

East Wind No. 25

April – June 2018

Official Newsletter of the World Blind Union – Asia Pacific (WBUAP)

“The Voice of The Blind and Visually Impaired in The Asia Pacific Region”

Please visit the World Blind Union – Asia Pacific website

www.wbuap.org

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Editorial by Mary Schnackenberg

We held back this issue of East Wind to include as much information as was available for the Mid-Term Regional General Assembly. The first article tells us about the RGA. The second article gives us an idea about some of the tourist attractions visitors can enjoy in Mongolia this September.

Then we hear from Myanmar, China Hong Kong, and Thailand. We have news about ICEVI. And we have Marrakesh Treaty Updates from the Region.

We would like to put out the next issue of East Wind in July. However, because of the late running of this issue, the next one may be delayed.

WBU-AP Mid-Term Regional General Assembly

Gerel Dondovdorj, President of the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind, has provided the following:

The Mongolian National Federation of the Blind (MNFB) is pleased to announce that the World Blind Union Asia Pacific Mid-Term Regional General Assembly (RGA) 2018 will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Dates are from Sunday 9 to Wednesday 12 September 2018. We would like to invite you to participate in this regional event.

The theme of the RGA is “Leaving no blind person behind - ten years of the UNCRPD, what we have achieved so far and the next decade of advocacy.”

The RGA is an important event in the blindness community in the Asia-Pacific region. It brings together representatives from over 20 countries to discuss issues of common concern. Your participation will certainly contribute a lot in the deliberation on promoting the wellbeing of visually impaired persons.

Visa

For those who require a visa to enter into Mongolia, please feel free to contact the organizing committee for an invitation letter to facilitate your visa application. Please contact Ms. Ariunaa Batsandag, assistant to the organizing committee at info@wbuapga2018.org for additional information and/or a visa invitation letter.

Booking Your Air Fares

Please consider booking your air ticket to Mongolia as early as possible. Because in summer time many tourists visit Mongolia, air travel will be in high demand and you may not get the flights you would prefer unless you book soon.

Registrations

The deadline for registration is 20 July 2018.

Registration Fee

The registration fee is 350 USD per delegate and 250 USD per participant. The registration fee covers the conference bag, programme book, lunch and coffee break

(10-12 September 2018), Welcome reception (10 September) and Gala dinner (12 September).

Participants will be responsible for their own expenses during the RGA, including registration fee, round-trip air fare, hotel accommodation and insurance.

Venue and Accommodation

The RGA will be held at the Holiday Inn Ulaanbaatar Hotel, located at Sambuu Street 24, Chingeltei District, 5th Horoo, Ulaanbaatar 15141, Mongolia. Phone number: +976 7014-2424

Participants will stay at the same hotel as the reservations have been made in advance. MNFB has negotiated with the hotel to get a discounted price for hotel rooms. The discounted rate for a double room will be 100 USD per night and for a single room 80 USD per night.

MNFB is in charge of the transactions on behalf of the hotel. So please transfer the payment for the hotel as well as the registration fee to MNFB. Account details are on their website at www.wbuapga2018.org

Names of National Delegates

Please email the names of your national delegates to the organising committee, info@wbuapga2018.org, by Thursday 12 July, 60 days before the start of the RGA. A delegate unable to attend the RGA may give in writing his/her vote (called a proxy in the Constitution) to another delegate from the same country. This is set out in the Constitution Clause 4.1.4. You can find a copy of the WBUAP Constitution on our website <http://wbuap.org/about-us/constitution>.

Country Reports

Each country is asked to submit a written report by Friday 20 July. This allows time for the reports to be sent out to delegates so they can be read before the start of the RGA. Please email your country report to info@wbuapga2018.org

The country report should cover the period from 2016 to 2018 since the WBU General Assembly in Orlando, Florida. It should highlight:

1. Population profile data of the blind community;
2. Improvements in opportunities and challenges;
 - employment;
 - education;
 - transport;
 - ICT (information, communications, technology);
 - any other areas;
3. Changes in government policies;
4. Development in affiliates' capacity; and
5. any developments relevant to the WBU 2016-2020 Quadrennial Strategy.

Programme Draft

The names of session chairs and speakers are being discussed and agreed and some session times may also change. A final programme will be available soon.

Sunday 9 September 2018

- Morning: Board and Policy Council Meeting
- Afternoon: Women's Forum

Monday 10 September

- Morning:
 - Opening of Regional General Assembly: Keynote Address
 - Business Session: reports from the President, Treasurer, Sub-regional Committees, Massage Commission
- Afternoon:
 - Business session: country reports (due by Friday 20 July, then circulated to national delegates)
 - Sub-regional committee meetings
- Evening:
 - Welcome reception

Tuesday 11 September

- Morning:
 - Business session: Constitution, election of secretary general
 - Plenary session: UN advocacy
- Afternoon:
 - Plenary session: Marrakesh treaty implementation campaign
 - Breakout sessions:
 - What's up with the latest technology?
 - Participation in decision making

Wednesday 12 September

- Morning:
 - Plenary session: Employment
 - Breakout sessions:
 - Rehabilitation
 - Accessibility of environment and tourism
- Afternoon:
 - Sustainability of the region, a panel with members of the Board and Policy Council
 - Close of Regional General Assembly
- Evening:
 - Gala dinner

Further Information

For more details of the RGA, registration form and hotel charges, please visit:
www.wbuapga2018.org

Please contact Ms. Ariunaa at info@wbuapga2018.org if you have any questions regarding the arrangements for the 2018 Regional General Assembly.

We look forward to your participation in the event.

Possible Sightseeing Activities in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Gerel Dondovdorj, President of the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind, has provided the following information.

MNFB can organize some sightseeing activities after the Regional General Assembly on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 September 2018. There are four options

1. Full day tour to “13th century” complex

Cost is 30 USD including lunch.

“13th century” complex is 96 km from Ulaanbaatar in Erdene sum, Tuv province. It covers an area of 88 hectares surrounding Yol mountain. Here has been created the “Bichil Khant uls”, the Small Kingdom project.

The “13th Century” complex has tourism attractions, ger camps, farms, statues and traditional entertainment areas, all in the real lifestyle of the 13th century era. Within this small kingdom, the rule of law is strong and there is no television, electricity or phones allowed. This theme park is built in a realtime micro kingdom to give the tourists experiences during their stay by providing a true environment of the 13th century way of living.

This is the only place in Mongolia where you can visit the old time micro kingdom of Chinggis Khaan and his empire. Tourists can enjoy the craftsmen artwork, Mongolian calligraphy, learn to write Mongolian traditional scripts, dine in the kings and queens palace, practice archery, horse training and catching horses with a lasso pole, riding horses and camels, or simply sit back and enjoy the beautiful landscapes and the clear blue sky.

There are six different camps and tribes that provide the tourist services which are described below.

Relay-station Camp is situated at the entrance, the guards inspect tourists' tickets in the relay station and the servants will lead and guide the tourists to the next camp.

Craftsmen Camp: The blacksmiths' and craftsmen' works of 13th century Mongolia are very popular around the world. You will see their artwork such as household utensils, women's ornaments, jewellery, arms, tools and so on. The detail of the interiors and exteriors of buildings are all handmade. Their works such as woollen felt decorations, handmade Mongolian carpets and ornaments will amaze you.

Educational Camp: Here you can learn the unique culture and literacy, and the traditional way of educating their children. Tourists and guests are offered the chance of practicing the Mongolian calligraphy and many kinds of Mongolian scripts.

Herders' Camp shows off the everyday life of herders, pastoral culture, the way of breeding livestock, the methods of producing dairy products, horse training and catching horses with a lasso pole, and processing the leather straps. Riding horses, yaks and camels are available.

Shaman's Camp: Following the customs of each clan, the Shamans (traditional healers) from different clans all over Mongolia gather around the bonfire under the blue sky to perform a ritual to worship mother nature and the gods, aiming for one common deed. There are several kinds of ritual worship. The bonfire ritual can be organized for tourists on the reservation as it is an extensive but magical event. Moreover, you can also visit the different clans of shaman's gers and have your fortune told if you wish, even if you're a walk-in guest.

King's Palace is the main attraction of the 13th Century Theme Park. There are 24 tribes' flags which symbolize the history about the king's triumph of uniting 24 tribes and establishing the Great Mongolian Empire. You will learn about the statecraft of 13th Century Mongolians. All the state affairs such as declaring the laws, and holding a great forum are carried out at the camp. In the King's Palace, there will be different programs and receptions while you sit back and enjoy the traditional food.

2. Half day tour to “Chinggis palace” camp

Cost is 15 USD. Tourists will be responsible for their lunch or dinner which is 5-8 USD.

This tourist camp is located 30 km from the center of Ulaanbaatar. There you can see traditional shelters or gers, ride horses, camels, or practice archery, have a meal in a big ger restaurant while listening to traditional music and songs.

3. Full day city tour

Cost is 15 USD. Tourists will be responsible for their lunch or dinner which is 7-10 USD.

In this tour you will visit the following places:

Gandan Monastery: Gandan is one of the main Mongolian monasteries and also a big Buddhist center. There is a 26m tall gold-plated statue of Avalokiteshvara in the main temple.

Chinggis Square: This is at the heart of Ulaanbaatar, surrounded by Parliament house, the Stock Exchange and Chinggis Khaan's statue.

Zaisan Memorial: This landmark, high above the city, offers a wonderful view of Ulaanbaatar and its surrounding landscape. Zaisan Memorial is dedicated to Soviet-Mongolian friendship, the Soviet Red Army and World War 2 heroes.

Buddha Park: The Park was opened in 2006 at the base of the Zaisan Memorial. 16m tall Shakyamuni stands in the center of the park.

Mongolian Traditional Folk Concert: Mongolia has a very rich and unique culture and a Mongolian folklore concert in Ulaanbaatar is certainly one of the “must see” attractions. Here you will see the Mongolian folk art such as a small orchestra of

Mongolian musical instruments, traditional long song, throat singing (Khoomii), the amazing art of contortion, and the Buddhist TSAM dance.

4. Half day city tour

Cost is 10 USD.

Based on the number of tourists who chose the full day city tour in Option 3 above, a half day city tour can be organized.

For further information, go to the RGA website www.wbuapga2018.org, or email info@wbuapga2018.org.

A Blind Lady Wins “the Myanmar Women of Change Award” by the U.S Embassy

Ms. Aye Chan Aung has kindly translated this for us:

The U.S. Embassy in Myanmar first awarded the Women of Change Award in 2017, in recognition of the incredible work that so many women in Myanmar do to improve people's lives and advance human rights. In 2018, two women and a local organization were honored with this annual award. One of those awardees is a totally blind lady named Ma Aye Thinzar Maung.

Ma Aye Thinzar Maung was not born blind, but she lost her sight later due to a disease. She got a B.A. degree in the Korean Language from Yangon University of Foreign Languages in 2004. Now, she is an Executive Committee Member of the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities (MFPD). She is also the Chair of the Education Working Committee and a member of the Rights of Women and Children with Disabilities Committee in MFPD. Besides this, she is a member of the Blind Women Committee in the Myanmar National Association of the Blind (MNAB).

Ma Aye Thinzar Maung has been advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities to the community and decision making level such as ministries and the Parliament. Especially, she has been standing up for the rights of disabled students who are denied their access to mainstream education like schools, colleges and universities. As a milestone, she played a leading role in working with the Ministry of Education to change university admissions guidelines that now ensure that the disabled people have equal access to higher education.

Ma Aye Thinzar Maung did not expect to be recognized with such an award, the first of its kind ever given to a disabled person in Myanmar. She said, “I am very happy to get such recognition. I am also very proud on behalf of all the disabled people in Myanmar. It gives me more strength to keep more dedicated efforts for the rights of the disabled in our country.”

On 22 March, the U.S. ambassador said, “This year's recipients took risks to do things that are controversial, difficult, or dangerous; they stood up for under-represented communities; and they solved problems creatively.”

Heartiest Congratulations, Ma Aye Thinzar Maung!

Breaking Through Reading Barrier with E-Learning

By Jess Shek

On 30 January, the Hong Kong Blind Union hosted the “Reading Barrier Breakthrough with e-Learning Symposium 2018”, with the theme ‘Information Technology Bringing Opportunities for Inclusive Schooling – Accessible Learning Materials and Holistic Development’.

In the Symposium, we were much honoured to have invited many local and overseas professionals to share their experience and expertise on a wide spectrum of topics, such as barrier-free learning, all-round development, inclusive campuses and opportunities brought to print disabled students by information technology. The event attracted over 300 participants, including representatives from the Government, academia, information technology industry as well as user individuals such as teachers, parents and students.

In his opening address, the President of the Hong Kong Blind Union Mr. Chong Chan-yau stated that given the recent advancement in information technology, e-learning has made it possible for visually impaired students to read various kinds of books with full accessibility, breaking through long-existed learning reading barriers.

An accessible e-book is an important element in e-learning. However, there is only a handful of such provisions available in the market. Their choices are still very limited compared with those available to people with normal eyesight. In one of the keynote speeches, Mr. Neil Jarvis, general manager of Strategic Relations of Blind Foundation New Zealand, concluded that in order to produce barrier-free e-books, we need to ensure that mainstream publishers, technology platform and e-book developers understand the need for accessibility, embrace the implementation techniques, or know where to go to find out the solution in encountering problems.

With regard to e-learning, we launched the Accessible E-Learning Project way back in 2011. In 2013, we started the Jockey Club E-Learning for All Project (ELFA Project) funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, to eliminate the learning gap between students with and without print disability by means of e-learning. The Symposium is a major event of the ELFA Project.

More information

Visit <http://elfa.hkbu.org.hk/symposium2.php> to check out more information on the Symposium

Visit <http://elfa.hkbu.org.hk> to learn more about the ELFA Project.

If you're interested in learning more about the Symposium or the ELFA Project, feel free to contact Peggy Ko of the Hong Kong Blind Union at peggyko@hkbu.org.hk.

Riding Together No One Left Behind

Piyanat Thongmoon writes:

From January 28 to February 5, 2018, the Asean Disability Training Center held the big project called “Pan Pai Mai Ting Kan” (Riding Together No One Left Behind) for 9

days. The riding journey was from Bangkok (central region of Thailand) to Chiang Dao district in Chiang Mai (northern part of Thailand). The total distance was 867 kilometres through 9 provinces. The project used tandem bikes, a type of bike that has two seats in which the sighted volunteers ride in front and blind riders ride at the back.

The purpose of the project was to raise funds from the public to construct the Asean Disability Training Center for all types of disabilities. The center planned to teach stable careers to both Disabled people and caregivers. The unemployment rate of disabled people in Thailand was about 600,000.

The training courses emphasize agriculture and teach how to plant organic vegetables and mushrooms; to feed a cricket farm etc.

The highlight of the activities was riding on the tandems. There was a total of 42 people, half of whom were blind riders.

The main preparation was practicing to ride the tandems together. All pairs spent about four months practicing. We went to a variety of places with different tactile surfaces such as going up and down the hills or mountains, and riding on the flat areas. We had to practice riding at least 100 kilometres per day or more in order to get ourselves ready for the real ride.

One of the vital preparations was that the blind riders and their sighted partners had to develop good communication. For instance, when the sighted partners did any movement such as starting to ride, changing gear, body movement, free legs, stopping tandem in the parking lot and so on, it was necessary to tell the blind partners each time. Likewise, blind riders would have to tell everything to their sighted partners for the next steps as well.

Riding a tandem is actually not difficult or easy. It just depends on ourselves for the best coordination of both sides to make a good plan. Lack of equal skill would cause the tandem not to go forward smoothly. If anyone stops or interrupts to do anything and doesn't let your partner know the movement, the result is you can't ride the tandem to the destination.

Moreover, riding tandems can also make a good relationship between blind and sighted people in the inclusive society. Perhaps, it can be signs for happiness. It can be the family member's bike to take them anywhere. Therefore, the two-seat bike or tandem may be called friendship tandem for everyone.

Finally, we arrived at the destination without any obstacles. Around what will be the Asean Disability Training Center are natural resources with a beautiful big mountain which looks like a lady lying down. Beside the mountain is a clean creek and lots of trees.

Everyone was very happy and proud to be a part of this fundraising event. We will be looking forward to seeing the progress of the Asean Disability Training Center to succeed in the near future.

ICEVI report May 2018

Martine Abel-Williamson is the WBUAP Delegate to The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI). She has provided the information in this article.

ICEVI East Asia Regional Conference

This is being held 16-18 October 2018 in Manila, the Philippines. The theme is “Rights-Based Education and Sustainable Development Goals for Persons with Visual Impairment”. The conference theme will be discussed in the light of global perspectives on education for all (EFA), Sustainable Development Goals, Legislations, curricular strategies, human resource development, technology and higher education.

Register for this conference at ICEVI-EA-Manila@blind.org.ph. For more information on ICEVI, visit the website at www.icevi.org.

Current Key Activities ICEVI Global

ICEVI-WBU EFA - VI global campaign involves 31 focus countries, including Fiji and Papua New Guinea

Start-Up Teacher Training curriculum for delivery by mobile phone to be launched at the ICEVI East Asia Conference in Manila Philippines in October 2018; available for download from the ICEVI website.

Mathematics concept videos - planned launch of first 40 videos in early 2019 (will be freely available on YouTube)

ICEVI-Nippon Foundation Higher education and transition to work project in Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Mongolia

ICEVI works closely with UN bodies and governments in influencing inclusive education policies and implementation of SDGs.

Country Champions Program - empowering young people with vision impairment: Programs during 2018 in the Philippines, India, Nepal

Publications: The Educator (thematic), ICEVI eNews, Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual Impairment <http://icevi.org/publications/index.htm>

Recent activities ICEVI Pacific Region

Australia and New Zealand

SPEVI (South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment) held its January 2017 Biennial Conference in Brisbane

ICEVI is represented on the SPEVI Committee of Management

Samoa

5th Conference on Disability, Samoa and Training workshop at Samoa Blind Association, February 2017

Production of national exams in braille and large print by Samoan Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture

Kiribati

Enrolment of students with disability into certificate and diploma programs at Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT)

Training of KIT staff

Papua New Guinea
Braille machine maintenance training workshop, May 2017

Fiji
Fiji Society for the Blind production of braille school exam papers, July 2017

Braille literacy training in Pacific Island countries when opportunities arise

ICEVI Pacific - Goals for 2018

Braille Orbit 20 (low cost refreshable braille device), introduction and training in Pacific Island countries

Training and capacity building of students, teachers and relevant stakeholders

Engaging ICEVI members to improve opportunities for people with vision impairment

Explore possibility of a regional SPEVI-ICEVI conference in the Pacific.

Marrakesh Treaty Updates from the Region

By Neil Jarvis

This update covers work undertaken in support of the Marrakesh Treaty implementation campaign in the region over recent months.

Workshops in Singapore for ASEAN country Advocates

The region was fortunate to receive a contribution from the grant provided by the Open Society Foundation to the World Blind Union in Toronto. The over-arching purpose of the grant in the Asia Pacific region was to strengthen advocacy capacity in targeted countries around the region in 2017. We did this by holding a two-day sub-regional workshop in Singapore for the benefit of advocates from blindness organisations in the ASEAN sub-region.

This workshop followed a WIPO three-day workshop immediately prior to this one, thereby giving participants the benefit of five days of workshops on the Marrakesh Treaty. We were thereby able to share some of the costs with WIPO.

The WBUAP workshop was able to focus specifically on WBU priorities and campaign issues.

The WIPO workshop included representatives from Government agencies, publishers and producers as well as blindness organisations from the sub-region, whereas the WBUAP workshop was directed specifically at blind advocates, though we did also welcome a representative from WIPO.

Six countries were each represented by two blind advocates. These were Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. All ASEAN member organisations were invited but some countries were not able to send participants. In addition, the WBUAP President, the regional Marrakesh Treaty Campaign Co-ordinator, and a single delegate from Singapore took part. The workshop was led by Neil Jarvis, AP region Marrakesh Treaty Co-ordinator.

Specifically, the workshop supported by this grant was intended to enable the region to:

- Introduce advocates in the selected countries to the Marrakesh Treaty and add to the knowledge gained at the preceding WIPO workshop
- Acquaint them with the recently published WBU guide for implementing the treaty, with a view to them using this as a key tool in their national advocacy
- Demonstrate examples of good practice in advocacy campaigns which will assist participants when they go back to their own national campaigns, as well as communicate examples of successful techniques used in the Asia Pacific region to date
- Establish an on-going sub-regional and regional network of advocates who will support and assist each other across national boundaries once the workshop is over. This will be in the form of e-mail, Dropbox sharing and possible follow-up webinars and training sessions

Workshop Learning Objectives

- Follow up learnings from the just completed WIPO workshop (November 1-3) and to provide a WBU-specific perspective which will assist delegates to advocate for the treaty in their own countries
- Ensure everyone is familiar with articles of the Marrakesh Treaty how the Treaty addresses the book famine
- Identify the main arguments and interpretations of WBU's Guides to the Marrakesh Treaty and discuss how these might be used in national campaigns
- Become familiar with important Marrakesh Treaty stakeholders
- Create country-based action plans with identifiable next steps for Marrakesh Treaty advocacy

Outcomes

Delegates from each country worked together on the morning of the second day to draw up their national plans. The workshop re-convened after lunch, to share these plans and to continue the discussion on how we can ensure that we support each other from now on.

It was agreed that the Singapore workshop would continue in a “virtual” form via e-mail, with regular check-ins to monitor progress and provide a forum for mutual advice and assistance.

New Issue Brief calls for greater inclusion and access to information for people with print Disabilities in Asia-Pacific

The lack of equitable access to information and knowledge Among persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled is key to realizing an inclusive world for all, says a new Issue Brief for the Asia-Pacific region developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Blind Union – Asia Pacific (WBUAP) and the Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL).

Released in the run-up to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2017, the Asia- Pacific Issue Brief on the Marrakesh Treaty provides a succinct summary of the complex subject, describes the key benefits and calls on all countries to join the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

The World Blind Union estimates that less than 1 percent of published books in developing countries, and 7 percent in developed countries, are ever made into

formats that are accessible to print disabled Persons, such as braille, audio, e-books or materials with large print. This situation, often referred to as a 'book famine,' is preventing millions of persons with print disabilities around the world from making the most of human development opportunities, leading to exclusion, social isolation and poverty. Persons With disabilities remain among the poorest of the poor across societies, being left behind from economic, social and cultural progress.

The Marrakesh Treaty is designed to alleviate the book famine. Agreed in 2013 by member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a UN agency. It entered into force in 2016 in the countries which had ratified or acceded to the treaty. 35 countries have done so by March 2018 with many more close to joining. Marrakesh is the first copyright treaty with human rights principles at its core.

"The 'book famine' all too often excludes persons with print disabilities from access to education, employment, health care, culture or participation in just about any aspect of political, economic and social activities," said Michiko Tabata, President of WBUAP. "Civil society loses out just as much as print disabled people do from their exclusion. We call upon all countries in the Asia-Pacific to join the Marrakesh Treaty and end the book famine."

Joining and implementing the Marrakesh Treaty will also significantly contribute to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are guided by the principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

"For too long, people who live with visual impairment and other reading disabilities have lacked sufficient access to published works in the Asia-Pacific region," said Nadia Rasheed, Team Leader, HIV, Health and Development, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub. "Expanding the ratification and implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to more countries in the region is of critical importance to ensure realization of the fundamental right to information and knowledge and to realize a more inclusive world for all."

The Asia-Pacific region is estimated to have the world's largest number of persons with blindness (21.4 million) and moderate to severe visual impairment (135 million). A rapid ageing population and the rise of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes in the region will further increase the number of print disabled persons, heightening the importance of greater access to published works in accessible formats to achieve disability-inclusive and sustainable development.

"Throughout the world, libraries are one of the primary sources of reading materials in accessible formats," said Rima Kupryte, EIFL Director. "EIFL is strongly committed to speedy ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty that creates new opportunities for libraries to vastly improve services to people with print disabilities, thereby improving lives and increasing life-chances."

Download the Issue Brief in PDF and accessible formats including electronic braille, 'accessible' Word, plain text, HTML, and MP3 audio at:

http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/democratic_governance/hiv_aids/issue-brief-for-asia-pacific-on-the-marrakesh-treaty-to-facilitate.html

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Upcoming Dates for East Wind

Here are the dates for the 2018 issues of East Wind. Please can you put these dates in your diaries so you can get your news to the Editor in good time.

Issue No. 26 is due in July 2018. Please try to send your items by Saturday 30 June. Unfortunately, this issue may be delayed because of the late running of Issue 25.

Issue No. 27 is due in October 2018. Please send your items by Sunday 30 September.

Issue No. 28 is due in January 2019. Please send your news by Monday 31 December.

Please note that we retain the right to edit submissions due to space limitations. Please send your contributions to Mary's email address: mary@aicomms.co.nz.

You should also check out our website www.wbuap.org. If you go to our home page you can subscribe to receive updates from our website direct to your inbox or use our RSS feed.

That concludes this issue of East Wind No. 25, April-May 2018.