



WFD NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

NOVEMBER 2010

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF: CAMPAIGNS TO BUILD AWARENESS



WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGNS IN *INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF*



Deaf march in Madagascar: a banner stating education for all, and the deaf?

The last week of September is a time when communities all over the world recognize the language, culture, and everyday experience of people who are deaf and hard of hearing. This is known as the International Week of the Deaf or Deaf Awareness Week and during these seven days, activities abounded!

Countries where celebrations were held were Belgium, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawai, Paraguay, Uganda, USA and many others. Here are a few stories from our members how they celebrated International Week of the Deaf!

MADAGASCAR

The Deaf in Madagascar celebrated the publication of their first sign language dictionary. The Ministry of the Population honoured the celebrations by cutting the ribbon to launch the first Malagasy Dictionary Sign Language book, written in Malagasy, French, and English. There also is a small Sign Language book written in Malagasy and a DVD of Sign Language.

The Federation of the Deaf in Madagascar carnival was held at Antananarivo and there was an art show at the market, which the art work was made by the Deaf and at the same time the teacher taught sign language to hearing people. ■

Picture (top right) ↗

The Minister cutting the ribbon in the sign language dictionary publication event

Picture (right) →

The first Malagasy Dictionary Sign Language book and DVD

Source: Federation of the Deaf in Madagascar



SRI LANKA

Accordingly series of the events, organised by the Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf, with the main objective was to raise awareness on the needs and rights of the deaf. By raising awareness, they held Peace walk. The main theme of the peace walk was to “Accept Sign Language to uplift the education of the Deaf children”. The Chief Minister of Southern Province also joined the peace walk with the Deaf community.

After the peace walk, the Chief Minister and the other guest speakers said that they will give their fullest support in the future to the Deaf community to obtain their rights and privileges.

We are happy to state that the cabinet of the government of Sri Lanka has approved the bill on “Recognizing Sign Language as an accepted Language” on 26th August 2010 which was submitted by the Ministry of Social Service. ■



International Day celebrations in Sri Lanka.

Source: Central Federation of the Deaf of Sri Lanka

USA

Kentucky: DeaFestival in Horse Cave, Kentucky, celebrating International Week of the Deaf (IWD)

Minnesota: “Renaissance of the Deaf” - 125th Anniversary Celebration activities sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, 24 September - 2 October 2010

New York City: “Label Us Able - Respect diversity and free the full potential of all individuals” seminar on September 22, 2010 as a side event to the United Nations General Assembly, sponsored by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, which featured an ASL rap performance by Signmark. Signmark also gave a

free performance during the “Silent Shout” public flash mob event on 23 September 2010 at Washington Square Park in New York City, NY.

California: The American Sign Language (ASL) Celebration Rally was held in California State capitol Sacramento last Thurs Sept 30 as part of the International Week of Deaf People. There were about 500 - 800 people there and different booths and speakers including from the legislation. Mr. Wayne Sinclair from Canada presented on International Congress on Education for the Deaf (ICED) New Era Accord and Ms. Roslyn Rosen presented on the behalf of WFD. ■

Source: National Association of the Deaf, USA