



IFHOH JOURNAL

March 2014

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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

From the Editor's Desk



Carole Willans, Editor

Dear IFHOH friends,

In my view, one of the underlying outcomes sought by IFHOH and its member organizations is to encourage persons with hearing loss to be open to new technologies. In some countries, it seems that there are too many choices available and it is confusing. In other countries, it seems that it is so difficult to access any technology at all. Our common struggle is to continue to find creative ways to bring an enhanced quality of life to as many hard of hearing people as possible.

I would like to share some of my thoughts with those persons who do have choices and yet who resist trying new technologies.

Like most people, in the past I tended to focus my efforts on "fixing" some perceived deficit in myself. It is as if I am like an improvement project where I have to fill in gaps to become more "perfect".

With experience I have learned to take a different and more positive approach: I am already a complete person (yes, I am already "perfect"!) and so I am just learning what new technologies can work for me to further enhance an already good quality of life. It is a learning experience that I see as a joyful process, based on curiosity and wonder.

That is the approach I recommend to you when it comes to innovations: be an explorer - open to what is new. You might be surprised how the smallest thing can bring you joy, whether it is how to use televised captioning or how to text on your cell phone - all the way to new-fangled hearing aids or assistive listening devices, and more.

Thanks to **IFHOH's Gold Sponsors** - **Bernafon, Amplifon, Widex** and **Siemens** - for opening the wonderful world of technology to so many. May you continue to innovate, and may we be open to these innovations.

IFHOH President's Message



Ruth P. Warick, IFHOH President

The IFHOH Biennial General Meeting and Conference is just days away, from April 5-7, 2014 in Jerusalem, Israel and excitement is increasing as April approaches. I look forward to meeting members and friends at the series of events and obtaining your ideas and thoughts about the work of our organization. In this issue you will find the Biennial report of IFHOH which will be presented at the BGM. We have also developed an action plan that outlines our priorities for the coming two years and invite further comment on the plans.

Priorities are centered around continuing our work to promote *the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)* for our community and on taking a leadership role within the International Disability Alliance (IDA). We also look forward to delivering CRPD training workshops and are applying to granting agencies to help fund this important work. A document has been produced as a Toolkit on the UN CRPD to be discussed at the BGM. It is on our website.

We have also developed an Education Policy paper which will be discussed at the BGM. If adopted, the paper will add to our existing body of work that includes a paper on Cochlear Implants and Accessibility.

In our action plan for 2014-2016 we commit to developing a policy paper on hearing aids. At the same time we will continue to promote existing papers and we will revise our Accessibility paper to ensure that it is current and as applicable today as when adopted four years ago.

We also look forward to discussing and determining with you a mutual date for a global Hard of Hearing Awareness Day for UN Adoption, an endeavor that requires a lot of groundwork to make it happen from talking with others who pursued a day for their cause.

We are also looking forward to developing a speech-to-text (also known as captioning) project given the importance of this form of access to our members. An initial start will be to identify the current situation in different countries.



Panel session at IDA meeting of African leaders in March, 2014 – at the far left: Catherine Seigler (a Canadian providing captioning) and Ruth Warick

I was pleased that quality speech-to-text was provided at a meeting of African leaders in the disability movement along with leaders of international organizations for different disabilities, organized by the International Disability Alliance (IDA).



IDA Board in Kenya in March, 2014 where Ruth Warick (centre in back row) was elected incoming Second Vice-President of the International Disability Alliance

The three-day meeting took place just outside of Nairobi, Kenya and both I and Patrick Gift Egessa from the Uganda National Association of the Hard of Hearing (UNAHOH) represented the hard of hearing community. UNAHOH is an IFHOH member organization. We ensured that our points about access were reflected to the Nairobi declaration that was passed at the meeting. It was a significant conference and I was particularly pleased to

meet with Patrick who is doing good work in his country by helping hard of hearing persons to find employment niches. We need further opportunities to connect together and share our experiences, hopes and aspirations.



Patrick Gift Egessa, Ruth Warick and Florence Ssekabina

Finally, I want to commit to you that we will report back to those unable to attend the BGM in Israel on the results of deliberations. Meanwhile, feel free to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions.

We can make this a better world for hearing access and awareness together.

Ruth Warick
IFHOH President
Email: president@ifhoh.org



ACTION PLAN FOR 2014-2016

Four Themes were outlined for the Action Plan to guide IFHOH for 2014-2016:
Hearing Issues, Information and Communication, Cooperation & Participation - Other Organizations and Governance and Capacity-Building of IFHOH

Hearing Issues

- Promote the Education policy statement and submit it to relevant United Nations stakeholders.
- Develop a policy paper on hearing aids.
- Provide CRPD training workshops various countries.

- Review and revise the current Accessibility paper.
- Determine a date for a global Hearing Awareness Day and work to get it adopted by the UN.

Information and Communication

- Produce four issues of the IFHOH Journal annually.
- Update the IFHOH Website.
- Revise the IFHOH Brochure and promotional materials.
- Provide a News Vehicle for Members.
- Promote further translations of the IFHOH Brochure in additional languages and post on the IFHOH Website.
- Develop and IFHOH History book
- Plan to recognize 40 years of IFHOH's founding in 2017

Cooperation & Participation - Other Organizations

- Continue a leadership role in the International Disability Alliance.
- Liaise with EOSOC, UNESCO, the World Health Organization and the World Bank
- Liaise with the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Youth
- Develop a Speech-to-text or captioning project with the World Federation of the Deaf
- Liaise with the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) including participation in their May 2014 Forum.

Governance and Capacity-Building of IFHOH

- Continue the CRPD Project.
- Explore the feasibility of a hard of hearing outreach project in the Middle East.
- Liaise with HLAA, the host for the 2016 BGM and Congress.
- Hold two face-to-face board meetings per year and 6 Skype meetings.
- Identify new sponsors to contact re: fundraising and develop a mutually agreed on protocol.
- Expand IFHOH's network to other parts of the world.
- Liaise with the Late Deafened Association and Ci-users.



IFHOH Biennial General Meeting

The 2014 IFHOH BGM will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Hotel Leonardo Jerusalem, at 9 Saint George Street, in Jerusalem, Israel. Registration starts at 8:30 am.

As noted previously, the *Overcoming Hearing Barriers* Educational Programme will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2014, and IFHOH will hold its Annual General Meeting on Saturday afternoon, April 5, 2014. The location for all events is the Hotel Leonardo Jerusalem. Download the registration form at:

<http://goo.gl/F8K6cK>. For more information: <http://goo.gl/EXrMiE>

Four motions proposed by the IFHOH Board were sent directly to member organizations, including a motion related to the *Education Policy Paper*. These motions will be voted on by the membership at the IFHOH BGM. More details on the content of the motions approved by the membership will be shared in the next issue of *IFHOH Journal*.

At the BGM, the IFHOH Board will also share its Biennial Report, its Action Plan, the report of the Nominating Committee, as well as the minutes from the previous BGM in 2012.

You are also invited to consult IFHOH's paper on the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, available on IFHOH's website at: [The IFHOH United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Implementation Toolkit](#).

With best regards,

Ruth Warick
IFHOH President
president@ifhoh.org

Hanh Duong Phuong
IFHOH General Secretary
general.secretary@ifhoh.org



IFHOH Biennial Report 2012 - 2014

The Board of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People is pleased to provide this biennial summary of its status and activities during the period of 2012 to 2014. This report is prepared for the Biennial Meeting of IFHOH being held April 7, 2014 in Jerusalem, Israel.

The report is divided into sections discussing: *Governance, CRPD-related Activities, Hearing Issues, and Other Presentations and Activities.*

GOVERNANCE

Officers elected at IFHOH's 2012 Biennial Meeting on June 25th, 2012 in Bergen, Norway were:

- Ruth Warick, Canada, President
- Avi Blau, Israel, Vice-President
- Hang Duong Phuong, Vietnam, General Secretary
- Niklas Wenman, Finland, Treasurer
- Ulf Olsson, Sweden, Member at Large (on leave from September of 2013)

Marcel Bobeldijk, Netherlands, President of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People, was confirmed as a member of the board as a regional representative.

During 2012-2014, the IFHOH board held three face-to-face meetings as follows:

- October, 2012 Stockholm, Sweden
- March, 2013 Helsinki, Finland
- October, 2013 Eastbourne, England

At the October 2012 meeting the board arranged for CART to be provided by remote means for the first time. The board also began holding monthly Skype meetings as of December 2013, with meetings held: December 20, 2013; January 25, 2014; and February 7, 2014.

An Action Plan in four key areas guided the board as well as the motions adopted by members at the BGM. The four key areas of the Action Plan were hearing issues, information and communication, cooperation with and participation with other organizations, and internal IFHOH matters.

Lilian Lindqvist served as corresponding secretary through a contract with the Swedish Association for Hard of Hearing People (HRF), as a shared arrangement with EFHOH, until the end of 2012. The arrangement was ended at the request of HRF due to their own requirements. Therefore, the responsibility for maintaining the membership list of IFHOH was transferred to the General Secretary.

IFHOH and EFHOH jointly implemented a Gold Sponsor fundraising program in 2013 and Bernafon became the first Gold Sponsor under the program. The number of sponsors is expected to increase in 2014. Our sponsoring members are:

Gold Member

Sponsoring Member	Country	Website
Bernafon AG	Switzerland	www.bernafon.com
Sponsoring Member	Country	Website
GN ReSound	Denmark	www.gnresound.com
Oticon A/S	Denmark	www.oticon.com
Phonak AG	Switzerland	www.phonak.com
Pro Audito Winterthur	Switzerland	www.proaudito-winterthur.ch
Siemens Audiologische Technik GmbH	Germany	www.hearing-siemens.com
Widex A.P.S.	Denmark	www.widex.com

Membership:

As of the end of 2013, IFHOH had 40 General members, 7 Associate members, 2 individual members, 1 Gold Sponsor, and 6 other sponsoring members. We are represented in 36 countries. Previously we were represented in 29 countries.

In 2012-2014 the Board approved as new general members the following:

- Nepal Association of the Hard of Hearing, Nepal
- The National Foundation for the Deaf Inc., New Zealand
- *Center for Research and Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Vietnam*

The following were approved as Associate members:

- New World Hope Organization of Pakistan
- Hard of Hearing Young People Foundation, United States.

Emmanuel Sackey of Ghana and Ubenyl Johnson of Nigeria were welcomed as individual members.

Within Europe, two new general members welcomed to IFHOH were:

- *Hearing Impaired of East Belgium, Belgium*
- Hungarian Hard of Hearing Association, Hungary

Marcia Dugan Fund:

A Call for Applications was issued in 2013 for sponsoring one participant to attend the 2014 BGM in Israel. The Fund was established in honour of the late Marcia Dugan, a former president of IFHOH.

Communications:

In October 2012 IFHOH launched its own Facebook page thanks to the expertise of IFHOH Vice-President Avi Blau. The address is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH/>.

Carole Willans of Canada continued as Editor of the *IFHOH Journal* posted on-line on the IFHOH website. Seven issues were posted.

Additional translations to the IFHOH brochure were made into Vietnamese. Previously, the brochure was available in Arabic, Dutch, English, French, German, Spanish and Swedish on the IFHOH website.

Pertti Köyste continued to serve as webmaster for the IFHOH. An on-line survey about the webcasts of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Committee's 10th session and the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLM DD) provided by the UNOG (Geneva) and the UN DESA (New York). The results of the survey were reported to UN DESA and emphasized the issue of more promotion of on-line captioning of UN events.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Action was taken on a motion concerning the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities passed at the IFHOH 2012 biennial general meeting in Bergen, Norway. We wrote to Ron McCallum, Chair and Committee Members of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities to urge:

- That the Committee to include the hard of hearing perspective in their monitoring and reporting.
- Those national mechanisms monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities include the hard of hearing perspective in their monitoring and reporting.
- That governments use the CRPD as the point of departure in their disability policies and work actively for the ratification and implementation of the CRPD.

The board created the position of a Human Rights Officer. As a result of a recruitment process in April 2013, Louise Carroll of New Zealand was hired for the position. Through the International Disability Alliance, of which IFHOH is a member, she was sponsored to attend a week-long training event in Geneva in April, 2013. The training programme also included meetings with senior officials from the International Labour Organization (ILO), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The HR Officer's main task for 2013 was to develop a toolkit on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. *IFHOH's United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Implementation Toolkit* is a resource about the CRPD with particular focus on its application to the issues of concern to the hard of hearing community. It is posted on the IFHOH website in a section entitled human rights.

IFHOH took an active role as a founding member of the incorporated International Disability Alliance which promotes the human rights of persons with disabilities using instruments such as the CRPD. Ruth Warick was elected as Treasurer of the newly incorporated IDA at the first meeting of the legal entity on July 13-15, 2013. IDA consists of international and regional organizations united to promote the implementation of the CRPD.

As part of its UN work, IFHOH was represented at meetings of the Conference of States Parties in New York in July 2013 and, in September 2013, in conjunction with the UN General Assembly meeting of heads of states about Post-2015 Developments. This was the first time in UN history that the rights of persons with disabilities were discussed within the framework of the UN political agenda. It was an important event for our community to be recognized as part of the international disability community.

HEARING ISSUES

Close working relations were established with WHO's Technical Officer for the Prevention of Deafness, Dr. Shelly Chadha. We provided feedback for a new WHO document, *Community-based Rehabilitation: Promoting ear and hearing care through CBR*.

We were represented IFHOH at an Ad hoc Consultation on Hearing Devices Technology Transfer in LMICs was held in Geneva (LMIC refers to low and middle income countries) organized by WHO in March 2013 and provided further input to the project as it unfolded. The next steps are to develop suitable preferred product profiles and share the profiles with manufacturers through a call for interest, and to promote the need for greater access to hearing aids.

In July, 2013 Ruth Warick was a panel presenter during a side event of the Conference of States Parties in New York on ACT Technologies which has prepared a report is entitled *The ICT Opportunity for a Disability-Inclusive Development Framework*. As well, in September, 2013, she took part in a Task Force meeting of the World Health Organization and UNICEF which are finalizing a paper on *Assistive Technology*; their definition includes hearing aids as an assistive device. In the meeting she stressed the need for hearing aids to include t-coils so that hard of hearing persons can benefit from other assistive listening devices such as hearing loops, FM and Infrared systems.

Preliminary work commenced on establishing a hearing awareness day with information gathered on how other organizations have succeeded in achieving such an official day through the UN system. Further consideration is required on the date that would be favored by IFHOH member organizations.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

An Education policy paper was developed and posted on the IFHOH website as well as in the Journal for member feedback. The paper covers the areas of barrier-free environments, captioning/subtitling in the classroom as well as for materials, language development, hearing aids and assistive technology, support services and teacher training.

We also provided input into an Education Policy Paper developed by CBM (Christian Blind Union).

Ruth Warick was one of two representatives for the Working Group on Monitoring and Evaluating Community Based Rehabilitation held in India in November 2012 and was moderated a plenary session for the first international CBR Conference.

Niklas Wenman, Hanh Duong Phuong, Marcel Bobeldijk, Avi Blau and Ruth Warick attended the third Hearing Loop conference, held in Eastbourne, England in October 2013. Ruth participated in the opening panel for the conference and EFHOH's Jan Lamby participated in the closing session for the two-day event.

Marcel Bobeldijk, President of EFHOH, represented IFHOH and EFHOH at a First Arab Regional Conference of Arab Deaf Persons in Tunis, Tunisia. Held in September, 2013, the conference was organized with the support of AECID (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development). Representatives came from ten Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and of course, Tunisia. Many of the persons were also hard of hearing and interested in accessibility issues for hard of hearing persons.

In her IDA role Ruth Warick represented IDA and IFHOH at meetings in 2013 sponsored by WHO and the World Bank to develop a model disability survey for comparable collection of data about the numbers and experiences of persons with disabilities. The impetus for developing a Model of Disability Survey relates to Article 31 of the CRPD which calls upon ratifying States Parties to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, and Article 33 which calls for monitoring the implementation of the CRPD.

She also represents the disability community on the International Labour Organization Business Council, a role assumed in December 2013. The Council is facilitated by the ILO and consists of businesses that are keen to promote the employment of persons with disabilities. It is an opportunity to represent the disability community and also our own hard of hearing community.

World Federation of the Deaf

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the World Federation of the Deaf on October 18th, 2013 at the WFD General Assembly in Sydney, Australia. This agreement marks a new milestone in the cooperation of the two organizations. The Agreement which covers Terminology, Areas of Co-operation (e.g. captioning), Consultation and Exchange of Information, and Representation. We have already been collaborating with WFD about captioning at UN meetings.

International Federation of Hard of Hearing Youth

An Agreement was signed with IFHOHYP at the 2012 Congress and exchanges of information continued with participation in board meetings of each organization once a year.

Hearing Loss Association of America

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with HLAA to host the 2016 IFHOH Congress in conjunction with HLAA's annual conference. The event will be held in Washington D.C. from June 23 to 26, 2016. Ruth Warick was invited to make a plenary session announcement at the 2013 Conference of HLAA in Portland, Oregon.

Conference and BGM 2014 in Jerusalem

We extend our thanks to our member organization in Israel, Bekol, and to IFHOH Vice-President Avi Blau for organizing the 2014 BGM for IFHOH, the AGM for EFHOH and the conference on Overcoming Hearing Barriers. A tremendous amount of work has gone into the event and we are grateful.

Thank you to our Members

Thank you to the members of IFHOH for their support and commitment to IFHOH. We could not do this work without you and look forward to continued progress in promoting hearing accessibility worldwide.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Warick, President
Avi Blau, Vice-President
Hang Duong Phuong, General-Secretary
Niklas Wenman, Treasurer
Marcel Bobeldijk, President, EFHOH

February 24, 2014



Thank you IFHOH Gold Sponsors!



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* * * * *



HIGH DEFINITION HEARING

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Articles and announcements are always welcome!

Please send to journal@ifhoh.org

Carole Willans, Editor



Calling for Investment in Hearing Care

PRESS RELEASE – WHO Calls on Governments to Invest in Hearing Care

GENEVA, 03 MARCH 2014 (UN NEWS CENTRE) ---

The United Nations health agency is calling on Governments to invest in hearing care, as a new survey finds that many countries lack the capacity to prevent and care for hearing loss, which affects 360 million people worldwide.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the highest prevalence of disabling hearing loss is found in the Asia Pacific, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. About half of all cases of hearing loss worldwide are easily prevented or treated.

However, a report published by the agency on the occasion of International Ear Care Day, observed on March 3, 2014, says that just 32 of the 76 countries who responded to a WHO survey have developed plans and programmes to prevent and control ear diseases and hearing loss.

Many countries lack trained health personnel, educational facilities, data and national plans to address the needs of those living with ear and hearing problems. The gap between need and services is greatest in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The results of this survey are a clear call to action for governments and partners to invest in hearing care, especially at community and primary level," said Etienne Krug, Director of the WHO Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability.



Etienne Krug with Vietnamese schoolchildren
Photo credit: Make Roads Safe

"The programmes must aim to benefit all, including disadvantaged parts of the population who are least able to access hearing services," added Dr. Krug.

WHO notes that a leading cause for hearing loss in younger ages, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, is untreated ear infections, which often presents with discharge from the ear. Vaccine-preventable infectious diseases such as rubella, meningitis, measles, or mumps can also lead to hearing loss.

Good ear care practices, such as reducing exposure to noise and avoiding insertion of objects into the ears, can prevent many from developing ear and hearing problems. A large percentage of people living with hearing loss can benefit from early identification and appropriate treatment.

"Ear and hearing problems and the use of hearing aids are often associated with myths and misconceptions," said Shelly Chadha of the WHO unit for the Prevention of Blindness and Deafness.



Dr. Chadha examines a child's ears in an Indian village
Photo credit: Hearing Conservation Council

"National programmes should therefore not only focus on prevention and service provision but also on awareness-raising," Dr. Chadha noted.



A group discussion with schoolchildren in India

World Health Organization - Disabilities and Rehabilitation

<http://www.who.int/en/>

2013 has been another important year for disability and rehabilitation, with progress on both the technical front and the policy front.

In May, the 66th World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted a landmark resolution on disability, which sets priorities for our Member States and the WHO Secretariat. One immediate consequence of the WHA resolution was the development of a *WHO action plan 2014 - 2021: better health for persons with disabilities*. The plan has been reviewed in all regions and will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the WHO Executive Board in January. To date 277 different governments, organizations and individuals have contributed to this Action Plan, which will shape WHO's work in the coming years.

During the WHA the Secretariat organized a technical briefing to seek input from WHA delegates on the disability and health aspects of the High-level Meeting on Disability and Development and its related draft outcome document. The High-level Meeting on Disability and Development held on September 23 at the United Nations in New York was a key moment in the progress towards the post-MDG framework. Member States, NGOs and DPOs came together to press for inclusion of persons with disabilities in global development strategies. The outcome document from the meeting calls for an increased emphasis on core areas of WHO's work: health, rehabilitation, habilitation, assistive technologies and data collection.

Our technical work continued with the launch of the intermediate module of the *Wheelchair service training package*; the launch of the *Guidance note on disability and emergency risk management for health*, ready in time to be implemented in The Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan; and the cognitive testing of the Model Disability Survey, from which the initial results are very exciting. The first Polynesia Region Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Workshop took place in Samoa in June.

As is evident, the impetus created by the *World report on disability* in 2011 has continued. With the efforts of our indefatigable staff, and the inspiration and hard work of our partners across the globe, we can together remove barriers and promote health and well-being for the billion people with disabilities. We look forward to working with you in 2014.

EFHOH News



Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH President

Dear friends,

Here is some news about what is happening at the European level. You can find out more at <http://www.efhoh.org/> - You can also follow EFHOH on Twitter: @efhoh.

Eastbourne, U.K.

At the beginning of October, EFHOH was represented at the Third Hearing Loops Conference by Jan Lamby, Lidia Best and I.

Brussels, Belgium

Also in October, Jan Lamby participated in different UN CRPD related meetings. Then Jan and I participated in the fall European Platform meeting, along with IFHOHYP secretary, Astrid Fejro. Finally, Lidia and I attended the European Day of People with Disabilities at the invitation of the European Commission. This year's theme was accessible tourism.

London, U.K.

The EFHOH board held its fall board meeting at the office of Action on Hearing Loss (AHL) in November. AHL will support EFHOH with an intern traineeship. EFHOH will move its office to the AHL office in London early in 2014.

Vilnius, Lithuania

I attended my first board meeting of the European Disability Forum (EDF). Our board member Lidia Best was elected to the EDF Women Committee, and our candidate Sidsel Munkebo Hansen was elected to the EDF Youth Committee. EFHOH is also present in various EDF expert groups.

EFHOH AGM 2014

We hope to see you in Jerusalem!

EFHOH Conference & AGM 2015

**Welcome to the Centre of the Ruhrgebiet
EFHOH Conference & AGM in Essen (Germany)
April 10-12, 2015**

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 Centre of the Ruhr gebiet (region).



The area of approximately 4.500 square kilometres with a population of more than 5 million people in western Germany is called the Ruhr gebiet. It is an agglomeration of several cities which grew together in the last centuries when the Ruhrgebiet was an important industrial location in Europe. In the south of the region, the river Ruhr flows from east to west. Today the boundaries of the Ruhr are a popular holiday destination. In the last few years the Ruhr gebiet has gradually transformed itself from industry to a service location.



The river Ruhr

Essen is a very special city, difficult to describe in only a few words. It is a typical city of the Ruhr region, the biggest city of all with a population of more than half a Mio people, a shopping destination, business location and university town, urban on the one hand, rural on the other. Here you can find one of the best opera houses in Germany, the Folkwang University of the Arts known for its outstanding artistic standard and a world-class art collection in a museum. Specifically the Ruhr gebiet is known for its industrial heritage. The coal mine 'Zeche Zollverein', now closed, was named an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.



Essen at night

The motto of the conference taking place from April 10 to 12, 2015 will be **"CRPD and inclusion - Exchange of experience with the implementation in the several European self-help associations"**. The Mayor of the City of Essen will welcome the participants and open the Annual General Meeting. The conference day is under the patronage of the Commissioner for Disabled People of the German Government. Some Members of the European Parliament have announced their intention to attend.

The presentations of the conference will start with a keynote address on the CRPD, followed by the themes in plenary of Health Care, Accessibility, Assistance and Job Market. In the afternoon the key themes will be continued in workshops with participation of Members of the European Parliament. EFHOH members will be able to present their experiences with the implementation of CRPD in their country. The goal is to work out a declaration and hand these over to the politicians.

On Sunday morning a guided tour to the highlights of Essen with a visit to Zeche Zollverein will be provided. After lunch, the hotel offers a bus transfer to Düsseldorf airport.

I am looking forward to welcome you in Essen!

Renate Welter
Vice President of DSB





ILO GLOBAL BUSINESS AND DISABILITY NETWORK

The Ability Factor

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the UN agency whose mandate is the promotion of decent work. It facilitates the ILO Global Business and Disability Network, which is a unique worldwide network of multinational companies, national employers' organizations, business networks and disabled people's organizations (DPOs) working in collaboration to promote disability inclusion in the workplace.

The Network is very pleased to have launched its new info graphics video - *The Ability Factor* - on March 14. It produced this short visual to show the many ways in which people with disabilities represent an untapped pool of skills that can enhance virtually any business. People with disabilities face great barriers in employment beyond physical obstacles with stereotypes and misconceptions hampering their contribution to the world of work. We hope that *The Ability Factor* can help to dispel some of these myths.

The video, which was jointly produced by the ILO Global Business and Disability Network and the ILO/International Finance Corporation programme, Better Work can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/iBk0Od> or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0ltOKFhUek> (French and Spanish subtitles available) Audio Description Version (in English): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mktLKnQb47M>

For more information, please visit <http://www.businessanddisability.org>



Photo credit: ILO Global Business and Disability Network

IVSS Churchear

What is IVSS Churchear and what are we doing?

By Rev. Rosemarie Muth, audiotherapist and board member of IVSS Churchear, and Rev. Eyolf Berg, secretary of IVSS Churchear

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Rosemarie Muth at the IVSS Conference 2012



Eyolf Berg

IVSS Churchear is an international and ecumenical federation of people who work in our churches on behalf of hard of hearing people. We do this fulltime or voluntary. Our purpose is to inform each other, support each other and to exchange opinions about topics that concern us all like loop systems, room acoustics, attitudes, how we organise events so that everyone benefits from them.

Our main activity is our conferences which take place every second year, normally in August, in different countries, lasting five days. Our last conference was in Freising, near Munich, Germany in August, 2012. The conference motto was "All actual life is encounter" (Martin Buber).

During the five conference days the around 80 participants were given an experience of how this sentence was able to give light and guidance for the life and living together of the hearing impaired, deafened and well hearing as well. Even the very being at the conference was an experience of encounters, with other conference attendants, with old friends, with people never having met each others before, and even an encounter with a country with a very rich history and culture.

The next conference will take place this year in Kraków, Poland, August 21-25.

Between conferences we use the potential of the World Wide Web to keep in contact and to inspire each others in our daily life and challenges.

If you want to be better acquainted with our federation, please visit us at www.churchear.org.



Why an international conference for pastoral care among hard of hearing?
The 2014 International IVSS Churchear Conference for Hard of Hearing, Kraków, Poland, August 21 - 25, 2014 (by Rev. Eyolf Berg, secretary of IVSS Churchear)

The modern society, especially in the larger cities, is a noise ridden society, resulting in a growing number of hearing impaired people. An increasing number of ever younger people suffer from being hard of hearing.

As Christians - of various denominations and church traditions - how do we encounter those who need facilitated communication? How do we encounter the new generation of hearing impaired people, a generation not asking for charity, but demanding their God-given right to communicate on equal terms with everybody else? The answer to these questions can only be given in a close communication with those being hard of hearing themselves. And the answers have to be given, or else they will turn their backs to the churches.

We also need to exchange experiences across the national and the church borders. Therefore it is necessary to come together:

- to listen to those who know the problems from their daily lives
- to discuss solutions to the problems
- to share our experiences and to learn from each others
- to encounter each other in order to bring a new inspiration back to our countries and to our churches
- to find ways to act united towards church authorities - and in some cases also towards secular authorities

We invite representatives from churches and diaconal organisations, church leaders, pastors, deacons and lay people, representatives from national and international organisations for hard of hearing, hearing impaired and normally hearing as well to the 2014 Conference for pastoral care among hard of hearing. For further information and registration, please see www.churchear.org.

All Ears Cambodia

Dear Ruth and colleagues at IFHOH,

Greetings from Phnom Penh - I hope this finds you all happy and well.

Herein is my customary annual thank you. The year has been especially busy for us. Our clinics in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kratie and Battambang are all thriving as is our outreach service which covers a further six provinces. Our students have all passed the year's exams and the AEC School of Audiology and PEHC has excelled our expectations.

Despite the political troubles, our work in North Korea continues. I was there in October and will be returning in early 2014 to begin the next phase of the training. Developing services for those with ear disease and disabling hearing loss is desperately needed and we have already secured a site for the new Audiology and Primary Ear Health Care centre in Pyongyang. We are also moving ahead with the Ministry of Health in Bhutan making progress with the community-based ear and hearing health care service in the Himalayas.

That just leaves me to say thank you for your wonderful support of All Ears Cambodia!

Glyn Vaughan
Director - All Ears Cambodia
Program Manager - All Ears North Korea
Founder and Trustee - All Ears International
www.allearscambodia.org



Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events

April 5-7, 2014 – IFHOH Biennial Conference



IFHOH



Bekol
Organization of Hard of
Hearing People in Israel



EFHOH

Location: Jerusalem, Israel

Website: <http://goo.gl/EXrMiE>

Contact: bgm.2014.ifhoh@gmail.com

During this conference, IFHOH and EFHOH are holding their BGM/AGM.

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**May 22-24, 2014 – Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
National Conference**



Location: Toronto, Canada

Website: <http://www.chha.ca/conference/>

Contact: conference@chha.ca

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, a general member of IFHOH, is pleased to announce that the **2014 CHHA National Conference** will take place in downtown Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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June 1-5, 2014 - The 11th International Congress on Noise as a Public Health problem



Location: Nara, Japan

Website: <http://www.icben2014.com/>

The International Commission on Biological Effects of Noise (ICBEN) invites you to the 11th International Congress on Noise as a Public Health Problem June 1-5, 2014 in Nara, Japan.

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June 5-7, 2014 - HEAL 2014 (HEaring Across the Lifespan):
"Early intervention: the key to better hearing care"



Location: Lake Como, Italy

Website: www.heal2014.org

Twitter: [@HEAL2014](https://twitter.com/HEAL2014)

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June 12-13, 2014 - 2nd International Conference on Family-centred Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



Location: Bad Ischl, Austria

Website: www.fcei.at

Contact: fcei2014@bblinz.at

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June 13-14, 2014 - 22nd Annual Conference on Management of the Tinnitus Patient



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

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

Contact: conferences@uiowa.edu

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June 18-21, 2014 – 13th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and other Implantable Auditory Technologies

Location: **Munich, Germany**

Website: www.ci2014muc.com/

Contact: [ci2014\(at\)mci-group.com](mailto:ci2014(at)mci-group.com)

SAVE THE DATE:
5th International Conference of the
Coalition for Global Hearing Health
Making Hearing Health a Global Priority
www.coalitionforglobalhearinghealth.org



St Catherine's College Oxford

25 – 26 July 2014 Oxford, United Kingdom



 (NOW offering individual and organizational membership!)

www.iced2015.com

22nd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE EDUCATION OF THE DEAF
EDUCATING DIVERSE LEARNERS:
MANY WAYS, ONE GOAL
DEAF STUDIES UNIT, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS
Athenæum InterContinental Athens
06-09 JULY 2015 ATHENS GREECE



August 21-25, 2014 – The 2014 IVSS Churchear International Conference for Pastoral Care among Hard of Hearing

Location: **Kraków, Poland**

Website: www.churchear.org

Only *one* sheep? The conference theme is inspired by the biblical parable of the sheep that was lost and found again. The board of IVSS-Churchear chose this parable as our guiding principle for the 2014 conference, because we think that hearing impaired persons are greatly at risk to feel excluded from the parish fellowship. We have prepared for lectures and seminars, but think that it also is important to talk with one another in smaller groups. We also will get to know the city of Kraków, which is on the UNESCO cultural world heritage list. Not *one* sheep! No one should get lost! - *Mikael Henning, Pastor and Hard of Hearing President of IVSS-Churchear* - mikael.henning@svenskakyrkan.se.

October 8-12, 2014 – ALDAcon 2014



Location: Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A.

Website: www.alda.org

Contact: <http://goo.gl/6JWv3b>

The Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA, Inc) invites you to its annual conference, ALDAcon 2014. This year's theme is *Inspiration on the Waterfront*.

April 10-12, 2015 - EFHOH Conference & AGM

Location: Essen, Germany

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



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People



Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund e.V.

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 Centre of the Ruhr gebiet (region). The theme will be *CRPD and inclusion - Exchange of experience with the implementation in the several European self-help associations*.



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)

News Bytes News Bytes

DR. GERHARD GOEBEL RECEIVES AWARD



Dr. Gerhard Goebel receiving award

IFHOH congratulates Dr. Gerhard Goebel on receiving a very special award on December 18, 2013, at a ceremony in Wuppertal, Germany. Dr. Goebel is the Vice President and Speaker of the Deutsche Tinnitus-Liga (DTL) Specialist Advisory Committee. DTL is an IFHOH member organization.



CLIMBING MOUNT KILIMANJARO

In January 2014, Nicole Butler, a professional actress and speech-language pathologist, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and raised \$3,738, inspired by *No Limits for Deaf Children* and its unique theater program for deaf children who are learning to speak. Info: <https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/NicoleButler/no-limits>.



TINNITUS RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOUNDATION - NEWSLETTER

The most recent issue of the TRI Newsletter is now available: [26th TRI Newsletter](#).



© Tinnitus Research Initiative Foundation (www.tinnitusresearch.org)

SEARCH FOR UK AND IRELAND'S TOP AUDIOLOGISTS



The search has begun for both the UK and Ireland's best hearing professionals as the 2014 Audiologist of the Year (AOTY) opens for entries. The competition encourages patients to nominate their audiologists who have provided exceptional levels of support and service. Now in its seventh year, AOTY is run in partnership between Rayovac and the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association.

The winners of both the UK and Irish stages of the competition will then compete with top audiologists from France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and - for the first year - Switzerland, to battle it out for the title of European Audiologist of the Year.

Info: www.audiologistoftheyear.eu

IFHOH JOURNAL

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is June 27, 2014. **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

<http://www.ifhoh.org/>

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: Marcel Bobeldijk, Avi Blau, Duong Phuong Hanh, Ruth Warick and Niklas Wenman

IFHOH Board

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