4th National Early Childhood Intervention Conference

Theme: Family-centered Practices - early childhood intervention and beyond

Kingwood Hotel, Sibu, Sarawak

7th - 9th June 2012

Dear colleagues, friends and parents,

We are delighted to welcome you to Sibu, Sarawak (the Borneo part of Malaysia and the land of Hornbill) during the Sarawak native's Gawai festive month. The hosts for this conference are the non-governmental organizations based in Agape Centre, Sibu (namely the Association for Children with Special Needs Sibu, Methodist Care Centre and Sibu Autistic Association). The conference has also gained support from Sarawak State Health Department as the co-organizer, as well as Sarawak State Education Department, Sarawak State Social Welfare Department and The United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) as the collaborators.

Following our preliminary announcement in June 2011, we have received overwhelming responses from all over Malaysia, as well as calls from overseas, both the professionals and families of special need children. We are proud also to have attracted a number of outstanding and prominent speakers, both international and local, to speak in this conference and centering on the theme: "family-centred practices - early childhood intervention and beyond". We have incorporated innovative teaching techniques through plenary lectures, concurrent seminars, practical workshops, parents-sharing, meet-the-expert sessions and free paper presentation that make the learning experience as interactive as possible.

This is your chance to meet experts from the field, attend high quality session and gain updates in evidence-based practice as well as usable advice. The conference also provides unique opportunity for professionals from health, education, social welfare, parents, policy makers and early childhood intervention workers to interact and exchange their experience. This is also a good time to hear what the parents and families can share with their first-hand life experience.

We are confident that you will enjoy the conference. We look forward to seeing you in this humble yet friendly place in June 2012.

With Warm Regards,
The Organizing Committee

Proudly sponsored by Sarawak Convention Bureau

A Key Event of National Early Childhood Intervention Council

Association for Children with Special Needs Sibu, Asia Community Service Penang, Bold Association for Children with Special Needs Penang, Malaysian Care, Methodist Care Centre Sibu, Network for Needs of Children with Disabilities Perak, New Horizons Society Ipoh, Persatuan CHILD Sabah, Persatuan Kanak-kanak Istimewa Kajang Selangor, Rumah Bethany, Sibu Autistic Association, Wings Melaka.

Programmes at a Glance*

TIME	6th June, Wed	7th June, Thurs	8th June, Fri	9th June, Satur	10th June, Sun
8:00 am	Pre-conference Workshop (To Be Confirmed)	Registration (for all participants)	Meet the expert Session (1 hour)		One-day Social Tour (optional)
8:30 am				Concurrent Session 4 (2 hours)	
9:00 am			Plenary Session 1 (1.5 hours)		
10:30 am			Tea & visit exhibitions	Tea & visit exhibitions	
11:00 am			Concurrent Session 2 (2 hours) - Workshop	Plenary Session 2 (1.5 hours)	
12:30 pm				Closing Ceremony	
1:00 pm		Keynote Address	Lunch break	Lunch & farewell	
2:00 pm	Registration (for out-station participants only)		Free papers (1.5 hours)	Half-day Social Tour (optional)	
2:30 pm		Opening Ceremony			
3:30 pm		Tea & visit exhibitions	Tea & visit exhibitions		
4:00 pm		Concurrent Session 1 (2 hours)	Free time / NECI Council AGM		
6:00 pm		Free Time	Dinner (optional)		
7:00 pm		Fellowship Dinner	Concurrent Session 3 (2 hours) - Workshop		
9:00 pm					

*All information is accurate up to 30 September 2011, minor changes / modification to the programmes may occur without prior notice.

Who should attend?

- Parents of children with special needs
- Early childhood education teachers and early childhood intervention workers
- Medical and education professionals caring for children with special needs
- Social welfare officers and community rehabilitation centre workers
- Policy-makers, ministry officers, community leaders involving in planning and implementing early childhood intervention programmes

International Speakers:

- Prof. Barry Carpenter, Associate Director, Specialist Schools and Academies Trust United Kingdom, Honorary Professor at the University of Worcester, Fellow at the University of Oxford, and father of an adult daughter with Down Syndrome
- A/Prof. Chuang Chiung Hui, Faculty of Education, Providence University, Taiwan and PhD in Special Education, Texas Woman's University, United State of America
- A/Prof. Koay Teng Leong, Senior Lecturer, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, University of Brunei Darussalam and father of adult daughter with Down Syndrome
- Dr. Rick Jarman, Consultant Developmental-Behavioural Paediatrician, Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia
- Dr. Wendy Lawson, PhD in Psychology, poet, writer and an adult with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Warnambool, Australia
- Lin Zhao Chen, writer and father of children with special needs, Taiwan
- Erica Lovel, a mother of child with autism, Australia
- Vicky Ma and Daniel Ling, parents of children with special needs, United States of America
- Dato Dr. Narimah Awin, World Health Organisation Regional Advisor and Ex-Director, Division of Family Health & Development, Ministry of Health Malaysia
- A/Prof. Winnie Ong, Senior Consultant of Neurology Service, Department of Paediatric Medicine and Child Development Unit, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore
- Dr. Rachel Ting, Clinical Psychologist and Freelance Consultant / Trainer, China

Local Speakers:

- Dato Dr. Amar Singh, Head and Consultant Community Paediatrician, Department of Paediatrics, Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh, Perak
- Prof. Anam Kour, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Department of Orthopaedics, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kuching
- Dr. Khoo Teik Beng, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Institute of Paediatrics, Hospital Kuala Lumpur
- Dr. Alvin Ng, Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
- Nor Shahrina Mohd Zawawi, Speeech-Language Therapist, Department of Medical Rehabilitation Services, UKM Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur
- Dr. Rajini Sarvananthan, Consultant Developmental Paediatrician, Sunway Medical Centre, Selangor
- To' Puan Dr. Safurah Jaafar, Director, Division of Family Health and Development, Ministry of Health Malaysia
- Alvin Teoh, a father of a son with visual impairment, Penang
- Prof. Thong Meow Keong, Professor of Paediatrics and Geneticist, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
- Representative from the Department of Social Welfare Malaysia
- Representative from Special Education Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia
- And many others yet to be confirmed

Suggested Topics (all topics in English, unless otherwise specified):

Plenaries:

- All children the asset of our society
- Complex challenge children of the 21st century
- New generation children, new generation families
- National Key Result Area for special needs children
- Early childhood intervention: possibilities and prospects for professionals, families and children
- Understanding and working with autism

Concurrent Sessions / Workshops:

A) Who they are ?

- The basic of common childhood disabilities-Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy
- Neurological aspect of autism
- The spectrum of autism, life and learning
- Neurogenetics update for medical practitioners
- Rare disorders and basic of genetics 101

B) How to do?

- Practical classroom management & teaching strategies
- Behavioural problems in preschool children
- Helping a child with ADHD in the class or at home
- Nutrition and special needs children
- Helping yourself to help the parents
- Couple's survival guide after an adverse diagnosis during a pregnancy (mandarin)
- What can I do for my child who happened to have a disability
- Looking after your mental health, mum and dad
- Social skills training
- Sexuality education and children with special needs
- How surgery helps the children with cerebral palsy
- Mainstreaming parents' views and ideals
- The progress of our children in the local kindergarten inclusive education
- Applying experience gained from overseas attachment: family-centred practices

C) What about it ?

- Family centred approach, from a parent's view
- Early childhood intervention in other countries
- Working with preschool towards inclusive education
- Parent support group (mandarin)
- Inclusion education (mandarin)
- Quality of life and children with cerebral palsy
- Update on ADHD
- Influence of TV and media in children
- The challenges of adopting a family-centred approach - local experience

Pre-conference workshop

- Please refer to our website or contact us for details

Important Information

- **Official Language** of the conference is English, unless otherwise specified. Please email or call us if you need **assistance with language** during the conference.
- 10% discount for 6 or more international delegates **group registration** (please complete the Registration Form for each delegate and submit to the Secretariat together)
- **Free paper**: we invite abstract for oral presentation and poster (Please refer to brochure on Abstract Submission or check our website).
- **Pre/Post-conference workshops** are available at a later date please check our website for details of registration.
- **Child care service**: free service available for registered children, during the main conference's time only. Please contact the organiser if child care service required during pre- or post-conference time.
- **Cancellation policy**: Cancellations notified in writing before **1 April 2012** will be eligible for a refund less administration fee of RM100. Cancellations notified in writing on or after this date will not be eligible for a refund but a substitute person may attend the Conference (conditions applied).
- **Liability**: The organisersaccept noliability for personal injuries sustained, or for loss of or damage to property belonging to delegates, incurred either during or as a result of the conference. Participants are advised to take / buy their own travel insurance policies.

Banks & ATMs: Banks are open every weekday (9:00 a.m 4:00p.m), and ATMs (cashpoint) are common in Sibu town, where the banks are.

Currency & Money exchanges: The unit of currency is the Ringgit (RM). There are exchange bureaus in the arrivals halls at International Airports (Kuala Lumpur, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu) as well as Sibu town. US dollars and euros are easily changed at exchange bureaus.

Credit cards: Most hotels, car-rental agencies, shops, pharmacies, entertainment venues and restaurants will accept Visa and Mastercard; Amex and Diner's aren't accepted often in Sibu. Budget hostels and hotels,and basic eateries usually accept cash only.

Climate: In June, Sarawak is quite dry. Average temperature ranges between 25-32℃.

Time: Malaysia is eight (8) hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time and share the same time zone as Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong, Beijing, Taipei and Perth.

Sibu Airport: 24 KM away from the town and Kingwood Hotel - taxi is available but they accept cash payment in ringgit only. NECIC Organiser's reception counter will operate between 10am on 6th June and 1 pm on 7th June 2012.

General Information about Sibu!

A town located in the heart of Sarawak, the northern part of Borneo Island, which is rich with culture and a variety of local delicacies to enjoy. Sibu is the biggest town on the mighty Rajang River, the longest river in Malaysia. It is a multiracial town with the majority being the Chinese especially the Foo Chow, as well as indigenous Iban, Melanau, Malay and other Sarawak indigenous.

Among the interesting landmarks in Sibu are Wisma Sanyan, a 28-storey building, and Malaysian's largest Central Wet Market. A few well established museums in the town have displays of Sibu's history, including Melanau, Iban, Malay, and Chinese collections, as well as Lau King Howe Hospital Memorial Museum, which is the first medical museum in Malaysia. The later exhibits medical equipment and uniforms used by medical staff at Lau King Howe Hospital, one of the oldest hospitals in Sarawak built in 1930's.

Please refer to our website for more information about Sibu and Sarawak.

Standing tall along the mighty Batang Rajang, the hotel offers all travellers a new experience with its New Wing concept - an additional of 252 luxuriously appointed rooms to suit everyone's lifestyle. Do whatever you like! Attend conferences and meetings, followed by diving in the pool, racing at the treadmill, sweat out at the sauna, or feeling the effect of our steam-bath, warming yourselves in a Jacuzzi, all by the river front.

Contact Information: NECIC2012@gmail.com
http://agapesibu.org/about-us/necic2012/
Tel: 60-84-217912 Fax: 60-84-213902