



IFHOH JOURNAL

June 2023
v2

President of IFHOH, Avi Blau
president@ifhoh.org

Journal Editor, Carole Willans
journal@ifhoh.org

IFHOH Board

President, Avi Blau (Israel)
Treasurer, Juha Hietala (Finland)
General Secretary, Carole Willans (Canada)
EFHOH Representative, Lidia Best (United Kingdom)
APFHD Representative, Akram Muhammad (Pakistan)
Director, Mastulah Nalubwama (Uganda)

In This Issue

From the Editor's Desk - by Carole Willans	3
President's Message – by Avi Blau	4
European Federation - News	6
Asia Pacific Federation – A Voice of Our Own	8
Scrapbook: World Hearing Day 2023 Activities by Hard of Hearing Group in the Philippines	9
IFHOH Interorganizational Meeting	11
Advisory concerning Hear-it	11
Rehabilitation International and China Disabled Persons Federation	12
CIICA Summary Update	12
Calendar of Events	13
News Bytes	14
IFHOH Sponsor – ReSound	17
IFHOH Board Members	18

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is an international non-governmental organisation representing the interests of more than 300 million hard of people worldwide.

*IFHOH is registered as a charitable organisation at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht, Hamburg, Germany
- Nr. 69 VR 10 527.*

IFHOH Journal includes information about IFHOH activities, world news related to hearing loss, articles written by IFHOH members, and much more. It is published four times a year and posted on IFHOH's website, www.ifhoh.org. The Editor can be reached at journal@ifhoh.org.

All the views expressed in IFHOH Journal are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of IFHOH.

From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk



Carole Willans, Editor

Dear friends of IFHOH,

A key message keeps showing up in my reading lately - - that people with disabilities are the top experts in the development of disability-inclusive environments. This makes a lot of sense to me for many reasons. Persons with disabilities have often developed character traits that are very useful in advocacy and disability-inclusive development. Living with a disability, they have learnt to be problem solvers. They have developed strong competencies in adaptability and resiliency. Hard of hearing advocates and volunteers have developed the capacity to work effectively in the context of limited resources. Sounds familiar?

This means that hard of hearing people must be consulted from the outset on development programs - in their conceptualization, design, implementation, and evaluation. This way, they can actively foresee and avoid potential barriers that could impede their equitable participation in local, regional, national, and international communities. The inclusion of persons with disabilities not only empowers them individually; it also empowers whole societies to move towards positive social change that enhances life within the very fiber of their families and communities. In the end, this will lead us all closer to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is inspiring to see the work of our members and colleagues in developing countries! In this issue of *IFHOH Journal*, you can get a sense of their efforts from the Asia-Pacific Federation report, and a strong dose of their enthusiasm from the photos in the scrapbook from *World Hearing Day* activities in the Philippines. Such is the positive and transformational impact that volunteers with a hearing disability can have on their peers, on local workers, and on community attitudes. Let's enjoy and profit from our camaraderie!

- Carole Willans
Editor of *IFHOH Journal*
General Secretary of IFHOH



Some of our Filipino colleagues!

President's Message



Avi Blau, President of IFHOH

We are glad to have this Journal published and distributed to our members, with many new stories and information about our activities. My first months as IFHOH President have been very active and fruitful.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of EFHOH, the European region of IFHOH, took place in Poznan, Poland on 22 April 2023. The AGM of IFHOHYP, the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People, took place in Poznan on the same day. Before these two AGM events, there was a Conference at the University of Poznan in which many of the participants spoke about how they live with hearing loss. It was nice to meet all the friends from both organizations. As IFHOH representative in these events, I described IFHOH activities and future events, and invited national organizations to offer to host the next IFHOH World Congress.

The 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 13 to 15 June 2023. This is also a very big and important event. Many countries will be represented by missions representing all types of disabilities. Look here for more details about the COSP 2023:

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/cosp/16th-session-of-the-conference-of-states-parties-to-the-crpd>



IFHOH will be represented at this session of the COSP by Dr. Ruth Warick, the past president of IFHOH, who is also representing IFHOH in the International Disability

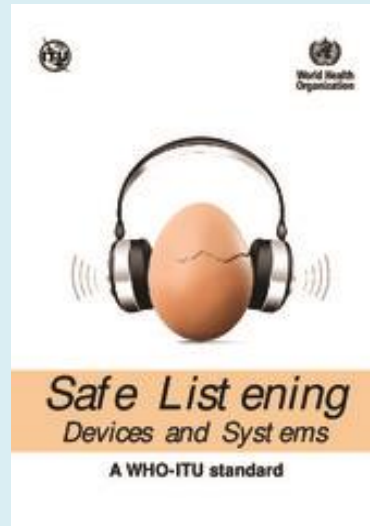
Alliance (IDA). Talking about IDA, we are still working on new projects with it. Let us hope to have good news about them soon.



Ruth Warick (back row, center) with other IDA Board members at IDA Board meeting in Belgrade held in May 2023

We wish a very successful event to our member organization HLAA which is having its annual Convention on 29 June - 1 July 1 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. This is a very big event, with a large exhibition and it is one of the best events for hard of hearing people. Look here for information and registration: <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/hlaa-2023-convention/>

We decided in IFHOH to explore the ways to promote the use of captions in developing countries. We have a committee to work on this. It is a complicated issue because of the lack of resources, the different languages, and the lack of help from the government in such countries. The committee is led by Akram Muhammad, the president of APFHD, who is also an IFHOH board member.



The World Health Organization (WHO), in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), is having a meeting in June in Geneva, about the Make Listening Safe (MLS) project. This project is about standards for safe levels of music in personal music players and public music events. We plan to provide a report about this meeting in the next *IFHOH Journal*.

Thank you to Carole, our editor, for another good *IFHOH Journal*. I hope you will enjoy reading it.

-- Avi Blau
President of IFHOH

European Federation - News

On 22 April 2023, the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH) held its first in-person Annual General Meeting (AGM) since the pandemic. It was held in a magnificent room of the University in Poznan, Poland.



At the AGM, the membership approved a new Action Plan, Activities Plans for 2024, the Budget, and various motions. In particular, EFHOH's statutes were updated to be in line with gender neutral language, and to introduce a term limit for service on the Board of Directors. The special guest, Alvaro Couceiro from the European Disability Forum, provided updates on the key initiatives of the European Commission, and explained how EFHOH and its members can get involved in the consultation process.



Alvaro Couceiro, EDF

There were elections for the Board (2023-2025) at the EFHOH AGM – President, Lidia Best (UK); Treasurer, Darja Pajk (Slovenia); and General Secretary, Claire Landesmann (Austria) (pictured in that order below).



In Poznan, there were joint celebrations of the anniversaries of EFHOH (30 years) and IFHOHYP (International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People) (55 years)!



Next year, the EFHOH AGM 2024 will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia 18-20 April.



While in Poznan, the EFHOH community also participated in an international conference on *Language - Identity - Hard of Hearing*. 150 participants from around the world took part in two days of knowledge sharing and discussions. The event was accessible to deaf and hard of hearing participants.

On 23 May 2023, Lidia Best spoke during the V Disability Parliament on disability-inclusive resilience (photo below). Her key message - hard of hearing people are the experts of their needs and must be consulted to achieve good hearing accessibility in all areas of society.



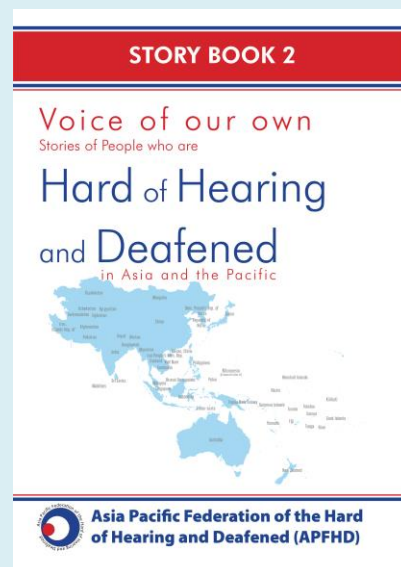
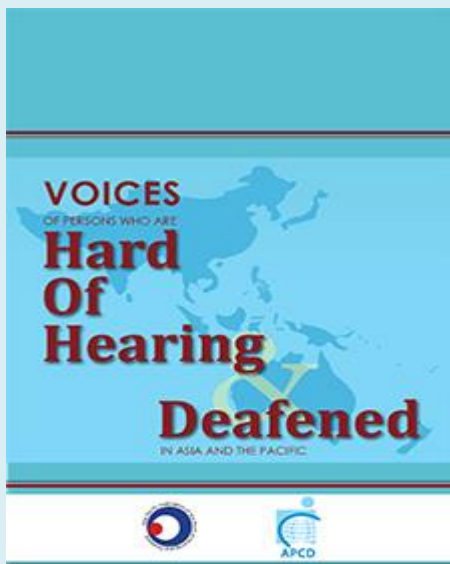
Asia Pacific Federation - A Voice of Our Own



The Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) is a region of IFHOH. It represents national organizations in its region, and it helps them to make good connections for the purpose of successful advocacy - for the benefit of persons who are hard of hearing or deafened. The President of the APFHD is Akram Muhammad. In this capacity, he also serves on the Board of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH).

On 11 March 2023, the APHD held an online introductory webinar, in connection with World Hearing Day and to launch its Story Book 2. The first part of the webinar was focused on presenting the APFHD and its priorities: "Our vision is an inclusive society where the rights and interests of the hard of hearing and deafened are ensured. Our goal is to serve as an independent network for people with hearing disabilities in the Asia Pacific region. We set up objectives to empower and promote an accessible environment for them, and support local groups and organizations."

APFHD's Story Book 2 was officially launched during the webinar, and it is currently available on the APFHD's website at this link: [Story book 2](#). The book has 12 stories from 8 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Vietnam. It is a wonderful way to raise awareness of the experiences of persons who are hard of hearing or deafened in Asia and the Pacific. As Ms. Sian Tesni of CBI International said during the webinar: "Reading through the stories, you not only get a sense of the barriers, the challenges faced by people on a daily basis, but of the wonderful resilience that each individual has faced by overcoming or managing those barriers." Story book 1 is also available at the APFHD website: www.apfhd.net.







IFHOH Interorganizational Meeting

On 22 September 2022, in Budapest, Hungary, IFHOH invited several organizations to a roundtable discussion to identify the key priorities of hard of hearing people around the world. The participating organizations were: the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH), the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD), the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH), the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP), and the African network (potential IFHOH region that is currently under development).

The main objective was to identify the key priorities that are important to both developed and developing countries.

The priorities expressed by the participants could be grouped into four main themes:

1. Awareness raising
2. Capacity-building
3. Access to information (including captioning, digital presence for outreach), and
4. Hearing healthcare.

IFHOH seeks to create and encourage more concerted collaborative efforts across the participating organizations on these issues, and any others that may be identified. The current President of IFHOH, Avi Blau, recommended that all the organizations consider what we can do together. Stronger organizations can help smaller ones, e.g., share knowledge on how to promote rights, how to stand up to decision-makers, and how to make the right connections. In short, we should all help each other.

Advisory concerning Hear-it

IFHOH members may be familiar with the website, Hear-it (<https://www.hear-it.org>). This website has been funded by hearing aid manufacturers. IFHOH participated in some of its key meetings and was able to have some oversight over its content. This is no longer the case. IFHOH currently has no involvement in the development of content for this website..

Rehabilitation International and China Disabled Person's Federation

The Chinese Organization of Hard of Hearing People attended a 5-day event co-hosted by Rehabilitation International (RI) and China's Disabled Persons Federation in Beijing, China, 19-23 May 2023. The theme was "Toward the Next Century: Promoting Equal Participation and All-round Development of People with Disabilities". Events included a high-level opening ceremony, forums, and parallel sessions on key disability issues such as rehabilitation, education, employment, and community inclusion.



CIICA Summary Update



The Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA) is an organization grouping cochlear implant users and

family advocacy groups and individuals who support closing the global gap in cochlear implant provision and ensuring lifelong support for cochlear implant users. CIICA has been involved in the development of *Living Guidelines* for CI in adults. This document is intended to help improve access to CI and services globally. The final recommendations are expected to be launched in June. A CIICA LIVE event is planned to show why and how to use the guidelines. Go to <https://cicanet.org/events/the-living-guidelines-impact-on-adult-ci-services-and-access/> for more information and registration.



Sue Archbold, Coordinator

Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events

June 29 - July 1, 2023 - HLAA Convention



Location: **New Orleans (Louisiana) USA**

Information: <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/hlaa-2023-convention/>

New Orleans is steeped in European traditions and Caribbean influences. This picturesque city offers the sweet sounds of jazz and the enchanting aroma of savory spices. This year's convention in the "Big Easy" promises to action packed with educational workshops, demo presentations, the exhibit hall, social events, and a Research Symposium. This year the Keynote Speaker at the General Session will be [Dr. K. Renee Horton](#).

* * * * *

September 18 - 19, 2023 - 2023 SDG Summit at the United Nations



Location: **New York (NY) USA**

Information: <https://www.un.org/en/coinferences/SDGSSummit2023>

The 2023 SDG Summit will be convened on 18-19 September 2023. Heads of State and Government will gather at the United Nations to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Summit will also bring together political and thought leaders from governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders in a series of high-level meetings with Heads of State and Government



General Assembly / PHOTO: UN Photo/Manuel Elias

News Bytes

News Bytes

WARNING: COCHLEAR IMPLANTS AND NASAL SPRAY FLU VACCINE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued an advisory that the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the nasal spray vaccine (brand name: FluMist Quadrivalent), should not be given to people with cochlear implants.



The CDC is the national public health agency of the United States. The agency's main goal is the protection of public health and safety through the control and prevention of disease, injury, and disability in the USA and worldwide. [READ MORE.](#)

AURACAST TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Auracast technology continues to get positive responses from experts.

At the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2023 in Barcelona, Spain, the Auracast technology was demonstrated in a practical manner for the very first time. Using the opportunity of the largest global trade show for the telecom and mobile industry, the Bluetooth SIG promoted the first public demonstration of what it will be like to experience [Auracast broadcast audio](#) in the real world. The Auracast experience took place 28 February 2023 and was an exclusive demonstration of some of the new audio use cases Auracast broadcast audio will enable, in collaboration with Nordic Semiconductor, Qualcomm, NXP Semiconductors, and Intel Corporation.



Auracast broadcast audio is a new Bluetooth capability that enables an audio source device - such as a smartphone, laptop, TV, or even a public address or sound system - to transmit Bluetooth audio to any number of in-range Bluetooth audio receivers - such as headphones, earbuds, or even hearing aids.

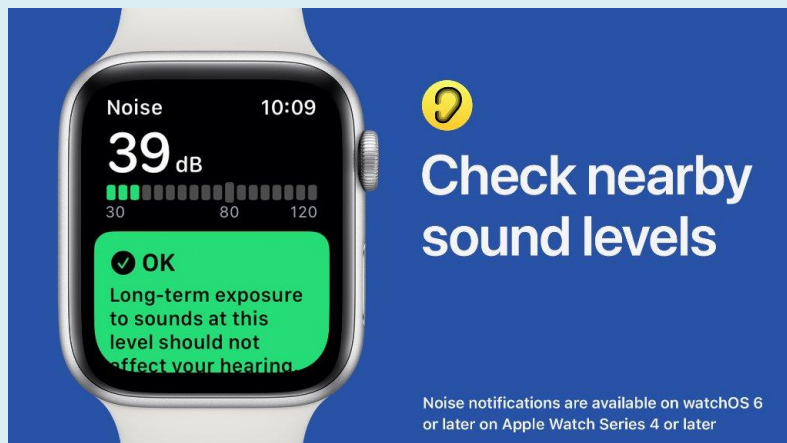
For more information: https://audioxpress.com/news/bluetooth-sig-promotes-first-ever-auracast-experience-at-mwc-2023-in-barcelona?fbclid=IwAR3hZGn_p96cXjXWd2gzZgZgxhJDaCjHyNQPoU86ildeuYwEw3xks9iwLdQ Source: Joas Martins, *Audio xpress* (Thanks to Rob Drullman for the link. Rob represents EHIMA on the IHAC committee of IFHOH.)

AUDÉO FIT HEARING AIDS

Phonak's Audéo Fit hearing aid is listed among *Time* magazine's best inventions for 2022. The device includes AI, fitness trackers, and streaming capability. The special innovation is that these aids contain what is described as "the first commercially available hearing aid with a heart-rate sensor." In addition, it is touted as able to track fitness data, such as steps, activity level, and distance walked, while also monitoring heart rate when paired with the *MyPhonak* app. It is further claimed that the Audéo Fit can pair up with up to eight Bluetooth devices, including smartphones and televisions. [READ MORE.](#)



APPLE WATCH MEASURING SOUND LEVELS



An ongoing study by Apple ([Michigan Public Health Apple Hearing Study](#)) has shared data was taken from the Apple Watch app which monitored the exposure to noise. The results of the study so far suggest that 1 out of 3 adults are being exposed to excessive noise levels. To read the full article: [Apple Hearing Study Finds Many Adults Are Exposed to Risky Levels of Noise - CNET](#)

Interested in monitoring and managing your own noise exposure? You can now either download the Noise app on your Apple watch or activate this option in the Apple Health app: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/noise/id1462215395>. Not an Apple user? There are Android features that you can explore.

LIVE TEXT ACCESS - THE NEXT STEPS

EFHOH organized a webinar to present new online training for speech to text interpreters, in the context of the Live Text Access project. Participants in the online training will gain practical information about certification, training, setting up training/examination centre and implementation of certification nationally. You can watch the recording at: <https://youtu.be/UoVL1DIOAAA>



RAYOVAC SHOWCASES SOUND FUSION TECHNOLOGY

RAYOVAC, a hearing aid battery manufacturer of Energizer, showcased its newest technology to USA delegates at the American Academy of Audiology's 2023 + Hear TECH Expo in April 2023. RAYOVAC launched its sound fusion technology in the market in 2022 in sizes 10, 13 and 312, reportedly with up to two-and-a-half days more battery life per pack. A final element has now updated size 675 batteries. According to the company, this performance improvement features up to 9% more battery life, 5 more hours of wireless streaming, and increased universal power. <https://hearingreview.com/hearing-products/rayovac-showcases-its-newest-sound-fusion-technology>

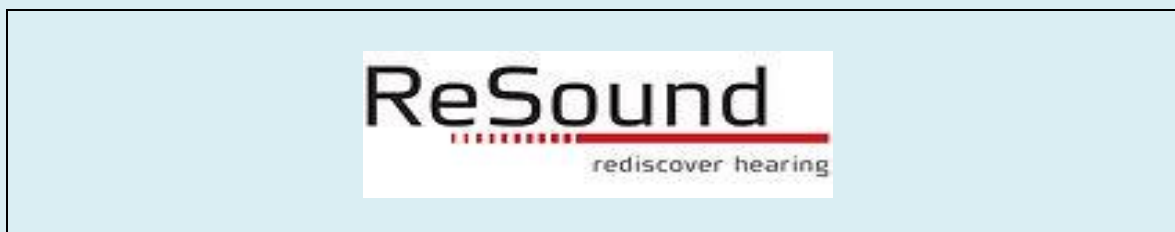


RAYOVAC, Sound Fusion Technology



Help us thank our sponsors by supporting them

This issue features ReSound!



ReSound constantly strives to develop better solutions that help people rediscover hearing so they can live rich, active, and fulfilling lives.

With roots that reach all the way back to 1943, ReSound has pioneered the hearing aid industry and delivered several hearing industry firsts. ReSound was the first to deliver 2.4GHz technology in hearing aids for direct connectivity and the world's first Made for iPhone® hearing aid with direct stereo sound streaming.

ReSound is represented in more than 80 countries around the world. Becoming an industry leader requires dedication, determination, and a desire to challenge the status quo. We strive to be experts in audiology and hearing solutions and combined with a strong focus in research and development, we empower you to hear more, do more and be more than you ever thought possible.

IFHOH BOARD MEMBERS



Avi Blau
President
(Israel)



Carole Willans
General Secretary
(Canada)



Juha Hietala
Treasurer
(Finland)



Akram Muhammad
APFHD President
(Pakistan)



Lidia Best
EFHOH President
(United Kingdom)



Mastulah Nalubwama
Board Member
(Uganda)

FOLLOW IFHOH!

Website: www.ifhoh.org | Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH |
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ifhoh

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is an international non-governmental organisation representing the interests of more than 300 million hard of hearing people worldwide. IFHOH is registered as a charitable organisation at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht Hamburg, Germany (Nr. 69 VR 10 527) and is also an International Non-Governmental Organisation having special consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). IFHOH is a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and works closely with the UN system using the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a tool for change.