

# SEN

Special Education Needs  
**SYMPOSIUM**  
**2023**

## 3RD ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS SYMPOSIUM



### Driving The Care Economy: Parents as Advocates in Special Education 19 November 2023

## PROGRAM BOOK

-Organized By -



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# Welcome Speeches

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## Welcome Message



### **DATO FATIMAH SAAD**

Chairman, Kiwanis Malaysia Academy

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning to all,

I am Fatimah Saad, Chairman of Kiwanis Malaysia Academy.

On behalf of the Academy and Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation, it's a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you to this Symposium on this beautiful Sunday morning.

This marks the third Symposium organized by Kiwanis Malaysia Academy, with the previous two being held virtually. We are truly excited to bring together experts, teachers, parents, academicians, professionals, and business owners who share a common concern for the well-being of children, especially those with special needs.

Established in 2019, Kiwanis Malaysia Academy aims to enhance the services provided by Kiwanis centers, focusing on improving the education and overall development of children.

Being under the Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation, our vision is to broaden our impact, providing more children with enhanced opportunities to realize their dreams.

As an Academy, our strength lies in the network we've built with like-minded individuals and organizations within the ecosystem. This symposium underscores the crucial role of the Care Economy, emphasizing the significance of trained and skilled workers and caregivers who can offer proper care and services to our children and other family members.

SEN 2023 will delve into various issues, not only related to teaching and learning but also parenting challenges faced by children with special needs.

By the end of this Symposium, our goal is to deepen understanding, forge stronger networks, and contribute to shaping the future of special education needs in Malaysia.

I would like to express my gratitude to our esteemed speakers, particularly Tan Sri Prof Emeritus Sharifah Hafsah, who graciously accepted our invitation. Special thanks to Dato' Dr. Halim Jalil and all our esteemed Panelists. My heartfelt appreciation goes to the hardworking members of our team, including Fab, the Organizing Chair, Rani, Gwennie, Zorai, and the entire KMA Committee, including Immediate Past Governor Rosemary, Prof. Abtar, Ivan, and Desiree.

Last but certainly not least, heartfelt gratitude to our beloved Mama Kiwanis, Puan Sri Khir Johari, for her unwavering support and motivation.

This Symposium promises to be engaging, and I thank each one of you for your participation. I hope you have an enriching session and establish meaningful connections.

Wassalamualaikum and thank you.

## Welcome Message



### **DATO' STEWART LABROOY**

Chairman, Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Kiwanians, esteemed guests, and fellow advocates for the rights and education of children and youth with special needs,

I stand before you today at the SEN Symposium 2023, a gathering that brings together parents, teachers, caregivers, activists, consultants, and business owners from across the globe. We have assembled here under the banner of the Kiwanis Malaysia Academy (“KMA”) to address the pressing issues and challenges that surround the realm of Teaching and Learning for our children and youth with special needs. The overarching goal of this Symposium is to enhance our understanding, strengthen our networks, and ultimately shape the future of Special Education Needs in Malaysia.

I must thank and congratulate the Organizing Chair of this Sen Symposium, Puan Fatimah Abu Bakar for putting together such an impressive program for us today.

I would also like to recognize Dato Fatimah Saad our Chair of the KMA and her dynamic committee of volunteers drawn for the teaching elite of Malaysia for making the KMA our leading advocate for Special Needs Education and being the anchor of the annual SEN symposium.

In particular, I think that this Symposiums’ theme “Driving The Care Economy: Parents as Advocates in Special Education” is very timely. There is a pressing need for us to create a platform in the KMA for parents of special needs children to be involved as advocates for the educational needs of these special children. What is exciting is the inclusion today of topics on the care economy where we will discuss how we may value all caregivers, paid and unpaid, in society's framework and how we may empower parents as partners in special education. Such inclusion is desperately needed.

In a world that constantly evolves, we are reminded that continuous effort is essential to ensure that children with special education needs (SEN) are educated to their fullest potential. These young minds are a precious resource, brimming with untapped potential, and it is our collective duty to nurture their growth and development.

Special education is the cornerstone of our commitment to these exceptional individuals. It encompasses educational programs and practices meticulously designed for students with learning disabilities and special educational needs. It is a lifeline that ensures each child, especially those with SEN, is entitled to the same level of education as their peers and is afforded the same academic opportunities as well. It is our solemn duty to ensure that despite their disabilities, these children can develop their cognitive abilities to their fullest extent.

...2/-

## Welcome Message



### **DATO' STEWART LABROOY**

Chairman, Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation

But the journey towards inclusive education does not end there. It is a path that calls for a broader education system and educators equipped with specialized training. We must recognize that children with SEN are not slow learners; they are as intelligent as their peers. The only distinction lies in the fact that they require a different approach to learning. It is our responsibility as a society to provide the resources and support they need.

Early intervention is paramount in ensuring that children with special needs receive the support they require. We implore childcare providers and families to vigilantly watch for any developmental delays in a child so that they can receive the right support as early as possible in life.

Teachers and parents alike must acknowledge that each child is a unique individual, possessing their own interests, abilities, intelligence, and learning preferences. We must celebrate this diversity and tailor our educational approaches to meet the needs of every child. One of the ways we can bridge the gap is by optimizing the production of accessible children's books. This will not only reduce costs but also make it easier to create high-quality reading material for all children, irrespective of their abilities.

Furthermore, we should encourage publishers to embrace these tools and urge those responsible for procuring books for educational programs to consider books that cater to the needs of all children.

In our quest for inclusivity, we must explore innovative solutions, including the creation of a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) academy for those with learning difficulties. Such an institution could focus on both hard and soft skills, ensuring that these individuals have access to the knowledge and resources they need to succeed.

Moreover, we need to pay special attention to children who are blind, low vision, deaf, or hard of hearing. Innovative teaching and learning materials can help educators make informed decisions about how to support the literacy and learning needs of children with disabilities.

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## Welcome Message



### **DATO' STEWART LABROOY**

Chairman, Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation

Lastly, we must emphasize that creating an inclusive environment in our schools is not a mere aspiration; it is an imperative. Schools that accept Special needs children must have a clear vision of what inclusivity looks like, where these children feel respected, where teachers take responsibility for all children, and where the school itself becomes a community that understands the importance of supporting one another.

In conclusion, the challenges we face in the field of special education are substantial, but so are the opportunities for growth, innovation, and progress. Together, we can pave the way for a brighter future, where every child, regardless of their abilities, can receive the education they deserve. Let us forge ahead with determination, compassion, and a commitment to leaving no one behind.

Thank you, and may this Symposium be a beacon of hope and change for the future of Special Education Needs in Malaysia and beyond.

## Welcome Message



### **LEE KUAN YONG**

President-Elect, Kiwanis International

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is an absolute honor to welcome you all to this distinguished symposium, organized by the Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation, dedicated to the essential cause of Special Education Needs. I am Mr. Lee Kuan Yong, the President-Elect of Kiwanis International, and it is my privilege to stand before you today.

The need to address and support individuals with special education needs is not merely an obligation but a fundamental duty that resonates deeply with the core values of compassion, inclusivity, and empowerment. As we gather here today, we unite under the shared vision of fostering an environment that ensures every individual, regardless of their unique abilities, is provided with equal opportunities to thrive and succeed.

The Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation has long been at the forefront of advocating for the rights and holistic development of individuals with special needs. Through our collective efforts, we aim to break barriers, challenge misconceptions, and pave the way for a society that celebrates diversity and embraces the potential within every individual.

This symposium serves as a platform for robust discussions, exchange of innovative ideas, and collaborative initiatives that will shape the landscape of special education needs. Our distinguished speakers and experts from diverse backgrounds are here to enlighten us with their expertise and experiences, guiding us towards a more inclusive future.

Together, let us harness the power of unity, compassion, and knowledge to build a world where every individual, irrespective of their abilities, can contribute meaningfully to society.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation for their unwavering commitment and dedication to this cause, and to all of you, esteemed participants, for joining us in this noble pursuit.

I now declare the official opening of this SEN Symposium 2023z May all of you have intellectually stimulating discussions throughout the day.

Thank you, and let us embark on this journey of enlightenment and empowerment together.



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# About Special Education Needs (SEN) Symposium 2023

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# About Special Education Needs (SEN) Symposium 2023

Join us at the Special Education Needs (SEN) Symposium 2023 on November 19, 2023, at Royale Chulan Damansara, Petaling Jaya, starting at 9:30 am. This symposium is a convergence of parents, professionals, and the community, united by the theme “Driving The Care Economy: Parents as Advocates in Special Education.”

The focus on the Care Economy emphasizes the value of all caregiving, whether paid or unpaid, within the societal framework. We aim to empower parents as vital partners in the realm of special education, recognizing their crucial role in advocating for their child’s inclusive education.

Don’t miss the opportunity to be part of this insightful event that delves into the heart of special education advocacy. For more details, please visit [www.kmacademy.my](http://www.kmacademy.my).

#SENSymposium2023 #SpecialEducation #CareEconomy #ParentAdvocacy



# 2021



A KIWANIS MALAYSIA ACADEMY'S INITIATIVE  
**SEN SYMPOSIUM**  
Saturday, 16 October 2021 @ 9am  
Register at [kiwan.is/sen-symposium](http://kiwan.is/sen-symposium)



# 2022



**Kiwanis**  
KHR JOHARI FOUNDATION



**SEN SYMPOSIUM 2022**  
Special Education Needs Symposium

10 Nov 2022 | 9 am - 5 pm | Online event

**Innovation in Special Education Needs (SEN):  
A Reality Check & Way Forward**

FEE: RM50 | ONLINE VIA ZOOM | REGISTER NOW

SCAN ME!





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# Meet Our Speakers

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## Meet Our Keynote Speakers



### **Prof. Emerita Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah**

- President of the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO)
- Member of the Public-Private sector initiative to ease business
- Member of the Advisory Panel for the SDG Investor Map
- Member of the Board of SDG Foundation
- Chancellor, KPJ Healthcare University

Sharifah Hapsah has had a distinguished career, starting as a medical doctor in 1973. Throughout her career, she made significant contributions to education and leadership. Notably, she served as the first woman Vice Chancellor of the National University of Malaysia (UKM) from 2006 to 2014. During her tenure, UKM achieved self-accrediting status, autonomy, and recognition as a Research University. Sharifah Hapsah emphasized multidisciplinary research, resulting in increased research productivity, numerous patents, and technology transfer. Her commitment to community engagement was evident through various initiatives, including the drafting of the National Higher Education Strategic Plan and chairing the Critical Agenda Project on governance. Her extensive post-retirement involvement in civil society, SDG Foundation, and her recent appointment as Chancellor of KPJ Healthcare University showcase her ongoing dedication to national development.



### **Dr. Abdul Halim Abdul Jalil**

Consultant Pediatrician

Dr. Abdul Halim Abdul Jalil is a distinguished Consultant Pediatrician based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Currently associated with KPJ Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital and KMI Taman Desa Medical Centre, he has an illustrious career marked by significant contributions to pediatrics and healthcare. Dr. Halim previously served as a Professor and Head of Pediatrics at Lincoln University College and played a pivotal role in advancing live cell therapy research. He is the founder of the first Multidisciplinary Clinic for Children with Developmental and Behavioral problems and served as the founding President of the National Autistic Society of Malaysia. Dr. Halim's expertise extends to media appearances as an expert speaker on radio and TV programs. His leadership includes roles as Chief Editor/Chief Advisor of international medical research journals and participation in the expert advisory panel for stem cell treatment at the Ministry of Health, Malaysia. With vast experience and dedication, Dr. Halim continues to make significant contributions to child and family health, earning him recognition as a key figure in the medical field.

## Meet Our Moderators



### **PROF. ABTAR KAUR**

UNESCO Chair

Professor, Innovative Digital Learning, APU

Director -SEN Curriculum Development-Kiwanis Malaysia Academy

Prof. Abtar Kaur is a highly accomplished educator and instructional design expert based in Malaysia. With 36 years of teaching experience, she holds a Ph.D. in Web-based Learning from the University of Malaya and has completed a post-doctoral at Indiana University. Prof. Kaur has been actively involved in numerous national and international projects related to multimedia design, e-learning, online learning, and mobile learning. Notable awards include the Fulbright Scholarship, Best Open Distance Learning Resources from the Commonwealth of Learning, and the Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology award. She served as the Dean of the School of E-Education at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University in Dubai from 2014 to 2019. Prof. Kaur's dedication to inspiring thinking and innovation is evident in her continuous contributions to the field of education, making her a respected figure in instructional design and technology.



### **IVAN OH**

Chartered Accountant

Vice-Chairman, Kiwanis Malaysia Academy

Ivan Oh, a Chartered Accountant and member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) and Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), boasts 35 years of accounting experience. Beginning his career at PricewaterhouseCoopers in 1985, he later ventured into the telecommunications and technology industry, accumulating 18 years of experience in various sectors.

Ivan's dedication to Kiwanis began in 2002, gaining momentum in the last five years as he assumed key roles at the district level. Serving as the District Governor of the Malaysia District for the term 2018/19, he achieved the Kiwanis International Distinguished Service Award. Ivan's passion for connecting Kiwanians and building communities for children's benefit is evident through his ongoing service in various capacities within the Kiwanis organization.

## Meet Our Panelists



### **Dato Dr Mat Saat Baki**

Clinical Psychologist | Sexologist

Dato' Dr. Mat Saat b. Mohd. Baki stands as a distinguished clinical psychologist and sexologist based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His educational journey includes a Bachelor's in Psychology and a Master's in Social Works from the University of Western Australia, followed by a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the United States International University. Holding certifications in Inner Quality Management, Leadership & Advanced Management, and Marriage, Family and Child Counseling, he gained valuable experience as a counselor and therapist in the United States before returning to Malaysia. Serving as a professor in industrial psychology at renowned universities and holding the position of Executive Director at Innovative Human Relationships and Management (IHRAM), he is also a Clinical & Consulting Psychologist at the Intermark in Kuala Lumpur. Dato' Dr. Mat Saat is a prolific writer, contributing extensively to psychological literature and earning recognition for his insights. His comprehensive expertise, diverse roles, and numerous awards position him as a significant figure in the field of psychology, both nationally and internationally, with a lasting impact on the Malaysian psychological community.



### **Rosemary Tan**

Entrepreneur, Property Developer

Board Member, Kirirom Institute of Technology, Cambodia

Affiliate Consultant, Authentic Business Group CIC, UK

Director of Peak Summit, Kiwanis Malaysia Academy

Her passion is to help others discover their potential; as trainer, coach and mentor. She believes that empowering entrepreneurs, and community leaders will bring about ripples of transformational change. She has 18 years of experience developing entrepreneurial leaders to build trust and thrive in safe environments that facilitates accelerated growth and learning. She also facilitates family business conversations and transitions. She works with business owners in Asia, Africa, Pakistan, and Nepal. Rosemary herself is an entrepreneur and a property developer. She serves the family business; Tungling Group as their Creative Director. She is a volunteer leader; the former Global Chairperson for the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) 2013/14, and the current Service Chair for Kiwanis Malaysia. Certified Forum and Moderator trainer for EO since 2001, and a John Maxwell Coach. She also serves as a board member for Kirirom Institute of Technology in Cambodia and Affiliate Consultant, for Authentic Business Group CIC based in UK.

## Meet Our Panelists



### **MO ZIDAN**

Communication Specialist, Business Strategist

Mo Zidan, an accomplished professional with 22 years of experience in branding, sales, operations, and team management, is currently the Executive Director at Ryyse Ventures. A member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) and Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), Mo has received accolades like the Leadership Excellence Award and has mentored over 20 startups globally.

In his role at Ryyse Ventures, Mo oversees a comprehensive business growth agency, providing services in team design, sales enablement, branding, operational management, and market expansion across Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Central and Eastern Europe. His expertise extends to online advertising and marketing, having worked with renowned companies like Foodpanda and Facebook, Inc. Mo's commitment to social impact is evident through his involvement in humanitarian causes, including teaching refugee children, showcasing his diverse skills and commitment to global business leadership.



### **ZHARIFF AFFANDI**

Exceptional Abilities Advocate

Zhariff is a dynamic professional with a degree in Psychology and Sociology. His diverse roles include motivator, life coach, public speaker, extreme sportsman, author, and entrepreneur. He founded TZI and served as CEO of Gemilang 4e and LOKA Malaysia, revolutionizing the Malaysian retail landscape. Zhariff excels in strategic planning, stakeholder management, and project oversight, contributing significantly to social change and youth innovation. As a senior consultant for UNICEF Malaysia, he played a key role in refining the Global Volunteering Strategy. Zhariff's motivational speaking is sought after by multinational companies and government agencies, highlighting his influence in social entrepreneurship and humanitarian efforts.

## Meet Our Panelists



### **ABDULLAH SYAKIRIN**

Communication Specialist, Business Strategist

Abdullah Syakirin Bin Mohammad is a dedicated geologist and the President of Persatuan Dyslexia Malaysia (PDM), an NGO committed to assisting dyslexic children in mastering fundamental skills and preparing them for school. Since 2020, Abdullah has been actively involved in PDM, driven by the personal journey of discovering his 7-yearold son's dyslexia. Faced with the challenge of supporting his dyslexic child, Abdullah sought professional advice, leading him to PDM. Through this experience, he gained valuable insights into various methods for assisting dyslexic children. Determined to make a difference, Abdullah is passionate about helping parents and dyslexic children overcome challenges and thrive. His personal encounter fuels his commitment to ensuring others don't feel the same sense of confusion and helplessness that he once experienced.



### **S.Y. Phang**

Communication Specialist, Business Strategist

S.Y. Phang started working remotely as a single girl, then as a mother, and now as a GlamMa. She advocates remote and hybrid work to promote work-life balance/integration. Strangely, we are busy with full-time jobs when our young children need us the most. When we retire, our children are leaving for further studies and work. She hopes that companies will reverse this trend to fulfil their CSR and ESG obligations. Presently, she is collaborating with business owners and associates to create business models for mothers on career breaks.

## Meet Our Panelists



**Desiree Kaur**

Desiree Kaur is a passionate autism advocate who initiated Project Haans for Autism Awareness in 2019. Inspired by her son's autism diagnosis in 2017, she sought knowledge to navigate the challenges, culminating in a Master's in Education (Special Ed) in 2021. Leveraging her extensive 8-year background in Public Relations (PR) with agencies like Fleishman-Hillard and Ogilvy PR, she skillfully amplifies autism awareness through media interviews, articles, and workshops. Currently serving as President of Kiwanis Club TTDI and a Subject Matter Expert for Kiwanis Malaysia Academy (KMA), Desiree combines leadership with advocacy. Her commitment extends to running Adells Learning Centre, a tuition center promoting a learner-centered approach.



**Catherine De Padua**

Leadership Development Specialist

Catherine De Padua is a highly accomplished professional with expertise in finance, business strategy, and management. Holding a Bachelor of Science in Management Engineering, she has demonstrated excellence in her roles, including her position as the Chief Financial Officer of SM Investments Corporation. Catherine's career spans various industries, from finance and retail to real estate, showcasing her versatility and leadership capabilities. With a proven track record in financial management, risk assessment, and strategic planning, she has contributed significantly to the success of SM Investments Corporation, one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines. Catherine's accomplishments and leadership have solidified her reputation as a key figure in the corporate landscape, reflecting her commitment to driving financial excellence and success in the organizations she serves.



**Ts. Syariffanor binti Hisham**

Ts. Syariffanor Hisham, a senior lecturer at Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), specializes in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI). With 20 years of expertise, her focus spans assistive technology, serious games, and youth development. Leading the Specialists in Special Needs Awareness and Research (SPEAR) group, she has contributed significantly to advancements in special needs technology. Notably, her innovations include MyLexics and MyFeeling, addressing dyslexia and autism. Beyond academia, Syariffanor actively engages in community initiatives through organizations like Kiwanis Club Taman Tun Dr. Ismail (KCTTDI) and Malaysia High Functioning Autism Association (MAHFAA), showcasing her dedication to making a positive impact.



**MASYITAH MAJID**

Passionate Homeschooling Advocate

Masyitah Majid, a homeschooling mother based in Kuala Lumpur, discovered her passion for gifted education while living abroad. Initially focusing on her eldest child's giftedness, she transitioned to specialize in special needs education when her second child was diagnosed with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. Masyitah actively tailors her child's curriculum, drawing from her global educational experiences in the United States, the Netherlands, and Jerusalem. Her commitment to advancing her understanding of special needs education and advising curriculum providers showcases her dedication. Besides homeschooling, Masyitah provides consultations to parents on gifted and special needs education, contributing to the broader educational community.



**DR. CHARLOTTE JANE JOSEPH**

Developmental Paediatrician

Dr. Charlotte Jane Joseph, a distinguished Developmental Paediatrician, brings a wealth of qualifications and experiences to her role. With a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Kasturba Medical College and a Member of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (MRCPCH), she furthered her education with a Diploma in Paediatric Neurodisability in the UK, earning the prestigious Sir David Hall Prize Award in 2023. Dr. Joseph's career includes roles in various Malaysian hospitals, contributing to research, and serving in committees such as the Malaysian Research and Ethics Committee (MREC). Her commitment extends beyond clinical practice, actively engaging in youth development studies at the Institute for Youth Research Malaysia (IYRES). Recognized for her outstanding service, she received certificates from the Ministry of Health, Malaysia, in 2015 and 2021.



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# About Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation

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## **About Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation (KKJF)**

Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation (KKJF) is A NOT-FOR-PROFIT organization and established to empower Kiwanis Clubs and Kiwanis Malaysia Academy (KMA) in their activities to transform communities to become more educated, productive, and sustainable.

KKJF has as its objective to stand for serving special education needs, in-line with the Kiwanis International motto, “Serving the Children of the World”.

To do that KKJF receives donations from individuals, corporates, and other organizations to power the work KKJF does. Your generosity helps KKJF realize its vision and goals.

All Donations support our special education needs activities for children, youth, parents and teachers.



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# About Kiwanis Malaysia Academy

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## About Kiwanis Malaysia Academy

# VISION



KIWANIS WILL BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE – SO THAT ONE DAY, ALL CHILDREN WILL WAKE UP IN COMMUNITIES THAT BELIEVE IN THEM, NURTURE THEM AND PROVIDE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO THRIVE



CHILDREN WILL BE GIVEN BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO REALISE THEIR DREAMS AS A RESULT OF BETTER SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & LIFE-LONG LEARNING

# MISSION



KIWANIS EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE WORLD BY MAKING LASTING DIFFERENCES IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN



THE ACADEMY WILL BE THE ENABLER IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – SO THAT KEY STAKEHOLDERS WILL BE EMPOWERED TO PROVIDE THE BEST FOR THE CHILDREN THEY SERVE

## About Kiwanis Malaysia Academy



In 2019, Kiwanis Malaysia launched Kiwanis Malaysia Academy (KMA), and subsequently, KMA has been parked under the Kiwanis Khir Johari Foundation (KKJF). KMA is an initiative to create an equitable, and excellent education platform for all special education needs so that all students can acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to thrive in their studies, careers, and adult lives.

The Kiwanis Malaysia Academy team consists of professionals, academicians, and educationists who are volunteers and give their time to KMA and are committed to their roles and aim to enhance understanding, strengthen community education needs, and impact the future of Special Education Needs in Malaysia.

Kiwanis Malaysia Academy works with stakeholders, subject matter experts, parents, teachers, caregivers, activists, consultants, business owners, government ministries and agencies, and NGOs' to discuss the issues and challenges surrounding the area of Teaching and Learning for our children and youth with special needs.

KMA's present activities include:

- Promoting scientific studies and research, conducting surveys, and disseminating information on matters related to Special Needs.
- Preparing relevant training programs required for Special Needs Education.
- Organizing face-to-face or Virtual Annual Special Education Needs Symposium, besides having ad-hoc conferences, workshops, or clinics on a global, regional, or local basis on any subject of Special Needs and Special Needs Education.
- Offering Online Learning Platforms for both adults and children covering lifelong learning and STEM Education respectively in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, promoting quality learning content, inclusive learning opportunities, and encouraging lifelong learning to remain relevant in today's digital economy.
- Organizing PEAK Summit, STEM Careers Youth Leadership Camps

## About Kiwanis Malaysia Academy

### 3 CORE IMPERATIVES



#### Special Needs Education

Target customers – Caregivers & other stakeholders. To enable them to provide the best learning opportunities for the children



#### Children & Youth Development

Target customers – Kiwanis clubs (Faculty & SLP Advisors). To provide them with the tools & guide for an effective programs for the children & youths



#### Leadership & Life-long Learning

Target customers – Kiwanians at large. To provide knowledge, training & tools so that they will better serve their communities & the children



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# Meet Our Team

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## Our Team



### **DATO FATIMAH SAAD** Chairman

Dato' Fatimah Saad served in Qatar Foundation from 2006-2013 as the Director of Implementation and Social Outreach Division of the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD), Qatar. Her work involves developing innovative evidenced-based family related programs and activities for the public and service personnel such as social workers, health personnel and teachers. The division's focus is to help promote strong and healthy families consistent with the call of actions as stipulated under the Doha Declaration. The Doha Declaration reaffirms that the family is the natural and fundamental group of society, as declared in article 16 (3) of the Universal Declaration of human Rights.

Dato' Fatimah served the Malaysian government for 30 years before joining Qatar Foundation in late 2006. Her last post in Malaysia was as the Director General of the National Population and Family Development Board. Her responsibilities as the DG were

mainly to plan, direct, organize and develop policies and programs in three focus areas i.e. family development, population research and reproductive health.

She represented Malaysia at the UN Commission for Population and Development (UNCPD) from 2000 to 2006. She had also actively participated as Malaysian representative at many high-level meetings at international and regional levels.

Dato' Fatimah received her first degree in Humanities at the University of Science Malaysia in 1976 and Masters in Public Administration at the University of Southern California, USA in 1983. She founded the Kiwanis Club of Taman Tun Dr Ismail and have been a member since 1993. She was the Governor of Kiwanis Malaysia District for the term 2015/16.

## Our Team



### **IVAN OH** Vice-Chairman

Ivan is a Chartered Accountant and is a member of Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) and Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA). He has been an accountant for 35 years to-date.

He started his career with an accounting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers in 1985. He worked for 14 years in the assurance and financial advisory services, covering audit assignments and corporate and financial restructuring projects.

He made the move into the commercial sector by accepting a one-year stint in Ecuador with an energy generating company. Upon his return, Ivan went into the telecommunications & technology industry which included a fixed & mobile operator, a satellite operator & software developer for 18 years.

Although Ivan joined Kiwanis in 2002 but only in the recent 5 years that he focused on serving at the District level. It started in 2015 when Dato' Fatimah persuaded him to join the District Board as the Treasurer. Since then there is no turning back as Ivan served 2 terms as the Treasurer, following that as Governor Elect in 2017/18 and then District Governor of Malaysia District for the term 2018/19 where he achieved the Kiwanis International Distinguished Service Award. Subsequently, as they say – there's no retirement from Kiwanis, he continued to serve in the KM Board of Trustees and as member of various committees including KMA, Growth & Kiwanis 4.0.

During his tenure at District level, Ivan has travelled nationwide to visit as many Kiwanis clubs and permanent centers to build relationships & learn. He is passionate about connecting the kiwanians and in communities building for the benefit of the children. As such he continues to serve in the various capacities.

## Our Team



### **IPG ROSEMARY TAN**

Director of Peak Summit

Her passion is to help others discover their potential; as trainer, coach and mentor. She believes that empowering entrepreneurs, and community leaders will bring about ripples of transformational change.

She has 18 years of experience developing entrepreneurial leaders to build trust and thrive in safe environments that facilitates accelerated growth and learning. She also facilitates family business conversations and transitions. She works with business owners in Asia, Africa, Pakistan, and Nepal.

Rosemary herself is an entrepreneur and a property developer. She serves the family business; Tungling Group as their Creative Director. She is a volunteer leader; the former Global Chairperson for the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) 2013/14, and the Immediate Past Governor for Kiwanis Malaysia. Certified Forum and Moderator trainer for EO since 2001, and a John Maxwell Coach. She also serves as a board member for Kirirom Institute of Technology in Cambodia and Affiliate Consultant, for Authentic Business Group CIC based in UK.

## Our Team



### **PROF. DR. ABTAR KAUR**

Director -SEN Curriculum Development,  
Kiwanis Malaysia Academy

Abtar has 36 years of teaching experience. She has incorporated many varied instructional design principles in her teaching and learning activities especially after obtaining MS in Instructional Design from Syracuse University in 1986 and PhD in Web-based Learning, from the University of Malaya in 2001 and a post-doctoral at Indiana University in 2000/2001. In 1996 Abtar joined the Faculty of Education, University of Malaya and in 2002, she was offered to take up the Directorship for the Centre for Instructional Design and Technology (CIDT) at Open University Malaysia (OUM). From 2014,-2019 Abtar worked in Dubai as Dean, School of E-Education, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University ( HBMSU).

Abtar has been involved in many national and international projects related to multimedia design and development, e-learning, online learning, and mobile learning. Some significant awards she won are the Fulbright Scholarship, an award for Best Open Distance Learning Resources from the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Canada, Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology award from the 18th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning, Florida. Abtar wrote the winning submission (Gold) for HBMSU for the QS Stars Reimagine Education Awards 2016 for Middle-East Category, awarded by Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania. In 2019 Abtar was nominated to be an International Advisory Board member for Educational Technology for Higher Education Journal.

Abtar was one of the consultants in assisting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia set up the National E-Learning Centre. She has also been involved in instructional design projects in Indonesia (auspices of World Bank) and IDRC (International Development and Research Center) based in Toronto. Her other projects were with Telecentre.org Foundation, based in Manila, and UNDP where she trained Maldivian civil servants in e – learning practices.

Her personal mission in life would be to continuously inspire thinking and innovation.

## Our Team



### **FATIMAH ABU BAKAR (FAB)**

Director - Youth and Children  
Learning Development

Fatimah Abu Bakar graduated in Linguistics from Toronto and in Education from Birmingham. As an educationist in communication and leadership for the last thirty-over years, she uses her rich experiences in nurturing leaders from diverse backgrounds. When she was a Head of Department for the Centre for Languages for various universities, she was appointed a panel member on the recruitment board for selection and promotion.

FAB (as better known amongst friends) was instrumental in setting up the Clinical School of the International Medical University in Seremban which is adjacent to the Seremban Hospital. She was the Senior Administrator for the IMU Clinical School which she was also responsible in the recruitment and promotion of staff throughout her tenure in this esteemed outfit.

In 2009, FAB was been invited to join the PETRONAS Leadership Centre where she has kept a steep learning curve in the areas of leadership, coaching, talent acquisition, talent Management and employee performance management. She was involved in strategic planning and work-outs to produce the Key Performance Indicators for the Centre. FAB is also a certified leadership coach and a certified trainer for Crucial Conversation and leadership programs.

Her passion includes designing motivation and leadership camps for school and university students, travel to explore leadership games and programs in other countries and writing her vignettes of her childhood and teaching experiences in many places she has had the pleasure to contribute.

Currently FAB is the CEO of Celebrating Thinkers Sdn Bhd; a leadership and coaching training company based in Bangi. She aspires to develop more leaders for our beloved nation through nurturing and nourishing leadership experiential learning methodology as well as building a tri-partied ownership in learning and development in any high performing organizations. The synergistic relationship among superiors, learners and Celebrating Thinkers' facilitators and coaches would a learner's potentials and strengths could be unleashed and leveraged on to help him achieve more and do more for himself, his family, his community and his nation through his commitment to his organization he works for.

## Our Team



### **RANI WEMEL**

Director, E-learning Platforms

Global Pioneer in Mobile Learning & Learning Experience Portals (LXP), Co-Founder and COO @ LTT Global and MyMobileUniversity

Rani Wemel, a law lecturer resigned in 2000 founded LTT Global from her dining table with a vision to make learning accessible and affordable. She has been creating awareness through various joint activities together with the public, private and academic sectors to encourage and promote human capital development through lifelong learning.

She is a proud finalist in the “teleworking mums” in 2004 and a Nominee for the Prime Minister’s Woman Entrepreneur 2011 Award and Woman Social Activist 2011 Award. In 2016 she received the Women Excellence Awards under the category of Women Entrepreneur in Education (Mobile Learning) Award held in conjunction with International Women’s Day Commemoration, in Sri Lanka. In 2018, she was the Recipient of Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur Award at the 5th National Women’s Day Awards organized by the National Foundation for Entrepreneurship Development (NFED), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

She is a Graduate of Cherie Blair Foundation, UK for her MyMobileUniversity global initiative to impact lives through education. She serves as Honorary Advisor, Speaker, Panelist, Advisor and Mentor for global companies and co-Founder of 2 Special Interest Groups driving Mobile Learning and Mobilepreneurs.

## Our Team



### **DESIREE KAUR** Director for SEN Training

Desiree Kaur is a passionate autism advocate who initiated Project Haans for Autism Awareness in 2019. Inspired by her son's autism diagnosis in 2017, she sought knowledge to navigate the challenges, culminating in a Master's in Education (Special Ed) in 2021. Leveraging her extensive 8-year background in Public Relations (PR) with agencies like Fleishman-Hillard and Ogilvy PR, she skillfully amplifies autism awareness through media interviews, articles, and workshops. Currently serving as President of Kiwanis Club TTDI and a Subject Matter Expert for Kiwanis Malaysia Academy (KMA), Desiree combines leadership with advocacy. Her commitment extends to running Adells Learning Centre, a tuition center promoting a learner-centered approach.

## Our Team



**GWENNIE LEE**  
Operations Manager

As the Operations Manager at Kiwanis Malaysia Academy (KMA), Gwennie, plays a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of all administrative processes. With a keen eye for detail and efficient organizational skills, Gwennie oversees a spectrum of operational tasks, from logistical coordination to administrative support. Her dedication extends to facilitating seamless communication among various directors and ensuring that KMA's operational endeavors align with its broader mission. Gwennie is the cornerstone of the administrative backbone, contributing significantly to the success of KMA's initiatives.



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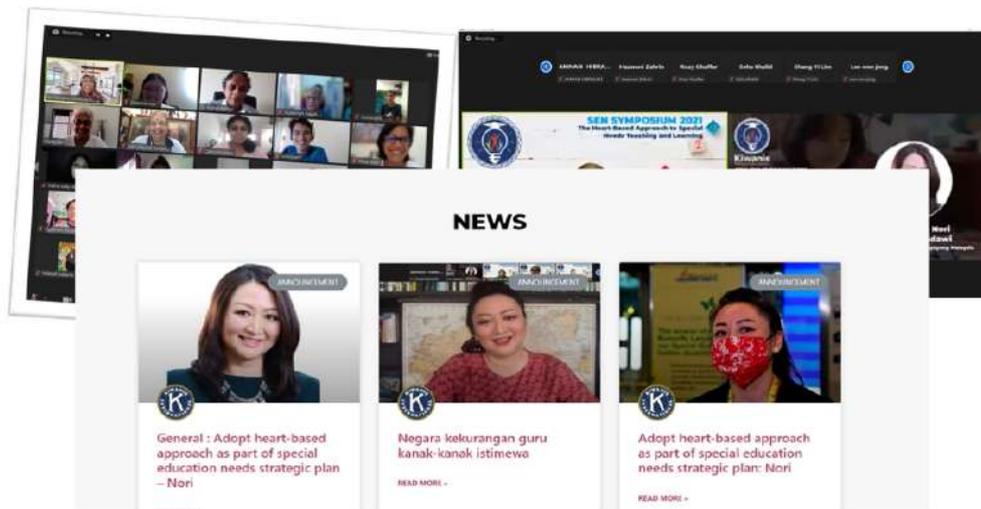
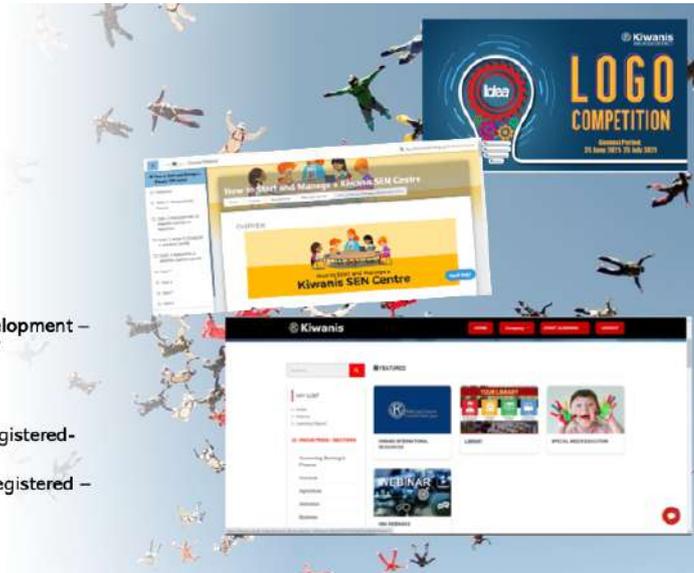
# Our Activities and Journey

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# Our Activities

## Achievement since 2019

- Launching of KMA
- KMA Logo Competition
- PEAK Summit
- Youth Camp 2020
- SEN Module Content development – How to start a SEN center
- E-Learning Portal
- KMA Strategic Retreat
- SEN Symposium 2021 (Registered- 378 , Attendance – 255)
- SEN Symposium 2022 (Registered – 329, Attendance - 227)



# Our Activities



## KMA Product Update

- Innovation Carnival collaboration with UITEM, KMA- 10 May 2022
- Last year, we organized a Special Education Needs (SEN) symposium with the theme "Innovation for SEN: A Reality Check and Way Forward." During the symposium, we discovered that there has been a scarcity of innovation initiatives and products for people with disabilities, which is a neglected area. Therefore, this Innovation Carnival is a spring off of the SEN Symposium 2022 that was held last year. We are thrilled that UTeM has taken the initiative to organize this carnival that promotes innovation and provides a platform for innovators and scientists to embark more on R&D and commercialization of assistive technology. This will benefit and enhance the livelihood of people with disabilities.



## KMA Product Update

- Training for SEN teachers-27 & 28 May 2023 at APU
- This training is program to enhance Understanding of Special Education Needs and Foster Positive Behavior Support in SEN. Keynote speaker by (Assoc Prof Dr Hasnah Toran, UKM, Former director GENIUS Kurnia), track lead by learning specialist – Desiree Kaur & Ayuni Filzati in Autism, Pauline Wong in Down Syndrome , Ts Sherry in Dyslexia)
- Attended by 66 pax . Participants from Johor, Kuantan, Malacca, individual parents, schools, Kiwanis club
- 1 Keynote speaker, 3 tracks ( Autism , Down Syndrome , Dyslexia )



## Our Activities

### KMA Product Update

- Meetup with Dr Ana from Minderoo Foundation Australia for SEN Symposium 2023



### KMA Product Update

- Meeting with Dep Minister of Education YB Lim Hui Ying
- Discussion on the Excellent English Award for Khir Johari Schools with the Deputy Minister of Education YB Lim Hui Yong. She also expressed her interest to champion for SEN during her tenure and Happy to collaborate with KKJF on this aspect
- Further discussion on the matter will be held soon .



### KMA Product Update

- Meeting with UNIRAZAK on 21st Aug 2023 and a potential collaboration in providing our SEN teachers continuing education pathways .This initiative spearhead by Dato' Stewart and Dato' Fatimah



# Our Journey...





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# We are looking for Volunteers

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## Why we need Volunteers

Kiwanis Malaysia Academy is on the lookout for passionate volunteers eager to make a meaningful impact in the lives of children with special education needs. By joining our team, you become an essential part of a community-driven initiative dedicated to providing equitable and excellent education for all. Your involvement will contribute to creating a more inclusive society and empowering children to thrive in their studies, careers, and adult lives. Join us at Kiwanis Malaysia Academy and be a catalyst for positive change.

### Why Volunteer with Kiwanis Malaysia Academy:

- 1. Impactful Contribution:** Be part of an organization that is actively working towards creating a positive impact on the lives of children with special education needs.
- 2. Community Engagement:** Engage with a vibrant and passionate community of individuals committed to fostering inclusivity in education.
- 3. Personal Growth:** Enhance your personal and professional skills by volunteering in diverse roles that align with your interests and strengths.
- 4. Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals, educators, professionals, and parents who share a common goal of improving special education.
- 5. Fulfilling Experience:** Experience the joy and fulfillment that comes from contributing to a cause that has a lasting and meaningful effect on the community.
- 6. Learning and Development:** Acquire valuable insights into special education, advocacy, and community development, broadening your knowledge and perspective.
- 7. Team Collaboration:** Collaborate with a dedicated and supportive team, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose.
- 8. Contribute to Education:** Play a vital role in shaping the future of education for children with special needs, promoting a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.

*For More Information Please WhatsApp to:*

**Puan Fatimah Abu Bakar**  
M:019-7472060



**Ms. Rani Wemel**  
M:019-2070510



**Ms. Gwennie Lee**  
M:016-3569819



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**Thank you**

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# Thank You and Acknowledgment

Heartfelt Thanks to All!

As we conclude SEN 2023, we express our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this symposium.

Your collective efforts and commitment have made a significant impact on the landscape of special education.

Special thanks to:

- Delegates and Participants
- Speakers and Panelists
- Sponsors and Partners
- Zorai and Team
- All online and offline friends who helped share
- And to all who supported in one way or another
- Kiwanis Malaysia Academy Team

Your dedication has played a crucial role in fostering positive change and advancing inclusive education. We appreciate your valuable contributions and look forward to future collaborations.

## See You at SEN 2024



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[www.KMAcademy.my](http://www.KMAcademy.my)

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