



District Level Observation of International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024

“Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future”

Happy Heart School, Bethel | December 3, 2024 | 11:00am

In collaboration with



***District Level Observance of
International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024***
*“Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for
an inclusive and sustainable future”.*

Date : December 3, 2024 (Tuesday)

Venue : Happy Heart School, Bethel

Time : 11:00 AM

Usher : Happy Heart School

Comperes : Daisy Phalthiankim & Chiinkhawlching

Interpreter: Niangkhanvung

Welcome Speech & keynote : Felix Sianmuanthang,
President CDDU

Speech from : Thiankhanmuan Guite,
Entrepreneur PwD

Speech from Partner :

Concluding Remark : Paul Rozarlien, Coordinator
(Advocacy) CCI

Exhibition of Aids & Appliances, TLMs, and products of students.

INVITATION

Centre for Community Initiative (CCI), like the previous years, is organising the Observance of International Day of Persons with Disability 2024 with the theme **“Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future”** in collaboration with its partners.

We cordially invite you to grace this event with your kind presence.

Details Overleaf

In collaboration with:



Introduction:

The **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)** is observed annually on **December 3rd** to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities (PwDs) in all areas of society and development. Established by the United Nations in 1992, the day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and to celebrate their contributions to society. Each year, IDPD focuses on a specific theme that highlights key issues related to disability inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment. The observance serves as an important reminder that achieving a truly inclusive world requires the participation, leadership, and equal opportunities for all people, regardless of their abilities.

This year the celebration of the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2024** on December 3rd focused on the theme "**Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future.**" Hosted by **Happy Heart School** in Bethel Veng, this event served as a powerful platform to showcase the leadership capabilities of persons with disabilities (PwDs) and to promote a vision of a more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable future for all.

The event was made possible through the collective effort of various partner schools and organizations, including **Wipro Foundation, Liliane Fonds, Churachandpur District Disabled Union (CDDU), Mercy Home/FCC, Jan Vikas Samiti, Rebuild India Fund, Dasra, Pearsonmun Legal Aid Clinic, Little Gems Academy, Happy Heart School, Tuibuang Govt. High School, and VK Tawna High School.** These collaborations aimed to highlight the significance of disability inclusion and the empowerment of PwDs in every sector of society.

Throughout the day, participants were treated to a series of **inspirational speeches, cultural performances, and special items** that emphasized the theme of leadership. The program featured individuals with disabilities who have overcome various challenges and made invaluable contributions to their communities. These activities not only inspired those in attendance but also reinforced the importance of amplifying the voices of PwDs in all areas of life.

By centering the conversation around **empowerment, leadership, and accessibility**, the event highlighted the indispensable role that persons with disabilities play in creating a more equitable and sustainable world. It was a reminder that when given the opportunity and the right support, individuals with disabilities can thrive and lead with distinction.



Collaboration and Partners :

The success of this event was made possible through the **collaboration** of multiple organizations dedicated to the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities. These included:

- **Wipro Foundation**
- **Dasra**
- **Rebuild India Fund**
- **Liliane Fonds**
- **Churachandpur District Disabled Union (CDDU)**
- **Mercy Home/FCC**
- **Jan Vikas Samiti**
- **Pearsonmun Legal Aid Clinic**
- **Little Gems Academy**
- **Happy Heart School**
- **Tuibuang Govt. High School**
- **VK Tawna High School**

EVENT REPORT IN BRIEF:

Churachandpur - December 3, 2024 (Tuesday)



The event began with a warm and engaging welcome address delivered by the comperes, Daisy Phalthiankim and Chiinkhawlching, both students from The Malsawm Initiative (TMI). Despite being unable to speak, Daisy and Chiinkhawlching effectively communicated their welcome through the use of sign language, a powerful tool that ensured their message reached all attendees. Their dynamic hosting, conveyed entirely through expressive and precise sign language,

was both engaging and professional, setting a positive tone for the event.

In addition to their remarkable sign language skills, the support of Miss Niangkhanvung, a teacher from TMI, was crucial in facilitating communication for everyone. Serving as the event's interpreter, Miss Niangkhanvung helped bridge the gap between the signed language and spoken words, ensuring that all attendees—especially those with hearing impairments—could fully participate and follow the

event's proceedings. Her presence made the event more inclusive, allowing all participants to experience the event seamlessly, regardless of their hearing ability.

The collaboration between Daisy, Chiinkhawlching, and Miss Niangkhanvung exemplified how thoughtful planning and the use of inclusive communication methods can create a welcoming and accessible environment for everyone.

Welcome Speech and Keynote Address :

The event's official proceedings commenced with a powerful welcome speech and keynote address delivered by Felix Sianmuanthang, the President of CDDU (Churachandpur District Disable Union). Felix's address set the tone for the day, outlining the importance of the event and highlighting the broader mission of supporting and empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs).



In his speech, Felix emphasized the significance of the day as not just a celebration, but a call to action for greater inclusion and empowerment of individuals with disabilities. He spoke passionately about the need for PwDs to take on leadership roles within their communities and in various spheres of life. Recognizing the capabilities and potential of people with disabilities, he advocated for the breaking of stereotypes and prejudices that often limit their opportunities for growth, development, and participation in society.

Felix specifically addressed the critical areas of education, employment, and leadership opportunities. He urged for a systemic change in these areas, underscoring the need for policies and practices that ensure full inclusion of PwDs. In education, he advocated for accessible learning environments, where students with disabilities have the same opportunities to succeed as their peers. Similarly, in the workplace, Felix stressed the importance of promoting equal employment opportunities, creating a supportive environment where PwDs can thrive professionally and contribute meaningfully to society.

Furthermore, Felix called for a stronger push for leadership opportunities for individuals with disabilities, recognizing the importance of representation in all sectors of life, including governance, business, and community organizations. He highlighted that empowering PwDs to assume leadership roles not only benefits the individuals themselves but also enriches the entire community by offering diverse perspectives and solutions to complex challenges.

Felix's speech concluded with a powerful call for continued advocacy and collective action. He urged everyone present to actively work toward dismantling the barriers faced by people with disabilities. This included challenging societal attitudes, advocating for more inclusive policies, and working towards greater accessibility in

all aspects of life. His words were a reminder that true progress can only be achieved when people with disabilities are fully recognized as equal and valuable members of society, deserving of the same rights, opportunities, and respect as anyone else.

Speech :



Thiankhanmuan Guite's speech at the event was nothing short of extraordinary, offering an inspirational and moving account of his personal journey as both an entrepreneur and a person with a disability. His message was a profound reminder that obstacles, no matter how daunting, should never define a person's potential or limit their dreams.

Guite, who is confined to a wheelchair, has built a successful business against all odds. He shared the challenges he faced growing up, revealing how his parents, due to concerns over his disability, initially discouraged him from pursuing an education. Despite this, Guite's determination to learn and succeed never wavered. Rather than being defeated, he found innovative ways to start his journey—feeding pigs to earn a living while nurturing his entrepreneurial spirit. This early experience served as a foundation for his future business ventures.

One of the most powerful parts of his speech was his reflection on how he continues to engage in physical labor, such as ploughing fields, despite his disability. This example was not just a testament to his resilience, but a symbol of his belief that nothing, not even his wheelchair, can hold him back from achieving his goals. Guite emphasized that challenges should not be seen as insurmountable barriers, but rather as opportunities to show the world the strength and perseverance of individuals with disabilities.

His words deeply resonated with the audience, especially those with disabilities, as he encouraged them to believe in their abilities and pursue their passions. Guite's message was clear: the road to success is not always easy, but with determination, resilience, and an unwavering belief in oneself, individuals can overcome any challenge. He urged his listeners to take charge of their own narratives, to define their paths, and to never let societal limitations hold them back from reaching their fullest potential.

The speech also highlighted his advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities. Through his personal story and achievements, Thiankhanmuan Guite has become not only a successful entrepreneur but also a champion for inclusion and empowerment. He showed that leadership and success are not determined by physical ability, but by one's vision, perseverance, and willingness to push beyond perceived limits.

His story is a powerful reminder that success comes not from a lack of challenges, but from the courage to face them head-on. Thiankhanmuan Guite's speech was an inspiring call to action for everyone, regardless of their circumstances, to strive for greatness and live out their fullest potential.

Concluding Remarks :



As the event drew to a close, Paul Rozarlien, the Coordinator (Advocacy) of CCI (Center for Community Initiative), took the stage to deliver the concluding speech. With a thoughtful and impactful message, Paul reflected on the key themes and takeaways from the day's proceedings, emphasizing the importance of remaining steadfast in the pursuit of an inclusive society for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Paul began by recapping the vital messages of the event, reinforcing the central idea that empowering PWDs is not only about removing physical barriers but also about creating an environment where they are recognized as leaders and active participants in every facet of society. He stressed that the conversations held during the event should not end there, but should continue to resonate and inspire sustained action.

A significant portion of his speech was dedicated to the importance of supporting persons with disabilities in leadership roles. Paul pointed out that PWDs often face multiple challenges in accessing opportunities for leadership due to systemic discrimination and societal biases. However, he underscored that these barriers must be dismantled, not only for the individuals directly affected but for the collective benefit of society. When people with disabilities are given the tools and opportunities to lead, their unique perspectives can enrich decision-making processes in all areas of life, from education and employment to governance and politics.

Furthermore, Paul emphasized that true inclusivity cannot be achieved without ensuring that the voices of PWDs are heard in all sectors. He highlighted the need for active representation of PWDs in political, educational, and organizational settings. This includes their participation in shaping policies and decisions that affect their lives, which is fundamental for creating an equitable and just society. Paul's words reminded the audience that inclusion is not a one-time effort or a charity-based initiative; it requires ongoing commitment and the active involvement of PWDs in shaping their own futures.

In his closing remarks, Paul called for a collective effort to continue advocating for the rights and opportunities of PWDs. He urged everyone present to take the lessons from the event and channel them into concrete actions that would help remove barriers and create a more inclusive world. His speech was a reminder that the road to true inclusivity is long and challenging, but it is one that can be navigated through

empowerment, representation, and the recognition of the full potential of persons with disabilities.

Cultural Performances and Special Items :

The event was further enriched by a series of vibrant cultural performances and special items, which brought together students from various participating schools, including Little Gems Academy, Happy Heart School, VK Tawna High School, and The Malsawm Initiative. These performances served not only as entertainment but also as powerful showcases of the creativity, talent, and leadership of persons with disabilities.



The students, each with their unique abilities, performed a wide range of acts including music, dance, and musical drama. These performances were not merely artistic expressions; they were affirmations of the potential that lies within every individual, regardless of their disability. Through their heartfelt and captivating presentations, the students demonstrated that talent and creativity know no bounds, challenging common stereotypes and misconceptions about people with disabilities.

One of the key themes highlighted throughout the performances was the idea that everyone has something valuable to contribute to society. Whether through music that resonated with emotion, dance routines that captivated the audience with their precision and energy, or dramatic performances that showcased storytelling abilities, the students underscored the importance of inclusion and recognition. These acts proved that persons with disabilities are not only capable of participating in cultural and social life, but they also have a vital role to play in shaping the artistic and cultural landscape of the community.

The performances also served as a reminder of the immense potential that exists within every individual, and the importance of fostering an environment where people of all abilities are encouraged and supported to express themselves freely. By celebrating the diverse talents and contributions of persons with disabilities, the event reinforced the message that inclusivity is not just about providing access, but about recognizing and valuing the unique contributions that each individual can bring to the table.

The performances were more than just entertainment—they were a powerful demonstration of the diverse potential of persons with disabilities, reinforcing their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the cultural and social fabric of the community. Through these acts, the students sent a clear and inspiring message: they are not defined by their disabilities, but by their abilities, creativity, and leadership.

Conclusion :

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024, held at Happy Heart School in Bethel Veng, was a resounding success, offering a powerful celebration of the leadership, potential, and invaluable contributions of persons with disabilities. The event stood as a testament to the importance of recognizing and empowering individuals with disabilities, highlighting that when they are given the right opportunities and support, they can be catalysts for positive change in society.

Throughout the day, the event showcased the diverse talents and capabilities of persons with disabilities, from the inspiring performances to the impactful speeches. It demonstrated that persons with disabilities not only have the ability to succeed but also to lead in various spheres of life, contributing to both their communities and beyond. The collaborative efforts of Happy Heart School, its partner schools, and various organizations played a crucial role in creating an environment where inclusivity and accessibility were celebrated and prioritized.

The day also emphasized the critical importance of fostering an inclusive society, where persons with disabilities have equal access to education, employment, and leadership opportunities. It served as a call to action for continued advocacy and efforts to remove barriers, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of ability, can fully participate and lead in shaping their communities.

As the event concluded, there was a shared sense of commitment among all attendees to continue working toward a more inclusive and sustainable future for persons with disabilities. The event reinforced the belief that true inclusion is achieved not only by providing opportunities but by creating a society where people of all abilities are respected, supported, and empowered to contribute meaningfully. This collective determination to pursue a more inclusive world marked the event as not just a one-day celebration, but a significant milestone in the ongoing journey towards a more equitable future for persons with disabilities.

THANK YOU ALL !

On behalf,

Centre for Community Initiative (CCI)



Host: Khawlching & Daisy | Hearing Impaired Students| Level C | The Malsawm Initiative



Special Item | Happy Heart School | Floral Dance



Special Item | Skit | Little Gems Academy



Special Item | Dance | VK Tawna High



Special Item | Bamboo Dance |Hearing Impaired Students of The Malsawm Initiative



Speech | Ma'am Lilypar | Vice Principal |



Peom Recitation | Written by Ma'am Lilypar | Vice Principal | Happy Heart School



Peom recitation | VK Tawna High



Stall | VK Tawna High



Students trying out Braille at TMI Stall



Stall | The Malsawm Initiative



Participant of IDPD 2024 Observation