

Disabled People's Association



Annual Report

For

2003-2004

(1 Apr 03 – 31 Mar 04)

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 (SAD)
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
- 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 Mr. Prathivmohan Chandramohan

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 (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 will be providing more advanced IT skills training workshops for members in the near future.

DPA has also embarked on many public awareness and fund-raising projects. This was not only to 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, who assisted in no small measure towards this success.

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, Youth & Sports has produced 2 bookmarks for reference use with the Dictionary of Disability Terminology and the Universal Web Accessibility Handbook. 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.

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.

Annual Report

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, Youth and Sports (MCYS). Thanks also to National Council of Social Service, National Volunteer 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 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 a long way to ameliorating 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

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 Friends 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 include 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, Pen pals, 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 people. 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.

DPA’s Website

The website has been revamped and made fully accessible. This makes our website speech enabled and compliant with the ‘Web Accessibility Initiative’.

The following statistics reflect the usage of DPA’s websites:

Average	2001	2002	2003	2004
Access DPA’s home-page	8,600	15,800	31,100	59,600
Total access to DPA’s web-site	200,550	280,600	390,900	480,600
Total number of hits	225,700	330,900	440,500	560,300
Number of users	48,780	85,300,	125,600	165,700
Average hits per day	10,800	18,890	28,200	37,800

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 disability issues while the other regional hubs are Mexico and Montreal, serving the North and South American region.

IT Training/ Skills Improvement

Ms Lee Hwee Leng and Mr N. Padmanathan were on part-time employment and IT training at DPA. To equip them with the necessary IT skills, Ms Lee and Mr Padmanathan were trained in using Microsoft Office products. They found the training useful and are now in open employment.

Two students, Ms Angeline Chen and Ms Liang Huishan have been trained in animation and modelling during the CAVE project. They found the training useful and are now better equipped with additional skills.

Distribution of used PC's from NUS.

We had received 30 used PCs from NUS. These PCs were distributed to our members although they did not have the operating system and other software.

CAVE (Computer Automated Virtual Environment)

The CAVE project is in its completion phase notwithstanding delays and glitches. The issues have been resolved and an external consultant was brought in to take us over the hump. The project is now well on course.

FUND RAISING/PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Handbook on Universal Web Accessibility'

DPA launched the 'Handbook on Universal Web Accessibility' and also conducted a seminar on 'Universal Web Accessibility' on October 18th, 2003. This was a project co-funded by MCYS. This has been the first major step taken in Singapore to promote web accessibility and in eliminating the digital divide. The Universal Web Accessibility Handbook has the introduction and guidelines to make websites accessible. The handbooks were distributed to various government departments, MNCs, schools, polytechnics, universities, libraries, CDCs, VWOs and the media.

Private companies are now slowly looking at making their websites accessible. AVIVA Insurance has decided on making their website accessible after receiving DPA's Universal Web Accessibility Handbook. MCYS is now looking at making their website accessible and considering asking DPA to do the "Web Accessibility Audit" once their website is made accessible.

Interview on Radio Singapore International

Radio Singapore International, in their program "Business Ideas" had an interview with DPA on the topic "Friendly surfing - Universal Web Accessibility by the Disabled People's Association, Singapore" on the 30th January 2004. Mr Ramaravikumar Ramakrishnan represented DPA and Ms Grace Goh represented Logistic Alliances (Logistic Alliances had worked with DPA on the UWA project). Mr Ramaravikumar had given an introduction and the importance of Universal Web Accessibility. DPA's initiatives and work to promote Web Accessibility in Singapore and the region was also explained.

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

This was a project initiated and carried out by RJC Interact Club. The aim of the project was to bring about awareness of the talents of people with disabilities. The book comprises arts and literary pieces by children and adults with disabilities. RJC Interact Club was successful in obtaining funding from Central CDC and Lee Foundation. Monies collected will be shared equally among the associations and artistes who took part. The book launch is expected to be sometime in June 2004.

Talk given at Xing An Primary School

Ms Judy Anne Wee and Mr Prathivmohan Chandramohan gave a talk on 9 February 2004 to students from Xing An Primary School. They spoke about the appropriate ways on approaching people with disabilities. The students also had some hands-on experience on how to guide a visually handicapped person and how to push a wheelchair.

Flag Day

DPA had its 2nd flag day on 20 September 2004. The flag day was a success. Over \$156,000 was collected despite the rain. More than 3000 volunteers helped out in more than 30 collection centre 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 on common term used in insurance, accident insurance, medical insurance and disability insurance.

Fund Raising Dinner

Annual Report

DPA had its 13th Annual Fund Raising Dinner on 10 December 2003 at Mandarin Hotel. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Acting Minister for Education, Ministry of Education, was the Guest-of-Honour. The theme for the fund raising dinner was “UN Convention – Gateway to Disability Rights”. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam also launched the ‘Terminology Dictionary’, the first of its kind in Singapore.

Others

Chinese New Year Dinner

On 26th Jan, a group of Chinese scholars who helped DPA in its flag day held a Chinese New Year dinner for our members at Oldham Hall. They also provided transport for members attending the dinner. 20 members of DPA attended the dinner. As short notice was given, DPA extended the invitation to its sister organisation.