

One Voice



International
Stuttering
Association

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Incorporating *The Voice of ELSA*, the newsletter of the

European League of Stuttering Associations



Arne Hope, Norway

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ISA Disclaimer: In keeping with our mission of providing an open forum for the exchange of extensive and thought-provoking information about stuttering, the ISA Newsletter presents a wide range of views. The ISA does not necessarily endorse the opinions of the writers of Newsletter articles.

Edited by Jianliang Zhang, jz1208@ecu.edu

A world that understands Stuttering

From ISA Chair

By Benny Ravid
ISA Chair

As the new Chair of the International Stuttering Association (ISA), this is my first occasion to write the article "From ISA Chair". I would like to use this occasion to thank the ISA directors for their support, and for nominating me as the third Chair of the ISA. The nomination occurred during the 8th World Congress for People Who Stutter, which took place in Cavtat, Dubrovnik, Croatia in May 2007.

Five New ISA Member Associations

ISA is an umbrella organization of 44 ISA member associations, representing national and international stuttering organizations worldwide. The full list of ISA member associations is on the ISA website (<http://www.stutterisa.org>).

Since my nomination we have accepted five new ISA member associations, all of them from Africa: Nigeria, Uganda, Mauritania, Benin and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Congratulations to the new ISA member associations. We wish you lots of success in your work in supporting the people who stutter in your countries.

ISA Dialogue with Member Associations

The primary aim of the ISA is to be open to the needs of member associations, and support them as much as possible.

However, the ISA must be supported too... In fact the ISA's most important supporters are its member associations. Each member association is asked to support the ISA according to its own resources and possibilities.

This is the reason why the ISA should keep in touch and maintain a close dialogue with its member associations.

To start such a dialogue, we sent to all member associations (whose contact information was updated) a letter in which the associations were asked two questions:

1. What kind of support and assistance would your association like to receive from the ISA?

2. What kind of support and assistance might your association be able to offer to the ISA?

So far we have received responses from three member associations only...

We are grateful to the associations which have responded – Argentina, Denmark and Passing Twice.

Hopefully the responses from the other associations will arrive soon.

ISA Ten Recommendations Document

We have started working on an "ISA Ten Recommendations Document". This document will be a list of ISA recommendations relative to what people who stutter should request from their local authorities.

People who stutter cannot negotiate with the authorities as individuals - they must do that through their national stuttering association. Hence the ISA Ten Recommendations Document will be distributed mainly amongst the member associations.

When the first draft of the ISA Ten Recommendations Document is ready, we will send it to the member associations to get their feedback and ideas.

ISP-S Project

Another important task of the ISA is to support people who stutter in the developing countries. For this purpose ISA has launched the ISP-S Project, whose main purpose is to develop a support system for people who stutter in the underdeveloped countries.

ISA tries to achieve this goal by sending self-help experts and speech-language pathologists (SLP's) to underdeveloped countries. The main challenge that the ISP-S Project needs to overcome is ... lack of funds.

As you all know, for the moving of people from country to country, money is needed (for flight tickets, accommodations, etc.).

Unfortunately current ISA financial income (from grants, donations, etc.) is too low for our needs.

This limits ISA's ability to launch ISP-S Project missions.

Our most recent mission was to Senegal (in West Africa). The aim of this mission was to establish a support system for people who stutter in Senegal.

Being a part of the ISA's ISP-S Project, this mission was organized with financial help from the ISA.

Unfortunately the current financial situation of the ISA has not permitted the full coverage of Senegal mission expenses.

Nevertheless - due to the gracious donations of a few of the ISA directors, we did it!

Special thanks to the ISA Board of Directors who donated to the Senegal mission!

But donations from ISA directors may not be a long-term solution. ISA directors, kind as they are, simply are not able to financially support all the ISP-S missions that are urgently needed. This means that we must urgently increase ISA financial income.

The Next World Congress for People Who Stutter

And now for the most important ISA announcement:

After many hesitations and rumours, we can now make it official - The next World Congress for People Who Stutter will take place in Beijing in the year 2010.

The ISA is preparing to send delegates from underdeveloped countries to the World Congress in Beijing, and also (if the budget will permit), delegates from other countries unable to pay their Congress expenses.

Sending delegates means having to finance their flight tickets and accommodations.

Here again we have a good reason to increase ISA financial income.

New ISA Committees

There is one more important topic worth mentioning:

After the nomination of the new ISA Board of Directors, every director was asked to state their visions for the ISA and the means by which these visions could be accomplished.

After reading and analyzing the visions of the directors, we started a process of creating new ISA committees to lead the association's activities in the future. This process is ongoing.

The process of creating these new committees includes much discussion and disagreement, and hence progress tends to be slow. In the meantime, until the ISA committees are created, we have nominated four temporary committees that are currently leading ISA activities.

Here are the temporary committees:

1. Finance and Fund Raising Committee
2. World Congress Committee
3. Liaison (*One Voice* Committee)
4. Ten Recommendations Committee

Those of you interested in helping the work of the ISA committees are kindly requested to email the ISA Secretary, Mr. Joseph Lukong from Cameroon (lujotar@yahoo.com). Please provide your name, email address and the topic you are interested in helping with.

Best regards,

Benny Ravid

ISA Chair

Editorial for VOICE OF ELSA

By Gina Waggott

Board Member, European League of Stuttering Associations

2007 has been a bittersweet year for the European League of Stuttering Associations (ELSA). It's now 12 months since the death of ELSA co-founder and board member Konrad Schäfers, and his presence is still greatly missed, both in ELSA and the stuttering community as a whole. Nevertheless, ELSA's work in lobbying and raising awareness of stuttering has (and will) continue.

This summer saw ELSA's 7th Youth Meeting take place in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. With a theme of '*Stand Up, Speak Up: Human Rights for Young People Who Stutter*', we were able to address issues of discrimination, knowledge of one's rights, and positive portrayals of those who stutter in the media and arts. The meeting was a great success, and we thank all delegates and presenters involved in making it so.

Another ELSA success this year was Anita Blom's well-received Keynote Presentation at the British Stammering Association conference. Anita spoke about her personal and work experiences, in her capacity as vice-chair of

ELSA, and also as chair of the Swedish Stuttering Association (SSR): a position she was elected to this year.

ELSA's crucial lobbying in the field of disability continues with an important update to its acclaimed publication: '*International and European Disability Policy Relating to Stuttering – What You Need to Know, and Why*'. This is available as a download from the ELSA website (www.elsa.info) and we urge all National Stuttering Associations to read and distribute this as widely as possible.

None of the above would be possible without the dedication of a myriad of people giving their time and efforts to promoting awareness of stuttering worldwide. To all those who do, we thank you and urge you to continue in order to further improve the lives of those who stutter, young and old.

ELSA would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2008.



Message from ISA Outreach

By Keith Boss
ISA Director

Six months have passed since the 8th World Congress for People Who Stutter and so much has happened during these months. Benny Ravid our Chair has outlined some of the things we have done in the ISA. Michael Sugarman outlined what Judy Kuster and others arranged for the Annual Online Stuttering Conference (<http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/isad10/isadcon10.html>). As you can see, from many of the articles in this Newsletter, ISAD was celebrated in many Countries to great effect. To paraphrase part of what Leys Geddes (Vice chair of the British Stammering Association BSA, one of our Member Associations) wrote recently, 'all of us want to raise Stammering Awareness around the world, but usually we just target the 1% of stutterers, not the remaining 99% of the population'. On ISAD we are increasingly reaching some of the 99%. The question is, how to do that more and more, year on year.

Stefan Hoffmann, our previous Chair of Outreach, has been busy himself. In July/August he visited Dr. Jaeock

Kim who works with PWS in a clinic in Seoul, South Korea. The clinic is run by one of the ISA's special friends, Ms Moonja Shin, SLP. Stefan also wanted to talk with another Mr Kim, but will have to wait for a second trip to Korea. Stefan had the honour of being invited to be a guest speaker at Korea's ISAD 2007. Unfortunately, business commitments made Stefan unable to accept this invitation. However in his capacity of Visiting Professor, he did attend a Conference on speaking disorders in Beijing, China in August. He talked about 'The role of Self Help in Stuttering Therapy'.

Our ISP-S (International Speech Project – Stuttering) scored another success with a mission to Senegal in October. The mission, funded by the ISA, was led by two of our founder workers, Dr Moussa Dao (ISA Director and PWS) and Anne Marie Simon (General Secretary of the Association Parole Bégaiement and SLP). Please read about the Mission in a separate article.

I have been in email discussion with many of our Special Friends and thanks to a contact with a new Special Friend Julia Irani, from Pakistan, we have the beginning of awareness in Pakistan. There is now a team of PWS working for and in Pakistan. They celebrated ISAD; Julia was recorded in a program for TV and has started a self help group. Working with the Pakistan team, I am hoping to arrange a mission to Pakistan in the first half of 2008. Raising the Awareness in both Pakistan and India were suggested to me last year. I started on India last year and they have also celebrated ISAD 2007. They are looking at a seven year plan, starting I hope with a mission in the first half of 2008 with their help. Through a contact in the BSA I contacted Alan Falck (VoiceAmp)

and Dina Lilian an SLP in South Africa. South Africa needs a relaunch of its own National Association. Again, working with the South African team I would like to have a mission in South Africa in the first part of 2008.

As always there is so much work that can be done to help PWS in countries where there is little or no help. If any readers have a little spare time each month and Internet access and would like to work in the Outreach Working Group I do ask you to contact me. You will enable us to do more work. I joined the Outreach Working Group last year and have found the work to be very interesting and rewarding. It has enriched my life. You will grow in personal stature as well. You will be very welcome.

International Stuttering Awareness Day October 22nd

By Michael Sugarman

Established in 1998, International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) is a joint effort between people who stutter, professional clinicians and researchers. ISAD provides an opportunity for building a more humane, just and compassionate world for the millions of people who stutter.

This year hundreds of people read and participated in the online conference coordinated by Judy Kuster. Also, check out the activity page for ISAD 10, events from around the world--- by going to www.stutteringhomepage.com and peruse the ten online conferences. Let me take a moment and recognize Judy Kuster for all of her efforts with ISAD online conference and ISAD. Without her I can truly say ISAD would not have happened or reached as many people as it has. Thank you, Judy.

The spoken word is taken for granted by most, the spoken language is challenging for millions of people around the world who stutter. It is estimated that approximately, 60 million of the 6 billion people with whom we share this world, stutter. For many of these individuals, daily communication is a constant struggle. For many of them, speech does not open doors but closes them for interpersonal, academic and professional development and fulfillment.

Without your efforts in organizing workshops and participating online conference change for PWS and the general public attitudes toward stuttering would not take place. Thank you for your efforts for 10 years ☺

Michael Sugarman November 2007

ISP-S Mission Stuttering in Senegal

By Anne-Marie Simon

Background to the ISP-S mission

At the initiative of the ISA (International Stuttering Association), a project ISP-S (International Speech Project- Stuttering) started during the First Stuttering International Conference in Africa in Douala, in November 2005. The first mission took place in Togo in June 2006 and a second took place in Dakar from October 16 to 20 2007.

This current mission was led by Dr Moussa Dao (from **Burkina Faso**, a pharmacist and director of ISA who stutters) and Anne Marie Simon, (from France, a therapist specialized in stuttering, and General Secretary of APB, Association Parole Bégaiement).

The Organisation of the Mission

Launching this mission has been difficult. Corinne Valsan Giacom, a speech therapist, started the planning and made numerous contacts before her departure.

Fortunately Julie Vauthier was able to take over and with the help of Handicap International, she was able to set up the training, conferences, and meetings in various locations. A Senegalese journalist, Mamadou Khoule, whose name was given by a friend from Lyon, has contacted a lot of media and we were able to have some radio shows.

The ISA, together with some generous donations, funded the mission. In fact, because of many invitations from our friends in Dakar (lodging and meals) we can return some of the funds provided.

Thanks to Gilbert Hascouët, the director of the program Handicap International (HI) in Senegal, an air conditioned room was made available as well a video projector and a warm welcome. We wish to give special thanks to Ali and Aziz for their help.

The Mission

Objectives

They are the same as those we had for the Togo mission

To sensitise the population about stuttering

To train therapists in stuttering in Senegal

The APB gave a donation to its participants (training, meetings conferences) of books and pamphlets to serve as a base for a library for the Senegalese association ASBEG. This could be served as a model for future ISA Missions. These same pamphlets were distributed in the departments of paediatrics and psychiatry. (Pr Lamine Fall, Hopital Fann), at the French Cultural Institute and also the Higher Institute of Professional Health Training of Saint Louis.

I was graciously housed by Julie Vauthier and her husband Mathieu. Moussa used a small apartment in the same building, for half the price of a hotel. This allowed us to avoid taking two taxis each time as we shared the same one to HI each morning (except two mornings when Julie drove us).

My friends in Dakar invited us to dinner for three of the nights. We greatly appreciated the hospitality.

To give notion of stuttering to health professionals

To provide conferences

To launch the self help concept

To help PWS to set up their association

These objectives have been reached. One disappointment



was that the TV stations did not seem interested in our work.

Schedule

Sunday, October 14th:

I had a meeting for a recording at Radio Futur Media: the announcement of our mission was broadcast on this radio station by noon the same day.

I then met Adama Paye who I know personally. He is a financier who is close to retirement. He gave me good news, because he intends to actively spend time with a stuttering association. His son stutters severely, he himself is a stutterer and appears very motivated help and improves this association.

Monday, October 15th:

Meeting with health and education professionals: psychologists and social workers plus assistants. Presentation about the ISP-S and ISA. Handed out documents.

Moussa had a very long trip to Abidjan for meetings there.

Tuesday, October 16th:

Morning: Beginning of training (for adults) by 4 therapists: Julie Vautier, Isabelle Konaté and Brigitte Gagné. Chrysis Mve Ondo was unwell and could not come to the conference.

Afternoon: meeting of stutterers that we contacted thanks to the broadcast made by RFI and that we invited by mail as well as by the steps that I had taken before with the heads of service in Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Principal Hospital in Dakar. (Dr. Ka and Pr Garcia) I had the pleasant surprise to meet Bamémé Diallo who told us that he had created an association for stutterers in 1989. The first meeting brought together more than 100 people, but afterwards nothing more took place. But for him, the President, this association, --which has statutes and is registered (declared)—still exists and our coming was an ideal opportunity to relaunch it.

Wednesday, October 17th:

Morning: continuation of the training (early intervention)

Afternoon: conference of the ENDSS (Ecole nationale du développement sanitaire et social). Sensitising the public about the problem of stuttering: around 25 people were present but all were motivated to participate in meeting.. We were very happy to have developed these contacts. Professor Gallo Diop, neurologist, who was a

stutterer, encouraged people who were present to take action in favour of stutterers and to underline their great need.

I was interviewed by Olivier Le Normand journalist, a student at Ecole Centrale in Paris who reported the information to the newspapers of Dakar.

Thursday October 18th

Morning continuation of therapists' training (children) Afternoon meeting of families with their children who stuttered; individual interviews lasting approximately half hour.

Recording for Radio West Africa , reporting will be heard in English and in French repeatedly on October 22nd (ISAD).

We finished late!

Friday October 9th

Morning in rest.

Afternoon: conference at Ker Xaleyi, center of pedio-psychiatry at the Fann Hospital. After a 20 minutes presentation the team of Professor Lamine Fall asked very pertinent questions.

The ignorance of the subject of stuttering appeared large even with such a team, but their desire to know was probably also great!

Documents were distributed, and then we showed a sensitivity film "To Speak" by Erik Lamens, a Belgian videographer who stutters.

Conclusion

Now we must continue to mobilise and motivate all the people who seemed ready to see the Association come alive.

A reminder message will go out this week.

Adame Paye and Julie Vauthier should be meeting in November to plan the first meeting. They must find a location and I am writing to Gilbert Hascouët to see if HI can help with this.

For the therapists in stuttering Isabelle Konaté plans a regular working meeting.


This was a very interesting mission. Thinking of the difficulties during the planning stage, it gave us many benefits. I think that the next should be prepared further in advance, in particular concerning stutterers; one of them should in charge locally with a close collaboration with a concerned therapist. We greatly enjoyed working together and look forward for another possible mission!

AMS Paris November 23rd 2008

"Stammering is no Joke"


*By Leys Geddes
Vice Chair British Stammering Association*

If you search You Tube, you'll see that there are many clips which show people stammering, or pretending to stammer, which have been classified as Comedy. Some examples of these 'Comedy' stammering videos include:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxSyCChGth0>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=im5217Wtwik>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRiNr9_31WE


From: [Blacklock22](#)
 Joined: 1 year ago
 Videos: 20
 [Subscribe](#)

About This Video
 I call up the reservation 800 number for Best Western and pretend to be a person with a heavy stuttering problem. This lady is amazing. She keeps her cool the entire time until the very end. She should get a raise for dealing with pieces of shit like me. ([less](#))
Added: July 16, 2006
Category: Comedy
Tags: [comedy](#) [prank](#) [phone](#) [call](#) [stutter](#) [reservation](#) [speech](#) [problem](#) [hotel](#)


URL
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxSyCChGth0>


From: [Lbundlez](#)
 Joined: 1 year ago
 Videos: 2
 [Subscribe](#)

About This Video
 This shit is hilarious This Guy Works With Us In O-City.. and Eddie And Jomal Catches him on Cam Tynna Talk ... u hear me laughen n tha background..right n the mans face ([less](#))
Added: May 08, 2006
Category: Comedy
Tags: [Stuttering](#)

URL
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=im5217Wtwik>

was authoritative but a little humorous, because we were seeking understanding, not sympathy.


From: [TopGuy112](#)
 Joined: 1 year ago
 Videos: 23
 [Subscribe](#)

About This Video
 Okay yesterday we had a Jesus mockery and a disabled guy, I thought we might as well throw up a guy with a severe stuttering problem.. you've gotta s-s-sympathize for this guy, he just wants to say his own name.. poor dude ([less](#))
Added: September 14, 2006
Category: Comedy
Tags: [stutter](#) [man](#) [disabled](#)

URL
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRiNr9_31WE

In late September, the much respected UK national newspaper, The Guardian, published an article headed 'Anger at YouTube stammer clips'. It went on to say that 'The British Stammering Association has strongly protested to the YouTube website over videos showing people struggling to speak which have been classified by the website as comedy'. Kate Hoey, a Member of the UK Parliament, kindly provided her support by explaining that "For many people, particularly youngsters, stammering is not a joke - we need to ensure that help and support is given as early as possible and, most of all, we need to educate the public to understand the impact it has on people for the whole of their lives."

Stuttering/stammering is no joke



Viewings of the video now took off. Shortly afterwards, the story was lead article on BBC Online News Features. This has been followed by features on stammering and interviews on two BBC Radio programmes, so far. It is worth recording that page views of the BSA website

The British Stammering Association is trying to improve the way stammering is handled by the media. So we complained to You Tube. But they replied that they 'had been unable to identify a Terms of Use violation' - and so these 'Comedy' videos are still up there.

In late July, we posted a video on You Tube which you can see at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-epHaW8nTJQ>. In order to create awareness and some understanding, we felt it was important that the stammering was seen and heard, not hidden. The tone

were exceptionally high, reaching a peak of 3,686 on the day of the BBC Online News Feature. Some of the UK media coverage, the Guardian article, the BBC Online News feature and the two BBC Radio interviews, can be found at <http://www.stammering.org/nojoke.html>

Key to the success of the campaign has been the use of the same PWS (namely me!) in the video and the two radio interviews. We reasoned that when these things are said by people who stammer then, difficult though it may be for a PWS, it has a lot more weight.

It gave us great pleasure - and hope - to see that when people have 'permission' to talk about stammering, which is what the No Joke media exposure has done in the UK, then a lot of PWS are very happy to come out. The change in the 'climate', so to speak, brings the top of the silo closer, and thus makes desensitisation more achievable.

I'm delighted to say that I have been working with Michael Sugarman and, through him, the NSA and the

ISA, with the aim of launching the No Joke campaign in the States and then around the world. Already there is an online petition against the YouTube classifications, at <http://www.petitiononline.com/nojoke/petition.html>

This makes complete sense because, as I'm sure you know, there is now clear empirical evidence for structural and functional differences in the brains of people who stammer - yet we are still being teased, discriminated against and laughed at - although it is clearly just as unfair and hurtful to criticise or mock people who stammer as it is people with other disabilities or ethnic minorities.

We are often our own worst enemies, going around thinking 'if-only-they-understood-my-secret'. So if anyone wants to put up their own video on YouTube, that would be great. We need more people to realise that we are just normal people who know what we want to say but can't always say it. You might give the video a name which begins with 'Stammering is no joke...' so our videos will come up in a group, all together.

Message to the members of NSA

*By Tammy Flores
Director of Operations, NSA, USA*

New York City Area, Here We Come!

New York/New Jersey 2008
Mark your calendar for June 25 - June 29, 2008!

Plans are under way for the NSA 2008 annual conference in New Jersey. For three days, the Sheraton Parsippany will be a special place where stuttering is the native language - a place to learn more about stuttering treatment and research, share experiences, and build self-confidence.

There will be numerous things to look forward to, such as inspiring interactive workshops, motivational speakers, **AMAZING** NYC tours, such as Yankees or Mets game, Broadway shows, city tour in the Big Red Double Decker bus, Radio City Music Hall, Night cruise around Manhattan, 5th Avenue shopping you just can't beat, and countless opportunities to network with fellow stutters and speech language pathologists. Not to mention the annual awards luncheon, auction, and closing banquet where after dinner you get to show your

moves on the dance floor!

In addition to the amazing tours we are putting together we will also be offering those who really want to experience the Big Apple for a couple days before or after the conference great hotel prices right in the heart of NY. Be sure to check the website frequently as we will be updating it soon.

Registration/Tour information will be mailed in late January but you are able to book your room now.

Hotel rates for the conference are \$134/night! Rooms go quickly so be sure to reserve yours early. The NSA has its own special Web site from the Sheraton where you can book your room and check your reservation. Visit <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/nationalstut> or log onto the NSA website at www.WeStutter.org.

A **BIG thank you** to Steven Kaufman for all of his input and information regarding the conference. You are a tremendous asset to the NSA.

Working as the Secretary to the Board of Directors of the ISA for the past six months

By Joseph Lukong
Coordinator General of Speak Clear Association of Cameroon,
Board member and Secretary to the ISA Board of Directors,
P.O. Box 9598 Douala Cameroon,
Email: Lujotar@yahoo.com

According to the provisions of the constitution of the International Stuttering Association, (ISA) elections are conducted every three years for the Membership of the ISA to elect a new Board of Directors. That is why, in prelude to the 8th triennial congress for people who stutter that took place last May in Cavtat Croatia, elections were conducted to form the ISA's new Board of Directors. I had the honour to be re-elected by delegates of the ISA member Associations for a second term into the ISA Board of Directors. This election took place on Sunday May 5th during the ISA's business meeting that preceded the said congress.

Still, as per the ISA's constitution, the Board of Directors meets within the period of the congress to elect its chair and other official of the Board. It was during that meeting that I was elected as secretary to the Board. To be honest, I was afraid to take up this challenge that fellow board members wanted to entrust to me. But with urges and promises that they could help me in this position if I encountered any difficulties, I finally accepted the position. I would have to acknowledge here the enormous support and collaboration that the board members have been giving me to carry on my duties as secretary, Particularly, retiring Board Chair Mark Irwin, retiring secretary Judith Eckardt, and present Board Chair Benny Ravid.

The first major task that I accomplished was to write to all the ISA contact persons for the various Associations and countries and to have the current information updated on our website. The previous Board Secretary had mentioned the fact that the information of some ISA contact persons on our website was not current. This makes it difficult, as letters and other information can be sent to the wrong addresses. When I sent these letters, some contact persons responded and provided us with their relevant contact information which the ISA webmaster has updated on our website. If you are reading this article and you are or know the ISA contact person for your country or association, please help and check the ISA website to see if the current information relating to your association or country is correct. If not, please help and email me the details.

The second major task was to email a letter whose content had been agreed upon by the board to all our member associations requesting them to let the ISA know what they expect the ISA to do for them and what they could in turn do to the ISA. Many associations have responded to this and have given us valuable suggestions that are being taken into consideration by the ISA. If you are reading this article and have not responded to the said letter or would like to respond to it please do reply to me. I would like to point out that some member associations have not responded to this letter. One association, considered they were 'DELINQUENT' as far as the ISA, arranged and paid their membership dues for the past years and promised active involvement in ISA's affairs in future.

As secretary; we have also been dealing with numerous enquiries from many parts of the world requesting information on stuttering. It is fascinating to read and deal with the numerous requests for information that come to the ISA. We were able to link up a person who stutters to a self group in his country which group has already linked that stutter to an SLP who is helping him.

After the board voted in favour of admitting some stuttering associations into the ISA, we had to notify them with this decision and also sent official confirmation from the ISA to them. We have also been dealing with some individuals from countries where there are no stuttering association and we hope that in the not too distant future, the ISA will admit them in the SPECIAL FRIENDS category.

The challenges of working as ISA board Secretary are enormous, but I can say that the challenge is very enriching. I am personally growing and learning a lot from serving this association in the position of Secretary. I would hereby call on any of you having some spare time to volunteer and offer it to the ISA or any other association that you are involved in. By so doing you will learn and grow as a person. As for the ISA, it would be nice if you could join hands and work with ISA for a world that understands stuttering.

Happy News about the 1st Stuttering Essay Contest

By Masuhiko Kawasaki

The 1st Stuttering Essay Contest was held in Croatia this May. The top four essays were published in OV23 or all essays received can be read on the ISA website.

I was very happy to hear from Warren Brown that the 1st SEC winner, Nina Clark-Whitfield, was featured with her picture in three newspapers in New Zealand. Warren Brown is a previous board member of ISA and we were both very happy to see the SEC receiving this excellent publicity. Both One Voice and the ISA website are generally only read by people who stutter, or those who have a particular interest in the topic of stuttering. However these New Zealand newspapers are read by many members of the general public. Therefore I believe this was a fantastic opportunity to raise public awareness and give members of the public a chance to learn more about the realities of life for people who stutter.

Here I will introduce part of one of the articles from the newspapers:

“Mrs Clark-Whitfield said she could not believe it when she found out she had won the competition. “I found it unbelievable, absolutely amazing, that I was the winner of an international award. But I saw it as a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about stuttering as it is a little known and often misunderstood disability.” The competition, which was held in New Zealand for the first time this year, will be held again in three years.”

Why don't you enter the 2nd SEC? I hope that in the future the SEC will be held in many countries, in many areas and in many languages

The Argentinean Stuttering Association

By Claudia L Díaz
Argentinean Stuttering Association

Lately the Argentinean Stuttering Association has proposed many important objectives, and more and more people who stutter are coming to us to cooperate in different areas. This makes us extremely grateful.

We have set wider schedules for our free weekly informative meetings.

Our commitment is growing and we will continue supporting it.

Training in stuttering will expand next year thus encouraging professionals who work in the topic but away from B.A. to have access to new knowledge that is necessary for them.

ISA's support is vital in order to grant the interchange with medical institutions, which must be made aware of our beginning to work with the Argentine Pediatric Society (SAP).

I think that, step by step, our different objectives will be outlined in education and public knowledge.

We are willing to spread awareness of stuttering throughout Latin America.

This is a challenge for people who stutter.

Another working year is soon about to finish, but our objectives are clear and we need to put more effort ahead.

I congratulate each and every one of the world associations on the work they carry out.

We can do it if we are together!

From Therapy Oriented Approach to Survival Approach

Shinji Ito
Executive Director
Japan Stuttering Project

In my understanding of stuttering there are two major approaches to stuttering: a therapy-oriented approach and a survival approach. I departed from therapy-oriented approach early on and chose the other approach, which I found more effective in dealing with my stuttering. The therapy-oriented approach focuses on the symptoms as the core of stuttering and more emphasis is on the recovery from dysfluency by the control of stuttering and improvement of stuttering symptoms with therapeutic interventions. The survival approach means that people who stutter accept themselves for who they are. They neither hide stuttering nor do they avoid speaking situations. Instead they endeavor to achieve personal growth and acquire survival skills to live and function fully in society even with stuttering. This approach, as I experienced myself, minimizes the problems that arise from stuttering.

In 1965 I organized a self-help group of people who stutter and made detailed research on the experiences of people who stuttered. In this research I found that denial, hiding, avoidance of stuttering increased anxiety and fear of stuttering even more, which led me to address to the stuttering community the negative effects of too much emphasis on the efforts to recover from dysfluency. This was my departure from the therapy-oriented approach to stuttering.

What matters with stuttering is not the symptom itself but the behavior, thought or emotions affected by our negative reactions to stuttering. I learned that Joseph Sheehan, an American speech pathologist, focused on

what is below the surface of stuttering, which he proposed as an iceberg theory, and I found many similarities to my view of stuttering. The survival approach focuses on changing the behavior, thought and emotions of the person who stutters, rather than directly dealing with the symptoms. For this to happen self-help groups are more effective than the therapy-oriented approach.

Those who suffer from stuttering are not always fortunate to meet therapists who can support them effectively. Even if they do, people who stutter need a strong will to incessantly work on the control of stuttering. Most people who stutter often find it very difficult to persistently strive for the maintenance of the results. I have been exploring strategies to free us from painful experiences because of stuttering. After repeated trials and errors I chose to reject the therapy-oriented approach and selected the survival method. Those who have chosen the therapy-oriented approach will also need to depart from the therapeutic process after all and must survive in society. I recommend departure from therapy-oriented approach to focus on the survival model from the beginning. This approach could be applied to school children and adolescents. This has been evidenced by the JSP's more than 40 years of self-help group activities and the summer camps for children who stutter held for 18 years. The survival approach is an outcome of self-help groups, and this is a comprehensive and easy approach for everyone to acquire with minimum learning experiences.

Greetings from India



Dear Friends,
 Greetings to you all from India...

I am PREM KUMAR. Once again I feel very happy to meet you all through ONE VOICE. I am 30 years of old and single. The year of 2007 is a milestone

in my life participating the 8th world congress held in Croatia, where I met all my soul mates at one place from various countries. Every second, every moment and

every incident I enjoyed a lot. I forget my stammering for 6 days while speaking in the world congress. I never feel it is a different place but I feel that I am moving with my family members. I always thankful to Udruga HF and ISA, especially the Iron lady called Mrs. Suzana Jelcic, who played a tremendous role for the 8th world congress.

I think, as an Indian team member planning TISA (The Indian Stammering Association), I did my job as best as

I could on behalf of a huge populated PWS country, India. I want to thank the audience, and those who attended my workshop. I learned and agree with the work and service of ISA, worldwide. It is my dream that TISA will touch and support PWS in their lifestyle, even though it will be a little difficult. But nothing is impossible, if we all try to move together.

Personally I suffered a lot with stammering. After completion of my studies, my life became dark and searching for destiny. At that moment, I started to think of other PWS. I failed to take advantage of many opportunities, like many of us. After starting and moving with other PWS from various parts of my country, I feel very comfortable, that I have a lot of friends who support and understand me. I have a desire to see a world congress in India. Before that TISA has to be set up and must hold a national conference. It needs lot of energy, resources and materials.

I regained my power, wisdom and confidence after the congress at Cavtat. Before the congress, every action of mine, started with thought/idea and ended with

thought/idea. Later it was changed into getting some results. In congress, physically I found the PWS from various places with different culture, colour, religion, dress and language, but I found their mindset and feelings are one and same. I am waiting for the DAY to see all the PWS with smile on their faces, taking the opportunities and success in their respective fields or professionalism. As a stammerer, I always maintain the balancing life just like water, the way it flows, streams and curves down and around with varying speeds.

Finally I request the readers of ONE VOICE to visit www.indiastammering.com and request you all to join with us in various programs and events in the days to come to take place in India.

With best wishes,

PREM KUMAR,
INDIA.

E-mail: premandkumar@yahoo.com

Stuttering: Indonesian Experience

By Muhammad Ishom

It is estimated that 1% of the world's population are stutterers. Indonesia is a large nation with over 234 million people. This means that approximately 2.34 million people in this country are affected by stuttering. The problem, however, is that stuttering is still misunderstood by the Government. They think that disability deals with physical impairment only. Consequently, those who are called to have a speech disorder, i.e., stuttering, are not treated as people who need help and advocacy. They are even ignored in spite of their serious problems, like being teased, laughed at, bullied, and discriminated against.

Stuttering is not well understood by society either. The absence of any organization that deals with stuttering in this country proves the statement. The mass media are not interested in reporting issues of stuttering even though they know that many children suffer from this fluency disorder. Many parents do not know how to help their children overcome their problems because they think that stuttering is untreatable. Many researchers of universities are not interested in doing research on this issue. Of course, there are some speech pathologists in Indonesia but the number is very limited. They mostly live in big cities while the majority of Indonesian people live in rural areas.

At the political level, we have national regulations that deal with education, children protection, and disabled persons. However, none of these regulations sees stuttering as a problem. Consequently, the government does not have policy to deal with it. They do not allocate any budget to support those who are stutterers. Even, some state universities used to impose a discriminating regulation that only those individuals who did not stutter were allowed to take courses in the Department of English. This rule is probably still valid until today because Indonesia is not yet a member of the ISA and therefore does not ratify the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for PWS.

At daily lives, most teachers are not aware of stuttering. They are sometimes not wise in treating their stuttering students. For example, teachers ask them to read aloud in the classroom without prior reminding that their classmates should not laugh at the way they read or speak. Some artists, like jokers, often imitate the way stutterers speak just for fun. This shows that many people do not know that stutterers have the rights to be respected. They are not aware that stutterers may be more miserable than those who suffer from physical impairment.

As the father of a stuttering son and a schoolteacher with stuttering students, I hope I will have an opportunity to

come to the next congress to be held in Beijing, China, in 2010, in the hope that I can promote understanding on stuttering among the Indonesian people after my return from the congress. It is also a challenge for the ISA to

make Indonesia understand stuttering. I hope that an Indonesia Stuttering Association will be a member of the ISA as soon as possible.

Greetings from Montevideo, Uruguay

Dear friends:

It is a great joy to tell you, what happened on Monday, October 22nd in Montevideo.

I send you pictures of a truly unforgettable day.

The weather was good, so parents and speech students, along with some people who stutter and professionals spent the whole afternoon in the esplanade "The Terminal- Shopping Tres Cruces" distributing information brochures.

This is the first time we achieved a commemoration of this kind in our country on the International

Stuttering Awareness Day, and that's why I am glad to have lived and shared this experience with you.

It is very important to have the support everybody gives us, many of them from faraway, just to carry on. I'd like to thank you once more for that.

Greetings and good luck

By Rosa Quevedo, ISA special friend from Uruguay (Originally in Spanish and translated by anonymous)



Stuttering in Norway

By Arne Hope
Chairman Norwegian Stuttering Association

At the age of six I developed severe stuttering. My parents told me that it took only a few months. Why? Nobody knows, but one night in August the neighbour's house was on fire. I woke up, and was standing at the window watching the flames and the fire brigade. It was indeed a dramatic experience. For years I was scared of what could happen to our own house. I had to check all the electric installations every night before going to bed, and I was still anxious about what could happen when all of us were asleep.

I was sent to a speech therapist and to a psychologist in Stavanger. I was given red pills and I was prayed over, but nothing seemed to cure my stuttering. When I was 9, in 1962, the decision was taken: For the next year at school I was to go to the Halmrast National School for Stuttering Children.

In August my dad and I went by train all through the night to Oslo. We changed to another train, and at mid day we came to Halmrast. It appeared to be a big farm, and the school was a part of it. This was something totally different from my home town. Here, 30 hours from my parents and friends, was my stuttering to be cured...?

After my dad had left me I cried for weeks. All the other children at the school stuttered too, but that was a minor help for me..

In addition to the common school subjects, speech training was an important part of the day. Tongue exercises, relaxations –imaging making a wild gang of 10-years old boys relax- singing the words... The intentions were good. Somebody had the idea that assembling all stuttering children in a national institution was the best things to do. In a similar way deaf children were assembled in separate schools and mentally retarded children in other schools and institutions, and so on.

Spending a year at the national school for stuttering children did not have an impact on my stuttering. But I became an expert on tongue gymnastics and skiing. Coming back to Stavanger, these abilities impressed my friends.

Some years ago the policy of treating “different” children was changed. Now children with all kinds of disabilities are integrated in ordinary school classes. Those who need help are supposed to get their help within the ordinary school system. Local speech therapists are supported by The National Support System for Special Education.

On the one hand, being different has become more normal and more accepted. This is definitely a good thing. Living together with all kinds of creatures makes us more tolerant.

On the other, problems may be ignored, and children do not always get proper treatment. A silent child may not a problem for the teacher.



Anyway, there seems to be a decrease in the amount of children treated for stuttering in Norway. I have tried to give some causes, but who knows, is the school system not good enough or has society become more tolerant and ignorant towards speech problems?

Some former pupils studying at Halmrast established the National Stuttering Association (NIFS) in 1976. They had met and became friends there.

New members for the NIFS are recruited by speech therapists talking about us. Also people, mainly people who stutter, have read our web site and send us some emails.

There are no files or archives available about people who stutter. We are dependent on people contacting us.

In addition, Norway is a big country and people are spread all over the country. Traveling by train or car takes a long time, and air tickets are expensive. A simple board meeting costs a lot of money. However, we do not have financial problems. The government gives support to organisations for disabled people. NIFS receives about €30,000 a year. That allows us to have member meetings and board meetings and so on. Our new web site www.stamming.no is also an important part of our work.

NIFS cooperates closely with speech therapists and The National Support System for Special Education. We also keep in touch with our sister associations in the other Nordic countries. We understand each other's language that makes things easier.

Stutterers Association of Nigeria: ISAD 2007 on Air

Introduction

Stuttering in Nigeria is not seen as a problem by many except for the stutterers who have to cope with the derision of those who should support them and show understanding. In fact not many consider it as an issue worth giving attention to. For me as a person now involved in coordinating the activities of SAN, I never understood the full import of what stutterers go through until I came in contact with YEMI AKINTUNDE and got involved with stutterers at a closer range for the first time. Ever since I got involved, I came to understand a lot of things about people who stutter. This challenged me so much that I decided to be involved in creating awareness about stuttering and contribute towards having a world that understands stuttering. In the light of this, in order to reach out to a large audience with information on stuttering, members of SAN decided to go on air to mark ISAD 2007 and open the consciousness of people to issues that affect people who stutter. The program was aired on the Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC) based in Osogbo Osun State in Southwest Nigeria. It was featured on a weekly 30 minutes audience participation programme known as 'Eroya' in the local language. Audience have opportunity to send their questions in writing a few days before the programme or phone in live during the programme. The programme was aired on October 28 which was the nearest available date close to ISAD. Four members of SAN were present in the studio to witness the programme.

Highlights of the Programme

Four days to the programme, promotional jingles were relayed on air and people who would not be able to phone in during the programme had opportunity to send in their questions in writing. During the programme, two members of staff of the Radio Station moderated it. The programme started with a definition of stuttering, causes and problems associated with it. These were some of the questions asked by the listening audience either through writing or phone calls. Other issues clarified include whether stuttering is hereditary, age of commencement of stuttering and if 'tongue tie' could cause stuttering. Some questions revealed that people have misconceptions and are even superstitious about stutterers and stuttering. There is the generally held view

that people who stutter get angry easily and are bad tempered. This view was expressed both in writing and through phone calls by the audience. A caller also felt stuttering could be a spell cast on the stutterer. There is also the belief that imitating a stutterer could make one stutter.

Answering these questions offered the opportunity for enlightening the public on various issues about stuttering and SAN.

Coverage

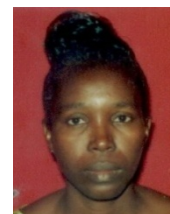
OSBC Radio has a wide coverage and is heard in not less than fifteen states in Nigeria including the Federal Capital Abuja. Out of the ten calls that came through during the programme, two calls were received from Oyo State(SW), one from Kogi in middle belt Nigeria, one from Ekiti State(SW). the remaining six calls came in from Osun State.

Effect

At the end of the programme, people's reaction showed the programme had some effect on listeners. These include;

- people met me to indicate their interest in becoming SAN members:
- parents of children who stutter have been asking how they can help their children:
- some have confessed their misconceptions they have about stuttering and stutterers:
- some stutterers have called seeking for help and way out of their stuttering.

In order to further enhance greater understanding about stuttering and help for people who stutter, SAN hopes to organize a symposium with a cross section of different categories of the society in attendance.



Report compiled by

Mrs. Funmi Olatidoye. She is a School Principal and Coordinates a youth focused organization- Youthworth Initiative and has volunteered to coordinate Stutterers Association of Nigeria (SAN)

Association to Overcome the Stammering in Mali

AVB-Mali Centers Reference of Health of Commune III.

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E-mail: zanjunior@yahoo.fr; avbmali@hotmail.com

The international community celebrates on October 22 of each year the World Day of the Stammering. In Mali, this day coincides with the month of solidarity and fight against exclusion also celebrated each year. With this occasion, Association to overcome the Stammering of Mali organized a conference on "the stammering and childhood" on October 27, 2007 in the Center Aoua Keita. The conference speakers were Dr. Baboye Dembélé (Psychological) and Dr. Issa Nazim Coulibaly (speech therapist). The first lecturer's speech related to the problems of stammering (the causes, the factors aggravations, impact on the stammerers and in the social life). On the other hand, the second lecturer gave information on orthoepy or logopedics. He then spoke about stammering in the child, the methodological approaches of the assumption of responsibility. After their talks, they answered questions from the public which created massive interest.



Presentation: Association To overcome the Stammering is an apolitical association having a legal personality. The stammerers of Mali have in accordance with the law N°04-038 of the 05th August 2004, created an association called "Association To overcome the Stammering of MALI in Initials" AVB/MALI.

Its aims are:

- To carry out the early tracking of the stammering in the children;
- To inform and sensitize the population on the stammering;
- To give a psychological support for the stammerers.

Fields of intervention:

- Tracking of the stammering;
- Orthoepic rehabilitation;
- Psychological assumption of responsibility.



News from Poland

By Dagmara Kolubiec

Stuttering people meet in the biggest cities in Poland: Warsaw, Krakow, Gdansk, Wroclaw, Torun, Lublin. There are mostly stuttering self-help groups but speech therapists or psychologists also participate in some of them. I have a feeling that it is easier to obtain help if you are a stuttering child. If stuttering adults, who are 20 or 30, decide for the first time to do something with their lives, with their stuttering, it is more difficult. Most of them are shy, sometimes lonely, without self-confidence and have never looked for help. The reason is that this problem has been ignored in Poland for many years. Many stuttering people have been advised to go vocational instead of to secondary school, because they have been told they are not able to get a reasonable education.

I attend workshops in Warsaw – and almost every week there is a new stuttering person, who sometimes has been thinking about coming to our meetings for about half a year. They have not come because they were afraid. I see it so many times – shy or nervous person who stutter in horrible way – when I write horrible I mean in a way that you see that some people have no idea how to help themselves. Sometimes, I don't know what to do – but at the same time, I have a feeling that I hold someone's life in my hands.

What we can do, at the beginning, is just show that stuttering is not the end of the world. We show that they can also enjoy life even with stuttering and that they can and even should have a proper education to become independent. We can talk, listen and give emotional support and try to discuss stuttering – because in many situation we have or used to have the same problems.

We are trying also to provide stutterers with professional help. In my opinion a good speech therapist can be a great help for people who have never had such help but,

as I said, it is difficult to find help, free of charge, for an adult. There are a lot of private “clinics” which offer “professional” help for stuttering teenagers and adults. But this treatment is very expensive, and only for those who are ready to comply with a very strict regime. In our meetings we also have a very good psychologist, and speech therapist, who sometimes attends our meetings and occasionally meets with some of us, when we need help, but they don't have time to do it regularly, because they have to focus on therapy for children, their parents, and teenagers. The clinic where we meet is generally for people up to 21 years, so in fact we have illegal meetings every week...

Great occasions for adults who stutter are our annual meetings and camps. Most years we organize meetings for people from all the country, and we spent 4 days together. During those days we have lectures, workshops with speech therapist, but what is more important – we spend time together, talking, sharing our experience and supporting each other. Last year we met in Ciechocinek, near Torun. This year – we hope to organize a meeting near Warsaw, and I am waiting for this. There are also camps - but rather for children (together with the parents, because it's a complex therapy) and younger people, because not every adult can have a week's vacation in the summer.

What is quite important is that we in Warsaw often have visits of young students of speech therapy from Warsaw University. We allow them to participate in our workshop and share our opinions about how real speech therapy should be held.

If you want to share with me your opinion or ask about something please contact with me on my private mail: dag10@poczta.onet.pl

Swedish Stuttering Association 30 years old!

The Swedish Stuttering Association (SSR) just celebrated its 30th anniversary with a national event. It all started in 1954 (!) when some people from Stockholm decided to start a local club. Other clubs followed and in 1977 they decided to combine their efforts and the SSR was born. During the weekend of 22-24 October, 72 of our members (= 10%!) including two of our Finnish friends, came to Brunnsvik, a lovely place in the forest region in Dalarna. All previous chair persons were

invited and shared their stories. We had many workshops about the different therapies available in Sweden. There were also lots of social activities, such as mingle bingo, a nature walk with questions and dance bingo to get to know people better. We had a chronological time line with therapies in Sweden and an exhibition with pictures, history and information about our association. It was wonderful to see the large exhibition of the children and youth group, who are one of the most active

groups in Sweden! And we're extremely proud to have 3 young board members on our board of 7. We also had special activities for children and younger members. The children played games and spent much time in the surrounding forests. The young people discussed a possible youth organisation and had team building exercises. Both groups had art workshops with art exhibitions. There was a famous actor talking about how he overcame his stage freight. We also discussed serious questions such as the new rules to have at least 700 members to receive national funding. Why are we loosing members all over the world and why is it so hard to get members to attend meetings and to become involved in the planning and realization of activities? What can we do to change this? Both local and national media covered the event.

Another event worth mentioning is the annual Nordic seminar to be held in Sweden, 22-24 August 2008. The seminar theme will be "See and Be". We cannot expect people to understand stuttering and give us the help we need if we ourselves do not tell them what stuttering is

all about. We need to learn how the media works, how to get a message to the public and how to get our voices heard through presentation techniques and speaking in public. There will also be social activities and outings and a special focus will be put on the Swedish culture with Swedish smorgasbord and all. The meeting will be held in a hotel in the area of Gothenburg and the main language will be Swedish, however as these seminars are getting more and more popular internationally, there will be help with translations. Take this opportunity to come to beautiful Scandinavia, the land of lakes, forests and Vikings!

A special website will be opened soon. Please contact us for more information.

From a winter coated Sweden,

Anita S. Blom

Chair SSR

anitablom@telia.com

Poem written just before the closing ceremony at the WC in Croatia

Anita Blom

May 2007

What do I say. It happened again
I found the tears running down my
face
Being in this social heaven
Far away from the daily rat race

I've been listening to speeches
And have been active at workshops
Heard all these success stories
About people's lives and at their
jobs

But the power of these congresses
Are the connections people make
Sharing good practice and ideas
Supporting new steps people take

The setting was absolutely perfect
The hotel, the weather and the
wine
But the most perfect thing
Is all these friends I can call mine

Today I realize something new
Said by Michael and Monica
O'Shea

That made my heart become even
bigger
As they had something important
to say:

We talk a lot about ourselves
Our clients and therapies so
profound
But we never talk about the people
Who we always have around

For how would we ever be able to
cope
Without our husbands and our
wives
Who are our daily safety nets
Hear us out and brighten our lives

Our parents and our children
Our siblings and our friends
They who love us for who we are
And support us without comments

Devoted therapists like Judy and
Marlene

To whom we are persons and not
just "Cases"
Who follow up and never stop
supporting us
And bring pride back to our faces

These are those very moments
I can never put in a report
This is why a congress like this
Will forever be far too short

So to all of you standing by our
sides
Thanks for being with us in this
very hall
You are the key to our successes
And for that we love you all

And my last words are for those
wonderful people
Suzana, Mirjana and Nina, for
making this come true
A perfect week in a perfect setting
And it's all thanks to you!

Easy Word Project, Albania

By Dritan Kici
Dritan001@hotmail.com

Since returning home from Cavtat I have given a great deal of thought to all the issues that the Congress brought forward. I have to confess that before Cavtat I did see the “road” a little easier, but the process of gaining awareness on the problems we face, have taken me to new places, very close to me, but ones I had never noticed.

One of the problems that particularly attracted my interest was the process of building a solid Association and bringing in new members.

The testimony from Australia’s Speak Easy Association, brought to our attention the fact that there are fewer newcomers then before. Even the health services there have reduced the treatment of PWS.

I needed some time to process this input and adopt my new thoughts to my country, Albania. It came out that not only the experiences of other countries were not fully usable, but cultural differences really made a significant difference.

When researching about the topic of building an association from scratch, I realised that in all the economically poor countries it was very hard to gather the people together. The political enthusiasm observed in these countries does not reflect in other activities.

Further more, an Association, built around a subject that is surround by stigma is very hard to be seen as something that might help.

I can speak fairly certainly about the Albanian speaking regions of Balkans, and can testify that the “coming out” approach doesn’t work in the overwhelming majority of the interested people.

In the ISA we are still discussing the issue: Is or is not stuttering a disability? There are many of us that still do not like to call ourselves “disabled”. Keep this in mind, when thinking about other PWS that live their life under the pressure of stigma. Even with our best efforts I do not think that we can include in our association as many members as we wish and this is very sad.

I started this discussion with some of the friends in Congress, particularly the previous Chair of the ISA Mark Irwin and continued the topic later on, at home, with members of Easy Word Project. Following on, we

built a simple questionnaire and gave it to many PWS or their families. The results showed that they really liked the idea of getting help and support, but in most of cases, they did not believe that membership in an association would help.

We have a lot of members that do not stutter that like to help and get involved, but we are not reaching so many PWS. They hide in the same way that we used to, and if they do not want to be discovered, we know that no one can make them come out.

Don’t get me wrong; we are getting new members slowly but our current way of organizing the Association is not fully inclusive.

As I have mentioned before to some of the members of the boards of ISA, I think that being a member of International Stuttering Association is a right for every PWS. Only if we see this topic in this light can we include everybody in.

We live in globalization time and so we have to think globally. For this reason I was asked by the members of Easy Word to ask the ISA if we could have also a constitutional committee, in which to discuss the possibility of some changes in our constitution. We believe that there is a lot of space for us to enlarge our association to the point of becoming a really strong voice. I had a lot of discussions with many representatives of international organizations working in Albania and all of them stressed out that we are not “fully including” of the community that we try to represent. For as long as this will continue, there is little chance for us to be associated with the major international organization working with disabilities, or handling the financial donations for non profit organizations. But this is not the main reason. We need to reach as many PWS as we can and we believe that we should make our great association a greater one, with a strong voice.

Easy Word Project proposes to add in our constitution the individual membership as a way to get input and “fresh blood” from everywhere.

If we called the ISA in Cavtat “The Mother Ship”, Scotty has to “beam up” everybody.



First left: Moussa Dao; third left, Anne-Marie Simon. Courtesy to Moussa Dao.



AVB-Mali Picture



AVB-Mali Picture

2nd African conference on stuttering

By Moussa Dao



The lady Kneeling down is offering a drink, made out of millet known in the local dialect as Zom Kom, a symbol of welcome and hospitality of the local people. She is wearing a head scarf, typical of women of the Mossi clan. The scarf has a dove which portrays love and peace. She is inviting all to come to Ouagadougou Capital of Burkina Faso (which means land of people of Integrity) a country in the West African sub region.

Together, lets us join hands to make stuttering Awareness a reality in Africa.

Theme: Stuttering in Africa- What strategies for concrete awareness.

Programme.

A very rich programme of the conference comprises of:

- Key note presentations by professionals in the field of stuttering research and treatment.
- Testimonies from renowned members of the International self help movement for people who stutter on what is helping or has helped them to recover from stuttering.
- Special workshops for children who stutter, parents and teachers of children who stutter and other professionals
- Clinical sessions will be offered for children and adults who stutter by some professionals who would be attending the conference.

A social programme:

- A welcome ceremony on the evening of 28th of October and a closing Gala night on the evening 1st November 2008
- Visit to SIAO village. The venue hosting the International Show of African handicraft of Ouagadougou.
- Visit to Bazoule village famous for its Lake and crocodiles
- Visit to the village of Laoungo famous for its sculptures on the rock
- Visit the well known museum of Manega
- Visit to Moro NABA (kingdom of Mossi)

Place : Ouagadougou

Date : October 30, 31 and November 1 2008

Opening ceremony: October 29, 2008 à 17h30

Attendees: Persons who stutter and speech professional from Africa
Specialist and persons who stutter from the other continents of the world

A Letter from Uganda

Dear Members of the Stuttering Community,

IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING.

I have the pleasure to thank the organizers of the 8th world congress for people who stutter which took place in Croatia. It was so good an event that many more people from developing countries were present including Uganda. It was my 1st such congress to participate. Special thanks go to Mark and his team whose kind effort and dedication enabled some of us to get scholarship to the conference.

Ideally speaking the ISA outreach project is a clear manifestation of the ever expanding awareness about stuttering globally and the campaign about it must be encouraged. Again my appreciation goes to the new ISA members among whom there are Africans which signifies the extent to which the awareness has sunk in developing countries.

The Croatia conference was magnificently organized and brought out the unity ISA and IFA developed.

The stuttering awareness campaign must be encouraged using the available communication media for both information sharing and counseling skill among stuttering associations globally. The scholarship scheme must be maintained and links must be made with potential sponsors. Language and speech therapy opportunities must be extended to developing countries so that in the future they can be self-supporting in speech-related treatment and research. There is an African saying which goes: "You can stop someone from begging all the time by giving that person half the food and half seeds." Meaning he can become self-reliant in the long run. Therefore, training opportunities and language therapy must be availed to developing countries too. There are very few specialists in this field in Africa.

Special gratitude goes to Mr. John Tetnowsky from USA who mobilized and bought for me and Easy Speak Association a laptop computer and I request the rest to do the same.

Hope to meet you all in China.



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ISA Announcement

Beijing 2010 北京 2010 年

It's **official**: the next World Conference of the International Stuttering Association will be held in Beijing, China in 2010. Yes, the newly formed Chinese Stuttering Association will host this world event in cooperation with the China Rehabilitation Research Center, Beijing Normal University and the China Medical Academy so it is sure to be a another well organised, well attended, exciting and informative event following on from the previous ISA congress successes in Croatia, Australia, Belgium, South Africa, Sweden, Germany, USA and Japan so start planning ahead now to be part of this inspiring event. If you have any way you can assist our Chinese organising committee please contact the head of the conference organising committee, Zong-Shan Li at lzsh@ibcas.ac.cn. More information when it comes to hand.