



---

# IFHOHYP NEWSLETTER

---

MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HARD OF HEARING YOUNG PEOPLE

SPRING 2011



### Newsletter Team

#### **Editor**

Noora Penttinen  
noora.penttinen@gmail.com

#### **Layout**

Carlos Muncharaz

#### **Reporters**

Maggie Plattner  
Andrea Pietrini  
Akram Muhammad  
Juraj Variny

#### **Proofreading**

James Ferguson

### IFHOHYP Board

#### **President**

Karina Chupina  
karina.ifhohyp@googlemail.com

#### **Vice President**

Laura Scholler  
laura.ifhohyp@gmx.de

#### **Treasurer**

Miia Merikivi  
miia.merikivi@gmail.com

#### **Board Member**

James Aniyamuzaala  
janiyamuzaala@yahoo.com

**www.ifhohyp.org**

### **Index of contents**

**page 03** Editorial

**page 04** News in Brief

**page 05** The Map of Inclusive Examples – a report from  
Germany

**page 06** World Flight for Hearing and a Support Project on  
Capacity Development for Hard of Hearing Young Persons in  
the South of Vietnam

**page 07** “Feel the Spirit” at the Buju Summercamp 2010!

■ There will be four IFHOHYP **Newsletters in the year 2011**. The Newsletters will be published in March, June, September and December.

■ Next **deadlines** for the submission of articles for 2011 Newsletters: 6th of June / 5th of September / 5th of December.

■ If you wish to **submit an article** for the IFHOHYP Newsletter, please send it in .rtf or .txt form to the Editor by the deadlines indicated above. Please do not exceed 800 words. Pictures should be sent in .jpg form along with captions. Remember to indicate the name of the photographer.

■ If you wish to **subscribe or unsubscribe** the IFHOHYP Newsletter, send an email with the heading SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE IFHOHYP Newsletter to ifhohyp.mail-ing@gmail.com from the email address you wish to receive the Newsletter to.

■ Any **comments, requests or feedback** on the contents of the Newsletter can be sent by email to the Editor.

## Editorial



Balancing work, studies and a social life along with enough time for rest is tricky for us hard of hearing young people. The common perception is that when you are young you are supposed to have fun, right? But it may all be just too

much after a long day of trying to understand what the world around you is saying.

As a current trainee at the intern heaven we call Brussels, I have had to notice that I am not cut out for all that partying, smooching and networking the other trainees are up for. As an example, it is really hard to network when you do not catch the other person's name or place of work from the conversation. Potential future employers can go unnoticed in the midst of a cacophony of languages and nationalities.

Currently my working week consists of an 8 hour workdays followed by dinner, a couple of hours on my laptop and sleep. Most nights I am way too tired to socialize with the people living at my dorm not to mention going out with my trainee colleagues. Cultural activities or exercise are not high on my priorities either.

It is hard to have the time and energy for everything when you are hard of hearing. How are you supposed to get to know people if you are always the boring one who goes straight home from work without a detour to the nearest pub? Or when at the pub being the one sitting quietly in one corner unable to follow the conversation.

Prioritisation is needed. Personally I keep at least one day of the weekend free for just relaxing, and go out only once a week instead of the standard that seems to be every other night. Even if I do feel like I am missing out on something, it is not worth the lack of sleep, crankiness and frustration. I do know that I hear better when I am well rested.

Being hard of hearing in Brussels does come in handy, too. This week I have the opportunity to attend an NGO consultation on the new EU Disability Strategy. And last weekend my lipreading skills were appreciated when playing charades at a barbecue with trainee colleagues.

---

**The Editor of the IFHOHYP Newsletter**  
**Noora Penttinen**

\* Noora is doing a traineeship at the Committee of the Regions of the EU in Brussels.

## News in Brief

## IFHOHYP got a new Facebook Page



In January 2011 IFHOHYP launched a new official page on Facebook. In the beginning of March the page already has more than 100 likes. The Facebook page is maintained by the communications

committee and by the board. Feel free to join us on Facebook at:

► <http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Federation-of-Hard-of-Hearing-Young-People-IFHOHYP/158408074211263>

## 2011 is the EU-China Year of the Youth



2011 was designated as the EU-China Year of Youth with a view to "further promoting and deepening partnership between Europe and China", at the 12th EU-China Summit, held in Nanjing on 30 November 2009. A joint action plan for

the Year of Youth was signed on 6 October 2010 by Commissioner Vassiliou and the Vice President of the All China Youth Federation. The main objectives of the EU-China Year of the Youth are:

- promote intercultural dialogue and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between European and Chinese youth,
- encourage young people to care about and support the development of EU-China relations,
- achieve extensive and positive impact and help ensure that cooperation between policy makers as well as between youth organizations is sustainable beyond 2011.

Find out how you can participate at:

► <http://www.2011euchinayouth.eu/>

## Youth, disability and employment: the last hired and first fired (News from the EDF)



The European Disability Forum brings out some facts and figures about youth, disability and employment. They report that 75% of people with severe disabilities do not have the opportunity to fully participate in the European labour market.

In the report it's reminded that having a job is one of the most important aspects of social inclusion and concrete proposals are made:

- Promotion of equal opportunities for all shall be encouraged by the European Commission.
- Measures to ensure better qualifications and the acquisition of further skills and abilities to do a job or maintain it should be undertaken.
- Accessibility needs should be taken into account to ben-

efit from the freedom of movement.

- Employment Services should cater for disabled jobseekers and be fully accessible for them,
- The EU must guarantee that European regulations affecting the interests of people with disabilities do ensure that they participate in the labour market.
- Principles of the UN convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities must be followed.
- Closer partnership of decision-makers with organizations of disabled people is needed in order to design more effective policies.

### More information:

► [http://www.edf-feph.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=26623](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=26623)

# The Map of Inclusive Examples – a report from Germany

By Laura Scholler

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability has come in force in Germany since March 2009. It gets clear that self-determined participation is a human right, not an act of mercy or care. But what does inclusion mean and how can we accomplish it?

Inclusion in terms of the Convention means, that self-determined participation in all areas of community from the very beginning is possible for all people. People with and without disabilities play, learn, live and work - in short: they live together. Disabled people do not live in special institutions, they participate in all activities and offers that are open to non-disabled people. In order to ensure such cooperation as a matter of course, the community establishes the necessary requirements - with the help of different forms of support in different areas of life. Not the disabled person is adapting herself, but the community makes sure that their offers are accessible to everybody. Since this is a (social) process in which especially at the beginning existing structures have to be changed step by step in terms of the Convention, examples which are not a complete change at first, but which cause a partial change (= inclusion as a process), are considered as inclusive as well.

Since 3rd December 2010, the International Day of People with Disabilities, the “map of inclusive examples” of the coordinating body for implementing the UN Disability Convention in Germany is released. The map will show how including examples at various facilities can look like. It will show how interaction of people with and without disabilities is possible and where barriers have been overcome. Inclusive examples can be everywhere: Common day-care centers, schools and universities, companies in which people with and without disabilities are trained and work together; barrier-free living in the middle of community, as well as barrier-free surgeries, classes with sign

language or clubs and theater groups, that are open for people with and without disabilities.

Each representative of an including example and every person that knows a project, institution, etc. which put into practice an interaction of people with and without disabilities and which already implemented the idea of inclusion in their daily work, has the possibility to propose his example. In March 2011 all the acknowledged including examples will be published on the map.



**Inklusionslandkarte - example map.**

The decision about whether a proposed example is inclusive or not will be taken by those who know it best: the disabled people themselves - represented by the Inclusion Advisory Council according to Article 33 of the Convention. Within the framework of the implementation of the UN-Convention at national level in 2008 the challenge to coordinate the implementation has been conferred upon the commissioner of the federal government. According to Art. 33 this means

to facilitate the arrangements to implement the Convention. The center of the coordinating body is the Inclusion Advisory Council and the “map of inclusive examples” is one of its outcomes.

The aim of the map is to tear down the walls in the people’s heads and to make a first step towards inclusion in all circumstances. Based on the examples the map will

- give tips of the practical implementation of inclusion
- inspire and encourage people to imitate
- raise awareness and arouse interest
- support and dignify the work of many organizations, institutions and individuals, who already live inclusion.

---

#### More information:

► [https://www.inklusionslandkarte.de/cln\\_095/DE/Service/Inklusion/Erfassung/inklusion\\_erfassen\\_node.html](https://www.inklusionslandkarte.de/cln_095/DE/Service/Inklusion/Erfassung/inklusion_erfassen_node.html)

# World Flight for Hearing and a Support Project on Capacity Development for Hard of Hearing Young Persons in the South of Vietnam

By Duong Phuong Hanh

I knew Mr. Johan Hammarström via internet and got involved in his project “World Flight for Hearing” in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in 2006. Then he invited me to co-report at the IFHOH Congress 2008 in Vancouver, Canada. We have kept in touch and shared information from then on.

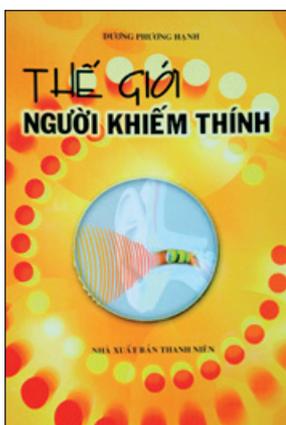
I love his words “Instead of looking at hearing loss as a negative thing, try looking at it as an opportunity to push yourself to be all you can be. People with hearing impairments are capable of doing the same activities as normal hearing folks; they just require a little extra assistance”. I told his story and his crew in training courses that I was a trainer. Trainees were the social work students, special education students, hard of hearing and deaf persons, their parents and the hearing ones. I also told them that “thanks to participating in the WFH, I myself was developed and opened my mind. I am more confident and work effectively.”

In my first publication “World of the Hearing Impairments Book”, I wrote about Johan’s story with the title “Nothing is impossible”. You will also read about my story when Johan publishes his book.

Besides attending IFHOHYP AGM, my aim for my travels to the Netherlands was to learn from the Hooridee Center so that I can have enough capacity to establish my own center mod-

eled on the Hooridee Center. Upon returning home, I applied my proposal and won an award from the Social Entrepreneur Program by Centre for Social Initiatives Promotion and British Council.

The happiness in the early year 2011 is that I have my own center to develop capacity for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am still waiting for the federal government’s approval on the center’s name and constitution. The center will offer services such as peer counseling, training courses on study skills as well as life skills and social skills for hard of hearing and deaf students and consultancy for parents. The following goal is to get a one year small grant from World Flight for Hearing to help hard of hearing young people in southern Vietnam. I am very busy and work hard but making the difference is my dream.



World of the Hearing Impairments Book by Duong Phuong Hanh.



Hanh receives an award from the Social Entrepreneur Program.

# “Feel the Spirit” at the Buju Summercamp 2010!

By Hannah Janssen



**Gemen's Youth Castle - where the Summercamp was organised.**

Last year from July 30 to August 6, the sixth Summercamp took place in Borken/ North Rhine-Westphalia, and it was a success! It is not easy to describe an ultimate event like this Summercamp on one page.

The Summercamp is the greatest leisure activity in Europe which especially aims at helping the young hearing-impaired participants to cope with their handicap in everyday life. It is organised and conducted by an expert team (the so-called “Teamer”) who is mostly affected themselves. About 150 participants were there and shared a time full of activities, experiences, fun, joy, sunshine and also rain together. One of the central elements were the twenty-four workshops which were both informative and creative or it was sportive respectively. For example, there was confidence training, sign language courses, archery, capoeira or canvas painting. Beside the workshops, many leisure activities were offered so that the partici-

pants could fill their free time between and after the workshop sessions.

On the second day, the so-called “castle games” took place, themed “Pirates of the Castle”. The participants were divided into small groups which had to fulfil different sportive and mental tasks at several stations, such as shooting shaving foam off one’s face with a water pistol. These games aimed at helping the participants to get to know each other better and encourage future acquaintances. On the other days, sportive events were offered, like volleyball, soccer, frisbee or table tennis, also as tournaments. Additionally, a climbing wall was open to the public all the time and who aimed high could try to climb to the last stone at the wall.

The further evenings were also stuffed with interesting events. Two theme nights with three themes were offered to everyone’s own taste. For example, one could learn about

working in a school for the deaf in Ghana; about traveling to New Zealand or about stress management. We also got the chance to discuss about God and religion or also to experiment with colours and different design techniques.

The night programme left nothing to be desired: we shook our legs in the disco, sang out of tune at the karaoke party or just played table games in small groups. Whenever and wherever you walked about the castle terrain, you could see teenagers and/or young adults standing together and talking with flying hands, laughing and just having fun together! Even our patron, the actor and life partner of a hearing impaired woman, Wolfgang S. Zechmayer, was on site and shared his time with us, obviously enjoying it.

The days were enthusiastically extended into the nights, we danced and chatted far into the night, no matter the little sleep we got afterwards, no matter the tiredness we had the next day. All these manifold activities and happenings were framed by successful opening and ending events, the latter of which ended in a great final party... where the community spirit, which was omnipresent during the six days, was very intense.

A question remains - what makes this Summercamp so special, comparing to other camps? That the participants came from all over in Germany and also from neighbouring countries? No. The workshops and theme nights with useful and interesting take home messages? Maybe. The precise answer is:

the communication, resulting from the hearing impairment, makes the difference!

Our communication needs are unique, as is everyone's hearing impairment. Every single one of us communicates in a different way (spoken language, sign language, or both) and has different needs (technical aids, captioners, sign language interpreter) and the Summercamp is able to meet exactly those requirements. As well, the Summercamp is a place where hearing impaired people, having all kinds of personal backgrounds, can find each other and meet, share their experiences and create a special community, an atmosphere, which feels like a shelter from everyday life and is characterized by mutual understanding, patience and consideration towards each other.

Again, as in the five Summercamps before, this Summercamp revealed the great potential in every single one of us hearing impaired which we should make use of to improve the society in which we, the hearing impaired, are really heard.

Finally, we can say: the "spirit" was everywhere and everyone felt it! By the way: Thank you very much to Silvio Philipp, Nina Morgenstern and all other "Teamers" for their honorary work before and during the Summercamp and for investing much of their free time to get this Summercamp going... on and on and on. Without them, the "Summercamp spirit" would never have arisen. Many thanks to all sponsors who financially contributed to realize the Summercamp 2010.



**Hosing shaving foam off some Summercamp participants.**

**Summercampers do Polonaise.**

