

# Disabled People's Association



## Annual Report 2010 - 2011

# Disabled People's Association

The Disabled People's Association (DPA) is a non-profit organisation of people with disabilities. It was formed in 1987 and was registered as a charity with the Commission of Charities on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1996. On the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1997, DPA became an Associate Member of the National Council of Social Services (NCSS). DPA has issued tax-exempt receipts for direct donations since April 2000. Membership stands at 144 as at March 2011.

<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>	DBS Maybank
<b>Auditor:</b>	C.N. & Tiew Associates Pte Ltd Certified Public Accountants
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.dpa.org.sg">www.dpa.org.sg</a>
<b>Affiliation:</b>	Disabled Peoples' International
<b>Associate Member:</b>	National Council of Social Services

# Contents

<b>President’s Review</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>DPA’s Profile</b>	<b>5</b>
• Our Mission and Objectives	
• Management and Governance Policies	
• Management and Staff	
• Organisational Charts	
<b>Honorary Secretary’s Report</b>	<b>7</b>
• Membership	
• Administration matters	
• Board Retreat 2011	
<b>Advocacy and Events</b>	<b>8</b>
• Auditing Projects	
• Accessibility Code Working Committee	
• Workshops and Presentations	
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>10</b>
• “East Meets West” Fundraising Football Match and Dinner	
<b>IT Programme and Projects</b>	<b>11</b>
• PC Refurbishing Project	
• IT Overview April 2009 – March 2010	
• IT Workshops	
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>12</b>

# President's Review

The saying- "The only constant is change" holds true for us in DPA. The year 2010 was the year of renewal, re-strategise and reflection. These three 'R's had been the key ingredients in tackling change. The glue which binds these three ingredients together had to be the support from volunteers, staff, sponsors and service partners.

The first 'R'-Renewal saw a new cohort of Board members with distinct professional expertise at hand to help DPA in the next lap. It is important to have fresh changes as this usually lead to new ideas after the initial stage of knowing each other and working styles. This renewal also meant a change in leadership in the new year of 2011-12. I will be stepping down as President after serving two terms. The foundation stone had been set for a new President with a Board all ready to go.

The second 'R'- Re-startegise saw DPA having a Board retreat to reexamine its role in the disability sector. It charted out and brought into focus what DPA could bring to the disability sector-Its strengths of 'cross-disabilities' and 'advocacy'. These two pillars set the momentum for our activities. Our accessibility audits of public places had extended to Night Safari, the Jurong Bird Park and NTUC Club. Focus group meetings, starting with people with physical disabilities, were formed to review the existing Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment. The 2010 International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated with the "East Meets West" fundraising football match and dinner to drive up the public awareness that physical limitation need not hinder one's ability to showcase great talents. Another awareness campaign had to be the Singapore Management University Disability Awareness Camp in training our future leaders of Singapore.

The third 'R'- Reflection was a personal one. I reflected on my two terms as President and its ups and downs. Identifying good talents amongst people with disabilities as well as supporters were hard enough. Persuading these good talents to step up and champion the disability cause was tougher. However, most importantly, it was not impossible as we managed to achieve this with a new Board of Management. I wish this Board and the incoming new President every success in the next chapter of DPA.

Leo Chen Ian  
President

# DPA's Profile

## Our Mission

To be the voice of the people with disabilities, helping them achieve full participation and equal status in the society through independent living.

“Vox Nostra” – A Voice of Our Own

## Our Objectives

1. To encourage and enhance self-help and independent living among people with disabilities in the community.
2. To facilitate, encourage and further advance the full participation and the equality of disabled people in the community so as to enable them to enjoy the living conditions and improvements in the standard of living resulting from social and economic developments.
3. To do such other things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects as the General Meeting of Members of the Board of Management may from time to time decide, DPA shall:-
  - a) Work towards removing all architectural and attitudinal barriers and those barriers 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;
  - b) Ensure that the benefits of reform and development programmes in every field, nationally and internationally, also reach disabled citizens;
  - c) Promote or organise and/or to initiate the provision of cultural, educational/vocational, sports and recreational facilities, where none exist as well as social benevolent and other activities for the benefit and welfare of the disabled people;
  - d) 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;
  - e) 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, 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;

- f) With the approval of the relevant authorities, run business with a social mission to create work activities for people with disabilities and to assist them in achieving financial independence.

## Management and Governance Policies

DPA fully subscribes to and complies with the regulations of the Charities Act. We have established procedures and guidelines in accordance with the requirements of the Act, and update or review these as required. No new policies were adopted in this financial year.

## Management and Staff

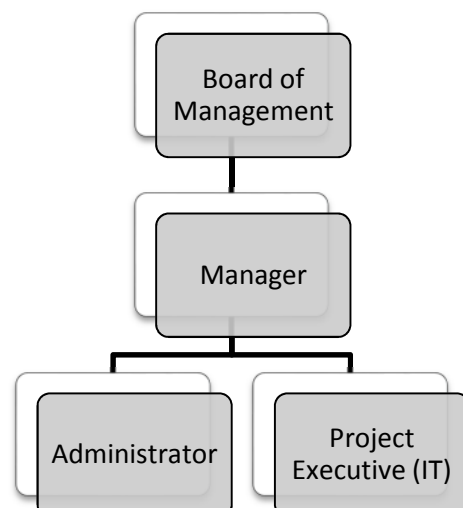
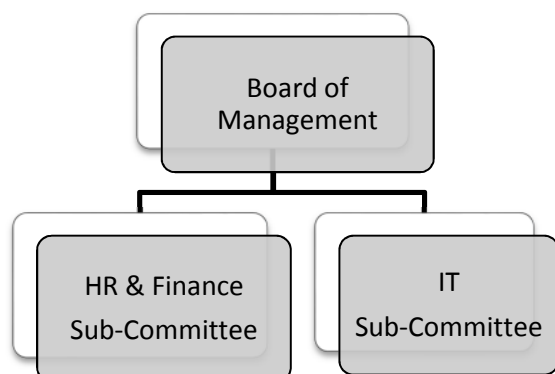
### Board of Management for 2010/2011

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
	Mr Arsalan Ali (joined 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2010)
	Mr Robert Chew Mun Kai (joined 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2010)
	Mr Nicholas Aw (joined 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2010)
	Mr Chia Lee Kiat (joined 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2010)

### Staff

Manager:	Ms Regana Mydin
Administrator:	Ms Anusiah a/p Tharmalingam
Project Executive (IT):	Ms Naveena Srividhya

## Organisational Charts



# Honorary Secretary's Report

## Membership of DPA as at 31/03/2011

	2010/2011	Life members
Institutional Membership	5	-
Associate Membership	8	2
<b>Sub Total of Associate/Institution</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Individual/Type of Disability</b>		
Hearing	28	13
Physical	65	21
Vision	33	7
Others	5	1
<b>Sub Total of Individual Members</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>44</b>

## Administration matters

Regana Mydin joined on 11 May 2010 as DPA's Manager and left on 28 March 2011.

## Board Retreat

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011, a Retreat was held for DPA's Board members. The purpose of the Retreat was to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of DPA, to examine potential opportunities, and to discuss the Association's future direction.

The Retreat was held at the British Club and was facilitated free of charge by Facilitators Network Singapore.

One of the outcomes of the Retreat was to plan a leadership forum, inviting key representatives from disability sector to come together to discuss challenges and potential solutions.



# Advocacy and Events

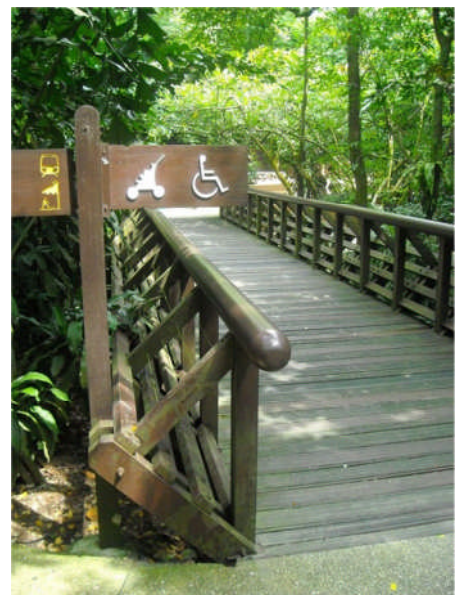
## Auditing Projects

### Wildlife Reserves Singapore (Singapore Zoo, Night Safari & Jurong Bird Park)

DPA was contracted by Wildlife Reserves Singapore to support them to improve services for people with disabilities and the elderly who visit their parks. DPA's staff and a group of people with disabilities visited the sites and conducted a survey based on the accessibility of services.

Based on the results of these surveys, recommendations were made to advise the parks on how to improve services, including:

- Accessible toilets
- Accessible signage
- Improved customer service and knowledge of the needs of people with disabilities
- Possible routes and tours for people with disabilities
- Accessing show areas



### NTUC Club

NTUC Club approached DPA to address the issues of accessible information for elderly people and disabled within the Downtown East Park. DPA was also asked to provide training to NTUC's staff to assist them in better serving disabled people and the elderly.



## Accessibility Code Working Committee

Judy Wee, Hon Secretary is representing DPA in an on-going committee set up by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) to review the Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment 2007.

## Workshops and Presentations

### Good Shepherd Convent Kindergarten

30 March, 2011. DPA Board member Paul Yuen gave a talk about DPA and about disability issues. This resulted in the Kindergarten donating \$3,689.10 to DPA.

### Jurong Junior College

13<sup>th</sup> October, 2010. Board member Paul Yuen gave a presentation about the work of DPA and about understanding people with disabilities.

### DPA Members Training

Board member Paul Yuen provided training to DPA members. The training focused on public speaking and was called BEST (Basic, Effective Speaking Training).



### Singapore Management University Disability Awareness Camp

WEnable organised *Camp Valente*, a two-day camp held at Pathlight School on the 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2010. DPA members provided SMU with support and guidance. This was the first Disability Awareness Camp in Singapore, and SMU is aiming to receive MOE endorsement to continue these camps.

### National Youth Council Conference

23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2010. DPA was invited to give a presentation to potential youth volunteers and leaders. DPA's manager Regana Mydin gave a presentation about DPA and disability issues.

### Round Table Discussion (RTD)

DPA facilitated a RTD in partnership with Special Needs Trust Fund on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. The purpose of the RTD meeting was to discuss the viability of extending the current trust fund to allow for low income families to benefit.

# Fundraising

## “East Meets West” Fundraising Football Match and Dinner



In collaboration with the Celebrities Sports Club and ESPN Star Sport Presenters, DPA organised a fundraising football match followed by a post-match dinner at La Villa Italian Grill & Bar. These events were arranged to celebrate the 2010 International Day of Persons with Disabilities and to raise funds for DPA’s advocacy work.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is commemorated yearly in over 100 countries. It is a day to reflect on the challenges faced by people with disabilities and to celebrate their triumphs.

Approximately 300 people attended the football match, including about 50 people with disabilities. The ‘East’ team was made up of local celebrities from television and film sector who play football regularly for the Celebrities Sports Club. The ‘West’ team comprised expatriate ESPN football commentators with notable football backgrounds.

Along with the celebrity football match, the audience was treated to performances by people with disabilities. The performers embodied the message of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, being living proof that physical limitation need not hinder one's ability to showcase great talents. The dinner was attended by approximately 200 people.

The events raised approximately \$113, 000 gross including sponsored items. DPA would like to thank its major sponsors for this event, including Mubadala Oil and Gas, Tote Board, Lee Foundation, Banyan Tree Resorts, the Singapore Sports Council and many others who made the events a success. Our thanks also to Morgan Stanley for providing a team of volunteers for the day.



# IT Programme and Projects

## PC Refurbishing Project

The PC refurbishment programme aims to empower people with disabilities to be equipped with basic IT skills and use computers to access the wider world of knowledge through the Internet. DPA accepts donations of PCs, refurbishes them and sells them to members, people with disabilities and families from low-income backgrounds. DPA is a Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher and Microsoft has allowed DPA to widen its PC Refurbishment scheme to sell PCs to the general public.

The Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Ltd. donated 26 PCs on 21 May 2010. Board member Lee Kiat donated 26 brand new adaptors. Walt Disney Corporate donated 20 PCs on 6 October 2010. A total of 54 refurbished PCs were distributed between April 2009 and March 2010.

DPA would like to thank its team of volunteers who assisted with the PC Refurbishment programme and to those companies and organisations who donated PCs over the past year.



## IT Workshops

DPA's IT Executive, Naveena Srividhya, conducted IT training for DPA members on 25 October, 2010 at DPA's office. The training covered 'Web Browser Fundamentals' and the members were given hands-on training.

# Acknowledgements

Our sincerest thanks to our donors, supporters and collaborators. Your support has enabled DPA to continue our mission to be the voice of people with disabilities. Those who have supported us over the past year included:

- Banyan Tree Resorts
- Building & Construction Authority
- Centre for Non-Profit Leadership
- ESPN
- Facilitators Network Singapore
- Football Association of Singapore
- Laureoli International HR Consulting
- Lee Foundation
- Ministry of Community, Youth and Sports
- Morgan Stanley
- Mubadala Oil and Gas
- National Council of Social Services
- NTUC Club
- Singapore Management University
- Singapore Sports Council
- Special Needs Trust Company
- Tote Board
- Wildlife Reserves Singapore

Finally, our sincerest thanks to those who have given us donations, our volunteers and our members. Your support is invaluable to our cause.