



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Foundation of  
Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability  
under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness  
Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (APCD Foundation)



All activities implemented with



United Nations Convention  
on the Rights of Persons  
with Disabilities (UNCRPD)



United Nations Sustainable  
Development Goals (SDGs)



Jakarta Declaration  
on the Asian and Pacific  
Decade of Persons with Disabilities,  
2023-2032

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# **APCD ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

**The Foundation of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability  
under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness  
Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn  
(APCD Foundation)**



APCD Foundation



**Dr. Tej Bunnag**

## Foreword

In 2023, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation) intensified efforts in international training programs aimed at empowering persons with disabilities. These initiatives involved expanding collaboration with disability organizations, commonly referred to as “Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs)”, across the region. The APCD Foundation strengthened its partnerships with networks to further advance disability development initiatives. These efforts were supported by government bodies, including the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, as well as international partners such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Foundation, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and various UN agencies. Additionally, the APCD Foundation actively engaged with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions to promote capacity-building, empower persons with disabilities, and enhance social inclusion.

A notable achievement of the APCD Foundation is its vocational training programs, especially the APCD 60+ Plus program. These initiatives effectively promote entrepreneurship and create job opportunities for persons with disabilities in Thailand. A significant example is the APCD 60+ Plus bakery and chocolate shop, which serves as a Disability-Inclusion Business (DIB) model. This thriving organization is not only staffed by people with disabilities but also run and managed by people with disabilities, demonstrating their entrepreneurial spirit. These programs have received widespread support from both Thai society and the international community, enabling people with disabilities to become both skilled employees and entrepreneurs.

The APCD Foundation remains steadfast in implementing the principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2023-2032). The Foundation also strives to turn government policies into tangible outcomes that enhance the quality of life and economic opportunities for persons with disabilities throughout the region. Its work focuses on four key areas: Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID), Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB), Disability-Inclusive Sport (DIS), and Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR). The Foundation’s Disability Equality Training (DET) program has garnered significant interest from persons with disabilities and DPOs.

Looking ahead, the APCD Foundation aims to broaden disability development initiatives. Our goals include fostering Disability-Inclusive Culture and Arts, raising public awareness of disability issues, improving employment opportunities, expanding vocational training, and enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities. We plan to implement these ideas both locally and internationally, drawing on the APCD Foundation’s wealth of experience, knowledge, and successful good practices. The APCD Foundation stands ready to collaborate with persons with disabilities and disability organizations. Together, we strive to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in all the countries we serve.

The APCD Foundation expresses deep gratitude to partner organizations for our unwavering support and collaboration in advancing disability empowerment activities throughout the region. In we shared mission to leave no one behind, we stand ready to work with all countries, upholding the rights of persons with disabilities and encouraging every nation to implement the action plans outlined in our collective vision.

**Dr. Tej Bunnag**  
President of the APCD Foundation  
under the patronage of  
Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.



United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



**Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade  
of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032**

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) is a regional center on disability and development in Asia and the Pacific. APCD was established in Bangkok by Thai cabinet resolution on 31st July 2001 as a legacy of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, with the joint collaboration of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), the Royal Thai Government, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan.

APCD was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) as a regional cooperative base for Biwako Millennium Framework for an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific, 2003-2012. ESCAP also identified APCD as the regional center on disability and development for the Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real, 2013-2022.

APCD is currently managed by the Foundation of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation) which was implemented under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn since 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The cabinet also approved APCD to be under supervision of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

During the past 22 years, APCD trained more than 7,000 persons with disabilities and stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region through different training courses. Furthermore, APCD has strongly committed to cooperate with more than 30 countries for the organizing of disability and development programs and activities.

## **MISSION**

To build the capacities of persons with disabilities and Disabled People Organizations (DPOs) as 'Agents of change' especially focusing on Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) and Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB)

## **VISION**

An Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for persons with disabilities through the empowerment of persons with disabilities and disabled people's organizations (DPOs) in the Asia-Pacific region.

APCD commits to promote United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **MAIN ACTIVITIES**

### **Capacity Building and Training**

Training and capacity building activities for persons with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and staff who are working with persons with disabilities is our main mission. We believe that persons with disabilities and relevant persons who were trained through the program of capacity development will be ‘Agent of Change’ in their community and society. Meanwhile, the effective trainings will empower persons with disabilities and stakeholders to have knowledge, skills, and positive attitude towards disability and community development.

### **Networking**

Networking and collaborations is a significant mission of APCD. We believe that the key success factor to move disability and development programs is to create a win-win situation and to share resource among each other. APCD is the Secretariat of various networks in the region. It strengthens sustainable networking towards the future.

### **Information, Knowledge Management and Publications**

Information Knowledge Management and Publications is one of our missions to ensure effective communication, codifying knowledge and experiences to share expertise through various channels, especially social media.

## **Disability-Inclusive Business**

APCD also promotes Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB) as a strategy in the sustainable development of quality of life of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the concept of Inclusive Entrepreneurship (IE) is the next step to be implemented.

## **60+ Plus Skills Development Training**

Skills Development Trainings for Thai Persons with Disabilities on “Employability in Food Business” were implemented by APCD Foundation under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The training courses aim to build capacity and raise full participation of persons with disabilities in the society. The program promotes self-esteem and sustainable jobs for persons with disabilities.

APCD Foundation opens 60+ Plus Kitchen by Charoen Pokphand Group (CP). The Kitchen by CP aims to build capacity for persons with disabilities in the food and restaurant business. APCD currently operates 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café at APCD Office in Rajvithi Home for Girls area, and opened other 3 branches is Thai Government House, Thai Red Cross Society office and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok.

The pride of our trainees with disabilities is to make delicious baked and chocolate goods to serve our customers with dedication in working toward acknowledgement and acceptance from society.

- **60+Plus Bakery by Yamazaki**

60+ Plus Bakery by Yamazaki was initiated by collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand, Embassy of Japan in Thailand, Thai-Yamazaki Co., Ltd., and APCD.

The special of this Café is trainees with diverse disabilities participated in the capacity-building programs, bakery production and sales. It is to develop persons with disabilities skills and abilities in food business so-called sustainable employability and implement Sustainable Development Goal1, End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

- **60+ Plus Chocolate by Mark Rin**

60+ Plus Chocolatier by MarkRin is initiated by APCD in collaboration with MarkRin Chocolate Co., Ltd. The project aims to provide on-the-job training of person with disabilities in the food industry.

Premium chocolate products made by persons with disabilities are from fragrant cacao beans grown by Thai farmers.

- **60+ Plus Kitchen by CP**

APCD in collaboration with the Charoen Pokphand Group (CP) implements Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB) through 60+ Plus Kitchen. The Objective is to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through capacity building and development of the Public-Private Partnership concept in the food business sector.

## **Collaborations**

APCD collaborates with all partners and stakeholders who have mutual strategies, mission and vision. We focus on disability and development through various projects and activities in the context of Community based inclusive development (CBID), Disability Inclusive Sports (DIS), Disability Inclusive Business (DIB) and Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR).

## CRPD

**Article 5:** Equality And Non-Discrimination

## SDGs

**Goals 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goals 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goals 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

**Priority Area 3:** Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children and older persons with disabilities

**Priority Area 4:** Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



On 28 April 2023, APCD conducted a final presentation and bid farewell to an online intern from China. This event marked the memory of the intern’s experience and the successful completion of their program. The presentation served as a platform to showcase the intern’s contributions and to express gratitude for the time spent together.



On 3 May 2023 in Nonthaburi, APCD conducted a Disability Equality Training (DET) session. This event was a significant step towards empowerment and advocacy for young Thai leaders with disabilities, as well as their personal assistants from the Thailand Council for Independent Living (TIL). The training focused on enhancing the quality of services and accessibility for persons with disabilities, encouraging participants to become agents of change for a more inclusive society.



On 13 May 2023, APCD and JICA launched the first online Disability Equality Training (DET), marking a significant milestone in disability advocacy. This initiative enhanced participants' skills and knowledge on disability equality from various countries, and it leveraged online platforms to facilitate learning and engagement. The program featured a comprehensive curriculum and sessions led by Dr. Kenji Kuno, a senior advisor on disability development at both APCD and JICA, and it was supported by experienced DET tutors with disabilities. Additionally, the online schooling incorporated sign language interpreters and tested Zoom captioning functions, ensuring accessibility for all participants.



On 18 May 2023 in Nonthaburi, APCD marked another successful collaboration with the Thailand Council for Independent Living (TIL). The event focused on Disability Equality Training (DET) for the second group of the Thai network. The training equipped individuals with disabilities with the necessary skills and knowledge, empowering them to advocate for equality and inclusivity within their communities.





On 29 May 2023 in Bangkok, APCD conducted a presentation on neurodiversity at the NIST International School's JEDI Session. This event underscored APCD's dedication to advancing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. The session aimed to enhance awareness about neurodiversity and to champion the safeguarding of individuals with disabilities against violence, abuse, and neglect. It also served as a platform for dialogue and exploring prospective collaborations to cultivate inclusive environments. The presentation was a significant step towards fostering understanding and support for neurodiversity within educational settings and beyond.

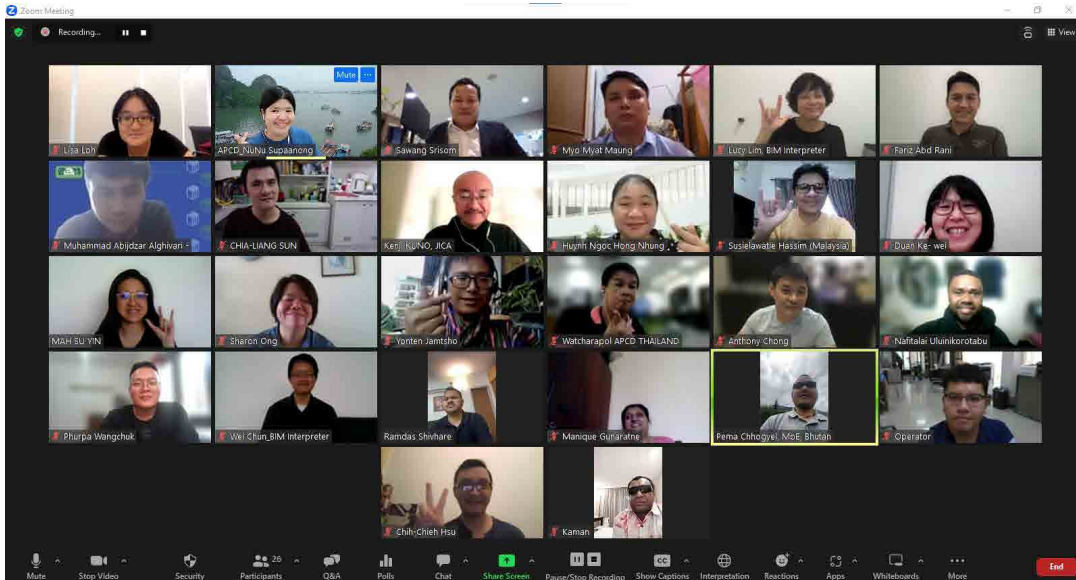


On 21 August 2023 in Bangkok, APCD conducted in-house training on Practicing Disability Equality Training (DET), facilitated by APCD staff from DET facilitator training in 2023.



On 24 August 2023 in Bangkok, APCD presented an inclusive exhibition, which was featured at the 8th TICA Connect Event. The showcase highlighted the organization’s commitment to inclusivity and connected with attendees through its interactive displays. This event marked a significant moment for APCD as it demonstrated its dedication to creating spaces that are accessible to all.





On 9 September 2023, APCD and JICA, in cooperation with the DET Forum, concluded the 5th DET Facilitator Training.



On 15 September 2023 in Bangkok, the 13th Annual Bangkok Service Conference featured a keynote speech by Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, an officer for Networking & Collaboration with APCD Autistic Advocates. The event, organized by NIST International School, highlighted themes of inclusivity and intersectionality in society. Ms. Supaanong shared her journey towards becoming a UN-level speaker and engaged with students through interactive activities to promote understanding of social support initiatives.

## CRPD

**Article 6:** Women With Disabilities

## SDGs

**Goals 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages



From 15 to 16 March 2023 in Bangkok, APCD participated in the UN Women’s dialogue to discuss recovery from COVID-19. The event highlighted teamwork and new approaches to help women affected by the pandemic. APCD involvement added valuable insights and experiences to the discussion.

## **CRPD**

**Article 7:** Children With Disabilities

## **SDGs**

**Goals 4:** Quality Education

## **Jakarta Declaration**

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages



On 20 January 2023, the visitation of teachers and students from the Thai-Japanese Association School (TJAS) at the APCD Training Building, Bangkok.



On 25 February 2023, APCD presented at the Zero Project Conference 2023, emphasizing the importance of inclusive education and lifelong learning for individuals with disabilities. The online presentation, titled “Improving the Independence of Thai Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disabilities and Their Families During and After COVID-19,” showcased the project’s activities, outcomes, and recommendations based on a needs analysis. The Zero Project Conference, held at the United Nations Office in Vienna and hybrid, is a significant event that celebrates innovative solutions to enhance the lives of people with disabilities globally.

## CRPD

**Article 8:** Awareness-Raising

## SDGs

**Goals 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goals 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goals 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Jakarta Declaration

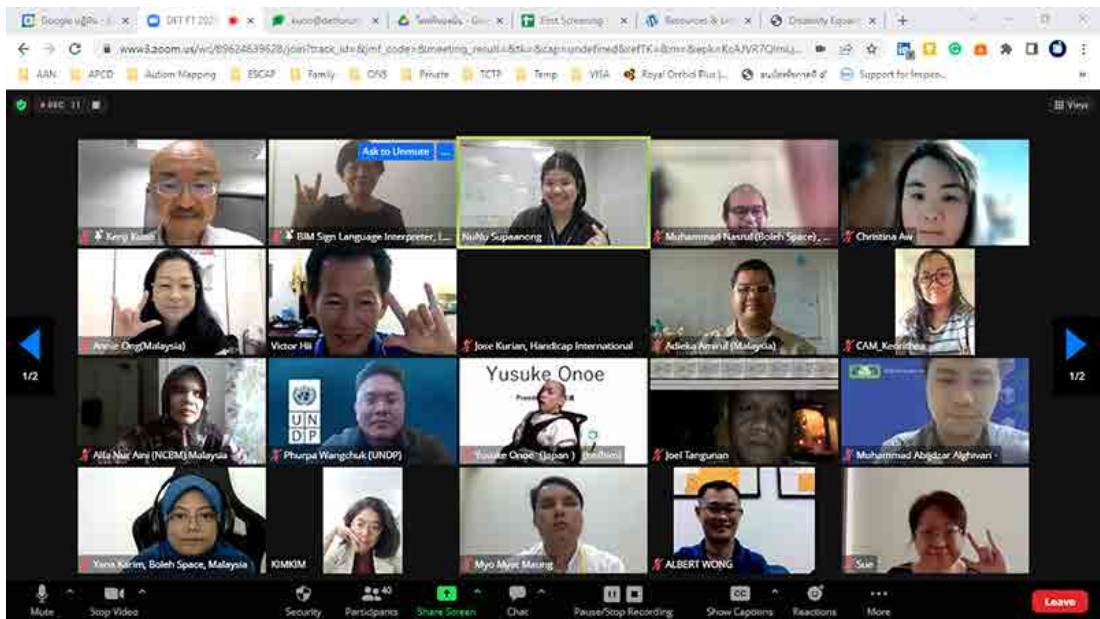
**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

**Priority Area 3:** Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children and older persons with disabilities





On 16 January 2023, Mr. Piroon Laismit, the APCD Executive Director, gave an interview about a story on empowering persons with disabilities in Thailand and the region with Saranrom Radio.



On 8 March 2023, the DET Facilitator Training, which kicked off online, is designed to equip facilitators with the knowledge and skills necessary to educate others about disability issues and promote accessibility. Disability Equality Training (DET) is an essential program for creating inclusive environments. The training covers a range of topics, including understanding disability, legal frameworks, and practical strategies for enhancing accessibility in different settings. By empowering facilitators, the DET aims to foster a culture of inclusivity and ensure that workplaces, educational institutions, and public spaces are accessible to all individuals, regardless of their abilities. This initiative reflects a growing recognition of the importance of accessibility and inclusivity in building equitable communities.



On 14 March 2023 in Phnom Penh, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) took significant steps to foster inclusivity and equality through the promotion of Disability Equality Training (DET). Their collaborative efforts during the Pre-Congress for the 5th Community-based Inclusive Development (CBID) Asia-Pacific Network Congress reflected a commitment to enhancing understanding and awareness of disability issues. Such initiatives are crucial for building an inclusive society where the rights and needs of all individuals, including those with disabilities, are acknowledged and addressed.



On 20 March 2023, the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the National Broadcasting Service of Thailand-NBT supported APCD to show APCD60+Bakery&Cafe products, which are an outcome of APCD Disability-Inclusive Business projects.



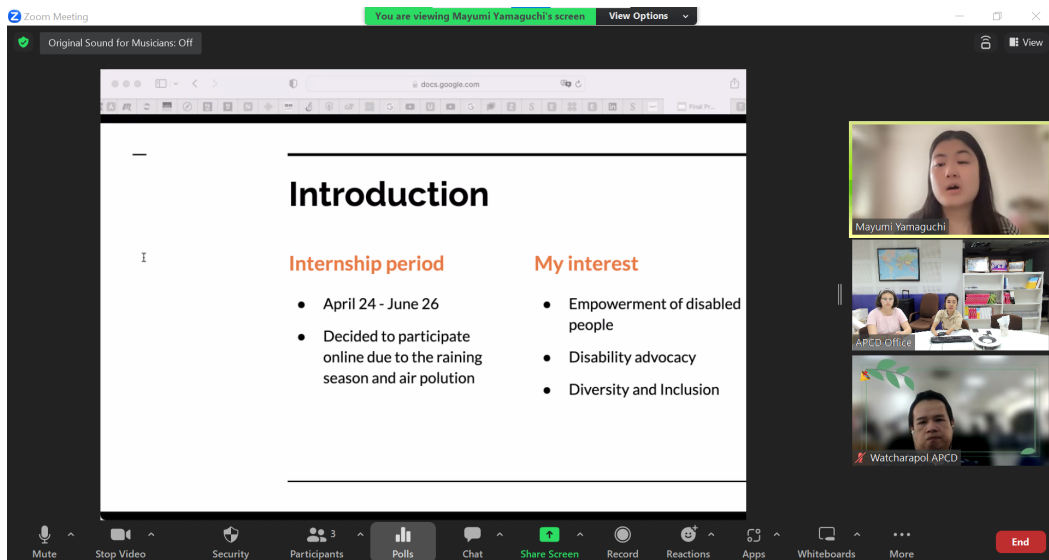
On 5 April 2023 in Bangkok, the APCD Internship 2023 program organized a final presentation and certificate ceremony. The program was dedicated to offering persons with disabilities the chance to acquire skills and experience, thereby improving their potential for inclusion and opportunities within society.



On 13 June 2023, an in-house training session was held to address the situation of disabled people in China. The session's objective was to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by tackling the social, economic, and political barriers they face. The APCD intern conducted this training to likely enhance the lives of disabled individuals in China, aiming to promote awareness, understanding, and knowledge about their circumstances and needs.



On 28 March 2023 in Bangkok, APCD held a Disability Equality Training (DET) session for the leaders of the Thailand Council for Independent Living (TIL). This session was designed to enhance understanding and awareness of disability issues, focusing on the themes of impairment, barriers, and disability in the pursuit of inclusion. The training aimed to equip TIL leaders with the knowledge to foster disability-inclusive practices, particularly in the areas of disaster risk reduction and emergency management, thereby supporting a more inclusive society.



On 27 June 2023 in Bangkok, the APCD interns completed their internships and presented their final presentation. This marked the culmination of their professional journey, showcasing the skills and knowledge they had acquired during their time with the organization. The event was a significant milestone for both the interns and APCD, reflecting the successful collaboration and hard work of all parties involved.



On 6 July 2023 in Bangkok, an American intern completed her in-house training and delivered her final presentation. This event marked the culmination of her dedicated efforts and the knowledge she gained during her internship. Her presentation not only showcased her learning but also demonstrated her ability to apply her skills effectively.



On 3 July 2023, representatives from the APCD, namely Ms. Nongnuch Maytarjittipun, the Information and Knowledge Management Manager, and Mr. Kenji Kuno, Senior Advisor of JICA, embarked on a visit to the Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS).

On 19 July 2023, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) organized a comprehensive training program titled “Understanding Customers and Colleagues with Disabilities” at the Centra by Centara Government Complex Hotel.





On 17 July 2023, Mr. Krisana Lalai, the host of the “Krisana Tour: Wheels Up” program, had the opportunity to meet and interview Dr. Tej Bunnag President of APCD Foundation at the APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Yamazaki, located in the Thai Red Cross Society branch.





On 5 August 2023, APCD and JICA in cooperation with DET forum organized the 4th online schooling for Disability Equality Training (DET) facilitator training 2023.



On 29 August, 2023, 60+ Plus Bakery & Cafe and 60+ Plus Kitchen attend at the event of "Aroi Lert Kub Khun Reed" to promote the activities of persons with disabilities, organized at Central Plaza Ladprao.



From 3 to 4 September 2023 in Bangkok, APCD took part in the Special Lectures and Workshop on Ethics of Care, Interdependence, Diversity, and Disability Justice. This event was organized by the Japan Foundation. It aimed to explore the ethical dimensions of care and the interconnectedness of individuals, celebrating diversity and advocating for disability justice.



On 27 September 2023, the “Aroi Lert Kub Khun Reed” TV program visited APCD and interviewed Mr. Piroon Laimit (APCD Executive Director) about the APCD 60+ Plus Kitchen by CP project (Disability-Inclusive Business, DIB). The program was on air at TV channel 33.



On 1 November 2023, Dohiru TV Program interviewed Mr. SUZUKI Kazuya, the Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Thailand Office.



On 10 November, 2023, UNV and APCD collaborated in the event of food donation activities at Bangkok School for the Blind.



On 17 November 2023, APCD joined a workshop for food donation to the celebrat of International Volunteer Day 2023 organized by the United Nations Volunteers Programme Regional Office (UNV) for Asia and the Pacific at the APCD Training Center.



On 24 November 2023, APCD participated in the celebration of International Volunteer Day 2023 organized by UNV Asia & Pacific at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.



On 1 December 2023, Mr. Piroon Laismit participated in the International Day of Persons with Disabilities organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), the Ministry of Social Development of Human Security (MSDHS) at The Government Complex, Chaengwatthana, Bangkok.



# CRPD

## Article 9: Accessibility

# SDGs

**Goals 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Goals 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Goals 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**Goals 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goals 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Goals 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

# JKT Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

**Priority Area 3:** Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children and older persons with disabilities

**Priority Area 4:** Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



On 24 February 2023 in Bangkok, APCD conducted an in-house training session focused on "Google Workspaces and the Essential Tasks for Zoom's Administration." This comprehensive session was designed to enhance the participants' technical skills, enabling them to effectively manage and utilize Google's suite of productivity tools and Zoom's administrative features. The training aimed to streamline communication and collaboration within the organization, ensuring a more efficient workflow.



From 28 to 30 June 2023 in Bangkok, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), in collaboration with APCD, successfully conducted a training program. This program, aimed at strengthening self-help groups for persons with disabilities within ASEAN+3 countries, was delivered through a hybrid platform. The initiative not only fostered empowerment but also encouraged regional cooperation and skill development among its participants.



On June 29, 2023, a momentous event unfolded, graced by distinguished guests, including Dr. Tej Bunnag, the Secretary-General of the Thai Red Cross Society and President of the Foundation of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation). This significant occasion marked the soft opening of the 60+ Plus Bakery & Cafe by Yamazaki at the Thai Red Cross Society branch.







On 6 October 2023, the “Doohairoo” TV Program broadcasting on Thai PBS filmed APCD to promote the APCD 60+ Plus projects (Disability-Inclusive Business, DIB) at the APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café.



On 13 November 2023, APCD shared lessons learned about coping with COVID-19 at the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development through an online platform. This sharing of experiences provided valuable insights into the pandemic's challenges and the collective responses to them.



On 23 November 2023 in Bangkok, APCD was honored to take part in the prestigious second workshop on Smart Cities for All, which focused on fostering inclusivity and sustainability. This event marked a significant step towards integrating smart technology with the principles of universal design, ensuring that urban development benefits all citizens. The workshop served as a platform for exchanging innovative ideas and practices, contributing to the creation of more inclusive and sustainable urban environments.



On 7 December 2023 in Bangkok, APCD speakers shared valuable insights on disability inclusion in the workplace during an In-House Webinar. They engaged with UNOPS colleagues, fostering a comprehensive dialogue on creating more inclusive work environments. This exchange of ideas marked a significant step towards enhancing accessibility and understanding within professional settings.



On 13 December 2023 in Bangkok, APCD served as resource persons for a Disability-Inclusive Workplace at the "WFP Regional HR Workshop 2023." This event was organized by the World Food Programme's (WFP) Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, highlighting the importance of inclusivity in the workplace. The workshop aimed to foster a better understanding of disability inclusion, ensuring that workplaces are accessible and welcoming to all employees.

On 8 December 2023, Dr. Tej Bunnag, the President of the APCD Foundation, and Mr. Piroon Laismit, the Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), took center stage at the prestigious “Thailand Friendly Design Expo”.



## CRPD

**Article 11:** Situations Of Risk And Humanitarian Emergencies

## SDGs

**Goals 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goals 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Goals 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**Goals 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

**Priority Area 3:** Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children and older persons with disabilities

**Priority Area 4:** Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



From 5 to 11 February 2023 in Bangkok and Pathum Thani, APCD held the first year of the Third Country Training Program (TCTP). This program, titled “Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in the ASEAN Region,” was organized by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The initiative was a collaborative effort aimed at enhancing the resilience of persons with disabilities against natural disasters within the ASEAN community.



On 6 February 2023, the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) 2022 Opening Ceremony marked a significant milestone in “Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in the ASEAN Region.” This landmark event highlighted the commitment to bolster community resilience and ensure inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies, with a focus on not leaving anyone behind. Serving as an online platform, the TCTP 2022 facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices, and fostered collaboration among ASEAN member states to enhance capacities in tackling the distinct challenges encountered by individuals with disabilities in times of disaster.





On 24 March 2023 in Bangkok, APCD was the focal point of a global symposium that celebrated Social Work Month and World Social Work Day. The event, which highlighted the critical role of social work, brought together experts and advocates from around the world. They discussed strategies for poverty alleviation and the advancement of disability-inclusive development. The symposium served as a platform for sharing innovative solutions and fostering international collaboration to create a more inclusive society. Through its prominent participation, APCD reinforced its commitment to these vital social issues.



From 10 to 15 July 2023 in Phuket and Phang-nga Province, APCD hosted the inaugural week of the Third Country Training Program's second course on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction. This training was organized through a collaborative effort between the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The program aimed to enhance the capabilities of participants in integrating disability considerations into disaster risk management, ensuring that vulnerable populations are included in safety planning and response strategies. This initiative marked a significant step towards inclusive disaster preparedness in the region.



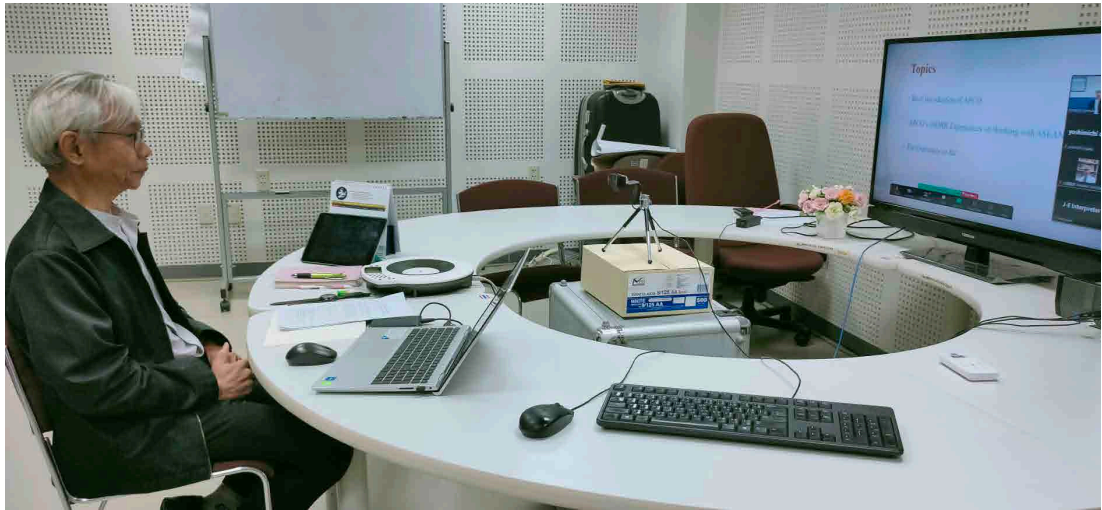
From 17 to 22 July 2023 in Bangkok, APCD hosted the second week of the Third Country Training Program's Course 2, which focused on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction. This program, designed to enhance disaster preparedness while incorporating the needs of individuals with disabilities, brought together experts and participants from various countries. They engaged in comprehensive training sessions, sharing knowledge and developing strategies to ensure that disaster risk reduction is inclusive and accessible to all.



On 11 August 2023 in Bangkok, APCD hosted a special Session on Disaster Risk Reduction for ALL, which was a significant part of the 16th International Convention on Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology, known as i-CREATE 2023. This session focused on inclusive strategies to mitigate disasters, emphasizing the importance of accessibility in technology and engineering. The event brought together experts and stakeholders, fostering a collaborative environment to advance the field of assistive technology and promote resilience among all communities.



On 21 August 2023, in Bangkok, a pivotal consultation meeting focused on the DIDRR animation production process. This significant collaboration, which involved the Distance Learning Television Foundation, aimed to enhance educational outreach. By employing innovative distance learning methodologies, the partnership sought to revolutionize the way educational content is delivered and accessed.



On 24 August 2023, APCD took part as an online speaker in the International Seminar on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, bringing together various stakeholders to discuss and share insights on integrating disability perspectives into disaster risk reduction strategies. APCD's participation underscored the importance of inclusive practices in mitigating the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities, particularly those with disabilities. The event served as a platform for exchanging innovative ideas and best practices, contributing significantly to the advancement of disability-inclusive policies in the region.



From 8 to 11 November 2023 in Chiang Rai, APCD carried out a survey on the Third Country Training Program's Course 3 and participated in a workshop. This workshop, which focused on disaster risk reduction (DRR), was organized by the Good Neighbor Thailand Foundation. The event aimed to enhance the capabilities of the participants in managing disaster risks effectively.



On 31 August 2023 in Suphanburi, APCD resource persons conducted a comprehensive lecture for educators on the critical subject of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction. This session aimed to equip the teachers with the necessary knowledge and strategies to integrate disability considerations into their emergency planning, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of ability, are accounted for in times of crisis. The lecture emphasized the importance of inclusion and provided practical guidance on creating a safe and prepared educational environment for every student.



On 19 September 2023 at the TICA office in Bangkok, APCD welcomed a Japanese volunteer during the TICA-JICA handover ceremony. This event marked a significant step in promoting and strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR).

## **CRPD**

**Article 24:** Education

## **SDGs**

**Goal 4:** Quality Education

## **Jakarta Declaration**

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages





On 8 October 2023 in Chonburi, APCD resource persons conducted a session on “Social Diversity and Participation of Vulnerable Groups.” This event, organized by Burapha University, aimed to promote inclusivity and participation among diverse social groups. The session highlighted the importance of embracing social diversity and ensuring that vulnerable communities have a voice in societal development. Through interactive discussions and activities, participants gained insights into the challenges faced by these groups and explored strategies for their active engagement in the community. The event served as a platform for exchanging ideas and best practices to promote social inclusion and participation.



On 3 April 2023, Mr. Piroon Laismit, APCD Executive Director, gave an opening speech for a 2-month on-the-job training for APCD interns with disabilities at the Centra by Centara Government Complex Hotel & Convention Centre Chaeng Watthana.



On 23 May 2023, congratulations to trainees with disabilities who graduated from the internship program of APCD 60+ Plus Vocational Skills Training in the Hospitality Business project at the Centra by Centara Hotel Chaeng Watthana for the year 2023.



On 25 May 2023, congratulations to trainees with disabilities who graduated from the APCD 60+ Plus Vocational Skills Training in Food Business project (Disability-Inclusive Business, DIB) for the year 2023.



## CRPD

**Article 27:** Work And Employment

## SDGs

**Goals 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Goals 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

**Priority Area 4:** Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



On 25 January 2023, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) joins hands with the Foundation of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation) to empower the vocational skills of people with disabilities for the year 2023.



On 17 April 2023, APCD hosted a special lecture facilitated by a foreign teacher from Thammasat University, Mr. Kevin Cook. During this session, Mr. Cook and his students learned about disability-inclusive business practices. The lecture provided valuable insights into how businesses can become more inclusive for individuals with disabilities, fostering an environment of equality and opportunity. This educational experience not only enriched the students' understanding but also highlighted APCD's commitment to promoting inclusivity in professional education.



On 8 May 2023, meeting for Seeking Future Collaboration with Steps Community at Steps Café, Bangkok.





On 21 September 2023 in Bangkok, APCD visited Steps Community to seek potential future collaboration and partnership projects at Steps Community Center.



On 18 October and 1 November 2023, APCD staff provided special lectures for students in the Social Policy Development Programme by the Faculty of Social Administration at Thammasat University. This collaboration highlighted the team's efforts and contributions towards disability inclusion and workability in the field of social policy.

## CRPD

**Article 28:** Adequate Standard Of Living And Social Protection

## SDGs

**Goals 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goals 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**Goals 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages



On 7 and 8 September 2023 in Chiang Mai, APCD supported the Dulabatorn Foundation by reviewing the strategy and action plan. This collaboration enhanced their approach for future initiatives.

## CRPD

**Article 29:** Participation In Political And Public Life

## SDGs

**Goals 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

**Priority Area 4:** Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



On 2 June 2023, the APCD presented at an Inclusion International Webinar, a global network that advocates for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities. Through this presentation, they contributed to the enhancement of economic empowerment and the reduction of poverty among persons with disabilities.



From 7 to 8 December 2023 in Bangkok, APCD served as an implementing agency at the Regional Foresight Workshop for Asia/Pacific. This event was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute.

## CRPD

**Article 30:** Participation In Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure And Sport

## SDGs

**Goals 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages



From 11 to 13 September 2023 in Seoul, APCD facilitated a group of Thai delegates who believed in the social participation of persons with disabilities through sports. This delegation participated in the Seoul International Park Golf Tournament for people with disabilities, organized by the Korea Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities (KAPPD).

## CRPD

**Article 31:** Statistics And Data Collection

## SDGs

**Goals 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 1:** Harmonize national legislation with the CRPD, once the Convention has been ratified or acceded to

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

**Priority Area 6:** Close disability data gaps and strengthen capacities to track progress in disability-inclusive development





On 19 May 2023 in Bangkok, APCD supported the Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (DEP) in analyzing the achievements of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025. It aimed to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among countries and stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region for disability-inclusive development. This analysis of the Masterplan’s accomplishments, coupled with the support provided to the DEP, was in line with ongoing efforts to enhance both regional and subregional cooperation in the advancement of disability rights and inclusion.



On 28 August 2023, APCD took part in the Sub-Committee meeting, which focused on promoting and supporting the implementation of the CRPD. This meeting, organized by DEP, was conducted through a Zoom Meeting. The use of simple past tense and compound sentences enhances the readability for the audience, ensuring the information is conveyed clearly and effectively.

## CRPD

**Article 32:** International Cooperation

## SDGs

**Goals 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goals 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goals 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Goals 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Jakarta Declaration

**Priority Area 2:** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

**Priority Area 4:** Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



From 13 to 18 March 2023, APCD traveled to Phnom Penh to engage in the 5th Asia-Pacific Community-based Inclusive Development Congress (5th AP CBID Congress). This congress was designed to unite stakeholders and specialists from across the Asia-Pacific region, fostering a collaborative environment to deliberate and disseminate best practices in community-based inclusive development. Through its active participation, APCD played a significant role in propelling the progress of CBID and championing strategies that support inclusive development. The congress likely served as a catalyst for innovation and partnership, setting a precedent for future initiatives in the realm of inclusive community development.



On 30 March 2023 in Suphanburi Province, a significant event took place that embodied diversity and inclusion. Speakers with disabilities from APCD met and shared their experiences with US volunteers. This gathering underscored the collaboration among APCD speakers with disabilities, former Peace Corps volunteers, and US volunteers. They exchanged knowledge and experiences. The event was a testament to the commitment of these groups to work together and foster an inclusive environment for all.



On 10 April 2023 in Bangkok, APCD and the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSW Law) from Bhutan engaged in an exchange with Thammasat University regarding Disability Law. This exchange aimed to ensure that governments and public institutions across the region provided inclusive and accessible services for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, it sought to guarantee the effective implementation of disability laws and policies. The collaboration between APCD, JSW Law, and Thammasat University on disability law underscored efforts to foster effective governance and develop policies and laws that uphold the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.



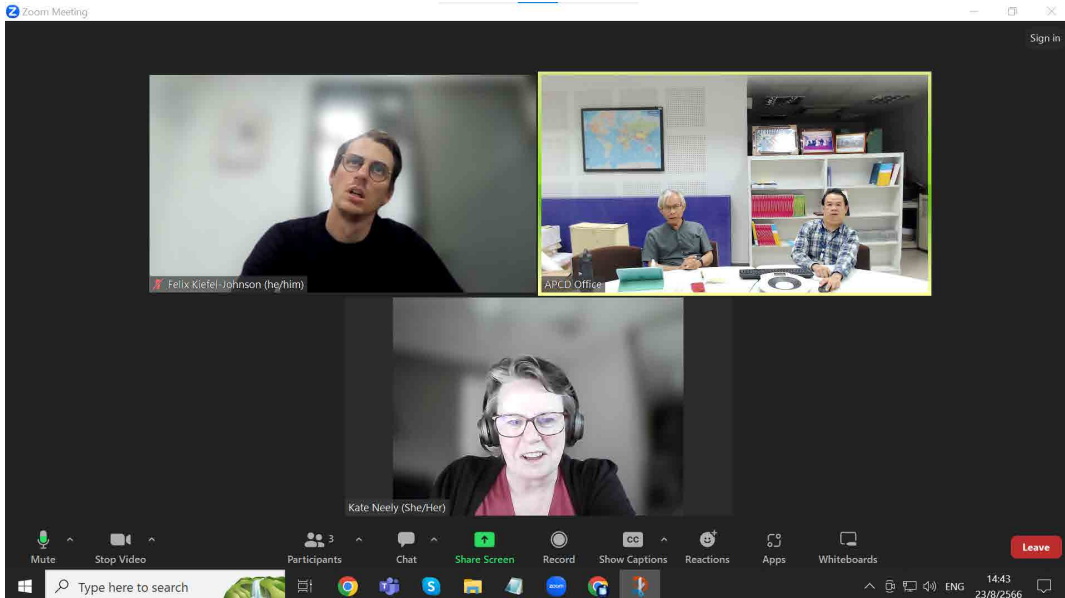
From 6 to 12 August 2023 in Busan, APCD participated in the Busan World Disability Conference 2023, which was organized by Disabled Peoples International (DPI)-Korea. By attending this conference, APCD aimed to enhance global and regional cooperation on disability issues and to share knowledge and best practices with other stakeholders.



On 26 August 2023 in Hanoi, APCD attended the 10th Anniversary Event of the Vietnam Autism Network (VAN) and presented their insights. This marked a significant milestone for the organization and highlighted its ongoing commitment to the autism community.



From 17 to 18 August 2023 in Bangkok, APCD participated as resource person in the workshop titled “Review on Implementation of ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025,” which was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP).



On 23 August 2023, the Nossal Institute at the University of Melbourne conducted an online interview with the APCD staff for the development of inclusive disability programs. This interaction aimed to gather insights and promote collaboration in the field of disability inclusion.



On 28 August 2023 in Bangkok, APCD attended a meeting, which was a collaboration between the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).



From 8 to 9 November 2023 at the UNCC Building in Bangkok, APCD took part in the ad-hoc session of the Working Group. This group is dedicated to the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities. The participation marked a significant contribution to the dialogue and progress on disability rights in the region.





From 26 November to 9 December 2023, APCD participated in the Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Young Leaders, which focused on “Support for Persons with Disabilities,” held in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture. This program was organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



On 26 May 2023 in Bangkok, APCD and JICA held a stakeholders' meeting with key development partners. They discussed strategies to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities across Asia-Pacific nations. This collaborative effort aimed to identify and implement effective measures for inclusive development. The meeting served as a platform for exchanging ideas and fostering partnerships to address the challenges faced by people with disabilities in the region. Through this initiative, APCD and JICA demonstrated their commitment to improving accessibility and opportunities for all.



On 16 November 2023 in Bangkok, APCD and JICA hosted the Second Key Stakeholders' Meeting, which focused on enhancing disability-inclusive development across the Asia-Pacific region. This gathering brought together various stakeholders, marking a significant step towards inclusive progress.



From 27 November to 1 December 2023 in Seoul, APCD took center stage at the 16th Disabled People International Korea Assembly and Asia-Pacific Conference. This event was an art festival where APCD enabled the Thai delegation to implement inclusive art and dance performances, fostering social participation for individuals with developmental disorders through leisure, recreation, and sports.



From 4 to 5 December 2023 in Bangkok, APCD participated and shared inputs at the 2023 ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Regional Consultation on Midterm Review and Progress of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025.

# Visitors



On 11 January 2023, the ASEAN Training Center for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW) visited APCD for future collaboration.



On 17 January 2023, teachers and students from the Thailand DIST/ ENTR Winter 2023 program visited APCD.



On 7 February 2023, Mr. Piroon Laismit, the APCD Executive Director, welcomed YBhg. Datin Catherina (the Spouse of the Ambassador of Malaysia). He showed them the Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB) projects (APCD 60+Plus projects).



On 9 February 2023, Mrs. Naraporn Chan-o-cha, the Spouse of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand led Dato 'Seri Datin Seri Dr. Wan Azizah binti Wan Ismail, the spouse of Prime Minister of Malaysia visited the Foundation of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation).



On 16 February 2023, Associate Professor Naraporn Chan-o-cha, Vice-President of the Distance Learning Foundation Under the Royal Patronage, visited the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability for collaboration in distance learning.



On 20 February 2023, Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director of the Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), led his team to visit the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability.



On 23 February 2023, Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh, the Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), led TICA's Cooperation partners in Thailand to visit the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability.



On 3 March 2023, Social Administration students from Thammasat University and Kasetsart University interning at the Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities were dispatched to APCD for a half-day information and learning session.



On 17 March 2023, the Thai PBS Channel management team visited APCD.



On 28 March 2023, Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt, the Governor of Bangkok, and the governor's team visited APCD to observe persons with disability capacity-building activities at APCD.





On 4 April 2023, Mahidol University's Faculty of Physical Therapy visited APCD to learn about community-based inclusive development practices, in Bangkok, Thailand.



On 19 April 2023, the Pacific Disability Forum from Fiji visited APCD to learn about Regional Training Hub practices.



On 25 April 2023, the JICA Headquarters team met with APCD representatives, Bangkok.



On 21 May 2023, Mr. Piroon Laimit, the APCD Executive Director, welcomed Mr. Tsewang C. Dorji, the acting Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) of the Royal Government of Bhutan.



On 30 May 2023, The Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA) visited and toured at APCD.



On 8 August 2023, Japanese High School students and JICA Thailand office staff visited APCD, Bangkok.



On 18 August 2023, a crucial consultation meeting between APCD and Japan Foundation for future collaboration on disability-inclusive development in Bangkok.



On 29 August 2023, APCD participated in an interview session on the Evaluation of Japan's ODA to the Kingdom of Thailand at the APCD Administration Office in Bangkok.



On 21 July 2023, Mr. Piroon Laismit, the Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.



On 1 September 2023, UN Volunteer office team visited APCD to discuss collaboration for International Volunteer Day 2023, Bangkok.



On 4 September 2023, students from Nagoya Gakuin University visited APCD.



On 5 September 2023, Japanese Visitors Group facilitated by Nogezaaka-Glocal visited APCD.



On 27 September 2023, Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) Korea visited APCD for potential collaboration, Bangkok.



On 28 September 2023, visitors from the Abilis Foundation learned APCD regional activities as a part of their regional seminar program, Bangkok.



On 11 October 2023, the Faculty of Physical Therapy, Mahidol University, visited APCD.



On 17 October 2023, In a heartwarming gesture of support and solidarity, H.E. Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa, the current Minister of Social Development and Human Security, led his team on a visit to the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD).





On 18 October 2023, The St. Catherine University from USA, a partner of World Endeavors Thailand Office, visited APCD to seek internship program cooperation in Bangkok.



On 15 November 2023, Singapore Management University visited APCD for further collaboration on the Internship Program in Thailand.



On 30 November 2023, Mr. Piroon Laismit, the Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), welcomed Mr. NAKAZAWA Keiichiro, the Special Assistant to the President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



On 4 December 2023, Mr. Piroon Laismit, the Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), warmly welcomed distinguished guests from the Japanese Embassy in Thailand and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Thailand.



On 7 December 2023, Mr. Piroon Laismit, the Executive Director of APCD, welcomed the delegation led by Ms. Julia Feeney, the Deputy Head of Mission, in a collaborative effort between the APCD and the Australian Embassy.

## **APCD's Highlighted Activities 2023**

### **Empowering Inclusive Society: The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)**

APCD as one of civil society organization which is promoting empowering inclusive society. We are actively implementing training, networking opportunities, and information & knowledge accessible dissemination on various works related to disability inclusive development. The efforts are not just limited to promote the empowerment and inclusion but extend to tangible projects that have significantly improved the lives of many persons with disabilities and their families in the community.

One of the key highlights of APCD's work is our focus on employability and skills development. Recognizing the potential within every individual with disability, APCD has launched initiatives on 'Skills Development for People with Disabilities towards Employment in Food and Service Project since 2015. These approaches aim to equip individuals with disabilities with the necessary skills to thrive in the workforce, particularly in the food and service under the 60+Plus Project for Bakery and Chocolate Café and 60+Plus Project for Kitchen by CP. We believe that whenever persons with disabilities have their own jobs and can generate their incomes, they will proud of themselves and live independently with sustainability in their community.

APCD also performed the significant roles as international organizing committee of the 5th Asia-Pacific Community-Based Inclusive Development Congress from 15-17 March 2023 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The opening speech of the Congress was delivered by Honorable Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The impression remarks after the opening ceremony was delivered by Dr. Tej Bunnag, the President of APCD Foundation. APCD staffs shared their contribution at the Congress by performing as session speaker and session moderator. There were 289 Participants from 22 countries from all regions participated this important Congress.

Moreover, APCD's commitment to build resilient communities and safety society for all is evident through the Third Country Training Program (TCTP) on Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) in the ASEAN Region. The 3-year training program which completed in 2023. The collaborative efforts with among three partners include the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and APCD. Participants from various sectors of seven ASEAN Countries have learned and exchanged their experiences on DIDRR. They also made the customized handbooks for training in their own countries. By

organizing training courses and workshops, APCD is ensuring that people with disabilities are not left behind in disaster preparedness and response efforts.

ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 is one of the key significant instrument for mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the ASEAN Region. APCD has supported the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) to monitor, review and gathering the accomplishment of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025. The results of the monitor will be report to ASEAN Secretariat. This collaboration was good practice on sharing and exchanging resources between government and civil society organization.

JICA-APCD Collaboration Project on Disability Inclusive Development has implemented to enhance APCD implementation on disability inclusive development. Dr. Kenji Kuno, JICA expert was dispatched to work closely with APCD colleagues. Some key areas has been developed through this collaboration as follows:

a) Online Training and Learning Course Platform: Recognizing the need for accessible and comprehensive learning opportunities, the project initiated the implementation of an online training and learning course platform such as DET Facilitator training, Inclusive Employment and Disability & Development toward sustainability at APCD. This platform serves as a hub for knowledge, skill and attitude's development, capacity development, and knowledge sharing.

This platform could identify that APCD can play a role of constant learning/training course provider. Through the implementation of these courses, we also found that there are existing needs of accessible and open opportunities of learning in Asia and Pacific, there are markets for charged online course. And APCD can provide "regular" courses, not "ad-hoc / project-base" courses.

b) Establishing APCD Google Chat Platform: Efficient collaboration and seamless communication are essential for all organizations and networks. The project established the APCD Google chat in according with various online networks.

"This provides interactive space and opportunities to learn from each other's' experience and practices in AP region, in addition to current information delivery practices."

c) Regular Stakeholders Meetings: The project emphasized the importance of engagement and dialogue among development partners. Regular stakeholder meetings became a cornerstone of APCD's strategy. These

gatherings bring together diverse stakeholders: government representatives, UN Delegates, Civil Society Organizations, National Organization of Persons with Disability. The key agendas of the meetings cover progress updates, challenges, and future plans. By fostering open communication, these meetings ensure alignment and collective commitment toward disability-inclusive goals in Asia-Pacific countries.

APCD Commits on proactively implement our missions. It is not just changing lives of persons with disabilities, but it is shaping future world where everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to and benefit from as active citizen in their community.

For more information on APCD implementation and its initiatives, please visit our official website at: [www.apcdfoundation.org](http://www.apcdfoundation.org)

## **Bangkok Recommendations for Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) Third Country Training Program (TCTP),**

### **Bangkok Recommendations:**

We, a diverse group of participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Thailand, met at the Third Country Training Program (TCTP) on “Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) in the ASEAN Region” organized by the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) in collaboration with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Training took place from 9 to 22 July 2023 held in Phuket and Bangkok, Thailand

We discussed a range of issues and topics related to the formulation of the “Training of Trainers Handbooks and Development of Recommendations” which will be completed in 2023. We also were trained in different dimensions of promoting and implementing DiDRR.

We appreciate all sectors which are playing critical roles in safeguarding the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities and their families, particularly on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction.

We also reaffirm the importance of international and regional frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is underpinned by the principle of “Leave No One Behind,” as well as the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and the Jakarta Declaration, which underscore effective actions on DiDRR. We attach a special importance to the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which recommends a range of actions on DiDRR across its three pillars: political security; economic; socio-cultural.

We whole heartedly commit ourselves to being advocates for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction in our countries. We dedicate ourselves to promoting and driving the DiDRR implementation to the best of our capacities. Our mission is to work tirelessly towards building safer and more resilient nations in the face of potential disasters. Through our unwavering dedication, passion and collaborative spirit, we aim to create a resilient ASEAN where communities are well-prepared, supported and empowered to withstand the challenges of disasters. Our advocacy will inspire action and foster culture of proactive disaster risk reduction, leaving a lasting positive impact on our nation’s safety and prosperity. Together we can build a stronger, safer future ASEAN!

Determined to make a positive impact in our respective countries, we have agreed on the following recommendations on concrete steps to further strengthen Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in ASEAN, our Region. Policy and institutional mechanism DRR policy makers should harmonize their DRR laws, policies and programmes with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 ASEAN Members States should establish/maintain a DiDRR focal point within respective Government supported by sustained budget.

### Implementation

1. ASEAN and its Members States should have their regional mechanisms to review and monitor the implementation of DiDRR particularly actions contained in the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025.
2. Governments at all levels must secure the budget, and mandate stakeholders to conduct disabilityinclusive community-level evacuation drills at least twice a year aligning with existing DRR programmes and activities.
3. International, regional and national organizations, including UN entities and the APCD, shall provide DiDRR capacity development training, including Disability–Equality Training, to DRR policy makers and DiDRR focal points.
4. DiDRR focal point in government should encourage synergy amongst key players such as media, academia and private sector in providing universal design-based accessible information to all including persons with disabilities.
5. DiDRR implementers should take disability-sensitivity training to ensure proper handling of person with diverse disabilities before, during, and after disasters.
6. Governments should collect disability-disaggregated data covering data of persons with diverse disabilities as a basis to guide local governments and communities to put in place proper disabilityinclusive disaster preparedness.

All the recommendations contained herein should be implemented by respective responsible action owners through engaging persons with diverse disabilities and their representative organizations.

This statement was adopted on 20 July 2023 at the Best Western Nada Don Mueang Airport Hotel, during the implementation of the TCTP. As we look towards the future, we remain resolute in our commitment to creating a safer and more inclusive ASEAN region for all.



## **Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032**

- 1.** We, the ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, having assembled at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, held in Jakarta and online from 19 to 21 October 2022, have adopted the present declaration.
- 2.** We recognize the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>1</sup> as both a human rights and a development instrument.
- 3.** We recall General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged that no one will be left behind, and acknowledged that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind.
- 4.** We take note of General Assembly resolution 76/138 of 16 December 2021 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly recognized that the prevalence of disabilities increased with age and that many older persons lived with a disability, and call upon member States to build capacity to alleviate poverty among older persons and to provide social welfare services on the basis of the specific needs of older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, sex or disability, as well as to collect and use data disaggregated by age, sex and disability for policy design and implementation.
- 5.** In recognition of the disproportionate impacts of disasters on persons with disabilities, we recall the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>2</sup> in which emphasis is placed, inter alia, on the importance of the empowerment of persons with disabilities and of inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation in disaster risk reduction.
- 6.** We recall Commission resolution 69/13 of 1 May 2013, by which the Commission endorsed the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>3</sup> and Commission resolution 74/7 of 16 May 2018, by which the Commission endorsed the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy.<sup>4</sup>

7. We reaffirm Commission resolutions 77/1 of 29 April 2021 and 78/1 of 27 May 2022, to build forward better, and emphasize the importance of implementing equal, sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies in line with the 2030 Agenda.
8. We note the subregional frameworks that have been adopted to strengthen coordination and collaboration among Governments to support national and subregional initiatives in promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities, namely the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>5</sup> and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>6</sup> and acknowledge the value of collaborating across regional, subregional and national levels.
9. We acknowledge the progress made by members and associate members of the Commission in implementing the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, and the contributions thereto of civil society, particularly organizations of and for persons with disabilities, including in the response to, as well as the recovery and rebuilding from, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and welcome the commitments and efforts made by private sector entities engaged in driving disability-inclusive businesses and value chains.
10. We note that the Asia-Pacific region is experiencing rapid population ageing, with the proportion of the population aged 60 years or over projected to increase from 14.3 per cent in 2022 to 25.9 per cent by 2050,<sup>7</sup> which could increase the number of older persons living with disabilities.
11. We note with concern that, in many instances, despite the progress made, persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and those in other vulnerable situations, continue to face discrimination in all dimensions of life, as well as physical, information and attitudinal barriers, and that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by widening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other crises.
12. We also note with concern that the continuing lack of reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, policies and programmes, and in this regard we welcome the call for the disaggregation of data by disability in the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the need to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data to measure progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
13. In the context of improving accessibility and facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society, we acknowledge the actions taken and the resources committed by Governments to support sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, placing emphasis on

building the resilience of people and leaving no one behind, and we also acknowledge the strong potential of technological innovation and digital transformation.

- 14.** We underscore the need for members and associate members of the Commission and all stakeholders to take urgent actions to protect and reinforce gains and achievements in disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific amid increasing challenges that are brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, climate change and other risks, which have exacerbated the inequalities among population groups and within and across countries, and call for adequate budgetary allocations, innovations and collaborations to strengthen policies and programmes for disability-inclusive development.
- 15.** We reaffirm the continued relevance and importance of the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and in accelerating the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and we recommit ourselves to continuing the implementation of all the goals of the Incheon Strategy.
- 16.** We proclaim the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, to continue to focus on the effective implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, underscore the need to make strategic investments for implementation and commit ourselves to taking measures towards disability-inclusive development through a whole-of-society approach in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, particularly organizations of and for persons with disabilities and private sector entities, to accelerate action to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities as follows:
  - a.** Harmonize national legislations with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, once the Convention has been ratified or acceded to, by conducting comprehensive and regular reviews of national and local legislations as appropriate, providing guidance on the implementation of the Convention by line ministries and governments at all levels, training all personnel involved in law enforcement, integrating the provision of reasonable accommodation in national policies, programmes and budgets, and developing and strengthening frameworks, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention;
  - b.** Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with diverse disabilities of all ages, including by consulting closely and actively involving children and youth with disabilities through their representative organizations, in planning, implementing and making decisions about policies, programmes and political processes through reasonable accommodation, raising awareness and building the capacities of

persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, as appropriate, and governments at all levels, as well as other stakeholders;

- c.** In the context of paying special attention to the distinct needs of persons with diverse disabilities and of women, children and older persons with disabilities, improve the accessibility of the physical environment, public transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, essential information and services related to disaster risks and public health emergencies and other public services, in both urban and rural areas, and promote universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities by developing national standards and guidelines in line with latest international accessibility standards and guidelines;
- d.** Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development by adopting disability-inclusive public procurement policies to promote the application of universal design and accessibility measures to publicly procured infrastructure, information and communications technologies and services, by deploying policy incentives for private companies to take action towards mainstreaming disability inclusion in their workforces, organizations, products, services, market activities and supply chains and by facilitating the development of industry guidelines and protocols, especially in the media, including social media, and the entertainment sector, to promote diversity and inclusion and remove content that could lead to discrimination, stigmatization, stereotyping and misconceptions of persons with disabilities;
- e.** Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to developing and implementing disability-related policies and programmes, paying particular attention to:
  - i.** extending both mainstream and disability-specific social protection schemes to cover young children, adolescents, women and older persons with disabilities;
  - ii.** providing early childhood detection and intervention services for children with disabilities as an integral part of strategies, policies, programmes and investments aimed at building human capital;
  - iii.** ensuring continuous and inclusive education for all learners with disabilities; and
  - iv.** responding to discrimination and barriers that women and girls with disabilities, including older women with disabilities, often face in terms of participation and of gaining access to information and services, including sexual and reproductive health services;

- f.** Building upon the information provided by authorized national agencies and other recognized sources, as appropriate, take action to close disability data gaps and strengthen capacities to track progress in disability-inclusive development at the national and subnational levels by producing comparable and quality data disaggregated by sex, age and disability across sectors to inform disability-inclusive policymaking, programme planning and implementation strategies and by incorporating reports on progress made in achieving disability-inclusive development in voluntary national reviews, as appropriate, conducted in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and other global and regional development frameworks.
  
- 17.** We therefore request the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and leveraging the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations country teams in the region, as appropriate, to take the following measures, in close collaboration with member States and persons with disabilities:
  - a.** To accord priority to continuing the implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, and to strengthening disability inclusion for the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific during the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032;
  - b.** To provide technical support to members and associate members of the Commission, upon their request, for the implementation of the present declaration at the regional and national levels;
  - c.** To support members and associate members of the Commission, upon their request, in integrating the disability perspective into voluntary national reviews conducted in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by creating a mechanism for engaging persons with disabilities and their representative organizations throughout the national review processes;
  - d.** To continue to utilize the guidance of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, as appropriate, to support the effective implementation of the present declaration, to make progress in achieving the goals set out in the Incheon Strategy and to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific;
  - e.** To organize a midpoint review in 2027 and a final intergovernmental review in 2032 to assess the progress made by members and associate members of the Commission in implementing the present declaration during the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032;
  - f.** To submit the present declaration to the Commission at its seventy-ninth session for its consideration and endorsement.

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Source, <https://www.maketherightreal.net/jakarta-declaration>

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