



Legal Seat – Helsinki, Finland

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

An International Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with ECOSOC, UNESCO, ILO, WHO and the Council of Europe

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President

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Distinguished Members of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform,

As an umbrella organisation of 131 member associations of deaf people all over the world, I would like to acknowledge support to our member organisation, Japanese Federation of the Deaf, in their work for developing two following laws: Access to Information & Communication Act and Sign Language Act, which are both very important for improving human rights of deaf people and also persons with disabilities.

As the Government of Japan has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in September 28, 2007 and will most probably ratify the Convention in the near future, we would like to stress the importance of the following CRPD articles: 2, 9, 21, 24 and 30 that should be taken into account when formulating and implementing above-mentioned upcoming acts. As you are certainly aware of, the CRPD states that representation of organisations of persons with disabilities is necessary when discussing matters that concern them. I am sure that representatives of the Japanese Federation of the Deaf are given good opportunities to participate in these important law developing processes together with their partner organisations within Japanese disability movement.

Furthermore, as a President of the World Federation of the Deaf, I wish to address this letter to show my support to the important work done by the Japanese Federation of the Deaf to promote the rights of deaf persons in Japan, but also their significant contribution at the regional and international levels.

May I wish to the participants of the meeting of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform (CDRP) success to develop these acts that truly improve the quality of life and human rights of Japanese deaf people and persons with disabilities.

Should you require any further information, we are happy to provide our expertise in sign language legislation and accessibility of deaf people from international perspective.

Sincerely yours,

Markku Jokinen
President
World Federation of the Deaf



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