

Alliance of Assistive Technology Professional Organizations

AGREEMENT

The Alliance of Assistive Technology Professional Organizations is a collaboration of membership-based professional societies and associations working to advance the field of assistive technology and rehabilitation engineering to benefit people with disabilities and functional limitations of all ages. Assistive technology is a much needed solution for millions of people, yet we recognize that there are significant global challenges to providing these technologies, especially as our populations age. Some of these challenges are unique, but many more are shared across nations and cultures. We are committed to working towards equitable and reliable access to assistive technology through research, policy advocacy, educating people and organizations within and outside of the field, teaching, training, and knowledge translation.

The signatory organizations (further referred to as “members”) consider each other as being "sister organizations" in other geographical areas, not competitors, respecting the different characteristics created by culture, political environment, membership, mission statement and situation of people with disabilities in their geographical area.

The intent of this agreement is to promote communication and information exchange, support each other's efforts, and speak with a more unified voice on international issues.

THIS AGREEMENT SUPPLANTS THE TOKUSHIMA AGREEMENT ORIGINALLY SIGNED IN 2000.

With this in mind, we pledge to:

1. Promote dialogue and collaboration among our organizations by offering reciprocal organizational benefits:
 - Membership: Provide one free membership for each sister organization including all benefits and privileges; offer reciprocal membership privileges to each organization's members for registration at their primary conference and certain publications.
 - Conferences: Extend reciprocal discounted registrations to at least one official representative from each of the other organizations who is a member of that organization's Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and/or Executive Director/CEO or another designated representative of the organization; host an international meeting at conferences; offer discounted exhibit space as negotiated or other means to share information about Alliance organizations; promote each other's conferences in their newsletters, websites, and other official communications, as appropriate.
 - Use of Logos: Allow use of their logos to support collaboration. Approval for use for specific activities may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
 - Websites: Promote mutual recognition of all member organizations, including linkages to their web pages as appropriate.

- Calendar of Events: Include announcements of events such as meetings of international relevance in their newsletters, websites, and other official communications.
2. Work to identify areas and issues of joint concern and opportunity, and to develop joint strategies to address these issues. In particular, strive to have greater influence with international bodies including the United Nations, its World Health Organization and UNICEF, the World Bank, the European Union, international philanthropic foundations and other NGOs, as well as the national and regional governments of Alliance organizations' home countries and regions.
 3. Designate a delegate from the leadership of each organization who will serve on the Alliance's Steering Committee.
 - a. The Steering Committee will elect a Chair (to serve a one year term) who will help coordinate meetings and act as the primary point of contact for entities wishing to communicate with the Alliance.
 - b. The Committee will meet at least twice annually (at a conference when possible and by telecommunications as necessary) and report back to each organization's leadership with any developments and/or recommendations.
 - c. The Committee will work to identify joint activities to undertake after more detailed exploration, or propose a group response to opportunities that arise.
 - d. Decisions by the Committee will be arrived at by unanimous agreement.
 4. Provide annual financial support for the Alliance in the form of dues and in-kind supports for special projects and for the reciprocal benefits identified above.
 - a. Member organizations shall make an annual contribution to the Alliance in the suggested range of \$100-\$500US. It is up to each member organization to determine an appropriate and feasible amount of support above the minimum.
 - b. Payments will be made by the end of January for that year.
 - c. RESNA shall serve as the treasurer for these funds, with expenditures approved by the Steering Committee. The designated treasurer may be changed by the Steering Committee
 5. Explore areas of potential collaboration. (Examples include an international journal, shared or discounted journal access, listing abstracts or tables of content of other member's journal on organizational websites, collaboration on technical or clinical position papers, collaboration between Special Interest Groups, or convening a periodic global forum on assistive technology and rehabilitation engineering.)

Membership in the Alliance

Membership can be extended to other organizations by invitation of the Steering Committee in unanimous agreement.

A member organization may withdraw from the Alliance by written notification to the Steering Committee. Previously-paid dues and other contributions are not refundable.

Additions and changes to this Agreement shall be considered by the Steering Committee and adopted on approval of the member signatories.

Agreed to by:

AAATE – Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe

President: Peter Cudd

ARATA – Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association

President: Trina Phuah

RESJA – Rehabilitation Engineering Society of Japan

President: Takeshi Shigenari

RESKO – Rehabilitation Engineering Society of Korea

President: Sangmin Lee

RESNA – Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

President: Ray Grott

TREATS – Taiwan Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society

President: Shih-Ching Chen