

WHITE CANE WORKSHOP

I. Indonesia

II. Magic White Cane

III. Backgrounds

5% of population of Jakarta is people with visual impairments, who need white canes as assistive devices to go somewhere, and also it helps to identify them. For each person they need more than two white canes per year, because in Jakarta we don't have good infrastructure, sometime the cane hits the tree or pillars in the middle of the street. Also there are many holes in the street, so the blind stumble into the hole. And also they are hit by car because of lack of attention, lack of social awareness from drivers, so white cane easy to broken. Also, in Jakarta we just have one factory producing white canes.

Traditionally, people with visual impairments work as massagers and musicians with low income, about 300,000 Rupiahs to 500,000 Rupiahs (2,000 yen to 5,500 yen) per month, compared to the cost of monthly living in Jakarta of about 800,000 Rupiahs (10,000yen) monthly. There is a high need for white canes, so learning about how to produce white cane can create new employment opportunities for people with visual impairments, eventually leading to an increase in income to sustain their lives.

The white cane workshop can teach them how to make white canes and also how and where they can sell them. After they complete the training, they can also open the workshop in their community.

IV. Overall goals

Through the making and selling of white canes, we can 1) improve their quality of life, 2) increase their income, 3) decrease the number of jobless people with visual impairments, and 4) promote the independent living.

V. Concrete Objectives

Before the workshop, we will teach 5 volunteers how to make canes, who have already registered in our organization. They can become trainers in this workshop. Then, in this workshop we will train 20 persons with visual impairment. The 2-day workshop will start on April 2008, which will aim to teach about what a white cane is, how to use it, how to make it, and also how to sell. And participants will come from each part of Jakarta and also other provinces around Jakarta like Banten and west of Java.

VI. Beneficiaries

The targets are people with visual impairments around 20 to 25 years old, who graduated from rehabilitation centers and need a job, because in rehabilitation centers they can only acquire how to read and write in Braille, and skills only for massagers and musicians. This training will give them new skills so they can work and open their own small shops.

VII. Impact on beneficiaries

After they complete the training and go back to their community, they can open small shops to produce white canes, which mean that they will create a new job of, for and with other people with visual impairments. So blind people will become economically independent and will be able to improve their life.

VIII. Action plan outline

Step 1:

On November 26th, I will ask all the team of Louise Braille to meet to discuss how to organize a project team and assign tasks (a coordinator, an accountant, a secretary, 2 fund raising staff, 2 staff for logistic and accommodation, a PR staff in charge of promotion and recruitment, 2 staff for workshop coordinators). Team will be composed of 10 persons with visual impairments with assistance of 2 sighted administrative staff.

Step 2:

After the team is formed, all the team will make a proposal to public and private companies for fundraising. In the third week the fund raising team will send the proposal, and logistic and accommodation team will look for the place for workshop and shops of white cane materials and also check the both prices, and decide the date to hold the workshop.

Step 3:

On the first week on February I will provide one-day training for 5 volunteers, who are already registered in our foundation, to become trainers in this workshop.

Step 4:

On 1st of March PR will start promotion through news paper, talk show in radio and also send the information to all the organizations and rehabilitation centers for blind people to inform the workshop. And PR will also start to recruit participants by sending a letter, fax and email to the rehabilitation centers and organizations for the blinds for asking them to represent their rehabilitation centers and organizations for the blinds.

Step 5:

On the 2nd week of April, the two-day workshop will be held. And we will provide the certificate for the trainees.

IX. Monitoring and Evaluation

To monitor how the workshop is useful and changes their life for blind people, ILBF will make a questionnaire about the workshop and make follow-ups to all participants by telephone and visiting their communities.

X. Possible obstacles to action plan implementation

We will face many difficulties. First of all, it's hard to get fund. Although the workshop is planed to be held in the beginning of the year, many companies start their fiscal year at the beginning of the year and many people spend their money for year end holidays. Second, a white cane is not a marketable issue for private companies. So it's hard to get a

sponsorship from them. Thirdly, April 21 is “Mrs.,” national holiday and all Indonesian celebrate the day and rent rooms and organize events. So it is hard to find a place with discount price for workshop and catering.

XI. Budget needed and how to raise funds for 5 months

To get funds we will send proposal to public and private company, making sponsorship with private company related to the workshop. The budgets are:

EXPENSES	COSTS	#. OF PEOPLE	OCCASSIONS	TOTAL
Salary(staff)	50	12	5	3,000
Salary(volunteer)	50	5	3	750
Workshop Rental	300	N/A	2	600
Transportation for staff	2,000	12	5	2,000
Stationery for office use	50	N/A	2	100
Office Equipment	3,000	N/A	1	3,000
Allowances	20	20	2	800
Maintenance of computer and printer	100	N/A	1	100
Snack and lunch	2	37	2	148
Postage	50	N/A	1	100
Internet, Telephone, Fax	200	N/A	5	1,000
			TOTAL	11,698

Revenue:

- From the government about US\$2,000.
- Rest of money I will ask supporting donation from foreign organizations (NGOs, Foreign Embassy).

XII. Impact of this training

What I was impressed most in this training course is possibilities of PWDs. In this course, I have leaned many movements initiated by person with PWDs themselves. They successfully collected their power and voices to make changes in their society. When I visited “WITH” in Hamamatsu, I observed possibilities for PWDs to live independently by working in this workshop. I got an idea how to establish a kind of workshop to produce white canes to make improvement life for person with visual impairments and I decided my project; “Magic white cane” (to lean how to produce white canes).

I also have lot of information about equal opportunities for PWDs such as a blind photographer and a blind woman working for a bank, etc, .

I also learned to be a good leader for PWDs in my country by meeting many informative Japanese leaders and lectures and also participants through sharing ideas and opinions with them.