

Emerging Issues on the Education of SLPs around the Globe - Introduction

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Currently, the world population is over 6.5 billion. More than half of these populations reside in developing or underdeveloped countries. A recent UNICEF report reviewed that conditions of children in those countries have not improved despite financial aids from the World Bank and other resources. Over one third of the world's urban population lives in a slum and it is projected that in thirty years that figure would have doubled to two billion. The world population is continually increasing by 2050 the world population is expected to reach 9.1 billion and the major population growth will be in developing nations.

Our global populations speak 6912 languages. The development of speech pathology education differs from area to area and from region to region. Countries such as Iraq is barely capable of providing basic needs while Scandinavian countries provide health coverage for her entire populace. Islands may be isolated from the larger continents, but some islands are progressing rapidly such as Malta and other island nations such as the Philippines are progressing slowly. There are currently many civil wars going on in different parts of the world. These disparities and differences are continuing to challenge the education committee of the IALP.

The mission of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics is to work for the benefit of persons with speech, language, voice, swallowing and hearing disorders. In order to accomplish the goals and objectives of IALP, a closer examination of education of SLPs is necessary.

This session is organized to provide some updated information on the education of speech-language pathologists from a global perspective. Presenters are mainly members of the education committee. Sister Marie de Montfort Supple will discuss Historical Perspectives. Dolores Battle will discuss ASHA at work. Hilde Chantrain will discuss Socrates Intensive Program. Matti Lehtihalmes will discuss Different Models using Finland as a case study. Helen Grech will discuss Different Models using Malta as another case study. Margaret Leahy will discuss yet another Different Models based on experience in Ireland. Lilly Cheng and Kyoko Iitaka will discuss Asia Pacific. Fernanda Dreux Miranda Fernandes will discuss South America with a focus on Brazil and finally Nasser Kotby will discuss about the underserved populations in Africa and the Middle East.