

Under the Patronage of HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Minister of Interior Affairs

Zayed Higher Organization for Humanitarian Care and Special Needs

Organizes

The Abu Dhabi Seventh International Conference for Persons with Disabilities

ACCESS Abu Dhabi 2015

Promoting the Protection Rights for Persons with Disabilities

Abu Dhabi – United Arab Emirates

21st – 23rd April 2015

CALL FOR PAPERS

Zayed Higher Organization for Humanitarian Care and Special Needs, the main authority responsible for providing specialized services for persons with disabilities and orphans in Abu Dhabi, is pleased to announce the Seventh Abu Dhabi International Conference for Persons with Disabilities (ACCESS Abu Dhabi 2015), to be held in the beautiful capital city of Abu Dhabi from 21st – 23th April 2015.

ACCESS Abu Dhabi began in 2006. During its six previous cycles it has had a direct positive impact on supporting individuals with disabilities in the local community in different areas such as, health, rehabilitation, education, family supports, and employment. Based on the success of this conference, Zayed Higher Organization for Humanitarian Care and Special Needs (ZHO) is in the process of organizing its Seventh ACCESS Abu Dhabi 2015 conference, which will highlight the best international practices in the field of **CHILD PROTECTION**.

The theme of this year's ACCESS Abu Dhabi Conference is: **Promoting the Protection Rights for Persons with Disabilities**, with special attention to the protection of Children with Disabilities.

This topic was adopted in response to the wise leadership vision to assure the protection rights of all of Emirati citizens, and this is considered a priority in the strategic agenda of the Government of UAE.

In response to the direction of HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Interior Affairs, May God bless him, the conference is also going to reflect the role and great efforts of the Ministry of Interior Affairs in setting the Strategic Plan for Child Protection. It is important to mention that the conference coincides with the UAE being awarded membership on the Human Rights Council, with 184 votes for the Asian Group. This reflects the efforts of the UAE government in defending human rights through the creation of legislation to guarantee these rights which resulted in the UAE being ranked at a high level in the field of human rights. Also the conference coincides with the approval of the UAE Child Protection Law, which is a significant piece of legislation supporting and protecting children.

Themes of the Conference:

The themes of the conference reflect the broad range of goals, issues and topics associated with the rights of persons with disabilities. The themes of the conference are the following:

- The rich experience of the Ministry of Interior Affairs in setting the Strategic Plan of Child Protection in Abu Dhabi
- The existing International Law and Legislation in the field of child protection, and the mechanisms and challenges of implementation

- The programs and strategies that have been found to be successful in reducing the discrimination and abuse of children with disabilities by their peers (e.g. bullying)
- The empowerment of children with disabilities to protect themselves against abuse
- Procedures for reporting suspected cases of abuse against children, and to identify the responsibilities of the reporter
- The considerations of child protection, especially children with disabilities against abuse and violence
- Successful international practices in the field of child protection, including prevention and treatment or counseling for abused individuals
- Roles and responsibilities of persons and organizations in the field of child protection, especially as regards to children with disabilities.
- Strategies and programs designed to protect persons with disabilities within the family against abuse
- Strategies and programs designed to protect persons with disabilities against abuse in the work placement.
- Policies and legislation for assuring the rights of individuals with disabilities against abuse at the international, country (UAE) and local levels
- The creation of safe environments in all settings (family, school, community) which are free from abuse, including prevention programs
- The response to suspected abuse including reporting, legal action and penalties
- Treatment, counseling and therapeutic services for persons who have been abused

The Organization of the Conference:

In an attempt to guarantee the maximum level of participation, ACCESS has approved three different types of participation, as the following:

- **Oral presentations:** which is divided into main and sub presentations and the time limits of both types of presentations also differs. Presentations will take a place sequentially in the main theater from the morning until after noon.
- **Workshops:** which will run in parallel directly after the oral presentations (5 workshops will run at the same time in different rooms) for 2 hours.

Note: international speakers are required to present an oral presentation and at least one workshop

- **Posters Exhibition:** which is a posters gallery, where the participants will have the chance to exhibit and discuss their experience with the visitors, who are going to visit the exhibition any time during the conference days.

Please submit the participation form to Ms. Hanadi Al Jafari (Educational Expert and the ACCESS facilitator) at the email address:

Hanadi.aljafari@zho.ae by 31st January 2015.

Participation Procedures and the Selection Mechanism:

Kindly, complete a separate form for each type of session you are interested in presenting. Include a clear biography about your professional background (not more than 400 words).

Regarding selection of the participants, the ACCESS committee is going to notify all participants with the final decision about their participation request, on the specified dates below. Then the committee is going to ask the accepted participants to send their Power Point presentation in advance, to check it and prepare it for the ACCESS presentations.

Conditions of Participation:

- To fill a complete separate form for each type of presentation the candidate is interested in (word document)
- To send clear information about the candidate (contact email, position, contact phone number with area code, etc)
- To complete a biography about the candidate (not more than 400 words)
- To complete a clear abstract about the paper (not more than 400 words).

Note: Please send abstract only; not complete presentation or paper at this time.

Note: There is no other channel to participate, except sending the forms to the email Hanadi.aljafari@zho.ae.

Submission deadline is 31st January 2015.

Important Dates:

- 12th October 2014 – The first call for paper
- 1 December 2014 – the second call for paper
- 31st January 2015 – deadline for submitting the abstracts
- 10th February 2015 - Notifying the participants about their participation status
- 26th February 2015 - Publish the golden version of ACCESS Abu Dhabi schedule, and all print outs.
- 20th March 2015 - participants, to send their Power Point presentations.
- 21st – 24th April 2015 – ACCESS Abu Dhabi 2015 conference begins!

**You are most welcome to your second home Abu Dhabi
You are welcome to ACCESS Abu Dhabi 2015**

**Yours Sincerely,
ACCESS Abu Dhabi Higher Committee**