Asian SignBank

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Parallel Session: Sign language solutions
RISE OF APSL PROGRAM:
MOTIVATION AND VISION

Sign Linguistic research are well developed in US and Europe

Lack of Sign Language research in Asia

Deaf inaccessibility to education and SL training

Low academic status and upward social mobility of the Deaf
RISE OF APSL PROGRAM:
MOTIVATION FOR DEVELOPING THE APSL PROGRAM

Asian SignBank

Support future SL development in Asia

Asian Sign Language documentation – Asian SignBank

Deaf training in Sign Language Research and Training

Professional Sign Language instructors/researchers
RISE OF APSL PROGRAM:
STRATEGIES

- Collaborate with local Deaf association in identifying talented Deaf individuals
- Develop formal, certificate training programs to upgrade the academic status of Deaf trainees
- Collaborate with local universities in nurturing of expertise in sign linguistics

Centres and Institutions:
- Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies, Centre for Disability Studies, Department of Linguistics, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf
- Mary Chapman School for the Deaf
- The Sign Language Research Laboratory (LRBI), University of Indonesia, Indonesia
- Sign language Centre in Indonesia, Indonesian Association for the Welfare of the Deaf (IWAD)
- Sign Language Linguistics Research Section (SiLLR) at the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
- Sign Language Research Center, Kwansei Gakuin University
- Japanese Federation of the Deaf

Partners:
- Department of Linguistics, University of South Pacific, Fiji
- Fiji Association for the Deaf

World Federation of the Deaf, Regional Secretariat/Asia Pacific
DEVELOPMENT OF THE APSL PROGRAM

- Sign Language training and research based at the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies, CUHK, with support from external experts in various disciplines

Carol Padden
E. Lynn Jacobowitz
David McKee
Leala Holcomb
Yutaka Osugi
Benjamin Lewis
Peoungpaka Janyawong
E. Lynn Jacobowitz
DEVELOPMENT OF THE APSL PROGRAM:
FORMULATING A FRAMEWORK TO DEVELOP SL RESEARCH IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT

Deaf and Hearing graduates go back to the 'soil' and act as 'fertilizers' to breed new trees

Sub-degree programs bridging to higher education

Deaf Associations and Universities absorb talented Deaf adults from the 'soil'

Research
Teaching
SL Documentation
Research skills training
DELIVERABLES:
CREATION OF DEAF AND HEARING EXPERTISE IN ASIA

- Graduating from certified sign linguistics training programs
DELIVERABLES:
CREATION OF DEAF AND HEARING EXPERTISE IN ASIA

- Generation of a team of Deaf and hearing researchers who can contribute to local and regional research and training in Sign Language.

Ms Laura Lesmana presented at the DRF grantees meeting stressing on the importance of Deaf Rights and collaboration among IAWD branches, and Ms Adhika Irlang Suwiryo (right) interpreted for IAWD participants at the DRF meeting.

Various Sign Language training workshops conducted in Sri Lanka by APSL graduates.
DEliverables: Establishment of Research Units at Universities in Asia

- Setting up of research units and teaching labs at universities.

Establishment of the research unit Laboratorium Riset Bahasa Isvarat (LRBI) on 18 Jun 2014

Members of the research team and representative of Indonesian Association for the Welfare of the Deaf (IAWD) held a program evaluation meeting at a branch office in Yogyakarta in Sept 2014.

Setting up the workstation at Laboratorium Riset Bahasa Isvarat (LRBI)
DELIVERABLES: ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH UNITS AT UNIVERSITIES IN ASIA

- Setting up of research units and teaching labs at universities.

Sri Lankan graduates gave training at Central Federation of the Deaf (CFD) in Sri Lanka.

The APSL deaf graduates working together on the dictionary at CFD.
DELIVERABLES:
PROMOTION OF DEAF INVOLVEMENT IN SL RESEARCH

- Raising awareness of the existence of Sign Linguistics research in the region through participating in conferences and public activities
DELIVERABLES:
PROMOTION OF DEAF INVOLVEMENT IN SL RESEARCH

- Deaf presentation at conferences
DELEVERABLES:
PROMOTION OF DEAF INVOLVEMENT IN SL RESEARCH

- Deaf presentation at conferences

International Symposium on Signed and Spoken Linguistics

New Ways of Analyzing Variation – Asia Pacific 2

11th Asia Pacific Congress on Deafness
ASIAN SIGNBANK
BACKBONE OF FUTURE SL DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA

- A permanent archive of Asian Sign Languages – the Asian SignBank – with functions to support
  - data access for Sign Language research,
  - Auto-generation of sign language dictionaries, teaching and learning materials

Asian SignBank

Hong Kong
Japan
Myanmar
Vietnam
The Philippines
Sri Lanka
Cambodia
Indonesia
Fiji
Deaf researchers contribute sign language data to the Asian SignBank.

Sign language dictionaries and teaching books are generated automatically for the Asian countries.
OUR BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

- A virtual ‘Asia Institute of Sign Linguistics’ to support:
  - Inter-institutional collaboration in developing Sign Language research
  - Sharing of SL resources through the Asian SignBank
  - Disciplinary and professional developments in
    - Sign linguistics and Sign Language Documentation
    - Sign Language Teaching
    - Sign Interpretation
    - Education for the Deaf
Thank You