

238MENA

Human Rights and Disability



STOCKHOLM COUNTY, SWEDEN, AUGUST 27 – SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

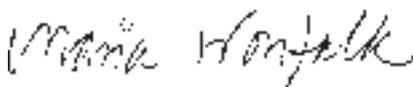
Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency responsible for the major part of Sweden's development cooperation. Focus on long-term knowledge and competence development constitutes a major feature in all development cooperations.

Sida offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development of cooperating countries based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the cooperating countries.

These programmes aim at enhancing managerial and technical skills and cover subjects of strategic importance to economic and social development. The Training Programmes are designed for experienced executives in middle and top management positions in their respective organisations.

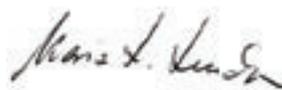
With the Training Programmes, Sida aim to contribute to processes of change and development in the participants' organisations and lines of businesses. The foundation of the entire programme is a project assignment. The assignment shall be well established in the participant's organisation and is a basic part of the programme concept.



Maria Norrfalk
Director General
Sida

An estimated ten per cent of the world's population is living with disabilities, and the majority in developing countries. Persons with disabilities are among the poorest of the poor. Poverty does not just mean lack of food, housing and income. It also means having no say in political, social and economic affairs and limited access to education and information.

Shia's general approach and experience can be summarized in three main areas of competence: capacity building and development of organizations of persons with disabilities, empowering persons with disabilities to speak for themselves and take control over their own lives and changing and developing the structure and attitudes of the society. We believe that the ITP programme Human Rights and Disability is one way of achieving this.



Maria Linder Lundgren
Chairperson
Shia

Programme Objectives

The long-term objectives of the programme are:

- To increase the knowledge and respect in society regarding human rights of persons with disabilities.
- To ensure that people with disabilities are given equal attention in development strategies and when allocating resources.

More specifically the programme aims at enhancing knowledge, develop methods and tools, and to provide a foundation for future networking and co-operation, in order for participants to:

- Work more effectively to ensure that policies and programmes for persons with disabilities are based on a Human Rights perspective.
- Strengthen and develop strategies in order to combat poverty among persons with disabilities.
- Influence development programmes to ensure that persons with disabilities are targeted in all international, national and local development efforts.

- Participate more effectively in networking and dialogue with international and national agencies, organisations and authorities regarding disability issues.
- Ensure improved quality of advocacy work within the participants' work field.
- Disseminate information on knowledge achieved to colleagues and other relevant actors.

Contents

The programme will include:

- An overview of the existing Human Rights instruments and the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Poverty Reduction Strategies and how disability aspects can be included. Discussions around poverty and human rights from a disability perspective.
- Exchange of experience of how persons with disabilities and their organisations can increase their participation in the development of policies.

- Introduction to Swedish disability policy, legislation and social services including study visits.
- Personal development according to the participants own needs analysis.
- Human Rights and HIV/AIDS.
- Gender and children with reference to persons with disabilities.

Programme Structure

Date and place

The seminar will be held at Almåsa Conference Centre 27th of August – 7th of September, 2007.

The premises are accessible to wheelchair users.

The programme is based on participatory methods, including group sessions, workshops, role-plays and discussions. Shorter inspiration lectures, and study visits are scheduled to give inspiration and ideas. The aim is to encourage contacts between the participants, thereby laying the foundation for future networking. The sessions will be adjusted to the needs of each participant. The participants

will act as resource persons and will contribute by giving short lectures based on personal experience and knowledge on specific issues.

The programme will include the introduction of the interactive webpage www.disabilitynet.net, as an arena for information sharing and networking. The participants will also learn how to use different web based communication tools.

The participants will be asked to make a daily evaluation with personal reflections so that improvements in the programme are made continuously during the course

Management and staff

The programme organiser is Shia – Swedish Organisations' of Disabled Persons International Aid Association. A number of persons from NGO:s, universities and authorities will participate as lecturers and resource persons during the course.

Participation

Target region:

Middle East/North Africa

Target Group:

The programme will target participants from the MENA region from regional or national DPO:s, government agencies and NGO:s working in the area of Human Rights and disability.

Requirements

As English will be the working language, applicants must have a good command of English.

Computer skills and access to a computer with internet connection in the home country is compulsory.

To improve the possibility to be selected, please state how the knowledge acquired will be used in the future work of the participant.

Persons who require assistance due to their disability will be able to bring a guide, a sign language interpreter or an assistant at the expense of the organiser. Any such requirement should be mentioned in the application.

Due to the character of the programme family members are not allowed to accompany participants to the programme.

Application Process

**Closing date for application is
March 30, 2007.**

Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered.

Application should be written on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and required information and documents.

An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her/his ability.

The Swedish Embassy/Consulate does not carry out language tests but may be able to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests.

When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country.

The application should be submitted to the nearest Swedish Embassy/Consulate. If there is no Swedish Embassy/Consulate in the applicant's country, the application should be submitted directly to Program Secretariat. Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or telefax. Once accepted, the applicant must confirm participation. An invitation letter will be sent out, containing additional information on the programme and the practical arrangements.

Cost of Participation

The cost of the programme is divided between a participation fee and accommodation cost. The participation fee covers all training cost such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities as well as accommodation costs include board and lodging. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover these costs.

International travel cost to and from Sweden will also be covered by Sida.

The participant carries costs incurred in travelling to the nearest international airport.

Personal expenses are not included.

Accommodation

The course will be held at Almåsa Conference Centre in Västerhaninge, which is located approximately 25 minutes from Stockholm. Almåsa conference centre has been chosen because of the demands we have on accessibility. Every participant will be accommodated in a single room, except those who require staying with a guide or an assistant.

Visa

Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary for their journey and stay during the training programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period of the programme and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. Inquires should be directed to respective Swedish Embassy/Consulate alternatively other Schengen representation as soon as possible after acceptance into the programme. Participants visiting other countries on their way to or from Sweden must ensure that correct visas are obtained before leaving home country, especially for countries not included in the Schengen agreement.

The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the participant.

For more information, this website offers Swedish visa information: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html>

Insurance

All participants are covered by a group insurance while in Sweden and on organised tours during the programme. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident. Medical and dental check-ups are not included.

Contact information

To contact the programme secretariat:

Shia

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Shia – Swedish Organisations' of Disabled Persons International Aid Association – is a non-governmental organisation with 27 members, comprising Swedish DPO:s actively concerned with international development co-operation. Our common aim is to strengthen the efforts of persons with disabilities to achieve equality and participation. We focus on strengthening of organisations of persons with disabilities, empowerment of individuals with disabilities and advocacy, networking and information sharing.

For further details please refer to www.shia.se or www.disabilitynet.net

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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