



BULLETIN

University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD)
 Buletin Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya (PDPUM)

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KONAN University Study Programme on Malaysia: Biodiversity, Multiculturalism and Environmental Ethics.

Collaboration with KONAN University, Japan
 28th of August 2012 - 2nd of September 2012

The Centre for Civilisational Dialogue was delighted to receive a delegation from Konan University from 28 August to 2 September 2012. They were here in Malaysia on a 5-day study programme on biodiversity, multiculturalism and environmental ethics, which was an event in line with the mutual agendas in the MoU signed between the two institutions. The delegation was consisted of 20 students and three lecturers, led by Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi. Konan University is no stranger to the Centre as this is their fourth visit to this country and the University of Malaya on similar programme, is as dear friend and partner.

The Centre held a welcoming ceremony at the Katha Room upon their arrival. The Centre's Deputy Director, Dr. Zuraidah Abdullah, gave the welcoming remarks. It was followed by a presentation from the University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) as a part of building relationships and networkings with various institutions.

Professor Fumiaki, in his response and expressed his impression on the Club's vision and activities, and spontaneously declared his willingness to initiate their own UNESCO Club.

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Having an ice-cream break.



Dinner photo at Rebung Restaurant.

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Professor Fumiaki then proceeded the ceremony by holding a public lecture at the Room with a presentation entitled “Jakun People and Cosmology in Endau Rompin National Park (Peta) from the Viewpoint of Traditional Ecological Knowledge.” In his presentation, Professor Fumiaki expressed his amazement at the way the Jakun People preserved their community identity by balancing their ecological system and centuries-old traditions.

In the evening, members of the UMUC brought the Konan University students on a short visit to the University of Malaya’s famous ‘Rimba Ilmu’ or Botanical Garden and its exhibition hall to have an experience on the diversity of the ecology of Malaysian tropical rainforest. In appreciating the nature existing at the Garden, the students took pictures and recorded videos and sounds of animals, especially birds’ chirps.

The day was concluded by a sumptuous dinner at the famous Rebung Restaurant, where the guests were served with delicious food. They also met with its owner, the popular Malaysian cook, Chef Ismail.

The delegation spend the next three days at the Endau-Rompin National Park for a scientific study on the aforementioned Jakun People and their culture. Unfortunately, none of the members of both the Centre and UMUC could join the trip due to the busy in previously arranged programmes.



Dr Zuraidah giving the welcoming remarks



Having dinner and mingling with the students at the famous Rebung Restaurant.



Nature and bird-watching at the University's Botanical Garden.



L to R: Shamsudin (CCD), Ubai (UMUC), Tsukasa, Yumi, Yoshihiro and Shinsaku from Konan University.



Visiting the Botanical Garden's exhibition centre.

“Learning from success is important but learning from failure is vital to succeeding”



Audience at Prof. Fumiaki's lecture.

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After returning from Endau-Rompin, members of the UMUC brought the delegation to a city tour at Kuala Lumpur. The first stop was at the National Mosque, where the students were explained briefly about Islam, the official religion of Malaysia. Then the delegation visited the Islamic Arts Museum where they were exposed to Islamic intricate design and Islamic arts, in addition to old artifacts such as calligraphies, manuscripts, potteries and weapons.

Afterwards, the group went to the new National Palace in Jalan Duta for a photo session at the court entrance with the Royal Guards. Finally the delegation headed for Kuala Lumpur Central Market to experience for themselves the beauty of the diversity of Malaysian cultures and to buy some souvenirs.

“Alam sekitar merupakan segala benda hidup dan bukan hidup yang wujud secara semula jadi di permukaan bumi, atau sebahagian daripadanya. Alam sekitar memainkan peranan yang penting dalam kehidupan harian kita. Alam sekitar yang tidak tercemar memberikan kita satu suasana yang selesa dan menyamankan. Amalan menjaga kebersihan merupakan tuntutan semua agama. pemeliharaan muka bumi perlu dijalankan bagi menjamin bekalan sumber makanan, sumber kesihatan untuk menghasilkan ubat-ubatan, ia turut berperanan sebagai sumber kecantikan, keindahan dan kedamaian di samping udara yang bersih. Persekitaran yang bersih penting untuk mewujudkan kehidupan yang sihat dan sejahtera.”

After they spent half a day in KL, they headed to the airport. Once there, both the delegation and representatives from the Centre exchanged gifts and bid farewell to each other. It was quite an emotional moment as everyone from both parties have developed a strong friendship over the 5 days.

In conclusion, the visit of Konan University left a lasting mutual impression since both parties learned much from each other; culturally and academically. The Centre wishes thanks to Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi and to Konan University for their time in Malaysia and

hope the partnership between these two institutions will continue to flourish for years to come.



Prof Fumiaki delivered his public lecture

A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle.



Dr. Zuraidah's impromptu introduction of the Malaysian language to the students.



The Centre's representatives discussing with Konan's University delegation officials while having dinner.



Happy faces after a delightful dinner at the restaurant.



UMUC's secretariat members waiting for their presentation.



Left and upper photo: Events during the welcoming ceremony.



Prof. Fumiaki (R) discussing a few matters with Dr. Zuraidah (L) and Miss. Zazren (C).



ACTIVITIES WITH KONAN UNIVERSITY

