



NIDMAR makes DM presentation in China



In attendance were members of the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF), the China Rehabilitation Research Centre (CRRC), and the BG Accident Clinic in Berlin. Seated are Dr. Joachim Breuer, managing director of the German Federation of Workers' Compensation Boards and Tang Xiaoquan, CDPF vice-chair.

NIDMAR executive director Wolfgang Zimmermann gave a presentation last month to more than 50 experts from clinics and hospitals run by the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF). Held at the largest rehabilitation centre in China, the opportunity was arranged by Dr. Joachim Breuer, managing director of the German Federation of Workers' Compensation Boards (HVBG).

There are 60 million people with disabilities in China, according to the CDPF. With the help of workers' compensation experts in Germany, the country has built a system that includes compensation and prevention, but there is not yet an organization for disability management.

Deng Pufang, chairman of the CDPF wants to change that. "It is a mark of social development," he said in a recent speech in the U.S. "If we do not offer our helping hands to our brothers and sisters with disabilities, who still live in grave difficulties, but rather taking an attitude of ignorance or even discrimination, it is a violation of the rights of mankind and a disrespect to ourselves." Disabled himself, Deng Pufang is an energetic advocate for disability management in his country.

"We have a close relationship with the Chinese, and when we told him about disability management certification and audits, he immediately wanted to know more," says Breuer.

The presentation outlined the disability management and return to work credentials and training, and explained how valuable the consensus based audit is. As always, Zimmermann spoke with passion and authority, delivering a compelling case for adopting disability management training in China.

"After the presentation, we had dinner with CDPF representatives, including one of their vice-chairs, Tang Xiaoquan," says Breuer. "She said that it's a wonderful idea – one that she would like to promote and establish in China. I see this as a political green light."

Breuer says that the next step will likely be to invite one or two Chinese experts to Canada or Germany to give them some modules. ■