

Annuntiatus

International Association of Special Education

The 14th Biennial Conference in Wroclaw, Poland, June 21-25, 2015

President's Message

By Iris Drower

With the beginning of the new year, it's time for the International Association of Special Education (IASE) officers, extended board members and membership to reflect upon the changing landscape and face of our organization, and the impact these changes may have on current and future practices around the globe. Our primary aim is to improve the quality of life and service delivery for all individuals with special needs. IASE now represents members in over 50 countries who serve children and young adults with disabilities. A majority of our members are now from developing economies.

As one of our initiatives in 2015, we are preparing to empower future generations by offering quality, relevant and educational opportunities to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I am proud to state that this has taken place this year through our National Chair program, with support from Dr. Shamani-Jeffrey Shikwambi, our National Chair Program Coordinator. Our first National Chair Regional Workshop was held on January 19-22, 2015, in Tanzania. Mrs. Swaleha Mohamedali and Mrs. Enice Tondi used the 'train-the-trainer' approach toward making a difference for individuals with special needs in their country. This workshop will serve as a model toward developing effective learning communities around special needs issues.

Our Biennial Conference continues to provide educators, professors, administrators, students, parents and community members with the opportunity to learn about the latest research, emerging knowledge and services, and brings everyone together to share and network with colleagues from around the world. We hope to meet at our Biennial Conference, in Wroclaw, Poland, from June 21-25, 2015. **I wish to invite you to attend the General Membership Meeting scheduled for 8:00AM on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015.** This event provides an opportunity for networking with other professionals and meeting IASE leadership team. We have over 45 countries represented at this exciting event. Please consider inviting your colleagues to join you as a new or renewing IASE member at the 2015 conference.

A second initiative now and beyond 2015 is to deepen our youth focus, membership involvement and sustainable solutions to maintain the quality and caliber of IASE. We are making great strides with our Volunteer Service Projects (VSP). Our coordinators of twenty sites have shown what can be done to reach our aim. This has been done by giving responsibility to the local people within each site. IASE has budgeted funds to ensure the development and sustainability of two of our signature VSP sites, Mzuzu University and the Mwayi Trust, both located in Malawi.

We hope you have taken advantage of IASE member benefits, including the Journal of the International Association of Special Education (JIASE) featuring peer-reviewed articles by leading experts in the field as well as our quarterly Annuntiatus newsletter. We have numerous volunteer opportunities at our sites, on committees, and leadership opportunities as well. There is a huge potential to sustain our growth, build and activate our members as we search for viable solutions for the quality of education for all. So act now by renewing your membership today and get involved by going to our website at <http://www.iase.org/>. We will be thirty years old in 2015, so there is much to celebrate!

The Conference is Coming!

By Jim Chapple

As I write my newsletter article, I realize that the 14th Biennial Conference is only 141 days away and by the time you read this, it will be even closer! I am in Wroclaw, working with my conference co-chairs, Gosia and Agnes, finalizing the remaining conference details. We know it will be an exciting time in a beautiful country, with amazing people, great facilities, and an opportunity to network with professionals from all over the world.



Reflections in Wroclaw, Poland

One very important reminder is that each of the hotels being used for the conference has a different cut off deadline for making a reservation at the conference rate! Be sure to make accommodations reservations EARLY!! Also, the sightseeing tours before and after the conference are advertised on the IASE website have a minimum number of participants to make them happen. Register early for those events too!

I would like to highlight some of our outstanding keynote speakers as well as a new conference feature this year of "invited showcase sessions." Our first plenary session keynote speaker will be Professor Boguslaw Sliwerski, a noted expert in the field of education and the current minister of education for Poland. Our second plenary speaker will be Susan A. Conners, a member of the National Tourette Association. She is the author of "The Tourette Syndrome/OCD Checklist: A Practical Resource for Parents and Educators." Our closing plenary session will be done by Kevin Spencer. Kevin has been conducting some amazing research on "arts-integrated" approach to impact cognitive and social skills development of children with ADHD and Autism. I know you will not want to miss any of these keynote speakers!

The conference will include "invited showcase sessions" on topics of particular relevance to the conference theme. The first is titled "Effective Sex Education Can Prevent Sexual Abuse of People with Disabilities." This panel discussion will feature Swaleha Mohamendali, Tanzania; Hazel Chang, Hong Kong; Roni Chavez, Vietnam; and Ambumulire Phiri, Malawi.

The second will be a panel presentation titled "Leadership: The Key to Effective Inclusionary Practices" and will feature Alice Farling, Emily Collins, Mark Francis, Mary Kealy, and Nick Burnett. The third will be "Collaboration in Planning and Teaching to Facilitate Inclusion" by Richard Villa and Jacque Thousand, and the fourth "A Consultative Model for Providing Technical Assistance to School Personnel in Service to Children with Autism" by John Wheeler and Stacy Carter. I think these showcase sessions will offer a new dimension to our conference.

There will be plenty of breakout sessions as well as round table discussions, presentations, and poster sessions. Topics range across the spectrum of persons with disabilities and I am sure there will be something for everyone! This year we are dedicating one room to all of the Volunteer Service Project presentations. There will be displays and items for sale from some of the service project areas. You will not want to miss this room!

A gentle reminder to each conference participant to bring items from your country for the silent and live auctions to be held during the conference. The silent auctions will take place daily where you can stop by, peruse the items, and write down your bid. At the end of each day, the highest bidder will win that item. The live auction will be held during the Gala event on Tuesday evening. Items can be anything that you want to share with people from around the world. There will be information in your conference materials on where to drop off items for the auctions. All of the proceeds from the auctions support the Marg Csapo Scholarship fund. Sal Zimmerman is in charge of the Silent and Live auctions and you can contact him for additional details at szimmerman5@schools.nyc.gov.

You won't want to miss the Children's Art Exhibit hosted and set up by Kathy Brown and Clarissa Rosas. If you have children's art to exhibit, please contact them so they can share with you the details and make arrangements to have your country's children's art on display. They can be contacted via email at Kathy Brown (k-brown5@neliu.edu) and Clarissa Rosas (clarissa_rosas@mail.msjs.edu).

Agnes and Gosia Sekulowicz and I are exploring additional activities for conference participants to enjoy. Yesterday we visited the Panorama Raclawicka, the only preserved Polish panoramic painting and one of the few in the world. It was created to commemorate the centenary of the Kosciuszko Uprising. It depicts a battle fought in Raclawice between Polish insurgent army and two columns of Russian forces sent to suppress the revolt of April 4, 1794. Hidden away during WW II in a Bernardine monastery, the panorama was moved to a rotunda of the Panorama Raclawicka in Slowacki Park. This is a must see while you are in Wroclaw.

The local arrangements committee is busy securing items for your conference bags!! We hope to have maps, guide books, and other items to assist you while you are in the city. There is so much to do here and such friendly people, that I know you will all enjoy your time at the 14th Biennial Conference. Make plans to attend! The website is full of information on how to register, additional sightseeing opportunities, and other items.

One final thought – attending an IASE conference is a memorable event where you will hear amazing presentations, be able to network and make many new friends from around the world. To enhance your experience even more, you might consider volunteering to help out at one of the events! The old adage of "many hands make light work" certainly is true at a conference such as this one, so please let me know if you would like to help on a committee! You will not regret the experience! Contact me at chappjw@aol.com or my mobile number 440-225-1547. See you in just a little while in Wroclaw, Poland!

Deadline Extended for Sightseeing Trips

It is NOT too late to sign up for any of the sightseeing trips advertised on the IASE website. Wroclaw Travel has extended the deadline to March 20th for any of the multiple day trips, and to April 20th for one day trips. All trips must be paid for in advance using the form on the IASE website. These are trips before or after the conference and a wonderful way to see some of the great cities and attractions.

First National Chair Workshop

By Maryam Mohamedali

The IASE National Chair Program was created with a vision that one of the roles of a National Chair is to communicate information about inclusive and special education events and projects in his or her nation. With the support and guidance of IASE National Chair Program Coordinator, Shamani-Jeffery Shikwambi, the first National Chair Workshop has been convened in Arusha, Tanzania. It was conducted on January 19-22, 2015, at Meru Primary School with permission from Headmaster Musa Ibrahim.

Tanzania IASE National Chair, Swaleha Mohamedali, felt that educators in her country needed to understand the importance of social skill training for students who are ready to go into their communities for job training. She organized and coordinated a workshop entitled "The Role of Social Skills for Employment Opportunities and Social Inclusion" with help from Eunice Tondi, SEN Representative at the Arusha City Council and acting Secretary to Ms. Mohamedali. Special Education officers from 16 regions in Tanzania, teachers, non-profit directors from Toa Nafasi, Ithemba Foundation, and Diana Women Empowerment Group, plus international volunteers were in attendance. Iris Drower, IASE President, and Mary Gale Budzisz, IASE Volunteer Service Project, helped to facilitate the workshop.

Topics addressed during the workshop ranged from "Identification and Assessment of Social Skills", "How to Teach Social Skills to Young Adults with Disabilities", "Employment Training and Opportunities", to "The Process of Teaching a Complex Skill by Breaking it down into Manageable Steps/Task Analysis." In conjunction with theory, the participants also learned songs, art and crafts, acting, role playing and hands-on-activities to use in the classrooms. At the culmination of the workshop, each participant had to create an Action Plan that they could implement in their own region. These plans will be monitored and a final document with data will be compiled to share across Tanzania.

Swaleha Mohamedali moved into action and the Tanzania Association of Special Education (TASE) was developed. Elected to leadership were: Michael Pima from Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU) in Lushoto as Chairperson, Peter Ngatunga from the City Council of Singida as Vice-Chairperson, and Salome Cherehani from the Municipal Office of the Geita Region in Mwanza as the Secretary. Ms. Mohamedali will serve as the Coordinator.



The officers of the newly formed Tanzania Association of Special Education from left; Swaleha Mohamedali, Michael Pima, Peter Ngatunga, and Salome Cherehani

The closing ceremony was complete with a local band provided by Farida Khakoo. Special guests were Mr. Albert Nestory, Arusha City Council Regional Education Officer, Mr. Muslim Remtula, President of the Board of Directors at Jaffery Academy, and Mr. Hudson, Manager of McMoody's Restaurant. Ms. Mohamedali spoke about the need to continue workshops to enable Tanzania's educational leaders to come together and collaborate on effective strategies to meet the needs of young adults with disabilities. She encouraged the participants to take what they learned and share it with colleagues, parents and fellow educators in their own communities. Certificates were presented to all participants and a bit of dancing finished off a wonderful workshop.

SANKALP

By Anupriya Chadha

Since its inception in 2006, Sankalp Society has evolved and transformed itself to respond to the changing needs of children from disadvantaged groups in India. Sankalp believes every child has a right to good education. Sankalp's main purpose is to help empower girls by providing them stimulating, gender sensitive, and non-discriminatory environments in which to learn. The Sankalp Society has taken the initiative to empower girls through vocational training with the objectives of increasing enrollment of girls in rural schools in India; reducing their drop-out rates; helping them to complete elementary education; building awareness in the community about the need and importance of educating girls; and enhancing community school linkages by involving the community in the sustainability of vocational training.

To help implement vocational training of girls, the IASE GIVING Fund has purchased 16 sewing machines for two schools in New Delhi, India. Community members have offered their support for the maintenance of the machines. Vocational instructors are teaching sewing as part of their curriculum.



Girls participating in sewing classes in New Delhi, India

The following responses from the girls about this vocational project reflect the impact of the gifts on their lives:

We will stitch clothes at home now, instead of buying them from the open market. Himani, Grade 8.

I will now stitch new clothes for my doll and other toys. Shimran, Grade 6.

My father has expired. If I learn to sew, then I can contribute some money for my household. Pooja, Grade 8.

My father is a labourer. I can learn to sew and earn money from which I can buy some books and improve my learning. Ruksaar, Grade 9.

Treasurer's Report

By Steve Leitz

As of December 31, 2014, IASE had expended \$15,352 of its 2014 General Fund Budget of \$34,800 or 44%. Additionally, \$27,371 of a budgeted amount of \$30,600 (89%) has been expended from the GIVING and VSP dedicated accounts.

Account balances as of 12/31/14 were as follows:

- VSP Dedicated Account = \$644
- GIVING Dedicated Account = \$2,585
- Marg Csapo Scholarship Dedicated Account = \$9,152
- General Fund Savings & Checking = \$234,522

Total IASE Accounts' balance = \$246,903

The IASE Board of Directors has approved the following budget for 2015:

- General Fund Budget - \$27,205
 - Volunteer Service Project Budget (VSP + GIVING) - \$51,050
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IASE Seeks Proposals for the 2019 Conference Site

IASE, with membership in 50 countries, is seeking proposals for the 2019 Conference site. We welcome proposals for a venue site that meet the requirements listed below.

1. Be located in a city with an international airport.
2. Provide adequate meeting space: (a) 12-15 meeting rooms that would accommodate 25-35 persons, (b) a large meeting space (to accommodate 400 people) for general plenary sessions, and (c) space for registration, exhibits, and poster sessions.
3. Provide needed equipment (e.g., overheads, and/or LCD projectors, screens, lap tops, easels).
4. Have food services available at/near the venue site.
5. Be situated in a reasonably close proximity to hotels.
6. Promote the conference in the region/country.
7. Be willing to provide guidance to the IASE Planning Committee about tours, school visits, venue for Gala Dinner, and more.
8. Be able to designate a minimum of 5-6 people to serve on a Local Planning Committee to work with the IASE Planning Committee on conference needs (e.g., printing a program).
9. Be able and willing to accept registrations from own country. This would include accepting the registrations and funds, and maintaining appropriate records for accounting purposes.
10. Have available low cost sleeping rooms (e.g., dorms) for individuals who seek/prefer to stay on the university campus.

If you are interested in hosting the 2019 IASE Conference, please submit a proposal to IASE utilizing the information above. Please send your proposal to Dr. Iris Drower, IASE President, P.O. Box 2159, Mesa, Arizona, 85214, USA, or email it to: iris.drower@asu.edu.

Ballot for IASE Slate of Officers 2016-2017

YES___ NO___ President-Elect Swaleha Mohamedali, TANZANIA

YES___ NO___ Treasurer Steve Leitz, USA

YES___ NO___ Secretary Beatrice Adera, USA

YES___ NO___ Member at Large Ambumulire Phiri, MALAWI

YES___ NO___ Member at Large Dianne Chambers, AUSTRALIA

YES___ NO___ Member at Large Sharon Chavez, VIETNAM

The completed ballot must be postal mailed to Dr. Paula Leitz, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to: 8220 67th St. Ct. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA. 98335. All ballots must be received by May 1, 2015.

Applications Invited for Journal Editor

Applications are invited for the post of Editor for the *Journal of the International Association of Special Education (JIASE)*. The Journal of the International Association of Special Education (JIASE) is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes research and PRAXIS articles pertaining to the education of exceptional children from around the world. The PRAXIS section of the journal is intended for the dissemination of practical strategies that readers can immediately implement in their classrooms/schools. The new editor will take on the editorship in June of 2015.

To submit your application or for further details, please contact Dr. Iris Drower at iris.drower@asu.edu. Applications must include a letter of interest, specifically referring to why you believe you are particularly qualified for the role of Editor and how you see your role in the future development and direction of the journal. A CV must also be submitted. Submit applications by March 5, 2015.

Applications Invited for Website Administrator

IASE is looking for a member to fill the position of website administrator. If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest including your background and skill set. Email the letter to Iris Drower at iris.drower@asu.edu or post to PO Box 2159, Mesa, AZ 85214 AND to Steve Leitz at stevenleitz@gmail.com or post to 8220 67th St. Ct. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

Renáta Tichá
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Renew Your IASE Membership

Please print information clearly:

Name: Last _____ First _____

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 _____ Cheque (Payable to IASE, US funds)

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name of Cardholder (print): _____ Date: _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

By Mail: IASE Treasurer

Steve Leitz
8220 67th St. Ct. N.W.
Gig Harbor, WA 98335, USA

By Email: stevenleitz@gmail.com

If you have special needs that require the journal or newsletter to be sent to you electronically, please note that here.
IASE membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.