



[Celebrating the Inclusion Revolution](#)



It's December. It's almost time for the majority of you to rest, rejuvenate, and celebrate all your accomplishments this year.

All of us at SENIA are still floating from the success of the 2021 virtual conference and we'll be sharing those celebrations with you throughout this newsletter.

We have even more to celebrate:

1. SENIA Certification Program: As we announced during the conference, the certification program begins in February. We have spent nearly 12 months perfecting our courses and are excited to introduce them to the SENIA community. Are you a beginning to intermediate level learning support teacher wanting a solid understanding of best practice in universal supports, behavioral supports, ILP creation, and more? Or are you a general educator who would like to explore these topics in more depth? Then, take a look at our coursework and sign up today. We'll have more information for you about the coursework below.

2. SENIA In-Person Conference in Bonn, Germany: Be sure to scroll down to learn all about our plans for the upcoming conference held at Bonn International School. We are so excited to meet you all and have an in-person conference experience. Read on to discover more.

3. Local & Regional Chapters: This year, thanks to our SENIA Growth and Development team and your enthusiasm, we have 10 new chapters including our newest chapter located in Nepal! Make sure to watch our celebration video of all our fabulous local chapters.

4. Award Winners: SENIA is a non-profit charitable organization. We award scholarships and honor advocates all over the world. Please check out our celebration videos to learn more about these incredible advocates. We also have an outreach scholarship to explore.

We are so proud and excited at how far SENIA has come since 2002 when it began with eight learning support teachers in China.

We truly do have so much to celebrate.

As Jay Lingo, SENIA's marketing director tweeted, "We're in an inclusion revolution, and we're all in!"

Yes, we are!

Have a restful vacation, and we'll catch you in 2022!

Let's Celebrate Our Virtual Conference

SENIA CONFERENCE 2021
Virtual Conference

International School of Tanganyika
Challenge | Support | Inspire

LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS
SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

INCLUSIVE PRACTICES - MENTAL HEALTH - INTENSIVE NEEDS - LITERACY STRATEGIES - MATH STRATEGIES

SENIA CONFERENCE 2021 | CONFERENCE 3-5 DECEMBER 21 BY THE NUMBERS

2202 official participants

72+ approved proposals

66 registered schools

12 gold, silver, and bronze sponsors

11 invited speakers

5 learning strands

4 months of flexible access

3 inspiring keynote speakers

2nd year connecting virtually

1 amazing conference



INCLUSIVE PRACTICES - MENTAL HEALTH / SEL- INTENSIVE NEEDS
LITERACY STRATEGIES - MATH STRATEGIES

REGISTRANT SPOTLIGHT

Jon Springer

Parents Association of Learning Support Students
(PALSS)

Vienna International School, Austria

"The more I got involved in my children's learning journey, the more I learned how important it is to find inroads into global communities that work with families like mine on making inclusive education possible. I want to help to signpost the path better for other families. This will be my first SENIA conference. I am looking forward to both the conference conversations; and the conversations about the conference in our school's community."



SENIA CONFERENCE 2021

LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS
SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

After our conference, Jon had this to say about the experience: "It's trendy for schools to "inspire a lifelong love of learning." That only comes from a position of open, inclusive, and welcoming dialogue. The conversations at the SENIA conference are living breathing models of how lifelong learning grows."

Thank You

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF
HELSINKI



Thank you, International School Helsinki, for bringing your entire school to the conference. With participants varying from teacher, to administration assistant, to custodial engineer, we see a whole school dedicated to inclusion!

Feature Article: International School Beijing's Life Centered Education Program



By Nick Yates, ISBeijing Communications

A hush settled in the audience as the young performers took to the stage. The Elementary School singer, musicians, and dancers had been preparing for weeks. Their peers packed into the theater couldn't wait to see the show.

A pregnant pause. The singer mouthed his first note, his bandmates joining in in unison, and the dancers started their practiced movements. A light show bathed the stage in a warm glow.

With beaming smiles, the crowd and their teachers clapped and cheered. The performance during the International School of Beijing's (ISB) Celebrate and Share the Arts (CASTA) festival in late April had been a success!

Audiences had great fun celebrating the work of fellow students during [CASTA](#). What most in the audience weren't aware of was that the student with the melodic voice and stage presence has autism spectrum disorder. He was one of three students in the Life Centered Education (LCE) class that ISB opened for students with intellectual/cognitive learning disabilities in 2020/2021. He achieved and shared his artistic talents just like all the other students during CASTA. Listeners appreciated his singing without even noticing his disability.

LCE, the only school program of its kind in Beijing, has added one more student for the current 2021/2022 year and is expected to grow further driven by demand for inclusive education. In LCE, students learn daily living skills, functional academics, social and communication skills, and vocational skills. They are integrated to the maximum extent appropriate in classes with peers of the same age.

As LCE has become established as a part of ISB, its students have formed relationships across their grades. While students in the LCE class are provided with individualized programming led by specialist staff, they are members of homerooms and spend parts of their day learning alongside their same-age peers, developing important social skills, making friends, and engaging in their areas of interest.

Please click button to read the entire article:

[Read the whole article here](#)

[Join our SENIA Certification Program](#)



SENIA Certification Program

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iSS INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS SERVICES

1

**Learning Differences &
Diagonised Disabilities**

2

**Supporting the Whole
Child**

3

**Implementing
Inclusion Systems**

4

Universal Supports

5

**Understanding
Behavior**

6

**Developing
Individualized Learning
Plans**

Our coursework is perfect for the beginning to intermediate level Learning Support teacher or general educators who want to learn more about supporting students with learning differences.

You can take one course or all six. Six will earn a SENIA certification.

Join our first cohort and get six courses for the price of one!

[Register here](#)

[Contact Us](#)

We're ALL IN! Bonn, Germany





SENIA
Conference 2022
March 31- April 2

 WWW.SENIAINTERNATIONAL.ORG 

SENIA and Bonn International School are teaming up to bring you our next in-person conference, "All IN! We ALL have a role to play in creating inclusive schools."

Join us for our pre-conference on March 31st and for our main conference on April 1-2, 2022. We'll be focused on our school communities with the following strands:

- Strong Culture
- Strong Identity
- Strong Programs

- Strong Pedagogy

We've secured some fantastic Strand Ambassadors as well. You can check them out on our website.

Would you like to present? Click the button below to apply today!

Registration is open! We hope you will join us for our first in-person conference since 2019. We can't wait!

[Conference Info](#)

[Registration](#)

[Call for Presenters](#)

[SENIA Local Chapters: Video Celebration](#)



All of us at SENIA International would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing SENIA local and regional chapter leadership. We applaud them for another successful year of spreading the SENIA mission around the globe.

Enjoy this video tribute to them! Not seeing a chapter represented where you live? Reach out to chapters@seniainternational.org to see how you can start a chapter of SENIA in your area.

What We Are Watching



Steps and St. Andrews 107 in Bangkok bring you a special edition of sing and sign. Enjoy!

SENIA Student Award Winner

Student Award Winner Sasin Emmy Thamakaison

SENIA STUDENT AWARD



Congratulations to Sasin (Emmy) Thamakaison as the recipient of the 2021 SENIA Student Award.

Emmy has been involved in inclusion work for many years. She was the co-chair for an inclusive club called “InvisAbilities” at the International School of Bangkok. Her club hosted many activities at her school to help create awareness of disabilities and advocate for all students. She headed SENIA Youth chapter in Bangkok and worked tirelessly to create an Inclusion Club Starter Pack to share with other inclusion clubs around the globe. In addition to this, she wrote an English-Thai children’s book “JJ Squiggly Mind” to explain ADHD. The proceeds from her non-profit projects has allowed her to provide resources to children from underprivileged backgrounds. Emmy is continuing her inclusive work with the MARIO Framework as their Marketing Coordinator, while attending Stanford University.

As a SENIA Student Award recipient, Emmy will receive a certificate, a monetary scholarship and a plaque. The awards ceremony was virtual and Emmy provided an inspiring pre-recorded speech. Also recognised at the ceremony are the following honorary award winners who are promoting inclusion and making a difference in their communities:

- Advait R. Menon
- Lokawya Lakshmi Kantha Raju
- Sanjana Nagraj

The entire Student Award Ceremony can be viewed [here](#):

[Nominate a Student Today](#)

December World Changer Award



**NURAZWIN LIYANA
BINTI ABDULLAH**

Malaysia

For more info, go to:
www.seniainternational.org/senia-world-changer-awards/



Congratulations to Nurazwin Liyana Binti Abdullah as December's 2021 SENIA World Changer Award winner!

Nurazwin Liyana Binti Abdullah has proven that individuals with a hearing impairment can always find different ways to showcase their talents through her monologue and poetry performances in sign language. Nurazwin Liyana's monologue performance titled "Mother" received recognition at "Les Etoiles De Paris 2021" Art Festival (Nov 2021). She also performed sign language poetry at George Town Literary Festival, the biggest literary event in Malaysia, and at a national OKU (individuals with disabilities) convention organized by Malaya University, a renowned national university. She leads her school team in sign language

performing arts and trains for performances and competitions. Her monologue performance can be viewed here:

[Video Performance](#)

2021 World Changer Celebration



Muhammad Aizat Izzuddin Bin Azmi
Malaysian/ Malaysia

- Poetry performer, a storyteller, a voice actor, an illustrator and an orator
- Narrated poems and short stories at the "2020 Tir Fest"
- First in Malaysia with disabilities to compete at the English Olympics

Student

SENIA
Special Education Network & Inclusion Association

The highly anticipated SENIA World Changer Award video for 2021 is now available. Take a look to see the individuals making a difference around the world!

[Nominate a World Changer](#)



2022 SENIA OUTREACH SCHOLARSHIP

WWW.SENIAINTERNATIONAL.ORG/AWARDSANDSCHOLARSHIP/

Applications open until March 4, 2022

[Apply or Nominate Today](#)

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those with
SEN and
EAL

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Looking to expand your knowledge of inclusive education?

If you work in an international school our practice based iSENCO course could be just the one for you.

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Rimante Songailaite
iSENCO 2021



[SENIA Happy Hour Podcast](#)



SENIA
HAPPY HOUR
PODCAST

Drawn to
a Story



Cath Brew

www.seniainternational.org/podcast/

Host Lori Boll speaks with Cath Brew. Cath is an artist who illustrates and educates about marginalised experiences for positive change – with a focus on identity, belonging and expat life.

She's also a passionate advocate for open and honest conversations. Cath hosts Talk-Back Tuesday – a weekly Q&A on social media about LGBTQ+ issues and the podcast 'Drawn to a Deeper Story' which explores the lives that challenge us and the difficult conversations around them.

Cath was a speaker at our virtual conference and was actively engaged with everyone throughout. If you haven't had a chance to speak with Cath, take a listen!

[Find Our Podcasts Here](#)

Become A SENIA Teacher Rep



The SENIA Teacher Rep keeps your school updated on all SENIA events/conferences. In addition, the SENIA reps encourage their faculty to attend local and international SENIA conferences, help motivate teachers to submit proposals to present at SENIA, and keep schools informed about inclusion PD in the region.

Consider appointing/nominating an individual whose role involves meeting the needs of diverse learners and is committed to

advancing best practices in education for all students. Ideally, the appointed individual has attended at least one SENIA conference.

[Contact us](#) to learn more.

[Contact us](#)

Thank You

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[Would you like to sponsor SENIA in 2021-2022?](#)

Do you know of an organization who would like to sponsor us? Sponsoring SENIA is a great way for organizations who share our mission to interact with SENIA members worldwide. Check out all our great [sponsorship opportunities](#). Interested? Contact [Lori Boll](#) today.



SENIA International

A Non-profit organization 501(c)(3)

Based in Oregon, USA

Operates Worldwide

