



INPEA BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE
PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE

OCTOBER 2006



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MOVING FORWARD

Our theme is moving forward. Our goal is to be a catalyst for change, helping build momentum at the international, regional and nation levels to raise awareness of elder abuse and the need to prevent it. WEAAD heightened global consciousness, strengthened leadership networks and collaborations. The major accomplishment of WEAAD has parachuted us to centre stage – we are now seen as a compelling force on human rights, aging, and the prevention of family violence. It is up to us now to move forward: we need to be writing policy papers and briefs to stimulate government action; we need to fund raise and then pour our resources into electronic communication such as webcasts, online information and web-based promising proactive discussion forums. The scope is boundless – we can all write the script.

A big step forward will take place in Dallas, US on November 17, 2006 at the INPEA North American Regional Meeting. President Lia Daichman will preside and the meeting will be chaired by Betty Malks, INPEA, NA Regional Representative. This is a critical meeting for all our members.

The agenda includes:

- Short term/long term goal planning
- Development of a 5 year plan
- Development of an organizational framework and infrastructure
 - a. review of by-laws
 - b. clarification of roles and responsibilities (executive committee, board members, regional and country representatives, and members)



- c. discussion of communication issues worldwide – website maintenance
 - d. development of fundraising plan
- Discussion of inclusion and transparency
 - Hiring a consultant in organizational development

We wish you could be there! But since this is just not possible, we invite you to join us in spirit and electronically! Please send your thoughts and recommendations - your vision and your hopes for INPEA to Betty Malks at: betty.malks@ssa.sccgov.org . Your comments will be put forward at the meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Elizabeth Podnieks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bulletin

We are moving forward. The Bulletin has a new co-editor, Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass, INPEA National Representative from India who has accepted the position and everyone is delighted. We are busy discussing new exciting ideas on how the Bulletin can serve you better. The quality of the publication is very much up to you, the reader. We are asking all the regional and national representatives to submit articles that you feel are of interest to the membership. Dr. Monica Ferreira has lead the way with a commentary from Africa – please other members follow her direction. There are a few caveats – we cannot publish everything that is sent in. If we are to have the Bulletin as a business like publication, we need criteria and guidelines for submissions along with deadlines. This is in no way meant to be a turn-off for potential writers, but the space is limited and we need to ensure all countries and people have a voice.

Bulletin, Continued

Also, remember that you can always send information to the INPEA website. We would like to bolster the Bulletin staff by having some volunteers! On re-reading some past editions it was troubling to see the number of typos. Proof reading is always difficult if you are close to the material. Perhaps someone would take this on?! Next Bulletin will have a “Comments” section – please write us now so there will be something in it!

INPEA Welcomes Eastern Mediterranean

*W*ith great pleasure we announce the membership of East Mediterranean Region into the Network. We are now a truly global organization.

Our new National Representative is Dr. A. Abyad (aabyad@gahs.ac). You will remember how he assisted us in obtaining data for the Environmental Scan resulting in 18 surveys being received from Eastern Mediterranean. Dr. Abyad’s impeccable credentials more than prepare him to represent Lebanon and United Arab Emirates within INPEA. We welcome Dr. Abyad – we look forward to working with him and the countries in his region.

Apology

*W*e wish to offer our sincere apology to Mr. Semanda Richard, National Representative for Uganda. Mr. Richard submitted an excellent article on the WEAAD activities in Uganda and his name was accidentally omitted in the publication. We do regret the error and hope he will forgive us.

REPORT OF AFBAH EVENTS

A Meeting for Professionals on June 14, 2006: The Link is You!

“You’re the link, not the binding link, but the liberating link!” said Geneviève Laroque, FNG (Fondation Nationale de Gérontologie) president and AFBAH vice-president. Part of professionals surrounding elderly persons, respecting elderly persons’s desire and wishes, were the subjects of this meeting. More than 150 professionals (from information centres, elderly persons’s homes, hospitals, home help...) were present, as the television (France 3) coverage of the event aired on the regional news June 15th.

The AFBAH presented a guide for caregivers (work in progress). A test version has been put on the website. This guide presents activities for caregivers in Paris and suburbs.

A theatrical company (la compagnie Berlingot) played scenes on autonomy, family links difficulties, elderly persons and professional caregivers relations, and teleassistance (help service using a telephone). The audience could come on stage to modify each scene (Augusto Boal’s oppressed theatre). This kind of performance is an excellent sensitizing tool. The actors quality and pertinent dialogue made it more effective. The well-mastered humorous aspect permitted audience agreement.

The part on Teleassistance emphasized the social circle as crucial to detecting mistreatment and on what can be done to acknowledge its importance. Another part presented the practical aspect of organizing talk groups for caregivers, difficulties expressed, the kind of people taking part, help and information.

To conclude, Geneviève Laroque expressed the idea “you’re the link, not the binding link, but the liberating link.” She reminded everyone that if an old person preferred apple pie than strawberry pie, than to give apple pie was more “welltreating” even if it was a frozen product and even if strawberry pie was home made and healthier (joke based on the play).

Information Campaign on Caregivers’ Exhaustion



“Dad, you’re worse than a child”
Exhaustion can lead to Mistreatment

This campaign was held in the subway (850 posters) for 2 weeks from June 7th to June 21st with the generous help of the RATP (Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens, responsible for subways and buses)

INPEA FLAG PLANTED FIRMLY IN AFRICA

Africa is a vast continent, made up of 56 countries – according to the United Nations Population Division (2006), including adjacent islands. How to liaise with numerous individual and organizational members across the region, and to co-ordinate anti-elder abuse activities regionally, posed an enormous challenge for INPEA Africa 18 months ago. A decision was taken therefore to encourage countries in which a focal person could be identified, to mobilize members, constitute a country chapter, apply for membership of INPEA and elect a National Representative. The Regional Representative for Africa would then liaise with national representatives, who in turn should liaise with members of their chapter. In the 18 months, seven countries thus far have formed INPEA chapters. The countries and the names of the national representatives, whom I now introduce you to, are Cameroon (Prince Bengha Martin), Ghana (Ebenezer Adjetey-Sorsey), Mauritius (Mahendranath Busgopaul), Nigeria (John Francis Fagjot), South Africa (Pat Lindgren), The Gambia (Priscilla Jones) and Uganda (Semanda Richard).



Africa's national representatives are hardworking, dedicated and creative, and regularly turn in reports on activities and inroads made in the fight against elder abuse in their country to the regional office (the office is currently based in Cape Town, South Africa). Their reports on activities held to mark WEAAD 2006 were especially interesting and impressive, as were the numerous, colourful photographs that accompanied the reports, all of which have been archived, after being shared with INPEA members.

Some African country chapters are particularly active – notably Nigeria, Cameroon and Uganda, and have submitted reports recently, with documentation, on successful approaches made to government departments to elicit formal attention to broad and specific issues and concerns of older persons, among which are abuse and exploitation, and discrimination and marginalization. Older persons' vulnerability and victimization, and violation of their rights, are highly charged political and emotive issues in African societies. How the chapters approach their government to advocate for attention to injustices and the scourge of elder abuse, by piggy-backing on

broader issues of poverty, housing and health care for older persons, offers an interesting perspective and an apparently effective approach.

Seven out of 56 still leaves a large number of African countries in which a key person needs to be identified and encouraged to form an INPEA chapter. INPEA members everywhere, who may know of such persons in other African countries, are invited to help us to identify and approach them. Anyone interested in obtaining additional information on INPEA Africa or member countries' activities is warmly invited to contact me.

Dr Monica Ferreira
Regional Representative: Africa
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ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

We are moving forward with the data analysis of the INPEA environmental scan. The preliminary findings will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America conference in Dallas on November 18, 2006.

At this time we will be formulating an action plan for the second wave of surveys of those countries that either did not respond or submitted less than six questionnaires. We have done so will with this research – we can do so much better. We look to you for continued cooperation in helping to achieve a “gold standard” with our research agendas.

LETTER FROM KOREA

Dear All,

Privately I am very happy that our world has tried to make people recognize elder abuse. There has been a concern from government, NPO and mass media in Korea. It has taken 10 years after presenting the first Doctor thesis about elder abuse in Korea by me in 1996.

Specially to recognize the world elder abuse awareness day, our Korean society also has done lots of efforts. On 13 April, there was a symposium to recognize and to find various approaches to elder abuse in future Korean society. It was by the Korean Medical Association. It is month of family in May in Korea; we have lots of promotional material to show what elder abuse is and what older people feel. Each of our counseling centers has had campaigns and seminars. I am very busy to go here and there to do

presentations. It is the first time people are interested in the social problem of elder abuse in Korea. While I am working with elder abuse lonely, but now it isn't. Also I have done well my responsibility and with great pleasure.

We will have a ceremony of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 13 June in Busan, Korea. It will be together will all generations, Ministry of Social Welfare, Korean Medical Association, Korean Gerontological Society, Busan daily newspaper and so on. There will be social drama about elder abuse we find and to recognize what elder abuse is. We are all together in that day. Especially we will advertise to mass media, and mass media will help us spread the main purpose of world elder abuse awareness day.

Also there will be a center for prevention of elder abuse in Seoul Korea starting next month, and will be funded by government. It is a great development. From this point on our Korean society will have efforts made for the prevention of elder abuse. Our KINPEA (Korean Information Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse) will also try to give lots of information and develop and empower the older person in Korean society.

Han, Dong Hee (Ph.D) Korean Representative INPEA

A Little Money Goes a Long Way:

US Administration on Aging, Reaches Out Locally, Nationally, and Globally

(As reported in the NCEA Newsletter, October 2006, <http://www.elderabusecenter.org/enews/enewsemail061031.htm>)

In the lead up to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the US Administration on Aging through the National Center on Aging (NCEA) a "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Partner" rallied to the call of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, (NCPEA), and pledged \$10,000 in support for awareness raising events in the US. The funds were utilized by NCPEA for a Web-based event to tout World Day and encourage grass roots involvement. Thereafter, 12 mini - grants were awarded to organizations around the USA for grassroots outreach aimed at raising public awareness and understanding of elder abuse. WEAAD became a rallying point for reaching out locally, nationally, and globally. There's no question that a little seed money did go a long way.

For a complete list of grantees and contact information see NCEA Newsletter link Supra. Submitted by Susan B. Somers, USA.

WEAAD 2007

We are moving forward with planning for WEAAD 2007. The big news is that we are taking the show on the road. This year the main celebration will be in Geneva! This is in keeping with our philosophy of being an international organization and will hold events around the world in all our regions. Watch for us, Africa!

Geneva is an inspired choice because we will not only be recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day at WHO but also paying tribute to Dr. Alex Kalache who will be retiring at the end of 2007. Dr. Kalache has been our special observer, our facilitator, our advisor, and our friend. This will be an occasion to honour his long legacy with the Network.

We are moving forward by having the planning committee for WEAAD include members from all national and regional representatives. This will greatly enhance the scope of our planning and build on lessons learned from 2006.

We strongly urge you to respond to the questionnaire at the end of the Bulletin so that we can build on the past and share the findings. The next Bulletin will provide the survey results. The planning of WEAAD Geneva will officially start with the GSA meeting in Dallas and everything will be reported in the next Bulletin. It is not too early for anyone to volunteer for a Work Party! Let's hear from you!

The goal of the first WEAAD was to "Raise Awareness". The goal for 2007 is "Call for Action" which is certainly moving forward!



The WEAAD 2006 follow up Survey is available in MSWord .doc format or as a .pdf at <http://www.inpea.net>.

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We are delighted to welcome Deina Warren as a volunteer to INPEA. Deina, a law student at the University of Ottawa, comes to us through Tanya Woods. Deina will be co-editor of the Bulletin and we congratulate her on this, her first edition. Thank you Deina !!!