



We've Got SENIA on the Brain!

35 days, my friends. Our virtual conference is just 35 days away. I can hardly believe it as this has been many months in the making.

So yes, the conference is close, but did you know that we're hosting another conference this year? A live, in-person conference?

In Germany?

Bonn International school is partnering with SENIA to put on our first live conference since 2019 and we

couldn't be more excited!

So be sure to read through this entire newsletter to learn more about our virtual conference AND our in-person conference.

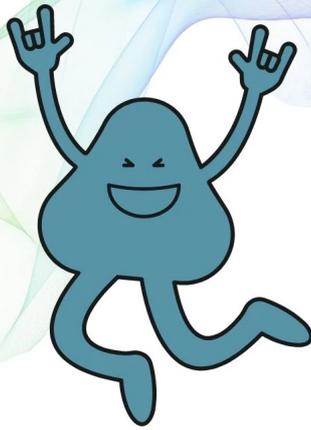
Then, spread the SENIA excitement and invite a friend to one of our upcoming conferences.

We can't wait to see you soon.

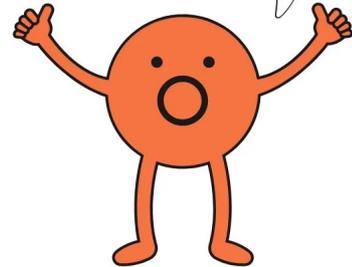
Lori Boll, Executive Director, SENIA International

35 DAYS TO GO

It's so close. I can't wait!!!



That's just 5 weeks! We need to register!



Thank You INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA



Group Highlight

We would like to thank International School Manila for being one of the many schools that opened up registration for their entire school for the SENIA 2021 virtual conference. With one flat rate, schools can send an unlimited number of participants. Make sure to check out the special group rates for this year's conference.

SPECIAL GROUP RATES



Be sure to [contact us](#) for more information on how to get these super great rates.

See you in 35 days!



For 10 lucky participants

Deadline: Nov 7, 2021



Do you know someone who wants to attend the SENIA Conference but needs financial support? SENIA is offering 10 lucky applicants the opportunity to attend the conference **free of charge**.

So [nominate someone today](#). All applicants will be selected using an electronic lottery system. Please do not apply if you have already registered for the conference.

Inclusive Schools in Action

ISU teams up with the local community to provide employment opportunities.



The International School of Uganda is excited to announce their new employment programme which gives local people with disabilities meaningful and paid employment at the school.

ISU has teamed up with the Angel's Centre, a local community group based in Uganda's capital, Kampala. This not-for-profit organisation opened in 2012 by Rosemary Nambooze in response to having a child with Down Syndrome and finding there was little support for families in similar situations in the Kampala area. Over the years, the Angel's Center has raised funds to offer schooling for children who have Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy or other complex needs, and support for their parents and caregivers.

The employment idea came from a contact in the EU Delegation whose daughter with Down Syndrome attends ISU. Currently in the Junior School, she will be part of the Senior School Higher Support Programme next year.

The programme's first two beneficiaries, Tamale and Derrick, started work at ISU in September 2021 and they couldn't be happier. I spoke to them the other day along with their supervisor who told me they were making great progress, and both employees were keen to tell me about their duties that included groundskeeping and preparing food in the kitchens.

In preparation, ISU appointed and trained staff to work as their mentors and coaches. An open forum was held where staff were able to ask any questions with a view to starting an ongoing discussion to demystify and destigmatise disability.

Allen Niwagaba from the Angel's Centre said: "This programme is such an inspiration...for the boys have found purpose, It's a great opportunity for us to create awareness about disability which has been so limited, especially in the employment sector in our country".

ISU is looking at ways to reach out to other international schools and local employers and encourage them to join this initiative. Allen reminds us that not only do programmes like this showcase the talents and abilities we have as diverse members of a community, but "Programmes like these improve self-confidence and self-worth because they are able to contribute to their families financially too".

Check out the Angel's Centre

Where Are They Now?

**SENIA INTERNATIONAL
PAST SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

WWW.SENIAINTERNATIONAL.ORG

ANDREA G. ZUBIRI
SENIA STUDENT AWARD 2012

Have you heard of the accomplished freelance photographer who has fostered advocacy and awareness for inclusion in the Philippines? Her name is Andrea G. Zubiri and at just 29 years of age she is a role model who is making a difference in the lives of so many children in the Philippines.

SENIA became aware of Andrea in 2012, when her teachers nominated her for the inaugural SENIA Student Award. Andrea was a senior attending Brent International School Manila at the time and her personal statement of advocacy for herself and others within her school and community, secured her the prestigious SENIA Student Award.

After graduating from Brent International School, Andrea pursued her dream of photography and attended De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde. At college, she learned how to speak in front of large audiences and how to advocate for accommodations in order to pass her exams. She also gave a presentation to the college student body about special education as an advocate for students with special needs.

Continue reading Andrea's story!

Student Voices

INCLUSION REVOLUTION
WEBINAR: MEET ADELINE DUMAPONG

Her Career

- Baking Macapagal Rendalla 'On Wheels' (a performing group composed of PWDs), Board President - October 2017 to present and member since 1988 to present
- Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC) - Board Member - August 2017 to present
- Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled (PHILSPEDA), Board Member - September 2015 to present
- Asian Paralympic Committee Women in Sport Standing Committee (APC-WISC), Representative for South East Asia - September 2015 to present
- Motivational Speaker (by invitation) since 2006 to present
- The Paralympic Hour Radio Show, Radio Co-anchor - August 2008 to December 2017
- PWC (Philippine Wheelchair Basketball) Team Founder and Manager - January 2006 to 2016

Adeline Dumapong is shown in a video call, wearing a blue shirt with the Philippine flag. A circular inset shows her in a wheelchair with the Philippine flag behind her. A grid of six smaller video thumbnails shows other participants.

International School Manila's High School Inclusion Revolution Club hosted a webinar with the very First Paralympic Medalist of the Philippines, Adeline Dumapong! Over 30 participants from the ISM community gathered online yesterday for a chance to learn about Adeline's outstanding achievements in Powerlifting and her unique road to success. Her story as a Filipina Paralympic Powerlifter is truly an inspiration to all! Inclusion Revolution club is a club that aims to promote inclusion in the community by embracing a variety of nationalities, abilities, talents, and much more.

"Discrimination and inequality may never be eliminated but as long as people continue making the effort to close the gap, I believe that the world would still be a better place."

-Ms. Adeline Dumapong-Ancheta

Bronze Medalist, Powerlifting, 2000 Summer Paralympics

SENIA Chapter Highlight: Ecuador



It is an exciting time for SENIA. In the past six months we have opened new chapters of SENIA in Australia, Ecuador, Shenzhen, the Netherlands, Ghana, Bulgaria, West Africa (The Ivory Coast), Uganda, and we have created a SENIA Africa Board. Several other chapters are about to be started. Our wonderful SENIA board volunteers are now promoting inclusive practices in over 25 countries.

This month we would like to highlight our **SENIA Ecuador Chapter**. Board members Chelsea Toller, Devon Hehl, Belen Zavala and Soledad Valencia held their first SENIA introduction meeting with faculty from Academia Cotopaxi American International School in Ecuador. They had 44 participants in their first Zoom meeting including their school director and school administrators! After learning about SENIA, Director Robert van der Eyken said the mission of SENIA aligned with their school's desire to model an inclusive world where all individuals are mutually respected and valued. We look forward to having members of the Cotopaxi faculty participate in this year's SENIA Conference.

We invite you to check out the SENIA Website to learn more about a SENIA Chapter near you. If you would like to learn more about creating a new chapter of SENIA please email: chapters@seniainternational.org

-Shelley Hawkes, SENIA Director of Growth & Development

What We Are Reading & Watching



By Lizzie Hudson, SENIA Associate Director

I have always considered myself to be keeping up with the trends but I never made it to TikTok. I didn't see the need as I already had Facebook, Twitter and Insta. But then, I read 2 great articles that showed me that I needed to head there. This article from [Refinery29](#) introduced me to the idea of why TikTok is such a great place for those in the disability community. Then this [Allure](#) article introduced me to a whole host of people I needed to be following. Some people I already knew like [@ZachAnner](#) and [@Cheethamswithdreams](#) - but they were so much better in TikTok! Then I started following people like [@wheelierin](#) and [@tourettesbian](#) and then I went deeper and found [@zebedeetalent](#) and [@louthecpkid](#) and [@chrissycaanthearyou](#). These activists are sharing their lives to help others and normalize what they go through. They are funny, touching, silly and real.

There is so much amazing stuff out there, so if you get a chance, find a comfy seat, carve out an hour or so and head down the rabbit hole of Tiktok!

Speaker Highlights

SENIA CONFERENCE 2021
3-5 DECEMBER



Akane Yoshida
SEL/MH Strand



Larissa Chan
Math Strand



Emily Simbaña
Intensive Needs
Strand



Fi Santos
Literacy Strand



**Kieran Shield &
Kim Davis**
SEL/MH Strand



Caitlyn LeBrun
Inclusive Practices
Strand

We know that some of the biggest experts in the field can be found right in our own schools. That's why we're excited that over 45 educators from international schools around the world will be sharing their expertise at this year's virtual conference.

We are so thankful for all of our speakers. Preparing for and recording a full presentation takes time, excessive planning, and patience.

Please take a look at all our great [speakers](#) and then be sure to say hello to them throughout the conference!

We're ALL IN! Bonn, Germany



We **ALL** have a role to play in
creating inclusive schools



SENIA Conference 2022

March 31- April 2



WWW.SENIAINTERNATIONAL.ORG



SENIA and Bonn International School are teaming up to bring you our next in-person conference, "All IN! We ALL have a role to play in creating inclusive schools."

Join us for our pre-conference on March 31st and for our main conference on April 1-2, 2022. We'll be focused on our school communities with the following strands:

- Strong Culture
- Strong Identity
- Strong Programs
- Strong Pedagogy

We've secured some fantastic Strand Ambassadors as well. You can check them out on our website.

We will have our Call for Presenters and open up registration on November 16th.

We hope you will join us for our first in-person conference since 2019. We can't wait!

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SENIA Happy Hour Podcast



SENIA **HAPPY HOUR** PODCAST



On Being a
Neurodivergent
Educator

Sara Larrington

www.seniainternational.org/podcast/

On this podcast episode, Lori speaks to Sara Larrington, a learning support coordinator at Dresden International School. Growing up, Sara felt “different” from their peers. In Sara’s 20’s they received a diagnosis of Aspergers. Their discussion focuses on Sara’s experiences in school as a child, why boys are diagnosed at a much higher rate than girls with ASD, what schools can do to better support their neurodivergent learners, and how Sara’s ability to connect with students is their super power!

Find Our Podcasts Here

Become A SENIA Teacher Rep

The SENIA Teacher Rep keeps your school updated on all SENIA events/conferences. In addition, the SENIA reps encourage their faculty to attend local and international SENIA conferences, help motivate teachers



Does your school have a SENIA Teacher Rep?

to submit proposals to present at SENIA, and keep schools informed about inclusion PD in the region.

Consider appointing/nominating an individual whose role involves meeting the needs of diverse learners and is committed to advancing best practices in education for all students. Ideally, the appointed individual has attended at least one SENIA conference.

[Contact us](#) to learn more.

Contact us to nominate a TR

Thank You

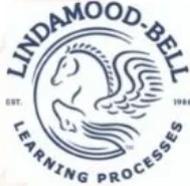
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