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Center for Persons With Disabilities

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EMPLOYMENT CURRICULUM HELPS THOSE WITH DISABILITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PREPARE FOR JOBS

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Employment missionaries provide training in the Philippines

An international project is opening the doors to employment for individuals with disabilities in developing countries such as the Philippines, Peru, and the Dominican Republic, to name a few.

A three-member team of CPD employees and the Latter-day Saint Charities have been working together to develop an employment training curriculum that will help each participant develop a plan to secure future employment and ensure greater self-reliance and productivity. The curriculum is geared towards persons in wheelchairs, but can be adapted for those with other disabilities.

People with disabilities are often denied access to education and income, although they have the same talents and capacity to become productive citizens. The Moving Forward Workshop is a tool to help build greater confidence and skills in those with disabilities so they can reach their employment goals. The four-hour workshop is action-based and leads participants to take one or more major action steps towards employment.

It is important to educate and include individuals with disabilities in employment training to help lift them out of poverty and into the mainstream of society. This need is especially critical in countries whose total population is struggling economically.

The CPD team met with key people and agencies in several countries this past year and have established contacts that will hopefully lead to training opportunities worldwide.

For more information about this employment curriculum, you can contact Marilyn Hammond.

Note: This is the second in a series of blog posts summarizing presentations made by CPD staff members in late October and early November. They attended the 2010 conference for the Association of University Centers on Developmental Disabilities. Those of you who can stop by our building can check out the research posters in the hallway leading to the CPD’s southwest door.