

# MALAYSIA FESTIVAL (MAFES) – CULTURE RESTORED

WRITTEN BY

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Culture signifies the identity of the nation in a country. As a multi-racial country, Malaysia houses various types of cultural heritage from our three main ethnics which are Malay, Chinese and Indian as well as other ethnics and tribes like Baba Nyonya, Kristang, Jawi Peranakan, Kadazan, Murut, Bidayuh and many others. However, due to the changes in time and technological advancement, the knowledge and practices of our cultural heritage are deteriorating. People especially the youngsters do not appreciate the philosophies and practices of their own cultures.

Realizing the possibility that the precious cultural heritage of Malaysians might be extinct if it is not well-preserved, the third semester students of Diploma in Tourism Management (HM1111) had organized Malaysia Festival (MAFES) – Culture Restored.

This particular theme was selected to suit the objective of the event, which was to educate the public about the cultures in Malaysia besides ‘restoring’ the spirit of loving our own Malaysian cultures.

Held on the 16th of December 2018 at Laman Perdana, UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang, this lively event was opened to UiTM students, Polytechnic Seberang Perai students and the public in nearby area as the target participants. The organizer also specially invited the orphans from Rumah Anak Yatim Permata Kasih, Bukit Mertajam and Rumah Anak Yatim Kasih Abadi Bertam to enjoy the event.

The occasion comprised three main activities such as cultural workshops, cultural exhibitions and cultural performances. The workshops included Batik Painting Workshop, Jawi Calligraphy Workshop and Chinese Calligraphy Workshop. Besides theoretical explanation, the participants of the workshops were also given the chance to develop their skills by doing the calligraphy writing and batik painting themselves. Outside experts were invited to conduct the Calligraphy Workshop, while Batik Painting Workshop was fully managed by the organizer who beforehand had

gone to a Batik Painting Training  
Lah Factory, one of the Batik  
Professional Centers on Penang  
Island.

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Cultural exhibitions at MAFES involved the exhibition of traditional cookies such as Kuih Peneram, Tempeyek and Maruku as well as traditional games such as Congkak, Batu Seremban and Teng-teng. Apart from getting some explanation on such traditional heritage, the participants were also able to have a bite of the cookies and play the traditional games. The third activity of the event was the cultural performances.

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Among the professional performers who were invited to entertain the participants at the event were Adikarma Group from USM who performed Zapin and Indian dance, SMK Taman Inderawasih who performed Sarawak traditional dance and SMJK(C) Chung Hwa who performed Lion Dance.

Additionally, the orphans who were invited as special guests for the event volunteered to perform poem recitals, Nasyid, and martial art dance (Silat Tari Melayu) which helped to brighten up the event. Two of our very own HM111 students sang a Chinese and Malay traditional song respectively as an additional performance at the event.



Overall, the event was a success. The participants generally were satisfied and they also claimed that they were exposed to cultural knowledge which they previously had limited access to.

Outstanding cooperation from the HM111 students as the organizer also contributed to this exemplary accomplishment. Hopefully, this prolific event will be continued by other students with many more interesting activities for the purpose of achieving the main goal; preserving our cultures.

