

FACETS NEWSLETTER

APRIL - JUNE 2020 | Issue No.42



UNITE SpLD CONFERENCE 2020

The Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) held its sixth UNITE SpLD (Uniting Ideas in Teaching Excellence: Specific Learning Differences) Conference 2020 for the first time completely virtual from 24 to 25 June 2020 to motivate teaching excellence for dyslexia and other specific learning differences (SpLD).

The new digital format enabled educators and parents from around the world to benefit from leading-edge research findings, new practical solutions and opportunities to interact with international experts in special educational needs. At such an extraordinary time when the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted learning for children with SpLD across the world, the new norm of home-based learning has significantly impacted children due to lack of face-to-face, personalised attention from their teachers and lack of access to digital devices.

The conference equipped teachers, practitioners and parents with enhanced and novel strategies, methodologies and practices to help these children navigate current obstacles and gain equal opportunities in the future. In Singapore, it is estimated that 10 per cent of the population has dyslexia, the most common form of SpLD. An estimated 23,000 students from preschools to secondary schools, or one student in every classroom, has dyslexia severe enough to warrant intervention. Many of these children also experience dyspraxia,

“The virtual conference is a good example of how the Dyslexia and SpLD community have come together to say “No... we will not let the virus stop us from continuing with our lives, our work and our learning!”

- Mr Lee Siang, CEO of DAS.

attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyscalculia, Asperger’s syndrome and other co-occurring challenges, increasing the complexity of diagnosis and intervention. Since 2015, the annual UNITE SpLD has convened SpLD specialists to exchange knowledge and ideas to promote greater support, assessment and intervention for children with SpLD.

UNITE SpLD 2020 encompasses a wide spectrum of SpLDs with presentations by more than 30 experts from seven countries: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, UK, USA and Singapore. Known for its short, energetic and engaging sessions, the conference showcased 31 presentations across six themes: advocacy, assessment for learning, differentiation & adaptation, educational technology, school leadership & policies, and teacher support. This year’s conference showcased the latest global research covering aspects of behaviour, identification, early intervention, technology, multilingualism, assessment and more for children and adults with special educational needs.

APPLAUSE



A BIG THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING UNITE SPLD 2020

We thank all presenters and more than 400 attendees for your continuous support as we transitioned from an in-person conference in Singapore to a conference fully broadcasted virtually!

About the Keynote Presentations

Fintan O'Regan:
The Curious Case of ADHD

Dr Malatesha Joshi:
Componential Model of Reading: Implications for the Assessment of Instruction of Dyslexia and Related Reading Problems

Dr Julie Washington:
Addressing the Literacy Needs of Children who Speak Non-mainstream Dialects

Carol Allen:
Finding the Positives! How a pandemic has offered technology positives and reduced anxiety for many Dyslexic Learners

Edmen Leong:
A Literature Review of Empirical Studies on Reading Motivation and Struggling Readers

Deborah Hewes:
Dyslexic Entrepreneurs in Singapore: The Incidence, Their Educational Experiences and Their Attributes

Click [here](#) to read more.



YOU GAVE IN SOLIDARITY!



#WEGIVEINSOLIDARITY

We are aware that our families are going through tough times and some have lost jobs because of COVID-19, thank you for showing us your support through giving via Giving.sg and Give.Asia platforms so that children with Dyslexia and specific learning difference can still receive the education they need and deserve!

Every year, DAS provides over \$1.5million in bursaries to support students from low-income families. We appealed to you in April to help us raise our goal of \$10,000.

You helped us raise \$10,790, thank you!

Click [here](#) to read more.

TPG CARES 2020

TPG Telecoms launched a fundraising opportunity for DAS. From 12 June 2020 to 11 July 2020, TPG will donate \$1 to DAS for every existing TPG customer who migrates from TPG's service trial plan to the new 50GB SIM Only plan, or when a new customer signs up for the new 50GB SIM Only plan.

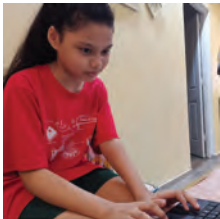
TPG DONATES BROADBAND DONGLES

TPG generously donated 10 dongles with 50GB Broadband access free till the end of the year to DAS students who had internet connectivity issues at home.

Click [here](#) to read more.



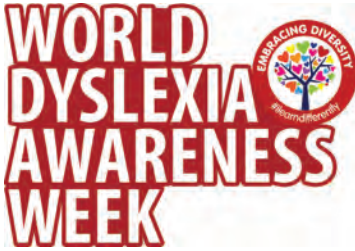
COMPUTERS AGAINST COVID



Engineering Good donated 151 refurbished laptops and headsets to DAS to help students who could not afford one to access home-based learning. Thank you for the laptops!

Click [here](#) to read more.

UPCOMING EVENTS



#I LEARN DIFFERENTLY

DO YOU EMBRACE DYSLEXIA?

#EMBRACE DYSLEXIA

WORLD DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK 2020

We are organising the World Dyslexia Awareness Week (WDAW) 2020 to raise support and awareness for children with Dyslexia and Specific Learning Differences (SpLD) and to celebrate their diverse talents. Join us from **1 to 11 October 2020**, alongside many other dyslexia organisations worldwide to raise awareness this October. Stay tuned!



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers can play a vital role in supporting students with learning differences. CARE, SUPPORT and ENGAGE with DAS!

Be a volunteer and help children with dyslexia achieve. We are looking for people with talents and a passion to help the cause. The following areas are available:

- Multimedia, designing, videography & photography
- Learning Centre administration
- Ad-hoc event-based support

☎ 6444 5700 ✉ khatijah.abdsalam@das.org.sg

DONATE

Every dollar received will go directly towards the bursary fund for low-income families access Educational Services. Help us reach our yearly goal of \$1.5M!



Scan the QR code to find out how you can donate

Donors will receive 2.5 times tax deduction for donations \$10 and above.

FUNDRAISING

Interested to get involved in fundraising projects and events? Contact surjati@das.org.sg or call 6444 5700.

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