

## World news in brief



### New CBR network formed for Asia and Pacific regions

A new network on community based rehabilitation (CBR) has been formed as a result of the First Asia-Pacific CBR Congress, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in February. The Congress, with the theme of Community-Based Inclusive Development, was jointly organised by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Government of Thailand.

Over 700 participants attended from over 50 countries in the region, including disabled people's organisations, and regional and international organisations. The congress was the largest gathering of CBR practitioners to date. As a result of the congress, a CBR Asia-Pacific Network has been formed, with 26 representatives nominated by their countries to participate. Two subcommittees have been created to develop a common charter, a constitution and future plans of action.

Before the congress, a workshop on CBR and mental health was held, exploring how CBR programmes can support and work together with community mental health programmes. There were 50 participants from 20 countries. The workshop acknowledged that although mental illness is an important area for CBR programmes, many do not reflect sufficient knowledge in this area. To move forward, people working in CBR programmes require better guidance and skills to work with mental illness.

Workshops were also held on CBR and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and CBR and leprosy.

## New partnerships to improve trauma care

The European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology ([EFORT](#)) is joining forces with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the [Bone and Joint Decade](#) (BJD) to help improve trauma and emergency care worldwide.

The organisations will hold a Global Forum for Trauma Care in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 28-30 October 2009. The forum will emphasise goal-setting, creating tools and key messages to convince the health-decision makers about the social, human, economic and scientific importance of trauma care.

This follows the 10th EFORT Congress held in Vienna, Austria, in June. Participants included the 82 presidents of EFORT's participating national societies, international associations and specialty groups.

At the Congress, Professor Karl-Göran Thorngren, President of EFORT, highlighted the importance of participants joining WHO's Trauma Care Network, and encouraged their participation of and support in the Global Forum.

EFORT: [www.efort.org/](http://www.efort.org/)

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## Laws for disabled people in Cambodia

New laws ensuring the rights of people with disabilities to access employment opportunities, healthcare and education have been adopted by the National Assembly and Senate of Cambodia.

The new legislation has been welcomed by the Disability Action Council of Cambodia, which says it is of far-reaching benefit to people with disabilities. "The achievement in passing this significant law is owed to the hard work, commitment and cooperation of all the stakeholders in the process: the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, all the development partners, NGOs and INGOs in the disability sector, disabled people's organisations and the people with disabilities who have contributed their experiences." said Ung Sambath, of the Disability Action Council.