Concept Note-

High-Level Regional Disability Summit in Asia

*“Sustainable and Inclusive Employment of Persons with Disabilities after COVID19”*

## Background information

For persons with disabilities to reach full inclusion in society, and stop the recurring cycle of disability and poverty, they need to have access to livelihoods and the labour market. Oftentimes, employers have a bias that persons with disabilities do not have the necessary skills to be a productive part of the workforce, and hence refrain from hiring them.

Such stigma, combined with a presence of physical and attitudinal barriers, a lack of training and education, results in persons with disabilities having a lower employment rate and lower wages than persons with disabilities.

Of the 15% of the world population of persons with disabilities around 690 million are living in Asia and the Pacific and are routinely excluded from participation in social and economic activities. The United Nation ESCAP Report *Disability at a Glance 2021: The Shaping of Disability-Inclusive Employment in Asia and the Pacific)*, highlights how in all but one of the 18 Asia-Pacific countries with disability-disaggregated data in ILOSTAT, including 15 countries in special situations, persons with disabilities had lower employment to population ratios that persons with disabilities.

Moreover, COVID19 has exacerbated the situation of persons with disabilities, worsening the already existing inequalities, especially considering plummeting employment rates. Nevertheless, the current situation should be used as an opportunity to improve employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Most of all, it is possible to improve the quality of life of individuals through productive participation of persons with disabilities, maximizing the use of human resources that can contribute to expanding the gross national product, it also can promote awareness of inclusive society and the societal burden can ease the employment through the rate of the advent of persons with disabilities due to aging population.

COVID 19 highlighted the need to act with urgency to safeguard the livelihood of persons with disabilities. It also showcased how the national government should systematically review policies and systems to change the culture around employing persons with disabilities and to promote employment opportunities for them. The shortcoming brought to light by COVID-19 should lead to systematic change, and not temporary measures for the lives of persons with disabilities, leading to inclusive policies and real change in the livelihood of persons with disabilities.

## Introduction of DPI Korea

Disabled Peoples International Korea (DPI Korea) is a member of Disabled Peoples International as representative of the Human Rights Organization of Persons with disabilities in Korea to establish to promote human rights of persons with disabilities through full participation, equalization of opportunity, and development. It focuses on full participation and equality of opportunity to fulfill on development of policies and education of human rights of persons with disabilities to progress ideology and improve awareness throughout the country.

The Korean DPO and NGO Coalition for UNCRPD Parallel Report (hereafter, Coalition) was launched in 2017, under the common understanding that a comprehensive parallel report by disabled person organizations (DPO) and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was needed in preparation of the constructive dialogue on the country report and priority to establish ratification in the Republic of Korea.

Especially, the Government of the ESCAP region gathered in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012 to chart the course of the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities from 2013 to 2022. They were joined by representatives of civil society organizations, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities. Also in attendance were representatives of an intergovernmental organization, development cooperation agencies, and the United Nations System. The Incheon Strategy provides the Asian and Pacific region and the world, with the first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals. Developed over more than two years of consultations with governments and civil society stockholders, the Incheon Strategy comprises 10 goals, 27 targets, and 62 indicators.

## High-Level Regional Disability Summit in Asia

Article 27 of the UN Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others: this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labor market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. But persons with disabilities are still excluded from the environment of employment and now it’s a time to reverse to promote opportunity from work and employment and understanding to change the environment.

Therefore, the objective of the High-Level Regional Disability Summit in Asia is to share the policy and employment of Persons with Disabilities. The Regional Summit aims to provide a forum for discussion, the outcomes of which should showcase opportunities and challenges to inclusive employment, hopefully paving the road to reduce employment gaps and overall stigma around the employment of persons with disabilities.

## Theme

The themes of the High-level Regional Disability Summit in Asia will be “The COVID-19 Pandemic and Employment of Persons with Disabilities: Investigating the impact on inclusive employment and livelihood in the Asian Region”. The detailed agenda will be discussed as follows:

1. Inclusive Employment of Persons with Disabilities legislation framework
2. Equality of Employment and Discrimination Act
3. Positive Status of the Employment quota system and improvement Efficiency
4. Participation and Agreement from Employer
5. Duty Development and Training Workers of Persons with Disabilities
6. Reasonable to provide a Convenience and Productive Plan to improve the environment of employment for Persons with Disabilities.

## Main Objective of Regional Disability Summit in Asia

- Inclusive Employment of legislation framework of persons with disabilities is used to remove and revise laws for the elimination of discrimination mechanisms based on social human rights throughout the inclusive environment.

- It is necessary to improve awareness and to minimize the negative factors such as prejudice and stereotype against persons with disabilities through the institutionalization of employment equality and employment discrimination between persons with disabilities and persons with non-disabilities.

- The system of poverty alleviation through mandatory employment for persons with disabilities to measure the improvement of quantification and efficiency of employment for persons with disabilities to implement positive status of employment quota system.

- The participation and agreement from the employer to improve the effectiveness of the employment quota system for the persons with disabilities and to provide a supporting plan from the employer as they participate voluntarily with the employment plan.

- Providing inclusive employment of environment for persons with disabilities by encouraging adaptation to new duty jobs and promoting stability in employment through financial support to provide job service, training, and development of duty jobs for workers for persons with disabilities.

- The rational convenience for improving physical accessibility of the labor environment is not only to measure labor environment but also to improve the transportation environment for persons with disabilities and to enable information access, thereby integrating process for the type of disability and access to the employment environment of the women with disabilities.

## Aim of the Regional Disability Summit in Asia

-**To explore solutions to reduce the employment gap for Persons with Disabilities in the Asian Region**

Traditionally Numbers of Persons with Disabilities in the Asia Region are excluded in the unstainable labor market because of unemployment. Therefore, this regional summit will promote quality of labor and productivity of employment for persons with disabilities to strengthen inclusive disabilities.

**- To explore solutions to alleviate poverty for Persons with Disabilities in Asia**

For Asia to come up and share an International Agreement and plan for development on the inclusion of persons with disabilities such as the UN Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and reflect on a decade of Incheon Strategy Goal to provide opportunity on implementation to institutionalization on employment of persons with disabilities.

## Date of the high-level Regional Disability Summit in Asia

16th February 2022, 4:00 pm ~7:00 pm in Korea Standard Time, 08:00 am~11:00am (CET)

## Co-partners

* ASEAN Disability Forum
* International Disability Alliance
* Korea International Cooperation Agency
* Korea Employment Agency for Persons with disabilities
* Lee Jong Seong, Member of Parliament from People Power Party, Republic of Korea
* Kim Yea Ji, Member of Parliament from People Power Party, Republic of Korea
* Choi Hae Yeong, Member of Parliament from Democratic Party of Republic of Korea

## Target Audience

* Asia Countries delegation around the world
* UN agencies and UN country teams active in the region
* National governments in the region and key provider organizations
* Organisation of Person with disabilities in Asia and Pacific Countries

## Online platform and accessibility

Zoom platform

International Sign interpretation will be provided

Interpretation in English and Korean will be provided

## Tentative Agenda

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Wednesday, 16th February 2022 16:00 pm ~19:00pm\_Korean Standard Time | |
| 16:00~16:15 | Host: Ms. Eun Jung Kim (Project Staff of Disabled Peoples International Korea)  Welcoming and Opening Remarks   * President of Korea International Cooperation Agency * President of Korea Employment Agency for Persons with Disabilities * President of Disabled Peoples International Korea * Executive Director of International Disability Alliance * Lee Jong Seong, Member of Parliament from People Power Party, * Kim Yea Ji, Member of Parliament from People Power Party   Introduction of Regional Disability Summit Objectives and Agendas   * Mr. Kim Dong Ho   (Chairman of Policy of Korea Differently Abled Federation/Republic of Korea) |
| 16:20~17:00 | Items 1: The State of employment of persons with disabilities  Expert Presentations   * Ms. Cai Cai, Chief Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section   Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asian and the Pacific  “Disability at a Glance 2021: The Shaping of Disability- Inclusive Employment in Asian and the Pacific”   * Ms. Joni Simpson, Senior Specialist in Gender, Equality and Non-Discrimination, ILO   “Status in Employment of Persons with Disabilities in Asian Countries” |
| 17:10~18:30 | Items 2: Disability-Inclusive Employment to Asian Countries  Expert Presentations   * Roy K. Chen Professor, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley   Co-Presenter: Mr. Mozadded Hossen (Doctoral Students)  HeeKyung Lee PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Texas at El Paso, USA  Cahit Kaya, PhD, Associate Professor, Giresun University, Turkey  “Sustainable and Inclusive Employment of Persons with Disabilities after the COVID19 Pandemic”  (Taiwan, Bangladesh, the United States, and Turkey) –Panel Discussion   * Iftekhar Mahmoud Bangladesh Society for the Change and Advocacy Nexus B-Scan   “Tools for Meaningful Engagement in Bangladesh”   * Ms. Yeo Swee Lan, Certified Senior Job Coach Trainer the Job Coach Network Malaysia   “Job Coaching for Persons with Disabilities: The Malaysian Experience”   * Mr. Nam Young Hyeon Former Director of Employment Promotion from Korea Employment Agency for Persons with Disabilities   “Status and Social problems for employment for Persons with Disabilities in Korea” |
| 18:30~18:50 | * Panel Discussion and Q&A Session |
| 18:50~19:00 | Items 3: Closing Outcome of the Summit   * Mr. Lee Yong Seok (Policy Director from DPI Korea) |