



AFFORDABLE VISION

Making low cost spectacles available to all is a new initiative from ICEE.

The International Centre for Eyecare Education has just launched its Global Resource Centre and website: www.iceegrc.org. The Centre is designed to provide a reliable supply of high quality, low cost spectacles, frames, lenses and low vision aids to organisations working among disadvantaged communities.

Globally, at least 250 million people are blind or visually impaired because they don't have access to an eye examination and a pair of glasses. In many developing countries there are little or no eyecare services in place, and glasses are either too expensive or simply not available.

"That is why ICEE is committed to making affordable spectacles and low vision devices accessible to communities in need through the Global Resources Centre", says Professor Kovin Naidoo of ICEE.

"An eye examination and the provision of appropriate glasses can restore sight to millions. ICEE aims to ensure that everyone has access to the eyecare they need. We do not just want to restore someone's sight today, but to help develop each country's capacity to provide eyecare to their communities for years to come.

"The Global Resource Centre is an important part of that aim – making spectacles available to everyone."

The Resource Centre is designed for people involved in eyecare delivery to communities in need, such as optometrists, ophthalmic nurses, refractionists, community clinics, outreach eye and health care teams, and NGOs.

ICEE has received great support from partners like Sight Savers International, due to the need they have observed through out the African Continent. All NGOs have been formally invited to be part of this initiative.

After registration, people interested in gaining access to these vision resources can simply make an order online. Prices start from \$1.00 for a spectacle frame and the range includes ready-made spectacles, optical frames for adults and children, lenses, and low vision aids.

"Affordable spectacles can make a real difference, and we invite all those working in eyecare to take advantage of this great resource", says Professor Naidoo. "We are confident that this will be a major contributor to the sustainability of eyecare programs."

For further information visit the GRC website: www.iceegrc.org,

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