

News from Member Organisations

June 2018



Denmark

Job centre

The job creation programmes in local authorities have been reformed. As a consequence the local authorities are more focused on evident interdisciplinary solutions. In addition the intention of the reform is, that local authorities have to cooperate more because of the complexity of the problems, which is often the case for a large part of the clients.

The Danish Association of Occupational Therapists attempts to increase the number of OT at unemployment centres, because we need more OT to assist people, who is suffering from both physical, mental and social problems and often need a long-term process. As OT we are trained to focus on the skills of the citizen rather than focusing on their disabilities. It will be beneficial for both the individual and the national economy, if more OT are engaged in job creation programmes.

Our survey data show that half of the 98 local authorities already employ one OT or more, either as an employee or buy occupational competences from other sources. Our ambition is, that every unemployment center will employ at least one OT, because we estimate a potential market for more OT in the future.

What is a job centre?

If you are unemployed in Denmark, you are entitled to advice and guidance from a job centre.

The job centre will make a plan for your job search and present different types of activities that can help you finding a job.

Unemployment rate in Denmark

The unemployment rates in Denmark are really low right now. That means that the people who are unemployed often suffers from physical, mental and social problems. That calls for an interdisciplinary solution.

Link: <https://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/emner/arbejde-indkomst-og-formue/arbejdsloeshed>

Dominican Society of Occupational Therapy / Sociedad Dominicana de Terapia Ocupacional – (SODTEO)

Our action 2017 in Dominican Republic

We report our activities in 2017 from Dominican Republic.

As every year on the World Occupational Therapy Day we prepared an activity with the theme of 2017 "Influence", "inspire", "inform" which the words we used to talk about O.T..

Put our activity like an open house and we visited to the school and clinic to know about O.T., After that we had a meeting between us. In that meeting we received several motivating words from: Ms. Luciana Gelzer Wertheimer ex-president of CLATO, Ms. Margarita González, delegate of O.T. in Colombia, Ms. Noriko Morishita ex-volunteer of Japan. Their words gave us motivation to move forward. On that day we had the competition for decide our logo and slogan. Which we will can publish in this year.

We received many opportunities to present about O.T. in 2017. First Ms. Yoselyn Castillo is a delegate of WFOT, she presented in a physiatry congress about O.T. with CVA. The doctors understood well about the work of O.T.. Ms. Maribel Paniagua, president of SODTEO, she invited a children's institution and we shared experiences and the conditions of this country. Ms. Yoselyn Castillo and Ms. Kae Ito who is advisor of SODTEO, presented about the ADL in the field of pediatrics. Through the presentations, the physiatrists and comedics understood about occupational therapy, at the same time we feel that we need to inform more and influence on occupational therapy to reach all the people who need it.

Ms. Yoselyn Castillo participated the congress of occupational therapy in Japan, Tokyo. More than 10 years we have received the volunteers from Japan and we still have a relationship with them.

Based on the activities of 2017, we will continue working that Occupational Therapy to expand to all the people who need O.T. in this year.



President:

Maribel Paniagua,OT, WFOT Alternate Delegate

Secretary:

Yoselyn Castillo,OT. WFOT Delegate



India

AIOTA's First National Headquarter was inaugurated on April 20, 2018 in a well organised and impressive function at Nerul Navi Mumbai.



New Address:
801, 8th Floor
Business Bay
Plot No. 51
Sector-1
Nerul
Navi Mumbai
India

Jordan

The Jordanian Society for Occupational Therapy (JSOT) celebrating the OT Month

A series of events and activities took place in Jordan under the supervision, guidance, cooperation, and initiation of the JSOT celebrating the OT Month April, 2018:

- The Jordanian Society for Occupational Therapy (JSOT) participated in the 14th Job Fair, organized by the Career Guidance & Alumni Office / King Abdullah II Fund for Development (KAFFD). The event was conducted in 3&4th of April, 2018.



- The JSOT participated in **the Forth Scientific Forum: Autism Speaks**, April 6th- 7th, 2018. Dead Sea – Jordan.
- An awareness day about the role of the JSOT and the WFOT in the professional development of the occupational therapist was conducted at the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST). Occupational therapy students were the main target of this event. Lectures were conducted and discussed the history of establishing the WFOT and the JSOT, as well as their mission, vision, accomplishments, and its future aspirations.
- The JSOT participated in the Scientific and Graduation day conducted by the Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences/ the University of Jordan, April, 25, 2018.
- The Rehabilitation Sciences Department/Occupational Therapy program of Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and Different OT students from JUST celebrated the OT month and raised awareness about the value of OT services in the community during March and April, 2018. As part of their geriatric clinical practice course, fourth year occupational therapy students at JUST have implemented a therapeutic day at an older adult facility in Amman called "Golden Age". Under the supervision of Dr. Noor Ismael, Ms. Salma Shqair, Ms.

Serene Al Shadafan and Mr. Hani Al Diri, students were provided occupational therapy evaluation and intervention, focusing on different daily life areas life self-care, leisure and social participation. With their advanced clinical skills, students evaluated the needs of the majority of individuals living in this facility, modified daily life activities according to the identified needs, restored functional abilities through customized splints and assistive devices, and promoted social participation through a variety of group leisure activities. At the end of the day, Students provided healthy meals, and needed toiletries. The administration at The Golden Age appreciated this therapeutic day, and affirmed the role of the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences at JUST in serving the older adult population in this facility as well as other community facilities.



- In celebration of the occupational therapy month (April), the Jordanian Society of Occupational Therapy JSOT has presented a lecture about the society, its membership requirements and services on 15/4/2018. The lectured was offered as part of an Introductory Occupational Therapy course, for first year occupational therapy students, in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences I Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences at the JUST. The lecture covered topics related to the history of the society and occupational therapy in Jordan. The lecture also talked about membership and services offered through the society. The speaker, Ms. Salma Shqair, is an administrative member at JSOT, and a well-recognized occupational therapist in Jordan. She has more than 10 years' experience in teaching and practice of occupational therapy for physical dysfunction. Students were very satisfied about the lecture, and ask questions about the profession and the service offered through JSOT.



The occupational therapy department at the University of Jordan held several initiatives in celebration of “April- the occupational therapy month”. All of them were conducted by the second year students of the bachelor program under the supervision of Dr. Somaya Malkawi

“Together we grow” is an initiative that targeted children who are in preschool years. Students and supervisor created a website that has valuable information in Arabic about the typical development of children in gross, fine, cognitive, sensory, self care skills development. The website link is: <https://activechild.wixsite.com/preschool>

“Stay healthy” is another initiative that took place in several secondary schools in Amman and targeted teenagers highlighting the importance of living a healthy life and changing the wrong habits such as smoking, stress and fast food.



“Discover your child” is the third initiative that targeted kindergarten children. Developmental screening was conducted for all the children in the university nursery using a developmental checklist. Reports were sent to families with regard to their child performance and a lecture was held to educate the parent about the prewriting and writing skills development.



“Soul” was another initiative which targeted new moms that targeted the core knowledge, attitudes, and practices identified that will serve as a foundation to affect successful parenting.



Students worked on publishing electronic booklets that were posted on social networking websites containing important information about the role of occupational therapy with several groups.

Kazakhstan

Possibilities of working as an Occupational Therapist in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is a beautiful, big country situated between Russia and China. Once part of the Soviet Union, it has maintained many of its rich traditions, and the people are warm and hospitable.

The approach to rehabilitation in general and to Occupational Therapy as a practice specifically, is often challenging. A key challenge is that Occupational Therapy is not recognized as a profession here. As an organization one of Kazakhstan Ergotherapy Association's (KEA) main aims is to have Occupational Therapy registered and recognized as a profession within the health care sector.

We constantly need to be educating clients and caregivers about Occupational Therapy and challenge their whole mindset on what therapy is. Therapy in Kazakhstan mainly consists of massage (which is often painful) and sometimes exercises which are prescribed across conditions and usually not tailored after assessment. Sometimes acupuncture as well as more "traditional" cures from the shaman or religious healers are sought.

Despite the challenges, in the few years since KEA has been established, we have had great encouragements and we have seen changes taking place in attitudes and approaches. We have been asked by several organizations and hospitals to do training in basic principles and rehabilitation techniques. Local individuals have seen the benefit of Occupational Therapy and have asked us for input and help with the people that they work with and care for. Families who have engaged in Occupational Therapy services have seen the benefit and change in quality of life (often to their amazement). This has opened hearts and opportunities for more involvement. These changes are especially significant considering we are working within a culture that traditionally encompasses a "top down" approach in decision making and where there is a general fear of change.

A common exchange heard in our office goes something like this.

Mom: "Why are you just playing games with my child? She is not crying so your therapy can not be working"

OT: "Yes, we are playing a game that is challenging her memory and perceptual skills. Can you see how she is weight bearing through her leg she never uses and how she is using the hand she usually ignores?"

Mom: "Wow! I need to do this at home too!"



Norway

News from Ergoterapeutene - the Norwegian Association of Occupational Therapists

The Norwegian Association of Occupational Therapists, Ergoterapeutene, keep on promoting occupational therapy. We promote occupational therapists as a key profession to assure a sustainable health care system by supporting participation and inclusion in society through occupation. This is eliciting resources both for the individual person as well as for the society. We meet with ministers, secretaries of State and members of Parliament to promote how OTs can meet core challenges related to the ageing population, mental health issues, non-communicable diseases and work participation.

Last year the Norwegian government passed a new law which ensure that all Norwegian municipalities will offer service from an occupational therapist as from 2020. Therefore, the OT positions in the municipalities has increased accordingly.

Ergoterapeutene has, in close collaboration with the 6 Norwegian OT programmes, developed and published the Core Competency of Occupational Therapy. Based on national welfare and health challenges in Norway, on updated models and theories of OT, it documents how the OT profession meet these challenges. This makes a solid common platform to promote our profession.

For some years Ergoterapeutene has promoted and implemented reablement where OT has a central role. Most Norwegian municipalities have by now included reablement as a part of their free health care services. The Norwegian Association of Occupational Therapists is now putting a priority on our role within work participation and vocational rehabilitation, seeing our role in adaptation of workplaces, supported employment and individual placement and support as central in the future.

Our strategy to promote occupational therapists as resource oriented problem solvers for the future, seems to be very fruitful.

Singapore

The Singapore Association of Occupational Therapists has published the Practice Guidelines for Prescribing Powered Mobility Aids.

The finalized document spans 8 sections, excluding the introduction, references, acknowledgments and appendices. The guidelines discuss the following content – i) roles of Occupational Therapists in powered mobility interventions, ii) when to prescribe PMAs to clients, iii) overview of powered mobility assessment in occupational therapy, iv) general capacities to operate PMA safely and effectively, v) considerations in prescribing specific PMA, vi) powered mobility skills evaluation, vii) further service recommendations, and viii) outcomes measures to promote Occupational Therapists' role in PMA prescription. Where pertinent, the key objectives and recommendations of each section were highlighted.

The guidelines were developed to be simple and concise so that Occupational Therapists would be able to refer to them effectively and efficiently.

The complete document can be downloaded from Singapore Association of Occupational Therapists' website: <http://www.saot.org.sg/ot-practice>.

Sweden

News from Sweden in May 2018

The first half of year 2018 has been eventful. In January, Ida Kåhlin, President of the Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists, received the renowned debate prize of the health care periodical *Dagens Medicin*. The explanatory statement highlighted Ida's many collaborations with representatives of other professions, raising the awareness on topics such as health gaps in society. The jury also honoured her work for people with disabilities that have difficulties expressing themselves in the public debate.

Another event that took place this spring was H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden's certification ceremony for occupational therapists that have graduated their major with a specialization in dementia. Previously, only physicians have been eligible for the course and certification. This year the first round of physiotherapists and occupational therapists graduated from the program, an academic course commenced by Karolinska institutet and Silviahemmet, a non profit foundation devoted to improving the quality of life for persons affected by dementia and their families. Three occupational therapists received the certification. Attached photo depicts H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden dressed in green and President Ida Kåhlin in blue.



During the Council Meeting of WFOT in Capetown, South Africa, former President of the Swedish Association of Occupational Therapist, Lena Haglund, was awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the WFOT. Lena was nominated by all the Nordic countries, Latvia and Russia for her outstanding work and contributions for occupational therapy in these countries.

A new position statement has been translated into English: Sustainable Development - Occupational Therapy Can Contribute and Make a Difference. We hope that members of the WFOT will find it inspiring. You can download the position statement on our website:

<https://www.arbetsterapeuterna.se/Om-forbundet/Forbundets-forlag/Sustainable-Development/>