

PRESIDENT'S letter

International Bureau for Epilepsy April 2007



13 projects funded in the Promising Strategy Program!



IBE Executive Committee meets

IBE and ILAE Executive Committees met in early March for some intense days of discussion on a range of important issues. Apart from discussion on finances, the development in the regions was in focus and of course preparations for the 27th IEC in Singapore.

You can read more about the IBE Executive Meeting as well as information on all of the Promising Strategy projects in the next issue of IE News. Front from the left: Shung-lon Lai, Mike Glynn, Susanne Lund, Zenebe Gedlie Damtie. 2nd row: Nico Moshé, Peter Wolf, Martin Brodie. Abdulaziz Al-Semari, Thanos Covanis, Carlos Acevedo. Back: Philip Lee. Absent: Eric Hargis, Anchor Hung.



Morocco joins the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Following approval of IBE, the Moroccan Association Against Epilepsy has transferred from the African Region to the Eastern Mediterranean Region. This reflects the WHO regional boundaries and the ILAE Regional Commission structure.

Dear Friends

I am very pleased to announce that the IBE International Executive Committee has approved 13 projects for support under the Promising Strategy Program. The provision of funding to so many projects in developing countries was made possible through the transfer of Solidarity Funds to the Promising Strategy Program in addition to the sum already designated in the IBE budget. Furthermore we are deeply grateful to Epilepsy Foundation in the US who provided an additional US\$4,000 towards the program.

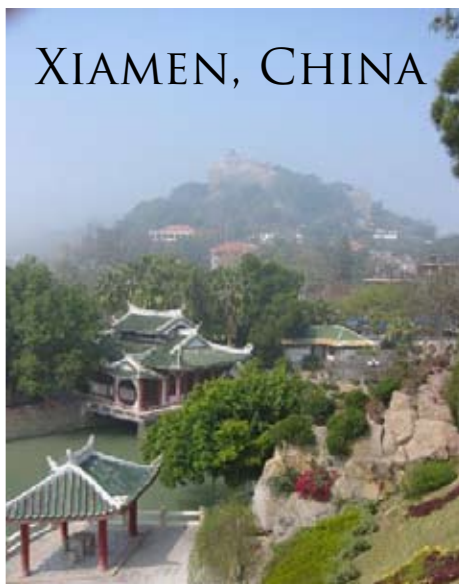
I was very impressed at the high quality of all of the proposals submitted. It was also interesting to see the great variety of activities proposed, from educational activities to self help projects and from horticultural and agricultural initiatives to textile training. Each of these programmes are designed to empower people to become more self reliant and to reach their full potential.

It is also very encouraging that this IBE initiative will reach so many countries and involve potentially thousands of dedicated individual volunteers who are always ready to support and to provide good advice. The Promising Strategy Program will be showcased at the General Assembly in Singapore and I am confident you will hear a lot more about it in the future. I strongly believe this is an initiative that has arrived to stay for many years to come.

Best wishes
Susanne Lund
President

Uganda
Zambia
South Africa
Zimbabwe
Sierra Leone
Romania
Mongolia
Mauritius
Gambia
Guatemala
Ecuador
Cameroon
Argentina

XIAMEN, CHINA



Next AOEC in Xiamen, China

With the AOEC in Kuala Lumpur already a happy memory, it is time to start organising the next AOEC that will take place in Xiamen, China in 2008.

An organising committee has been established with Dr Shichuo Li together with the Presidents of ILAE and IBE as co-chairs.

I hope to bring you more details on preparation for this congress, as well as information on the proposed special programme for people with epilepsy – and the Outstanding Persons Awards – in the coming months.