

Tentative Conference Programme

Monday, 1st November, 2010

Opening Ceremony of Conference

8.00 pm - Arrival of guests and participants

8.30 pm - Welcome and reception

(i) Opening Remarks by Professor Jamilah Ariffin, President of APFAM International (Organising Chairperson of the Conference)

(ii) Opening Remarks by La Trobe University Chancellor

(iii) Opening Address by YB Dato' Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Federal Minister of Women, Family and Community

Development

- Light supper and refreshments

Day 1

Tuesday, 2nd November, 2010

The theme of the first day is existing policy and research. "Exploring outcomes for children and parents".

9.00 am - Plenary Session I

Topic : "Social Inclusion and Changing Family Structures : How Can Social Policies Support Blended and Step Families?"

Chairperson : Dr Husna Sulaiman

1st Speaker : Professor Thea Brown, Monash University and La Trobe University

Paper Title : "Step Parenting and Blended Families : Not A Governmental Family Policy Priority"

2nd Speaker : A Discussant on the Malaysian Scenario :

Associate Prof. Dr Teoh Hsien Jin, Head of School of Health and Natural Sciences, Sunway University College

Commentator : Dato' Aminah Abdul Rahman, Director-General, National Population and Family Development Board of Malaysia

Rapporteur : Ms Adeline Francis Louis

- Questions and discussion

10.40 – 11.00 am - Tea/Coffee Break

11.00 am - Plenary Session II

Topic : “Blended Families and Step Families – Outcomes for Children”

Chairperson : Mrs Liew Sau Pheng, Advisor, Malaysian Child Resource Institute

Speaker : Associate Professor Margarita Frederico, La Trobe University

Paper Title : “What is the Story for Children? How Do Children and Young People Fare in Different Family Structures”

- Questions and discussion on the paper

Panel to discuss the topic of Plenary II :

(1) Ms Meredith Kiraly, University of Melbourne

(2) Ms Ruth Liew, Educational Director, Malaysian Child

Resource Institute

Rapporteur : Ms Serene Ong

- Questions and discussion

1.10 pm - Lunch

2.30 pm - Plenary Session III

Topic : “Step Families and Blended Families : Relationship Issues for Parents”

Chairperson : Dr Rohana Ariffin

Speaker : Ms Maureen Long, La Trobe University

Paper Title : “It’s Not Just The Two of Us. Developing Couple and Family Relationships in Step and Blended Families”

- Questions and discussion on the paper

Panel to discuss the topic of Plenary III :

(1) Ms Dianne Gibson, Family Court of Australia

(2) Ms Norhayati Kaprawi, Muslim woman activist

Rapporteur : Dr Madeline Berma

- Questions and Discussion

5.00 pm - Refreshments

End for the day

Tuesday, 2nd November (NIGHT)

8.30 pm - Asia Pacific Forum on Families (APFAM Malaysia) Annual General Meeting

(for members only)

Day 2

Wednesday, 3rd November, 2010

The theme of day 2 is “**Policies and Programs** which Support Blended Families and Stepfamilies”.

8.30 am - Plenary Session IV

Topic : “Policies and Programs on **Priority Issues** Affecting Blended Families and Step Families”

Chairperson : Prof Dr Rahimah Abdul Aziz

Speaker : Ms Dianne Gibson, Family Court of Australia

Paper Title : “Relationship Challenges in Step and Blended Families”

- Questions and discussion on the paper

Panel to discuss the topic of Plenary IV :

(1) Dr Patricia McNamara, La Trobe University

(2) Dr Anjli Doshi Gandhi, National Population and Family
Development Board of Malaysia

Rapporteur : Dr Ong Fon Sim

- Questions and discussion

10.40 am - Tea/Coffee Break

11.00 am - Plenary Session V

Topic : “Policy and Programs Supporting Contact Arrangements
Between Children and Separated Parents”

Chairperson : Associate Prof Dr Norani Mohd Salleh, Universiti Tun Abdul
Razak

Speaker : Gianfranco Urlini, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner,
Family Relationship Centre, Melbourne

Paper Title : “Relationship Programs : Australian Initiatives to Support
Families, Step Parents and Blended Families”

- Questions and discussion on the paper

Panel to discuss the topic of Plenary V :

(1) Dr Patricia McNamara, La Trobe University

(2) Syariah Law : Puan Zainab Jan Abdul Ghafoor, Syariah lawyer

(3) Civil Law : Ms Serene Ong, Solicitor & Advocate, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

Rapporteur : Ms Adeline Francis Louis

- Questions and discussion
- 1.30 – 3.00 pm - Lunch
- 3.00 – 5.00 pm - Group Panel Discussion

Moderator : Dr Husna Sulaiman

Topic : “Formulation of Appropriate Research / Policies and Programmes for the Social Inclusion of Step and Blended Families”

Panel members:

- (1) Australian perspective:.....
- (2) Australian perspective:
- (3) Malaysian perspective : Associate Prof. Ruhanas Harun, National Defence University of Malaysia
- (4) Malaysian perspective : Dr Anjli Doshi Gandhi, National Population and Family Development Board of Malaysia
- (5) Malaysian perspective : Mrs Liew Sau Pheng, Advisor, Malaysian Child Resource Institute
- (6) Malaysian perspective : Associate Prof. Tey Nai Peng, University of Malaya

Rapporteur : Ms Serene Ong & Prof Rahimah Abdul Aziz

- 5.00 pm - Questions and Discussion
 - 5.20 pm - **Closing Address** by Professor Jamilah Ariffin, Organising Chairperson of the Conference
 - Refreshments and end of conference
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