



August, 2009.

Dear Colleagues,

We are very pleased to inform you that the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has approved Phase Three of our D.R.P.I. work. We are extremely grateful for this support that will permit the pioneering work in promoting and monitoring disability rights begun in the project's first two phases to be further expanded and entrenched.

Beginning immediately, D.R.P.I. Phase Three will run for three years. The broad range of tools, methodologies and training resources developed and field-tested during Phase Two will be used to promote and monitor disability rights internationally, including monitoring under the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (C.R.P.D.). The project will continue its strong support for the principle that people with disabilities and their representative organizations should be the leading players in monitoring their own rights. D.R.P.I. will also continue to promote a holistic approach to monitoring that focuses on systemic measures (laws, policies and programs), individual experiences of persons with disabilities, and societal attitudes toward disability.

Phase Three activities will include:

- Establishing and building the capacity of Regional Monitoring Centres based in existing organizations of persons with disabilities in 5 regions (Africa, Europe & Central Asia, Asia Pacific, Latin America and North America). These Regional Centres will be the focal points for disability rights monitoring activities during and following Phase Three.
- Expanding the number of people with disabilities and organizations of people with disabilities with the capacity to lead, participate and provide training in disability rights monitoring projects through Regional Trainings.
- Extending capacity-building, training and monitoring activities to a number of countries within each of the 5 regions through holistic Country Monitoring Projects run by existing organizations of people with disabilities.

D.R.P.I. has applied to hold a Side Event at the upcoming Conference of States Parties to the C.R.P.D. taking place at the U.N. Headquarters in New York City, at the beginning of September. We will be presenting a more detailed outline of Phase Three activities at this event.

**Disability Rights Promotion International (D.R.P.I.)**

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Increasing and strengthening the international network of people with disabilities and disability organizations with the skills to manage, coordinate and participate in disability rights monitoring projects will foster monitoring activities. Phase Three will develop capacity among disability organizations at the grassroots as well as entrenching recognition of the principle of engaging people with disabilities at the national, regional and international levels.

We are very fortunate to have benefited from your expertise, support and collaboration during the first two phases of D.R.P.I. and look forward to continuing to strengthen and expand these relationships. We will be in touch shortly to give you further details of the upcoming work and to discuss your participation in this work.

Best regards,

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Bengt Lindqvist

D.R.P.I. Co-Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Marcia Rioux'.

Marcia Rioux

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