

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF MILAD

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE THE INCLUSIVE WAY

Merdeka Day commemorates the Federation of Malaya's independence from British colonial authority in 1957. However, the prejudice from the public based on the Medical Model still confines most persons with disabilities. When will disabled people be able to celebrate their independence?

To live independently, a person with a disability must live in the community rather than in an institution. We are not a patient who should exclusively receive medical treatment, nor are we a child who should be constantly safeguarded, and we are supposed to be able to govern aid.

The disabled community, on the other hand, suffers a slew of issues and barriers in their quest for independent living. In commercial and public buildings, there are insufficient

disabled-friendly amenities to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.

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Where there is provision for the blind, such as tactile tracks, some of these are poorly built and frequently obstructed by vehicles and other things. As a result, the blind are exposed to avoidable dangers. Pavements and road surfaces are frequently uneven, with potholes or steep curves, making wheelchair use difficult.

Public transportation is still insufficient and does not provide wheelchair users with full access to safe commuting. In some business places, proper ramps for wheelchair users are either lacking or indiscriminately obstructed. Due to incorrect specs, the design is occasionally problematic for wheelchair users. MILAD, Malaysia's first Independent Living Centre, has been actively involved in public awareness campaigns to change public behaviour that misuses facilities for disabled people. It also provides peer counselling and an Independent Living Program for the disabled community, as well as leadership training for other Independent Living Centres across the country.

The able-bodied frequently make use of disabled-friendly accessibilities indiscriminately. To fix the situation, public apathy and adequate enforcement are required. Regrettably, this is not happening.

Our hope for Merdeka Day is that all persons with disabilities will be able to live independently, with dignity, return to society and transform society, and contribute to the nation.



E-COMMERCE BUSINESS WORKSHOP

Due to the success and growth of interest in the e-commerce business, MILAD was grateful to have Apexx Ecommerce Academy.C , Dropshipii , H.O.C - 慈善之心 , 扶貧計劃協會 Community Care Enrichment Programme to create new learning e-commerce business opportunities for our OKU community.

Great to see people learning to take their very first baby step into e-commerce by investing their time at MILAD. Thank you our facilitators from Apexx Ecommerce Academy.C and Dropshipii for running such a great workshop! Thank you our facilitators from Apexx Ecommerce Academy.C and Dropshipii for running such a great workshop!

A big thank you to our amazing OKU friends who participated in this 2-day training workshop. we had so much fun and laughter. Feedback from all the participants was overwhelmingly positive. Kudos to all the facilitators and partners who made this a huge success and we look forward to working together even closer in the future!

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to YB Tony Pua who turned up to show his support to our community.



RESEARCH PROJECT WITH DR. MOHAMMAD MUZAMMIL

Malaysia Independent Living Association For Disabled - MILAD 大马残障自立协会 is honoured to get involved in a research on the Effectiveness of Independent Living Centre in Klang Valley. Conducted by Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat KPWKM and Institut Sosial Malaysia (ISM), led by Dr. Mohamad Muzammil Mohamad Noor, the research aims to assess the impacts of ILCs in Klang Valley.

Very little research on the impact of ILRCs in Malaysia, previously studies have focused on describing what ILRCs do and how the centers work with OKU. This study on impact is desperately needed to inform policy makers and to contribute to a paradigm shift towards Independent Living pathways.



VISITING BY YB LIM YI WEI

On July, 14th, YB Lim Yi Wei and the MBPJ Councillor Mr Ong Yew Thai paid a visit to the Malaysia Independent Living Association For Disabled (MILAD) and presented a cheque of RM7,000 to us.

Our president, Pastor Sia Siew Chin, discussed with YB Lim and Mr Ong many issues related OKU community, especially the controversial JKM Cashless Assistance Payment Pilot Project (JKMPay). JKMPay is a project that distributes half of the JKM cash aid to PWDs through a cashless card dubbed JKMPay and the rest into their bank accounts. We thank the government for providing the incentive allowance for the disabled community, however, the way of execution, which limit the types of items PWDs could buy with JKMPay, has severely caused difficulties and inconveniences for the OKU community.

It was indeed a fruitful discussion, and we appreciate YB Lim and Mr Ong who always believe in our mission to enrich people's lives by contributing to the development of the Independent Living Movement.

“ PWDs should be consulted on policies that involve them and treated as people who are able to self-determine and make their own choices. ”

~ YB Lim Yi Wei



VISITING BY LIONS CLUB SELANGOR TCM

It was our great pleasure and honour to welcome the Lions Club Selangor TCM team, led by Mr. Lee Chu Ling, at MILAD.

Concerning how the recent inflation push many OKU people over the edge, Mr. Lee and his team has also generously donated nearly RM800 in food to us. It is the beauty of community spirit like this that keeps us moving forward



NO FINGERS CHALLENGE 2022

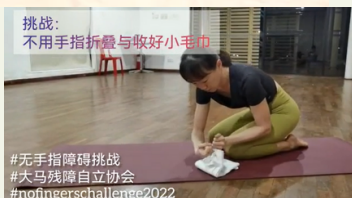
In conjunction with Merdeka Day, MILAD convened its charity-cum-awareness campaign, named “NO FINGERS CHALLENGE”

The challenge aimed to increase awareness of the issues faced by disabled people; gain a better understanding of what disability means and the dynamics involved in assisting people with disabilities; and to raise one-year expenses for MILAD to provide services, promote the Independent Living Movement, and improve the support for people with disabilities..

MILAD has been extremely honoured to have Tan Chia Yong, Grace Wang, Serene Cheam, Chan Wei Wi, Deborah Tee, Wong You Huat, Chan Fong, Xu Fengming, Eric Lim Boon Bing, and Tan Horng Han for joining us as our lovely event ambassadors.

During the event period from 16th to 31st August, participants had to complete at least THREE tasks without using their fingers. We were thrilled to see many participants shared with us their experiences on various social media platforms.

We would like to thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success. The energy levels and the sincerity which was displayed were exemplary.



DONATION PLEDGE FORM

I (WE) WOULD LIKE TO PLEDGE TO MILAD

NAME(S) MAKING PLEDGE:

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PLEDGE:

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

PHONE:

EMAIL:

**MALAYSIA INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSOCIATION FOR DISABLED**

MAYBANK

5122 3141 0368

SWIFT CODE: MBBEMYKL

EMAIL: INFO@MILADMALAYSIA.ORG

MILADMALAYSIA@GMAIL.COM

TEL: 013-397 3386

ADDRESS: NO. 33, JALAN SS3/14, TAMAN
UNIVERSITI, 47300 PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR



WHO ARE WE?

Malaysia Independent Living Association for Disabled ("MILAD") is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation run by a group of people with disabilities, to help people with disabilities toward Independent Living, regardless of their background, race and religion.

OUR VISION

It is our vision to establish a society that embraces the concept of Independent Living which promotes the disabled peoples full inclusion and participation in the community, wherein the disabled people are given the same life opportunities and the same choices in everyday life that the non-disabled people take for granted.



OUR GOAL

Our goal is to train, equip and empower the people with disabilities to live independently, and at the same time advocating for equal rights and opportunities for them. We strive toward creating awareness so that the general public will have the right perspective toward disability and people with disabilities, and hence able to help transform the society to allow full inclusion and participation at every possible level by the disabled people.

