

# Technical Cooperation Projects in Costa Rica

Japan International Cooperation Agency



## Independent Living Project “MORPHO”



### Background

Assessed since 1979 to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities, JICA is working with the National Council of Rehabilitation and Special Education (CNREE) in the area through the formation and training of human resources with a rehabilitation project based on community.

As of May 2012, JICA and the Mainstream Association Japan, initiated the project for the promotion of independent living in Costa Rica, with the inauguration of independent living Center its headquarters in the south of the country, with the first center of this type in Latin America.

This initiative aims to be a tool to support, so that no matter the degree of disability that peo-

ple with disability can exercise a independent life fully.

The Center for Independent Living receives JICA Technical Cooperation and the Japanese NGOs "Mainstream" other experts working with the training, this project will last for five years in Brunca. The Brunca region is one of the areas with more people with disabilities in Costa Rica, according to the CNREE supported in the last national census in Brunca live 328.645 people, of whom 38,402 have some form of disability, ie around 11.68% of the population.

<b>Objective</b>	Supporting people with disabilities in the Region Brunca for them to develop independent living. People with disabilities can live independently in Perez Zeledon, using personal assistance services.
<b>Counterpart institution</b>	Morpho Center for Independent Living and Mainstream Association of Japan
<b>Duration of the project</b>	2012-2017
<b>Expected Results</b>	Achieve at least 10 people with disabilities to live independently using the services of assistants.



# Center for Independent Living "Morpho"

## MISSION:

To serve as a support tool, so that no matter the degree of disability a person has, this can exercise their personal autonomy .

## VISION:

Being a regional movement in the country to integrate people with disabilities so that they achieve real social inclusion which will allow them to lead fulfilling and satisfying, independent life.

## Expected Results

Create a more just, equitable and inclusive society through the opening of the first "Independent Living Center" where people with disabilities to effectively exercise their right to personal autonomy.

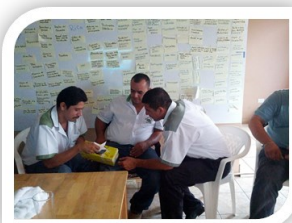


# INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER

## MORPHO: AXLES



# Summary of Activities of the Center for Independent Living



## Activity Performed 2013

February	<p>We conducted a Single Independent living program Geovanny Garcia of Paso Canoas region</p> <p>We conducted a March "Enough indifference" in order to require MPs to make legislative proper consultation</p> <p>We conducted a single independent living program to Eliezer Vallejos Montiel de la Palma from Puerto Jimenez</p>
March	<p>We conducted a meeting with the President of the Social Affairs Committee of the Legislative Assembly to request the support to be given to the bill tracking # 17305 of Autonomy for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Is made the publication of the user manual, which will enable people with disabilities who need the support of a personal assistant to have guidelines to follow in relation to the personal assistant</p> <p>It gave a workshop on sexuality and disability in San Vito de Coto Brus.</p> <p>It delivers information about the Center for Independent Living and its services in information stand pedagogical unit Calderon College located in Perez Zeledon,</p> <p>Began to teach workshops "Disability Equality" to drivers autobusera Company Hernandez Solis.</p>
April	<p>The first seminar was informative Peer Counseling, this being the start of this service in the Morpho Center for Independent Living.</p> <p>The second training was provided to Personal Assistants for people with disabilities, with a participation of 30 people.</p>
May	<p>A hearing was held with the advisor to the Minister of Social Welfare, to discuss possible program of Independent Living IMAS</p> <p>We give the first peer counseling workshop for beginners with a 10 persons with disabilities</p> <p>Was carried out traffic operating to monitor compliance with the law on public buses</p>



Fecha	Activity Performed 2013
Jun	We provided a Single Independent Living program Mr. Alfonso Ortiz Quiros
	It gave a workshop on Disability and Independent Living to a group of nursing students from the UCR campus golfito.
	Training was provided for attendees monitoring both plant and volunteers, handling probes Escalante Pradilla Hospital.
	We conducted a video conference with members of the Independent Living Movement Bolivia
July	He gave the first training of volunteer assistants in San Jose, as part of the expansion of Morpho project experience in other regions yet to start promoting the system of personal assistance in San Jose by the Independent Living Centre Ditsú that is starting to settle in that province.
August	It gave a workshop on Disability and Sexuality Equality Hospital staff Ciudad Cortés
	Erick Hess granted an audience to members of the Independent Living Movement, to solicit their support to the board of CNREE
	Social Welfare Minister, granted an audience to members of the Independent Living Movement in order to follow up the creation of the Independent Living Program in the IMAS

September	In the bus company Blanco Transport we gave the first series of workshops Disability equality
	Some Independent Living promoters attended a meeting in the Legislative Assembly deputies Advisors of different fractions, in order to gain their support for tracking the bill file No. 17305 Personal Autonomy for people with disabilities.
	The Independent Living promoter Luis Hernán Cambronero runs a workshop on Disability equality in some of the most active members of the regional group of the Movement of People with Disabilities.



## Disability Equality Workshop for Blanco Transport Drivers

The Independent Living Center MORPHO has provided training program for Blanco Transport businessmen of the town of Perez Zeledon, in order to ensure that employers are made aware of the problems that people with disabilities have to deal with public transport.

For this training drivers transport units have experienced the need to raise public transportation in a wheelchair, living for a few minutes disability, have also managed to make a action plan, including workshop activities. At the final of training were given certificates of participation and achievement

Already includes six workshops Disability Equality in Blanco Transport drivers, and this group has managed to train 31 drivers in the area of disability. It really was very profitable activity for both sides, leaving a large teaching a more inclusive society.



To continue our work we need the cooperation and funding because our income is limited,  
and our work is of paramount importance to this important and special population



"It's not the disability that makes life difficult,  
but the attitude and actions of others in front of it ..."



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