



A MESSAGE FROM THE IASE PRESIDENT

Dr. Renáta Tichá



As we end 2022, we are reminded that regardless of where we live, our lives are affected by events in other states, countries, and continents. The mission of IASE is to work across borders to improve the lives of children and youth with

disabilities, their families, and those who support them.

While children and youth with disabilities and their families experience similar struggles across the world, there are areas and situations where there are extra challenges due to wars, natural disasters, pollution, and other calamities.

As part of IASE, we all strive to connect our localized knowledge and expertise with global issues related to special and inclusive education, vocational rehabilitation, educational leadership, etc. We do that through our biennial conferences organized in different countries, Virtual Dialogues, the newsletter *Annuntiatius*, the *Journal of IASE (JIASE)*, Volunteer Service Projects (VSPs), and all of the international connections we make through these activities.

This year's conference in Ho Chi Minh City attracted over 200 delegates from 27 countries, including Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, the Czech Republic, Australia, Hong Kong, the USA, etc. The conference covered a variety of topics from inclusive education, use of technology, transition to employment, teacher education, Volunteer Service Sites, early intervention, university preparation, community development and so much more. A big thank you goes to the conference organizers in Vietnam and beyond!

Let's utilize the conference momentum and keep up the great work as we prepare for the 18th Biennial IASE conference at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic (Plzeň in the Czech language) on June 28-July 1, 2024.

Watch for upcoming IASE Virtual Dialogues that will feature National Chairs and introduce new topics for 2023.

On behalf of IASE, I wish you a peaceful and productive 2023, with hopes to develop, implement and evaluate effective approaches and strategies for children and youth with disabilities, their families, and those who support them in education and the community in many international contexts. As we are working and volunteering in different countries and local communities, it is especially important that we are sensitive to cultural and linguistic differences, gender differences, but also all of the similarities, to be able to implement the various practices in meaningful and useful ways.

Enjoy this issue of *Annuntiatius* with many inspiring stories and news, submit an article to the *JIASE*, become a reviewer for the journal, engage at one or more of the Volunteer Service Project (VSP) sites, get involved with one of our IASE committees (newsletter, PR, membership, National Chair, etc.), and reach out with other interests and opportunities. Stay updated with IASE happenings at <https://iase.org/>.

With warm wishes for 2023,
Renáta

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

MOUNTAIN OF JOY

Arusha, Murieth, Tanzania



Mountain of Joy Foundation (MJF) is a non-government organization that has been doing a tremendous job to educate local communities in

Tanzania about people with cognitive disabilities living in challenging environments to reduce stigmatization and discrimination hence promoting equality and fighting for their rights. MJF conducts its activities professionally following some strategies which ensure its sustainability. These activities are done to ensure people with Autism and other cognitive disabilities are identified, valued, and given equal chances in both the education sector and socio-economic activities to make them depend on their valued efforts and bread earners of their families through supervision of our trained personnel. In this third phase of its progress, the organization has succeeded to accomplish some of the activities, some are in progress and others have stagnated due to various challenges.

CHARITY TOUR

We have been visited by Oljoro Secondary School students who have arrived at our center for their Charity tour to visit and provide charity services to our youth with disabilities, they provided clothes and organized a vegetable garden for MJF. It was a chance for our youngsters to receive a new challenge of interacting with people from different environments.



AWARENESS SEMINAR

MJF had a seminar with ward official government leaders at Laroi Village. The main concern was to draw their attention and make them aware of negative cultural beliefs against individuals with disabilities including the area of our concern that's people with Autism and other cognitive challenges.

OPEN CONFERENCE

MJF participated in the open Conference on the "program for public debate on reinstatement of the constitutional review process" organized by the Tanganyika law society of Tanzania mainland. The conference involved various social stakeholders including non-governmental organizations. MJF contributed to the conference by explaining the importance of including special groups in decision-making on issues related to society.

PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION

On July 29 we were visited by representatives from Ndoto Zetu to make proper strategies for making partnership agreements with us. At the end of the meeting, we agreed to cooperate with them in education provision specifically related to disabilities and cognitive challenges as our area of interest.



MJF staff with a Ndoto Zetu representative

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION

We organized our youth to volunteer in the celebration of International Youth day. Our youth were in the Frontline zone championing this celebration prepared by East Africa Youth Network held at EAC headquarters (Arusha City center). Seven EAC member states were the participants.

EXPOSURE VISIT

Our team of MJF staff and our teens visited the Ndoto Zetu forum. We shared the experience of helping our young children as a result of our partnership. Also, our youth got a chance to play with Ndoto Zetu kids. This is a developmental stage in which some of our youth happily interact with other people.



MJF and Ndoto Zetu youth playing

Successes:

- ✓ MJF has succeeded by being included in different official government activities and decision-making of different important sectors
- ✓ MJF has succeeded to impart knowledge to Tanzanians on the importance of caring for keeping people with disability as part of our community
- ✓ MJF continues to gain popularity inside and outside Tanzania and people get motivated to enroll individuals with disabilities

Challenges:

- ❖ Our teens lack proper uniforms that will identify them anywhere, tracksuits specifically during winter, and pads specifically for girls.
- ❖ Some training needs special programs which are too expensive

Way Forward:

- There is a need to have sponsors who will fund MJF projects financially
- There is a need for a government to strengthen efforts against bad cultural beliefs
- Samaritans are encouraged to volunteer to take part in some challenges they can solve

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DON BOSCO SNEHA BHAVAN

VSP Site – India



DB GIFT: The third season of the DB GIFT program was inaugurated at Don Bosco Boys Home on 10th July 2022. The solemn inaugural ceremony colorfully took place with all four groups attending the function in colored uniforms. The captains and vice captains of the four houses took the oath to work together in unity and team spirit. With the inauguration of the house system, there is renewed vigor and energy to participate in the weekly talent development programs and a healthy competition to reach first in the monthly point tally to claim rewards. DB-GIFT is proving to be an effective participatory approach in the development and growth of teenagers under the care of Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan.



Skills for Life:

Education is not merely books-based; a systematic education is also needed. Exposure to practical life skills is essential, especially for children under our care who need to stand on their feet earlier than their counterparts in regular society. IBS

Software has come to our help and support to impart micro skills to our inmates which will surely help them build a future for themselves. Training in cake making and mushroom cultivation was provided as part of the project and our children took a special interest to learn the same mushroom cultivation and cake making opportunities are provided to polish the new skills squired by the children.



Tournament Day:

The competition was organized in different indoor and outdoor games like football, badminton, chess, caroms, and table tennis as a part of the DB GIFT

program. The matches have helped sustain healthy competition, improve their physical and mental health, and contribute to their character formation. All the children participated in this game session. The participants were divided into four groups. From dawn to dusk, the children enjoyed playing. It was a beautiful and unforgettable day for the children.



BRIGHT CHILDREN PROGRAM

Kota Tangerang, Banten Province, Indonesia

Background of program/Institution/Organization (years, population, ages, etc.) Yayasan Anak Terang (Bright Children Program) was first established in 2001 in Tangerang, Banten. The organization initially emphasized providing early childhood education for young kids, but soon with encouragement from our parents and community expanded our services for educating students at elementary and secondary levels too. Since 2004, our preschool has opened its doors for young children with special needs to be educated along with their typically developing peers.

Back in 2000, children with special needs had no access to the genre education classrooms; most often kids with disabilities and kids with other special educational needs would be placed in a separate setting where they are individualized in a room with a special ed teacher & opportunities for them to interact and engage with their peers was not available at the time.

The first student with a disability that our preschool accepted was a three-year-old young boy who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. I still remember his bright happy face when I greeted him in my Pre-K classroom in 2004. It was the plea of his mom at the school's office that allowed us to take a chance in educating her son. The mother shared her struggle to find a school that would accept her son into their programs. (That was in 2004, back then none of us knew what we were doing; had not even learned the concept of inclusion and what it was about; however, we just knew that this young boy needed the same opportunity as our other students to receive education and to learn with his similar age peers).

Today, our center has grown and we are no longer only providing early childhood education, but we have expanded our educational programs into elementary and also secondary programs. Within every classroom in the building, we are currently accommodating 1-2 students with special needs in our general education classrooms.

Our commitment to full inclusion has been supported by the organization starting with the essential roles of the leaders, continuous teacher training programs & professional development for inclusive education, and socialization of inclusive education that is provided for our students and all parents in the school. And another meaningful program that has recently received positive reviews from our community is the Special Parent Support Group or abbreviated as SPSG. This program was initiated by one of the school's leaders after returning from her study at CSUS. The goal of SPSG itself is to provide a community for parents who are caring for their son/daughter with special needs to meet up monthly and build a connection of support. **Special playdates** and Parenting Talks are two monthly routines that SPSG has created to support this community.

Yayasan Anak Terang is a private school institution therefore we can provide services and support for kids with special needs through students' monthly tuition fees. And to provide continuous programs for our SPSG, we are blessed to have volunteers, and parent members sponsoring the activities we have in SPSG.

Delisma Ade Sembiring: I am the coordinator for the Special Education Program at Yayasan Anak Terang. Besides formulating the most appropriate support services and programs for our students with special needs in all our divisions (Preschool to Grade 9), I am also responsible for developing various activities for the student's monthly playdates and parenting talks for families having kids with disabilities and special needs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: www.yat.sch.id

Special Parent Support Group: click [here](#)

Yayasang Anak Terang: click [here](#)



Special Playdate: Kids ages 3-12 were able to explore all art materials (finger painting, play dough, origami, etc.)



Annual Family Picnic with SPSG Members & families



Special Playdate: basketball with friends. Teaching students with special needs ways of interacting and engaging with their peers.

IASE SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Barry Bullis



A few years back, while reviewing the costs and benefits of my memberships (in **many** professional organizations), I asked myself, “What makes IASE special/worth it?” In addition to the opportunity to present at biennial international conferences across the globe, where I have met amazing educators and learned much more than I have shared, are the more meaningful collegiality and passion work opportunities that are available through the Volunteer Service Projects and Member Sponsorship.

While I hope to become a part of the Guatemala VSP now that the global pandemic is waning, I have had the pleasure of sponsoring the membership of a colleague from Tanzania for a few years. Sponsoring a member to share in the rich resources of IASE has cost me so little, but brought many rewards. After all, what good is the real benefit of an international organization without a strong inclusion of professionals from all areas of the world, especially “developing economy” countries? I would encourage anyone who can add a sponsorship when you join or renew your membership.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Dr. Iris Drower
as of November 13, 2022

Account	Amount
Checking	\$3,195.03
VSP/Giving	\$21,862.75
Marg Csapo Scholarship	\$7,504.65
Operational Savings	\$140,657.78
Total	\$173,220.21

IASE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dr. Rachael González

Stay updated with what IASE is doing throughout the globe. To renew your membership, fill out the form at <https://iase.org/membership>

5 membership types to choose from:

- \$50 - Regular
- \$20 - Student (full-time students)
- \$20 - Developing Economy

[Click here](#) for our list of nations with developing economies based on the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP).

- Institutional - \$70 for colleges and universities who want to include our publications in their selections
- Regular + Sponsorship (from developing economy). \$70 – regular member and sponsorship of a member from a developing economy country

Any questions please contact me Rachael González, Membership Chair at iasemembership@gmail.com



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

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Mesa, AZ 85214

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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