



**A Message from the  
IASE President  
Beatrice Adera**

Greetings to all IASE members and welcome to the September 2019 issue of your newsletter. This message includes several highlights from the 16<sup>th</sup> biennial conference that was held this past July in Magamba, Tanzania. Our biennial conferences are a great venue for sharing and learning about current special education research, different initiatives for individuals with disabilities and also serves as a great networking opportunity with participants from different regions around the world. Our theme for the past conference was “Empowering Persons with Disabilities: Developing Resilience and Inclusive Sustainable Development.” The conference was officially opened by Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Other keynote presenters included Twesigye Jackson Kaguri, Executive Director of Nyaka Aids Orphans Project in Uganda, Dr. Girma Berhanu from Sweden, Charlot Baker from the USA and Dr. Edward Bagandanshwa from Tanzania. Opportunities for post-conference tours included visits to the Irente Rainbow School for the Blind, Irente Children’s home, Irente farm, a tour of a tea factory and the Lutindi Mental Hospital. Both opportunities presented first-hand experience and insight into services that are available for individuals with disabilities in the local community of Magamba, Tanzania.

The conference presentations addressed a variety of topics centered around empowerment of individuals with disabilities and sustainable development for a more inclusive society. I will highlight two unique general sessions that were facilitated by IASE board. The first one was an information session that I hosted for new IASE members and first-time conference attendees.

About 90 participants attended the session and several individuals indicated great interest in getting more involved with IASE. Participants received an overview of the mission and vision of IASE along with information on different ways to get involved with the organization. The other session facilitated by Renata Ticha (Journal editor), examined the topic of how to get published in the Journal of International Special Education [JIASE]. Dr. Ticha along with some invited reviewers highlighted features of a well-written manuscript including topic, structure, method and relevance for international audiences. This session was a great way to encourage IASE membership to publish their research via JIASE.

IASE continues to play a crucial role in the promotion of quality service delivery and programming for individuals with disabilities around the world. These efforts require a strong leadership team that responsive to the diversity of the IASE membership and willing to work closely to unite members from different regions around the world. As we welcome the new board under the leadership of Dr. Zandile Nkabinde, it is my hope that the new board will continue the hard work of building the IASE membership with strong representation from different regions around the world. The 16<sup>th</sup> biennial conference brought together 350 participants from 28 countries and my hope is that the 17<sup>th</sup> biennial conference to be held at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Education, Vietnam will draw a much larger audience. The IASE board has already begun the process of forming the different conference committees to address the different tasks associated with planning the upcoming conference. Please save the date and mark your calendars for our next biennial conference that will be held in Vietnam from July 11 to 14, 2021.

Dr. Beatrice Adera,  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania, USA  
IASE President (2018-2019)

# SAVE THE DATE!

## 17th IASE Biennial Conference

### Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

#### July 11-14, 2021



### Highlights of the 16<sup>th</sup> IASE Biennial Conference in Magamba, Lushoto, Tanzania

By Susan Pursch

In 2017 at the 15<sup>th</sup> IASE Biennial Conference the SAVE THE DATE card was shared announcing the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference to be held at Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University in Magamba, Tanzania. The Conference planners gave the IASE network a hint of what was to come as the University is nestled in the Usambara Mountains and quite a distance from local airports. It was only when the over 350 participants from 27 countries arrived that they realized we were serious. Buses



transported people anywhere from 3-7 hours of ground transportation. This provided conference participants with a tour of the Northeastern part of Tanzania. As they arrived, they were greeted with local musicians and dancers.

The theme of the conference was "**Empowering Persons with Disabilities: Developing Resilience and Inclusive Sustainable Development**". The Conference was held July 14-17. From breathtaking rides through the country, to local performers singing and dancing during the welcome reception, to the beautiful items sold at the live auction during the Gala Dinner, the experience was a joy for all. However, it was not all fun and games. Delegates heard from the following Keynote Speakers: His Excellency Benjamin W. Mkapa, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania; A representative of the Minister of Education, Science and Technology for Tanzania, Dr. Girma Berhanu from Sweden, Charlot Barker from the USA, Twesigye Jackson Kaguri from Uganda and Dr. Edward Bagandanshwa from Tanzania. There were numerous concurrent sessions which were led by experts in the area of special education from all over the world.

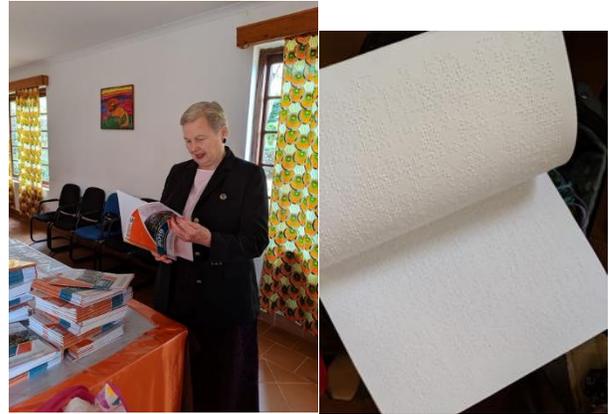


*The Vice President of Tanzania addressing the conference during opening ceremony*



*Keynote speaker from Uganda*

resources may vary, our passion, drive, struggles, and gains unite us all. Networking took place, ideas were shared, opportunities to become involved in IASE were presented.



*The Program Booklet was beautifully prepared by Vuga Press. Because we knew we had conference participants who are blind, the program booklet was also printed in braille.*



*The*

*Guest of Honor and his family for the Gala Dinner – Alfred Mbondei.*



*Yes, even Mary Gale Budzisz was present and gathering up new friends while celebrating long term IASE members.*



*Students from the Irete School for the Blind provided greetings for conference attendees in front of a welcome sign made of local roses.*

The struggles of providing quality special education were discussed and the world became a little bit smaller as we learned that while our locations and





We are confident that people were bussed up the mountain.

We are confident that people were bussed own the mountain.

It is the hope of the conference planners that all who attended realized after some reflection, that their lives were truly changed.

We wish the planning team for the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Vietnam the very best. We encourage all in the IASE network to make plans NOW to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference.

### **IASE Marg Csapo Scholarship Recipients for 2019**

**By Mary Gale Budzisz**

Five IASE members were awarded the Marg Csapo Scholarship to help with their funding for the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Tanzania. The scholarship provided five nights of lodging and the conference registration fees. The recipients were a wonderfully diverse group. All got to know each other during the Gala Banquet and were awarded certificates at that function.



*Marg Csapo Scholarship Recipients for 2019 with SEKOMU Provost Anneth Munga*

Arman Assanbayev is a PhD candidate of the Graduate School of Education at Nazarbayev University in NurSultan, Kazakhstan. His topic of research is “Practices Promoting Inclusion of Adult Students with Disabilities in Kazakhstan Technical Vocational Education and Training Institutions.” Atman currently works as a teaching/research assistant and peer-reviewer for the Academic Journal at Nazarbayev University. He is also employed as a Rector’s Advisor for promoting inclusion of students with diverse educational needs, volunteers as a consulting editor for the Journal of the International Association of Special Education and is an expert in Action Research Design. He has been the recipient of various scholarships and fellowships and is a published author.



*Arman Assanbayev, Kazakhstan*

Tejal Kothari is a motivated special education coordinator at the SPJ Sadhana School located in Mumbai, India. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a diploma in Special Education. During her 19 years at Sadhana School, she has taught 12-16-year old students with moderate and severe disabilities. In addition to academics, Tejal has acted as a "job coach" to provide her students with various job skills so that they can become independent and thus secure placements in the community. She is a specialist at event management and has curated exhibitions, fashion shows, and fine dining experiences to develop and execute the initiatives that align with Sadhana's vision for her students.



*Tejal Kothari, India*

Daniel Mpolomoka heads the Adult Education Department in the School of Education at the Zambian Open University (ZAOU) located in Lusaka, Zambia which specializes in literacy and adult education. Daniel holds a PhD in Literacy and Development and teaches courses in special education. Currently he is collaborating on the development of a Master's Degree in Special Education, working to initiate an assessment centre and to build a special school to cater for children in the area surrounding the University. Daniel has served as a course coordinator of the ZAOU Transformative Engagement Network, spearheaded the integration of HIV & AIDS in ZAOU

curriculum, and is a fellow of the International Scholar Exchange Program.



*Daniel Mpolomoka, Zambia*

Moses Walusimbi is the founder of Special Children Special People (SCSP) located in Kampala, Uganda which is an NGO that educates, advocates and empowers children with disabilities and their families. He holds a degree in Social Work from Kyambogo University. His passion developed after realizing the abuse and torture of his own cousin Justin who had epilepsy. The belief that epilepsy was contagious created a homebound situation for Justin who was denied education and social interaction with others. Through various programs Moses has developed, his community has come to understand that disability is not a curse nor caused by witchcraft.



*Moses Walusimbi, Uganda*

Jackie Wrafter is from Liverpool, England and has lived her last 19 years in Vietnam. She has two degrees in English Literature, worked in romantic publishing in London, and never had any interest in children or special needs until a visit to a government orphanage in Central Vietnam. She was appalled at the conditions in which children with disabilities were living, so with an English friend she set up the Kianh Foundation to try to improve their lives. In 2012, her dream came true and the Dien Ban Day Centre for the Development of Children with Special Needs became a reality! The centre presently serves 100 children aged 1-18 with a wide range of issues.



*Jackie Wrafter, Vietnam*

**Days for Girls Kits Distributed During the Conference**  
**By Mary Gale Budzisz**

Forty Days for Girls washable feminine hygiene kits were distributed free of cost to interested conference attendees. These simple kits have a tremendous impact on women’s and children’s lives. When girls begin to have their monthly menstrual period, they tend to stop coming to school, stay home, and miss out on many educational days. Some never return to school after this time in their lives. When girls are educated, they can help to feed their families and help to break a cycle of poverty. These hygiene kits

can last 2-4 years and give girls back missed education and opportunities.

IASE Member Karen Nave and members of her church in Harve, Montana stitched the kits out of various materials. Each kit consists of a drawstring bag, shields, pads, panties and an instruction sheet. Directions for creating these can be found online at [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org).



*Ayodele Patience Aborishade from Nigeria received her Days for Girls kit from Sandra Trevethan, IASE member*

## **Empowering Persons with Disability at Irete Rainbow School in Tanzania**

**By Roqayah Ajaj**

I recently attended a conference in Tanzania called the International Association for Special Education (IASE). This conference was held in Lushoto, up in the Usambara mountains. Part of the conference was a tour of different schools for people with disabilities. We visited the Rainbow School for students with autism and intellectual disabilities. I was very impressed when we arrived at the school. Students were waiting outside for us with a welcoming song. They were lined up on either side of the gate, all wearing their uniforms and clapping and singing the school songs. The youngest students were shy, but the older students were very excited to be showing off their skills. One of the teachers was leading them in different songs as we waited for other buses to arrive. I was amazed at how well the students sang, with their different ages and levels of disability. It seemed like they had practiced a lot and that singing was an important part of their lives.

This wasn't the only thing I was impressed by. The students continued to sing as we were led into the cafeteria, where they performed more. Once they finished, the head teacher gave a presentation about the history and goals of the school. The school was founded in 2005 based on the efforts of the parents of kids with disabilities and the Lutheran diocese. The parents were heavily involved in creating the curriculum and what the school should look like. The school motto was painted on the wall in Swahili-*Inuka maana shughuli hii yakuhusu wewe* or in English, *let us arise, for this matter is your responsibility*- Ezra 10:4.

The school was determined to empower persons with disabilities and their families both in school and in the community. They came up with different, creative ideas to get help for everyone, including the neighborhood, volunteers and local people. They sent teachers out to people's homes to train families and their neighbors on how to work with kids with disabilities. I had to pause and think about how

creative they are given their limited resources. If the community knows how to treat a person with disabilities, the student is able to live their best life. The students are provided not only with education, but also vocational training such as taking care of animals, gardening, sewing, carpentry, and other things that are a part of daily life in that area. In addition to training the students, they also provide workshops and therapy for families, in order to smooth transitions into adult life. For example, families of the students meet to talk about their struggles and best practices for helping their children.

The programs of this school illustrate effectiveness of working within one's own culture and educating and training based on best practices. The school uses the most recent research on special education, but tailors the programs to fit into the community and culture of Tanzania.

I would like to invite you to think about special education programs in your own countries. How are you involving your community? How do the programs fit into the culture of your area? Do your students feel wanted, needed, and treasured? Does your community treat people with disabilities as human beings with full rights that need to be supported? The Irete Rainbow School has asked and answered all these questions. Their success is an example of what can happen when you respect the capability of people with disabilities and working within the framework of your culture. More information can be found online. The Irete Rainbow School was featured in a book called *Community Based Education for Students Developmental Disabilities in Tanzania*, found at this website.

[https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-007-7320-2\\_3#Sec7](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-007-7320-2_3#Sec7)

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## IASE General Membership Meeting Minutes Susan Pursch

July 15, 2019

Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University

*Board members present:* Beatrice Adera, Iris Drower, Susan Pursch, Zandile Nkabinde, Mary Gale Budzisz (representing voting member Pavan) and Sandra Trevethan (representing Peng Eng)  
*Extended Board members present:* Brenda Lazarus, Renata Ticha, Kalynn Pistorio.

- The meeting was held as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial IASE Conference.
- The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Beatrice Adera, IASE President.
- The Minutes of the 2017 General Membership Meeting were available for review.
- Iris Drower moved they be approved and Sandra Trevethan provided the second. The minutes were approved.
- The President – Beatrice Adera provided her report. She reported on efforts to expand the scope of social media exposure for IASE. The need for volunteers was reiterated as several of the standing committees do not have chairpersons or committee members. Beatrice introduced the incoming Board President, Zandile Nkabinde. Zandile will assume her responsibilities as of January 1, 2020 and her term will run through December 31, 2021. New Board members were introduced. The Chairperson for the Membership Committee is: Dr. Rachael Gonzales and newsletter editor is Dr. Gulnoza Yakubova

*The new Members-at-large are:*

Manuk Khachatrayan-Aremina  
Dean Hoang Thi Nga- Vietnam  
Dr. Roberta Goldberg- USA

- The new President Elect is Dr. Virginia MacEntee
- The Secretary is Dr. Annie Hughes
- Current President-Elect Zandile addressed the General Members and thanked Iris Drower and

Beatrice Adera for their support and welcomed the challenge of working with everyone in the year to come. She expressed her excitement about being in Africa and mentioned the hard work that IASE has and continues to do in years to come.

- The Treasurer's Report and VSP report were presented by Iris Drower. As of June 20, 2019, IASE has a balance of \$162,568.55

- Giving and VSP Accounts - \$22,546.55
- Scholarship - \$6,000.00
- Operational Budget – \$128, 024.90
- Checking – \$5,997.15

We continue to use options for making payments for IASE offerings (membership, conference, registration, conference tours etc.) through the Chase Bank Services. The new system allows IASE to process all payments through the same bank. At this time, all the necessary documents for filing 2018 tax return have been submitted to ensure that we maintain the 501(c)3 status.

-Currently we have 13 sites in 6 countries. From 2018- July of 2019 we have provided financial supported to our sites totally \$37,376 USD. Our current sites include:

- Prosefam, Barranquilla, Colombia
- Centro Maya Servicio, Guatemala
- Sankalp Centers, Delhi, India
- SPJ Sadhana School, Mumbai, India
- Don Bosco, Cochin, India
- Mwayi Trust Vocational College, Malawi
- The Toa Nafasi Project, Moshi, Tanzania
- Diana Women Empowerment Organization, Tanga, Tanzania
- Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU), Magamba, Tanzania
- Dien Ban Day Centre, Hoi An, Vietnam
- Office of Genetic Counseling and Disabled Children, Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy, Hue Vietnam
- Ho Chi Minh City University of Education, HCMC, Vietnam
- Santa Maria Clinic, HCHM, Vietnam

It was moved by Susan Pursch and seconded by Zandile Nkabinde. There was no discussion.

- Journal Editor Renata Ticha presented her report. It was moved by Iris Drower and second by Sandra.
- Awards were presented for selected authors by Renata and Beatrice.

<b>Author/s:</b>	<b>Title of Presentation:</b>
Ya'u Musa Dantata Ali Tijjani Abdullahi	Service Delivery Options for Students with Physical and Health Impairment in an Inclusive Setting
Hoang Thi Nga Craig D. Goldsberry Rachael A. Gonzales	Making Hope Happen In Vietnam Through The Implementation Of The Basics3 Curriculum Framework
Daramola Martina Onyeka	Empowering People With Disabilities: Parental Involvement
Dickson J. Shekivuli Penina P. Mwanga	Integration Of People With Disabilities In Travel And Tourism Industry: Opportunities And Challenges With Examples From Arumeru District Northern Tanzanian
Elizabeth M. Dalton Susie Gronseth Marcia Lyner- Cleophas Britt Tatman Ferguson Judith Mckenzie	UDL and Inclusive Instructional Design Around the World
Judith McKenzie Jane Kelly	Empowering Teachers Of Children With Severe To Profound Disabilities
Jasmine Pandya Fionika Sanghvi	An Innovative Curriculum In Special Education To Teach Banking, Promoting Life Skills

- At this point the proceedings for the meeting were suspended so the retired President of Tanzania and keynote speaker: Benjamin William Mkapa could make his presentation. Following his presentation,

- the remainder of the General Membership Meeting continued.
- Iris Drower prepared a PowerPoint memorial of IASE Membership who have passed since the last conference – with an emphasis on Marg Csapo – the founder of IASE. The PowerPoint and accompanying music was wonderful and all those present were moved by this tribute to a marvelous woman.
  - Awards for VSP sites, Volunteers and Scholarship awardees will be handed out at our gala dinner.
  - Beatrice Adera informed the attendees that the 2021 Conference will be held in Viet Nam-Ho Chi Minh City. Dean Nga Hoang Thi and Dr. Le Thi Minh Ha were present and handed out Save the Date Fliers for this upcoming conference A PowerPoint presentation introducing the 2021 Conference and encouraging people to plan now to attend will be posted on our IASE website.
  - Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Zandile Nkabinde and second by Iris Drower. The meeting was adjourned.
  - Minutes provided by Susan Pursch IASE Board Secretary, Conference Liaison

## Renew and Join IASE Today!



To join IASE, contact Rachael Gonzales, email: [rgonzales@csus.edu](mailto:rgonzales@csus.edu)

Please print information clearly:

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State / Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: Regular \$US 50 \_\_\_\_\_ Regular/Sponsor \$US 70 \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership \$US 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Developing Country \$US 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \$US 70 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Marg Csapo Scholarship \$US \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$US \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Information: \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized.net (Please follow link on the website @[www.iase.org](http://www.iase.org))

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque (Payable to IASE, US funds)

Please send your membership form to:

Mail: IASE Treasurer, PO Box 2159, Mesa, AZ 85214, USA E-mail : [irisdoug@cox.net](mailto:irisdoug@cox.net)

**IASE operates on a rolling membership year; you will be invited to renew your membership one year after joining. All other membership inquiries contact: [iasemembership@gmail.com](mailto:iasemembership@gmail.com)**