

## InternetSpeech and the Freedom March of the Blind on July 3, 2007.

I was privileged to represent InternetSpeech at the National Federation of the Blind, NFB Convention from June 30 to July 5 in Atlanta, Georgia. We had a booth there. My boss Dr. Emdad Khan had a booth for a simultaneous Convention at the American Council of the Blind, ACB in Minnesota from June 29 to July 7. He was the opening day speaker for that convention and had a booth there as well. The website is [www.internetspeech.com](http://www.internetspeech.com)



NFB had arranged a Freedom March for the blind on Tuesday, July 3rd morning. I participated in that. I was given a yellow ribbon at 6 AM and joined around 1,000 mostly blind marchers along with their walking canes and dogs. The crowd had their guides who helped the group find the way to the Plaza where speeches were made. The guides also helped the blind avoid the obstacles along the way.

Police helped by blocking off the streets during the march. The details are in the following article.



InternetSpeech offers patented technology allowing inexpensive access to the internet simply by phone.

This helps bridge the digital and language divide.

1. **National Federation of the Blind, NFB** convention in Atlanta, Georgia, June 30- July 5. We had a booth at this convention and made presentation of netECHO Voice Internet to the audience and to the delegates.

2. **American Council of the Blind, ACB** convention June 29-July 7 in Minneapolis, Minn. We had a booth at this convention and our CEO Dr. Emdad Khan spoke to the National Convention Delegates on the opening day.

### Other news about InternetSpeech:

3. Dr Emdad Khan talked to **United Nations New York** on Mar 26, 2007 at the ICT session regarding netECHO's role in Panel: "Identifying core areas of opportunity to foster greater accessibility of ICTs for persons with disabilities".

4. Dr Emdad Khan attended **United Nations in Geneva** Switzerland in May, 2007 and gave a talk about netECHO. Details of his speech and the program will be available soon.

5. He presented at UN **Forum on E-Accessibility** on Friday June 15 in Moscow, Russia. Title: Internet for Everyone - Bring Internet to 3B people Now using Voice Internet Technology from InternetSpeech. The demo was included in the presentation.

These events were very special as only very high level invited guests from various countries, companies and NGOs were present.

6. Dr Emdad Khan, CEO of InternetSpeech will be the speaker and moderator of the panel at United Nations conference in Geneva, Switzerland on Wed, Sep 26, 2007: Workshop: **How Voice Internet Can Effectively Bridge the Digital & Language Divides and Enable Bottom of the Pyramid People to Drive World Economy.**



- Vijay Kumar

Article published in India West Newspaper on August 1, 2007 regarding the **InternetSpeech and the Freedom March of the Blind** of July 3, 2007. (Page B11)

## **Blind People March in Atlanta**

By DON SCHANCHE Jr.  
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA - At sunrise Tuesday, hundreds of people - most tapping the ground with white canes and a few making the trip on in-line skates - marched from a downtown hotel to a city park more than half a mile away to make a point: Blind people can do what other people do.

The early morning event, organized by the National Federation of the Blind, was billed as a civil rights march.

Two of the main goals: access to jobs and education.

"The blind have a 70 percent unemployment rate, and we have a 10 percent rate of being taught to read and write braille in our schools in this country," said federation president Marc Maurer, a lawyer from Maryland.

Maurer said the federation, a 50,000-member organization founded in 1940, decided to incorporate a march into this year's annual convention in Atlanta because the city was the symbolic heart of the civil rights movement for racial equality in the 1960s. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, an Atlanta Democrat and a veteran of the civil rights movement, led the march.

Organizers said 1,000 or more people took part. The Atlanta police estimate was 700.

Al Elia, 33, a computer consultant from Boston, was on hand with his guide dog, Zion. A degenerative eye disease recently reduced Elia's vision to a point where he could no longer do his job without retraining, he said.

The issue most important to him is access to study materials for advanced degrees. Although educators must provide blind-accessible school books in grades K-12, Elia said, "they still haven't done that for college and advanced degree texts. I can tell you from trying to get study materials to go to law school, it's something that needs to happen."