

CDOT Newsletter # 8
Committee for the Development of Occupational Therapy
in Egypt
November 06

November 5th, 2006

Dear Friends,

You might be surprised receiving another newsletter within a short period of time. The reason is that I missed out on including some of the important material people sent to me. In addition some of the information was not quite correct. That is why we decided to add an extra edition to make sure that everybody is informed sufficiently and correctly. I apologise for any confusion I have created.

Please inform us, in case that your contact details change. We want to make sure that this newsletter is as updated as possible so that it continues to be a valuable tool for everybody involved.

Greetings from Zurich

Christiane Mentrup

WFOT

Success for Egypt in hosting the 2007 WFOT Executive Committee Meeting

Given an opportunity to invite the WFOT Executive Committee to host their 2007 meeting in Cairo, a small committee was formed comprising, Professor Ahmed Hasan, Associate Professor Ahmed El Kahky, Professor Moneim Ashour, Mrs Maha Helali, Mrs Susan Hartshorne and Mrs Laura Effinger.

We put forward an invitation to the committee showing our recent progress with developing occupational therapy programs and the success of the short courses held earlier this year. We have been successful in our invitation and the 2007 WFOT Executive Meeting will be held in Cairo between 23-27 April with a mini-conference held on 28-29 April. To have 9 highly experienced occupational therapists meet in Cairo is a great opportunity to promote the profession and the occupational

therapy education programs that hope to commence with the new academic year in 2007,

During the period of 23-27 April, the Executive Committee will have their business meeting but will also meet with people who can assist in supporting the development of the profession and will also visit centres that currently provide occupational therapy services, or who plan to do so in the future.

The current committee is compiling a list of potential meetings and visits and **we welcome your suggestions** to add to this list.

An official announcement for the mini conference will be forthcoming. It is thought that a small strong conference with papers and panel discussions will bring together a range of people interested in occupational therapy and its development in Egypt.

With suggestions for visits, meetings and the mini conference, please contact either **Professor Ahmed Hasan (0105400037)**, **Associate Professor Ahmed El Kahky**

(0101678061) or Mrs Susan Hartshorne (0122697212).

Mrs Susan Hartshorne

WFOT

Visit of Professor Sharon Brintnell

The prospect of two occupational therapy programs in Egypt, a post graduate diploma at Ain Shams University and a bachelor's degree at 6th of October University is a very exciting and critical development for higher education in occupational therapy in the region. With WFOT approved programs now in Iran, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, and known or prospective programs in Kuwait, Lebanon and Turkey, these university based programs will eventually be major resources to support the attainment of culturally sensitive advanced credentials for prospective clinicians and educators.

The two Egyptian universities have different recruitment target groups so should not be in competition with each other. The 6th of October University has a large number of students from the Gulf States and see this regional as a possible catchment area.

A strategic meeting was held with Dr. Ali Ahmed El Abd, President of Ain Shams University and the Minister of Education's appointed representative. Also present were some members of the Committee for the Development of OT (CDOT) in Egypt. The outcome of the meeting is an expected recommendation to the Minister of Education to proceed with the approval process which will set in motion the official presence of the occupational therapy profession in Egypt. Confirmation of his recommendation in writing has not yet been received. There was also the discussion on what could be expected from the WFOT in its contribution to the development

process. The WFOT is recognized and well respected in the international arena for the sanction it provides through its curriculum approval process. This is something that is sought and has "commodity" value in that it is a drawing card for prospective students in this growing global arena of higher education as business.

Ms Hartshorne's presence as the WFOT Ambassador to the Egypt Project has been and will continue to be vital communication link particularly in the next seven months as the plans for the WFOT Management Team's meeting in Cairo for late April 2007 are finalized.

Many people have worked very hard to get to this point and in particular the former WFOT 2nd Vice President Christiane Mentrup. Through her efforts, the Committee for the Development of Occupational Therapy in Egypt was established and awareness maintained through the newsletter on the progress of the plans to introduce occupational therapy services and education.

Recommendations for WFOT Action

1. Upon receipt of official notice of the establishment of the occupational therapy programs, WFOT through Executive and PCo Education and Research will facilitate the attraction of academic staff and the promotion of all programs internationally through notice to the OT international network.
2. WFOT Executive Director and VP Finance will liaise with the local organizing group to confirm Interim Management Meeting arrangements and conference program.

3. The WFOT will continue to monitor through the Egypt Project Ambassador and Africa Region Executive Liaison (VP Finance) the strategic benchmarks in the profession's developmental process in Egypt (education opportunities and policy recognition of the profession in the health and social sectors).

The Federation looks forward to receiving the Minister's response to Dr. Ali's recommendations to establish the two occupational therapy programs. This will allow the WFOT to plan the next stage of its assistance and support to occupational therapy's emergence as an essential allied health member of Egypt's health care and social service delivery systems.

*E Sharon Brintnell
VP Finance
Education Liaison*

*Ain Shams University
October 6 October*

OT Curricula update

Professor Ahmed Hassan, Associate Professor Ahmed El Kahky and Susan Hartshorne reported that progress is continuing with the development of two occupational therapy education programmes in Egypt. Both the undergraduate degree proposed by October 6 University and the post graduate diploma proposed by the Institute of Postgraduate Childhood Studies at Ain Shams University are based on the WFOT Revised Minimum Standards.

Approval from WFOT will be sought for each curriculum in the early stages of implementation. Approval will ensure that Egyptian occupational therapy services are staffed with occupational therapists who meet world standards in education and would enable Egyptian graduates to compete for positions

internationally with graduates from other WFOT approved programs. Thanks is given to all those colleagues who have offered their insights during the curriculum development process.

*Associate Professor Ahmed El Kahky
Mrs Susan Hartshorne*

Ain Shams University

Occupational Therapy Assistant Certificate

A six month occupational therapy assistant certificate will be offered by the Institute of Post Graduate Childhood Studies at Ain Shams University. This 6 month program will commence at the end of October 2006 at the end of Ramadan.

The Certificate consists of 3 parts, each with 4 courses run over 2 months. Students are required to attend for 3 hours twice weekly and will complete a program that has theoretical and practical components. This will build capacity for interested people to gain insight into occupational therapy and how to assist qualified therapists in implementing therapy programs. The certificate does NOT qualify students to be occupational therapists, to assess or to prescribe treatment for occupational therapy. However it DOES enable students to make a valuable contribution to health service provision.

A prerequisite in English language is required and will be assessed by a panel prior to acceptance into the program.

Enquiries should be directed to Dr Ghada El Dorry, director of the Special Needs Care Centre at the Institute (0121106880) or Associate Professor Dr Ahmed El Kahky (0101678061)

*Associate Professor Ahmed El Kahky
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