



Letter from the President

International Bureau for Epilepsy

November 2006

Dear Friends

I hope you are all keeping well. I am happy to dedicate this letter to China. Last month the 2nd Beijing International Epilepsy Forum took place, organised by the China Association Against Epilepsy, under the leadership of Dr Shichuo Li.

Focussing on the social and medical issues affecting the 9 million people living with epilepsy in China, the congress programme included a number of international speakers. Despite the fact that I do not understand Chinese, I was tremendously impressed by the interest and dedication shown by all of the delegates who attended the conference. It was a case of Standing Room Only, with every seat occupied by delegates anxious to learn of developments in the treatment and care of those affected by epilepsy.

In addition to the busy scientific programme, there was also a special programme for people with epilepsy and their families. This special forum took place in one of Beijing's major hospitals and attracted a large number of attendees. One of the speakers at the lay forum was a young girl who presented a moving account of her life living with epilepsy and of the difficulties she had encountered and conquered. I am sure she will be a wonderful spokesperson for people living with epilepsy in China.

As IBE President I was honoured to address both the medical and the lay conferences and returned home with very fond memories of the Chinese people that I met in Beijing. IBE was delighted to welcome the China Association Against Epilepsy as a Full Member in 2005 and already has witnessed the excellent work of Dr Shichuo Li and Dr Wu Liwen, Vice President and their colleagues in providing information on the true facts about epilepsy. A vital element of this is also to



encourage people with epilepsy to support each other for a better quality of life.

China was the first country to be involved in a Demonstration Project of the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy, which began in 2002. The results of the project, which issued a questionnaire to almost 60,000 people in five rural communities, showed that the number of people with epilepsy in rural areas of China and the number who were not adequately treated were higher than originally estimated. More recently the project has been expanded to another 10 provinces in China, covering 15 million people. If the project is successful, it may be expanded even further to include all rural areas of China. IBE would like to applaud the Chinese government for this commitment to improving the quality of life of people with epilepsy.

You will be able to read more about the successful epilepsy forum in a future issue of IE News, which will carry a full report on the meeting.

IBE Volunteer Award!



IBE Volunteer Award!

Please note that the closing date for the receipt of nominations is **Friday 22nd December 2006**. The Nomination Form and Guidelines are available on the IBE website.

If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact the IBE office, ibedublin@eircom.net.

Until next time, I wish you all well.

Susanne Lund
President

