

ISPO UK TRAVEL BURSARY REPORT – DR RAGHU PABBINEEDI



I work as an Associate Specialist, at Specialised Ability Centre (previously known as Disablement Services Centre) attached to University Hospital of South Manchester.

Firstly, I wish to thank ISPO UK MS for granting me the travel bursary which assisted me to attend the recent ISPO World congress held in Cape Town, May 2017. This gave me an opportunity to present my poster titled “**Is High Tech Assistive technology beneficial in the developing world?** “. The content of my poster was based on my experience, lessons learnt with conclusions and recommendations from the free amputee camps I have conducted in South Eastern part of India. For the past decade, I have been trying to improve the amputee services in rural India for the individuals below the poverty line – by gradually introducing the British model of prosthetic rehabilitation services, together with the concept of mobile work shop to reach the amputees living in rural / tribal areas, through the local charitable Non Govt Organisations (NGOs) in India.

Nearly 2,000 participants from all over the world were present at the Cape Town International Convention Centre for this 16th Edition of ISPO World congress, held for the first time on the African continent, with the theme Assistive Technology for All, to reflect ISPO’s vision of “a world where all people have equal opportunity for full participation in the society” by ensuring increased access to assistive technology for users worldwide.

Highlights of this great conference in the context of “Assistive technology for ALL “:

1. Together with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and USAID, ISPO organised a **Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology (GATE) Symposium** on the opening day of this World Congress to highlight global assistive technology issues.
2. Launch of the **WHO Standards of Prosthetics and Orthotics Service Provision**.

The first session of the GATE Symposium was chaired by Professor Rajiv Hanspal (ISPO President) and Professor Alarcos Cieza, Head of the WHO Dept for Disability and Rehabilitation. High-profile speakers and representatives of various governments and leading institutions discussed how to improve access to high-quality and affordable mobility & therapeutic aids. Mr Chapal Khasnabis, Technical Officer, WHO dept for Disability and Rehabilitation, and leader of the GATE initiative, explained that Assistive Technology is not a priority in most of the developing countries and it is an important goal of the GATE initiative to make governments take more responsibility for assistive devices to help the people in need. As per WHO, 90% of the people worldwide who need assistive technologies to restore or maintain their mobility do not have access to appropriate devices.

The WHO GATE Initiative is aimed at improving access to high-quality, affordable assistive products for persons with disabilities. With the ageing population and predicted rise in the incidence of non-communicable diseases, the number of people requiring assistive products globally is projected to increase to beyond two billion by 2050. Currently, only one in 10 people in need have access to assistive technology. The WHO is coordinating the GATE initiative to address this massive and growing unmet need in the coming years. The Goal of GATE initiative is to improve access to high-quality affordable assistive products globally. To achieve this, WHO has planned to focus on four interlinked activities (4P) - **1.Policy**: Assistive technology policy framework (ATP), **2. Products**: Priority Assistive Products List (APL), **3. Personnel**: Assistive products training package (APT) and **4.Provision**: Assistive products service delivery model (APS).

It was a wonderful experience and a great opportunity for me to learn and share knowledge & experiences of experts from several countries. I have attended several presentations and seminars related to P&O technology and also gained further insight into how to improve services to the amputees in the developing countries, who cannot obtain High –Tech prostheses /assistive devises.

In addition, it was also very interesting to note that many European organisations are focussing to manufacture affordable -high quality appliances / prostheses aiming at the people in the developing world e.g:www.legbank.org (Holland), www.amparo.world (Germany) & www.crequipements.ch/en (Switzerland). I have also learnt how experts from developed countries are collaborating with the local experts in the developing nations in transferring their technology and training skills. e.g : www.exceed-worldwide.org (Formerly Cambodia Trust, Myanmar), www.thecoppers.org (team of experts from Holland linked to physical therapy department based at University of Western Cape, South Africa) and www.mobility-india.org (India).

Once again my sincere appreciation to the executive committee of ISPO UK MS for granting me the travel bursary. This was of substantial assistance to attend this special conference, where I not only had an opportunity to present my poster with similar theme of the conference but also it enabled and empowered me with the 4Point formula of WHO GATE initiative to continue with my ambition of helping the needy amputees in the developing world . email : Raghu.Pabbineedi@nhs.net

WHO Priority Assistive Products List:

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/207694/1/WHO_EMP_PHI_2016.01_eng.pdf?ua=1

ISPO Biennium report 2015 – 2017: http://www.ispoint.org/sites/default/files/10_ispo_br2017.pdf

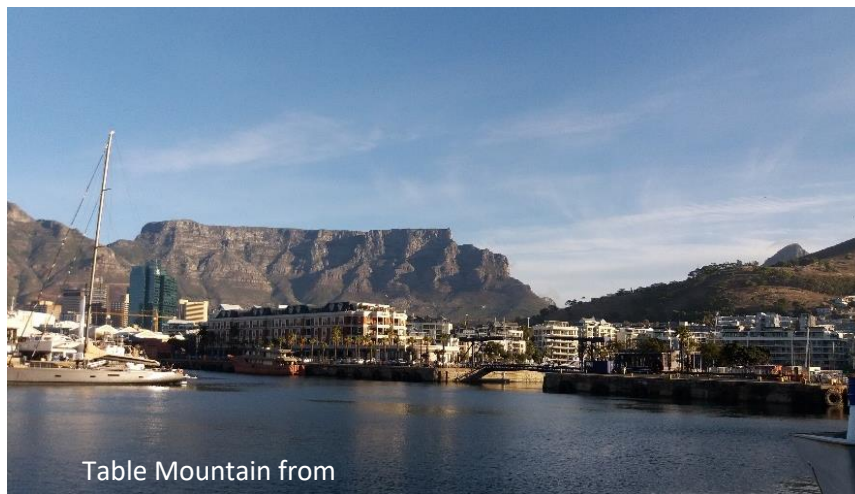
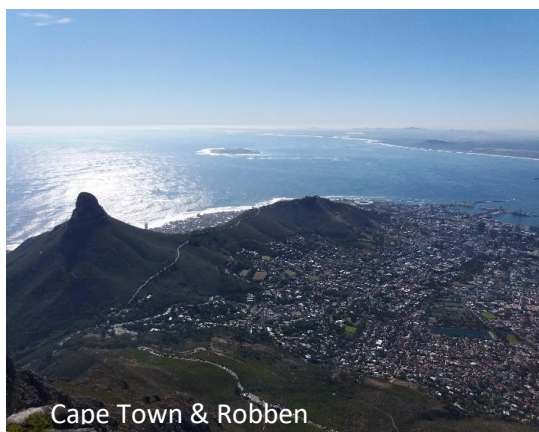


Table Mountain from



Cape Town & Robben

