



Disabled Peoples' International

Organisation Mondiale des Personnes Handicapées
Organización Mundial de Personas con Discapacidad

September 3, 2009

A Voice Of Our Own • Notre Propre Voix • Nuestra Propia Voz

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) is pleased to support the proposal of the U.S. International Council on Disabilities (USICD) to develop a Global Disability Rights Library (GDRL).

This initiative will deliver information and educational materials to disabled persons' organizations and others, via off-line digital libraries. In this age of advanced technology, we often forget that many persons with disabilities, decision makers and organizations particularly in developing countries, still lack advanced internet access. Thus, they lack the information and resources necessary to improve the lives of millions of persons with disabilities. A mechanism to make such material accessible whether or not there is internet access is critical.

Not only will this initiative advance the status of persons with disabilities in many countries, but it will facilitate the development of new partnerships and new alliances. It will see disabled persons' organizations, government agencies, academic institutions, ICT companies and others come together to meet a common challenge. Such alliances will not only be beneficial to development of a GDRL, but they will offer opportunities to influence others' perceptions of disability and disability issues.

We strongly recommend that USAID favorably consider USICD's proposal and urge you to contact us should you wish further discussion of DPI's support for the initiative and its success.

Best regards,

Mary Ennis
Executive Director

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