

International SIG April 2013 Update

Maria Luisa Toro and Marc Krizak, Co-Chairs



We have three funding opportunities for RESNA and non-RESNA members:

- 1) A \$500 cash prize award in the Student Design Competition for the best entry related to assistive technology in developing countries. [Click here for more information](#), the deadline is April 19.
- 2) Travel expenses for a SIG or RESNA member who wants to contribute to an ongoing project in assistive technology in a developing country. [Click here for more information](#).
- 3) Two partial sponsorships of a presenter or attendee, at the [Symposium on Disability, Technology and Rehabilitation in Low and Middle Income Countries \(June 27-28, 2013\)](#). [Click here for information on how to apply](#). The deadline is May 10. Contact us if you want more information regarding any of these exciting funding opportunities.



In other news:

Accessibility of Foreign Assistance Programs

The National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that advises the President, Congress, and other federal agencies on policies, programs, practices and procedures affecting people with disabilities, reviewed the accessibility of foreign assistance programs meant to foster international diplomacy and improve the quality of life for people around the world. The report is titled "Toward the Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities: Examining the Accessibility of Overseas Facilities and Programs Funded by the United States."

It reviews United States federal disability laws; the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) disability policy; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as they relate to foreign assistance programs. The report also makes recommendations to help ensure that programs administered by the Department of State, USAID, and the Department of Defense are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Key findings include:

- USAID should review and update its Disability Policy. The current policy, drafted in 1997, is outdated and provides minimal guidance on how USAID programs can be made inclusive across all sectors of its development portfolio.
- The Department of State should strengthen its disability rights coverage in its Human Rights Reports. Human Rights Officers should be encouraged to consult with local DPOs when drafting Country Reports within its Human Rights Reports.

A copy of the full report and NCD's recommendations is available online at:

<http://www.ncd.gov/NCD/publications/2013/032013/>

Maria Luisa Toro, mlt47@pitt.edu and Marc Krizack, marc@whirlwindwheelchair.org
[Click here to visit the International SIG's webpage.](#)