



IFHOHYP

International Federation of
Hard of Hearing Young People

IFHOHYP Annual Report

October 2018 – September 2019

Prepared by the IFHOHYP Board

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Introduction

The IFHOHYP Annual Report describes the activities carried out and goals achieved in the period of October 2018 – September 2019.

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

European Parliament Lunch Debate

Have your say in what the EP should do for youth

March 6th & 7th. Brussels, Belgium

Cathy Geurts, Board Member, attended the lunch debate and a discussion forum on youth engagement in European Youth Parliament. Read her reflection on the blog:

<http://ifhohyp.org/blog/short-adventure-in-brussels/>



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Asia-Pacific Tour, March 16th to 29th. Tokyo, Japan; Manila, Philippines; Hong Kong SAR.



As part of the long-term goal to expand IFHOHYP's presence in Asia, Bowen Tang, President, embarked on a visit to the three cities where he met up with the local hard of hearing organizations. In Tokyo, there was an informal dinner gathering at an Izakaya ran by a Deaf chef. Information about IFHOHYP was shared though there were little interest to be involved.

Manila was undoubtedly the highlight of the trip, with such wonderful hospitality offered by the Hard of Hearing Group Philippines (HOHGP). A forum was held in celebration of World Hearing Day: "*Capacity Building for Hard of Hearing Persons*". Bowen gave several presentations: "My Life as a HOH", "What is IFHOHYP", and "Community: The Structure of Belonging". At end of the event, April Rose Escaro, HOHGP President, and Bowen signed the Manila Declaration which solidifies the collaboration between IFHOHYP and HOHGP to increase capacity-building for hard of hearing young people in the Asia region.



Hong Kong was the last stop where Bowen reunited with participants who attended SummerCamp 2018 in the Netherlands. He also spoke with the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Society of the Deaf. Discussions took place about creating a youth committee within their organization with the task of liaising with IFHOHYP to provide resources

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on capacity building for their youth members. They expressed interest in hosting an international event at some point in the future!

EFHOH AGM & Conference, April 5th to 7th. Zagreb, Croatia

Cathy Geurts, Board member, participated in workshops which offered a perspective on the history of social services available in Croatia and the challenges in adopting the European Accessibility Act. There was a lecture about European Disability Forum, whose work is to ensure people with disabilities have a voice at the government level: “nothing about us without us”. Discussions took place about how to make the European Parliament elections accessible for DHH people. Currently only 5% of website and apps are accessible. Mental health was an important topic, where research showed that it yields positive psychosocial benefit to be proud of wearing hearing assistive technology and to have access to sign language. Cathy gave an update on IFHOHYP at the Annual General Meeting.



Press Releases

Two statements were published:

- 1) In recognition of International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 2) In response to the Youth Sector Crisis where the European Council proposed to cut majority of funding

We would like to specifically acknowledge Leonie von Berlin and Kave Noori who swiftly mobilized the membership to spread the word about the crisis, created a concrete plan of action and collaborated with the Board to publish the official statement.

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

IFHOHYP 12th Study Session, “Keeping the World Accessible & Inclusive through a Policy-making Perspective”, March 11th to 16th 2019. Strasbourg, France.

The overall aim of the 2019 IFHOHYP study session was to develop effective advocacy skills for our rights as hard of hearing young people through the use and production of policy and media tools. The building of advocacy competencies was incorporated in study session through:

- Building self-confidence, public speaking, argumentation skills and utilising trust-building skills towards finding allies to help defend their rights

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- Exploring human rights and Human Rights Education
- Building knowledge about UN CRPD and applying its mechanisms
- Developing media literacy and critical thinking skills, social media advocacy skills
- Developing policy and media tools/strategies to advocate for HOH rights and accessibility needs in order to be fully included in the society



The study session was attended by 36 hard of hearing participants from 17 countries, including Israel, Canada and Uganda. A report will be published online once it is approved by the Council of Europe. We are also working on compiling media products that were created as a result of the study session.

We would acknowledge the preparatory team who put it all together (from left to right): Ece Saygi, Pavel Novikov, Hanna Mullis, Paulina Lewandowska, Ediz Tekok



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Committee Reports

There are currently 5 committees, which are usually comprised of 4-5 members and a liaison from the Board. We welcome member suggestions on forming new committees to continue the necessary work such as advocacy, fundraising, policies and procedures, etc.

Hear2Stay

Members: Juliana Akinyi (Germany), Irina Ivanova (Russia), Raviv Marcus (Israel), Daria Panicheva (Russia), Maartje Schutte (Netherlands)
Board Liaison: Cathy Geurts/Bowen Tang

Hear2Stay has gain some traction in the past several months as we started interviewing hard of hearing people in a format similar to Humans of New York (instead it is Humans of HOH). We are publishing posts on Facebook more regularly. There is a lot more we can do to maintain the momentum, such as setting up blog series on the website. If you would like to share your story with us or join the committee, please email us at info@ifhohyp.org.

Member & Communication

Due to unforeseen circumstances this committee has been inactive for the 2018-19 year.

Nomination

Members: Paulina Lewandowska (Poland), Moses Serwadda (Uganda)
Board Liaison: Jenna Juntilla

The committee sort out potential candidates to fill in the positions up for elections at this AGM: Secretary, Treasurer, Board Member (2 positions), Vice Board Member. As a strategy to include member organizations in the election process, all candidates must be nominated by their local organizations to stand for election. We are glad to report that there is an increase in diversity of candidates with 6 applications received.

Study Session

There are currently no members after the 12th study session concluded in March. A call has been sent out for the next preparatory team to complete an application due on April 1st, 2020. If you are interested, please contact us at info@ifhohyp.org.

Summer Camp 2020

Members: CHHA Young Adults Network Board of Directors, Nicole Leung, Tara Mitrovic
Board Liaison: Bowen Tang

A “Save the Date” was sent out: August 9th to 15th 2020, to be held at Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta. The committee is hard at work to fundraise and plan the programme which will include learning about the Indigenous culture, exploring the Rockies and empowerment activities led by inspiring hard of hearing Canadians.

(3) Dissemination of information

Social Media

As of September 2019, there are 2250+ likes and 2400+ followers on the Facebook page. For Twitter, we have 350 followers and for Instagram, 180 followers. With these platforms we posted current information and events, as a way to engage our members.

(4) Statutory activities



IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting, October 31st to November 4th, 2018 Istanbul, Turkey.

Isitme Engelliler ve Aileleri Dernegi (IED) hosted the “Combine Our Powers to Build a Stronger Bridge” and IFHOHYP AGM. This is a historic milestone as the location serves as a symbol for IFHOHYP to begin expanding its scope beyond Europe and into other regions starting with Asia. The programme included a historical tour of Istanbul, sessions on the UN CRPD, discussions about active membership engagement.

We would like to acknowledge the core planning committee for such a phenomenal event. The next AGM will be held on October 12th, 2019 in Zurich, Switzerland, hosted by Jugehörig.

IFHOHYP Board Meetings

Most of the board meetings are – due to financial cost and human resources – arranged as chat-meetings on Slack. A total of 9 meetings took place between October 2018 and September 2019.

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. November 18 th 2018 | 6. May 20 th 2019 |
| 2. December 16 th 2019 | 7. July 7 th 2019 |
| 3. January 13 th 2019 | 8. August 18 th 2019 |
| 4. February 10 th 2019 | 9. September 15 th 2019 |
| 5. March 31 st 2019 | |

(5) Organizational and financial work

Membership

Through the activities and representations that took place in 2019, IFHOHYP has made positive strides in raising its profile, resulting in 4 new member organizations joining our community: Aures Foundation (Georgia), Happy Faces Association (Turkey), Hard of Hearing Group Philippines, and Voice of Silence (Armenia). After several years in hiatus, Bekol (Israel) and Uganda Federation of Hard of Hearing are once again active. All of these organizations are eager to advance the work in accessibility and inclusion for HOH young people worldwide.

As a result of the accepted motion regarding individual membership at the AGM in 2018, we have created a new template for registration of individual members. The new possibility of becoming an individual member opens the doors of IFHOHYP to welcome even more hard of young hearing people around the world. This is an important step to empower individuals without an organization also can get access to information about rights and advocacy, connect with peers who can relate to the lives and needs of hard of hearing people. We have been contacted by individuals in Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, and Lebanon. Work is in progress to finalize membership fees for individuals.

Funding Attempts

Bowen Tang, President, continues to work closely with Ruth Warick, IFHOH President, in submitting a joint proposal to hire staff whom will provide administrative support and fund development for all the four organizations: IFHOHYP, IFHOH, EFHOH & APFHD. Unfortunately, the application was declined by Cochlear Foundation. A joint meeting is scheduled to discuss the next steps.

The Board applied to European Youth Foundation on April 1st, 2019. Unfortunately, it was rejected on the grounds that there was lack of connection between two proposed activities and insufficient information such as unclear aims and objectives. This highlights the vital importance for a joint effort between member organizations to submit a funding application which will benefit all.

Search for the Bank continues

The failure to secure a new bank remains a thorn that is felt by all. Our hope in opening an international account in Switzerland made no headway. Talks are in place about the possibility of transferring IFHOHYP assets to IFHOH account, which will be co-managed by IFHOHYP and IFHOH Treasurers. EFHOH has suggested to transfer the bank in the Netherlands.

Looking Ahead

Based on the feedback received from membership, we aim to improve the transparency of Board activities through our communication platforms, provide frequent opportunities for member engagement, and continue to recruit motivated individuals to lead committees. These will all be put into the new strategic plan for the next 5 years: 2020-2024. This means we need every single person's input on the direction IFHOHYP should go. Only through open collaboration and clear communication can we continue to make positive changes. We look forward to seeing what lies in store in 2020.

ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organizations 2019

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|---|-----------------|
| Academy of Sports and Education for Deaf of Tunisia | Tunisia |
| Aures Foundation | Georgia |
| Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association (BDHOH) | Bangladesh |
| Bekol | Israel |
| Bundesjugend im DSB e.V. (BJ) | Germany |
| Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) | Canada |
| Česká Unie Neslyšících (CUN) | Czech Republic |
| FADCY | Russia |
| Happy Faces Association | Turkey |
| Hard of Hearing Group Philippines | Philippines |
| Høreforeningen (HF) | Denmark |
| Hørselshemmedes Landsforbunds Ungdom (HLFU) | Norway |
| İstme Engelliler ve Aileleri Dernegi (IED) | Turkey |
| Jugehörig (JH) | Switzerland |
| Kuuloliitto Ry | Finland |
| SHRUTI | Nepal |
| SH-Jong | The Netherlands |
| SUITA | Poland |
| Svenska Hörselförbundet R.F. | Finland |
| Uganda Federation for Hard of Hearing (UFHOH) | Uganda |
| Unga Hörselskadade (UH) | Sweden |
| Voices of Silence | Armenia |

ANNEX II: IFHOHYP Board of Directors 2018-19

President: Bowen Tang, Canada (elected 2018, until 2020)

Vice-President: Manuel Rohrbach, Switzerland (elected 2018, until 2020)

Treasurer: Hanna Mullis, Sweden (elected 2017, end of term)

Secretary: Jenna Juntilla, Finland (elected 2017, end of term)

Board Member: Cathy Geurts, Netherlands (elected 2017, end of term)

Board Member: Karina Øbro, Denmark (elected 2017, end of term)

Vice Board Member: Glenn Storsletten (elected 2017, end of term)

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