

I have rights. Do you know my rights? It's time to be aware!

SUMMARY REPORT

"This event that may seem small is a big step for our children and their future...our future. As I repeat, the children of today are the future of tomorrow."

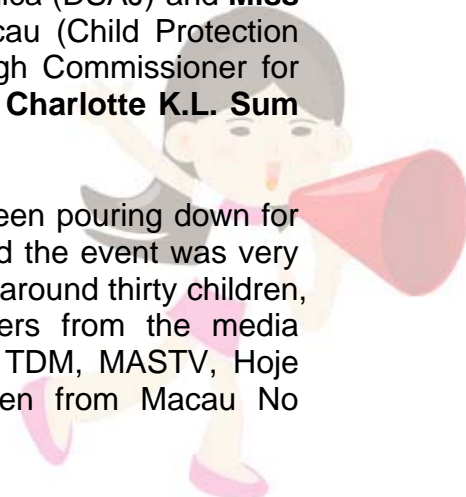
This was a part of the opening speech of Eliana Calderon, Macau Child Development Association (MCDA) Coordinator, as they held the second activity for the project -**"I have rights. Do you know my rights? It's time to be aware!"** on **June 27, 2010** at the **Family Cinema, 2nd Floor, Sheng Kung Hui Taipa, Youth and Family Integrated Service Centre**, Rua do Regedor, R/C -2 , Taipa from **4:00 to 6:00 pm**. The project was partially sponsored by **IAS (Macau Social Services Bureau)**.

This event is in an effort to articulate MCDA's advocacy to create awareness on the rights of all the children in Macau and in the world particularly making emphasis on the rights of the children with special needs such as learning difficulties and developmental disorders-autism.

Miss Cheong Weng Lam from Departamento de Divulgacao Juridica (DSAJ) and **Miss Lam Choi Fong** from the Against Child Abuse Association-Macau (Child Protection Centre) were the speakers of the event. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-Hong Kong (UNHCR) had also sent their representative **Charlotte K.L. Sum** to support the event.

Even though, the weather was not on MCDA's side as rain had been pouring down for the last 2 days in Macau, the number of participants who attended the event was very good. Altogether, more than **100 people** had attended the event – around thirty children, forty seven adults including parents and visitors, nine members from the media including journalists, TV reporters and cameramen from Macau TDM, MASTV, Hoje Macau, Macau Daily Newspaper, Hou Kong Newspaper, fifteen from Macau No Coracao , and twelve MCDA staff and volunteers.

Highlights of the event were the folk dance performance from Macau no Coracao and a song from MCDA children and staff.



Coca Cola Bottling Corporation (Macau) had also shown support by sponsoring the water and drinks for the activity. Lei Loi Tang Bakery provided cakes as well.

An area was provided for the children to play with big puzzles, ring stacking, bean bag tossing, tents, cars and balls. They also had fun drawing on the floor.

In conclusion, by organizing the event, MCDA has reached the objective of informing Macau community about the children's rights particularly giving emphasis to the rights of the children with special needs. The audience was directly informed by the printed leaflets given out and the presentation given by the two speakers.

Subsequent to the event, information about children's rights and the work of MCDA was able to reach an even larger audience when the printed leaflets circulated around the community, and TV, radio and newspaper (Chinese, English and Portuguese) had reported about the event.

MCDA services user scope is a representative of the diversity of Macau's community: 75 % of Macau are local Cantonese and 25% are the international-multicultural community that has chosen English as the medium of communication.

MCDA parents representing the local community expressed the need to increase funding for hiring professionals and to increase training, as well as increasing awareness of such issues and increasing accessibility amongst the Cantonese speaking community. This was agreed by MCDA staff, Amy Lam, as she has firsthand experience on the need to increase the number of Cantonese speaking therapist to support the long wait list.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT:

Preparations for the event started months prior to the event.



MDCA staff, Amy Lam, accepted an interview for the local MASTV and TDM TV stations and various newspaper journalists.

The same day, the TV News report was aired both at MASTV and TDM about the event.

Articles on the event were published the next day, raising the awareness of child rights and the need to acquire more professionals to help children with special education needs even further.

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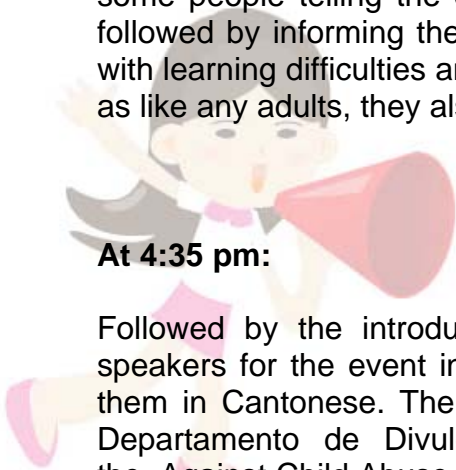
At 3:45pm:

Visitors, participants, parents and children arrival time began and signatures were collected on the registration area. Parents were asked to sign the registration form upon arrival and were given leaflets and brochures (in either Chinese or English) to inform them of the schedule for the event, brochures on children's rights, information about MCDA and facts about Autism and Learning Difficulties.



At 4:25 pm:

Ms. Eliana Calderon, the Coordinator of MCDA, conducted the opening speech, asking the audience to raise their left hand, this simple exercise was conducted to show that for some people telling the difference from left and right may be a difficulty, which was followed by informing the audience of the importance of providing support for children with learning difficulties and the importance of providing protection and care for children, as like any adults, they also have the rights as human beings.



At 4:35 pm:

Followed by the introduction speech, Mary Ann (MCDA staff) introduced the two speakers for the event in English and another MCDA team member, Jace introduced them in Cantonese. The speakers for the event were *Miss Cheong Weng Lam* from Departamento de Divulgacao Juridica (DSAJ) and *Miss Lam Choi Fong* from the Against Child Abuse (Macau) Association (Child Protection Centre). Charlotte K.L. Sum from United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from Hong Kong (Name card can be found in the event folder) was also introduced to the audience.



The first speaker was Miss Cheong Weng Lam from DSAJ and she gave a presentation in Cantonese informing the audience and MCDA staff current legislation in Macau which protects children from being mistreated. In general, the speech covered areas about the types of maltreatments towards children, current legislations in Macau protecting children from maltreatments and consequences for those found guilty of abusing children or not providing adequate care.

At 5:00pm:

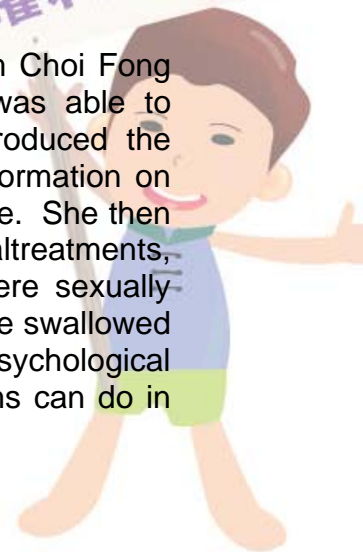
The audience thoroughly enjoyed the Portuguese folk dance performance; the group performed over 5 short dances and invited the members and the children to dance with them.



The audience has enjoying the Portuguese folk dance performance. Numerous dances were performed and the audience and the children were invited to join in with the last dance.

The second speaker on children rights (also in Cantonese) was Miss Lam Choi Fong (Against Child Abuse Association in Macau). Jace, MCDA translator, was able to translate what was said by the speaker into English. The speaker introduced the Against Child Abuse Association-Macau to the audience and provided information on the types of activities the members of the public can participate at the centre. She then proceeded into types of ways in which a child may experience forms of maltreatments, followed by photos of newspaper articles of events in which children were sexually abused or had their safety overlooked when a young child was found to have swallowed a metal nail. The speaker then informed the audience on the physical and psychological impact of child abuse and the ways in which parents of child abuse victims can do in order to aid the recovery of the child.

兒童權利關注
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Eliana Calderon presented certificates to speakers *Miss Cheong Weng Lam* and *Miss Lam Choi Fong* thanking them for their contribution in raising children's rights awareness at the event.



Audience at the event listened to the talk on child rights attentively as Miss Lam Choi Fong gave the presentation in Cantonese, while MCDCA staff translated what was said by the speaker into English.



MCDCA children presented a song entitled "If You're Happy and You Know It". The audience was amazed to see these children perform in front of people.

A performance of the song ' Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now' was then completed by Amy Lam and Mary Biliwang (MCDCA team members), video with lyrics of the song was projected on to the white screen thus the audience were able to join in with the singing.



Drinks sponsored by Coca Cola Bottling Corporation and cupcakes from Lei Loi Tang Bakery were then provided for the children and the audience.

Two videos were then shown: the UN Children's Rights video and the Autism anthem "I'm in here"

Goody bags were handed out to the children and the MCDA team member concluded the event.

At 6:00 pm:

The event went well. The objectives were met. Awareness on children's rights was spread out in the Macau community.



Parents, MCDA staff along with children present at the event thoroughly enjoyed the kids playing area which was set up at the back of the room.

