

5th National Early Childhood Intervention Conference:

'Passion has no parameters'



OPENING ADDRESS

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CRC – Rights of children with disabilities

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Article 23:

- Holds Governments to the promise that children with disabilities not be denied any rights based on their disability.
- Children with disabilities have the right to special care and support, to be treated with dignity, to participate in the community, and to live full and independent lives.



Stigma and discrimination

Stigma and discrimination remain the biggest barriers standing between children with disabilities and their chance to reach their full potential.





Stigma and discrimination

Children with disabilities are

- More likely to experience poverty than their peers.
- Significantly less likely to be enrolled in school.
- Globally up to three to four times more likely to be subjected to violence than other children

Stigma and discrimination

Millions of children with disabilities are over-looked and under-estimated:

- Unregistered
- Hidden
- Excluded
- Forgotten
- INVISIBLE



Children with disabilities in Malaysia

The Numbers Game

- As of end 2012, there were **445,006** persons with disabilities registered with DSW
- Representing approximately 1.6% of the population
- Children with disabilities represent roughly **1%** of Malaysian children in government schools.



Inclusive society

UNICEF's The State of the World's Children 2013 report



- To see the child before the disability
- To change perceptions
- To focus on the **abilities** of every child

Inclusive society – Healthcare

Equal rights to health care

- Immunisation
- Proper nutrition
- Treatment for childhood ailments and injuries
- Information and services on sexual and reproductive health
- Basic services such as clean sanitation facilities



Inclusive society – Education

Equal rights to education

- Children with special needs in regular classrooms
- Meaningful learning opportunities within the regular school system
- Tailored support for individual students
- Opportunities to articulate what they want in a learning environment



Inclusive society – Education

Mainstream matters

- Inclusive education - Improvements in academic, communication and social skills.
- Children who share a class with friends with special needs grow up to be more **accepting** of people with different needs.
- Children who support friends with special needs are more likely to master their academic work better and show improved self-esteem.
- With inclusive education, every child benefits.

Steps taken by Malaysia

Fulfilling rights of children with disabilities

- Enacted the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008
- Provides social support services in health, rehabilitation and education, guided by the **National Policy for Persons with Disabilities** & the **National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities**.



UNICEF Malaysia's initiatives in 2013

Roundtable Policy Dialogue and Media Workshop:

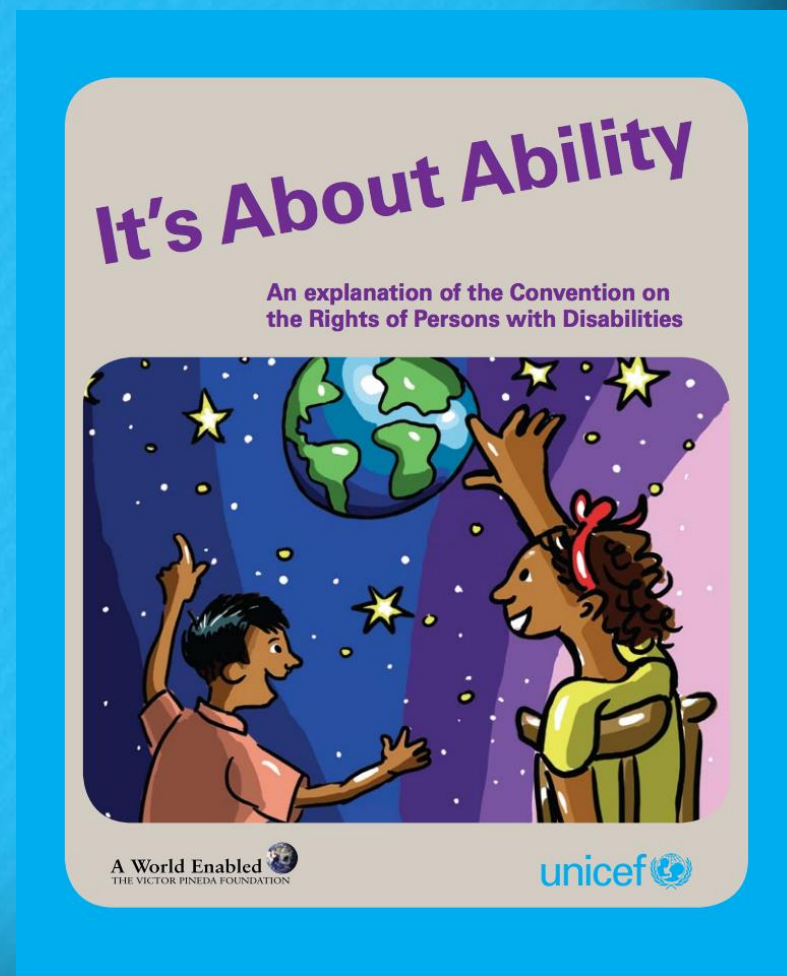
- With Government, NGOs, businesses, UN agencies and disability advocates
- Presented a 'Mapping Study on the Policies, Programmes, Interventions and Stakeholders for Children with Disabilities in Malaysia'
- Illustrated the need for a continuum of care so that children's transition into adulthood and independent living can be facilitated and monitored.



UNICEF Malaysia's initiatives in 2013

'It's About Ability' booklet

- Child-friendly booklet to help children with and without disabilities better understand the CRPD
- Translated into Bahasa Malaysia and Braille.
- Shared with partners in Government, NGOs and schools.



UNICEF Malaysia's initiatives in 2013

Raising awareness through visual and digital activities:

- #disable2enable digital campaign, featured video stories of children and youth with disabilities in Malaysia.
- Netizens encouraged to share videos and take an online pledge.
- The digital campaign triggered close to 17,000 digital actions in 6 weeks.



UNICEF Malaysia's initiatives in 2013

Advocacy through partnerships:

- Worked in partnership with some **40** organisations and individuals to create resources, connect networks, publicise the issue and use social media to activate public dialogue on the rights of children with disabilities.



Role of NGOs

Contributions and achievements by civil society

- Civil society complements efforts by the Government to shape policies and provide services
- Early detection and intervention is the cornerstone of efforts to ensure children with disabilities are not neglected
- NECIC's work - key to building a strong foundation for civil society efforts



#edu4allMy @ 5th NECIC Conference

- Honest discussion to shed light on the challenges faced by children with disabilities, caregivers, service providers and policy makers.
- Digital townhall on Childhood Disability focuses on inclusive education - **#edu4allMy**



Why We're Here

We all have a role to play in removing barriers to inclusion & participation as well as providing a loving and nurturing society for EVERY CHILD



"I have a dream. My dream is as high as a mountain. There is no dream that we cannot achieve as long as we have the passion for it . Be a dreamer and get success out of your dreams"

*- Renaldy Raphael, 16 years of age
child with a hearing disability*

THANK YOU