

Press release

For Immediate Release

MALAYSIA PLAYS HOST TO COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION WORLD CONGRESS

The second Community Based Rehabilitation World Congress has chosen Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as its host city to promote well-being and dignity of people with disabilities

... **KUALA LUMPUR**, 27 September 2016 – Malaysia hosts the second Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) World Congress in a bid to promote community actions towards human rights and sustainability development among people with disabilities. Themed “CBR: Empowering and Enabling”, the three-day event from 27 to 29 September hopes to demonstrate how Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) can ensure that people with disabilities become assets to their nations.

... The CBR, a strategy promoted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) is co-hosted and supported by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the CBR Network Malaysia, the Malaysian Council for Rehabilitation, and the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), an agency under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia to improve the equalisation of opportunities and social inclusion of people with disabilities. The approach also requires a synergistic strategic partnership between the government and civil society for the best interest of people with disabilities.

With the second CBR World Congress, the event is expected to see 1,000 delegates, out of which 450 are overseas delegates from 80 countries. The global meet is an opportunity for participants to engage in dialogue in CBR, work with others to strengthen communities, give a voice to local people, and ensure this voice is heard at a global level.

“There is no better place to reflect on CBR than the second World Congress in Malaysia in September 2016. The congress could not be come at a better time as this year sees the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and will be held one year after the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into action. Therefore, this Congress is a perfect opportunity to take stock of what CBR is today and how it has evolved over the years into an inclusive development strategy,” says Venkatesh Balakrishnan, President of CBR Global Network.

The CBR World Congress 2016 adds to the list of the growing number of world events that have selected Malaysia as the host country. Malaysia is putting the rights of people with disabilities centre stage on a global level with many sessions and interactive dialogues among the best CBR practitioners, DPOs, civil society, government and academia around critical issues in CBR. It is a huge year for Malaysia with the buzz on Malaysia’s record wins at the Paralympic Games Rio

2016, a suitable time to organise a meaningful congress as such responds to the needs of the communities.

CBR is characterised by its active involvement of persons with disabilities, their families and community support groups and also by its multi-sectorial approach to inclusive development. The global meeting will increasingly engage decision-makers from municipalities, villages and district authority, local governance and from the regional and country government to work together in reducing inequalities among people with disabilities in the community.

... “We recognise that CBR needs to be implemented from a pragmatic point of view and the CRPD is what policy makers must do from a legal and normative point of view. Working together, placing value on relationships and adopting a focus on sustainable, positive outcomes are the way to go forward. As the Malaysian government, we are raising an excellent opportunity through the congress for all of us to get together to share and deliver good practices of CBR for people with disabilities,” says YB Dato’ Sri Rohani Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development.

... She added, “To honour the paralympians who have excelled against odds to bring glory and fame to our nation at the recent Rio Paralympic, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development is very grateful to name our welfare institutions after these great Paralympic athletes. Taman Sinar Harapan or care and rehabilitation centre to those with learning disabilities in Jitra, Kedah will be known as Taman Sinar Harapan Ridzuan Puzi while Taman Sinar Harapan in Cheras, Selangor is going to be named as Taman Sinar Harapan Ziyad Zolkefli. For Abdul Latif Romly, Rumah Kanak-kanak Mini or mini children’s home in Arau will be named after him and another Rumah Kanak-kanak Mini in Johor will be known as Rumah Kanak-Kanak Mini Siti Noor Radiah Ismail”.

Malaysia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 19 July 2010, thus joining the global community in affirming the human rights of persons with disabilities. To-date, the government has proven to fully commit to the welfare and well-being of Malaysia’s disabled citizens and has continued to give the necessary support on ensuring that the CBR programme provides a meaningful and beneficial service, not only for the disabled but for the community as whole.

The understanding of CBR has evolved greatly in Malaysia with many programmes organised around CBR matrix such as health, education, livelihood, social and empowerment with as many as 527 CBR centres in Malaysia and CBR programmes carried out as on Home Based, Centre Based and Centre Home Based. The CBR World Congress will, thus, reflect the profound social and economic disadvantage of people with disabilities and recommend effective ways and means to build capacity in CBR.

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About MyCEB

MyCEB was established in 2009 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia to further strengthen Malaysia's business tourism brand and position for the international business events market. A non-profit organisation, MyCEB serves as a central hub to assist meeting and event planners to bid for and stage international business events in Malaysia and act as a conduit for national product development. MyCEB's goal is to improve its rankings as an international meetings destination within International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) and to grow business tourism arrivals to Malaysia.

In November 2011, MyCEB unveiled its business events tagline, 'Malaysia – Asia's Business Events Hub' which encompasses its aim to communicate Malaysia's proposition as a gateway to Asia for meetings – where many of Asia's diverse cultures, languages and lifestyles are represented and have merged through a long history of trade and meetings.

Malaysia Major Events (MME), previously known as International Events Unit (IEU) is another division of Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB). It focuses on identifying and supporting major event bids for sports, arts, lifestyle and entertainment events. It also assists home grown and home hosted events as well as other cluster events that strengthen Malaysia's global appeal as an international avenue for major events.

For more information, please visit www.myceb.com.my and follow us on www.facebook.com/MyCEB, Twitter (@MyCEB) and Instagram/MyCEB.

About CBR World Congress

CBR is an umbrella organisation of CBR national and regional networks and partners with other international networks and organizations to promote CBR. Our partners work for Community-based Inclusive Development (CBID) by mobilizing local communities. Through this strong network of partners, the CBR Global Network empowers people with disabilities to speak with one voice, from the community to the global level.

Our members include Asia Pacific CBR Network, CBR Africa Network, Americas CBR Network, Disabled Persons International (DPI), The International Disability Alliance (IDA), World Health Organization (WHO), International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

We promote the concept of Community-based Inclusive Development, and the principles of the CBR Guidelines and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [UN-CRPD]. We believe that people in local communities understand their own circumstances best. The Network provides the platform to act locally and think globally. We work with others to strengthen communities, give a voice to local people, and make sure this voice is heard at the global level.

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