

As part of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Center on Disability Studies is pleased to host the Pacific Rim Conference International Forum 2008.

## PacificRim InternationalForum

In partnership with the William S.  
Richardson School of Law

*An invitation to  
diplomats, activists,  
advocates, and  
community leaders*

April  
12-13, 2008

Honolulu, Hawai'i

*Securing the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities*



**Registration is now open.** Go to [www.pacrim.hawaii.edu](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu) and click on "2008 Pacific Rim International Forum" on the bottom left.

A pre-meeting to the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities

*Many of the world's  
600 million persons  
with disabilities face  
discrimination and  
mistreatment every day.  
We need to change that.*

With the recent passage and unprecedented global support of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, this is an opportune time to discuss the convention and its relevance in our diverse/local communities. The forum's intent is to foster learning about the Convention as well to facilitate new strategic thinking for the realization of rights for persons with disabilities.

The design of the forum will consist of Noted Speakers, breakout sessions and discussion panels. Speakers include experts with regional and UN experience, advocates and community leaders, who will present and participate in panels and lead discussions.

Breakout sessions will include: women and disabilities; strategies for treaty ratification; introduction to human rights treaties; writing community and non-governmental shadow reports; reasonable accommodation in practice; disability rights training.

There will also be topical presentations from countries and regions such as Mongolia, China, Taiwan, European Union, United States and Scandinavian countries.

The forum will also provide a space for dialogue and informal conversations. The forum will be participant driven and focused around issues and needs of the attendees. Informal discussions will include:

- Implications of the Convention to persons with disabilities in countries of the Asia-Pacific region
- Regional concerns surrounding implementation of the CRPD
- The influence of international norms on local activism and advocacy
- Challenges for "developing countries" as they seek to ratify and implement the Convention
- Applying the guiding principles of the Convention to affect positive real change for persons with disabilities
- Promoting disability rights in our nations and communities

Confirmed speakers include Patricia Morrissey, Commissioner; Kozue Kay Nagata, Senior Economic Affairs Office, United Nations DESA; Manu Meyer, Professor; Avi Soifer, Dean of William S. Richardson School of Law; Romel Apelprang, Director of Center for Disability Studies and Universal Access, East Washington University; and more.

*"The recent passage of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) marks a paradigm shift in attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities... The convention marks a shift in thinking about disability from a social welfare concern to a human rights issue, which acknowledges that societal barriers and prejudices are themselves disabling."  
(United Nations)*

*Please join us for an  
invigorating two days!*

Conference proceedings will be posted on the web after the conference.

For information and registration, visit [www.pacrim.hawaii.edu](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu) and click on the "International Forum" link (bottom left) or contact the topic leaders: Robert Stodden at [stodden@hawaii.edu](mailto:stodden@hawaii.edu), Katharina Heyer at [heyer@hawaii.edu](mailto:heyer@hawaii.edu), Steve Brown at [sebrown@hawaii.edu](mailto:sebrown@hawaii.edu), or Charmaine Crockett at [cccrocke@hawaii.edu](mailto:cccrocke@hawaii.edu). For general inquires about Pac Rim email [prinfo@hawaii.edu](mailto:prinfo@hawaii.edu) or call 1-808-956-7539.