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I-Nan Lien

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NATIONAL REPORT ON WELFARE OF THE DISABLED IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA*

Thomas T.M. Chu, D.D S.

Secretary General, Rehabilitation Medicine Association, ROC

National Secretary, Rehabilitation International

The beginning of rehabilitation programs in the Republic of China, like in many Western countries, was first initiated by religious and welfare agencies.

As early as in 1870, a school for blind children was established in Peiping by Paster William Moore of England and a training program for the blind in Tainan, a southern city in Taiwan, was opened by Paster William Ganbel, an English presbyterian. In 1887, a school for the deaf and mute was founded in Teng Chou in Shangtung Province by Mrs. Annette Thompson Mills of the United States.

The Nanking Rehabilitation Center was set up in 1945 with the assistance of the World Health Organization for taking care of war victims and veterans. The Center later moved to Taiwan and in 1971 was incorporated with the Rehabilitation Center, Veterans General Hospital.

In 1966, Madame Chiang Kai-shek out of great concern for orthopedically handicapped children crippled by polio established the Cheng Hsing Rehabilitation and Medical Center in a suburb of Taipei. Since a new wing was donated by the U.S. People's Program it has expanded its services to persons up to 23-year-old and more and more non-polio patients are being accepted.

Since then, medical rehabilitation in

this country has made a great strides with many large teaching hospitals-- military, veterans, missionary, public and private, offering their own rehabilitation services.

The Republic of China started its started education program in 1961 by initiating a mental health station at a primary school in Taipei to take care of children with emotional abnormality. The first special class for mentally retarded pupils was opened in Taipei in 1962, a special class for orthopedically handicapped children was started in Pingtung in 1963 and the integrating program for blind students in regular schools at the primary school level was launched in 1966.

At present, there are three special public schools with 2,018 deaf students and one private school with 79 students; two special public schools with 217 blind students and one private school with 95 students; one special public school with 199 orthopedically handicapped students and one private school with 77 students; and one special public school for 152 mentally retarded students.

The total number of special classes has increased to 449 classes at both primary and junior high schools with a total of 5,986 students. The following is a breakdown:

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| Description | Primary School | | Junior High School | | Total | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | Classes | Students | Classes | Students | Classes | Students |
| Mentally Retarded | 250 | 2,762 | 135 | 1,587 | 385 | 4,349 |
| Orthopedically Handicapped | 17 | 391 | 15 | 186 | 32 | 577 |
| Hearing and Speech Impaired | 27 | 258 | 5 | 64 | 32 | 322 |
| Visually Impaired | | 62 | | 25 | | 87 |
| * Complete Blind | | | | | | |
| Partial Blind | | 529 | | 122 | | 651 |
| Total: | 294 | 4,020 | 155 | 1,984 | 449 | 5,986 |
| v v v v v | v v v | v v v v v | v v v | v v v v v | v v v | v v v v v |

* Integrated Program only

The government has conducted the selection of outstanding blind and deaf students to enroll into universities and colleges for higher education. A total of 54 students are to be selected this year. Social Affairs Department of the Interior Ministry is responsible for welfare services for the mental and physical handicapped and for coordination between and supervision over all government and private organizations and groups rendering social rehabilitation services. There are Social Affairs Bureaus and Offices at provincial and municipal levels and their subordinate echelons -- counties and districts.

There are at present more than 50 rehabilitation centers and homes for the orthopedically handicapped operated either by the government or the private voluntary and missionary sectors. The number of these organizations in 1972 was 28.

The private voluntary and missionary rehabilitation service organizations for the orthopedically handicapped and mentally retarded have also increased from 61 in 1972 to 78 in 1980.

The ratio of government-run and the private voluntary and missionary centers and homes for the handicapped is one to four. That means the latter still takes a

lion's share in handling the services.

The these years, many civic organizations work closely with the Rehabilitation Medicine Association, Republic of China, exerting a great influence upon improving public awareness of the issue and making efforts to up-grade the profession. These organizations include the National Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, the Special Education Association and others.

For training social welfare workers, in addition to the Sociology and Social Work Departments of six universities conducting regular four-year programs, on-the-job training programs have also been carried out separately. The Chinese government is also currently formulating a professional social workers system. At the present time many graduates from social departments of universities are engaged in government services at various levels.

Special education sections for the training of teachers of special classes for mentally retarded, blind, deaf, and orthopedically handicapped are conducted at various normal colleges.

The three-year education program is offered at the Provincial College of Education in Changhwa in order to prepare special education teachers in the area of

of mental retardation, deaf and mute, orthopedically handicapped and blind. The college also offers short term in-service training programs in winter or summer vacations for those who work at private and missionary institutes or homes.

The Schools of Medicine of the National Taiwan University and National Yang Ming Medical College conduct for-year courses for both physical and occupational therapists.

In addition, Cheng Hsin Rehabilitation Medical Center, Veterans General Hospital and Changhua Christian Hospital have conducted short-term or in-service training classes for their own therapists by enrolling graduates of nursing schools and colleges or their own staffs working in this field at various hospitals or homes.

Training for speech therapists is also taking place at the Veterans General Hospital in Taipei.

The New York-based International Prosthetic and Orthotic Training Center has set up a branch in the Republic of China and an international 25-week training course for prosthetists and orthotists has been conducted annually since 1979 with joint sponsorship of the World Rehabilitation Fund of New York and the Veterans General Hospital of the Republic of China.

The Welfare Act for the Disabled came into effect on June 2, 1980 and the Ministry of Interior established the Welfare Promotion Committee for Children, the Aged and the Handicapped on July 3, 1981, in an effort to combine together three welfare acts-- the other two being the Welfare Act for the Children and the Welfare Act for the Aged, which were promulgated in 1973 and 1977 respectively -- under the national social welfare service system.

A national population census was conducted on December 28, 1980 with a survey of handicapped persons. The Ministry of Interior is now working on evaluating and

identifying cases from the basic information of the national census. From this procedure of evaluation and identification, an official figure of the population of handicapped persons will be obtained.

The government is mapping out a long-term, all-citizens insurance program, hoping to incorporate self-hired laborers (including businessmen) into the insurance system within a period of 10 years.

Public insurances for laborers, military servicemen, government employees have been carried on for a long time. Other insurances were introduced such as Students Safety Insurance and Private School Teachers.

Under planning is comprehensive health insurance program for farmers to benefit some 5 million farmers in the Republic of China while a similar insurance policy for fishermen is well in progress. Farmers Health Insurance may begin in mid-1983.

At the end of 1979, an estimated 7,670,000 citizens of the nation's 17.5 million population were covered by the government's social security system.

The National Health Administration is also taking steps to map out a 10-year program to upgrade the level of medical and public health services to raise the living standard of this country with emphasis placed on health care, environmental sanitation, birth control, medical services especially for women, aged and children, control of industrial and environment pollution, and prevention of occupational diseases. The health authority has also conducted a congenital malformation registration and follow-up program to monitor the incidence of birth defects and to improve the care of malformed children.

Preparation for the promulgation of an Eugenic and Health Act for elimination to a minimum the birth rate of congenital mental retardates and severely physically handicapped is also underway at the National Health

Administration.

The Education Ministry is drafting a special education law to strengthen education for handicapped children and youths.

The Nation sent a 14-member delegation--seven contestants and seven accompanying persons-- taking part in the International Skill Contest for the Handicapped-- Abilympics--held in Tokyo in October 1981. The Chinese contestants were selected through a competition held on June 1, 1981.

Three participants from this country were selected by the Japan Council for the International Year of Disabled Persons to take part in a three-week long Japan Study Program for Asian Leaders in Rehabilitation. It is a most valuable contribution to foster Asian regional cooperation for rehabilitation man-power development made by Japan in observance of the International Year for Disabled Persons.

For the same purpose, this association made a survey following the Asian and Pacific Regional Committee's instructions, and found that several schools or organizations in the Republic of China are interested in accepting trainees/staff and students/participants in their courses from other countries within the Asian and Pacific area.

The possibilities are as follows:

Two (2) trainees/staff at graduated P.T. or O.T. level short-term (22-42 wks) at National Taiwan University, College of Medicine, School of Rehabilitation with accommodation provided.

One (1) trainee/staff at Department of Sociology, College of Law, National Taiwan University.

Ten (10) students-participants at the Basic Certificate Course at International Prosthetics and Orthotics Training Center, sponsored jointly by the World Rehabilitation Fund of New York and the Rehabilitation Center, Veterans General

Hospital of Taipei. Applications can be submitted to the above two organizations or through this association.

In commemorating the International Year of Disabled Persons many events have been in the the Republic of China. Some of the major ones are as follows:

1. The National Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled of the Republic of China held a garden party at New Park of Taipei City on December 25, 1980 to usher in the Year. The party was organized and participated in by the disabled young people themselves to show to the public their talents and capabilities in organizing such an event which could compared with those of able-persons.

2. On February 19, 1981, the Post Office of the Republic of China issued a set of two stamps specially for this occasion.

3. The Third Taiwan Area Handicapped Athletic Games and Self-Reliance Activities Program was conducted in Taipei City on April 9-12, with a three-day exhibition of special education materials and programs. In its opening ceremony, outstanding handicapped persons and people who serve the handicapped were awarded.

4. On May 29-June 2, an International Special Education Forum was held at the National Normal University and chaired by Dr. Kuo Wei-fang, dean of the University. Many internationally famous scholars and experts in the field of special education were invited to take part in the forum.

5. The National competition of the industrial skill contest was held on June 1, to select seven contestants -- one in each of the following seven job categories--lathe operation, engineering drawing, tailoring, dress-making, watch repairing, TV repairing and radio repairing. All these winners participated in the International Abilympic held in Tokyo in October, this year.

(To be continued on page 71.)