



OT 24 Hour Virtual Exchange

October 29/30/31

[Depending on where you are]

Exploring Balance



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Inclusive Tourism

Travel and tourism occupations can promote life balance. Leaving typical routines and surroundings offers opportunities to take risks or escape them, celebrate or grieve, build or end relationships, spend or gather energy, grow or take respite.

Transitioning through varied environments creates challenges for people with disabilities (PwD) and their travelling companions.

Occupational therapists offer key insights and knowledge about enabling environments and community mobility for people of varying abilities, ages and cultures. Our work toward inclusive environments furthers our human rights agenda for travellers with disabilities, and also creates a context for social and economic opportunities for local PwD. For many under-resourced and affluent areas, the tourism trade is a key source of income, and offers potential employment for PwD. With 15% of people having some disabling condition and an aging population (WHO, 2011), businesses and governments are realizing the economic benefits of accessible tourism. This session will share a four year series of projects on inclusive tourism in Thailand and the USA involving occupational therapy students, faculty and multi-sector partnerships including government organizations, Disabled People's International/Asia-Pacific, and private tourism stakeholders. The lessons learned from these projects offer key recommendations for participants to engage in inclusive tourism projects.