

Events ... (Conferences, Meetings, Trainings & Workshops)

University Students from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines Engaged in Online Forum Discussions

by Noor Azli Affendy Lee & Marni Jamil



A total of 239 university students attended the International Youth Engagement Talk Series 2022, a virtual talk series organised by the English Language Club (ELC) of Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Pulau Pinang (UiTM CPP), in a joint collaboration with Unit Ko-Kurikulum of UiTM CPP, Universitas Muhammadiyah Pontianak (UM Pontianak) of Indonesia, and two universities from the Philippines – Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU IIT) and Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan. Conducted live via StreamYard and broadcasted on the club's YouTube channel, the 4-day programme from 17 May to 20 May 2022 started at 8.30 p.m. and ended at 10.30 p.m. The programme consisted of a webinar talk with professional guests and a forum discussion between delegates from several universities.

The webinar and forum discussion topics centred around issues relevant to university students and their fellow youths such as balancing academic life, developing soft skills such as leadership and communication skills, managing emotional wellbeing, applying for scholarships, and sharing of university cultures. The programme featured extensive discussions and sharing of experiences and knowledge about the topics among speakers and panellists who are university students. Sara Yap Khim Wen, a prominent former Malaysian Taekwondo (Poomsae) athlete, Danial Abdul Rahman, the Director of the CEO's office at the Sunway Education Group, and the Director of Education at Khalifah Education Foundation, Hasrizal Abdul Jamil were among the invited guest speakers for the webinar sessions. The forum panellists consisted of students from local universities (UiTM CPP, Universiti Malaya and Multimedia University) as well as international universities (Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan), two of which are currently MoU partners of UiTM (UM Pontianak and MSU IIT). The total number of local audiences for the 4-day programme based on the feedback forms are 173 UiTM CPP students, 3 students from other UiTM branch campuses, 1 student from BEBOTs Education Centre in Penang, and a student each from Multimedia University, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kelantan Malaysia, and Universiti Sabah Malaysia. The programme was also joined by a total of 48 UM Pontianak students, 5 MSU IIT students and 5 Xavier University students.

The international collaboration programme was conducted smoothly and was well-received locally and by students of our international partner universities. The topics discussed in all sessions were interesting and engaging due to the relevance to students' lives in general and specifically in the post-pandemic situation. The programme offered fresh insights from various university delegates, which is considered different from other programmes that are being conducted by other clubs or societies during the current semester. Students who acted as the organising crew members also have learned new, hands-on technical and communicative skills such as effectively using StreamYard to stream a live event on a social media platform and experiencing live broadcasting and moderating public discussions with guest speakers and forum panellists. These skills cannot be learned in a normal classroom.

