



# OMEKESANG



**President**  
Tessy Nobuo  
**Vice President**  
Sergio Rechesengen

- Main Activities**
- Promoting and protecting people with disabilities
  - Advocating in the community
  - Empowering the people with disabilities
  - Sharing knowledge on how to exercise their rights and protection
  - Linking individuals with services in need

**Background of Establishment**

This organization was founded by Michael Ongalibang, who himself had a disability and needed a wheelchair, in 1997. In 2010, Villany Remengesau (the Co-Chair of Pacific Disability Forum) officially made it an NGO. "Omekesang" in Palauan roughly translates to "taking a step forward".

**Purpose**

An organization to oversee issues concerning disability and help break the cultural barriers amongst the community here in Palau. To be an advocate for those in need, and make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.



**Member's Voice Ms. Tessy Nobuo**

I lost my vision entirely in 2009 when I had brain surgery for my brain tumor. I ended up joining this organization in 2015 in hopes to help myself as well as my family to cope with what had happened. I became the president of this organization in 2019.


Since 1997, the organization has expanded and has helped countless individuals and families involved through difficult life adjustments and we continue to encourage and empower people in need of special assistance.

Our short-term goal is to finish updating and renewing the organization's charter and articles and bylaws in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Our long-term goal includes our continuous work on making sure that the services and programs are accessible for people with disabilities. Working towards the usage of modern technologies and their devices to assist people in need and help them enhance their living conditions. This organization needs to stay updated and connected and continue to modify according to the needs.

Our organization mostly consists of volunteers with disabilities, which means at times, our disabilities become a barrier to our actions and performances. Everything related to disabilities is a struggle and a challenge on its own. Disabilities come in different forms, and some are very complicated and need specific care. Therefore, it is important to have people with different disabilities advocate for the rest of the population to know exactly what is needed. We try to encourage our members to participate and engage in their communities. We want the people with disabilities to still be part of the community and be involved instead of hiding away at home.

It's easy for people with disabilities to give up, but we want to reassure them and let them know that having a disability doesn't mean that everything stops, it's a matter of how much you can see things positively and take one step forward at a time. I would like to end with our slogan: Nothing about us without us.

**Contact Information**

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