



# At A Glance

## This is your Newsletter!

Thank you to all of you who wrote telling us how much you enjoyed the first edition of *At A Glance*.

As this is a newsletter for our members, we would love to hear your ideas and what information would be useful for you. Please let us know by contacting us at: [info@gaates.com](mailto:info@gaates.com)

## Zero Project Conference 2015

GAATES is once again going to have a strong presence at the Zero Project Conference, being held Feb 25- 27, 2015 in Vienna, Austria.

The focus of this year's Conference is innovative practices and policies that have clearly and measurably improved Independent Living and/or Political Participation of persons with any kind of disability.

As part of the events, GAATES is hosting a session with 6 speakers, focusing on best practices policies and practices related to Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities. In addition, GAATES along with Zero Project will be hosting a UN DESA consultation on emergency and disaster preparedness in advance of the 3WCDRR Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan

Learn more about the Zero Project conference at [www.ZeroProject.org](http://www.ZeroProject.org)

## UNenable Highlights



[Call for civil society responses to UN Secretary-General's Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (Read the [Report](#))

## GAATES Publication Named as a Best Practice Guide 2014

The Illustrated Technical Guide to the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces had been selected as a Best Practice Guide 2014 by the [Design for All Foundation](#).

This automatically enters our publication as a candidate for the International Design for All Foundation Awards 2015 where a jury will select the five Best Practices 2015. Winners will be announced at URBACCESS – Accessibility and [Universal Conception Show in Paris](#).

The Design for All Foundation “collects and disseminates Universal Design/Design for All Good Practices and knowledge around the world; enhances the respect to human diversity and works for a world where everyone enjoys equal opportunities for personal development.”

## New Feature Article

**Why We Need an Accessible Means of Egress**  
*by Lee Wilson*

This month's Feature Article is on egress, especially evacuation routes that meet the needs of persons with disabilities in evacuation situations. Lee highlights the on-going international debate surrounding the use of “evacuation lifts, refuge areas, or assisted evacuation techniques such as the use of evacuation chairs, in conjunction with good emergency evacuation procedures.”

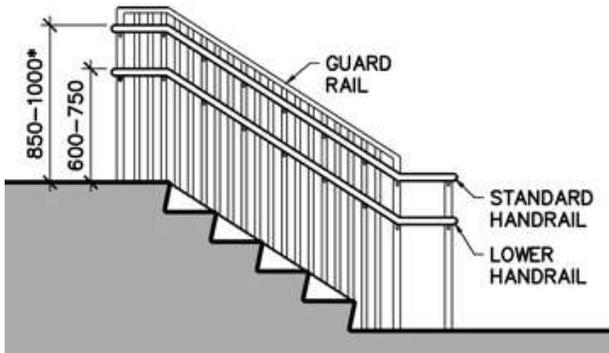
See the full [Feature Article](#) on the GAATES site.

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## Best Practice Accessibility Tip: Stair design – Handrails

A best practice for creating buildings that are more accessible and safer for everyone, including persons of short stature and children is to include dual height handrails.

In addition to the traditional handrail placed between 850 to 1,000 mm\* above the stair nosing, provide a lower handrail mounted at 600 to 750 mm also above the stair nosing.



\*Check your country's mandatory codes and regulations

## Resources – Built Environment

The [Illustrated Technical Guide to the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces](#) is a practical guide, now accompanied by an online learning course, to assist individuals and organizations better understand and apply accessibility standards to the built environment and public spaces.

Although some of these resources specifically address the obligations of businesses in Ontario (Canada) to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005), the concepts, strategies and resources presented can be applied to any organization in any location. The resources can be found in the [GAATES Resources – Built Environment](#)

## Upcoming 2015 Conferences

<http://gaates.org/resources-meetings-conferences/calendar-of-events/>

Do you know of a conference we do not yet have listed? Let us know at:

<http://gaates.org/resources-meetings-conferences/>

## Featured Country Representative

Alireza Darvishy



Alireza, the GAATES Country Representative for Switzerland, is a Professor at the University of Zurich - ICT Lab.

See the GAATES web site to learn more about the [Featured Country Representative](#).

## GAATES Webinar for UNICEF

On Tuesday January 27, Bob Topping was the instructor for a webinar conducted for UNICEF, featuring document recently created by GAATES for the UNICEF initiative for making schools accessible. The webinar was attended by over 20 participants from around the world and received great feedback.

## Social Media's Biggest Hits – January

Social media has proven to be a great venue for sharing not only GAATES information, but also information we have learned from the global online community.

Here's what got the most attention in January:

**On Twitter:** [Americas: @WakeForest1834 - Students develop device uses sonar technology to aid people with #vision #disabilities](#) got 1721 impressions, and [Americas: World's 1st Online Intern'l #Deaf-Blind #Conference on internet Jan 24-25](#) was the most re-tweeted.

**On Facebook:** [Americas: Google is boosting the accessibility of mobile versions of its Docs, Sheets, and Slides](#) got the largest reach at 588.

Building on the momentum of our [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) feed, GAATES is now also on [LinkedIn](#).

**Note:** Alternative formats of this newsletter will be made available upon request.

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Editor in Chief: Marnie Peters, GAATES Executive Officer. See contact information below.