



ASIA PACIFIC  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Disabled Peoples' International

Organisation Mondiale des Personnes Handicapées  
Organización Mundial de Personas con Discapacidad  
Международная Организация Инвалидов  
国际残疾人组织

## องค์การคนพิการสากลประจำภูมิภาคเอเชีย-แปซิฟิก

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Ref APRO 040/2013

**URGENT**

22 September 2013

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**Ms. Saowalak Thongkuay,**  
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Subject: Accessible Buses for All

To Whom It May Concerns

I am writing to bring an issue to your attention which has been a cause of great concern and distress to us during an experience traveling by bus operated by Bangkok Mass Transit Authority (BMTA) because the buses are high floor without proper ramp installed. All passengers with mobility challenges have always carried on buses and spent longer time in the traffic that is extremely dangerous for both passengers with and without disability.

Accordingly, BMTA, the Ministry of Transportation has a resolution to buy 3,183 buses to improve the BMTA services system. Disabled Peoples' International Asia Pacific (DPIAP) and its 26 Members National Assembly strongly support Thai Disability Alliance, request to the BMTA to provide 3,183 low floor buses with manual ramp to accommodate all passengers who have mobility challenges.

In connection with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Thailand has become its state party since 2008. Accessibility is a principle along with other 7 principles to CRPD. Besides, article Article 20 - Personal mobility stated that States Parties shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including by:

- Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost;
- Facilitating access by persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost;
- Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities;
- Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities.

/ Therefore.....

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Therefore, Royal Thai Government has an obligation to fulfill the implementation of CRPD and submit regular reports to the CRPD committee on how the rights of persons with disability are being implemented.

DPIAP strongly believe persons who have mobility challenge are tax payers as well as being right holders to this investment project therefore DPIAP would like to kindly ask you to re consider the resolution on 3,183 buses project and harmonize its Term of Reference with CRPD as the state is a duty bearer.

We wait to hear back from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Shoji Nakanishi  
Regional Chairperson

Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific (DPI/AP)

Enclosures: The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability  
List of DPIAP Member National Assembly

Cc: The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development  
ASEAN Inter Governmental Commission on Human Rights  
International Disability Alliance (IDA)  
Ministry of Finance  
CNN Asia  
BBC World News  
NHK World