

RI GDDF & AF Sharing Session 1

Date: 23 August 2021

Joseph Kwan: Well, hello everyone, I am Joseph Kwan, facilitator this evening, beside me is Mr. Eddie Suen, also my co-facilitator and we are both from Hong Kong. So it is lovely to share the session with you tonight, to be with you, this is of course one of the RI, the Rehabilitation International GDDF. GDDF is a Global Disability Development Fund and African Fund Project sharing session. We are, this evening, sharing session one which focuses on international trend and accessibility. We have a total of ten projects, which covers pretty much the globe, we have people speaking from today from Africa, from Russia, Germany, of course Asia and Macau, these are the few. So just a few things for your notice is that we are having a sign language interpreter with us. And this session will be recorded. We hope to have this session for about two hours with presentation at first, followed by a Q&A session. So, this is the rough rundown for this evening. So, without further ado, we would like to invite the Rehabilitation International President, Madame Zhang, Haidi to give us a welcome speech, but I believe she is now in Tokyo, part of the Chinese team for the Paralympics Games, so on her behalf, Mr. Joseph Kwok, who is also RI Social Commission Chairperson will be presenting her speech for us, please Mr. Kwok, Joseph please.

Joseph Kwok: I'm Joseph Kwok, Vice Chair of Social Commission of Rehabilitation International and Vice Chair of Hong Kong Joint Council for Persons with Disabilities. I am very pleased to read the statement for Madame Zhang Haidi, President of Rehabilitation International and Chair of China Disabled Persons Federation, for the RI GDDF and AF Projects sharing sessions. Open in quote. Dear colleagues and friends, good morning, afternoon, evening, the covid-19 is still raging all over the world, please take good care of yourselves, I wish you and your loved ones all the best. I took office as RI president since 2016, I want to thank you for your support. Since then, we have set up the Global Disability Development Fund and Africa Fund supported by the Chinese Government. Over the years, we have supported and jointly released the world report on hearing together with WHO, we have worked with UNSGAB and UNFPA to conduct some pragmatic projects. We have carried out several projects in Asia, Europe, America, Africa and other areas, which make our fellow brothers and sisters with disabilities feel your warmth of RI as a family. We have donated masks and other anti-epidemic supplies to Ethiopia, Netherland, India and Nepal, all being hard hit by Covid-19, to protect the safety and health of children with disabilities. These programmes are committed to empower our fellow persons with disabilities, promote the inclusive development and expand RI's global network. These programmes have brought benefits to persons with disabilities, increased cohesion among our member organizations and the influence of RI on international disability affairs has been greatly enhanced. Every time when I recall the innocence smiling and the deaf school in Ethiopia, I feel we must do more for their growth and rehabilitation. I believe we share the same feeling, let's keep carrying out more influential programmes to provide persons with disabilities better services and bring them greater hope. Next year, we will celebrate the RI's a hundredth birthday. On the journey ahead, we will meet new opportunities and new challenges, how can RI continue to expand global influence, to provide more public projects for the international community and keep our torch shining brightly in the coming a hundred years. First, we should work with UN agencies to increase the influence of our programmes. Second, women and children with disabilities are the most deserving of love and care, we need to pay more attention to their demands and developments in our programmes. At this particular

time, we should better protect the rights and interests of our fellow persons with disabilities affected by the epidemic. Third, during the planning and the implementing process of projects, the standing commissions I expected to play a more active role by fully mobilizing our members to participate and thus enhance their sense of belonging and responsibility. I also hope that in the future we will follow more standardized application procedures of project and exercise stricter supervision to ensure that the funds can be used for the benefits of persons with disabilities. I look forward to your full exchange of views and experience in the implementation of projects and to contributing more wisdom and strength to make RI better in the future. Wish the sharing session a big success. Thank you. End in quote. Thank you.

Joseph Kwan: Thank you Joseph. Thank you Madame Zhang Haidi, RI President.

Eddie Suen: We are going to take a group photo right now, can I ask participants to turn on your camera please? So, we may take a photo on the screen. Okay, thank you. Thank you very much. I think we will start now.

Joseph Kwan: Good evening, now I think we will go right into the presentation. The first presentation is from Ethiopia and the project name is called Strengthening Assistive Technology Services in Africa. The presenter is Demelash Bekele, the Executive Director of VCBRA. Demelash is also the Deputy Vice President of RI for Africa. Thank you. So, let's see what Demelash has to say, thank you.

Demelash Bekele: Hi everyone, my name is Demelash Bekele, I am the Executive Director of Vision Community Based Rehabilitation Association. Now, I will be presenting a joint project was implemented by RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America) and the Vision Community Based Rehabilitation Association of Africa. So, this project is an African Fund project, the name of the project is Strengthening Assistive Technology Services in Africa. The goal of this project was providing education and training and credentialing opportunities for persons with disabilities and professionals in the field who work directly with people with disabilities, especially those professionals who directly work in connection to assistive technology services. The specific objective is to increase their knowledge and subsequent capacity to provide quality services and support to a growing population of people with disabilities. Increasing the capacity of professionals to provide quality services and supports for people with disabilities will help to enable people with disabilities to utilize assistive technology services to improve their ability to live and work in communities. Furthermore, well-trained professionals can in turn support, influence and educate emerging professionals who provide services and support in their countries. The project location, this project was implemented in Ethiopia, participants from all regions be invited and participated in the project, even participants from emerging regions also got a chance to attend this training. The budget for this training was 28,140 dollars, it was from the African Fund. This project had two different kind of results, short term result and long term result. The short term result was providing educational training for 30 emerging and mid-career professionals, especially who provide services on assistive technology, and support people with disabilities, especially in accessing the assistive technology. The long term result of this project was, actually when we designed this project, we had anticipated improved services and supports for people with disabilities who can benefit from the acquisition and proper use of quality assistive devices and services. We... to check whether these result is

achieved or not, we did a cross evaluation on the implementation of how the participants had implemented the skills they have acquired through this project, also this training. In this training, there are some activities that had been completed. The first activity was the VCBRA and RENSA has set criteria to select participants from Ethiopia, so some of our criteria was participants must have at least acquired skills on producing assistive technology, and also participants must be selected from different regions, and professionals who are participants must be open to learn new skills of assistive technology. So we are able to select participants from different regions, that means from 21 organizations in Ethiopia especially working in assistive technology production. Also, professionals and trainers were also selected from the RESNA, these trainers are...they have a high level of professionals who work in the area of assistive technology, so RESNA selected those trainers from an instructor pool in the area of assistive technology. So, they travelled to Ethiopia and stayed there for about five days and they provided two days training for the 30 participants. The participants as I mentioned that they came from Ethiopia, I mean all of them are from Ethiopia, and all participants were from different regions, at least one region send one participant. And it was really great especially inviting participants from different regions. Before the training, we conducted the pre-assessment to check the status and knowledge of the participants and after the pretest, evaluation connected the trainers, they made some adjustment on the training modules so it fits exactly the needs and the capacity of the participants. So, that way the two days training were conducted. After the training conducted, again there was a post-test assessment provided from the trainers to check how much they acquired, how much knowledge they acquired, how much they benefited from thin training. And finally, certificate of participation was provided for the 30 participants. So, during these two days training, we had covered different topics and areas of assistive technology. Clinical applications of assistive technology was covered. Assessment, different ways of assessing people with disabilities who need different kinds of assistive device. And also service delivery methodology, seating, mobility, even access, augmentative and alternative communication is also covered. Computer access, electronic aids to daily activities, and sensory was the major topics covered in the two days. So, this is the picture taken during...after the training. As you can see, this is the 30 participants who had participated in this training. And thank you for listening.

Joseph Kwan: Thank you Demelash for that presentation. We would like to go into the second project now, Eddie please.

Eddie Suen: The next presentation is from Uganda and the organization's name is CBR Africa Network and the project name is Transition from CBR to CBID: The Situation Analysis of CBR and CBID in Africa. So, may I ask Miss Carolyne Maholo, Treasurer of CAN to present to us, please. Carolyne, your turn.

Carolyne Maholo: Rehabilitation and inclusive education been discussed in the recent time. Disabilities need rehabilitation services for empowerment to ensure their participation and inclusion, however, these are barely accessible in many parts of Africa. In 1978, WHO launched the CRB guidelines to increase access to rehabilitation services. Community-based rehabilitation is about interventions taken out at community level to employ people with disabilities using local available resources, including the persons with disabilities themselves, their families and community to ensure that they maximize use of whatever they have within their reach to the widen their opportunities. It is therefore aim that ensuring inclusive

development. In 2010, WHO launched the CBR guidelines in Abuja, the CBR guidelines have got a matrix which reflects the among collaboration between the various sectors. Since the declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the CRPD, a lot of advocacies have happened in the area of disability inclusion and that is why community-based inclusive development is highly proclaimed. This situation has met many stakeholders to grapple between community-based rehabilitation and community-based inclusive development, hence a transition that we are talking about here. This study intended to establish the status of rehabilitation...community-based rehabilitation and inclusive development in Africa, to inform the transition. It involved identifying the nature of interventions and services provided by various organizations, the changes realized since the declaration of the CBID transition, to identify the challenges associated with the transition, and propose appropriate strategies to guide the transition. It was undertaken in four countries that is Uganda, Zambia, Cameroon and Togo, which all have implemented community-based rehabilitation or community-based interventions at different levels, for different periods of time. It was descriptive in nature, utilizing both qualitative data and quantitative data. However, due to the challenges of the pandemic, it was not easy for us to get sufficient quantitative data, therefore most of the findings are reflecting the qualitative information that was obtained. Among the study participants, we had persons with disabilities, and their families, community members, service providers, local leaders, government officers and policy makers. We utilized document review, questionnaires, interview guides and focus group discussions in collecting data. 260 organizations participated in this study. However, Uganda and Cameroon had a higher percentage of respondents while Zambia had a smaller percentage of respondents. This is because at the time of the data collection, there was a lot of Covid in Zambia, which made it difficult for the research team to access the participants due to the continuous lock downs that people experiencing, as well as the tension which came with the pandemic. Among the organizations that participated in this study, we have DPOs, organizations working with persons with disabilities, government institutions, NGOs, community-based organizations, the academia and medical facilities among others. However, as you can see there was equally representations of all these categories of respondents in all countries with a few exceptions. When asked about the approaches utilized, the higher percentage indicated that they are utilizing community-based rehabilitation, this was especially reported in Zambia and Togo, while Cameroon with higher percentages of organizations that proclaimed community-based inclusive development. On the other hand, a number of organizations seem to be grappling in between community-based rehabilitation and community-based inclusive development, usually based on the funding and opportunity available, because some of them were reporting that some funders have an influence on what approach they declare at a particular time as they are trying to access funding. Among the interventions we have are educational support, medical support...when you look at all these interventions, they are in link with the CBR matrix, in link of what these organizations are doing, is what is reflected by the CBR matrix. So, you can call it whatever you want, but that is it. This is what it is happening at the organizational level. Among the changes realized, due to the interventions provided or services provided, I increased access to education reported in all the countries, affirmative action in employment that was especially reported in Zambia, increased participation in politics and community activities in all countries, improved livelihoods and increased knowledge on the rights of persons with disabilities, again reported in all the four countries of this study. However, the main challenge these organizations are experiencing during the transition is funding. Due to what I mentioned earlier, that some of the funding institutions and organizations have a great influence on what they declare at attempt of

seeking funding. Among challenges experienced by organizations, are limited knowledge, especially the relationship between community-based rehabilitation and community-based inclusive development. Lack of collaboration between organizations, lack of disaggregated data on disability and this is critical for planning and limited funding for effective implementation of activities, as well as negative attitude. Among the proposed strategies, are raising the awareness especially community-based rehabilitation and community-based inclusive development to bridge the knowledge gap and information gap, networking and collaboration, mobilization of local resources, research and documentation to inform policy planning and intervention, economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and their families, lobbying and advocacy for harmonize CBR and CBID.

In conclusion, the interventions implemented by the organizations are based on the CBR guidelines and are effective in enhancing participation of persons with disabilities, and improving and ensuring their inclusion. Community-based rehabilitation transition is confusing and frustrating to many organizations, and we need to quickly harmonize the two in order for us to ensure continuity of interventions since some organizations are at the cross route at the moment.

Recommendations are research to inform policy and intervention, identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of CBR to inform decision making on the best approach to suit a particular context, matching CBID for some situations, in many other situations, CBR could be the preferred strategy especially since basic rehabilitation is more easy for people to come by. Lastly, we have resource mapping for disability inclusion. Thank you.

Joseph Kwan: Thank you Carolyne for that presentation from Uganda. Next project presentation is also from Ethiopia, again the presenter will be Demelash Bekele, the Executive Director of VCBRA. The project name is on Promoting Centre-based Rehabilitation, Inclusive Education, Social Inclusion Intervention for PWDs in the Oromia region. So, thank you again, Demelash.

Demelash Bekele: Hello everyone, my name is Demelash Bekele, I am the executive director Vision Community Based Rehabilitation Association. I will be presenting the implementation of the project on Promoting Centre-based Rehabilitation, Inclusive Education and Social Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities. The objective of this project was bringing an inclusive environment, in which children with disabilities enjoy their rights, live as equal citizens and encounter the development for Ethiopia. The project was implemented in Ethiopia, or in the region north-west and south-west Shewa Zones. The reason of this project were persons with disabilities can be rehabilitated by a variety of medical rehabilitation services like physiotherapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy. Resources centres are established and become a platform for primary school students, higher institutions are able to augment theoretical knowledge with tangible practices. The centers serve as a sport and game centre where people with disabilities enjoy sport leisure and recreational rights. And the centre also serves as a referral centre for hospitals, household institutions, universities and schools in the area. This project was an one year project and the one project period was from November 2018 to November 2019, with a total budget of 105022 dollars. During the implementation, a number of activities were undertaken, and the following key achievements reached. To mention some of the major achievements, one innovating

building to serve as a rehabilitation centre. So, here we have a VCBRA owned a big facility that was not finished, so to make...I mean this project was designed to make this place rehabilitation centre, and this project was planned as a collaborative project with rehabilitation and national region community-based rehabilitation and the Ambo University. The Ambo University is a kind of institution to look at in the project area. So, this Ambo University, they contributed about 100,000 dollars to renovate...fully renovate the building, which VCBRA, as I mentioned completely built this building for this project purpose and Rehabilitation International paid for the full accessibility of the compiled. So, through this collaboration, the facility is now fully renovated, and become physically accessible for people with disability and able to provide services for people with disabilities. The second major achievement we got through this project was keeping the rehabilitation centre with basic rehabilitation materials, so, this centre is now equipped with basic equipment that basically rehabilitation centre requires. Equipment like treatment bed, therapy materials, various exercise tools, small therapy machines, stimulation equipment and play therapy materials were purchased and the centre is now serving people with disabilities with a wide range of rehabilitation services in the region. We also assigned one professional physiotherapist to lead the rehabilitation centre and that PT is providing the rehabilitation services for children with disabilities. So, the rehabilitation centre is serving more than two hundred children and adults with disabilities every year, that means it is an establishment. The other great achievement we get through this project was providing home-based rehabilitation services for children with disabilities and also filling the gap of our CBR staff. So, by providing TOT training. This community-based rehabilitation approach helps us to reach more people with disabilities particularly those who are in poor area, we have community rehab workers and these community rehab workers they support more than 305 children with various disabilities by providing home to home rehabilitation services. So to be a little that keep gap they have, we also conducted a ten-day rehabilitation skills training for 13 rehabilitation workers, now our rehabilitation workers are supporting children with disabilities with better rehabilitation skills and motivation.

The other achievement is sending children with disabilities to various hospitals and rehabilitation centre. So, with this project, we are able to screen more than 206 children and adults with disabilities, who have different kinds of disabilities. And refer them to various rehabilitation centre and all of them got appropriate treatment and rehabilitation services. By the way, currently the rehabilitation centre is starting to provide wide range of medical and rehabilitation services as mentioned earlier, especially for children with cerebral palsy, children with development delay, clubfeet, people who have struggled with spinal cord injury. And every year, now we started to support more than 100 children and adults with disabilities at the centre.

The other achievement we got through this project was keeping the resource centre. This resource centre was established in this rehabilitation centre, particularly this resource centre was established to enhance the education of children with disabilities, and we purchased different kind of materials like sign language books, audio materials, practical and sensorial educational materials, playing materials, pictorial teaching materials, accessible computers and televisions and other materials were purchased. And currently the resource centre is serving more than 142 students in the region. Also, to promote inclusive education, we organized a two days training on inclusive education for 30 teachers selected from the project area. The other achievement is connected to sport and game, so the centre has indoor and outdoor sport facilities,

so now people with disabilities are enjoying various sport activities at the centre. The VCBRA also supported the district sport offices with various sport kits and materials, this was done particularly in promoting inclusive sports. Also, the support was aimed at fostering inclusive sport competition, so the district sport office includes people with disabilities with all sports festivals they are holding. And the last major achievement we got was equipping parents of children with disabilities with basic rehabilitation and disability management skills, this activity was mainly conducted to ensure the sustainability of the rehabilitation services especially in the community. So to do this, we have organized a two days training for 60 parents of children with disability, now these parents started supporting and providing rehabilitation services for their kids, which we believe is an excellent service. So all those, the above mentioned major achievements were...that are the achievements we got from the projects.

As a future plan, we are thinking there is a huge rehabilitation need in the region, and we believe that this cannot be reached with a single project, like a 1-year project. this was also witnessed by the project assessment team, they also gave us a recommendation to expand such kind of services to other areas where there were no services available and also strengthening the existing project and address other needs of people with disabilities particularly in the area of rehabilitation empowerment and providing access to assistive technology. We believe that the Rehabilitation International will continue to support us in expanding such kind of very impactful projects. For now, it is all I have regarding this project, thank you for listening.

Eddie Suen: Thank you Mr. Bekele. So, our next presentation, the project name is Advocating for Inclusive Education in Matola, Mozambique, by Ms Isabel Hodge, from United States International Council on Disabilities. Thank you.

Isabel Hodge: So, welcome to Advocating for Inclusive Education in Matola, Mozambique. My name is Isabel Hodge. I was the project manager for this particular grant and I am the Executive Director for the US International Council on Disabilities. In 2019, we received the Africa Fund grant to provide training and technical assistance and funding to provide the Global Disability Rights Library. We choose Mozambique and I will explain why in a minute. So the focus of the project was centered around to Article 24 of CRPD. In 2018, USICD hosted the US State Department, fellow Dr. Carlos Nisholo Quembo from Mozambique and learned about the dire need for training and advocacy around inclusive education in that country. He shared that only 10% of children with disabilities attend primary and secondary school and at most schools lacked qualified staff and were not accessible. Dr. Quembo was the Executive Director for the Association Against Poverty and for Disabled People APODEMOS and he assisted with the planning and logistics and providing background information on Mozambican laws and advocacy efforts. So our team consisted of myself, Dr. Rebecca Posante, who has a background in special education, and Dr. Quembo, and training was available for free for participants. So, in the long term, we anticipated, with the support of government and strong advocacy by stakeholders. A gradual increase in the number of children attending local schools, with their non-disabled peers. And also trained paraprofessionals providing support to children with disabilities who are mainstreamed into the regular classes. And, readily available information on disability rights and inclusion for all stakeholders. Short-term was the provision of this

training and technical assistance and the increased knowledge of Article 24 of the CRPD and the Mozambican public laws.

So our training was held from the 12th to the 15th August in 2019. Dr. Quembo and his team did an excellent job promoting the training and we planned for 40 participants and we are delighted to have over 70 attend. You can see on the slide that we cover a lot of topics over the four days. And, on the last day we met with donors, including the US Embassy, to discuss the project and potential support. The photo on the left was from our low cost accommodation activity. A participant designed a way to drink from a straw. It was probably the most fun activity for the week. We brought a suitcase full of items that could be used and we split into small groups and each group reported out on what they designed. On the right, we have a group discussing person-centered planning. We conducted a pre- and post-training survey for each lessons, 45% completed the survey. The Likert scale was used to determine a participant skills and knowledge before and after the training, and results obviously indicated a vastly improved understanding of all of the topics presented. So, for the action plans, participants could either complete their plan as an individual or as a group. So, we received 45 completed action plans and these are the questions that were included in the templates. In the first year, 65% said that they would conduct seminars in the community, 58% said educating others was important on sign language, Braille, laws and rights of persons with disabilities. And 28% said they would form an advocacy group. So, these are some of the challenges and lessons learned from this project. There was some WIFI limitations for our in-country partner. There was a limited number of technical assistance requests we expected to receive more. There was no funding source for participants to implement their action plans. We really should have thought about that in advance, and there is some challenges with the MOU for the eGranary Global Disability Rights Library to be placed Eduardo Mondlane University. And with some of the installation instructions, they seemed to have challenges with that.

This is the group photo from the final day of training, and you can see we had a lot of participants. Some of them are holding their certificates. And we have stayed in touch with several of them since the training so that was wonderful to see happening. Dr. Posante is in the very front, I am on the left and Dr. Carlos Quembo is in the centre wearing a yellow shirt. So, thank you and I look forward to your questions.

Eddie Suen: Okay, the next one, the fifth one is also from United States International Council on Disabilities. The project name is Online Training Modules on UN CRPD Article 32.

Isabel Hodge: Welcome. My name is Isabel Hodge, I am the Executive Director for the US International Council on Disabilities and I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss our Global Disability Development Fund Project, Improving Stakeholders Understanding and Monitoring of Disability Inclusive Development and Advancing the Implementation of CRPD Article 32 - International Cooperation. In 2018, our organization published two studies, the International Development study: Disability Policy and Practice, and Stakeholders Understanding and Monitoring of the Implementation of CRPD Article 32. In the first, we reviewed and assessed disability inclusion in the policies, frameworks, and strategic plans of bilateral and multilateral agencies and conducted an assessment of UNICEF and the World Bank Group to learn more about how disability inclusive development is being implemented in practice. Our second

study, assessed how Article 32 of the CRPD is being reported by the States and in alternative reports submitted by civil society and independent monitoring mechanisms or IMMs. A total of 96 official State reports, 192 Shadow reports, and 22 IMM reports were reviewed. This project was funded by Rehabilitation International in 2020 and will implement one of the recommendations from the second study that Monitoring and Implementation on Article 32 could be strengthened with training and guidance documents and to have improved access to information related to International Cooperation and Article 32. Our long-term objective was not just to improve stakeholders understanding of Article 32 and inclusive development, but to ensure that all individuals, including those with disabilities can actively participate and benefit from donor supported international development and humanitarian aid. And on the screen here you can see our short-term objectives, to develop comprehensive and accessible online training; to develop and publish accessible and high quality guidance documents; to test the online training with a variety of audiences through disable people's organizations' partners; and develop and then implement a marketing and communication strategy to raise awareness about the available training and the guidance documents we developed. The target audience for training is government personnel, organizations of persons with disabilities or DPOs, civil society organizations and CRPD reporting or shadow report, training personnel. Our content development team consists of three human rights attorneys, Janet Lord, Alison DeFranco and Will Pons. So this slide lists each of the training topics we are covering. They are all areas where international cooperation should be happening. We are using the LearnDash Learning Management system, which is compatible with our website and accessible for people with disabilities. The training will be piloted and once finalized, available in several languages. So, we did have some and continue to have some challenges with the global pandemic and we initially had a consultant who was stuck overseas and had limited access to WiFi. She was working on another project and there was some uncertainty regarding travel. To pilot the project, we have made the decision not to travel and we use the travel funds that were in the budget to go ahead and produce additional training modules. We also looked at other things like the additional cost for any quarantine that might be required by countries and not just the risk for the consultants as they're travelling but also the risks for the pilot recipients. So, these are the countries that we are focused on for pilot, the United States, the United Kingdom. These two countries are both donor countries. And then Armenia, and Trinidad and Tobago. These two countries are our recipient countries. We changed one of the donor recipient countries from Nepal to Armenia due to the lengths of travel and the flight connections in New Deli. This decision was made fairly early on. And again, we had to make a final decision not to travel and to shift to a virtual pilot using communication platforms such as Zoom. So, at this point, I think we have some time for questions or comments and my contact information is on the screen. my email is ihodge@uscd.org. Thank you.

Eddie Suen: Thank you Isabel. Shall we proceed for discussion session? Shall we?

Joseph Kwan: I think we do have a few minutes for Q&A now, between now and the next session. So, please we invite questions for the first five projects, for the first five presentations. Please raise your hand by pressing the hands up button. We shall let you have access to your speakers. So please...your questions are welcomed now. Thank you.

Isabel Hodge: Good morning. The first presentation on assistive technology in America, the training that occur on the fields of Ethiopia is one thing about the partnership with RESNA. RESNA is based here in the US and it is a member of our organization and has been for a long time. And I was just wondering about, you know, that partnership was haven't started and will it continue?

Joseph Kwan: Demelash, are you there? do you like to reply that please?

Demelash Bekele: Yes, we are still in a good connection with RESNA. Let me on my video. Hello everyone, thank you for your question. Yes, we don't have any projects active currently, but we still have a connection with RESNA, and I think this kind of work relationship is really good and we wish to continue the connection we have with them as assistive technology that is around us. Assistive technology is one of the top need in Africa, especially in Africa. And RESNA is really good in providing us in assistive technology, especially in the training part. So, the connection we have is active and we continue working with them.

Isabel Hodge: Thank you.

Joseph Kwan: Hi Sheila, welcome, I see Kit is also here. Those few ladies are from Hong Kong, welcome. Sheila, what's your question? Please.

Sheila: I have a question for Isabel. I am really interested to know, because what I understand about Article 33, sorry, what I understand about Article 32 is the donors should be including... donors in general area should including disability, disability inclusive rights. So, I am just wondering is that really changing? I mean when people, you know, have a water project or people have a...I don't know...an education project, are they really making an attempt that it must be inclusive? I am...and does it work? And the recipients understand the need for that?

Isabel Hodge: I think that was really the purpose of doing a training because we saw through the CRPD, the reports submitted to the CRPD committee that they really did understand the code of Article 32. I think the best report that I read was actually from the Chinese government, where they got it, they talked and about assistance that they have provided, actually through Rehabilitation International. And their international cooperation is in the report, so a lot of governments don't understand DPOs. You know if they are included in the project, they need to make sure that they are communicating, but the government should be reporting on this. So, I think that is why really important to educate people and...you know why we covered so many topics in this training. So they understand how to report on water and sanitation and HIPA and more topics.

Sheila: Thank you.

Joseph Kwan: Demelash, I think you have your hands raised. Demelash.

Demelash Bekele: I have a question for community network for Africa. So, four countries participated in this research, Cameroon, Zambia, Togo and Uganda, my question is what is the base to select those four countries? I know Ethiopia is one of the countries CBID, CBR or BICD activities have been like implemented. So, what was the major...I mean the rationale behind selecting those four countries, thank you.

Joseph Kwan: Demelash, unfortunately, the respondent for your question is not available today, so we may have to put that down and then email them and get a written reply for you, sorry about that.

Demelash Bekele: Okay, thank you.

Joseph Kwan: Thank you Demelash. We have my friend from Abilis, Huyen. Thank you.

Huyen: Yah, thank you for all the presentation, and I would like to have a question for Isabel. Yah, I know about some training for different stakeholders about CIPD focus on Article 32, so I would like to know like how the projects engage the government officer in this trainings? And can you tell me a little bit about the contents of trainings for stakeholders like the government officers? Yah, thank you.

Isabel Hodge: I... um, so you would like to know about the information for governments?

Huyen: No, I mean in your project, you provide some kinds of training on CIPD and monitor about Article 32 about monitoring the CIPD. So how the projects engage the government official in the projects and did you deliver any kinds of training for government stakeholders like the new value for the CIPD?

Isabel Hodge: Uh-huh, so, actually the project is ongoing, so all of the training is not a project, where in the content development thing right now, but there will be 30 modules. There will be information tailored for those groups, like you know, there is the information for government personnel, for civil society, for organizations, for persons with disabilities, on how to report, how to monitor, so does that answer your question?

Huyen: Yes. And could you share any challenging like partner with government?

Isabel Hodge: Some of the challenges work with government?

Huyen: Yes. In this project.

Isabel Hodge: I think the challenges for the government is that they just don't understand how to report on international cooperation. They are not paying attention to the projects that have been funded by the donor countries and in their country. And they are not making sure the disability inclusive, so surely, you know, again educating those government and representatives.

Mandy Lau: My question is to Demelash. Actually, it is really interesting to hear about the projects in Ethiopia, is quite similar to what we have done in Mainland China, just like training for the rehab workers

and providing direct services to the children with disability and providing training and all these that I can say is like fundamental work. Is there any channel that in Ethiopia that you will do to channel your lessons learned or what you have found to the government, so they can have some policies that favour for the development of rehabilitation? Is that my question clear?

Demelash Bekele: Thank you. Yes, I am especially when you implement, one of the position implement this kind of project, the participation of government is a must, without participating government stakeholder, non-profit participation doesn't really improve. So, all stages of the project implementation, we invite...we really need the active participation of the government. There are a number of in Ethiopia...there are a number of policies especially...for the application of CIPD, but all those policies, disability-based policies, they are not like implemented, you don't see them on the ground. So, the VCBRA and other disability organizations working on disability, they force the government to make those policies to be practical. So, yes, we work like hand in hand with the government stakeholders, especially in making the disability inclusion actions real. So, there is active government collaboration, even the project access team also witness, during the inclusive period, they witnessed this, they checked...I mean they visited some governmental organizations to see how the government is participating in this project. So, it's a must. Without participating by the government, it is very hard to find success to inclusion, disability inclusion.

Joseph Kwan: Thank you Demelash. Co-facilitator Eddie has a question. Thank you Eddie.

Eddie Suen: My question is also for Mr. Demelash, for the first project. I wonder the clinical applications of the AT you have mentioned, they are totally different areas of expertise, and the training that you have been given to the 30 participants. After all, it was only a two-day training session, how can you or what is your plan to continue the support for the participants in the future and make sure that they can really deliberate the work that you plan or you hope that they can do, can you answer that please?

Demelash Bekele: Yes, I am here, I am here, but I can barely hear your question. Would you please repeat?

Eddie Suen: Your presentations mentioned about the 9 clinical applications of AT, right? The 9 clinical applications. They are totally different areas of expertise, so the training sessions you have been given to the 30 participants within the two-day training session, they can really hardly to get whole the techniques you teach them. Do you have plans or future work that you will do to monitor them so you can make sure they can deliver the work in the future to their service recipients?

Demelash Bekele: Thank you, by the way, all the 30 participants are...they came from the assistive technology...I mean they have assistive technology background, most of them are not technologists, but they have like basic training, one year training, one and a half year training on assistive technology, and some of them...they went to technical vocational training, and they have some real work experience and most of them...I mean all of them, they have some work experience on assistive technology, but the issue is they don't have...there is still a knowledge gap, they don't have that much good skills on assistive technology. So the two days training was provided based on their capacity and their knowledge they have.

And there is a second session, I mean training plan, so we are still working on that, with RESNA and also funders from Rehabilitation International or other donors to have a continue... a kind of skill development. So that people working in the assistive technology area could provide better services with better knowledge and skills. So that is the second and third phase. We are also thinking like to send some like five to ten participants to China or other African countries to gain like better in-depth skills on producing assistive technology.

Eddie Suen: Okay, thank you. So, I guess we should stop by now. Proceed on the second session of the presentations. Can I call upon Ms. Charlie U from Fuhong Society of Macau, present on the project named Internet Training for the Persons with Disabilities taking place at Guangzhou. Charlie, please.

Charlie: Hello, I am Charlie. I am from the Fuhong Society of Macau, an non-profit organization founded in May 2003. We provide opportunities through vocational training, working employment, arts and community support service for people with disabilities to develop their abilities and ensure that they achieve the greatest independence possible with their circumstances as fully integrated community members. Today I will share our projects funded by GDDF on International Trends and Accessibility. We conducted two projects, both on information communications technology, ICT, one is Internet & training for persons with disabilities and the other one is workshop on accessible information communication technology and web-based vocational skills. What are the reasons for conducting these projects, ICT is becoming a key driver for successful employment of people with disabilities due to the proliferation of ICT in the world of work. ICT has changed how people built the skills, search for work and do their jobs. The internet and digital technologies also changed how entrepreneurs, self-employed people and freelances raise capital, find clients and sell services. Many people with disabilities pursue self-employment due to the barriers of getting jobs in the competitive labour market. The internet and digital technology are changing the field of self-employment and entrepreneurship through online work. Digital technology has brought unprecedented opportunities globally where persons with disabilities on one hand face challenges in tapping their potentials presented by the internet and on the other hand could significantly improve their employment and entrepreneurship. Therefore, we conducted these two projects to prepare the candidates in the digital era.

Our first project, Internet+ training for persons with disabilities was held between 16th to 22nd December 2018 in Guangzhou China. It was co-hosted with Guangzhou Disabled People's Federation. There were 56 candidates in total with 20 from Mainland China, and 36 from Bangladesh, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, Hong Kong SAR China, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam. This project sponsored 27 candidates and the rest candidates participated on a self-funded basis. The project included lectures knowledge and experience on internet+ assistive devices fitting, management of e-commercial business and community marketing. A field visit to the CanYou Group headquarters in Shenzhen and one of the subsidiaries, Miracle Film Technology Company, and participation in a disability-themed concert. This project taught the candidates the knowledge on the internet economy. The lectures mainly involved internet applications to disability related industries, they became a new channel for people with disabilities to purchase products and services and brings new employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to persons with disabilities. This project taught the candidates how to

start up and run online shops. It involved introducing online shopping platforms such as Alibaba and marketing strategies to help the shop owners improve their sales and at last, through the workshops cooperated with CanYou Group, as an example of transforming people with disabilities into employees for film post productions.

Our second project was on workshops on accessible information communication technology and web-based vocational skills. It was held on the 23rd to 25th June 2019 in Macau SAR China, combined with the RI Asia and Pacific Regional Conference 2019. So the candidates could benefit from our workshop and the conference. There were 37 candidates from Australia, Brazil, UK, Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong SAR China and Macau SAR of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines. GDDF sponsored 17 candidates and the Hong Kong Joint Council sponsored the other 15 Hong Kong candidates. The purpose and the objective of this project was to provide a training opportunity on accessible information and technology, to provide a platform for exchanging and sharing of disability-inclusive and innovation, and promote an inclusive and harmonious community through web accessibility.

The three-days workshop was intense for candidates. It was well structured and balanced with 50% focused on accessible information communication technology tools and skills and the other half focused on vocational skills. Our coordinator Mr. Ben Wong helped us connected with ICT experts, so that the instructors were professionals of accessible ICT and provided rich knowledge and information for our candidates who attended.

Were there any challenges faced during these two projects? Were there any solutions to these challenges? Most candidates require visa applications which could be complicated and frustrating. We contacted the Government Tourism Office and the Immigration Department to assist the candidates with their invitation and other documents on time. High quality translation was essential for these two programmes. The candidates were from different linguistic backgrounds, but all spoke English, while the instructors taught with Chinese. To facilitate the communication effectively, we provided professional English Chinese interpretations and translated some PowerPoint presentations into English. The ICT workshop required the use of computers for practice. We had to ensure we have enough laptops for all the candidates. Fortunately, we were able to borrow 50 laptops from universities and organizations for the three days, and even better, half of them were in English system and the other half were in Chinese. Some candidates are IT staffs and have knowledge of accessible ICT and some even have experience working on accessible websites while other candidates only have basic knowledge of using computers. Therefore, the workshop structure could not fulfil all the candidates. We notice that some candidates have difficulties following the task assigned by the instructor especially on the sessions about web-based vocational skills. Our helpers focused on explaining and assisting the candidates who are behind in those sessions. The coordinator gave a well-informed summarized at the end of each session to help the candidates better understand the content. In addition, the Q&A session at the end of each day played a huge role assisting the candidates to declare their confusions and misunderstandings. The candidates highly appreciated the two programmes. They thought the lectures and the workshops were beneficial for their employment and gave them inspiration for their careers. Our programmes were adjusted so the candidates can easily follow the steps and learn from the foundation. The candidates experienced most updated ICT skills and learned new knowledge efficiently with our support. The candidates from different countries and backgrounds

were connected. They became friends with each other and expanded their networks. Some of them are keeping in touch with us via social media and we know that sometimes they would discuss with each other when they come across issues related to ICT skills.

We recommend future projects can be long-term projects that involve both regular training sessions. Candidates can keep updated in this fast moving digital world. Give them more time for hands-on experience and practice and share more on the experience of using ICT from their point of view. Secondly, the covid-19 provides virtual learning and online training opportunities that people with disabilities can easily access. Virtual learning projects allow more people with disabilities to learn new skills online. Furthermore, we noticed discussions after the sessions were critical as they often come across issues when they use the learned skills at home. Therefore, the candidates may benefit more if there were follow up online sessions when experts from the lectures could respond their inquiries. At last, since the development of the internet economy is imbalanced worldwide, we believe it is important to conduct research on international internet economy and investigate the needs of different countries and their level of accessibility. This research will provide a foundation to design targeted and diversified programmes to meet the needs of people with disabilities from different economic backgrounds, increase their opportunities in competitive job market and improve their quality of life. This is the end of our sharing. Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Joseph Kwan: Very good, Charlie from Macau, excellent. Good to see you again. Next presentation is once again from Africa, from South Africa. The organization is the National Council of and for the Disabilities, NCPD. The topic is Creating Enforcement and Compliance at the Building Planning Department of the South African National Government Level, Development Training Material for Building and Planning Department Personnel and System Development. The presenter is Danie Marais. Please, Danie.

Danie Marais: Good day, Danie Marais here from the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities in South Africa. I am here today to thank the RI Global fund and RI for the funding that we have received on the 25th October 2019 to train building inspectors in South Africa, with regards to the building standard sustain, specifically applicable in South Africa. The reason we did this one was that the buildings inspectors that must go out and approve plans to accommodate persons with disabilities were lacking. They don't understand the content of the holding standard and that's why we apply for the funding and the training was done. The deliverables according to the agreement completed within the covid-19 pandemic, and our first training session was held on 4 and 5 March at the National Council of and for the Disabilities. The final decisions to place was actually during 30 and 31 March 2021 with more than 50 persons and groups attending. We also included two staff members to learn from the training process with the view of being the co-trainers in the future. Overall, we received a writing of a four, which indicates a success rate that strongly agree with the content and particularly works for the persons attending the training sessions. Other places assisted us the training was the project and construction management professions of South Africa and they played a key role in identifying building inspectors as well as driving and motivating the building inspectors to participate in the training. We are very proud to be associated with Rehabilitation International and especially the RI global fund that provided the funding for this project. From our perspective, the training was absolutely success and the need for further training is evident. We will most

definitely continue with the training in the foreseeable future and it is going to make a huge difference in the life of the persons with disabilities in South Africa.

Joseph Kwan: Excellent, Danie, thank you for that presentation. Next presentation comes from my friend from Russia, Evgeny. How are you? Evgeny is from the All-Russian Society for Disabled People and the project is the Training of Expert in the Field of Creating Barrier-free Environment. Please, Evgeny.

Evgeny Bukharov: One, two, three. Dear colleagues and friends, greetings from Moscow. In my short presentation, I would like to draw your attention to our project, System of Voluntary Certification “World Accessible for Everyone”, Training of Experts in the Field of Accessible Environment. But before I start my presentation, I would like to thank the GDDF and the Rehabilitation International for their great support for our project and which give us an opportunity to implement our project during the pandemic. First, I would like to say some words about our project. Our project implemented before the grant. We in Russia, we have a lot of social facilities, which need to be adapted for people with disabilities. A lot of people with disabilities are in employment and could contribute accordingly to the creation of accessible environment. In Russia, we implement the free accessible environment in 2011, but we understand that from the beginning it was not so much professionals in accessibility. So, All-Russian Society of Disabled People decided to support the state programme accessible environment and the three experts on accessibility form our members. So, we started this project in 2015, and we meet the experts on accessibility from the members for the All-Russian Society for the Disabled People. We support them to establish a regional experts community on accessible environment, and in the regional, our experts we participated in the assessment of accessibility of different facilities, provided expertise on implementation, and bringing people out to meet people with disabilities. As you can see on the right side of the slide, we at different levels we have results of our projects. From the beginning to nowadays, we have more than 40 interregional workshops between people who are experts in accessibility, more than 1,000 people went to our workshops. And we today we have more than 500 experts from 72 regions of Russia. We have 41 experts centres in 33 regions in Russia, and we have 6 workshops for our regional administrations to implement our regional programme “Accessible Environment” on their territory. And we provided two workshops for foreign public disability associations in Azerbaijan. And from the beginning to today, we got some recognitions on international level, for example, in the beginning of 2020, we were recognized by the International Rehabilitation of our project as best practice in the education for people with disabilities. And let’s go to our project, it was implemented with the support of Rehabilitation International in the GDDF grant.

What was our goals and what we decided to do during this project. We expected to achieve 4 in-person training, 1 motivational training and 1 conference, but the pandemic situation brings some changes to the project and we can see that it was a positive change because we start to use new training methods, and use new activities, we broader our audience, we create new partnerships and we bring more organizations in this project. And the results exceeded our expectations. And let me speak about our new training methods and new activities. We created 15 online webinars which covered different topics on accessibility for our experts, for our regional, so it’s for leaders, for regional leaders, for the All-Russian Society for the Disabled People. We decided to move our activities and presentation from in-person seminars to online

webinars, and we created motivational training for our trainers to educate staff on appropriate attitude to people with disabilities. So, our trainers can work with different organizations to educate their staff. If you speak about the broader the audience, we have more than 2,000 people participated in our online webinars and the online trainings. And we have 188 trainees who participated in our in-person trainings. And we during the implementation of the project, we created a good connection with all our Russian organization and we started negotiation with the International Association of Accessibility Professionals to become their members. And we created partners with the All-Russian Organization of Parents of Disabled Children. And If we compare what we achieved and expected to achieve, you can see on this slide that our achievements...our work...um...maybe overloaded our expectations. For example, we had 3 in-person training, 3 online trainings, 1 motivational training, 15 webinars, 1 conference, 2 in-person trainings for the Russian Railways employees and 1 online training for the members of the All-Russian Organization of Parents of Disabled Children. So, if you have any questions, I will be glad to answer them. Thank you for your attention. Have a nice day, and be safe and healthy. Thank you very much. Bye-bye.

Joseph Kwan: Thank you Evgeny. We will talk to you in a minute, and now we come to our final presentation. Presenting final project this evening, it is from Germany, Dr. Friedrich Mehrhoff, who is also a member, our executive of Rehabilitation International. He is from the German Social Accident Insurance and German Federation of Rehabilitation. His topic...his project is the RI Global Guide on Accessibility for Enterprises. Dr. Friedrich, please.

Friedrich Mehrhoff: Hello, my name is Friedrich Mehrhoff, the Global Guide on Accessibility for Enterprises provided recommendations for the senior management and for governments who...how to make private business more accessible for persons with disabilities. The guidelines based on an international study by the German government, and supported by the German RI national member, and performed by the Federation of Work, Accident and Insurance in Germany. And I transformed the results of these national guidelines in 17 following findings as international guidelines. The first ten messages dedicated to enterprises. The first message integrated accessibility in the enterprise diversity strategy as a holistic approach, like together with health and safety at workplaces or even corporate social responsibility. Second, convince the top management to consider inclusion as a business case for hiring and retaining qualified workers instead of following merely charity approach. Third, collaborate with competent external service providers which facilitate the needs of persons with disabilities to the colleagues who learn more from the abilities and deficits. Create a position for a person in charge for accessibility who guarantee competences and to mobilize financial resource and reasonable adjustments from the very beginning. Fifth, initiate awareness rising trainings for senior management and co-workers which can reduce strategy against persons and avoid stereotypes for disabilities and misunderstandings. Sixth, involve persons with disabilities in the fundamental decision-making process very early and this peer approach transform the idea of participation and diversity to the enterprises. Seventh, utilize technical innovations to create a new form of working life like TV or home working which can increase the employment methods of persons with disabilities mostly with mobile limitations. Eighth, we design business processes which with the help of consultants, the idea behind this new approach is to find new workplaces for the persons with disabilities in business offices. Ninth, define accessibility by determining criteria and assess the status quo. This evaluation method allows sustainable acceptance about efficient

strategies at the end. And tenth, use experiences of other enterprises structure exchange in a cross sector industry branches that allow a discussion about best practices and measures.

These ten golden rules are explained a deeper in the guidelines by including also concrete enterprises and organizations followed in the world. Seven more rules and messages dedicated to governments and civil society to promote accessibility in private enterprises as follows. First, assure four-sided legislation of general accessibility. That means instead of state grants, only on the occasion of hiring a concrete person with disabilities, looking backwards, social legislation should support preventive strategies of enterprises in accessible working places. Second, lift enterprises into the focus of actions as recipients of social welfare will start a paradigm shift in many states, who invests money in persons more than in enterprises. Third, encourage enterprises through incentives and do not through punishment. The goal is to increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities with quarter system or not, but always as a business case. Fourth, provide enterprises with experts in accessibility, who establish a one-stop shop consulting to enterprises and also a multi-disciplinary competence centre in the universities and the locked areas. Fourth, create systematically designed corporation among enterprises correspond to the guideline. Tenth, address to the senior management. State and employers must start a kind of alliance of inclusion. Sixth, find methods towards an open-minded society by long term campaigns. Raising awareness are crucial for each society that should finance by the State and enterprises mutually. And seventh, use the potential of worldwide experiences and ideas that transfer the article 32 CRPD in practice, that is why the German government started the national study and share the results with other states and RI. So, the final draft of this guidelines, our guidelines will be presented in the conciseness-based seminar during the RI World Congress in Aarhus on the third day, September 9th. I presented also the first draft already in Macau and Moscow, 2019, as well as in RI commissions, like the Work and Employment Commission, which I personally chair, as an executive board member of RI. And the guidelines will be published as a product of RI in 2022, and I hope that these guidelines can also regain some members in the state for RI and also to start a campaign of RI, also to present and highlight rehabilitation not only with persons with disabilities, but also with persons who are working inside enterprises mostly the top management and the senior management. Thank you for your attention.

Eddie Suen: Thank you Dr. Friedrich. Shall we turn to the second part of our discussion session. And again, if you want to speak, you can raise up your hand and we will call upon you. Matsui-san.

Matsui: Yes, it is happy to see the excellent achievement of the project. My question not specifically the certain project, but I would like to know all the projects were accessed by experts experienced in assessment, I would like to know how do you make assessment and also assess on the modelling the project in the process.

Mandy Lau: Thank you Matsui-san. Maybe I can briefly answer this question and I know that assessors in this group now, so maybe assessors can also answer the question. Actually, all the projects funded by the GDDF, we organize online or on-site assessment by experienced personnel, maybe different experts in rehabilitation, in women employment or children. So, they will do the online assessment, on-site assessment and then give comment to the project holders during the assessment, and to give

recommendations. Normally, this assessment is doing in the midterm. So, after we received the midterm report from the project holder, we will arrange for the assessment. The recommendation from the assessor maybe useful for the project holder to modify or adjust for their project in the later part of the period. So, I think that's all about the assessment arrangement. Maybe Thakur (*Remarks: Person-in-charge of CWSN*) you can share about your experience how the assessment can help you or the arrangement of assessment useful for the project?

Thakur Chapagain: Yes, it was very useful since participated several places and how to implement the new project, how to deal with the people with disabilities, but I will be sharing my presentation next week. Hold on, 15th September, sorry.

Mandy Lau: Okay, no problem. And also Dr. Lee Randall is also here. Maybe also can share experience, or Sheila can share experience on doing the assessment.

Lee Randall: Hi, thank you. We had to result to entirely online remote assessment, which was difficult. And I just want to answer question whether the assessment are paid, and no, in my case, it was a stacking, but that just cover some of my costs and there was no actual payment for the role. I must say I enjoyed thoroughly and the project was extremely cooperative which made my job a lot easier.

Sheila: Okay, yes, actually as an assessor, I went to Brazil which I think is next week presentation. The next presentation, but the...um...it really a mutual learning experience for me. I did a lot of reading beforehand because the topic I was accessing was about women with disability and I haven't been involved in this kind of...specifically on women with disability project before. And so I did a lot of reading beforehand and I also read a lot about Brazil because I don't speak Portuguese, ha-ha. And so we had... I went with two colleagues from the China Disabled Persons Federation. And we had a very excellent few days, very intensive. Every minute was full of talking to people, and we asked to see all the different kinds of stakeholders and beneficiaries. And the project was extremely good to organize that for us, and I wrote a very long report, which I don't think nobody read. Ha-ha! Well, I am sure that we did many versions I think, but the reason for writing was because it helped me as an assessor to digest it as well. And I am sure Brazil read it and...ha-ha. And so I think it was mutually beneficial, I am sure Brazil maybe next week can respond to that. And I have also been involved in briefing quite a lot of assessors, and I was involved in one of the online assessment with the CAN Group (*Remarks: Uganda*) with who did the CBID project. And again the online is much more difficult, but we learnt a lot and we got a lot of questions and discussions and I think it is quite useful.

Eddie Suen: Thank you for the question and the assessors' sharing. Any more questions from participants? We don't have much time left.

Thakur Chapagain: Just one more...The two days time for the assessment is too short, so maybe next time, maybe assessor better they need more time, more days or more weeks. I think for example, Nancy only came to Nepal for four days. And it was too hard for her to meet so many people that need to observe everything.

Mandy Lau: Shall channel this message to the RIPO to see whether they can expand the trip and expand the expenses.

Lee Randall: Yah. Hi, I just want to come in on the time frame. I assisted two projects in South Africa. And one... it was pretty easy to do in the time frame, the second one was very difficult, very challenging, I have to sink a lot of extra time into it and it was mainly around the flow of information from the project to me, as an assessor, that caused the time difficulties. The other projects is reporting I think on Thursday this week, so I will hear what they experience from their side, but from my side, if the project had everything ready, the time frame will be adequate.

Eddie Suen: Okay, thank you. So, may I have one more? The last one? Anyone wants to take the chance? Or otherwise, we will have a round up for the presentations for this session.

Joseph Kwan: If I can make some comments, thank you. Just briefly to some of the projects, the one from Macau, Charlie, I don't know if you are here, Charlie, from Macau, from Fu Hong. You know, there is a global GITC, a global IT challenge from Korea, has been going on for now more than ten years. I think since you have done so much work on now, in internet training for the people in Guangzhou, and probably international as well and in Macau. I suggest your group from Macau could join the GITC in Korea, and it is very very educational and very good for young people to learn various things. So, it is a very good chance and the things actually you have done will be implemented and can be used under such situations. Evgeny, hope you are still there, you have notice in our final presentation, Accessibility of Enterprises, I was wondering whether in your training eventually you will open up to include workplaces, accessibility workplaces, of course people with disabilities, we want to get them employed that what the German model is all about, getting people back to work as soon as possible. So, I believe the training or even providing expertise in terms of providing accessible workplaces will be a very interesting topic for you to follow up in the future and secondly I hope eventually some of your training can go along with the PWDs, people with disabilities, to professionals like the architects, engineers and town planners, who actually design and plan our environment and even get a chance to look at, modifying your current codes and regulations of accessibility. And I think these are the few comments I have so far, do you have any responds for that, both from Charlie and Evgeny, please.

Charlie: Thank you. So, hello, thank you for your invitation, and we will discuss... I will discuss with Jennifer about the sharing in Korea and we will see what happens, keep in touch.

Joseph Kwan: Okay, thank you. You guys get involve, right? In Macau team, get involve in the GITC Korea. Okay? Very good for you, okay? Thank you. Evgeny.

Evgeny: Hello everybody, it was my pleasure to be with you today. And I want to say that yes, we have in our System of Voluntary Certification ... we have like an objective - certification of the working places for people with disabilities. And we are working, it is a not only one direction of our project because we work in close cooperation with the Institutes of Architects who work for us and together we create the new

building code for Russian Federation a new addition and it is going to be mandatory on the territory of the Russian Federation this design for the new facilities for people with disabilities. And of course, we work with them very close and we work with the Rehabilitation industry very close and of course, in our Society of Disabled People we have good connections with different organizations including universities, architects, and rehabilitation industry, and sport facilities, and sport industry and so many other directions where we work together.

Joseph Kwan: Excellent! Thank you. Hopefully, you can share with us your code and regulations with us on accessibility in the future, and in English. Thank you Evgeny. Thank you.

Eddie Suen: If no more persons want to express your view, we can have a round up here. Okay? I think projects today presented fully illustrate the collective efforts that we made in different areas. For example, the promotion strategy, the training IT applications, information backspace, center-based services, advocacy for barrier-free environment, and realization of the social inclusions. I think we all, with our efforts to best use the funding from RI, the RI GDDF and AF, and we hope that this is only the first round of the projects that we presented. We are going to have more in the second round, third round and fourth round. And we look forward to seeing them, the success stories from them. So, Joseph, any more supplements from you?

Joseph Kwan: No. I have very enjoyed the sessions. I think they did excellent in the 10 projects, from 10 different projects supported by the GDDF and the African Fund. And I hope you all the success and I hope this is just the beginning. You will all continue to achieve and evolve to make it all better. And future in the promotion, etc, etc. So, in conclusion, just to remind all of you to fill in the survey form of this evening. Okay, it's online, a survey form...okay. Please fill that in and give us a feedback. So, we could improve in the next two...this one. Survey form, so we can improve on the organization or anything else for the next two sharing sessions. Thank you very much. Bye-bye.