**A Proposed New Path to O&M Certification for Countries Outside of the U.S.**

**International O&M Regional Certification - Are You Interested**?

**ACVREP VISION**

That all people with vision impairment receive services from highly qualified professionals.

**ACVREP MISSION**

To establish a worldwide standard of service delivery to people who are blind or visually impaired through the certification of vision rehabilitation and education professionals.

**COMS Certfication**

While ACVREP has always welcomed international applicants for the COMS certification, the two current criteria that have provided a challenge for international candidates are:

* meeting the COMS educational requirements where an applicant must have a minimum of a US-equivalent bachelor’s degree and have taken their orientation and mobility courses at the university level
* completing an internship of a minimum of 350 hours supervised by a COMS

**Regional or Country Specific Certification Proposal:**

ACVREP recognizes that the educational systems in other parts of the world may have a different personnel preparation structure than the US system. ACVREP recognizes that other regions of the world provide high-quality and comparable standards of training in the area of orientation and mobility although the training may not be university-based.

Therefore, it is in that context that ACVREP proposes the following for your feedback:

* Creating country or region specific orientation and mobility certifications evidenced by a certification name for that country/region
* The country/region would set up a local O&M Committee including 1 OMS with a minimum of three years’ experience, 1 employer of OMS, one personnel preparation representative from each personnel preparation program and one consumer. This Committee will oversee the development of the local certification program in partnership with ACVREP – ask presenter for a copy of the detailed proposal
* Eligibility criteria based on the educational and experiential/internship standards of that country/region
* All orientation and mobility applicants, regardless of country/region, take the same universal ACVREP exam based on a universal Body of Knowledge for orientation and mobility
* All fees would be based on current fee structure paid in US Dollars
* Recertification would be required at least every 5 years
* A minimum number of 25 applicants at initial set-up and 50 within 5 years is needed to make such a program feasible

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR HAVE COMMENTS EMAIL** comments@acvrep.org