



NATIONAL ABILYMPIC
ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



IA 2007
Shizuoka, Japan

7th International Abilympics

Shizuoka, Japan
November 13 – 18, 2007

A Report



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राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय
राष्ट्रपति भवन
नई दिल्ली-110004

President's Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhawan
New Delhi-110004

MESSAGE



The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil is happy to know that India is participating in the 7th International Abilympics to be held in Shizuoka, Japan from November 13-18, 2007.

The President sends her best wishes for the success of our contingent at the Abilympics.

विशेष कार्य अधिकारी (पी.आर.)
Officer on Special Duty (P.R.)



सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री
भारत सरकार
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001

Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

10th October, 2007

MESSAGE



I am delighted to learn that National Abilympic Association of India is taking a contingent from India to participate in the 7th International Abilympics in Shizuoka, Japan during 13th to 18th November, 2007.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is happy to be supporting this noble venture.

The team's participation in the 7th International Abilympics will help in exposing the participants to the latest technologies in various vocational skills and promote their self-reliance as well as job opportunities.

I extend my best wishes to the team. I am confident that they will make the country proud.

Smt. Meira Kumar



श्रम एवं रोजगार राज्य मंत्री
(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
भारत सरकार,
नई दिल्ली

Ministry of State for Labour & Employment
(Independent Charge)
Government of India,
New Delhi

22nd October, 2007

MESSAGE



I am very happy to learn that India is participating in the 7th International Abilympics scheduled to be held in Shizuoka, Japan during November, 2007. The Government of India is fully committed to ensure equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities and is proud to be in the forefront to support this noble venture and create job opportunities.

Exposure to the latest technological developments at the International level will enable the Abilympians to become economically self-reliant.

My congratulations to National Abilympic Association of India for their efforts in promoting Abilympic Movement in the country. I wish all the participants the best of luck and hope they will bring laurels to the country.

Oscar Fernandes



सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री
भारत सरकार
Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India

10th October, 2007

MESSAGE



I am very glad to learn that India is participating in the 7th International Abilympics scheduled to be held in Shizuoka, Japan during 13–18 November 2007. I am sure that it will enable the participants to learn the latest technological developments in various vocational skills. The Abilympians will be able to become self-reliant. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is committed to ensure equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities. I wish the Indian Abilympians the best of luck and congratulate National Abilympic Association of India for their efforts in promoting the Abilympics movement in the country.

The Ministry will continue to extend its support for these endeavours.

Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan



Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi
Delhi Secretariat,
I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

MESSAGE



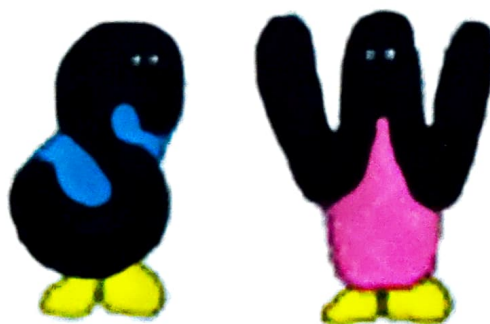
I am happy to know that a special souvenir is being brought- out to wish "Best of Luck" to the Indian Contingent which would take part in the 7th International Abilympics to be held at Shizuoka, Japan from 13th to 18th November, 2007.

I am sure that gold medal winners of the 2nd National Abilympics held at Delhi would also be able to prove their excellence in Japan. We all sincerely wish for their success and are hopeful that they would come with flying colours.

Sheila Dikshit
Chief Minister



A special symbol was designed for International Skill Festival for All, 2007 to demonstrate **"creativity expanding infinitely"**. The bouncing shape represents the sequence of movements which are feeling, thinking and imaging when people create things.



*SKILLSON & WAZABEE –
the official Mascots for International Skills for All, Japan 2007.*

The International Abilympics held at Shizuoka under the banner **"International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007"** were a great success and provided a good opportunity for the contestants to demonstrate their skills, forging friendships and international exchange amongst persons from participating countries. The success of an event of this magnitude was possible because of the help of a large number of organisations, professionals and volunteers under the guidance of the Organisers.

Preface

The 7th International Abilympics, held in conjunction with the 39th World Skills in Shizouka, Japan from 13–18 November, 2007 provided an excellent opportunity to persons with disability from India to display their exceptional vocational skills.

The Indian contingent did very well—winning three silver and one bronze medal, as well as a certificate of excellence. In fact, apart from Japan, China, South Korea and Chinese Taipei, India was amongst the few other participating countries to have won medals.

Of course, winning medals was not the main purpose of participating in the Abilympics, what was far more rewarding was the opportunity it provided the Indian contingent to interact with other teams, to be exposed to the latest technology, to enhance skills and take forward the crusade to create more employment opportunities for persons with disability. It also provided a platform to show that, given an opportunity, there is nothing that is beyond their capability.

Once again, the Abilympics helped to highlight the magic of convergence. From the time the preparations began to hold the 6th International Abilympics in New Delhi in 2003, till the time the contingent went to Shizouka, the National Abilympic Association of India, (NAAI) with its team of Regional Vice Presidents and a host of nodal NGOs working in the field of rehabilitation, worked ceaselessly to identify, nurture and select the contingent for the International event. Immediately after the 6th International Abilympics, a series of Regional Abilympics were organised, culminating in the 2nd National Abilympics held in Delhi during February 14–16, 2007. The gold medal winners in 29 events comprised the contingent.

Right through, since the very inception of NAAI, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment as well as the Government of NCT, Delhi provided full support. The fact that the Abilympics has now

become a movement in the country is largely due to this unstinted support. The Corporate sector, friends of Amar Jyoti, members of Civil Society and a host of other well-wishers chipped in to ensure India's participation.

Now that we are back from Shizouka, we need to review our performance, learn lessons and to see how we can do better next time. One lesson that stands out loud and clear is that in order to make our presence felt, we will have to redouble our efforts to identify and train prospective participants. For this, the Regional Vice Presidents and others associated with NAAI will need to formulate a strategy, mobilize the resources and arrange for suitable training for those with potential. It is here that one looks forward to continued support from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, State Governments as well as the Private Sector. Already, we have initiated a dialogue with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and we are hopeful of continued collaboration in this regard.

The next step should be organising Regional and National Abilympics to prepare for the 8th International Abilympics to be held in 2011. Having actively participated in the International Abilympics since 1981 and hosted the 6th International Abilympics in 2003, India is very much a part of the Abilympics scene, what we need to ensure is that it emerges as a leading player, not only to underscore the abundance of talent among its persons with disability, but also to show that this talent is nurtured and respected.

This report—the 7th International Abilympics provides some glimpses of the event and also gives an interesting account of the preparations proceeding the 7th International Abilympics.

We now look forward to the 8th International Abilympics and to India's participation with a strong contingent. For that to happen we need to prepare from now. And here, all one can say is "We Can and We Will".

Abilympics in India

An Introduction

The history of Abilympics in India stretches as far back as the origins of Abilympics itself. It is a story rich with pride, determination, success, and incredible growth and development. From a modest beginning, the Abilympics, through hard work and dedication, has grown to its present stature.

In 1981, Tokyo hosted the First International Abilympics to commemorate the United Nation's International Year of Disabled Persons. Not a sports competition, this unique contest instead focused on vocational skills and showcasing talents and abilities of persons with disabilities. The aim was to generate equal employment opportunities, highlight the potential of the competitors, and encourage mainstreaming. Dr. Uma Tuli had led a six-member Indian team to this event, and it was here that her dream to organise such an event in India came into being. The groundbreaking event was so successful that it was decided that an Abilympics competition would be held every four years in a different country.

India's next chance to showcase its amazing abilities was in August 2000 at the Fifth International Abilympics in Prague. The 14-member team gave an inspiring and memorable performance that resulted in three gold medals, three bronze medals, and a Certificate of Excellence. "The participation of this small team in a way was symbolic of the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities and Equal Opportunities Act passed by the Government of India in 1995," says Dr. Uma Tuli, who, guided by Maj Gen. Narindar Singh, was the binding force of the Indian team. Inspired by her team's



Dr. Uma Tuli with the Indian flag in Prague (2000)

Abilympics highlight the importance of education, inclusive of its vocational and rehabilitation aspects. It also provides an opportunity to the participants to gain exposure to the latest technology in job-oriented vocational skills. One of the added benefits is the networking which Abilympics has brought about. Abilympics is not only a sports event but a competition in various job-oriented skills. When games and sports are organised, it is for enjoyment. However, Abilympics turns abilities into capabilities. It is an endeavour to improve the quality of life of differently-abled persons for always and in all ways.

The International Abilympics are held once every four years. The first International Abilympics were held in Tokyo, Japan in 1981. Subsequently, the event has been held in Bogotá, Colombia (1985), Hong Kong (1991), Perth, Australia (1995), Prague, Czech Republic (2000), Delhi, India (2003) and Shizuoka, Japan (2007). The next International Abilympics will be held in Seoul, South Korea in 2011

outstanding performance, Dr. Tuli gave an impassioned presentation which led to unanimous acceptance of Amar Jyoti's bid to host the Sixth International Abilympics in India. Thus, a vital chapter in India's Abilympic history commenced, and the nation was honoured by the responsibility that awaited them in 2003.

This responsibility required planning and preparations for the International event. To begin with, the National Abilympic Association of India (NAAI) was formed in May 2001, at the behest of the Government of India and with Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust to serve as a nodal agency to formulate, initiate and implement policies and programmes, and to propagate Abilympics. Maj. Gen. Narindar Singh was appointed Chairman, and Mrs. Aruna Dalmia as President. As a first step, five zones were established—south, east, west, central and north—for ease of functioning. Each zone had two to three Vice Presidents who were associated with local NGOs with requisite infrastructure in the disability sector. This allocation enabled to spread the movement across the country. Under the aegis of NAAI, Sub-Regional and Regional Abilympics were held in each of the five zones during September to November 2001, in which over 3000 talented persons with disability took part. The medal winners in the Regionals participated in the Nationals, held in November 2002 in New Delhi. These medal winners

of the national team, in turn, were selected for the Sixth International Abilympics.

November 23, 2003 was a decisive day in the history of disability movement in India when the Sixth International Abilympics were

inaugurated in New Delhi. It was a landmark event: a gathering of people with exceptional vocational skills from all over the world; the launch of a movement which gave new meaning to the Abilympics motto—I can; I will.

The event also provided an impetus to make Delhi more accessible—railway stations, bus stops, government offices and other public places were made barrier-free. Initially meant for nearly 1500 participants from 33 countries, these facilities continue to benefit citizens of Delhi and visitors to the metropolis. Another impact of the Sixth International Abilympics was sensitization of people towards disability-related issues. Now, more people are aware that people with disability do not need pity or charity—they need understanding and an opportunity to realise their potential.

The event also saw the unique convergence of resources: Ministries- Social Justice and Empowerment; Human Resource Development; Labour - multinationals, NGOs, the private sector, defence services, educational institutions and individuals all chipped in with whatever help and support they could provide. This outpouring of generosity once again proved that, regardless of belief or background, we all speak the same language—that of humanity, love, acceptance and inclusion. The passing of the Abilympics flag from India to Japan symbolically marked the close of the Sixth International Abilympics, thus concluding one chapter and beginning another.

The convergence of resources generated by the Sixth International Abilympics was not allowed to dissipate. Between 2004 and 2005, Pre-Regional and Regional Abilympics were organised around the country. It was also decided that the National Vocational and Living Skills Contest would be held to select the contestants for the Seventh International Abilympics. A total of 434 participants took part in the Second National Abilympics, held in Delhi in February 2007. The prize distribution ceremony was a joyous occasion, the winners bursting with indomitable spirit and excitement at being part of the newest chapter—representing their country in Japan.

Sub-Regional and Regional Abilympics

The Abilympics movement in India is extending its hope and promise all over the country. Wide-

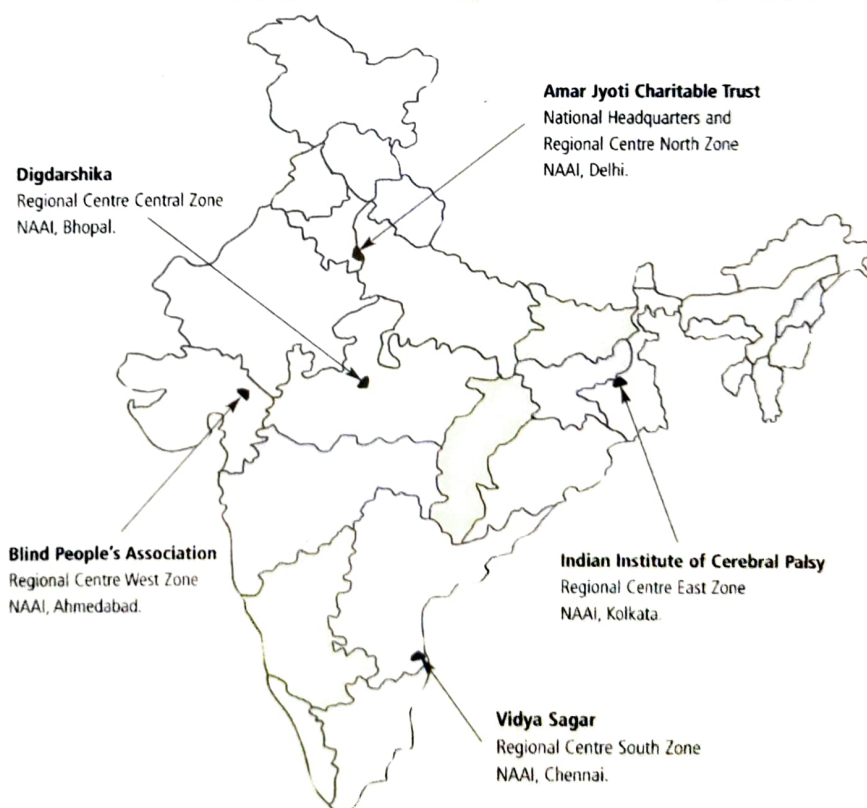
ranging support from all sectors enabled overwhelming response in the sub-regional and regional competitions.

In recent years, the scene has changed dramatically—as the Abilympic movement gains momentum, people are increasingly becoming aware of Abilympics and are keen to participate in the competitions. To ensure participation of persons with disabilities living in remote areas, sub-regional Abilympics were held all over the country. The response was overwhelming—1401 participants took part in the Regionals.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment supported the Regional Abilympics (75 percent of the budget). The remaining quarter was raised by the host organisations in their respective regions with the help of the public/private sector, voluntary organisations and individual donors. Educational and technical institutes supported some of the events by providing facilities and offering their expertise. The corporate sector gave donations in kind. It was truly a multisectoral effort. During the Regionals, the overall response and the spirit of participants was heartening.

The exercise of sub-regional and regional Abilympics is mainly to increase awareness, to give the opportunity to persons with disabilities to demonstrate their skills, and also to select participants for Nationals.

Host Organisations for Regional and National Abilympics



National Abilympics

The Second National Abilympics were organised at Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, Delhi from February 14–16, 2007. Winners from all the zones participated in the Nationals. In all, 28 events (24 vocational skills and 4 leisure and living skills) were organised as per the list of contest for the 7th International Abilympics.

A total of 434 participants (271 contestants, 163 officials and escorts) took part in the National Abilympics. 41 contestants participated in two events. English Test Processing, Floral Arrangement, Painting (water colour), Photography, Dressmaking, Knitting and Embroidery were the most popular events. A large number of visually impaired participants took part in Basket Making and Floral Arrangement contests. The contest in Poster Design had the maximum number of contestants with speech and hearing impairments.

Since the inception of the Abilympics, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has always been a major supporter. They graciously supported the Second National Abilympics by providing 75 percent of the budget. The remaining 25 percent was raised by NAAI (National Abilympic Association of India) through philanthropists and agencies.

The Second National Abilympics were inaugurated by Mrs. Meira Kumar, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The Hon'ble Minister was impressed by the arrangements made and assured Government support for the Abilympics movement and participation of Abilympians from India in the 7th International.

Other guests at the Inaugural function included Dr. (Mrs.) Veena Chhotray, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Air Marshal S. Inamdar, President NAAI, Dr. Uma Tuli, Mr. Shashi Kapoor, Goodwill Ambassador, Maj. Gen. Ian Cordozo, Chairman, RCI, Mrs. Poonam Natarajan, Chairperson, National Trust, a large number of dignitaries, guests and members of the public. Smt. Subhalaxmi Jagdeesan, Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, presented awards to the winners on February 15th, 2007. Mrs Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister, NCT, was the Chief Guest



The 2nd National Abilympics were held at Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust

at the Valedictory Function. She assured continued commitment of her Government for giving equal rights to persons with disabilities and for the Abilympics, including the 7th International Abilympics. Cultural events were also organised all through the event.

An exhibition of mobility aids and assistive devices was also organised on this occasion. The event received wide coverage both in print and electronic media.

Dr. Uma Tuli and Ms. Tarlochan Dhillon visited Abu Dhabi during January 2007 to attend a symposium. During the visit Dr. Tuli, who is also Vice President of the International Abilympic Federation, gave a keynote address to introduce Abilympics and share the experience of India in hosting the 6th International Abilympics. As a sequel to the above visit, a delegation of five people from UAE, headed by Mr. M. Yahya Al Hashmi, Ministry of Education, Dubai, attended the 2nd National Abilympics to familiarise themselves with the functions of Abilympics. Mr. Lian Corcoran, Head of World Skills also paid a visit to Amar Jyoti.



Leading up to the International Event: Getting Ready

Background of 7th International Abilympics

After the Second National Abilympics, the 7th International Abilympics became the major focus. The main aims of the international event included:

- To raise awareness among the general public and employers regarding employment of persons with disabilities.
- To facilitate participation of contestants with various disabilities.
- To increase the number of participating countries and regions.
- To secure fairness and transparency in each event.

Contestants:

Babubhai Parmar
Herbert Warlarpih
Rohit Bhosale
Leeleshwar Kumar Dinkar
Rajneesh Agarwal
Ashok Kumar Patel
Ram Avtar Singh
Lukhi Vipullkumar Bhimajibhai
Chhandaniben Bipinbhai Mahidadiya
Mohammed Rafiq Ansari
Yogesh Chandra Shailly
Pramod Kumar Barad
Sunil Kumar Ram
Sangramjyoti Chowdhury
Mohinder Singh
Robin Arora
Senthil Kumar C
Abha Trivedi
Shammi Kumar
Panchal Vajabhai
T. Harishanthan
Ayyub Nagori
Mahendra Bhai Suthar
Pravin Dattaram Bambarkar
Sheetal Abhijit Jagtap
E. Mohan
Patel Jagdish Darjibhai
P. Saikrishnan
Mohd. Sikandar Shaikh

The Indian Contingent

The Indian team for the 7th International Abilympics consisted of 29 participants and 11 officials and escorts, all of whom came from various parts of the country. The number of contestants was originally 30, but one could not participate for unavoidable reasons.

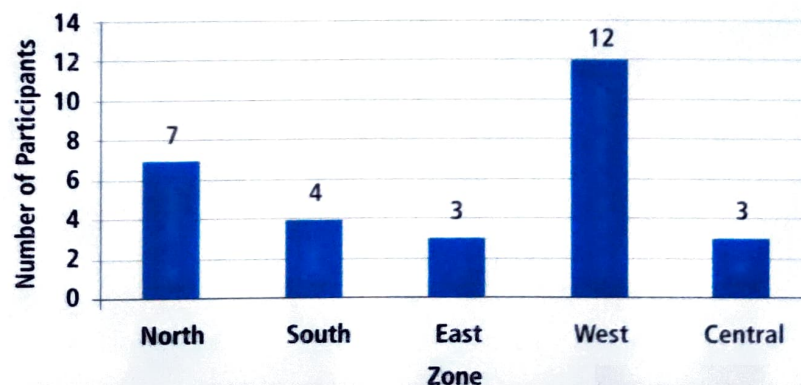
Officials & Escorts:

Air Marshal SG Inamadar
Dr. Uma Tuli
Dr. Ashok K Datta

Mr. Kanubhai Tailor
Ms. Tarlochan Dhillon
Ms. Teresa Francis
Ms. Usha Mahajan

Ms. Ranu Banerjee
Mr. Harish Panchal
Ms. Sharmila Divatia
Ms. Ruma Roka

Zone-Wise Breakup of Participants



Training

Training is essential and desirable before participating in any International competition. The participants first began training in their places of residence—from Surat to Shillong, Bilaspur to Pune, and Kanpur to Chennai to improve their skills.

The final stage of training was in Delhi. The preparation for training started long before the arrival of the contestants. NAAI officials in Delhi went through a detailed process of selecting institutes and mentors and finalising and arranging details of training. The officials liaised between training institutes and officials in Japan, acquiring and relaying information about necessary tools and requirements and ensuring that training would occur as per regulations slated for the international event.

Participants gathered at Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust on October 15, 2007 to commence a four-week training period. During this time, the contestants travelled around and even beyond Delhi to work with experts in their respective fields.

The Abilympics officials arranged schedules and supervised training, making sure to provide quality training, and transportation. Dr. Veena Chhotray, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Mr. Sanjeev Mittal, Financial Adviser from the Ministry visited Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust on November 8, 2007 to observe the training arrangements made for the participants.

Training Institutes in Delhi & NCR:

Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust
Anuj Parthi Photography
Apeejay Institute of Design
Bindra Cycles
Cane Bamboo Handicraft
D Silk N Silver, Sahibabad
Delhi Blue Pottery
Dr. Khattar's Dental Clinic
Endolite Prosthetic & Orthotic Centre
Facet Design
HCL
Ikebana International
Lady Irwin College
Maruti Udyog Limited
Mata Sundari College
Mine Key, Gurgaon
Nodika Interior, Noida
Segel Design Associates
Sharp Memorial School for the Blind, Dehradun
Suthar Studios, Noida



Dr. Veena Chhotray and Mr. Sanjeev Mittal at Amar Jyoti to wish the participants Good Luck

Hospitality in Delhi

The male contestants were accommodated at the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre (VRC) Hostel, Karkardooma, through the kind courtesy of the Ministry of Labour. The hostel was barrier free and all the facilities were made available. Three female contestants stayed at the YWCA, Vishwas Nagar, (Priyadarshini Working Women's Hostel). Both these hostels were very convenient due to their proximity to Amar Jyoti. The Vice Presidents from the different

zones were provided paying guest accommodation. Some of them were put up at the UPSC Guest House.

The erection of a large, bright tent in which participants gathered for breakfast, lunch and dinner truly converted Amar Jyoti into a 'home away from home.' The healthy and varied meals were enjoyed by the participants. They were provided packed lunch during training at different Institutes.



A view of the VRC Hostel



The Indian Team enjoyed meals in a kitchen setup at Amar Jyoti

Entertainment

Being away from home for a month isn't always easy, but officials at NAAI strived to keep participants in good spirits. The group went on various excursions, such as the Ramlila at Karkardooma Maidan and Akshardham Temple. A day out for 'Delhi Darshan' gave the participants—for many of whom it was their first visit—glimpses of India Gate, Rashtrapati Bhavan and Lal Quila.

A lunch was organised at the Gujrati Samaj by Mr. Kanubhai Tailor and Mr. Harish Panchal (Vice Presidents, NAAI, West Zone). Diwali was celebrated with a puja, sweets and firecrackers. The Diwali Mela at Amar Jyoti was a day-long festivity with food, music, stalls and the highlight of the evening: the lucky draw. The motorcycle, which all the spectators were eyeing, went to none other than Harishanthan, Award-winning Abilympian! This providence was considered an omen of good things to come.



The group in front of India Gate

Personality Development Programme (PDP)

Many of the team members hadn't been abroad or set foot on an aeroplane. A Personality Development Programme (PDP) was thus seen as a necessary step to ease their passage.

Ms. Meenakshi Mehta conducted a three-day workshop. She familiarized the participants with Japanese culture and social

etiquettes to be followed, including the use of cutlery, crockery, table manners and other facilities. On the third day the participants were taken to the Frankfinn Training Institute to a simulated aeroplane cabin where they learnt how to use seat belts, washrooms and other amenities on the plane.



Abha Trivedi—contestant in a Kimono



Dos and Don'ts of air travel being explained to the contestants at the Frankfinn Institute

Connectivity

With a team of 40 people it is always important to stay connected. In an effort to make this possible, six officials were given Matrix phones which made it possible for the participants' families in India to keep in touch with them (incoming calls were all free) and for the team to keep in touch with each other in Shizuoka.

Bhangra Dance

The team was invited to perform at the closing ceremony in Shizuoka. Daily rehearsals, led by Ms. Suman Gogi and Mrs. Neelam Rupa Dhawan were held at Amar Jyoti. Beautiful costumes including props such as the Rajasthani 'ghora' and rhythmic music were incorporated into the rehearsals.

The group was applauded for their brilliant dress rehearsal performance at the Amar Jyoti Diwali Mela in front of dignitaries like Dr. Sandeep Khanna, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Mr. S Krishnan, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

Receptions

On October 30, 2007, the team was invited by Smt. Meira Kumar, Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, to wish them good luck and a safe journey. All the participants looked smart in their attire which caused quite a flutter in Shastri Bhavan. Smt. Meira Kumar advised the participants that more than winning medals, they should act as ambassadors of the country and win the hearts of people in Japan with their behaviour. She expressed the hope that all the participants will put forth their best performances.



Smt. Meira Kumar with the Indian Contingent

The Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt. Sheila Dikshit invited the participants to wish them Good Luck on November 8, 2007 at the Delhi Secretariat. She blessed the team members and conveyed her optimism that the team would make the country proud with their behaviour and performance. A sumptuous tea was arranged for all the participants.

Kit

An official kit, including a suitcase with matching shoulder bag was given to each participant. The uniform included a blazer with the NAAI emblem embroidered on the pocket, sweater, shirt, trousers, tie, a pair of socks and saris for the ladies.

Since almost half the participants were vegetarians, a food packet with dry snacks was provided for each person.

Talking Book

A pocket booklet was prepared at the NAAI office to help participants communicate while in Japan. The booklet included useful Japanese phrases and pictures of commonly used items that could be pointed to if needed. Alphabets in English and Hindi and numbers in English were given so that those with speech and hearing impairments could spell out words.

Policies concerning Abilympics in India are guided by the NAAI Governing Body.

Governing Body: Air Marshal (Retd.) SG Inamdar-
President. Dr. AK Datta-Vice-President. Mr. Kanubhai
Tailor-Vice-President. Dr. Uma Tuli-Secretary-General.
Dr. Bhushan Punani-Secretary. Ms. Tarlochan Dhillon-
Secretary. **Members :** Mrs. Poonam Natrajan, Mrs. Asha
Das, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Narindar Singh, Mrs. Aruna
Dalmia, Dr. Rita Malhotra, Mrs. Mira Kagti,
Mr. Jitendra Tuli, Mrs. Prabha Mehta, Mrs. Ranu
Banerjee, Mrs. Mohini Mathur, Dr. Jitendra Jamdar,
Ms. Sharmila Divatia, Dr. Komal Kamra

Travel Arrangements

Visas: Getting 40 Visas can be a daunting task. But with the kind intervention of Mrs Noda (the wife of the ex - Ambassador of Japan in India and a personal friend of Dr. Uma Tuli) and a letter from the Organisers, it was a smooth affair. All the visas were granted promptly.



Smt. Sheila Dikshit wishing Good Luck to the Indian team

Mediclaim: All the participants were provided with Mediclaim policies to guard against any health problems in Japan. Fortunately, all the participants kept fit and for minor problems Dr. Datta - Vice President, administered medicines from a first aid box carried by the team.

Tickets: The ticketing agents, Stic Travels, helped with the booking of air tickets. Special meals for the vegetarians were booked in advance. Japan Airlines provided wheelchairs for six participants and arranged seating of the entire team en-block. This facilitated easier communication amongst the participants.

Foreign Currency arrangements were made by NAAI to meet the expenses in Japan. Each participant also carried Japanese Yen out of their own funds to meet personal expenses.

Persons with disability wish to be trained to learn to produce quality work

Travel to Japan

Finally, the day had arrived. On November 11, India's 40-member team boarded Amar Jyoti buses (equipped with a hydraulic lift for wheelchairs) and headed for Indira Gandhi International Airport. All the Officials were designated as Group Leaders and were assigned 4-5 members each to deal with all the departure/arrival immigration, customs and related formalities. Japan Airlines made the pre-boarding process a smooth affair. The team boarded the aircraft with excitement as for many of the participants this would be their first flight. They soon not only figured out how to use all the facilities in the aircraft, including how to change the video channels into English language, but even assisted a few of the officials who were struggling with the TV remote! The flight attendants were friendly and pointed out the wondrous sight of Mt. Fuji from the air.

Arrival time at Narita airport was 5.30 a.m. on November 12, 2007. Immigration went smoothly, overall, and everyone was pleasantly surprised to see that all their luggage had been kept together. A minor hiccup at the immigration counter was sorted out by Mrs. Ranu Banerjee. As each person identified his or her luggage and wheeled out the trolleys to the arrival lounge, volunteers from the Organizers extended a warm welcome to the members of the team—most importantly, the team met Skarma Gurmit, a volunteer interpreter of Indian origin living in Japan. Skarma became the team's shadow for the next 10 days and made life much easier for them.

Abilympics provides a platform to showcase and exhibit the talent of persons with disability for the whole world to see that they are not less than others.

The team left the airport for Shizuoka in two barrier-free coaches. As they drove through Tokyo, the guide pointed out the

spectacular sight of Mt. Fuji. The beautiful, symmetrical mountain became a familiar sight for the next ten days. As we approached Shizuoka, the mountain came closer and closer.

At 5:30 in the evening—exactly 24 hours after having left for the airport from Amar Jyoti—the team arrived at Hotel Asent Plaza in Shizuoka. The hotel had eight steps and the wheelchairs had to be carried up. However, under the proactive leadership of Dr. Tuli, a wooden ramp was erected at the entrance within 48 hours. Delegations from different countries were accommodated in various hotels, and in some, the wheelchair users faced problems because the lodgings weren't barrier-free. This issue was also raised by the representative from Slovakia in the IAF Assembly Meeting.

Rooms were allotted and everyone went for a well-earned rest. In the evening the team met for a light dinner at the hotel restaurant followed by an early night - but not before Ms. Tarlochan distributed sachets of tea, sugar and milk to all the participants in their rooms.

School Visit - Shizuoka

The following morning, the team was invited to Mt. Fuji Primary School as part of Shizuoka Friendship Programme. As a part of this programme, local elementary schools and junior high schools for children with and without disabilities had prepared hospitality programmes to welcome visiting delegations and foster international exchanges. Prior to the visit, the students had studied about India in their classes. Each participant was led by two children through an arch made of paper flowers using Indian flag colours. As the team was being escorted to the stage, the school hall was reverberating with music and clapping by the children. A few students interacted with the contestants and one of them spoke about Mount Fuji. The programme was conducted by the students themselves. Each participant was given a paper medallion and a beautiful carnation by a student. They sang and cheered the Indian team—a wonderful welcome to a beautiful country! The busiest person was Skarma- interpreting all that was being said by the children into English and Hindi.

Arrangements for lunch and dinner had been made at an Indian restaurant—"Jangir". For some of the participants who had not had a full meal since their departure from Delhi, it was like an oasis—Indian food, especially vegetarian food!



Japanese school children offer warm greetings to Tarlochan Dhillon, Secretary, NAFI

The Abilympics brings to light peoples' indomitable spirit, courage, and their resourcefulness at finding newer and novel ways to tackle activities.

Inauguration



His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan giving the inaugural address

On November 14, the coaches came early morning to take everyone to the contest site. All participants were smartly dressed in blue blazers inset with the 'Abilympics India logo' for the inauguration of International Skills Festival For All, 2007. An orientation session was held in the forenoon at the contest site for the events scheduled to be held on November 15. After orientation and lunch, the team proceeded to Granship (Shizuoka Convention and Arts Centre),

a majestic structure with a large auditorium. Here they met with the team from India which had come to participate in The World Skills Competition. (The Confederation of Indian Industry has become a member of International World Skills and they took a team of able-bodied persons under the age of 22 years to Japan.) A total of 1,172 competitors of International Abilympics and World Skills from 55 countries/regions, 29 of which were participating in Abilympics, had assembled in the Granship annex. In addition a large number of guests and public were present on this occasion. His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan was the Chief Guest.

The programme commenced with a marching-in by all participating teams. It was a proud moment as the Indian team marched

on to the stage, each one waving the tricolour to thunderous applause from the other participants, guests and members of the public. As the teams settled down, the formal programme commenced with speeches by Mr. Fujio Mitarai, President of JOCISF, Mr. Jack Dusseldorp, President of WSI and Mr. Fumio Kimura, President IAF. This was followed by an oath-taking ceremony on behalf of all the participants. His Imperial Highness, The Crown Prince and Honorary President of ISF 2007 addressed the audience and formally inaugurated the World Skills 2007 Festival. The Prince optimistically remarked, "This is going to be a happy gathering adding another chapter to the history of Abilympics." He also expressed the hope that ISF 2007 would help to further the development of the society for all where all people will respect and support each others personal character and individuality. This was followed by a speech from the Mr. Yoichi Masuzoe, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare who stated that all the concerned ministries in Japan had worked for the success of ISF 2007. He also expressed confidence that the event will enable persons with disabilities to enhance their skills and gain economic independence. The Governor of Shizuoka Prefecture welcomed the participants and expressed a hope that the event will provide a impetus for the creation of a "Universal society that respects skills". A well-known music group, "Aun", gave a scintillating performance on the famous Japanese drums and string instruments.

It was a fitting inauguration of the 7th International Abilympics. In the evening, the participants of World Skills and International Abilympics from all over the world had a get-together and welcome party. This enabled the participants to make new friends and renew old friendships.



The Indian Team proudly strides across the stage at the Inaugural



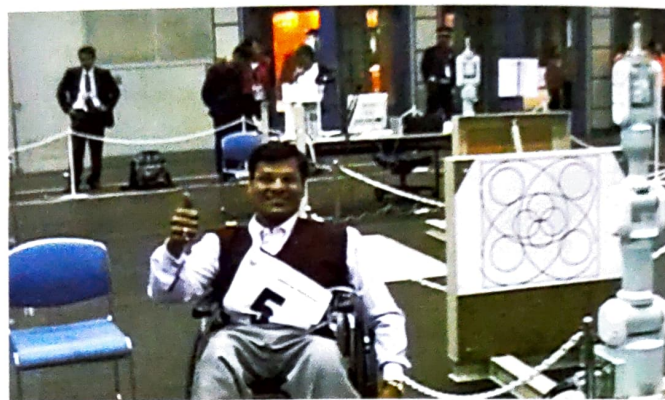
Performance by Japanese music group "Aun"

Orientation

Orientation sessions were held for the contestants. The sessions were held a day before the contests, and the venue for the orientations was the same as the contest venue. The time and period of each orientation was different. At the orientation sessions, the final task was explained by the Chief Judge. An interpreter to translate the task into English was provided by the Organisers. Translation into Hindi and sign language interpretation was provided by the officials accompanying the contingent. The orientations comprised of explaining how the contests would be held, necessary materials to be provided by the Organisers, inspection of tools brought by contestants, boundary conditions, and general do's and don'ts.

The orientation also provided an opportunity to the contestants for familiarisation with the venue, equipment and tools of the contest. In some contests a sample was also displayed and shown to the contestants. The orientation for 'Computer Programming' was held on November 16, 2007 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to enable the contestants to get a first-hand exposure on use of a robot arm.

All the 11 officials and escorts were put in charge of one contest (orientation and competition) on each of the three days. They accompanied contestants during both orientation, and the contests to translate guidelines, rules and regulations as well as get clarifications, if any, for the contestants. If and when any additional help was required, the officials liaised with the Organisers to provide the same.



Venue and Facilities

The International Abilympics were held at both Twin-Messe Shizuoka and Granship—Shizuoka Convention & Arts Center. Contests took place in the south-wing of Twin-Messe Shizuoka which is the biggest facility among all local cities and has large and small exhibition halls and meeting rooms. The Twin-Messe had a floor space of 12,470m² out of which the contest site had a floor area of 5400m².

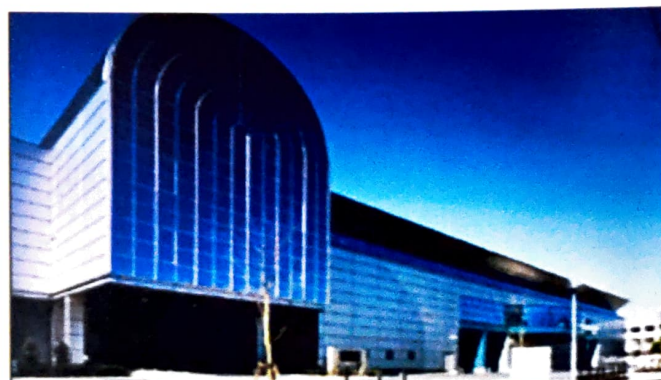
The facilities were barricaded to ensure that visitors and non-participants did not enter the contest area without permission of the Chief Judge. The seating arrangement for all the participants in each contest was marked and all the raw materials were available at the site. If an event needed to have a central facility, like a buffing machine for Jewellery making, it was available for use by all the participants. A copy of the task assignment and in some cases a sample of the task was also available at the site for reference.



Inside Twin-Messe, Shizuoka



The Opening Ceremony, Award and Closing Ceremony, and Performing Arts Festival were held at the Granship



All Contests, Demonstrations and International Exhibition took place at Twin-Messe, Shizuoka

Events

A total of 30 events were organised. Of these, 26 were under the category "Vocational Skills Contests" and the remaining four were "Leisure and Living Skills Contests." Nearly 402 participants with different disabilities from 29 countries participated in the contests. Most of the participants were from South-East Asia and only a handful of Western countries sent their participants.

Vocational Skills Contests:

Computer Programming
CAD-Architecture
Dental Techniques
Mechanical Assembly
Photography
Poster Design
Electronic Circuit Connection Techniques
English Text Processing
Data Processing—Basic
Data Processing—Advanced
Jewellery Making
Furniture Making—Basic
Furniture Making—Advanced
PC Assembly
Electronic Assembly and Testing
Artificial Limb Making
Basket Making
CAD - Machinery
Creating Web Pages
Dress Making—Basic
Dress Making—Advanced
Floral Arrangement
Tailoring
Wood Carving
Precision Sheet Metal Work

In the vocational skills contests basic courses were organised in three categories viz. Data Processing, Dress Making and Furniture Making to facilitate participation of contestants with various kinds of disabilities.

Leisure and Living Skills Contests:

Embroidery
Hand-Knitting
Painting
Pottery

Look at my strengths and not at my weaknesses



The Crown Prince visiting the flower arrangement competition



A view of the contest in progress

All the contests were organised during November 15–17, 2007. Of the 30 competitions, 11 were held on November 15, 9 on November 16 and 10 on November 17. Painting, Photography, Floral Arrangement, Dress Making and Pottery had the maximum number of participants. Dental Techniques, Precision Sheet Metal Work and Furniture Making had a lesser number of contestants.

On the first day of the contests, His Imperial Highness The Crown Prince visited Twin-Messe, to see the competitions. A large number of people visited the contest site which turned into a beehive of hectic activities. During these three days, students from various schools participating in the Shizuoka Friendship Programme also visited the contest site and encouraged the participants by waving their country's National Flag. Those who were not participating at



any given point visited the stalls at the Exhibition, which were mostly organisations working in the disability sector.

It was an opportunity of a lifetime to see the skills and abilities of the participants. For example, a small-statured contestant from Sri Lanka settled himself in the right posture for the electronic assembly and testing contest and proceeded with the task. The contestants in the basket-making contest were weaving intricate designs at astonishing speeds.

'Look at my Strengths and not at my Weaknesses'

The determination and skills of the participants were visible in the contests on Furniture Making, Mechanical Assembly, Artificial Limb Making and Wood Carving etc. The abilities displayed by the participants in the computer events were highly impressive. One could see the concentration and skills in PC Assembly, Computer Programming, and Web Page Designing, where the absolute calm atmosphere contrasted with other events bursting with physical activity. Ms. Ruma Roka, the sign language interpreter for the Indian Contingent, was of immense help for contestants with speech and hearing impairments.

Each event was judged by a panel of three judges. The Chief Judges were all from Japan, while the other two came from different countries. NAAI official, Ms. Sharmila Divatia, the only Indian on the panel of judges, adjudicated the 'Creating Web Pages' contest. The results were displayed on the day following each event at Twin-Messe central Promenade. A jury of appeal consisting of five members was constituted to deal with appeals against results. A list of members of the Jury is given at Annexure 'A'.

India won three silver, one bronze and a certificate of appreciation. A list of medal winners of all the contests is given at Annexure 'B'.



Ms. Sharmila Divatia said that "The judgment in the event was one of the fairest that I have experienced in my entire 6 years of Abilympics journey, mainly because we sought to judge the participants purely on the tasks that they were supposed to perform. This was done by way of a worksheet that was created and then filled by all three judges separately, so as to remove all bias. I believe that we have done a good job of selecting a set of skilled persons for the medals tally."

International Symposium



Ms. Sharmila Divatia during the session "Enjoying My Working Life"

On November 16, an International Symposium under the theme, "Good Skills, Good Job, Realising a Society for All" was held in the Twin Messe. 250 participants from 21 countries/regions participated in the symposium. The Plenary session was held in the

It had five speakers (from India, Korea & Japan) including Ms. Sharmila Divatia, Head, Quality Management Group, Essar Information Technology Ltd., Mumbai. All the speakers gave brief details of their own lives and how they had overcome their difficulties to enjoy their working lives.

The second Session was chaired by Mr. Yoshihiko Nonaka from Japan. All the five speakers (from Austria, Germany, Hongkong and Japan) spoke on their experiences under the theme "Supporting Disabled Workers". The third session entitled "International Abilympics: A Valuable Step in My Career" was held under the chairmanship of Prof. Masaya Asahi. It had five speakers from Singapore, Australia and Japan. Two of the speakers from Japan were silver medal winners of the 5th International Abilympics held in 2000.

All the sessions had time for interaction. The discussions were very lively and brought out some interesting and fascinating issues like how the doors of opportunity close when people resist change.

forenoon under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ryosuke Matsui. Ms. Debra Perry, Senior Specialist in Vocational Rehabilitation, International Labour Organisation, Mr. Don Crosby, Senior Specialist in Vocational Rehabilitation, McDonald's Corporation and Mr. Kazuto Ono, Senior General Manager, Human Relations Centre, Canon Inc. were the keynote speakers during this session.

In the afternoon three parallel sessions were held. Prof. Tadashi Kudoh was the Chairman of Session I - Enjoying My Working Life.

Exhibition & Demonstrations

IA 2007 Work Fair

A work fair was held at the north-wing of Twin-Messe from November 15 - 17, in which Japanese companies, NGOs and governmental organisations showcased their various initiatives, technologies and innovative measures under the banner of "IA 2007 Work Fair" with the aim of promoting employment of persons with disability and realising a society for all. The exhibition had five themes: Workplace; Support; Technology; Universal Design; and Employment Measure. The focus was on cutting-edge assistive technologies as well as universal designs for daily living. Besides vocational exhibitions, participants also gained cultural exposure like Japanese Kimono-making, tearoom service and massage, and were introduced to Shizuoka at the 'Hospitality Corner.' There were also events and attractions coordinated by both overseas delegations and Shizuoka organisations by displaying unique job opportunities for persons with disabilities and showcasing accessible motor vehicles.

Exhibitions and demonstrations were held by delegations from several countries to introduce their unique cultures and vocational skills. In addition to Japan, goods and handicrafts from countries like Rwanda, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Germany, Kenya, Hong Kong, Nepal, Pakistan, UAE etc. were displayed. Demonstrations of some skills were also arranged.

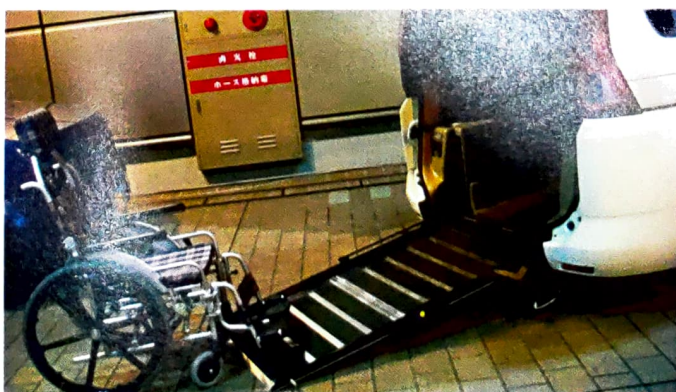
A special attraction was a demonstration of mechatronics by Festo AG & Co., Germany. This was arranged as a result of initiatives taken by Dr. Uma Tuli during her visit to UAE in January 2007. Satellite Exhibitions were held in three locations in Shizuoka with free admission. Various organisations coordinated the three exhibitions. There were two art exhibitions—"Discovering Brilliant Talent - Trial for Business" and "Energy of Expression, Impact of Art Brut" and one poster exhibition, which displayed original pictures

and photos of the posters used to advertise "Month of Disability Employment Support."

Different stage performances and events by visiting delegations, exhibitors and organisations based in Shizuoka Prefecture entertained the public and helped create greater awareness.



Artwork on display at the Satellite Exhibition



One of the accessible vehicles on display at the exhibition.

Media and Publicity

The main objective of Abilympics is to promote awareness about the aptitude and abilities of persons with disability, and through media and publicity such awareness can be spread. Before the international event, a brochure was printed. Designed by Ms. Poonam Bevli Sahi and her team at FACET Design, the brochure introduced each team member, official and escort. It highlighted the preparations made by the participants for the Internationals, and was distributed at the Contest site to the participants from other countries.

There was media coverage in newspapers before, during, and after the event, in numerous languages. Local papers from contestants' hometowns highlighted the concept of Abilympics and showered the winners with praise.

Fringe Benefits

The impressive turnout of countries and participants at the 7th International Abilympics is proof that the Abilympic movement is gaining momentum around the world. The implications of Abilympics reach far beyond the contests themselves, or the winning of a medal. The team did not win as many medals as expected, but it is the exposure, the experience of living together, moving as a team to learn from and support each other and gain confidence for the future, and the spirit of competition that have emerged as long-lasting benefits of the Abilympics.

Efforts will only succeed if there is an attitudinal change at all levels - among communities, employers, service providers, families and persons with disability themselves. The challenge for us all is to stop judging people by what they can't do, and start valuing what they can do.

Employment

One of the most important fringe benefits of the 7th International Abilympics is the employment opportunities generated before the event. While the contestants were training in Delhi for the four weeks prior to leaving for Japan, companies like IMB Daksh interviewed and even offered jobs to potential candidates! Of course, this exposure not only provided employment opportunities but also generated optimism among the group about the possibility of employment.



Convergence of Resources

The years leading up to the 7th International Abilympics witnessed a huge convergence of resources, a true inspiration that really spread the rays of the sunny slogan, "We Can, We Will." Starting from the Pre-Regional Abilympics, all the way to the International Event, Ministries (Social Justice and Empowerment; Human Resource Development; Labour), multinationals, NGOs, the private sector, defence services, educational institutions and individuals provided support to the Abilympics movement. Besides monetary aid, institutions and dedicated individuals offered their time and skills to ensure optimal functioning of the movement.

The Confederation of Indian Industry has recently become a member of World Skills International and participated for the first time in the 39th World Skills Competitions held together with 7th International Abilympics. They also felicitated the medal winners from India in the 7th International Abilympics at their International Conference.

Our talented and brave participants have shown their skills. What is needed is the extension of a helping hand, an understanding heart and a vision to look ahead.

Introspection and Brainstorming Meeting

The President, Secretary-General and other members of NAAI were disappointed that the contestants, despite all the support from the Government and the efforts made to impart training, did not perform to the limits of their potential. In order to do some soul searching and to assess the reasons for the performance, an introspection meeting was held on November 17 to get a feedback from the contestants. Contestants were asked to look within to ascertain why, how and where they went wrong. Some of the reasons as to why, despite all the facilities and training imparted, the performance fell short of expectation and potential are as follows:

1. **Environment:** For most contestants, it was their first-ever visit abroad. They were simply overwhelmed by the new environment and by seeing so many foreign contestants coupled with the fear of competition.
2. **Equipment and Accessories:** Disparity in technology—including equipment, tools, and associated accessories—was a huge problem. Many contestants were faced with latest state-of-the-art equipment with which they had no hands-on experience, causing them to feel overawed and bringing about poorer performance. In some of the events, tools used by the contestants were primitive as compared to the ones used by contestants from other countries (photography, for example). Also, the difference in voltage (220 Volts AC in India; 110 Volts AC in Japan) meant that contestants had to rely on substitutions, many of which were unfamiliar territory.
3. **Educational/Technical Background:** Most of the contestants came from low or lower middle class families and did not have adequate academic and technical backgrounds. The contests in some cases had tolerances in dimensions expressed in microns and millimetres. In cases, such as Jewellery making, the contestant had trouble converting the International units to local units and therefore could not perform to his full ability. Dimensional problems cost the team at least one potential gold medal.
4. **Training:** Contestants from some of the countries, particularly Japan and Korea, had been selected at least two years in advance and were working as 'apprentices' in industrial units dealing with the type of tasks expected in the Abilympics. In contrast, in spite of the four-week training camp in Delhi (which in retrospect was considered inadequate), the training in Zones needs to be strengthened to ensure that participants assimilated the training fully, got motivated and gained the confidence and ability to do their best despite difficult circumstances. One



Introspection meeting at Shizuoka

of the shortcomings that came to light was the overconfidence and obsession for success of some participants resulting in their not paying full attention to minor but crucial details resulting in deviation from the specifications.

5. **Tasks:** In at least two events, the tasks provided an advantage to certain contestants. A case in point is the Hand-knitting contest. In this event, the medal winners used a crochet, which produces a neater finish and takes less time to complete.

Having seen the contests, it was observed that the standard of performance of some of the Indian participants was far below the level exhibited by contestants from other countries. In future, more care needs to be exercised when selecting the team. The sole aim of selection should be the medal-winning potential of each member of the national team. A suggestion was made that an internal screening mechanism be implemented in which entry-level criteria would have to be met before being considered for competing at an International level. It was felt that during the National Abilympics, it might be worth considering whether a silver or a bronze medal or a certificate of excellence, rather than a gold medal, be awarded in case the performance is below a certain benchmark. Such an exercise should also have specific inputs from the judges during the National Abilympics about the standard of the participant for competing in an International event.

The high level of performance demonstrated by persons with disability proves their sheer grit, determination and inner strength at overcoming physical and mental limitations.

IAF Assembly and Executive Committee Meetings

Encouraged by the success of the first two International Abilympics, it was proposed during 2nd International Abilympics in Bogota, Colombia (1985) to establish an International organisation in order to promote the International Abilympics and hold it on a regular basis. After a series of discussions, the International Abilympic Federation (IAF) was established during the 3rd IA held in HongKong (1991). In Shizuoka, the 23rd Executive Committee meeting of IAF members and the 8th Assembly Meeting were held on November 13 & 16 respectively. Mr. Eisuke Saotome from Japan and Mr. Eun-Soo Park from Korea were elected as President and Vice - President for the term 2007-2011. Dr. Uma Tuli from India was elected as a member for the IAF Executive Committee for the term 2007-2011.

An important decision during the meeting was to raise the maximum number of officers of IAF from 10 to 12. This increase was agreed upon keeping in view the growing momentum of International Abilympics. The number of member organizations is continuously increasing, and non-member organisations that participated in IA 2007 are eager to become members. A few new member organisations, especially in Gulf Coast countries, are also showing enthusiastic commitment to the IA movement. A presentation on the 8th International Abilympics to be held in South Korea in 2011 under the theme "Flying together to realise our dreams" was made by Sun-Kyoo Kim on behalf of Korea Employment Promotion Agency.

Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party

The award distribution ceremony was held on November 18 at the Granship, and it was indeed a grand affair. It started with a Performing Arts Festival with the theme "Art, Culture and Cultural Exchange" where Korean Folk dance, Japanese Traditional music and dance and a piano performance by an artist with visual disability from Japan were presented. This was followed by the Award Ceremony in which the winners were awarded medals by various dignitaries. It was truly a proud moment when the medal winners went up to the stage waving the Indian Flag. With misty eyes and a lump in their throats all the participants cheered the winners. Most of the medals went to Japan, China, Chinese Taipei, and South Korea. At the concluding function, the International Abilympic Flag was handed over to Korea, the host for the 8th International Abilympics during 2011



Mohd. Sikandar was awarded a Silver Medal for 'Embroidery'



Robin Arora won a Silver Medal for 'English Desktop Publishing.'



Sai Krishnan and Harishanthan won a Silver and Bronze Medal, respectively, for 'Photography.'

And then came the finale—a Bhangra performance by the Indian team! Fifteen of the contestants in their finery went on to the stage and gave the show of a lifetime. None of the 15 were dancers. They had not even known each other until a month ago. And yet they danced like a team- which they had become—and won the hearts of the audience. They danced down to the hall and then the whole auditorium joined in as the music was replayed. For 10 minutes the group transformed a little part of Japan into India! The dance was followed

by a farewell party arranged by the Organisers. During these celebrations the participants renewed old friendships, and made new friends from amongst the participants in Shizuoka. A happier Indian team went back to the hotel to pack for their departure back home.

The International Abilympics proved that no matter what our affiliations, our backgrounds or our beliefs may be, we all speak the same language - that of humanity, of love, of acceptance, of inclusion.



The Indian Team performing the Bhangra.



The audience dancing along with the Indian contingent

Conclusion

The period leading up to the 7th International Abilympics was busy, demanding, and full of hard work. The financial support and encouragement from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of NCT, Delhi, Corporates and individuals made it possible for the Indian contingent to participate in the 7th International Abilympics. A list of generous supporters is given at Annexure 'C'. The trip to Japan exposed the participants to the current standards of international competitive skills, created greater awareness and understanding of the level of preparations, equipment and tools used by participants from other countries. The team had expected more medals, but won three Silver, one Bronze, and a Certificate of Appreciation. The experience was rich and unforgettable.

It helped develop a team spirit amongst the participants and forge long lasting friendships amongst them. The exposure has motivated all the participants to improve their skills and become all the more determined to perform well both at home and the next International Abilympics, scheduled to be held in Seoul, South Korea, in October 2011. One contestant remarked, "For me it was a dream come true. My only regret is that I did not get a medal for my country. I will work harder for the next International."

The contestants entered the Abilympics world as strangers, but have journeyed through it as family. One of the medal winners aptly remarked the journey was "a fabulous and a mind-blowing trip with oneness among 'Team India.'"

List of Members Jury

Name	Organisation
Takanori Egami	The ISF 2007 Organising Committee, Japan
Fumio Kimura	International Abilympics Federation, Japan
Philip Yuen	Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities, Hong Kong
Gerald Sommerhuber	Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA) Germany
Khalid El-Mohtar	National Rehabilitation & Development Centre Lebanon



List of Medal Winners

Event No.	Event	Medal	Country/Region		Name
V01	Artificial Limb Making	Gold	Korea	Mr	Jaesun Lee
V01	Artificial Limb Making	Silver	Japan	Mr	Norihiko Ito
V01	Artificial Limb Making	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Tetsuya Ishimi
V01	Artificial Limb Making	Special	Japan	Mr	Mitsuko Ito
V02	Basket Making	Gold	Chinese Taipei	Ms	Li-Hua Lu
V02	Basket Making	Silver	Thailand	Ms	Amporn Janthawon
V02	Basket Making	Bronze	China	Ms	Xu Haosong
V03	CAD - Architecture	Gold	China	Mr	Wu Jianyin
V03	CAD - Architecture	Silver	Japan	Mr	Kenji Kurata
V03	CAD - Architecture	Bronze	Singapore	Mr	Lai Wee Leong
V03	CAD - Architecture	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Yukimasa Tanaka
V03	CAD - Architecture	Special	Korea	Mr	Kiseon Kim
V04	CAD - Machinery	Gold	Chinese Taipei	Mr	Chia-Chien Chang
V04	CAD - Machinery	Silver	Japan	Mr	Takashi Yoshikawa
V04	CAD - Machinery	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Daisuke Takahashi
V04	CAD - Machinery	Special	Japan	Mr	Emi Itakura
V05	Computer Programming	Gold	Japan	Mr	Yasuhito Hosozawa
V05	Computer Programming	Silver	Korea	Ms	HyeJeong
V05	Computer Programming	Silver	Japan	Mr	Koichi Tomitaka
V05	Computer Programming	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Kunihiko Suzuki
V05	Computer Programming	Bronze	China	Mr	Zhou Xuesong
V06	Creating Web Pages	Gold	China	Mr	Li Xianjun
V06	Creating Web Pages	Silver	Korea	Mr	JeMyong
V06	Creating Web Pages	Bronze	China	Mr	Zhang Yajun
V06	Creating Web Pages	Special	Chinese Taipei	Ms	Yu-Ying Liu
V06	Creating Web Pages	Special	Japan	Mr	Yoshitaka Terada
V07	Data Processing - Advanced Course	Gold	Japan	Mr	Masaru Hatakeyama
V07	Data Processing - Advanced Course	Silver	Chinese Taipei	Mr	Chi-Lun Ho
V07	Data Processing - Advanced Course	Silver	Japan	Mr	Takashi Katsuzawa
V07	Data Processing - Advanced Course	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Yoshihiro Kakiki
V08	Data Processing - Basic Course	Gold	Japan	Mr	Kazuya Toyokawa
V08	Data Processing - Basic Course	Silver	Japan	Mr	Yoshihiro Hashimoto
V08	Data Processing - Basic Course	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Takuya Akita
V09	Dental Techniques	Gold	Korea	Mr	DongBum
V09	Dental Techniques	Gold	Japan	Mr	Takahiro Suekawa
V09	Dental Techniques	Silver	Japan	Mr	Michihito Fujii
V09	Dental Techniques	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Shigeharu Takagi
V10	Dress Making - Advanced Course	Gold	Japan	Ms	Toshiko Takase
V10	Dress Making - Advanced Course	Silver	Chinese Taipei	Ms	Hui-Yu Lo
V10	Dress Making - Advanced Course	Silver	China	Mr	Wu Hongsheng
V10	Dress Making - Advanced Course	Bronze	China	Mr	Zhao Xiaoming
V11	Dress Making - Basic Course	Gold	Japan	Ms	Deji Sawada
V11	Dress Making - Basic Course	Silver	China	Mr	Shi Xueming
V11	Dress Making - Basic Course	Bronze	Chinese Taipei	Ms	Hsiu-Ling Hu
V11	Dress Making - Basic Course	Special	Japan	Mr	Kenji Matsuda
V12	Electronic Assembly and Testing	Gold	Japan	Ms	Mitsuko Omura
V12	Electronic Assembly and Testing	Silver	Japan	Mr	Kazunori Iida
V12	Electronic Assembly and Testing	Bronze	Korea	Mr	HoYoung
V12	Electronic Assembly and Testing	Bronze	Thailand	Mr	P. Supanidametat
V12	Electronic Assembly and Testing	Special	Chinese Taipei	Mr	Sung-Yuan Wu
V13	Electronic Circuit Connection Techniques	Gold	Japan	Mr	Katsumi Yamamoto
V13	Electronic Circuit Connection Techniques	Silver	Japan	Ms	Mami Matsufuji
V13	Electronic Circuit Connection Techniques	Bronze	Japan	Ms	Mayumi Hashimoto
V14	English Desktop Publishing	Gold	Chinese Taipei	Mr	Che-Chuan Lin
V14	English Desktop Publishing	Silver	Japan	Ms	Kimie Takahashi
V14	English Desktop Publishing	Silver	India	Mr	Robin Arora
V14	English Desktop Publishing	Bronze	Korea	Mr	HwanHyung

Event No.	Event	Medal	Country/Region		Name
V15	English Text Processing	Gold	China	Ms	Xu Lili
V15	English Text Processing	Silver	Korea	Mr	InHyuk
V15	English Text Processing	Bronze	Japan	Ms	Chika Shigesada
V16	Floral Arrangement	Gold	Japan	Ms	Yayoi Ugatani
V16	Floral Arrangement	Silver	Japan	Mr	Kiyofumi Yamasawa
V16	Floral Arrangement	Bronze	Hong Kong	Ms	Tang Yin Mui
V16	Floral Arrangement	Special	Chinese Taipei	Ms	Mang-Hui Ku
V16	Floral Arrangement	Special	Japan	Ms	Kyoko Hosoda
V16	Floral Arrangement	Special	Korea	Ms	YeonSook
V16	Floral Arrangement	Special	Hong Kong	Ms	Leung Kwai Yee
V17	Furniture Making - Advanced Course	Gold	Korea	Mr	DongHak
V17	Furniture Making - Advanced Course	Silver	Japan	Mr	Yutaka Sato
V17	Furniture Making - Advanced Course	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Yoshio Naito
V17	Furniture Making - Advanced Course	Special	Chinese Taipei	Ms	Yun-Zhen Huang
V18	Furniture Making - Basic Course	Gold	Japan	Mr	Masateru Sugito
V18	Furniture Making - Basic Course	Silver	Japan	Mr	Tetsuro Honda
V18	Furniture Making - Basic Course	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Shinya Yamamoto
V19	Jewelry Making	Gold	Chinese Taipei	Mr	Yu-Shen Su
V19	Jewelry Making	Silver	Japan	Mr	Akihiko Kiumi
V19	Jewelry Making	Bronze	China	Mr	Dun Yanhui
V19	Jewelry Making	Special	Korea	Mr	JongSeop
V20	Mechanical Assembly	Gold	Korea	Mr	Sucksoon
V20	Mechanical Assembly	Silver	Chinese Taipei	Mr	Chou Ming-Hung
V20	Mechanical Assembly	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Nakao Masuda
V20	Mechanical Assembly	Special	India	Mr	Aiyub A. Nagori
V21	PC Assembly	Gold	Korea	Mr	SangBong
V21	PC Assembly	Silver	Japan	Mr	Junichi Miroku
V21	PC Assembly	Bronze	Thailand	Mr	Kasem Wongchai
V21	PC Assembly	Special	Japan	Mr	Tatsuto Nishida
V21	PC Assembly	Special	Chinese Taipei	Mr	Ting-An Jin
V22	Photography	Gold	Hong Kong	Mr	Li Yip Fuk
V22	Photography	Silver	China	Mr	Chen Ying
V22	Photography	Silver	India	Mr	P. Saikrishnan
V22	Photography	Silver	Singapore	Mr	Tan Bo Xi Kelvin
V22	Photography	Bronze	India	Mr	T. Harishanathan
V23	Poster Design	Gold	Korea	Mr	BoHyuk
V23	Poster Design	Silver	Japan	Mr	Hiroshi Kokue
V23	Poster Design	Bronze	China	Mr	Hu Baizhi
V23	Poster Design	Special	Japan	Mr	Makoto Koike
V24	Precision Sheet Metal Work	Gold	Japan	Mr	Tadao Kawamoto
V24	Precision Sheet Metal Work	Silver	Japan	Mr	Yasuyuki Aizawa
V24	Precision Sheet Metal Work	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Kazuyuki Hirayama
V25	Tailoring	Gold	Korea	Mr	GiCheol
V25	Tailoring	Silver	Chinese Taipei	Ms	Yi-Chen Chiu
V25	Tailoring	Bronze	Japan	Ms	Kotoyo Taki
V26	Wood Carving	Gold	Korea	Mr	MinJae
V26	Wood Carving	Silver	China	Mr	Hu Xianmin
V26	Wood Carving	Bronze	Malaysia	Mr	Mazri Mohamed
V26	Wood Carving	Special	Japan	Mr	Shinji Hanabusa
L01	Embroidery	Gold	China	Ms	Chen Qiuying
L01	Embroidery	Silver	India	Mr	Sikandar Shaikh
L01	Embroidery	Bronze	Slovakia	Ms	Bottkova
L02	Hand-knitting	Gold	Japan	Ms	Yoshie Murata
L02	Hand-knitting	Silver	Thailand	Ms	Somsuang Kongngoen
L02	Hand-knitting	Bronze	China	Ms	Zhu Qingqing
L03	Painting	Gold	Thailand	Ms	Jutarat Jumpanil
L03	Painting	Silver	China	Mr	He Zhiqiang
L03	Painting	Bronze	Malaysia	Mr	Anuar Lim
L04	Pottery	Gold	Thailand	Mr	Anirut Panjopsing
L04	Pottery	Silver	China	Mr	Xia Ronghu
L04	Pottery	Bronze	Japan	Mr	Yutaka Iida

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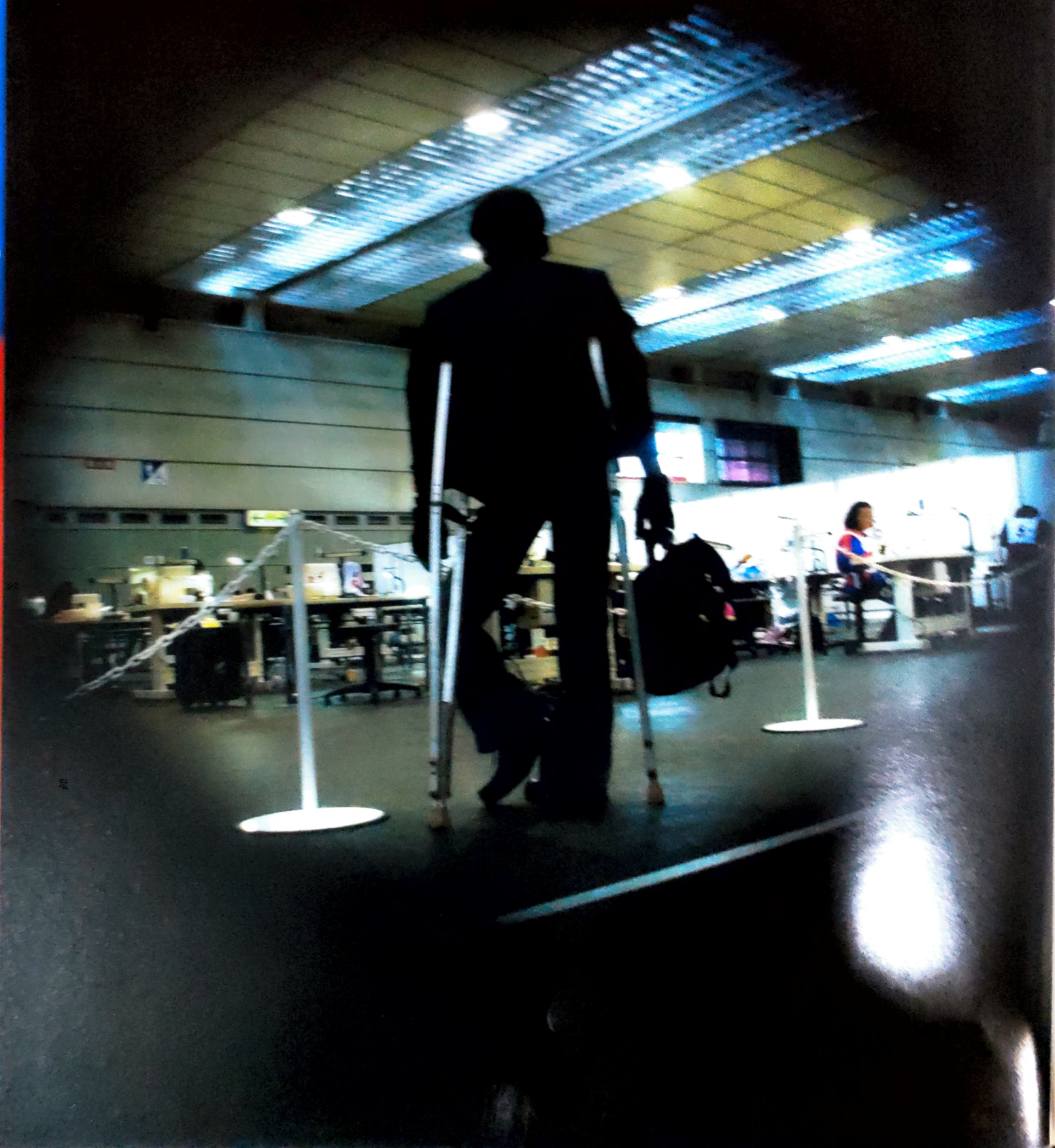
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