

Techshare India 2014

BarrierBreak Techshare India 2014 in partnership with National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) and Royal National Institute of Blind People(RNIB), UK organized a conference and exhibition regarding accessibility and assistive technology at a national level with international participation on 13th – 14th February, 2014 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Techshare India 2014 was focused on Innovate – Adapt – Evolve theme under four verticals: Education, Employability, Accessible technology, Laws, Policies & Standards.

The Treasurer (Dr. Suneela Garg), Dr. M.M Singh, Programme officer and Administrative officer attended this conference on behalf of Society for Sound Hearing.

The following were the salient points of conference: -

- After registration, inauguration and lighting of the lamp was done by Ms. Shilpi Kapoor, Director of BarrierBreak, representative of RNIB, Md. Javed Abidi, Director of NCPEDP and Mr. Stefan Sjostrom, Vice President Asia, Public Sector, Microsoft Operations PTe Ltd.
- Ms. Shilpi Kapoor welcomed all the invitees and attendees of the Conference. She talked about the role of technology to create awareness, work towards advocacy, provide training, accessibility solutions and assistive technology. She told that BarrierBreak is going to provide equal opportunity to diverse groups including persons with disabilities and 75% of BarrierBreak staff includes persons with disabilities. BarrierBreak opens doors for people with disabilities and organizations to be inclusive and aligned with vision and mission to help clients to provide accessible solutions
- The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms. Stuti Kacker, Secretary and Shri. Awanish Kumar Awasthi Joint Secretary Department of disability affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. They also released the book titled “No looking back” a true story by Shivani Gupta who was physically handicapped.

Promotion of Society for Sound Hearing & upcoming World Congress

Society for Sound Hearing presented the first announcement flyer and invitation of First World Congress on Ear and Hearing Care on Feb., 2014 at the CBM counter and distributed to the organizers, speakers and attendees. The IEC material developed by Society for Sound Hearing was also displayed and distributed.

- Society for Sound Hearing staff interacted with the exhibitors in regard with upcoming World Congress. Some of the technologies which can be used in upcoming World Congress were shortlisted.
- Since India Habitat Centre is also the venue for the 1st World Congress of Society for Sound Hearing, the staff saw the entire arrangement of the Conference viz. onsite registration area, Conference Halls, exhibition space, lunch and tea area.

Sessions attended:-

- In the inaugural session, the representative of RNIB talked about the three clear priorities they have in field of blindness: 1. stopping people losing their sight unnecessarily, 2. supporting blind and partially sighted people to live independently, 3. creating an inclusive society.
- Md. Javed Abidi told the vision of NCPEDP is to encourage the employment of disabled people, Increase public awareness on disability issues, empower disabled people through appropriate legislation, equip disabled people with educational opportunities and ensure easy and convenient access to all public places.
- A short success story of Mr. Manish (visually impaired) from Tamil Nadu was presented by Mr. Stefan Sjostrom, Vice President Asia, Public Sector, Microsoft Operations Pte Ltd. He presented "How a visually impaired person can be empowered with technology to be able to take up a bank job". Technology can empower a disable person to earn his livelihood.
- In the panel discussion, the CBM representative Mr. Murli Padmanabhan, Inclusive Development Lead presented his thoughts on "How ICT can be an enabler". He stated that how a disabled person can develop his skill with technology and what opportunities can be provided to disable person for development.



Inauguration of exhibition



Lighting of lamp



CBM Exhibition Counter



Book release of Ms. Shivani Gupta