

In Europe, a business-to-business committee is negotiating arrangements with major international companies to create business opportunities for its members at national level.

Member organisations from the UK and the US are also combining their expertise in the launch of a major new product on the American market which could have global potential.

History

Workability International was established in Sweden in 1987 by founder members from 11 countries. Originally titled the IPWH, the organisation took on its current title at its World AGM held in San Diego in January 2002.

Structure of Workability International

Workability International is a company limited by Guarantee and regulated by its Memorandum of Association. It has a Board of Directors elected by its members at Annual General Meetings and representing the Asia-Pacific, Americas, European and developing regions.

The organisation has a permanent secretariat which is currently based in France. The Secretary of Workability International is responsible for co-ordinating all its activities and for maintaining regular contact with members and other bodies. The regional groups of the organisation deal directly with matters specific to themselves.

Internal communications are primarily conducted through quarterly newsletters, along with the organisation's web site www.workability-international.org. An international conference of its members is held each year.



Becoming a Member of Workability International

Membership is open to any corporate or unincorporated association and ministry at national level or with knowledge and experience of how work is provided for people with disabilities in their respective countries.

There are three kinds of membership:

Full Membership - for eligible organisations directly involved in providing work opportunities and employment services for people with disabilities and for umbrella groups representing such organisations.

Associate Membership - for eligible organisations which are not necessarily involved directly in providing work opportunities for people with disabilities, but whose activities influence policies in that area.

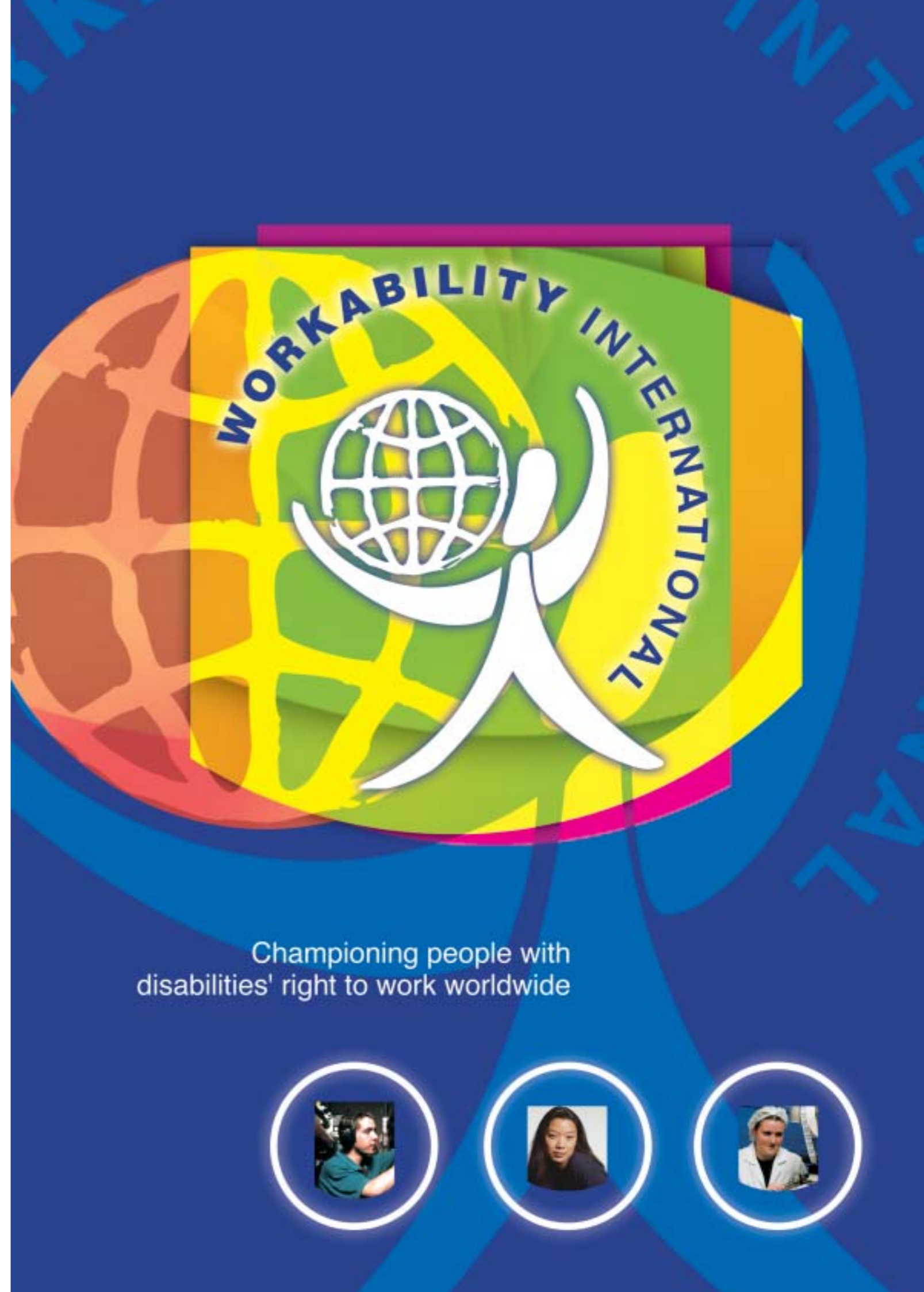
Special Membership - for eligible organisations in developing countries.

Enquiries

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Who Are We?

Workability International is the world's largest body representing providers of work and employment services to people with a disability. More than one million people with disabilities are engaged in work programmes delivered by our member organisations in some 28 countries.

What is our mission?

Workability International's primary purpose is to champion the right to work of any person who has a disability, or is otherwise marginalised on a global basis.

We believe that people with disabilities in particular must have legal rights to equal opportunities and non-discrimination in all aspects of their lives, especially in the world of work.

Such rights can only be meaningful if they are complemented by the supports and practical opportunities that people with disabilities require to make the most of their abilities in the workforce.

Workability International also seeks to establish the highest possible standards internationally in the delivery of work programmes for people with disabilities.

How do we strive to achieve our aims?

■ Practical Co-operation

Close co-operation on a consistent basis throughout our member organisation is an essential pre-requisite of developing world class systems of work provision for people with disabilities. This is achieved by the sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise on all aspects of work for people with disabilities.

Typically, this collaboration involves the following topics:

- ▶ Profiling, assessment, training, personal and career development.
- ▶ Funding, licensing, franchising and intertrading.
- ▶ Practical uses of technology and workplace adaptations.
- ▶ Commercial matters and marketing.
- ▶ Production methods and opportunities in service industries.
- ▶ Integration, progression and placements.
- ▶ Socio-economic costing.



■ Public Affairs Activities

Workability International works in partnership with a range of international bodies and authorities to break down the barriers which prevent people with disabilities from participating in the workforce and therefore maximising their social and economic independence.

We are an NGO with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and on the ILO's Special List of Non-Governmental International Organisations. We have membership in the Economic Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and work closely with Rehabilitation International.



Our European Group has also been granted NGO status in the field of disability and employment with the European Commission and is a founding member of the European Disability Forum and the Providers' European Network.

■ Commercial Initiatives

Workability International seeks to maximise work opportunities available to people with disabilities by promoting the commercial interests of our member organisations with large multinational companies, national Governments and international authorities.

Registered Members of Workability International

AUSTRALIA:	DSA (Disability Services Australia Ltd)
AUSTRIA:	BBRZ (Berufliches Bildung und Rehabilitationszentrum Linz)
BELGIUM:	VLAB (Vlaamse Federatie van beschutte werkplaatsen vzw) AWIPH (Agence Wallonne pour l'intégration des Personnes Handicapées)
FINLAND:	FPED (Foundation for Promoting Employment for the Disabled)
FRANCE:	SNAPÉI (Syndicat National des Associations de Parents et Amis des personnes Handicapées) GIRPEH (Groupement interprofessionnel Régional Pour la Promotion de l'emploi des personnes Handicapées)
GERMANY:	BAG/WFB (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Werkstätten für Behinderte)

HUNGARY:	RSZFK (Regionális Szociális Ferrásközpont Kht - Regional Resource Centre)
ICELAND:	SVV (Union of Iceland Sheltered Workshops)
INDIA:	Worth Trust
REP. OF IRELAND:	REHAB Group
JAPAN:	SELP (Japanese Council for Social Employment)
MALTA:	ETC (Employment and Training Corporation)
MEXICO:	Asociación Mexicana de la Retinitis Pigmentosa y enfermedades de la Retina AC
NEPAL:	NRCN Nepal (National Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled, Nepal)
NETHERLANDS:	NOSW (Nationaal Overlegorgaan Sociale Werkvoorziening)

N. IRELAND:	USEL (Ulster Supported Employment Ltd)
NEW ZEALAND:	Workforce Auckland Inc. VASS (New Zealand Federation of Vocational & Support Services)
NORWAY:	AMB (Arbeids Markeds Bedrftenes Landsforeningen) ASVL (Arbeidsamvirkenes Landsforening)
POLAND:	CIOP (Central Institute for Labour Protection) POPON (Polish Organisation of Disabled People's Employers)
PORTUGAL:	FENACERCI
ROMANIA:	Federation of Romanian Sheltered Workshops (and Speranta)
SOUTH AFRICA:	DPSA (Disabled People of South Africa)

SPAIN:	GUREAK SA & EHLABE FUNDOSA GRUPO SA
SRI LANKA:	SLFRD (Sri Lanka Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled) Islamic Centre for the Physically Disabled
SWEDEN:	SAMHALL AB
SWITZERLAND:	INSOS (Swiss Federation of Institutions for Disabled People)
UK:	REMPLOY Ltd SHAW TRUST
USA/CANADA:	ABANA (Affirmative Business Alliance of North America (inc. Canada)) GOODWILL Global Inc NISH