

Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang

e-Lingua

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*Connecting Cultures
One Word at a Time*

你好

Apa Khabar?

Bonjour

Hello

مرحبًا

Hallo

こんにちは



Encounters with Pandas and Cultural Echoes in Chengdu

HOE FOO TERNG

ACADEMY OF LANGUAGE STUDIES, UITM CAWANGAN PULAU PINANG

On the morning of September 23, 2025, we visited the Dujiangyan Panda Base, eager to see China's beloved national treasure. As the first group to enter the park that day, we enjoyed a smooth and quiet experience. An electric car brought us into the reserve, where we were quickly greeted by the sight of pandas.

Despite the drizzle, the pandas were lively – some munching on breakfast, others lounging in trees, and many simply strolling about. We also spotted the red panda, a charming creature with its own unique appeal. It's amusing to reflect on the name “熊猫” (xióngmāo), which literally translates to “bear cat.” Though pandas belong to the bear family, the name suggests a feline connection – an interesting linguistic quirk.



*Watching panda at
Dujiangyan Panda Base*

On September 26, we dined at the Shark Restaurant, which features a massive aquarium housing a large shark and several smaller ones—a surreal backdrop for lunch. Afterwards, we explored the Chengdu Three Gorges Museum. Among its many treasures, the Yunnan bronze drums stood out to me. Their design closely resembles the one and a half bronze drums displayed in our Malaysian museum, as well as four similar drums excavated in Indonesia.

These shared cultural artifacts raise compelling questions. Can we truly say that Malaysians, Indonesians, and Yunnanese are unrelated? The echoes of history and heritage suggest otherwise.

Red pandas having their breakfast



Live shark at Shark Restaurant



Bronze drum display

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