



# Institute on Disability and Public Policy

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 3 APRIL 2011

## **ASEAN Institute on Disability and Public Policy Launched in Bangkok**

BANGKOK, 3 April 2011 - The ASEAN Institute on Disability and Public Policy ([ASEAN IDPP](#)) will be formally established on 4 April 2011 in support of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' vision of a Socio-Cultural Community and a Southeast Asia where "its mountains, rivers and seas no longer divide us, but link us together." "I have been encouraging and supporting this idea since its inception," said Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of ASEAN. The Signing Ceremony to launch the institute will be held on 4 April 2011 at the Salaya Campus of Mahidol University in Bangkok.

Developing the IDPP was a dream of Mr. Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, and supported by its chairman, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa. "The IDPP can serve as a regional resource to governments and society in fostering public policies that enable persons with disabilities to compete on par with their non-disabled peers," says Mr. Ohno. The development of the IDPP has been guided by a Core Team and advised by a broader group Mr. Ohno calls the "Dream Team."

The IDPP is being launched in collaboration with Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand; the Lee Kuan Yew (LKY) School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore; the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC; and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. The IDPP is supported by the Center for Research on Collaboratories and Technology Enhanced Learning Communities (COTELCO) at American University and Syracuse University; the Asia Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) in Bangkok; and the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI).

The IDPP is the world's first virtual graduate institute focused on the complex intersection of disability and public policy. It will provide unparalleled opportunities for advanced studies in these areas, executive education, outreach and collaborative research for students, faculty and staff with and without disabilities from the ASEAN region and around the world.

"Our vision is to build a network of outstanding universities from all ten ASEAN countries which uses accessible cyberlearning approaches to enable students with mobility, visual and auditory impairments to become leaders in the public, private and NGO sectors," states Dr. Derrick L. Cogburn, Dean and Executive Director of the IDPP. "Fifteen students per year from the ASEAN region in these three categories will be awarded full fellowships to study in the IDPP," says Dr. Jim DeCaro, Dean Emeritus of NTID.

The IDPP will offer a Master's of International Affairs in Comparative and International Disability Policy. The institute brings together an international faculty of experts to prepare future leaders in disability and public policy. All courses and seminars offered by the ASEAN IDPP will be taught in English. Mahidol University and APCD will host a two-week residency from 18-29 July 2011 for all incoming degree candidates. The IDPP will begin accepting applications from its Web site on 9 May 2011 with a deadline of 31 May for the 2011-2012 academic year.

For more information, please visit <http://aseanidpp.org/> or contact Ms. Kessaree Wuttisakchaikul at [opkwt@mahidol.ac.th](mailto:opkwt@mahidol.ac.th) or +66(0)2-849-6208; Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn at [kavi@nationgroup.com](mailto:kavi@nationgroup.com); or Dr. Derrick L. Cogburn at [dcogburn@aseanidpp.org](mailto:dcogburn@aseanidpp.org).

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