

PRESIDENT'S letter

International Bureau for Epilepsy November 2007



DEAR FRIENDS

As you probably have seen, IBE has been approved to have Special Consultative Status on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. This is something that our Members can also use at national level to reinforce the

message to governments and decision-makers and I would like to encourage you to use this important position whenever possible.

As a NGO with Special Consultative Status at the UN, IBE will be able to play an active role in discussions on areas of interest and importance for people with epilepsy and those who care for them.



PROMISING STRATEGIES PROGRAM

The Promising Strategies Program, introduced last year, has proven to be very successful. In the first round of funding, 13 interesting and beneficial projects were funded and in mid-2007, due to the success of the first round, a second round of funding was announced. I am pleased to tell you that, again, the response was excellent, with more than 20 interesting Letters of Intent received. Each of the Letter of Intent received were considered based on the criteria set out in the program guidelines and following lengthy reviews, a shortlist was chosen. Those short-listed will now be invited to submit full proposals and a final decision for funding will be made by the International Executive Committee when it meets in early 2008. IBE is delighted to continue this project, which is making a difference for so many people with epilepsy in developing countries.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ELECTIONS

We are now close to completing the final elections of the Regional Executive Committees in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. IBE is grateful to all those who have nominated people to stand for election, to those who have agreed to be nominated and to those whose role has been to encourage and support the election process. I would like to thank the members of the Election Task Force, Mike Hills (Chair) and Marshal Mo-Song Hsih who have supervised all of the elections since early 2005.

ANNUAL REPORT

As you are aware from your own work and activities, we must report the activities that have been carried out by our associations. It has been a real pleasure to witness all the valuable activities and the great creativity of all our Members which we have included in the Annual Report for 2006. It is encouraging to read of your successes and as a body of work it provides a terrific global picture of IBE. I would like to thank our Executive Director Ann

Little who has collated the reports and created an attractive layout which will further strengthen the profile of IBE towards all our partners. The annual report is being circulated and you should receive a copy in the near future.

As always, please feel free to come back if you have any ideas on the future development of IBE.

Best wishes

Susanne Lund
President

