



IFHOHYP

International Federation of
Hard of Hearing Young People

IFHOHYP Annual Report

January 2021 – February 2022

Prepared by the IFHOHYP Board

IFHOHYP Annual Report
January 2021 – February 2022

Introduction

The IFHOHYP Annual Report describes the activities carried out and goals achieved in the period of January 2021 – February 2022.

Content

1. Advocacy and representation in the interest of young hard of hearing people
2. Non-formal learning and activity programs targeted at young people
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ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organisations 2021

ANNEX II: IFHOHYP Board of Directors 2021-22

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

Remembering, Reimagining, Rebuilding: Life after Late Deafness Webinar, March 6th 2021

To celebrate World Hearing Day and promote the launch of the World Report on Hearing, our Accessibility Committee had the pleasure of hosting a webinar “*Remembering, Reimagining, Rebuilding: Life after late deafness*” featuring Shari Eberts from the U.S., Lorraine Gailey from the U.K., and Doms Manlapaz from the Philippines to discuss the vital importance of peer support as an essential rehabilitation process for people with hearing loss in addition to receiving professional support from hearing health care professionals. Close to 100 participants from 24 countries registered for the event.

Global Realtime Captioning and ConTEXT provided captions in English and Spanish, made available by receiving a \$800 USD Small Grant. The webinar can be watched [here](#).



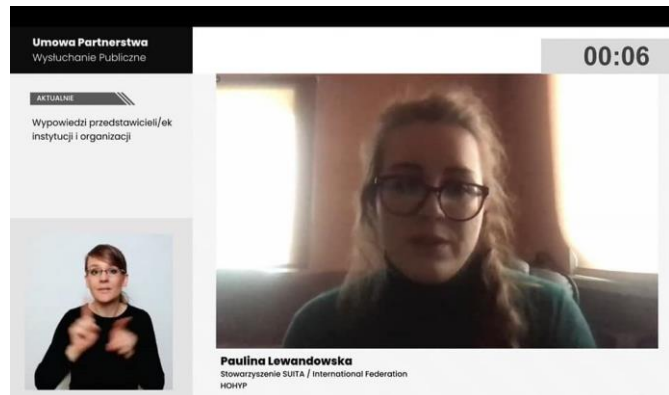
A certificate was given by the World Health Organization to recognize our participation.

The Board also launched a publicity video emphasizing the key message of “*Hearing Care for All*”: [World Hearing Day 2021](#).

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Civic Public Hearing on the concept of spending EU funds in Poland in the years 2021-2027, April, 7th 2021

Paulina presented the demands of people with hearing loss and the speech was prepared based on the voice of these people, members of the Polish SUITA Association. First, the problem of the growing number of people with hearing loss in Poland and in the world was outlined. The problem of availability of information in many areas of people's lives (during events, on TV, movies, public places, technology etc.) was mentioned. Therefore, funds should be allocated to solutions such as induction loops, adequate captions available in all spheres of social, educational and professional life. It also indicated the importance of increasing public awareness of people with hearing loss and proposed several options to achieve the goal (e.g. social campaigns, training of working personnel, information campaigns in line with the social and not medical model of disability, implementation of special inclusive programs and on social accessibility to counteract social exclusion).



Power of Community and Peer Support in Navigating Access & Inclusion

The physical distancing prompted by COVID-19 has made it all the more isolating for people with disabilities, who rely on a community of support to thrive well. Communication access has been a particular challenge for hard of hearing people. We will share how the power of building a virtual community and peer support help to overcome the obstacles and share resources to promote access (e.g., clear face masks, auto captioning apps). Capacity building is essential for youth to come together and form a community. The session will conclude with examples of capacity building work we are doing in developing regions, which can be relevant to other disability sectors.

Live Zoom
[join here](#)

15 June 2021

From 10.00 until 11.15 EDT.



IFHOHYP had the opportunity to host a side event at the 14th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 15 June 2021, in New York, promoting the theme *'Building back better: COVID-19 response and recovery; Meeting the needs, realizing the rights, and addressing the socio-economic impacts on persons with disabilities.'*

Bowen moderated the session with guest speakers: Sey Rodriguez (Bolivia), Sebastien Saflour (Philippines) and Mastulah Nalubwama (Uganda) who provided examples of how they built communities for hard of hearing young people in their regions.

Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA) Live, November 29th 2021 Adult Rehabilitation, what is needed?

At the invitation of CIICA, Bowen talked about his personal experiences of receiving an implant in childhood, and as a young adult, the challenges that come with taking ownership of a technology that is to last a lifetime. A recording of his presentation can be found [here](#).

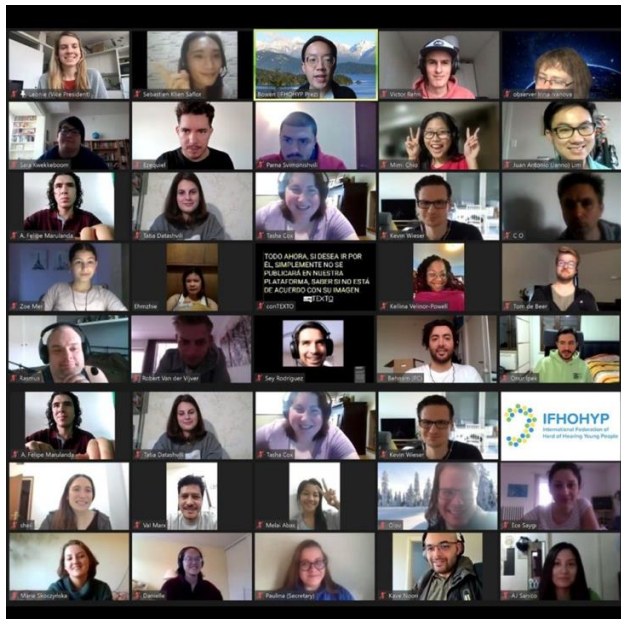
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On February 16th 2022 Bowen moderated a CIICA Conversation on Life with CI: 18 – 30's in Conversation: Together We Can Shape Our Future. 11 young people from 8 countries shared their experiences living with Cis. A summary can be found [here](#).



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

Virtual Social Meetups



For the first virtual social meet-up on April 25th 2021, up to 50 participants took part and navigated some technical problems (no subtitles in the breakout rooms). We were especially happy to make the event accessible for Spanish-speaking participants by providing Spanish captions through Contexto. Thank you to Sey from Bolivia for making this possible. An important topic during those meet ups was how the pandemic affected HOH people especially hard and allowed participants to exchange personal experiences and tips.

Other social meetups were arranged in conjunction with Language Summit (Jul 3rd 2021) & Virtual Town Hall (Oct 23rd 2021).

Language Summit, July 3rd 2021

We organized a language summit with 20 participants in attendance where we integrated the Microsoft Translator tool, allowing us to communicate in different written languages (Dutch, German, Persian, Polish, Swedish, Tagalog) for those members whose English is not their native language. Translation tools allowing oral communication in different languages are tested. The tool was impressively successful with written language, but unfortunately did not work with spoken language. Our hope is this will allow our future virtual events to be accessible to a multi-lingual audience as our member organizations are diverse. We would like to acknowledge Seb Saflour from the Philippines in leading this project.

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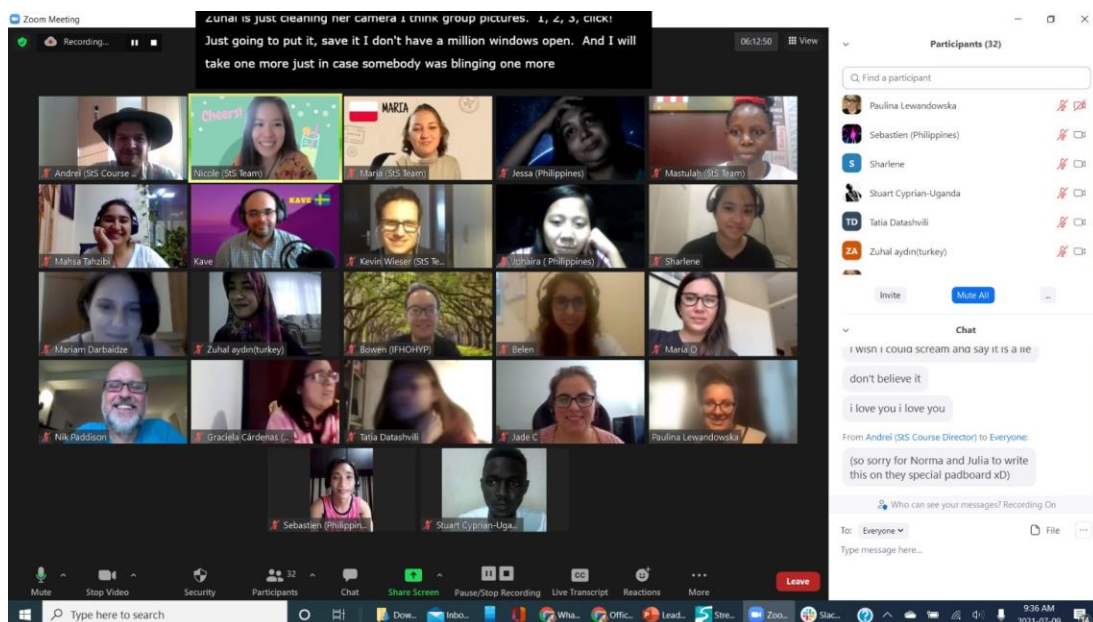
13th Study Session, “*Advocating for our Rights Through Leadership*”, July 5th to 9th 2021

Due to travel restrictions, we held the first-ever online study session with the support of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and an external educational advisor from the European Youth Centre. The overall aim of the study session was to develop effective leadership in the field of advocacy work for hard of hearing young people and gaining an understanding about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

The highly diverse group (19 participants from 13 countries, including Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Iran, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, and Uganda) spent these 5 days of interactive lessons, discussions, and lectures to approach the ultimate goal: Becoming strong leaders for their community and advocate for hard of hearing rights. There were 4 main topics discussed (advocacy, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), lobbying local and national government, crowdfunding) with their subtopics.

The evaluation showed that the participants were satisfied, the overall experience was rated as “positive”; by 23.1% and “very positive” by 84.6%. Many participants expressed that they missed the personal contact of the face-to-face sessions. Resources from the study session can be found at the download center on the IFHOHYP website: <https://ifhohyp.org/download-center/>

We would acknowledge the preparatory team who put it all together: Andrei Dumitru Mare (Romania, course director), Nicole Leung (Canada), Mastulah Nalubwama (Uganda). Kave Noori (Sweden), Maria Skoczyńska (Poland), Kevin Wieser (Switzerland), and external Education Advisor: Nik Paddison.



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Virtual Summer Camp, “*Hear the World: Share, Inspire, Interact*”, Aug 12th to 14th 2021

CHHA Young Adults Network finally went ahead with their international summer camp delivered in an virtual format.



IFHOHYP PANEL



BOWEN TANG



ANDREW TJIA



ECE SAYGI



NALUBWAMA
MASTULAH



SEBASTIEN KLIEN
RAMIREZ SAFLOR



TASHA COX

IFHOHYP members from Japan, Philippines, Turkey, Uganda spoke on a panel sharing their experiences as a HOH person in the countries they reside in. Tasha, a Canadian and a YAN Board Member shared her insights on the values of connecting with other HOH peers at an international community.

We would like to commend the CHHA YAN Board for their perseverance to overcome all odds and offered this valuable opportunity for us share, inspire, and interact during the challenging times.

Committee Reports

We motivated individual members to join our committees and can now report a total of 6 committees with 28 members world-wide.

Accessibility Committee

Members: Rui Xuan Ang (Singapore), Irina Ivanova (Russia), Victoria Orton (Canada), Sey Rodriguez (Bolivia), Sebastien Saflour (Philippines), Milan Szenté (Hungary), Le Peng Tee (Malaysia)

Board Liaison: Bowen Tang (Canada)

The committee released several accessibility resources to support hard of hearing people, with special focus on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g. transparent face mask inventory, rules for online meeting with hard of hearing participants etc. The committee also organized a webinar to support World Hearing Day 2021. Most recently the committee conducted a survey and completed a report on the employment situation for HOH people.

Fundraising Committee

Members: Camilla Mattjus (Finland) & Ece Saygi (Turkey)

Board Liaisons: Leonie von Berlin (Sweden) & Bowen Tang (Canada)

The committee developed a fundraising platform through GoFundMe; however due to unforeseen challenges, this was put on hold and an alternative donation method was conceived through direct bank transfer with info on the website. This caught the attention of an IFHOHYP alumni from 30+ years ago who made a generous donation. Therefore the committee began to form a list of IFHOHYP alumni that can be approached individually to consider supporting

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IFHOHYP. With consultation from Keegan Noxell, CHHA-YAN Treasurer, the committee continues to refine the corporate sponsorship package which will be launched this Spring.

Member Information & Communication Committee

Members: Alexander von Berlin (Germany), Joanna “Mimi” Chio (Philippines), Keegan Noxell (Canada), Jeanine Ottink (Netherlands), Maria Skoczyńska (Poland)

Board Liaison: Leonie von Berlin (Sweden).

In 2021, the committee:

- conducted several **surveys** and **published results**, e.g. [Watching TV in the World: The Case of Subtitles](#)
- released **numerous stories, interviews and articles** informing and raising awareness about young hard of hearing individuals and topics
- covered several events with fun and interesting posts and Instagram stories, including AGM 2020, World Hearing Day 2021, online IFHOHYP study session, and virtual summer camp held by CHHA Young Adults Network. This led to a much higher engagement via social media and in online meetings
- organized two social meet ups allowing hard of hearing young people around the world to connect, discuss and meet despite the pandemic’s travel restrictions.

Nomination Committee

Members: Moses Serwadda (Uganda)

Board Liaison: Paulina Lewandowska (Poland)

The committee identifies and recruits potential candidates to fill the Board positions up for elections at upcoming AGM: Secretary, Treasurer, Board Member (2 positions), and 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. The committee received applications from 5 candidates.

Policy Committee

Members: Tom de Beer (Netherlands), Zeynep Çakir (Turkey), Zahra Ketoun (Morocco)

Board Liaisons: Kave Noori (Sweden) & Bowen Tang (Canada)

The committee discussed issues relating to assistive technologies and accessible education, which will be presented to the EFHOH Expert Advisory Group. It has also discussed how IFHOHYP can be more involved in the work of the European Disability Forum.

Study Session Committee

2022 Preparatory Team: Nicole Leung (Canada), Kave Noori (Sweden), Maria Skoczyńska (Poland), Kevin Wieser (Switzerland)

Board Liaisons: Paulina Lewandowska (Poland)

The preparation team for the 2022 study session is partially composed of the same team as in 2021 and recruitment of another member is underway. The next study session is scheduled to be

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held in Budapest, Hungary from August 23rd to 27th. The theme will again be “*Advocating for Rights through Leadership*” as the preparation team feels that we have more to cover on this topic: several aspects of leadership can only be conveyed in a face-to-face setting.

(3) Dissemination of information

Social Media

- Our **webpage** reached 4800 individual visitors world-wide, which is an increase of 440% to the previous year and significantly contributed to IFHOHYP’s visibility
- Our **Instagram page** increased followers by almost 40% from 275 to 380 with 60 posts and numerous informative stories and IGTV series
- Our **Facebook page** has increased followers to a total of 2719 from 2567

YouTube

We continued to upload videos on our YouTube channel, such as the World Hearing Day 2021 statement and webinar. Click [here](#) to access our channel.

(4) Statutory activities

IFHOHYP Virtual Annual General Meeting, January 30th & 31st 2021

We organized our first **virtual AGM**, for the first time allowing an unlimited number of observers. Over 60 participants from 25 different countries and 18 member organizations making it the most diverse AGM ever.

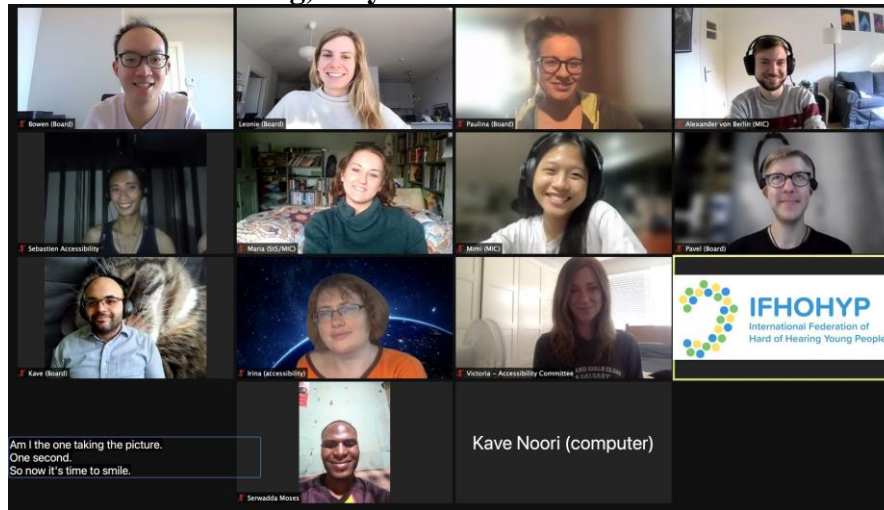
We presented the work of our committees - Accessibility, Fundraising, Member and Information, Policy and lastly, Study Session. We also introduced our upcoming strategic planning afterwards.



Then we had the chance to interview our candidates for Vice-President and President where the audience asked questions about expectations and future plans.

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Joint Board & Committee Meeting, May 29th 2021



In the third edition of our Join Board and Committee meeting with 14 participants from all committees and members of the Board we did some real work. In our quest to improve collaborations between committees and the Board we discussed a whole range of amazing ideas. Important for us was to find possible links between committees which allow effective teamwork, defining communication tools between the groups and having a set of rules to make the collaborations smooth for everyone.

Virtual Town Hall & 3rd Virtual Meet Up, October 23rd 2021

At our first virtual town hall meeting, we invited representatives of all our member organizations to discuss with IFHOHYP Board our current membership fee structure. We got many new ideas and comments from this meeting and will use them to design a new, fairer fee structure for AGM in 2023. An unlimited number of observers were welcome to follow the event too. Our goal is to create more financial fairness to allow organizations from low-income countries to join and stay in IFHOHYP and to make this process completely transparent.

IFHOHYP Board Meetings

The board meetings are arranged as chat meetings on Slack or video meetings on Google Meet/Zoom. A total of 11 meetings took place between February 2021 and February 2022:

1. February 20th 2021
2. March 13th 2021
3. April 17th 2021
4. May 29th 2021
5. June 27th 2021
6. July 31st 2021
7. September 25th 2021
8. October 23rd 2021
9. November 20th 2021
10. January 15th 2022
11. February 20th 2022

(5) Organizational and financial work

Membership Engagement, Partnerships & Increased Visibility

- We organized **3 online social meet ups** allowing our members to socialize, exchange experiences and have fun together.
- We **increased accessibility for the Spanish speaking community** by publishing selected content in Spanish and introducing Spanish captions to some of our events
- Virtual format for AGM and study session allowed **record-breaking participation** from countries where participants typically would not have been able to attend due to costs or eligibility criteria.
- We increased our **outreach across the world** by supporting the formation of an African Federation for the Hard of Hearing (AFHOH) and individual activists in Latin America.
- We received requests from **individual members** to join IFHOHYP and be involved in committees. Countries include Bolivia, Hungary, Malaysia, Morocco, Romania, and Singapore.
- We continued and established new **partnerships and collaborations** such as:
 - Cochlear Implant International Community of Action
 - European Disability Forum
 - European Federation of Hard of Hearing People
 - European Youth Forum
 - Global Network for Young Persons with Disabilities
 - International Disability Alliance Youth Caucus
 - International Federation of Hard of Hearing
 - World Hearing Forum – World Health Organization

Fundraising Strategy

We experienced a small success with obtaining \$800USD grant from the Coalition for Global Hearing Health to fund accessibility costs for the World Hearing Day webinar.

The generous donation from an IFHOHYP alumnus was encouraging to consider the potential of increased income source through this avenue of engaging other IFHOHYP alumni.



There remains much to be done to generate consistent funding sources so we can continue to offer accessible activities for our members. With COVID hopefully nearing an end it is time to resume exploring Erasmus+ and European Youth Foundation grants. IFHOHYP alone cannot accomplish this, which is why it is crucial for us to **collaborate with our member organizations to submit applications together for joint projects** that will benefit all (e.g., English language camps that are often requested).

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Reflecting on the Strategic Plan

In reviewing the four pillars of our 5-year plan, we have fulfilled some of the goals stated:

<i>Capacity Building</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide information on best practices in hearing access (e.g., technology tools, standard of hearing health care)• Invest training resources to support HOH individuals and organizations in developing countries• Ensure inclusion for non-English-speakers through the use of language translation tools to access the content offered	<i>Digital Presence</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide regular updates through social media platforms (note: newsletter format is discontinued)• Offer ongoing virtual educational sessions with social meetups with different partners• Set up a communication system between the Board and representatives of member organisations
<i>Financial Stability</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This remains an area where we have tremendous challenges in achieving the set goals.	<i>Policy Visibility</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce statements on accessibility needs/standards for HOH young people relevant to all countries• Expand diversity of partnerships beyond governments and NGOs

Looking Ahead

In between now and the next AGM in 2023, we will:

- host a virtual leadership conference for hard of hearing young people in Latin America in cooperation with local activists
- revive English language camps or sessions to support communication between members upon the successful submission of Erasmus+ or EYF grants
- offer opportunities for active volunteers to represent IFHOHYP at various platforms relevant to hard of hearing young people
- form a digital network of member organizations where information can be easily shared
- encourage opportunities for HOH youth to participate in politics at the regional or UN level in partnership with EFHOH and IFHOH
- develop a leadership program to educate groups of hard of hearing young people on how to form and sustain their own organisations
- propose a new membership fee structure for organizations to be passed at AGM 2022/23
- potentially host an international event in Africa or Asia

Closing Remarks

Despite the ongoing pandemic which have kept us from meeting in-person it has not inhibited our desire to connect. Our member organizations continued with their local activities wherever possible, some of which are highlighted in the next section. In the past year there is an increased recognition of youth where we are often called to offer input in how we envision our futures. IFHOHYP members are encouraged to participate in these platforms when opportunities arise from our partner organizations such as EFHOH and Global Network for Young People with Disabilities.

(6) Highlights from Member Organizations

Unga Hörselskadade (UH) – Gone2Hear

A research project led by UH, coordinated by Paulina Lewandowska and Maria Skoczyńska focused on study possibilities for the hard of hearing students who have a dream of studying/doing internship abroad but are afraid to do so due to the hearing limitations. It consisted of several stages:



- 1) Research where there were collected experiences of:
 - Swedish universities (study abroad coordinators and coordinators for students with disabilities) in sending abroad / admitting from foreign university students with hearing loss for a mobility
 - Students with hearing loss who went for mobility abroad (internship, studies)
 - The Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) if hard of hearing students appeal against some of the decisions made by the university because they were unreasonable or violate a student's right to accommodation or support
- 2) A webinar (Feb 18th 2022): presenting the research results and a discussion panel where hard of hearing people shared their experiences of going abroad (two of the panelists were Leonie, IFHOHYP Vice-President and Ece, IFHOHYP member from Turkey)
- 3) A conference (Feb 25th 2022): presenting research from the world on foreign mobility of people with hearing loss, language acquisition, good practices and solutions (one of the speakers was Bowen, IFHOHYP President)
- 4) A report containing the results of a research, guidelines and materials from events

Uganda Federation of Hard of Hearing

We have recruited more youth who are hard of hearing so our future is bright in implementing capacity building programs for members. We also held our annual general meeting in 2021 and attended the IFHOHYP online study session.



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Hard of Hearing Group Philippines

- HOHGP Virtual Meet & Greet 2021: “HOH: Resilience in Pandemic”
- Hearing Aid Partnership mission with Access Canada Brand Hearing Aids with two HOH children as recipients
- Social media Awareness for the Deaf and with hearing loss Campaign partnership with the Community Based Rehabilitation Programme of the University of the Philippines Manila, College of Allied Medical Professions (UP CAMP CBR)
- Global Disability Summit Youth represented by John Emman of HOHGP.

Photo Exhibits of HOHGP Highlights



CHHA Young Adults Network – Summertime 2021, August 12th to 14th



We kicked things off on the third and final day with messages from Abigail Herringer, star from Season 25 of The Bachelor.

Up next, we welcomed back J’net Ayayqwayaksheelth to have a conversation on the concept of healing and wellness. Concurrently, Jessica Niemela led a wonderful yoga session designed to engage with our inner selves. Abby Stonehouse kicked off what turned out to be a competitive trivia game testing participants knowledge of Calgary, Alberta - the scheduled location of Summertime 2020.

It was finally time to draw the event to a close with a performance from stand-up comedian D.J. Demers, who seemingly got distracted by a participant's fruit salad early on. Following a Q&A session with D.J., we received a special message from Zoë Nutt, a singer/songwriter from Nashville, TN, who also happens to have hearing loss before listening to a performance of her latest single 'Wildflower'.

A special thanks to all of our wonderful speakers, the SC2021 Planning Committee and the team behind the scenes for making this event possible! Lastly, a huge thank you to all of our attendees - it was amazing to see the impact of Sharing, Inspiring and Interacting with all of you!

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ANNEX I: IFHOHYP Member Organizations 2021

As of December 2021, IFHOHYP has 22 member organizations

Academy of Sports and Education for Deaf of Tunisia	Tunisia
Aures Foundation	Georgia
Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association	Bangladesh
Bekol	Israel
Bundesjugend im DSB e.V.	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	Denmark
İstme Engelliler ve Aileleri Derneği (IED)	Turkey
Jugehörig	Switzerland
Kuuloliitto Ry	Finland
Mongolian Federation of Health and Education Promotion for DHH	Mongolia
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
The Voice of Silence	Armenia

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ANNEX II: IFHOHYP Board of Directors 2021



President: Bowen Tang, Canada (elected 2021, until 2023)

Vice-President: Leonie von Berlin, Sweden (elected 2021, until 2023)

Treasurer: Mikael de Vries, Netherlands (elected 2019, end of term)

Secretary: Paulina Lewandowska, Poland (elected 2019, end of term)

Board Member: Serwadda Moses, Uganda (elected 2019, end of term)

Board Member: Kave Noori, Sweden (elected 2019, end of term)

Vice Board Member: Pavel Novikov, Russia (elected 2021, end of term)

Contact information

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