

Abstract

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Title: Securing the present, shaping the future through occupational therapy education

Theme: MDG 8: develop a global partnership for development

The WFOT Human Resources Project Report (2010) has noted the rapid expansion of occupational therapy services globally over the last decade. This is particularly true in my own Asian region but also in Africa through such networking support and activities as the Occupational Therapy Africa Region Group, relevant textbook development, and service demand. Education is the foundation for this expansion.

Government policy based on changes in social thinking as well as the development of the human rights and disabilities movements have had a huge impact on occupational therapy service development, but really, if there is not an occupational therapy entry level education programme in the country or nearby, it is difficult for occupational therapy to grow and thrive.

Using examples from around the world, I will discuss the support which global partnerships can contribute to this development. I will also discuss how continuing education and research built on this educational underpinnings and developed through collaborative efforts, can shape the continuum toward professional excellence to serve a country population's health needs.

Format: paper