



IFHOHYP Annual Report

June 2016 – September 2017

Prepared by the IFHOHYP Board

**IFHOHYP Annual Report
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Introduction

The IFHOHYP Annual Report describes the activities carried out and goals achieved in the period of June 2016 – September 2017.

This report will be presented at the AGM 2017, the 29th of October 2017.

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(1) Advocacy and representation in the interest of young hard of hearing people

YEAR 2016:

Conference of State Parties to UN CRPD, June 14-16. New York, USA

James Aniyamuzaala, President of Uganda Federation of Hard of Hearing, represented IFHOHYP as an observer, to participate in the side events.

IFHOH CRPD Human Rights Workshop, June 21st. Washington, D.C., USA

Bowen Tang, former IFHOHYP Secretary and current Vice-President, attended a training course on UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities, organized by IFHOH. The aim of the program was to provide the participants with sufficient knowledge and skills to be able to deliver CRPD/human rights training to the hard of hearing sector in their countries. Bowen, along with Victor Rehn, then delivered a session at the summer camp in Denmark 2 months later.

IFHOH Board Meeting & Biennial General Meeting, June 21-22nd. Washington, D.C., USA

Bowen Tang, attended the two meetings as an IFHOHYP delegate. Topics discussed are:

- continual cooperation on the UN CRPD, moving towards stage 2 where further training would be given and a potential human rights advocate conference in the near future,
- confirming IFHOHYP's role to support IFHOH member countries whom do not have a separate youth group, particular in Asia region, and
- the possibility of IFHOHYP as a liaison for youth-oriented activities/workshops at the next IFHOH Congress.

At the BGM the Washington Declaration was presented which emphasized the need for deaf and hard of hearing people to have access to available and affordable hearing aids. It also asked that the proven technology of the Telecoil must be included and activated in hearing aids and cochlear implant processors.

Joint Board Meeting with IFHOH, EFHOH, APFHD, June 22nd. Washington, D.C., USA

A second joint meeting took place to follow up on the items from previous meeting, covering topics on captioning, hearing aid policies/practices and World Hearing Day. Victor Rehn and Bowen Tang were in attendance.

EFHOH Board Meeting, October 14th-15th. Helsinki, Finland

Victor, as IFHOHYP President, attended the meeting to continue discussions about cooperation with EFHOH.

ENIL Study Session “All in – creating inclusive and empowering spaces for all”, November 13th-20th. Strasbourg, France

Pavel Novikov, an active IFHOHYP committee member, represented IFHOHYP at this study session organized by European Network for Independent Living, with the purpose to look at creating inclusive child and youth organizations, focusing on disability rights and children's rights. Please click [here](#) for Pavel's report.

(2) Non-formal learning and activity programs targeted at young people

IFHOHYP Summer Camp, August 7th to 13th 2016. Castbergaard, Denmark.

For the first time since 2010 we were able to offer a summer camp thanks to Høreforeningen and Castbergaard for being the hosts. It was a whirlwind week with many activities taking place such as the UNCRPD Human Rights workshops, team building challenges, technology stations, music workshops, and of course a day trip to Copenhagen. Read how this camp was a [life-changing experience](#) for one of the participants.

11th Study Session: “Building a Socially Inclusive World through Personal Empowerment”, March 2017. Budapest, Hungary.

As always the study session was an intensive week in which 30 participants engaged in activities that aim to explore social inclusion/exclusion (thru theatre of oppression), develop a foundational understanding of UN CRPD, build confidence and self-esteem. A design thinking model was used to brainstorm ideas for social inclusive practices. Two main outcomes of the session were IFHOHYP Talks, similar to TedTalks and #Hear2Stay Campaign. Details about these can be found in the latest newsletter issue [here](#).

HLFU International Summer Camp, June 2017. Kristiansand, Norway.

From 21st to 25th June, The Norwegian Youth Association of The Hard of Hearing (HLFU) hosted the International Summer Camp outside Kristiansand in Norway. It became a camp filled with rich days, new friendships, good food and beautiful surroundings. Participants came from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Turkey. Highlights of the week included visiting chimpanzees Julius and Captain Sabeltann at the zoo, evenings filled with fishing, boat trip, film, volleyball, and delicious Norwegian stew with flatbread and lastly an exciting and challenging day in the climbing park. By the end of camp, participants overcame communication barriers and became familiar with each other.

IFHOHYP Committee Reports

There are currently 4 active committees, which comprised of 4-5 members and a liaison from the Board. Meetings generally were held monthly via Skype.

Member & Information Committee

Over the past year this committee has broken new grounds in engaging with our members via social media, conducting weekly Facebook polls, and most notably redesigning the IFHOHYP logo. Various designers were asked to give a draft, which feedback from members enabled them to make revisions. The committee has also started work on revamping the website to make it accessible and user-friendly.

Members:

1. Irina Ivanova (Russia)
2. Manuel Rohrbach (Switzerland)
3. Ece Saygi (Turkey)
4. Ediz Tekok (Turkey)

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Nomination Committee

Member: Paulina Lewandowska (Poland)

This committee sought out potential candidates to fill in the positions up for election at this AGM. A total of 4 applications were received by the deadline of September 15th.

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| 1. Jenna Junttila (Finland)
(for position of Secretary) | 3. Karina Øbro (Denmark)
(for position of Board Member) |
| 2. Hanna Mullis (Sweden)
(for position of Treasurer) | 4. Manuel Rohrbach (Switzerland)
(for position of Board Member) |

Study Session Committee

Shortly after the end of the study session a call was sent out for the next preparatory team. 6 new people expressed interest and under the guidance of previous preparatory team members, these candidates put together a comprehensive application which is submitted to the Council of Europe on October 1st.

Consultants: Camilla Mattjus (Finland) & Bowen Tang (Canada)

Members:

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Paulina Lewandowska (Poland) | 4. Karina Øbro (Denmark) |
| 2. Hanna Mullis (Sweden) | 5. Ece Saygi (Turkey) |
| 3. Pavel Novikov (Russia) | 6. Ediz Tekok (Turkey) |

Summer Camp Committee

Upon the announcement at 2016 AGM that Sh-Jong will host the 2018 International Summer Camp, a committee has been formed over this summer in which they have selected a venue, setting a theme and preliminary programme, and pursuing national/international funds. A promo was launched on September 1st, officially announcing the dates of camp to be from July 30th – August 5th 2018.

Co-Directors: Mikael de Vries & Sara Kwekkeboom (also liaison to IFHOHYP Board)

Sh-Jong Team: Stan van Kesteren, Budi Loonen, Ellen Revenberg, Maartje Schuttle, Brian Smit, Marie-Laure de Ven, Gaby Vos, Jessica de Waard

(3) Dissemination of information

Newsletter

The newsletter is one of the main communication platform used to promote IFHOHYP activities and report on achieved results, as well as an active forum for participants – volunteers and members of IFHOHYP – to share information. Two newsletters have been published in the past year: Fall 2016 and Summer 2017. The next issue will be available in Winter 2017.

Social Media

As of September 2017, there are 1880 likes on the Facebook page. A weekly poll has garnered an increase in user interactions, setting up a platform for discussions about various topics:

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communication strategies, feedback on IFHOHYP activities, etc. For Twitter, we have 249 followers.

(4) Statutory activities

IFHOH Congress & IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting 2016, June 23rd to 26th 2016, Washington D.C., USA.

Thanks to an agreement signed by IFHOHYP, IFHOH and Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) in 2012, for the first time we were able to host an AGM outside of Europe. Over 30 international young people came to the US capitol, Washington D.C. to participate in the festivities.

The days of June 23rd to 25th were composed of many workshops covering diverse topics, such as Advocacy Issues, Assistive & Other Technology, Large Area Listening: Now and In the Future, Employment, Hearing Aids & Cochlear Implants, and Dating & Relationships. Bowen Tang, IFHOHYP Secretary at the time, delivered a session on “*Building Leaders of Tomorrow*”. The evenings were filled with exciting activities catered for young attendees: a dinner theatre experience where we had to solve a murder mystery, a nighttime tour of the monuments, and finally an extravagant banquet.

On June 26th the Annual General Meeting took place throughout the day, including presentations of reports in 2015-2016, budget and work programme for 2017; and elections of Board officers (president, vice-president, secretary, general board member). It was also on this date that we welcomed our newest member, HLAA.

We would like to acknowledge the support from HLAA and its core planning committee for the provision of venue and captioning services.

IFHOHYP Board Meetings

Most of the board meetings are – due to financial cost and human resources – arranged as chat-meetings on Skype. Through these meetings the board ensured stable operations of the organization including, but are not limited to: finalizing transfer of banks, reviewing the Constitution and finances, delegating tasks to committees, preparing for study session, summer camp, representations at various forums and AGM of IFHOHYP. In between meetings the board communicated regularly via emails and Facebook chats. A total of 9 meetings took place between July 2016 and September 2017.

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. July 24 th 2016 | 7. July 16 th 2017 |
| 2. September 11 th 2016 | 8. August 20 th 2017 |
| 3. October 16 th 2016 | 9. September 10 th 2017 |
| 4. November 27 th 2016 | |
| 5. March 8 th 2017* | |
| 6. June 10 th 2017 | |

*An in-person meeting was arranged on this date in Budapest, Hungary with the President, Vice-President, and General Board Member in attendance.

(5) Organizational and financial work

The Board had been working towards establishing a more stable financial structure for IFHOHYP and optimizing its financial operations. It has been proved counterproductive to hold a bank account with Nordea, because of the strict rules regarding access to bank account (only a Dane citizen is authorized). Thus, steps have been taken towards switching to another bank where the President and Treasurer, regardless of nationality, can make transactions so long as proper documentations are provided. This will hopefully smooth the financial operations in the future.

A focus has been put to carrying out our headliner activities, the study session and summer camp, which we had both in the same year! This was successfully planned and organized with the invaluable help of our dedicated committee members and member organizations. We are thankful for their support. It has continue to be a struggle in applying for operational grants due to the exhaustive criteria (e.g., requiring signatures from 3-4 countries, restrictive use of money – does not cover travel, etc). We have found that it is more effective to collaborate with a host organization in pursuing national funds or European Youth Foundation. We have also attempted to find someone with experience in grant proposal so that we can utilize their professional knowledge to increase our chances of success.

Lastly, we have worked in revising the Constitution and Committee Working Formats so that there are clear guidelines for future board and committee members to follow. We are pleased to see an increase in interest from our members to be on committees, most notably Member & Info and Study Session Committees. They have done a phenomenal job in coming up with ideas to revitalize engagement with members.

Our goals for the future include supporting member organizations to implement Hear2Stay campaign plan, work with Sh-Jong in organizing the next year's summer camp, finalize the new logo and launch a revamped website that is more relevant for membership. All of these together will be significant given that IFHOHYP will be entering its 50th year in 2018.

ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organizations 2017

As of September 2017, IFHOHYP has 17 member organizations

Academy of Sports and Education for Deaf of Tunisia	Tunisia
Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association (BDHOH)	Bangladesh
Bundesjugend im DSB e.V. (BJ)	Germany
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)	Canada
Česká Unie Neslyšících (CUN)	Czech Republic
FADCY	Russia
Høreforeningen (HF)	Denmark
Hørselshemmedes Landsforbunds Ungdom (HLFU)	Norway
İsitme Engelliler ve Aileleri Dernegi (IED)	Turkey
Jugehörig (JH)	Switzerland
Kuuloliitto Ry	Finland
SHRUTI	Nepal
SH-Jong	The Netherlands
Surdus Loquens	Poland
Svenska Hörsselförbundet R.F.	Finland
Uganda Federation for Hard of Hearing (UFHOH)	Uganda
Unga Hörselskadade (UH)	Sweden

ANNEX II: Others

President: Victor Rehn, Finland (elected 2016, until 2018)

Vice-President: Bowen Tang, Canada (elected 2016, until 2018)

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Daria Panicheva, Russia (elected 2015, end-of-term)

Board Member: Glenn Storsletten, Norway (elected 2016, end-of-term)

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