



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE APHASIE (AIA)

<http://www.aphasia-international.com>

e-mail: info@aphasia-international.com

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The **object of AIA** is to promote the rehabilitation and in particular the restitution of the communication capacity of the aphasic person, to preserve his or her human dignity and to defend his or her interests and those of their close proximity in the fields of therapy and familiar, social and professional reintegration.

BOARD

President:	Monique Lindhout, The Netherlands
Secretary General:	Dirk Epke, The Netherlands
Treasurer:	Phillip Dann, United Kingdom
Administrator 1:	Terttu Elo, Finland
Administrator 2:	Sue Gilpin, United Kingdom
Administrator 3:	Luc Meyer, Luxembourg (co-opted member)

BOARD MEETINGS 2007:

The board met 3 times to discuss current affairs and to prepare AIA's General Assembly's 2007.

14/ 15 February 2007, LONDON, United Kingdom

30 / 31 May 2007, HELSINKI, Finland

05 / 06 October 2007, BRUSSELS, Belgium (GA 2007)

ACTIVITIES:

AIA website

At April 1st 2002 the AIA website, www.aphasia-international.com was launched. All members of AIA have the opportunity to put information about their national organisations and activities on this site. AIA pays for the annual costs to keep this site on the Internet and the information up to date. Unfortunately most AIA members do not yet take optimum advantage of the possibilities this website has to offer.

General Assembly AIA 2007

The General Assembly 2007 was held in Brussels, Belgium on October 5th and 6th, directly following the EDF event on October 4th. Nine members out of 15 merged in this General Assembly. Board members and Vice presidents from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom united to discuss subjects of

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interest on European level. Two representatives from the Hungarian Aphasia Association attended the meeting as observers. The report of the General Assembly 2007 can be found on AIA's website, www.aphasia-international.com.

National Aphasia Awareness weeks/months

The National Aphasia Association (USA) organizes an Aphasia Awareness month each year. They generously provide all AIA members with information about activities that will take place in this month, posters and buttons.

The Netherlands has been active in the field of raising Aphasia awareness through the year 2006 by launching a campaign that involves a TV-spot that was broadcasted on both national and regional television, advertisements and posters. In 2007 they continued their labour in this field, with more TV-spots on national and regional television channels, advertisements in local and national newspapers and a radio commercial on local, regional and national radio stations.

At the GA 2005 the Swedish Aphasia Association proposed the proclamation of an International Aphasia Awareness day. The GA supported this proposal, but a short panel round showed the practical difficulties of defining a specific day or date. Vice-presidents were once again invited to forward a calendar of national activities to be published on the AIA website, so all AIA members can have an overall view of national activities. This will help to concentrate awareness activities in a common period of the year. For the year 2007 AIA board however did not receive any calendars of national activities from any AIA member.

Contacts with European Disability Forum (EDF)

In 2007 EDF celebrated its 10 year anniversary in Brussels. Representatives of AIA took part in this meeting, trying to raise aphasia awareness there.

Rotary Project: information about aphasia in many languages

The project was the idea of the late Raymond Bassem, founding father, first president and honorary president of AIA.

This project aims at making up for the information deficit and at amplifying this endeavour by assisting the creation of special associations for aphasic people. In 2007 AIA elaborated an Internet site in many different languages to be consulted in all countries over the world. At this moment the website contains 34 languages. AIA-board invites native speakers whose language is not represented yet to provide us with the texts. Hopefully the website will keep on growing!

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A.I.A.

Association
Internationale
Aphasie

With the financial support of several Rotary Groups as well as thanks to private 'no name' donations, AIA now provides essential knowledge about aphasia. The site was launched on October 6th 2007 with a festive event that was attended by the Belgium minister of health, Mrs. Eveline Huytenbroeck, Mrs. Gilberte Bassem, representatives of involved Rotary Groups and AIA.

In order to amplify the public awareness of the site, the action will be continued later in 2008 by attracting the attention of Community Health Ministries and specialized medical carers all over the world on the issues offered by the web site. Plans are to establish relations in nearly 60 countries.

AIA thanks Rotary Clubs from Bruxelles-Nord (Belgium), Schouwen Duiveland (The Netherlands), Echternach and Moselle (Luxembourg), Doorn-Heuvelrug (The Netherlands) and Koblenz (Germany) and for their support. Not only did all these Rotary clubs make a donation to AIA to help finance this project, but many Rotarians helped in decision making about the lay out and the content of the text and the website and marketing strategies. AIA Board is all involved Rotary Clubs truly grateful for their support, enthusiasm and devotion.

We thank our anonymous private sponsors for their support as well. We are grateful many voluntary translators provided us with translations in their own language, both AIA members and students from the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). Without this support it would not have been possible for AIA to realise this project.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN AIA:

Argentina

Austria

Belgium <http://www.aphasia-international.com/be>

Estonia <http://www.afaasia.ee>

Finland <http://www.stroke.fi>

France <http://www.aphasie.fr>

Germany <http://www.aphasiker.de>

Greece

Great Britain <http://www.speakability.org.uk>

Italy <http://www.aita-onlus.it>

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Japan	http://www2u.biglobe.ne.jp/~japc
Luxembourg	
The Netherlands	http://www.afasie.nl
Portugal	http://www.afasicos.org
Spain	
Switzerland	http://www.aphasie.org
Sweden	http://www.afasi.se
USA	http://www.aphasia.org

AIA-board has cordial contacts with aphasia associations in Curacao, Hungary, Canada, China, Ukraine and India.

May 20th 2008,

Monique Lindhout, president.