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Three African Ministers in Arusha for the FATO Congress. Page 1

Left : Minister of Labour & Social Services, Zimbabwe, The Hon Mrs. Paurina MPUARIWA

Right : Hon-Minister of Social Affairs & Solidarity, Central Africa Republic, The Hon Mrs. MARGUERITE PETROKONIZEZE

ARUSHA TANZANIA 19–24 SEPTEMBER, 2011

Official closing of the FATO 2011 Congress by Professeur Claude LECOULTRE, President of the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled.

Read Page 12

Mr Masse NIANG giving the honorary membership certificate to The Hon-Minister of Social Affairs & Solidarity, Central Africa Republic, The Hon Mrs. MARGUERITE PETROKONIZEZE

Read page 11

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African Federation of Orthopaedic Technologists
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Interview with Professor Jan HB GEERTZEN
Principal of TATCOT

Extract, P. 3

Harold Bangali, President of the National Organizing Committee, Principal of TATCOT

Claude Tardif Head of Physical Rehabilitation Programme ICRC

Mr Max DENEUX, Director of the Special Fund for Persons with Disabilities (Africa Section) ICRC

MEAS: Isabelle Head of the Rehabilitation Technical Unit, ICRC Technical Resources Division
I was impressed...

By proceeding to the official closing of the FATO congress, on September 24th, 2011 in Arusha, Professor Claude LECOULTRE, President of ICRC Special Fund for Disabled, said, "I was impressed at the opening of the congress by the presence of the significant number of participants with a great variety. And I am also impressed at the closing by the large number present which is very rare in congresses where, at the end we rarely see 1/3 of the participants. I encourage you and congratulate you on the success of the Congress and inform you of my availability to strengthen our partnership."
Third day of the congress in which two main topics were addressed: national strategies/policies and cerebral palsy management. In addition, the first open session was held.

In the session “National Strategies and Policies”, which was chaired by Max Deneu, 8 countries (Rwanda, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Togo, DR Congo, Burkina Faso, Burundi and Ivory Cost) presented their strategies/policies for the development of the rehabilitation sector. In addition to country presentations, the development of physiotherapy and CBR in Benin and the ADPK Kenya inclusive approach activities were presented. Masse NIANG, key speaker of the session, opened the session with an overview of the situation and raised the idea of implementation a body to follow-up the development of national strategies/policies and to monitor their implementation.

The management of cerebral palsy is a challenge for the rehabilitation sector. During the session “Management of Cerebral Palsy”, the subject was addressed under three aspects: Background and Theory, Spasticity and Postural Seating. During the session, chaired by Harold Shangali, the speakers not only presented basic principles, but also shared their experience. During the “Open Paper” session, several aspects of the rehabilitation sector were addressed. Madame Marguerite Petrokonizeze, Minister of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Gender presented the rehabilitation sector in Central Africa Republic. In addition, during the session, technical and clinical subjects were addressed. The session closed with a presentation from the India delegation attending the congress.

Claude Tardif Head of Physical Rehabilitation Programme ICRC
The Congress of the FATO was also enriched by the presence of exhibitors from partners who had shared information with participants to further strengthen collaboration in the service of people with disability.

It was in this friendly atmosphere during coffee breaks that meetings were conducted which we think will benefit all.

Professor Jan HB Geertzen President of ISPO affirmed in his interview that collaboration with the FATO should now go beyond the limits of the event towards a permanent and sustainable work. He will not fail to note that given the strategic position that the FATO in Africa, studies and investigations should be better exploited through the involvement of all. To do this, exchanging e-mails are not enough but it is urgent to work for the coordination of programmes much more oriented to technical meetings, as well as strategies for implementation. Professor Jan HB Geertzen remembers his first visit to Africa that coincided with the first steps of the organization of the Congress of the FATO in Arusha where he plans to have constructive meetings with rehabilitation professionals but also with partners in order to strengthen international collaboration.

Training, education, development and recognition are the most important pre-requisite of qualifying technical orthopaedic professionals to practice proficiently, adequately and efficiently with the other members of the rehabilitation team. It does enable one to provide optimum quality of rehabilitation services, measuring the outcome of the services rendered, adapting skills and their knowledge in environments with different conditions, coping up, implementing and improvising alternative and advanced technologies as well as carrying out research aimed at elevating the quality of services provided.

Harold Shangali, Principal of TATCOT, President of the National Organizing Committee of the congress