

Let's promote inclusive public toilets #WorldToiletDay 2015

Facilities that are not easily accessible will not be used at all. Together with National Federation of Disabled-Nepal (NFD-N), AIN DWG organized a public event to promote inclusive public toilets on Thursday, 19 November 2015 at Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu. At the event, AIN-DWG signed an MoU with Social Welfare Council to build a model inclusive public toilet at Bhrikuti Mandap, Exhibition Road, Kathmandu. DWG, together with NFD-N jointly lobbied for all 400 public toilets to be inclusive that Gov. of Nepal is planning to build in Kathmandu, according to the Budget Speech 2015/ 2016. Honorable Assistant Minister Biraj Bista, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development committed to be part of the promotion of accessible toilet campaign saying he will do everything possible to make more accessible and inclusive public toilets in Kathmandu. Ms. Subhadra Dahal, Director, SWC; Ms. Sunita Pokharel, Rep from Kathmandu Metropolitan City; Ms. Sharmila Karki, President, NGO Federation; Mr. Shudarson Subedi, President, NFDN shares on the various aspects of the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Similarly, DWG Members, Tripti Rai, Country Representative, WaterAid Nepal; Deepak Sapkota, Executive Director, Karuna Foundation Nepal and DWG Coordinator Shaurabh Sharma from CBM also highlighted on the accessible toilet campaign. The event was successful in initiating dialogues with concerned government stakeholders and supporting agencies. So, there has been increased solidarity for inclusive public toilets. Access for all is better for all.



"I will need constant support and pressure from disability communities to make this possible"- Minister, Bista



DWG Coordinator, Mr. Shaurabh Sharma signing MOU with SWC Director, Ms. Subhadra Dahal

AIN DWG held series of meetings with Ministry of Women Children on celebrating of International Day of People with Disabilities and Social Welfare, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development on public toilet campaign in Kathmandu.

AIN DWG members (CBM, Fairmed, Karuna and WaterAid) signed a memorandum of agreement with Nepal Disabled Women's Association for the construction of Accessible toilet, to be started soon.

AIN Member, CBM supported Chitwan Association of Industries and National Federation of the Disabled Nepal to organize the Regional Dialogue on Inclusive livelihoods in Bharatpur and Pokhara

South Asia Regional Disability Rights Dialogue on Political Participation

The first South Asia Regional Disability Rights Dialogue on Political Participation, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, October 1-3, 2015 brought together over 80 representatives from 34 organizations including disabled people's organizations (DPOs), election management bodies, media, and international organizations from the eight countries in South Asia. Co-hosted by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and Sri Lanka Department of Elections with support from the Australian Government's Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Maldives and USAID Nepal also sponsored the attendance of some delegates.

Delegates from the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN), Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA), Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) and IFES Nepal participated in the

three-day event, held concurrently with the sixth conference of the Forum of Electoral Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA).



In addition to sharing common issues and regional best practices, the delegates were successful in advocating the FEMBoSA to adopt a resolution to develop common minimum standards on disability-inclusive elections in South Asia. The ECN officials were among the first to express their support for disability inclusive elections, with ECN Under-secretary Mr. Surya Prasad Aryal also presenting a paper at the conference on the ECN's efforts and the practices that EMBs could adopt to ensure disability inclusive elections.

Fair Commitment towards Disability

FAIRMED is a development organisation that has been established in Bern Switzerland in 1959 to support neglected people who are prone to diseases, disability and poverty in Africa and Asia. With its headquarters in Bern, FAIRMED works with local partners and government line agencies at project areas. The core focus of FAIRMED's work is neglected tropical diseases, people with disabilities and health care for marginalised communities. In Nepal, FAIRMED's work focuses on maternal and child health and revitalization of public health care systems to increase the uptake of services, where issues on inclusiveness and mainstreaming form a major part of our work ethos. One of the three prime scopes of work of FAIRMED is to support independent living for people with disabilities. FAIRMED applies the approach of disability inclusive development (DID). This concept aims at closing the inequality and poverty gap by making development opportunities inclusive for people with disabilities.

Jagat Man Rajbahak, a 24 years old person living with Hemophilia Factor VIII deficiency, is a permanent resident of Bhaktapur. He lives with his father, mother and elder brother.



Jagat, after the surgery of his leg

Being a hemophilic patient he frequently used to suffer from knee swelling and other bleeding cases. His knee got internal bleeding badly and he got admitted at Bir Hospital. Doctor notified him that his right leg should be cut down from his knee if he wish to survive.

Being a hemophilic patient and lack of unavailability of blood factor (anti bleeding medicine), the doctors were hesitant to carry out surgery of his leg. After managing blood factor through different means, the doctor became ready to go for operation and surgery of his leg was conducted under the guidance of a Hematologist. His surgery was successful. This helped Jagat to get his new life, almost a new world for him. It would not have been possible to have such a major surgery without arrangement of sufficient amount of blood factor.



Now Jagat Man Rajbahak

These days, Jagat uses a prosthetic leg for performing his daily activities and is also now able to continue his study. Life, definitely, would have turned into a very dark situation or anything would have happened if such surgery would not have been managed on time with the arrangement of sufficient amount of blood factor.

QUARTERLY QUOTE A child is only as disabled as their environment and the beliefs of the people around them." - Bala Pillai

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