

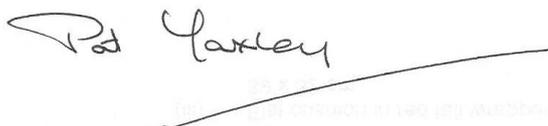
THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL (TWC)

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR 2018.

Innovations to our fund-raising programme included a very pleasant garden party at the Royal Overseas League and a splendid Christmas lunch at The Rag. A memorable Japanese Cherry Blossom Celebration tea arranged by a member and a splendid coffee morning hosted by a friend of TWC were among a number of personal initiatives which gave members much pleasure as well as generous support to our training and scholarship funds. Our programme of cultural events continued with a series of interesting visits which helped to meet our aim of offering friendship to women of Asia while at the same, contributing modestly to our funds. However the financial success of the year was Piaras Moore's magnificent achievement of walking the Wild West Coast of Ireland, thereby raising the splendid sum of £10,514 for our CII Course. Finally, in the autumn a new format Consortium of our ever generous Diplomatic Patrons led to some splendid offers of fundraising events in aid of our Training programme in 2019.

The prime focus of all our endeavours continued to be the support of our regional training programme for leaders, planners, trainers and practitioners - particularly women - working in the field of Disability in the Community in the countries of Asia, Asia Pacific and the Middle East. In January 2018, the very successful annual regional Community Initiatives in Inclusion Course, organised in the English medium by ADAPT, was attended by participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, The Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Tajikistan as well as from India – Mumbai, Nagaland, Sikkim and the Tibetan Community in Exile. Following earlier experience whereby ADAPT had provided trainers to a country where there was a network of CII alumnae who organised local training and provided translation and interpretation, a number of in country "hubs" have been established with a view to developing a system of such second level training. We are also delighted to report that, after a gap of seven years due to insecurity in the Middle East, our partner SETI, with the help of some essential "seedcorn" funding from The Women's Council, took the courageous step of organising in Jordan its 7th Community Based Rehabilitation Training in Arabic, with participation from Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan and Yemen. In the event, this long awaited course was oversubscribed and well funded by participating organisation, so that the bulk of TWC's committee funding is being held over for a second course in 2019.

Training is one of the most economical and effective way of bringing about change and development and we feel exceptionally privileged to be working in consultation and co-operation with two such remarkable partners as ADAPT and SETI, who are leaders in promoting rehabilitation and inclusion for children with disabilities. We thank them, our President, Diplomatic Patrons, our Honorary Training Adviser, our Committee, Members, and friends for all their help in so many ways and look to them for continued support in our aim of helping to improve the lives and opportunities of many more hundreds of children with disabilities, who are officially recognised to be one of the most disadvantaged categories of children worldwide.



P. D. Carley