



Advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities worldwide

September 4, 2009

Mr. David Morrissey
Executive Director
United States International Council on Disabilities
1710 Rhode Island Avenue NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Morrissey,

This letter is to confirm Rehabilitation International's (RI) support for your joint project with the University of Iowa's Wider Net project to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in developing countries by using off-line digital libraries to deliver information and educational materials to Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs), decision makers, individual advocates, health care institutions, and other organizations and agencies that serve disabled people and that lack adequate internet access.

RI is a diverse global network of experts, professionals and advocates, working to empower persons with disabilities and provide sustainable solutions for a more inclusive and accessible society. Founded in 1922, RI has been a key player in the disability field and developed the International Symbol of Access – which has now become the most widely recognized symbol for disability worldwide. RI currently has more than 1,000 members and affiliates organizations in about 100 nations, in all regions of the world. This project coincides with RI's mission and can directly contribute to RI's current Global Advocacy Campaign to promote disability rights and effective implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by helping to raise awareness and ensure distribution of information about the Convention and disability rights.

As a global network, for this project, RI can act as a bridge to the global disability community by facilitating access to its international members, a majority of which are located in developing countries. In addition, RI is interested in participating on the project's advisory board, to provide support, guidance and further the mission of both of our organizations.

We look forward to collaborating on this project.

Sincerely,

Venus Ilagan
Secretary General, RI