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Based Rehabilitation**

**Series 2**

**CBR In Transition**

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## FOREWORD

It is a pleasure and honour to write a foreword for the Selected Readings in Community Based Rehabilitation. It was as long ago as 1966, at the 13<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, that the importance of rehabilitation was recognised and Member States were urged to develop their rehabilitation services. There was little progress for at least ten years when the World Health Assembly, in 1976, again adopted a resolution supporting and encouraging the development of rehabilitation into health programmes at all levels, particularly at a level of primary healthcare. This was the start of the concept of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR). The concept developed slowly mainly through the efforts of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Another 10 years passed and it was not until 1988 that any global effort was made to bring together CBR practitioners to share information and good practice. At that meeting (organised by the World Health Organisation Regional Office of the Western Pacific) CBR was generally felt to be both effective and acceptable to local communities and disabled people but it was also recognised that there was very little published information on best practice and virtually no research on the best way to provide the service. Regrettably this is still largely the case.

The Selected Readings goes a long way to addressing that gap. The ten chapters cover basic concepts as well as outlining good practice and research activity. This is a much needed book and will be of value to all those working in the CBR field across the world. I hope the book will not only encourage those already working in the field but will also encourage governments, NGOs and local communities to develop programmes where none exist. It is an excellent book and I hope it has the impact that it deserves.

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