

WFOT – Celebrating and building a globally connected profession

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WFOT President

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WFOT is an organisation of regional and national occupational therapy associations.

As a worldwide body we represent the occupational therapy profession internationally in its role of improving world health and wellbeing.

We have long history of professional collaboration.



1952

-  Australia
-  Canada
-  Denmark
-  India
-  Israel
-  New Zealand
-  South Africa
-  Sweden
-  United Kingdom
-  United States of America



Promoting Occupational Justice

- Since its inception, WFOT has advocated for human rights; including protection of access to health systems.
- WFOT condemns all actions or circumstances that infringe on the rights of people and communities to live purposeful and engaged lives.
- Occupational therapists are concerned with human rights in pursuing occupational justice for all.
- Occupational therapists around the world are obliged to promote occupational rights as the actualisation of human rights

www.wfot.org/resources



POSITION STATEMENT

Occupational Therapy and Human Rights

Statement of the position being taken
Occupational therapists are concerned with human rights in pursuing occupational justice for all. Occupational justice requires universal rights to occupation, broadly defined and recognising differences related to the cultural, social, political (current and historic) and geographical context. Occupational justice is the fulfilment of the right for all people to engage in the occupations they need to survive, define as meaningful, and that contribute positively to their own well-being and the well-being of their communities.

Occupational justice requires occupational rights for all to:

- **Participate in a range of occupations** that support survival, health and well-being so that populations, communities, families and individuals can flourish and realise their potential, consistent with the Ottawa Charter¹
- **Choose occupations** without pressure, force, coercion, or threats but with acknowledgement that with choice comes responsibility for other people, lifeforms and the planet
- **Freely engage in necessary and chosen occupations** without risk to safety, human dignity or equity.

Statement of significance of position to occupational therapy

Occupational injustice is an abuse of occupational and human rights, as defined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)² and protected by the United Nations' International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)³ and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)⁴.

Occupational therapists around the world are obligated to promote occupational rights as the actualisation of human rights. This obligation encompasses addressing occupational injustices, initially named in 2000 as occupational deprivation, occupational imbalance, occupational marginalisation, and occupational alienation. An early addition was occupational apartheid.

Occupational rights are secured by identifying and addressing the capabilities⁵, opportunities, and freedom of choice for individuals, communities and populations to participate in society.

Occupational therapists are obligated to enact our client-centred aspiration by collaborating with those experiencing abuses and with diverse partners to eradicate abuses that undermine occupational justice.

Statement of significance of position to society

WFOT fully endorses the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and aligns the protection of occupational rights with the protection of human rights. Actions to promote occupational and human rights must counter occupational injustices that are aggravated by social problems, significantly persistent poverty, economic restrictions, disease, social discrimination, displacement, natural and man-made disasters, armed conflict, historic disadvantage, and physical and mental ill health.

WFOT World Federation of Occupational Therapists
Occupational Therapy and Human Rights (2018)

1 | 2



02 March 2022

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Right to Access Occupations

WFOT reaffirms its condemnation of all actions or circumstances that infringe on the rights of people and communities to live purposeful and engaged lives in safety and peace.

We deplore action that denies access to the human right to participate in chosen occupations which are the foundation of just and inclusive societies.

Global conditions that threaten the right to occupations include armed conflict and man-made disasters, poverty, disease, social discrimination, and displacement. In addition, the right to occupation is subject to cultural beliefs and customs, local circumstances and institutional power and practices.

As a Federation of national and regional occupational therapy organisations we work together to improve world health and wellbeing. WFOT fully endorses the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and collaborates with international partners including the World Health Organization for the protection of access to health systems through education, advocacy and humanitarian support.

As an international occupational therapy community, we remain united as a profession to advocate for human rights and occupational justice.

2023



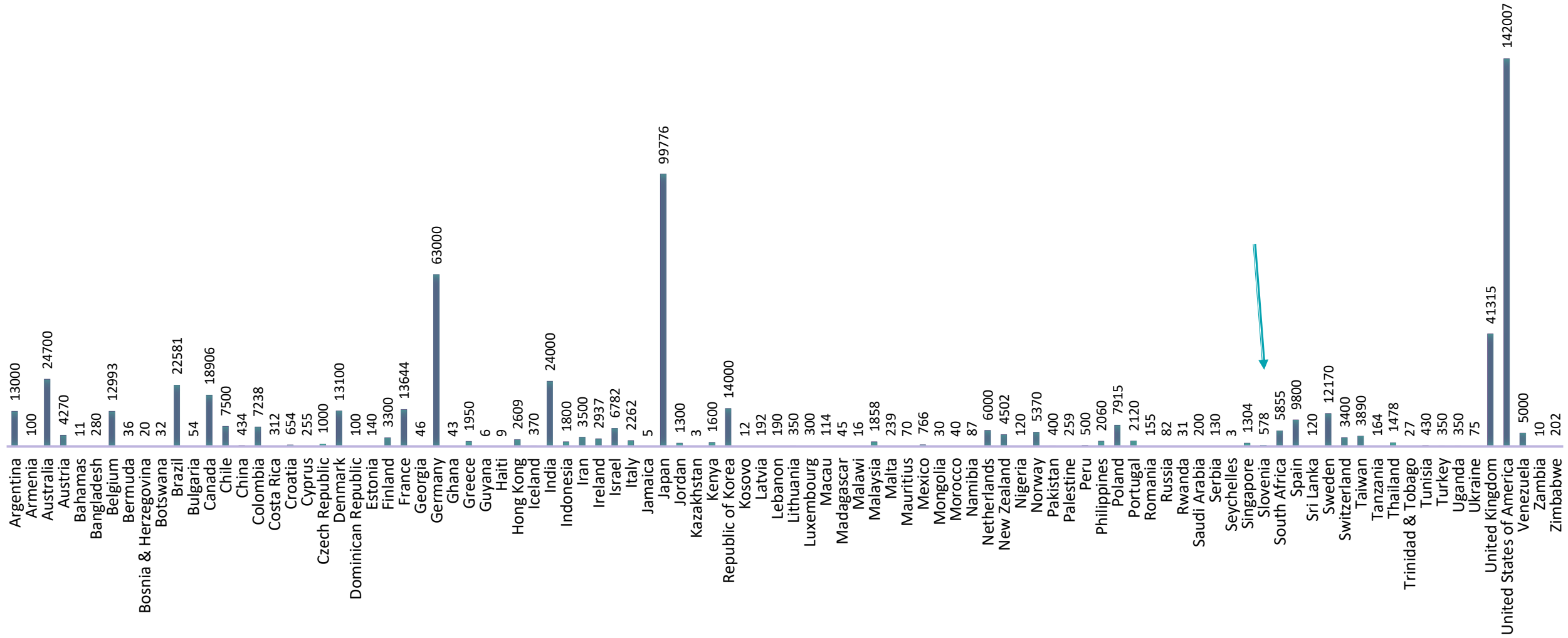
81 Full Members
Approved constitution + Education Programme

19 Associate Members
Approved constitution

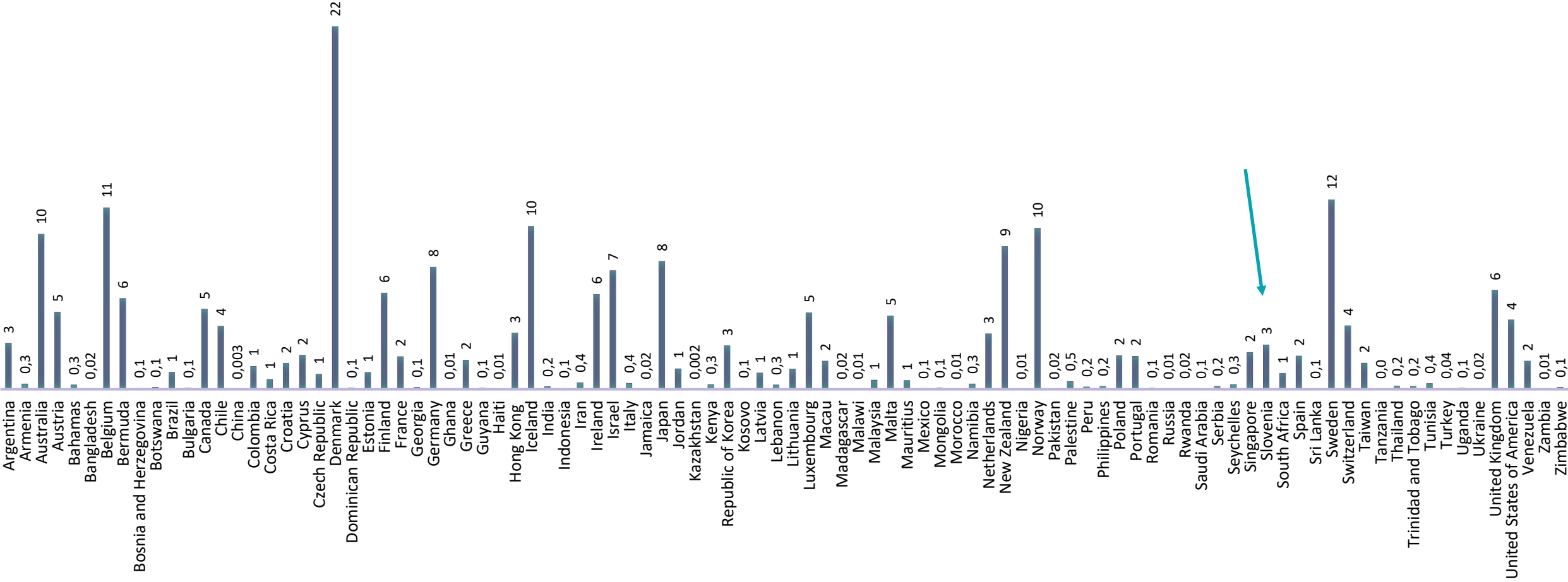


7 Regional Groups
Arab, Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Africa, Kuwait

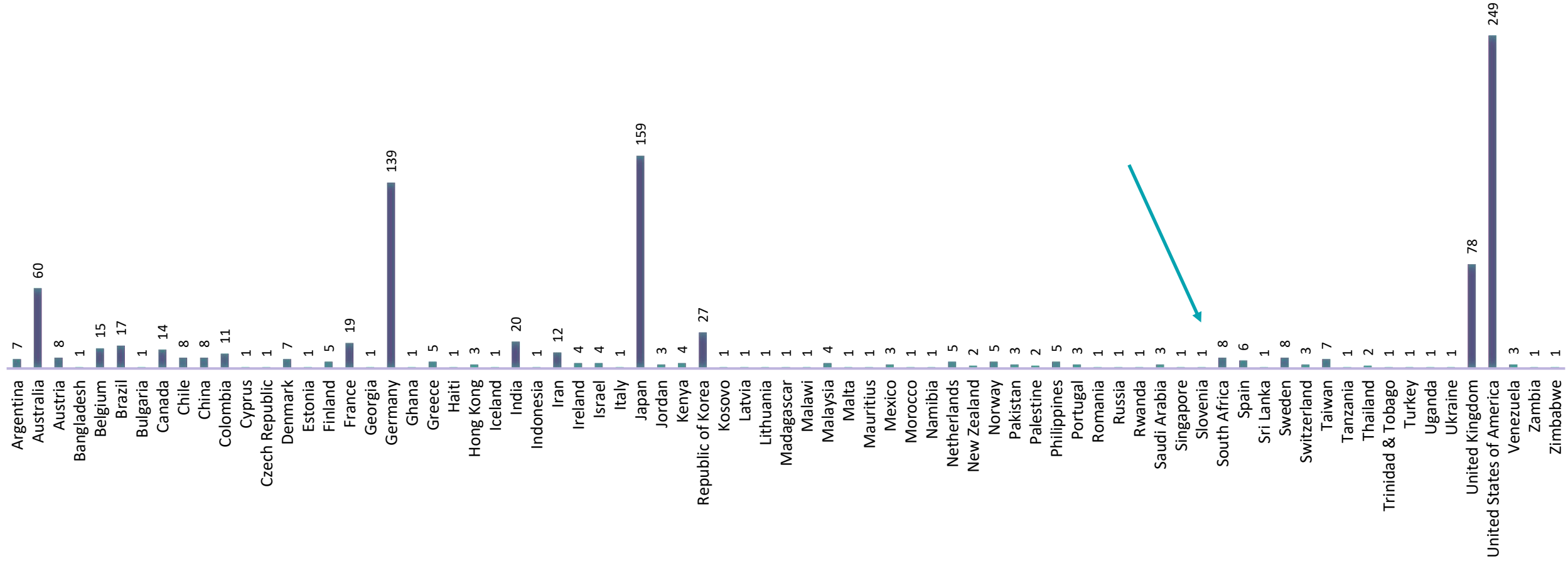
Number of practicing occupational therapists



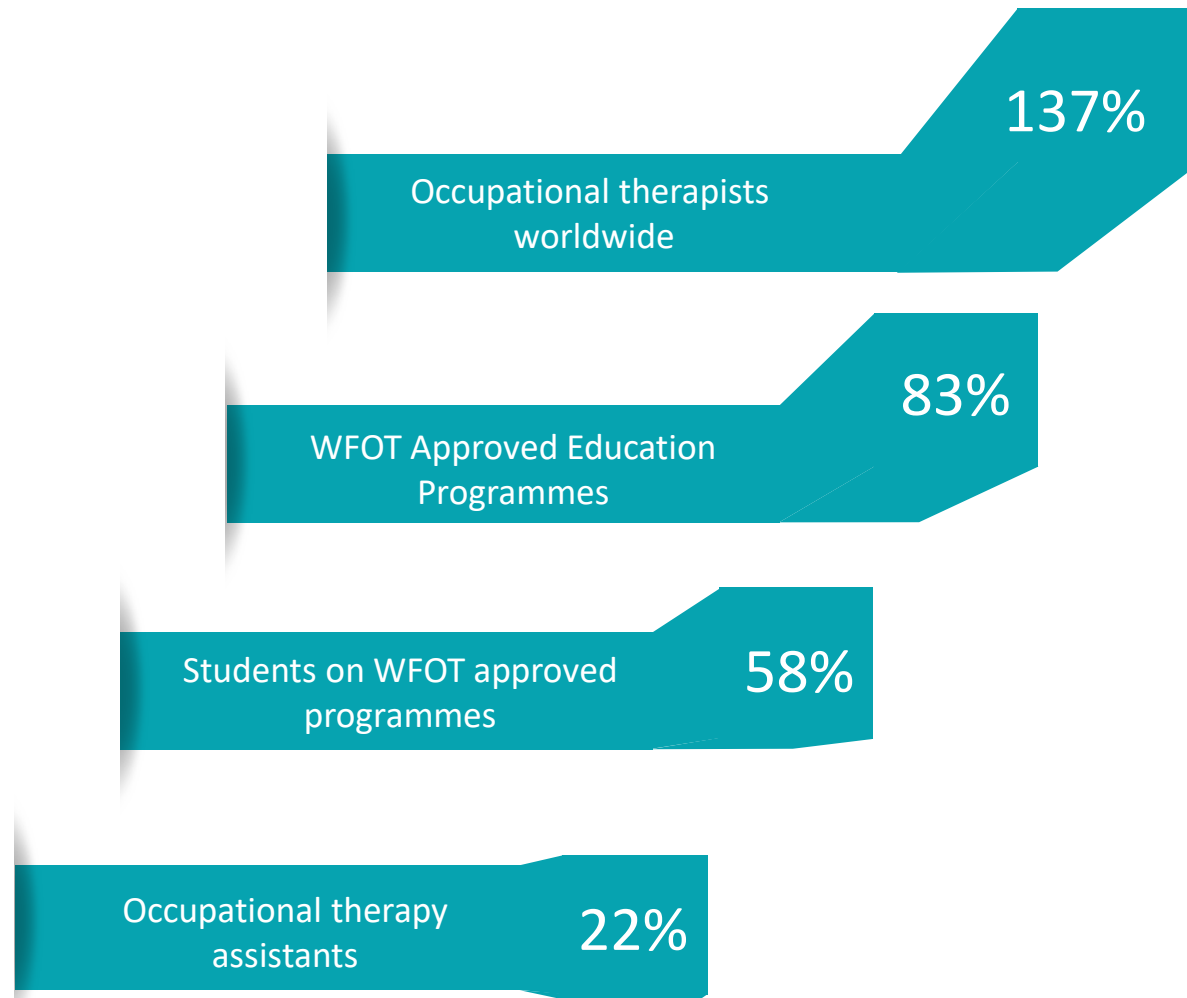
Number of occupational therapists per 10,000 head of population



Number of WFOT Approved Education Programmes



Growth of the profession worldwide 2006 - 2022



Examples of who we collaborate with:



WFOT WHO Collaboration Plan 2023 - 2025

DISABILITY & REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation 2030, Competency Framework, Interventions, WHO Emergency preparedness toolkit



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology (GATE), Global Report on Assistive Technology, Wheelchair Standards



MENTAL HEALTH

Human Rights, Mental Health Action Plan, WHO/UNICEF Ensuring Quality in Psychological Support (EQUIP) resource



WHO

HUMAN RESOURCES

Demographics, capacity, sustainability, migration, retention, National Health Workforce Accounts, WHO Global status report on rehabilitation workforce



AGEING & LIFECOURSE

Falls, Long Term Conditions, Age Friendly Communities

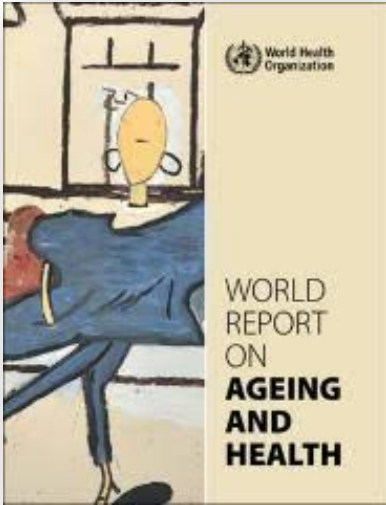
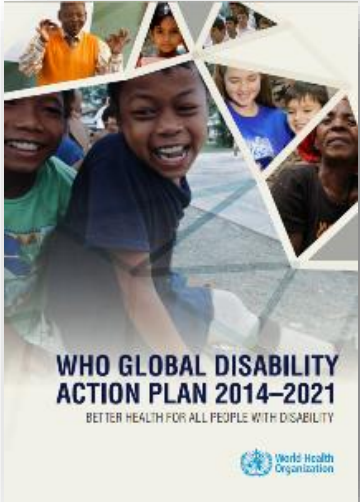


CLASSIFICATIONS

International Classification of Function (ICF), Diseases (ICD), Health Interventions (ICHI)




Global Initiatives and Drivers



Rehabilitation
2030

Be Effective

Leadership and Advocacy Strategy Tools



Occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and students are frequently called upon to take action to influence change to support individual- and population-based occupational participation and to advocate for the profession as part of a solution for a more inclusive and sustainable society.

Effective actions to influence change require knowledge about the change management process, skills to communicate your messages and strategy to determine when and how your efforts can be successful. Tools available from WFOT to assist with leadership and advocacy include:

WFOT Advocacy Toolkit

- Description of the advocacy process and considerations for your advocacy strategy
- Advocacy letter samples and templates

Innovative Change Agency Narratives

Narratives that describe occupational therapy initiatives for influencing change, with an emphasis on analysing lessons learned.

- Advocacy for the dignity of older adults - Describes how occupational therapists in Québec, Canada denounced low quality of care for older adults living in residential care.

WFOT Position Statements

- Statements developed by WFOT on a broad range of topics to inform and offer support for messages included in your change strategy

Advocacy Process

- Multiple steps
- Planning and strategy are key



<https://www.wfot.org/resources>



QUEST

Quality Evaluation Strategy Tool:

An essential guide for using quality indicators in occupational therapy

Economic Evaluations: A resource for occupational therapy

New WFOT Publication



www.wfot.org

Working Together



Time to Celebrate

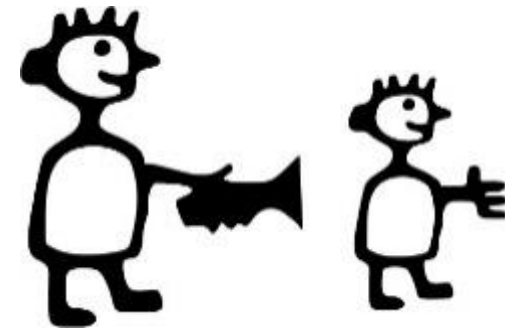


WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS
28TH COUNCIL MEETING, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA -8- 12 SEPTEMBER 2008

Lead by Example

Slovenian Association of Occupational Therapists

- Full Member Organisation of WFOT.
 - International partnerships & collaboration, access to WHO.
 - Entitled to approve education programmes for WFOT Approval
- Focal point for the profession in country – the voice of the profession.
- Acts on behalf of the profession.
- Advocates for services, positions, health for all.
- Sets professional codes of conduct and standards of practice.
- Provides leadership.

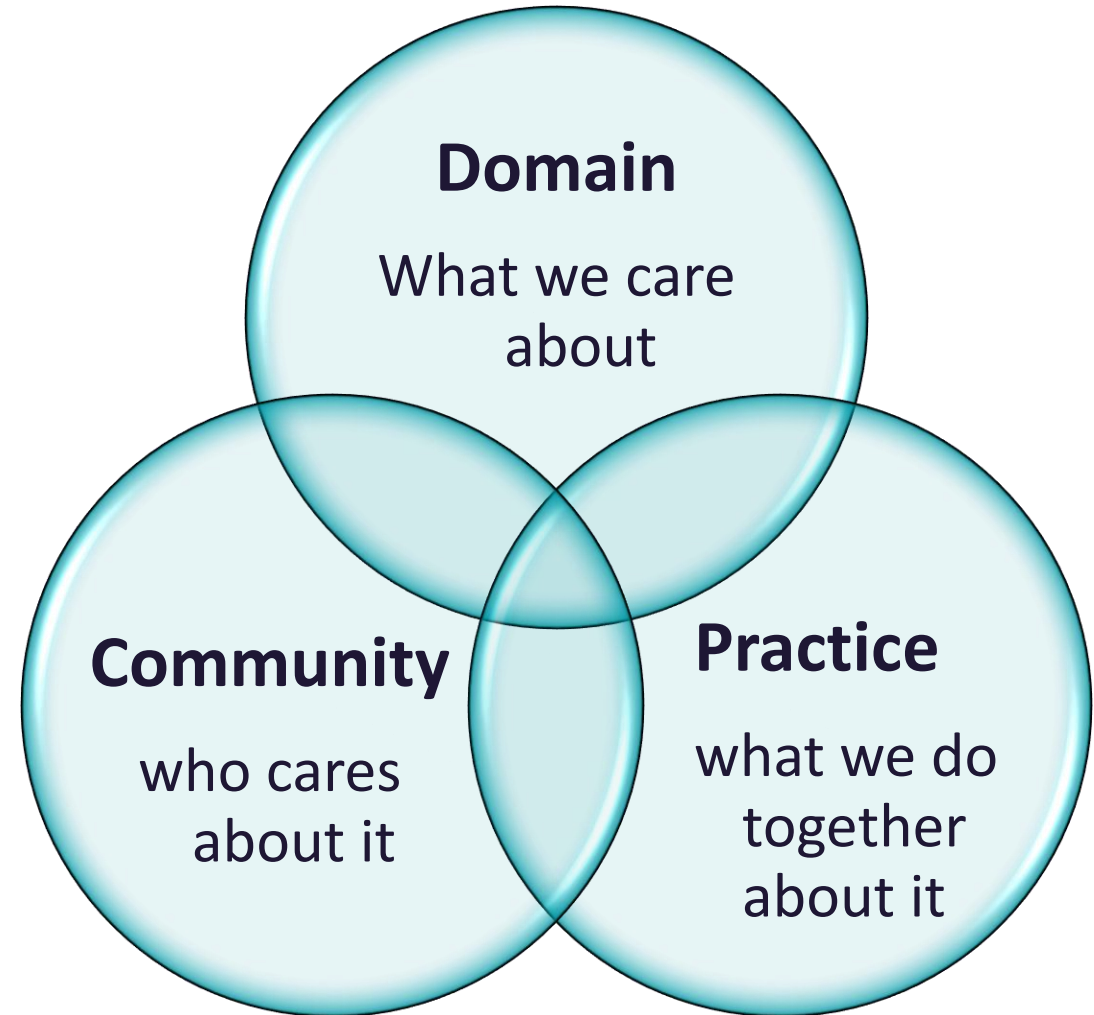


Communities of Practice

Organised groups of people who have a common interest in a specific technical or business domain.

They collaborate regularly to share information, improve their skills, and actively work on advancing the general knowledge of the domain.

A culture built on professional networking, personal relationships, shared knowledge, and common skills.



(Wegner, 1999)



Examples of Communities of Practice



Communities of Practice

- ✓ Diverse
- ✓ Inclusive
- ✓ Equitable



Advocating for Occupational Therapy

To ensure we meet the needs of the populations we serve we need to:

- ✓ Understand the local & national context;
- ✓ Be responsive to change;
- ✓ Understand the rehabilitation needs & strategy for Slovenia;
 - ✓ Understand the priority areas;
 - ✓ Be strategic – where can occupational therapy make the most impact.
- ✓ Advocate for access to occupational therapy to facilitate full participation & inclusion of people in society as a human right.
- ✓ Be united;
 - ✓ Have a shared vision of what the future holds so we can adapt and change.

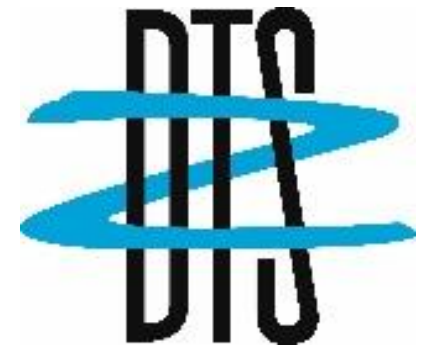
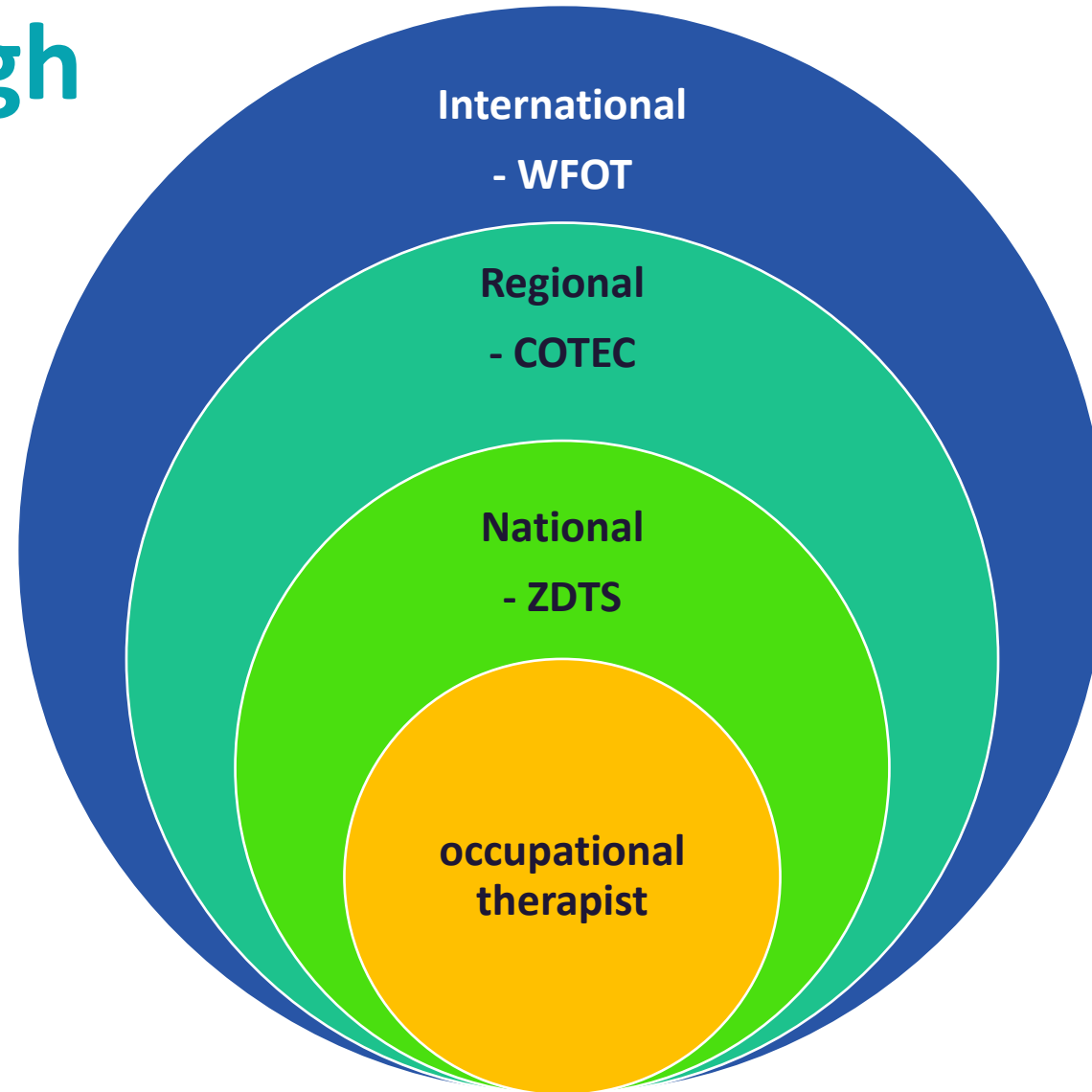


My Reflections



- Members are the backbone of an association, without them an association cannot exist.
- There needs to be a reason why members join (and stay).
- Members need to feel valued and listened to.
- Members have a duty to participate.
- Local, national & international are all vital & interconnected.

Unity through Community



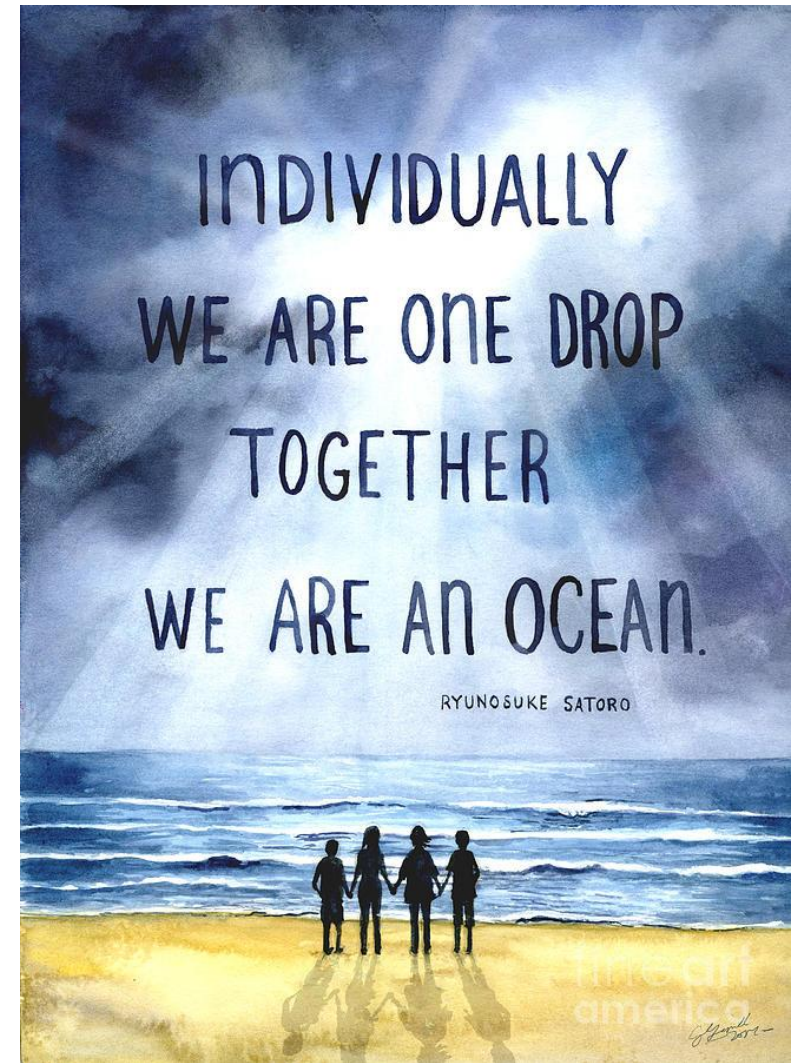


#WorldOTDay

Final Thoughts – thinking forward - the most reliable way to predict the future is to create it...

- ✓ Be strategic
- ✓ Learn together
- ✓ Listen to & respect each other
- ✓ Share & develop best practices together
- ✓ Conduct & publish research
- ✓ Support & work together
- ✓ Grow in strength together

Thereby promoting a more open and just society enabling justice and participation for all



References & Resources

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- WFOT: www.wfot.org
- WHO: www.who.int