



A MESSAGE FROM THE IASE PRESIDENT

Dr. Renáta Tichá



As we approach the end of 2023, I am grateful for IASE as an organization for bringing together like-minded people from around the world with the mission of dismantling ableism and improving

services for children, youth and adults with disabilities in school and community settings. I am especially aware of the situation of people with disabilities and their families in countries affected by war and other disasters. There have been many tragic situations in those regions, some glimpses of hope have however sparked through when countries have offered asylums, including access to schools and other facilities supporting independent living and inclusion of those with disabilities.

We are now seven months away from the 18th Biennial IASE conference at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Plzeň in Czech language), Czech Republic, that will take place on June 27-July 1, 2024. The conference theme is *Supporting Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities across the Lifespan* (<https://www.iase.org/conference>). We have reviewed over 300 proposals from over 30 countries and will be sending out letters of acceptance shortly. I am happy that 30 proposals came from different regions of my native Czech Republic. I am thrilled that many of proposals are from people who have not previously engaged with IASE and focus not only on special education and inclusion during childhood but address different aspects of transition and adult services. We also have proposals related to refugees with disabilities and proposals from countries affected by a war. We

have a wonderful line up of keynote speakers, including Sue Swenson, President of Inclusion International; Tobias Buchner from the University of Education Upper Austria; and Girma Bernanu, IASE national chair for Sweden.

The IASE conference planning committee, together with the Czech local conference committee, has been working on the conference details, including presentation spaces, housing options, site visits, local entertainment, etc. Members of the Czech planning committee led by Šárka Káňová and Jan Šiška have put a lot of energy into planning the conference space, working with local NGOs on artwork and items for conference delegates, as well as preparing volunteers for their conference roles.

As a reminder, you have an opportunity to submit an article based on your conference proposal to be published in the conference proceedings. The deadline for the article is set for February 2024.

Conference registration opens on December 1, 2023, so do not wait to make sure you do not miss this amazing opportunity to share your work and meet your colleagues from across the globe in Pilsen, Czech Republic!

On behalf of IASE, thank you for all the work you do, and we cannot wait to see you soon!

Stay updated on the upcoming IASE conference, Volunteer Service Sites, Virtual Dialogues, and other happenings at <https://iase.org/>.

Reach out with any questions.

With warm wishes to all corners of the world,
Renáta

Renáta Tichá, PhD, IASE President
University of Minnesota, USA

18th BIENNIAL IASE CONFERENCE Pilsen, Czech Republic



Supporting Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Across the Lifespan

A Partnership between
International Association of Special Education
(IASE) & University of West Bohemia

Pilsen, Czech Republic
June 28 – July 1, 2024

IMPORTANT TIMELINES

Feb. 15, 2024: Conference proceedings due

May 1, 2024: Early special rates registration fees end

After May 2, 2024: Late conference fees

May 1, 2024: All presenters must be registered for the conference.

**A copy of the registration form can be found at the end of this newsletter.*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Key N o t e S p e a k e r s

IASE 18th Biennial Conference 2024

Supporting Inclusion Of Persons with Disabilities Across the Life Span



Dr. Susan Swenson
President of Inclusion International, USA



Dr. Tobias Buchner
Professor, Inclusive Education
Upper Austria



Dr. Girma Berharu
Professor, Equity & Inclusion, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

 Saturday -Monday
29-1 June-July

 8:30 am

More info visit our site:
<https://www.iase.org/conference>

JOIN NOW

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

IASE 18th Biennial Conference 2024

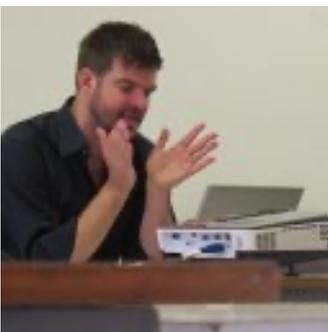


Dr. Swenson is currently the President of Inclusion International, a global organization that advocates for the inclusion of

individuals with intellectual disabilities into their communities as valued neighbors and citizens. Prior to this position, Sue served as the director of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research and twice served as the acting secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. She has been appointed to disability leadership by 3 Presidents. She has also spent four years leading the Arc of the United States as its CEO.

Sue's work is also very personal. Her son Charlie was born with multiple disabilities. He was a strong, self-advocate and he also advocated for others. He passed away nearly ten years ago, in 2013. You'll learn more about Charlie and how he inspired Sue's work in her presentation entitled "Parents as Partners in the Power of Inclusion."

To find out more about Inclusion International go to <https://inclusioninternational.org/person/sue-swenson/>.



Dr. Tobias Buchner, following positions at Trinity College Dublin/Ireland, University of Vienna/Austria, and University of Halle/Germany, currently serves as Head of the

Department of Inclusive Education at the University of Education Upper Austria. His main research interests are inclusive education, digitalization and space, ableism and education, learning biographies, and inclusive research. Dr. Buchner has won several research awards, such as

the 'Science Award of the German Society of Educational Research' in 2018. He conducted various national and international projects on inclusive and special education – both as principal investigator and cooperation partner. Furthermore, he has published in the most important peer-reviewed international journals of his field - and is editor of the German Handbook of Inclusive Research as well as the Routledge Handbook on Space, Education, and Inclusion.

His work will be showcased in his presentation entitled 'Exploring the Ability-Space Regimes of 'Inclusive Education' in Mainstream Schools.' Professor Buchner also serves as the Chair of the Austrian Monitoring Board of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Chair of the Inclusive Education Special Interest Research Group of the International Association of the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD).



Dr. Girma Berharu earned his PhD in 2001. Dr. Berharu is currently a professor of special education at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He has extensive experience working with varied research objects in his research environment (PRIS). He is a coordinator of

the Research Environment. The 'research objects' are participation, communication, and learning of children and adults in various contexts and situations. The interactions between individuals and their surroundings and the preconditions for accommodating the differences among all individuals are central. His general area of research interest is race, ethnicity, and special education. Of special interest to him is also "group-based inequalities" in scholastic achievement and minority students learning and development in a globalized and post-colonial world.

His research and teaching interests are in the relationship between social and educational inclusion and, particularly, in the relationship between education and other areas of public policy

in urban contexts. Education, Disadvantage, and Places are his current areas of research focus. His current work and experiences will be highlighted in his topic entitled: 'Education and Support in Sweden for Refugees with Disabilities.'

Professor Berharu also collaborates with several international organizations and universities. He is associated with the International Center for the Enhancement of Learning Potential in Israel. He was a research associate there. He is the National Chair for Sweden: International Association of Special Education (IASE); a Member of an International Consortium of Equity in Special Education (Stanford University/Arizona University); Member of The International Association for Cognitive Education and Psychology and Scientific Advisory Board member for a number of universities and projects.

DIANA WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ORG.

Farida Khakoo and Members of DIWEO



Diana Women Empowerment Organization was founded in 1998. This organization started with 15 members who had the purpose of providing services to the community including orphans, widows, the elderly, the disabled, those living with HIV, and living in vulnerable environments. Currently, DIWEO has 23 members. DIWEO has been a VSP site since 2015 and has branches in:

1. **Dar es Salaam Region**-Temeke Ubungo, Ilala, and Kinondoni.
2. **Tanga Region** – Tanga around the city, Pongwe; Lushoto; Korogwe- Mashewa; Muheza - Mafere.
3. **Morogoro Region**-Mikese, Pangawe.
4. **Pwani Region**-Chalinze and Ubena.

Over the past 25 years, DIWEO had many achievements, including:

- 550 children (ORPHANS) who received DIWEO services are independent. They have studied at various levels, some to university and there is one who is doing a master's degree.
 - A total of 36 widows living with HIV are receiving health care, clothing, and food every month and their health is improving.
 - A total of 32 elderly people has been provided with monthly food, clothing, and medical services.
 - A total of 10 branches have been opened in different parts of the country.
 - Two orphanages were established (Dar Es Salaam and Tanga) currently closed and the children have been reunited with their guardians.
 - Diweo has encouraged mothers to create 45 Entrepreneurship Groups so that they can improve their lives. These groups will also enable them to get interest-free loans from their Wards.
 - The Women served by DIWEO received loans from various institutions for the success of their entrepreneurial activities.
 - 100 children with disabilities have been given health insurance.
 - 31 children have received treatment in hospitals.
 - One person with disabilities was fitted with artificial limbs (arms) worth TZS 6m after having both hands amputated.
 - Food amounting to 29,760,000 kilos of rice; 29,760,000 kilos of sugar; 29,760,000 kilos of maize flour; 1,240,000 kilos of beans; and 1,240,000 kilos of wheat flour were distributed to the needy.
 - 4 sewing machines have been given to widowed mothers to help them in entrepreneurial activities.
 - Construction of rainwater harvesting tanks has been built at 10 primary schools in Lushoto Branch.
 - DIWEO successfully held graduation ceremonies ten times for 180 children who graduated from various levels.
 - DIWEO had the opportunity to visit China to learn how to start small-scale industries and how to eliminate poverty.
 - DIWEO was also represented at the International Specialized Education Conference held in Lushoto and Poland.
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Among the orphans educated by DIWEO, many achieved success as follows:

- 11 orphans have completed university education, 7 of them have found employment and 4 have not yet found employment.
- Of those who got a chance to join the National Army are 4 but one died while at work and the rest are still working
- All other orphans have had the opportunity to be employed or self-employed in the fields of Driving, Shoemaker, Kindergarten teachers, Nurses, Mechanics, Accountants, and various fields. It is not easy to mention them all quickly, but DIWEO is proud to remove many orphans from the depths of poverty.
- DIWEO Sponsors 80 children with disabilities as follows:
 - 18 children with disabilities: Their parents are given food every month.
 - 100 children with disabilities have been issued health insurance cards.
 - 4 children with disabilities parents have been given sewing machines to improve their standard of living economically.
 - 9 children with disabilities and 2 seniors with disabilities have been given wheelchairs.
 - 1 person with a disability has been given a plastic leg and 2 children with disabilities have been given prosthetic arms.
- DIWEO Provides free water service to the residents of Kinondoni district due to water shortage affecting some areas of the district. 600 liters of water is distributed weekly.
- Received 100 boxes of Re-Usable Sanitary Pads from TDCF - Mwanza for free distribution.

We are proud of DIWEO and its achievements, especially in improving the lives of orphans and disabled children. young people, widows living with HIV, the elderly, and those living in vulnerable environments. IASE is also proud to have DIWEO as a VSP site.

IASE VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

Youth/Young Adults with Disabilities to Adulthood

IASE Virtual Dialogue on the Transition of Youth/Young Adults with Disabilities to Adulthood



**Saturday, December 2, at 9:00 AM
Minnesota (CT) time on Zoom**

<https://umn.zoom.us/j/94650367120?pwd=OHZhN3NmGJjcURsT3MwVldBR05odz09>

Moderator:

**Renáta Tichá, Ph.D., IASE President -
Introductions**

Presenters:

**Cathy Little, Ph.D., Australia -
Where to Go from Here? Post-school Transitions
for Youth with Disability**

**Prof. Dr. Tobias Buchner, Austria -
Lost in Transition? Young Persons with
Intellectual Disabilities and their Pathways to
Work**

**Assoc. Prof. Jan Šiška, Ph.D., Czech Republic -
Active Citizenship as a Critical
Transition goal for All**

**Prof. Satomi K. Shinde, Ph.D., USA -
Self-Determination of Secondary Students
with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

MAKING HOPE HAPPEN IN VIETNAM

Craig Goldsberry, Volunteer Service Program

One of the strengths of IASE is the individuals who volunteer in the Volunteer Service Program, such as Craig Goldsberry, who we are highlighting this month.

-Dr. Rachael González

Since 2015, I have had the honor of representing IASE in Vietnam and supporting the various VSP sites here in this beautiful country. On my first visit, I was asked by IASE to visit their VSP sites in Hue City (Genetic Counseling and Disabled Children) and Hoi An (The Kianh Special School). I was also asked to visit Ho Chi Minh University of Education and the Santa Maria Clinic in Ho Chi Minh City. My first visit brought great joy and appreciation for what the educators in Vietnam, with limited resources, were striving towards in serving their populations of special needs. I was so impressed with the passion and dedication they invested in their efforts to create programs and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Over the past 8 years, I have been returning to Vietnam every summer for teacher training and curriculum development. During my last visit in the fall of 2023, I can see the expansion of VSP sites including the new VSP site in Ho Chi Minh City, Nhan Hoa Inclusive Education Development Support Center, and the spread of special education services to several public and private schools and centers. The teachers have adopted and applied the BASICS Curriculum Framework, have made it a priority to travel and learn from programs across the United States, and are continually adding to their network of IASE educational specialists and resources to keep moving towards meeting their goals and educational needs of children and adults with special needs.

All this progress has been due to the hopes and dreams of the educators here in Vietnam. Their deep conviction that with hard work and perseverance, educational collaboration, and resources, their goal of developing and creating greater opportunities for individuals with disabilities will become a reality and will travel far beyond the walls of their programs and reach the

special needs seen across the entire nation. I am so fortunate to have had this wonderful working relationship and proud to be a part of their “family.” Hopes are happening in Vietnam and the long journey toward success is clearly in their sights. Together we move toward the future and beyond!



TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Iris Drower

as of November 4, 2023

Account	Amount
Checking	\$3,796.16
VSP/Giving	\$7,806.13
Marg Csapo Scholarship	\$9,529.22
Operational Savings	\$137,685.08
Total	\$158,816.59

CALL FOR 2026 BIENNIAL SITE VENUES

IASE Biennial Conference

We are currently seeking proposals for the 2026 IASE Conference site. We welcome proposals for a venue site that meet the requirements listed below:

- **Located in a city with an international airport and situated in reasonable proximity to hotels.** In addition, there should be available low-cost sleeping rooms (e.g., dorms) for individuals who prefer to stay on the university campus.
- **Provide adequate meeting space** with 12-15 meeting rooms that would accommodate 25-35 persons, a large meeting space (to accommodate 400 people) for general plenary sessions, and space for registration, exhibits, and poster sessions.
- **Provide needed equipment** (e.g., overheads, and/or LCD projectors, screens, laptops, easels).
- **Have food services available** at/near venue site.
- **Be willing to promote the conference in the region/country** and 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).
- **Be willing to provide guidance to the IASE Planning Committee** about tours, school visits, venue for Gala Dinner, and more.
- **Have available low cost sleeping rooms** (e.g., dorms) for individuals who seek/prefer to stay on the university campus.
- **Be able and willing to accept registrations from your own country.** This would include accepting the registrations and funds and maintaining appropriate records for accounting purposes.

If you are interested in hosting the 2026 IASE Conference, please submit a proposal to IASE addressing all the information listed above. **All proposals should be forwarded to our IASE President.** Your proposal should be sent to Dr. Renata Ticha, at tich0018@umn.edu by **January 20, 2024**. The proposals will be reviewed by our Site Selection Committee. The recommended site(s) will be forwarded to the IASE Board for final selection at the spring 2024 Board Meeting. **The final site will be announced at our 18th Biennial Conference in the Czech Republic.**

CALL FOR IASE BOARD NOMINATIONS

2024-2026 Nominations



Call for IASE Board Officers Nominations 2024-2026 Nominations are being accepted from now until January 1st, 2024. The following positions are open:

1. **President-Elect**, 1 to be elected for a two-year term
2. **Secretary**, 1 to be elected for a two-year term.
3. **Treasurer**, 1 to be elected for a two-year term
4. **Member-at-Large**, 3 to be elected for two-year terms

Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities for each of the above positions are in IASE's constitution and by-laws which can be found at <http://iase.org>. The Constitution states that the board shall be comprised of a minimum representation of 3 countries to reflect the international focus of the organization.

Criteria for application include a valid IASE membership and prior experience with IASE (e.g., committee chair/work, volunteer service and/ or an elected position). Board members are not paid a salary and must attend meetings at their own voluntary expense.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and expertise, send a letter of intent and a short (one-page) resume to Dr. Zandile Nkabinde Past President at znkabinde@gmail.com or znkabinde@njcu.edu the IASE Nominations Chair. The committee will review all nominations and forward their recommendations to the Board for ballot approval. The voting ballot will be emailed to all paid IASE members.



REGISTRATION Fee Schedule

18th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Special Education (IASE)

You can complete a separate registration form for each participant or complete this online by going to our website at iase.org. Duplicate this form as needed. **Make checks or money orders payable to IASE** in US dollars. Mail to: IASE Treasurer, Dr. Iris Drower, P.O. Box 2159 Mesa, Arizona, 85214 USA Email: dririsdoug@gmail.com. For wire transfers please contact the IASE Treasurer directly via email.

You may pay by credit card online too! Go to our website for information. Our payment schedule will be available on our website on or before January 15th, 2024 **IASE Federal ID# 43-1974089**.

Please note all Czech Participants will pay a special country rate fee of 100.00 USD. Plus 50 USD for IASE membership. Please contact Dr. Šárka Káňová for more information: kanova@kpg.zcu.cz

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Surname: _____ **First Name** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____

Country: _____ **Zip/Postal Code:** _____

Phone (O) _____ **(H or Cell)** _____

Email: _____

Gala Dinner: Yes: ___ No: ___ **Indicate Special Diet Needs:** _____

Indicate Any Special Access Services Required: _____

Conference registration includes: Opening Reception, conference bag, three days of conference sessions with morning breaks, program, Gala Dinner, and Conference Proceedings.



REGISTRATION FEES

	By May 1, 2024	After May 2, 2024 (late fees)
IASE Member	___\$485.00	___\$585.00
Non IASE Member	___\$535.00	___\$635.00
IASE Member Developing Country	___\$185.00	___\$285.00
Non IASE Member Developing Country	___\$235.00	___\$335.00
IASE Student Member (undergraduate and graduate students taking 15+ credit hours per academic year)	___\$285.00	___\$385.00
Non IASE Student Member (undergraduate and graduate students taking 15+ credit hours per academic year)	___\$335.00	___\$435.00
IASE Member Retired (65+ years old)	___\$225.00	___\$325.00
Non IASE Member Retired (65+ years old)	___\$325.00	___\$425.00

Extra Gala Dinner Tickets for a guest only: ___ Number @ \$55.00 = \$ _____

Optional Tours:

Fees to be determined

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES: (payment in US dollars only) \$ _____

Method of Payment: ___ Check/Money Order ___ Credit Card (see below)

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Address of the Credit Card: _____, City _____, State _____

Zip or country Code _____ **Expiration date of card:** _____

Note: All presenters are required to register for the conference by May 1, 2024 or their names will not appear in the conference program. All registration forms and payment must be received no later than May 1, 2024. Registrants with special meal requests must list them on the registration form.

Cancellations MUST be made in writing for the IASE Board approval. Send to IASE, c/o IASE Treasurer PO Box 2159, Mesa Az. 85214. **Refund information:** All refunds are subject to an \$80.00 US processing charge. Cancellations made by May 1, 2022 full refund minus the \$80.00 processing charge. May 2-15, 2024 a 75% refund (minus \$80.00), May 16-30, 2024 a 50% refund (minus \$80.00). No refunds after June 1, 2024.

PLEASE remember to register early as this conference is limited to the first 400 participants.



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 _____

Online Payment 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:

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