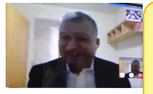
Akber - INIT study in 5 Islamic countries (Tunisia, Jordan, Qatar, Pakistan, Malaysia). Practices and policies. Policies often have no teeth to bite. Greatest needs were identified as being assessment, provision and support.



Monthian - A rights-based perspective - CRPD - we only gained accessibility as part of the general principals. Level 1 (macro): Accessibility is fundamental. Article 9 - includes universal design. Level 2 (linked to certain groups): Assistive technology. The 3rd level is too often ignored - reasonable accommodation as an individualised approach (linked to disability-based discrimination). Attached documents to CRPD - how we can achieve objectives. How do we go about universal design? *Internationally recognised accessibility standards*. New WHO resolution on availability of assistive technologies and elderly (included the word "standard"). *Key role of governments on public procurement*. Notion of inclusive equality (Human Rights perspective); CRPD linked to SDGs and Incheon embrace inclusive development. *But, we are now starting to see more from business side* - closer links between business and human rights, and business and development. APCD work on inclusive business. Once business makes decision, this is for real - a big change agent.

What public policy actions at the national level can help solve these challenges?

- Funding
  - Universal service fund linked to disabilities
  - Taxes to finance accessibility infrastructure and services - Universal Service Funds are used - but are there other examples?
- Tariffs
  - WTO could introduce no tariffs on assistive technologies
- Incentives for business sector
  - Public procurement
    - Procurement policies - accessibility conditions should be involved in both goods and services
    - Thailand has legal provision to provide direct subsidies/ purchase of assistive technologies to persons with disabilities, but model is based on a large quantity of purchases and is not individualised so is not usable.
    - Subsidy based for individuals rather than bulk buying by governments
  - Involving the business sector - touches on innovation policies (taxation, public procurement, innovative financing, and different types of company such as social enterprises)
  - Motivating private sector to get involved - but issues around public sector supporting the private sector - what is fair and affirmative?
  - Incentivise private sector to do more - tax breaks and incentives (Malaysian context)
  - Control and liabiliites - sensitivty of these issues
- Education and training
  - Accessibliity in university courses - curriculum covers women, gender, human rights - but disability is often ignored.
  - Developers/designers - whether they are government or private companies - they have no idea of how to make their code accessible. We must teach developers about accessibility
    - There are standards behind this (W3C)
- Champions
  - Access to senior management - Starbucks hiring all deaf baristas in Malaysia
- Standards
  - Integrating standards into architecture as a condition to grant building permissions
  - Norms, standards and intenrational trade can assist - WIPO cross-border exchange of accesible books
- Other
  - Sequencing - unless we can identify quick wins (recognising long-term interventions) we may not get far
  - Government strategies - gender and environment - we need to involve accessibility as part of broader development strategies (Pakistan)