanh Duong Phuong, Avi Blau, Ruth Warick and Marcel Bobeldijk

Ms. Hansen also made a presentation at the EFHOH Annual General Meeting held the next day, encouraging all the countries represented at this meeting to disseminate information about IFHOHYP and to invite their young people to join this organization.



Sidsel Munkebo Hansen at EFHOH AGM

Interesting IFHOHYP Links:

- IFHOHYP Newsletter: http://issuu.com/ifohyp_2/docs/newsletter_winter_2015_issue/0
- Minutes of IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting 2014, held in Strasbourg, France: [AGM 2014 Minutes](#).

EFHOH News



Marcel Bobeldijk, President (Netherlands), Lidia Best, Vice President (United Kingdom),
Aïda Regel Poulsen, General Secretary (Denmark), Richard Dabéra, Treasurer (France),
and Jaana Linna, Board Member (Finland)

Dear EFHOH friends,

Here is some information on what is happening at the European level.

EFHOH held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference day 2015 in Essen, Germany. DSB, our member organization in Germany, prepared an interesting program. The theme was "*The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Implementation for Hard of Hearing People in European Member States*". Here are some photos of the event held at the Hotel Franz.





Participants at EFHOH AGM and Conference 2015

The highlight of the EFHOH General Meeting was the signing of the *Essen Declaration 2015* on April 10, 2015. The Declaration's theme is ***Access to hearing aids is access to opportunity***. It sends a powerful message to decision makers in the European Union. Austerity measures affecting Member States are raising concerns, and in some cases are having a negative impact on the provision of hearing aids and assistive listening devices. The basic principle of the Declaration is: "No one should be priced out of equal opportunity." You can download and print the full content of the Declaration by clicking this link: [Essen Declaration Text](#).



The Essen Declaration 2015 – IFHOH President Ruth Warick, EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk and EFHOH President Sidsel Munkebo Hansen shortly after signing the Essen Declaration 2015

We are urging everyone who is concerned about the current situation to use the *Essen Declaration 2015* as a key document supporting the efforts to ensure that all hard of hearing people in EU have access to this opportunity.

The EFHOH AGM 2016 will be in Paris during the first weekend in April. Watch for more information soon on our website: <http://www.efhoh.org/> Remember... you can follow EFHOH via Facebook and Twitter. The addresses are:
 EFHOH @efhoh
 Marcel Bobeldijk @marbob32
 Lidia Best @best_lidia



EDF LAUNCHES ITS ALTERNATIVE REPORT ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The European Disability Forum (EDF) is the European umbrella organization representing the interests of 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe. On March 18, it announced that it had submitted its *Alternative Report* on the implementation of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (UN CRPD) in Europe to the United Nations Committee.

The purpose of EDF's *Alternative Report* is to inform the UN Committee about how the UN CRPD has been implemented by the European Union and its institutions, agencies and bodies. The report based its analysis on the gaps in the EU Report on the Implementation of the UN CRPD that the EU submitted to the UN Committee on June 5, 2014 and seeks to complete it where relevant with information received by EDF members and other stakeholders.

WHAT COMES NEXT? **April 2015:** The UN Committee will adopt a *List of Issues* (its additional questions and requests for clarification, to which the EU must reply). **Last week of August 2015:** The UN Committee will hold its 'Constructive Dialogue' with the EU and then adopt its final observations and recommendations on how the EU can improve the situation of 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe. **April and August 2015:** EDF will be in Geneva to defend its report and express to the UN Committee its concerns on the implementation of the *Convention* by the EU.

Interesting EDF Links:

- [WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?](#)
- [WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?](#)
- [HOW DOES THE EU MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION?](#)
- [WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE UN COMMITTEE?](#)
- [HOW DOES THE EU REPORT TO THE UN COMMITTEE?](#)
- [HOW CAN ORGANISATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TAKE PART?](#)
- [WHAT DOES EDF DO?](#)

[Download EDF Alternative Report here \(in accessible PDF format with Easy-To-Read translation\)](#)

[Visit EDF website](#)

International Ear Care Day 2015

International Ear Care Day is an annual advocacy event held every March 3. On this day, activities are carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners, for the purpose of raising awareness and promoting ear and hearing care across the world.



The theme for International Ear Care Day 2015 (IECD 2015) was *Make Listening Safe* - drawing attention to the rising problem of noise-induced hearing loss. Millions of teenagers and young people are at risk of hearing loss due to the unsafe use of personal audio devices, including smartphones, and exposure to damaging levels of sound at noisy entertainment venues such as nightclubs, bars and sporting events. Such recreational hearing loss has potentially devastating consequences for physical and mental health, education and employment. The following activities took place for International Ear Care Day 2015 at WHO headquarters in Geneva:

- Release of new WHO estimates of the number of people at risk for hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices;
- Launch of the *Make Listening Safe* initiative with publication of a brochure, flyer, posters, and info graphic;
- Promotion of the Day and the above advocacy materials through the WHO web site and social media platforms.
- [Click here to read more about Make Listening Safe](#)

Activities were also organized nationally and locally by organizations of hard of hearing people around the world. [Click here to read IFHOH press release: International Ear Care Day - March 2015](#)

Pakistan Celebrates IECD 2015

Danishkadar is a non-profit organization established to empower persons with disabilities in Pakistan. It organized an awareness raising session and hearing test to mark International Ear Care Day 2015 (IECD 2015) in the Special Education Department of the University of Karachi. There were more than 100 participants! Here are some photos of this event, courtesy of Mr. Akram Muhammad.



Akram Muhammad addressing the group during awareness raising session



Awareness-raising session



Hearing test

An awareness raising activity on

"Make listening Safe"

International Ear Care Day
3. 3. 2015



once you lose your hearing,
it won't come back!

Organized by



www.danishkadah.org.pk



Keep the
volume down!



Use earplugs
in noisy surroundings!



Limit the daily use
of personal audio devices!



Get regular
hearing check-ups!

Images by :  World Health Organization

Nepal Celebrates IECD 2015



IFHOH is saddened by the news of the recent devastating earthquake in Nepal. We hope that our friends at IFHOH Member Organization SHRUTI (National Association of the Hard of hearing and Deafened Nepal) are safe.

SHRUTI had celebrated International Ear Care Day 2015 by meeting with young people at Baluwakhani, Kapan, Reliance Co-education high school to explain how to avoid noise-induced hearing loss. Here are some photos of the event:



Welcome Speech by SHRUTI General Secretary

Speaker explaining how to make listening safe



High school teenagers and their teacher at Baluwakhani, Kapan, Reliance Co-education

Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events

June 12 - 13, 2015 - 23rd Annual Conference on the Management of the Tinnitus & Hyperacusis Patient

Location: University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, U.S.A.

Registration: <http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/conferenceslist/upcomingconferences.aspx>

Program: <http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/oto/tinnituscourse/>

This year's guest of honor will be Robert Dobie talking on "Research Needs" and "The Value of Tinnitus". Treatment presentations include: *Tinnitus Activities Treatment* by Witt, *Mindfulness* by Gans , Fitting hearing aids and comfort sound generators by Deshpande, *Drug Trials* by Coelho, *Effective Somatosensory Treatments* by Ramalho. A special *Biology Session* includes: *Mechanisms* by Bauer, *Animal models* by Brozoski, *Vestibular links* by Medeiros, *Noise Induced Hearing Loss* by Green and *Hair Cell Junctions* by Fritzsch. Several companies will present overviews of their latest tinnitus-related products. The Conference Chair is Rich Tyler.



* * * * *

June 25 - 28, 2015 - Hearing Loss Association of America Convention 2015

Location: St. Louis Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.

Registration: [registration page](#)

Program: See Schedule-at-a-Glance and Workshop Schedule



The Opening Session Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Charles A. Laszlo, a past IFHOH President and the founding President of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. He will speak on *Advances, Obstacles and Solutions in a Changing World*.



* * * * *

**July 28 – August 2, 2015 – XVII World Congress of the World Federation
of the Deaf**

Location: [Istanbul, Turkey](#)
Website: www.wfdcongress2015.org
Contact: wfdcongress2015@gmail.com

The main theme of the XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf will be *Strengthening Human Diversity*. This congress is organized every four years in different cities of the world and contributes to making important decisions for national policies and for the United Nations with respect to deaf people.



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September 16 – 20, 2015 – ALDAcon 2015



Location: [Scottsdale, Arizona, USA](#)
Website: <http://www.alda.org/aldas-2015-convention/>
Contact: info@alda.org

The Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) will host its 27th annual international convention (known as ALDAcon) at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas set in the shadow of the majestic Camelback Mountains in Arizona. The theme of ALDAcon 2015 is *Desert Vibes*.

* * * *



SAVE THE DATE: 6th International Conference of the Coalition for Global Hearing Health

Working Toward Global Access to Care for Hearing Health

<http://cghh.usu.edu/>

Gallaudet University; Washington, D.C.
9-10 October 2015



* * * * *

June 23-26, 2016 - IFHOH World Congress

Location: Washington, D.C. (U.S.A.)

The Congress will be held in conjunction with the annual conference of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). HLAA's contact for the Congress is

Nancy Macklin, Director of Events and Marketing, 301.657.2248, extension 106, nmacklin@hearingloss.org. See page 10 of this issue for more info on the conference.



The IFHOH BGM will be held Wednesday, **June 22**, just before the Congress. IFHOH will provide more info about the BGM in the months preceding it.

For more info about IFHOH, visit www.ifohh.org and **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!** WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/IFHOH/

News Bytes

News Bytes

WHO ANNUAL REPORT 2014

PREVENTION OF DEAFNESS AND HEARING LOSS

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published its *Annual Report 2014, Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss*. The mission of the WHO programme for the prevention of deafness and hearing loss is to establish community-based, sustainable and inclusive programmes for the prevention and management of hearing loss, integrated within the primary health care systems of WHO's Member States. Link to the report: [Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss, Annual Report 2014](#)



Other WHO Links of interest:

Details of the WHO global estimates on prevalence of hearing loss:

<http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/estimates/en/index.html>

Estimates for persons 65 years and above:

<http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/news/IDEC/en/index.html>

Visit the WHO website where hearing loss is currently the lead story:

<http://www.who.int/en/https://www.nfd.org.nz/assets/Reports/WHO-Annual-Report-2014-Prevention-of-Deafness-and-Hearing-Loss.pdf>

EFHOH STATE OF SUBTITLING ACCESS IN EU - 2015 REPORT

The EFHOH *State of Subtitling Access in EU - 2015 Report* is now available online:

http://media.wix.com/.../c2e099_0921564404524507bed2ff3648781...



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ACCESS TO ONLINE COURSES

On April 2, 2015, the United States Department of Justice reached a settlement with edX Inc., a provider of massive open online courses, to make its website, online platform and mobile applications accessible in accordance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. Read about it at: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-reaches-settlement>.



NEW IMPLANT TECHNOLOGY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

A new collaboration between Dalhousie University (Canada) and Ototronix, LLC of Houston (U.S.) may lead to new implant technology. The university has entered into a worldwide licensing agreement with Ototronix to develop technology using piezoelectrics (a charge that accumulates in certain solid materials) attached directly to the skull. Unlike a middle ear implant, which provides direct mechanical stimulation to the cochlea, the Dalhousie device is implanted directly on the skull, allowing skin to grow over it, rendering it invisible. Once implanted, it will vibrate the skull and those vibrations will make their way down to the cochlea and vibrate it in turn, creating sound.



An external power source, which emits ultrasound waves, is located behind the ear and is innocuous and low maintenance. The next steps in the process include more research and development, system integration work, animal testing, patient trials and regulatory approval. Patient trials could start in 18 to 24 months, and the device could hit the market in 3 1/2 years if it receives U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval. Info: <http://springboardatlantic.ca/success-stories/innovative-hearing-aid-technology>

RAYOVAC'S NEW IMPLANT BATTERY



Rayovac has launched a new battery designed for implant users. After years of technological development, Rayovac Implant Pro+ offers up to 30% more power in even the highest demand devices⁽¹⁾. This is possible thanks to a new cathode design which boosts the cell's performance and reliability, combined with a new electrolyte formulation which offers increased conductivity for high-power performance. Info: www.rayovac.eu.

⁽¹⁾ Based on the 20ma test 2014

IFHOH JOURNAL

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is May 27, 2015. Contributions are welcome!

The preferred length for articles is one page (400 to 500 words). Short and long articles, from 25 to 1,500 words, may also be accepted. News bytes and announcements of coming events are appreciated, including photographs and illustrations. Please send pictures in jpeg format and files as rich text or word documents. Many thanks!

Carole Willans, Editor, *IFHOH Journal*, email: journal@ifhoh.org

Website @ www.ifhoh.org

Facebook @ www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH/

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is an international non-governmental organization representing the interests of more than 300 million hard of hearing people worldwide. IFHOH is registered as a charitable organization at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht Hamburg, Germany (Nr. 69 VR 10 527) and is also an International Non-Governmental Organization having special consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). IFHOH is a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and works closely with the UN system using the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a tool for change.



IFHOH Board: (front row) Duong Phuong Hanh, Ruth Warick, Avi Blau
(back row) Louise Carroll, Niklas Wenman (former Treasurer),
Marcel Bobeldijk

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