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SOARING
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MALAYSIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

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By: Ch'ng Looi Chin and Chan Ai Nyet



The MUET workshop, organised by Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB), was conducted on 20 February 2016 as part of APB activities. 250 diploma and degree students attended the workshop which was held at Auditorium 2, UiTM Samarahan Campus 2 from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm. The project was headed by Ms. Chan Ai Nyet (who was also the speaker) and the practical sessions were facilitated by five APB lecturers namely Mdm. Yeo Jin Yih, Ms. Nooramali Mohd Jennis, Mdm. Dayang Zarinah bt. Awang Bohari, Mdm. Ch'ng Looi Chin and Mr. Nelson ak. Martin Noel. All the Mandarin lecturers also assisted to make this workshop a success.

The objectives were to expose students to the syllabus and format of MUET as well as provide guidelines, strategies and hands-on practices for MUET. With this workshop, it was hoped that students could score higher bands in the test. This one-day workshop touched on the marking criteria to assist students to score better in each component of the test namely Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. They were taught some effective answering techniques for each component too.

In the second half of the workshop, students were divided into a few parallel sessions so that they could experience how examiners would judge them in the Speaking test. The parallel sessions were conducted by APB lecturers. Tips and ways to carry out their presentations in the Speaking test were also taught. Since they were in smaller groups, mini question-and-answer sessions were carried out at the end of the parallel sessions to provide more information for the students. At the end of the workshop, the students gained a lot of useful information. Finally, it is hoped that similar workshops will be held in the future to prepare our students for MUET.

Cluster Schools' Project: Readers' Theater Workshop

By Ch'ng Looi Chin

A half-day Readers' Theater Workshop was conducted on 9 April 2016 at Kolej Datu Pattingi Abang Haji Abdillah (Kolej DPAH Abdillah) for secondary school students particularly Form 1 students. Kolej DPAH Abdillah was the host for the workshop and they invited students from various secondary schools within the cluster to participate. Schools that attended the workshop were Sekolah Seni Kuching, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tun Haji Openg, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Semerah Padi, and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Abdul Rahman. About 180 Form 1 students joined the workshop.

The main aim of the workshop was to cultivate the use of English and to improve the English proficiency level via the Readers' Theater (RT) approach. The workshop was organised to expose the students to the elements of RT such as the use of intonation and facial expressions. Then, the students were requested to take part in the RT using the basic elements taught. Some teachers and a few Form 4 students from Kolej DPAH helped the participants to comprehend the script.

The workshop was a success as all 180 students were creative in designing their RT performances based on the script given in their groups. They did their best to perform well on the stage. On top of that, the workshop received positive comments from the invited schools as even weak and shy students were also able to use English considerably well throughout the workshop, which is rarely seen in other English-based activities in their own schools. The invited speaker for the workshop were Mdm Ch'ng Looi Chin from APB, UiTM Samarahan, assisted by Mr Chuah Kee Man from the Faculty of Language and Communication Studies, UNIMAS.





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