

Introduction

1. Preface

The National Institute of Special Education (NISE), an independent administrative institution, has been holding APEID Seminars on special education since 1981, as one of the centers to cooperate with the Asia and the Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID). Since fiscal 2002, the Seminar has been held under the title of "Asian and the Pacific International Seminar on Special Education" jointly by the NISE and the Japan UNESCO Committee.

2. About this year's Seminar

This Seminar is implemented for the purpose of contributing toward the development of special education in particular and improvement of education in general in the Asian and Pacific and the Oceanian countries, with the NISE inviting experts of special education from various countries. This year's Seminar's theme was "The Current Situations and Future Trends of Educational Practice for Children with Visual or Hearing Impairments - Practice and Its Outcome of Educational Support in Each Country". Research presentations by the delegates of the participating countries and a symposium were held during the period of six days from November 11 to 16, 2002, with the Yokohama Symposia as the main site.

The Seminar was participated by 13 countries namely Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These countries' special education experts participated as seminar presenters. The Seminar was also participated by many NISE staff, Japanese researchers, and teachers of special education schools among others. This year's Seminar is outline below.

3. The Seminar

1) Theme

The Current Situations and Future Trends of Educational Practice for Children with Visual or Hearing Impairments - Practice and Its Outcome of Educational Support in Each Country"

2) Organizer:

The National Institute of Special Education, Japan (NISE)

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

3) Seminar schedule

November 11 (Monday) - 16 (Saturday), 2002

4) The presentations and Symposium

This year's Seminar held presentations, discussions and a symposium under the theme "The Current Situations and Future Trends of Educational Practice for Children with Visual or Hearing Impairments - Practice and Its Outcome of Educational Support in Each Country" by focusing on the education for the sensory impaired children.

The presentations were made by the 14 persons representing the 13 countries as listed below based on the above theme.

5) The presentations

In the presentations, the delegates reported on a) the contents and method of education for children with visual or hearing impairments, b) development and use of teaching aids for such children and c) education for such children in ordinary schools.

In the morning of Day 1 of the presentations, the Pakistani representative made a presentation entitled "Providing Effective Teaching Material and Methods for Children with Visual Impairment", and the Malaysian representative, "The Current Situations and Future Trends of Educational Practice for Children with Visual Impairment - Practice and its Outcome of Educational Support in Malaysia-", in relation to "contents and method of education for children with visual impairments ", followed by discussions.

In the afternoon, the following presentations were made, followed by discussions, mainly in relation to "education for the visually impaired children in ordinary schools":

Indonesia: "Practice and its Outcome of Educational Support in Malaysia";

New Zealand: "Educational for Children with Visual Impairment in Regular Schools NEW ZEALAND";

Sri Lanka: "The Current Situations and Future Trends of Educational Practice for Children with Visual Impairment";

Thailand: "Thailand of Education Development Plan on the Provision Education for the Disabled of THAILAND";

Japan: "The roles of Schools for the Blind as Centers for Supporting the Visual Impaired - Mainly Support for Visually Impaired Children Attending Ordinary Schools (the case of Kanagawa Prefecture) -"; and

Korea: "Educational for Children with Visual Impairment in Regular Schools".

In the morning of Day 2 of the presentations, the following presentations were made, followed by discussions, in relation to "contents and method of education for children with hearing impairment ":

Nepal: "The Current Situations and Future Trends of Educational Practice for Children with Visual/Hearing Impairments - Practice and its Outcome of Educational Support in the Kingdom of Nepal -";

Australia: "Spoken Language Outcomes for Australian Children with Impairment Hearing: Present and Future Trends";

the Philippines: "The Cooperative Learning: A Proposed Technique in Teaching Reading with Comprehension to Students with Hearing Impairments"; and
Japan: "The Early Intervention for an Infant with a Hearing Impairment - Support in the First Sixteen Months -".

In the afternoon, the following presentations were made, followed by discussions, mainly in relation to "education for the hearing impaired children in ordinary schools":

China: "Rewrite the Lives of Children with Hearing Impairment: A Case Study of an LRC Teacher"; and

India: "Educational of Hearing Impaired Children in Regular Schools".

These were followed by General Discussion in which the participants actively asked questions and held discussions and exchanged opinions.

From the presentations made by the delegates, the pending issues shared by the participating countries seemed to be 1) early detection of impaired children and taking of medical and educational countermeasures, 2) improvement of the school attendance rate of the impaired children, 3) need for special education for the impaired children and establishment of the educational program to serve as the basis of such education and 4) training of full-time special education teachers. Opinions were actively exchanged concerning the outcomes of the educational support system through inclusion.

6) The Symposium

The Symposium was held on Day 3 under the theme " The Current Situations and Future Trends of Educational Opportunities for Children with Visual or Hearing Impairments and Education Meeting Individual Needs".

As panelists, Australia's Dr. Rickards reported on the present state of the education for the hearing impaired children in Australia, Ms. Fabros of the Philippines reported on the country's measures and policies concerning and the present state of the education for the impaired children, and Mr. Chida of Japan reported on the educational system in Japan and the need for special education, and the present state of the special support education. Following these reports, the participants held active discussions and opinion exchange on such matters as (1) the development of the curricula for the education of the impaired children, and creation of the systems for training full-time special education teachers and providing special education training for ordinary teachers, and (2) promotion of information and people exchange by constructing an international cooperation network for the development of special education in the Asian and Pacific region.

7) Institutional visits

In the morning of Day 4, the delegates visited the NISE building and its adjacent National Kurihama Special School. In the afternoon, they visited the Yokohama Municipal School for the

Deaf and the Yokohama Municipal School for the Blind. At these institutions, they observed the actual instruction scenes and held discussions with the teachers in charge to exchange information, and gathered information for use as educational data and references in the participating countries.

CHIDA Koki

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