Practical issues and challenges faced by people with disabilities in the ESCAP region in accessing and using new ICTS

Opening remarks, Expert Meeting on Disability-inclusive Technology and Innovation, 30th August 2018, UNESCAP and INIT, Bangkok

Tim Unwin

Images by Tim Unwin unless otherwise stated

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Technologies are making the world more unequal


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And people with disabilities are amongst the most marginalised
Unless all technologies are **accessible** to all, they will increase inequality.

Although specific **assistive** technologies can also help empower those with particular disabilities.

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Aims of this expert meeting

• To turn rhetoric into reality
• Three key questions for Asia and the Pacific
  – Practical issues and challenges?
  – Policies that can help solve them?
  – Promoting policy action?
• Above all focusing on what we will all do next
  – Each person taking away two clear action points
• Building on a series of previous workshops

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Modalities: co-creating mind-maps for each issue

Hardware/Software that participants recommend

- Apple is great - iPhone and Macs - long history of usability - buntline voice over features, magnification and zoom, inversion of colour
- Universal categories like Apple
- Then specific software for blind access materials
  - Braille notetaker
  - Accessibility for reading material for those who are print-handicapped
  - Reading machines
  - Cellphones are very good for this
  - Apps
- Accessibility for reading material for those who are print-handicapped
- Hearing impaired
  - Apple is great - iPhone and Macs - long history of usability - buntline voice over features, magnification and zoom, inversion of colour
  - Universal categories like Apple
  - Then specific software for blind access materials
  - Braille notetaker
  - Accessibility for reading material for those who are print-handicapped
  - Reading machines
  - Cellphones are very good for this
  - Apps
- Blind
  - Then specific software for blind access materials
  - Braille notetaker
  - Accessibility for reading material for those who are print-handicapped
  - Reading machines
  - Cellphones are very good for this
  - Apps
- Physical
  - Prosthetics
    - Using ICT - computer within the prosthesis is controlled by satellite - it slows you down to stop you falling down steps c-leg US$ 50-100,000
    - Also computerised hand that links to nerves - you can now hold glasses
    - Prices vary
  - Affordability is a real issue
  - Differing wheelchairs
  - Even for running and climbing
  - Prices vary
  - There is no limit to what can be done

http://unwin.wordpress.com
http://disabilityict4d.wordpress.com/workshops/
Some useful resources – no need to reinvent the wheel

- **London Global Disability Summit 2018**
- **International Disability Alliance**
- **Commonwealth Ministerial Summit on e-Accessibility 2012**

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But how do we turn rhetoric into reality?
Most importantly, what are you going to do differently when you leave here?

And holding each other accountable

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Let’s make a difference...

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