



APCD ANNUAL REPORT 2024



The Foundation of
Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness
Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

All activities implemented with



United Nations Convention
on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities (UNCRPD)



United Nations Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs)



Jakarta Declaration
on the Asian and Pacific
Decade of Persons with Disabilities,
2023-2032

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**The Foundation of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness
Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
(APCD Foundation)**



Dr. Tej Bunnag

Foreword

The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) is a regional center for disability and development operating in alignment with international cooperation frameworks, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023–2032. APCD is under the Royal Patronage of the Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Foundation and under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

For more than twenty-three years, APCD has remained steadfast into mission to empower persons with disabilities, strengthen organizational and community capacities across the Asia-Pacific region, and advance efforts to enhance the overall quality of life of persons with disabilities.

In 2024, APCD placed renewed emphasis on regional and national training initiatives that promote equality, non-discrimination, and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities. These initiatives encompassed a wide range of disability-inclusive thematic areas, including capacity development for children and youth with disabilities, leadership and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, health and well-being, inclusive education, vocational training and employment, independent living and inclusive communities, as well as disability-inclusive disaster preparedness and emergency response. APCD also continued to expand regional cooperation and partnership networks to support disability-inclusive development across the region.

Notable activities during the year included the Third Country Training Program on Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in the ASEAN Region, held in Bangkok and Chiang Rai with support from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The program welcomed representatives of persons with disabilities from Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Thailand.

APCD also partnered with Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) Korea and DPI Asia-Pacific to organize a training program on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) for women leaders with disabilities from South Asian countries-Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka-held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

In addition, APCD collaborated with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, on a CRPD monitoring project aimed at strengthening national disability data collection and analysis mechanisms to advance Thailand's implementation and monitoring of the CRPD.

At the national level, APCD provided annual vocational training for persons with disabilities in Thailand, recognizing the critical importance of disability-inclusive employment and income generation in promoting self-reliance, supporting families, and contributing to sustainable livelihoods with a disability-inclusive business model. The APCD 60+ Plus Project continues to receive strong support from the community, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The APCD Foundation warmly appreciates the continued partnership and collaboration of government agencies, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society networks. Your support strengthens our collective mission to empower persons with disabilities, promote inclusive and barrier-free societies, and enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Tej Bunnag
President, APCD Foundation
Under the Patronage of
Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.



**United Nations Convention on the Rights
of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



**Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade
of Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032**

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BACKGROUND

The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) is a regional center on disability and development in Asia and the Pacific. APCD was established in Bangkok by Thai cabinet resolution on 31th July 2001 as a legacy of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, with the joint collaboration of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), the Royal Thai Government, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan.

APCD was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) as a regional cooperative base for Biwako Millennium Framework for an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific, 2003-2012. ESCAP also identified APCD as the regional center on disability and development for the Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real, 2013-2022.

APCD is currently managed by the Foundation of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation) which was implemented under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn since 16th April 2007. The cabinet also approved APCD to be the under supervision of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) on 7th August 2007.

During the past 22 years, APCD trained more than 7,000 persons with disabilities and stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region through different training courses. Furthermore, APCD has strongly committed to cooperate with more than 30 countries for the organizing of disability and development programs and activities.

MISSION

To build the capacities of persons with disabilities and Disabled People Organizations (DPOs) as 'Agents of change' especially focusing on Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) and Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB)

VISION

An Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for persons with disabilities through the empowerment of persons with disabilities and disabled people's organizations (DPOs) in the Asia-Pacific region.

APCD commits to promote United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Capacity Building and Training

Training and capacity building activities for persons with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and staff who are working with persons with disabilities is our main mission. We believe that persons with disabilities and relevant persons who were trained through the program of capacity development will be 'Agent of Change' in their community and society. Meanwhile, the effective trainings will empower persons with disabilities and stakeholders to have knowledge, skills, and positive attitude towards disability and community development.

Networking

Networking and collaborations is a significant mission of APCD. We believe that the key success factor to move disability and development programs is to create a win-win situation and to share resource among each other. APCD is the Secretariat of various networks in the region. It strengthens sustainable networking towards the future.

Information, Knowledge Management and Publications

Information Knowledge Management and Publications is one of our missions to ensure effective communication, codifying knowledge and experiences to share expertise through various channels, especially social media.

Disability-Inclusive Business

APCD also promotes Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB) as a strategy in the sustainable development of quality of life of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the concept of Inclusive Entrepreneurship (IE) is the next step to be implemented.

60+ Plus Skills Development Training

Skills Development Trainings for Thai Persons with Disabilities on “Employability in Food Business” were implemented by APCD Foundation under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The training courses aim to build capacity and raise full participation of persons with disabilities in the society. The program promotes self-esteem and sustainable jobs for persons with disabilities.

APCD Foundation opens 60+ Plus Kitchen by Charoen Pokphand Group (CP). The Kitchen by CP aims to build capacity for persons with disabilities in the food and restaurant business. APCD currently operates 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café at APCD Office in Rajvithi Home for Girls area, and opened other 3 branches in Thai Government House, Thai Red Cross Society office and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok.

The pride of our trainees with disabilities is to make delicious baked and chocolate goods to serve our customers with dedication in working toward acknowledgement and acceptance from society.

- **60+Plus Bakery by Yamazaki**

60+ Plus Bakery by Yamazaki was initiated by collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand, Embassy of Japan in Thailand, Thai-Yamazaki Co., Ltd., and APCD.

The special of this Café is trainees with diverse disabilities participated in the capacity-building programs, bakery production and sales. It is to develop persons with disabilities skills and abilities in food business so-called sustainable employability and implement Sustainable Development Goal1, End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

- **60+ Plus Chocolate by Mark Rin**

60+ Plus Chocolatier by MarkRin is initiated by APCD in collaboration with MarkRin Chocolate Co., Ltd. The project aims to provide on-the-job training of person with disabilities in the food industry.

Premium chocolate products made by persons with disabilities are from fragrant cacao beans grown by Thai farmers.

- **60+ Plus Kitchen by CP**

APCD in collaboration with the Charoen Pokphand Group (CP) implements Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB) through 60+ Plus Kitchen. The Objective is to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through capacity building and development of the Public-Private Partnership concept in the food business sector.

Collaborations

APCD collaborates with all partners and stakeholders who have mutual strategies, mission and vision. We focus on disability and development through various projects and activities in the context of Community based inclusive development (CBID), Disability Inclusive Sports (DIS), Disability Inclusive Business (DIB) and Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR).

APCD ACTIVITIES: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCRPD

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

CRPD

Article 5: Equality And Non-Discrimination

Article 8: Raising Awareness

SDGs

Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 2: Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

Priority Area 3: Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children, and older persons with disabilities



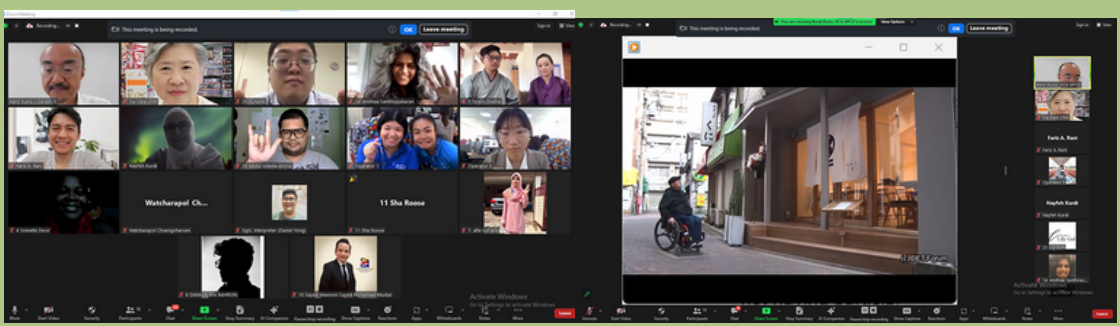
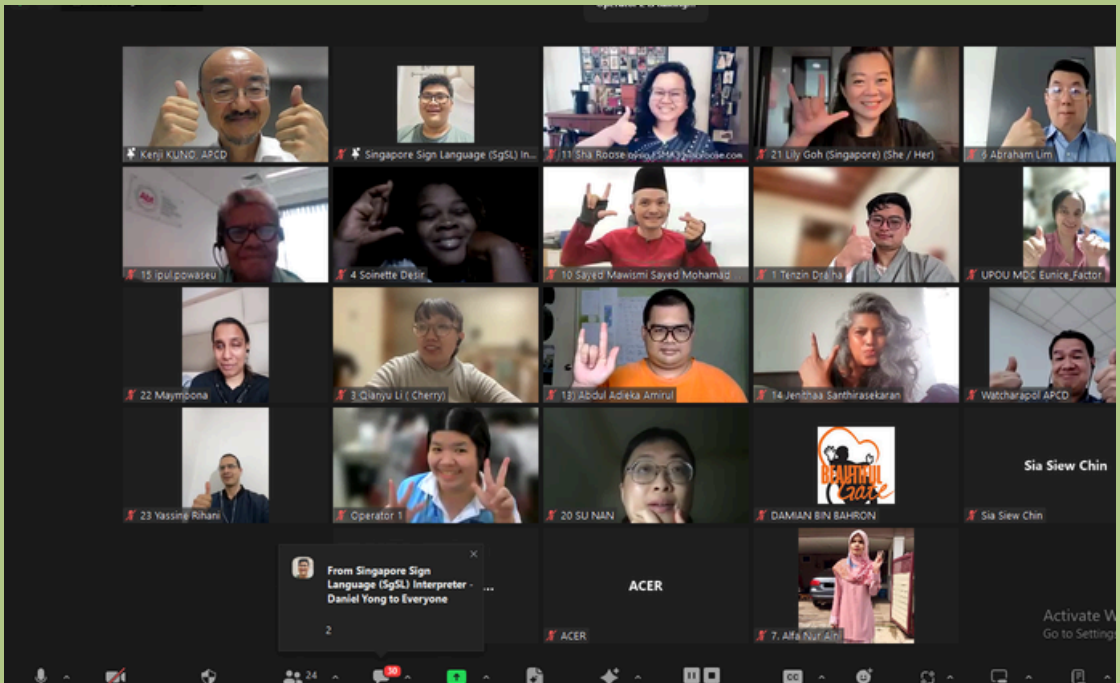
The University of Delaware visited APCD and learned about disability-inclusive development on 9 January 2024

A group of students and Dr. Laura Eisenmann, Professor, School of Education, from the University of Delaware, collaborated with Dr. Theerapong Bualar, Faculty of Political Science and Law. Burapha University visited APCD to learn about disability-inclusive development activities. The students were given a lecture on disability-inclusive development and a tour of APCD's disability-inclusive business activities, such as 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café and 60+ Plus Kitchen by CP. They also had a chance to do role-play activities to understand persons with visual impairment and learn from their experiences. The visit was a valuable opportunity for the students to broaden their perspective on disability inclusion and to appreciate the diversity and potential of people with disabilities.



The APCD Community Development Officer was Invited as the Speaker on 23 February 2024 at Chulalongkorn University

The Event "Asian Congress for People with Special Needs" was organized by the Faculty of Education at Chulalongkorn University. This event put the spotlight on people with special needs and social artists. Mr. Chayoot Homdee, APCD Community Development Officer and Self-Advocate with Autism, was invited as the Speaker for the session "My Life, My Story", in The Congress. The session was facilitated by Ms. Anchana Soonthoratak (Instructor Ouh), Coordinator of the Asia Congress for People with Special Needs, "I am able". Mr. Chayoot explained the challenges in school that he faced then. In this Congress, after the "My Life My Story" session. Overall, people were satisfied with his story and illustration. International delegates also presented their stories during the event.



APCD and JICA implemented the Disability Equality Training for Facilitators (DET FT) 2024 for Asia-Pacific Countries and Beyond, on 1 March, 19 April, 17 May, 14 June, and 2 August 2024 via the Online Platform

APCD and JICA, together with Disability Equality Training (DET) Forum, conducted the online training program to promote awareness regarding the understanding of persons with disabilities through the development of facilitators with disabilities on the training course titled “Disability Equality Training for Facilitators (DET FT) 2024”. The main resource person of this course was Dr. Kenji Kuno, APCD disability and development advisor and JICA senior advisor, who is also a founder of DET in the region. The sessions were supported by DET tutors with disabilities, who provided feedback and guidance to the participants throughout the session.

The series of online training was conducted as follows:

A. Launching of the first online schooling program in March 2024. The program aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to conduct DET sessions in their respective countries.

B. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Schooling of DET was conducted in April, May, and June 2024. So far, 15 Participants have completed the 4 sessions.

The next schooling was conducted in August 2024. APCD, JICA, and DET Forum implemented the last online schooling for the Disability Equality Training (DET) Facilitator Training 2024. The 5th schooling of DET Facilitator Training (FT) was completed and conducted online by APCD, JICA, and DET Forum. The completion session of the schooling focused on revision points. For example, they brainstormed what the DET facilitators can do and how to be a DET senior facilitator after the completion of the course.

Dr. Kenji Kuno, APCD disability and development advisor and JICA senior advisor, has emphasized all the main points on how to conduct DET effectively, and how to implement DET as disability awareness program in their countries. DET FT schooling was operated on the Zoom platform by APCD training operator, Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer, and Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, APCD Logistics Officer. There were 12 participants who completed the course and received the certificate of completion as evidence and reference for their future documentation on DET FT.



An APCD Community Development Officer was invited to join the Discussion "Freedom or Privilege" in the Forum "Do People with Autism Have Rights?", on 23 March 2024, at Die Kommune, Salaya, Nakhon Pathom Province, Thailand

A discussion forum facilitated by 4 people with Autism from different backgrounds in Bangkok about "Do People with Autism Have Rights?" was organized by Thisable.me and Phutthamonthon Independent Living (PIL). This talk's contents were about how to understand persons with Autism in Thailand, which was the 1st time apart from matters of blind, hard of hearing, and physical disability. Questions overall regarded the mindset of Thai people regarding Autism in Thailand. Key points were challenging employment, difficulties in loving and being loved, and living independently without parents or necessary supporters. Mr. Chayoot Homdee, APCD Community Development Officer and Self-Advocate with Autism, was one of 4 Interviewees with Autism. Four of them had interesting answers and made people understand them more.



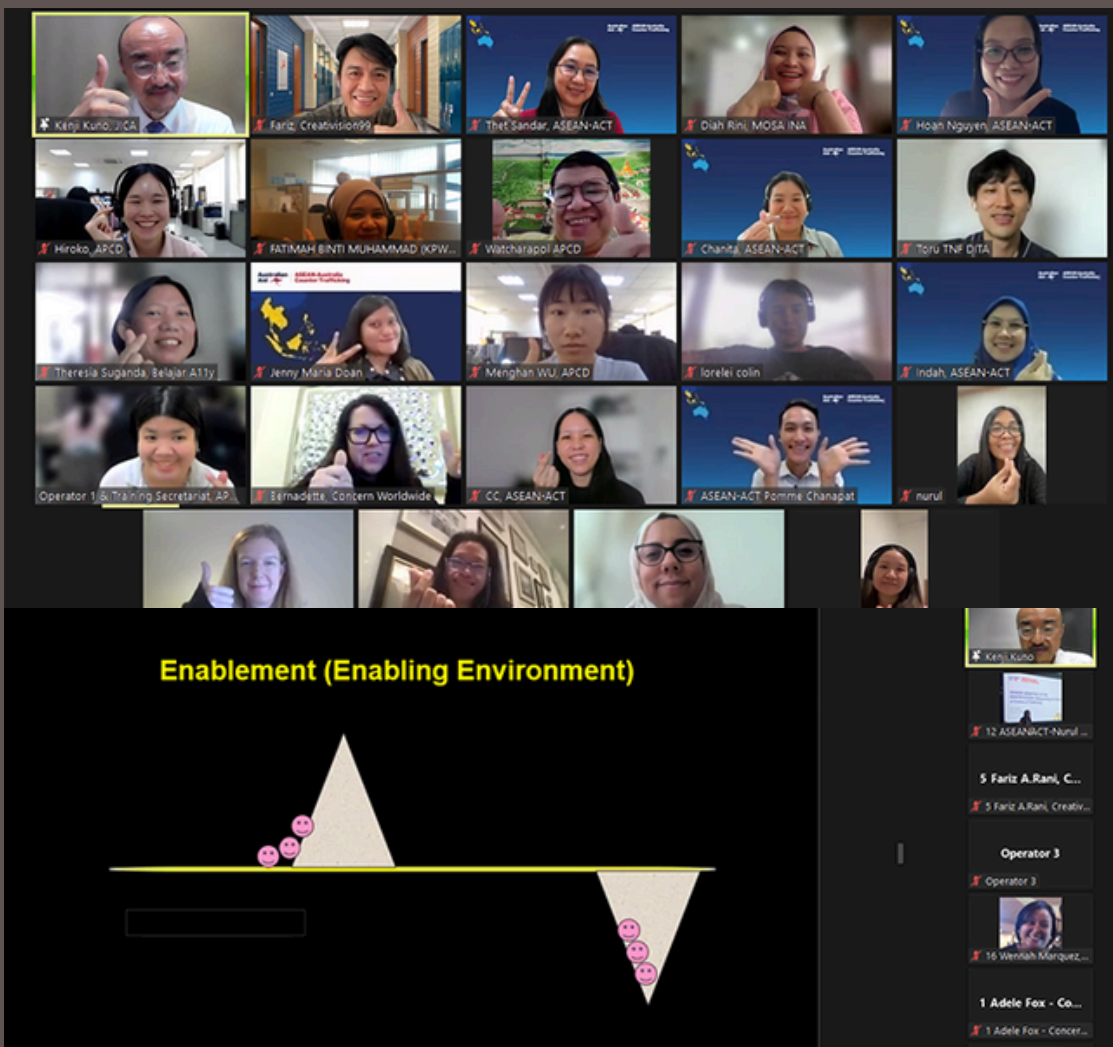
Japanese Students visited APCD to learn the situation of people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region as part of a study tour conducted by NOGEZAKA GLOCAL on 1 April 2024 in Bangkok

APCD welcomed students from Japanese universities and high schools led by Mr. Toshiyuki OKUI, Representative for NOGEZAKA-GLOCAL. Students visited the APCD to learn about the disability situation in the Asia-Pacific region and activities that encourage disability inclusive practice. During the short session, Mr. Piroon Laismit, the APCD Executive Director, gave a welcome remark to the students. Dr. Kenji Kuno, JICA Senior Advisor on Disability & Development at APCD, gave a lecture on disability inclusion and explained the situation of people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. 9 students actively participated in the session, asking numerous engaging questions.



Empathy and Education on Disability Inclusion: Singapore Management University (SMU) and Mahidol University (MU) Students' Journey through Thai Culture and Disability Awareness, on 13-14 May 2024 in Nakhon Pathom Province and Bangkok

Students from SMU joined their counterparts from MU in a unique overseas course titled "Experience: Applied Social Science in Globalized Asia." A remarkable study exchange in Nakhon Pathom Province and APCD was conducted. This program was focused on social change, which was facilitated by APCD. The program included insightful field visits to a local school at the Nakhon Pathom School for the Deaf, where they embraced Thai culture and connected with the local students through interactive learning experiences. Their journey continued with a reflection and a study visit at APCD, where they delved into the importance of fostering empowerment and inclusion. This firsthand knowledge experience left a lasting impression to highlight the value of disability, inclusion, and cultural exchange.



APCD and JICA conducted the Disability & Development (D&D) Online Learning Course, from 4, 17, 20, 24, and 27 June 2024 (Online activities)

APCD, in collaboration with JICA, held the online learning course under the title “Disability and Development: Toward an Inclusive Development”. This course is open to everyone who is interested in learning the basics of disability and development. Dr. Kenji Kuno, a senior advisor for JICA and an APCD Advisor on Disability and Development, facilitated the session. This course is aimed at helping participants gain an alternative view of disability to examine it as a social issue. The activities of APCD were briefly introduced by Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of APCD Networking & Collaboration. The series of online training was planned and successfully conducted as follows:

A: The Open Learning Course: The session is open free of charge as an introduction to the course.

B: The Advanced Learning Course: The Advanced course included modules 2 and 3, which were conducted actively. Registered participants had to pay the training fees. At the end of the training, 17 Participants completed the training course. The total average satisfaction score is 4.4 out of 5.



APCD at Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) Talks to Promote Inclusion and Empowerment in the Workplace, on 7 June 2024, at the TICA Office in Bangkok

TICA hosted “TICA Talks” at the TICA Office. The session was led by Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of APCD Networking and Collaboration. The topic’s title is “Better Life through Barriers as Sources of Strength”. Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, a self-advocate with Autism, joined the event as co-speaker to highlight the theme of an inclusive and barrier-free society.

The talk aimed to inspire TICA staff in promoting a culture of empowerment, equity, diversity, and inclusion in their workplace. 30 Participants engaged intensively, reflecting on APCD and TICA’s commitment to the rights-based approach toward disability development. The hybrid session featured interactive discussions with disabled role models, highlighting the progress in disability inclusion, international cooperation, and reinforcing TICA’s partnership with APCD.



An APCD Self-advocate with Autism was invited to a Thai TV Program shooting on 12 June 2024, at Soul Salt Paint Bar and River City in Bangkok

Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, APCD self-advocate with Autism and Networking & Collaboration Officer, was invited to the TV program. "Wheel Journey" is a TV program that aims to promote understanding, disability inclusion, and positive change from a tourism perspective. It features a diverse range of guests with disabilities who discuss various topics, share inspiring stories, and entertain the audience with celebrity appearances. The show is well-known for its accessibility, friendly design, advocacy, and empowerment. During the filming, NuNu had the opportunity to interact with the special guests, Ms. Khemanit "Pancake" Jamikorn, a well-known celebrity who marks her 20th anniversary in the Entertainment Industry. NuNu played a significant role as a speaker in promoting understanding of disability inclusion.



APCD Resource Persons Delivered a Training on the Session “Communication”, on 17 July 2024, at the Legacy Hotel in Nonthaburi Province and Bangkok

Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of Networking and Collaboration, and Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, Logistic Officer, were invited by the Thailand Council of Independent Living and the Ratchasuda College to share their knowledge and experiences in the session “Communication”. The training session was one topic of the training course titled: “Skill Training on Independent Living for Persons with Physical Disability for the Year 2024”. The participants were staff members with disabilities who are working in the organizations for persons with disabilities, especially for the Disability Service Center, where the knowledge and experiences they have gained could be applied to work at the center and in the community.



Indonesian College Students from Mahidol University visited APCD to learn about disability-inclusive development on 6 August 2024 in Bangkok

Seven delegates from the University of Aisyiah Yogyakarta and Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, led by Dr. Pakaratee Chaiyawat, Deputy Dean for International Affairs and Public Relations at the Faculty of Physiotherapy, Mahidol University, were introduced to APCD's activities. They toured the disability-inclusive business ventures, including the 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café and the 60+ Plus Kitchen by CP. The students engaged actively, inquiring about the situation of individuals with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Pakaratee highlighted the need to expand perspectives beyond the medical model to foster a disability-inclusive society and successfully wrapped up the session.



Japanese Students from Nogezaka Glocal Learned about Disability Inclusion at APCD on 2 September 2024 in Bangkok

A group of Japanese students from Nogezaka Glocal visited the APCD to learn about their work promoting disability inclusion in the Asia-Pacific region. They were led by Mr. Toshiyuki OKUI, a representative of Nogezaka Global. During their visit, Dr. Kenji Kuno, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Senior Advisor on Disability & Development at APCD, lectured on disability inclusion and explained the situation of people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. They also toured APCD's disability-inclusive business programs, including the 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café and the 60+ Plus Kitchen by CP. The visitors were impressed by APCD's work and commitment to disability inclusion.



APCD Staff joined a National Forum on the General Assembly of the National Network of Persons with Disabilities of Thailand 2025, organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), on 25 October 2024, at Princess Palace Hotel, Bangkok.

Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer, as a representative of APCD, joined the forum. This forum was organized by the DEP, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

The target group of this forum included representatives of persons with disabilities, the government, and the private sector. The officers of the Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office from various provinces in Thailand also participated in the forum. The main objective of this forum was to provide current updates on the status of people with disabilities and discuss various key issues, such as some main challenges, including limitations of welfare, education, budgets, good practices, and guarantor providers for the loan scheme. One key situation found and shared was that many children with disabilities drop out during the primary school period.

This event was a good platform for exchange and discussion between the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and government organizations to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in Thailand.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

CRPD

Article 7: Children With Disabilities

SDGs

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

Goal 4: Quality education

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 3: Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children, and older persons with disabilities



APCD Community Development Manager Facilitated the Review of the Strategic and Action Plan for Dulabhatorn Foundation on 14-15 November 2024, at Dulabhatorn Foundation in Chiang Mai Province

The APCD Community Development Manager was a resource person to review the strategic plan and action plan with the staff members of Dulabhatorn Foundation. The plan aims to enhance the implementation of promoting early intervention for children with neurodiversity and an income generation program for their family members. Furthermore, networking with key stakeholders and partners, as well as organization and staff development, took place. APCD believes Dulabhatorn Foundation will be one of the effective civil society organizations implementing disability inclusive development in the North of Thailand.

WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

CRPD

Article 6: Women With Disabilities

SDGs

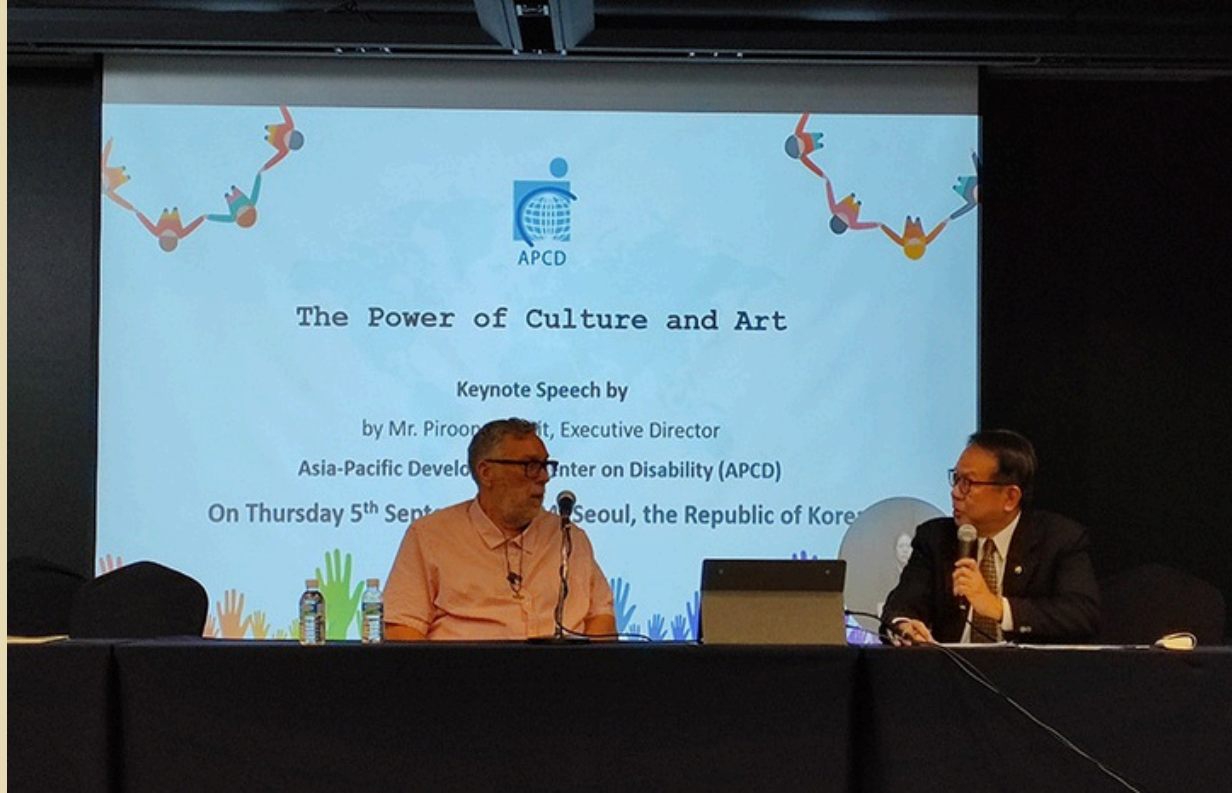
Goal 5: Gender equality

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 3: Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children, and older persons with disabilities

Priority Area 5: Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to development and implementing disability-related policies and programmes







APCD Mission to South Korea: 2024 Asia-Pacific Disabled Peoples Organization Assembly, 2, 3, and 5 September 2024 in Seoul, South Korea

The APCD collaborated with Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) Korea and DPI Asia-Pacific to host a training program on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) for women leaders with disabilities from South Asian countries. The CRPD training for South Asian countries was held at Nuri Hall, E-room, Seoul. It brought together 17 young women with diverse disabilities from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The training included sessions on best practices in CRPD monitoring in Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, and South Korea. A highlight was the session on the six priority areas of the Jakarta Declaration, introduced by Dr. Srinivas Tata and Ms. Min Kyoung Kim from ESCAP. On the afternoon of 3 September, the organizing team and participants attended the 3rd D-EUM Asia-Pacific Disability Art Exchange Exhibition at the National Assembly of Korea, organized by DPI Korea. DPI Korea, DPI Asia-Pacific, and the APCD also organized the significant event, the 2024 Asia-Pacific Disabled People Organization Assembly, which took place at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton Guro, Seoul. This event was considered in accordance with the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032.

The assembly had 130 participants, including representatives from disabled organizations across Asia-Pacific and Korea. Highlights included speakers and moderators from APCD and a side event on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR), supported by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), Thailand.

Speakers from DEP and APCD, Dr. Nantanoot Suwannawut and Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, played vital roles and gave a keynote speech on the proactive role of young women with disabilities. Mr. Piroon Laismit, APCD Executive Director, and Uncle Paul Calcott from Australia discussed the power of culture and art. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp and Ms. Prim Kaewpradub from DEP moderated a roundtable on cooperation among organizations of persons with disabilities for moving the Jakarta Declaration. Lastly, the DPI Asia-Pacific Executive Committee Meeting congratulated Mr. Lee Young Suk, DPI Korea President, as the newly elected Regional Chairperson for DPI Asia-Pacific.



APCD staff attended the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) on Gender Equality and Inclusion Forum on 19-20 September 2024, at Amari Bangkok Hotel in Bangkok

Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, Logistics Officer, and Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, Networking and Collaboration Officer, represented APCD at the Greater Mekong sub-region on the Gender Equality and Inclusion Forum organized by the Asian Development Bank.

The GMS faces complex challenges, including climate change, demographic shifts, and rapid technological advancement, that threaten progress while offering potential for transformative solutions. In this dynamic landscape, the GMS Gender Equality and Inclusion Forum will serve as a convening platform for government, civil society, and the private sectors to share approaches, strengthen collaboration, and forge a collective vision for advancing gender equality and social inclusion amid rapid change in the region.

There were about 100 participants represented by GMS government officials and representatives from GMS line and women's ministries and agencies, representatives from the GMS Secretariat, working groups, and all stakeholders joined the forum.



Reflecting on the Success: APCD and DPI-Korea Evaluated CRPD Training for Women Leaders with Disabilities in South Asia Countries on 12 and 19 December 2024 via the Online Platform

training for women leaders with disabilities from South Asia via the Online Platform.

The session focused on evaluating the program's logistics and content while preparing for future improvements. During this session, facilitated by Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Manager of the APCD Community Development Department, together with Ms. Eun Jung Kim, Program Manager of the DPI-Korea, led the session to facilitate discussion between eight participants who reflected on their learnings from the training. The participants shared how they learned key highlighted points and plan to apply the knowledge gained. They offered suggestions on session design and topics, and provided recommendations for enhancing logistics such as communication, travel support, and accommodations. The evaluation was part of a two-session program designed to enhance CRPD training initiatives. The first session emphasized identifying strengths and areas for improvement in the last training, ensuring the program continues to support the leadership of women with disabilities effectively.

The second session was held again via the online platform. The session focused on sharing updated input from the resource persons on key focus points of the CRPD. The session was facilitated by Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Manager of the APCD Community Development Department. It served as a follow-up training, held from 14:00 to 16:00 Bangkok time, and was aimed at sharing insightful knowledge.

Ms. Nicole Lee, a resource person from Australia, and Mr. Sawang Srisom from Transportation for All, Thailand, addressed key topics including gender inequality, children with disabilities, inaccessibility, limited justice, and the history and best practices of accessibility. The session concluded with discussions on potential future training for South Asia countries, aligning with the ongoing commitment to enhance Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) efforts. These collaborative efforts reinforce APCD and DPI-Korea's commitment to promoting inclusion and leadership among women with disabilities in South Asia, paving the way for future impactful programs.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

CRPD

Article 25: Health

SDGs

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 3: Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children, and older persons with disabilities



Rhodes College study tour to the APCD Program on 13 May 2024 in Bangkok

Students from Rhodes College, United States of America (USA), visited APCD. The visit aimed to study and understand holistic health, mental health, and disability in Thailand. The group was led by Professor Elin Ovrebo and coordinated by Ms. Suleewan Sinsanyanukulas, the Thai Coordinator. Mr. Piroon Laismit, APCD Executive Director, gave a welcome remark. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Community Development Manager, presented the APCD background and overview of activities. Followed by "Framework on Disability & Development" and the perspective of the social model of disabilities session by Dr. Kenji Kuno, JICA Advisor on Disability & Development. Students asked many questions about the overview of Persons with disabilities in Thailand. There were 23 people, including students, teachers, and staff from Rhodes College, who had the opportunity to exchange and explore the 60+ Plus Bakery & Café as well as observe the training program of the Skills Development for Persons with Disabilities and APCD 60+ Plus Kitchen by CP.

The visitation program was concluded, and Rhodes College students expressed appreciation towards Mr. Somchai Rungsilp. Professor Elin Ovrebo from Rhodes College expressed her gratitude to APCD for organizing the visitation program.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

CRPD

Article 24: Education

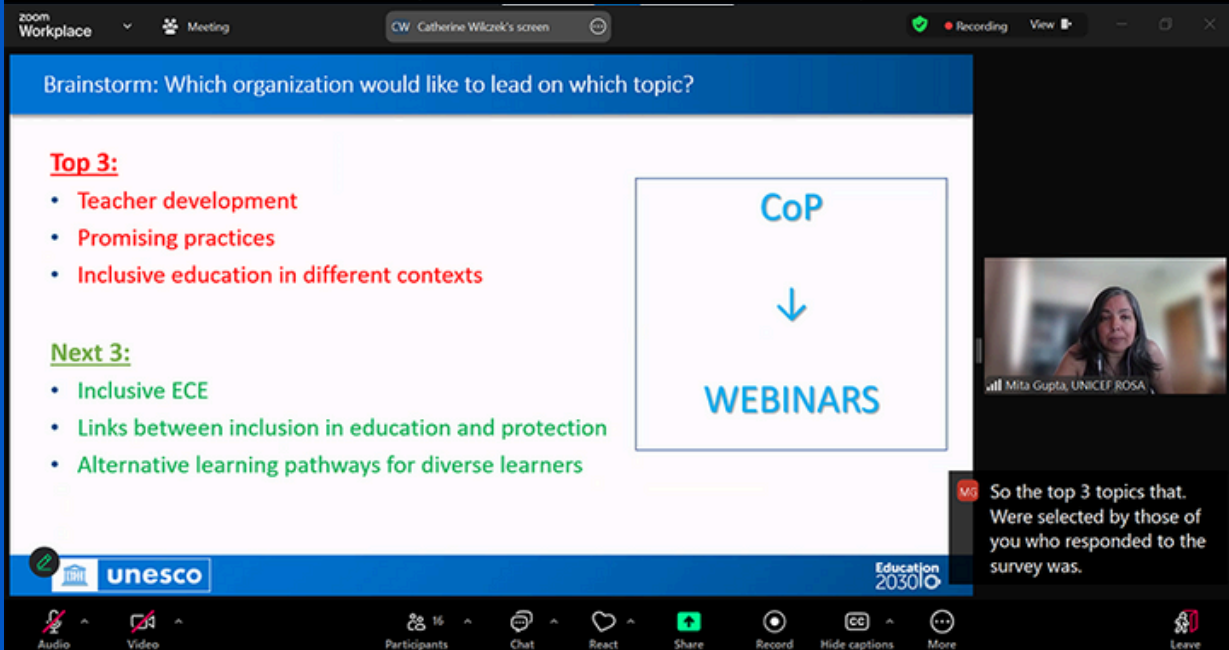
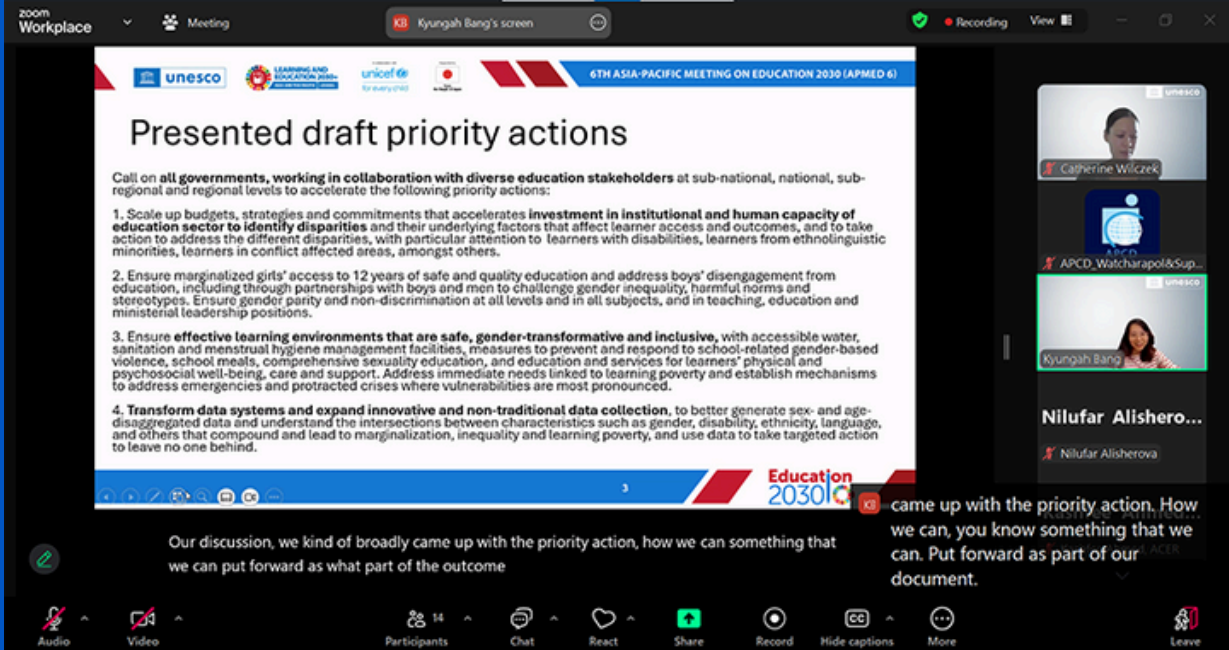
SDGs

Goal 4: Quality education

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 2: Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages; Priority

Priority Area 3: Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children, and older persons with disabilities



APCD staff attended the 12th Meeting of the Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group on 23 September 2024 via the Online Platform

Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen and Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, Chief and Officer of Networking & Collaboration, represented APCD in the 12th Meeting of the Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group, organized by UNESCO. The meeting agenda included a welcome and introduction message from Ms. Catherine Wilczek, UNESCO. Followed by brainstorming joint activities as working group engagement by Ms. Mita Gupta, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, and Updates on the outcome of the 6th Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030.



Bridging Cultures: Tokyo Students Explored Disability Development at APCD on 18 November 2024 in Bangkok

Students from Tokyo Gakugei University International Secondary School go on board on an educational journey to the APCD. This insightful visit, arranged by JICA Thailand Office, aimed to deepen understanding of the official development assistance (ODA) from Japan related to Thailand and the region. The students engaged with APCD's initiatives and Japan's ODA strategies, gaining invaluable perspectives on global collaboration. The day was enriched with interactive sessions, including a tour of the innovative 60+ Plus Bakery & Café, which is a showcase of inclusive employment and vocational training in view of disability-inclusive business. The students were inspired and appreciated the inclusive stories and good practices shared by APCD.





Students from Pibhoonprachason School Visited APCD on 22 November in Bangkok

22 Students and their teachers from Pibhoonprachason School visited the APCD. These students have special needs such as developmental disorders, autism, intellectual and learning disabilities. Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of Networking and Collaboration, Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, Logistics Officer, and Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, Networking & Collaboration Officer, shared their life stories, challenges, and barriers with the students. They also shared how they overcame these challenges to become independent, be able to generate income, and live inclusively in society.

The students and their teachers toured the APCD 60+ Plus programs at the APCD administrative building and training center. They visited the APCD 60+ Plus bakery and chocolate café, the chocolate mini factory, the 60+ Plus kitchen by CP, and the hotel services project. Ms. Wilailekha Somprach, Manager of the 60+ Plus bakery & chocolate cafe and 60+ Plus kitchen by CP Projects, facilitated the tour. The visitors observed and learned how to train persons with disabilities to live and work independently. They can explore the 60+ Plus project, which showcases inclusive employment and vocational training. These students are potential trainees for the APCD program in the future. The visit inspired the students and teachers, showing them the possibilities for inclusive employment and independence for persons with disabilities.

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

CRPD

Article 27: Work And Employment

SDGs

Goals 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goals 8: Decent work and economic growth

Goals 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 2: Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

Priority Area 4: Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations, and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



APCD Attended the "Centering Caregivers in Supporting Inclusive Employment" Dialogue, Organized by Steps Community (STEPS) on 30 May 2024, at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bangkok

The APCD Team, including Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, APCD Networking & Collaboration Officer, Mr. Chayoot Homdee, APCD Community Development Officer, and Ms. Menghan (Valora) Wu, APCD Intern from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, China, attended a panel discussion on supporting disability inclusion in the workplace for those with neurodivergence. The panel discussion started with opening remarks by the Rainbow Room Foundation Co-Founder, Ms. Rosalina Alexander. The panelists included stakeholders who are dealing with persons with Neurodivergence and the parents' representatives. This panel was moderated by Ms. Pair Chainares, Head of Inclusive Employment.

The panel focused on discussion about the challenges of caregivers in preparing Neurodivergent individuals for employment, experiences of discrimination, long-term career choices, and suggested job training for them.



The Dulabhorn Foundation Visitation on 26 July 2024, at APCD in Bangkok

The Dulabhorn Foundation visited APCD. Visitors from the Dulabhorn Foundation visited APCD to learn about APCD’s vision and missions, including main activities, including training, networking, collaboration, and knowledge management. Visitors also observed the activities of 60+PLUS Bakery and Café and 60+PLUS Kitchen to apply the concept of disability inclusive business in their target area.

The Dulabhorn Foundation is one of the proactive local foundations working actively in Chiang Mai Province. One of the foundation's main programs is to promote the lives of young persons with neurodiversity and multiple disabilities.



APCD Participated in a Workshop “Advancing Public-Private-People Sector Engagement”, on 16-18 September 2024, at the Crowne Plaza Bangkok Lumpini Park Hotel in Bangkok

ASEAN Disability Rights Workshop: “Advancing Public-Private-People Sector Engagement” was an inspiration of expectation for fair, equitable, and inclusive employment for persons with disabilities. This pivotal event, organized by the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) of Thailand and USAID in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, brought together 40 delegates from ASEAN nations and observers from the Asia-Pacific region. APCD played a crucial role, with Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of Networking & Collaboration, lighting up the 60+Plus Bakery, Café, and Kitchen partnership with Thailand's private sector.

This initiative is a demonstration of APCD's commitment to skill development and job placement for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Community Development Department Manager, shared valuable insights on strengthening partnerships and resource mobilization, drawing from APCD's extensive experiences. Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, Networking & Collaboration Officer, also attended the workshop. The workshop placed a strong emphasis on collaborative efforts, highlighting the necessity of public-private-people sector synergy to promote an enabling environment. The discussions culminated in strategic recommendations to propel disability rights and inclusive employment forward.



ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, Online Interview for APCD Staff in the Inclusive Employment Research and Development (R&D) Project on 24 September 2024 via the Online Platform

Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, APCD Networking & Collaboration Officer, had been invited to an online stakeholder interview for a study commissioned by the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Department on “The Future of Work in ASEAN”. This study is a project of the ASCC Research and Development Platforms Programme of the ASEAN Secretariat. The project aims to generate insights and policy options on the future of work in our region.

The resulting outputs of the project are policy briefs, trend reports, and online forums, which are expected to contribute to more impactful and informed decisions by ASCC sectoral bodies. As a part of this study, Verian, the implementing body, conducted in-depth interviews with key stakeholders working with Persons with Disabilities in the region with the thematic topic “Removing barriers and gaps for Persons with Disabilities’ participation in the world of work”. The interviews seek to better understand the current landscape and future trends in the labor market, particularly from a disability-inclusive lens.



APCD Staff was invited to speak at a Workshop: "A Forum on the Future of Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Thailand" on 24 September 2024, at Thammasat University in Bangkok

The Social Policy and Development Program under the Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University in Bangkok, organized an engaging community workshop titled "A Forum on the Future of Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Thailand". Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of Networking and Collaboration, was invited as a keynote speaker, along with Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Community Development Manager, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, Networking & Collaboration Officer, and Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer. Together, they contributed valuable insights on how to improve access to inclusive employment for persons with disabilities in Thailand.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss best practices, strategies, challenges, and solutions in promoting inclusive employment opportunities. Representatives from both the public and private sectors highlighted the benefits and success stories of integrating Thai persons with disabilities into the workforce & workability. Key activities at the workshop included presentations by experts from DEP who shared information about the situation on inclusive employment of persons with disabilities in Thailand. A panel discussion was conducted by speakers from various organizations such as the Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (Thailand), the Social Innovation Foundation (SIF), NEXEP Health Solution Co., Ltd., PTT Public Co., Ltd., Power for Sustainable Future Foundation, ESCAP, and Thammasat University. The workshop emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the government, private sector, and advocacy groups to ensure a more inclusive future for persons with disabilities in Thailand's workforce.



APCD Staff with Autism Delivered the Opening Speech for the Workshop “Designing Inclusive Workspaces for All”, organized by Neurodiversity at Work Research Center (NWRC) on 26 September 2024 at TK Hall, Sasin School of Management in Bangkok

Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, APCD Staff with Autism and Networking & Collaboration Officer, was invited to be the opening speaker in Neurodiversity at the Work Research Center Workshop titled 'Designing Inclusive Workspaces for All' at TK Hall, Sasin School of Management, Bangkok. This event aimed to discover how small adjustments can lead to more inclusive and productive environments, and to gain insights from a successful case study where effective accommodations have transformed a workplace setting. The adjustments can also create accessible spaces and reasonable physical accommodations for everyone. Ms. NuNu had the opportunity to raise awareness and understanding towards persons with neurodivergence among the participants.



APCD Community Development Officer volunteered to join the Inclusion Job Fair 2024 Event on 4 November 2024, at TK Palace and Convention Hotel in Nonthaburi Province and Bangkok

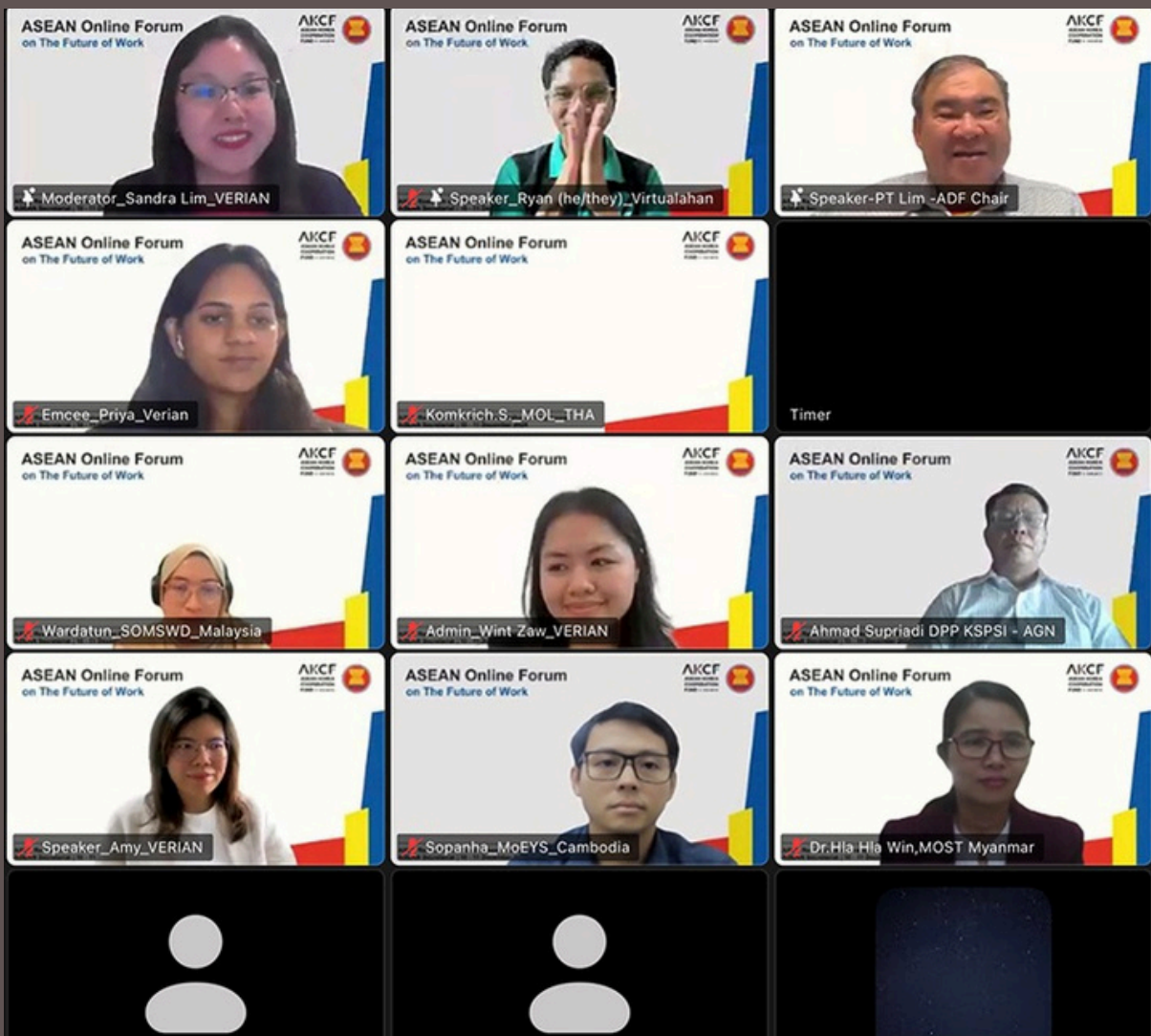
Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer of APCD, participated in the Inclusion Job Fair 2024. Mr. Chayoot volunteered to be a personal assistant for people with disabilities who were looking for a job and requesting accommodation.

This event was a collaboration among the Social Innovation Foundation (SIF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), and 40 other private companies. The target group of this event was graduates with disabilities and companies, who were looking for employment matchmaking. Many people with disabilities were searching for a decent job, while some of them got a new job at this employment fair.



The delegation from the Tiger Team of the National Defence College visited APCD to strengthen the partnership and seek collaboration to advance Disability-Inclusive Development on 8 November 2024, at APCD in Bangkok

6 Delegations from the Tiger Team of the National Defence College visited the APCD. The delegation was led by Dr. Seree Nonthasoot, President of the Sustainable Arts and Crafts Institute of Thailand (SACIT), and his Tiger Team Members. The visit commenced with a meeting attended by APCD Executive Director Piroon Laismit and the APCD team. The discussions during the visit emphasized and reinforced the commitment and collaborative efforts between APCD and the National Defence College towards promoting disability-inclusive employment and business in Thailand.



APCD Participated in the ASEAN Online Forum on the Future of Work, 10-11 December 2024, via the Online Platform

APCD participated in the ASEAN Online Forum on the Future of Work on 10 December 2024. The Forum was organized by the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Research and Development (R&D) Platform, supported by the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund. There were about 170 participants who attended this forum.

The main topic of day one was about “Removing Barriers and Gaps for Persons with Disabilities Participation in the World of Work,” while the key topic of day two was about “Promoting Inclusive Human Resource Development (HRD) Strategies to Sustain Productivity”. APCD’s partners, including representatives of UNESCAP and the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF), contributed to the forum as key panelists of the panel discussion. APCD was mentioned by the speakers as an organization that implements a good model of inclusive employment and business. Discussions and lesson learned exchanges among participants were an active interaction.

INDEPENDENT LIVING AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

CRPD

Article 9: Accessibility

Article 19: Living Independently And Being Included In The Community

Article 21: Freedom Of Expression And Opinion, And Access To Information

Article 28: Adequate Standard Of Living And Social Protection

Article 30: Participation In Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure, And Sport

SDGs

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 2: Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages; Priority

Priority Area 4: Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to their distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children and older persons with disabilities; Priority

Priority Area 5: Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to development and implementing disability-related policies and programmes



Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) Mission to Thailand Organized: Multi-stakeholders Meeting to Promote Social Participation and UNCRPD Awareness of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities in Thailand at TK Palace Hotel and Convention Center on 5 April 2024, Nonthaburi Province and Bangkok, Thailand

APCD attended the TCI Multi-stakeholders Meeting as the conclusion event for its Mission to Thailand. The meeting was attended by representatives from the organizations of persons with psychosocial disability, Disabilities Thailand, ASEAN Disability Forum, APCD, and the TCI Team. The discussion was to exchange information on the situation of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Thailand towards full participation of persons with psychosocial disabilities. This meeting was attended by APCD Representatives, namely Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, and Ms. Hiroko Itako.

During the meeting, Ms. Kim Tiengtong, Outgoing President of Living Association Thailand, highlighted its extensive CRPD Session, which will lead to the promotion of the lives of persons with psychosocial disabilities. In this relation, the TCI Team also emphasized the importance of social participation and cross-cutting collaboration between the National Association and the Local Association of/for persons with psychosocial disabilities. Additionally, APCD showcased its key programs, including the ASEAN Autism Network and online training initiatives.



APCD has extended its continued support to a unique income-generating event organized by the Dao Ruang Group (Marigold Group) on 28 April 2024, at Rajanukul Institute in Bangkok

The event was led by the Dao Ruang Group, who are dedicated to advocating for the rights of Thai people with intellectual disabilities. The Dao Ruang Group's members were involved in a creative interactive activity where members made artistic designs on tissue boxes, which were sold to support the group's income generation.

Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief, Networking & Collaboration of APCD, participated as a mentor, offering guidance and support to the group. The event not only raised funds but also fostered a sense of strength, confidence, and social participation among the participants.

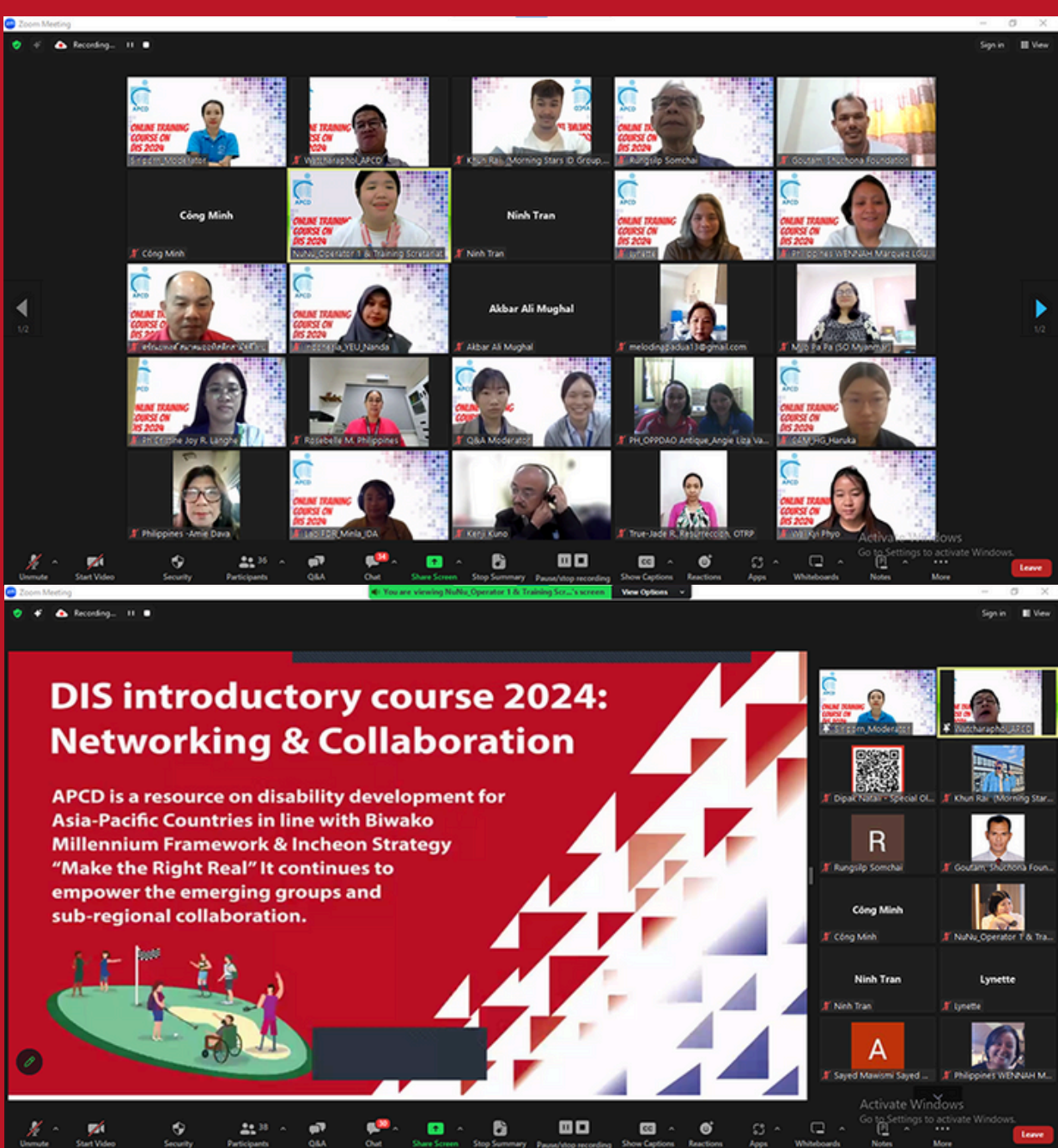
The Dao Ruang Group plans to conduct an interactive field study in Pran Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province. The activity aims to enhance the social participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. The success of this activity is an inspiring model for countries in the Mekong River towards demonstrating the empowerment of persons with intellectual disability.



APCD Collaborated with Smuthkochorn TV Program and the Thai Government to Promote Disability Inclusion, on 3 July 2024 in Bangkok

APCD welcomed the production team from the Smuthkochorn TV program. The visit focused on capturing footage for an upcoming feature promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The collaboration among the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government, Smuthkochorn TV program, and APCD aims to raise awareness about disability rights and showcase the center's efforts in fostering an inclusive society. This initiative aligned with APCD's ongoing mission to empower persons with disabilities and promote their full participation in all aspects of community life. The television program was expected to highlight APCD's various programs and initiatives, demonstrating practical approaches to creating a more accessible and equitable environment for persons with disabilities across the Asia-Pacific region. This media coverage represented an important step in advancing public understanding and support for disability inclusion, reflecting a growing commitment to diversity and equal opportunities in society.





APCD conducted an Open Learning Course on Disability Inclusive Sports on 5 July 2024 via the Online Platform

APCD's open learning Course (live session) 2024 promotes inclusion in sports. Online participants attended the APCD online introductory course on "Disability Inclusive Sports (DIS)." This sustainable learning course explored how sports, leisure, and recreational activities can empower individuals with disabilities. The course brought together 45 participants from across Asia and the Pacific, all motivated by APCD's dedication to creating a society where everyone can enjoy sports, leisure, and recreational activities. This online event also promoted diversity, equality, and inclusion for all.



APCD staff attended the Workshop on “Gathering Lessons Learned of Welfare and Rights for Thai Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Who live overseas” organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) on 25 July 2024, at the APCD Training Building in Bangkok

Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, Logistics Officer, and Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer, represented APCD to attend the Workshop on “Gathering Lessons Learned of Welfare and Rights for Thai PWDs who Live Overseas”.

The workshop focused on gathering the lessons learned on the rights and welfare protection for Thai PWDs living in foreign countries. The contents also extended to develop a welfare platform model for Thai PWDs to be able to access fundamental welfare and rights. There were three Thai resource persons who had experience living in Africa, Japan, Australia, and the USA, who shared and explained the overall experiences of living in each country with information about fundamental welfare for Thai PWDs.

About 40 participants, including PWDs and non-PWDs, represented from government sectors, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and civil society organizations (CSOs), joined this workshop. The participants actively shared ideas on what is needed for welfare for Thai PWDs who live in other countries, and what the platform should be developed as a model. Various useful topics of discussion were about the welfare system, the accessible environment, community, transportation fees, consultation, employment status, healthcare, and emergency contact channels.



APCD staff attended the Workshop on “Gathering Lessons Learned of Welfare and Rights for Thai Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) who Live Overseas” (Part 2) on 4 September 2024, at the Royal River Hotel in Bangkok

Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer, represented APCD attending the Workshop on “Gathering Lessons Learned of Welfare and Rights for Thai PWDs Who live Overseas” (Part 2), organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and funded by Thailand Science Research and Innovation. The objective of the workshop was to identify welfare and rights for Thai persons with disabilities (PWDs) who live overseas. The activities which took place include: A group discussion on experiences regarding the rights, welfare, and protection of Thai people with disabilities living abroad, A group discussion on "Implementing innovations in rights, welfare, and protection for people with disabilities in foreign countries into practice.", and a brainstorming session on "Collaboration in utilizing innovations in rights, welfare, and protection for people with disabilities."

In conclusion, Thai people with disabilities who live overseas must know about both formal and informal rights and understand available assistance in emergency situations, as well as their rights to access education, healthcare, visa systems, digital accessibility, and employment abroad.



APCD representative participated in a seminar on “Anniversary of 20th Year of Independent Living (IL) Center and Promoting Quality of Lives of Persons with Disabilities in Thailand” on 15 September 2024 at the Legacy Hotel, Nonthaburi Province, in Bangkok

The APCD Community Development Manager attended and shared his experiences and insights regarding the evolution of the IL movement in Thailand. The Seminar was conducted by the Independent Living Foundation (ILF) in collaboration with DEP. The overview program focused on sharing the background, successes, challenges, and significant movement of IL in Thailand over the last 20 years. About 80 participants, who were persons with disabilities, representatives of academic, government, and civil society organizations, shared information on the historical discussion of IL in Thailand and how the IL movement could change the lives of persons with severe disabilities. Discussion was also focused on how to collaborate in continuing to promote the IL movement in Thailand.



APCD Staff with Autism featured in a Living Library event, organized by Global Shapers Bangkok, on 21-22 September 2024, at Samyan Mitrtown in Bangkok

Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, APCD Staff with Autism and Networking & Collaboration Officer, was invited to the Global Concept Conference called "Human Library" based in Bangkok. This first-time event in Thailand aimed to address people's prejudices by helping them talk to those they would not normally meet. The organization used a library analogy of presenting people rather than books. The show was well-known for its international organization and movement that first started in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2000. In the event, "The Books" represented by Thai Mormon, Stateless Individual, Queer, Polyamory Advocate, Low Vision & Visually Impaired Person, Formerly Incarcerated Person and Ms. NuNu as Person with Autism Spectrum Disorder. NuNu had the opportunity to interact with the people who were interested in Autism, with 30 minutes for one session slot.



APCD resource persons at Unlocking Accessible Tourism: A Workshop for All, on 18 October 2024, at the Srinakharinwirot University (SWU) in Bangkok

The International College for Sustainability Studies, SWU, hosted a crucial workshop on accessible tourism, facilitated by the resource persons from APCD. Around 85 participants, including third-year students and faculty staff, explored the concept of inclusive travel through Disability Equality Training (DET). The session highlighted the importance of accessible tourism for individuals with disabilities, senior citizens, pregnant women, and others facing travel barriers. The two resource persons, including Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of Networking & Collaboration, and Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, Logistics Officer from APCD, shared insights on the relationship among impairments, barriers, and disability, sustainable hospitality, current trends, and the social model of disability. This engaging event aimed to empower future leaders in the travel industry, encouraging them to support inclusivity and drive meaningful change.



Srinakharinwirot University (SWU)'s Students Visited APCD to Learn about Disability Inclusive Development on 30 October 2024, at APCD in Bangkok

The Dulabhatorn Foundation visited APCD. Visitors from the Dulabhatorn Foundation visited APCD to learn about APCD's vision and missions, including main activities, including training, networking, collaboration, and knowledge management. Visitors also observed the activities of 60+PLUS Bakery and Café and 60+PLUS Kitchen to apply the concept of disability inclusive business in their target area.

The Dulabhatorn Foundation is one of the proactive local foundations working actively in Chiang Mai Province. One of the foundation's main programs is to promote the lives of young persons with neurodiversity and multiple disabilities.



APCD collaborated with Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) Global in a Conference Series titled “Pathways to Inclusive Communities: Navigating the Practice of Community Inclusion” on 18 November 2024 at the Ambassador Hotel in Bangkok

TCI Global, in collaboration with APCD and other partners, organized an in-person plenary conference focusing on the key theme of community inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities. This conference aimed to be a learning space, to foster rich and insightful conversations, discuss and display good practices from the grassroots, contribute to knowledge building, and strengthen collaborations with cross-disability movements and multi-stakeholders. TCI had brought together its members, partners, networks, allies, and stakeholders to address critical issues such as deinstitutionalization, access to justice, intersectional discrimination, no access to mainstream services, inclusive development, arts-based therapies, cultural ways of well-being and healing, and advocacy at both global and national levels.

In these relations, the APCD Team included Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Community Development Manager, and Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, Networking & Collaboration Officer, who represented APCD in the Multi-stakeholders Meeting and Partnership Development Meeting. Ms. NuNu and Mr. Somchai also play the role of panelists in the conference.

Ms. NuNu had delivered the importance of capacity building of persons with psychosocial disability and emphasized the importance of meaningful participation in capacity building on a disability-inclusive development course. Mr. Somchai emphasized the importance of Networking & Collaboration in the disability-inclusive development field, especially in capacity-building activities.

By the conclusion of the workshop, more than 80 participants left with both renewed and new commitment to advancing the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities. TCI and APCD have demonstrated the continual collaboration to realize the rights of persons with Psychosocial Disabilities among governments, organizations, and individuals to ensure the effective implementation of Disability-Inclusive Development towards creating a more inclusive society for individuals with psychosocial disabilities in Asia-Pacific and beyond.



APCD Staff with Autism Spoke at the Stage of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024, Organized by Steps Community, on 3 December 2024 at Sasin School of Management in Bangkok

Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, APCD Staff with Autism and Networking & Collaboration Officer, was invited to be a panelist and a workshop facilitator at the event on "International Day of Persons with Disabilities". More than 80 participants joined the event and were involved in a discussion on Inclusive development for persons with disabilities and Neurodivergent people. Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, Logistics Officer, APCD, joined as an observer as well as a colleague supporter. This event aimed to raise awareness of invisible disability, challenge stereotypes, and promote understanding among employers and employees with disabilities across the workplace. At the panel discussion, along with Ms. NuNu, Ms. Nalutporn Krairiksh, Editor of ThisAble. Ms. Praae Sunantaraks, Vulcan Coalition Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Advisor, and Shane Bhatla, Independent Activist, also joined the discussion.

PROTECTION IN RISK AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

CRPD

Article 11: Situations Of Risk And Humanitarian Emergencies

SDGs

Goal 13: Climate action promote sustainable agriculture

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 2: Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages; Priority

Priority Area 3: Improve physical and digital accessibility with special attention to the distinct needs of persons with different disabilities and of women, children, and older persons with disabilities







The Third Country Training Program on “Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in the ASEAN Region” Course 3: Facilitation for Change and Social Media Production on promoting DiDRR, 14 (Sun) – 27 (Sat) January 2024, in Chiang Rai Province and Bangkok

Participants from seven ASEAN countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, learned about disability inclusion and disability inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) in a two-week training course in Thailand. The course was jointly organized by the Thai and Japanese governments through the collaboration of TICA, JICA, and APCD. The course aimed to enhance the participants' facilitation skills and knowledge on how to promote a positive mindset change and use social media effectively to advocate for DiDRR and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster management. The course combined theoretical and practical sessions, as well as field visits to earthquake-affected areas in Chiang Rai Province and the APCD training center and UNCC building in Bangkok.

The participants, who were either leaders with disabilities or staff working in the disability and humanitarian sectors from government and private organizations, exchanged their experiences and challenges in DiDRR and learned from each other's best practices. They created social media content to raise awareness on DiDRR and disability rights among their networks and communities. The course was part of a three-year program that aims to build the capacity of ASEAN countries on DiDRR creativity and disability inclusion. The last day of the course involved action plan presentations by each country group and APCD's commitment to promote DiDRR in the region. The journey was more than significant to the destination. Let's work for “No one Left Behind” so that everyone survives in any disaster.



APCD Resource Persons Shared Lessons Learned at the ASEAN Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)'s DiDRR Session, on 15 May 2024 in Bangkok

APCD Representatives were resource persons at the "5th Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction" training, organized by the ADPC. The session took place at the Pullman Hotel G. APCD's representatives, Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, and Ms. Hiroko Itako led the session on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR). They shared insights into APCD's achievements and conducted Disability Equality Training (DET). They also shared some good practices and mini exercises on disability inclusion & disaster risk reduction from Japan and Thailand. The session concluded with case studies demonstrating effective DiDRR practices. Six active participants from various key international organizations attended and highlighted the importance of inclusive practices in disaster management.





APCD Participated as a Resource Person for UNESCAP Launching of Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) E-Learning Tool, on 2-6 June 2024 in Manila, Philippines

Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, APCD representative, participated in the significant event of UNESCAP on the Launching of Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction as one of the resource persons.

The launching event was co-organized by the key partners, including UNESCAP, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA), at Joy-Nostalg Hotel & Suites Manila, the Philippines.

The mission members from Bangkok were Ms. Aiko Akiyama and Ms. Madhurima Sarkar-Swaisgood from UNESCAP, and Mr. Somchai Rungsilp from APCD. The event was a prominent platform to mobilize stakeholders to discuss and exchange knowledge and experiences on challenges and overcoming the hard situations regarding DiDRR. All Stakeholders in the Philippines, including the government sector, civil society agencies, and organizations of persons with disabilities, had an excellent time to get to know each other and connect among them for further close collaboration.





APCD and Association for the Mentally ILL of Thailand (AMIT) Participated in the Launch of UNESCAP Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) E-Learning Tool on 24-28 June 2024 at Hotel Himalaya in Kathmandu, Nepal

UNESCAP launched a significant event on the Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction E-Learning Tool. The mission members were Ms. Aiko Akiyama, Mr. Daisuke Maruichi, and Mr. Rahul Kumar Suman from UNESCAP/Ms. Thitiporn Phringphloed from AMIT/and Mr. Somchai Rungsilp from APCD.

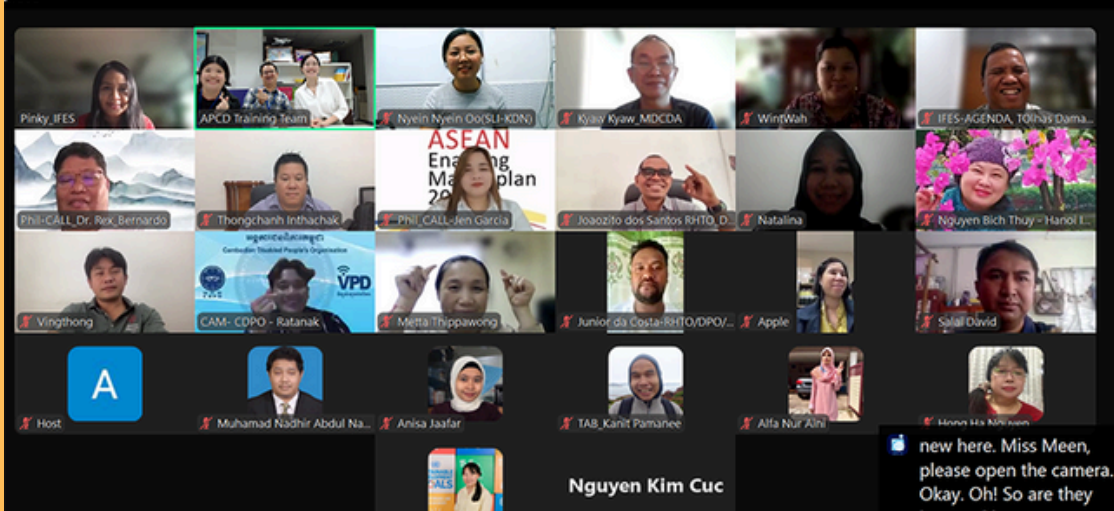
The co-organizers of the launching event were UNESCAP, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), and Youth Innovation Lab (YIL). More than 70 participants from the government, civil society organizations, and disabled people organizations attended the launching event. Key partners launched the E-Learning tool and provided an overview of its contents. A panel discussion on "How to Promote and Utilize the E-Learning Tool Effectively" was conducted. The panelists were representatives of the government, civil society organizations, and organizations of persons with disabilities, including Ms. Aiko, Ms. Thitiporn, and Mr. Somchai. The event was successful and fruitful in encouraging all sectors in society to be aware of the importance of "Leaving No One Behind" and to ensure Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction is promoted at the community level.



APCD Conducted Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) Training at the Nakhon Pathom School for the Deaf on 11 July 2024, Nakhon Pathom Province, and Bangkok

APCD conducted a significant DiDRR training session at the Nakhon Pathom School for the Deaf in Nakhon Pathom Province, Thailand. The training was led by Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, APCD Chief of Networking and Collaboration, and Ms. Hiroko Itako, a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) specializing in DiDRR. The key purpose of the training was to educate a sense of crisis awareness and impart fundamental knowledge of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to the participants with hearing impairments and developmental disorders.

A total of 156 students and teachers were engaged in the training, exploring potential challenges during disasters and the importance of preparedness through interactive activities. Ms. Hiroko introduced several Japanese DRR practices, which left a lasting impression on the attendees. This half-day session marked APCD's first collaboration with the local community in Thailand to conduct DiDRR training, highlighting the importance of an inclusive approach in disaster response.



APCD Speakers were invited to the "Resilience Building Learning Meeting" Organized by AGENDA on 25 September 2024 via the Online Platform

AGENDA organized the Resilience Building Network (RBLN) online meeting. This meeting was a regular meeting and a platform for organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to discuss specific topics related to disability rights. The topics of this meeting were “The Current Situation of Disaster Risk in Vietnam, Myanmar, and Laos” and “Promoting the Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response in Southeast Asia”.

Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of Networking & Collaboration; Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, Networking & Collaboration Officer; and Ms. Hiroko Itako, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) were invited to introduce APCD’s DiDRR activities, including the Third Country Training Program (TCTP) on Strengthening DiDRR. Participants from 9 OPDs of 9 ASEAN countries participated in this online meeting. The discussion was about promoting and strengthening DiDRR in the ASEAN Region.



APCD joined the Committee on Social Development, Eighth Session, ESCAP, on 8-10 October 2024, at the UN Conference Centre, in Bangkok

APCD participated in the Eighth Session of the Committee on Social Development, organized by UNESCAP. The session focused on key social development issues, such as future-proofing social protection systems and strengthening disability-inclusive development. APCD provides inputs on disability rights and inclusive policies, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation for equitable social protection, especially for persons with disabilities.

A notable side event, "Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific: Leaving No One Behind," emphasized the need for disaster strategies that consider the unique needs of persons with disabilities. APCD promoted inclusive disaster preparedness, response, and recovery measures to ensure safety and resilience for all communities.

The session also addressed challenges like aging populations, climate change, and digitalization, with APCD promoting sustainable, disability-inclusive development. The discussion underscored the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration and robust regional policies to ensure full social inclusion aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Statements from session panelists reinforced the commitment to disability-inclusive initiatives, highlighting regional efforts to enhance social protection for persons with disabilities and their families in times of disaster.



The representatives from APCD participated in the Thailand Smart City EXPO 2024, held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center on 6 November 2024 in Bangkok

The event was co-hosted by the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA) and Smart City Thailand. It brought together innovators and leaders to discuss the future of smart cities. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Manager of the Community Development Department; Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Networking and Collaboration Chief; and Ms. Hiroko Itako, a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR), represented APCD at the expo. They were invited as speakers to a workshop titled "Safe, Sustainable, and Smart Cities for All: From the Perspective of Promoting Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR)." The session facilitated the participation of seventy attendees who were keen to learn about integrating disability inclusion into disaster risk reduction strategies. APCD led the workshop, sharing their achievements and conducting Disability Equality Training (DET).

They also facilitated a couple of small exercises showcasing practical approaches to disability inclusion and disaster risk reduction from Japan and Thailand. The participation of APCD in the expo highlighted the importance of creating smart cities that are not only innovative and sustainable but also inclusive of all citizens, including those with disabilities. By sharing their practical experiences, APCD inspired attendees to adopt more inclusive practices in their own cities.

DATA, MONITORING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CRPD

Article 31: Statistics And Data Collection

Article 33: National Implementation And Monitoring

SDGs

Goal 13: Responsible consumption and production

Goal 14: Life below water

Goal 15: Life on land

Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 5: Promote a gender-responsive life cycle approach to development and implementing disability-related policies and programmes

Priority Area 6: Close disability gaps and strengthen capacities to track progress in disability inclusive development







UNESCAP supported the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) and the APCD in conducting the project on monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), from March to November 2024, in Bangkok

The project is implemented under the main project entitled “Towards the Incheon Strategy to Ensure the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (Phase II)”. The project's overall objective is to strengthen disability data collection and analysis mechanisms to enhance the national implementation and monitoring of the CRPD in Thailand.

The three main expected results of this project are as follows:

1. Strengthened capacities for disability data collection through the development of a data collection tool to set out key indicators in measuring progress toward the CRPD implementation
2. Enhanced access to and use of data collection tools in relation to key indicators toward the CRPD implementation and monitoring
3. Increased awareness of policymakers and civil society organizations on CRPD implementation and disability-inclusive development

The project began in March and will run until the end of November 2024. The project is implemented by the working group, which was appointed by DEP. Working group members are composed of 17 representatives from DEP, ESCAP, APCD, and external experts. The 9 main activities were driven as follows:

A. Launching of the ESCAP/ DEP/ APCD Partnership, on 4 April 2024, at APCD. The project was launched by a meeting among working group members at APCD. APCD Executive Director delivered the opening remarks at the launching event.

B. A Hybrid Consultation Workshop on “Sharing of Lessons Learned on Monitoring CRPD Implementation” was conducted on **10 April** at DEP. The key area of discussion of this hybrid workshop was for strengthening disability data collection and analysis mechanisms to enhance the national implementation and monitoring of CRPD in Thailand by learning from other countries. 25 participants joined in this important workshop, including overseas resource persons from Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia.

C. Meetings to follow up on CRPD Monitoring Data Tools were held at APCD on **23 April and 9 May 2024**. A working group from DEP, APCD, and external experts conducted two important meetings to finalize and endorse the data collection tool on monitoring the implementation of the CRPD in Thailand.

D. Online Validation Meeting on CRPD Monitoring Process on **18 June 2024**, at DEP. A working group of members from DEP, APCD, and external experts conducted an online validation meeting by sharing information about the CRPD monitoring process and tool for gathering the data with representatives from government, civil society organizations, and organizations of persons with disabilities. Eighty participants joined the meeting with lots of comments and cooperated by filling out the form for data collection.

E. “Focus Group Discussion” Workshop for Gathering In-depth Information on CRPD Monitoring Process on **18th July 2024**, at DEP. A significant workshop on “Focus Group Discussion” to gather in-depth information on the CRPD Monitoring process was conducted by the working group members. There were more than 35 attendees, including representatives from government and civil society organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities. The purpose of the session is to collect more in-depth information from the organizations that are implementing CRPD.

F. Finalization of the Results of Data Collection from the CRPD Monitoring Data Tools in Thailand on **20 – 21 August 2024**, at APCD, Bangkok. A key assembly of ESCAP, DEP, APCD, and external experts wrapped up a detailed assessment of Thailand's CRPD monitoring. The session was led by Associate Professor Dr. Theeraphong Bualar, the Project Consultant. The review showed deep insights into the CRPD's impact, spotlighting active participation from state agencies, disability groups, and CSOs. The report underlined the urgent need for stronger policies, better funding, and a shift in attitudes to uphold disability rights. The improvements in laws and awareness, and persistent shortcomings in resources, training, and access were noted.

G. Workshop "Awareness Raising on CRPD Implementation and Monitoring in Thailand", on **21-22 October 2024**, at Best Western Chatuchak Hotel, in Bangkok.

APCD, in collaboration with DEP, organized a workshop to raise awareness on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Implementation and Monitoring in Thailand. The two-day workshop aimed to promote a deeper understanding of the CRPD's principles and guidelines, emphasizing the importance of fostering inclusivity and empowerment for people with disabilities, and to share the results from the data collected from stakeholders. The event gathered a diverse group of participants, including representatives from government agencies, civil society organizations, and individuals from disability communities. The workshop highlighted the fundamental rights contexts in the CRPD, which focuses on ensuring that people with disabilities enjoy full participation in all aspects of life, including education, employment, and social integration. Through a series of interactive sessions, attendees explored topics such as accessibility, legal frameworks, and the role of national policies in advancing disability rights. The sessions were designed not only to raise awareness but also to encourage active dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders in promoting an inclusive society. More than a hundred participants left with a renewed commitment to advance the rights of people with disabilities.

APCD Executive Director was one of the panelists among key partners, including representatives from DEP, and others, to share their significant outcomes on promoting CRPD and other international instruments.

H. Press Conference on the CRPD Monitoring and Implementation in Thailand on **29 October 2024** at the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), Bangkok.

APCD co-organized with DEP and ESCAP to assess Thailand's progress in implementing the CRPD. It was hosted at the MSDHS office. This Press Conference spotlighted Thailand's commitment to disability inclusion.

Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa, Minister of MSDHS, opened the event with a keynote on "CRPD: Enhancing Opportunities and Creating Value for Persons with Disabilities in Thailand". He emphasized the government's dedication to inclusion and accessible opportunities for Thai persons with disabilities. The conference featured a panel discussion with representatives from DEP, Disability Thailand, APCD, and ESCAP. APCD Executive Director participated and shared his insights on advancing disability rights within the CRPD framework. Attendees explored future actions to promote inclusive development and data-driven monitoring. An APCD exhibition booth also showcased innovations designed to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities, highlighting Thailand's readiness to lead in international disability initiatives.

I. The CRPD Partnership Project Evaluation Meeting on **20 November 2024**, at APCD. The final meeting of the CRPD Partnership Project among ESCAP, DEP, and APCD on the Evaluation Meeting among working group members was conducted on 20 November 2024.

The key agenda of the meeting was about an overview evaluation of the project, the results of which will be included in the Project Completion Report. The working group members appreciated the significant cooperation among DEP, APCD, and ESCAP for the initiative and for implementing the CRPD monitoring in Thailand. The project could also be one model for having key partners among the government, civil society organizations, and UN entities working together to monitor the international framework in the Asia-Pacific region.





APCD Contributed as Resource Person at the Online Workshop on Review and Monitoring of ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025, at the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) on 2 April 2024 via the Online Platform

The online workshop was conducted by DEP. The main purposes of the workshop were to review, report, and monitor the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The workshop was attended by more than 30 participants from government agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in Thailand.

The ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 is a regional policy framework that aims to integrate human rights for persons with disabilities across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community: political-security, economic, and socio-cultural. Ms. Sarotorn Muangklieng, Independent Consultant, and Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, APCD Community Development Manager, were the resource persons and facilitators. Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer from APCD, also attended and contributed to the workshop.



APCD Joined the DEP Workshop on "Review of Laws, Regulations, and Criteria to Utilize Funds for Empowerment and Development of Persons with Disabilities", on 19-21 April 2024, at the Eco Cozy Front Beach Hotel in Cha-am, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand

DEP hosted an insightful workshop about revising laws, regulations, and criteria governing the funds allocated for the empowerment and enhancement of the quality of life of persons with disabilities. The purpose of the workshop was to review and refine the legal and regulatory framework governing the Empowerment for Persons with Disability Fund. This three-day event is a part of a comprehensive project to optimize the use of the Disability Fund. There were 120 delegates representing seven key associations for persons with disabilities in Thailand, various self-help groups of persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, as well as the APCD. The gathering was successful, with numerous constructive comments and suggestions contributed by the attendees. Ms. Wilailekha Somprach, Manager of 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Cafe Projects, and Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, Logistics Officer of the Community Development Department, represented APCD at the workshop.



The APCD Staff were on stage to share about the List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR), on 23 May 2024, at TK Palace Hotel & Convention, Nonthaburi Province, in Bangkok

Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer from APCD and a self-advocate with Autism, was invited as the Resource Person by the Office of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRC). The invitation was to discuss the List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR) to the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The purpose was to follow up on rights, issues, and challenges reflected in the CRPD implementation in Thailand. The process was conducted by listening to stakeholders to prepare the LOIPR and submit it to the CRPD Committee under "Situation, Development, Progress and Challenges related to implementing CRPD in Thailand".

GLOBAL COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

CRPD

Article 32: International Cooperation

SDGs

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth; Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities;
Goal 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions

Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 4: Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations, and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Delegations, Led by Senior Vice President Mikio Hataeda, Observed the Third Country Training Program (TCTP) on 25 January 2024, at Best Western Chatuchak Hotel in Bangkok

In a significant collaborative endeavor, Mr. Mikio Hataeda, Senior Vice President of JICA Headquarters, spearheaded a delegation to actively observe the proceedings of the JICA-Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)-APCD Third Country Training Program. Accompanying him were key officials, including Mr. Takenori Nasu, Director of Southeast Asia Division 4, Southeast Asia Pacific Department, Mr. Keisuke Minami, Staff of Southeast Asia Division 4, Southeast Asia Pacific Department, and Ms. Natsumi Kawashima, Staff of Southeast Asia Division 4, Southeast Asia Pacific Department.

This collaborative initiative also featured the active participation of the JICA Thailand team, represented by Ms. Yuki Kitagawa, Senior Representative, and Ms. Ruksuda Kiatmaneerut. The event, held at Best Western Chatuchak Bangkok, centered on the observation of a workshop related to the JICA-TICA-APCD Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) titled "Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in ASEAN Region – Course 3.



The Delegation from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Visited APCD to Strengthen the Partnership to Advance Disability-Inclusive Development, on 23 May 2024, at APCD in Bangkok

A high-level delegation from JICA Headquarters visited APCD. The JICA delegation comprised Mr. Yuho Hayakawa, Director General of the Southeast Asia and Pacific Department, Mr. Kenichi Shirouzu, Senior Deputy Director of Southeast Asia Division 4, Mr. Kohei Sato, Staff of the same division from the JICA headquarters, Chief Representative Kazuya Suzuki, and Representative Yuko Kawai from the JICA Thailand Office. The visit commenced with a meeting attended by the APCD Executive Director and the APCD team, including Dr. Kenji Kuno, a JICA expert, and Ms. Hiroko Itako, a JICA volunteer. The discussions during the visit were expected to reinforce the enduring commitment and collaboration towards promoting disability-inclusive development and supporting persons with disabilities across the region.



Jeju Association of Persons with Physical Disability, South Korea, visited APCD on 28 May 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand

APCD welcomed a visitor group from the Jeju Association of Persons with Physical Disability, South Korea. This visit, coordinated by Travel Network Groups, was to learn and exchange information on disability inclusive development.

Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief, Networking and Collaboration, facilitated the program, and Ms. Supaanong Panyasirimongkol, Networking and Collaboration Officer, presented the APCD background, overview of activities, and collaboration with Disability People International (DPI) Korea.

20 Members, including persons with physical disabilities, participated in this visit. The purposes of the visit were to learn about the disability inclusive development program of APCD and apply the knowledge and experience to develop the capacity of their members to work and support Persons with Disabilities inclusively in the future.

The visitors were impressed by good practices, empowerment of job employment, rights of people with disabilities, and inclusive practices, including the highlighted on the power of international collaboration in promoting disability network. The event concluded by providing an opportunity for the visitors to deepen their understanding and build up the networks and future collaboration with APCD.



APCD and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Collaboration Program: The Third Key Stakeholders' Meeting, on 30 May 2024, at APCD in Bangkok

The 3rd Key Stakeholders' Meeting on the Collaboration Program between APCD and JICA took place at APCD. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from the disability inclusive development community, who are working for disability-inclusive development in the Asia-Pacific region. The purpose was to discuss progress made on the collaboration program, share ideas for future initiatives, and explore ways for stakeholders to participate more fully and contribute to the program's success.

Representatives from various organizations participated in the meeting, including the UN ESCAP, JICA, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), Disabilities Thailand (DTH), and APCD.

Discussion focused on the program's achievements, current implementation activities, and brainstorming ideas for future collaboration. APCD believes the meeting benefits the disability inclusive development community in the Asia-Pacific region.



Japanese Ambassador Showcases Inclusive Development Project to Thai Prime Minister, on 28 June 2024, at Soft Power Forum 2024, the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok

Mr. OTAKA Masato, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Thailand, extended an invitation to His Excellency Mr. Srettha Thavisin, Prime Minister of Thailand, and Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, referred to as the “Head of the Pheu Thai Family”, to visit the JICA booth at the event of Soft Power Forum 2024.

The Embassy of Japan in Thailand and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Thailand Office, as supporters of the APCD project, showcased products from the APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café. This event highlighted the ongoing cooperation between Japan and Thailand in promoting inclusive development and empowering persons with disabilities through innovative, socially viable commercial enterprises.



APCD staff attended an international course on “Global Social Work and Social Welfare Course”, on 8-12 July 2024, at the Berkeley Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand

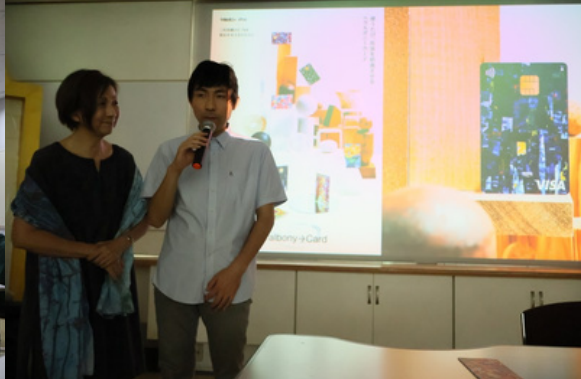
APCD staff led by Ms. Siriporn Praserdchat, Logistics Officer, Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, Networking and Collaboration Officer, and Mr. Chayoot Homdee, Community Development Officer, were selected to attend an international course on “Global Social Work and Social Welfare Course” organized by ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. About thirty training participants, representing ASEAN Member states, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, were invited to participate in the 5-day training course. The course focused on the informative background, technical approaches, and guidelines on how social workers can work professionally in global social work and social welfare in ASEAN countries. The main purposes of the course were to enhance the working skills of individuals, social workers, to increase their expertise working with the clients on social work and social welfare in the context of ASEAN countries, and to promote networking and collaboration between social workers in the region.



APCD Exhibition and Catering Event Unites Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) on 2 August 2024 at the Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Bangkok

TICA hosted a significant event in Bangkok, showcasing Thailand's dedication to promoting empowerment and inclusion in society. The event welcomed delegates from developing island nations within the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other countries targeted by New York City's campaign for the United Nations Human Rights Council candidacy from 2012 to 2027. This gathering aimed to reinforce Thailand's ties with SIDS, emphasizing multilateral cooperation and development collaboration from 27 July to 3 August 2024.

APCD played a key role in the event, collaborating with TICA and MOFA. The Community Development Department (CDD), the Department of Disability-Inclusive Business (DIB), and the 60+ Plus Project represented APCD at the exhibition booth and offered catering services. APCD expressed the commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities through regional collaboration and capacity development.



APCD, in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), organized the stakeholders' meeting with HERALBONY and Thai Representatives of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), on 11 October 2024, in APCD in Bangkok

HERALBONY, the well-known Japanese art agency with JICA Headquarters, visited APCD and discussed deepening mutual understanding and exploring possibilities for future collaboration. Furthermore, APCD, in cooperation with JICA, organized the stakeholders' meeting. The meeting participants included representatives from HERALBONY, Japanese artists with disabilities, Thai representatives of OPDs, and the Art & Culture Agency. The meeting aimed to develop mutual understanding among stakeholders of disability and art in Thailand and Japan. The meeting discussed opportunities for promoting art talents by Thai individuals with disabilities.

Participants from Thailand included representatives from DEP, the Association for Parents of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in Thailand, Artstory by Autistic Thai, Na Kittikoon Foundation, Art for All Foundation, Association for Mentally Ill of Thailand (AMIT), Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Japan Foundation, JICA, and APCD. Participants were inspired by HERALBONY's work and discussed ways to bring inclusiveness to society through the arts made by artists with disabilities.



The 4th Key Stakeholders' Meeting on the APCD-Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Collaboration Program was Convened on 15 October 2024, at the APCD in Bangkok

The 4th Key Stakeholders' Meeting of the APCD-JICA Collaboration Program gathered 20 participants from APCD, JICA, and other key stakeholders, including the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), ESCAP, Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), and Disability Thailand (DTH), to review the program's progress and achievements, outputs, impacts, and recommendations. The program successfully implemented several initiatives such as the Sustainable & Inclusive Learning Course (SILC), the Consultation role of APCD on Disability Inclusive Development, and the Interactive Platforms to promote disability inclusion across the Asia-Pacific region. This cooperation is aimed at enhancing the roles of APCD as a resource on disability and development for the Asia-Pacific region. Participants recommended scaling up the program to more countries beyond the Asia-Pacific region. Expanding partnerships with more regional organizations was also suggested to strengthen collective impact. For future collaboration, APCD and JICA are committed to continuing their partnership with the key stakeholders to enhance APCD's roles and explore new areas of cooperation.



International Physical Therapy Students visited APCD for learning on Disability Inclusive Development, on 16 October 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand

Nine students and Asst. Prof. Dr. Pakaratee Chaiyawat from the Faculty of Physical Therapy at Mahidol University visited the APCD office and the 60+ Plus Bakery & Café for a direct experience special study tour. Mr. Somchai Rungsilp, Community Development Manager, delivered the session with warm welcome remarks for a productive day of learning. The students and their teacher explored 60+ Plus Bakery and Kitchen, a social experiment on inclusive employment dedicated to empowering people with disabilities. They learned about the mission on inclusive employment and the partnerships with the private sector to provide training and job opportunities for persons with disabilities.

After a brief tea break, Mr. Watcharapol Chuengcharoen, Chief of Networking & Collaboration, introduced the APCD's mission and vision, emphasizing inclusion and empowerment in the community. Dr. Chaiyawat followed with a presentation on the concept of Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID). She highlighted updated strategies to create inclusive environments that support all community members. This tour allowed the students to deepen their understanding of disability inclusion in a community and explore real-world applications of their physiotherapy studies.



APCD Participated in Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) 70th Anniversary Seminar: "Creating Tomorrow Together", on 29 October 2024, at the Westin Grande Sukhumbit Hotel in Bangkok

The Executive Director of APCD and the APCD team participated in a commemorative event celebrating 70 years of Japan's ODA with Thailand. The seminar, titled "Japan's ODA 70th Anniversary Seminar: Creating Tomorrow Together", highlighted decades of cooperation and explored future pathways for Thai and Japanese collaboration.

This event began with opening remarks from H.E. Mr. Masato Otaka, Japan's Ambassador to Thailand, and Ms. Pimwadee Sovaratanapong, Deputy Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Special Advisor to the JICA Thailand Office, delivered the keynote speech, emphasizing the longstanding friendship between the two nations and Japan's enduring support for Thailand's sustainable development.

Throughout the morning, panel discussions address the evolution of Japan's ODA efforts, focusing on pressing issues such as renewable energy, sustainable development, and inclusive social programs. The seminar concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Kazuya Suzuki, Chief Representative of the JICA Thailand Office, who affirmed the importance of a shared vision for a sustainable future.



APCD Staff with Autism Presented at the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) Roundtable Discussion about United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, organized by The United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) Disability Inclusion Team and Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), on 6 November 2024, at Amari Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand

Ms. Supaanong (NuNu) Panyasirimongkol, APCD Staff with autism and Networking & Collaboration Officer, was invited to present at the Global Regional Training focus for United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Members in Asia and the Pacific Region on United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS).

The purpose of the event is to enable UNDIS-UNCT and Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) focal points in the Asia and the Pacific region to gain knowledge on the concepts and approaches to disability inclusion as well as practical steps that can be taken in different contexts to drive implementation of UNDIS. Ms. NuNu joined the roundtable discussion about recommendations for consultation and what the UN system can do to support OPDs, particularly focusing on working with women with disabilities. Along with Ms. NuNu, Asst. Prof. Dr. Arunee Limmanee, Chair of the Children, Youth and Women with Disabilities Section at Disabilities Thailand (DTH), and Dr. Nantanoot Suwannawut, DEP Director of International Cooperation Section, also joined the discussion onsite with other online speakers.



APCD Welcomed the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Delegation to Promote New Collaborations on 28 November 2025 at APCD in Bangkok

The JICA delegation was led by Mr. Yuichi Oba, Senior Vice President from JICA headquarters, and Ms. Yuki Kitagawa, Senior Representative from the JICA Thailand Office. The visit started with a warm welcome from the APCD Executive Director and the APCD team. During their discussions, both organizations explored ways to enhance their collaboration and support for disability-inclusive development in the region. The delegation's itinerary included a meeting with Mr. Oba to discuss future collaborative opportunities, and the delegation took a tour of the 60+ Plus Bakery & Café, and had lunch at the 60+ Plus Kitchen by CP.

The APCD-JICA meeting marked a step forward in promoting inclusive development for people with disabilities. Both organizations are committed to continuing their collaborative efforts to make a meaningful impact across the Asia-Pacific region.



APCD’s Inclusive Exhibition Showed at the 9th Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) Connect Event, on 12-13 December 2024, at the Government Complex Ratthaprasasanabhakti (B) Building in Bangkok

TICA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized the 9th TICA Connect event, with the theme of “Empowering Community for a Sustainable Future”. The event was held at The Government Complex Ratthaprasasanabhakti (B) Building, where the occasion saw the spotlight on APCD’s pioneering Disability-Inclusive Development Exhibition. Notably, their interactive display showcased the collaboration of TICA and APCD in the mission to empower persons with disabilities to their full capacity. The event offered participants insights into development cooperation, Thailand’s roles, and the significance of the Community-Based Approach and Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through exhibitions and panel discussions, TICA Connect fostered a platform for sharing triumphs and challenges among development partners to realize community and private sector involvement in inclusive development.

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

CRPD

Article 27: Work And Employment

SDGs

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth, Goal

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

JAKARTA DECLARATION

Priority Area 2: Promote the meaningful participation of women and men with disabilities – in all their diversity – of all ages

Priority Area 4: Galvanize the power of the private sector, including its resources, technological innovations, and talents, to advance disability-inclusive development



APCD Welcomed Teachers and Students from the Thai-Japanese Association School, on 18 January 2024, at APCD, Bangkok.

The APCD 60+ Plus Project and APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café had the honor of welcoming teachers and students from the Thai-Japanese Association School, along with staff from the JICA Thailand Office, to participate in a workshop on making Yamazaki bread. Our skilled participants with disabilities acted as mentors and instructors, guiding the students through the process of kneading dough and baking three types of bread: Choc Stick, Pandan Red Bean Bread, and Wiener Roll.

The atmosphere was filled with joy and enthusiasm as both students and mentors collaborated closely, eagerly anticipating tasting the freshly baked bread they made themselves. The workshop fostered a sense of accomplishment and happiness among all participants.



APCD Participated in Japanese National Day 2024, on 7 February 2024, at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, Bangkok.

The Embassy of Japan in Thailand organized the Japanese National Day 2024 celebration at the Plenary Hall, Queen Sirikit National Convention Center. This prestigious event was attended by distinguished guests from various sectors, including diplomats, government officials, business leaders, and representatives of the Japanese community in Thailand.

APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café was honored to be selected as one of the official exhibitors at the event. Our team presented an elegant Chocolate Fountain set along with a selection of delicious breads from Thai Yamazaki, which were specially prepared for the guests. The offering was well received and contributed to the festive and welcoming atmosphere of the event.

This participation highlights APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café's ongoing commitment to fostering community engagement and promoting inclusive opportunities for persons with disabilities through showcasing quality products and services.

We extend our gratitude to the Embassy of Japan for the opportunity and look forward to continued collaboration in future cultural and social events.



APCD Collaborated on Significant Event “Buakaew Brew by APCD” on 14 February 2025, at Café, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok.

H.E. Mr. Jakkapong Sangmanee, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman of APCD, presided over the opening ceremony of Buakaew Brew by APCD, a new café at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also present at the ceremony were Mr. Piroon Laismit, Executive Director of APCD, Mr. Masami Akiyama, President of Thai Yamazaki Company, and the executives of the Ministry.

“Buakaew Brew by APCD” is the joint initiative of the Ministry and APCD to promote inclusive business in line with the Thai Government’s “leave no one behind” policy and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). APCD is a foundation under the royal patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to provide training in the bakeries and drinks business to people with disabilities so they can support themselves financially.

From 15 February 2024 onwards, Buakaew Brew by APCD is ready to serve coffee, beverages and pastries for the Ministry’s staff as well as the visitors and members of the diplomatic corp. The business model operates in accordance with the concept of Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG).





JICA Alumni Association of Thailand (JAAT) Visited and Joined Bakery Workshop, on 28 February, 2024, at APCD.

JICA Alumni Association of Thailand (JAAT) with members of Young Leader Program of "Support for Persons with Disabilities 2023" and JICA staff, gathered at APCD. Director Piroon Laisamit and his excellent team, including Ms.Itako, JICA Volunteer, warmly welcomed the group and organized YAMAZAKI bread workshop by very professional 60+Plus staff. Learning how to make bread from your heart as secret recipes. Supplement of this delicious bread, SARAYA Co., Ltd. Hygiene expert also gave guidance on how to keep hands and food clean.





APCD's Skill Development Training for Persons with Disabilities for the Year 2024 was Begun from 6th March – 5th July 2024, at APCD.

The Skill Development Training for persons with disabilities in year 2024 was begun.

The total training is 80 days with 3 activities as follows:

hotel and restaurant service, Yamazaki bread making, chocolate and barista.

This training, supported by the DEP Fund is a DIB initiative that provides sustainable on-the-job training for persons with disabilities in Thailand to develop their business skills in the food and beverage including the hospitality industry. This helps bring their respective ability forward to become professional bakers, chocolatiers, and shopkeepers, and as entrepreneurs following the principles of DIB and DIE.



The Follow-up Activity Conducted by APCD 60+ Plus Project: Vocational Skills Training for Persons with Disabilities in the Food and Hospitality Sector, on 17 May 2024, at Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit.

The participants with disabilities from the APCD 60+ Plus Project engaged in a hands-on skill-building activity focused on bakery and beverage preparation at Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit. The participants prepared Hot Chocolate and Cupcakes, signature menu items of the hotel.

This collaborative initiative between APCD and Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit was supported by Mr. Sammy Carolus, General Manager of Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit, along with the hotel's human resources, training teams, and staff. They provided valuable guidance and support in developing vocational skills for persons with disabilities, fostering employment opportunities, and promoting sustainable job creation.

The activity aims to empower persons with disabilities by enhancing their employability, enabling them to generate income, achieve self-reliance, and integrate sustainably into society.



APCD provided Catering Services, on 5 June, 2024, at the Government Savings Bank Headquarters, Bangkok.

APCD provided catering services including refreshments and snack breaks for the staff training seminar conducted at the Government Savings Bank Headquarters. The event was successfully supported with quality service to ensure a productive and comfortable learning environment for all attendees.



APCD Participated the Launch Event of the Electronic Platform for Disability Assessment and Certification, on 20 June 2024, at Centara Life Government Complex Hotel & Convention Center, Nonthaburi, Thailand.

APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café participated in the launch event of the electronic platform for disability assessment and certification under the One Stop Service project, aimed at developing an integrated service system for persons with disabilities. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those who have supported the work and achievements of persons with disabilities.



APCD Participated THACCA Splash Soft Power Forum 2024, from 28-30 June, 2024, at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok.

The event showcased a comprehensive collection of creative cultural elements from both Thailand and around the world. It was held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center.



APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café provided Catering Service for National Disability Support Event, on 5 July 2024, at the Santi Maitri Building, Government House of Thailand, Bangkok,

On 5 July, 2024, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café was honored by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to provide beverages and refreshments for guests attending the presentation ceremony of 72,000 assistive devices for persons with disabilities nationwide, held in celebration of His Majesty the King's 6th Cycle Birthday Anniversary on July 28, 2024. The event served as a significant occasion to commemorate the royal celebration while supporting and empowering persons with disabilities across the country.



APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café Participated in AOT: Airport for ALL Seminar, on 9 August 2024, at Airports of Thailand Public Company Limited (AOT). Bangkok.

On Friday, August 9, 2024, APCD 60+ Plus Bakery & Café had the opportunity to set up a booth to promote and sell baked goods and beverages at the "AOT: Airport for ALL" Seminar, held at Amari Don Muang Airport Hotel. The event focused on inclusive air travel for all groups.

We were honored by the presence and support of senior executives from AOT, particularly Ms. Paweena Chariyathitipong, Deputy Executive Vice President of Airport and Aviation Standards, along with other AOT staff, who graciously provided booth space and warmly supported our products.

The event offered an excellent platform for sharing our mission and connecting with a wider audience in a friendly and inclusive atmosphere.



Thai Army Wives Association visited APCD, on 15 August 2024.

On Thursday, 15th August 2024, Mrs. Pichaporn Wongsri, President of Thai Army Wives Association, Directorate of Intelligence Branch and members of TAWA, DOI Branch led the delegation of 19 MAC-T Spouses from 12 countries to APCD, for joining a day trip and experience on a bakery workshop taught by disabled children of APCD. The delegation visited and purchased goods from 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café that adopts the concept of Disability Inclusive Business (DIB). The concept aims to create inclusive business skills, provide sustainable on-the-job training, provide chocolate making skill to people with physical, sight, hearing, mental, autism, intellectual and learning disabled by the Thai Yamazaki Company Limited since 2015. The majority of trainees are hired by Thai Yamazaki branches throughout the country and some others are hired by restaurant business and service sectors such as Café Amazon, Black Canyon restaurant, Chao Phraya Hotel, Siriraj Hospital, Anglo Singapore International School and self-owned business or still working for 60+ Plus Bakery & Chocolate Café until present.



APCD Participated in the 51st Charity Bazaar Organized by the Japanese Association in Thailand on 29 September 2024, at Iconsiam

APCD participated in the 51st Charity Bazaar, a fundraising event organized by the Japanese Association in Thailand. The opening ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mr. Masato Otaka, Ambassador of Japan to Thailand. The Charity Bazaar has been held annually since 1972, and this year marked the first time the event was hosted in a department store venue, resulting in significantly higher attendance compared to previous years.

During the event, the Ambassador visited various booths, including APCD's booth, where we had the honor of engaging in a valuable conversation and exchanging thoughtful insights with him.



APCD served Catering at Talent Camp, on 4 October 2024, at the Sirindhorn Science Home, Thailand Science Park, Pathum Thani Province, Thailand.

APCD Provide catering services, including snacks and beverages for participants of the AI Hackathon YES Talent Camp, MITR PHOL Young Entrepreneur Strengthens finding (YES) Talent Camp 2024, under the theme "MITR PHOL AI Hackathon: Cultivating the Future of Sustainable Agricultural Intelligence."



APCD served the Catering at the Young Thai Artist Award 2024 Presentation Ceremony, on 9 November 2024, at the Multi-purpose Room, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC).

The event was organized by SCG Foundation. Beverage services were offered to honored guests, award-winning young artists, and all event attendees.



APCD Joined the opening ceremony of the Colours of Africa 2024, on 13 November 2024, at Buakaew Brew Café by APCD, at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok.

The event was held at Buakaew Brew Café by APCD and was officially opened by Mrs. Tongrudee Makboon, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who delivered the opening speech and participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony together with H.E. Mr. Abderrahim Rahhaly, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Thailand. The event was warmly attended by African ambassadors and Chargés d'Affaires to Thailand, as well as senior executives and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following the opening ceremony, participants enjoyed coffee drip demonstrations featuring a variety of African coffee beans, including selections from Kenya and Ethiopia, which were available for tasting.

The Colours of Africa 2024 event took place from November 13 to 20, 2024, at Buakaew Brew Café by APCD, featuring a curated selection of African specialty coffee beans. In addition to coffee, the café also features African teas and cocoa for guests to sample and enjoy.



APCD participated in the Friendly Design for All 2024 Expo, from 12-15 December 2024, at BITEC Bangna, Bangkok.

The opening ceremony, was presided over by H.E. Mr. Tej Bunnag, Chairperson of the APCD Foundation and Secretary General of the Thai Red Cross Society on Thursday 12 December, 2024.



APCD participated in the Happy Day X Pan-Opportunity Event on 18-19 December 2024, at SCG Headquarters, Bang Sue, Bangkok.

The event was participated by agencies, vendors, and charitable organizations by setting up booths and hosting activities aimed at fostering an atmosphere of joy and generosity.

Advancing Disability- Inclusive Development

APCD's Key Highlights of year 2024

Advancing Disability-Inclusive Development: APCD's Key Highlights of year 2024

The APCD continues to drive transformative change in 2024 with a series of impactful initiatives promoting disability inclusion, rights, and empowerment. Through strategic collaborations and capacity-building efforts, APCD has strengthened its commitment to advancing the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2023-2032) across the Asia-Pacific region. This year, APCD's key achievements include:

1. Thailand Strengthens Disability Data to Better Support Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Thailand has taken a major step forward in supporting the rights of persons with disabilities through a project focused on strengthening how the country collects and uses disability-related data. The project was a joint effort by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) and the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and was supported by the United Nations' ESCAP. Its main goal was to help support Thailand better by implementing and monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), an international agreement promoting equality and inclusion for people with disabilities.

One of the biggest challenges Thailand has faced was a lack of reliable data to track how well the country was meeting its commitments under the CRPD. Without solid numbers and facts, it's hard to measure progress, understand what's working, or see where improvements are needed. This project tackled that problem head-on by developing a practical tool that collects data using clear indicators related to disability rights and services.

The project had three main goals:

1. **Build a stronger data system** by creating a tool that tracks key information about disability and inclusion
2. **Make the tool useful and accessible** for government agencies, civil society, and organizations of persons with disabilities
3. **Raise awareness among policymakers** and the public about disability rights and the importance of inclusive development

To achieve these goals, the project brought together a team of experts from the government, academia, civil society, and disability rights groups. The project also worked with international advisors from South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Malaysia to make sure the data tool met global standards and real-life needs. The tool was tested, improved based on feedback, and then used to collect data that helped build a clear picture of the current situation in Thailand.

Workshops, press events, and media outreach helped spread the word about the project and its importance. More than 100 participants from across the sectors were involved in workshop and discussion sessions. As a result, the project not only produced a strong tool for monitoring disability inclusion but also sparked broader conversations about how to make Thai society more inclusive.

Looking ahead, the project recommends:

- **Keeping the expert working group active** to improve the tool and monitor progress
- **Securing funding** to support ongoing training and accessibility improvements
- **Update laws** to better protect the rights of individuals with disabilities
- **Improve coordination** among the government, civil society organizations, and organizations of persons with disabilities
- **Running regular awareness campaigns** to change attitudes and encourage inclusion

One of the major outcomes was that Thailand began to stand out as one of the leaders in disability-inclusive development in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Empowering Women Leaders with Disabilities in South Asia through CRPD Training

In September 2024, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), together with Disabled Peoples' International Korea (DPI-Korea) and Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific (DPI-AP), hosted a vital training program in Seoul, Korea. The main purpose of the training was to strengthen the leadership of women with disabilities in South Asia by deepening their understanding of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The training brought together women leaders from across South Asia to learn, exchange ideas, and build networks from 2-3 September 2024. The sessions emphasized the critical role that Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) play in making the CRPD a reality on the ground.

Participants heard directly from experts in the field. Dr. Nantanoot Suwannawut of Thailand's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities shared Thailand's approach to CRPD monitoring. Ms. Lauren Henley of the Australian Federation of Disability Organizations spoke about practical implementation strategies used in Australia. Ms. Min Kyoung Kim from ESCAP's Social Development Division explained how OPDs can contribute to advancing the Jakarta Declaration. The training gave participants tools to advocate for their rights, share good practices, and build stronger movements in their home countries. To keep the momentum going, APCD followed up with a virtual training assessment session on 12 and 19 December 2024, ensuring continued support and connection across the region. This initiative highlights APCD's commitment to inclusive leadership and regional collaboration in the disability movement.

3. TCTP DiDRR: Impact and Knowledge Dissemination

The Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR), a collaborative initiative facilitated by APCD, supported by Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has made significant strides in strengthening disaster preparedness and resilience among persons with disabilities. Recognizing that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by natural disasters, this initiative focused on building the capacity of national and local disaster management agencies to integrate a disability-inclusive approach in their emergency response frameworks.

This program featured a series of hands-on workshops, simulation exercises, and knowledge-sharing sessions with regional experts in disaster risk reduction (DRR). The impact of the TCTP DiDRR initiative has been further amplified through the publication of an in-depth report and national handbooks, which document case studies, innovative practices, and policy recommendations for ensuring that Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all community members.

In 2024, APCD continued its strong commitment to making disaster preparedness more inclusive. Recognizing that people with disabilities often face greater risks during emergencies, APCD's DiDRR initiative aims to ensure they are integrated into all stages of disaster planning, aligning with both the CRPD and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. To centralize knowledge and foster learning, APCD launched a dedicated section on its website. It shares success stories and practical tools from the Asia-Pacific region, such as emergency training for persons with disabilities in the Philippines, community preparedness efforts in Vietnam, and workshops in Pakistan. Experts and organizations are invited to contribute their best practices via APCD, helping build a rich resource hub. APCD also participated in key events: the Asean Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)'s DiDRR session in May and a resilience-focused online meeting hosted by IFES-AGENDA, an organization in Jakarta, in September. The team showcased APCD's work at the Thailand Smart City EXPO in November and contributed to the launch of UN ESCAP's e-learning tool in Manila and Kathmandu in June. APCD also conducted and participated in the side-event workshops on DiDRR in Seoul at the 2024 Asia-Pacific Disabled Peoples Organization Assembly, Korea on 4 September 2024 and at ESCAP on 8 October accordingly.

Through these efforts, APCD is strengthening inclusive disaster strategies, boosting regional knowledge sharing, and championing community resilience for everyone.

4. APCD Representative Spoke with Japanese Media on Disability and Development

On 1 February 2024, the Chief of Networking & Collaboration from APCD, Mr. Watcharapol Cheungcharoen, shared his insights with Japanese journalist Y. Teddy Takeuchi, an editor of International Development Journal, for an engaging interview on how disability intersects with regional development.

Mr. Watcharapol outlined APCD's main milestones in capacity building, stressing both achievements and real-world challenges. He reflected on sweeping social changes over the past 20 years in Thailand and ASEAN countries. These shifts, he noted, highlight a growing awareness and integration of disability concerns within broader development agendas.

The conversation also spotlighted APCD's "partnership initiatives", where Japan, Thailand, and countries across the Asia Pacific share knowledge and strengthen each other's disability-inclusion strategies and experiences. He emphasized not just the progress made but the importance of continued collaboration to support sustainable, inclusive development.

This interview raises APCD's profile in international dialogue and mirrors its mission: promoting regional unity and learning through frank conversation. By participating in this high-profile media conversation, APCD reinforced its role as a key thought implementor in the Asia-Pacific disability movement.

5. Sustainable Inclusive Learning: Impact of APCD's Online Training Courses

The Sustainable Inclusive Learning Courses, APCD's flagship online training program, has expanded its reach and impact in 2024. The program attracted participants from various professional backgrounds, including educators, policymakers, corporate leaders, and social workers. The course is designed as a flexible and accessible learning platform, providing in-depth knowledge on disability rights, inclusive learning methodologies, and workplace accommodation for persons with disabilities.

The two highlight online training courses in 2024 were Disability Equality Training for Facilitators (DET FT) and Disability and Development (D&D). Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting that the course has directly influenced policy adjustments within their respective organizations. Additionally, APCD has worked to ensure that the course remains accessible to a diverse audience by offering content in multiple formats.

Looking Ahead: Strengthening Regional Commitment to Disability Rights

APCD remains steadfast in its mission to promote disability-inclusive development through strategic partnerships, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing. As the organization continues to promote the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, it calls upon governments, civil society, organizations of persons with disability, and the private sector to join forces in achieving our goals of creating a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

For more information on APCD's programs and initiatives, visit the [APCD Foundation](#)

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