

UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK

Kenyataan Akhbar
Press Release

UNIMAS' EduTour2023 Programme Concludes Its Sixth Edition Successfully

KOTA SAMARAHAN, 10 March, 2023 – The closing ceremony of the EduTour2023 Programme for Utsunomiya University, Japan, was held on 6 March 2023 at the Lobby, Faculty of Language and Communication UNIMAS. This event was organised by the Faculty of Language and Communication (FLC) as a final farewell and celebration of Utsunomiya University (UU) students' achievements during their two-week programme. During this event, 31 UU undergraduates who participated in the EduTour2023 received certificates marking the successful completion of the programme which started on 21 February 2023. The certificates were presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Professor Dr Wan Hashim bin Wan Ibrahim.

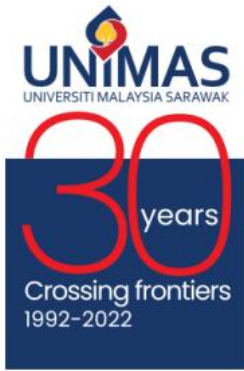
Also present at the closing ceremony were Professor Dr Ambigapathy Pandian, Dean of FLC, Dr Ernisa Marzuki, Deputy Dean (Postgraduate & Commercialisation) FLC, Professor Dr Lo May Chiun, Senior Director of Research, Innovation & Enterprise Centre (RIEC) UNIMAS and Associate Professor Dr Soubakeavathi Rethinasamy, Coordinator of EduTour2023.

EduTour has been specially crafted and designed as a programme that promotes partnership and collaboration between UU and UNIMAS. This is the sixth edition of this programme, which was first held in 2018. In 2020 and 2021, the programme was held virtually due to challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two-week programme aimed to provide unique and meaningful opportunities for the UU students to experience the culture of Sarawak, life on the UNIMAS campus and also to improve student's communication skills in English. They were accompanied by UU lecturers and staff – Professor Dr Tatsuhiko Ohkubo, Professor Dr Nao Igarashi, Associate Professor Dr Takashi Izuha, Associate Professor Dr Akiko Iizuka and Ms Kaho Aigase.

During the programme, the UU participants completed 31 hours of English classes focusing on communicative skills while incorporating the elements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Their lessons culminated in oral presentations demonstrating their ability to use the English language with confidence.

“As a community-driven university for a sustainable world, we hope that through these lessons, both UU and UNIMAS have



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learned and worked together to advance peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future”, said Professor Dr Ambigapathy Pandian, Dean of FLC, in his closing speech.

EduTour has made its mark significantly by winning a number of awards including the SDG Award 2020 (EduTour), Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF) 2021 (Merit award), PECIPTA 2022 (Gold Award), IUCEL 2022 (Gold Award) and InTEX 2022 (Silver Award).

As the closing ceremony marked the end of EduTour2023, it also highlighted the cultural exchange and partnership between UU and UNIMAS. UU Students and UNIMAS buddies participated in traditional performances of music, dance, Malay martial arts (Silat), bilingual poetry and showcasing their English proficiency and appreciation of the diversity of cultures. UU student representative, Ms Momoka Kikuchi also delivered a heartwarming speech expressing their gratitude towards FLC and UNIMAS, and emphasising the valuable experiences that they had during their stay.

The Dean ended his speech with a special thanks to the coordinator of the EduTour Programme - Associate Professor Dr Souba Rethinasamy, her dedicated team members consisting of Dr Soo Reuy Shing, Ms Keezrawati Mujan Yusuf, Ms Liyana Rosli, Dr Joseph Ramanair, Mr Jamali Bujang Sanawi, Ms Nurul Huzaimah Hussien, Mdm Nana Lias and Mr Dabif Jack Shaw who have worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the programme.

U N I M A S



UU student, Ryohei Kakuta and UNIMAS buddy, Evien Chundie performed the Silat martial arts.



Ryota Anno and Koharu Ikeda from Utsunomiya University performed the bilingual poem in Japanese and English.



The EduTour2023 concluded successfully on 8 March 2023 after a two-week exchange program hosted by the Faculty of Language and Communication, UNIMAS.