

The Color of Life

“A mass flow of colors swinging through the playground as children are running with colorful Chinese fans, screams of delight and obvious pleasure are everywhere...”

This was the scene in the special school in rural county of Fusui, Guangxi Province few months ago when an art troop from UK, Epic Arts, working with HI on a series of workshops, to increase access to arts education and build self-confidence via arts activities. Most importantly, As a powerful mechanism of enablement, art offered to the disabled children an outlet to express themselves freely. In the meantime, arts is to foster understanding and integration between people of various abilities and disabilities. A strong sense of group identity was clearly seen in each child's face.



In the Spotlight



In Sep. 2008, HI organized a meeting between Paralympics athletes from Belgium and beneficiaries from HI projects at Belgian Embassy in Beijing . People with disabilities including children with special needs from Guangxi, Sichuan and Tibet met Gino, Kurt and Frederic from Belgian Paralympic team together with their coach. Representatives from local DPOs also joined us.

Sport becomes a way to social integration apart from competition and medals. Young people with disabilities were thrilled to meet the athletes. Ma Haiyun, a young boy with hearing impairment was fascinated by learning how to throw discus when Gino showed to him. And as to encourage the little boy, Gino gave Ma Haiyun his team shirt as a gift. The meeting took place in the presence of Princess Astrid of Belgium with Prince Lorenz and the Ambassador .

From Awareness Sessions in Lhasa Tea Houses to Home-based Rehabilitation to Poor Families in the Country



Self help groups of parents of children with disabilities

The CBR project in Tibet facilitated a self help parent group in early 2007. From the initial 2 members to now 12 members, the group consists of parents of children with disabilities, who were suffering mistreating and discrimination from local community and especially schools. The parents united for the rights of their children.

With consultation from HI, they met regularly to plan awareness activities in the public areas and a tea house was where they began to put their ideas into concrete actions. They had successfully found two volunteers to join in their work via public awareness. The parents were also motivating disabled people to have their own self help groups. Later they decided to open a tea house themselves with support from HI on initial fund and vocational training on small business. The profit of the tea house will help other disabled and disadvantaged families in Lhasa. The business is growing and so is their ambition: those parents again had new ideas on home visits. They often visit the families with disabled children to help the other parents on rehabilitation, such as simple but effective physiotherapy skills, knowledge on daily care and rehab skills via games for the children.

We are pleased to announce that a website on disability resources will be activated in the coming month by Handicap International China Program.

Please kindly contact us at public@handicap-int.org.cn for more information about Handicap International.