



## 'Getting to know you more' Featuring ... **Mdm. Er Ann Nah**

Interview prepared and conducted by Rasaya Marimuthu on behalf of eLingua

**eLingua:** *Could you kindly provide some details of yourself? Maybe a bit of your biodata, your involvement before working at UiTM, and also your work philosophy.*

**Ann Nah:** I was trained as an English teacher in Maktab Perguruan Sultan Halim in Sungai Petani and in 1989, started my career in a primary school. After 7 years, I applied for a scholarship and spent 4 years in France completing my degree in Teaching French as a Foreign Language (FLE). I studied at the Université de Franche Comté in Besançon. Prior to joining UiTM, I was a French teacher in Sekolah Menengah Sains Tun Syed Sheh Shahabudin, Bukit Mertajam, Penang for 7 years. Upon joining UiTM, I continued my Master's degree in FLE and completed my distance learning in 2007.

Where work is concerned, I believe if we do our best and spend less time procrastinating and postponing the inevitable, more gets done. This leads to less stress and a happier me.

**eLingua:** *And now a bit of your workplace at UiTM. How long have you worked here? How was working life at this campus?*

**Ann Nah:** I started working at UiTM Penang in 2007 and I have been teaching the French language here for 15 years. Working in a university offers a different perspective than school. Here, I have the opportunity to teach specialised French for culinary and hotel students. I also have the possibility to do research and explore different methods to improve my teaching.

**eLingua:** *What were your memorable moments at the UiTM campus? Specific incidents that you will remember for the rest of your life.*

**Er Ann Nah:** My fondest memories are the language carnivals held in UiTM. It was a lot of hard work to get it on the ground but I enjoyed every bit of it. The hustle and bustle creates an excitement for students and lecturers alike.

**eLingua:** *What are your plans for the future, considering the fact that you will be retiring soon? Perhaps pursuing other academic goals, or ....?*

**Er Ann Nah:** I have no lofty goals; I would rather cherish doing day-to-day ordinary things that give me pleasure. First and foremost, I would like to keep myself active by doing regular exercises. And then, I am hoping to spend time catching up with my readings and, of course, devote some time to nature as well. Lastly, given the opportunity, I hope to do some volunteering work to give back to the community.

**eLingua:** *What do you think and hope for UiTM to be in the next five years? What about your wishes for our own department – APB?*

**Er Ann Nah:** I hope UiTM will achieve its goal to be a Globally Renowned University by 2025. I am very proud to be part of APB especially in the foreign language unit. I hope the department will stay strong and be able to adapt to frequent changes and developments in line with the university's globalisation efforts.

**eLingua:** *What would be your parting advice to the younger lecturers of our department?*

**Er Ann Nah:** I believe we must be an active participant in life, try to change for the better and strive for a different tomorrow. This seems cliché but life is really a journey with many paths that you choose for yourself. At the end of the day, there is no good or bad path, it is just life happening.

**eLingua:** *One last question: any advice, hope, comments or suggestions for the improvement of our own department? You may also want to offer your thanks and appreciation to them.*

**Er Ann Nah:** To my dearest colleagues in APB, I have worked in different establishments and with many people, but you are the best of them all; hardworking, motivating, patient, helpful, and honestly there is not enough vocabulary to describe all that you are. I wish you good luck and success in all your future endeavours.

It has been a chance of a lifetime to work with all of you and I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the smiles and support you have shown me. My journey in APB UiTM has been awesome with you around, merci beaucoup!



Three generations of Ann Nah's family



Winter, spring and autumn in France — Ann Nah with her mother and daughters



Université de Franche Comté in Besançon



# 'Getting to know you more' Featuring ... *Mdm. Er Ann Nah*

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More pictures from Madam Ann Nah's personal collection during her time in UiTM ...



*Activities with students in Alliance Française, Penang*



*French Club Activities*



*French Cultural Day in STAR Ipoh*



*A visit from the French Embassy to UiTM*