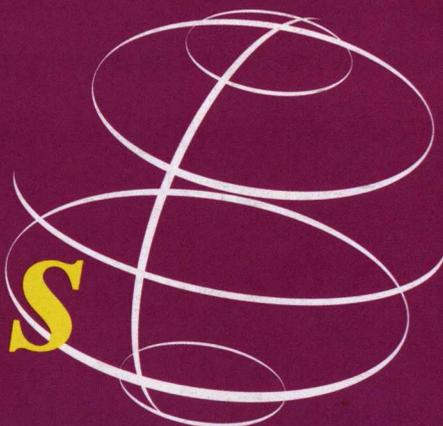




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Majlis Peletakan Batu Asas dan Pecah Tanah Masjid UiTM Sarawak (m.s. 3)

Kita Menang Lagi (m.s. 3)



inside !

Mesej Prof Madya Dr Jamil Hj. Hamali

Majlis Pecah Tanah

Anugerah Kualiti

11D 2006: STestMAP

Syabas to our KARISMA athletes

KKK UiTMCS melawat Pontianak

Nadra's Student Exchange Experiences

Nakhoda MPP Bertukar

CSSR di UiTM Terengganu

"Excellence in knowledge must be accompanied by spiritual soundness" - YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud

My student exchange experiences: A cultural perspective

Nadrawina

Last August, I had the opportunity to go on a student/teacher exchange programme arranged by Stockholm University (Sweden) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (Malaysia) under the Linnaeus-Palme Programme Scholarship. My trip to Sweden was my fifth overseas trip after Singapore in 1994, Japan in 1996, Switzerland in 1999 and Thailand in 2003. Each of these trips is special in its own way and which I still recall and cherish in my thoughts...The warmth of the Japanese people, the beautiful sceneries of Zurich in Switzerland, the discipline of the Singaporean and the nationalistic value of the Thais, each telling a different story.

The Japanese made me wonder if they ever could stop working and lead a life like ours. Their fantastic time management, proper planning and control of waste materials was truly amazing. I was also impressed with their respect to cultures and teachings of others. Some of the participants were Muslims and the Japanese counterparts were well informed of our restrictions in foods which are non-halal. When foods were served, the counterparts would ensure we did not touch the non-halal food by placing tags on the serving table. Another interesting attitude of the Japanese is the fact that they avoid any confrontational manners. They would speak in a lower tone but are at the same time firm in their action. Apart from that, safety is another positive feeling you enjoy in Japan. A Kelantanese lecturer, married to a Japanese, who had been staying in Tokyo for 6 years once admitted, "I am not scared to leave my family at home...I would come home late at night and find them safe. I would not feel the same in Kuala Lumpur".

The same experience was told to me by my brother and my sister-in-law who had stayed in Zurich, Switzerland for 7 years. Their invitation tempted me to leave my toddler with my husband to gain yet another interesting experience. I was in my fourth month of pregnancy when I got on the plane to Zurich. The journey was fine except for my bags which had been ripped open.

The honesty of the Swiss people can be seen everywhere. I remember a flower garden which was in front of the roadside where customers could get their flowers and leave the money in the can without any passersby stealing the can. Memories of such honesty of the Swiss plus the beautiful sceneries in Zurich are still fresh in my mind. In this respect, I tend to reflect on the teachings of Islam which requires us to be honest and just. Whatever amount of items taken should be paid for accordingly.

The discipline of Singaporeans! is no doubt impressive. However, I had the experience of boarding a bus with only one door open instead of two and this had me running to and fro because I was heading for the wrong door to open. On top of that, there wasn't a single word of greeting or even a smile from the bus driver. I think it's different in Malaysia. We are more caring and friendly. Discipline is good but there is nothing wrong with exchanging greetings or smiles. Wherever I went, be it at the hotel reception counter, lobby or even other public place, I can hardly recall a smiling face greeting me. I felt like I was in a regimental environment: no smiles, no friendly gesture. What a life.

(I'll tell you about my experiences in Bangkok and Sweden in the next issue.)

What is spyware?

Robert Jinggut

Spyware is a general term used for software that performs certain behaviors such as advertising, collecting personal information, or changing the configuration of your computer, generally without appropriately obtaining your consent.

Spyware is often associated with software that displays advertisements (called adware) or software that tracks personal or sensitive information. That does not mean all software which provides ads or tracks your online activities is bad. For example, you might sign up for a free music service, but "pay" for the service by agreeing to receive targeted ads. If you understand the terms and agree to them, you may have decided that it is a fair tradeoff. You might also agree to let the company track your online activities to determine which ads to show you.

Other kinds of unwanted software will make changes to your computer that can be annoying and can cause your computer to slow down or crash. These programs have the ability to change your Web browser's home page or search page, or add additional components to your browser you don't need or want. These programs called spyware also make it very difficult for you to change your settings back to the way you originally had them.

The key issue in all cases is whether or not you understand what the software will do and whether you have agreed to install the software on your computer.

There are a number of ways spyware can get on your system. A common trick is to covertly install the software during the installation of other software you want such as a music or video file sharing program. Whenever you are installing something on your computer, make sure you carefully read all disclosures, including the license agreement and privacy statement. Sometimes the inclusion of unwanted software in a given software installation is documented, but it may appear at the end of a license agreement or privacy statement.

Signs of spyware

- You see pop-up advertisements even when you're not on the Web.
- The page your Web browser first opens to (your home page) or your browser search settings have changed without your knowledge.
- You notice a new toolbar in your browser that you didn't want, and find it difficult to get rid of.

- Your computer takes longer than usual to complete certain tasks.
- You experience a sudden rise in computer crashes.

How to get rid of spyware

Many kinds of unwanted software, including spyware, are designed to be difficult to remove. If you try to uninstall this software like any other program, you might find that the program reappears as soon as you restart your computer. If you're having trouble uninstalling unwanted software, you may need to download a tool to do the job for you. Several companies offer free and low-cost software that will check your computer for spyware and other unwanted software and help you remove it.

To remove spyware

1. Install / download spyware removal tool
2. Run the tool to scan your computer for spyware and other unwanted software.
3. Review the files discovered by the tool for spyware and other unwanted software.
4. Select suspicious files for removal by following the tool's instructions.

Further Precaution

- * Only download programs from Web sites you trust. If you're not sure whether to trust a program you are considering downloading, ask our IT unit staff or a knowledgeable colleague or enter the name of the program into your favorite search engine to see if anyone else has reported that it contains spyware.
- * Read all security warnings, license agreements, and privacy statements associated with any software you download.
- * Never click "agree" or "OK" to close a window. Instead, click the red "x" in the corner of the window or press the Alt + F4 buttons on your keyboard to close a window.
- * Be wary of popular "free" music and movie file-sharing programs, and be sure you clearly understand all of the software packaged with those programs.
- * Make it a habit of clearing your browser's cache, history and cookies file in a few days time

(Adapted from : <http://www.microsoft.com>)

