



A MESSAGE FROM THE IASE PRESIDENT

Dr. Renáta Tichá



It is still a year away, but members of the IASE conference planning committee have been working diligently preparing for the 18th Biennial IASE conference at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Plzeň in Czech

language), Czech Republic, which will take place on June 27-July 1, 2024. In mid-May, the IASE treasurer, Iris Drower, interim presidents-elect, Daniel McCarthy and Kalynn Pistorio, and I spent three days in Pilsen with Šárka Káňová, conference co-chair for the Czech Republic, Jan Šiška, a senior international advisor to Czech conference planning committee, and their colleagues, visiting the university venues, hotels, venues for gala dinner, and sites for delegates to experience the education and vocational systems in the Czech Republic.

The Dean of the Faculty of Education, Pavel Mentlík, and other members of his faculty administration welcomed us and expressed their full support for this important conference. We were also able to meet with university students who want to volunteer at the upcoming conference. The University of West Bohemia prides itself in its education, special education, and social work programs. They see the next IASE conference in Pilsen as a unique opportunity to share their expertise and approaches to education and disability services with international delegates as well as to get inspired by researchers, educators, family members, and persons with disabilities from around the world.

In addition to the conference taking place in my home country, I am excited about the conference theme Supporting Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities across the Lifespan. Our education systems are often negligent in paying sufficient attention to the life after school of students, including those with disabilities. We spend most of our lives as adults and need advice and support during the transition period from childhood to living as adults in our home and work communities. One of the goals of the 18th Biennial IASE conference in the Czech Republic will be sharing information and developing new solutions for the inclusion of people with disabilities in society across the lifespan.

We are preparing to open the call for proposals for the conference in a few weeks. We hope all of you will consider submitting your ideas. Watch out for updates about the conference and an upcoming Virtual Dialogue on the IASE website and social media.

Each of you is doing amazing work in the field of special and inclusive education and social services, and we cannot wait to review your contributions to the upcoming conference, the newsletter as well as the IASE journal.

On behalf of IASE, and specifically the conference planning committee, I cannot wait to welcome you to the heart of Europe at the end of June 2024. Enjoy this issue of *Annuntiatius* and stay updated with upcoming IASE happenings at <https://iase.org/>.

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 6/27-7/1 2024
LCSW Daniel McCarthy, Interim President-Elect**

Conference Committee Site Visits: May 14 - 18



Plans for the 2024 IASE conference at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic are well on the way. The IASE conference planning committee: Dr. Renata Ticha, Dr. Iris Drower, Daniel McCarthy LCSW, and Dr. Kaylenn Pistorio met with the Pilsen local planning committee co-chaired by Dr. Šárka Káňová and Dr. Jan Šiška during our visit to Pilsen from May 14-17, 2023. We had four days of collaborative discussions with the University leadership and staff, and local governmental, educational, and community program representatives. We also visited and had discussions with a variety of different accommodation/hotel options in addition to several school and program site visits.

The conference will take place at the University of West Bohemia from June 27-July 1, 2024. The IASE conference committee met with the University leadership team to discuss the planning for the conference including the university facilities for the keynote and opening/closing session as well as the rooms for presentations, catering options, and technical support for the conference. The opening keynote and conference sessions will be held in one of the large university lecture halls and the classroom venues for the workshops are spacious, well-lighted, and have connectivity to the internet.

We were able to tour the entire university conference site and sample the food options at the university cafeteria which were very good.

The committee visited several hotel options within the central part of Pilsen. These hotels are affordable in price including breakfast and had excellent wifi connectivity. They included the Hotel Central, The Park Hotel, The Victoria Hotel, Hotel Rango, and the Marriott Hotel. In addition, we also visited a university dormitory that will be available for conference attendees for lodging at a very affordable price and close to the university campus.



The best transportation option to the university from the various downtown accommodations is by Tram #4 with the “University” at the end of the stop.



To plan for the conference, the committee was able to visit several community agencies and school sites that provide services to a variety of age groups and areas of disability. These programs would be appropriate for the potential site visits scheduled for the 27th. These included a joint venture educational/therapy program with the Department of Social Services and a local school special education teacher for students with intense needs and a community day program for adults with intellectual disabilities. The committee also met with members of the local governmental agencies to discuss the conference details and possible support services and activities in Pilsen. These potential site visits were within walking distance from the center of town or by tram. On our last day in Pilsen, Iris and I were also able to visit a local public school with three special education classrooms and their wonderful students and skilled teachers.

In summary, the conference committee had a wonderful and productive visit with the local committee members and found the University facilities, hotel, catering, and transportation options plus the Gala Dinner venue to be exceptional for next summer's conference.



In planning for next year's conference, we had the opportunity to meet with a wonderful group of local students that are planning to assist the local committee next year with many of the daily activities: registration, conference information, and support. To end the conference positively the committee visited several possible sites for the Gala Dinner which will be held on Monday, July 1st. We were very fortunate to select a venue that resides within a historic architectural building that is located in the central part of the city within walking distance from many of the hotels.



The committee also had numerous opportunities to walk around the city and taste the local food at various restaurants and bakery shops. Both the food and service were excellent, very affordable, and often included vegetarian dishes. The local beer from the Pilsner Urquell Brewery was *especially good*.



As a first-time member of an IASE pre-conference site visit team, I was very impressed with the local committee members and their commitment to hosting the next IASE International Conference in a Central European location. My visit to the Czech Republic started in San Francisco with a British Air flight to London Heathrow and a connecting BA

flight to Prague. A cab ride to the Falkensteiner Hotel which is located across the street from the central train station. For those that are traveling to/from Prague by train, this hotel might be a good option though more expensive because of the location of the main station (Praha) in Prague. After spending several days in Prague to get familiar with the time change, food, and geography, Iris and I took the 1-hour train ride from the Prague main rail station (Praha hl.n) to the Pilsen main station (Plzen hl.n) on the Czech national railway *Ceske' drah*. Prague and Pilsen are wonderful cities for walking and the public transportation options are numerous and inexpensive.

We all look forward to reconnecting with the many colleagues and educators that we met in Pilsen next summer for our 18th Biennial Conference at the University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, the Czech Republic.



NHAN HOA INCLUSIVE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT CENTERS

Vietnam



Mission: Maximize potential to help children integrate effectively into the community.

Working Philosophy: Dedicated Companion.

The **Nhan Hoa Inclusive Education Development Support Centers** are in Go Vap, Tan Binh, and Hoc Mon districts in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. The centers support 265 children from ages 1 to 18 years old with neurodevelopmental disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, developmental delay, language disorder, learning disorder, mild cerebral palsy, and other disabilities.



The main service areas of the center include:

- Early intervention to enhance the development of infants and toddlers (1-4 years old) with disabilities.
- Individual intervention and group intervention (1-2 hours a day) for children 4-18 years old who can integrate into preschool, primary school, elementary school, and high school at the center.

- Full-day group intervention for children ages 4 years and older who have not or are unable to participate in an inclusive learning program due to limited cognitive, language, or self-care abilities.
- Speech and language therapy interventions for children with speech and language needs.
- Counseling and psychotherapy for children and adults with psychological needs.
- Training 1:1 for parents of children with developmental disorders in provinces and cities far from Ho Chi Minh City in direct and indirect forms so that parents know to effectively intervene for their children at home.
- Our center also supports internships and internships for students and teachers at universities and schools from within the Ho Chi Minh area.



Our newest site ***Nhan Hoa Inclusive Education Development Support Center*** is looking for volunteers and expertise in the following areas:

- Special Education
- Speech Therapy
- Occupation Therapy
- Early Intervention
- Rating Scale/Assessments
- Intervention Programs
- Specialized Books



For more information on how you can get involved feel free to contact Craig Goldsberry at goldsberry.craig@gmail.com or Thu Nguyễn at nguyenthupsy@gmail.com and the website: <https://trungtamnhanhoavn.vn/>



IASE VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

Drs. Iris Drower and Rachel Gonzales



Please mark your calendar for August 26th!

IASE will be hosting our second Virtual Dialogue of 2023 on Saturday, August 26 from 8:00 am-10:00 pm (CT). Check out what is happening around the globe at three of our featured Volunteer Service Sites. Learn about how these sites are advocating for the needs of individuals with disabilities across the lifespan. **Here is a snapshot of our special feature speakers for this event:**



Viviana Contreras is currently the Executive Director at **Centro Maya** a non-governmental organization, located at Lake Atitlan, Guatemala. She has 20 years of experience in nonprofit organizations with different scopes of work on behalf of children, youth, and women protection. She has a bachelor's degree in Social

Communication and a master's degree in politics and communication and is currently in her third year of study in law school. She has worked during all these years promoting and ensuring the human rights compliance of the most vulnerable populations in her country. Viviana was born and raised in Guatemala City where she received most of her education and professional experience. She has an in-depth knowledge of the cultural and socio-political context of her country.



Nguyen Thi Thu is currently the Director of the Huong Duong Psychotherapy - Speech therapy counseling center (the precursor of Nhan Hoa Center) and the Nhan Hoa Inclusive Education Development Support Center. The Nhan Hoa Inclusive Education Development Support Center was established to teach children with speech delay, early intervention, individual intervention, language development, behavior, and communication, for children with developmental disabilities. Thu has taught classes as a clinical instructor in the area of speech therapy for several Universities. She has a Master of School Psychology from Hanoi National University of Education and a Bachelor of Science from Van Hien University, Faculty of Psychology majoring in counseling and Psychotherapy.



Novatus (Nova) Marandu joined **Toa Nafasi**, Tanzania in 2020 and is now the current Executive Director. His previous work addressed child sexual abuse and violence in tackling the education crisis, grounded in the belief that every child needs a chance to receive a quality education that recognizes and fosters individual talent, safety, and uniqueness. He divides his time serving as the Regional Representative and Ethics Committee Chair of the National Council for NGOs in Tanzania – an umbrella organization for not-for-profits in the country. He is also a Mandela Washington Fellow. He received his bachelor's degree from St. Augustine University, Tanzania in Law.



Moses Walusimbi is the founder of **Special Children Special People (SCSP)**, Uganda, a grassroots non-profit organization that advocates, educates, rehabilitates, and empowers children with disabilities

families. SCSP in its agenda seeks to advance the well-being, competence, and integration of persons with disabilities into communities with a focus on self-independence for children with special needs and empowerment to families. SCSP works with parents/caretakers of special needs children, community-based organizations, local authorities, and national institutions to advocate and champion its causes. We believe that vulnerable special needs people can be fully integrated into communities where they dwell and can further contribute to its advancement. Moses has a bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration.

IASE MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Rachael González



Your membership support is *critical* for IASE to continue its collaboration with partners across the international field of special education!

We do not want you to miss the *Annuntius*, our quarterly newsletter, and the annual *Journal of the International Association of Special Education* along with other information about IASE such as participating in the Virtual Dialogues, or the 10 Volunteer Service Project sites you could participate in, along with information on the upcoming 18th Biennial Conference to be held June 28th- July 1st, 2023, at the University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, Czech Republic.

Join us in continuing these efforts by joining IASE as a **NEW** member or making sure that you **RENEW** your membership. If you are a member, we ask you to consider **SPONSORING** a fellow special educator from a developing economy nation to become a member of IASE.

There are several ways you can join IASE as:

- a regular member
- a student
- an individual from a developing country
- an institution
- a regular member who sponsors a member from a developing country

Steps to complete membership:

1. You can enroll online using a credit card account: www.iase.org/membership
2. Complete an IASE membership form and send a check and or money order to:

IASE Treasurer

P.O. Box 2159

Mesa, Arizona 85214, USA

If you have been a past member of IASE a message requesting that you **Renew** your membership will be arriving in your email accordingly. We need your continued support so please renew your membership as soon as you can. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at IASEMembership@gmail.com. Join this excited team by going to the website www.iase.org/membership

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Iris Drower

as of May 30, 2023

Account	Amount
Checking	\$5,065.60
VSP/Giving	\$14,641.13
Marg Csapo Scholarship	\$7,505.37
Operational Savings	\$137,671.26
Total	\$164,883.36



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