

SINGAPORE

Singapore's Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (“UNCRPD”), entered into force on May 3, 2008, was ratified by Singapore on August 18, 2013.¹ UNCRPD (and its Optional Protocol), adopted on December 13, 2006 at the UN Headquarters, was opened for signature on March 30, 2007. There were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol and 1 ratification of the Convention. This is the highest number of signatories in history to a UN Convention on its opening day.² UNCRPD, a principal catalyst in the global disability rights movement, is a human rights instrument with an explicit social development dimension, adopting a broad categorization of persons with disabilities and reaffirming that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Singapore joins 132 other countries in committing to ensure equal rights and dignity to disabled persons. This significant milestone, a result of collaborative public and private sector multi-stakeholder efforts, has been hailed by some as a leap forward in advancing disability rights.³

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¹ Singapore Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore ratifies UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Jul. 19, 2013, *available at* <http://app.msf.gov.sg/PressRoom/SingaporeRatifiesUNCRPD.aspx#sthash.oxkZLhf1.dpuf> (last visited on Nov. 17, 2013).

² *See* Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, *available at* <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=14&pid=150> (last visited on Nov. 17, 2013).

³ Ms. Judy Wee, Vice-President of the Disabled People's Association and member of the Enabling Masterplan Implementation Committee said: “Ratifying the Convention is a right step towards building an inclusive society. We need to continue our efforts to remove all physical and attitudinal barriers. We look forward to the day when everyone-including persons with disabilities are included in all aspects of life in our community.” *See* Media Release by Ministry of Social and Family Development, *available at* <http://www.ncss.org.sg/documents/uncrpddocs/>