

Disabled People's Association



Annual Report For 2002-2003 (1 Apr 02 – 31 Mar 03)

Disabled People's Association

Brief History

Disabled People's Association (DPA) is a self-help organisation of people with disabilities. It was registered and gazetted on 28 April 1986. It held its inaugural meeting on 11 January 1987. DPA was registered as a charity with the Commissioner of Charities on 30th December 1996 and also Associate Membership with National Council of Social Service (NCSS) from 7th November 1997. DPA issues tax-exempt receipts for outright donations as from April 2000. Registered members for the year 2003 are 167.

ROS Registration Number : 202/84 WEL

Charity Registration Number : 1348

Registered Address : 150A, Pandan Gardens
#02-00 Day Care Centre
Singapore 609342

Email : dpaadmin@dpa.org.sg

Website : <http://www.dpa.org.sg>

Affiliated organizations : Handicaps Welfare Association (HWA)
Singapore Association for the Deaf (SAD)
Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH)
Spastic Children Association of Singapore (SCAS)
Disabled Peoples' International (DPI)

Main Objectives

1. To encourage and enhance self-help and independent living among disabled people in the community.
2. To work towards removing all architectural and attitudinal barriers and those that would hinder the full participation of disabled people in the educational, vocational, economic, social, cultural, sports and recreational life by making the necessary recommendations to the relevant authorities or organisations, by taking action to facilitate the full participation of all disabled people, including those who are home-bound in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes and services for their needs, and to monitor, evaluate and review such services; to also provide communication links with all disabled people and to make accessible information about disability, its treatment, correction and prevention.
3. To affiliate with and to further the work or purpose of any national or international organisation having as its objects the promotion of the interest, welfare and rights of disabled people through social justice.
4. To work closely and to provide consultative services on matters relating to disabled people to Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in the field of services to disabled people; promote or undertake research in any aspect of prevention, habilitation, rehabilitation and equalisation of opportunities; organise training courses not for profit or commercial reasons for disabled and non-disabled people concerned with programmes for disabled people; organise conferences, seminars, study groups of workshops on subjects relevant to disabled people.

Profile and Projects

All of DPA's projects come under the caption "RRICCH" (RICH) which stands for Resource and Research, Information and Communication Centre of the Handicapped. Our current activities and projects include:

- Public Awareness Projects/Campaigns
- Disability Advocacy
- Running the Independent Living Centre in Ayer Rajah Day Care Centre
- Coordinating Seminars/Programmes for all disability groups
- Transportation Taskforce
- The running and up-keeping of the disability database known as EnableNet, which is globally accessible through Internet.

- CAVE – An internet enabled classification, retrieval and visualisation system for assistive devices for people with disabilities
- Providing IT courses for People with Disabilities
- Coordinating Projects with Schools and Tertiary Institutes pertaining to disability issues.

PATRON

Dr. Tan Cheng Bock
MP, Ayer Rajah

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2002

PRESIDENT	: Mr. Ron Chandran-Dudley, PBM
VICE PRESIDENT	: Mr. Alan Ho
VICE PRESIDENT	: Mr. Leo Chan Ian
HONORARY SECRETARY	: Mrs. Chang Siew Ngoh
HONORARY TREASURER	: Mr. Lim Chin Heng
MEMBERS	: Mr. Vargese Clement Mr. Vivek Verma Mr. Hoon Cheong Woo Ms. Judy Anne Wee

STAFF

PROJECT MANAGER (IT)	: Mr. Ramaravikumar Ramakrishnan
PROJECT MANAGER (Appeals)	: Mr. Douglas Gomez
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	: Ms. Anusiah d/o Tharmalingam
PR/APPEALS EXECUTIVE	: Ms. Regana. Rahim

BANKER:

1. Development Bank of Singapore (DBS)
2. Maybank

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been another productive year for Disabled People's Association. Through the strong involvement of our volunteers, service partners, sponsors, staff and supporters, we were able to meet the needs and support our members in several ways. Over the past year, there have been many changes in the Social Service Sector. DPA has taken the initiative to move with the times and hope to reach out and change the lives of people with disabilities in the community.

In the past year, DPA has organised IT Training Workshops for members. With this training, members will have more opportunities in open employment. DPA will be providing more advanced IT Skills Training Workshops for members in the near future.

DPA had also embarked on many public awareness and fund-raising projects. This was not only to raise funds for the association and its project but also to raise awareness among the general public. In recent times, fund-raising proved to be a challenge for us due to the recent economic downturn and other unforeseen factors. Through such circumstances, DPA was still able to receive overwhelming support from sponsors, volunteers and supporters from the general public. I wish to record the valiant efforts put in by the 3 members of our staff, who assisted in no small measure towards this success.

Internationally, DPA has constantly played an integral part of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI). In 2002, DPA participated in the Disabled Peoples' International 6th World Assembly 2002, in Sapporo, Japan from the 12 to 18th of October 2002. Together with our sister organisations, HWA and SAVH, DPA sent in total of 9 delegates, 5 of whom were people with disabilities. It was a learning experience for the delegates. There were over 100 countries represented at the Conference. At the same time there were many seminars/workshops running concurrently. The President of DPA and 1st Chairperson of DPI, presented 3 papers and served as the member of the Selection Committee and Advisor to the Asia Pacific Committee of DPI.

With the recent introduction of the Voluntary Capability Fund, DPA was able to fund its Public Education Program. DPA, in collaboration with Ministry of Community Development and Sports will be launching a Dictionary on Disabilities Terminology.

In the near future DPA will be working together with MCDS on 2 new projects. They are Handbook on 'Universal Web Accessibility Guidelines' and a Seminar on 'Universal Web Accessibility'. DPA hopes to initiate the elimination of the Digital Divides in the Republic, thus enabling people with disabilities to have easy access to WebPages/Internet. We wish to

record our sincere thanks to the Ministry of Community Development and Sports and its officers who made this a reality.

DPA will also be taking part in Network Communications' Sustainable Development Foundation (NCSDF) 1st Network Communications' Sustainable Development Foundation World Conference to be held in September 2003 in Vancouver, Canada. DPA will be sending 1 member and a member of staff to this Conference.

DPA continues to play a significant role both nationally and internationally, particularly in the area of IT Training for its members and enabling them to access the website and Internet, thus diminishing the Digital Divide.

Disabled People's Association is grateful to the dedication of our members, volunteers and staff, for their contribution and endless effort in helping to run the organisation efficiently. We would also like to thank our many donors and well-wishers for their generous contributions and continuing support.

Our thanks also to the several Ministries, particularly Ministry of Community Development and Sports (MCDS). Thanks also to National Council of Social Service, National Volunteer Centre, sister Voluntary Organisation, Educational Institutions and last but not least the public.

DPA is extremely grateful to our Patron, Dr. Tan Cheng Bock, MP for Ayer Rajah Constituency and members of Ayer Rajah Community Centre and the staff. We also wish to acknowledge our sincere thanks to Mdm. Yu Fu Yee Shoon, Mayor, South West CDC, and members of staff of the South West CDC for their very kind co-operation. Our joint effort will go along way to ameliorating the situation with people with disabilities not only in the South West Region but throughout the Island.

Ron Chandran-Dudley, PBM
President
Disabled People's Association

ACTIVITIES

WEBSITE/ IT

DPA is currently hosting the following websites: DPA, Society for Continence, Parkinson's Disease Society of Singapore, The Page for Age and Happy Friend's Club.

DPA'S Website: ENABLENet

DPA's own website ENABLEnet serves as a computer database of information related to providing services and technologies for people with disabilities. The main components comprises of information on Accessibility in Singapore, Services, Assistance, Urinary Continence, Disability Defined, Statistics, Publications (DPA – Integrator, HWA - Handicaps' Digest, DPI - Disability International), News (main articles of newspapers), Events, Travel, Equipment, Special Olympics, Penpals, Employment, More about Disabilities, Membership Form, ESCAP and JOBS.

In addition, there are hyperlinks to local and overseas websites for cross-disability, deaf, visually handicapped, physically & intellectually disabled. Articles on how to create an accessible website, PCs and People with Disability and information about the PC Reuse Scheme are also available on our website. A search engine has also been added for easy searching on DPA's website as all documents are indexed.

The following statistics reflected the usage of the DPA websites:

Average	1999	2000	2001	2002
Access DPA's home	2,139	4,500	8,600	15,800
Total access to DPA	70,962	132,000	200,550	280,600
Total number of hits	83,392	172,000	225,700	330,900
Number of users	11,534	24,3000	48,780	85,300,
Average hits per day	2,739	5,700	10,800	18,890

As an association for cross-disabilities, DPA represents the different groups of disability and it serves as an information hub for the Asia-Pacific region on disabilities issues while the other regional hubs are Mexico and Montreal serving the North and South American region.

IT- Training Sessions/Workshops

Basic IT-Training workshops are conducted at DPA for our members. With the assistance of Ayer Rajah Community Centre, we are able to utilise their Computer Labs, to provide IT Training for our members. We have a group of dedicated volunteers who have assisted our members on a one to one basis. We also had a team of volunteers from the ‘Teacher’s Network’, Ministry of Education, assisting our members.

E- Learning

DPA has been awarded 10 scholarships (Licences) by Skillsoft for E-Learning programmes for our members. The topics include Finance Management, Sales Management and IT topics. This is an opportunity for our members who wish to upgrade themselves from the comfort of their own homes. Particular thanks to Dr Joseph Pious from Spring Singapore, Ms. Pennie Stevens and Ms. Carolyn Byrne from SmartForce for the generous donation of 10 Scholarships and to Dr. Wang Kai Yuen, MP for Bukit Timah Constituency, for being our Guest of Honour and for launching this programme.

Fund-Raising

Fund-Raising Dinner (FRD)

The 12th Fund-Raising Dinner was held on 9th December 2002. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Chairperson of Remaking Singapore Committee, graced the event. 2002 marked the year-end of the Asia Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002) but also marked the dawning of the new Asia Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012). The theme for the evening was “Freedom From Barriers”.

Cents from Heaven

“Cents from Heaven”, was a project mooted by the Singapore Mint. DPA was invited to do collection of 1-cents, coins. Over 20 schools and 25 companies took part in this fund-raising exercise. It was carried out over a period of 3 months. We collected an astounding 2.4 million of 1-cent coins. The response from the general public was overwhelming.

Around the World In 80 Ways – Singapore International Foundation

Singapore International Foundation (SIF) invited DPA and other organisations to participate in ‘Around the World in 80 Ways’. ‘Around the World in 80 Ways’ consist of a group of travelers with disability, traveling around the world in 80 different modes of transportation. Their main aim was to spread disability awareness and at the same time raise money for both local and international charities. In partnership with SIF, Singapore Disabled Council for Sports, National Youth Achievement Awards and other supporters, the event was held over a period of 3 days. The event was a major success, raising over \$40,000.

Christmas Cards

In 2002, DPA held an Art Competition for the Christmas Season. All VWOs and the Special School were invited to send in as many entries. There was an overwhelming response from the special schools. We had over 200 entries but only 10 best entries were chosen. The winners were presented with a cash prize of \$200 during our Fund-Raising Dinner 2002. Several designs were used and produced as Christmas Cards.

“A Day to Mark Your Love”

In 2003, YMCA and Citi Youth for Causes organised a competition for the youths of today. Over 30 groups took part in this competition. The aim of the project is to instill the sense of social services and volunteerism in the youths of today. Team Atteindre Hors (Reach Out), a group of 5 dynamic and vibrant youths decided to organize a fund-raising and well as an awareness event for DPA. With 3 months of planning and organising, under the leadership of DPA’s staff, Team Atteindre Hors enlisted help of 350 volunteers, and they were able to organise a full day event of games, fun and much more. At the same time they were able to raise funds through the sale of DPA’s Butterfly Bookmarks. Special thanks to Team Atteindre Hors, Mr. Anand Selvakarari, CitiBank and the staff of DPA.

Flag Day 2002

DPA’s first flag day was held on 27th of April 2002. There were over 1000 volunteers participating. With the help of 140 volunteer supervisors at 27 collection points. DPA had a very successful Flag Day, collecting \$90,000. Thanks are due to Mr. Gomez and his team of Volunteers, particular thanks to Amalgamated Union of Public Employees, who provided the transportation services for free. We would also like to thank Mr. Wong, and staff of the Ayer Rajah Community Centre, for providing us with the necessary facilities.

