



FRIENDSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

LUNAR NEW YEAR 2022, YEAR OF THE TIGER



The Year of the Tiger was a virtual celebration of the festival, kindly organised by our Patron, Mme Hua Mei and members of the Chinese Embassy. A beautiful presentation took our guests on a cultural journey explaining the significance of the traditions, decorations and festive culinary delights. A cookery demonstration of the art of spring roll and dumpling making was gratefully received by all. Our thanks to Mme Hua and Cultural Counsellor Yu Peng for this incredible insight to the Lunar New Year celebrations.

SPRING LUNCHEON

In May, Patrons from Indonesia and Nepal, members and guests enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Royal Overseas League. Spring was in the air as everyone enjoyed the warm hospitality, delicious lunch and exciting raffle, overlooking the beautiful views of Green Park. It was remarkable to hear about news from TWC partners,



ADAPT and SETI who continued to work tirelessly to improve the care of disabled children and their families, despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This would not be possible without the commitment and support from our members and guests.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held in the impressive library at the University Women's Club. We were honoured to be joined by very special guests: Dr Mithu Alur, Founder and Chairperson of ADAPT from Mumbai who shared interesting updates about the CII course, and by representatives from the Embassies of China and Malaysia, and Honorary Vice President Mrs Celia Brown (who had designed the original TWC bamboo logo 44 years ago!)



Tributes were paid to our very excellent Chairman, Mrs Pat Yaxley, who stood down after 10 years in the role. Knowing her love of roses and gardening, TWC presented her with a "The Lady Gardener" rose bush, an engraved crystal vase and a voucher for Fortnum & Mason. Dr Alur presented her with an antique elephant statue and tribute scroll. Pat has agreed to be a co-opted Trustee and TWC is delighted we can retain her wise counsel.



COUNTRIES & CULTURE QUIZ

Jenny Habib kindly prepared a challenging quiz testing our knowledge from "Clogs to Saris!" Members of the Joint Commonwealth Organisation also joined this popular Zoom event.

COFFEE MORNING



On a sunny day at the end of August, a wonderful fundraising coffee morning with plant and cakes sales was held in Fatimah Gammage's beautiful garden. With her vast horticultural knowledge coupled with green fingers guests were spoilt by an array of home-grown plants and delicious cakes. Thank you to Fatimah and her friends for all their kind support in raising a remarkable £400.

TOUR OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY



In October, an educational tour of the Treasures of the British Library was enjoyed by Members and Guests. An expert guide showcased the world's most beautiful and interesting books, and the first Penny Black Stamp. The British Library is also home to the elegant tall glass tower, The King's Library, containing the collection

from George III. After a most enlightening tour, lunch and a good catch up was enjoyed with friends old and new.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

After three years of being unable to meet, we came together to celebrate our Christmas Lunch at the elegant Army and Navy Club. Seasonal festivities were enjoyed by our Members, and guests from FIWAL, CCL, KCWC, AWA and Corona Worldwide.



We were also honoured to be joined by our Patrons from Nepal, Indonesia, Palestine, and Representatives from China and Sri Lanka. Young, talented musicians from the Wellington College Woodwind Ensemble, led by Director of Ensemble Anthony Bailey and Director of Music Simon Williamson,

entertained us with Mozart's Divertimento No 2 and festive tunes. The atmosphere was lively and full of good cheer as we enjoyed the afternoon. We were also delighted to welcome Elizabeth Yates, our retired Treasurer. Elizabeth and Thelma Akrawi, our longstanding Membership secretary, were presented with tokens of our appreciation.



Message from The President, Doris The Lady Butterworth of Warwick

This has been a successful and friendly year for TWC despite all the international sadness and disruption.

Success is very largely due to the devotion, hard work and imagination of our Chairman Rajni Rijal and Vice Chair Caroline Muir. They work with confidence along with the Committee, and give us continuous worthwhile events which we all enjoy.

Looking to the future, I feel sure we will maintain the cooperation and companionship which are the key notes of TWC. I am so happy to send you all thanks for your support.

I feel privileged to be your President and send everyone my best wishes and good hope for the future.

OBITUARIES

The Women's Council were greatly saddened by the loss of two longstanding and supportive members in 2022: Mrs Ann Grace a very dedicated and loyal member, who passed away aged 103; and Mrs Catherine Freeman (Lena) who was a stalwart committee member and good friend to TWC for many years. We were also overwhelmed by a generous gift bequeathed to the Council by Lena. TWC conveys heartfelt condolences to both ladies' families and friends.



Mrs Lena Freeman



Mrs Ann Grace

TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Our truly remarkable Queen who dedicated her life to service. She was an inspiration to the nation and Commonwealth. Her courage and words of

comfort were always so reassuring. We will miss her deeply. We will remain forever grateful for Her Majesty's kindness, warmth and guidance, and will cherish fond memories. Our heartfelt sympathy to The Royal Family who have lost their dearest Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Our prayers and thoughts are with them during this sad time.

With much respect and affection.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE, DR RAJNI RIJAL



It gives me great pleasure and honour to accept my role as Chair for The Women's Council. I will continue to passionately support the work that TWC does to improve the care of disabled children and their families within their own communities in Asia, Asia Pacific and The Middle East, and promote friendship and cooperation.

It is with gratitude that I will be able to give service to this reputable organisation that has impressed me so much. Thank you so much for your support.

News of the courses supported by TWC

RACHEL'S REPORT - ADAPT VISIT



In October I visited ADAPT in Mumbai to review and update the CII course content making it more relevant and suited to a wider audience of participants. On the Inclusion Matters online course, I shared details about the importance of early childhood

development, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting the school children studying at the Colaba centre. It was an honour to be part of the spectacular 50th Anniversary celebrations



and to hear the history that has led up to ADAPT in its current form.

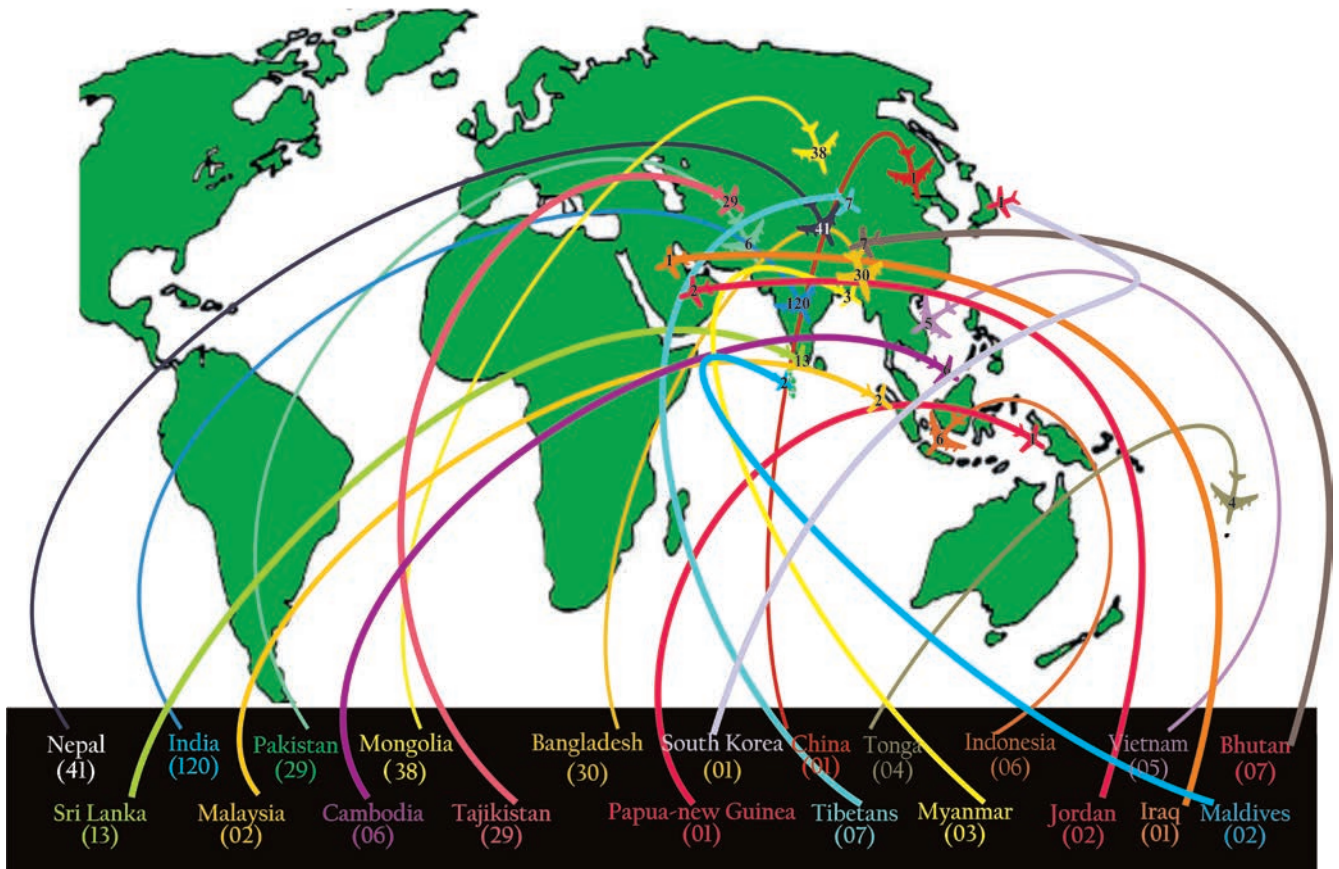
I feel that I have established a good working relationship with Varsha, Sujata and Dr Alur and trust has been built that should stand TWC in good stead going forward

Rachel Tainsh (Hon Training Advisor)

More news of the courses overleaf.

DIAGRAM SHOWING THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ON A CII COURSE IN INDIA & THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH COUNTRY

(This does not include women from Kuwait, Libya, Morocco and Syria who have attended a Workshop organised by Dr Alaa Sebeh through the SETI Centre)



News of the courses supported by TWC

UPDATE ON THE TRAINING AT ADAPT, MUMBAI

The on-going travel restrictions due to Covid prevented ADAPT holding the Annual 14 week Community Initiatives in Inclusion Course (CII) in Mumbai in 2022. Instead TWC funded 2 on-line 6 week courses, "Inclusion Matters", developed by ADAPT. These Courses were well attended and the Evaluations were very positive. In addition, ADAPT developed an on-line course for parents and carers. A major Evaluation on the impact of the CII course is taking place and will be available to TWC shortly. ADAPT has been involved in further development of the 6 Hubs during 2022 and a series of Training sessions on Disability and Inclusion are planned for 2023 with a number of them.

Finally, TWC was involved in the Golden Jubilee Celebration for ADAPT in Mumbai in October 2022. The Women's Council would like to wish ADAPT heartfelt congratulations on celebrating 50 Years of exemplary work in the field of disability and inclusion. (Dr Moore)

UPDATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST DISABILITY/INCLUSION (CBID) TRAINING PROGRAMME

Due to a combination of continued unrest in the Middle East and the on-going Covid pandemic restrictions, it was not possible to hold the planned Pan/Arab Training in Jordan in November. Our partners SETI and Dr Alaa Sebeh at UNESCWA are working with the Al Hussein Foundation in Amman, Jordan to hold this 2 week course for Managers and Planners of CBID programmes in the Middle East in 2023. The recent earthquake in South East Turkey has highlighted the need for the addition of CBID planning in emergencies which will be included in the Training

For more information take a look at our website where you can find latest videos, photographs and course reports as well as details of our social and fundraising events.

The Journey of a CII participant from Nepal, Prakriti Bhattarai

A TRIUMPH OF WILL!

Prakriti was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of four. After being asked to leave a mainstream school in Kathmandu Nepal, due to her disability, she was left "feeling hopeless and irritated with life because I was thinking that



I am the only one who is born different." With her mother's persistence, she was admitted to the Self-help Group for Cerebral Palsy programme (SGCP). Prakriti flourished at this school, taking part in many extracurricular activities such as sewing, art and crafts. She had the opportunity to develop her computer skills, including a computer graphics design course. It proved challenging for Prakriti to find a suitable vocation due to her disability. She worked as a receptionist and special needs school teacher. Prakriti was determined to complete her education and obtained her school leaving certificate through a combination of home and school-based learning. Whilst working as a teacher in a special needs school, she was nominated for the International Employment Achievement Award through SGCP in 2018, organised by ADAPT in Mumbai. On World Cerebral Palsy Day, Prakriti was honoured to receive the "Individual Employment/Entrepreneurship Award". This was a prestigious accolade for Prakriti, and a very proud moment for her family. In 2020 through SAMA Nepal, she was invited to participate in the Community Initiatives in Inclusion (CII) Course supported by TWC in partnership with ADAPT. This course equipped her with skills in disability and inclusion giving her ideas for implementation in Nepal. Her English language skills improved, as well as her physical and mental wellbeing. Due to the Covid pandemic, Prakriti was unable to return to Nepal, and remained in lockdown at ADAPT's centre. Being away from home during such uncertain times was yet another test of Prakriti's endurance and patience. Under the care and guidance of the team at ADAPT she and other participants kept busy with meditation and other innovative activities. When Prakriti was able to return to Nepal she was even more driven to make a difference. She is now happily working as a computer operator in the Women's Development Branch. Prakriti and her team work to improve awareness in disability and inclusion, inclusive education, and the empowerment of women.

Prakriti has overcome many challenges, however with her determination and passion, supportive family, and guidance from ADAPT and SAMA Nepal she is now working as an ambassador for change.

Dates for the Diary

18th May: AGM followed by lunch to celebrate the Coronation.

12th June: Wisley Gardens Tour

PLEASE EMAIL: EVENTS-TWC@OUTLOOK.COM TO REGISTER

TWC would like to extend grateful thanks to everyone who gave support during 2022. Without it, the Council would not be able to continue its support of the vital work which is benefitting thousands of children with disabilities in Asia, Asia Pacific and The Middle East. Editor: Rajni Rijal