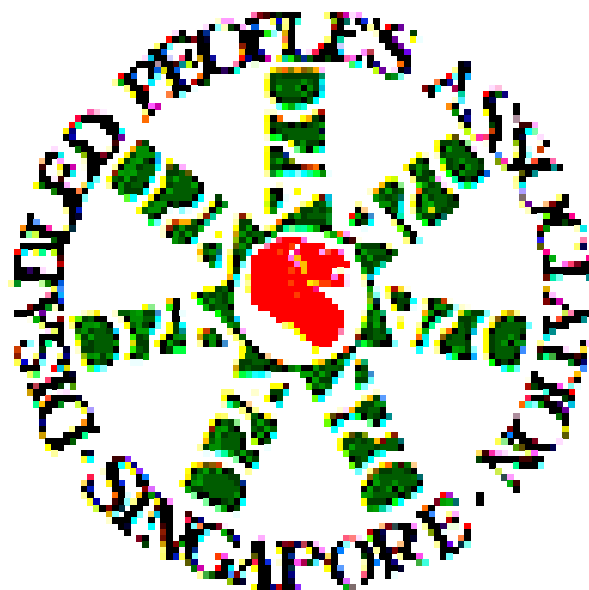


Disabled People's Association



VOX NOSTRA

Annual Report

For

2004-2005

(1 Apr 04 – 31 Mar 05)

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 2004 are 160.

- 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 organisations** : Handicaps Welfare Association (HWA)
Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf)
Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH)
Spastic Children's 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
- Counselling services
- Running the Independent Living Centre in Ayer Rajah Day Care Centre
- Coordinating Seminars/Programmes for all disability groups
- 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.
- Promotion of Universal Web Accessibility

PATRON

Dr. Tan Cheng Bock
MP, Ayer Rajah

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2004

PRESIDENT	: Mr. Ron Chandran-Dudley, PBM
VICE PRESIDENT	: Mr. Alan Ho
VICE PRESIDENT	: Mr. Leo Chen Ian
HONORARY SECRETARY	: Mrs. Chang Siew Ngoh
HONORARY TREASURER	: Mr. Lim Chin Heng
MEMBERS	: Mr. Vivek Verma Mr. Hoon Cheong Woo Ms. Judy Anne Wee Mr. Prathivmohan Chandramohan Mr. Vargese Clement (passed away on 17/12/2004)

STAFF

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

BANKER:

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

It has been another productive year for Disabled People’s Association (DPA). Through the strong involvement of our volunteers, service partners, sponsors, staff and supporters, we were able to meet the needs of 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 we 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, members will have more opportunities in open employment.

DPA has also embarked on public awareness and fund-raising projects, to not only raise funds for the association and its projects 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. Nevertheless, 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 including the new staff member Ms. Kelly Lau, who assisted in no small measure towards this success.

DPA continues to play a significant role both nationally and internationally, particularly in the area of IT training for its members, enabling them to access the website and internet, thus diminishing the digital divide.

DPA is now looking into expanding our IT expertise in Universal Web Accessibility. We have worked closely with the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) to make their website accessible for people with disabilities and the elders. In the future, DPA hopes to be the official auditing and certifying body in assessing universal accessibility of websites.

DPA together with Edge Employment Solutions, MCYS and Workforce Development Agency, hopes to establish a quality open employment service for people with disabilities and the elders.

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 the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS). Thanks also to the National Council of Social Service, National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, sister voluntary organisations, 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 their members of staff. We also wish to acknowledge our sincere thanks to Dr. Amy Khor, Mayor, South West CDC, and members of staff of the South West CDC for their very kind co-operation. Our joint effort will only go a long way to ameliorate the situation with people with disabilities not only in the South West Region but also throughout the island.

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

IT ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMMES

DPA has been actively involved in the IT scene. The following are the activities we covered from April 2004 – April 2005.

Providing IT Training / IT Skills improvement for People with Disabilities.

Ms. Nurhidayah was trained on using Microsoft Office products, and also on web design.

Ms. Linda Chew was trained on web design, using Dreamweaver, and File Transfer Protocol (FTP) programs for updating and maintaining websites.

Mr. George Nalliah was trained on installing operating systems for refurbished PCs particularly installing and updating Windows 2000.

Promoting Web Accessibility in Singapore.

After the successful launch of the ‘Handbook on Universal Web Accessibility’. DPA was awarded the contract by National Computer Systems Pte Ltd to convert the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) website into an “AAA” compliant accessible website. The contract was officially signed between DPA and National Computer Systems Pte Ltd in October 2004. The project was successfully completed as per schedule, duly audited and certified as a “Universally Accessible Website”.

Distribution of Refurbished PCs to DPA members

DPA received 31 used PCs from NUS and 12 used notebooks from Glaxo Smith Kline. These were repaired, refurbished and distributed to DPA members, AWWA TEACH ME Services and The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO).

Assisting polytechnic and university students on research & development (R&D) and user feedback on new assistive devices.

DPA also works closely with polytechnics and tertiary institutes in developing and using technology to promote independent living for people with disabilities.

Example –

Smart Computer Interface, this project was done by a group of two final year students from NTU's Electrical and Electronics Engineering department (Mr. Yew Chong Sin & Mr.Pang Beng Kian). This project aimed to develop a fast text-typer for people who have difficulty in using their hands and fingers.

DPA also worked with a group of students from NUS which involved the development of a white cane that could detect wet floors to the user.

CAVE – An internet enabled classification, retrieval and visualisation system for assistive devices for people with disabilities. This system is useful for people with disabilities, their family members, physiotherapists and occupational therapists in the selection of appropriate assistive devices.

The following statistics reflect the usage of DPA's website:

Average	2003	2004	2005
Access DPA's home-page	31,100	59,600	75,500
Total access to DPA's web-site	390,900	480,600	588000
Total number of hits	440,500	560,300	670,000
Number of users	125,600	165,700	185,000
Average hits per day	28,200	37,800	46,800

FUND RAISING/PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Bookmarks on Universal Web Accessibility and Disability Terminology

With the balance funding from the 'Handbook on Universal Web Accessibility' and 'Dictionary of Disability Terms and Terminology' projects, MCYS suggested that we produce Bookmarks as a handy complement to the publications. The Bookmarks project was co-funded by MCYS – 75% funding. The 10,000 bookmarks were and are still being distributed to various government departments, MNCs, schools, polytechnics, universities, libraries, CDCs, VWOs and the media.

The aim of the bookmarks is to provide reference to both the Dictionary and Handbook. The Disability Dictionary Bookmarks aims to inform people on how to address people with disabilities and the Universal Web Accessibility Handbook Bookmark provides information pertaining to the Handbook.

Mind from the Soul – Project by Raffles Junior College and DPA

This project was initiated and carried out by RJC Interact Club in 2003. The aim of the project is to bring about awareness of the talents of people with disabilities. The book comprised arts and literary pieces by people and children with disabilities. RJC Interact Club was successful in obtaining funding from Central CDC and Lee Foundation. The book has been successfully launched on the 4th of August 2004.

Movie Premiere

DPA had its Charity Film Premier on the 14th of June 2004. It was not a success. The response to the film premiere was poor. There was great effort put in by the team of volunteers from Singapore Management University and DPA's volunteers. The movie premiered was "Around the World in 80 Ways".

Product and Standards Board School – Business Project

Business students from PSB assisted DPA in formulating projects. The aim of this is to assist DPA in its programmes and at the same time for DPA to support and guide the students on how to organise and brainstorm events for the social service sector.

Art Attack/Christmas Cards 2004

DPA held its 2nd Art Competition and the theme was “What makes you Happy during Christmas”. We had over 40 entries and the judging took place on the 17th of July 2004. We had 4 judges, 2 from National Arts Council, 1 from the Alliance Française Art Gallery and 1 artist. The judges have chosen to award the cash prize of \$200 each to the following winners:

- a) Melvin Tan – MINDS (Clementi Training and Development Centre)
- b) Katherine Han – Singapore Cheshire Home
- c) Ang Poh Hua – Special Olympics
- d) Lim Chim Buay – Metta Day Activity Centre for the Intellectually Disabled
- e) Issac Lim – Muscular Dystrophy Association Singapore
- f) Shalom Lim – Muscular Dystrophy Association Singapore
- g) Goh Tiong Chuan – Metta Day Activity Centre for the Intellectually Disabled
- h) Tan Kow Seng - MINDS (Clementi Training and Development Centre)
- i) Wong Choon How – Muscular Dystrophy Association
- j) Ng Hock Leong – MINDS (CTDC)

The artworks were reproduced into Christmas Cards Calendars. The cards were sold over the 2004 Christmas period and will be sold in the 2005 Christmas period.

Flag Day

DPA had its 3rd flag day on 16 March 2005. The Flag Day was a success. Over \$100,000 was collected despite the rain. More than 2500 volunteers helped out in more than 30 collection centres islandwide. DPA would like to thank each and everyone who contributed to this event.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

DPA held its 17th AGM on 11 September 2004. 14 members, 3 associate members and 1 representative from institutional member attended the AGM. Total membership reported is as follows:

	Total		Year-to-date	
	2003	2004	Arrears	Paid up
Associate/Institution	11	10	7	3
Sub Total of Associate/Institution	11	10	7	3
Individual/Type of Disability				
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	72	69	48	21
Physically Handicapped	58	55	25	30
Visually Handicapped	26	21	11	10
Others		6	3	3
Sub Total of Individual Members	156	151	87	64
Total	167	161	94	67

DPA also organised a talk by a NTUC Insurance agent on “Guide to Insurance”. Among topics covered were on common term used in insurance, accident insurance, medical insurance and disability insurance.

Disability Awareness Carnival 2004

The Disability Awareness Carnival, the first in Singapore was organised by the National Council of Social Services with support for MCYS, was held on Saturday the 4th December at the Singapore Expo. The theme of the event was “A Celebration of Abilities!” The Guest of Honour was Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan. DPA was invited to take part in giving talks pertaining to disability issues. Mr. David Blocksidge represented DPA in the Disability Terms and Terminology Talk and HSBC representative Mr. Rick Tan talked about “Insuring your loved ones”. The event was a success, congratulations to NCSS.

Disability Posters with support Clear Channel Ads

DPA designed 5 posters with the following text:


1. Your negative attitude is our greatest barrier.
2. Are you blind to the abilities of people using a white cane?
3. Would people in wheelchairs have access to your boardroom/workplace

4. Without disabled people's participation, it is Society that is handicapped
5. Are you deaf to disabled people's cry for the equalisation of opportunities?

Clear Channel kindly donated Bus Shelter advertisement space to DPA. This avenue created awareness among a large group of people. The posters can be found at most bus shelters islandwide. Through this DPA has garnered more support via volunteers.



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 For queries please contact
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Website : www.dpa.org.sg



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