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Disability-Inclusive Education Roundtable Features Deputy Minister of Education, Senator as Malaysia Prioritizes e-Learning and Economic Transformation

KUALA LUMPUR (12 August 2014) – The Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) for the ASEAN Region and University of Malaya are co-hosting the roundtable “Inclusive Education for the Global Knowledge Economy in ASEAN: A Focus on Malaysia” featuring Deputy Minister of Education Y. B. Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching; Senator Bathmavathi Krishnan of Dewan Negara, Parliament of Malaysia; and a number of world-class national and international disability policy experts on 12 August 2014 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur City Centre.

The discussion comes at a critical time for Malaysia, as the country prepares to take the Chair of ASEAN in January 2015. The multistakeholder dialogue will contribute to a vision for this period of regional leadership, and to a strategy for Malaysia’s economic development and education policy goals, particularly as they relate to the Economic Transformation Programme and Education Blueprint 2013-2025.

“This roundtable comes at a critical juncture in Malaysia and ASEAN’s history. Bringing together key stakeholders from government, the private sector, higher education institutions, and disabled persons’ organizations allows for a comprehensive and honest dialogue on inclusive education policies and the impact of accessible information and communication technologies on capacity building for a knowledge economy,” says Dr. Derrick L. Cogburn, IDPP Executive Director and Associate Professor at American University in Washington, DC.

“University of Malaya is delighted to co-host this event as part of a much larger and more comprehensive set of IDPP Annual Meeting activities that addresses inclusive education and persons with disabilities. Among these activities are an Accessible Cyberteaching Workshop, IDPP Advisory Board Meeting held yesterday, and IDPP Residency Programme that welcomes the enrollment of five IDPP Fellowship recipients who will pursue INPUMA’s Master of Public Policy degree at UM and take up residence in our 7th Residential College,” says Datin Dr. Izlin Ismail, Deputy Director of INPUMA.

The University of Malaya is the pioneer Malaysian institution of higher learning in providing an accessible environment for the disabled who work, study and live inside the campus. Various types of services and accommodations are provided to the disabled students for them to be more self-reliant in their learning. It has proven itself in developing disabled students through the many achievements garnered such as the record-setting Faiq Adnan who swam across the Straits of Penang last year.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Inclusive education policy in Malaysia in accordance with Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – the first human rights treaty of the 21st century – signed and ratified by Malaysia in 2008 and 2010, respectively
- The role of accessible ICTs in achieving Malaysia’s e-learning objectives 2020
- Human capacity development of persons with disabilities in Malaysia and its economic implications for Malaysia and ASEAN

Speakers also include: Amb. Luis Gallegos, Chairman, G3ICT, and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to UN in Geneva; Ms. Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, Coordinator for Disability and Inclusive Development, USAID; Dr. MNG Mani, Secretary General, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment; Dr. James DeCaro, Professor and Dean Emeritus, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology; and Dr. Dzahar Mansor, National Technology Officer, Malaysia, Microsoft Corporation.

A press conference will be held with Y. B. Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching; Senator Bathmavathi Krishnan; and renowned subject matter experts in Parkview Room 5 from 10:00-10:15am on 12 August at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel (Jalan Pinang, Kuala Lumpur City Centre, 50088).

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About INPUMA

INPUMA was established with a twin purpose: to be at the forefront of public policy issues, as well as to cater to the needs of society by developing professional skills in management and administration. Since its inception in August 1999, INPUMA has built up a well-deserved reputation for generating new and imaginative ideas. The strength of INPUMA is reflected in its achievements. To reach its objective as a centre of public policy and management studies, INPUMA offers an academic programme, the Master of Public Policy (MPP), the first academic programme of its kind in Malaysia.

About IDPP

The Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) based at American University in Washington, DC is a network of 21 university and outreach partners in nine of 10 ASEAN countries and around the world. The IDPP contributes to the vision of an ASEAN region that is inclusive, barrier-free, and rights-based, where persons with disabilities are leaders in the determination of their own destinies. The IDPP strives to build a cadre of disability policy leaders who can impact public policies that directly affect the disability community at the local, national, regional and international levels. For more information, visit <http://aseanidpp.org>.