

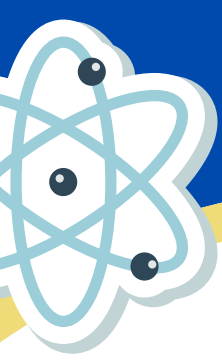

Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang

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Cuppa Convo with Marni:

CONFIDENCE THROUGH CASUAL ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS

By Marni Jamil

The Cuppa Convo with Marni: Confidence through Casual English Conversations (Cuppa Convo) programme was an initiative spearheaded by Ms. Marni Jamil, an English lecturer from the Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA Pulau Pinang Branch (UiTM CPP), aimed at sharing her expertise with the university community. This programme was initiated in response to requests from UiTM CPP staff who expressed interest in participating in English language lessons but faced challenges committing to long-term engagements. Cuppa Convo, comprising three sessions on 18th, 19th, and 26th January 2024 from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm at the Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak Library (PTAR) UiTM CPP offered the university personnel a consistent opportunity to practise English.

The primary aim of the programme was to foster English communication among UiTM CPP staff, while bolstering their confidence in expressing ideas and communicating effectively in English within a relaxed environment. The distinctive aspect of the concept was its departure from formal learning approaches. It embraced casual conversations ("Convo") and a relaxed atmosphere, akin to enjoying coffee ("Cuppa"), effectively aligning with its objectives. Proficiency in English communication is important for UiTM staff, particularly in the context of UiTM's 2025 Strategic Plan, aimed at positioning the university as a globally recognised institution. Essentially, English serves as a medium for knowledge dissemination and facilitates the exchange of experiences and the cultivation of robust interpersonal relationships across diverse backgrounds.





Additionally, Cuppa Convo adopted the Communicative Language Teaching approach, with small groups of six participants in each session learning through interaction and communication in authentic contexts. Participants were provided with practical opportunities to utilise English, aiming to develop tangible language skills and enhance overall communication proficiency in real settings. Throughout the programme, Mr. Mohd Shafarin, Mr. Muhamad Ismail, Ms. Haslina, and Ms. Noor Sapiza from PTAR UiTM CPP, along with Ms. Aimi Nadiyah from the Corporate Communications Unit UiTM CPP and Ms. Shahirah from the Treasury Unit of UiTM CPP, exhibited exceptional dedication and commitment by attending the sessions after office hours.

Furthermore, Cuppa Convo supported the venture of M20 @ The Bricks, run by UiTM CPP students participating in an entrepreneurship programme organised by the Malaysian Academy of SME & Entrepreneurship Development (MASMED) at UiTM CPP, by inviting them for a special collaboration. Muhammad Qayyim, Muhamad 'Azim, and Irfan presented their handcrafted beverages and desserts, joined by their peer Nur Muhammad Jazlan, who captured memorable moments through skillful photography during the sessions. M20 is committed to providing a space for students to relax and engage with peers, aligning harmoniously with the aspirations of Cuppa Convo.

All in all, the Cuppa Convo initiative has been beneficial for the UiTM CPP community in multiple aspects, leading to improvements in both personal and professional facets, and facilitating the enhancement of their English communication skills.

"The only way to do great work is to love what you do." - Steve Jobs

