Why Universal Literacy matters for Children and Young Adults with Specific Needs?

Hiroshi Kawamura
Assistive Technology Development Organization, Japan
hkawa@atdo.jp
Introduction

• Reading Disabilities are **not always medically defined**

• **From new born till 6 years old** is believed to be the most critical period for the visual function for reading printed materials

• Visual function for reading = **Eye function + Brain function**

• Reading materials are happened to be printed on paper after **Gutenberg Revolution**

• Librarians must think of reading in **alternative format**
  
  ➢ a best library user may not read text fluently: **Jack Horner**
Dyslexic Advantage - Dinosaur Hunter Jack Horner
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

• Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may become “Open Sesame” for librarians: magical phrase till 2030

• Join the global alliance for SDGs which will best benefit from promotion of literacy to support critical thinking to solve the problem

• Libraries and librarians are actually already involved in the global alliance to tackle SDGs but not well aware of it
Leaving no one behind

- Easy to say but **extremely difficult to act** for libraries
- Awareness on **needs** and **seeds**
- Reading materials in alternative formats
- Skills and technologies to serve the client
- International measures to **share resources**
After an earthquake don't wait for the tsunami to come before seeking higher ground.
Role play performance presented by stakeholders in Urakawa Town in Japan including representatives of community autonomous groups, the Town Authority and the Bethel’s House consisting of 150 residents with severe psycho-social disabilities who turned out as the first evacuees on 11th March 2011. The Urakawa Town was attacked by 2.8 meters tsunami and lost 3 million US dollars properties but there was no human casualties. It is believed that regular tsunami evacuation drills conducted by the Bethel’s House and other stakeholders in the town was effective which was supported by an accessible and easy to understand manual developed by an international research and development team including autism community in Japan and US, W3C SMIL working Group, DAISY Consortium and NRCD Research Institute.
I. Values and Principles

II. Realizing the Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond

III. Follow up of the Outcome Document of the HLM

United Nations development agenda.

II. Realizing the Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond

4. We underline the need for urgent action by all relevant stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability inclusive national development strategies and efforts with disability targeted actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support, and resolve to undertake the following...
Accessible Broadcasting and video: Accessibility profiles for IPTV systems: ITU-T H.702
New braille slates for positive braille
WIPO Marrakesh Treaty and ABC

• Copyright should not prevent rights of access to knowledge: CRPD Article 30

• Harmonization of copyrights and rights of access

• ABC for implementation of Marrakesh Treaty

• Ratification of the Treaty

• Participation in ABC activities
Accessible Books Consortium

• Global Book Service
• Accessible Publishing
• Capacity Building
• Websites offering accessible books
Conclusion

• Global Book Service
• Accessible Publishing
• Capacity Building
• Websites offering accessible books
Demonstrations of Accessible Multimedia

- Introductory video for HLMDD outcome documents in accessible multimedia
- Bethels House Tsunami Evacuation Manual