

8th International Abilympics to be held in Seoul

(23rd September 2011)

8th International Abilympics, a vocational skill competition among the person with disability, is scheduled to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from September 25-30, 2011. This event is being organized jointly by 8th International Abilympics Seoul 2011 Organizing Committee and the Ministry of Employment & Labour, Seoul Metropolitan Government, International Abilympics Federation and Rehabilitation International. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India has provided substantial support to the skilled disabled persons to participate in this event. An Indian contingent of 25 members including 15 contestants is leaving on September 23, 2011 to participate in this prestigious event. The contestants belong to different regions of the country and have undergone an intensive training programme in Delhi prior to departure for Korea. Shri Mukul Wasnik, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment blessed the participants and expressed a hope that the contestants will bring laurels to the country.

The organizers expect approximately 1500 participants from 50 nations. An exhibition and demonstration of assistive devices/technology, handmade crafts and demonstrations of culture etc. of each participation will be held during this period. The International Abilympics like Olympics is held every four years in different parts of the world. It started in 1981 to celebrate the United Nations' "International year of the disabled persons" in order to improve their economic conditions and to increase their rate of employment.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India has been supporting the Abilympics movement in the country for over a decade. This has helped empower persons with disability and enabled them to lead a life of dignity and equality.

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