

This is a virtual side-event to the *Global Disability Summit 2022*



Joining Forces on Inclusive Employment – Global Best Practice

Background

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) together with the governments of Norway and Ghana will host the second Global Disability Summit (GDS22) on February 16th and 17th 2022. The mostly virtual Summit will mobilize efforts for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). One of the major themes for the GDS22 is Inclusive Employment and Livelihoods.

At the last Global Disability Summit (DGS18) in 2018 Emeric Jeanjean, a self-advocate with Down Syndrome International presented a powerful statement for inclusive employment representing advocates from 27 countries. You can listen to and read his statement here: <https://www.ds-int.org/blog/statement-at-global-disability-summit>. Emeric began with: “We want you to know that we are ready to work.” and ended with “We just need an opportunity.”

This side-event brings together successful local employment initiatives from around the world to create opportunities to, as Emeric states: “Let us help our countries succeed.”

Objectives

- 1) Learning from successful inclusive employment projects from around the world.
- 2) Facilitating a conversation on developing inclusive employment opportunities.
- 3) Creating networking opportunities for collaboration.

Event Format

The event is hosted by **YAI Network** and co-hosted by the following organizations:

- ✚ **Ministry of Education Turks and Caicos**
- ✚ **Caribbean Disability Leaders**
- ✚ **Manzil, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**
- ✚ **Inclusion International**
- ✚ **World Vision**
- ✚ **Project Inclusion Network**

The event is also sponsored by **Down Syndrome International**.

The side event will be held online on Zoom as a panel discussion. It will have a duration of 1 hour and 15 minutes and will include panellists' presentations and an interactive debate with the audience. The sessions will be held in English. Live captioning will be available through Zoom platform settings.

**The event will be held on
February 17th 2022
from
1pm – 2:15pm
Central European Time (CET)
Please adjust to your time zone**

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYld-CtqDIvGtJvtv4KBK8GEHuFYm6xBupt>

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Speakers

Opening Remarks:

George Contos, Chief Executive Office, YAI Network

Moderator:

Johanna Berglein, Manager of International Affairs, YAI Network

Panellists:

Jasmin Walkin, Education Officer for Special Needs, Ministry of Education Turks and Caicos
Presenting: Paving the road from inclusive education policy to inclusive employment in the development context.

Edward Winter, Senior Technical Advisor for Social Inclusion, World Vision, Guatemala
Presenting: Inclusive employment within an informal economy, emphasizing the twin-track-approach.

Dr. Ayesha Saeed Husaini, Founder/Director, Manzil Center for People with Disabilities, UAE
Presenting: Awarded corporate responsibility inclusion program – ready for scale.

Bonnie Holtzman, Director Employment Services, YAI Network, New York, United States
Presenting: Addressing barriers to employment for people with intellectual disabilities.

Jim Nemeño, Operations Manager, Project Inclusion, Philippines
Presenting: Creating inclusive and barrier-free workplaces through employment resource groups.

Kimber Bialik, Project Manager, Inclusion International, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, and Bangladesh
Presenting: CRPD compliance in employment programming.

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Speakers Biography



Kimber Bialik, Project Manager, Inclusion International

Kimber Bialik is the Project Manager at Inclusion International, where she supports the design and development of new projects and programmes and supports member organizations in the Global South. She also manages the Inclusion Works project, an inclusive employment project that aims to connect people with disabilities in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, and Bangladesh with jobs in inclusive workplaces.



Bonnie Holtzman, Director of Employment Services, YAI Network

Bonnie Holtzman is an experienced senior executive with a proven track record of building and leading employment services. With a Bachelor of Science, she has been working in employment and career development for twenty-three years. At YAI, a network of agencies offering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities a comprehensive range of services across the lifespan, she manages employment services that support 200 people in the New York City metropolitan area. Prior, Bonnie worked as Director of Career Development with The Doe Fund where she supported people without housing and formerly incarcerated people. Bonnie has dedicated her career to supporting vulnerable people and fostering inclusion within her community and beyond.

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Dr. Ayesha Saeed Husaini, Founder Director, Manzil

Dr. Ayesha Saeed Husaini is the Founder Director of Manzil, the first organisation outside of the UK to receive the Disability Confident Leader certification. This has enabled the Center to work with not only many schools to facilitate educational inclusion, but also about 200 corporates to promote workplace inclusion. Her PhD in Education from the University of Sheffield was on ‘Inclusion in the UAE’, which gave her the opportunity to not only contribute to shaping Government policy, but also have a lasting impact on peoples’ lives. She secured the top rank in Delhi University for her BA Psychology Hons Thesis and her Masters in Social Work. She has a Post Graduate Diploma in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management. She has also been conferred the prestigious Doctor of Letters Honorary Degree from University of Sheffield, UK. Dr. Husaini has been an educational psychologist, counsellor and lecturer during her 20 years in Dubai. Dr. Husaini has been a keynote speaker at many conferences, published articles & facilitated a wide range of training workshops. Her popular TV show ‘Ask Ayesha’ & Live Radio Q&A sessions aired for a few years. She is the winner of several special education, social impact and business awards.



Jim Nemeño, Operations Manager, Project Inclusion

Jim is an experienced program manager, and social entrepreneur with experience in implementing economic empowerment initiatives working with marginalized, and underrepresented communities, and collaborating with diverse sectors of society. He also facilitates learning related to career preparation, disability inclusion and diversity, and disaster risk reduction and management. He leads Project Inclusion, a nonprofit organization working with a community of 3,000+ Persons with Disability to improve their access to education, employment, and community participation. Project Inclusion is the secretariat of the Philippine Business and Disability, the pioneering network by-and-for businesses in the Philippines that promotes sharing, learning, and collaboration towards more disability-inclusive workplaces and communities. Through his work, Jim hopes to contribute to a world where everyone has an opportunity to succeed, in their own time, and on their own terms.

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Jasmin Walkin, Education Officer for Special Needs, Ministry of Education Turks and Caicos

Mr. Jasmin Walkin, born Cerebral Palsy; is a Special Education Administrator from the Turks & Caicos Islands. He works as the Special Needs Education Officer his country's Ministry of Education, Labour, & Employment. Mr.

Walkin who has a Master's degree in Education, is a published author, a professional consultant, and is proud to be a member of the Caribbean Disability Leaders; the organization he is representing at this event.



Edward Winter, Senior Technical Advisor for Social Inclusion, World Vision

Edward is a co-chair of the Disability Inclusion Leadership team within the World Vision partnership that covers nearly 100 countries. He designed and

then conducted an assessment of the USAID-funded Puentes Project in Guatemala. He started his career teaching in Nigeria, England, and Eritrea before shifting to development work in 1998. You can find more about World Vision's work on disability inclusion [here](#).