**World Blind Union Asia-Pacific**

**Work Report**

Since last General Assembly of World Blind Union in 2021, World Blind Union Asia-Pacific (hereinafter referred as WBUAP), under the leadership of the Board and with joint efforts of all colleagues, has achieved a lot strictly in accordance with the Constitution of WBU and WBUAP and implemented the guidance and requirements from WBU, working to promote equal and full social participation of persons with visual impairments from WBUAP, so as to safeguard their rights and interests and improve their well-being.

We outlined action lists and carried out work accordingly with reference to *World Blind Union Strategic Development Plan 2021-2025* and development conditions of WBUAP. The following are the details.

**Ⅰ. Organizational Excellence**

1. Regular meetings are held to ensure the sustained and effective management of WBUAP. BPC Meeting is conducted every two months, and temporary meetings are held if necessary, on which decisions are made under democratic process.
2. Successful completion of general election in accordance with the Constitution of WBUAP. The Treasurer was by-elected. The BPC members and chairpersons of Committees were elected.
3. Formulating work regulations of the Board and the BPC, and work regulations of Professional Committee taking Communication Committee’s as an example.

**Ⅱ. Increasing Publicity**

1. The Communication Committee has overseen website management and the publication of East Wind, an e-magazine that focuses on 1-2 countries per issue, highlighting regional achievements related to visually impaired individuals.
2. With the support of Hong Kong Blind Union, the website server was successfully transferred, promoting the website and e-magazine to become the WBUAP communication window.

**Ⅲ. International Cooperation**

WBUAP attended ESCAP related meetings as a member of Social Development Group, disability themed activities held by UNESCO, and related activities conducted by UN-Habitat, which strengthened exchanges with international organizations, increased international influence and gave impetus into the realization of WBU strategic goals.

**Ⅳ. Major Events**

1. With the strong support from Thailand Blind Union, WBUAP successfully held Mid-Term Regional General Assembly in Phuket, Thailand during November 26-29, 2023, joined by 330 representatives from 14 countries and regions and the headquarter of WBU. During the meeting, member countries made reports respectively, a seminar themed “Smart City for the Visually Impaired People in the Modern Society” and sub-forums were conducted, General and Regional Meetings were held, and the Phuket Declaration was adopted.
2. In December 2024, WBUAP Information Accessibility and Assistive Technology Seminar was held in Beijing, joined by over 150 representatives from WBU, ICEVI, foreign embassies in Beijing, member countries of WBUAP, service institutions for persons with disabilities. During the seminar, professionals and experts shared their outcomes and experience in related fields, and the latest assistive technology products were exhibited. President Martine Abel-Williamson attended the meeting and delivered remarks. Dr. Frances Irene Gentle, former President of ICEVI, and officers from UNESCO gave keynote speeches.

**Ⅴ. Employment Empowerment**

With the strong support of China Association of Persons with Visual Impairments, the Massage Committee was funded to conduct a series of massage-themed seminars and training courses, contributing to enhancing the employment capacity of blind massage as one of the local traditional trades.

The 16th Massage Seminar was held in Hanoi, Vietnam during September 7-10, 2023, attended by over 350 representatives from 11 countries. In May 2025, WBUAP Advanced Massage Teachers Training Course was held in Zhengzhou, central China’s Henan Province, joined by 25 blind masseur from East and Southeast Asia. In August 2025, The 17th Blind Massage Seminar will be held in Republic of Korea (ROK).

**Ⅵ. Fund-raising**

Financial accounts are managed soundly. While fundraising remains a long-term challenge, secured funds have been critical to the success of many targeted activities. For example, a USD 40,000 grant from the China Association of Persons with Visual Impairments supported the WBUAP Information Accessibility and Assistive Technology Seminar, and USD 42,000 funded the Massage Committee’s Advanced Massage Teachers Training Course (both activities were fully externally funded).

**Ⅶ. Sub-regional Work**

Sub-regions conducted a series of activities under the support of WBUAP, sub-regions and representative institutions from member countries. Among them, Southeast sub-region is the most active one, which conducted a series of regional-level activities including ASEAN Community Blind Forum, The 11th Asia Pacific Blind Forum, The 12th Asia Accessibility Forum and others.

In East Asia sub-region, the Massage Seminars have been held in Japan and ROK, and the International Welfare Expo is held annually in China to showcase the latest assistive technologies from various countries, including the field of visual impairment. China Association of Persons with Visual Impairments, Korean Traditional Orchestra, and Vietnam Blind Association jointly held online charity concerts to combat the epidemic. Many countries have also made significant progress in the field of visual impairments. For instance, China—home to the largest population of people with disabilities—implemented the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on Building an Accessible Environment* in 2023, and the *Marrakesh Treaty* came into effect in China in 2022, both promoted by the China Association of Persons with Visual Impairments.

While achievements have been made, challenges remain. For example, the global economic downturn has made fundraising more difficult, and communication and engagement with WBU and member countries need to be strengthened. Going forward, WBUAP will further enhance its efficiency and influence by aligning with WBU’s directives and regional realities, leveraging opportunities from new technologies such as artificial intelligence, and advancing empowerment, rights protection, equality, integration, and shared prosperity for visually impaired groups in the region.