



Institute on Disability and Public Policy

for the ASEAN Region

Networking » Leadership » Accessibility » Inclusion

Overview

The Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) for the ASEAN region promotes the analysis and understanding of public policy for persons with disabilities. The IDPP has four key objectives that it has been specifically designed to meet in cooperation with its university and outreach partners:

- **Master's Degree:** Offer an innovative Master's degree at the intersection of disability studies and public policy using advanced cyberlearning techniques
- **Continuing Education and Certificate Program:** Offer certificate and non-degree programs in the areas of disability studies and public policy
- **Outreach and Capacity Building:** Engage in outreach and capacity building activities throughout the ASEAN region to enhance awareness of and address disability policy issues
- **Collaborative Research:** Facilitate research on comparative and international disability policy issues

Born as an initiative of The Nippon Foundation (TNF), a number of experts and persons with disabilities convened in August 2009 upon TNF's call to convert a dream into reality. In April 2011, with full funding from TNF, the IDPP formally launched in Bangkok, Thailand.

The IDPP at American University's School of International Service offers the world's first virtual Master's program in disability policy: the Master's in Comparative and International Disability Policy (CIDP). Graduate level courses are provided from our collaborative university partners, currently drawn from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region and the United States. Fellowships are available to students in the CIDP Master's program through TNF, with preference given to persons with disabilities from the ASEAN region. The IDPP welcomed its first two global cohorts of 22 students total into the CIDP program in summers 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Need and Response in the Asia Pacific Region

The Asia Pacific region has one of the highest numbers of persons with disabilities. According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, of the 600 million people worldwide living with disabilities, as many as 400 million reside in the Asia Pacific. These individuals continue to face significant barriers in accessing information, education, and employment.

As one solution to this challenge, the IDPP helps to develop a cadre of leaders that will significantly enhance an inclusive, barrier-free, and rights-based global society, with a focus on persons with disabilities in the ten member nations of the ASEAN region who are blind or visually impaired; deaf or hard of hearing; and/or mobility impaired.

Supporters and Partners

The IDPP is a partnership network among the School of International Service at American University; Ateneo de Manila University; De La Salle Philippines; Gadjah Mada University; Hanoi School of Public Health; Hanoi University; Mahidol University; Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at National University of Singapore; National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology; Royal University of Phnom Penh; Universitas Indonesia; University of Malaya; Universitas Islam Negeri; and Graduate Academy of Social Sciences at Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences.

Led by the Center for Research on Collaboratories and Technology Enhanced Learning Communities (COTELCO) at American University and Syracuse University, the IDPP is also supported by the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability in Bangkok, and the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment.

For more information, please visit <http://aseanidpp.org/>

