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Creation of the Adapted Physical Activity International Development (APAID)

Initiating sport and development projects for people with disabilities

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new organization, named Adapted Physical Activity International Development (APAID). Its mission is to improve the quality of life of people with physical and intellectual disabilities throughout the world by using adapted physical activity (APA) to empower people with disabilities, to raise awareness about their abilities rather than disabilities and to promote their rights as stated in the United Nations convention on the rights of people with disabilities (2006). APAID is founded in 2008 in response to a lack of organizations in developing countries that are using APA as a tool to improve the lives for people with disabilities.

In order to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities throughout the world, APAID tries to involve them in APA by following different steps:

- Partnering with local organizations that are willing to implement projects for people with disabilities but lacking the knowledge to do so.
- Capacity building and spreading of existing knowledge in the field of APA by organizing courses about disability related topics in general and APA in specific for local partner organizations.
- Implementing projects for people with disabilities by assisting and advising local partner organizations in the development of project proposals, planning and project management.
- Raising awareness about the situation of people with disabilities by including community information meetings in the projects and by informing people in Western countries during inclusive events, fundraising activities, presentations, workshops and letters.
- Conducting research, Monitoring and Evaluation of projects in order to improve running and future projects and to develop APA tools for local partner organizations.
- Networking with relevant (international) organizations in order to share knowledge and experiences as well as to increase the organizations' impacts through partnering.
- Fundraising by convincing authorities, organizations, foundations, companies and private donors of the necessity and effectiveness of sport as a tool to improve quality of life of people with disabilities.

For a detailed version of the working method, for APAID's current projects and more information about the organization visit the APAID-website: www.apaid.org.

This article was submitted by Steffi de Jong, President APAID and Pierre Bataille, Vice-President APAID