

UCSI CELEBRATES MERDEKA IN SPIRIT OF UNITY



Students reciting the Rukunegara

University College Sedaya International (UCSI) held its Merdeka celebrations within its campus grounds in the true spirit of unity, a reflection of a multi-racial and multi-cultural society living in harmony, celebrating 50 Years of independence.

Merdeka celebrations are an annual affair at UCSI, but this year's celebration was very meaningful and significant. It was a celebration and commemoration of Malaysia's 50 years of independence and achievements. A showcase of the journey taken by our predecessors and how Merdeka was achieved was relieved.

Mr. Kit Chin, UCSI's Vice President (Academic) said, "UCSI's Merdeka celebrations aim to teach our students of our past, to celebrate our present and to look to the future with hope and anticipation."

Professor Dr. Norfadzillah bt. Hitam, Vice President, Research and Corporate affairs said that, "UCSI is a very international community, with some 60 countries represented here. We want to share our country's history with our international students and reflect the true spirit of unity that has prevailed and endured and made us truly different and unique from the rest of the world."

The celebration at UCSI kicked off early with the raising of the national flag after which the local staff and students recited the Rukunegara. A theatre performance by the students from the Compulsory Bahasa Malaysia Subject course was presented next. It recounted the days of the Japanese Occupation, the declaration by the various races in Malaysia to work together in unity for independence from the British and the first call of Merdeka! This was followed by students' performance of the gentle and graceful Sumazau dance from Sabah. The concept of 'Malaysia Truly Asai' and 'Unity in Diversity' truly came alive, and this is in tandem with the government's call to promote Malaysian culture to the world. UCSI illustrates itself to be a micro 'melting pot' of the

world; with its ever increasing international and very cosmopolitan student environment.

A spirited and moving poetry recital by Simon Goh Wai Kit ensued. He said that he could recite the poem with full emotion as he had researched about Merdeka earlier and fully understood that his citizenship was something very precious and invaluable. Alumnus Soon Hock Chuan and undergraduate Yeoh Pek Ann then played the instrumental version of “Jalur Gemilang” on the harmonica and cello. The next presentation was the “Joget Melayu” which was a lively dance which moved the audience to clap along.

Ms. Azatul Oryani Umardin, the Malay Culture Club (MCC) President at UCSI said, “This is the best Merdeka celebration ever! As a Malaysian in UCSI’s internationalized community, I felt that despite the differences among our diverse races and cultures, we should emulate our past leaders and learn from them to work in unity for the betterment of our nation.”

Ms. Shobna Shree a/p Krishnan, Deputy Vice President of UCSI’s Student Council said, “The Merdeka celebrations have drawn not only participation of our rich and colourful heritage and understand us better as Malaysians.”

The event ended with a sing-along session led by the choir. The audience made up of UCSI staff and students sang the ever popular patriotic songs, “Keruanamu Malaysia”, “Malaysia in the Eyes of the World” as well as “Malaysiaku Gemilang”.

The Merdeka 2007 celebration at UCSI, though simple, was a most enjoyable and meaningful celebration.

