

# **END-YEAR REPORT DECEMBER 2016**

# INDEX

3	SUMMARY
4 – 14	HIGHLIGHTS
15	PARTNERSHIPS
16 – 17	MEDIA APPEARANCES
18	SPONSORSHIPS
19	MOVING FORWARD

# SUMMARY

2016 has been a momentous year. Early Autism Project turned 10 years old, and in conjunction with this milestone, The Hope Project was birthed. Under The Hope Project umbrella, there are and will be continuous campaigns, services and resources which are readily available for our community – in line with its vision to make world-class services for autism accessible to all.

Below is a report that details the outworking of The Hope Project's events, collaborations, campaigns, services and resources for 2016. This report will be updated every term for accountability and transparency purposes.

To stay updated with this report or if you have any questions at all, drop us an email at [projects@autismmalaysia.com](mailto:projects@autismmalaysia.com).

All throughout the year, our activities will also be continuously updated through our social media links and website:

-  [www.autismmalaysia.com](http://www.autismmalaysia.com)
-  [www.facebook.com/eapmalaysia](http://www.facebook.com/eapmalaysia)
-  [@eapmalaysia](https://www.instagram.com/eapmalaysia)
-  [www.pinterest.com/eapmalaysia](http://www.pinterest.com/eapmalaysia)

# HIGHLIGHTS

WE HOSTED 3 MAJOR AWARENESS AND EQUIPPING EVENTS



## WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY – 2<sup>ND</sup> OF APRIL

Held in USCI University (North Wing), we saw about 300 people gather to celebrate and encourage acceptance and awareness of autism in Malaysia. On this day, we also pioneered Malaysia's first Paint for Autism. Paint for Autism represents the collaborative effort of the community to come together, and celebrate hope for individuals with autism.



## EAP'S 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 8<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER

Titled Speech & Language Development in Children, the conference was held in Vistana Hotel KL with 120 participants from various medical and professional backgrounds. EAP's director, Jochebed Isaacs presented on various topics including red flags of speech delay, milestones of speech development, encouraging speech in a group setting and more to equip our community with relevant and practical skills to develop better speech and language in their children.



## EAP'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY & THE HOPE PROJECT LAUNCH – 8<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER

The Hope Project (in partnership with Yayasan Kajian Pembangunan Malaysia) was launched in conjunction with EAP's 10-Year Anniversary. We celebrated the milestones of EAP since 2006 and also raised funds for The Hope Project's outworking for 2017. More than 200 guests joined us for the launch as Subang Jaya State Assemblyman, YB Hannah Yeoh launched the non-profit initiative.

## RAN 2 HOSPITAL BOOTH CAMPAIGNS



**Pantai Hospital Bangsar  
11, 12, 14 March 2016**



**Gleneagles Hospital KL  
19, 21, 22 March 2016**

Having hospital booths allowed us to have direct, interactive engagement with families and children in our local community to further boost education and awareness about autism. We spent 3 days respectively at both hospitals and engaged with about 300 people. For these campaigns, we provided informative resources and held an engagement activity to help people learn more about how it feels like to have autism.



### THE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

The engagement activity was a video where participants listened to 30 seconds of instructions where they had to figure out what was being said. 1 phrase was repeated in many different foreign languages during this time. The phrase was 'Draw A Blue Car, and the purpose of the activity was to demonstrate how it feels to have autism – how others may converse may not be how people with autism would understand, instead, it often sounds foreign to them. What is learned is based on the words of Dr. Ivar Lovaas: "If they can't learn the way we teach, we teach the way they learn".

**PARTICIPATED IN 5 CAMPAIGNS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS**

**Fairfields Kindergarten –  
Themed ‘Love Someone With Autism’ (12 July)**



**Sri Emas International School –  
Fundraising + Awareness Campaign (25 Nov)**



**HELP International School –  
Themed ‘Love Someone With Autism’ (25 Mar)**



**Kingdomcity Kids –  
Themed ‘Love Someone With Autism’ (11 Apr)**



**Taylor’s College Subang (SS15) –  
Educational campaign ‘Prism Project’ (19/20 July)**



**COLLABORATED ON 4 CAMPAIGNS IN THE CORPORATE WORKFORCE**

**MALAYSIAN CHINESE ASSOCIATION (MCA)**



11 April – Conducted an introductory workshop about autism and Applied Behavioural Analysis and how to apply knowledge to practical, daily settings. The workshop was conducted in both English and Mandarin by Jochebed Isaacs (EAP) and Dr. Nan Huai (WEAP), with about 120 attendees present.

**EMC COMPUTER SYSTEMS MALAYSIA**



27 April – Jochebed Isaacs conducted a lunch seminar with parents who are in the corporate workforce and explored skill-based topics for busy parents to be able to monitor their child's development and cultivate productive environments for their children.

**HUMAN LIBRARY @  
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (PWC)**



20 September – EAP Supervisor Sarah Woo presented at Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) about autism and how it affects our community in collaboration with Human Library. The campaign included interactive Q and A sessions about what working in the field of autism looks like and what can be achieved together in the years to come.

**GLENEAGLES KUALA LUMPUR**



7 December – EAP Supervisor Nisha along with Chee Meng presented on 'Being A Cool Friend' to children between the ages of 6-12 as part of Gleneagles School Holiday Programme. The programme helped children understand what autism is and how to be a better friend to those who seem different.

6 PRESENTATIONS IN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY  
25 April



HELP UNIVERSITY (3 TALKS)  
4 March, 14 September, 12 October



SEGI COLLEGE SUBANG  
27 June



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY (IMU)  
21 July





## PROVIDED 33 COMPLIMENTARY SCREENINGS

Initial screenings and diagnostic evaluations are the processes that analyze the risk of autism in a child. This process normally requires 2-hours (at least) per child where there are various activities that are run-through including child-interactivity and interviews with parents to ensure consistency and accuracy in the final results. At the end of the screening sessions, a report is also produced to conclude the level of development of the child and to provide recommendations for therapy should any be needed.

For 2016, EAP provided 33 complimentary screenings based on recommendations, advice and discretion of our internal clinic team. These screenings were conducted by EAP Supervisors and included the children at IDEAS Autism Centre, whom we are partnering with for 2017.



**PROVIDED 2 TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS**

Complimentary trainings and workshops are categorized under EAP's outworking of non-profit services. All trainings and workshops are tailored to the specific organization or school depending on the needs and direction that they are working towards.

**KINGDOMCITY  
KIDS  
IMPACTORS**  
*9 April*

*We reached out to Kids Impactors and how to utilize practical and relevant skills when working with children with autism.*



**EATON INT.  
SCHOOL**  
*28 January*

*We trained teachers at Eaton International School to equip them with useful skills when working with children with autism.*



## AWARDED 1 HALF-TIME SCHOLARSHIP

A half-time scholarship was awarded to Aaryn & Abrianna to have access to ABA therapy at EAP Malaysia.



## UNDERTOOK 5 RESEARCH INTERVIEWS REQUEST FROM STUDENTS

We often receive requests for research interviews and data collection/observation at EAP. Due to our privacy and confidentiality policies, data collection and observation of children are not allowed. Below are the list of colleges and universities that we undertook research interviews from based on their requests and the availabilities of our supervisors.

INSTITUTION	TOPIC
IACT College	'Awareness of Autism in Malaysia'
INTI International College Subang	'Research Methods in Media & Communication for Autism'
Tunku Abdul Rahman University	'Assessment, Prevalence & Interventions of ASD'
London School of Economics	Thesis research: 'Autistic People in Malaysia: A comparative review of Malaysian and English law'
Taylor's International School	Assignment research: 'Should children with autism be treated as normal?'

**PRODUCED 52 BLOG POSTS**

Blog posts were produced once every week – every Wednesday. Below are some examples:



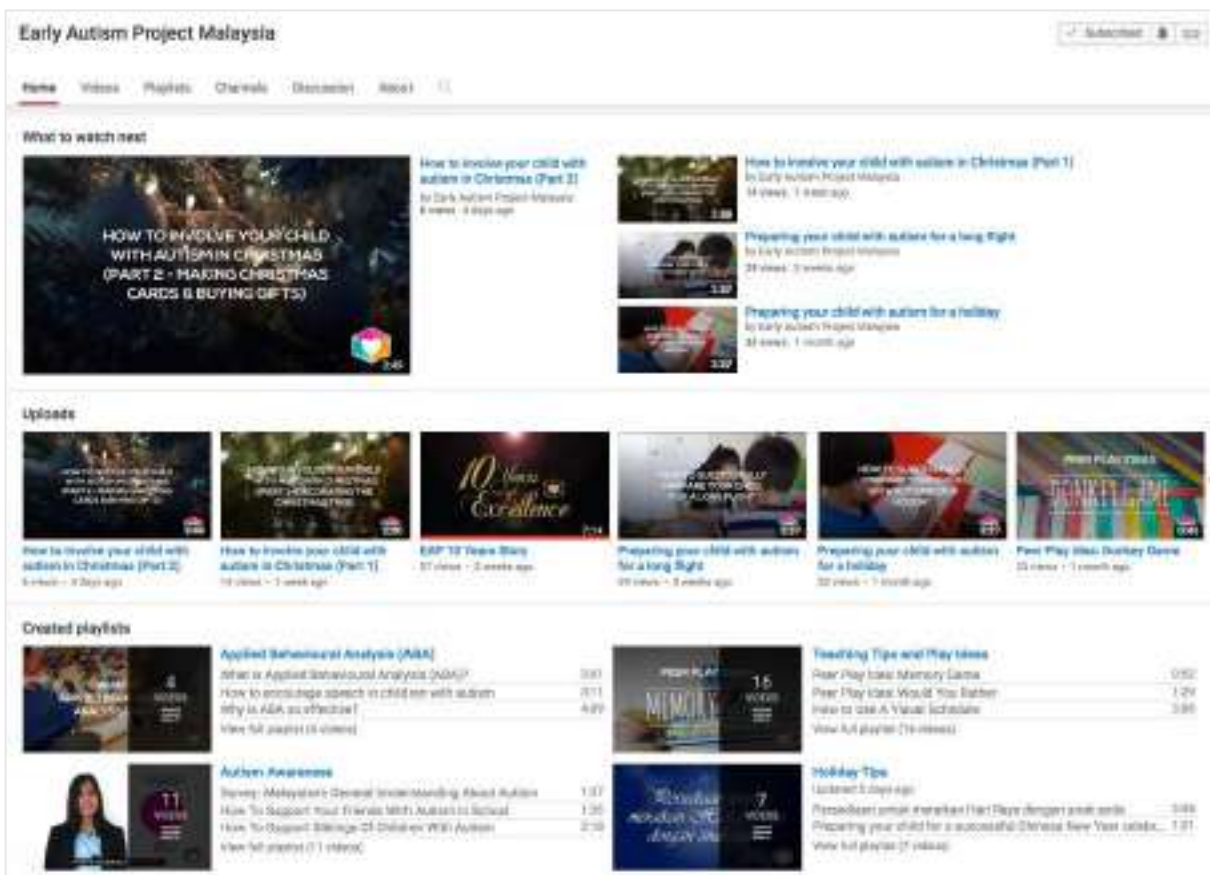
**PRODUCED MULTILINGUAL RESOURCES**

We also produced two types of resources this year: Facts & Myths About Autism and About Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA). Facts & Myths About Autism were translated to Malay and Mandarin as well. These resources are distributed during our awareness campaigns and events. These resources are also downloadable from our website.



**PRODUCED 22 VIDEO RESOURCES**

Among these videos were series such as ‘How To Prepare Your Child for A Holiday’, ‘School Support Series’ and ‘The Myth Series’. These resources were internally written and produced with constant fact-checking and references. With the inclusion of practical tips for parents, these resources reached more than 250,000 views altogether and are still growing by the day.



Our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/autismmalaysia](http://www.youtube.com/autismmalaysia)

**Our most-watched video is ‘How To Support Your Friend With Autism In School’, which garnered more than 46,000 (+) views and 1150 (+) shares on Facebook. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, we also produced our first video resource with Malay subtitles.**

Among the countries reached through our video resources include Malaysia, Singapore, India, United Kingdom, Germany, Thailand, Canada, Mexico, USA (including California, Florida, Texas, North & South Carolina, Illinois).

# PARTNERSHIPS

## YAYASAN KAJIAN PEMBANGUNAN MASYARAKAT (YKPM)

It is the core of our beliefs that our projects to be community-centered, and to do this well was never to do it alone. Therefore, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, the Hope Project was launched in partnership with Yayasan Kajian Pembangunan Masyarakat (YKPM).

Yayasan Kajian dan Pembangunan Masyarakat (YKPM) was incorporated in September 1993 as the Centre for Community Studies Bhd (CCS). Its main objectives and programs are to empower and work alongside poor communities, both rural and urban. Over the years, YKPM has been working with Orang Asli-Jakun communities in the Pekan district through socio-economic development programmes. They are also working with Methodist College, The Malaysian Association of Social Workers in developing a 'Diploma in Social Work' course. With this, YKPM also builds on public policy advocacy and capacity-building. This partnership will enable both organizations to work together to continue to reach more low-income families and their members with autism.

## IDEAS AUTISM CENTRE

The IDEAS Autism Centre (IAC) is an early intervention service provider which provides holistic early intervention, care, therapy and education to 31 children with autism aged 3 to 9 from low-income households, who parents have almost no access to specialised care and therapy sessions due to high costs.

Since its inception in December 2012, the IAC has helped 17 children gain entry into mainstream government schools and continues to support children with autism from the bottom 40 percent through its services, which has in turn helped their families get back on their feet. The Hope Project will be working with IAC has a pilot initiative to equip the IAC educators in Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA), which is the evidence-based treatment for autism, and to strengthen the quality of services produced.

# MEDIA APPEARANCES

All feature interviews combined, we made 27 media appearances in 2016. These include TV, radio, newspapers and magazines. Appearances are detailed below:

No	Media	Title
1	Malaysian Women's Weekly	Feature: Prioritize Relationship-Building
2	Lite FM (Breakfast Show)	Radio Interview: Working With Individuals with Autism
3	Lite FM (Breakfast Show)	Radio Interview: Importance of Early Intervention
4	Bernama: Hello Malaysia	TV feature: What Is Autism, ABA, Red flags
5	The Star	Feature: Doing Small Things with Great Love
6	Sin Chew Daily	Feature: What Is Applied Behavioural Analysis
7	Berita Harian	Feature: Kepentingan Pengesanan Awal Autisme
8	Sin Chew Daily	Feature: Using ABA to Treat Autism
9	The Star	Event News: Treating Autistic With Love
10	Harian Metro	Event News: Intervensi Awal Mampu Beri Harapan
11	New Straits Times	Feature: Shaping A New Future
12	The Star	Event News: Painting A Better Future for The Autistic
13	Malaysian Women's Weekly	Feature: Changing Lives
14	Free Malaysia Today	Feature: Stigma Towards Autism Still Persistent
15	Utusan Malaysia	Feature: Bantu Kanak-Kanak Autisme Berjaya
16	Malaysian Women's Weekly	Feature: Is Your Kid Having Speech Difficulties?
17	Bernama	Event News: EAP Launches Non-Profit Initiative
18	Malay Mail	Feature: Hope for Children with Autism
19	Brunei Times	Feature: Communication, Interaction Vital for Autistic Kids
20	Business FM	Feature: The Economic Impact of Autism
21	Bernama Radio	Radio Interview: Introduction to autism and ABA
22	Laniege	Feature: Introduction to Autism and ABA
23	Focus Malaysia	Feature: Autism & The Launch of The Hope Project
24	Astro V-Buzz	TV Feature: The Hope Project Launch
25	NTV7 Living Delight	TV Event News: World Autism Awareness Day 2016
26	Free Malaysia Today	Feature: Hope Burns Bright for Greater Autism Awareness
27	Harian Metro	Feature: Fahami Gejala Autisme



Through these media appearances, we hope to continue to reach families and communities through education, and to spread hope and awareness about autism.

**20** SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 15, 2016

**PEOPLE**



# Hope for children with autism

**By Sachina Dominic**  
*sachina@mmail.com.my*

ALL children are created equal, though some have extraordinary traits that parents may take some time to fathom. As many as one in 68 newborns are affected by autism, according to the National Autism Society of Malaysia.

Jochebed Isaac, programme director of the Early Autism Project Malaysia, is passionate about giving autistic children an equal opportunity to learn. In conjunction with Early Autism Project's 10th anniversary recently, a non-profit arm called The Hope Project was launched.

“With this individualised concept, you can imagine just how high the cost of the fees will be. That is the challenge most Malaysian parents are facing today.”

The Hope Project aims to address three specific areas: awareness on early diagnosis, lack of national standards, and its high cost that makes it inaccessible for many.

“What we want to



Jochebed says The Hope Project provides accessible treatment programmes for those who need it.

do with the project is to make world-class services for autism accessible to all,” said Jochebed.

“If you want to enrol your autistic child under a really good quality intensive programme, it will cost you thousands a month. You can do a treatment programme which is free or costs a few hundred ringgit, but the quality of it may not be up to mark. The intensive programme where the teachers are with the child on a one-to-one basis, that’s where the cost is really high.”

Expensive though it is, that is the only way to close the gap between autistic children and the rest of them in schools, and give them a chance to catch up.

She said while autism may not be fully curable, many children are able to manage it well, allowing them to improve drastically over time.

“Autism is a spectrum from mild to moderate to severe. Children can progress to have less and less symptoms of autism, or if they are left untreated, their conditions can worsen over time.

“The symptoms can get more severe or more minimal depending on how early they start treatment. It is recommended to get your children checked from 18 months onwards.”

The website [www.babycenter.com](http://www.babycenter.com) has been set up so parents are able to check if their child is reaching their baby milestones at the recommended time. It is a way of detecting if a child has autism if he or she does not show the normal signs of development.

The Early Autism Project usually works with 30 to 40 children at any one time due to their space limitation, and has worked with 300 children from 30 different countries over the last 10 years.

“We have a lot of expatriates whom we work with, and some families who have moved here to get some help. There are quite a number of autism centres in Malaysia now — both non-profit and private centres. The non-profit ones usually charge minimal fees and are targeted at the low-income group.

“This is the way we are going to run The Hope Project — we’ve already done a few initiatives. Some of the things we’ve done over the years include the World Autism Awareness Day campaigns and acceptance campaigns in schools and churches. We do public presentations as well.”

Aside from campaigns, activities such as organising training workshops and complimentary screenings for families with autistic children were held.

They also have informative, multilingual resources such as videos and flyers.

“What I really want to do is impact special education and education as a whole. I feel that the approach of teaching can be so positive that all kids can learn.”

Jochebed said children in government schools have so much potential, and if teaching methods are changed, it can make a difference.

Although no one in Jochebed’s family is affected by autism, she is passionate about the subject simply because of her upbringing, where her parents brought up her siblings and herself to volunteer and help others.



Jochebed with her energetic toddler. — Pictures by Razak Ghazali

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Throughout the year, there were people, organizations and communities that have stepped into sponsor the work of The Hope Project. We also had the privilege of working in collaboration with organizations and schools to raise funds while campaigning for the awareness and acceptance of autism in Malaysia. Sponsors and collaborators are detailed below in alphabetical order:

Acknowledgements	Description
Ash Be Nimble	Participated in April's awareness campaign and vendor at World Autism Awareness Day.
Baked KL	Donated 10% of their November & December sales to The Hope Project. Collaboration through social media support.
Datin Julie Teh	Sponsored a venue (Vistana Hotel KL) and materials (food, beverages, stationery) for EAP Annual Conference 2016 and EAP's 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary/The Hope Project Launch.
David Soh	Participated in April's awareness campaign and performed at World Autism Awareness Day.
Deborah Henry	Hosting World Autism Awareness Day and participating in April's awareness campaign.
Dulux	Sponsored paint for Paint For Autism 2016.
Flint and Steel Borneo	Sponsored World Autism Awareness Day logo design and social media materials for the awareness campaign.
Gleneagles Hospital KL	Collaborated in April's awareness campaign.
Happy Bunch	Participated in April's awareness campaign.
Homegrown	Managed event coverage and recordings for World Autism Awareness Day.
Jasmine Gan	Participated in April's awareness campaign.
Kent Sim	Participated in April's awareness campaign and performed at World Autism Awareness Day and The Hope Project's launch.
LINACO	Sponsored one table (worth RM 3500) during The Hope Project Launch.
My French Factory	Received a donation from their fundraising-awareness campaign efforts in December 2016.
Samuel Lopez	Participated in April's awareness campaign and performed at World Autism Awareness Day.
Sri Emas Int. School	Collaborated on an internal school autism awareness and acceptance campaign during their 'Career Fair 2016' and received a donation from their fundraising efforts.
UCSI University	Sponsored a venue for World Autism Awareness Day 2016 and collaborated in providing volunteers for the event day.
YB Hannah Yeoh	Launched The Hope Project and pledged RM3500 as the first Hope Fund pledge on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of October.

On the 8<sup>th</sup>, we also held a Pledge Moment where guests were able to pledge any amount to donate to The Hope Project. Many guests pledged during this night and we raised a total amount (including ticket sales) amounting to RM 51,130.00.

We also want to extend a special thanks to **Vistana Hotel Kuala Lumpur – for your excellent service and working together with us to successfully launch The Hope Project; members of the media – for allowing the impact and reach of our vision extend nationally; and the families and community around us – for never ceasing to support us fully in our endeavors and growth.** Thank you.

# MOVING FORWARD

For 2017, we hope to be able to build on the foundation that has been set in 2016. *What will this look like?* More impactful campaigns, services and resources that advocate for improved national policies, awareness of early intervention for children, acceptance of individuals with autism, greater access to ABA therapy and many more. Our target areas include:

CAMPAIGNS	SERVICES	RESOURCES
<p><b>AUTISM AWARENESS DAY &amp; ANNUAL CONFERENCE</b></p> <p>Annually-run campaigns such as World Autism Awareness Day in April and annual conferences which aim to equip participants with more clinical but practical and relevant skills.</p>	<p><b>IDEAS AUTISM CENTRE (IAC)</b></p> <p>The Hope Project’s pilot initiative with IAC will include training for therapists, educators as well as consistent supervision of the development of the children that is aimed at strengthening the practice and quality of services provided.</p> <p>Services provided for IAC will include a designated supervisor overseeing this initiative and will be part of EAP’s corporate social responsibility.</p>	<p><b>MULTILINGUAL RESOURCES</b></p> <p>Production of multilingual resources in printed form that are freely distributable that provide information regarding autism.</p>
<p><b>ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS</b></p> <p>Campaigns and presentations for students and in collaboration with students to increase awareness and education about autism among the younger generation.</p>		<p><b>VIDEO RESOURCES</b></p> <p>Production of video resources that are informative and relevant. Our target audience include parents with children, teachers, educators and family members with siblings or relatives with autism.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATIONS</b></p> <p>Training and workshops with parents in the corporate workforce to increase education about symptoms of autism, behavioural red flags, milestones of development, importance of early intervention and effectiveness of ABA.</p>	<p><b>SCREENINGS</b></p> <p>Our clinical team will provide complimentary screenings to low-income families based on the discretion of our advisor’s and recommendations. A screening typically takes between 2-3 hours which includes child-play and interview sessions with the parents.</p>	<p><b>BLOG POSTS</b></p> <p>Production of weekly blog posts that compliment the production of video resources. These blog posts, like our videos, serve as a platform to reach audiences beyond our physical capacity.</p>



*This report details all the current projects of The Hope Project. We believe in the core value of accountability and will document all external activities that we participate in and all financial aid that is received.*

*If you have any questions regarding The Hope Project or would like to collaborate on our campaigns, services and resources, drop us an email at [projects@autismmalaysia.com](mailto:projects@autismmalaysia.com) or give us a call at 03 2094 0421.*

**END OF REPORT**