

# IASSIDD

## 2017

### 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Congress

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The 2017 IASSIDD 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Congress was held this November, over four days in the spectacular setting of Bangkok Thailand. The congress included a rich and full program, with an exciting range of keynotes and speakers from the Asia Pacific region and beyond. This year's congress theme focussed on "inclusiveness and sustainable development" and struck a balance across the program of presentations, posters and workshops.

Some of us were able to participate in a site visit, these were an opportunity to visit some local services for people with intellectual disability. I was fortunate to visit the Rajanukul Institute, which is a health and mental health service for people with disability, the governmental agency under the Department of Mental Health, while other delegates visited the Sataban Saengsawang Foundation and Chulalongkorn University Demonstration school.

Plenary sessions were a feature of the program and were represented by quality presentations from academics, practitioners, and self-advocates. These included presentations on the role of implementation science in the professional development of supporters of people with disabilities (Michael Arthur-Kelly), advances in medicine (Vorasuk Shotelersuk), and mental health supports for people with disability in Asian countries (Henry Kwok and team). With such a comprehensive program and so much choice, it's

impossible to capture its entirety in a brief report. Some personal highlights were attending presentations on the use of mindfulness-based positive behaviour support, attitudes towards people with ID across Asia, models of support for challenging behaviour being applied in different countries, decision making support and rights of people with ID in the context of the UNCRPD. There was also a good representation of content on mental health and ASD,

families and siblings, inclusive education, successful employment, and health care.

It was great to see a good representation from Australia, and always a highlight to reconnect with colleagues, as well as meet new ones from local and faraway destinations, fostering the energies and collaborations that underpin much of our work. As an overall experience, the congress served its mission well, that is, it was an opportunity to refresh knowledge, exchange information and hear about the

range of approaches people being used currently around the world in the support of people with ID and the evidence behind these. I congratulate the organisers on putting together an event of such scale, one which I know already has us thinking about ways we can put learnings into practice for achieving better outcomes in the support of people with intellectual disability. Further details about the congress, including access to the program book, see [www.iassidd.org](http://www.iassidd.org) ●

