



Asia & Pacific Disability Forum 3rd General Assembly & Conference February 27-29, 2008 Dhaka, Bangladesh "Disability & Development – Practical Strategies"



President
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka

Message

I am happy to learn that the Asia & Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) is going to organize its 3rd General Assembly and Conference in Dhaka on 27-29 February, 2008. I welcome all the participants from home and abroad who gather here in this beautiful city Dhaka.

I believe this conference will put in a lot of efforts to find out the realistic ways and means to ensure the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities in this region. I hope the Asia & Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) and the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) would contribute more to find the true meaning of the theme 'Disability & Development - Practical Strategies'.

I call upon all to work unitedly for building a happy and prosperous abode where everybody will live with dignity, equality and justice.

I wish the conference a success. Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.

Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed



Joint Secretary
Ministry of Social Welfare
& Managing Director (JPWF)

Message

This auspicious occasion of the 3rd General Assembly and Conference of Asia and Pacific Disability Forum, February 27-29, 2008 Dhaka has offered us the opportunity for exchanging knowledge with devoted veterans working for development of the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). It may be noted that the government of Bangladesh is persistently taking steps to mainstream the PWDs in the development process. In addition to ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, GoB has enacted a few legal instruments to pave the way for inclusion and improving service delivery to the PWDs. In this regard I would like to mention some of the governmental interventions such as the establishment of the National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons (NFDDP) in 1999 and its reorganization in 2007, the Act for the Welfare of the Disabled, 2001 and the National Plan of Action (NAP) for Disabled, 2005. Moreover, some other policies and programmes are in operation covering the economic, social, educational, cultural and health needs of PWDs. Simultaneously, a few legal instruments are being reviewed for revision in consultation with Non-Government Organisations among others.

It is needless to mention that in line with the objectives enunciated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) of the GoB all these policies and programmes are strategically positioned. I firmly believe that this conference will greatly inspire and immensely invigorate the GoB's effort in expanding and improving social services care provided to the PWDs.

I take this privilege again to congratulate the honourable participants in the assembly and the conference.

Dr. Khondaker Showkat Hossain



President
NFOWD

Message

National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) is extremely happy to organize the 3rd General Assembly and Conference of the Asia & Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) in Bangladesh. Our sincere thanks to APDF for giving NFOWD the opportunity to host the gala event. I congratulate the participants from home and abroad who are attending the general assembly and conference of APDF. I most sincerely thank the Government of Bangladesh for their sincere support and kind cooperation to organize the assembly and conference. All the members of the Inter-ministerial committee also deserve the appreciation for their extensive support. I am also extremely grateful to the development partners who provided us resources for organizing the assembly and conference.

I firmly believe that this General Assembly and Conference will strengthen the current platform of APDF and widen its scope for collaboration and cooperation within the region and beyond.

I wish every success of the event.

Khandaker Jahurul Alam



Chairperson
Conference Committee

Message

It gives me an immense pleasure to welcome all participants of the 3rd General Assembly & Conference of the Asia & Pacific Disability forum from home and abroad. I like to thank the support and cooperation extended by the Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh to organize this memorable event in our home capital in this historic month of February.

I acknowledge with deep appreciation and thanks for the generous support from the Government of Bangladesh, the World Bank, Jatyo Protibondhi Unnoyan Foundation, development partners and private sector to organize this conference.

Finally, I put on record my most sincere thanks to the members of the Organizing Committee of the Conference, NFOWD Secretariat and the core of volunteers for excellent teamwork and most sincere support in planning, managing and organizing the event. With every best wishes

Your Sincerely

Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri

Organized by National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) & Asia & Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) With Cooperation of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Special Assistant to Chief Adviser
Ministry of Social Welfare

Message

On behalf of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I congratulate the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and Asia & Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) for jointly hosting the 3rd General Assembly & Conference of APDF at Dhaka Bangladesh during 27-29 February 2008.

It is wonderful to know that, even though this is an event principally of the Asia & Pacific Region, participants from many countries beyond this region are also participating in this important event. This actually means that we have earned ourselves such reputation, which has encouraged others to learn from our experiences. This will also give us the opportunity to learn from others. So I believe this will be a truly learning-sharing experience for all, based on which, we will be able to plan practical strategies for the future.

I thank all other Ministries and Departments, especially the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism, the Ministry of Housing & Public Works and the Ministry of Information, who have joined hands with the Ministry of Social Welfare to ensure that this esteemed event goes smoothly.

We are grateful to Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Honorable Chief Adviser of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for taking a personal interest in the development of persons with disabilities. Without his personal patronage and that of his kind office, this conference would have lost much of its shine and prestige.

I hope that all the participants, especially our friends from overseas, will have a wonderful time during the three days, involve themselves and share all their knowledge and learning, and come up with strong recommendations for the future. The Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh is eagerly looking forward to your plans.

Brig. Gen. M.A. Malek (Retd.)



Secretary
Ministry of Social Welfare

Message

I welcome the participants of the 3rd General Assembly and Conference of the Asia and Pacific Disability Forum (APDF), especially the participants from abroad. Indeed, it is a great honor for Bangladesh to host such a grand event. I thank the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) for their hard work over the last one year to organize the Assembly. The Ministry of Social Welfare extended all support to organize the Conference. I led an Inter-Ministerial committee that worked hard to support and organize the conference and provided all kinds of assistance.

My sincere thanks to the members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee and all other dedicated workers for their hard work and the whole hearted efforts.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has its deep commitments to the Disability and Development issues. Government has already signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The laws related to disability are also going to be amended soon in accordance with the provisions laid down in the CRPD.

I hope that this Assembly & Conference will be a memorable and effective event for all of us.

With every best wishes

MA Hye Howlader

The Conference at a Glance

The Asia & Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) holds its General Assemblies as a biennial event. The first was held at Japan in 2004, the second at Bangkok, Thailand in 2006 and this third at Dhaka, Bangladesh during 27-29 February 2008.

This conference at Dhaka is the first ever event of APDF to be held outside South East Asia, including those meetings having been organized by RNN since 1993.

The theme of this Conference "Disability & Development – Practical Strategies" has been set to facilitate more clarity, and reach out towards a consensus viewpoint on practical & achievable Disability & Development issues in this Region. With the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in its primary stages of implementation, it is only natural that most of the development thinking in the disability development scenario across the globe will be spiraling around the CRPD.

To support the main theme of the Conference, discussions and deliberations will be focused on a set of sub-thematic areas, which are:

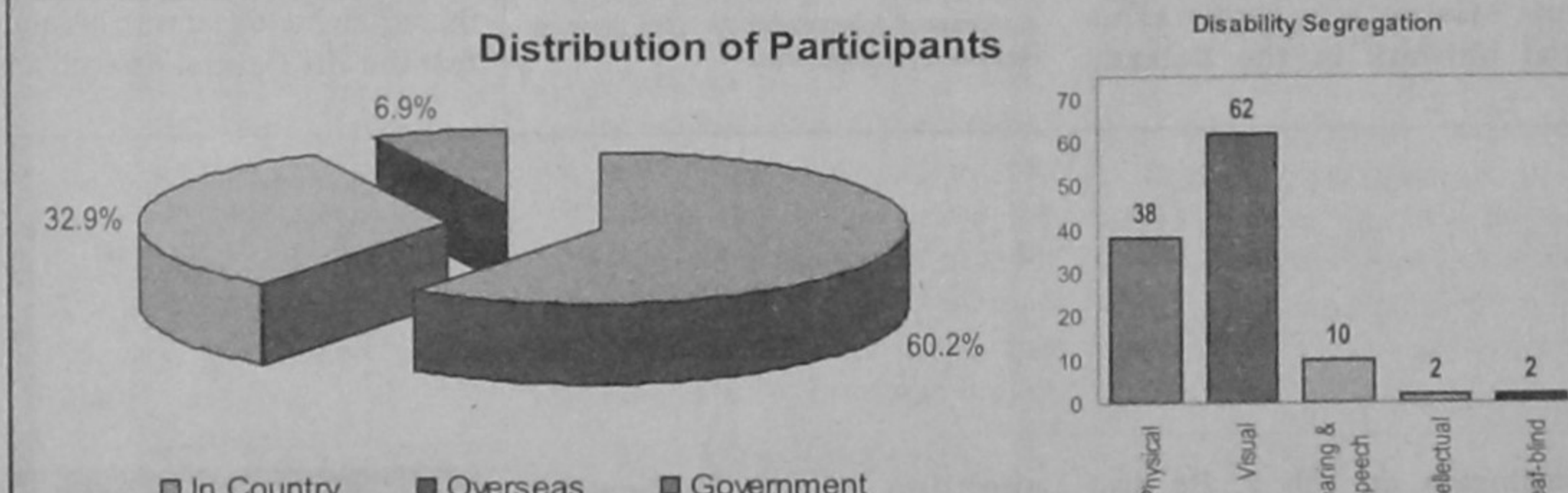
- International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- National Strategies, Policies, Legislation & Disability
- Economic Emancipation & Persons with disabilities
- Education of persons with disabilities
- Women with disabilities
- Children with disabilities
- Prevention & Early Interventions
- Disaster Management / Risk Reduction - Disability prevention and specific needs
- Technologies (including Accessibility)
- People with psycho-social disabilities and invisible disabilities
- Sports, Culture, Recreation, Entertainment for persons with disabilities
- Accessible Tourism for persons with Disabilities

Registered Participants

The Total registration stands at 451. This includes 35 senior level officials of the Government of Bangladesh, 150 participants from 27 countries & territories, and rest participants from Bangladesh.

There are 153 female participants & 290 male participants.

Amongst the 119 participants with disabilities, a vast majority (63) are persons with visual impairments, followed by persons with physical disabilities (41). There are a total of 12 sign language users, including two persons using tactile sign.



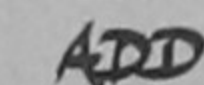
Participating Countries:

- Africa**
 - Cameroon
 - Ghana
 - South Africa
 - Uganda
- Americas**
 - Canada
 - United States of America
- Asia**
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Cambodia
 - Hong Kong
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - Japan
 - Nepal
 - Pakistan
 - Palestine
 - Singapore
 - South Korea
 - Sri Lanka
 - Taiwan-ROC
 - Thailand
- Europe**
 - Netherlands
 - Sweden
 - United Kingdom
- Oceania**
 - Australia
 - Fiji
 - New Zealand

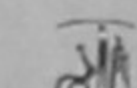
The Supporters

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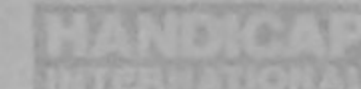
ActionAid Bangladesh



Action on Disability & Development



Disabled Rehabilitation and research Association (DRRA)



Handicap International



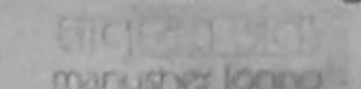
InterLife - Bangladesh

Jatyo Protibondhi Unnoyan Foundation

Leonard Cheshire Disability



LEPROA Bangladesh

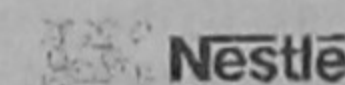


Manusher Jonno Foundation

M M Isphani Limited

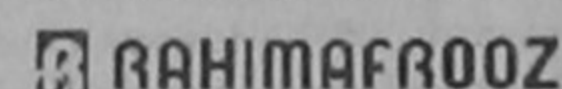
Muslim Aid-UK

Muslim Aid-UK, Bangladesh Field Office

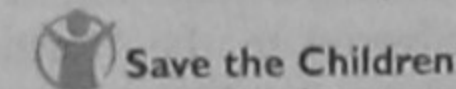


Nestle Bangladesh Limited

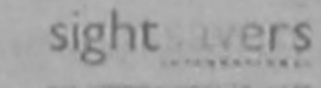
ORBIS International Bangladesh



Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Limited



Save the Children Sweden-Denmark

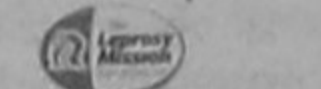


Sight Savers International

Stitching Lilliane Fonds (SLF), The Netherland



Therap BD Limited



The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh

The World Bank



Chief Adviser
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka

Message

I am happy to learn that the 3rd General Assembly and Conference of the Asia and Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) is going to be held in Dhaka from 27 to 29 February 2008. On this occasion, I extend my felicitations to the organisers and participants of the event.

I hope that the Conference will contribute towards making a society, where equal rights for every individual, including the persons with disability will be ensured.

I wish the Conference all success.

Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed



Director General
Department of Social Services

Message

On behalf of the Department of Social Services (DSS), I wholeheartedly congratulate the National Forum of Organizations working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and the Asia & Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) for organizing the 3rd General assembly and Conference of the Asia & the Pacific Disability Forum in Bangladesh. I also appreciate the participants from overseas to make effective partnership with the General Assembly and Conference. Department of Social Services has its mandate to work with the Persons with Disabilities. DSS has undertaken various programs for the wellbeing of Persons with Disabilities. To accomplish the task DSS has its long history to make effective partnership with the non-government organizations. DSS works with the NFOWD very closely for long time and DSS is very happy for being able to providing extensive support to NFOWD to organize the assembly and conference.

I hope the conference will generate practical strategies on disability and development issues, which will help us to undertake development programs for the Persons with Disabilities in this region.

I wish every success of this grand event.

Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury



President
APDF

Message

My heartiest congratulations to the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) for successfully organizing the 3rd General Assembly & Conference of the Asia and Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in cooperation with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh!

The idea of forming a new regional NGO Network on Disability was mooted and welcomed to strengthen regional initiatives and momentum to meet the rising demands of the New Millennium. The Inter-Governmental Meeting held at Shiga, Japan in 2002, recognized that there was still a need to address various issues affecting people with disabilities and thus the formation of a new network entitled "Asia and Pacific Disability Forum" in short, APDF.

The theme of this conference is "Disability & Development – Practical Strategies" and I would like to encourage all participants to play an active role during the conference through the sharing of experiences and ideas. Together, we can achieve the development of people with disabilities in the region.

I would like to thank the Government of Bangladesh for its all out support, and especially the Ministry of Social Welfare for playing an active coordinating role, on behalf of the Government, in organizing this conference.

To all participants, we hope you have enriching and fruitful sessions during the conference.

Best wishes

Judy Anne Wee



Secretary General
NFOWD

Message

This is a great pleasure for me to say welcome to all the participants of 3rd General Assembly & Conference of Asia & Pacific Disability Forum, especially the overseas participants coming from 27 countries of five Continents.

I believe that expert participants from across the world will produce a set of very effective recommendations on different thematic areas of the conference. The outcome from 18 scientific sessions of this conference will be helpful for all of us to set the future targets to create a barrier free and right based society where persons with disabilities can enjoy their full participations. The theme of this Conference "Disability & Development – Practical Strategies" will be helpful to reach out the consensus viewpoint on practical and achievable road map to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in this Region.

I am pleased to express my gratefulness to the concerned Ministries and Departments of the Government of Bangladesh including the Office of the honorable Chief Adviser for their active and fruitful participation in the Inter-Ministerial meetings convened by the Ministry of Social Welfare to ensure the support of Bangladesh Government towards successfully hosting the conference.

I congratulate Asia & Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) for providing us the opportunity to host such a prestigious event and to extend our traditional warm hospitality.

Thank you all and best wishes for a memorable event.

A H M Noman Khan