



IFHOH JOURNAL

January 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
– Nr. 69 VR 10 527.*

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



Carole Willans, Editor

Dear IFHOH friends,

While the New Year has already started, it is still time to make some resolutions. In fact, there is no better time than NOW to get started on the road to a better quality of life! I would like to offer to you my hearing-related suggestion to consider adding to your list of resolutions. Read on...

My wish for you is that you work on your communication skills every day in 2015! Hard of hearing persons often complain that hearing people are lacking in this area (e.g. they don't look at you when speaking at you or they wait for you to leave the room to start talking). The challenge of this resolution is to work on your own communication skills by taking charge of your listening environment as much as possible. This could include asking that the television be set to receive captioning, positioning yourself to clearly see a speaker, wearing your hearing aids (as opposed to keeping them in a drawer) or even taking the brave step of telling a person that you have a hearing loss while explaining exactly what you need this person to do to enable better communication. In short, help yourself to find your way out of the solitude of silence! - - - I wish you a wonderful New Year!

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



IFHOH President's Message



Ruth P. Warick, IFHOH President

Welcome to a New Year in which we look forward to continuing progress on a number of fronts.

One of the new fronts of work has related to the Post-2015 Development Goals which are in preparatory stages by the United Nations (UN) and are expected to be adopted by member states in the fall. This is an important framework as it will guide UN activities and funding for the next decade and the community of persons with disabilities, including IFHOH, is keen to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in this framework. So far we have made strides as disability is included in the current set of 16 goals but the impetus in the next few months will be to ensure that these gains are not lost and that further progress is made.

As I write this message, I am in New York as part of the delegation of the International Disability Alliance to map out a strategy for the coming year and to meet with representatives of States Parties. Meetings have been held or are scheduled with Ambassadors of their representatives with Cuba, Sweden, Poland, Iceland and Ethiopia, to name a few of them. As Second Vice-President of IDA, I am pleased to continue IFHOH's role in being a strong member of IDA and in furthering its work that benefits all persons with disabilities.

As evidence of the importance of the Post-2015 Development Goals, China held a special event, themed *Equal Access, Inclusive Development*, in conjunction with a meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) leaders in November, 2014.



Meeting of Chinese officials and disability leaders including IFHOH President Ruth Warick (2nd from the right)

For the first time, disability issues were part of APEC's agenda. I was invited to China as a distinguished guest along with other international disability leaders. A highlight was the opportunity to visit China's Centre for hearing rehabilitation and services and to meet with young children who were wearing cochlear implants; the girls had their cochlear implants' worn within their ponytails as a photo on this page shows. State funding is provided for these devices as well as for hearing aids.



Ruth (top right) meets young cochlear implant users in China

In India I also found that there is state funding for cochlear implants and hearing aids when I had the opportunity to meet Dr. A. K. Sinha, Director of the National Institute for Hearing in India. I was representing IFHOH and IDA at the International Conference *From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities*. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was the lead UN sponsor of the event.



Dr. A. K. Sinha and Dr. Warick at the ICT Conference in India

In a plenary session I spoke about the importance of accessible information and communication technologies for our community. I was the only voice speaking out for the hard of hearing community at the event, emphasizing to me the importance of such representation and the need for our community to develop its capacity for continuing participation and representation. We need to be at the table so our issues become part of the policy documents that guide the work of government agencies and other entities.

CRPD Work

IFHOH's own work plan is continuing and we were thrilled to receive funding from the Oticon Foundation for our Human Rights/CRPD Program. I want to issue a special thanks to Louise Carroll for her groundbreaking work on the grant application. On our website, IFHOH's CRPD Tool Kit is published and you are welcome to download it for your use. In the coming two years we will be developing a CRPD train-the-trainers event and manual, and we will be increasing our work and representation with the UN's CRPD Committee. Please see Louise's report and our press release in this issue.

Speech-to-Text Access

A proposal for a joint project on Event Speech-to-Text Access, in co-operation with the World Federation of the Deaf, has been developed. It is the first joint project of the two organizations and will get underway in the coming months. As part of the project, we will collect information from different countries about the type of event speech-to-text provided in their country, as well as about the extent of availability and the concerns of our community.

Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened

A Memorandum of Agreement between IFHOH and the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) was developed during the summer and was ratified last October. This is a historic development and we look forward to continuing co-operation with this important network in the Asia Pacific region. Hanh Duong Phuong (wearing the APFHD hat as their President) and I signed the agreement.



Hanh Duong Phuong and Ruth Warick sign APFHD-IFHOH agreement

International Ear Care Day

We will be joining in on the campaign by the World Health Organization *to Make Listening Safe* by recognizing the International Ear Care Day on March 3, 2015. The day is intended to raise awareness and promote ear and hearing care around the world and I invite IFHOH member organizations to also mark the day. This will become an annual event so that we can all work together to raise awareness with our wider community.

Youth

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sidsel Munkebo Hansen of Denmark on her election as President of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP). At the same time, our thanks and appreciation go to Karina Chupina who served for so many years as IFHOHYP President. We wish you all the best and hope you continue your advocacy work in other ways - which I am sure you will.

In closing, I thank our IFHOH members for their support and look forward to continuing our work together. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issues or concerns. All the best in the coming 2015 New Year!

Ruth Warick
IFHOH President
president@ifhoh.org

Editor's Note: The IFHOH Board held a very productive meeting in Vietnam last October (photos courtesy of Marcel Bobeldijk).



Getting ready to start the IFHOH Board meeting:
Hanh Duong Phuong and A/V technician



IFHOH Board members taking a well-deserved break!

IFHOH RECEIVES MAJOR FUNDING FOR CRPD WORK

IFHOH is thrilled to announce that the Oticon Foundation Denmark (Oticon Foundation) is funding its human rights work for the next 2 years. By granting US \$121,567 to support IFHOH's production of CRPD training materials, delivery of human rights courses, and attendance at meetings of the UN Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Oticon Foundation is recognising the capability of the CRPD to lead change globally.

IFHOH President Ruth Warick states that the funding is a global first for IFHOH and is a significant breakthrough enabling the development of materials for the hard of hearing community to utilize the CRPD as a tool for improving its human rights, accessibility and needed services. Resource materials will focus specifically on examples for the hard of hearing community and the workshops will provide national training for IFHOH member organizations, enabling them to utilize the CRPD as a tool for change.

One area for global change is the uptake of hearing aid usage which is presently much below what is needed. According to the WHO, hearing aid uptake by those who need hearing support, is 13% in the western world and 3% in developing countries. "From these alarming statistics, it is evident there is an inordinate level of unmet needs for hearing rehabilitation globally," Dr. Warick notes.

In recognition of the significant need for information on how the CRPD upholds the rights of hard of hearing persons, IFHOH established a Human Rights Officer position in 2012 filled by Louise Carroll of New Zealand. In 2013, a Human Rights Toolkit was developed, focused on the CRPD. According to Mrs. Carroll, the Toolkit is a resource with particular focus on issues of concern to the hard of hearing community, working to dynamically change worldviews regarding people who are hard of hearing and their right to hearing rehabilitation.

Through funding from the Oticon Foundation, IFHOH will be able to expand its programme to develop a train-the-trainers manual on the CRPD, and workshops for trainers will be offered for participants in Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as in conjunction with the IFHOH 2016 Congress in the United States.

For info:

Louise Carroll: humanrights@ifhoh.org

Ruth Warick: president@ifhoh.org



IFHOH World Congress 2016

June 23-26, 2016



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

**Held in conjunction with the annual conference of
the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)**

HLAA's contact about the Congress is Nancy Macklin, Director of Events and Marketing, 301.657.2248, Extension 106, nmacklin@hearingloss.org.

The IFHOH BGM will be held on Wednesday, **June 22**, just before the Congress. Further information will be provided about the BGM by IFHOH in the months preceding it. For more information about IFHOH, visit www.ifhoh.org and **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!** [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/IFHOH/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH/)

IFHOH Human Rights Report



Louise Carroll

IFHOH Board member with human rights responsibilities

Dear Colleagues, I hope 2014 has been a good year for you.

In April, 2014 I was elected as the IFHOH Board Member-at-Large with human rights responsibilities and in this role, I monitor human rights information released by the United Nations (UN) that is relevant to the hard of hearing sector and in particular our member organizations.

In my monitoring role, I received an interesting document regarding the 2014 International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3 - a joint statement from the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility. I would like to share its content with you.

In the joint statement the three parties outlined in the paragraph above applauded the recent appointment by the Human Rights Council of the first Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. It goes on to report that with the creation of this new mandate the UN system *continues to strengthen its efforts to recognize, promote, implement and monitor the rights of persons with disabilities (IFHOH's italics)*.

The three parties also congratulated Member States and partners for promising advances in including the rights of persons with disabilities in a post-2015 development agenda which is *sustainable, inclusive and accessible (IFHOH's italics)*. They also offered their continued support and collaboration to ensure that gained achievements are retained and that goals are translated into meaningful targets and indicators where persons with disabilities are reflected as holders of human rights, and as agents for and beneficiaries of development.

Steps taken by Member States to ensure the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies in line with article 11 of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)* were welcomed. These included promoting a human rights-based approach to disability in the preparatory process of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in March, 2015 in Sendai, Japan, and the commitment of several stakeholders, led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Disaster Risk Reduction, the host country and the Nippon Foundation, to make the conference fully accessible for persons with disabilities.

Member States representatives attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima, Peru were encouraged to take into consideration the impact of climate change in the lives of persons with disabilities and to include references to their rights and needs in the outcome document.

They also emphasized that these processes and others alike must be guided by the CRPD and have human rights at their core, a notion which IFHOH fully supports. Ratification is an important first step; it is a commitment towards implementation. They called for all stakeholders - Member States, the Human Rights Council, UN agencies, national human rights institutions, organizations of persons with disabilities and broader civil society - to work towards universal ratification of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol. With 151 contractual parties since 2006, the Convention has witnessed an impressive number of ratifications in a short period of time. This is clear evidence of the importance that States attach to filling the protection gap that previously rendered persons with disabilities invisible in human rights efforts.

Finally, the three parties stated they look forward to embarking on the journey towards universal ratification together with everyone, just as we do at IFHOH. See more at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15372&LangID=E>

UN Committee on the CRPD – Important Dates in early 2015

March 25 to April 17

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is scheduled to meet in Geneva to consider State Reports from the Cook Islands, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Germany, Mongolia and Turkmenistan. The European Union List of Issues will also be considered.

April 20 to April 24

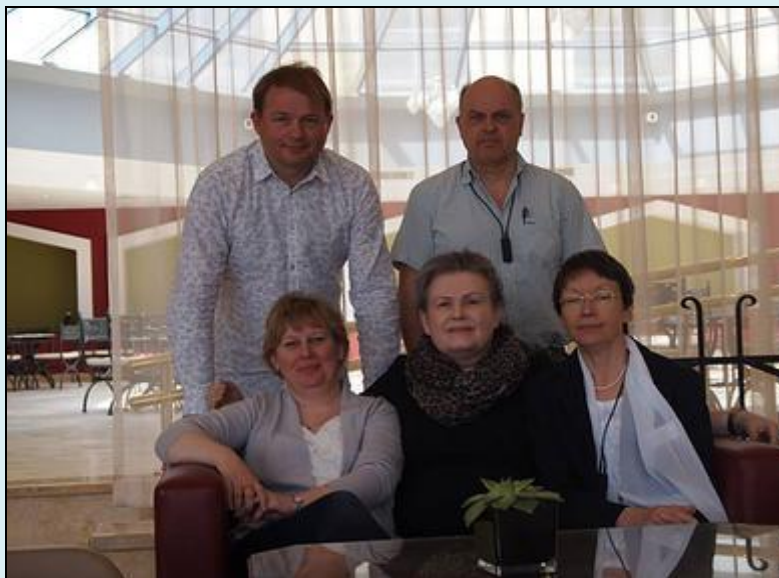
State Reports from Brazil, Gabon, Kenya, Mauritius, Qatar and the Ukraine will be considered.

If your country is listed in the paragraphs above and your organization is a member of IFHOH and would like our assistance to ensure the needs of people who are hard of hearing are recognised by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, please do email us at: humanrights@ifhoh.org We can support you to connect with your representative on this Committee.

***Editor's note:** Louise is hard of hearing, wears two hearing aids and uses a remote microphone or captioning to fully understand in meetings, etc. She is the CEO of The National Foundation for the Deaf in New Zealand, having been in the role for over 5 years. She is nearing the end of a PhD thesis in the public policy response to prisoners with hearing loss in New Zealand prisons.*



EFHOH News



Front row (l. to r.): Lidia Best, Vice President (United Kingdom, Jaana Linna, Board Member (Finland),
Ritva-Liisa Schading, Treasurer (Germany)
Back row (l.to r.): Marcel Bobeldijk, President (Holland), Jan Lamby, General Secretary (Sweden)

Dear EFHOH friends,

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

A few weeks ago at the European Disability Forum (EDF) board meeting in Brussels, EDF President Yannis Vardakastanis highlighted that 2015 will be a very crucial year: "The disability movement will be soon in front of important political issues for which it has worked hard during the past decade, like the *European Accessibility Act*, the non-discrimination directive, the report of the European Union to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the review of Europe 2020, and the European Disability Strategy." He also underlined the responsibility of the new European Union Parliament and the new Commission towards their citizens with disabilities.

2015 will be a very key political year indeed. It will be a year where new actors will come onto the disability scene and we need to try once again to be successful in making the rights of persons with disabilities a long lasting political priority. For the new European Commission the *European Accessibility Act* is one of its top

priorities. The Commission will deliver a reviewed Disability Strategy by the end of 2015. A very important topic will be the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) by the European Union (EU) that will be presented next year (maybe before the summer) - its first report to the UN Committee explaining the work it has done on this.

In this regard, the EDF will submit to the UN CRPD Committee its alternative report (to the report presented by the EU) to cover areas and actions that are left out of the EU report. The EFHOH Board is actively participating in the process of the EDF alternative report and we will represent EFHOH and its members at different events related to this topic.

Finally, EFHOH is preparing its annual conference and AGM to be held in Essen, Germany, on April 10 to 12, 2015. . The theme will be "*The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and its implementation for hard of hearing people in the European Member States". For more information, please check the Calendar of Events in this issue at page 18 or check our website: <http://www.efhoh.org/>



Downtown Essen

Remember... you can follow EFHOH via Facebook and Twitter. The addresses are:

EFHOH	@efhoh
Marcel Bobeldijk	@marbob32
Lidia Best	@best_lidia



Captioning is Life



To celebrate the 5th birthday of the Collaborative for Communication Access via Captioning (CCAC) in December 2014, we invited CCAC members to tell us about any captioned event during 2014 that was their "favorite." We welcomed reports about live events, or about any sort of media with captioning. We numbered all entries and blindly selected a winner of a celebratory Amazon \$100 gift card. Several CCAC members shared stories, and below are selected examples. We will be distributing this article on the CCAC blog (CCACblog.wordpress.com) where discussion is welcome - and in other media too.

The Beauty of a Captioning Advocacy Community - Consumers, Providers and Others

The celebration was international, as is the CCAC itself, an official non-profit organization of volunteer citizen captioning advocates. Indeed, more international members shared favorite events than the somewhat larger USA-based membership. The examples below include reports from CCAC members in Australia, India, Canada, England, Denmark, Switzerland, Ireland, and the USA. We thank them all!

Some pockets of the USA are fortunate to have active local captioning advocacy groups. Yet for many, even in the USA, choices or even occasional availability of captioned events is not easy to find. This is true of movies also. Equal access with captioning is expanding, yet not quickly enough. Countries other than the USA are passing legislation for films to be captioned at production, and this is good.

Finding live captioning is difficult for most people in all countries. For community meetings, training for continued learning, job-hunting, conferences for work and also for valuable avocations, other social gatherings of interest for healthy living - these are rarely captioned unless vigorous advocacy is done (asking and asking again for live captioning, helping to find funding for it, networking with others who understand, etc.).

You will find your own favorite among the stories below. For one example, seeing live captioning at a conference (in Europe) from a provider in a different country (captioning remotely from the USA) was most impressive for one CCAC member. After this, she is learning how to "action" this in her own region of the world.

Another example, from someone who is both a "consumer" and also a "provider" even with personal hearing loss - the favorite event was helping organize educational conferences and presentations for others. At least three CCAC members reported that helping and participating became their own personal favorite captioned event for the year. All of these reported were outside of the USA, though we are aware that many CCAC members do similar volunteer, and sometimes paid work, annually, and sometimes more frequently, for many events.

Captioning Is Inclusion

Captioned events covered a wide range, from enjoying a simple new video online to presentations for others about the vitality and necessity of quality captioning. Among CCAC members however, we heard from only a small percentage during this celebration. We wonder why? Could it be that many do not have access and lack captioning in many places they need it for themselves?

In many countries there is no Live Captioning (CART/STTR) at all yet. We know people are busy too, especially captioning advocates. On the other hand, as is noted below also, perhaps some who are lucky to have choices did not care to choose a favorite. All well and good for them, and that is why they are valued highly in the CCAC - they continue to advocate for others - for many others.

During the five years since the CCAC was created informally, became an official non-profit (hundreds of members now, thousands on social media) - there have been good steps to boost captioning inclusion and to begin new captioning advocacy efforts in many places. Established groups starting 30 years ago about laid foundations for captioning inclusion, and continue to advocate for captioning among wider agenda. Still other groups bring legal challenges (in the USA at least) and accomplish steps forward for all of us.

At the same time, progress often feels slow or stalled. It takes many years for quality matters to be addressed. It takes many advocates to contact video producers continually to provide captioning for equal communication access on the Internet, a rapidly growing medium that must be open with equal access for all.

Examples below are the tip of the iceberg in terms of captioning used and its deeply rooted value as the receptive language of mega-millions in the world.

Captioning creates inclusion not only for people with hearing loss and deafness, but for millions of others with different language and learning experiences, skills, needs, and it also creates profit for companies in terms of expanded audiences and digital presence (for searching, for archived materials, for education, etc.)

CCAC welcomes your participation and new energies for captioning advocacy, large and small. The CCAC film, the public web pages, and CCAC activity on social media invite discussion on the CCAC blog and in the CCAC members' forum online.

Selected Favorite Captioning Events of 2014 by CCAC Members (edited to keep the joy and the gist)

- I saw live captioning at a conference (in Europe, March 2014) - everything that the speaker said was read easily on the big screen - by providers working from another country!
- Went to *The Book of Mormon* in the theater, captioned, as a birthday gift from my adult son. He said he looked at the captioning too! What fun!
- I provided captioning for the beatification ceremony of Pope Francis...listening to an Italian translator...we had this beautiful ceremony translated into 4 or five languages simultaneously. With about 2.7 billion people watching around the world! Definitely an amazing accomplishment, for me and others.
- I really enjoyed watching a YouTube series - all in one day - binge watching *Carmilla*. Wonderful job of captioning and it was enjoyable.
- I enjoy the simple pleasure of being able to go to our local cinema once a month with family and friends and catch an opened captioned movie....It's been very well supported by our local deaf community and also the independent cinema owner (really just a small business owner committed to doing the right thing.)
- Enjoyed working closely with my father for the first time on captioning accessibility issues. He's 73, retired, and losing hearing. He loves politics and (did some great advocacy).
- Watching *Harry Potter* DVD's with my granddaughter. We put the captions on so that I can "hear" and she can learn to read and spell better.
- My first ever experience of "real time captioning" happened online in July 2014 (thank you CCAC), when we discussed advocacy. I met other CCAC members online. A CCAC provider member volunteered services. Highly enlightening and now I know what to look forward to when pursuing higher education in the USA or in Australia.
- Watching a movie (*Interstellar*) with open captioning - not a common thing in my country. This is only the 2nd movie I've seen with subtitles.
- I captioned a small video myself - for my work...and it won an award!

- I helped set up captioned events, talked to the public about captioned theater, and gave talks and presentations about captioning.
- It's difficult unless one walks in someone else's shoes to truly understand the devastation that can be caused to both the physical and emotional spirit of a person who suffers the loss of one of their senses. My hearing loss has been progressively severe (and I now realize) the amazing accommodation that closed captioning provides....e.g. the wonder of watching television (along with) not hearing music. I enjoy *Dancing with the Stars* and I can sing along in my heart.
- I was a participant in an online course; one activity was captioning an audio podcast. We used Amara. The other participants were teachers, so they can introduce their colleagues to captioning...and they'll be able to organize captioning with their students too.
- There are many captioned events here because Utah-CAN got the ball rolling... For example, when *Broadway Across America* came to town, we had to choose between this captioned play on Saturday afternoon and the latest open captioned movie, and last month, on the same afternoon, the University of Utah football game had a fully captioned event on their new score boards.
- My favorite captioned event was April 26 at a Public Forum on Hearing Aid Costs and Concerns. It was CARTed and looped; ALDs were also available. There a good public turnout, and importantly, the recommendations stemming from the Forum are having an impact on the policy level.
- I really liked this Three Stooges clip on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUYtrgB_e7U
- One Sunday in church I noticed a woman setting up equipment. When I inquired if this was for some special event she said she wanted to become more proficient doing real time captioning by captioning the sermon each week. Talk about a door being opened (even with the FM system I'm not able to understand much). Soon another court reporter came to practice; we now have four every Sunday... everyone who has an iPhone or an iPad sitting any place, or even on the highway, can follow the message with captioning provided by these four amazing women. There are angels in our midst.

CCAC looks forward to hearing about more "favorite captioned events" (by email) and in coming years. Perhaps captioning will be part of "normal" everyday life, both live and media captioning readily available. Life will be accessible for those of us who depend on words we can see.

With thanks to all CCAC members, friends, and colleagues,

Lauren E. Storck, President, <http://CCACaptioning.org>

Calendar of Events



1st World Congress on Ear and Hearing Care

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India
12th-14th February, 2015



Location: New Delhi, India

Website: www.sh2030worldcong.org

Contact: secretariat@sh2030worldcong.org

The theme of the Congress is *Action towards Better Hearing*, focusing on sustainable community ear and hearing care.

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April 10-12, 2015 - EFHOH Conference & AGM

Location: Essen, Germany

Website: <http://www.efhoh.org/>



The Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund e.V. (DSB), the association for hard of hearing people in Germany, invites all EFHOH members and interested hard of hearing people from all over Europe to Essen. The theme will be "The *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and its implementation for hard of hearing people in the European Member States". To view the program and register, please follow the links below:

[Program AGM 2015 - Word](#)

[Program AGM 2015 - PDF](#)

[Registration Form AGM 2015](#)

[Conference info. de](#)

[Conference info. en](#)



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 Fritzsche. Several companies will present overviews of their latest tinnitus-related products. The Conference Chair is Rich Tyler.

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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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 about the Congress is Nancy Macklin, Director of Events and Marketing, 301.657.2248, Extension 106, nmacklin@hearingloss.org.

The IFHOH BGM will be held on Wednesday, **June 22**, just before the Congress. Further information will be provided about the BGM by IFHOH in the months preceding it. For more information about IFHOH, visit www.ifhoh.org and **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!** WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/IFHOH/

News Bytes News Bytes

NEW PRESIDENT AT IFHOHYP



Sidsel Munkebo Hansen

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) is pleased to announce that Sidsel Munkebo Hansen of Denmark has taken on the position of President. Sidsel previously served as IFHOHYP Secretary. She works as a project manager for the Danish Association of Youth with Disabilities.

IFHOH salutes Karina Chupina (Russia), who served so well for so many years as IFHOHYP President. We all wish her much success in her new endeavours.



Karina Chupina

Thank you Karina!

SIEGFRIED KARG'S NEW BOOK ON HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

Former EFHOH Vice- President Siegfried Karg has recently published a book about the situation of hard of hearing people in society: *Wer Ohren hat, der würde gerne hören: Schwerhörigenseelsorge und Induktive Höranlagen können helfen Vorwort*. (It is currently available only in German.) Congratulations Siegfried!



Siegfried Karg

Here is an English translation of the book's introduction: "Deafness - something that some 81 million people in Europe have to deal with. Despite a society that sees itself as an open-minded and inclusive, hearing loss is often concealed and still associated with shame-related taboos. This book explains why this is so. Through his pastoral work, the author has gained insights into possible links between inadequately treated hearing loss and its psychological effects, including dementia. The author argues for the extension of the pastoral mission of the church to people with hearing loss, as well as for raising awareness and for providing help by means of inexpensive and dignity-preserving technical assistance. His longstanding commitment to hard of hearing people in church and society, as well as to the installation of inductive loop systems, has led him to heighten public awareness regarding the concerns of hard of hearing and deafened people. The book focuses particularly on German-speaking countries, as well as on the situation in the US. An extensive international bibliography invites further work."



http://www.amazon.com/Ohren-w%C3%BCrde-gerne-h%C3%B6ren-Schwerh%C3%B6rigenseelsorge/dp/3841605591/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1419216262&sr=8-1&keywords=siegfried+karg at www.amazon.com.

INTERNATIONAL EAR CARE DAY 2015



The World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen the theme *Make Listening Safe* for International Ear Care Day on March 3, 2015, focusing on acquired hearing loss due to exposure to loud music. International Ear Care Day aims to raise awareness and promote ear and hearing care around the world. In 2014, the theme was *Ear Care Can Avoid Hearing Loss*. To mark this day in 2014, WHO undertook a global campaign focussed on healthy ear care practices at all ages. Click [here](#) to read the 2014 activity report.

UPDATE ON REVIEW OF WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS POLICIES

At the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in October, President Jim Yong Kim agreed to keep the ongoing global multi-stakeholder consultations on the proposed Environmental and Social Framework open for as long as necessary to allow the World Bank Safeguards Policies Review Team to hear as many stakeholder views as possible. As a result the current second consultation phase is extended up to March 1, 2015.



Safeguards consultations reach China

The Review Team continues its engagement in member countries and with the interested public over the next months and will host global online consultations at the beginning of 2015. Info: [consultation website](#). To answer concerns regarding the consultation process, the Review Team has posted a [reply to a letter](#) received from the Bank on Human Rights and signatories. This reply outlines its commitments regarding the integrity of the consultation process.

ALL EARS INTERNATIONAL

Editor's Note: This is a message from Glyn Vaughan on behalf of All Ears International (All Ears Cambodia - All Ears Bhutan - All Ears North Korea) to one and all at IFHOH:



Glyn Vaughan (on the left) in Cambodia

This is just to say a big, big thank you for your continued support and friendship throughout 2014... And a highly productive year it's been for us: 43,584 ears were seen by All Ears Cambodia, the All Ears North Korea outreach screening program was launched (the first in the history of the hermit state), and the All Ears Bhutan primary ear health care program was sanctioned by the Gross National Happiness Commission! Best wishes to you all and many thanks once again for the wonderful support of the IFHOH. Info: info@all earscambodia.org - www.all earscambodia.org

CANADIAN HIKE2HEAR

Last October, Canadian Jennifer Diggins set out on a 6-day hiking adventure to Mount Assiniboine National Park in the Rockies with her boyfriend, Stuart Mason and her father, Brad Diggins. Jennifer was hiking to raise money and awareness for the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), a member organization of IFHOH. She named it *Hike2Hear*. Braving freezing temperatures, wind, rain, snow, bears and cougars, the group hiked 70K and Jennifer raised CAN \$2,265 for CHHA. Info: jdiggins@chha.ca



Jennifer and Stuart

RAYOVAC AT EUHA CONGRESS 2014

At EUHA Congress 2014, Rayovac unveiled its environmentally-friendly mercury-free innovations, powerful new cochlear Implant Pro+ batteries and new ProLine packaging. In light of the recent announcement by the European Commission that all button cell batteries sold in the EU are to be free of mercury as of October 2, 2015, the Rayovac team was on hand to update delegates about the changes. The new product designs are "Wireless Approved" which means they meet the demands of the new ANSI/IEC testing protocols. During the congress, Rayovac also held its annual Evening of Excellence in Hanover, where it announced the European winner of this year's prestigious Audiologist of the Year competition: Jens Warnecke, who works at Hörwerk in Fürth, Germany. Info: www.rayovac.eu, like Rayovac on Facebook or follow it on Twitter @HearwithRayovac



Jan Warnecke raising the trophy for Audiologist of the Year

NEW OTOSENSE MOBILE APP



OtoSense Inc., a developer of sound recognition software, has launched what it describes as the first mobile app that identifies the source of incoming audio alerts, including alarms, sirens, timers, bells, and other sounds—turning smart phones and tablets into assistive alerting devices.

According to OtoSense, the new app works immediately upon download, coming with a built-in library of standard fire and smoke alarm sounds found in the US and Europe. Additionally, it can be personalized by users, recording and storing the most significant sounds of their environment.

Info: <http://www.hearingreview.com/2014/10/new-otosense-mobile-app-identifies-sounds-users-learns-new-sounds/#sthash.Dh10Ka7v.dpuf>

10 THINGS I'M TIRED OF EXPLAINING TO HEARING PEOPLE

Editor's Note: The link below leads to a blog on Tumblr by "The HOH Society" written by Arthur C. McWilliams IV. It rings so true! ... And it made me laugh. Enjoy!!



<http://thehoh-society.tumblr.com/post/104783893863/10-things-im-tired-of-explaining-to-hearing>

IFHOH JOURNAL

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is March 13, 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, Marcel Bobeldijk

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