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Mobility International USA

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Executive Director

International Development & Disability Consultation
Leadership Training & International Exchange
National Clearinghouse on Disability & Exchange
Women with Disabilities International Projects

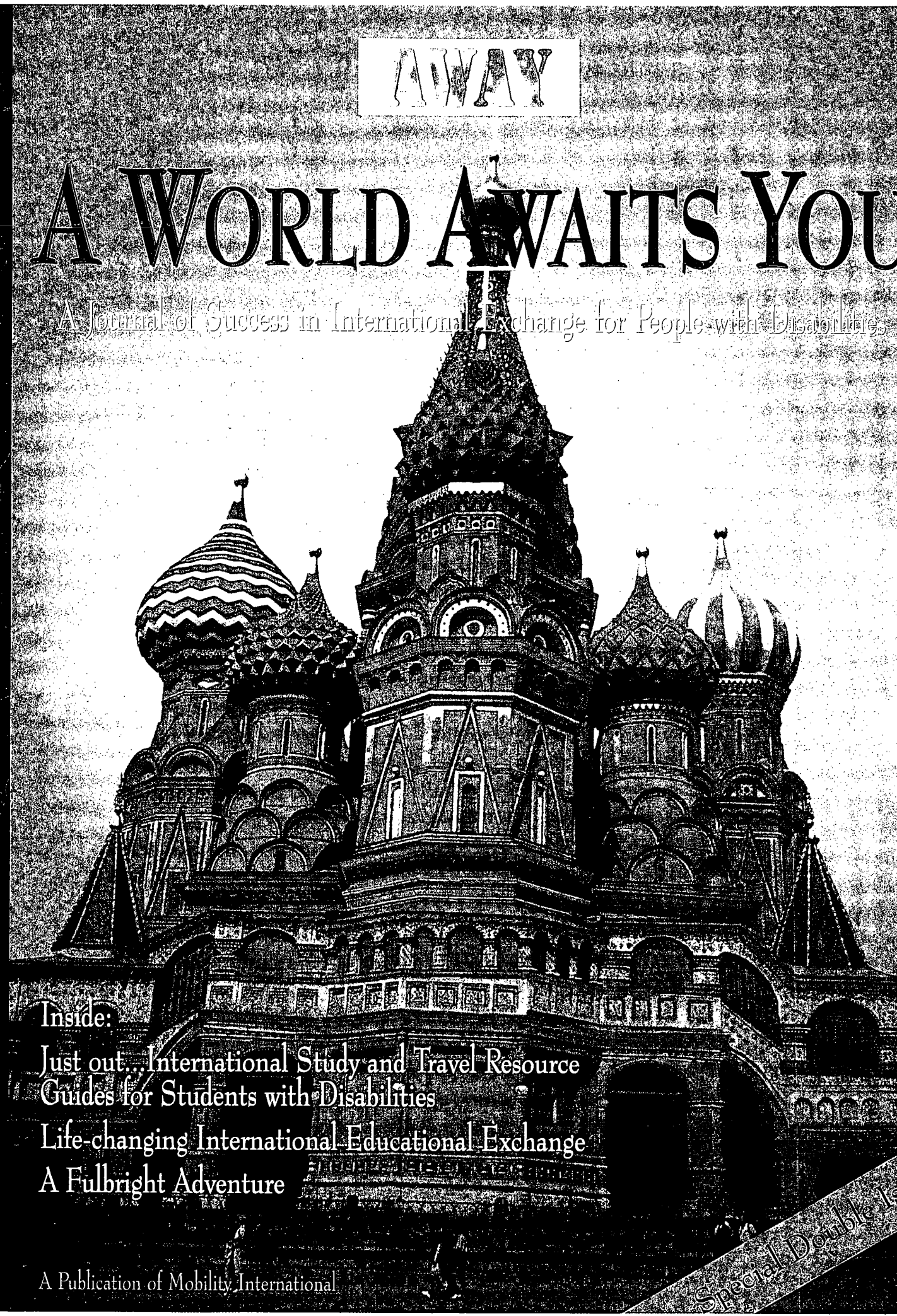
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AWAY

A WORLD AWAITS YOU

A Journal of Success in International Exchange for People with Disabilities

Inside:

Just out... International Study and Travel Resource
Guides for Students with Disabilities

Life-changing International Educational Exchange

A Fulbright Adventure

A Publication of Mobility International

Special Double Issue

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WORLD WATERS YOU

A Journal of Success in International Exchange for People with Disabilities

Insider

Joining Hands Conference

Studying in Brazil

Teaching in Morocco

Volunteering in Australia



Americans with Disabilities Act
and International Exchange

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Disability and Development



Mobility International USA Joins InterAction

Mobility International USA (MIUSA) recently joined InterAction (American Council for Voluntary International Action), a coalition of over 150 private US relief, development and refugee agencies. The following Guest Column appeared in InterAction's Monday Developments, October 12, 1998.

People with Disabilities: An Untapped Resource for Development

Guest Column

By Susan Sygall,

Executive Director,

Mobility International USA

People with disabilities offer a vast untapped resource for international development. Disabled men and women in every country report that they are denied significant participation in community projects, human rights organizations and interna-

continued on page 2

Development organizations can benefit from including people with disabilities in development programs, see inside.

- InterAction: People with Disabilities an Untapped Resource for Development..... 1-2
- Grameen Bank, Microcredit Summit attend International Symposium on Microcredit for Women with Disabilities 3-6
- International Coalition forms on Microcredit and Economic Development for Women with Disabilities 7-8
- Recommendations for Economic Development of Women with Disabilities 9-10
- Bosnia, Vietnam and Points In-Between: Progress in International Development and Disability 11-12

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OVER THE RAINBOW

MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL USA

Third Quarter 1998
Volume 17, Numbers 3

In This Issue:

Joining Hands Conference	1
New Steps Toward Disability Activism in Bosnia	3
Zimbabwe: A Warm Welcome	6
My Journey to Oaxaca with MIUSA	7
Overcoming the Obstacles	8
Resource Section	10



Joining Hands Conference

by Gayle Gagliano, director; Training, Resource and
Assistive-technology Center, University of New Orleans

When Auntie Mame, the fictional globetrotting heroine of novel, stage and screen, proposed taking her nephew abroad, she promised: "It will open doors for you, doors you never even dreamed existed." At a ground-breaking conference held in Washington, DC, on April 1, 1998, 100 participants became surrogate Auntie Mames, with members of the disability community "joining hands" with representatives from exchange groups, educational institutions and governmental agencies to open these fabled doors a little wider. Through a variety of presentations and interactive workshops, participants sought to develop accessible international gateways into new cultures and new experiences.

Judging from the comments of a cross-section of participants inter-

viewed during Joining Hands, a conference jointly sponsored by Mobility International USA's (MIUSA) National Clearinghouse on Disability & Exchange and the United States Information Agency (USIA), reaction to the event was positive and enthusiastic. Themes that emerged from participants' remarks clustered around such subjects as the value of networking, the importance of opening communications among various communities involved in exchange, the mutual enrichment of organizations and participants that occurs during exchanges and the importance of practical tools and action plans.

John Lancaster, executive director of the President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities, noted that the "cross-fertilization" among the various groups



USIA Senior Program Officer David Levin, Director Dr. Joseph Duffey and
MIUSA Director Susan Sygall
enjoy the insights of keynote speaker John Hockenberry

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OVER THE RAINBOW

MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL USA

Double Issue

First and Second Quarter, 1998

Volume 16, Numbers 1 & 2

In This Issue:

*Wheelchair Basketball
in Bosnia* 1

Friends from Fukuoka 3

Wanted! 4

*New Publications on NIS
Exchange* 8

Lancaster University 9

*Teen/Parent Leadership
Exchange* 10

Resources 11



*Basketball in Bosnia - page 1;
Wanted - page 4 - 8.*

Wheelchair Basketball in Bosnia: Beyond the Competitive Edge

By Susie Grimes

I have played over 300 wheelchair basketball games in my life, but the games I recently played in Bosnia will stand out as the most significant. Paralympic gold, silver and bronze medals, National Championship titles, National All Tournament Team player selections and a World Championship do not compare with the full spectrum and challenge of emotional, physical and spiritual exertion and regeneration that I experienced playing basketball for 5 days in a country that recently survived war.

The idea of a Bosnian wheelchair basketball tour of US Paralympic

athletes began as a goodwill gesture with the goals of raising awareness about and bringing attention to the issues of people with disabilities in Bosnia and the incredible plague of landmines throughout the country. With so many newly disabled people from the war, the need for rehabilitation and therapy clinics, medical equipment and independent living skills is accentuated and daunting. Faruk Sazanovic of the Sarajevo Center for Self-Reliance and Leland Montell of the International Medical Corps in Bosnia organized the six-city tour in cooperation with the International Rescue Committee in



Northwestern Bosnia along former Serbian front lines.



Mobility International USA
P.O. Box 10767
Eugene, OR 97440

**THE NATIONAL
CLEARINGHOUSE ON
DISABILITY AND
EXCHANGE:
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
IN INTERNATIONAL
EXCHANGE**



**MOBILITY
INTERNATIONAL USA
(MIUSA)**

*Challenge Yourself and
Change the World!™*

The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange opens a world of international opportunities for people with disabilities through information and referral. Through partnerships between disability-related organizations and international exchange organizations, people with disabilities can participate fully and equally in international exchange.

Established in 1981, Mobility International USA (MIUSA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities in international exchange, leadership development, disability-rights training, travel and community service.

In 1995, with funds provided by the United States Information Agency (USIA), MIUSA launched the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange, a project built on the expertise and resources gathered during our history. The Clearinghouse goals are:

- ☛ to educate people with disabilities and disability-related organizations about international educational exchange opportunities;
- ☛ to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the full range of international educational exchange programs;
- ☛ to advise international exchange organizations about the Americans with Disabilities Act and its implications for their programs, provide practical how-to consulting and training on including

people with disabilities in their programs; and

- ☛ to facilitate partnerships between people with disabilities, disability-related organizations and international educational exchange organizations.

SERVICES

- ☛ Personalized information, referrals, and support (by telephone, letter, fax or e-mail), both for people with disabilities interested in participating in an educational exchange and for organizations exploring possibilities with individuals and groups.
- ☛ A database of information, accessible through the Internet, which draws on the resources MIUSA has gathered during the past 15 years and is linked to the electronic databases of other international exchange and disability-related organizations.

Information Referral

"Volunteering with kids and young adults with disabilities in Peru gave me a tremendous sense of connection with the global disability movement...I wouldn't trade the experience for anything!"

"Studying for a semester in Rome, wheelchair in tow, I maneuvered through intimidating barriers and emerged with greater strength and confidence."

"Traveling with an ASL interpreter, I completed my art history course in England and am now ready to begin graduate school in the United States."

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION

☛ *A World Awaits You (AWAY)* is a bi-annual journal with articles and interviews about people with disabilities who have successfully participated in international exchanges and organizations that are creatively including people with disabilities in all aspects of their international programs. The journal explores a variety of topics and concerns of interest to international exchange organizations, disability-related organizations and individuals with disabilities.

☛ *The Clearinghouse Manual on Inclusion of People with Disabilities in International Exchange* is available to international and volunteer exchange organizations. The Manual addresses topics such as recruitment issues, program and physical accessibility and practical adaptations, transportation, communication issues, and anti-discrimination and disability-rights laws, regulations and resources.

☛ *Rights and Responsibilities* is a booklet that includes information on the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability-rights legislation and resources for enforcement. It informs people with disabilities, their advocates and international exchange organizations about the rights of people with disabilities to participate in international exchange and the responsibility of exchange organizations to include people with disabilities in their programs.

☛ Articles in numerous publications provide updates on new opportunities in international exchange.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

MIUSA staff and past participants are available to conduct *training workshops and presentations* at national and regional conferences sponsored by international exchange organizations and disability-related organizations. Workshops will cover a wide range of issues related to accommodating people with disabilities in programs for studying, teaching, volunteering, conducting research abroad and for other international opportunities.

Joining Hands Conference: MIUSA sponsors a unique national conference that brings together both the disability community and the international exchange community. This conference provides the opportunity for dialogue, trouble-shooting and strategy development to increase the number of people with disabilities participating in international educational exchange.

Training Volunteering

ROUNDTABLE CONSORTIUM

The Clearinghouse is a collaborative effort between MIUSA, USIA and 16 international exchange and disability-related organizations. Together this team, which is called the Roundtable Consortium, is responsible for developing and carrying out strategies to accomplish the Clearinghouse's goals. The Roundtable Consortium includes:

AFS Intercultural Programs

Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange

Association on Higher Education and Disability

Center for Assistive Technology/University at Buffalo

Council on International Educational Exchange

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Disabled Peoples' International

HEATH Resource Center/National Clearinghouse on Post Secondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities

Institute of International Education

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

National Council for International Visitors

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Partners of the Americas

Sister Cities International

University of New Orleans Rehabilitation Division

World Institute on Disability

The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange is funded by the United States Information Agency (USIA). The USIA promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through a wide range of educational and cultural exchange programs and activities sponsored and administered by its Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

GET INVOLVED!

For anyone who has ever thought about teaching, studying, researching or volunteering overseas, or who has questions about how to make programs accessible to people with disabilities, MIUSA and the Clearinghouse are here to assist you.

Contact:

CLEARINGHOUSE PROJECT

c/o MIUSA

PO Box 10767

EUGENE, OR 97440

(541) 343-1284 (VOICE/TDD)

(541) 343-6812 (FAX)

CLEARINGHOUSE@MIUSA.ORG

WWW.MIUSA.ORG

The above address/phone/fax/e-mail may also be contacted for general information about MIUSA and its other projects, including international exchanges, membership, newsletter, publications and programs focused on women with disabilities.

Teaching Leadership Research Learning

Join Now!

Your membership will support the empowerment of people with disabilities around the world. Just complete this form, or contact us for more information. Thank you!

- ☐ Yes! I want to join MIUSA. Enclosed are my membership dues for one year.
- ☐ \$35 Individual Membership
- ☐ \$50 Local or State Organization Membership
- ☐ \$150 National Organization

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Books and Videos Order Form

To order books and videos from MIUSA simply fill out the information on the reverse of this form, make your selections from the list below, or contact MIUSA. Prices include postage and handling. Thank you!

- ☐ *Over the Rainbow* (included with membership dues)

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Challenge Yourself and Change
the World

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Mobility International USA

Challenge
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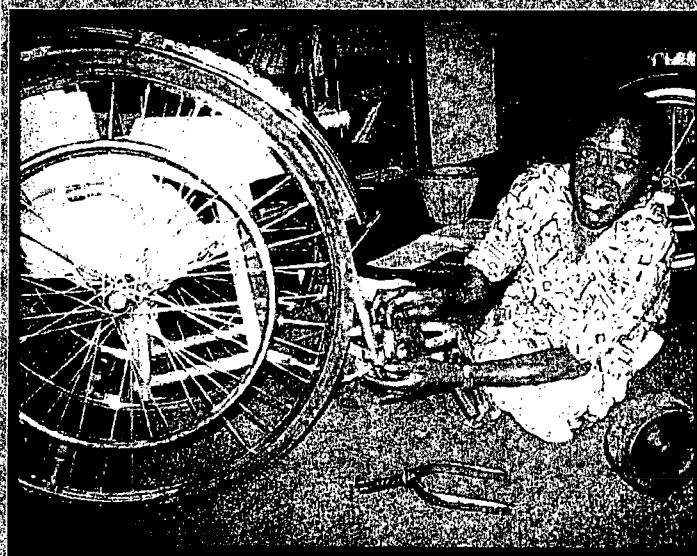
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The annual report of the

(IDEAS)



wheeled mobility

employment



living

women with disabilities

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