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**TCI-ASIA PACIFIC fellowship PROGRAM**

**GUIDANCE NOTE Round 3**

**2020**

The Asia Pacific region, with the majority of the world population, along with the highest number of persons with disabilities, is a vibrant region advocating for disability inclusion. Since 2013, Transforming Communities for Inclusion-Asia Pacific[[1]](#footnote-1), has emerged as a critical platform to organise a CRPD based and self-advocacy led response to the growing psychosocial disability momentum in this region. The network today gathers groups and individuals of 22 countries in the Asia and Pacific regions.

The group has progressively developed a strong consensus on the centrality of Article 19 of the CRPD which contribute to its name - Transforming Communities for Inclusion. It has created partnerships and various opportunities for training and advocacial engagement with the disability movements at the sub-regional, regional and global levels, while facilitating leaders and various public engagements at the national levels.

TCI Asia Pacific has created successful instruments to build capacity, empower and strengthen national groups, through its members and member DPOs (<https://tci-asia.org>), including the "Country Mission", "Multi-stakeholder meetings" and "TCI Plenary". TCI Fellowship is also one of the instruments created, to strengthen national, sub regional and regional advocacy.

TCI has organized very successful plenaries, including the Bali "Classic Edition Plenary" of 2018. Here the Bali Declaration was created, with the support of 21 countries and over 70 participants[[2]](#footnote-2). In addition, TCI Asia Pacific has partnered with or led several global and regional events, and participated in UN proceedings at COSP, Mental health and human rights consultations, presented at many policy and academic forums, over the years.

TCI Asia Pacific has led the global reframing of advocacy from "mental health" to "inclusion", to bring policy attention to inclusion and community transformation; rather than towards the betterment of existing mental health services and improving institutions. In order to back this advocacy, TCI-Asia Pacific has consolidated several learnings on Inclusion, through reports and advocacy documents.

In Asia Pacific today, TCI holds a prominent space as one of empowering individuals and movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities, and the advocacy for inclusion, with cross disability supporters and various multi stakeholders of the region. However, this emerging movement is still fragile and does not yet have a steady response capacity both to national issues as well as to regional and global opportunities and threats.

While many of its members are slowly organizing as groups and young DPOs, and the CRPD has provided huge opportunities, DPOs are still confronted in most countries to threats - legal system failures, lack of political will, public opinion bias and prejudices, conventional service provision with its colonial bias, and industry vested interests to name a few.

The fellowship program is one of the elements of support that TCI Asia Pacific is offering its members.

**TCI Fellowship Program 2020-2021**

As agreed in 2017 by the board of TCI Asia Pacific and thanks to an IDA partnership, TCI Asia Pacific is in a position to offer **3 fellowships** to support its members in 2020-2021.

The fellowship is a guided by two of TCI Asia Pacific objectives:

1. Stronger capacity of national groups of persons with psychosocial disabilities to carry out advocacy and social innovation in line with CRPD.
2. Continued regional and global engagement to ensure Global South perspective for greater inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities within the broader disability rights and inclusive development processes and to reframe global and regional mental health momentum with the CRPD.

**2 streams of TCI Asia Pacific Fellowship**

The aim of the fellowship program is to support the empowerment of TCI Asia Pacific members. It has 2 streams:

1. Supporting **emerging national leaders**, especially those interested in starting a DPO at the national level or those desiring to start an independent peer led support service.
2. Further development of leaders significantly contributing to national **advocacy** and TCI Asia Pacific regional/global work
3. Additionally, this year, TCI is offering a **TCI COVID Fellowship** for 1 year

**In both cases the fellowship is composed of 2 elements:**

* A fellowship grant up to 8000 USD for 1 year
* On demand support, coaching and technical assistance as possible.

For 2020-21, TCI Asia Pacific has resources to support 1 fellowship grant in each stream.

**Additionally, a "TCI COVID Fellowship",**

Other than the 2 Fellowships, in this year, TCI Asia Pacific is also offering a "TCI COVID Fellowship", to support TCI to co ordinate a set of COVID related advocacial actions in the Asia Pacific region. This grant is also for 1 year @ 8000 USD.

**The conditions for the fellowship are as follows:**

* The fellowship program is open only to TCI Asia Pacific members from low and middle-income countries from the Asia Pacific region.
* The fellowship supports areas of work that contribute to one or more of TCI Asia Pacific strategic plans and outcomes as mentioned above
* The fellowship contributes to the salary or stipend covering the cost of the time given by the emerging leader to consolidate their advocacy work and share learnings both at a national and regional level. It cannot be used to cover administrative staff or other activity cost.
* The grant is up to 8000 USD per fellowship; and should cover salary or stipend for up to 12 months per month as well as work related reasonable accommodation costs.
* TCI Asia Pacific fellowship can only be received once by a member.

**To receive a fellowship the potential fellow needs to demonstrate:**

* + A clear plan of action as well as a concept note applicable at a national level and/or regional level which could cover
    - Advocacy (e.g. mobilization into a national organization) and/or
    - Peer support related  (e.g. organizing independent peer group at national level) and/or
    - Research (e.g. preparing a research report on national budget on mental health/inclusion)
  + Proof of having a grant available for program works that is at least equal to the fellowship amount
* The fellowship will be paid in tranches quarterly against agreed upon milestones.

**The criteria for the candidates are:**

* The fellows supported by the scheme should be a person with psychosocial disability from and based in an Asia or Pacific low or middle-income country, with interest in pursuing the advocacial opportunities presented by the CRPD, particularly Article 19.
* For emerging leaders stream:
  + The fellow should be at least 21-year-old
  + The fellow should have at least 3 years of recognised active national activism and be a member of TCI Asia for minimum of 2 years
* For capacity development stream
  + The fellow should be at least 30 years old
  + The fellow should have at least 5 years of recognised national work, of which 2 years' active contribution to TCI Asia Pacific works either at a regional or at the global level.

**Process**

* **For emerging leaders stream:**

The potential fellow needs to submit a concept note and send it with a recommendation letter from another TCI Asia Pacific member to the Convenor’s Office before the closing dates.

* **For capacity development stream**

The fellowship will be proposed by TCI Asia Pacific Convenor to possible candidate(s). The potential fellow needs to fill the concept in consultation with Convenor's Office and send it to TCI AsiaPacific Secretariat before the closing dates.

TCI Asia Pacific Convenor makes a proposition to the Board for both streams based on applications received. The propositions should be agreed upon by consensus by the TCI Asia Pacific Board. Proposed candidates cannot take part in the final decision.

After decision, the fellowship will be customized to suit the growth needs of the TCI Asia Pacific member by negotiation of express needs and objectives over several conversations.

After finalisation of terms of reference of the Fellowship, the contracting will be done.

**Reporting duty**

The fellow should write a simple quarterly report to be submitted to TCI Asia Pacific Board. The fellow can, in planning works and its execution, work in partnership with the TCI Asia Pacific Convenor's office.

**Fellowships 2020-2021**

The Fellowship applications for 2020-2021 is open from 1st June 2020 - 30th June 2020.

Do send in your application form to **tciasia.secretariat@gmail.com**

1. The Fellowship has been supported by the International Disability Alliance. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.tci-asia.org/bali-declaration> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)