



ISC News

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As we move towards the second edition of our newsletter, it is with great contentment to update to you how things have been going for the last three months. While a general overview and explanation of all the activities will not do justice to the significance of each and every program we have gone through, there are two things in which I would like to highlight that portray a vital understanding and overview of the direction of the center in moving forward. We have a new Deputy Vice Chancellor (International & Academic Affairs) coming in, Professor Dr. Awang Bulgiba who succeeded his predecessor, Professor Hamdi Shukor. It is our hope and aspiration that his leadership will steer us to greater heights and to mold the path towards achieving the visions and missions that have been laid upon and to see the internalization policy comes to fruition. We believe that his vast experience and leadership will propel us to greater heights. The second highlight will be our planning and team building workshop that was held in May where the over-arching aim is to revitalize and rejuvenate the motivation and team spirit of the team to work together towards achieving the intended aspirations.



The outcome from this workshop is highly successful where planning, strategy-making and charting of medium and long term plans for the center have been drafted where the path has been clearly charted. The esprit de corps of the entire ISC team has been further strengthened and the team spirit and perseverance have never been better. We are raring to go to further champion the internalization policy and to pluck the seeds of success in the agendas of the university in seeing more international students to be part of the UM family. We are looking forward to an exciting time ahead for us where there will be the beginning of the new semester and a host of other short term programs that we will be receiving.

- Zarina Zainol Abidin, Director of International Student Center, University of Malaya.

AN EVENING WITH THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR

Professor Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud has been appointed as University of Malaya Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) for a three-year term effective April where he succeeded Prof Dr Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor whose term ended in December last year.

Professor Awang Bulgiba has previously served as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and his new stint now in the Academic and International framework certainly brings a new dimension of challenges as well as openings for further rejuvenation of the internationalization of the university. We have conducted a short interview with the man himself on several important aspects in the tasks ahead.

1) Would you mind telling us a little bit about yourself through the lens of your academic and childhood upbringing?

I was born in Kuching, had a normal upbringing and went to an English-medium school. In school, I was a very active student and played badminton for my school as well as captaining the school debating team. I was a school prefect, was active in the Red Crescent Society and generally scored good grades. I entered Science Foundation in UM in 1981 after turning down 2 government scholarships to go overseas as it was the first year the government did not give any overseas scholarships for medicine. I entered medicine in UM and did well enough that I never failed any exam but was very active in sports and college activities. I played badminton and cricket for my college, was the college photographer, floor rep in one year and Secretary in another. I was also the Medical Society President in my third year.

2) Being a medical doctor by training, is there any connotation and linkage to your current tasks which might be of help and added values to you?

Being a medical doctor and having to deal with life-threatening situations has enabled me to be calm in most emergency situations. I served in the Accident and Emergency Unit for 2 years, which trained me to make quick decisions. I can tolerate having to make do with little sleep if I need to as I am used to that kind of life. I find myself in similar situations nowadays and find that over the years my medical training has given me an intuition about people and situations.

3) Looking back at your life and your past experience, are you satisfied with your achievements so far and if given the chance, would you be doing some things differently?

I would not change a thing as I believe that things generally happen for a reason. I am quite satisfied with my life thus far as it has been very fruitful and I have been blessed with the best spouse one can have and have made some good decisions about my life.

4) Holding the ever busy and demanding post as a Deputy Vice Chancellor, how do you unwind and de-stress in your free time?

I read some pages of a book most days before going to bed and find this a very good therapy to unwind. I try to take as many photographs as possible during my holidays and improve my photography skills but this does not happen often enough. When not fasting, I try to manage half an hour a day of exercising.

5) As the one stop centre and an important avenue and tool in making the internationalization policy of the university a success, how do you foresee the roles of the International Student Centre and how it has performed so far in delivering the key tasks of the internationalization of the university?

We have come a long way and ISC has grown over the years in the size and scope of its responsibilities. It has done quite well so far but needs to step up its efforts to turn UM into the preferred choice for international students. One of the things that I think needs to be strengthened is how we treat our international students and how well we can pre-empt issues before they crop up.

6) Having helmed the new portfolio recently and being a few months into this new responsibility, what are the key challenges and stumbling blocks that you have faced and how did you go about in facing and solving them?

The biggest and most immediate problem that I saw on assuming the post of DVC (A & I) was how weak and fragmented the DVC (A & I) portfolio was. The second biggest problem was a lack of direction, planning and coordination especially with regards to internationalization and branding. We are now in the process of strengthening the portfolio and the size of the portfolio has now increased from less than 100 staff to more than 350 at the last count. We are also making and executing new plans to put in place a clear direction for the portfolio. By the end of the year, I hope to see some results from this restructuring and planning.

7) Being in the vital and all-important seat of leading and managing the tasks of academic matters as well as internationalizing the university, how do you assess the current level of achievement that the university has gone through and how do you plan to take it forward?

The university is somewhat behind its local rivals in academic matters and needs to take steps to strengthen its academic programs. We are nowhere at the stage where I can say we are being looked up to in all fields in academia in Malaysia. In research, we can safely say UM is the best research university in Malaysia bar none but the same cannot be said about academic affairs. Surprisingly, we are not too bad in terms of internationalization but our efforts are not well coordinated and appear to lack direction. We are now looking into new ways of teaching and learning and looking to improve our coordination and branding efforts.

8) UM has achieved commendable and respectable standings in various research fields as well as in international rankings over the years. What are the significant areas that you think are of utmost importance in order to pave the way towards achieving the intended aspirations and targets of the university?

In order to do this, we first require a better branding and marketing strategy as unfortunately, we do lots of good work but don't leverage on these well enough. Secondly, we need to make sure that whatever we do is sustainable and not dependent on personalities or any single point of failure. Thirdly, we need a better and more sustainable source of income as government funding for universities is likely to decrease in the future.

9) Having served and contributed to the university over the past decades, what are your feelings and hopes for the future of the university and where do you foresee the path that it might take over the next few decades to come.

I hope that people will pull together and where necessary, pull their socks up and work towards a common goal. There are still naysayers who never seem to have a good word for whatever is being done in UM. UM has what it takes to be a world-class university but this requires everyone to pull their weight, greater autonomy, a new and radical pay structure as well as a sustainable source of funding.

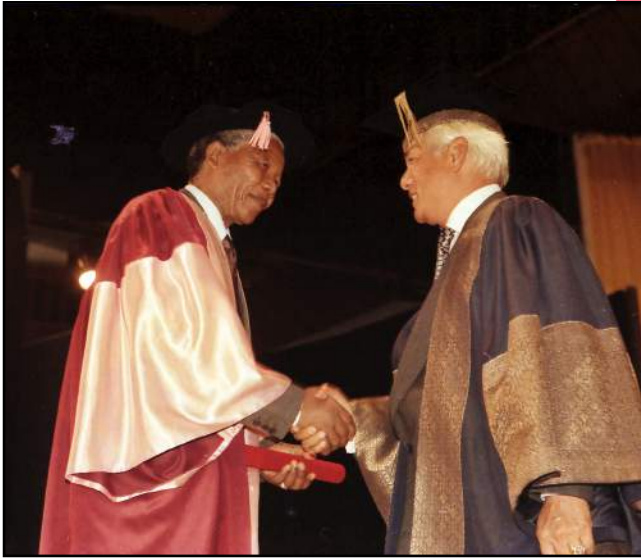
10) What are your messages to all our partner universities as well as affiliated institutions which have been playing a vital role in walking the path towards common aspirations of achieving success together?

I have always maintained that we will all have a brighter future if we work together. This includes all aspects be it academic, research or other meaningful ways of contributing to society. Work with UM as we are the best university in Malaysia in many ways and we are always open to working with other institutions, locally and internationally plus we have a great deal of experience in working with other institutions.

Dewan Tunku Canselor



A legendary and uniquely distinctive hall that shapes the history and legacy of the university. That is our main hall which is called the Dewan Tunku Canselor (DTC). The word *Dewan* means hall while *Tunku Canselor* depicts the name being given in honour of the first Prime Minister of Malaysia, YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al Haj who has officiated the iconic building on 25 June 1966. The hall is being used as the official venue for the convocation ceremony for 587 graduates for the 1965/1966 Academic Session. It has been the tradition all along the way ever since that for the official convocation ceremony of the university to be held in this hall. Designed by Dato' Kington Loo, this hall took around 18 months to be completed and was among the first structure in Malaysia to follow the influence of the design by infamous Swiss-French designer, Le Corbusier.



The hall has been the venue for various memorable and history-making events that have made up the social fabric and historic connotation of the university as a whole throughout the decades. The visit by President of the United States, Mr. Obama has been the main highlight in contemporary terms where the hall is the venue catered for the delivery of an address by the President to an audience of young leaders throughout the region in a Young Southeast Asia Leaders program. Meaningful and fruitful exchanges and interactive two-way communication and dialogue make up the core pillar throughout the address. In 2012, the then Premier of China, H.E. Wen Jiabao gave a keynote address to a packed audience of students and youth when he visited the university in a goodwill gesture as part of efforts to further strengthen bilateral ties between both countries. Besides that, various other heads of states and other respected dignitaries locally and abroad have graced the hall and this is where it stands proud in being the historic place where it all began in charting future hopes and in leaving unwavering marks of rich historical legacy that will portray the true shining strength of the university and the nation as a whole.



FIELD TRIPS

IPOH, PERAK

Ipoh is famous for its former glory of being a mining town back in the 1920s and 1930s and now it stands tall as among the biggest cities in Malaysia and being the capital of the state Perak. It is being surrounded by beautiful and mesmerising limestone hills which can be seen clearly from afar and also famous the various Chinese and Buddhist hill temples being located at the foot of these hills. The city is also offering a wide array of delectable local cuisine and all these managed to give a supreme and unforgettable experience for the students who

participated in this field trip to Ipoh. A total of 69 students participated in this trip in two buses where ISC managed to bring them to Gua Tempurung, one of the most famous cave in the country where they got to trek all along the route deep into the caves with a guided tour. Students are also brought to various other attractions such as the cave temple as well as savouring the local delicacies. The program ended at 9pm after dinner at the city and after viewing the all lighted up old railway station as well as the infamous City Hall.

MALACCA

Another field trip to Malacca is organized on 18 April 2015 where students are being ferried around the historical city and being given the avenue to experience the trail of heritage and historical assets being displayed as a living museum for all to savour. Breakfast is being provided to the students in the morning before departure and the programs ends at 10pm after reaching the campus from Malacca.

NEGERI SEMBILAN

The one day trip to Negeri Sembilan on 12 April 2015 begins with breakfast being provided by ISC with Mr. Collins as the officer in attendance who also doubles up as the driver of the official ISC van. A total of 13 students participated in this trip, the number being smaller than the usual ones because of the mid semester break that has just begun. The first stop is at the Istana Seri Menanti, one of the famous landmarks in Negeri Sembilan. Originally a timber palace constructed between 1902 to 1908, the palace has now been turned into a royal museum. This four-storey building is special because it was constructed

without using any nails in which hardwood rods were instead used to piece the timber together. The roof of this palace represents a buffalo's horns which are widely regarded as the protective symbol of the palace. Next stops is at the Ulu Bendul Recreation Forest in which students get to experience the natural wonder of the famous waterfall besides going to the Python Farm located next to it. The students are given the opportunity to hold and touch the python on display besides admiring the other pythons. The students are then ferried to Port Dickson, the famous beach of Negeri Sembilan

where various water sport activities are provided. There are also many eateries operational along the seaside selling traditional and famous food in the state such as char kuew tiow, cendol and local fishcakes. Students are then being brought for dinner at a nearby seafood restaurant and the journey home to UM begins soon after that.





HOMESTAY PROGRAM

A total of 35 students from various nationalities participated in this homestay program held at Kg Morten, Malacca from 6 - 7 June 2015. As only authentic Malay village being preserved at the heart of historical Malacca city, Kg Morten or Morten Village portrays the original Malay village and settlement where beautiful and unique style of Malay wooden houses or kampung are being portrayed and preserved as the outstanding Malay heritage in the old historic city of Malacca. Among the activities being organized are playing with traditional games and village activities, visiting a century old living Malay house museum, and also experiencing the jaw-dropping sights of the Malacca River during dusk by cruising along with a small passenger boat along the route all the way to the rivermouth and back to the village. Students also get to enjoy the traditional Malay wedding being held during the first day of the program where they manage to participate in the

wedding blessing ceremony or called *merenjis air mawar* to the newly wed bride and bridegroom. The second day of the program sees the students being brought around the city for their tour around the historical buildings and roads and a wide array of delicious local food that Malacca is famous for. Generally, students give a positive feedback on the great eye-opening experience that they managed to savor.



ISC TRAINING & TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP

A **workshop** is held to provide the avenue for further consolidation and uplifting of the ISC team to better boost the spirit of unity and togetherness in the team besides propelling the *esprit de corps* of the entire ISC workforce. A rejuvenation of the work process and work flow to plug loopholes and also to improvise and improve on the ideas and work process to better serve the students and staff remains the main agenda of the workshop that is held in Felda Residence & Hot Spring, Sungkai, Perak. The entire team of ISC attended the workshop in a 3 day 2 night program which is filled with fruitful and productive presentations from each unit and also discussions regarding the job scope and duties of all the units and also to seek ways to have better and constant improvement and betterment of the current strategies. The end result of this workshop looks promising and hopeful where the team is energized and given the right preparation to rejuvenate for better services to come and to do the best for the international students as well as making sure the internationalization policy of the university turns out to be a success.



THE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION UNIT

The Undergraduate full time Admission Unit has a core function of managing all the process and application of undergraduate admission for all bachelor degree-seeking full time international students. Details and information regarding the deadline of application and also the related requirements needed for the students before they submit their application are being portrayed to all potential market and the

students. This unit also helps out with visa matters of the students as well providing advice and the right information needed in order to attract more students to enroll in the university especially for degree-seeking programs. This is vital in ensuring the target of ISC to further focus on increasing the number of full-time international undergraduate students to better reflect the proportion of international community on campus.

TUN AHMAD ZAIDI RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE'S ANNUAL GRAND DINNER

As an annual program that is being eagerly anticipated by all residents of the dormitory, the *Malam Gemilang Sepuluh* or the Annual Grand Dinner of 10th Residential College was held with much fun and fare on 24th of May 2015. This event is the culmination of all the activities and programs being held at the residential college for the entire year and it is here where all the hard work, efforts and dedication shown by the students who have been playing a major role in organizing and implementing various activities in the college are being recognized and appreciated. International students made up the majority of the audience who was present at that night which was

held in The Connexion Nexus, Bangsar where they experienced the jovial and cheerful ambience and setting for the dinner filled with melancholic performances. Honors and awards are being presented to all the deserved recipients and as the main accommodation for all the exchange students of the university, 10th Residential College remains the ever important partner to ISC and the university as a whole in providing the ideal accommodation and the right environment for the students to settle down well and in completing the circle of a comprehensive service to international students.



NEPALI FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

A group of volunteers took the initiative to kick-start the program to have a fund-raising campaign in view of the earthquake disaster in Nepal. A proper plan and execution was carried out with the help, guidance and monitoring by ISC where the campaign went on for two weeks with successful and unexpected response and generosity shown by the campus community, student and staff alike. The volunteers were being divided into groups and went around the campus from lecture halls and cafeterias to other dormitories in different rounds. The hard work, dedication and perseverance shown by the volunteers as well as all who have been facilitating and helping this campaign are being appreciated by ISC and the university where the total collections will be handed over to the Nepali Embassy in Kuala Lumpur in a hand-over ceremony in due time.



ISLAMIC CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION



The international students are invited to the official exhibition of Islamic Calligraphy which is jointly organized by the High Commission of India in Malaysia and University of Malaya. It is held at the Museum of Asian Arts in the university and among the guests of honors are the High Commissioner of India, H.E. T.S Tirumurti and the Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya, Professor Dato' Dr Mohd Amin Jalaludin. A total of 13 exchange students attended the official opening ceremony and the subsequent exhibition of the calligraphy. They learned a lot about the history, meaning and importance of the Islamic Calligraphy during the event and it proves to be a meaningful and fruitful visit for them.

POSCO FELLOWSHIP AWARD 2015

Fifteen University of Malaya (UM) undergraduates were chosen to receive scholarship from the Korean Fellowship known as POSCO TJ Park Foundation.

Pohang Iron and Steel Company or otherwise known as POSCO is the world's second largest steelmaker from South Korea. Since 1971, POSCO has been legendary for its philanthropic activities, particularly in social contribution programs resulting in the establishment of POSCO TJ Park Foundation in 2005. One of the main objectives of the TJ Park Foundation is to develop academic and cultural networks among Asian universities and nurture young Asians to become future leaders.

In line with this agenda, the Foundation has been active in funding academic and cultural programs as well as fellowship activities across Asia. The Foundation continues to invest in the younger generation to produce individuals who are globally competitive. The recipients, who are from different faculties and pursuing various degrees, received USD700 (RM2,500) each. UM's Students Affairs and Alumni Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr. Rohana Yusof said the scholarship was given to outstanding students with potential to become future leaders.

"We hope the recipients take this opportunity as their fundamental to open-up their mind and become globally competitive in the future," during her welcoming remarks here today. Eight recipients are from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, two from the Faculty of Business and Accountancy. Other recipients are undergraduate students from the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Cultural Centre and Sports Centre.

The foundation is awarding scholarship to 300 students from 19 universities in 10 Asian countries, including Malaysia.



SHORT TERM PROGRAMS

WASEDA UNIVERSITY

As a mark in strengthening bilateral relations between Waseda University and University of Malaya, it has been three consecutive years running now in continuing the short term exchange program in which Waseda University sends around 10 to 15 students for this program being held usually in May every year. Besides the academic program, we also organised various non-academic activities for the students where they were taken for field trips and also experienced the homestay program. Students managed to immerse themselves in the local culture and food and also mingle around with other student buddies in which they have learned a new set of language, traditions and also an invaluable Malaysian experience where they surely cherished. Evidenced from their reluctance to leave Malaysia on the last day of the program, they mentioned that they will surely

value the unforgettable experience here and to spread that to their peers and friends in Japan. Accompanying officer Ms Ayaka Konagaya thanked the organising team and expressed on behalf of Waseda University their appreciation as well as the strong need to further strengthen and enhance the existing bilateral ties and to continue to make this program an annual affair with even greater participation in the years to come. The same sentiment is being echoed by director of ISC Madam Zarina Zainol Abidin during the closing ceremony hosted by the host at Rebung Restaurant famous for its Malay traditional food. The entire program has been successfully run and the bond forged among the students and the buddies as well as the officers from both sides is solid where it will further catapult the intensification of cooperation and ties between both institutions at a deeper level.







UNIVERSITY OF JOHN MOORES

A total of **39 students** from the University Of John Moores, Liverpool, United Kingdom attended a one month program here where they are attached with the Faculty of Built Environment. They are accompanied by 5 lecturers for this short term program which is fast becoming an annual program now attached with the Faculty of Built Environment. Accommodation for the entire program is provided at the

International House and besides attending classes and lectures being prepared by the faculty, they are also exposed to the unique Malaysian culture and heritage through various activities being held by the faculty together with the assistance of ISC where the final common hope is for them to savor and create rich memories and experience during their short stay here in UM in particular and Malaysia in general.

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (UMISA)



Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** is held on 10 April 2015 at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences with the commencement of the speech by outgoing president of UMISA, Firmansyah Shidiq Wardhana. He expressed his thanks to all committee members and all the students who have been playing a great role in helping to manage and helm the association and its activities throughout the working period of the first official recognition of the body. The Activity and Welfare Officer, Mr. Collins then emphasized on the need to uphold and enhance the spirit of unity in diversity and for all to come together in working

towards a common path of the development of the association and the subsequent achievement of the university's vision and mission as a whole. He also expressed his appreciation to all the committee members and all the students who have been playing their part in contributing towards the successful year of the operation of the association in carrying out its tasks and responsibilities. He further stressed upon the essence of solidarity in action and embedding the core values of the university in heart and soul of the students with the common aspiration of contributing towards the well-being and success of the university, the society and the global community as a whole. The meeting goes on well with the

presentation of report detailing the past activities that have been carried out and also financial report being presented. The voting soon commences with the election of the new president being officially started with the result being officially announced once the voting process is over. The new president for the working period of 2015/2016 of Ismuroozi Arianto from Indonesia, who is a second year student in the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology. Messages of hope and a new aspiration of further success at the association are belted out by the new president and the meeting closes with light refreshment being served.

UMISA Interaction Night



The Interaction Night is held with the main aim to foster better understanding and interaction among the various background and nationalities of international students that we have here on campus especially among the full time international students. The program runs well which is started by speeches by the Patron of UMISA, Mr Collins Chong and also the current President of UMISA, Mr. Ismuroozi. The event is continued by various performances and interactive games meant to better integrate the pool of students present which also include lucky draw sessions. Light refreshments are served at the end of the program which ended successfully with the students having a great night filled with excitement and joy.

URAL FEDERAL UNIVERSITY

ISC has received an invitation to participate in the The 2nd International week at Ural Federal University, Russia. The main program of the event started on June 16 with the plenary session "Together to Global Academia". During the meeting, representatives of 19 universities from 13 countries: Mexico, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Germany, China, Malaysia, the USA, Poland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Israel, Italy and Thailand, introduced their universities and defined the direction of strategic development of international cooperation in this networking and get-together event. We are honoured to be represented in this event by our director Madam Zarina and Deputy Director of Global Planning and Strategy Centre, Professor Dr. Nor Aishah Hamzah who represented the university.

The program of the International Week included an educational exhibition where more than 600 people attended. It is beneficial and fruitful where actual information about educational programs of foreign universities, academic mobility and exchange programs information are being shared. The participants also gathered for round-table discussions where experience in academic exchanges and other topical issues of internationalization are being discussed and shared. The event eventually culminated in a fruitful and productive program for all the participants where the potential to further expand cooperation and ties among the top universities in the region remains a big opportunity to be explored and to further enhance better relations among all the universities present.



PROUD HOST TO OVERSEAS DELEGATIONS

For the past few months, ISC has been busy managing and preparing for numerous visits to the university and the center by various partner and potential partner institutions overseas. These visits will certainly go a long way in further cementing better and solidified ties between UM and these vital partners in order for us to move forward in achieving the intended target and aspirations. Most of the visits centred around the desires by the foreign higher institutions to learn and know more of our educational and academic system and to explore the potentiality to further send their students to continue their higher education here either in undergraduate or postgraduate level. There are numerous goodwill visits by existing partners who intended to further raise ties to a higher level in better reflecting the growing importance, influence and outreach of our university in a global level. It is our constant aspiration that the initiative and passion shown by our most valued partners will be reciprocated and to ensure that the path is opened together for the mutual benefit and to enhance collaboration in increased fields in the years and decades to come.



STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE 1

My experience in the University of Malaya

At first, I was full of anxiety because it was my first time to stay in a foreign country for a long period. However, in reality, studying in Malaysia was very comfortable and fun since people in Malaysia were very kind and nice and they supported my life in Malaysia in any aspect. In UM, I was receiving lectures in Faculty of Economics and sometimes I encountered difficulties in my classes because lecture level was high enough for me. Nevertheless, I managed to be able to get enough marks in my classes due to close support of lecturers and course mates. They lent their hands to me whenever I requested their help. Furthermore, UM friends supported me even in private. Some friends brought me to eat nice Malay food, invited me to her hometown, and took me to sight seeing spots in KL. They were so kind and tender to me. Living in an international hostel was also unforgettable experience because it allowed me to have lots of close friends in UM. Especially, the days with my dear roommate are my treasures. We built a strong bond through our dormitory lives although we were from different country and had different back ground and ways of thinking. I learned a lot of important things in UM including cross-cultural understanding. There were various people who had different culture, background, religion, and everything. Of course sometimes these differences puzzled me, but it also widens my small world and narrow perspective. I'll never forget valuable and impressive days spent in UM.



By: Azusa Nishida

Soka University, Japan

STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE 2

Hi everyone! My name is Erika Sánchez, and as you may guess from my name, I am Spanish. A year ago, I got a scholarship from my university that allowed me to come to this university for one semester. I was quite worried and frightened because even though I travelled alone few times, I never made such a long trip by my own. However, I knew that this was what I wanted and I went for it. And here I am, I came to Malaysia just four months ago to study English linguistics at the Languages and Linguistics Faculty in University of Malaya. What to say about University of Malaya? Well, the first thing that impressed me is that it is huge. It may seem impossible, but it is as big as my town in Spain (yes, I checked it on Google). Then, I was surprised because of the diversity of people in my classes. It was easy to find people from maybe five or six countries in the same class. And the classes can only afford 20 people! It is amazing to see the how international this university is. This helped me a lot to make me feel comfortable, even though I didn't meet any Western person. However, the most amazing aspect of this university is the food court. You can easily find any type of food in there: Chinese, Indian, Malaysian and even Western! I have to admit that the food I like the most is the Indian one. I will never forget the taste of the roti planta (no sugar, always), or the cheese naan... I even asked the Indian cook to write the recipe for me! Nevertheless, sincerely what took me to Malaysia was not the university itself, but the country. If

you have ever been to Spain, you know how different it is from Malaysia. There is not even a simple thing that is similar! But this was what I wanted, a different country, and I found it. I will never forget this fabulous experience and I am sure that I will come back within few years.

Jumpa lagi!

By: **Erika Sánchez**

Universitat Jaume I, Spain



STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE 3

I study economics , but it was quite impossible to match all my subjects so I did it through two faculties which are the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Built Environment.

Nevertheless, sincerely what took me to Malaysia was not only the university itself, but the country as a whole. Mexico is also a mix of different people but we all have things in common . Here you can find so many different things in only one place . But this was what I wanted, a different country, and I found it. The three ethnicities live harmoniously in peace: Malay, Indian and Chinese. I found myself really amazed and even I asked one friend to teach me how to use the hijab as well as other traditional and religious customs , as I tried so many other things such as using the chopsticks everyday, or eating with my right hand .



Apart from that, I was amazed by the culture and the amazing sightseeing here in Asia. I have been to Ipoh and Malacca through the field trips organised by the International Student Centre (ISC) ,and also to Penang for its awesome food, I can say it is the food paradise of Malaysia and also Langkawi for its duty free products. Thanks to the university tours by ISC as well, we went to Putrajaya, the beautiful administrative city and also to experience the Magic of the night festival, I should say that Kuala Lumpur got all my attention with its tall Twin Towers and also the beautiful night scenes.

Now that I am in Mexico I can say how much I miss Malaysia and all my friends , all that food that at the beginning was so difficult to try and now how much I miss my *roti canai* every morning , I want to thank you all for being such awesome people and Good bye-la.

By: Mariana Acevedo Arrieta

National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico



UNIVERSITI MALAYA

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International Student Centre