



PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE

2017



ADDRESSING THE HEALTH OF
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

PS2.7

PARALLEL SESSION 2.7

Can International and National Human Rights
Instruments Support Social Inclusion? :
Lessons Learned from UNCRPD

BACKGROUND

International human rights instruments and the associated mechanisms to monitor their implementation are adopted by the global community with an intention to create a world where the equal worth of every individual is respected and valued, i.e., realization of social inclusion. Following the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, a number of international treaties were adopted through the UN mechanism. Some of them target specific vulnerable groups such as women (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: CEDAW, adopted in 1979 and ratified/acceded/succeeded by 189 parties so far), ethnicities (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: CERD, 1966 and 177 parties), children (Convention on the Rights of the Child: CRC, 1989 and 196 parties), and migrants (International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families: MWC, 1990 and 48 parties).

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, or UNCRPD, was adopted in 2006 and entered into force in 2008, with Article 25 stipulating the health-related rights specifically. So far, it is ratified/acceded by 166 parties. It is one of the latest additions to the series of international human rights instrument. All participating state parties are obligated to designate implementing agencies and independent monitoring bodies. Most state parties have domestic laws assuring that their government should be aware of the rights of persons with disability (PWDs). Two years after ratification and every four years thereafter, non-state actors are encouraged to verify state party report through parallel report to drive PWD agenda. Despite these instruments and monitoring mechanisms, many countries still have major barriers to ensure health-related rights of PWDs. Lack of effective inter-sectoral actions, inadequate attitude of the general population, and poor implementation capacity are some of the persistent barriers. Certain groups, such as the children with mental disabilities, are more prone to social exclusion.

OBJECTIVES

This session will try to uncover the effectiveness and the limitation of international human rights instruments and the related national instruments, together with their monitoring mechanisms, in achieving social inclusiveness for health, by focusing on UNCRPD as a case. Specific objectives include;

- To understand how these instruments works and not works in different context such as high, middle and low income settings,
- To listen to the voices of the PWD constituencies, and
- To draw lessons and good practices from UNCRPD, especially from its implementation and monitoring process.



MODERATOR

Soya MORI

Senior Researcher
Development Studies Center
Institute of Developing Economies
Japan External Trade Organization

Japan

Born in 1962 in Tokyo and grew up there. Born Deaf with two deaf siblings. Mainstreamed into public elementary school, junior high school and high school. Graduated from school of political science and economics, Waseda University in 1985 and earned Master of Arts (Economics) at the same university in 1987. In 1988, he joined Institute of Developing Economies, which is one of famous social science research institutes on developing countries in Japan. His main fields had been the Philippines and interested in comparative studies between manufacturing industrial organization structures in the Philippines and those in Japan at first. After coming back from U.S., where he studied at Ph.D. program in Economics at University of Rochester, he began to explore the new academic field of "Disability and Development." Currently he is involved in two research projects. One is statistical research project on the data of women with disabilities and children with disabilities in developing countries. He conducted his third Disability livelihood survey in southern island in the Philippines recently for this project. The analyzed results would be published in 2017. The other is about Disability Accessibility in Asian countries. It is the legal and institutional research. Now he works as Senior Researcher at IDE-JETRO.



PANELIST

Dulamsuren JIGJID

Executive Director
The Culture Center for the Deaf
Mongolia

Ms. Dulamsuren Jigjid is the Executive Director of the Culture Center for the Deaf, an organization she founded in 2014. Her organization provides arts, culture, social and recreational services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Ms. Jigjid has focused her career on human rights and multicultural affairs, and has worked passionately to build productive relationships between different communities and cultures.

Her career in disability rights activism began in 2007, through her work with the Mongolian National Federation of Disabled People (MNFDP). After attending Mobility International USA's Women Institute on Leadership Disability (WILD) in 2008, Ms. Jigjid expanded her focus to advancing leadership of women with disabilities. In 2015, Ms. Jigjid participated in Mobility International USA's WILD Training-of-Trainers program and implemented a WILD training in her country with support from USAID. The training aimed to increase knowledge and understanding among women with disabilities on the themes of women's health, wellness and safety. The training also served as a launch pad for creating a new national network of women with disabilities in Mongolia.

She is currently engaged in a two-year joint project: "The Project for Promoting Social Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Ulaanbaatar City", which is supported by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor (MSWL) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

As a leader who holds positions in several organizations, Ms. Jigjid is actively engaged in policy advocacy on behalf of deaf people, as well as people with all types of disabilities. Ms. Jigjid is a Board Member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), an international non-governmental organization representing approximately 70 million Deaf people worldwide. She is also the Vice President of the Mongolian National Association of the Deaf (MNAD). Dulamsuren holds an M.A. in Cultural Studies from the University of Science and Technology of Mongolia.



PANELIST

Jocelyn Rosemarie
CRIS CEVALLOS GARCIA

President
WOW LEAP

Philippines

Ms. Jocelyn “Joy” Cevallos-Garcia is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce, major in Accounting. She is also taking a diploma course of Social Entrepreneurship through the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA). In her early career, she held progressively challenging positions in Accounting, Marketing, Development and Planning, Logistics, Operations and Administration.

Ms. Garcia is an advocate for Persons with Disability in the Philippines for almost thirty (30) years. She organizes advocacy and lobbying activities, attends consultations and policy change/formulation for a rights-based society. She also has a strong advocate for women with disability, joined consultations, and resource person on disability related issues.

Ms. Garcia, as Board Auditor of workability Asia, is the representative of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan in WAsia, a pioneering member in the Philippines. She has been involved in a Qualitative Research and Peer Facilitator Training for the W-DARE (Women with Disability taking Action on Reproductive and sexual health) at the Dela Salle University/Melbourne University in September 2013 and January 2015 respectively.

She is also the Consultant on “Disability and Disasters, empowering people and building resilience to risk, in partnership with IDEA and the University of Sydney in developing inclusion Roadmap and Inclusive Resilience Scorecard; a Partner Consultant/Coordinator in WDARE; and a Project Director of a Research “Build Back Better” Gender and Disability.

Being a member of the Philippine Coalition on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), she has contributed to the drafting of a shadow report on the implementation of the UNCRPD in the Philippines. She also has conducted research project and consultation on Women with Disability as part of the parallel report.

As President of the WOW Leap (Women with Disabilities Leap to Social and Economic Progress), the WOW Leap represented in the Philippines has its first International conference of Women with Disability in Asia which was held in Hongkong in January 2008, in Korea and China in 2010 and 2011 respectively. WOW Leap establishes groups of woman nationwide (with 800 members) to link them to basic rehabilitation services, education, training and employment. Ms. Garcia advocated and promoted participation of Women with Disabilities in the community.

In previous years, Ms. Garcia has attended forums, conventions, trainings, engagements and has received numerous awards. To name a few, she was the recipient of a scholarship from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 1990, "Leadership Training of Persons with Disability" which has helped her gain more knowledge and techniques as she was to handle more significant role in the organization. In Sweden year 2006, she received a scholarship award by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), with special focus on the International Standards on Human Rights for Persons with Disability. In 2007, she was proclaimed as the Most Inspiring PWD Entrepreneur at the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurs. She also received an Endeavour Executive award on Professional Development at the Department of Education and Workplace Relation (DEWR) in the year 2010, Government of Australia.

At present, Ms. Garcia is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer (COO) at Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, Inc. Highlights of her achievement include: (1) establish community based rehabilitation programs; (2) establish partnership with the government and Civil Society Organizations, fostering a major impact on the plight of the sector; (3) organize and strengthen Disabled People's Organization; (4) organize and conduct programs for awareness of rights; and (5) actively participate in local and international events, fostering the protection and implementation of laws that protect the rights of Persons with Disabilities.



PANELIST

Kumiko FUJIWARA

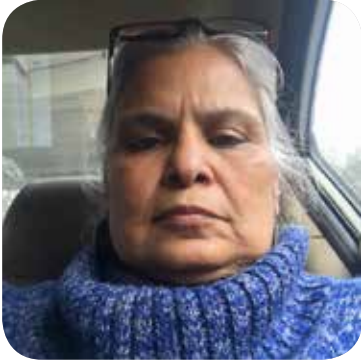
Chairperson
DPI Women's Network Japan
Japan

Ms. Fujiwara had an onset of retinopathy in teenage and became a visually impaired at the age of 35. She started working at Independent Living Center Kobe “Be-scuit” from 2004, learning “Peer-Counseling”. At the age of 41, she gave a birth, even though her mother and doctors recommended an abortion.

She joined DPI Women’s Network Japan (DWNJ) activities from 2011 as she recognized that challenges in pregnancy, childbirth and child rearing causes complex discrimination for women with disability.

Throughout DWNJ activities, she involved in a survey and lobbying on complex discrimination for women with disability. She served as a member of Joined Disability Welfare Council in Hyogo Prefecture in 2014 to reflect issues of women with disability into the Prefecture’s Basic Plan.

Currently, she works on Japan’s record on women’s rights examined by UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She actively lobbied with her supporters at Geneva to incorporate issues of women with disability into its recommendation. After recommendation issued which fully reflect issues on women with disability, she currently works on implementation of domestic policies based on the recommendation.



PANELIST

Anita GHAI

Professor
School of Human Studies
Ambedkar University

India