

SARAWAK: DRIVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

There was a time when successful conferences were purely recognised by the delegate attendance and expenditure that would be pocketed into the economy. Today, this is not the case.

Sarawak is one of the very few destinations in the world to conduct a study on the types of legacy impacts derived from business events that are categorised into 4 core pillars; *Advancing the Field, Community Benefits, Economic Outcome and Public Policy.*

The recently held Sarawak Conference on Inclusive Early Childhood Education (SCIECE) 2019 - themed 'Accept, Accompany and Achieve' - addressed the existing global challenges of recognising children with special needs. The Convention of the Rights of the Children (CRC) by the United Nation 1995 states that all children have rights to access education and health therefore inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) is the way forward and Sarawak is ahead of some other major destinations.



Award-winning conference organiser and director of Special Olympics Malaysia, Dr. Toh Teck Hock, has pulled off what is probably one of Sarawak's most successful ECE conferences to date, with a participation of over 800 delegates worldwide from 20 countries and a portfolio of 83 speakers from around the globe.

What made this conference a top of its league were the immediate impacts of the event. Over 50% of the total delegation signed a pledge to support inclusive ECE and develop strategies to push for inclusive policies in the education sector. With the Sarawak Government's emphasis on creating a supportive learning environment for special needs children, SCIECE 2019 will be the catalyst to change the overall policy on inclusive education in Malaysia.

Legacy Impact is not a trend. It is what conferences were made for.