



**A Message from the
IASE President
Dr. Zandile P. Nkabinde**



In this February 2021 issue of our Newsletter, the Annuntiatius, I wish all IASE members a healthy and successful year. I never expected my tenure as an IASE president to be forever marked by global health crises due to COVID-19 pandemic. On a positive note, these uncertain times have taught me to

think outside the box by finding other ways to keep IASE members engaged. For example, Virtual Dialogue has been used to reach out to our members and to have them share what they are doing in their respective countries. The first Virtual Dialogue was successfully held in October 2020 and the second one is scheduled for February 27, 2021. In this meeting National Chairs who were unable to participate in our last October 2020 Virtual Meeting will have an opportunity to do so. In addition, participants will be allowed to share what is going on in education around the globe. Participants will discuss their future plans and parental groups if available and/or youth movements will have an opportunity to share the activities they are engaged in. An IASE member in Tanzania recently shared a report from “Connect Autism Tanzania” highlighting all the good work being done by that non-profit organization.

On January 8, 2021 I was able to attend and present at the International Conference on Special Education “Early Intervention-Supporting for Development of Inclusive Education for Children with Developmental Disabilities,” which was hosted by Ministry of Education and Training at Ho Chi Minh City University of Education in Vietnam. The conference was held virtually, and the topic of my presentation was: The Role of IASE in the Promotion of Early Childhood Education in Vietnam. The presentation was well received and was translated into Vietnamese for the

audience. Conference participants were informed about our upcoming conference in 2022.



The 17th Biennial Conference is scheduled for July 11-14, 2021 at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. The conference theme is: Building an Inclusive Culture Worldwide. IASE members are encouraged to keep checking the organization’s website at <https://www.IASE.org> for all updates. The conference planning committee held its first meeting on Monday, February 08, 2021.

As COVID-19 vaccines slowly become available, and with them come hope of a return to normal. The pandemic has forced homes to become schools, and parents to become teachers. The challenge for teachers, parents, and students has been enormous. IASE continues to encourage members to get involved on committees and leadership roles. The position for Archive/Historian is still vacant. Someone with a long history in this organization will be a good fit for the position. The benefits of becoming a member of any professional organization are numerous. As a member of IASE you have exposure to local and national special education professionals. There are opportunities to volunteer worldwide and to share one’s expertise with those who need them most. It is an opportunity to grow educationally and professionally. Your IASE membership is a win-win situation.

Zandile Nkabinde, PhD
New Jersey City University, USA
IASE President (2020-2021)

IASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations for IASE Board

We are accepting self-nominations from members of IASE for the new board whose term will begin on January 1, 2022 and continue through December 31, 2023. Your self-nomination request should include a letter of interest describing past involvement with different IASE committees or the IASE board, prior experiences that align with the IASE mission/vision, and duties of the elected position.

The following Board positions are open for self-nomination:

1. President-Elect – 1 position
2. Board Secretary – 1 position
3. Member-at-Large – 3 positions

How to self-nominate:

- A. You will submit a copy of your updated CV/Resume and also complete the google form via link [<https://forms.gle/txS156BPcs3dayVY6>].
- B. Information describing the roles and responsibilities associated with each board position can be found on the IASE website [<https://www.iase.org/iase-documents>].
- C. Your letter of interest and CV/Resume should be emailed to pastpresidentiase@gmail.com no later than March 15, 2021.

If you have questions, email me at pastpresidentiase@gmail.com. Please note that being on the IASE board is a professionally and personally rewarding experience.

Dr. Beatrice Adera
IASE Past President and Nominations Chair

IASE Seeks Proposals for the 2024 Conference Site

IASE, with membership in 50 countries, is seeking proposals for the 2024 Conference site. We welcome proposals for a venue site that meet the requirements listed below:

- a) Be located in a city with an international airport.
- b) Provide adequate meeting space: (a) 12-15 meeting rooms that would accommodate 25-35 persons, (b) a large meeting space (to accommodate 400 people) for general plenary sessions, and (c) space for registration, exhibits, and poster sessions.
- c) Provide needed equipment (e.g., overheads, and/or LCD projectors, screens, laptops, easels).
- d) Have food services available at/near the venue site.
- e) Be situated in a reasonably close proximity to hotels.
- f) Promote the conference in the region/country.
- g) Be willing to provide guidance to the IASE Planning Committee about tours, school visits, venue for Gala Dinner, and more.
- h) Be able to designate a minimum of 5-6 people to serve on a Local Planning Committee to work with the IASE Planning Committee on conference needs (e.g., printing a program).
- i) Be able and willing to accept registrations from own country. This would include accepting the registrations and funds and maintaining appropriate records for accounting purposes.
- j) Have available low cost sleeping rooms (e.g., dorms) for individuals who seek/prefer to stay on the university campus.

If you are interested in hosting the 2024 IASE Conference, please submit a proposal to IASE utilizing the information above. Please send your proposal to Dr. Zandile Nkabinde at presidentiase@gmail.com.

MENTORING PROGRAM

IASE is working on launching a new project: Mentoring.

Would you be interested in mentoring another member?

Please fill out a brief survey to indicate your potential interest:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VgiUSbPXye2lb3PwzUkAKVJ-CQFHIMYKx_ZLkjVj-w0/edit

Proposed Format:

One-to-one virtual mentoring

Possible Areas of Assistance:

Teaching tips and support
Academic support or advice
Academic opportunities abroad
Career exploration or

advancement

How to Apply:

Application information and details are coming soon. Check the IASE website <https://www.IASE.org> and upcoming issues of the newsletter.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

17th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Special Education (IASE)



*Building an Inclusive Culture
Worldwide*

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

July 10 – 14, 2022

A collaborative Effort by the

International Association of Special
Education (IASE)

& Ho Chi Minh City University
(HCMCUE)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

Dr. Renáta Tichá cordially invites all interested parties to submit presentation proposals.

Please review all submission criteria. Then complete and submit the proposal presentation form by October 1, 2021.

Proposals are to be submitted electronically to Dr. Renáta Tichá via the IASE website: www.iase.org. If you have any additional questions, please contact Dr. Tichá at tich0018@umn.edu.

All presenters will be required to pay their registration fees by April 1, 2022 to be included in the conference program.

IMPORTANT TIMELINES

<i>October 1, 2021</i>	Deadline for submission of proposals
<i>December 1, 2021</i>	Notification of acceptance of proposals
<i>February 1, 2022</i>	Early Special Rates Registration Fees End
<i>February 1, 2022</i>	Conference Proceedings Due
<i>After February 1, 2022</i>	Late Conference Fees
<i>April 1, 2022</i>	All presenters must be registered for conference

QUARTER 4 YOUTH REPORT

Elia Dyitege

Connect Autism Tanzania (CAT) is a non-profit organization that aims to improve the quality life of children, youths and young adults with autism and other

disabilities by assisting them to gain access to education, empowerment and networking opportunities with others.

CAT has a youth program which helps the youth develop social skills, identify talents, and creates job opportunities for youth with cognitive challenges. The aim of this program is to create more awareness in the community about autism spectrum disorder and reduce stigma towards young adults with autism and other co-occurring conditions. CAT also aims to create employment opportunities and promote young adults' financial independence once they graduate from the center.

CAT Goals for 2020 were:

- Home setting program for youth with cognitive challenges;
- Job and volunteering opportunities;
- Home visiting.

Home Setting Program



CAT has a program designed to visit youth in their workplaces every month. Following the visits, we share the progress of young adults with

their parents/guardians and provide parents with guidelines and tips on helping their children improve various skills, including work skills.



Career Guidance, Job Opportunity and Life Skills for Young Adults with Autism and Other Cognitive Challenges

Amongst one of the CAT's plans is to ensure that youth with autism and other cognitive challenges live a sustainable and independent life within one's community. Therefore, CAT has managed to take two young adults with cognitive challenges to Tourism management vocation training center at Njiro to acquire knowledge on food production to prepare young adults for future employment or self-employment.



Young adults with cognitive challenges cooking pastries for breakfast



In addition, CAT was able to connect three young adults with autism to

different stakeholders to work as volunteers. By doing so, we aim to build awareness in the community, and provide opportunities for young adults to increase confidence, improve social interaction, and work skills.

Parents' Meeting at CAT Center

On December 18, 2020 CAT organized the parents and youth meeting at the center with the aim of sharing the achievements of young adults and to provide parents with work responsibilities to assign to the youth while at home. Following the meeting, CAT youth along with their parents celebrated their work and were given Christmas gifts to share with their family members.



Young adults getting experience on different life skills activities



Annual Celebration Day



On December 16, 2020, CAT collaborated with Naurei Unity to celebrate Christmas party for all children with cognitive challenges and their parents.

Furthermore, the school held the graduation ceremony for young adults aged 18 years and older. Parents requested if CAT could include the graduates at the youth program or connect them to different stakeholders so the graduates can get further work experience.



Group photo of the youth and their parents holding Christmas gifts.

Impacts

- The community became more aware of the activities that youth with cognitive challenges could do;
- We managed to identify the talents of the youth during the CAT meeting;
- We Engaged youth in different activities and trained them on money skills and other independent functioning skills;
- We worked on activities to help youth develop confidence and social interaction skills with the surrounding community;
- CAT made home visits by visiting all youth at their homes.



Challenges

- Lack of awareness in Tanzanian companies about people with cognitive challenges, hence, no employment opportunities;
- Parents have high expectations for their children;
- Lack of funding to support the youth in self-employment.

Looking Forward

- Looking for local sponsors to fund the course on tailoring for one youth at a vocational training center;
- Looking for organizations which can employ or accept the youth to work with them;
- Fundraising for food and transportation for the youth.

IASE Highlights a New Member

This month we are highlighting Mr. Josue Niyokwizigirwa, a new member to IASE, who was born and raised in Burundi.



My name is Josue Niyokwizigirwa and I moved to the USA in 2019 after I won the green card lottery. I did my secondary and undergraduate degrees at the University

of Burundi. When I got to the US, I got a job as a paraprofessional in a special education school that teaches students with emotional and behavioral disorders. My first position motivated me to join the special education field because I never had a chance to experience anything related to special education in my country. In my home country, there is no special education department, and we do not learn anything related to special education or inclusive education. Many people with disabilities still do not get a chance to enjoy their rights since most of them are considered to be useless and cannot achieve anything independently. The government still has not clearly set special education policies that outline what people with disabilities can benefit from and possible supports to ensure that they can succeed as their peers without disabilities.

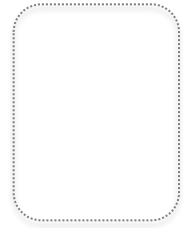
I joined the IASE because I expect to learn many things from different professionals that may help me to advocate for people with disabilities, especially those with disabilities that are not physically identifiable. I hope to learn from everyone's experience in different ways of supporting people with disabilities. I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Special Education, focusing on behavioral and learning disorders. I teach English learners in an elementary school now. I am leaving my email so that whoever has a suggestion of how I can start the program to support students with disabilities can contact me at niyokwizigirwa.jo@gmail.com. I am also hoping to grow professionally in research because I believe that through research, I can advocate for many people at once.

We welcome Mr. Niyokwizigirwa to IASE.

Treasurer's Report As of February 7, 2021 Iris Drower

Account	Amount
Checking	\$3, 677.56
VSP/Giving	\$13,067.47
Marg Csapo Scholarship	\$6,002.47
Operational Fund	\$126,831,87
Total	\$149,579.35

Renew and Join IASE Today!



To join IASE, contact Rachael Gonzales, email: IASEMembership@gmail.com

Please print information clearly:

Surname: _____ First Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State / Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Dues: Regular \$US 50 _____ Regular/Sponsor \$US 70 _____

Student Membership \$US 20 _____ Developing Country \$US 20 _____ Institution \$US 70 _____

Name of person sponsored: _____ E-mail of person sponsored: _____

Address of person sponsored: _____

Donation to Marg Csapo Scholarship \$US _____ **Total Enclosed \$US** _____

Payment Information: _____ VISA _____ Master Card _____ Discover _____

Authorized.net (*Please follow link on the website @www.iase.org*)

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Name of Cardholder (print): _____ Date: _____

Billing Address: _____

Cheque (Payable to IASE, US funds)

Please send your membership form to:

Mail: IASE Treasurer, PO Box 2159, Mesa, AZ 85214, USA **E-mail :** irisdoug@cox.net

IASE operates on a rolling membership year; you will be invited to renew your membership one year after joining. All other membership inquiries contact: iasemembership@gmail.com