



Hiroshi Kawamura

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Hiroshi Kawamura is a Board member of the DAISY Consortium (<http://www.daisy.org/>). Since the establishment of the Consortium in 1996, Kawamura always stays on the Board of Directors and took roles of the Interim Project Manager (1996-1997), DAISY for All Project Manager (2003-2008) and the President (2008-2011). He received the ITU World Telecommunication and Information Society Award 2008 on behalf of the DAISY Consortium.

Prior to the establishment of the consortium, Kawamura served as a professional librarian at the University of Tokyo Library since 1970. As the Chairman of the Section of Libraries for the Blind/International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (1990-1995), he took initiatives to extend the reach of the Section to developing countries. In 1997 Kawamura became the Director of the Information Center of the Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities to implement DAISY in some 100 libraries for the blind across Japan funded by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Japan, among other R&D activities on accessible ICT.

In 2003, he changed his job to the Director of the Division of Social Rehabilitation/National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities Research Institute to conduct an international collaborative research to adapt DAISY in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) context to save lives of people at risks. For this end, Kawamura contributed to the World Summit (2003-2005) on the Information Society as the Disability Focal Point and coordinated the Global Forum on Disability in the Information Society in Geneva and in Tunis. It was followed up by international conferences on DRR of persons with disabilities in Phuket 2007 and 2009 as well as continuing on-site collaborative research and development on whole community tsunami evacuation in Urakawa-Town.

The DRR project in Urakawa-Town since 2003 has been focusing on empowering all community residents by provision of accessible and easy to understand scientific knowledge on tsunami and evacuation in DAISY multimedia format. On 11th March 2011 in Urakawa, more than 60 community residents with severe psycho-social disabilities, who regularly drilled tsunami evacuation by themselves, led the stream of evacuees when 2.8 m tsunami hit the town to cause 3 million dollars economic damage without no human casualties.

Kawamura coordinated the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, April 2014, Sendai (<http://www.unescapsdd.org/events/asia-pacific-meeting-disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction>) in collaboration with UN ESCAP, Nippon Foundation, and Rehabilitation International. He follows up the Sendai Meeting at 7th CSP CRPD at UN HQ, 6th AMCDRR in Bangkok and Prep-Com1 for 3rd WCDRR in Geneva with a mission to spread core message of the DiDRR – “Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction saves lives of people at risks and increase the resilience of the whole community”.
