

International Day of Persons with Disabilities
“Break Barriers, Open Doors: for an inclusive society and development
for all”.

**3 December, 2013. Conference Room 6, NLB
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Information Note

Background

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is celebrated annually on 3 December around the world to promote awareness and mobilize support for critical issues pertaining to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development.

The theme for this year’s International Day is: “Break Barriers, Open Doors: for an inclusive society and development for all”.

On September 23, only a few months ago, the United Nations General Assembly convened the historic first-ever High-level Meeting on Disability and Development, and adopted a landmark outcome document aimed at promoting disability-inclusive development to guide efforts towards the creation of a fully inclusive society through 2015 and beyond.

This year’s events will be co-organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, and Leonard Cheshire Disability and co-sponsored by Member States and civil society organizations.

The United Nations Foundation and *GivingTuesday.org* will join the Day’s celebrations to promote volunteerism by taking concrete steps to create enabling environments across the world for persons with disabilities to fully participate in society and development as beneficiaries and leaders.

Format and Participation

Following this year’s High-level Meeting on Disability and Development, the International Day will be marked by “Messages of Inclusion” by Member States, UN system and civil society, highlighting how they can be translated into action.

The programme of the Day includes the “Enable Theatre”, an “Enable Film” and a series of panel discussions on emerging topics on disability and development.

All are welcome to attend.

3 Dec (Tuesday)

Opening of the 2013 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (10-10.50 am, Conference Room 6, TNLB, UNHQs). “Messages of Inclusion”.

The Opening of the International Day will include the message of the Secretary-General, and of Governments and civil society.

UN ENABLE Theatre (10.50-11.20 am, Conference Room 6, TNLB)

Following the Opening, a theatrical performance by the Broadway Theatre *Breaking through Barriers* will illuminate the theme of the International Day by bringing to fore, voices of persons with disabilities on inclusion, empowerment and development.

Panel Discussion: “Mental Well-being, Disability and Development” (11.30am-1.00pm, CR 6, TNLB). Co-organized by DESA, the NGO Committee on Mental Health, the University of Tokyo, United Nations University - International Institute for Global Health

This panel will discuss mental well-being in relation to poverty, development and situations of conflict and peace-building, and also the life cycle perspective and its emphasis on people-centered approaches to development.

UN ENABLE Film: “Gold: You can do more than you think” (1.15 pm-3.15pm, CR 6, TNLB)

This is a must-see documentary featuring three Paralympic athletes from Kenya, Germany and Australia, who overcame odds to participate in the 2012 London Paralympics Games. Following will be an interactive discussion with the producers.

Panel Discussion: “Key to the Future, Financial Inclusion and Opportunity for all” (3-4:30pm, S-2723BR - Board Room/27th floor of the Secretariat Building). Co-organized by DESA and the Center for Financial Inclusion at ACCION

This interactive panel will explore financial inclusion for the empowerment of persons with disabilities, highlighting the recently concluded “Financial Inclusion 2020 Global Forum”, the role of microfinance institutions and large financial services’ providers in inclusion efforts, and concrete best case practices from the ground.

Panel Discussion: “WIPO Marrakesh VIP Treaty on Access, Intellectual Property and the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities” (3.15-4. 4.5pm, CR6, TNLB). Co-organized by DESA and WIPO

This panel will discuss the new treaty and how its implementation will enable inclusive and equitable development. Focus will be on opportunities for persons with disabilities to have access to information, communication and knowledge, thereby facilitating their participation in all aspects of development and society in a meaningful way.

ALL DAY: GivingTuesday Volunteerism

This year, GivingTuesday, 3 December, coincides with the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). To commemorate and celebrate the *Day of Giving*, join the global community to *Give* among others, your *Time*, *Knowledge* and *Funds* to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development.

4 Dec (Wednesday) and beyond

Launch of the United Nations Accessibility Center (3.30pm, CR1, Conference Building, UNHQ). Co-organized by DPI, DGACM and DESA.

The United Nations Accessibility Centre, located at the lower level of the UNHQ Conference Building with satellite stations in other locations of NY HQ, will be formally inaugurated at this special event. Made possible by contributions of the Republic of Korea to make the

United Nations accessible, the Center is part of on-going efforts by the international community to enable the full participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the United Nations. The event will feature the Secretary-General, a representative of the Government of Republic of Korea, the President of the General Assembly and civil society.

Providing “Unlimited Possibilities of Handicaps” as a “Creator” (4-6 Dec, North Lobby, Secretariat Building)

An exhibition of indigo-dyed artworks co-organized by the Mission of Japan and Aikobo Group, a non-profit organization that runs indigo-dyeing groups for persons with disabilities.