

June 2019 Issue



ASIA PACIFIC FEDERATION OF THE HARD OF HEARING AND DEAFENED

NEWSLETTER



Do you know that **466 million** people worldwide have hearing loss?

The majority of these people live in the Asia-Pacific

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WELCOME NOTE

The editorial team of APFHD are pleased to release the fourth issue of APFHD Newsletter.

APFHD is working for Hard of Hearing members in Asia Pacific Region with a mission of serving as the independent network for issues relating to the Hard of Hearing and Deafened in the Asia-Pacific Region. APFHD's dynamic Executive Committee is very active with different activities. We are looking forward to work closely with partners to strengthen its capacity of its members.

From 10 members in 2012, APFHD has grown to a 13-member organization in few years' time. It validates APFHD's right track to continue its growth in the Asia Pacific region.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and we encourage you to share this newsletter to your family and friends. Cheers!

“From 10 members in 2012, APFHD has grown into a 13-member organization in 2 years’ time.”

APFHD IN BRIEF

The Asia-Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) is a regional network of formal and non-formal organizations of hard of hearing and deafened people in Asia-Pacific region. It provides a platform to unite the voices of millions of people who are hard of hearing and deafened, raise awareness and protect their fundamental rights.

The Federation also serves as the regional representative in international network such as International Federation of Hearing of Hearing People (IFHOH), in which APFHD is a regional member.

With support from JICA and APCD, APFHD was founded on March 2, 2012 at Bangkok, Thailand by a group of hard of hearing and deafened from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam. New Zealand, Japan and Cambodia later joined APFHD.

APFHD VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision: An inclusive society where the rights and interests of persons who are hard of hearing and deafened in Asia and the Pacific are ensured

Mission: To serve as the independent network for issues relating to hard of hearing and deafened in the Asia-Pacific region

Objectives:

1. Empower persons who are hard of hearing and deafened in the Asia-Pacific region for their independent life with confidence;
2. Support the formation and development of local self-help groups (SHGs) and self-help organizations (SHOs) in line with the vision and mission of APFHD;
3. Facilitate and promote sub-regional and regional cooperation, and exchange
4. information and knowledge among members of APFHD for effective networking locally and regionally;
5. Collaborate with grassroots disabled People's organizations (DPOs) and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), local and national governments, regional and international organizations, the United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to mainstream hard of hearing and deafened perspectives in the movement on disability and development;
6. Facilitate scientific data collection on persons who are hard of hearing and deafened in Asia and the Pacific;
7. Assist technology development, including assistive technologies, accessible information and communication technologies;
8. Promote accessible environment for persons who are hard of hearing and deafened at educational institutions and workplaces in the Asia-Pacific region.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear respected members,

Greetings from Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD).

On behalf of APFHD, I would like to send you the good health as well as success.

APFHD has been founded 7 years with advantages and challenges that we are proud of solving them in our best effort and teamwork.

We are also proud of that our efforts have been fruitful through three successful Biennial General Meetings (BGM), new members and certain products including APFHD Newsletters.

Since the last BGM, the EC has had some outstanding activities that we want to share with you in this Newsletter, which are the World Hearing Day Survey and movements regarding this day.

We are also excited to share with you the new application from Petralex, a company we are collaborating with which will ease communication between those who are hard of hearing and deaf-



ened. It's in discussion on how to bring it to AP and we will inform you soon.

We look forward to your contribution in this publication so that APFHD's Newsletter can continue to provide good information.

Thank you and Best wishes.

Duong Phuong Hanh (Ms.)
President of APFHD

Call for articles for the next APFHD Newsletter: If you have any articles for APFHD newsletters, please send it to:

apfhd.ec@gmail.com or
dphanh@trungtamkiemthinh.org

APFHD has been founded 7 years with advantages and challenges that we are proud of solving them in our best effort and teamwork.

SURVEY BY APFHD ON HEARING LOSS

The Executive Committee of Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) took a survey for World Hearing Day (WHD) 2019. The survey will be used by APFHD in making a report on the awareness on hearing loss, ear and hearing care for all in Asia Pacific and will be shared with the World Health Organization for their WHD 2019 report. This will also become a basis in collecting data related to Hard of Hearing and Deafened persons.

The survey was started via Google Form on 24 February and ended on 15 April 2019. We had 139 answers of people with and without hearing loss from 18 to over 60 years old who come from 15 countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam. We will make the full report and share to you as soon as we finish it.

The questionnaires were below

1. Do you have any problem in hearing?

- Yes No I don't know

2. Do you avail of regular ear care check-ups and hearing health care with the doctor?

- Yes No

3. If your answer is yes in No.2, how often do you visit your doctor?

- Once every 3 months Once every 6 months Once a year
 Once every 2years Once every 3 years

4. Do you think that protecting your ear and hearing health is important?

- Yes No I don't know

5. In your own opinion, what type of disease causes decreased hearing ability? (Multiple answers are allowed)

- Ear infection Perforate or burst eardrum

8. In your own opinion, where does noise pollution come from? (Multiple answers are allowed)

- Vehicle horn Aircraft taking off/landing Lawnmowers, drills
- Operation of machine, motors, etc. Bars Speakers
- Karaoke Audio, visual equipment No idea
- Other _____

9. In your own opinion, what are the signs of decreased hearing? (Multiple answers are allowed)

- Tinnitus, buzzing in the ears Poor balance
- Amnesia Having trouble hearing on the telephone
- The family complains that your TV is too loud
- Unable to hear the phone or doorbell ringing
- Often to hear others to repeat what they said
- Misunderstanding what people say No idea
- Other _____

10. In your own opinion, what do we need to do in order to prevent hearing loss? (Multiple answers are allowed)

- Keep ears clean Don't clean ears with sharp objects
- Keep ears away from polluted water Avoid working in too noisy environments
- Avoid using headphones and earphones Avoid overdose of drugs
- Regular hearing check up and hearing health care consultation with the doctor
- No idea
- Other _____

11. Any things you may want to share about ear and hearing care?

— End —

MULTI-COUNTRY WORKSHOP ON EAR AND HEARING CARE

The Multi-country Workshop on Ear and Hearing Care in WHO Western Pacific was held on 11-12 December, 2018 at Beijing China.

WHO and China Rehabilitation Research Center for Hearing Speech Impairment have conducted the workshop among over 40 participants including Mongolia, Vietnam, Australia, Singapore, Lao, Malaysia, Cambodia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Japan, South Korea, Brunei and Philippines. Ms. Tuya MIJIDDORJ, Treasurer of APFHD represented APFHD in the workshop.

On the first day, Dr. Shelly Chadha from WHO HQ and Mr. Darryl Barret from WHO WPRO respectively presented on ear and hearing care in global and regional perspective. Mr. Florante Trinidad from WHO Philippines presented on the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA70.13 on “Prevention of deafness and hearing loss” in Philippines in turn. In the afternoon, country reports from attendees were presented and group work discussions were held on identifying regional priorities.

Captioning was provided during presentations but it was not provided during group discussions.

On the second day, Dr. Shelly introduced on WHO tools for Ear and Hearing Care and World Hearing Forum.

Tuya MIJIDDORJ,
Treasurer, APFHD



Group photo of participants of the Multi-country Workshop on Ear and Hearing Care in WHO Western Pacific held on 11-12 December, 2018 at Beijing China .

IF ONLY PEOPLE COULD FILL THE SHOE IN OURS

I am a Hard of Hearing person (HoH). I will explain how my situation is like, but first let me tell you how it happened.

I actually don't remember the whole event and I didn't understand the situation around that age until I asked my mother "What happened to me?" and she told me that it was Dengue and she said my nerves were already damaged. I did remember the time how I suffered from Dengue, it was so vivid that I went to my cousin's garden to pick up Gumamela flowers then a few minutes after, I fainted (I already got bit by *Aedes aegypti*, carrying a Dengue virus). I woke up irritated when I was in the hospital already but was suddenly calmed by the doctors and that's the last I remember. It was a traumatic event when I suffered Dengue back in the late 2000's, I was 10 years old that time. I was little by then and maybe my mother noticed why I doesn't respond to her when she was calling or talking to me and she said we will have a checkup to the doctor to check for my hearing. And that's when I knew my hearing was already decreasing, so the doctor advised me to use hearing aids in both my ears.

During my first day of wearing hearing aids, I feel and heard the loud noises around me. It was weird at first. My classmates then asked me, "What is that thing in your ears?" and I told them, "Hearing Aids".

"What is that for?"

"My hearing is just low so I use it in order to hear."

"Let me try that."

"Sure."

"Cool."

Though some of my classmates understand me, there are still some people who laughed at me. Discrimination is never fading. From elementary to college, discrimination is still around. The burden is heavy that you have to carry it in your whole life. I can feel the depression in me. Sometimes I feel ashamed when I respond from a misheard conversation from someone and then they laugh at me. Of course it is also very disappointing, and out of respect. Must they always bully us just because we misheard them? We can feel and hear our heart crying inside us.

Another situation I can tell is, when you talk to us, talk in front of us. We need to see your face so we can read your lips. We will keep asking like "Ha?", "What did you just say?", "What are you talking about?". Oh please talk to us face to face so we can hear you. Because if you talk at our back or in our sideway or when we cannot see your lips, you may think we are not responding so you may probably ask again and shout at us.

Don't do that.

Do you sometimes notice we want the front seat, be it at school classes, meetings, and other events/ occasion? That is because we want to be focused. We have goals too. We may be HoH but we are also determined to do the work. Also please do not disturb us when we are focusing or listening to the speaker. It is already hard for us not to hear the important discussion, so we need focus and attention.

One thing that I noticed around people nowadays especially the generation we are living now is they think we are dumb so in response, they shout at us. Maybe they did not see our hearing aids, or worst, they think we are dumb because they think we are normal people too. That is the thing I find offensive, hearing the word "**dumb**".

We are not dumb, we just didn't hear you. There's just a delay in our hearing sense. We weren't able to catch up the words you say. Your pronunciation is blur.

We need someone to speak clearly, low or normal voice doesn't matter as long as you speak clearly. And please do not shout at us, have some respect. Understand that we are different from normal people.

Maybe it is the time now to let them fill the shoe in ours and tell them that life as HOH is difficult.

Another thing that we don't like above all is using telephone or phone calls. It is the weakest thing we can do, so don't expect us to use telephone or phone call. We may only hear a few words and we do not understand the whole conversation so in the end, using a telephone or phone call is useless to us. We need a visual way like texting or emails. Sorry if we don't want you to call us because we have that trauma.

In any event using audio, we do not like to watch Movies without subtitles. We are more of a visual person. Also, anything that uses audio/speaker/ microphone only like in the airport, hospital, and other places makes us feel nervous. That's why at the airport, I do not want to travel by myself because I might lose my flight, say for example. But there are probably some HoH who are used to travel solo. I'm sure most HoH doesn't want to be lost if they are solo, but it's still difficult to hear from audio bass or speaker.

So if only people could fill the shoe in ours, I'm sure they will understand. But there are still people who has the attitude to discriminate HoH. Maybe it is the time now to let them fill the shoe in ours and tell them that life as HoH is difficult. Let us pray that someday people give us respect and will understand the life of HoH.

By: Nepsy Ucag
Member of Hard of Hearing
Group Philippines

COUNTRY REPORT: CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA HEARING DAY

On Sunday 03 March 2019, Cambodia Hearing Day was organized by HOPE Cambodia and Raksa Koma Foundation, presided over by 150 high government officials, UNDP, WHO, Disability Action Council delegates, INGOs, NGOs, pop star singers and 350 persons with hearing loss include 200 children with hearing loss.



There were many TV stations, Radios, and newspapers participated and we raised awareness on Hearing Health Care through presentation, videos during the event. The pop star singers sang pop songs and persons with hearing loss danced. HOPE Cambodia has screened ear nose throat for participants especially persons with hearing loss and fitted free hearing aids.

STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION MISSION

HOPE Cambodia participated with Starkey Hearing Foundation team to give free hearing aids for 650 persons with hearing loss on 08-09 May 2019 in Prey Veng province, Cambodia.

AUTISM AND DOWN SYNDROME DAY

HOPE Cambodia participated in Autism and Down Syndrome Day on 2 April 2019 and then screened ear nose throat for 250 children with autism and down syndrome.

FREE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SCREENING AND TREATMENT



HOPE Cambodia organizes free Ear Nose Throat screening and treatment 4 times every month for little students, orphans, children with disabilities, elderly at orphanage centers, child caring organizations, private schools, and communities.

COUNTRY REPORT: MONGOLIA

OBSERVATION OF WORLD HEARING DAY

Meetings with hard of hearing children and their parents were held with planned date and time. Questionnaires for children, parents, social workers and school physicians with translation from WHO-ITU H.870 standard and its toolkit; handouts and presentation for trainings were prepared.

The children and parents from seven community development projects including Chingeltei, Nalaikh, Sharkhad, Songinokhairkhan, Takhilt, Yarmag (from capital Ulaanbaatar city) and Mangirt (from Darkhan province) were involved in trainings on March 1th, 4th, 5th and 7th.

School physicians, social workers, and community health workers and representatives from Public Health Institute and family hospital also attended in the training at Good Neighbors Mongolia Head Office on March 6.

Result of the meeting:

- Children's knowledge and attitude regarding hearing loss and safety listening habits increased by 54 percent.
- School physicians and social workers were provided with guidelines and training materials including videos and presentations for school children.
- Parents had good knowledge on safe listening and checking hearing regularly.
- Community Development Committee members and community health workers were provided by handouts including bags, stickers and brochures.
- Attendees of the trainings had their hearing tested using "hear WHO" application on site.





Mr B. Gantumur school physician, /from left/ Ms B.Ganchimeg social worker of family hospital / from right/, Ms. Sarantuya school social worker /from left/ together colleagues



Checking the hearing via "hearWHO", a free application for mobile devices which allows people to check their hearing regularly and intervene early in case of hearing loss.



Mangirt Community Development Projects, Darkhan province

COUNTRY REPORT: NEPAL

Hearing is one of our most precious senses, and is crucial for remembering the world around us. A memory is not as crisp if you cannot hear what was in the background. Whether you're imagining the sound of your favorite band or your mother's singing voice, hearing is part of the way your brain remembers.

Hearing loss due to preventable cause can be fully preventable through early identification, healthy ear care practice, medication, and regular follow up with doctor. In some cases a person may have to wear hearing aid or even cochlear implant. However, without the help of proper speech therapy and psychosocial counseling support to both a child and parents, the outcome will not be desirable. With these aims SHRUTI organized ear camp and awareness session in three different schools and a community with the financial support of WHO.

The four-day program was fruitful. Many students and people in the community directly and indirectly benefitted from this program. The sessions were very active and interactive. SHRUTI believes that these kinds of program should be done from time to time.



COUNTRY REPORT: PHILIPPINES

HARD OF HEARING GROUP PHILIPPINES PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL CARING FOR CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SEMINAR OF SM CARES

By: Raphael Torralba

Hard of Hearing Group Philippines (HOHGP) was once again invited as resource speaker on the seminar on the annual Caring for Customer with Special Needs of SM Cares. The seminar aims to train their personnel on disability sensitivity and make SM Malls an inclusive mall for all.

The following resource persons conducted in different SM malls a speaking engagement on the topic related to hearing loss and how to effectively communicate with them:

- -Raphael Torralba, HOHGP Chairman and APFHD Vice President - SM City Manila, SM City Trece Martires, SM Marketmall Dasmariñas
- April Rose Escaros, HOHGP President - SM City Novaliches, SM Cherry Congressional
- Jefferson Cortez, HOHGP Vice President - SM Mall of Asia, SM City San Lazaro
- Joanna Chan, HOHGP Treasurer - SM Cherry Shaw

A division of SM Foundation Inc., SM Cares handles the corporate social responsibility programs of SM Prime Holdings, Inc., the largest conglomerate in the Philippines. It's Program on Persons with Disabilities (PWD) promotes a barrier-free disability inclusive environment, in partnership with different organizations of PWDs, including HOHGP. The program has garnered awards for being a "catalyst for change" and going "beyond full compliance" of PWD laws.



OBSERVATION OF WORLD HEARING DAY 2019

In conjunction with the worldwide celebration of World Hearing Day, HOHGP organized a forum entitled “Capacity Building Forum for Hard of Hearing Persons” on March 24, 2019.

The workshop aimed to help HOH persons and the parents of HOH children in their capacity building role as HOH leaders and movers and develop their skills as “Agents of Change” in bringing Hard of Hearing awareness closer to the society. The main resource speaker for this event is International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young Persons (IFHOHYP) president, Mr. Bowen Tang.

HOHGP president, Ms. April Rose Escaros presented the topic on situation of HOH persons in the Philippines while National Council on Disability Affairs Acting Executive Director, Ms. Carmen R. Zubiaga delivered an inspiring message for the HOH community.

The highlight of the event was the signing of Manila Declaration between HOHGP and IFHOHYP. Both organizations value the importance and significance of empowering hard of hearing youth to become advocates through non-formal education and networking opportunities, such as this forum. There are far too many occasions where hard of hearing people are excluded from their communities due to lack of accessibility. Both organizations will continue to raise public awareness around building accessibility and inclusivity for hard of hearing people in their communities.

The Manila Declaration commemorates this milestone event where IFHOHYP, for the first time ever, is able to establish a visible presence in the Asia region thanks to the support of HOHGP. This marks the beginning of a long-term collaboration between the two organizations.





Manila Declaration 2019

“Forum on Capacity Building for Hard of Hearing Persons”

March 24th 2019

Through partnership between the International Federation Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) and Hard of Hearing Group Philippines (HOHGP), the forum on capacity building for hard of hearing persons is taking place on March 24th 2019, in Manila, Philippines.

IFHOHYP is an international non-governmental federation for national and regional youth organizations that are dedicated to hard of hearing (HOH) young people ages 18 to 35 throughout the world. IFHOHYP strives to empower HOH young people for visibility and representative of youth with disabilities at European and international levels.

Founded on October 10, 2011, HOHGP is a non-stock and non-profit organization composed of self-advocate HOH persons in the Philippines. We bring together HOH persons from across the Philippines to promote their rights, raise awareness on HOH and hearing loss, create HOH community and identity, and to unite their voices as one. HOHGP is a founding member of the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD).

Both IFHOHYP and HOHGP value the importance and significance of empowering hard of hearing youth to become advocates through non-formal education and networking opportunities, such as this forum. There are far too many occasions where hard of hearing people are excluded from their communities due to lack of accessibility. Both organizations will continue to raise public awareness around building accessibility and inclusivity for hard of hearing people in their communities.

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- IFHOHYP will strive its best to provide information, resources and strategies which will strengthen the advocacy work of HOHGP and other hard of hearing organizations in Asia.
- HOHGP will act as an ambassador to support IFHOHYP's expansion in the Asia region, building bridges to other hard of hearing organizations in the area.

Signed on 24th of March 2019

Bowen Tang
IFHOHYP President

April Rose V. Escaros
HOHGP President

COUNTRY REPORT: VIETNAM

FREE HEARING TEST PROGRAM

Hearing Aids Fund for the poor children with hearing loss of CED launches a Free Hearing Test Program for children who are disadvantaged in 2019. The program is free of charge. There are some steps of the Hearing Test:

- Check your ears: to ensure no ear-wax, no strange things in ears.
- Measure tympano: to diagnose your otitis media.
- Test your hearing: some frequencies with max 40dB will be tested and it's harmless for your ears.

In the framework of promoting for World Hearing Day 3/3/2019, CED held the Hearing Care Program: Ears Test, Tympanometry Measurement and Hearing Test for students with visual disabilities studying in Nguyen Dinh Chieu School for The Blind on two sessions of 6 and 7 March 2019. The program included:

1. Checking ears for 103 students;
2. Measuring tympanometry for 90 students;
3. Hearing Testing for 91 students and 1 blind teacher.



AWARENESS RAISING

Awareness raising is always the strategy that CED focuses on and promote it yearly. The topic for events are hearing loss field, inclusive education, social enterprise. Ms Duong Phuong Hanh — Director of CED was invited to share her experiences in the training courses for 80 participants from Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This was the Training of Trainers about the skills of coordination, organization, support for starting a social business and social enterprise held by Ministry of Education and Training, British Council and Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City.

In other event, Ms. Duong Phuong Hanh was invited to share about activities for the community with the purpose of inspiring to 70 staffs of Inspectorio Company on International Women Day.

Being a voice of people with hearing loss in Vietnam, CED is expected to show its experience on supporting the community. In the event of the Social Impact Enterprise Forum, Ms. Hanh shared on "Education and Employment for People with Disabilities" at the discussion session held by Seed Planter Organization.



HEARING AID FUNDING

Donating 70 hearing aids to 61 children and adults with hearing loss who live in the poor families in five months of 2019.



TRAINING “DEAF TEACHING METHOD”

CED cooperated with Hilton Hotel in Ha Noi and held successfully the Training Program “Developing Lip-reading skill for students with hearing loss in inclusive education” on April 20th and 21st 2019 at Hilton Hotel. There were (1) 36 teachers working from 13 schools for the Deaf, Hearing Loss centers, Support and Development Center for Inclusive Education,...; (2) 32 parents and childrens with hearing loss living in Ha Noi and some Northern provinces. The program was about: conception and the purpose of Lip-reading, influential factors, teaching methods, lesson designing and how to develop Lip-reading skills in inclusive education.

In other event, Ms. Duong Phuong Hanh – Director of CED was invited to train “Deaf Education” with Spoken Method (by reading lips) and Sign language Method for 12 teachers and staffs of the Employment and Vocational Training Center for People with Disabilities (215 Vo Thi Sau) in the mornings of 23-26 April 2019.



World Hearing Day (WHD): CED continuously posted subjects of taking care ears, hearing, comprehension on social network and online surveys. This survey has been reported to WHD 2019 about awareness of hearing loss, caring ears and hearing; and shared to World Health Organization (WHO).

Vietnamese Sign Language: CED has Vietnamese Sign Language classes held every two months.

Lip-Reading Class: CED held successfully the course of Lip-Reading for 13 participants on April 6th 2019 at CED office. The purpose of the course is to help the learners without hearing loss (teachers, social workers, education managers, parents, staff and persons caring about hearing loss...) to understand the concept and signification of Lip-Reading, learn about the skills, and method to develop lessons of Lip-Reading to their students/children/adults with hearing loss. There were others deaf and hard of hearing to practice together. It At the end of the course, all participants were granted the certificates. The training program “Lip-Reading” is held every 3 months by CED.

February 25, 2019

Each person with an untreated disabling hearing loss costs society USD 9,100 each year.

A scientific report shows that an untreated, disabling hearing loss costs society around USD 9,100 for each person who is not treated for their disabling hearing loss.

A new scientific report shows that an untreated, disabling hearing loss costs society USD 9,100 for each person who is not treated for their disabling hearing loss. 7% of all adults live with a disabling hearing loss. More than two out of three are not treated for their disabling hearing loss.

The costs are related to lower quality of life and higher unemployment among people with a disabling hearing loss. The cost does not cover extra health care costs caused by hearing loss.

A disabling hearing loss is defined by the Global Burden of Disease research group (GBD) as a hearing loss greater than 35dB on the better ear.

The figures are estimated based on the “Hearing Loss – Numbers and Costs” report using data about the number of people with a disabling hearing loss, the use of hearing aids, unemployment and quality of life. The report is a meta study which has analyzed and compared hundreds of scientific studies and papers in the last two decades about the prevalence and the consequences of hearing loss and the use and benefits of hearing aids.

In the EU, untreated, disabling hearing loss costs 185 billion Euros each year.

The report documents that the use of hearing aids and other hearing solutions improves health and increases quality of life. It also documents that people with an untreated, disabling hearing loss are at greater risk of social isolation, depression, cognitive decline and dementia, while people who treat their hearing loss do not experience a higher risk than people without hearing loss.

Most people are not treated for their disabling hearing loss as less than one in three with a disabling hearing loss use hearing aids or other hearing solutions. With a steadily ageing population and with an earlier onset of hearing loss due to increased noise exposure, more and more people will live with a disabling hearing loss in the years to come.

“The scientific report clearly demonstrates that untreated hearing loss is a major health issue and that untreated hearing loss has a huge economic and social impact on our society. It also documents that checking your hearing and treating hearing loss pays, both for the individual and for society”, says Secretary General Kim Ruberg, hear-it AISBL, which has published the report.

“If you think you might have a hearing loss, my best advice is to get your hearing checked. You can start by checking your hearing using the WHO “Check your hearing” app, or test your hearing online at www.hear-it.org. But if you suspect that you have hearing problems my best advice is that you get a real hearing test carried out by a hearing professional”, says Kim Ruberg.

World Hearing Day is held by the WHO on the 3rd of March each year to raise awareness of how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. The theme for World Hearing Day 2019 is “Check you hearing”.

The report, “Hearing Loss – Numbers and Costs”, is carried out for hear-it AISBL by Professor Emerita Bridget Shield, Brunel University in London with the assistance of Professor Mark Atherton, Brunel University, London. In 2006, Professor Bridget Shield compiled the first report for hear-it AISBL: “Evaluation of the Social and Economic Costs of hearing Impairment”.

About hear-it AISBL

Hear-it AISBL is an international, non-commercial organization, based in Brussels, Belgium. The objective of Hear-it AISBL is to collect, process and circulate up-to-date scientific information and other relevant information about hearing loss and its human and socio-economic consequences, as well as the possibilities and benefits of treating hearing loss. The members of Hear-it AISBL include IFHOH (The International Federation of the Hard of Hearing), EFHOH (European Federation of Hard of Hearing People), AEA (European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals) and individual members of the hearing aid industry. Hear-it AISBL runs the world's largest and leading website on hearing and hearing loss: www.hear-it.org

Further information:

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High-resolution pictures for editorial use can be found here:
<https://www.hear-it.org/editorial-photos>

How to take a hearing test: <https://www.hear-it.org/the-hearing-test-3>

Questions and other requests, please send an email to editor@hear-it.org

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READING NEWSPAPER FOR YOU

The report, “Hearing Loss - Numbers and Costs”, is a meta study that has analyzed and compared hundreds of scientific studies and papers in the last two decades about the prevalence and the consequences of hearing loss and the use and benefits of hearing aids.

The report is compiled for hear-it AISBL by Professor Emerita Bridget Shield, Brunel University in London, with the assistance of Professor Mark Atherton, Brunel University, London. In 2006, Professor Bridget Shield compiled the first report for hear-it AISBL: “Evaluation of the Social and Economic Costs of hearing Impairment”.

Methodology behind the study

The number of people with hearing loss and the costs to society in relation to lost quality of life and lost productivity are found in this way:

- The number of adults and number of people of working age are extrapolated from GBD (Global Burden of Disease) data 2017: vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare . The GBD website shows the numbers in different categories of HL (mild to complete) for various age ranges - <5, 5-14, 15-49, 50-69, 70+ as well as all ages. GDP per capita for each country are taken from the IMF website (www.imf.org) using July 2018 data.
- The health utility indices for hearing loss in the different brackets of hearing loss are estimated by the author, based on previous studies of health utility indices for hearing loss.
- The economic output per person is calculated from the IMF website using July 2018 data and number of employed people taken from Trading Economics website (<https://tradingeconomics.com/>). Employment rates for the 15 – 64 age group are also taken from the Trading Economics website.
- Prevalence of hearing aid use is an European average and is estimated on the basis of a series of surveys on hearing aid use in different European countries.
- The numbers and figures given overall and for individual countries are estimates and hence not exact figures.

From the www.hear-it.org

The technology available for everyone

**Have you known about Petralex:
multiple hearing aid apps???**

According to WHO (World Hearing Organization)

- ◆ 1 Billion 100 million of young people (12— 35 years old are at risk of hearing loss.
- ◆ 360 Million (5.3%) of the population are disabled by hearing.
- ◆ 250 Million (1/3) of the elderly over 65 years old are hearing-impaired.

(By “The report of Vice President of the Chinese Association of Auxiliary Products (AAP) Bian Weiguo)

***We - hard of hearing and deafened people
need hearing aids***

But

How to increase the availability of quality hearing aids???

Please wait from us at the next publication

SAVE THE DATE!

The Biggest Event on Disability and Development Sharing Platform in Asia-Pacific in 2019

2nd -3rd July 2019 | Shangri-la Hotel,
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Theme: Sustainable Social Development and Economic Growth through Community-based Inclusive Development (CBID)

<http://www.apcdfoundation.org/?q=content/first-announcement-4th-asia-pacific-community-based-inclusive-development-cbid-congress-2019>



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