Agenda Item 9
Briefing Sign Language Awareness Guidebook
Sign Language: What Is It?

A Guide towards Legal Recognition of Sign Languages in Asia & the Pacific

Yutaka OSUGI, Ph.D.
Tsukuba University of Technology, JAPAN
Contents

- Guidebook purpose
- Key elements
- Target audience
- Guidebook team
- Guidebook feedback
1. Guidebook Purpose

Raise more awareness of sign languages
Enhance technical knowledge of sign languages

- Legal recognition of sign language
  - UN CRPD Art. 2, Definition

- Deaf children’s Sign language acquisition
  - UN CRPD Art. 24, Education

- Sign language interpreting system
  - UN CRPD Art. 9, Accessibility
  - UN CRPD Art. 21, Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

- Deaf people's greater participation in society
  - UN CRPD Art. 30, Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
2. Guidebook: Key Elements

- Introduction to Sign Language
- Deaf culture
- Deaf education
- Sign Language Interpretation
- Law recognizing Sign Language: components

Signs for “people”

Auslan: Australian SL

British SL

American SL

Cheering by Deaf people

Cheering by Hearing people
3. Guidebook: Target Audience

Disability policy makers in Asia-Pacific

Multisector decision makers: Actions impact on Deaf access to all opportunities

Other stakeholders: Mainstream Deaf persons in development process

Q&A format (about 30 questions)
Illustrations
4. Guidebook Team

Yutaka Osugi, Ph. D.
Deaf Professor

Tomoka Kawai
Deaf Illustrator

Ikumi Kawamata
Deaf, Nippon Foundation

Rachel McKee, Ph.D.
Hearing Professor

Marie Ange Sylvain-Holmgren
Hearing Creative Director

Muhd Ammar Nasrulhaq
Deaf Videographer

World Federation of the Deaf
Regional Secretariat Asia, Regional
Secretariat Oceania

ESCAP Secretariat
5. Guidebook feedback

• Structure & content appropriate?
• More questions to add?
• Sign language & Deaf persons: more examples?
• Government initiatives / laws promoting sign languages?
• Sign language act: what challenges?

Please send your feedback to the ESCAP secretariat by 21 January 2022!
5. Guidebook feedback

• Draft cover design: color schemes and contrast design etc., Accessibility concern?
THANK YOU

Follow us

www.unescap.org
unescap
united-nations-escap
unescap
unitednationescap
unescap
unescap