

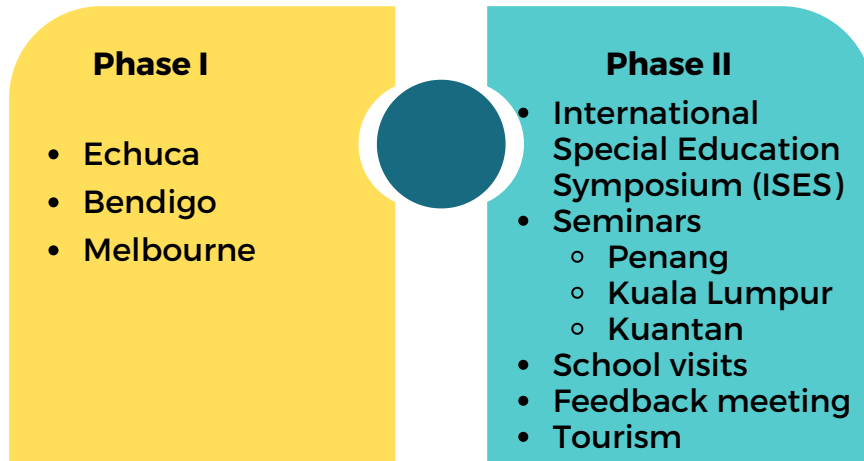
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PHASE I: SEEME in AUSTRALIA

(Special Education Expedition for Malaysian Educators in Australia)



HISTORY

Rotary Club of Melawati (RCM) since its inception in year 2000, has laid prime emphasis on community service, with main focus on children with special needs in and around Taman Melawati. In this regard, we wanted to: -

- Work with government and other NGO's.
- Use international Rotary network to raise the standard of care for special children in Malaysia.
- Promote international, intercultural, interreligious understanding with home hosting for teachers from Malaysia and overseas countries.

We had a humble start in year 2005 by sending two teachers, one from government and one from NGO to Victoria, Australia to attach to leading institutions of education for special children and living with Australian families. This project was very well received by both governments of Malaysia as well as Australia.

After many years we wanted to continue and expand this project with more involvement of government and other Rotary clubs both in Malaysia and Australia. Project was designed, planned, and widely discussed during year 2023 Melbourne Rotary Convention by Rotary clubs from both countries. The approval was obtained from government of Malaysia as well as Australia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project was carried out in 2 phases. Phase I from 13 April to 25 May 2024, 8 teachers, 5 chosen by Ministry of Education and 3 from NGO's, spent 6 weeks in Echuca, Bendigo, and Melbourne. They were fully sponsored by Rotary.

They gained first-hand knowledge and skill in leading Victorian Institutions for special children in 3 locations. They have rich experience of living with Australian families to understand way of life and culture of Australian people. It was life changing experience and teachers came back with renewed vigour to help government to do more for special education program.

For Phase II, conducted from 8 January to 23 January 2025, two teachers from Australia were fully sponsored by Rotary to spend two weeks in Malaysia supporting the implementation of the programs as follows:

- **International Special Education Symposium (ISES)**
 - This was organised for government and non-government teachers involved in education and care for children with special needs on 13 and 14 January 2025 at Auditorium Kolej Sains Kesihatan Bersekutu, Sungai Buloh, Selangor.
- **3 full day seminars for parents and carers of special children as follows: -**
 - 11 Jan 2025 - Han Chiang University College of Communication, Jalan Lim Lean Teng, 11600 George Town, Pulau Pinang.
 - 18 Jan 2025 - Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Cina) Sungai Buloh, Kpg Baru Sungai Buloh, 40160 Sungai Buloh, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
 - 21 Jan 2025 - Shahzan Hotel Kuantan, Lot Pt 240 Jalan Bukit Ubi Jalan Masjid, 25000 Kuantan, Pahang Darul Makmur.

Besides, Australian trainers were brought to: -

- Primary and secondary school with special children
- School within Selayang Hospital for special children
- Stepping Stone - NGO run occupational therapy facility for adult with special needs in Penang.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

They were also engaged in extensive discussion with: -

- Ministry of Education officials
- Teachers involved in special education
- Parents and carers of special children
- Rotarians from various clubs in District 3300.

These discussions were carried out to find ways of cooperation between Malaysia and Australia to raise the standard of care for special children in Malaysia. Australian trainers also had a peep into Malaysian way of life and tested varieties of Malaysian cuisines. They went home with rich life changing experience.

This project was carried out in 2 phases over nearly 1 year and involved cooperation with: -

- Government and various partner Rotary clubs
- Non-government organizations
- Parents and teachers' associations of children with special needs.

Phase 1 was conducted in collaboration with the following Australian Rotary Clubs:

- Rotary Club of Echuca Moama
- Rotary Club of Bendigo
- Rotary Club of Bendigo South
- Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst
- Rotary Club of Castlemaine
- Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong & Endeavour Hills
- Rotary Club of Kangaroo Flat
- Rotary Club of Eaglehawk
- Rotary Club of Rochester

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Teachers from Malaysia to Australia in Phase I: -

- Mrs. Maizarith Binti Ismail
- Ms. Vasanta A/P Ganesan
- Ms. Nuraimi Nadirah Binti Rohim @ Rahim
- Ms. Musfirah Nalini Binti Abd Rashid
- Mrs. Punitha A/P Sengodan
- Ms. Felixia Lee Choon Fong
- Ms. Foo Hor Yern
- Ms. Tay Mi Shyuan

Teachers from Australia to Malaysia in Phase II: -

- Ms. Angie Louise Kloft
 - Leading Teacher-Behaviour Coach, Bendigo Special Development School, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia
- Mr. Benjamin Ridge
 - Assistant Principal, Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School, Echuca, Victoria, Australia.

Cooperation and support from the following organization: -

1. Selangor State Education Department
2. Penang State Education Department
3. Pahang State Education Department
4. District Education Office Gombak
5. District Education Office Petaling
6. Taman Melawati secondary school
7. Parent Teacher Association in school in all above states

Cooperation and support from non-government organization: -

- SEAMEO SEN (South East Asia Regional Centre for Special Needs Education)
- Han Chiang University College of Communication, Penang.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Partners Rotary clubs and Rotaract clubs: -

- Rotary club of Gombak
- Rotary club of KLCC
- Rotary club of Damansara
- Rotary club of Bandar Sunway
- Rotary club of Klang Valley
- Rotary club of Penang
- Rotary club of Kuantan
- Rotaract club of Penang
- Rotaract club of Bandar Utama
- DAGA - District 3300 Action Group on Autism

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PHASE II: SEE in MALAYSIA

(Special Education Expedition in Malaysia by Australian Educators)

After successfully completing Phase I of this project, where 8 teachers (5 from government and 3 from NGO), fully sponsored by Rotary spent 6 weeks in leading Victorian (Australian) institutions, we embarked on phase 2. More active participation of Selangor state Education department and all 8 teachers was obtained to carry out this phase of project. 2 trainers from Australia, fully sponsored by Rotary came here for 2 weeks and were actively involved. Activities carried out are as outlined below. They will be discussed in details in this report.

- ISES-International Special Education Symposium for special education teachers from all parts of Malaysia.
- 3 seminars for carers of special children: -
 - Penang – 11 Jan 2025
 - Kuala Lumpur & Selangor – 18 Jan 2025
 - Kuantan – 21 Jan 2025
- Visit to following: -
 - Stepping Stone - NGO run occupational therapy facility for adult with special needs in Penang.
 - Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Melawati 2
 - Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Taman Melawati
 - School in Hospital, Hospital Selayang
- Introduction and feedback sessions with District Education Office and Selangor Education Department
- Attending meeting and interacting with Rotary clubs during
 - Rotary club Damansara meeting
 - Appreciation dinner with partner Rotary clubs
- Tourism activities in Perak, Selangor and Pahang.

Hectic 2 weeks were very productive and much was achieved that will have long term impact in care for special children in Malaysia. Strong bond that was formed between Rotary, government and non-government organization will go long way in future projects in this direction. Cooperation between Australian and Malaysia Rotary clubs will result in continuation of this projects for years to come.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below is the schedule for the Australian educators while they were in Malaysia:

Date	Activities	Venue
Jan 1, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing to teachers before they fly 	
8 Jan, Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM Flight from MEL 6:15 - KUL 11:55 Arrive & Lunch with Raj Free & Easy 	
9 Jan, Thu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to Penang Sightseeing Lunch in Ipoh Dinner with Raj & Dr Navin 	
10 Jan, Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast Visit Stepping Stone (a centre for children) Sightseeing Dinner hosted by RC Penang President Carson & AG 	
11 Jan, Sat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar 1(Penang): Empowering Families and Care givers of Children with Special Needs Rest Dinner with Raj, Dr Navin and AG Stephanie Wong, DG's Rep 	Han Chiang University College of Communication, Jalan Lim Lean Teng, 11600 George Town, Pulau Pinang
12 Jan, Sun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to KL Rest & Prep time for ISES 	
13 Jan, Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symposium ISES (1st Day) Dinner with Shyuan, Hor Yern, Felixia 	Auditorium, Kolej Sains Kesihatan Bersekutu Sungai Buloh
14 Jan, Tue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symposium ISES (2nd Day) Sightseeing and food tour Dinner with President Hans of RC Gombak 	Auditorium, Kolej Sains Kesihatan Bersekutu Sungai Buloh
15 Jan, Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sightseeing - Kuala Lumpur on their own. RCM Meeting and fellowship 	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date	Activities	Venue
16 Jan, Thu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit Primary & Secondary schools in Taman Melawati• Sightseeing- Royal Selangor Pewter• Meeting & Dinner - RC Damansara	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SK Taman Melawati 2 (Primary school)• SMK Taman Melawati (Secondary school)
17 Jan, Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free and Easy• Dinner with RCM members (Raji & others)	
18 Jan, Sat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seminar 2 (KL): Empowering Families and Care givers of Children with Special Needs	SJKC Sg Buloh, Kampung Baru Sg Buloh, Sungai Buloh
19 Jan, Sun	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tourism & Lunch with SEEME teachers- Nad & Vasantha• Rest & Preparation for seminar	Sekinchan, Selangor
20 Jan, Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel to Kuantan• Sightseeing• Dinner with Dato Annamalai	Pantai Teluk Cempedak
21 Jan, Tue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seminar 3 (Kuantan): Empowering Families and Care givers of Children with Special Needs• Travel to KL same evening	Shahzan Hotel
22 Jan, Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting with MOE: Selangor State Education Department & Gombak's District Education Office personnel• Dinner with Participating Rotary Clubs	
23 Jan, Thu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave for Airport at 815AM (Flight at KUL 12:15 - MEL 23:45)	

THE EDUCATORS

Teachers from Malaysia to Australia in Phase I: -



FELIXIA LEE CHOONG FONG



**MUSFIRAH NALINI BINTI
ABD RASHID**



**NURAIMI NADIRAH BINTI
ROHIM @ RAHIM**



VASANTA A/P GANESAN



FOO HOR YERN



PUNITHA A/P SENGODAN



TAY MI SHYUAN



MAIZARITH BINTI ISMAIL

Teachers from Australia to Malaysia in Phase II: -



MR. BENJAMIN RIDGE
o ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
o ECHUCA TWIN RIVERS SPECIALIST SCHOOL, ECHUCA,
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA



MS ANGIE LOUISE KLOFT
o LEADING TEACHER-BEHAVIOUR COACH
o BENDIGO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL, BENDIGO,
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

STEPPING STONE CENTRE VISIT

DATE: 10TH JANUARY 2025

VENUE:

**ASIA COMMUNITY SERVICE (ACS) STEPPING STONE CENTRE
MK 1, 53, JALAN BARU, PULAU BETONG, 11000 BALIK PULAU, PENANG**

Stepping Stone Centre is a part of Asia Community Service's Support Centre for Community Living project, which provides a work place for people with special needs. The project is in line with the UN-ESCAP declaration of "full participation and equal opportunities for people with disabilities" in the community. With an initial grant assistance from International Post Office Volunteers' Fund, the Centre which is based in Balik Pulau, a rural district of Penang Island, began its operations in February 2000 in a small rented terrace house in Balik Pulau town.

OBJECTIVES:

- To observe and understand the operational model of a successful skill training and employment centre for adults with special needs, particularly focusing on volunteer management, income-generating activities, and integration of occupational therapy.
- To showcase the achievements and impact of the centre, highlighting its sustainability, community support, and the quality of products and programs, as a model of best practice for replication or adaptation elsewhere.

OVERVIEW:

Visited with 2 Australian trainers, Ms. Angie Louise Kloft and Mr. Benjamin Ridge on 10 Jan 2025. Also present were President Carson from RC Penang, Ms Crestin Teh, Ms Nivetha and rotarian Sunthar Raj.

We spent half a day at this very impressive centre started in April 1997. Since 2004, they have their own premise which is spacious and very well organized by dedicated volunteer staff. They even have living /hostel accommodation facilities for overseas volunteers who can stay there for nominal fees. Adult persons with special needs are provided skill training and employment preparations. All these is conducted with fun activities and occupational training. Several products produced by members are put up for sale to generate significant income for the centre. These products are of fine quality and very sellable. We had singing and game activities before relishing light refreshment prepared at the centre. Ms. Ai-Na Khor's, lifelong dedication and meticulous planning with support from philanthropist in Penang has created a greatly successful centre that we were proud to show to our Australian guests.

PHOTOS

STEPPING STONE CENTRE



SEMINAR: EMPOWERING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN PENANG

DATE: 11 JANUARY 2025

**VENUE: HAN CHIANG UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION,
JALAN LIM LEAN TENG, 11600 GEORGE TOWN, PULAU PINANG**

**ORGANIZED BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF PENANG, ROTARY CLUB MELAWATI &
ROTARACT CLUB OF PENANG**

**SUPPORTED BY:
JABATAN PENDIDIKAN NEGERI PULAU PINANG**

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 86

OBJECTIVES:

- To empower and support parents and care givers in caring for their children with special needs.
- To provide practical tools and strategies for Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) and emotional well-being in caregiving.

SESSION SUMMARY:

This seminar was conducted by two Australian educators-Benjamin Ridge, Assistant Principal of Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School and Angie Louise Kloft, Leading Teacher & Behaviour Coach from Bendigo Special Developmental School. Benjamin focused on Positive Behaviour Support and Safety at Home and School, while Angie's session addressed Reward Strategies for Positive Behaviour in Children with Special Needs.

The event began with introduction of speakers. The speakers delivered engaging presentations using visuals, audio-visual materials and interactive slides. Throughout the sessions, participants were involved in hands-on activities such as reflecting on personal caregiving struggles, quizzes and practical reinforcement strategy exercises.

Efforts were made to accommodate participants' language preferences. Bilingual presentation materials and live translation in Malay were provided where needed to ensure inclusivity and understanding among attendees.

SEMINAR: EMPOWERING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN PENANG

After lunch session included discussions allowing parents and care givers to share personal stories, seek advice and offer encouragement to one another. This sessions created high level of engagement and meaningful exchanges.

FEEDBACK:

Participants expressed heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to connect with others facing similar caregiving journeys. Many noted that the seminar gave them a sense of hope and empowerment and they appreciated the balance of educational content with emotional support. The use of interactive tools like Kahoot! was well received.

CONCLUSION:

The Penang seminar was a resounding success. The sessions were not only informative but also deeply moving for many attendees. The facilitators ability to adapt to the audience's needs contributed greatly to the overall effectiveness of the event. Future sessions may benefit from additional translation support and extended discussion time to allow for even deeper engagement.

PHOTOS

PENANG



INTERNATION SPECIAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM (ISES)

DATE: 13 & 14 JANUARY 2025

**VENUE: AUDITORIUM MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA TRAINING INSTITUTE
(ILKKM), SUNGAI BULOH**

ORGANIZED BY:

**SEAMEO REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
(SEAMEO SEN) AND
SELANGOR STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

IN COLLABORATION WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

**SELANGOR CHILDREN'S HERITAGE FOUNDATION (YAWAS)
SELANGOR SPECIAL CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT (ANIS)
MELAWATI ROTARY CLUB
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA TRAINING INSTITUTE (ILKKM), SUNGAI
BULOH**

PARTICIPANTS :

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS FROM ACROSS MALAYSIA
OFFICERS FROM ILKKM, SUNGAI BULOH
ANIS & YAWAS OFFICERS
NGOS**

The International Special Education Symposium (ISES) 2025 was held from 13 to 14 January 2025 at the Auditorium of the Institut Latihan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia in Sungai Buloh, Selangor. Organized by SEAMEO SEN in collaboration with the Selangor State Education Department and other strategic partners, the two-day symposium brought together educators, policymakers, professionals, and advocates committed to inclusive education. The symposium served as a platform for both local and international presenters to share best practices, innovative techniques, and effective strategies in managing the learning behaviours of children with special needs.

INTERNATION SPECIAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM (ISES)

OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthen strategic cooperation between the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) and various parties, in line with the Sixth Aspiration to improve the quality of special education in Malaysia;
- Learn effective techniques and approaches in the management of Special Education Needs Students (SENS) from invited panels;
- Gain practical experience and knowledge from trained special education schools or institutions, especially in Victoria, Australia and panels of experts from other countries;
- Build professional networks with teachers and experts in the field of special education from abroad;
- Share knowledge and experience gained with the special education community in the State of Selangor and Malaysia in general;
- Improve the skills and understanding of special education teachers through international experience; and
- Open opportunities for collaboration and exchange of ideas between special education teachers from Malaysia and abroad.

OVERVIEW

The International Special Education Symposium (ISES) 2025, held from 13 to 14 January 2025 at the Auditorium of the Institut Latihan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, Sungai Buloh, aimed to elevate the quality of special education in Malaysia through the exchange of best practices, expertise, experiences, and innovative strategies. The event was jointly organized by SEAMEO SEN, the Selangor State Education Department, and a group of strategic partners such as Rotary Club of Melawati, Selangor Children's Heritage Foundation (YAWAS), Selangor Special Needs Children Department (ANIS), and Ministry of Health Malaysia Training Institute (ILKKM), Sungai Buloh.

INTERNATION SPECIAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM (ISES)

OPENING CEREMONY

The symposium was officially launched in a vibrant Opening Ceremony graced by YB Puan Anfaal binti Saari, Selangor State Executive Council Member for Women & Family Empowerment, Social Welfare & Care Economy, and State Assembly Member for Taman Templer.

Her presence and message underscored the Selangor State Government's steadfast commitment to the empowerment and well-being of all learners, particularly those requiring additional support. Her active engagement in the care economy and social welfare sectors exemplifies the type of leadership that drives systemic change in education. We extend our sincere gratitude to YB Puan Anfaal for officiating the symposium and for her continued support toward inclusive education initiatives across the state and beyond.

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHT

This two-day symposium brought together educators, policymakers, practitioners, and advocates from Malaysia and abroad, providing a dynamic platform for professional networking and knowledge sharing. Presenters from Australia, Indonesia, and several other countries shared insights into effective classroom strategies and behavioural management approaches tailored for students with special needs.

A highlight of the symposium was the sharing of best practices and practical experiences gained from special education schools and institutions in Victoria, Australia, contributing greatly to the professional development of Malaysian educators. These international exchanges reinforced cross-border collaboration and set a strong foundation for continued partnership, particularly between Malaysia and Australia, in the field of special education.

ISES 2025 is also a direct extension of the Special Education Expedition for Malaysian Educators in Australia (SEEME in Au) Phase 1, which took place from 13 April to 22 May 2024, under the full sponsorship of the Rotary Club. The symposium served as a bridge between that groundbreaking experience and broader national efforts to improve teaching quality and student outcomes in special education.

INTERNATION SPECIAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM (ISES)

In addition, the event emphasized the importance of inclusive education as a cornerstone of the global education ecosystem. Children with special needs deserve equitable access to education through tailored approaches that respect their individual abilities and challenges. The responsibility to improve the teaching and management of students with special needs is a shared one, requiring the commitment and collaboration of all stakeholders.

The successful organization of ISES 2025 was made possible through strong cooperation between the Special Education Sector of the Selangor State Education Department and SEAMEO SEN, in collaboration with strategic partners including Rotary Club of Melawati, Selangor Children's Heritage Foundation (YAWAS), Selangor Special Needs Children Department (ANIS), and Ministry of Health Malaysia Training Institute (ILKKM), Sungai Buloh.

The symposium also aligns with Shift 9 of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013–2025, which calls for the strengthening of strategic partnerships between the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE), communities, and relevant stakeholders.

CONCLUSION:

ISES 2025 reaffirmed the critical role of inclusive and special education in the broader education ecosystem. Learners with special needs deserve equitable access to education that is tailored to their individual strengths and challenges. Ensuring this access requires commitment, collaboration, and a shared sense of responsibility from all segments of society.

As the momentum from this symposium continues, it is hoped that the knowledge exchanged and partnerships formed will contribute to long-lasting improvements in teaching quality, school management, and support systems for children with special needs in Malaysia and beyond.

INTERNATION SPECIAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM (ISES)

SPEAKERS



SHARING & WELCOMING REMARKS

MRS. JAMILAH BINTI KADIR
DIRECTOR OF
SEAMEO REGIONAL CENTRE FOR
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEAMEO
SEN)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER BRIDGING BORDERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION : COLLABORATION, STRATEGIES & IMPACT

MR. JAGDAVE SINGH A/L AVTAR SINGH,
EXCELLENT PRINCIPAL
SMK TAMAN MELAWATI



BEHAVIOURAL MANAGEMENT IN CLASSROOM

MRS. ANGIE LOUISE KLOFT
LEADING TEACHER - BEHAVIOUR COACH
BENDIGO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL,
BENDIGO, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN CLASSROOM & SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR (SWPBS)

MR. BENJAMIN RIDGE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL,
ECHUCA TWIN RIVERS SPECIALIST SCHOOL,
ECHUCA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA



SHARING OF BEST PRACTICE : MIRACLE APPROACH

DR. VELERIE WHEELERVON PRIMUS,
SENIOR ASSISTANT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION,
SK BINGKOR, SABAH, MALAYSIA
WINNER OF THE MALAYSIA TEACHER PRIZE 2024

THE ROLE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS IN HOSPITAL SCHOOLS (SDH)

MRS. PUNITHA A/P SENGODAN
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER,
SEKOLAH DALAM HOSPITAL (SDH), SELAYANG



EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN SELF-PUBLISHING CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

DR. SHYIELATHY ARUMUGAM
ACADEMIC LECTURER,
INSTITUT PENDIDIKAN GURU KAMPUS IPOH



SHARING OF SEEME IN AU SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPEDITION FOR MALAYSIA EDUCATORS IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

MS. NURAIMI NADIRAH BINTI ROHIM @ RAHIM
MRS. MAIZARITH BINTI ISMAIL
MS. VASANTA A/P GANESAN
MS. MUSFIRAH NALINI BINTI ABD RASHID

MRS. PUNITHA A/P SENGODAN
MS. FELIXIA LEE CHOON FONG
MS. FOO HOR YERN
MS. TAY MI SHYUAN

PHOTOS

ISES



SCHOOL VISIT TO SMK TAMAN MELAWATI

DATE: 16th JANUARY 2025

VENUE: SMK TAMAN MELAWATI

SMK Taman Melawati is a government secondary school that is located in Taman Melawati, Selangor. The school was established on August 1, 1991.

OBJECTIVES:

- To observe the implementation of inclusive and special education practices in a Malaysian secondary school setting, with a focus on classroom strategies, student support systems, and integration with mainstream programmes.
- To engage in professional dialogue and exchange of ideas with Malaysian special education teachers, exploring opportunities for collaboration and shared learning between educators from both countries.

OVERVIEW:

On 16 January 2025, Australian special education teachers, Ben Ridge and Angie Louise Kloft, visited the SMK Taman Melawati as part of the SEE in Malaysia initiative. The visit aimed to provide international exposure and promote knowledge sharing on inclusive education practices at the secondary level.

The teachers were welcomed by school leaders and PPKI staff, who shared insights into the structure and daily operations of the programme. They observed teaching and learning activities tailored for students with learning disabilities, and discussed strategies used to foster student engagement, functional skills development, and inclusion.

The session also allowed both Malaysian and Australian educators to reflect on similarities and differences in educational approaches, enriching their understanding of special education across cultural contexts. The visit contributed meaningfully to building long-term professional connections and promoting inclusive values in both education systems.

PHOTOS

SCHOOL VISIT



SCHOOL VISIT TO SK TAMAN MELAWATI 2

DATE: 16th JANUARY 2025

VENUE: SK TAMAN MELAWATI 2

Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Melawati 2 is a government primary school located in Taman Melawati, Selangor. It was established in 1993, and the Integrated Special Education Programme at this school was introduced the following year, in 1994. The Integrated Special Education Programme (PPKI) at this school caters to students with learning disabilities.

OBJECTIVES:

- **To Observe Integrated Special Education Practices in Primary School**
 - Evaluate how the programme integrates students with special needs in mainstream school and fosters an integrative and inclusive learning environment.
- **To Foster Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**
 - Explore opportunities for collaboration between educators and schools to exchange best practices and improve support for special education students.

OVERVIEW:

The visit on 16 January to Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Melawati 2 provided valuable insights into the implementation of the Integrated Special Education Programme (PPKI) within a mainstream primary school setting. The Australian teachers, Ben and Angie, along with members of the Rotary Club, had the opportunity to witness firsthand how the programme fosters inclusivity and supports the unique learning needs of students with disabilities.

Their interaction with the students, coupled with the detailed introduction to the PPKI, offered a deeper appreciation for the programme's commitment to creating an integrated and inclusive learning environment. This visit not only highlighted the effectiveness of integrated practices but also opened avenues for collaboration and knowledge exchange between educators and organizations. It serves as an encouraging reminder of the importance of shared efforts in advancing special education initiatives for the benefit of all learners.

PHOTOS

SCHOOL VISIT



SCHOOL VISIT TO SCHOOL IN HOSPITAL, SELYANG HOSPITAL (SDH)

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2025

VENUE: SCHOOL IN HOSPITAL, SELAYANG HOSPITAL

Selayang Hospital, located in Selayang, Malaysia, has an associated medical training facility known as the "School in Hospital." This initiative is designed to provide educational support to children who are hospitalized, ensuring that their education continues despite their medical challenges. The program typically includes a curriculum that caters to the needs of sick children, allowing them to keep up with their studies while receiving treatment.

OBJECTIVES:

- To gain insights into the implementation of inclusive education in a hospital setting, focusing on how academic and emotional support is tailored for children with various medical and special needs.
- To observe and learn effective teaching strategies, therapy integration, and multidisciplinary collaboration used to support students' learning continuity during hospitalization.
- To explore opportunities for adapting hospital-based educational practices into mainstream special education settings, especially for students with chronic illnesses or frequent medical appointments.

OVERVIEW:

On 17 January 2025, Australian teachers Ben and Angie, together with members of the Rotary Club, visited the School in Hospital at Hospital Selayang, Malaysia, as part of a professional learning visit.

During the visit, the guests received information about how the school operates and supports students who are receiving medical treatment. They also learned about the partnership between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, which helps ensure that children who are hospitalised can continue their education.

The visitors learned how teachers conduct lessons at the bedside and in special learning rooms, using flexible methods based on each student's health and learning needs. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for both groups to share ideas and learn from one another about supporting students in different educational settings.

PHOTOS

SCHOOL VISIT



SEMINAR: EMPOWERING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN SUNGAI BULOH

DATE: 18 JANUARY 2025

VENUE: SEKOLAH JENIS KEBANGSAAN (CINA) SUNGAI BULOH

ORGANIZED BY:

ROTARY CLUB OF BANDAR UTAMA & ROTARY CLUB OF MELAWATI

SUPPORTED BY:

JABATAN PENDIDIKAN NEGERI SELANGOR

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 56

OBJECTIVE:

To empower and support parents and caregivers in caring for their children with special needs.

SESSION SUMMARY:

The session began with an introduction to the program and the Rotary Club by Judy Chong from the Rotary Club of Bandar Utama (RCBU). Felixia Lee (facilitator/SEEMEInAu participant) then introduced the speakers, Angie and Benjamin, as well as facilitators Maizarith, Hor Yern, and Shyuan (facilitator/SEEMEInAu participants) to the audience.

The first sharing session was conducted by Angie Kloft, a Behaviour Coach and Leading Teacher from Bendigo Special Developmental School. She engaged participants in activities such as writing down their struggles and tossing crumpled paper to another person in the hall. Angie explained the science behind behaviour, reinforcement strategies, and different tiers of support.

The second sharing session was led by Benjamin Ridge, Vice Principal of Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School. He elaborated on behaviour management and safety strategies. Benjamin also involved the audience in activities such as quizzes and writing down their specific needs.

After the presentations, everyone had a lunch break. During this time, participants were encouraged to submit questions via Mentimeter. Ben and Angie answered most of the questions, and Felixia facilitated a Kahoot! session to review the key takeaways from the morning discussions.

SEMINAR: EMPOWERING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN SUNGAI BULOH

Following the break, participants were divided into four support groups, each facilitated by a designated team member. They were given discussion prompts to share personal struggles and exchange insights with other parents and caregivers.

To conclude the session, everyone reconvened in the hall for a closing activity focused on encouragement and reflection. Participants were asked to answer the question, “What is your child’s strength?” and share a word of encouragement for fellow parents and caregivers. Their responses were displayed on the screen in real-time.

CONCLUSION & FEEDBACK:

Although an additional activity was planned between the support group discussion and the closing session, the support groups took precedence. Participants had many important points to discuss, and extending this segment proved beneficial. The team adapted to the situation and continued facilitating the discussions to ensure meaningful engagement.

The session successfully met its objective of supporting and empowering caregivers. Many participants provided positive verbal feedback, expressing appreciation for the team’s focus on not only Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) but also the emotional well-being of caregivers. They valued the carefully designed activities and the platform that fostered mutual encouragement among caregivers.

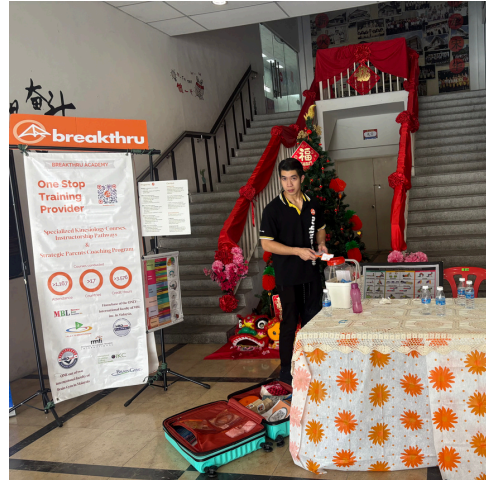
PHOTOS

SUNGAI BULOH



PHOTOS

SUNGAI BULOH



SEMINAR: EMPOWERING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN KUANTAN

DATE: 21 JANUARY 2025

VENUE: SHAHZAN HOTEL

ORGANIZED BY:

**ROTARY CLUB OF KUANTAN, ROTARY CLUB MELAWATI &
PERSATUAN IBU BAPA ANAK ISTIMEWA PAHANG**

SUPPORTED BY:

JABATAN PENDIDIKAN NEGERI PAHANG

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 80

OBJECTIVES:

- Aims to enhance the awareness and understand of parents and caregivers of neurodivergent children on positive behavioral support at home and their safety at home
- To provide practical skills for the parents and caregivers to apply in their daily lives

SESSION SUMMARY:

The seminar was mainly conducted by 2 Australian teachers; Ben Ridge, the Assistant Principal of Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School, Echuca Australia covering the topic Positive Behaviour Support & Safety in the Home and School and speaker Angie Louise Kloft, Leading Teacher & Behaviour Coach of Bendigo Special Developmental School, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia on Rewards For Positive Behaviour of Children With Special Needs. The session was facilitated by Vasanta A/P Ganesan, Nuraimi Nadirah binti Rohim @ Rahim and Tay Mi Shyuan, the Malaysian special education teachers who participated in SEE ME IN AU program.

It was an interactive session beginning with an introduction about how the seminar came about, a video speech by Dr Navin and quick video recap of the SEE ME in AU program. The speakers were introduced and they use during graphics, interactive presentation slides, audio video support during their presentation. Mid workshop, it was brought to attention that some participants are not proficient with English, language accommodation was applied with live translation in Malay and adapted slides incorporation some Malay translations.

SEMINAR: EMPOWERING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN KUANTAN

Group discussions were facilitated for the participants to share knowledge and experiences amongst each other on challenges faced and ways that has been helpful. The participants were very engaged and took longer than assigned time to finish discussions.

FEEDBACK:

Participants' verbal feedback was that it has been helpful for them to know there are other parents out there facing the same issues and that they can do something about the challenges they faced. Some of them also shared their own journey caring for their neurodivergent children

CONCLUSION:

The seminar went smoothly and participants were quite engaged. It's realized that some registered participants could not attend as the seminar was held on a Tuesday which is a working day. It is also reflected that Malay language should be adapted for future sessions.

PHOTOS

KUANTAN



FEEDBACK MEETING

DATE: 22 JANUARY 2025

VENUE: SMK TAMAN MELAWATI

ATTENDEES:

- **Nor Hasnizam binti Parman** (Senior Chief Assistant Director of Special Education Sector, Selangor State Education Department)
- **Maizatul Hasniah bt Hasan** (Deputy District Education Officer, Gombak District Education Office)
- **Muhammad Nur Zawawi bin Abd Hamid** (Assistant District Education Officer of Special Education Unit, Gombak District Education Office)
- **Mohd Shamil bin Mohd Nor** (Assistant District Education Officer of Special Education Unit, Gombak District Education Office)
- **Dr Jagdave Singh A/L Avtar Singh** (Excellent Principal of SMK Taman Melawati)
- **Dr Navin Patel** (Rotary Club of Melawati)
- **Dorris Chang** (Rotary Club of Melawati)
- **Benjamin Ridge** (Assistant Principal, Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School, Echuca, Victoria, Australia)
- **Angie Louise Kloft** (Leading Teacher-Behaviour Coach, Bendigo Special Development School, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia)
- **Amir Alzahari bin Mohamed** (President of SMK Taman Melawati Parent-Teacher Association)

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

On 22 January 2025, a feedback meeting was held in SMK Taman Melawati. The purpose of the meeting was to gather feedback, reflections, and recommendations from key stakeholders involved in the SEEME in Australia Phase II activities and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

FEEDBACK MEETING

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- **Reflections on SEEME Phase II Activities:**

- Participants appreciated the diverse engagements including the International Special Education Symposium (ISES), school visits, and seminars for parents and caregivers.
- The Australian educators, Ben Ridge and Angie Kloft shared their learning experience in Malaysia.

- **Impact Observations:**

- Strong professional learning outcomes for both local and Australian participants.
- Positive reception from schools, parents, and district/state officers on the relevance of international collaboration.
- Cultural immersion and hospitality enhanced mutual understanding and respect.

- **Strengthening Cross-Border Collaboration:**

- Emphasis on sustaining relationships between Selangor's Education Department and the Rotary Clubs involved.
- Interest from the PTA to play a larger role in future knowledge-sharing sessions with families.

- **Future Outlook:**

- All stakeholders expressed a strong desire to continue and expand the SEEME project.
- Potential funding and resource collaboration between Rotary Clubs, MOE, and NGOs.

As we have come to the close of this remarkable Rotary project, the feedback session concluded with a shared commitment to advancing the SEEME initiative. We would like to reflect on the incredible journey that we have embarked on and learn from our experiences. All attendees acknowledged the program's positive impact on professional practice and the potential it holds in shaping the future of special education in both countries. The meeting highlighted a spirit of unity, shared responsibility, and the value of sustained international partnerships. It has been a time of learning, sharing and growing. We are filled with gratitude for all involved and have contributed to making this project resounding success.

PHOTOS

FEEDBACK MEETING



ROTARY MEETINGS

ROTARY CLUB MELAWATI

15 Jan 2025 (Welcome Night)

22 Jan 2025 (Appreciation & Fellowship Dinner)

Venue: Rotary Melawati Community Centre, No 288A, Jalan Bandar 11,
Taman Melawati, 53100 Kuala Lumpur.

ROTARY CLUB DAMANSARA

16 Jan 2025

Venue: The Royal Selangor Club, Kiara Annexe, Kuala Lumpur

THE APPRECIATION AND FELLOWSHIP DINNER

The Appreciation and Fellowship Dinner was convened to acknowledge the contributions of Rotary Clubs involved in supporting the SEEME initiative, both in Australia and Malaysia. The event provided a platform to celebrate the progress of the program, exchange professional experiences, strengthen bilateral partnerships, and chart future directions for inclusive education initiatives.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Culinary Welcome:
 - Guests were treated to a selection of traditional Malaysian cuisine before the commencement of formal proceedings.
- Opening Address:
 - President Ooi SK extended a warm welcome, expressing gratitude to all stakeholders and reaffirming the Club's commitment to the SEEME mission.
- Programme Summary:
 - Past Assistant Governor (PAG) Sunthar Raj delivered an overview of the SEEME Phase 2 activities, accompanied by a photo presentation documenting the programme from commencement to conclusion. Light-hearted moments from the journey were shared, offering a glimpse into the camaraderie and shared learning among participants.

ROTARY MEETINGS

- Reflections from Australian Educators:
 - Australian educators Mr. Ben Ridge and Ms. Angie Kloft offered insightful reflections on their professional exchange experiences in Malaysia. They highlighted the valuable insights gained, cultural appreciation, and mutual respect fostered throughout their visit.
- Closing Remarks:
 - Project Chairman CP Dr. Navin Patel delivered the closing summary, candidly sharing the logistical challenges encountered in implementing the initiative. He detailed coordination efforts involving multiple Rotary Clubs across Malaysia, the Ministry of Education across several states, the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM), the Immigration Department, and the complexities of liaising with the Australian High Commission.
- Open Fellowship Session:
 - The evening concluded with an informal fellowship session that facilitated deeper networking among attendees and laid the groundwork for continued collaboration and future initiatives.

CONCLUSION

The Appreciation and Fellowship Dinner was resounding success, underscoring the value of international cooperation in advancing inclusive education for children with special needs. The event not only celebrated past achievements but also inspired renewed commitment to future undertakings under the SEEME initiative.

PHOTOS

ROTARY MEETING



TOURISM

ROYAL SELANGOR



TOURISM

SEKINCHAN



TOURISM

KUANTAN



CONCLUSION

The SEEME in Australia program stands as a testament to the power of international collaboration in advancing special education. Over two impactful phases, the program successfully connected educators, government agencies, NGOs, and Rotary Clubs from both Malaysia and Australia in a shared mission to improve the quality of education and care for children with special needs.

Phase I enabled Malaysian educators to gain valuable insights, practical skills, and cultural exposure through placements in leading Victorian special education institutions. Phase II allowed Australian trainers to experience Malaysia's diverse educational settings and share their expertise through symposiums, seminars, and school visits. Both phases fostered professional growth, cross-cultural understanding, and strong partnerships that will continue to support inclusive education efforts.

Despite the logistical and administrative challenges, the program achieved outstanding success, thanks to the dedication and cooperation of all involved. The overwhelming positive feedback and desire from stakeholders to continue this initiative, highlight its significance and long-term impact. Moving forward, SEEME will serve as a model for future collaborations, with the aim of making inclusive and quality education for all a shared reality across borders.





This project in 2 phases, Phase I (SEEME in Australia) & Phase II (SEE in Malaysia) was conceived, initiated, supported and funded by Rotary, involving several clubs in Malaysia as well as Australia. Rotary since its inception in year 1905, is actively involved in humanitarian work through numerous such projects to cater for community needs all over the world. Rotary's focus areas of work include peace & conflict resolution, disease prevention & treatment, water sanitation, maternal & child health, basic education & literacy, economic & community development and environment. There are 46 thousand Rotary clubs in the world with more than 1.4 million rotarians. Each Rotary club has members from various profession who come together to do community projects.

We are deeply indebted and very thankful to governments of Australia, Selangor State and Malaysia, especially Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and SEEMEO SEN for their kind whole hearted support. Hoping in future, we can do more for children with special needs.

