

Unimas team on a project to trace successful Malaysians with dyslexia

KUCHING: Mention successful people who have dyslexia and names like Albert Einstein or Tom Cruise will crop up.

But are there any Malaysians who have coped with dyslexia and gone on to succeed in life?

To answer this question, Assoc Prof Dr Ong Puay Hoon from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) is leading a research project to identify successful Malaysians with dyslexia.

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PROF DR ONG PUAY HOON

Dr Ong, who is also president of the Sarawak Dyslexia Association, said her team had secured a grant from the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry to conduct the research.

"Dyslexia is a well-known condition in the West but less so in Malaysia. My team members and I would like to trace successful adult Malaysians who have coped with dyslexia.

"We want to highlight their success so that they can be an inspiration and role models to children with dyslexia," she told reporters after receiving a minor rural project (MRP) grant of RM4,000 for the association from Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah yesterday.

According to Dr Ong, dyslexia is a



Timely aid: Fatimah handing over a minor rural project grant to Sarawak Nursing Professionals Association chairman Margareth Wong.

learning difficulty that causes difficulty in sounding out words, reading, spelling and writing.

Other symptoms include avoiding reading aloud, suffering from anxiety when asked to read aloud and confusion with directional words such as left/right.

Dyslexics can also have poor time and space management but are creative in thought and learn best through hands-on experience and

visual aids.

Dr Ong also said the association was organising the first Asia-Pacific Conference on Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK) on June 24 to 27 this year.

"We are calling for submission of abstracts for the conference," she said.

She added that the association would hold a rope-skipping competi-

tion on Jan 19 for individuals with disabilities to enhance their mental agility and alertness.

Meanwhile, Fatimah also handed over MRP grants of RM4,000 to the Sarawak Indian Women Association and RM10,000 to the Sarawak Nursing Professionals Association.

She also witnessed the Sarawak Indian Women Association presenting a donation of RM3,000 to the Hindu Temple Association.