This volume of the Bulletin is coming to you a little later than usual so that we can provide the reports of the 30th WFOT Council Meeting held in Taipei, Taiwan from 26–30 March 2012 as well as the Executive Management Team Meeting held in both Taiwan and Malaysia.

As you can see from the Bulletin cover, we are celebrating WFOT’s 60th Anniversary this year with the issuance of an official logo and a commemorative poster. WFOT bags and WFOT fans were distributed to delegates and will be available at Congress stands in various parts of the world. During the week of Council, a dinner was hosted for the WFOT delegates by the Taiwan OT Association (TOTA) in celebration of this important ‘coming of age.’ Sixty years is the end of the fifth cycle of twelve years in the Chinese calendar so it is fitting that we celebrate in the Chinese city of Taipei.

A great deal of activity took place during the Focus Day and the Council Meeting. Focus Day allows Council members to discuss an important issue usually related to strategic planning, but also provides the opportunity for new delegates to get to know each other in a less formal setting. There were 15 new delegates attending the meeting this year, meaning that the implemented in 2006 mentorship programme for new delegates was in full swing. At the end of Focus Day, the Executive Director gave an induction for new delegates to Council activities and expectations. This mentorship programme will be expanded based on its success and positive feedback.

It was reaffirmed at Council that the WFOT definition of occupational therapy (2012) comes from the full statement on occupational therapy found in the Resource Centre of the website, “Occupational therapy is a client-centred health profession concerned with promoting health and well being through occupation. The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate successfully in the activities of everyday life. Occupational therapists (OTs) achieve this outcome by enabling people to do things that will enhance their ability to live meaningful lives or by modifying the environment to better support participation.”

This year, a number of new position papers were presented at Council for ratification. Position papers present the official stance of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists on a substantive issue or subject. They are developed in response to a particular issue, concern or need of the Federation and may be written for internal and/or external use. The position paper on CBR was an example of one of the position papers which came about in response to the WHO’s joint paper on CBR in 2003. Its development was a coordinated effort involved about 85 OTs on email.

Position papers follow a specific format and are adopted by vote through the WFOT Council. They are reviewed regularly. I have been privileged to be involved in the development and writing of several of them. The process often involves a flurry of email discussion based on a proposed statement. Additions, dialogue, revision and rewriting take place over a period of a few weeks and agreement is reached on the final draft to present to Council. Trying to keep the statement within the two page limit means that it must be clear and succinct.

The new position papers are presented from the Standards and Quality programme and are enumerated in the Council Report.

One example of the Statements adopted and ratified by Council in Taipei relates to the WFOT position paper on human displacement which speaks to the occupational rights of persons who have been displaced from their homes due to situations such as war, persecution, and disaster. It states that “All persons, including displaced people, by virtue of being human, have the right to occupational opportunities necessary to meet human needs, access human rights, and maintain health. This right is not conditional on relationship to a state, legal status, visibility and sentiment in public domain, engagement with humanitarian aid or funding trends.”

This multi-lingual Bulletin contains articles in English, German and Spanish. Health promotion is one of the themes of this volume. One article addresses health promotion in a day center for socially disadvantaged children while another looks at learning through self analysis of occupations with a view to promoting healthy lifestyle. Coping with disaster continues to be a theme which is regularly addressed. Our guest editorial focuses on the importance of communication and understanding through occupational therapy terminology. Themed articles address various aspects of terminology. Occupational therapy in Nigeria is profiled with an article by young Nigerian occupational therapists who are working to vitalize the profession in their country.