

National Seminar on Self- Advocacy 2006

**“Self-Advocacy in the
lives of Persons with
Learning Disabilities”**

Date:
25th November 2006

Venue:
University Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur

Logon to UV website to download
the brochure or for more
information please contact us

1st Malaysian Conference For Rehabilitation 2006

by Eugene Lau Boon Leng

Date: 5th-7th September 2006

Venue: Pusat Latihan Perindustrian dan Pemulihan Bangi (PLPP)

Theme: Inter-Sectoral Collaboration on Rehabilitation

The program started off with some announcements, followed by the introduction of the Representative for the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun, Parliamentary Secretary and Member of Parliament for Petaling Jaya Utara, on behalf of the Minister, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Binti Abdul Jalil. She congratulated the Organizing Committee for taking such a bold step in holding this particular Conference with the hope that services for Persons with Disabilities can be further improved and pointed out that Persons with Disabilities should be regarded as an important asset for the development of the country. Most of the event of the first day was okay.

The next two days had some hitches in the sound System, but we all had some exposure within the Pusat Latihan Pemulihan dan Perindustrian (PLPP), touring all the various blocks and vocational training workshops. It is good to find out that they are now opening opportunities for persons with learning disabilities to take up courses in this centre. I had voiced my intention to study there for two years in PLPP doing IT courses with the intention of being a webmaster!

During Q & A, I also had mentioned and stressed for the need of inclusion for Persons with Disabilities, especially those with Learning Disabilities to be included in policy-making such as Disability Act. On behalf of UV I also emphasized that Self-Advocacy should be introduced in school since it is an effective approach in helping persons with learning disabilities to be more independent, develop self-confidence and to voice up for themselves.

We all learned that Persons with Learning Disabilities need to be well cared for otherwise we could end up having mental health problems. This is a well-known fact!

The sessions on Pre-vocational, Vocational, Education and Employment had changed the thinking of some of the participants that day. They stressed that the different government sector have to work together to improve all these services. I even challenged the Cheshire Home team to start Self-advocacy individually as well as a group.

Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Ali gave a closing speech. Soon after this conference was over, the resolution was handed over to Dr. Paizah, the Secretary-General of the Ministry mentioned. A total of 256 signatures on 4 copies of the resolution from the participants!

I personally feel that it would always take longer time for the Community to accept us as we are.





Kota Kinabalu - Seri Mengasih

by Johari Bin Jamali

This is my first time promoting UV with Swee Lan in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah on August 9, 2006 sponsored by GE (General Electrics International). When we arrived at Kota Kinabalu everything is quiet and no traffic jam.



We're on our way to Harapan Home for volunteering together with GE Staff. Me and Swee Lan were promoting UV and taught them how to make cards. This is the first time I participated in an event with so many corporate people. The HR Director for Asia Pacific, Mr Roshan Thiran and Ang Hui Ming, HR Manager and all their colleagues from different countries were so friendly and nice to me. They like my session about UV and UV Employment Project. Wow we enjoyed it.

We reached at Le Meridien. Wow, I had big room with big flat screen TV and DVD player. THANK YOU GE for giving me a big room.



On the 10th, me & Swee Lan were waiting for Joan Lai the Director of Seri Mengasih Centre. She is also involved in Special Olympics. She's fun and she treats me as a friend when I met her in Jakarta. We're promoting UV and conducted a workshop on how to voice up for their rights.

Andrew Lee is the President of Kangaroo Club and also an athlete in Special Olympics involved in the Leadership Training in Jakarta where I met him. He's a good pal and easy talking with him because he's fun.

When we finished the promotion and workshop, we had a tour in Seri Mengasih, especially at the bakery. I wish I can share the secrets of my experience training/ working in the bakery. After touring Seri Mengasih, we went to KK town, Joan & Swee Lan went to Cheshire Home.



11th We had a meeting from different societies from KK regarding the benefits for persons with disabilities. The Welfare services and benefits in KL, Selangor and KK seem different. We had discussions on how to help persons with disabilities get their EPC (Elaun Pekerja Cacat).

We had an annual dinner invited from GE - a Safari night theme at Shangri-La Hotel. The hall was full of jungles. Quite interesting and awesome. It's like being in Africa /Amazon in South America. We enjoyed it.



12th, we went shopping at the Philipino Bazaar facing Le Meridien and say good bye to Joan on the phone and KK.

Sabahan drivers are patient when people are crossing the road, not in KL. Bahasa Melayu Sabah is similar to Indonesian. Maybe they have no problem in their communication.

1st National Games of Special Olympics Malaysia

The 1st National Games of Special Olympics Malaysia was held on 7-10th September 2006 in Kota Kinabalu. This unprecedented national event offers an opportunity for athletes to come together in the spirit of Special Olympics to compete and enjoy themselves. Four of our UV members, Soo Zen Lee, Daisy Daniel, Tan Seng Kit and Clement Ooi participated in the Soft Ball Throw and Bowling events. They won 2 gold medals, 4 silver medals and a bronze medal in both events. Congratulations, and Syabas!

Reported by Annie Ooi (volunteer of Special Olympics)





FESPIC Training

by Wendy Yeong

On August 27, 2006 . Eugene & I with some UV members went to FESPIC training at PLPP in Bangi. We listen to one guy who explains what is FESPIC. FESPIC is a sport organization for the disabled people. Volunteer need training because in November, we have FESPIC Games in KL. We need volunteer to help us during the event. Then Eugene introduced himself, the UV members and some supporting friends. After the introduction, Eugene & I explain what is Learning Disability. The volunteers need to know what is Learning Disability because they have to be familiarize with persons with learning disabilities so that they can communicate with them and be friends with them. After that we said bye & we left in PLPP.

In the last 2 months members and UV leaders like Johari, Aslam, Hooi Ting, James and Eugene have been taking turns to conduct a series of training for volunteers at PLPP for this event.



The Kuala Lumpur FESPIC Games will be held from 25th Nov - 1st Dec 2006. For more information about the FESPIC Games, please logon to www.kl06fespigames.com.my



Our Journey
Window into our life's journey

by Persons with Learning Disabilities

United Voice's 3rd Book "Our Journey"

'Our Journey' is a collection of original drawings and stories personally written by persons with learning disabilities. This book brings its readers through a journey of discovery of the feelings, thoughts, interests, aspirations and experiences of persons with learning disabilities. The stories about their work experiences, relationships, studies and family offer its readers a window into their lives that will change the perception of society towards them. Many of the stories speak of courage and determination to face challenges in life.

"Our Journey" is on sale for RM10 per copy

1st Anniversary Dinner Celebration

This is a special night I won't forget. This is our 1st Anniversary Dinner on 15th July 2006 held at Perdana Ballroom, Bukit Jalil Golf and Country Resort. There were some amazing performance from Peggy who played the keyboard and a dance performance by the Friendship club.

On that day I gave a speech about how I travelled by myself taking public transport which my mom taught me how to. She sacrifices for it. Everyone gave a BIIGGGG CLAP for me. It's like the Grammy Awards.

Oooohhhh..... the guests were around 500 people. And I would like to thank the guest for supporting us. Me, Esther and Eugene gave a speech about our guests of honour, Reverend Peter Young and Datuk Dr. Sam, paying tribute to them as they have encourage us to voice up. Peter is a patient person, he's always friendly to me and my UV friends. Dr. Sam often teaches us to take care of our health.

And especially thank you to all the presidents of Mutiara Voice Club, Bethany Self-Advocacy Group, Adventure Club, Dragon Club, Kangaroo Club and Friendship Club who came for the dinner.

We (UV members) are happy that we survived for 1 year independently allowing us to lead our own society. I'm really grateful for Dignity and Services, United Voice and Special Olympics for changing my thinking.

Wishing all Malaysians who are Muslims and Hindus, Happy Ramadhan Al-Mubarak, Happy Deepavali, Happiest Greetings and All Good Wishes for Hari Raya.



United Voice

Address: 603, Jalan 17/12, 46400, Petaling Jaya Tel/Fax: 03-7958 8069
Email: u_voice@tm.net.my Website: <http://www.unitedvoice.com.my>