



# Recent developments of the Asia-Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program (APSL Program)

Felix Sze, Laura Lesmana Wijaya, Brenda Yu, Aaron Wong

Centre for Sign Linguistics and Studies,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Acknowledgement



Acknowledgement



Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement

# Acknowledgements

In collaboration with:



World Federation of the Deaf,  
Regional Secretariat/Asia  
Pacific



Department of Linguistics,  
University of Indonesia, Indonesia



Indonesian Association for the Welfare of  
the Deaf



Department of Linguistics,  
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf



Department of Linguistics,  
University of Tokyo, Japan



Japanese Federation of the Deaf



Department of Linguistics,  
University of South Pacific, Fiji



Fiji Association for the Deaf

# Deaf Training in Sign Linguistics in Asia: Justifications

- To generate a school of Deaf professionals for sign language documentation research, sign language teaching, sign interpretation, deaf education...
- Native or fluent Deaf signers brought up in a Deaf environment:
  - Deaf culture
  - Linguistic competence of natural sign language
- Documentation of Asian sign languages is impossible without the support of Deaf researchers !!

# Vision for Asia

- Establish the discipline of Sign Linguistics at Asian universities committed to developing training in Sign Linguistics for Asian Deaf individuals
- To document Asian sign languages - linguistic preservation
- To use the training as a “Deaf” springboard to tertiary education --
  - Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research & Training Program “The APSL Program”

# Phase I (2003-2007)

- Objective
  - To implement basic Sign Linguistics training to Deaf people to support them in the documentation of their own sign languages
- Onsite Training in four countries:
  - Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Hong Kong
- Training Content
  - Lexical Structure (SL Morphology)
  - Formational Structure (SL phonology)
  - Grammatical Structure (SL Syntax)
  - Sociolinguistics (SL Society and Deaf Culture)
  - Sign Language Lexicography
  - Applied Linguistics (SL teaching, instructional materials design)

# Phase I (2003-2007)

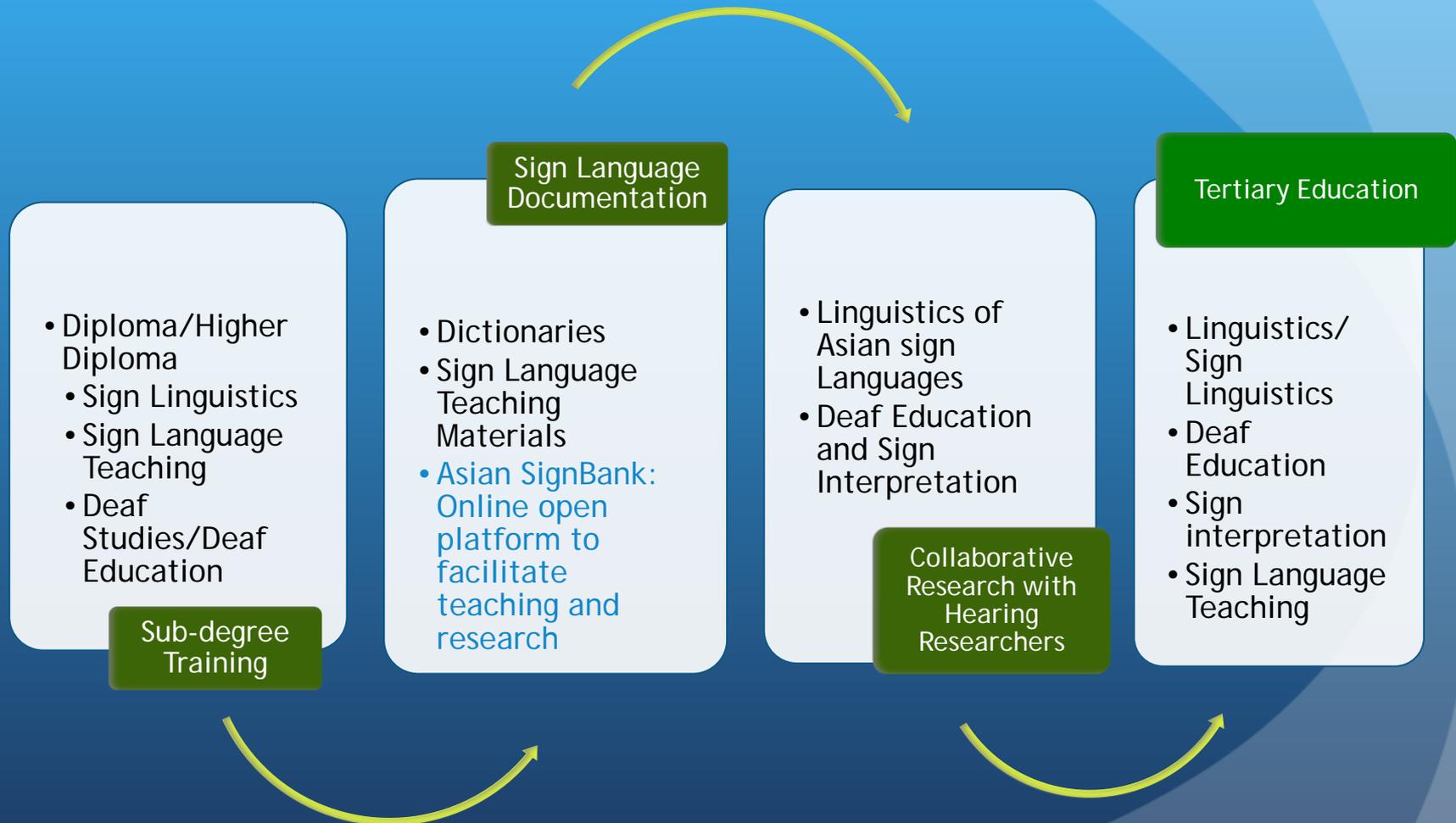
- Training leading to the production of sign language dictionaries and instructional sign language materials



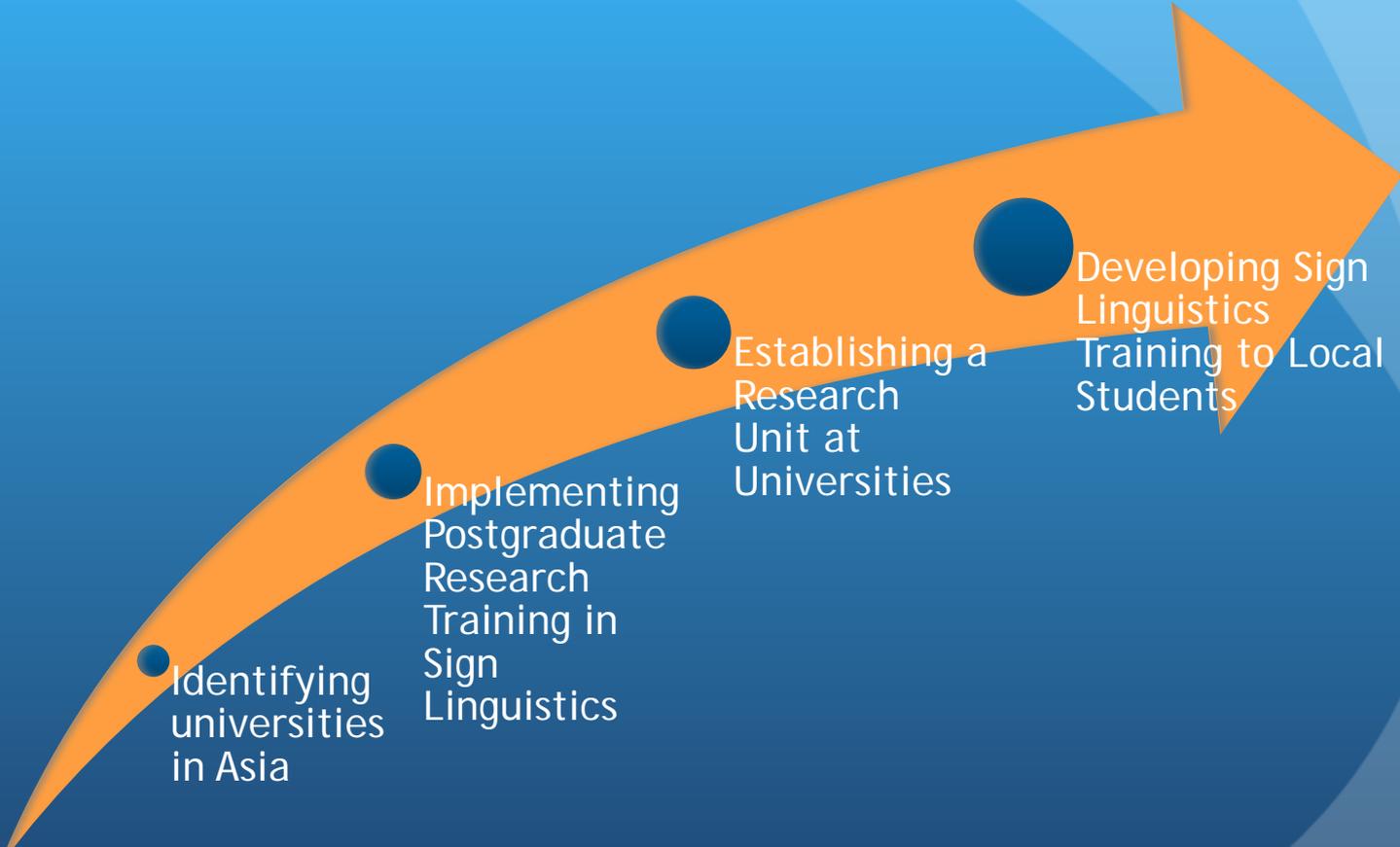
## Phase II & III (2006 - present)

- Selecting native or fluent Deaf signers to come to HK to receive in residence training at CUHK for 5 years
- Successful Deaf students graduate with a Higher Diploma in Sign Linguistics and Sign Language Teaching/Deaf Education

# The APSL Program: Long-term Strategies for Training Deaf Researchers



# The APSL Program: Strategies for University Collaboration in Asia



Identifying universities in Asia

Implementing Postgraduate Research Training in Sign Linguistics

Establishing a Research Unit at Universities

Developing Sign Linguistics Training to Local Students



# APSL Programs: Formal Training Programs (2+3 years) (2007-2013, 2010-2015)

- Diploma Program in Basic Sign Language Lexicography for the Deaf
- Diploma Program in English Literacy and IT Applications for the Deaf
- Diploma Program in Sign Language Studies for the Deaf
- Diploma Program in General Studies for the Deaf
- Diploma Program in English Literacy Skills for the Deaf
- Higher Diploma Program in Sign Linguistics and Sign Language Teaching

# APSL Training for Hearing Postgraduate Students

- MA in Linguistics (Sign Linguistics) at CUHK with scholarships
- University Collaboration (2007-present)
  - Department of Linguistics,  
University of Indonesia, Indonesia
  - Department of Linguistics,  
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
  - Department of Linguistics,  
University of Tokyo, Japan

2009



2014

# Deaf Training at CUHK

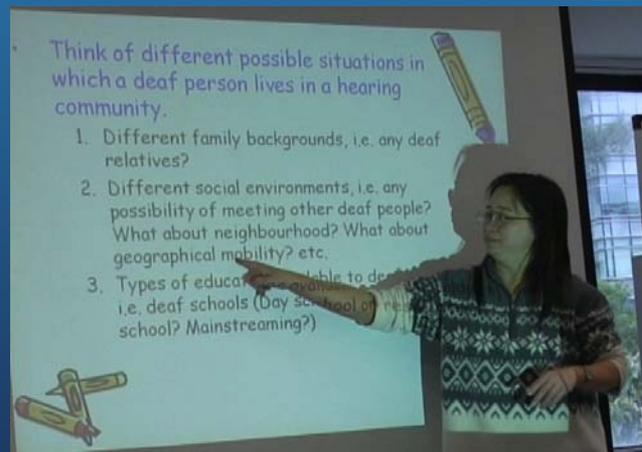


1<sup>st</sup> Cohort (2007-2012)  
Deaf trainees from  
Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Hong Kong



2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort (2010-2015)  
Deaf trainees from  
Fiji, Japan and Hong Kong

# Training in Sign Linguistics



# Training in Teaching Methodology



# Training in IT Application



# Training in English and General Education



# Training in Hong Kong Sign Language

- Qualified HKSL Deaf Instructor



# Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program

Compiling Sign Language Dictionary and teaching materials:

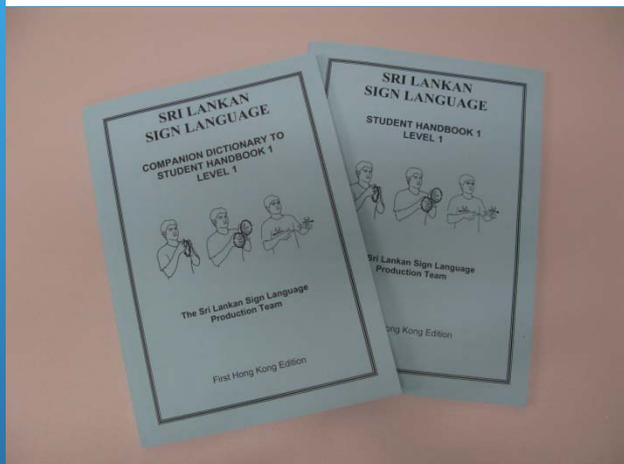


# Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program

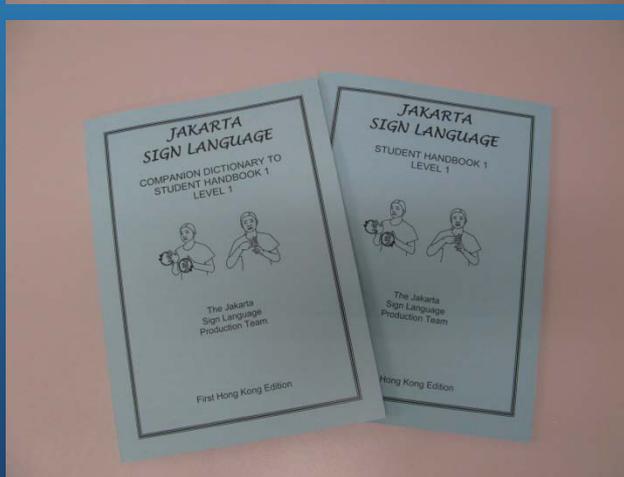
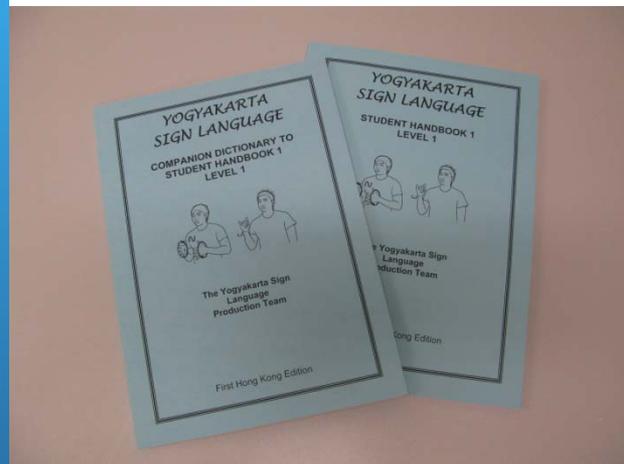


# Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program

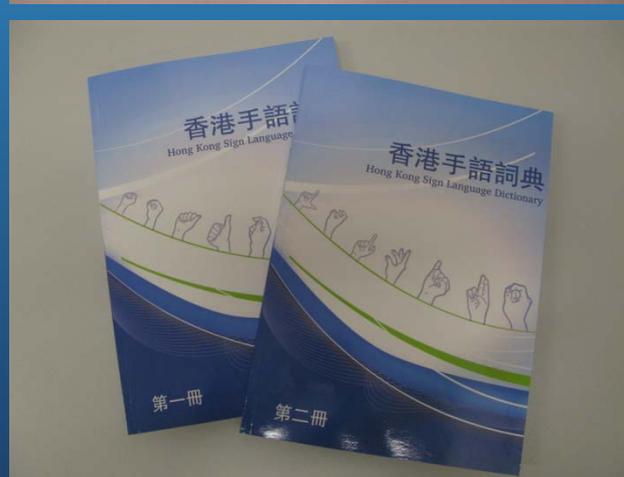
## Sri Lankan Sign Language



## Yogyakarta Sign Language



## Jakarta Sign Language



## Hong Kong Sign Language

# Presenting at conferences

languages (e.g. Hong Kong Sign  
previous presentation), lexical variants  
language fall into two major types  
and Valli 2001):

**ants:** Signs that denote the same  
share no formal characteristics in  
location, palm orientation or movement.

**ally related variants:** Signs that bear  
of resemblance in these four



New Ways of Analyzing Variation – Asia Pacific 2

## International Symposium on Signed and Spoken Linguistics



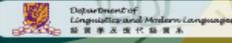
### Acknowledgement

- Special thanks to The Nippon Foundation for their generous support to the linguistic training of the three Deaf co-authors of this study (**Higher Diploma in Sign Linguistics and Sign Language Teaching**) under the research project "Asia-Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program" at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



11th Asia Pacific Congress on Deafness

# Asian SignBank



Department of  
Linguistics and Modern Languages  
語言學及現代語言系



日本 THE NIPPON  
財團 FOUNDATION

**HOME**  
Asian SignBank homepage

**SEARCH**  
Query the SignBank

**SIGN IN**  
Registered users only

**SEARCH**

**Search by SignBank ID**

Enter the SignBank ID you would like to search.  
You may input any part of an ID, e.g. 003\_a, and any Signs with ID containing that string will be displayed.

SignBank ID:

**Search by Gloss**

Enter the Gloss / phrase you would like to search.  
You may input in English or the native language corresponding to the country of the Sign.

Glosses:

**Search by Handshape**

Click the Handshape you would like to search.  
(The symbol next to each handshape is the Handkey, a written form of the handshape.)

**CONTENT**

**INDEX\_SEARCH**

Click on the following alphabets for quick search.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	T
O	P	Q	R	S	Z	
V	W	X	Y	Z		



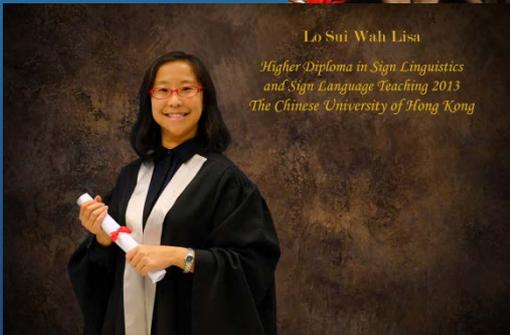
# Higher Diploma Graduates



Lo Chun Yi Connie  
Higher Diploma in Sign Linguistics  
and Sign Language Teaching 2013  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



# Diploma Graduates



Lo Sui Wah Lisa  
Higher Diploma in Sign Linguistics  
and Sign Language Teaching 2013  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



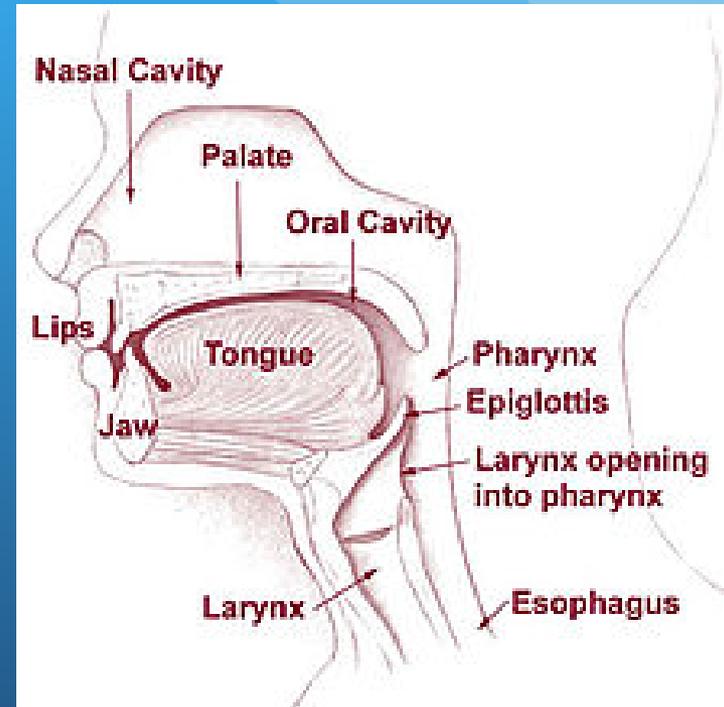
# Our Learning Experience

We learned basics of spoken and  
sign language  
phonology at the beginning?

**WHY?**

# Methods of speech articulation

Manner	Voiceless or Voiced	Bilabial	Labiodent	Interdenta	Alveolar	Alveopala	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	Voiceless	p			t			k	
	Voiced	b			d			g	
Affricates	Voiceless					ç			
	Voiced			θ		j			
Fricatives	Voiceless		f	ð	s	ʃ			h
	Voiced		v		z	ʒ			
Lateral	Voiced				l				
Nasals	Voiced	m			n			ŋ	
Glides	Voiced	w			r		y		



# Phonology in sign language

Fingers	-Thumb	-Thumb +Bent	-Thumb +Bent +Taper	xThum b	xThum b +Bent +Taper	+Thumb	+Thum b +Bent	+Thum b +Bent +Round	+Thum b +Bent +Round +Taper	+Thumb +Bent +Round +Contact	+Thumb +Bent +Round +Taper +Contact	+Thumb +Bent +Round +Contact +Insert
0	6 			7 		7 	9 					
0	9 											
1 Index	9 	15 	16 	17 		17 	18 	18 	20 	21 	21 	22 
1 Little	23 					24 						
2 Index Mid	25 		26 		26 				27 	27 		
2 Index Mid Spread	27 	29 				29 			30 			30 

- We learned that spoken language and sign language are both natural human languages. They are equal in status.
- Therefore, we should abandon misconceptions against sign languages. Deaf people should be proud of their own mother language.
- We also learned a lot of knowledge about sign language and Deafness. For example:

# Language

- Sign language grammar
- Language Analysis
- Language Acquisition
- Language in Society
- Sign Language Teaching, etc...
- English reading and writing
- English grammar

# Deafness

- Deaf Culture – importance of visual communication and use of space
- Deaf Identity
- Deaf Histories and Deaf Communities
- Deaf Art
- Social and Cognitive Development of Deaf Children etc...

# My Goals

- Share my knowledge and experience with other people
- Advocate for the Deaf Community in Hong Kong
- Research and analyze Hong Kong Sign Language
- Receive further tertiary education in Hong Kong

## For me...

- The most important course to learn in this APSL program is DEAF IDENTITY.
  - Why?
- I want to study Deaf Education in university in the future.
  - Why?

# Developments in Indonesia and Sri Lanka after Deaf and hearing trainees graduated from the APSL program

Graduates of APSL

# “Indonesian graduates”



The representative from IAWD with UI and CUHK presenting about the APSL and our collaboration program

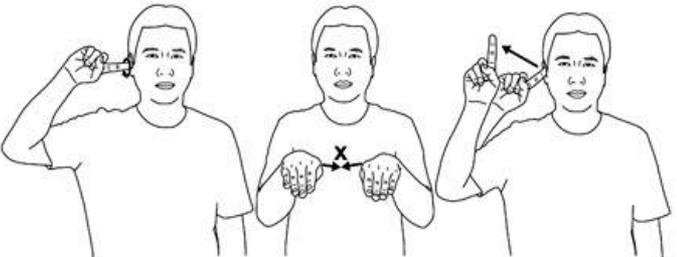


The second National Workshop in Bali,  
Indonesia.



“IAWD, UI, and Kentalis discussed about the collaboration in Deaf Education in the future”

# International week of the Deaf 2013



**TULI      SAMA      NORMAL**

**"KESETARAAN UNTUK ORANG TULI"**  
**EQUALITY FOR DEAF PEOPLE**

**HARI TULI SE-DUNIA**  
**INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF**

**SEPTEMBER 2013**




**World Federation of the Deaf**      **Gerakan untuk Kesejahteraan Tuna Rungu Indonesia**

**"KESETARAAN UNTUK ORANG TULI"**  
**'Equality for Deaf People'**

**Kami MAU meraih kesetaraan dalam bidang:**

- PEKERJAAN**  
**EMPLOYEE**
- PENDIDIKAN**  
**EDUCATION**
- AKSESIBILITAS**  
**ACCESSIBILITY**

**KETIGANYA DAPAT DIRAIH JIKA BAHASA KAMI, BAHASA ISYARAT INDONESIA, DIAKUI SEBAGAI BAHASA YANG SETARA DENGAN BAHASA INDONESIA! KAMI PUNYA HAK DAN KAMI CINTA BISINDO! YOU AND I ARE THE SAME!**

Made 50 t-shirt with this message: "We want to reach our equality in employment, education, and accessibility. Those three could be reached if our language, Indonesian Sign Languages, are recognised as an equal as Indonesian Language! We have our rights and we love Indonesian Sign Languages. You and I are the same." .



# February 2014: IAWD's 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday

**Undangan**

MEMPERINGATI HARI DISABILITAS INTERNASIONAL & HUT GERKATIN KE 33

**HORMATI  
HAK KAMI  
BERKOMUNIKASI**

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

**Merayakan Keberagaman: Hormati Hak-Hak Tuna Rungu  
Biarkan kami berkomunikasi dengan cara kami**

**22 / FEBRUARI  
2014**  
SABU - SPN

**Ruang Graha Utama Lt. 3  
Gedung A, Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan,  
Senayan**

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/02/23/deaf-community-s-demands-go-unheard.html>





# DISABILITY RIGHTS FUND

One year project:

- Establish more deaf associations in 6 provinces.
- Strengthen and implement deaf rights based on UNCRPD.

- Disabled Persons Organizations grantees on the Disability Rights Fund meeting



### HAK TULI DALAM CRPD

**Pasal 2**  
"Komunikasi" mencakup bahasa, layanan teks, braille, komunikasi tanda tulis, cetak besar, multimedia yang dapat diakses maupun bentuk-bentuk tertulis, audio, pita-kaset, pembaca layar, dan bentuk-bentuk sarana dan format komunikasi augmentatif maupun alternatif lainnya, termasuk informasi dan teknologi komunikasi yang dapat diakses. "Bahasa" mencakup bahasa lisan dan bahasa isyarat serta bentuk-bentuk non lisan yang lain.

**Pasal 20.e**  
Memfasilitasi bentuk-bentuk bantuan langsung dan perantara, termasuk penerjemah, pembaca dan penerjemah bahasa isyarat profesional, untuk memfasilitasi aksesibilitas terhadap kegiatan dan fasilitas lain yang terbuka untuk publik.

Memfasilitasi pelatihan bahasa isyarat dan pemajuan identitas linguistik dari komunitas tuli.

**Pasal 21.e.**  
Mengikuti dan memajukan pelatihan bahasa isyarat.

**Pasal 30.c.**  
Memfasilitasi akses terhadap program televisi, film, teater dan kebudayaan lain yang mudah diakses.

Untuk menjamin pemenuhan hak tersebut, negara-negara pihak harus mengambil tindakan-kelompok yang sesuai untuk memfasilitasi guru-guru, termasuk guru dengan disabilitas, yang memiliki kualifikasi dalam bahasa isyarat nasional Braille, dan untuk melatih para profesional lain yang bekerja dalam berbagai lingkungan pendidikan, pelatihan dan pengembangan keprofesionalan mengenai disabilitas dan penggunaan bentuk-bentuk sarana dan format komunikasi tulis, termasuk bentuk-bentuk yang bersifat augmentatif dan alternatif guna untuk mendukung penyandang disabilitas.

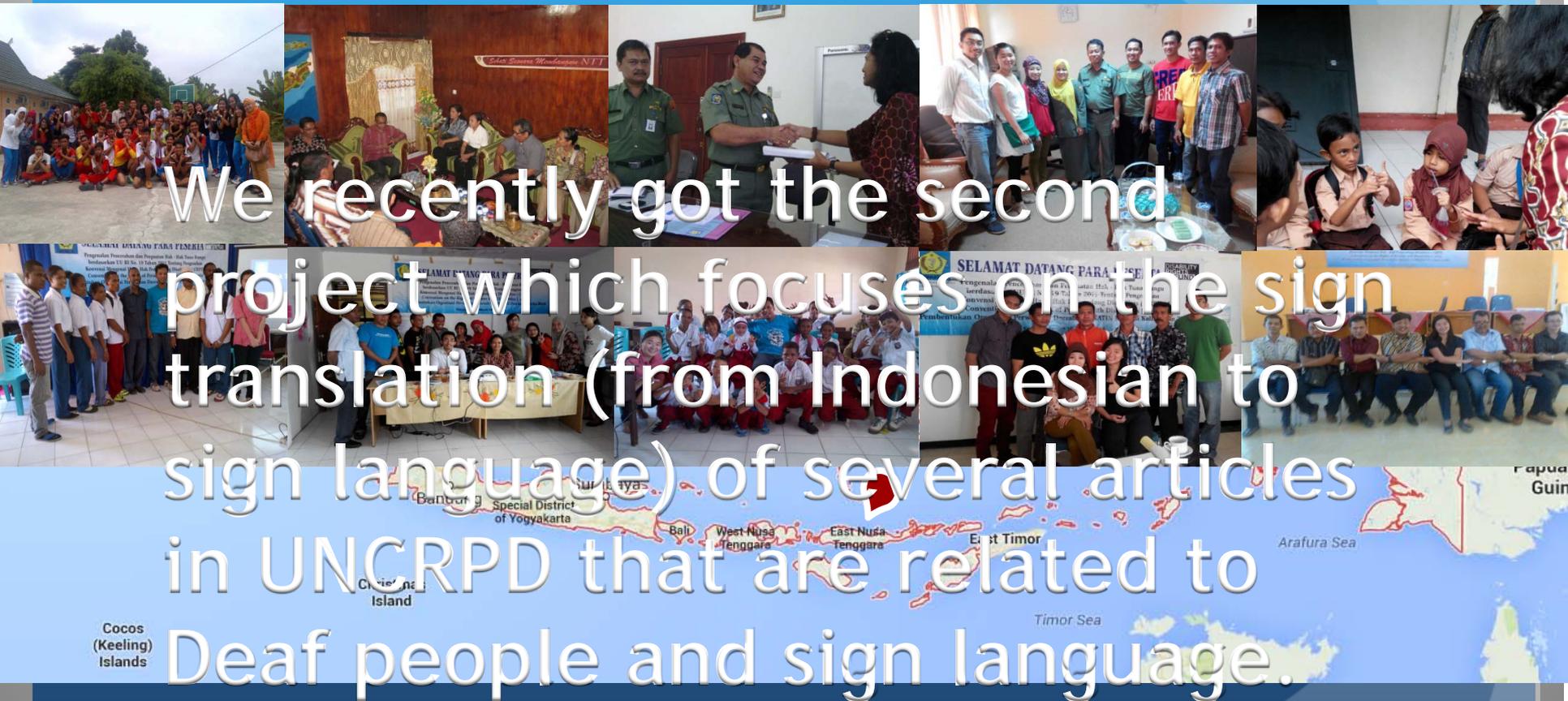


# DISABILITY RIGHTS FUND

One year project:

- Establish more deaf associations in 6 provinces.
- Strengthen and implement deaf rights based on UNCRPD.

41





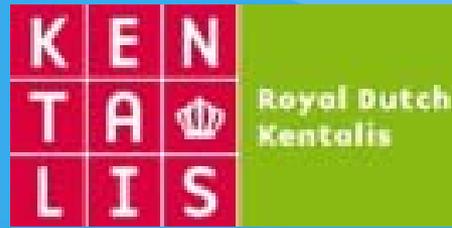
International  
Labour  
Organization



- Making video diary with other disabled persons to show what our problems in jobs and accessibility are. We worked with International Labour Organization (ILO) and Kampung Halaman Foundation.

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWBXpA\\_P0p8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWBXpA_P0p8&feature=youtu.be)),

(<http://www.beritasatu.com/nusantara/153881-ketika-penyandang-disabilitas-angkat-bicara-via-video.html>)



Held  
each  
year

PSIBK (Centre for Studies of Persons with Special needs)  
invited us to present about:

- Deaf history in Indonesia, Deaf studies, and the difference between spoken language and sign language.





**LBH JAKARTA**  
Jakarta Legal Aid Institute



Australia Indonesia  
Partnership for Justice



- Representative of IAWD discussed about the drafting of RUU (Law for disabilities) with other DPOs.
- Added "description about natural sign language (Bahasa Isyarat di Indonesia)" onto the draft of Articles of Law.

Joined **PARALEGAL** training for disabled persons. Collaborated with Department of Court and Ministry of Justice and Law.



# Forum: Code of ethics for sign language interpreters



# Sign language interpreter on TV 'Election for new president 2014-2019'



# One-month sign language teacher training (10 deaf participants)



At the University of Indonesia, we presented about :

- Deaf history in Indonesia and other parts of the world,
- The differences and similarities between spoken and sign languages, and
- sign bilingualism.



# Weekly activity

- Sign Language promotion and Sign language teaching

<http://news.detik.com/readfoto/2014/04/13/130046/2553589/157/3/sosialisasi-bahasa-isyarat-tuna-rungu>

<http://www.tempo.co/read/beritafoto/15735/Bahasa-Isyarat-Ramaikan-Bundaran-HI/6>

<http://www.rmol.co/read/2014/04/13/151038/Permudah-Komunikasi,-Tuna-Rungu-Ajari-Masyarakat-Bahasa-Isyarat->

<http://www.aktual.co/lensaaktual/093043belajar-bahasa-isyarat-indonesia/3>

<http://www.antarafoto.com/peristiwa/v1397381201/bahasa-isyarat-indonesia>

<http://www.antarafoto.com/peristiwa/v1397381134/bahasa-isyarat-indonesia>

<http://www.antarafoto.com/peristiwa/v1397381101/bahasa-isyarat-indonesia>

<http://foto.metrotvnews.com/view/2014/04/13/229995/pengenalan-bahasa-isyarat-kepada-masyarakat>

<http://www.koran-sindo.com/node/381855>

<http://beritadaerah.com/2014/04/14/belajar-bahasa-isyarat-indonesia-bisindo-di-kawasan-bundaran-hi-jakarta/>

- Designing a lesson plan together with the ten trainees for SL teaching in September
- Planning and preparing a proposal for Deaf youth in Indonesia.

# Monthly activity

Collaborate with Jakarta Barrier Free Tourism  
(for advocating disabled needs on the roads in  
Jakarta)





- Deaf association
- Education for the deaf
- Collaboration with the Government

# Deaf association

- International Day of the Deaf
  - “deaf potential”



- Presentation in Deaf associations in Sri Lanka
  - Giving speech about peace in Sri Lanka to 40 deaf persons from North Sri Lanka



One of them presented about Deaf Culture and the role of sign language interpreter for trainers in a training supported by NIE (National Institute of Education) and the members of Association of the Deaf in Gampaha.





- March for driver license

- WS: Legal Framework Approach( LFA) (2015-2017)



- Modifications of the sign language CD prepared by the President of Sumaga Ruhunu Centre of the Deaf, Matara

- Workshop on Human Rights and Rights for the Vocational Training



"Connect with us to Ahanna (listen) nirvana dhamma!"  "Ahanna (listen)" Proudly selected "Sumaga Ruhunu Deaf Organization" for Southern Province as their first Deaf Organization in Sri Lanka to spread nirvana dhamma!

- a Buddhist Program on "Ahanna"

- Deaf School in Rathmalana
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> APSL students visited and shared their experiences



# Deaf woman section

1. TOT octagon analysis



2. Till collection (fund raising collection)



# Education for the deaf

- Teaching SL deaf children who do not attend school.



- Teaching SLSL to parents of deaf children in a deaf school (Kurunegala) and raising parents' awareness towards the needs of their deaf children.



- Participated in the seminar on learning and teaching methodology for the Deaf children by the Ministry of Education and NIE



- Training of Trainers for Sign language Trainers of CFD



# Collaboration with the Immigration

- How to obtain a passport for deaf person
  - (<http://www.immigration.gov.lk/web/index.php?lang=en>)



# Collaboration with the Ministry of Education

- Website on Sinhalese word learning for primary school children in Sri Lanka
- Our 4 APSL trainees serving as sign language model for demonstrating the natural signs.
- E-Thaksalawa “Educational program conduct by the Ministry of Education”  
(<http://www.e-thaksalawa.moe.gov.lk/web/>)

- Interview at Department of Social Services
  - Our APSL graduate serving as the interviewer and examiner on sign language trainers and interpreters



# Thank you!

