



Four years ago, Malaysia's Social Security Organization (SOSCO/PERKESO) launched the country's first Return to Work Program. Since then, Malaysia has made monumental strides in improving disability management knowledge and practices in the region. Now, SOSCO is taking another step in solidifying its leadership role in disability management among Asian nations by hosting the International Forum on Disability Management in Kuala Lumpur in 2016.

Stay tuned for more on emerging themes for the Forum and the launch of a new website. In the meantime, the IDMSC Communiqué caught up with the Head of Operations, Edmund Cheong of SOSCO's Return to Work Section; he had this to say about the IFDM in 2016.

Social Security Organization of Malaysia Announces Plans to Host IFDM in 2016

IDMSC: Why is it significant for SOSCO to host an International Forum on Disability Management in 2016?

EC: SOSCO introduced the Return to Work Program in 2007, and 2016 will mark the 10th year that disability management structures were formally introduced in this country's statutory social insurance. The IFDM 2016 will definitely display SOSCO's leadership roles in the introduction of DM structures in Malaysia.



IDMSC: Why do you think the forum is important for Malaysia and internationally?

EC: The IFDM 2016 would further initiate a change amongst various organizations to explore the concept of disability management to improve the social structure and protection in Malaysia. This would also indirectly influence the south-east Asian, and the Asian region, to look at disability management structures seriously as a right strategy to ensure social justice is delivered to all. Apart from that, the forum would also expose the experience and also the challenges of disability management implementation from the perspective of Malaysia, a developing nation, which can be used as a learning platform for other developing nations.

IDMSC: What kind of topics will be tackled at the conference?

EC: The topics should cover the bio-psycho-social context of disability management to cater to the various stakeholders, such as the medical fraternity, employers, employees, academicians, insurance providers and, in particular, those who are involved in disability management directly.

IDMSC: What can Forum attendees look forward to in 2016 / Kuala Lumpur?

EC: The conference is set to be organized in Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia. The Kuala Lumpur City Centre is about 30 minutes from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by the KLIA Express train.

Kuala Lumpur is the most vibrant city in Malaysia. It was established in 1857 and has the Klang and Gombak Rivers flowing through its metropolitan core.

Rapid development has seen many parks, museums, shopping malls, memorials and galleries being built to promote the city to a growing number of tourists and residents. Petronas Twin Towers and KL Tower are the two most visited modern buildings in Kuala Lumpur.

In the midst of the rapid development, historical landmarks such as Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Dataran Merdeka, Royal Selangor Club, Kuala Lumpur Railway Station and other pre-war buildings have been preserved.

For the visitors who plan to stay on longer after the forum, they can also explore the peaceful islands around Malaysia. Malaysia boasts of having the best island destination in this region.

Watch for more updates on the IFDM 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at www.idmsc.org and at www.nidmar.ca.