

# **APCD Activities Report 2025:**

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

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## Foreword

In 2025, the Foundation of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation) conducted regional and national training

programs in Thailand to empower persons with disabilities and enhance their quality of life. Through its international training initiatives, APCD broadened its collaboration with government agencies, private sector organizations, and disability networks throughout the region. This work transforms the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) into concrete action for the tangible benefit of persons with disabilities. Our partners include the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific (DPI-AP), Disabled Peoples' International Japan (DPI-Japan), Disabled Peoples' International Korea (DPI-Korea), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout the region. These partners continue to extend their support to initiatives that strengthen the capacity of persons with disabilities. In addition, APCD was entrusted by ESCAP with a project promoting Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business (DIEB). This project was undertaken in partnership with Thailand's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) and funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Its objective is to study integrated approaches among government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and organizations of persons with disabilities, with a view to promoting genuine, sustainable, and comprehensive employment for persons with disabilities.

APCD is firmly committed to empowering persons with disabilities through vocational skills training — equipping persons with disabilities with the capacity, confidence, and opportunities they need to achieve genuine social and economic inclusion. This training supports greater employment through the Disability Inclusive Business approach, which enables persons with disabilities to live sustainably with dignity in society. APCD's vocational training program is now in its tenth year, supported by funding from the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Fund under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) of Thailand. Sixty per cent of the persons with disabilities who have completed this program have secured employment and live on an equal footing with others in society.

In December 2025, APCD was honored with a visit from Her Royal Highness Princess Anisha Rosnah binti Adam, spouse of His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen of Brunei Darussalam, together with Datin Paduka Seri Dayang Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz, mother of the prince. During the visit, they observed the APCD "60+ Plus" project and took part in activities alongside APCD's staff with disabilities. The visit demonstrated practices that Her Royal Highness may in due course apply at the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam (PE) Foundation, of which she is to become patron.

Earlier, in September 2025, APCD was pleased to receive Mr. Mariano Assanami Sabino Lopes, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural Development and Community Housing of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. He expressed keen interest in the employment of persons with disabilities and observed that skills training and confidence-building are essential in preparing individuals to join workforce. The Government of Timor-Leste appreciated APCD's good practices and intend to consider them for future adaptation.

APCD's Workshop on "Basic Understanding of Disabilities" is designed to foster a fundamental understanding of disability and appropriate interaction with persons with disabilities. It has drawn growing interest from the public. The workshop enables employees with and without disabilities to work together in a sustainable manner. It also equips organizations to serve and appropriately assist international visitors with disabilities as well as the elderly — a matter of particular importance to the hospitality, airport, and airline industries. Raising such awareness throughout society remains one of APCD's principal missions.

The APCD Foundation wishes to record its gratitude to all partners, associates, and networks for their cooperation in strengthening the capacity of persons with disabilities and in building an inclusive, barrier-free society for all — toward a better quality of life for persons with disabilities, leaving no one behind.

Dr. Tej Bunnag President of the APCD Foundation Under the Patronage of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

## **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 31 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 training 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 April 2007. The cabinet also approved APCD to be the under supervision of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) on 7 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 are 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 a branch at Government House of Thailand, Thai Red Cross Society and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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 MarkRin**

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).

## **APCD Activities: The Implementation of United Nation Convention on the Right of Persons with Disability (CRPD)**

### **1. Equality and Non-Discrimination**

**CRPD** Article 5 – Equality and non-discrimination; Article 8 – Awareness-raising

**SDGs** Goal 10 – Reduced inequalities

**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

### **1.1 Centara Grand Ladprao Hosted Disability Awareness Training**

On 7 February 2025, APCD conducted disability awareness training for 23 staff members at Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok. The program covered practical room allocation, effective communication techniques, and experiential learning through simulation exercises using assistive devices. The training enhanced understanding of diverse customer needs and fostered an inclusive workplace environment.

### **1.2 APCD and JICA Conducted Online Disability Equality Training for Global Staff**

On 4–5 March 2025, APCD and JICA organized online Disability Equality Training (DET) courses for JICA staff from the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Middle East regions. The training aimed to enhance disability inclusion in JICA's operations. Mr. Ueda Daisuke and Mr. Takahashi Yohei from JICA delivered opening remarks, while facilitators from Malaysia and Jordan led interactive sessions. A total of 31 participants engaged in discussions on disability perspectives and developed action plans for inclusive programming.

### **1.3 APCD Empowered Young Leaders with Disabilities through Disability Equality Training (DET)**

March-April 2025, APCD completed three DET sessions for young leaders with disabilities in Pathum Thani Province, Thailand. Hosted at an accessible venue with support from local partners, each session engaged approximately 30 participants. The training focused on the social model of disability, emphasizing societal barriers rather than individual limitations. Interactive activities helped participants address real-life challenges and build supportive networks.

### **1.4 APCD Participated in Monthian Monument Inauguration Ceremony)**

On 2 May 2025, APCD representatives attended the inauguration of the Monthian Monument at Santi Chintana School for the Blind in Phrae Province. H.E. Chuan Leekpai, former Prime Minister of Thailand, presided

over the ceremony. The event honored Senator Monthian Buntan, a prominent disability rights advocate and APCD Executive Board member, recognizing his contributions to the disability movement in Thailand.

### **1.5 APCD Conducted DET under Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB) Initiative**

On 7 May 2025, APCD, in partnership with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability (DEP) and UN ESCAP, organized a DET at Vic 3 Bangkok Hotel as part of the DIB initiative. Representatives from government, private sector, civil society, and UN agencies explored the social model of disability and its implications for employment. Participants developed practical solutions for creating inclusive workplaces through afternoon workshop sessions.

### **1.6 APCD Staff Featured on National Television Program**

On 15 May 2025, Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, APCD Chief of Networking and Collaboration, appeared on the National Broadcasting Services of Thailand (NBT) program 'Pen Kan Eng' (Casual Talk). The episode highlighted his journey as a person with cerebral palsy working in disability-inclusive development for over 15 years. He shared insights on overcoming barriers and promoting accessibility, empowerment, and barrier-free societies.

### **1.7 APCD Conducted Pioneer CRPD Training for ASEAN Level**

On 24 May 2025, APCD officers served as resource persons for CRPD Training at the Thailand Association of the Blind in Bangkok. Seventeen participants with various disabilities learned about Article 3 (General Principles) of the CRPD. The training, part of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative, combined lectures with interactive workshops to enhance understanding of disability rights.

### **1.8 APCD Executive Director was Interviewed on TNN Channel**

On 27 May 2025, Mr. Piroon Laismit, APCD Executive Director, was interviewed on TNN Television's 'Love Thailand' program. The discussion covered UNCRPD progress in the Asia-Pacific region and livelihood issues for persons with disabilities, reflecting the program's commitment to addressing important social issues.

## **2. Children and Youth with Disabilities**

**CRPD** Article 7 – Children with disabilities

**SDGs** Goal 3 – Good health and well-being; Goal 4 – Quality education

**Jakarta Declaration** – 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

### **2.1 APCD Inspired Young Leaders at Inclusive Leaders Panel Discussion**

On 22 February 2025, Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, APCD Chief of Networking and Collaboration, participated in a panel discussion on 'Inclusive Leaders' for young Thai leaders. Organized by Generation Thailand with support from McKinsey & Company at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, the event engaged 30 young leaders aged 20–25. Panelists shared experiences on empowering persons with disabilities and creating barrier-free societies.

### **2.2 APCD Supported Dulabhatorn Foundation Strategic Planning**

On 6–7 March 2025, APCD facilitated a review of the Dulabhatorn Foundation's Strategic and Action Plan 2025 in Chiang Mai Province. The Foundation implements programs promoting quality of life for young persons with developmental disorders, including income generation training, early intervention, and therapy programs. APCD's support strengthens local civil society organizations in empowering persons with disabilities.

### **2.3 APCD Participated in 29th Anniversary Dousa-Hou Seminar**

On 8 August 2025, APCD participated in the Dousa-Hou Academic Seminar hosted by the Foundation for Children with Disabilities in Bangkok. The event marked 29 years since the Japanese movement therapy method was introduced to Thailand. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp delivered closing remarks, emphasizing continued cooperation in family-based rehabilitation. Approximately 50 participants attended in person, with 1,000 persons participated online.

### **2.4 APCD Staff Co-Hosted World CP Day Facebook Live Program**

On 6 October 2025, Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen served as co-MC for the Foundation for Children with Disabilities' World Cerebral Palsy (CP) Day Facebook Live program. The event highlighted achievements of individuals living with cerebral palsy and promoted inclusion and equitable participation. The program received positive feedback from online participants. The event organized at the Foundation for Children with Disabilities in Bangkok.

### **2.5 APCD Supported Dulabhatorn Foundation Strategic Planning**

On 31 October–1 November 2025, APCD supported the Dulabhatorn Foundation in formulating their strategic plan for developing children with developmental disorders (2026–2028). The process included SWOT analysis and identification of three key program strategies including promoting children with disabilities and their families, strengthening networks and collaboration as well as enhancing organization's potential. The 2-day workshop was organized at Dulabhatorn Foundation in Chiang Mai Province.

## **3. Women and Girls with Disabilities**

**CRPD** Article 6 – Women with disabilities

**SDGs** Goal 5 – Gender equality

**Jakarta Declaration** – Priority Area 2: Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity - of all ages; Priority Area 5: Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to developing and implementing disability-related policies and programmes

### **3.1 APCD Participated in Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of International Women's Day**

On 6 March 2025, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, APCD Networking and Collaboration Officer, participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of International Women's Day 2025 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok. The meeting was organized by UN ESCAP and UN Women under the theme 'For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality, Empowerment,' the event highlighted youth's transformative role in driving innovation for gender equality.

### **3.2 CRPD Training Empowered Women with Psychosocial Disabilities**

From 29 September - 3 October 2025, Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) Korea, Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) Global and APCD organized CRPD Training in Bangkok and Nonthaburi Province. Ten women with psychosocial disabilities from South Asia, Indonesia, and Thailand gained advocacy and leadership skills. The training aligned with the Jakarta Declaration and included field visits to UN ESCAP, the Living Association, and APCD. Participants presented Action Plans to advance CRPD implementation.

### **3.3 APCD Partners with Women's Affairs Department**

On 12 November 2025, APCD participated in a family development initiative organized by the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development at Paradise Park. APCD showcased its APCD 60 Plus+ booth, presenting programs supporting women as family caregivers while promoting family wellbeing and gender equality. The collaboration highlighted the intersection between women's empowerment and family stability.

## **4. Health and Well-being**

**CRPD** Article 25 – Health; Article 30 - Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

**SDGs** Goal 3 – Good health and well-being

**Jakarta Declaration** – 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 5: Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to developing and implementing disability-related policies and programmes

### **4.1 APCD Gave Lecture at Mahidol University on CBR, CBID, and Inclusion**

On 10 January 2025, APCD delivered a special lecture on Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR), Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID), and Inclusion to the fourth-year physical therapy students at Mahidol University. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen shared his personal journey living with cerebral palsy, while Mr. Somchai Rungsilp presented core CBID concepts with case studies. The session strengthened collaboration between APCD and Mahidol University. The students also learned the significant concept and approaches of CBR and CBID.

#### **4.2 APCD Staff Spoke at Mahidol University Mental Health Session**

On 23 May 2025, Mr. Chayoot Homdee, APCD Community Development Officer, served as a resource person for an online session on 'Basic Mental Health Counseling and Support Guidelines for Students with Disabilities' at Mahidol University. Approximately 100 participants learned about supporting students with invisible disabilities including Autism, Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and Mental Health conditions.

#### **4.3 APCD Conducted Internal Capacity Training and Internship Farewell**

On 16 July 2025, APCD conducted an Internal Capacity Training Session and Internship Farewell Program. Ms. Jasmine Koch from St. Catherine University facilitated training on Disability Inclusive Food Security and Nutrition for the team members of Community Development Department and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The program included a Q&A session and presentation of certificate.

#### **4.4 APCD Demonstrated Disability-Inclusive Sports in Northern Thailand**

On 15 September 2025, APCD's Disability-Inclusive Sports (DIS) resource team demonstrated inclusive sports activities at a seminar organized by the Association for the Mentally ILL of Thailand in Chiang Mai Province. Over 300 participants from 17 provinces joined the event, which promoted physical and mental wellbeing of persons with mental health

disabilities through Takkyu Volley, Samspel, and Dodgebee demonstrations.

#### **4.5 APCD Promoted DIS for Psychosocial Disabilities' Associations**

On 24 September 2025 in Nakhon Nayok Province, APCD facilitated DIS demonstrations at a nationwide seminar organized by the Association for the Mentally ILL of Thailand. Over 700 participants from 27 provinces attended, including persons with psychosocial disabilities, their families, and supporters. The event promoted physical and mental wellbeing and social participation.

#### **4.6 APCD Participated in AICHR Regional Consultation on Environmental Rights**

On 8 December 2025, APCD participated in the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Regional Consultation on Promoting the Rights to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment of Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp served as a panelist, sharing APCD's roles in integrating disability rights into regional environmental action plans.

### **5. Inclusive Education**

**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; 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

#### **5.1 APCD Staff Attended Vulcan Coalition AI Presentation**

On 20 March 2025, APCD Community Development Department staff attended the Vulcan Coalition's AI presentation for capacity development in Bangkok. The session covered inclusive AI technologies and opportunities

for persons with disabilities. Participants learned about AI training, testing, and offerings that meet business needs.

## **5.2 Training of Trainers for Mongolian Teachers on Inclusive Education**

From 16–29 November 2025, APCD organized a Training of Trainers course for Mongolian teachers on Inclusive Education, supported by Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). Fifteen educational personnels from Mongolia participated, including representatives and teachers from the Ministry of Education and Inclusive Education. The training enhanced educators' capacity to advance inclusive education in Mongolia. The training was organized in Bangkok.

## **5.3 APCD Participated in UNDP-Microsoft Event on AI Innovation**

On 15 December 2025, APCD staff participated in the 'Empowering Persons with Disabilities through AI Innovation'. The event was organized by UNDP Bangkok and Microsoft Thailand at Microsoft Office in Bangkok. The event highlighted innovative initiatives demonstrating how responsible AI can enhance accessibility and equitable opportunities for persons with disabilities.

# **6. Employment and Economic Empowerment**

**CRPD** Article 27 – Work and employment

**SDGs** Goal 1 – No poverty; Goal 8 – Decent work and Economic Growth

**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

## **6.1 Thai-Japanese Association School Students Visited APCD**

On 22 January 2025, students from the Thai-Japanese Association School visited APCD to deepen their understanding of Japan's ODA related to disability inclusion. Arranged by JICA Thailand Office, the visit included

interactive sessions and a tour of the 60+ Plus Bakery and Cafe, showcasing inclusive employment practices.

## **6.2 Bankoku Nihonjin Gakko Students Join Bread-Making Workshop**

On 4 February 2025, students and teachers from Bankoku Nihonjin Gakko (Thai-Japanese Association School) participated in a bread-making workshop at APCD. The hands-on experience brought together the school community in a fun and educational setting, building new friendships through collaborative baking. The students also learned about disability-inclusive employment and business.

## **6.3 APCD Participated in Asian Regional Disability Summit**

On 14–15 February 2025, Mr. Somchai Rungsilp and Mr. Chanon Kisorawong participated in the Asian Regional Disability Summit at Novotel Bangkok. Co-organized by ASEAN Disability Forum and International Disability Alliance, the Summit discussed disability-inclusive development, digital inclusion, gender issues, and inclusive employment. APCD presented lessons learned on inclusive employment and business.

## **6.4 Kick-off Meeting for Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business Thailand Project**

On 19 February 2025, APCD, DEP, and sector experts launched the Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business (DIEB) Thailand Project in Bangkok. Supported by UN ESCAP, the initiative aimed to drive DIEB practices by developing a policy paper and code of conduct for private sector to promote DIEB. The meeting established working group collaboration and outlined project objectives.

## **6.5 APCD Staff Engaged at Chandrakasem Rajabhat University Event**

On 26 February 2025, Mr. Chayoot Homdee served as a panelist at Chandrakasem Rajabhat University for an event organized by the Social Innovation Foundation. The session introduced inclusive workplace concepts and disability rights to ten students with disabilities preparing to enter the job market.

### **6.6 APCD Launched Disability Skills Training Program**

On 5 March 2025, APCD launched a comprehensive 80 days training program for persons with disabilities in the food and hospitality sector at APCD. Running from March - July 2025, the program offered three specialized tracks: hotel services, Yamazaki bread making, and chocolate production with barista skills. Leading hospitality groups including Hyatt Regency and Thai Yamazaki conducted the training.

### **6.7 APCD Partners with Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Thai-Latin Coffee+ Plus Weeks**

On 10 March 2025, APCD joined Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to launch the 'Thai-Latin Coffee+ Plus Weeks' initiative. The event brought together nine Latin American Embassies and APCD's Buakaew Brew café staff with disabilities, to celebrate premium coffee and inclusive employment from 10–21 March 2025. The event was conducted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **6.8 Major Disability Employment Partnership Forms**

On 11 March 2025, a groundbreaking partnership was formalized at APCD. Able Prime, APCD, Go Luck Company (Subway Thailand), and Punthai Coffee signed an MOU to collaborate on expanding internship and job placements for persons with disabilities. The initiative aims to develop specialized programs and mentoring systems.

### **6.9 APCD and DEP Hold 1st DIEB Project Advisory Board Meeting**

On 19 March 2025, APCD and DEP organized the 1st Project Advisory Board Meeting for the Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business (DIEB) Thailand Project. Nineteen representatives from diverse organizations discussed the project's implementation, shared vision, and strategies for sustainable inclusive employment. The meeting focused on providing recommendations for the policy paper outline. The event was organized at APCD.

### **6.10 APCD Explored Vocational Training Collaboration with Brunei's An-Nur Harapan**

On 27 March 2025, APCD hosted a delegation from Brunei's An-Nur Harapan to discuss disability-inclusive vocational training. Led by Executive Director Mr. Piroon Laismit, the meeting explored strategies for empowering persons with disabilities through skills development. Both organizations committed to further discussions on joint initiatives.

#### **6.11 Millennium Hilton Bangkok Partners with APCD for Training**

On 28 March 2025, APCD conducted the first session of a comprehensive disability inclusion workshop at Millennium Hilton Bangkok. The 'Basic Understanding of Persons with Disabilities' program equipped hotel staff with essential skills for serving guests with various disabilities, demonstrating the hotel's dedication to accessible hospitality.

#### **6.12 First National Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on DIEB**

On 30 April 2025, APCD, DEP, and UN ESCAP organized the First National Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on DIEB at Best Western Chatuchak Hotel, Bangkok. Representatives from government, private sector, civil society, organization of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and UN agencies participated in SWOT/SOAR Analysis workshops to find solutions for promoting disability-inclusive employment and business.

#### **6.13 Millennium Hilton Bangkok Enhanced Disability Inclusion**

On 23 May 2025, The Millennium Hilton Bangkok completed its second phase of disability awareness training with APCD. General Manager Tim Tate presented certificates to participating staff from all departments. The training focused on practical skills including accessible accommodation requirements and inclusive common area environments.

#### **6.14 APCD Conducted Online DIEB Regional Stakeholder Meetings**

From 26–29 May 2025, APCD, DEP, and ESCAP held four online Regional Stakeholder Meetings under the DIEB Project across Thailand. Meetings in the South, Northeast, Central/East, and North regions gathered insights on unique challenges and ways to improve employment of persons with disabilities from diverse stakeholders.

### **6.15 APCD Participated in Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Digital Transformation**

On 2 June 2025, APCD joined the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Digital Transformation and the Future of Work for Persons with Disabilities at United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), Bangkok. Over 170 participants discussed how digital transformation can enhance participation of persons with disabilities in employment and society.

### **6.16 APCD has Partnered with Hyatt Regency Hotels for Inclusive Hospitality Training**

On 6 June 2025, APCD has partnered with Hyatt Regency Hotels to conduct specialized training on disability inclusion in hospitality services at Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit. Twenty-three hospitality professionals from Grand Hyatt Erawan and Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit participated. The training covered accessible accommodation, daily living support, and inclusive common area strategies, positioning Thailand as a leading accessible tourism destination.

### **6.17 APCD and DEP Hold 2nd DIEB Project Advisory Board Meeting**

On 6 June 2025, APCD and DEP hosted the 2nd Project Advisory Board Meeting for the DIEB Thailand Project. Advisory board members reviewed project progress and strategic direction, discussing policy recommendations aligned with SDGs and decent work principles.

### **6.18 APCD Hosted International Educational Visit on DIEB Practices**

On 16 June 2025, APCD welcomed nine international delegates from Indonesia's Yayasan Sayap Ibu Banten and the Perkins School for the Blind, USA. The educational session, facilitated through partnership with the Bangkok School for the Blind, showcased APCD's disability-inclusive business initiatives across the Asia-Pacific region.

### **6.19 APCD Partners with TPQI in Community Outreach Initiative**

On 19 June 2025, APCD hosted representatives from Thailand Professional Qualification Institute (TPQI) for a 'Warm Hearts, Sweet Treats' community service initiative at the 60+ Plus Bakery and Chocolate

Cafe. TPQI staff worked alongside with employees with disabilities to produce bread for donation to the Rajvithi Home for Girls.

### **6.20 Mainichi Newspapers Interviewed APCD Leadership**

On 25 June 2025, Mainichi Newspapers' Asia General Bureau conducted an interview at APCD exploring the 60+ Plus vocational skills training program. Ms. Aya Takeuchi interviewed Mr. Piroon Laismit and Ms. Wilailekha Somprach about disability-inclusive business initiatives.

### **6.21 APCD 60+ Plus Bakery Hosted Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spouses**

On 26 June 2025, the Association of Spouses of Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ASOMFA) visited APCD 60+ Plus Bakery for an inspiring bakery learning experience. Led by President Mr. Songwut Pintaruchi, 20 spouses worked alongside APCD's talented staff with disabilities, creating bread and pastries while forging meaningful connections.

### **6.22 Carlton Hotel Partnered with APCD for Disability Inclusive Training**

On 27 June 2025, Carlton Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit partnered with APCD for staff training on 'Basic Understanding of Customers and Staff with Disabilities.' The program covered accessible environments, effective communication techniques, and service excellence standards benefiting all customers.

### **6.23 APCD and Mott MacDonald Host Neurodiversity Sharing Session**

On 2 July 2025, APCD and Mott MacDonald hosted a virtual Neurodiversity Sharing Session for employees across nine Asian countries. Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol and Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen shared experiences on working with neurodivergence in the workplace, emphasizing how unique cognitive styles contribute to innovation and productivity when properly supported.

### **6.24 Certificate Awarding Ceremony for Hotel Service Vocational Skills**

On 4 July 2025, a certificate awarding ceremony was conducted at APCD to honor persons with disabilities who completed an internship program in hotel service vocational skills. The collaboration between DEP, APCD, and Centara Life Hotel showcased successful cooperation between government, private sector, and international organizations in advancing inclusive employment. The ceremony took place at Centara Life Hotel in Bangkok.

#### **6.25 APCD Concluded Vocational Skills Development Training**

On 7 July 2025, APCD concluded its Vocational Skills Development Training for persons with disabilities in the food and hospitality industry. The closing ceremony was organized at APCD to feature participation from key industry partners including Yamazaki, Black Canyon, and Able Prime, along with senior executives from major corporations. Graduates received certificates and networked with potential employers.

#### **6.26 APCD Organized 2nd National Stakeholder Meeting on DIEB**

On 18 July 2025, APCD, DEP, and UN ESCAP organized the 2nd National Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Promoting Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business. Sixty participants from government, private sector, civil society, and OPDs collaborated to review and develop the draft policy paper at APCD.

#### **6.27 APCD and Conrad Bangkok Collaborated on Inclusive Hospitality**

On 25 July 2025, APCD and Conrad Bangkok conducted a workshop on 'Understanding Customers and Staff with Disabilities' for 26 hotel staff members at Conrad Bangkok Hotel. Trainers with lived experiences of disability facilitated interactive sessions on respectful communication and accessible services. Conrad Bangkok also donated funds to support APCD's mission.

#### **6.28 Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University Staff Visited APCD**

On 6 August 2025, 19 staff from Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University's Special Education Center visited APCD to explore disability-inclusive employment opportunities. Led by Dr. Siriluck Prongsantia, the

delegation learned about APCD's programs and disability-inclusive business initiatives.

### **6.29 APCD Organized 3rd DIEB Advisory Board Meeting**

On 30 August 2025, APCD, DEP and ESCAP organized the 3rd Advisory Board Meeting for the DIEB project at DEP. Over 20 participants from diverse stakeholders provided final recommendations for the policy paper draft to ensure practical and effective implementation.

### **6.30 APCD Welcomed Toyo University Students and Professors**

On 2 September 2025, APCD hosted 35 students and 3 professors from Toyo University and other institutions, facilitated by NOGEZAKA-GLOCAL. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen presented APCD's mission and activities, followed by a tour of the 60+ Plus project facilities showcasing disability-inclusive employment practices.

### **6.31 APCD Participated in Naresuan University Seminar**

On 4 September 2025, APCD participated as a resource person at a seminar on 'Capacity Development and Preparedness for Disability Inclusive Employment' at Naresuan University, Phitsanulok Province. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp and Mr. Supon Borisoot, DEP Advisor shared knowledge and experiences with 16 private sector participants.

### **6.32 APCD Conducted Training at DoubleTree by Hilton**

On 12 September 2025, APCD and DoubleTree by Hilton Bangkok Ploenchit conducted a workshop on 'Understanding Customers and Staff with Disabilities' for 14 hotel staff members. Trainers with lived experiences facilitated interactive sessions on respectful communication and accessible service.

### **6.33 APCD Participated in Job and Market Fair 2025**

On 20–21 October 2025, APCD participated in the Job and Market Fair organized by DEP at the Government Complex Center, Bangkok. The APCD exhibition booth showcased the 60+ Plus Bakery and Chocolate Cafe Project, Disability-Inclusive Sports, and Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) activities. The event attracted over 4,000 participants.

### **6.34 Rockefeller Foundation and TICA Day of Service with APCD**

On 6 November 2025, APCD hosted a Day of Service activity with The Rockefeller Foundation and TICA at the 60+ Plus Bakery and Cafe. Ms. Deepali Khanna and Ms. Arunee Hiam led delegations in a collaborative bread-baking activity alongside with the APCD employees with disabilities. The freshly baked bread was donated to the Bangkok School for the Blind.

### **6.35 APCD Conducted Training on ‘Understanding Customers and Staff with Disability**

On 21 November 2025, APCD conducted its training course outside Bangkok at Centara Life Cha-am Beach Resort in Phetchaburi Province. The Training Course on ‘Understanding Customers and Staff with Disability’ engaged hotel staff in essential skills development for serving guests with disabilities, expanding APCD’s reach to southern Thailand.

### **6.36 APCD Mission Contributed at ASEAN Disability Forum Conference**

On 3–4 December 2025, APCD mission members Mr. Chayoot Homdee and Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen participated in the ASEAN Disability Forum Conference 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr. Chayoot delivered a youth perspective on employment toward inclusion and sustainability. Over 300 participants from ASEAN and Timor-Leste attended the significant event.

### **6.37 APCD Organized 4th DIEB Advisory Board Meeting**

On 11 December 2025, APCD organized the 4th Advisory Board Meeting for the Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business Project at APCD. The meeting gathered recommendations on the practical guide for employers, ensuring the document provides concrete and actionable.

## **7. Accessibility, Independent Living and Community Inclusion**

**CRPD** Article 9 – Accessibility; Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community; Article 21 – Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information; Article 28 – Adequate standard of living

and social protection; Article 30 – Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

**SDGs** Goal 2 – Zero hunger; Goal 11 – Sustainable cities and communities

**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 5: Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to developing and implementing disability-related policies and programmes

### **7.1 University of Delaware Visited APCD for Study Tour**

On 7 January 2025, APCD welcomed students and professors from the University of Delaware for a study tour facilitated by Burapha University. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen delivered a lecture on APCD's mission and conducted an interactive workshop on disability inclusion. The visitors toured the 60+ Plus Bakery and Kitchen by CP, observing inclusive business practices in action.

### **7.2 APCD Staff Participated in Bridge CRPD-SDGs ASEAN Training**

From 7–13 February 2025, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol and Mr. Chayoot Homdee participated in Module 1 of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs ASEAN Training at Novotel Bangkok. Organized by International Disability Alliance (IDA) and International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), the training engaged 30 participants with disabilities from ASEAN member states including Timor-Leste, strengthening understanding of the CRPD and its relationship to the SDGs.

### **7.3 Japanese University Students from Nogezaka Glocal Visited APCD**

On 10 February 2025, nine university students and one medical doctor from Nogezaka Glocal visited APCD to explore disability inclusion initiatives. Ms. Hiroko Itako, JOCV specializing in Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR), provided an overview of APCD's

programs. The students toured the 60+ Plus Bakery and Kitchen facilities, engaging in discussions on disability-inclusive development.

#### **7.4 APCD Supported Dao Ruang Self-Advocate Group Field Trip**

On 15–16 February 2025, APCD supported a field trip organized by the Dao Ruang Self-Advocate Group of persons with intellectual disabilities in Rayong Province. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen and Mr. Chayoot Homdee represented APCD at this annual empowerment activity, which included temple visits, market activities, and team-building exercises for 15 group members.

#### **7.5 APCD Staff Featured in SDGs Story Exchange**

On 28 February 2025, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol participated in the 'Human Library' event at the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development at UNCC, Bangkok. As a 'Living Book' representing targeted SDGs, she shared her journey, challenges, and achievements to foster empathy and understanding of the interconnectedness of the SDGs.

#### **7.6 Kumamoto Prefectural University Students Visited APCD**

On 13 March 2025, ten students from Kumamoto Prefectural University visited APCD to learn about disability inclusion initiatives. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen provided an overview of APCD's programs and JICA partnership. Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol introduced disability-inclusive business initiatives including the 60+ Plus Bakery and Kitchen by CP

#### **7.7 APCD Hosted for Visit of Thammasat University Students**

On 17 March 2025, fourteen students from Thammasat University's Social Policy and Development Program visited APCD to learn about disability inclusion in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen facilitated the session, emphasizing APCD's alignment with human rights, social development, and sustainability values. The visit included tours of the 60+ Plus Bakery and Kitchen facilities.

#### **7.8 Dao Ruang Group Fundraising Success**

On 6 April 2025, the Dao Ruang Group conducted a successful fundraising event supported by APCD. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen

served as mentor to the group. The 15 members created and sold handmade crafts including decorated tissue boxes and fans, raising funds for future activities such as field trips and community service projects. The activity was conducted at Rajanukul Institute.

### **7.9 APCD Officer Delivered Lecture on Autism at Thammasat University**

On 10 April 2025, Mr. Chayoot Homdee delivered a guest lecture on his experiences with autism at Thammasat University for the session: Civil Society Management. Over 20 students attended the session, which covered his life journey, overcoming discrimination, and contributions to social change.

### **7.10 APCD Exhibition at Thailand Development Forum**

On 16 May 2025, APCD participated in the Thailand Development Forum for Africa on the Application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy at Amari Bangkok Hotel. Invited by TICA, APCD's interactive display showcased TICA-APCD collaboration in empowering persons with disabilities to their full capacity.

### **7.11 Rhodes College Study Tour Visited APCD**

On 19 May 2025, students from Rhodes College, USA, visited APCD as part of their Thailand study tour. Mr. Piroon Laismit delivered welcome remarks, followed by a presentation on APCD's activities by Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen. The 13 participants engaged in experiential learning activities and toured the 60+ Plus facilities.

### **7.12 APCD Hosted Southern School for the Blind Study Visit**

On 4 June 2025, APCD welcomed a delegation from the Southern School for the Blind in Surat Thani Province. The visit focused on inclusive accessible building design, with participants providing hands-on testing and feedback on accessibility features including tactile surface systems and Braille signage. The collaboration demonstrated APCD's commitment to promoting universal design principles.

### **7.13 APCD Hosted DVIFA and University Students from Southern Border Provinces**

On 17 June 2025, APCD welcomed 30 university students and 7 staff from Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA) representing Prince of Songkla University, Fatoni University, and Princess of Naradhiwas University. The visit showcased APCD's disability-inclusive development initiatives and included tours of the 60+ Plus Bakery and Kitchen facilities.

#### **7.14 APCD Welcomed Japanese Association of Social Workers Delegation**

On 7 August 2025, APCD welcomed 13 members of the delegation from the Japanese Association of Social Workers, led by Mr. Yutaka Takamine, President of Empowerment Okinawa. The visit strengthened mutual understanding and promoted future collaboration between Japan and Thailand in disability support and social work.

#### **7.15 APCD Shared Knowledge with Selangor Foundation**

On 27 August 2025, APCD welcomed a delegation from the Selangor Disabled Council, Malaysia, for a knowledge exchange visit. Led by Selangor State Assemblyman Y.B. Tuan Danial Al-Rashid, the group learned about APCD's mission and approaches to disability-inclusive development. The visit included a tour of the 60+ Plus Bakery and Cafe.

#### **7.16 Srinakharinwirot University Students Visited APCD**

On 28 October 2025, 109 students from Srinakharinwirot University majoring in Science and Art of Sustainable Social Development visited APCD. The study visit enhanced the students' understanding of sustainable tourism management and inclusive community development, inspiring them to become advocates for disability inclusion.

#### **7.17 APCD Participated in Thailand Friendly Design Expo 2025**

On 11–14 December 2025, APCD participated in the Thailand Friendly Design Expo at BITEC Bangna. APCD has been honored with the 'Outstanding Employment Promotion Organization' award, to be presented by the Minister of Social Development and Human Security. The Expo operated under the theme 'Equal Access for All,' highlighting Thailand's capabilities in inclusive healthcare and tourism.

## **8. Protection in Risk and Emergency Situations**

**CRPD** Article 11 – Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

**SDGs** Goal 13 – Climate action

**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 5: Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to developing and implementing disability-related policies and programmes

### **8.1 APCD Shared Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) Concept via National Television**

On 5 April 2025, APCD's DIDRR interview program was on air. The interview session was conducted on 14 March 2025 before the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand (28 March). APCD was invited to speak on DIDRR concept on the National Broadcasting Services of Thailand (NBT) program 'Pen Kan Eng' (Casual Talk). Mr. Somchai Rungsilp discussed the importance of ensuring vulnerable groups participate in all stages of disaster risk reduction at individual, community, and national levels.

### **8.2 APCD Staff Participated in Autism and Disaster Forum**

On 14 April 2025, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol and Mr. Chayoot Homdee participated in an online discussion titled 'Autism Faces Shaking While the Earthquake is Shaking More,' organized by Thisable.me and Phutthamonthon Independent Living. The four autistic panelists shared perspectives on disaster preparedness and support needs for autistic individuals during emergencies.

### **8.3 APCD Shared DIDRR Experiences in Regional Webinar**

On 25 May 2025, APCD and Yakkum Emergency Unit were invited as resource persons for a DIDRR Webinar organized by the Malaysian Confederation of the Disabled and ASEAN Disability Forum. Ms. Nanda Annisa Husni, APCD active ex-participant and Mr. Somchai Rungsilp

shared their experiences and good practices on implementing DIDRR in the region.

#### **8.4 APCD Contributed to Thailand's Disability-Inclusive Disaster Preparedness Workshop**

On 28–29 May 2025, Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen served as a panelist at a DEP-hosted workshop on disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities at Prince Palace Hotel, Bangkok. The workshop brought together over 180 participants including provincial disability service center directors and disability organizations nationwide.

#### **8.5 APCD and Dao Ruang Group Conducted Disaster Preparedness Training**

On 15 June 2025, APCD and the Dao Ruang Group conducted a training session on 'The Basics of Disaster Preparedness' using the Disaster Duck educational model. The interactive drills taught participants how to prepare for and protect themselves during various types of disasters, incorporating case studies from Japan.

#### **8.6 APCD Participated in Psychosocial Disability Leadership Forum**

On 9 July 2025, Mr. Piroon Laismit served as a panelist in the 'Network Organization Leadership Empowerment Project' hosted by the Association for the Mentally Ill of Thailand in Chiang Mai Province. The forum focused on advocacy for persons with psychosocial disabilities, with Mr. Piroon highlighting the key points of DIDRR principles.

#### **8.7 APCD Delivered DIDRR Training at Piboon Prachasan School**

On 24 July 2025, APCD conducted DIDRR training at Piboon Prachasan School, co-organized with the school as a follow-up to the Third Country Training Program (TCTP) DIDRR program. Over 100 students with disabilities participated in the training, which focused on responding to natural disasters and fire emergencies in an inclusive manner.

#### **8.8 APCD Contributed to Disaster Preparedness Training for Persons with Visual Impairments**

On 25 July 2025, APCD participated in a disaster preparedness program organized by the Friends for Disabilities and Underprivileged Foundation at Tongtara Riverview Hotel, Bangkok. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp led a session on DiDRR, while Ms. Hiroko Itako shared a case study from the Great East Japan Earthquake focusing on experiences of a blind evacuee.

### **8.9 APCD Participated in Social Development Expo 2025**

On 17–18 September 2025, APCD participated in the Social Development Expo 2025 at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok. The event was organized by Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) under the theme of 'Demographic and Climate Crises'. The Expo gathered high-level officials, UN agencies, and civil society organizations. APCD Executive Director joined the opening ceremony and also delivered his speech at high-level dialogue, while Mr. Somchai Rungsilp served as a panelist, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol shared her perspectives as a young woman with autism. APCD also organized the exhibition booth during the event.

## **9. Data, Monitoring, and Accountability**

**CRPD** Article 31 – Statistics and data collection; Article 33 – National implementation and monitoring

**SDGs** Goal 17 – Partnerships for the goals

**Jakarta Declaration** – Priority Area 1: Harmonize national legislation with the CRPD, once the Convention has been ratified or acceded to; Priority Area 5: Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to developing and implementing disability-related policies and programmes; Priority Area 6: Close disability data gaps and strengthen capacities to track progress in disability-inclusive development

### **9.1 APCD Participated in Workshop on Advancing Disability Inclusion in ASEAN**

On 20–22 May 2025, APCD representatives participated in a workshop on 'Advancing Disability Inclusion in ASEAN: Thailand's Role and

Commitment' at Bella B Hotel, Nonthaburi Province. The workshop followed up on the mid-term evaluation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 and discussed Thailand's role in disability-inclusive development. The main co-organizers were DEP, AICHR Thailand, Disability Thailand and APCD.

### **9.2 APCD Welcomed JICA for TCTP DIDRR Program Evaluation**

On 6 June 2025, APCD hosted a delegation from JICA and International Development Center of Japan (IDCJ) for a joint evaluation of the Third Country Training Program on DIDRR in the ASEAN region. APCD representatives were interviewed and shared insights on program achievements, follow-up with ex-participants, and making recommendations for future improvements.

### **9.3 APCD Participated in CRPD Sub-Committee Meeting**

On 28 August 2025, APCD attended the Sub-Committee on Promoting the Implementation of CRPD meeting at MSDHS. APCD was appointed to work in two national Working Groups: Developing the Report on Implementing of CRPD in Thailand, and Monitoring Disability and Development in ASEAN.

## **10. Global Collaboration and Partnership Building**

**CRPD Article 32** – International Cooperation

**SDGs Goal 17** – Partnerships for the goals

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

### **10.1 APCD Participated in AICHR Meeting with Thai Civil Society**

On 4 February 2025, APCD participated in the 2025 meeting between AICHR and Thai Civil Society Organizations in Bangkok. Over 80 participants from civil society organizations, OPDs, and Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) discussed challenges in the ASEAN context and brainstormed ideas for future development. Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat built connections with the new AICHR Thailand representative.

### **10.2 APCD and KOICA Conducted Art Workshop**

On 6 February 2025, Korean language training volunteers from KOICA and Thai participants with disabilities joined cultural and art activities at APCD Training Center. The program promoted understanding toward disability among Korean volunteers while APCD participants experienced Korean culture and art through hands-on activities including blind, hearing impaired, physical disability, and autism participants.

### **10.3 APCD Welcomed KONNO Corporation Feasibility Study Team**

On 14 February 2025, APCD received a delegation from KONNO Corporation led by JICA headquarters for a feasibility study on Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) program. The survey focused on detachable car driving assistant devices for persons with disabilities. Ms. Nongnuch Maytarjittipun tested the device and provided feedback.

### **10.4 APCD Facilitated Vietnam Autism Network Study Tour**

On 18–20 February 2025, APCD facilitated a study tour for the Vietnam Autism Network (VAN) to explore vocational training models in Thailand. Nineteen delegates visited Piboonprachasan School, Srinakharinwirot University, the Center for Empowerment and Development of Autism, and APCD facilities. Mr. Piroon Laismit presented completion certificates to participants.

### **10.5 TICA and TİKA Representatives Visited APCD**

On 7 March 2025, Mrs. Arunee Hiam, Deputy Director-General of TICA, visited APCD with representative of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). Mr. Piroon Laismit showcased how TİKA's contributions have strengthened APCD's capacity to advance disability inclusion across the Asia-Pacific region.

### **10.6 APCD Participated in Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Program**

On 22 March 2025, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, APCD Networking and Collaboration Officer and autistic self-advocate, delivered a session on 'Creating Inclusive Community' at the FYAA TH-JAY Program. The event, hosted by the Friendship Youth Alumni Association of Thailand with JICA support, brought together youth leaders from ASEAN countries to discuss opportunities for young people.

### **10.7 APCD Participated in ESCAP Working Group on Asian and Pacific Decade**

On 3–4 June 2025, APCD participated in the First Session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, at UNCC, Bangkok. The APCD delegation shared insights on inclusive community development, empowerment, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

### **10.8 Millennium Hilton Bangkok Partners with APCD for Community Initiative**

On 13 June 2025, Mr. Piroon Laismit welcomed Millennium Hilton Bangkok's leadership team for a baking workshop under the APCD 60+ Project at APCD. Ten executives participated in the inclusive community engagement initiative, purchasing baked goods and donating them to the Bangkok School for the Blind.

### **10.9 NDC Batch 67 and Able Prime Visited APCD**

On 13 June 2025, National Defence College (NDC) Batch 67 (Tiger Group) and Able Prime visited APCD for discussions on disability-inclusive training and employment. Subway Thailand and Punthai Coffee were identified as key employers for APCD vocational training graduates.

### **10.10 APCD Team Paid Courtesy Call to TICA Director-General**

On 18 June 2025, Mr. Piroon Laismit led the APCD team in a courtesy call to Mr. Chulvat Narinthrangura Na Ayudhya, Director-General of TICA's Department of International Cooperation. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration and exploring opportunities for enhanced partnership.

### **10.11 APCD Participated in 6th ASEAN Autism Network Congress**

On 21–22 June 2025, APCD participated in the 6th ASEAN Autism Network Congress in Vientiane, Lao PDR, hosted by the Association for Autism. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp and Mr. Chayoot Homdee represented APCD, supporting activities on leisure, recreation and sports along with assisting with the AAN Executive Committee Meeting. The highlight was the chairmanship handover from Lao PDR to Cambodia.

### **10.12 APCD Collaborated with London School of Public Relations Indonesia**

On 25 June 2025, London School of Public Relations – School of Special Needs Education visited APCD to explore regional collaboration. Dr. Chrisdina and the team discussed potential collaboration on resources for disability development and exchange of best practices in special needs education.

### **10.13 APCD and Nippon Foundation Conducted PCM Training**

On 26 June 2025, APCD and The Nippon Foundation held a Project Cycle Management (PCM) training workshop for staff capacity building. Facilitated by Mr. Yoshio Nakagawa, seven APCD and DEP participants engaged in group work to analyze key issues and examine structured project planning tools. The training was conducted at APCD.

### **10.14 APCD Met with Good Neighbors Thailand Foundation**

On 9 July 2025, APCD representatives met with Good Neighbors Thailand Foundation to discuss potential collaboration on promoting empowerment and inclusion of children with disabilities in northern Thailand. Good Neighbors is an international humanitarian organization working in 47 countries. The meeting was arranged at Good Neighbors Thailand's office.

### **10.15 APCD Executive Director Visited MarkRin Chocolate**

On 11 July 2025, Mr. Piroon Laismit visited MarkRin (Thailand) in Chiang Mai to promote inclusive employment for persons with disabilities through chocolate-making partnerships. The visit explored ways to empower persons with disabilities via skill development and entrepreneurship.

### **10.16 APCD Attended BMA Town Hall on Volunteers with Disabilities**

On 14 July 2025, APCD attended the 'BMA Empowers and Promotes Volunteers with Disabilities' Town Hall at TK Palace Convention, Bangkok. Over 300 participants joined the platform highlighting disability-inclusive employment initiated by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

### **10.17 APCD Representative Spoke at Thammasat University Orientation**

On 29 July 2025, Ms. Thorfan Dechachainimit returned to Thammasat University as an invited alumna of the Social Policy and Development Program. She shared her academic and professional journey with new students, encouraging them to explore beyond the classroom and develop practical skills.

### **10.18 APCD Hosted Thailand-Vietnam Youth Cultural Exchange**

On 1 August 2025, APCD hosted 10 youth delegates from the Vietnam Youth and Children Support Center for a cultural exchange program at APCD. The initiative promoted mutual understanding among youth aged 16–25 through cultural exchange, traditions, and learning activities. The program strengthened regional cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam while building awareness of cultural diversity.

### **10.19 APCD Staff Participated in National Consultation on VAWG**

On 7 August 2025, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol participated in the National Consultation Meeting on the ASEAN Guidance Note on Disability Inclusion in Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Policies and Programs. She shared APCD's good practices on promoting gender equality perspectives for individuals with diverse disabilities.

### **10.20 APCD Representative Joined UNICEF Youth Consultation**

On 7 August 2025, Ms. Thorfan Dechachainimit attended UNICEF Thailand's Youth Consultation for the next five-year Country Programme (2027–2031). The session gathered young people's perspectives to ensure the plan reflects real challenges and needs, with over 50 participants engaging in collaborative dialogue.

### **10.21 Turkish Embassy Donated Equipment to APCD Foundation**

On 25 August 2025, Her Excellency Ms. Julide Kayihan, Ambassador of Turkey to Thailand, presented specialized equipment from TİKA to APCD Foundation. The donation enhances APCD's capacity to promote disability inclusion across the Asia-Pacific region.

## **10.22 APCD Highlighted Inclusive Development at 10th TICA**

### **Connect**

On 28 August 2025, APCD joined the 10th TICA Connect Event at Siam Paragon, Bangkok. Under the theme 'Empowering People, Innovating for Change,' APCD showcased Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID), Disability-Inclusive Sports (DIS), Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business (DIEB), and Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) practices. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp served as a panelist on 'Inclusive Development: Reaching the Margins.'

## **10.23 Timor-Leste Vice Prime Minister Visited APCD**

On 8 September 2025, H.E. Mr. Mariano Assanami Sabino Lopes led a 10 members delegation from Timor-Leste to visit APCD. The delegation joined an interactive baking workshop and discussed future collaboration on disability-inclusive development with APCD leadership.

## **10.24 APCD Hosted Disabled Peoples' International (DPI)-Korea Leaders and delegates**

On 2 October 2025, Mr. Piroon Laismit welcomed Mr. Lee Young Suk, President of DPI-Korea and DPI-AP, and delegates to APCD. The visit focused on showcasing APCD's Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business projects and strengthening cooperation on disability rights advocacy.

## **10.25 JICA President Visited APCD**

On 17 October 2025, Mr. Piroon Laismit welcomed JICA President Mr. TANAKA Akihiko, Ambassador OTAKA Masato, and senior JICA officials to APCD. The historic visit reinforced the Japan-APCD partnership, featuring strategic discussions and a tour of the 60+ Plus Bakery and Chocolate Cafe.

## **10.26 APCD Welcomed Guests from Brunei Darussalam**

On 3 November 2025, APCD welcomed Tuan Pengiran Salleh and Mdm. Suzanne Rinawaty Abdullah from Brunei Darussalam. The guests were welcomed by Dr. Tej Bunnag and Mr. Piroon Laismit, demonstrating APCD's commitment to regional disability inclusion partnerships.

### **10.27 APCD Participated DPI Korea event on “International Forum on the Roles of Stakeholders in Capacity Building and Nurturing Artists with Disabilities in Asia-Pacific Region”**

On 6 November 2025, APCD representative delivered the congratulatory remarks for the event and shared his inputs towards promoting inclusive art in the Asia-Pacific region at the panel discussion, Seoul, South Korea. This significant event was organized by DPI Korea. Delegates from Thailand who join the forum included representatives of Dulabhatorn Foundation, Lucie Foundation as well as one online participant from Bangkok, Bangkok Art and Cultural Center (BACC).

### **10.28 APCD delivered the opening remarks and attended the workshop on Inclusive International Seminar with Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities “Towards Rights-based on Deinstitutionalization and Inclusion in The Community”**

On 7 November 2025 APCD Representative delivered the opening remarks and attended the workshop on Inclusive International Seminar with Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities “Towards Rights-based on Deinstitutionalization and Inclusion in The Community”. The workshop was conducted by DPI Korea at Seoul, South Korea to promote better life of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

### **10.29 APCD Partners with APCD delivered the congratulatory remarks at the 4th Korea-Asia Pacific Disability Culture and ART D-EUM Festival**

On 7 November 2026, the 4th Korea-Asia Pacific Disability Culture and ART D-EUM Festival was organized in Seoul, South Korea. The festival aimed to create a cultural and artistic space where people with and without disabilities can enjoy together on art activities. The opening ceremony of the exhibition was held in the afternoon of 7 November 2025. APCD Partners, Dulabhatorn Foundation, Lucie Foundation and APCD attended and delivered the congratulatory remarks. The first exhibition was first held at BACC in Bangkok, followed by a showcase in Seoul this time and was planned to continue showing in Jeju in December 2025. The most of artwork showed in this gallery were photos taken by students with disabilities.

### **10.30 APCD Participated in BRICS Panel Discussion in Moscow**

On 25 November 2025, Ms. Nongnuch Maytarjittipun represented APCD at the 'BRICS (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) of Opportunities' panel discussion in Moscow, Russia. The event explored how inclusive technologies can serve as catalysts for global change, with APCD highlighting in developing inclusive technologies across the Asia-Pacific region.

### **10.31 APCD Participated in 7th Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum**

On 3 December 2025, Mr. Piroon Laismit participated as an invited speaker at the 7th Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation at UNCC, Bangkok. The session focused on advancing sustainable and inclusive development through cooperation.

### **10.32 APCD Showcased Disability Inclusive Development at Thailand-Africa Development Forum**

On 8 December 2025, APCD hosted an exhibition booth at the Thailand-Africa Development Forum at The Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok. The event was presided over by H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuanketkeow, Minister of Foreign Affairs. APCD presented its mandate and best practices on disability-inclusive development.

### **10.33 Royal Visited from Brunei Darussalam**

On 9 December 2025, APCD was honored to welcome Her Royal Highness Princess Anisha Rosnah binti Adam of Brunei Darussalam. Mr. Piroon Laismit delivered welcome remarks and introduced APCD's mission. Distinguished guests from THAI YAMAZAKI also joined the occasion. The Princess of Brunei and delegates also joined the bakery workshop at APCD.

### **10.34 APCD Participated in AICHR Regional Consultation**

On 9 December 2025, APCD attended the AICHR Regional Consultation on Promoting Disability Inclusivity in ASEAN Communities. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp launched the DIEB policy paper alongside UN ESCAP and DEP representatives. Asst. Prof. Dr. Arunee Limmanee presented on employment situations for persons with disabilities in Thailand.

### **10.35 South Korea-Thailand Shared for Inclusion Seminars 2025 to Advance Disability Inclusion and International Collaboration, Via Hybrid Platform**

On 15 December 2026, APCD contributed to the “South Korea-Thailand Sharing for Inclusion Seminars 2025,” organized by the DEP in Thailand in partnership with DPI Korea. The seminar took place in a hybrid format at the 60th Anniversary Meeting Room, DEP building, connecting participants from Thailand and Korea through teleconference from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM. The event aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience in disability inclusive development between the two countries as well as strengthen cooperation and networking among persons with disabilities, OPDs, and relevant stakeholders. A total of 70 stakeholders from Thailand and Korea actively participated in the seminar. APCD representatives delivered a session on understanding disability and engaged in discussions and built connections with organizations supporting persons with disabilities.

### **10.36 APCD Received Donation from NDC Alumni Association**

On 17 December 2025, APCD received a generous donation of 120,000 Baht from the National Defence College (NDC) of Thailand Alumni Association and NDC Class 67 (Tiger Troop). The contribution supported APCD's initiatives in capacity building and advocacy for persons with disabilities.

### **10.37 APCD Delivered Keynote at JICA Tokyo Seminar**

On 19 December 2025, APCD delivered a keynote on inclusive innovation for persons with disabilities at JICA's headquarters in Tokyo. The online seminar brought together leaders and implementers from across Japan and the Asia-Pacific to discuss advancing disability-inclusive development.

## **APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café Project:**

Throughout 2025, the APCD 60+ Plus Project continued to promote inclusive employment, vocational skill development, and social participation

for persons with disabilities through a variety of meaningful activities, workshops, community events, and partnerships with organizations from both Thailand and abroad.

### **1. Participation in Mitr Tae Insurance 78th Anniversary Celebration**

On 15 February, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café was honored to participate in the 78th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Award Ceremony hosted by Mitr Tae Insurance Public Company Limited. During the event, APCD showcased and sold bakery products, chocolate, and beverages prepared by employees with disabilities.

The atmosphere was warm and welcoming. The executives, award recipients, and staff members show their strong support for APCD products and inclusive employment initiatives. Participation in the event also demonstrated APCD's expanding role in catering services, event booths, snack boxes, and social enterprise partnerships.

### **2. Opening Ceremony of the 2025 Vocational Skills Development Training Program**

APCD Skills Development Training for Persons with Disabilities for the Year 2025 from 5 March - 7 July 2025, at APCD. The training program consisted of 80 training days and included three activities: hotel and restaurant service, Yamazaki bread making, and chocolate and barista training.

This training, supported by the DEP Fund, is a DIB initiative that provides sustainable on-the-job training for persons with disabilities in Thailand to develop their business skills in the food and beverage industry, including hospitality.

The project serve as an important platform for empowering persons with disabilities and promoting sustainable and inclusive workforce development in Thailand. The project received strong support from partner organizations, including Thai Yamazaki, Black Canyon Coffee, Subway Thailand, PTG Energy Public Company Limited (Panthai Coffee), and Able

Prime Co., Ltd. As a result of the training program, many participants with disabilities secured employment opportunities with partner companies and businesses, including Yamazaki Bakery, Flavor Field, Subway Thailand, Panthai Coffee, SuperRich, and APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Cafe itself.

### **3. Thai-Latin Coffee Plus Weeks 2025**

During 11 - 21 March 2025, Buakaew Brew by APCD, one of the branches of APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café located within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated in the “Thai-Latin Coffee Plus Weeks” organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with ambassadors from Latin American countries.

The initiative aimed to strengthen cultural relationships through specialty coffee exchange and promote coffee beans from both Latin American countries and Thailand. Specialty coffee beans provided by Latin American embassies, together with carefully selected Thai coffee beans from the Q Project Thailand initiative, were promoted and served at all four APCD café branches, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Branch, Rajvithi Branch, Government House Branch, and Thai Red Cross Society Branch.

The event served as an example of soft power diplomacy and cultural exchange through coffee culture, while also supporting inclusive employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the café and hospitality sector.

### **4. Participation in MCOT ESG Insight: “ESG for Life”**

On 25 April, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café was honored to participate in the launch event of “MCOT ESG Insight: ESG for Life,” organized by MCOT Public Company Limited. The event emphasized the role of media in promoting sustainability and social responsibility under the concept “Easy to Understand, Practical for Everyday Life.”

The event also highlighted diversity, equality, and inclusive opportunities within society through various social engagement activities, including mental wellness discussions, environmental workshops, second-hand charity markets, massage services by persons with visual disabilities, and inclusive social enterprises. APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café

received warm support and positive responses from executives, staff members, and participants attending the event.

The participation reflected APCD's ongoing commitment to promoting Disability-Inclusive businesses and raising public awareness about the capabilities of persons with disabilities through high-quality bakery, chocolate, and beverage products.

## **5. Collaboration with Thai Life Insurance and Matichon Academy**

One of APCD's key achievements in 2025 was the continuation of its vocational skill development program for persons with disabilities for the 10th consecutive year. On 7 May, APCD was honored to collaborate with Thai Life Insurance Public Company Limited through the "Enhancing Opportunities, Creating Careers" initiative under the concept of "Learning for Sustainable Careers," implemented together with Matichon Academy.

The program provided training in Korean sandwiches, skewer sandwiches, fruit tea preparation, and financial management for persons with disabilities participating in the APCD vocational training project. Importantly, parents and caregivers were also invited to participate, strengthening family understanding and extending vocational skills into households and communities

APCD sincerely appreciates the valuable support from Thai Life Insurance, Matichon Academy, and Chef Kanokpan Jansirisri from Udomsuk Coffee Happy & More for sharing professional knowledge and empowering persons with disabilities toward sustainable careers and improved quality of life.

## **6. Career Guidance and Learning Fair**

On 16 –17 May 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café participated in the "Career Guidance for Learning" Fair organized by the Professional Qualification Institute at IMPACT Exhibition Center, Muang Thong Thani. The event featured career guidance activities, panel discussions, and vocational learning opportunities. APCD presented freshly baked bakery products and beverages while promoting inclusive employment and vocational training opportunities for persons with disabilities.

## **7. Inclusive Workshop with Millennium Hilton Bangkok**

On 13 June, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café organized a disability awareness and inclusion workshop together with the management team from Millennium Hilton Bangkok. During the activity, participants joined bread-making workshops led by employees with disabilities, promoting mutual understanding, teamwork, and social inclusion.

The baked products were later donated to students at the Bangkok School for the Blind through APCD's "PunPangPunBoon" donation campaign initiative, further extending the impact of the activity to the wider community.

## **8. Bread-Making Workshop with ASOMFA**

On 26 June 2025, Association of Spouses of Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ASOMFA), together with APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café, organized a bread-making workshop at APCD, where participants learned Yamazaki bread-making techniques together with employees with disabilities. The activity also included an introduction to APCD's history and mission, helping participants gain a greater understanding of disability inclusion and community empowerment.

## **9. APCD's "PunPangPunBoon" Donation Campaign Initiative**

As part of APCD's "PunPangPunBoon" donation campaign initiative, APCD delivered freshly baked bread and fresh orange juice to children at the Slum Child Care Foundation on July 15, 2025. The activity was made possible by the generous support of customers and donors who continue to share happiness and nutritious food with underprivileged communities.

## **10. Catering Services for Stakeholder Meetings**

On 18 July 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café provided catering and coffee break services for the stakeholder meeting on inclusive employment and disability-inclusive businesses organized by APCD Community Development Division at the APCD Training Building. The event demonstrated the professional service capabilities of employees with disabilities in hospitality and catering operations.

### **11. Market Fair at the Government Savings Bank Headquarters.**

From 21-25 July 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery and Café participated in the Government Savings Bank Market Fair at the Government Savings Bank Headquarters, offering freshly baked bread, cookies, brownies, and fresh orange juice to customers. The participation helped promote employment opportunities and income generation for persons with disabilities.

### **12. Participation in Sustainability and Community Events**

On 27th August 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café participated in the “Sustrends 2026” event organized by The Cloud at Benjakitti Forest Park Museum. The event provided an opportunity to showcase products made by employees with disabilities while promoting inclusive and sustainable businesses.

### **13. Official Visit from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**

On 8 September 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café welcomed H.E. Mr. Mariano Assanami Sabino Lopes, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs, and Minister of Rural Development and Community Housing of Timor-Leste, together with his delegation, during their official study visit to Thailand on rural development from 7–11 September 2025.

The delegation visited the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café, Rajvithi Branch. On this occasion, Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman of the APCD Foundation, and Mr. Piroon Laismit, Executive Director of APCD, welcomed the delegation and presented an overview of APCD’s mission and activities.

The Deputy Prime Minister and delegation also participated in a Yamazaki bread-making workshop together with employees with disabilities. The activity highlighted APCD’s vocational training model, which empowers persons with disabilities through practical skill development, employment opportunities, self-reliance, and sustainable social inclusion.

#### **14. Japanese Charity Bazaar 2025**

On 20 –21 September 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café joined the 52nd Japanese Charity Bazaar organized by the Japanese Association in Thailand at Suralai Hall, ICONSIAM.

The event featured products from ethnic communities, disadvantaged groups, and social enterprises. APCD presented freshly baked bread, pastries, and organic Thai chocolate products handcrafted by employees with disabilities. The event provided an important platform to promote inclusive employment while increasing public awareness and support for the capabilities of persons with disabilities. During the event, Mr. OTAKA Masato, Ambassador of Japan to Thailand visited various booths, including APCD's booth, where we had the honor of engaging in valuable conversation and exchanging thoughtful insights with him.

#### **15. Community Sharing Activity at Suea Yai Child Care Center**

On 26th September 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café delivered freshly baked bread and fresh orange juice to children at the Suea Yai Child Care Center. The activity was supported by generous customers who ordered bakery products and beverages to share with the children.

The children enjoyed the snacks and refreshments, while the activity created meaningful moments of happiness for both the givers and receivers. APCD sincerely appreciates the trust and continuous support from all customers who help make these sharing activities possible.

#### **16. Job and Market Fair for Persons with Disabilities 2025**

On 20–21 October 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café participated in the “Job and Market Fair” organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The event aimed to promote employment, vocational opportunities, digital skills, and sustainable income generation for persons with disabilities, while also encouraging inclusive employment practices under Thai law.

At the event, APCD proudly showcased the abilities and achievements of employees with disabilities who had completed vocational training through the project and are currently working in APCD 60+ Plus bakery and chocolate Cafe. Fresh bakery products and chocolate fountain

desserts produced by employees with disabilities were sold during the event and received excellent support from visitors and government officers.

The event was also honored by the visit of Mr. Akara Prompow, Minister of Social Development and Human Security, who visited the APCD exhibition booth and supported the products, creating joyful and encouraging moments for all staff members.

### **17. Day of Service with The Rockefeller Foundation**

On 6 November 2025, executives and staff members from The Rockefeller Foundation joined the “Day of Service with 60+ Plus Project” at the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD). Participants took part in a bread-making workshop together with employees with disabilities at APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café.

After completing the activity, the group delivered freshly baked bread to students at the Bangkok School for the Blind, where they received a warm welcome from the school’s director, teachers, and students. The activity reflected the spirit of inclusion, sharing, and community engagement.

### **18. Educational Learning Activities with Somapa School**

During 19–21 November 2025, students from Grade 4 of Somapa School joined an educational field trip and learning enhancement activity at APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café. The students attended lectures about employment opportunities and vocational development for persons with disabilities and participated in bakery workshops together with employees with disabilities.

Through these activities, students gained greater understanding, awareness, and positive attitudes toward persons with disabilities while enjoying hands-on experiences in making bakery products and pizza. The APCD 60+ Plus project team hopes that the knowledge and experience gained from this activity will be beneficial and applicable to the students’ daily lives.

## **19. Participation in the Thai Red Cross Fair 2025**

branches under the APCD 60+ Plus Project, participated in the Thai Red Cross Fair as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs booth. During the event, the café served specialty coffee selections as “Coffee of the Day,” alongside the shop’s signature house blend coffee, welcoming visitors attending the annual fair.

## **20. Christmas Celebration and Year-End Gathering 2025**

On 25 December 2025, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café celebrated Christmas and the upcoming New Year together with our staff with disabilities and the Yamazaki family, who have continuously supported the project over the years. Gifts, cakes, joy, laughter, and warm memories were shared among all participants during the Christmas celebration and luncheon gathering.

The APCD team sincerely appreciates Yamazaki’s long-standing friendship, support, and commitment to empowering persons with disabilities. Being part of the growth, happiness, and sustainable development of our staff with disabilities remains one of our most important missions.

## **Looking Forward**

The APCD 60+ Plus Project remains committed to empowering persons with disabilities through vocational training, inclusive employment opportunities, and sustainable community engagement. Through bakery production, coffee making, chocolate crafting, and service training, the project continues to strengthen the skills and confidence of persons with disabilities while delivering quality products and services to society.

The APCD 60+ Plus Project sincerely thanks all partners, organizations, supporters, and customers for their continued encouragement and support throughout 2025 and looks forward to building a more inclusive society together in the years ahead.

# **Training Course: Understanding Customers and Staff with Disabilities**

Hospitality Sector Capacity Building Initiative February – November 2025  
Bangkok & Phetchaburi Province, Thailand

## **1. Foreword**

The year 2025 marked a transformative milestone for APCD's disability inclusion training program within Thailand's hospitality sector. From the first session at Centara Grand Ladprao in February to the landmark training outside Bangkok at Centara Life Cha-am in November, APCD's "Understanding Customers and Staff with Disabilities" course has steadily expanded its reach, impact, and recognition across the industry.

This Annual Report documents the full scope of activities, partnerships, outcomes, and lessons learned throughout the year, serving as a record of achievement and a foundation for future growth. It reflects our collective commitment — together with hotel partners across Bangkok and beyond — to building a hospitality sector that is truly accessible, respectful, and welcoming for all.

## **2. Executive Summary**

In 2025, APCD conducted eleven training sessions at ten hospitality partner properties across Thailand, reaching hotel staff at all management levels. The training program — titled "Understanding Customers and Staff with Disabilities" — delivered both full-day and half-day formats tailored to each property's operational context.

- 11 Training Sessions
- 10 Partner Hotels
- 279+ Staff Trained
- 2 Cities Reached
- 2025 Year in Review

Key highlights of the year include:

- Expanded from a single hotel engagement in February to a year-round, city-wide program

- First training conducted outside Bangkok, at Centara Life Cha-am Beach Resort Hua Hin in November
- Multi-session partnerships established with Millennium Hilton Bangkok and Conrad Bangkok
- Participation from internationally renowned hotel brands including Hilton, Hyatt, Okura, and Centara
- Consistent delivery by trainers with lived experience of disability — bringing authenticity and depth to every session

### **3. Program Overview**

#### **3.1 Training Philosophy**

APCD's training approach is rooted in the principle of nothing about us without us. By deploying trainers who are themselves persons with disabilities, the program ensures that hotel staff receive not merely theoretical instruction, but authentic insight into the daily experiences, challenges, and strengths of persons with disabilities.

Central to every session is the "Ask Me First" principle — a foundational tenet that empowers guests and staff with disabilities by prioritizing consent, dignity, and individual choice over assumptions.

#### **3.2 Core Curriculum**

All sessions, whether delivered as full-day or half-day formats, covered the following key learning areas:

- Overview of disability types and the diverse needs of persons with disabilities
- The "Ask Me First" principle — respectful, empowering service
- Practical communication techniques adapted for various disability types
- Accessible accommodation requirements and room allocation procedures
- Assistance with daily living, mobility, and transportation
- Creating inclusive environments in common areas and shared facilities

- Simulation and experiential exercises (wheelchair use, guided walking, water-pouring challenge, simulated check-ins)
- Safety protocols and emergency procedures for guests with disabilities

### 3.3 Training Team

All sessions were facilitated by a consistent and experienced team of APCD resource persons:

| <b>Trainer</b>                 | <b>Role</b>        | <b>Background</b>                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ms. Nongnuch Maytarjittipun    | Lead Trainer       | Trainer with mobility disability; consistent lead facilitator across all 2025 sessions                   |
| Mr. Sunthorn / Mr. Boonprasert | Trainer            | Trainers with visual disability; brought lived experience of visual impairment to all practical sessions |
| Ms. Siriporn Prasertchart      | Trainer            | Trainer with disability; joined select sessions in 2025                                                  |
| APCD staff                     | Training Assistant | Supported session logistics, practical exercises, and participant engagement throughout the year         |

## 4. Training Activities by Partner Hotel

The following section summarizes each training engagement conducted during 2025.

| <b>Hotel / Property</b>                                    | <b>Date</b> | <b>Participants</b> | <b>Format</b> | <b>Notes</b>                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao                     | 7 Feb 2025  | 23                  | Full Day      |                                  |
| The Okura Prestige Bangkok                                 | 21 Mar 2025 | 20                  | Full Day      |                                  |
| Millennium Hilton Bangkok (Session 1)                      | 28 Mar 2025 | 30                  | Half Day      | Half-day format                  |
| Millennium Hilton Bangkok (Session 2)                      | 23 May 2025 | 30                  | Half Day      | Half-day format                  |
| Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit (incl. Grand Hyatt Erawan) | 6 Jun 2025  | 23                  | Full Day      |                                  |
| Carlton Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit                            | 27 Jun 2025 | 30                  | Full Day      |                                  |
| Conrad Bangkok                                             | 25 Jul 2025 | 26                  | Half Day      | Half-day format                  |
| DoubleTree by Hilton Bangkok Ploenchit                     | 12 Sep 2025 | 14                  | Half Day      | Half-day format                  |
| Centara Life Government Complex Hotel & Convention Centre  | 24 Oct 2025 | 30                  | Full Day      |                                  |
| Conrad Bangkok (Level 1 – Session 2)                       | 31 Oct 2025 | 23                  | Half Day      | Half-day format                  |
| Centara Life Cha-am Beach Resort Hua Hin                   | 21 Nov 2025 | 30                  | Full Day      | MILESTONE: First outside Bangkok |

## **5. Key Highlights and Milestones**

### **5.1 Inaugural Session – Centara Grand Ladprao (7 February 2025)**

The year's training program launched with a landmark full-day workshop at Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok. Under the leadership of General Manager Mr. Wuthisak Pichayagan, 23 staff members from management, food and beverage, hospitality services, culinary, and support departments participated. The session was the first of its kind at this property and concluded with a certificate award ceremony.

### **5.2 Okura Prestige Bangkok Advances Inclusive Hospitality with APCD Workshop (21 March 2025)**

The Okura Prestige Bangkok hosted a full-day "Basic Understanding of Persons with Disabilities" workshop conducted by APCD trainers,

including Ms. Nongnuch Maytarjittipun and Mr. Boonprasert. Under the leadership of Director of Human Resources Khun Oraya Temkasarp, 20 staff members across all management levels participated, covering service protocols, facility adaptation, and inclusive guest interaction strategies.

### **5.3 Multi-Session Partnership – Millennium Hilton Bangkok**

APCD established a two-phase training partnership with the Millennium Hilton Bangkok, conducting the first session in March 2025 and the second in May 2025. General Manager Mr. Tim Tate personally presided over the closing ceremony of the second session and presented certificates to participating staff. The program addressed both foundational awareness and practical skills in accessible accommodation, daily living support, and inclusive common area environments.

### **5.4 Expanding the Hyatt Network (6 June 2025)**

The partnership with Hyatt Hotels saw 23 hospitality professionals from both Grand Hyatt Erawan and Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit participate in a joint training session. The program was inaugurated by APCD Executive Director Mr. Piroon Laismit and welcomed by General Manager Mr. Sammy Carolus. This initiative aligned with global sustainable development goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### **5.5 Carlton Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit (27 June 2025)**

Carlton Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit hosted a full-day APCD training session, with 30 staff members participating across departments. The workshop formed part of APCD's continued efforts to expand disability-awareness training across Bangkok's hospitality sector.

### **5.6 Conrad Bangkok – Two-Phase Commitment (July & October 2025)**

Conrad Bangkok demonstrated exceptional commitment to disability inclusion by completing both sessions of APCD's Level 1 course during 2025 — a half-day session in July and a follow-up session in October. A total of 26 and 23 staff members participated respectively, drawn from Front Office, Food and Beverage, Housekeeping, and Human Resources. General Manager Mr. Tim Sainsbury generously donated funds to APCD in

support of its mission, and the hotel's leadership has committed to ongoing collaboration.

### **5.7 First Training Outside Bangkok – Centara Life Cha-am (21 November 2025)**

A defining moment of the year was APCD's first-ever training conducted outside Bangkok, held at Centara Life Cha-am Beach Resort Hua Hin in Phetchaburi Province. General Manager Mr. Asdang Sukwises described the training as invaluable, noting that the property was honored to be the first venue outside the capital to host APCD's program. This milestone signals APCD's expanding commitment to accessible tourism throughout Thailand's regions.

## **6. Program Outcomes and Impact**

### **6.1 Staff Capacity Building**

Across all 2025 sessions, hotel staff developed competencies in the following areas:

- Disability awareness — understanding the diversity of disability types and their implications for service delivery
- Respectful communication — applying the "Ask Me First" principle and disability-sensitive language
- Practical assistance — wheelchair guidance, visual impairment support, mobility assistance
- Accessible room allocation — understanding legal and practical requirements for accessible accommodation
- Emergency and safety protocols — procedures tailored to guests with specific disability needs
- Inclusive environment design — strategies for making common areas and shared facilities welcoming to all

### **6.2 Institutional Commitment**

A significant outcome of the 2025 program has been the deepening of institutional commitments among partner hotels. Multiple properties concluded training with certificate award ceremonies led by senior management, signaling leadership-level endorsement of inclusive service

practices. Conrad Bangkok's donation to APCD represents an additional dimension of partnership beyond training delivery.

### 6.3 Industry Leadership

APCD's hospitality training program is increasingly recognized as a benchmark for disability-inclusive service in Thailand. The participation of internationally branded properties — Hilton, Hyatt, Okura, and Centara — positions APCD's approach as consistent with global luxury hospitality standards and contributes to Thailand's wider ambition to become a leading accessible tourism destination in the Asia-Pacific region.

## 7. Partner Hotel Profiles

The following hotel brands and properties partnered with APCD for disability inclusion training in 2025:

| Hotel Group    | Property                                 | Leadership Contact                                                   |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Centara Hotels | Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao   | GM: Mr. Wuthisak Pichayagan                                          |
| Okura Hotels   | The Okura Prestige Bangkok               | Director of HR: Khun Oraya Temkasarp                                 |
| Hilton Hotels  | Millennium Hilton Bangkok                | GM: Mr. Tim Tate                                                     |
| Hyatt Hotels   | Hyatt Regency & Grand Hyatt Erawan       | GM: Mr. Sammy Carolus;<br>Dir. HR: Mr. Narinthorn Jaiyen             |
| Carlton Hotels | Carlton Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit          | Ms. Prompiriya Pimwong,<br>Learning & Development Manager            |
| Hilton Hotels  | Conrad Bangkok                           | GM: Mr. Tim Sainsbury;<br>Dir. HR: Ms. Piyanuch Jombunud na Ayudhya  |
| Hilton Hotels  | DoubleTree by Hilton Bangkok Ploenchit   | GM: Mr. Ashwin Bhat                                                  |
| Centara Hotels | Centara Life Government Complex          | GM: Ms. Kanchana Ruangsiriwichayakul;<br>HR Mgr: Ms. Vassana Chaokou |
| Centara Hotels | Centara Life Cha-am Beach Resort Hua Hin | GM: Mr. Asdang Sukwises                                              |

## **8. Looking Ahead**

The momentum generated in 2025 positions APCD to further expand its hospitality training program in 2026 and beyond. Strategic priorities include:

- Scaling the program to additional provinces and resort destinations throughout Thailand
- Developing Level 2 and advanced training modules to build on the foundational knowledge established in Level 1
- Expanding partnerships to include mid-scale and budget hotel segments, broadening accessibility standards across the full hospitality spectrum
- Strengthening collaboration with Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports to align training with national accessible tourism strategies
- Exploring regional replication of the model in other Asia-Pacific countries, consistent with APCD's regional mandate

## **9. Acknowledgements**

APCD extends its deepest gratitude to all partner hotels, general managers, human resources teams, and — most importantly — the participating staff members who invested time and engagement in building a more inclusive hospitality industry.

Special thanks are extended to the APCD training team — Ms. Nongnuch Maytarjittipun, Mr. Sunthorn, Mr. Boonprasert, and Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat — whose professionalism, dedication, and authentic lived experiences are at the heart of every session's impact.

This program is made possible through the vision and leadership of APCD Executive Director Mr. Piroon Laimit and the continued support of APCD's partners and stakeholders throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

## **APCD Highlighted Programs on Disability Inclusive Development 2025**

The APCD continues to promote empowerment and inclusion for a more inclusive community and society in Asia and the Pacific. In 2025, we highlight the following programs/activities as our significant achievements in advancing the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2023-2032).

### **A) Advancing Disability-Inclusive Employment & Business (DIEB)**

“Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business (DIEB) Project under ‘Catalysing disability-inclusive employment and business towards effective implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2023-2032)’”.

Thailand has taken another significant step towards inclusive employment in 2025 through the DIEB project in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), Thailand. The project aims to enhance DIEB in Thailand. Despite supportive laws and policies implemented since signing the UN CRPD in 2008, significant gaps remain. The project focuses on identifying these gaps in current laws and policies and providing recommendations to improve skill-to-work transitions and job retention for persons with disabilities. The first phase of the project consists of two main expected results:

**Result 1:** Enhanced the capacity of the Government, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), and business sector actors in Thailand to undertake policy action and implement programs that aim to improve inclusive employment and entrepreneurship support for persons with disabilities. (Developing Policy Paper on Promoting DIEB).

**Result 2:** Strengthened the capacity of business associations and other business sector stakeholders in Thailand to undertake and support a disability-inclusive business value chain. (Developing a Practical Guide for Employers to Promoting DIEB).

Throughout the year 2025, there were a series of meetings and capacity-building sessions conducted under the DIEB Project as follows:

**Advisory Board Meeting:**

The Advisory Board was composed of project experts, key partners and collaborators, as well as DIEB experts who have long and deep experience with DIEB.

The Advisory Board Meetings were conducted to support the experts in advising, outlining, drafting, and validating the key documents, which include “Policy Paper” and “Practical Guide for Employers to Promote DIEB in Thailand”. Advisory Board meetings were conducted in March, June, August, and December 2025.

**Multi-Stakeholder Meeting:**

The National Multi-Stakeholder members included DIEB stakeholders from the Government, Private Sector, civil society organizations, and OPDs. The key roles of the National Multi-Stakeholder members were validation of the documents, as well as providing practical recommendations on promoting DIEB in Thailand. The Multi-Stakeholder meetings were conducted in April and July 2025.

The project also convened four regional meetings (South, Northeast, Central/East, and North) across Thailand in May 2025 to gather localized insights on employment challenges, the real needs of persons with disabilities, and strategies for different disability types and regional contexts.

**Capacity Building Session:**

APCD Disability Equality Training was conducted in May 2025. APCD resource persons delivered training on the social model of disability to Government, Corporate, and Civil Society representatives at Vic 3 Bangkok

Hotel. Participants who are multi-stakeholder members developed practical solutions for barrier-free workplaces through the whole-day workshop.

The National Stakeholder meeting enables participants to gain a deeper understanding of persons with disabilities and foster a positive, inclusive mindset towards persons with disabilities.

The DIEB project was completed through two key documents: “Policy Paper” and “Practical Guide for Employers to Promote DIEB in Thailand”.

## **B) Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) in the Region**

### **TICA/JICA Joint Evaluation & Regional Networking**

APCD actively contributed to the TICA/JICA joint evaluation of the Third Country Training Program (TCTP) on DiDRR in June 2025. The evaluation, conducted by The International Development Center of Japan (IDCJ), assessed three years of collaborative progress in inclusive disaster risk reduction across ASEAN.

At the Joint Evaluation Seminar held in Bangkok on 12–13 February 2026, APCD presented key outcomes from the TCTP initiative. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of Networking & Collaboration, shared best practices and introduced the “Google Chat” platform, which sustained connections among 12 implementing agencies, resource persons, and ex-participants. Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol presented insights on how the Networking & Dissemination Platform supported cross-border DiDRR collaboration.

Former trainees from the Philippines and Vietnam shared success stories demonstrating the lasting impact of APCD's training programs in empowering disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction leaders throughout the region via the online platform.

### **DiDRR Knowledge Dissemination & Media Engagement**

APCD expanded DiDRR awareness through multiple channels in 2025 as follows:

**Television Broadcast (April 2025):** Mr. Somchai Rungsilp presented DiDRR concepts on The National Broadcasting Services of

Thailand (NBT) "Pen Kan Eng" program (casual talk), emphasizing three implementation levels: individual life skills, community awareness with evacuation drills, and national policy frameworks. The program was recorded one week before the 7.7 magnitude Myanmar-Thailand earthquake on 28 March 2025, underscoring the timeliness and relevance of inclusive disaster preparedness.

**International Webinar (May 2025):** APCD and Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU) led an international session for the Malaysian Confederation of the Disabled webinar, reaching stakeholders across Southeast Asia. Ms. Nanda Annisa Husni (YEU) and Mr. Somchai Rungsilp shared practical experiences on implementing DiDRR at the regional, national, and community levels.

**National Policy Workshop (May 2025):** Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen participated as a panelist in DEP's 2-day workshop on proactive disaster strategies, contributing to discussions that engaged more than 180 participants, including Government, Civil Society, and disability organizations nationwide.

### **Community-Based DiDRR Training**

APCD delivered targeted DiDRR training to diverse communities:

**Dao Ruang Group (June 2025):** APCD conducted disaster preparedness training for Thailand's first self-advocate group of people with intellectual disabilities, utilizing the Disaster Duck model and Japanese best practices in accessible alert systems and inclusive shelter design.

**Piboon Prachasan School (July 2025):** APCD trained more than 100 students with disabilities using the interactive "Disaster Duck" method. Ms. Hiroko Itako (JOCV volunteer) introduced disaster preparedness concepts, while Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol facilitated emergency response skills development. TCTP alumna, Ms. Arthitaya Saengon, led a fire evacuation drill, demonstrating sustained application of training outcomes.

Friends for Disabilities Foundation (July 2025): APCD contributed to a 3-day program for persons with visual impairments. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp led sessions on inclusive evacuation procedures and shelter accessibility. Ms. Hiroko Itako presented a case study from the Great East Japan Earthquake, using audio storytelling to highlight preparedness strategies for independent action.

### **C) International Cooperation & Partnerships**

Significant Cooperation with DPI-Korea on these following activities:

**CRPD Training (29 September–3 October 2025):** APCD co-organized the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Training 2025: Empowering Women with Psychosocial Disabilities" with Disabled Peoples' International (DPI)-Korea and Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) Global. Ten young women from South Asia, Indonesia, and Thailand developed advocacy and leadership skills through expert sessions. The program included visits to UNESCAP and field observations of gender-responsive disability policy. Participants presented action plans and received certificates, advancing regional solidarity under the "Nothing about us without us" principle. The training was successfully conducted at APCD and the Bangkok Art and Culture Center (BACC) in Bangkok.

**Korea Events (November 2025):** Mr. Somchai Rungsilp represented APCD at three important DPI-Korea events in Seoul:

- Delivered congratulatory remarks and contributed as a panelist at the International Forum on Capacity Building & Nurturing Artists with Disabilities.
- Delivered opening remarks at the Inclusive International Seminar on rights-based deinstitutionalization and community inclusion.
- Presented and delivered opening remarks at the 4th Korea-Asia Pacific Disability Culture & ART D-EUM Festival, highlighting

the photography exhibition that traveled from Bangkok to Seoul and Jeju.

**Online Seminar (December 2025):** APCD contributed to the Korea-Thailand Sharing for Inclusion Seminar. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen presented on disability understanding to 68 delegates, both online and in person. Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol provided inputs and engaged with disability support organizations.

## **D) High-Level Visits & Strategic Partnerships**

### **Royal Visit (December 2025)**

Her Royal Highness Princess Anisha Rosnah binti Adam of Brunei Darussalam visited APCD on 9 December 2025. The delegation participated in an interactive baking workshop at the APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café, demonstrating vocational training outcomes alongside APCD staff with disabilities. The visit reinforced international cooperation in advancing disability rights across the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Timor-Leste Vice Prime Minister Visit (September 2025)**

H.E. Mr. Mariano Assanami Sabino Lopes led a 10-member delegation visited APCD on 8 September 2025. The delegation exchanged experiences on disability-inclusive development with the APCD Foundation President and Executive Director, and participated in a baking workshop showcasing APCD's practical vocational training approach.

### **JICA Presidential Visit (October 2025)**

JICA President Mr. TANAKA Akihiko, accompanied by Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. OTAKA Masato and senior officials, visited APCD on 17 October 2025. The delegation reviewed APCD's disability-inclusive business initiatives and strategic briefings, strengthening the Japan-Thailand partnership for regional inclusive development.

APCD commits to promote two key areas: Empowerment & Inclusion through four main approaches, including Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID), Disability-Inclusive Employment and Business (DIEB), Community-Based Sports (DIS), and Disability-Inclusive Disaster

Risk Reduction (DIDRR). We collaborate with partners and stakeholders for the better inclusive community and society.

## **APCD Foundation Committee**

- Dr. Tej Bunnag: President, APCD Foundation Committee; Chairman, APCD Executive Board; Secretary General, Thai Red Cross Society
- Mr. Sribhumi Sukhanetr: Vice President; Honorary Consul-General, Principality of Monaco; President, the Honorary Consuls Association
- Prof. Emeritus Poonpit Amatyakul: Advisor, Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University
- Mr. Kantapong Rangsesawang: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
- Mrs. Nareewan Chintakanond: Member
- Mr. Chai Chaiyawan: Chief Executive Officer & President Thai Life Insurance Company Limited
- Dr. Somkiat Siriruttanapruk: Senior Expert in Preventive Medicine, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health
- Prof. Dr. Nantarika Chansue: The Chairperson of the Academic Committee of the Princess Sirivannavari Thai Coral Reef and Marine Life Conservation Foundation
- Dr. Prachuab Vanitchatchavan: Engineer, Analytical Consultant & Engineering (2022) Co., Ltd.
- Prof. Wiriya Namsiripongpan: President, Universal Foundation for Persons with Disabilities; Legal Advisor, Disabilities Thailand
- Mr. Khan Prachuabmoh: Chairman, Market Risk Committee, T.K.S. Technologies Public Company Limited; Director, National Credit Bureau Company Limited; Director, Ramada International Hotels And Resorts; Director, The Krungthep Thanakom Company Limited; Honorable Committee, Rajamangala Universities of Technology, Thanyaburi; Advisor to the Committee on Monetary Finance Banking and Finance Institutions of the Senate; Director of Fund Raising Bureau, Thai Red Cross Society

- Mr. Akiie Ninomiya: Advisor to the Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)
- Mr. Suporntum Mongkolsawadi: Secretary-General, The Redemptorist Foundation for Persons with Disabilities
- Mr. Krisana Lalai: President, Friendly Design for All Foundation
- Mr. Kobsak Pootrakool: Director and Senior Executive Vice President/ Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited
- Mr. Piroon Laismit: Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)

## **The Executive Board Members 2025**

- Dr. Tej Bunnag: President, APCD Foundation Committee; Chairman, APCD Executive Board; Secretary General, Thai Red Cross Society
  - Mr. Piroon Laismit: Secretary; Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)
  - Dr. Damrong Reinprayoon: Chairperson, The Foundation for the Planned Parenthood of Thailand (FPT)
  - Mr. Kantapong Rangsesawang: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
  - Ms. Sontaya Boonphoosit: Director General, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
  - Prof. Dr. Nantarika Chansue: The Chairperson of the Academic Committee of the Princess Sirivannavari Thai Coral Reef and Marine Life Conservation Foundation
  - Prof. Wiriya Namsiripongpan: President, Universal Foundation for Persons with Disabilities; Legal Advisor, Disabilities Thailand
  - Mr. Chulvat Narinthrangura: Director-General of Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)
  - Mr. Sakudo Shunsuke: Chief Representative, JICA Thailand Office
- 
- Mr. Suporntum Mongkolsawadi: Secretary-General, The Redemptorist Foundation for Persons with Disabilities

- Ms. Saowalak Thongkuay: Chairperson of ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF)
- Mr. Thevapong Puangphet: Member and Treasurer of the Thailand Association of the Blind
- Mr. Lee Young Suk: DPI Asia Pacific Regional Chairperson
- Mr. Akiie Ninomiya: Advisor to the Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)

## **Appendix: Report Editor Team**

**Report Advisory:** Mr. Piroon Laismit

**Report Editor Team:** Mr. Somchai Rungsilp; Ms. Wilailekha Somprach; Ms. Nongnuch Maytarjittipun; Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen; Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol; Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat ;Mr. Krittapol Chamrasromran

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