



ISC News

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



As we move towards the final quarter of the year, the excitement has been growing rapidly with major programs being lined up for the students. We are fully focused on the planning stage of two major events which are the International Day and the International Gala Dinner both of which see the partnership and cooperation between the team of ISC and also the students' representatives. The results have been staggeringly clear where these events manage to capture a huge number of students patronising and getting to know better the internationalisation agenda of the university particularly in terms of student mobility and exchange. Various programs have been initiated in this regard where efforts are made to get the international and local students to understand one another better in terms of language, culture, and traditions. We are also proud to be the host for the second year consecutively the QS Summer School Summit where the delegates from the members are given a comprehensive tour and briefing on the university as well as productive and interactive dialogues and discussions on the internationalisation of higher education and the avenues of student mobility and joint research in potential areas of collaboration among the member universities. As we welcome the beginning of the new year and closing the chapter of 2015, we have a renewed vigour and motivation to strive for greater aspirations and further success for the entire ISC team and the university as a whole.

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

QS SUMMER SCHOOL SUMMIT



The University of Malaya is proud to host the QS Summer School Summit for the second year running, bringing together 85 participants from 45 institutions of 19 countries.

The QS Summer School Summit is the premier international forum for higher education leaders to discuss summer school management (and other short-term programs), explore new summer school destinations for their students and expand their student- and faculty exchange networks.

In addition to unparalleled networking, the QS Summer School Summit offers opportunities to share best-practices and stay abreast of the latest developments in short-term student mobility in Asia and around the world.

The Summit offered a highly interactive format where discussions, dialogues and knowledge and idea sharing sessions were held in different settings and format mainly focusing on the issues of higher education and summer exchange and mobility programs. Various initiatives, ideas and exchanges were held in elevating and enhancing partnerships and collaborations among the members in chartering the path forward.

The formal part of the summit was focused on the importance of maintaining academic quality control, offering a unique student experience and future trends for Summer Schools.

The university's top management has been giving huge support in this event with various programs organised such as plenary and forums as well hosting the delegates to a farewell luncheon and campus tour in the university.

PROUD HOST TO FOREIGN DELEGATION

The last quarter of the year saw various external institutions who visited the university and the ISC in particular with the general objective of seeking to expand and enhance collaboration and partnership as well as to cement deeper ties in the mobility exchange program reciprocally.



There are also various institutions who are keen to send students for the summer exchange and one semester exchange programs here in the university under the mobility sphere besides the continuous efforts in reaching out to the global network in further deepening understanding and outreach not only among partner universities but also in reaching new grounds and exploring different areas of cooperation. The visits are meaningful, productive and forward-looking with common desires to build platforms and foundations to secure better path ahead.



HOMESTAY PROGRAM



The **popular homestay program** is being continued where this time it also caters to the students from the short term programs as well. As the students are all back to their home universities at the end of the semester, the semester break is the time for activities to be held for the short term students.





Among the places that the students experienced for the homestay program are the rural village in Sabak Bernam in Selangor and Morten Village in the heart of Melaka.

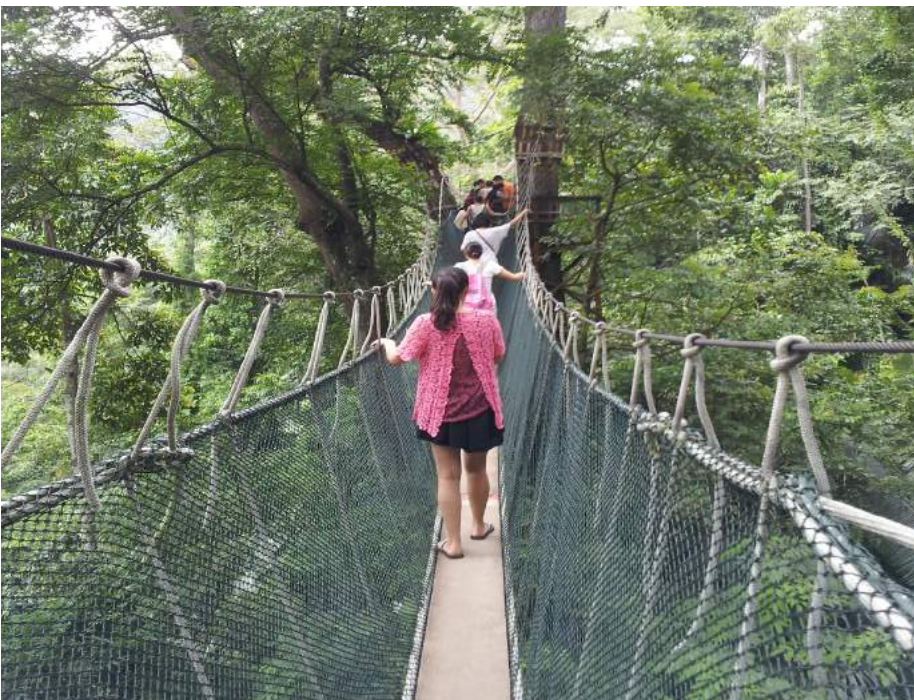


FIELD TRIPS



The field trip program is being continued with trips to the famous places that are steep in heritage and traditions which reflect the multi-ethnic composition in the country.





Students are being exposed to the myriad of cultures, traditions and food which they are able to experience through the field trips where transport and also food are provided for the ease and convenience of the students and that welfare, safety and security are being prioritised throughout the visit to ensure that students are able to fully enrich themselves and for the objective of the trips to be fulfilled.

INTERNATIONAL DAY 2015



As we move towards the final quarter of the year, the International Student Centre has been in the circle of a myriad of programs and activities that are carried out in the last stretch of the year's timeline. The whole team has been galvanised in organising two major programs under our wings which are the International Day 2015 and the International Students' Gala Dinner.





Various stages of planning and execution have been implemented with profound motivation and perseverance seen among the staff and the students with an amazing and wonderful result being seen on both days of the events. The target and objective of the programs have been met and exceeded with the overall aspiration of getting the campus community to get closer to the international students on campus through various programs and activities being successfully achieved. Furthermore, various other programs that are being held by the students themselves are being projected during these events so as to better foster relations between the local and the international students.



The main objective of these two major events of the year has been successfully achieved where the turnout of the local students during the International Day has been very encouraging with programs like mobility sharing program and with promotional booths highlighting the various cultures and traditions of different countries with the dedication of the students who take part in projecting their countries' heritage and specialties.



The food fair has been a resounding success during the event where countries like Iran, Singapore, Thailand, China, Bangladesh, and many more where the local and international students as well as the campus community alike thronging the fair and experiencing the different delectable specialties from these countries.



Not only that, the cultural fair has the same level of attraction where the campus community is able to enrich and enlighten themselves on the richness and essence of the various different culture and traditions on display.

INTERNATIONAL GALA DINNER



The International Gala Dinner has been held with much pomp and glamour with the theme “Colourful” where students are dressed up to the nines in accordance to the grand night’s awe. The dignitaries include the top management of the university with all the international students who are invited to this event as a show of appreciation in their presence and role as part of the student community on campus and as a celebration of the meaningful diversity and global outreach that the university has been embarking on. As many as six hundred students are in attendance with them looking forward to this event as the pinnacle and most awaited event of the year where they feast their eyes on the various wonderful and jaw-dropping performances from various countries taking part as well as enjoying the sumptuous food prepared in a spectacular ambience and surrounding. Introductory speeches are given by the top management and the student representatives where they highlighted the meaningful contribution of the international students in the activities and programs throughout the year and followed by the award-giving ceremony for prominent international students who excel in the fields of sports, academics and co-curricular activities. There are also special awards in internationalisation agenda contribution to specific faculties and departments who have been playing a stellar role throughout the year in assisting ISC as well as contributing to the success of the internalisation agenda of the university as a whole.

INDONESIAN DAY FESTIVAL



The Indonesia Day 2015 or ID Fest 2015 is being held this year with much fanfare and meaningful programs being lined up for the students and the campus community.





As an annual event for the past few years running, this year's event saw the turnout of a high number of students and exciting performances. The whole objective of this program is to better highlight the interesting culture, tradition and uniqueness of the Indonesian society through the lens of diversity and the celebration of the coming together of various entities and culture in resembling and representing the melting pot of the Indonesian society.



BANGLADESHI STUDENT'S NIGHT



The **Bangladeshi Students' Night** or popularly known as **BSN** is the largest Bangladesh annual event in Malaysia organised by the students. Historically taking place since 2012, the event took place on October 31, 2015 in the historic hall of Dewan Tunku Canselor of University of Malaya.





The audience comprised of students from the university as well as students and people from all walks of life from more than 65 institutions. Among the events lined up for the night were popular and traditional performances performed by the students as well as professionals. A live band specially flown in from Bangladesh, SHUNNO was the eagerly awaited event of the night which made up the finale of the event and students had a memorable time from the mesmerising shows and performances lined up.

The event also attracted sponsorship from various notable institutions locally and abroad in which the support given in monetary and no-monetary forms from all parties ensured a successful and meaningful event which have benefitted more than a thousand people which have been exposed to the colourful culture of Bangladesh to a diverse audience



HULT PRIZE



The Hult Prize is the biggest social entrepreneurship competition in the world and a group of students led by Nazifah Hossain initiated the drive to initiate the competition on campus with the winning team to be able to represent the university at the global level competition. The purpose for doing this was to bring enthusiastic to-be social entrepreneurs together on a platform and provide them with an opportunity to compete and portray their talents on a global platform. Hult Prize has always dealt with social hindrances and letting the bright minds across the world to come up with a solution and providing them with USD 1million as seed capital to transform their mere idea to a world changing social business. A total of 17 teams from UM registered for the competition from various faculties where students of undergraduate and postgraduate levels participated. The judges consisted of prominent individuals of expertise and experience from within the university as well as external figures. The University of Malaya Entrepreneurship Centre (UMEC) spearheaded the funding for the winning team and the costs involved for the competition with the support and assistance from the International Student Centre.



STUDENT'S ACHIEVEMENT



Hutomo Danu Saputro from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has received the Presidential Award from the President of South Korea with regards to the Economic Essay Competition on "Korea Economic Outlook 2016: Student Perspective". He takes part in the competition when he is undergoing the one semester exchange program to Sejong University in which his essay is chosen to be the best among the rest. He has been invited to the Blue House of Korea for the prize-giving ceremony by President Park Geun Hye.



STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE

In 2015 the end of summer, it's my second time to go to Malaysia. I have been to Kota Kinabalu. It's one of my best travel experiences in my life. So I was very excited to go UM for exchange student programme. The first time I enter UM I feel the campus is so huge and beautiful. To compare with my home town university is totally different.

About the life in UM, the 10th Residential College (KK10) is the first place I go in UM. KK10 is great place, even there is no air conditioner in my room, but lots of tree surrounding the dormitory make the temperature not too hot. The best thing is there are many court for almost all kind of sports! They can make all the exchange students communicate and meet each other through sports.

I meet lots of UM local students, they are so friendly and nice, helping me when I encounter any problem. Most of the time after class, they always invite me to go to library to study and go out of campus to experience the Malaysian local culture!

The last and the important thing, I want to thank for the UM ISC staff for their constant support and help! They plan many great activities to let us enjoy the exchange period. The days in UM are so impressive and unforgettable.

Cheng Yung-Keng,

National Taiwan Ocean University,
Taiwan.



STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE



My name is XIA MENGHU, I am a exchange student from China. I am so lucky to be admitted to University of Malaya on 23th September 2015, which would be an unforgettable experience in my whole life.

I still remember the day we arrived in the airport, I did not know anything about here. It were Mr. Collins and Miss Xu who helped us to adapt to the new environment. I have to admit that ISC's staffs are so helpful and kind. When I first came here, I got various problems and difficulties in my initial period of time here. But time flies and this is already my second semester, I become so familiar with everything here. My wonderful and meaningful experience I got here with the support of friends and staff made me wanting to continue my second semester

here and to extend and my lovely stay here in the university and in the country. My major is journalism, so most of my courses are located in Faculty of Arts and Social Science. I also chose two classes in language faculty to improve my English. The first several classes may be difficult for me because of the language, I am accustomed to the teachers after a period of time. Classes, tutorials, assignments become daily activities. After a period of learning, I have transformed from an English words-speaking learner into a sentence-speaking learner. The most important thing was that I passed the IELTS exam, which showed I have improved a lot.

As far as I'm concerned, I am crazy about sports. Because of my height, I became the representative athlete of 10th Residential College where we all stay. I played basketball and handball for the residential college team. I was eventually called upon to play basketball for the university team now. Last but not least, what impressed most are the International Day and Gala Dinner organized by ISC. As the organizer and representative of China in International Day, we were so lucky to get be selected as the champion in the cultural booth competition which showed that our hard work paid off finally. These two events were so meaningful and important in celebrating and appreciating the international students in the university and we are lucky to be able to be part of the event and in gaining the awards and recognition of the work that we have put in. If I did not come here to study, I would have never met so many friends from all over the world. As a matter of fact, I already fall in love with UM and Malaysia. Thanks for everyone who have helped me here, I will never forget everything when I am back to China.

Xia Menghu,

Fujian University of Technology,
China.



I am Natsuho Miyanishi, one year exchange student in 2015/2016 from Shinshu University in Japan. Looking back on my first semester in University of Malaya, I experienced amazing things as well as hard moments. In the first week after arriving in Malaysia, my heart was so excited and beating so fast for new life in a foreign country. For me, I have very few opportunity to mingle with foreign friends using English in Japan, so this exchange program looked something adventurous and valuable. Huge UM campus, first nasi goreng at cafeteria, mixed cultural society... those things looked treasures for me.

I learned one more important thing; various cultural experience. As everyone knows, University of Malaya is a university many people with various nationalities gather in. Fortunately, ISC provided us with some international events, exhibitions, and parties. I am convinced that we never know the cultures, including people's thoughts and goodness, unless we touch the reality of them. Finally, let me write about my objective of this exchange

program. Actually, I had another option for exchange program, such as the United States or European countries, and most of students of my home university tend to choose them. So why did I choose Malaysia in the South East Asia region? That's because I wanted to learn new cultures and religions. I may be ignorant or indifferent to them if I didn't come to Malaysia. Sometimes we have misunderstanding or prejudice toward other people from different backgrounds without knowing each other. I believe this semester nurtured my attitude toward them and support my open-mindedness.

I have one more semester and it is regretful that most of my best friends already finished their exchange program, but I hope it will be productive and fruitful semester as well.

Natsuho Miyanishi,
Shinshu University,
Japan.



International Student Centre

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