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Postgraduate Students' Gawai Raya Dinner 2023

by **Sheela Faizura Binti Nik Fauzi, Dr Johari Bin Abdullah & Dr Ellen Chung**

On the memorable evening of June 10, 2023, the Centre of Graduate Studies, UiTM Sarawak organized a grand Postgraduate Gawai Raya Celebration at the elegant Raia Hotel in Kuching. Gawai Raya, a combination of two significant celebrations in Sarawak which are Gawai Dayak and Hari Raya Aidilfitri that brings together diverse cultures and religious backgrounds in a joyous celebration of unity and harmony. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and fostering stronger bonds within communities. The Centre of Graduate Studies at UiTM Sarawak recognized the importance of celebrating this occasion, providing postgraduate students with an opportunity to come together as a cohesive and supportive academic community.

The event brought together distinguished guests, including AP Dr Chm Ts Dr Mohammad Isa Mohamadin, AP Dr Ellen Chung, Professor Dr Firdaus Abdulah, Professor Dr Azizan Abdullah, AP Dr Abdul Rahim Ridzuan, Professor Dr Corina Joseph, Professor Dr Voon Boo Ho, and Dr Cassidy Ak Morris.

The gathering served as a delightful opportunity for 85 postgraduate students to come together and celebrate their academic achievements while embracing the festive spirit of Gawai Raya. The attendees comprised of a diverse group of postgraduate students, each contributing their own unique perspectives and cultures. The event served as a platform for intellectual discourse, where students engaged in meaningful conversations, exchanged ideas, and built connections that could potentially lead to future research collaborations.

The venue, Raia Hotel, was adorned with vibrant decorations reflecting the cultural richness of Gawai Raya. Traditional Dayak and Malay ornaments adorned the walls, immersing the attendees in the spirit of the celebration. The lively atmosphere was enhanced by traditional music, filling the air with joyous melodies that echoed the diversity of Sarawak's cultural heritage. The event was marked by an atmosphere of enthusiasm and excitement, further intensified by the distribution of 18 lucky draw prizes. The anticipation was palpable as participants eagerly awaited the announcement of the winners. The lucky draw served as a highlight of the evening, bringing smiles and delight to those fortunate enough to claim a prize. The winners were congratulated amidst cheers and applause, adding to the overall festive ambiance of the event.

As the evening came to a close, the attendees expressed their appreciation for the Centre of Graduate Studies for organizing such a memorable celebration. The event served as a testament to the university's commitment to nurturing a supportive and inclusive environment for postgraduate students. The success of the Postgraduate Gawai Raya Celebration paved the way for even grander events in the future, allowing for more students to come together and celebrate their festivities.

