

WORKABILITY ASIA



Collaborate to create jobs for PwDs



Empowering Innovation And Celebrating Grassroots Solutions

When discussing assistive solutions for persons with disabilities, we often tend to think of high-tech options. However, in daily life, individuals with disabilities may employ many low-tech or even self-invented solutions to overcome barriers and enhance productivity.

Around the world, people with disabilities (PWDs) and their support networks continually develop new solutions to promote accessibility and inclusion. This solution-centric mindset in the disability sector holds the potential to empower persons with disabilities on a larger scale.

Enter Discovery Awards, with its innovative concept of hosting a competition for assistive solution videos. Our aim is to create a global community uniting 1 billion persons with disabilities and stakeholders, all appreciating the value of solutions in the lives of people with disabilities. Through this competition, Team Discovery Awards seeks to crowdsource assistive solutions that uplift persons with disabilities and foster productivity, including economic empowerment. Embracing the belief that 'everyone is an innovator,' this solution-centric approach holds the key to scaling up the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Following the "one country, one partner" model, we are seeking various country partners to carry forward this program in their respective nations.

Discovery Awards is an international platform that recognizes and showcases the stories of grassroots innovators worldwide!

The idea originated from Project Discovery in India, an initiative to collect, catalogue, and disseminate assistive solutions nationwide. Recognizing the value it places on grassroots creators, the international community joined the movement. In 2022, Zero Project, an organization working towards zero barriers worldwide, endorsed Discovery Awards. Starting from the Zero Project conference in Vienna in 2023, two grassroots innovators attended the event to present their solutions and receive awards.

Following the "one country, one partner" model, we are seeking various country partners to carry forward this program in their respective nations. During 2022-2023, 10 countries signed up for Discovery Awards. This year, 25 countries have already joined this impactful movement. Discovery Awards has garnered recognition worldwide for celebrating grassroots innovators whose solutions have the potential to positively impact a large number of people with disabilities. If you wish to sign up as a country partner, we encourage you to get in touch with the Discovery Awards Team.

A big thanks to our partners:

- Billion Strong
- Open Inclusion
- Enableme
- Google

EnAble India,
Sayomdeb Mukherjee,
Senior Manager

A Unique Partnership for Training and Employment

The WORTH Trust in Vellore is an organization dedicated to the rehabilitation, education, training, employment, and empowerment of differently-abled individuals. The Rehabilitation Institute at Christian Medical College (CMC) was founded by Dr. Mary Verghese, a wheelchair user due to spinal cord injury, and offers comprehensive rehabilitation for persons with spinal cord injuries and other severe disabilities. Beyond medical care, they focus on social and vocational opportunities to transform individuals into dynamic and resourceful members of the community.

Two success stories at WORTH Trust, Samu and Sakthivel, showcase the positive impact of this unique partnership in empowering individuals with SCI to lead meaningful lives through gainful employment.

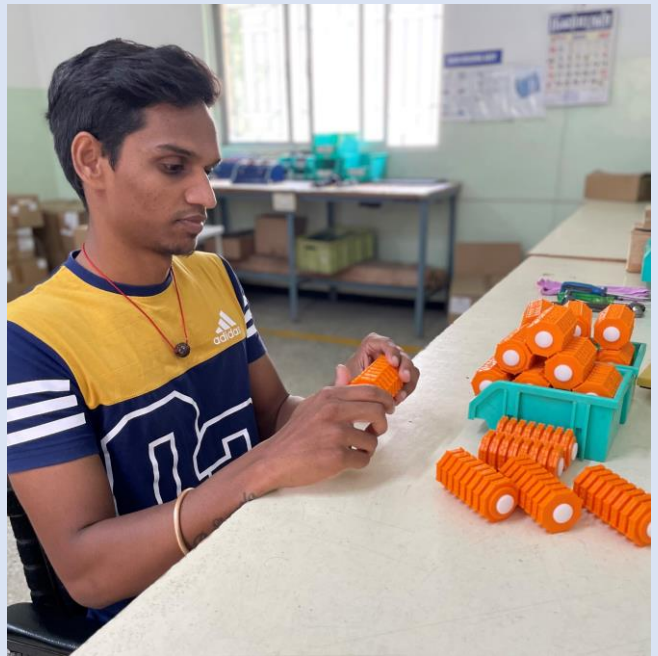
Samu was diagnosed with Meningiomas during childhood and underwent multiple surgeries leading to the loss of sensation in his spinal cord. In 2009, he began rehabilitation at Christian Medical College & Hospital (CMC) Vellore. Trained for independence by the Infection Control Committee, Samu spent three months in rehabilitation in 2015.



Thanks to the support of social workers Mr. Ilango, Dr. Guru, and Mr. Magesh from CMC Rehab, Samu gained confidence and received training in tailoring at the Mary Verghese Trust. He worked at various places like Myntra, a clothing store in Tiruvannamalai, and PVR Cinemas in Vellore. In 2022, Dr. Guru, Mr. Magesh, and Mr. Kevin introduced Samu to WORTH Trust.

Since joining WORTH Brailers in June 2022, Samu works as a technician, assembling Perkins Brailers and White Canes. Today, he looks forward to a bright future for the organization and its efforts to provide training and employment opportunities for more persons with SCI individuals and persons with other disability.

Sakthivel, born in Palluthur Village, K. V. Kuppam, Vellore District, completed his ITI Electronic Trade in 2013. An accident in 2014 left him with a Spinal Cord Injury, making him dependent on his family and friends. Undergoing treatment at CMC Rehab, he found support from Dr. Guru and Mr. Magesh, who encouraged his independence and passion for sports.



He participated in and received medals and trophies at the state level in basketball, cricket, badminton and wheelchair marathon. This amped up his confidence to pursue opportunities to get employed.

Worth Trust,
Nunes Ignatius Myke,
Senior Manager – Operations.

From the Secretariat Team

- The Board Meeting was held via Zoom application on May 09, 2023, with the attendance of the Chairperson, 3 Advisors, 5 Board Members, 2 from the secretariat team and 2 observers.
- Mr. Dipesh apprised the Board about his visit to Bangladesh along with Ms. Nayantara and Mr. Sarbajit Ghose, a trustee on the Boards of EnAble India who also runs a business in Bangladesh in connection with the arrangements for the Workability Asia conference.
- Mr. Dulal updated the Board on the following developments and the status of the Workability Asia Conference. He also insisted the Secretariat on updating the website with all the necessary information and images up to date and assured that all necessary information from his end would be shared soon.
- The Chair proposed September 11, 2023, for the Board Meeting and September 13, 2023 for AGM.
- Ms. Nayantara made a brief presentation on the financial analysis of the trend of fund movement for the last four years.

From the Secretariat Team

- Mr. Hiroshi Ueno suggested that if multiple visits are required by the Secretariat for work connected with Workability Asia and the conference, the expenditure incurred is to be included and accounted for from the budget of Workability Asia.
- Mr. Sherlo suggested work be done on bringing more sources of funds for the organization
- Ms. Deborah Wan suggested the chair to decide on the country to host the next Workability Asia conference in 2024 so that it can be announced in the upcoming AGM and would be easier for the host country to invite the delegates at the upcoming conference for which Mr. Hiroshi recommended to host in Philippines.
- Mr. Suporntum invited the Chairperson, Mr. Dipesh to attend the next board meeting of Workability International happening on May 21, 2023

Get featured in the next newsletter!

Workability Asia Newsletter would like to invite you to :

- Share your relevant information, knowledge, or experiences with WorkAbility Asia members and our network.
- Send your articles (1-2 pages) with some photos.
- Send your stories to WorkAbility Asia Secretariat Team at secretarygeneral@workabilityasia.org to be part of the next newsletter

The deadline for the next submission date is 31.08.2023

so hurry up!