

**CONFERENCE ON THE REHABILITATION OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES 1MALAYSIA
(3RD MCR CONFERENCE)**

20 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2010

**HANDING OVER OF THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS BY DATO' DR.
ZALIHA OMAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, TO THE
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DATO' DR. NOORUL AINUR MOHD NUR, AT
THE CLOSING CEREMONY.**

BACKGROUND

The Conference on the rehabilitation of PWD 1Malaysia started with a two day pre-conference amongst a few members of the Scientific Committee and two experts on evaluation assessment from Universiti Sains Malaysia. The objective of the session is to analyse the content of a course, namely the 'Kursus Memperkasakan Ekonomi OKU 1Malaysia Melalui Penilaian Berteraskan Insan'. The course was held in Penang with the collaboration of Centre of Disability Studies, University of Sydney, Australia, Centre for Special Education, Universiti Sains Malaysia and the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. Findings were obtained from rapporteurs' report, 5 types of assessment models for Person-Centred Planning and the reports from the evaluation experts.

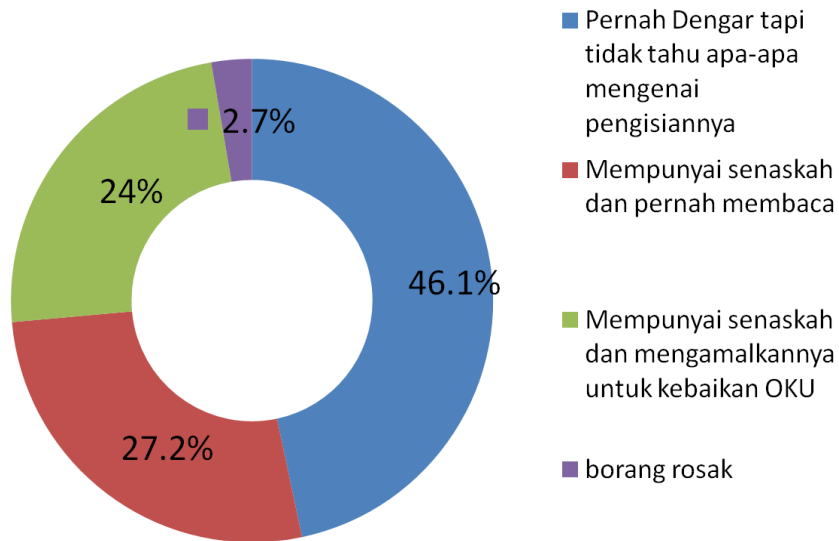
The main conference was a three day session smoothly run and yet full of vigour. Although about 500 participants were expected, a total of 580 actually attended, an encouraging number in view of our efforts to develop the economic empowerment programme which is expected to lift a number of PWD from poverty and hence their dependence upon Government aid and charitable bodies.

The conference tabled 7 plenary sessions, two forums and ten simultaneous workshops. The plenary sessions were to encourage interactions and the workshops focused on ten different scenarios based on true stories in EEP, were organised to obtain varied discussions, opinions and constructive criticism for the benefit of the potential of PWD or entrepreneur.

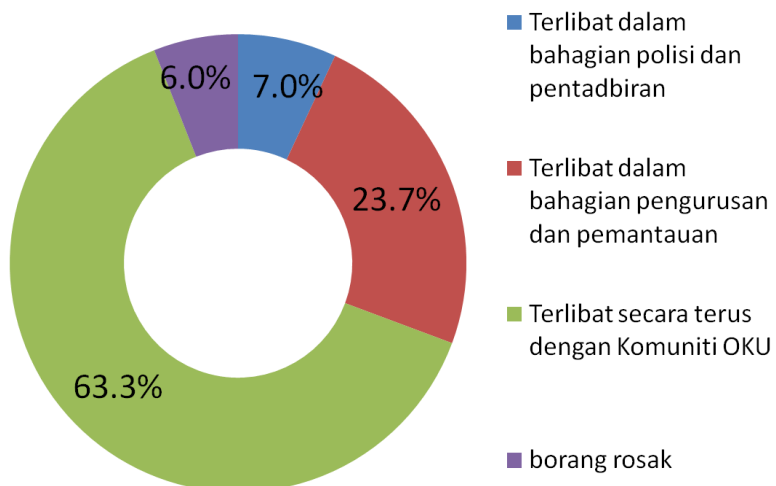
At present, there are 38,454 PWD being employed but we do not know how many among these are able to be guided, to increase their level of knowledge and skills, so as to enable them to earn more, thus take them away from the rank of poverty, no longer dependent upon 'elaun pekerja cacat'.

This conference has been improved with the introduction of three levels of evaluation, pre-conference, content of conference and post-conference. Feedback based on the pre-conference questionnaire on the participants' background knowledge on EEP is reflected in the findings below.

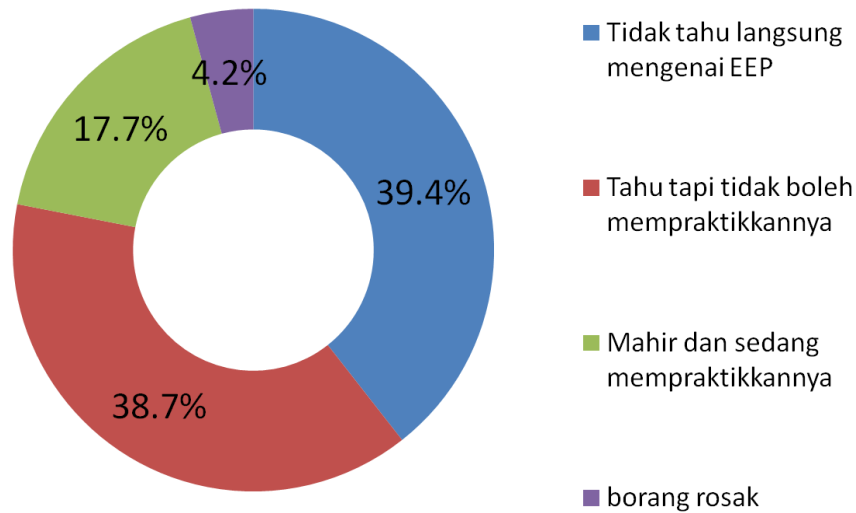
Pengetahuan Akta OKU 2008 (AKTA 685)



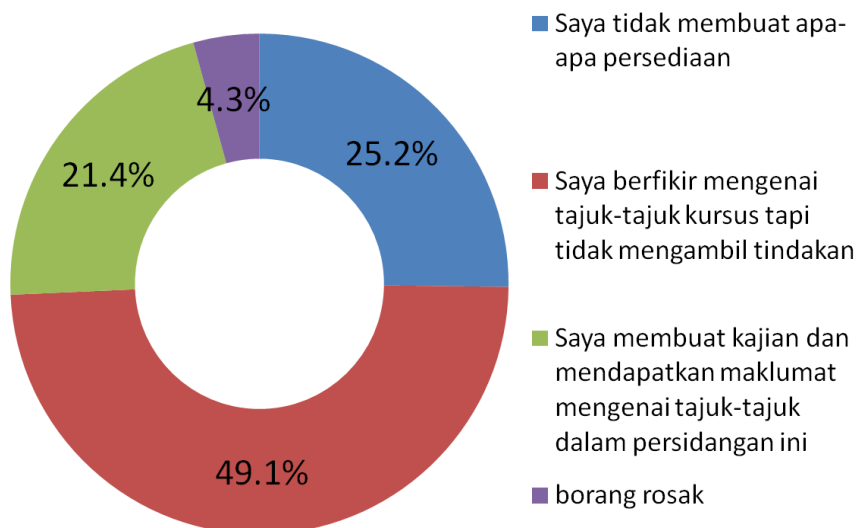
Penglibatan Dengan Komuniti OKU



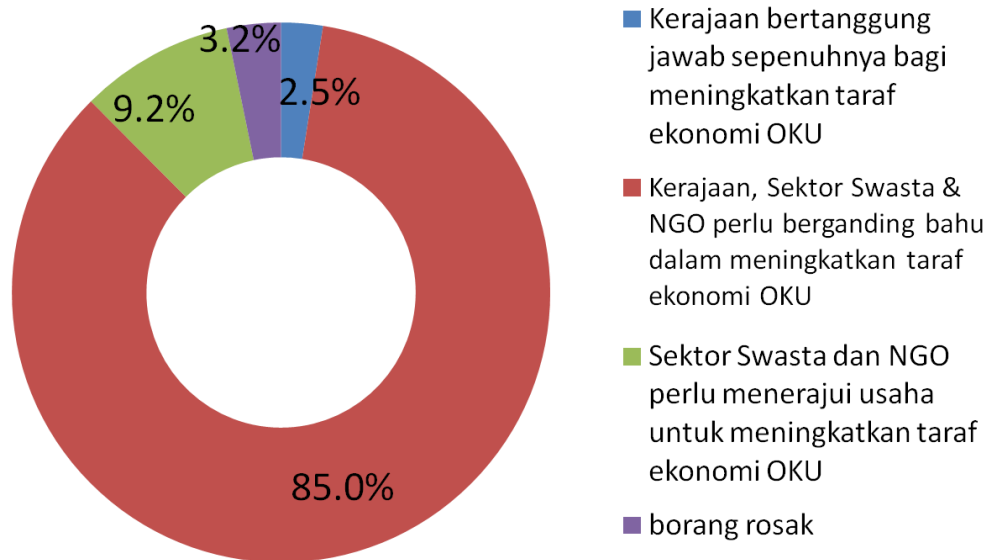
Kemahiran Dalam Melaksanakan Program Memperkasakan Ekonomi (EEP) OKU?



Persediaan Menghadiri Kursus



Pihak Bertanggungjawab



RESOLUTIONS

1. The Resolutions attained at the previous Conference should be studied to ascertain the extent to which follow-up action had been done, whether action plans and monitoring have been undertaken.
2. When a Conference shifts its focus from a varied and general coverage to a specific and in-depth one, participants must come prepared with background knowledge of the theme of the Conference, so that there would not be a disparity and contradiction of information which might confuse and waste time in efforts at finding reconciliation.
3. MCR should be given the opportunity to represent all the NGOs which are affiliated to it in all dealings with the Ministry, so that the setting up of standards and the giving of assistance would be done judiciously. There are 22 NGOs which are affiliated to MCR, of which 18 are registered with the Department of Welfare. There are many more associations which have links with the Ministry's target groups, but which are not registered. Close cooperation between MCR and the Ministry would ensure the collective strength of all those groups which are interested in issues of Persons with Disabilities (PWD), by being on one platform which brings benefit to all.
4. The Competency approach should be utilised for establishing a Standard Evaluation of the levels of knowledge, skills, attitudes and characteristics of all those persons concerned in the implementation of the 'Economic Empowerment Programme (EEP)' of the PWDs, so that

accurate actions could be undertaken by organizations with the PWDs, within the guidelines and principles of 'Person-Centred-Planning', 'Job-Placement' and 'Job-Coaching'.

5. Innovative Packages should be devised to enable the use of a common approach, but still with encouragement for creativity in dealing with various needs of PWDs.

6. An Information Network, using innovative technological approaches in all activities, should be established. By exploring the use of Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) Instruments for example, the sharing of information and consequently the saving of time could be achieved in repeatable tasks.

7. The largest group of PWD is that of intellectual disabilities, a high percentage of whom are children and youth. PWD of learning disabilities need a whole system of support be it job placement officers, job coach, mentors at work place and job instructions made simple in picture or graphics form. An approach which provides technology-based support systems which have been proven suitable, accurate and reputed to be highly successful, must be established. The use of Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) Instruments as enshrined in the *AKTA OKU 2008 (AKTA685)* is one technological approach which has been ascertained useful and ought to be accepted.

8. Research and Development ought to be undertaken with smart partnerships with institutions of higher learning which are rich in expertise and other resources, which could contribute to the derivation of accurate and up-to-date facts, which can further be the basis for the formulation of policies on the upgrading of services for PWDs.

9. The centralisation of activities by small-scale entrepreneurs could achieve 'Economies of Scale'. It would consolidate or enhance opportunities for marketing, accuracy of monetary management, training, job opportunities, and certainty of returns on investment of resources. The Ministry should seize opportunities for providing services in training, the giving of loans, and mentoring, such as those being provided by MARA, Banks and other institutions involved in the development of 'Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)' by means of smart partnerships between Ministries and the Private Sector. This will enable the shift of the 'EEP' from 'Charity-based' to one that is 'Social-Enterprise-based'.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Participants of the Conference hereby request the good offices and consideration of Y.Bhg. Dato', The Secretary General, to pursue, accept and implement the Resolutions submitted on this date.

Sincerely,

Dato' Dr. Zaliha Omar

Chairman, Scientific Committee

Conference on the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities 1MALAYSIA

22 September 2010.