**APL Global Survey launched on International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

On the 3rd December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, WHO launched a Global Survey in 52 languages and the third round of the Delphi exercise. Respondents will be asked to identify the 50 most priority assistive products from a list of 100. The Global Survey is being disseminated by the International Disability Alliance, WHO collaborating centres and other partners. This will ensure global representation of users, potential users and their family members/organizations. Over 1000 people have already responded to the Global Survey.

The results of the Global Survey and the Delphi exercise will be collated for a consensus meeting in March, after which the final list of 50 most priority assistive products (APL) will be finalized. Please share the Global Survey with your networks at: [http://www.who.int/phi/implementation/assistive_technology/global_survey-apl/en/](http://www.who.int/phi/implementation/assistive_technology/global_survey-apl/en/)

The profile of GATE and the Global Survey was raised further by an article published in The Lancet during the week of International Day of Persons with Disabilities: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)01093-4/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)01093-4/abstract)

**Broken Chair – everything is possible**

In 1997 Handicap International installed a 12 metre (39 feet) *Broken Chair* at the entrance to the Palais des Nations in Geneva. This was initially to support the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty and later to support the signature of an international treaty on a ban on cluster bombs (Convention on Cluster Munitions), which was signed in Oslo in December 2008. It symbolizes opposition to land mines and cluster bombs, and acts as a reminder to politicians and others visiting Geneva.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, WHO in partnership with other esteemed organizations, fitted the broken chair with a prosthesis made by Swiss artist Lukas Grogg. This action was to highlight the importance of assistive technology to enhance functioning and dignity.

**GATE is exploring piloting country to improve access to AT**

Visit to Indonesia (Jakarta and Yogyakarta) to discuss the GATE initiative with officials from the Ministries of Health, Ministries of Social Welfare, civil societies, rehabilitation service providers and JAMKESUS, the social health insurance programme for the Yogyakarta province. JAMKESUS is aiming for universal coverage of AT by 2020 but currently does not have the systems in place to achieve this. The visit was facilitated by UCP Wheels for Humanity, who is working with JAMKESUS and other partners to improve access to wheelchair services in Indonesia.

All stakeholders expressed their interest in working with WHO to pilot a model AT service provision system in Yogyakarta. This initiative would support the Government of Indonesia, JAMKESUS in particular, in realizing its goal related to quality AT provision.
Gate is opening doors in Australia and the Pacific

The GATE initiative was introduced at the Centre for Disability Research and Policy - University of Sydney (pictured), University of Melbourne’s Nossal Institute for Global Health, The Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association (ARATA), the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the Australian branch of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO). Discussions were also held with officials from the Disability Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). A presentation was made on how the GATE initiative can improve access to AT in the Asia-Pacific region. DFAT expressed interest in the GATE initiative and agreed to further discussion on working together. The visit ended with a keynote address to the Aged Care and Rehabilitation Conference at the Liverpool Hospital.

Update: WHO Standards for Prosthetics and Orthotics Service Provision (POSP)

The first meeting of the WHO Standards Development Group was held in Bangkok in November. A draft 4P model for prosthetics and orthotics service provision was proposed (pictured). Consensus was reached on the model and on key content including: training of personnel, cost effectiveness, team composition and decentralization structures. WHO will launch the POSP at the ISPO 16th World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa in May, 2017.

Update: Wheelchair Service Training of Trainers Package (WSTPt)

WHO is working with MSH, ISWP and USAID to develop the WSTPt. The first draft of the WSTPt Trainer’s Manual has been reviewed by stakeholders. The training package will be piloted at three WHO regions in Asia and Africa, between April and June 2016. WHO expects the WSTPt to dramatically increase the numbers of trained wheelchair personnel worldwide.

New member of the GATE team

Emma is a British physiotherapist with a clinical background in adult rehabilitation. She has experience as a trainer up to Masters level and a special interest in the training and evaluation of mid-level cadres. As well as working in the National Health Service in the UK, she has lived and worked in India. She will be working on the development of an AT training package and models of AT service delivery, as well as coordinating the development of the WSTPt. She can be contacted at: tebbutte@who.int

Upcoming events

1. Consensus meeting to finalize the WHO list of 50 most priority assistive products (APL): WHO Geneva, 21-22 March 2016
2. GATE-Africa Regional Meeting: Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa, 5-6 May 2016.