

Annual Report  
April 2009 - March 2010

# Annual Report



VOX NOSTRA












**Disabled People's Association**

# Disabled People's Association

The Disabled People's Association (DPA) is a self-funded organisation of people with disabilities. It was formed in 1987. DPA was registered as a charity with the Commission of Charities on 30 December 1996 and also as an Associate Member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) from 7 November 1997. DPA issues tax-exempt receipts for direct donations as from April 2000. The number of registered members as at March 2010 is 141.

<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	: 1348
<b>ROS Registration Number</b>	: 202/84 WEL
<b>UEN Number</b>	: S86SS0002F
<b>Registered Address</b>	: 25 International Business Park #04-77 German Centre Singapore 609916
<b>Patron</b>	: Dr Tan Cheng Bock
<b>Banker</b>	: 1) Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) 2) Maybank
<b>Auditor</b>	: C.N. & Tiew Associates Pte Ltd Certified Public Accountants
<b>Email</b>	: <a href="mailto:dpa@dpa.org.sg">dpa@dpa.org.sg</a>
<b>Website</b>	: <a href="http://www.dpa.org.sg">http://www.dpa.org.sg</a>
<b>Affiliation</b>	: Disabled Peoples' International
<b>Associate Member</b>	: National Council of Social Service

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# President's Review

The year 2009 was fulfilling and challenging for DPA. Together with the support of volunteers, service partners, sponsors and staff, DPA was able to reach the goals it had set out. As the social service sector moves forward, so does DPA.

Over the year DPA had organized fund raising projects such as **Flag Day** and Charity Dinner **"A Night of Hope"**. DPA did not only raise funds for the Association but also public awareness. Despite the economic downturn and financial crisis, DPA received continued support from the sponsors and the general public.

On the public awareness front, events such as **International Conference on Accessible Tourism** (ICAT) placed DPA and Singapore on the map for Accessible Travel. **The International Day of People with Disabilities** was a musical success featuring International Musical Stars and also showcasing the talents of people with disabilities.

In the area of IT, DPA's **Microsoft MAR** status permitted it to sell the refurbished PCs not only to people with disabilities but also families of low income. PC refurbishing is a thriving service for DPA; it benefits not only our members but also members of other VWOs. Moving with times. DPA introduced an online donation portal to facilitate donor's contribution. As part of DPA's IT initiative, DPA together with two members of the Association, audited and certified Ministry of Transport's website to be compliant with **UWA** requirements.

DPA's Board of Management has expanded. On the Board now sits people with disabilities and non-disabled people from various backgrounds and experiences all working towards DPA's mission – To be the voice of disabled people.

The future holds many opportunities for new projects and partnerships for DPA. DPA is currently working with Wildlife Reserves Singapore on improving their park access for people with disabilities. We will also continue to organise the Round Table Discussions. We have also been elected to the Regional Council on Disabled People's International Asia Pacific, therefore making us an advocate at the International Level. Good news for our donors too as DPA's IPC Status has been renewed for the next two years!

On a final note, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my Board Members (past and present) for your invaluable support and guidance; to our sponsors, donors and supporters, your contribution whether large or small, has been helpful in many ways; to our members for your support to DPA in its events and programs in the past year and finally to our volunteers & staff of DPA, for your contributions, passion and dedication.

*Leo Chen Ian*

Leo Chen Ian  
President

# Our Mission

**To be the voice of people with disabilities –**

**‘Vox Nostra’ (A Voice of Our Own), empowering them to achieve full participation and equal status in the society through independent living.**

# Our Objectives

1. To encourage and enhance self-help and independent living among people with disabilities in the community.
2. To work towards removing all architectural and attitudinal barriers and those that would hinder the full participation of people with disabilities 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 people with disabilities, 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 people with disabilities and to make accessible information about disabilities, their 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 people with disabilities.
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; organize training courses not for profit or commercial reasons for disabled and non-disabled people concerned with programmes for people with disabilities; organize conferences, seminars, study groups of workshops on subjects relevant to people with disabilities.

# Management & Governance Policies

DPA fully subscribes to and complies with the regulations of the Charities Act. In line with the Act, we have established and/or are in the process of establishing procedures and guidelines in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

## **GOVERNANCE EVALUATION CHECKLIST**

To comply with the Code of Governance, we had submitted the Governance Evaluation Checklist through the Online Charity Portal. This is the requirement for all the Charities and Institutions of Public Character. To view DPA's checklist please visit [www.charities.gov.sg](http://www.charities.gov.sg)

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

The Management Committee has implemented a Conflict of Interest Policy based on NCSS's guidelines. All Board Members have read the Policy and have signed the declaration form as an acknowledgement on having understood the policy. Board Member have also declared conflict of interest solutions.

## **RESERVE FUNDS**

DPA aims to establish a Reserve Fund equivalent to five years' of expenses to ensure the continued running and smooth operation of the Association.

# Management & Staff

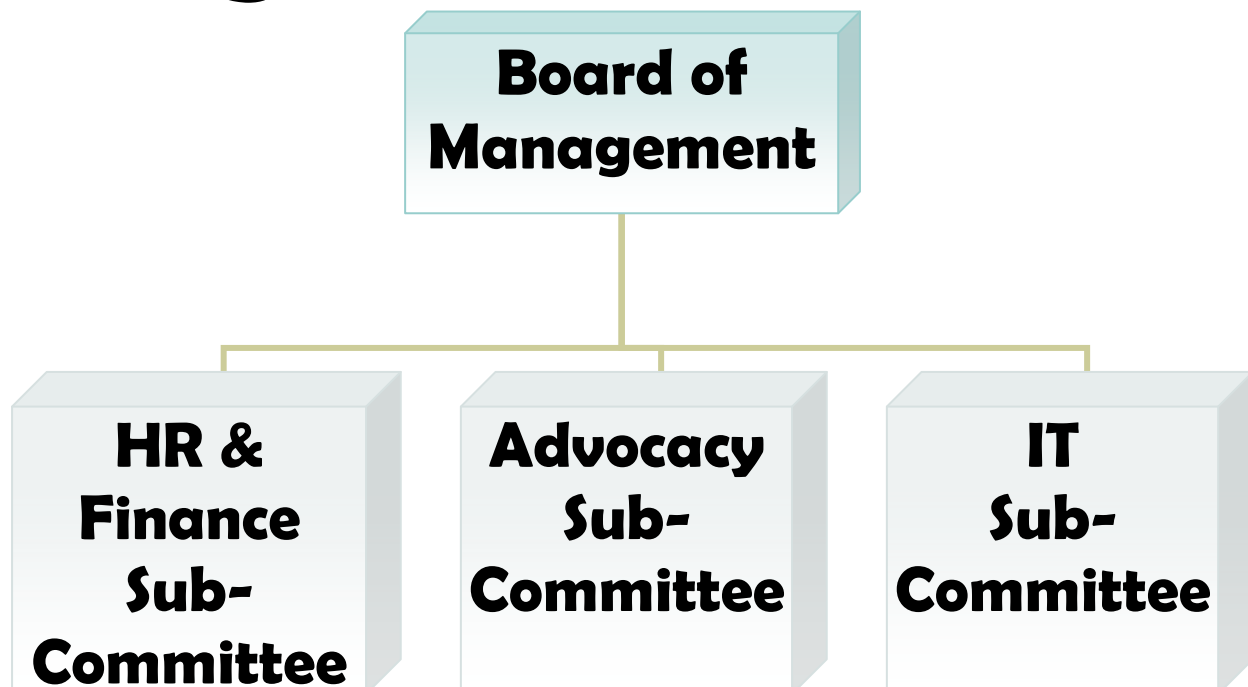
## Executive Committee 2009/2010

President	:	Mr. Leo Chen Ian
Vice President	:	Mrs. Chang Siew Ngoh
Honorary Secretary	:	Ms. Judy Anne Wee
Honorary Treasurer	:	Ms. Sherena Loh
Members	:	Mr. Hoon Cheong Woo
	:	Mr. Ng Choon Hwee
	:	Mr. Paul Yuen Kai Seng (joined 09.03.2010)

## Staff

Administrator	:	Ms Anusiah a/p Tharmalingam
Project Executive (IT)	:	Ms Naveena A. Srividhya

# Organisational Chart



# Honorary Secretary's Report

## Annual General Meeting 2009

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of DPA was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at OnePeople, 381 Toa Payoh Lorong 1. It was attended by 13 members and two staff. Ms. Judy Anne Wee, Hon. Secretary of DPA, called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting was adjourned ½ hour due to insufficient quorum. Reports were filed for the year and all office bearers were duly elected.

## Membership of DPA as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

	<b>2010</b>	<b>Arrears</b>	<b>Paid up</b>	<b>Life member</b>
Institutional Membership	5	-	5	-
Associate Membership	6	4	2	2
<b>Sub Total of Associate/Institution</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
Individual/Type of Disability				
Hearing	28	12	16	13
Physically	65	32	33	20
Vision	32	20	12	6
Others	5	4	1	-
<b>Sub Total of Individual Members</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>41</b>

## Co-Option of Board Member

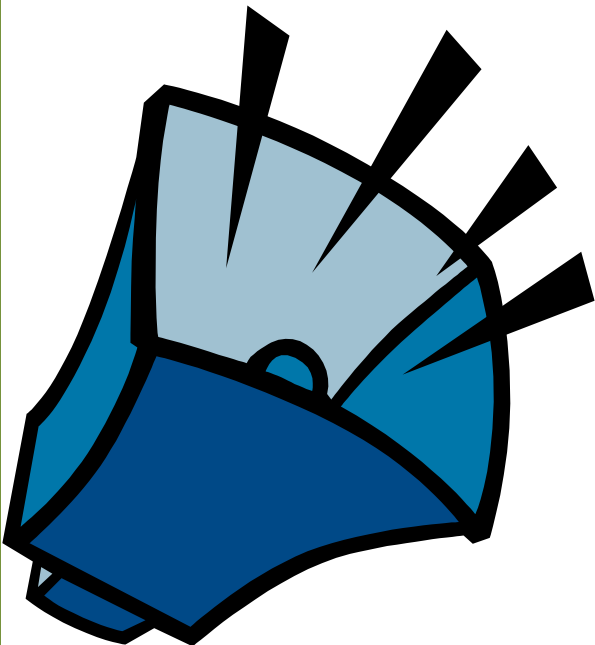
DPA would like welcome Mr. Paul Yuen Kai Seng onto the Board of Management. Mr. Yuen was co-opted in March 2010.

## Admin Matters

DPA has signed up with i-Serve to outsource its financial services to ST-Electronics. This service was recommended by Ministry for Community Development, Youth and Sports. DPA decided to go on board as DPA's team is quite lean and sees the need for segregation of duties.

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# Advocacy & Publicity



## Third International Conference on Accessible Tourism (ICAT)

2009

ICAT was held from 23 to 25 April in conjunction with the Third International Convention for Rehabilitative Engineering and Assistive Technology 2009 (i-CREATE) Conference organized by Singapore Therapeutic, Assistive, and Rehabilitative Technologies (Start Centre) and DPA at the Singapore Management University. The workshops and talks covered topics such as “Making Destinations Accessible & Profitable” by Ms. Yeoh Siew Hoon and concurrently Start Centre also held a three-day exhibition & talks which included the *IBM Assistive & Rehabilitative Technology Student Design Challenge*.

ICAT 2009 aimed to bring People with Disabilities to the heart of a more inclusive global society. Themed, ***“Tourism Unlimited: Access for All”***, the event endeavored to break down barriers to accessibility and allow free mobility for all.

More than just a platform for disability issues, ICAT 2009 also aimed to showcase how being inclusive would serve as a profitable avenue for the tourism sector to explore the many business opportunities in designing products and services for the increasing number of people with disabilities as society ages. This event was graced by two Guests of Honour: Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Kingdom of Thailand and Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports.



## International Day of People with Disabilities 2009

In 2009, DPA celebrated the International Day of People with Disabilities with a Music Festival aptly themed “Music without Borders”. It was held on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at the Rider’s Lodge.

DPA’s Music Festival featured an array of well known international and local musicians who entertained an audience of some 350 people. We had international artistes from Dubai to UK. Local talents such as TENG Ensemble, Leandra and Clarence and Donna Doherty also performed at the Music Festival.

IDDP is an important day for both disabled and non-disabled persons as it engages one other and pursues the goal of an inclusive society. The theme for the IDDP was based on the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains/benefits derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

*“The voice of disabled people is really being heard more and more. At times too slow or too low but they are becoming louder each day with your continuous support in helping us mould our dreams of building an equal, inclusive world into reality”*

**Mr. Leo Chen Ian’s speech @ IDDP 2009**



# Fundraising



## Flag Day 2010

Flag Day this year was held on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Preparations for the Flag Day started as early as October 2009. DPA recruited volunteers from secondary schools, junior colleges and tertiary institutions.

Over 2,500 from 42 educational institutions supported the event. Students from CHIJ St Theresa's Convent and Geylang Methodist Secondary School assisted with the administrative preparations of Flag Day.

DPA had 17 collection centers island wide. DPA also had the support of Singapore Association for the Deaf who allowed DPA to use their premises for the counting of monies collected for the Flag Day 2010.

The collection for DPA's Flag Day 2010 was \$75,416.18 and donations in support of Flag Day were \$30,600.

DPA would like to thank our Management, Organisers, Members and volunteers for helping out at the Flag Day. Without their commitment and support, this event would not have been possible.



## A Night of Hope 2009

A Fundraising Charity Dinner, aptly named “A Night of Hope” was organized by the Association on Friday, June 5 2009 at the Vanda Ballroom, Marina Mandarin Singapore. His Excellency, President S R Nathan and Mrs. Nathan were the Guests-of-Honour

The evening’s entertainment items were presented by artistes from MINDS with their Taiko Drums performance; deaf pianist Azariah Tan; song-signing by Signifique from the SADeaf and Lily Goh on the marimba.

Guests were also treated to a special performance by Gilbert Tan with piano accompaniment by Ms. Eunice Olsen featuring “A Voice of Our Own”, the Association’s own theme song.

The evening saw a high-spirited auction with bids coming in for items donated by our kind sponsors.

Rounding up the entertainment for the night was the jazz trio, “Donna & Friends”.

The event was attended by over 200 people including many media personalities, government and business leaders. Over **\$560,000 (nett)** was received from the sale of dinner tickets, outright donations and corporate sponsorships as well as proceeds from the live and silent auctions and raffle draw.

DPA would like to thank all donors and sponsors, supporters and volunteers for making this event possible.



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# Information Technology



## PC Refurbishment Program

Under the PC refurbishment program, DPA has employed two members with disabilities, Mr. Logaraj and Mr. Luqman to refurbish the PCs.

The PC Refurbishment Program aims to empower people with disabilities not only through the use of computers to access the Internet but also create opportunities, in employment and independent living.

Student volunteers from Singapore Management University, Singapore Polytechnic and Raffles Junior College also took part in the PC Refurbishment Program. They enjoyed interacting with our members and it was a learning experience for them.

DPA would like to thank their members, volunteers and especially Walt Disney and NTU for their generous contribution of PCs in the past year.

### Distribution Update from April 2009 to March 2010

<b>Description</b>	<b>No. of PC Refurbished &amp; Distributed</b>
April 2008 – March 2009	172
April 2009 – June 2009	12
July 2009 – December 2009	07
January 2010 – March 2010	10





## **Microsoft Authorised Refurbisher (MAR)**

Microsoft has recognized the Association as its Authorized Refurbisher. With this MAR status the Association is allowed to distribute the PCs to the general public. The re-furbished PCs that are sold to lower income families referred to the Association by the schools and CDCs.

## **Universal Web Accessibility (UWA)**

For the year 2009, DPA audited and certified the Ministry of Transport website for universal web accessibility compliance. Mr. Ng Choon Hwee and Mr. Jim Bek (DPA's members) tested MOT's website individually and reported their feedback and comments.



## **DPA's Website**

As part of its efforts to serve the community better, the Association revamped its website and included two more modules. One is the 'Online Donation Portal' and the other is the 'CAPTCHA'.

The 'Online Donation Portal' module helps people to donate easily and directly to the Association. DPA is using PayPal's services to make all transactions safe and secure online.

The 'CAPTCHA' module was also included for security reasons. 'CAPTCHA' can be used by anyone as it has text and sound options to enter into the security box. Only when the right text is entered into the security box the membership application can be submitted successfully.