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"Empowerment of Special Meeds through Invention & Innovation"

## EXTENDED ABSTRACT

# MiiEX'2024

#### **MELAKA INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL EXPOSITION 2024**

"EMPOWEREMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS THROUGH INVENTION AND INNOVATION"

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## MiiEX'2024

#### MELAKA INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL EXPOSITION 2024 "EMPOWEREMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS THROUGH INVENTION AND INNOVATION"

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INNOVATION, INVENTION, AND DESIGN

#### FOREWORD BY THE RECTOR OF UITM CAWANGAN MELAKA



#### Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Rasdi bin Zaidi Rector, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Melaka

Welcome to the Melaka International Intellectual Exposition 2024 (MIIEX '24). It is an honour for me, on behalf of UiTM Cawangan Melaka, to thank all of you for joining MIIEX '24. We are proud to inform you that this is the 13th consecutive year that UiTM Cawangan Melaka is organizing this exposition. Since 2009, UiTM Cawangan Melaka has successfully hosted this innovation exposition. Not only have we succeeded in organizing the exposition, but we have also successfully embarked on commercialized products.

2024 is a special year where MIIEX 2024 emphasizes the development of special needs. As we know, special needs indicate a limitation in a person's ability to engage in and benefit from various aspects, such as daily activities and education. Hence, with the theme "Empowering Special Needs Through Invention and Innovation," it is a platform for industries, professionals, academicians, students, and communities to share their innovative ideas and products to increase accessibility for those with special needs.

The successful implementation of MIIEX '24 is our joint success. This event was supported by the Melaka state government through YB Datuk Fairul Nizam bin Roslan, the EXCO of Science, Technology, Innovation, and Digital Communication. I also want to express my

gratitude to Universitas Negeri Padang, Indonesia, Universitas Muhammadiyah, Makassar, Indonesia, the International Association of Economic and Businesses (IAEB), Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Ibnu Ummi Maktum Research Center (UMMI), USIM, and The Southeast Asia Minister of Education Organization Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN) as our co-collaborators for MIIEX 2024.

The collaboration from various parties in MIIEX '24 is a platform that will improve cooperation and interweaving among industries, professionals, academicians, students, and communities in shaping their potential in developing innovation products. This exposition also serves as a platform to cultivate and uphold the nation's innovation culture by presenting new ideas and research by young people, especially from academia and universities. Indirectly, MIIEX '24 will encourage all inventors towards empowering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), especially in primary and secondary schools.

The new digital landscape also inspires more innovation and new ideas that contribute to various activities, such as business and industries. As a university that encourages "Research and Innovation," we aim to foster more innovative products that benefit scholars, industries, and communities, addressing issues to improve our present and future life.

This exposition would never happen without dedication, teamwork, and commitment. A round of applause should be given to the committee teams, who are the backbone of this exposition. Their hard work, effort, and time made this exposition possible.

Finally, I would like to conclude this brief remark by thanking all the participants and stakeholders for joining the exposition. We hope that this collaboration never ends here.

Thank you.

### FOREWORD BY THE DEPUTY RECTOR (RESEARCH & INDUSTRIAL LINKAGES)



#### Associate Professor. Dr. Nur Hayati binti Abd Rahman

#### Deputy Rector (Research & Industrial Linkages), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Melaka

With much passion and privilege, let me warmly welcome all of you to the Melaka International Innovation Exhibition (MIIEX), UiTM Cawangan Melaka's flagship event. I firmly believe that events such as these demonstrate the gradual evolution of this platform in terms of its significance and its governing principles within the sphere of learning and the broader scholarly society.

The theme for this year, "Empowering Special Needs Through Invention and Innovation," strongly connects to our mission of using research and technology to make a positive impact on the world we live in. Besides enforcing the message of diversity, this theme also reaffirms our focus on creating products to improve the lives of people with disabilities (PWDs). Such innovations are vital as only through focused constructive changes can society become more sensitive to the needs of all members.

MIIEX allows researchers, students, and industry professionals to come together, share their innovative research, and develop viable research partnerships. It has been great to see the enthusiasm of the participants and the efforts they put into their projects, which can offer various social and economic benefits. This is why one can state that MIIEX is a great

opportunity for creating connections between the academic environment and industry, facilitating the implementation of innovative and promising projects.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the members and supporters of the organizing committee, all the participants, sponsors, and everyone involved in preparing this event. I want to express my gratitude for your commitment and involvement, as the success of MIIEX and the development of an active culture of innovation in our university and beyond is partly owed to your support.

Thank you

#### FOREWORD BY THE PROJECT DIRECTOR



#### Dr Zulkefli bin Muhamad Hanapiyah Senior Lecturer

Assalamualaikum and Warmest Greetings,

It gives me a great pleasure, on behalf of the organizing committee, to welcome all participants and speakers to the Melaka International Intellectual Exposition 2024 (MIIEX '24) with the theme "Empowering Special Needs Through Invention and Innovation." We are honoured and pleased to welcome all participants to this biennial event.

MIIEX '24 is a platform that gathers experts from local and international industries, academia, scientists, researchers, and the community to contribute to the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge. This knowledge helps develop disruptive innovation products that improve daily activities for businesses and the community, especially those with special needs.

MIIEX '24 provides an atmosphere for inventors of all levels to gain new exposure and collaborate. Indirectly, this promotes a collaborative and innovative culture that focuses on cutting-edge technologies and new standards in technology and creativity.

MIIEX '24 is anticipated to serve as an arena for participants to acquire and disseminate revolutionary information on ideas and innovation. It is intended that the competition will expose the contestants' minds to the latest technologies and designs, aligning with the government's goal of encouraging innovation in Malaysia.

Finally, I want to compliment my fellow committee members on their amazing efforts, which were vital to the event's success. In addition, I want to thank our co-organizers, event sponsors, and participants. Optimistically, we hope that all new knowledge discovered, invented, or innovated will lead us toward future sustainability.

Thank you.

#### FOREWORD BY MELAKA STATE EXCO OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS



#### YB Datuk Fairul Nizam bin Roslan

#### Melaka State Exco of Science, Technology, Innovation and Digital Communications

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Finally, I would like to conclude this brief remark by thanking all the participants and stakeholders for joining the exposition. We hope that this collaboration never ends here.

Thank you.

#### **MIIEX'24 ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

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	MUHAMMAD FURQAN BIN AZHAR
	KHAIRUL AZHAR BIN LOCHMAN

#### ABOUT MIIEX'24

MIIEX'24 is an innovation competition annually organised by UiTM Melaka with the intention to bring together ideas and inspiration that could fit in for commercialization needs. This event creates a platform for researchers to establish networking, partnership and opportunities to collaborate with industries.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Encourage and instil passion towards inventing and innovating among UiTM Cawangan Melaka staff, students and academicians of local and international higher education institutions;
- 2. Highlight distinguished talents of skilful inventors and exhibit intellectual products, inventions and innovations among local and private tertiary institutions, government and private agencies, including international participants;
- Become an effective Business Matching platform for participating research products, matching industries and partnering government agencies;
- 4. Recognise, inspire and promote invention and innovation products to be patented and commercialized;

5. Increase passion towards inventing and innovating through research and boost interests of government and non-government agencies to obtain consultancy services from a line up experts of higher education institutions and UiTM Cawangan Melaka.

#### THEME

### 'EMPOWERMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS THROUGH INVENTION AND INNOVATION'

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# **Sightless Shop**

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## ABSTRACT

"Sightless Shop" is an application that is developed for blind people. This application consists of several tabs such as user profile, shopping cart and auto calculate features. It is not easy for blind people to do grocery shopping. Other features found in this "Sightless Shop" application is voice recognition software, which is a voice command that will help blind users throughout the use of the application. Also, another feature is a camera-based system that helps in scanning barcodes and determining the type of product, brands and prices for the user. To effectively commercialize the application, this application will target blind individuals, their families, carers, and relevant organisations through various channels such as social media, television, and radio advertisements. This application also engages with forums, communities, and events focused on accessibility and assistive technology to build trust and loyalty within the blind community. Actively involving blind individuals in the app's development ensures it meets their needs. Additionally, this application gathers feedback continuously to improve the app, updating it with new features and enhancements based on user input and technological advancements. The "Sightless Shop" app enables blind individuals to shop for groceries independently by providing voice assistant functions and access to past purchases. It enhances accessibility for blind shoppers, promotes independence, and empowers them to overcome fears of physical shopping while improving their technological skills and overall quality of life.

Keywords: Voice commands, Visual impairment, Shopping assistance, Scanner , Independent shopping

### 1. **OBJECTIVES**

It is not easy for blind people to do grocery shopping. Blind people usually go shopping with friends or relatives and ask for assistance from the store to have a clerk assist them while shopping. For blind people who shop independently, it has been very important for them to learn and remember the layout of the store. But with this application, they can do physical shopping independently, which is easier and more convenient. Blind individuals can buy groceries independently with the assistance of innovative technologies.

Also, there is a function that involves using a camera-based system that can read the barcode and tell the name of the product and price of common objects if they stroll into a grocery shop to make a purchase. These technologies aim to enhance the shopping experience for blind people and provide them with autonomy and convenience in purchasing groceries. It is easier for blind people to purchase with this software because they can shop without having to have assistance to go to the grocery store. With the aid of voice assistance features on every tap, they can choose whatever they desire. Following that, users are able to compare prices and choose the desired brand. Lastly, they can check out and buy the product by adding it to their basket. We only provide the product with the physical shopping option with this app since it is more practical for them to do so and cash money includes braille, which is simple for blind people to understand and make payment.

To help those with visual impairments shopping more easily, we would like to work in partnership with Econsave supermarket. We selected Econsave because, based on our study, it is Malaysia's largest grocery chain with numerous locations. This app also allows users to simply add products to their carts and pay with cash on those products that they desire.

### 2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

According to Monnie Parida, Manjira Sinha (2020), due to accessibility concerns, grocery shopping online presents difficulties for blind people. They might have trouble reading product descriptions, browsing web pages, and identifying pictures. According to William Villegas-Ch, Rodrigo Amores-Falconi and Eduardo Coronel-Silva (2023), a voice assistant has been suggested as a solution to these problems; it can give visually impaired people comprehensive product descriptions, make recommendations based on past purchases, and improve their entire shopping experience. Research from Michela Balconi, Carlotta Acconito and Laura Angioletti (2022). Additionally, compared to people without visual impairment, visually impaired customers may experience stress and dissatisfaction during the online purchasing process,

according to Doaa Khattab (2015), requiring a bigger cognitive investment and higher autonomic responses. Thus, developing inclusive and innovative e-commerce platforms with voice assistant features can greatly enhance the grocery shopping experience for those who are blind.

As far as we are concerned, there are a few different ways that blind people handle money and make purchases. They can ask for help from store employees or utilize the braille or tactile interfaces on ATMs and payment devices when making purchases. Identifying and managing money can also be aided by various technologies, like smartphone apps. Simultaneously, blind individuals who are capable of managing their finances and making purchases have also become the latest targets of scammers who offer fake investment schemes. Blind people can buy independently and safeguard themselves against scammers by using this app. That is our initiative to safeguard and assist those who are visually impaired.

## 3. NOVELTY

The "Sightless Shop" application has voice recognition software as one of its functions. This software is incredibly useful for blind individuals because it can be operated entirely using voice commands, including selecting items, adding to the shopping cart, making purchases, auto calculation and completing payments up until the user receives their goods. This application only offers payment in cash because it is easier and more practical. Another feature included in this application is a camera-based system. It is a system that helps users know details about products more thoroughly. The way it works is that when the user opens the camera from this application and points the camera at a product barcode, the camera will emit a voice that will inform the user of the product categories, brands, and prices. This camera feature is very helpful for users when making physical purchases. Also, this "Sightless Shop" services are free to use and only require an internet connection.

### 4. POTENTIAL FOR COMMERCIALIZATION

### Marketing and Promotion:

For commercialization, this application targets blind individuals, families, and related organizations. It uses social media platforms, such as advertisements on television and radio. Additionally, it promotes forums and communities for disabled people that focus on accessibility and technology. Furthermore, immunity engagement for commercialization with blind communities through forums, social media, and events to build trust and loyalty. The input and active involvement of blind individuals in the development and improvement of the application may promote this application at conferences, events, or workshops related to the rights and capabilities of disabled people. Feedback and surveys are also important for commercialization. Continuously gathering feedback from users to identify areas for improvement so as not to be left behind actually attracts many low-income users. Update the

application frequently with new features, voice command and assistance and improvements based on user feedback and technological advances.

## 5. RACTICALITY & USEFULNESS

Sightless Shop" was created especially to assist blind individuals in grocery shopping independently. Camera-based functions and voice assistant functions are available to assist with their purchases. This application enhances the accessibility of visionless people to shopping physical stores and it promotes independence for blind users by providing instant access with assistance for various tasks, such as the camera-based system to scanner barcodes which will read the label name and price of the product in common objects in the store. This application enhance their skills to use technology in their daily lives, ultimately improving their quality of life. This application will collaborate with Econsave supermarket to give all Malaysian blind people the convenience of buying their own groceries.

## 6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the "Sightless Shop" app offers a revolutionary solution to the challenges faced by blind individuals when it comes to grocery shopping. By benefiting from innovative technologies and incorporating features such as a trolley cart and auto calculated, profile management, and camera-based text recognition, voice command and the app empowers blind users to shop independently and conveniently.

Moreover, the inclusion of a camera-based system for reading text labels and product packaging on common objects adds another layer of accessibility, making it easier for visually impaired individuals to identify and select the items they need.

Overall, the "Sightless Shop" app represents a significant step forward in promoting autonomy and inclusivity for blind individuals, revolutionising the way they engage in everyday tasks such as grocery shopping. With its user-friendly interface and comprehensive features, it has the potential to make a profound impact on the lives of visually impaired individuals, providing them with greater independence and convenience in their shopping endeavours.

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