

Tell me About ID: Making the Definition of Intellectual Disability Accessible Around the World

AAIDD International Interest Network

AAIDD (2011) defined intellectual disability (ID) as “a disability characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates before the age of 18”. The integration of intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior constructs to ID definition has triggered important issues as the DSM-V (APA, 2013) consideration of adaptive skills to diagnose ID. This new definition stands as a crucial framework to understand ID. Since then, international researchers and policy makers have been adopting this definition.

Nevertheless, practitioners, families, and individuals with intellectual disabilities from diverse backgrounds may still have difficulties accessing and comprehending this definition. Therefore, the AAIDD International Interest Network is committed to make this definition accessible across countries and cultures. We as a group started the initiative “Tell me about ID”. First, members from six countries formed a taskforce to transform the definition into plain English, that is thinking of non-academia people (e.g., people with disabilities and their families, practitioners) as the target audience. Second, we request assistance for members to translate the agreed-upon definition into different languages.

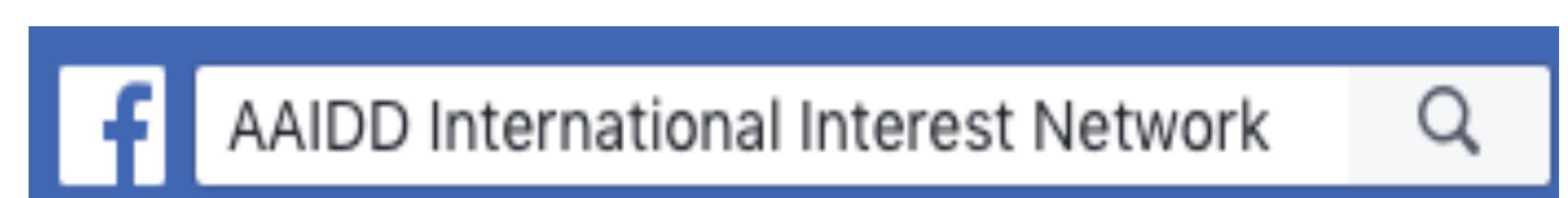
A group of task force (Aesha John, Cristina Simões, Mayumi Hagiwara, Giulia Balboni, Laura Gomez, and Cheng eun Lee) helped review the definition. We also confirmed with the work group that our draft was consistent with the upcoming 12th edition of Intellectual Disability: Definition, Classification, and Systems of Supports.



Next, we recruited bilingual members from the AAIDD Interest Network to translate and validate the TipSheet. We currently have eight versions and more to come.



American Association
on Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities



Contact: Caya Chiu (chiuc@ntnu.edu.tw)