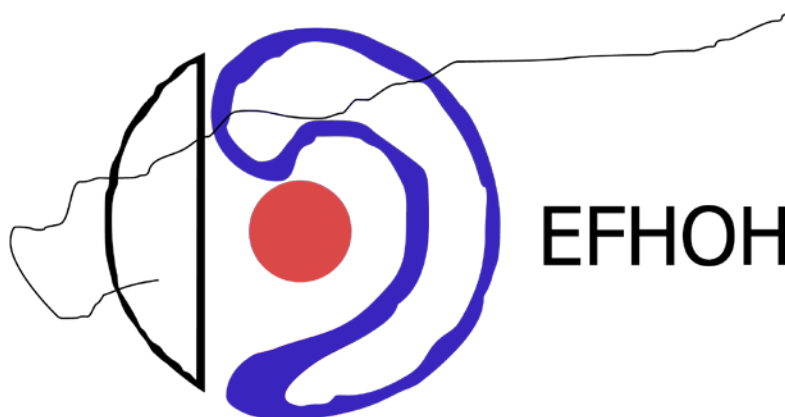


EFHOH

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Edited by Marcel Bo-
beldijk and Niels-Henrik
M. Hansen.

Deadline for the next
newsletter is November
15.th /2012.



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

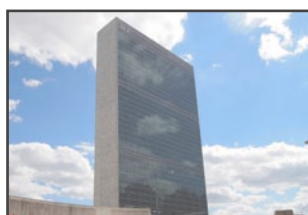
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012



EFHOH PRESIDENT LETTER

See page 2



INTERNATIONAL DIASABILITY ALLIANCE

The full story at page 9



PRESS CONFERENCE OF PRESENTATION OF THE "INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON RESPEAKING "ONA.I.R."

Read the story page 10



EFHOH President letter

The summer of 2012 was a very special period for EFHOH and IFHOH.

At first we held the 9th IFHOH world congress in Bergen/ Norway. This congress was very interesting and successful. Thanks to Knut Magne Ellingsen and Lillian Vicanek and their wonderful team of super volunteers, who make sure the participants can tell their home front they had experienced a great time.

Wendelina Timmerman (the Netherlands) wrote in her article about the 9th IFHOH world congress: "I can tell you straight from my heart, that this congress was pure empowerment for me, and it has improved the quality of my life with hearing impairment and as a coach on hearing loss". You can read her and Ory's article about the world congress in this EFHOH newsletter.

The EFHOH board sends their congratulations to the newly elected IFHOH board members and wishes them a very successful 2012-2014 term of office and we look forward to continue our warm and close co-operation.

Lidia Best, EFHOH board member and I worked for EFHOH in Brussels for one day, on July 18th. In the article written by Lidia, you can read we had a successful meeting at the European Platform. And we will now organize a seminar on the 15 of November with the theme 'Mind the Data Gap! Lack of statistics effective for an EU inclusion strategy?' This seminar will be held at the Representative of Bavaria in Brussels, near the European Union Parliament buildings.

The 1st European Conference of Speech-To-Text-Reporters was held in Ermelo, a lovely small place in the middle of the Netherlands. Lidia Best and I were given the honors of



View of Bergen city.

giving a presentation about the EFHOH and the conditions for hard of hearing people, when they work with a Speech to Text Reporter (STTR). This was held on august 24th. One of the successes of this conference is that we have now a European Organization of STTR's.

We, as the EFHOH board, are very happy with this new organization and we wish them all the good luck in their work. In this EFHOH newsletter you can read an article written by Hannie Huigsloot (the Netherlands) about this 1st European Conference of Speech to Text Reporters.

At the first weekend of New York Ruth Warick (IFHOH President) and I represented IFHOH at the IDA (International Disability Alliance) governing body meeting. For me was it the first time that I participated in such a meeting. It was interesting for me and it was also an important learning experience. EDF (European Disability Forum) is now the president of IDA for a period of two years. It was also nice to meet some European friends/colleagues.

EFHOH congratulates Drs. László, Gábor, Lovász (Hungary) and he is also member of SINOSZ- our Hungarian members' organization, as the first Hard of Hearing person to be elected to the United Nations CRPD committee (CRPD = Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities) from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016. We as the EFHOH board look forward to working with him in the coming years.

In our next EFHOH newsletter we will inform you of the details about the next EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2013 (In Prague). Please make a note in your program for the date of the EFHOH AGM 2013 in Prague. This will be held between 5 and 6 April 2013.

EFHOH Newsletter Call:

It would be nice if you are able to write an article for one of the EFHOH newsletters of 2012. Also, this year we try to make 5 EFHOH newsletters for you and all of your members. Yes, we make the EFHOH newsletter also for the volunteers and hard of hearing people in your national and local organisations. You can send your article to our email address efhoh@hrf.se

Warm Regards,

Marcel Bobeldijk
EFHOH president.



Report from Joint Platform Meeting

Our joint Platform meeting took place on 18 July 2012 at the EUD offices in Brussels.

We had really positive feedback from many representatives of European Disability Forum AGA in Copenhagen who witnessed the historic day of signing the agreement. This showed how important is to find common goals and language to achieve good advocacy. During the meeting we have worked on the next phase of co-operation which is our first ever event on 15th November 2012 at the Bavarian Representative to European Parliament in Brussels.

The theme is "Mind the Data Gap" and the event will explore the importance of data gathering nationally and across European Union. We have often too conflicting data

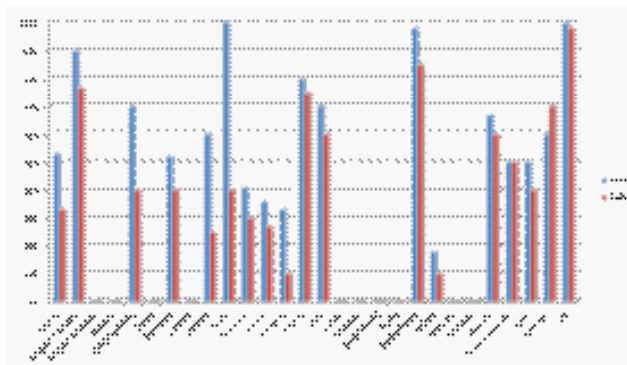
presented in some countries and it is important to have synchronised templates to make the data accurate.

Statistics are very much connected to EU policies and lobbying.

The Agenda is provisionally set with speakers from Platform and invited guest speakers from European institutions as well as MEP's and other representatives from disability sector.

The event will be fully accessible with Sign Language interpreters, speech to text reporters and hearing loop. We will keep you updated about the event.

Lidia Best, EFHOH



EFHOH **subtitling** campaign

Our subtitling campaign took us to the offices Digital Commission on 18th July 2012 in Brussels.

The meeting was arranged with help of European Disability Forum and particularly Nadege Richie.

Marcel Bobeldijk and I presented our latest findings as part of updating "State of subtitling in EU".

We have also discussed different ways of data gathering and how different Members States report accessibility to TV

The Commission was very interested in our findings and is looking for a possibility to fund independent monitoring of subtitling access. There will be more exchanges between Commission and EFHOH but this is fantastic opportunity to work together on subtitling increase in EU. Watch this space!

Lidia Best
EFHOH



Second episode :

Little **French** Ory in HOH-land

Don't say What? But say HAE?

After a little siesta on the plane, Ory woke up suddenly and he looked out of the window, Oh how wonderful : snow, lots of snow on the mountains .And fjords! He realized that Norway was not so far away after all.

Coming from the south of France, he was pleased to see that the weather was sunny but outside he shivered; it was so cold!

Monday evening would be a special time, he would meet other HOHs. He decided not to take his dictionary and to wait and see.

He followed the other HOHs going up the stairs. There was a lot of noise. He didn't know anybody and was feeling lonely. But then he saw 40 smiling faces looking at him, he was surprised, why? Japanese HOHs! Ory tried to talk to them, but his language wasn't theirs. To communicate he had to find something new, he tried to smile too, that was the key! They smiled all together, what a nice start of the congress!

That first evening, Ory met very young HOH, with caps and short trousers, making fun but also so serious about their work in the HOH young organization. In the Norwegian language, you say Hae? when you don't understand something.

During three days Ory, came in touch with Norwegians, Swedish, Danish, German, British, Canadian, Dutch HOHs. Everybody spoke a language he didn't study before, a special HOH-language. He had to listen with special necklace; with a little box called "Minilink" and to read on the screen at the same time. The Japanese HOHs had their screen in Japanese and the Norwegian theirs. Ory tried to understand how it worked. Two very tall men, yes the "Jötunns of Bergen", he was sure, played the piano on a keyboard, but so quickly that he couldn't see their fingers. But where was the sound?

"The floor is yours!" Suddenly a giant face looked at him and explained a lot of things about hearing loops, stress, young and old HOHs, the rights of the HOHs.



Ory was pleased to learn so many things, he always wanted to know.

At the end of the day, a little bit dizzy, he walked to the harbor of Bergen to eat something. There was a fish market with shrimps and crab and salmon. A lot of gulls wheeled over and over the market. Ory was sitting on a wooden bench in front of the sea where he saw enormous ships. He would like to take a photograph, so he bent down to pick up his camera in his bag. When he looked to his plate again, the gulls were trying to steal his shrimps! No, no, go away, these shrimps are mine!

In his bed, it was almost 11 o'clock pm, he read a little without switching on the light! And at two o'clock he woke up. Oh dear, it's time to go to the congress, it is so light. Stupid you! You are in Norway in "midsummer". The last evening he dressed very well to go to the "banquet" (HOHs said baankééé)

In the big reception room hundreds of little lights were like stars above the nicely dressed tables. Smoked salmon! But no greedy gulls to steal this delicious sea-food..

All the HOHs were sitting together, laughing and chatting in the evening sun. Ory remembered two sentences that he had heard that week : "If you only do what you can do, you will not do so much". "Together we can make a difference!"

He didn't feel lonely anymore! HOH, yes of course, but proud to be a member of the IFHOH and EFHOH communities.

Bergen 29th June 2012
Aisa Cleyet-Marel
France



A New Term for IFHOH Begins

Greetings from IFHOH as the newly elected officers of our organization begin their 2012-2014 term of office and look forward to working closely with you in achieving progress on hearing accessibility, awareness and human rights for our constituency.

We are coming off of a most engaging and successful IFHOH Congress, hosted by the Norwegian Federation of Hard of Hearing People in lovely Bergen, Norway June 25-28, 2012. The execution of the event was outstanding and our hats go to Knut Ellingsen, Lillian Vicanek, Åse Wraalsen and many others on the core team and to the countless volunteers who made this a success. Also congratulations goes to Harald Riisnaes of Travel Planners of Scandinavia Ltd. who ensured for a smooth-running Congress.

I came away from Bergen energized and excited about working with and for you. Our biennial meeting held on June 25, 2012 in Bergen saw approval of a plan of action for the next two years, the adoption of several motions and the election of new officers for the organization. We also recognized the work of retiring board members Katja Vis (Treasurer) and Ahiya Kamara (Vice-President) who first came on the IFHOH Board in Dubrovnik, Croatia in 2006 and with whom I personally grew together in our responsibilities with IFHOH. Fortunately, their shoes will be filled by Avi Blau of Israel as Vice-President and Niklas Wenman of Finland as Treasurer. Also elected were Hanh Duong Phuong of Vietnam as General Secretary and Ulf Olsson of Sweden as Member at large. I was re-elected as President and joining us on the board is Marcel Bobeldijk as EFHOH's representative.

New Members

At our biennial meeting, we were pleased to welcome Polska Fundacja Osób Słabosłyszących (PFOS), (Polish Foundation for Hard of Hearing) as a general member and Associazione Luca Coscioni, Italy as an associate member.

Motions

The following motions were adopted by the Assembly:

A motion that the annual membership fee for individual associate membership be 20 €.

A motion pertaining to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities urging the following:

- The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to include the hard of hearing perspective in their monitoring and reporting.
- National mechanisms monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to include the hard of hearing perspective in their monitoring and reporting.
- Governments to use the CRPD as the point of departure in their disability policies and to work actively for ratification and implementation of the CRPD.

A motion to implement an international hearing awareness day all over the world (together with EFHOH).

During the Congress at the AGM of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Youth (IFHOHYP) IFHOH and IFHOHYP signed a letter of agreement between the two organizations which calls for closer working relations. Karina Chupina, President of IFHOHYP, and myself were the signatories to the agreement.

IFHOH is pleased to announce that the next IFHOH BGM in 2014 will be held in Jerusalem, Israel with the actual dates to be finalized. The BGM will be preceded by educational sessions so do put this on your itinerary.

I invite you to contact me if you have any issues, concerns or words of wisdom for us: my email is president@ifhoh.org.

With my very best wishes

Ruth Warick
IFHOH President

By Wendelina Timmerman, Coach and trainer for individuals and groups with hearing loss www.hooridee.nl, the Netherlands.



IFHOH **WORLD CONGRESS** 2012 Bergen Norway

I enjoyed the IFHOH congress 2012 in Bergen Norway enormously.

Thanks from me to all who organised, presented and participated also presenters you all made it a very enjoyable experience.

The theme was called: "A better quality of life" I can tell you straight from my heart, that this congress was pure empowerment for me, and it has improved the quality of my life with hearing impairment and as a coach on hearing loss.

Accessibility

In this congress, were top Speech to Text Reporters, sign language interpreters, solo hearing devices, hearing loop and plenty of pens and paper had been provided including a natural light. This is a powerful statement and a strong example of the contribution of these facilities to the aforementioned quality of life.

Because of the provided support, I was able to listen, watch, read and overall experience all along this congress without any stress. This unique chance to see and meet so many hard of hearing and deaf participants from 40 different countries, and to be able to make enquiries about them after their lives and work, has left a very special and inextinguishable impression onto me.

In between I spoke to several hard of hearing professionals and workers, such as an architect, an Ear Nose Throat specialist who wears a cochlear implant, a physiotherapist who also wears a CI, several scientists with severe hearing losses, a business manager, social worker and many other precious experiences..

For me they are precious role-models and they improve my passion and work to contribute to the expanding of opportunities, chances and talents in the field of hearing impairment and deafness. At the same time these people are impressive colleagues.

The enormous drive of participants and speakers: This is a worldwide group of people who stand up every day to improve knowledge and opportunities in all fields of work. Being able and allowed to share of all knowledge, ideas and skills was 'a better quality of life' all on its own!

Thanks to this congress and all introductions and meetings we have received, and got handed a lot of ideas and experiences. Too many to mention them all.

Some examples

- * Learn to use social media. After the tsunami in Japan twitter was one of the few ways to receive information.
- * I heard: With my CI I have courage to start new adventures, to travel, I am less tired, and I have much more self confidence.
- * Make sure you find which rights you have in your country, esp. with respect to (keeping) work and hearing loss.
- * Balance exercises make you stronger, you get less stress and it has a positive influence on communication.
- * Play or listen to music! Don't keep away because of your hearing loss! Find out how you can sing and play an instrument, or listen and feel.
- * In difficult situations make sure to use extra technical equipment other than just your hearing aids: hearing loops, solo devices and digital communication systems.
- * If we work together on rules for communication at work relating to hearing loss, communication will improve for everyone in the team.
- * Start your own company: you can set up your own agenda and create your own conditions for working less complicated.
- * Make sure that you sleep sufficiently.

I am curious which topics and experiences touched you as a participant most of all at this EFHOH, IFHOH congress in Bergen, Norway (Europe) 2012.

Will you please let me know? info@hooridee.nl

I am looking forward to all reactions.

Regards
Wendelina Timmermans

By Hannie Huigsloot.

First **European Congress** for **Speech to Text** reporting (ECOS)

In Ermelo, the Netherlands 22-26 august 2012

Up until recently deaf and hard of hearing people had to rely on sign interpreters. If you did not know sign language, you would need pencil and paper.

In the meantime the Veyboard was developed. Now interpreters have the opportunity to type the spoken words and conversation extremely fast onto a keyboard, called the Veyboard. This is connected to a laptop, so that the text can be read at a screen almost simultaneously, real time. A new job, of velotypist, was born.

Saturday 25 august an information day was held, for both interpreters and press and the general public. Ms Gea Duister, chair of the interpreters meeting, announced a world premier discovery. This contains in showing a technical equipment to provide a powerpoint presentation of subtitles and captions, which are typed very fast. This implies that deaf people can read the text at the same screen as the presentation, and you don't have to switch from one screen to the other. The interpreters and insiders are very satisfied.

The two inventors, Sander Pasveer and Wim Gerbecks are very proud. This invention shows immediately that the modern technics has developed the profession of interpreter into a strong acceleration. Gea Duister from Nijkerk, who has been an experienced velotypist for many years: "Many people are reminded of the morning tv news program which is subtitled, but that is a completely different trade.

There a different person than the news reader will read the same text with a mouth filter. A computer which can recognise the voice of this person, can generate subtitles by means of speech recognition.

We as interpreters usually assist an individual deaf or hard of hearing person. For instance in their home environment. They wish to visit a theatre, or the specialist. Sometimes the interpreter assists for understanding the speeches at a funeral and if the deaf person has no velotypist or interpreter, he will not be able to hear any part of the service.

Speech recognition is not the proper equipment in such a situation. If a velotypist will join the deaf person, this interpreter will sit in the back of the room and type all spoken text and conversation, and the deaf or hard of hearing person can read it at an iPad".

Annemieke Solleveld, an interpreter, says that it represents the complete profession of a velotypist. "Typing is just a skill that you need. One is mainly occupied to assist the deaf or hard of hearing person in daily life. This could be at school or job". She has a lifelong experience, but she decided a few years ago to change her job completely. "I met Gea Duister at a creative course, where also a deaf participant was doing this hobby. (working with lace patterns). She impressed me so much, that eventually I decided to follow the two year course for higher education. Now I work independently, just like all other interpreters. It is very exciting work, because you are not part of a conversation, but you are an interpreting station from the deaf person towards his conversation partner. It is a very special and especially rewarding job".

Interpreting is still unknown, Gea Duister remarks. "More than 30,000 deaf and hard of hearing people are entitled to 30 hours of interpreting support per year, called lifestyle hours. For work and education they are allowed more hours. In the Netherlands 80 interpreters are active. I am satisfied that people get more information about this profession, but in the same time a lack of experienced interpreters is developing".

Hotel De Heerlijkheid in Ermelo was a pleasant environment to give and receive a presentation about speech to text technics and interpreters. The audience are very much impressed by the typing achievements of the velotypists, some of whom made speed tests in the various languages.

Speech to text: people who deserve praise and techniques which are very efficient.



INTERNATIONAL **DISABILITY** ALLIANCE: TOWARDS A **STRONGER** DISABILITY MOVEMENT **WORLDWIDE**

New York, 10 September 2012; The International Disability Alliance (IDA) is the voice of 1 billion persons with disabilities in the world.

IFHOH is a member of IDA as International NGO's and IFHOH is also one of the twelve founders of IDA. Ruth Warick (IFHOH President) and Marcel Bobeldijk (EFHOH President/IFHOH board member) represent the Hard of Hearing movement at this IDA meeting in New York.

Also EDF is a member of IDA as the regional organization representing people with disabilities from Europe. The IDA governing body has met on the 8, 9 and 10 of September in New York, ahead the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD.

The meeting was chaired by Yannis Vardakastanis, EDF President, who is the chairperson of IDA for the next two years. Pekka Tuominen, EDF Executive Member and Javier Güemes, EDF Deputy Director, represented the European Disability Forum at this important meeting.

IDA is a unique network of organizations of persons with disabilities worldwide. It is the voice of persons with disabilities at global level towards the United Nations system, while also strengthening the international disability movement through capacity building initiatives.

IDA is composed of twelve organizations and it was established in 1999. Today it includes global and regional disabled people's organizations (DPOs). The aim of the alliance is to promote the effective and full imple-

mentation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) worldwide, through the active and coordinated involvement of DPOs at national, regional and international levels.

WHY WAS IT AN IMPORTANT MEETING FOR THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT?

People with disabilities are frequently an overlooked minority group. Thanks to its unique composition as a network of the foremost international disability rights organizations, IDA is the most authoritative representative voice of persons with disabilities worldwide. It is acknowledged as such by the United Nations system both in New York and Geneva.

The IDA Governing Body meeting is a crucial event in which global and regional organizations coordinate their international strategies and decide on the political priorities of persons with disabilities.

The Governing Body works towards a more unified voice in the human rights arena within the diversity of the movement. In the last meeting, IDA advanced in the definition of its future strategy, adopted positions towards important political initiatives and events in 2013 and found ways for a stronger and more coordinated voice.



Press conference of presentation of the **"International Organization on respeaking"** onA.I.R.

On Wednesday, 12 September 2012, the no-profit international organization on respeaking onA.I.R. organized a press conference in Palazzo Marini, one of the buildings of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. onA.I.R.'s main aim is to promote social, educational, cultural, and recreational activities by means of subtitling for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people through respeaking. For more info, please visit their website at www.respeakingonair.org

Many people attended the conference. Among them representatives of the political, associational, professional, technological, and academic world. MP Marco Beltrandi, who contributed to organizing the conference, and MEP Mario Mauro were scheduled to participate at the conference because of their great interest in disability questions and on subtitling for the Deaf and the Hard-of-Hearing in particular. They could not attend because of their parliamentary activities in Rome and in Strasbourg, respectively. In their addresses both politicians underlined the importance of onA.I.R. objectives in social and in evolutionary terms and encouraged and supported all onA.I.R.'s initiatives.

After a brief reminder on what respeaking is (namely a technique by which a professional respeaker listen to an orally produced text and simultaneously dictates a repetition, a summary or a translation of this same text to a speech-to-text software program which transcribes phonemes into graphemes which can be used as TV or conference real-time subtitles or as a rapidly produced text), onA.I.R. President Francesca Marchionne made an overview of the association which is composed of more than 50 members from all over Europe who are interested in respeaking as professionals (subtitlers, reporters, transcribers), developers (software houses, engineers), users (deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people, foreigners, students), and supporters (well-trained young unemployed people, friends, associations, companies).

Then, Ms. Tiziana Trapani, unemployed professional TV live editor, took the floor as vice-president of the association and talked about the different projects and ideas onA.I.R. is working on. Ph.D. Carlo Eugeni, teaching subtitling for the deaf and the Hard-of-Hearing at the Universities of Parma and Rome and HR manager at onA.I.R. went into more details about the OltreSuoni Project aimed at

developing the best practices for a revolutionary form of communication: subtitling web radios for Deaf, HoH and foreign people through distant respeaking. Mr. Francesco Cellini, a long-experienced court reporter talked about how some people from the reporting world are starting approaching respeaking, while many other continue fearing that respeaking as a technology will replace them, who are mainly stenotypists.

Mr. Giovanni Polidoro, expert in accessibility legislation, talked about legal aspects of TV subtitling for the deaf and the Hard-of-Hearing. Mr. Giacomo Pirelli, onA.I.R. director of communication with associations, presented a report on the accessibility needs Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people have and that respeaking can fulfill, namely subtitling university classes and other daily events.

Professor Franca Orletti, by Roma Tre University, talked about her experience as director of a university Master on multimedia writing for TV, Cinema, and the Web and of the importance onA.I.R. has in training master students in prerecorded and live subtitling. Then, onA.I.R. bestowed its honorary presidency to Mr. Giuliano Pirelli for having invented live subtitling through respeaking in the 1990s in the framework of the EC VOICE project he led. Mr. Giuliano Pirelli has then talked of the developments of his VOICE project and of the work he is continuing doing within the Association to guarantee that the VOICE project will survive him.

WELCOME TO THE NEXT EFHOH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PRAGUE

„The *Heart* of Europe“

CZECH REPUBLIC 2013 April 5th – 7th



We invite all EFHOH-members and delegates to Prague.

From November 2012 you can make a mailing list registration and programm at the website
www.snn-cr.cz



Interview with Kees Twilt

1. When did you get in contact with EFHOH for the first time?

The first time I got into contact with IFHOH was more than 30 years ago, when I was secretary of ICHOHYP, the young hard of hearing organization. The first international meeting I attended was in Switzerland. Since then I attended mostly all meetings and international congresses. I remember the start of EFHOH in Garderen, the Netherlands. I was in the team to organize this meeting.

2. Can you tell something about yourself and your work at local and national level in your country?

I am hard of hearing since birth. My older twin brother is not hard of hearing. I am now 60 years old and 'between jobs'! I am active in the Dutch hard of hearing club on different levels. The Hard of Hearing organization means a lot to me. There I meet most of my friends who support me to live in a hearing world. My important activity is organizing week-ends and meetings for hard of hearing where they can learn from each other and, of course, have a lot of fun!

3. When did you join the board of EFHOH and why? Who were in the board? What have you done within EFHOH?

I was never in the board of EFHOH. During the years I was active for the NVVS on international level, I remember 2 persons who were very important. Laurien de Winter. She was a very good representative for the Dutch Hard of

Hearing Organization and Dick Klein Bussink also from the Netherlands was very important to IFHOH and EFHOH. He was secretary of both organizations. He is over 80 now! I still want to support the board of EFHOH because the international work is very difficult and takes a lot of time. Therefore it is good to have modern ways of communication. In the years I was secretary of ICHOHYP I had to send all papers in envelopes with stamps! It takes a lot of time and it was very expensive! I think it is very important for the board of EFHOH to focus on the possibilities of internet.

4. What is your opinion about the role/tasks of EFHOH as a European NGO for HOH people?

EFHOH has the role to show the difference between hard of hearing and profoundly deaf. Both groups have a lot in common, but there are also a lot of differences! I think we should close cooperate with the organizations for deaf people! I think it is also important to explain that hard of hearing also means: hearing problems! We also have the task to explain that there are more hearing problems like Tinnitus, Meniere, Hyperacusis and Sudden Deafness. Maybe there are more special groups with hearing problems, which also need to be active on international level! Besides that we have to explain to the international community that we need special equipments like subtitling on television, special telephones and the possibility to call 112 in case of danger!

“ There are a lot of **important moments**! One of these moments was the **first** international congress in Hamburg in 1980. This congress was organized by Hannelore Hartmann from Germany. At that moment **IFHOH** got a **face**! Hannelore was the first secretary of IFHOH and one of the persons who was responsible for this congress. It was a **hell** of a job, but **they did it..** ”

5. Can you tell something about your experiences in EFHOH?

EFHOH is a hard working organization. The problem is that the national organizations do not have much contact with each other outside EFHOH. The Scandinavian organizations have their contacts. I think it will be good when, for example, the German, Dutch, Belgian and French hard of hearing organizations, also have a closer contact. This will be good to EFHOH because, the preparation to the Annual General Meetings will be better.

6. Can you tell something about the co-operation between EFHOH with IFHOH and IFHOHYP?

A good cooperation is always important! Together we are a big group of hard of hearing people and we can learn from each other! Cooperation with IFHOHYP is important because they are the future of IFHOH and EFHOH.

7. What was the most important subject/moment/topic in your period for you personally?

There are a lot of important moments! One of these moments was the first international congress in Hamburg in 1980. This congress was organized by Hannelore Hartmann from Germany. At that moment IFHOH got a face! Hannelore was the first secretary of IFHOH and one of the persons who was responsible for this congress. It was a hell of a job, but they did it and it was the beginning of a good tradition in IFHOH and EFHOH!

9. How do you see the future of EFHOH?

I really don't know! The most important is to find board members who are willing to do the job. The problem is that most of the board members are very active in their national organization and do not have much time left. On the other site, international work is very expensive and there is an economical crisis! That means we have to find sponsors to continue our important work! And that is also a hell of a job!

10. Congresses like Vancouver and the loop system conferences are very important. What do you think about their role in future?

As I said before the finances will be a big problem to all organizations in future! On the other side internet and Skype will be the future! I think that internet conferences will be the future. On the other hand we have to think about our handicap! I think, within 20 years it will not be a handicap anymore! Technical development still goes on. Now we have CI for deaf people, may be we have perfect CI for hard of hearing people in the near future. The problem is reduced to something like wearing glasses!

11. What are you going to do in your free time when you had left the IFHOH/EFHOH board?

I am still active for the hard of hearing and to me it is a kind of hobby! Of course I have other hobbies. I like to go on holiday to Senegal to meet African friends, I have my aviary in the garden, and last but not least, I have my big old house where I can meet friends.

12. Any other remarks

I also made lot of friends in EFHOH and IFHOH, and of course ICHOHYP/IFHOHYP. I was very happy to see a lot of them in Bergen, Norway last summer! It was a good congress, thanks!

Kees Twilt



**Center for Research and Education
of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CED)**

Address: 4 Nguyen Thi Huynh, Ward 8, Phu Nhuan District, HCMC

Tel: 84-8 6683 7494

Email: founder.ced@gmail.com

Website: www.trungtamkhiemthinh.org

Ho Chi Minh City, Feb 19th, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

People with hearing impairments are comprised about 2.5 million (or 3.2 percent of total population) in Vietnam. As they have got low educational attainment and cannot find jobs as easily as others, most of them are very poor. The most important reason of all is that many cannot access hearing aids which are considered “supportive ears” for the Hearing Impaired in their early intervention.

Established in 2011, the **Center for Research and Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CED)** has been considered the pioneer in serving the Hearing Impaired in Vietnam. Its mission is to promote the full integration of the Hearing Impaired into the society through education. Being aware that the inaccessibility of hearing aids much prevent children with hearing loss to maximize their potential abilities and possibility, CED has recently tried to create the Hearing Aids Fund. The Fund mainly aims at providing used hearing aids and early intervention to poor children with hearing loss. CED offered free 40 second hand hearing aids for 20 poor students in Hochiminh City and Dong Thap Province http://trungtamkhiemthinh.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=563:quy-may-tro-thinh-cho-tre-em-ngheo&catid=157:tang-may-tro-thinh&Itemid=771

CED would like to request individuals, companies and organizations to donate any new or used hearing aids or little financial support for the continuing operation and development of the Fund. CED do commit to use all kind supports on Hearing Aids Fund to help the Hearing Impaired better study and communicate with others for their more confidence and social integration.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact CED at email dphanh@trungtamkhiemthinh.org

Warmest regards,
Duong Phuong Hanh
CED Director

EFHOH MEETINGS 2012 & 2013:

2012	2012	2012	2012
1 October	Warsaw/Poland	International Congress on Inclusion of People with hearing loss	Lidia
19 & 20 October	Stockholm / Sweden	IFHOH board meeting	Marcel
2 and 3 November	Prague / CZ Republic	EFHOH board meeting	All the board members
15 November	Brussels / Belgium	European Platform for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Seminar	Lidia, Jan and Marcel
21 November	Brussels / Belgium	Digital EU Commission event	Lidia and Marcel
3-5 December	Brussels / Belgium	European Disability Day	Jan
2013	2013	2013	2013
2 February	Stockholm / Sweden	EFHOH board meeting	All the board members
5-7 April	Prague	Board meeting and AGM	All the board members
May	?	EDF AGM	One of the board members
June	Dubrovnik/ Croatia	5e Media for all Conference	One of the board members
5-7 October	UK	3e International Loops Conference	All the board members
3-5 December	Brussels / Belgium	European Disability Day	One of the board members

Version: 03 October 2012

EDF NEWS

RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

12 September 2012 /// The fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP5) is taking place from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the UN Headquarters gathering the attention of the disability movement worldwide. Yannis Vardakastanis, President of EDF, has participated at the opening as Chair of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). During the Conference, 9 of the 18 positions in the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have been renewed through an election.

At the opening of the Conference, Yannis Vardakastanis, as Chair of IDA, has enumerated the future challenges on the implementation of the UNCRPD. They were summarized in four points: The UN should lead by example the implementation of the UNCRPD, the need to involve the organizations of persons with disabilities, the requirement to provide even more time to the CRPD committee, the necessity to ensure that the Convention is a driving force for the post Millennium Development Goals and for the High Level Meeting on Development and Disability.

WHO ARE THE ELECTED EUROPEAN MEMBERS?

EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, congratulates Ms. Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain) for her re-election as member in the CRPD Committee, as well as Ms. Diane Mulligan (UK) and Mr. László Gábor Lovász (Hungary) for being elected for the first time as members of the CRPD Committee: "With their deep understanding of the UN Convention and their commitment to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, the European Disability Forum knows that they will actively contribute to the work of the CRPD Committee".

The new members are not the only European members of the CRPD Committee. They are going to work together with Ms. Theresia Degener (Germany) and Mr. Stig Langvad (Denmark), already elected until 2014.

IS THE CRPD COMMITTEE USEFUL?

The CRPD Committee plays a significant role as a monitoring tool of the implementation of the CRPD. It is composed of 18 independent experts, who monitor implementation of the Convention by the States Parties. All States parties have to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights of persons with disabilities are being implemented in their country.

States must report initially within two years after ratifying the Convention and then every four years. The Committee examines each report and makes suggestions and general recommendations on the report as it may consider appropriate and forwards these to the State Party concerned. Even though the recommendations are not legally binding, it is a convenient tool for the disability movement to monitor the concrete improvements of its country or regional organization.

EDF advocates, together with the International Disability Alliance, for allowing more time to the CRPD Committee every year in order to ensure that it can fulfill its function. So far the CRPD Committee is accumulating a delay in the examination of reports due to lack of enough time annually.

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE: EXAMINATION OF HUNGARY'S REPORT

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities convenes twice a year for sessions of one week, normally in spring and autumn at the UN Office in Geneva. As said, there is already much delay in the examination of the reports, even if the sessions are from now on held for two weeks. Its next meeting will take place on 17-28 September 2012. During this meeting, the Committee is going to examine the report of Hungary. Hungary is the second EU country being examined by the Committee after Spain.

The Committee's recommendations on the report of Hungary will be a useful tool not only for the Hungarian organisations of persons with disabilities, but for the whole disability movement in Europe, in order to stress Member States towards the implementation of the CRPD.

3rd International Loops Conference

Hearing Link is delighted to announce that the 3rd International Loop Conference will be held in Eastbourne in the autumn of 2013.

A rapidly growing town on England's south east coast, Eastbourne is the home of Hearing Link's Headquarters. Already well-supported with hearing loops giving good access for people living with hearing loss, Eastbourne's Let's Loop Group is working with local businesses, disability groups and the local authority to increase loop provision in the town to ensure a warm welcome for delegates to the Conference.

Loops are relatively inexpensive and simple to install and yet they can make a vast amount of difference to someone using a hearing aid – which makes the International Loop Conference such an important event in the world of hearing loss and Hearing Link proud to have been selected to host the 2013 event. See you there!



connecting
people

Hearing
Link

3rd International Hearing Loop Conference

To be held in Eastbourne in the south east of England on
6th & 7th October 2013. Hosted by Hearing Link, the UK
hearing loss organisation. An event for everyone interested in
Loop Systems & related technology.

Attend Sponsor Exhibit Speak

FIND OUT MORE: loopconference@hearinglink.org

Join Us
October
2013

Eastbourne: a beautiful English coastal town
easily accessible by road, rail & air



Hearing Link

27-28 The Waterfront, Eastbourne
East Sussex BN23 5UZ
Tel/Text: 0300 111 1113
Fax: 01323 471260
SMS: 07526 123255
loopconference@hearinglink.org

Royal Patron

HRH The Princess Royal

Reg Charity No: 264 809
Scotland Charity No: SCO37688

www.hearinglink.org

EFHOH - European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People consists of National Associations of/for Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened People, Parents' Organisations and Professional Organisations.

EFHOH comprises the European members of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) and was established in 1993. It has its own board and secretariat. The federation has non-profitable and benevolent aims and it is a non-political and non-sectarian organisation. EFHOH is a general member of the European Disability Forum (EDF). We also work in good co-operation with IFHOH and our official language is English.

The Board members of the EFHOH carry out their work on an honorary basis.