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Conference to draw attention to specific learning abilities

BY NORNASHEILA ZAIDI

KUCHING: The First Asia-Pacific Conference on Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities 2013 (APCoLD 2013) which was organised by Dyslexia Association of Sarawak was seen as the golden opportunity for those dealing with dyslexic children.

Minister of Welfare, Women, and Family Development Datuk Hajah Fatimah Abdullah said that the objective of the conference was to draw attention to specific learning disabilities.

"This conference also will be able to promote research work on these disabilities among postgraduate students, academicians and health professionals as well as to bring together experts from both abroad and within the country.

"This will become a common platform for the experts to discuss these disabilities and their associated issues," said Fatimah.

Fatimah said this to the media in a press conference after receiving a courtesy call from the members of Dyslexia Association of Sarawak in her new office at Baitul Makmur building at Petra Jaya, here yesterday.

According to Fatimah the target groups were teachers, school managers, early childhood educators, health professionals, parents and providers of international and private education.

The total number of participants expected is 400 comprising those from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, China and other countries.

Fatimah said that, so far, they



DATUK Hajah Fatimah Abdullah (2nd right) taking a close look at the conference programme brochure, while Sarawak Dyslexia Association chairperson Dr. Ong Puay Hoon (right), vice president Richard Sia Chun Huat, and publication head Haironi Yusoff (left) look on. PHOTO: JOHN CHAN

had received confirmations on participations from Malaysia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, India and Japan.

The conference will be held on 24 to 27 June 2013 at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCCCK), here.

The Association's President Dr. Ong Phay Hoon who led the delegation yesterday said that

there will be six themes for the conference namely Policies in Health and Education, Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis and Remedial and Intervention.

The conference also will discuss topics comprising Social-Emotional Dimensions and Creativity, ICT and Technological Innovations and as well as Advocacy.

"The APCoLD 2013 conference is collaborated and supported by different government bodies such as Ministry of Health, Social Welfare Department, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Centre of Excellence of Disability Studies of UNIMAS, Sarawak Convention Bureau, Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau," said Ong.