

PUTRA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE e-NEWSLETTER

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AGRICULTURE • INNOVATION • LIFE

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hope all of us are in good health and spirit.

We are all witnessing and experiencing the most highly challenging circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. The events of 2020 have turned many workplaces, and educational institutions upside down. Students are struggling to cope with uncertainties and unscheduled delay that affect their timeline. And international students are the most affected due to this situation; with limited funding/resources, visa issues, dependents and challenges to complete their degree, Master or PhD abroad.

Malaysia detected its Covid-19 cases in late January and early February which caused the nationwide movement control order (MCO) to be enforced on March 18. After managing to curb the infection, the government eased back on restrictions and shifted into recovery phase of the MCO on June 10. i-PUTRA visa and pass counter resumed its services by 12th May 2020, with limited working hours (9 am to 12 noon from Monday to Friday). Students are required to set an appointment prior a visit via <https://forms.gle/zsa7UJ8FCMjz5tCp8>

Recently, due to increasing cases of Covid-19 in Selangor, the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) was enforced in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Putrajaya on 14th October 2020 until 9th November 2020. And now, it has been extended until 14th January 2021.

We are nearly approaching the end of 2020. At i-PUTRA, many activities have gone virtual including students' mobility. We have to maintain the SOP at i-PUTRA in terms of social distancing and wearing of face mask at all times, whether it's working at the service counter, leaving one's residence or being on campus.

Stay Safe. Happy Deepavali, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021. May the new year bring us back to normalcy.

28th December, 2020.

Assoc. Prof. Dr Hasfalina Che Man

Editor-in-Chief of Putra International Centre e-Newsletter

ONLINE MALAYSIAN TRADITIONAL DANCE

On 9th of July 2020, Mr. Adidi Tamin shared his skills and talent in performing Malaysian traditional song and dance virtually to our international students.



UPM
e-Tour de UPM
INTRODUCTION TO MALAYSIAN TRADITIONAL SONG & DANCE
9 July 2020,
10.00am - 11.00am
Registration
Google form: <https://forms.gle/nihVJAxnGamdeDtp8>
Instructor : Mr Adidi Tamin, UPM Cultural Officer
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Figure 1: Online Malaysian traditional song and class.

BATIK PAINTING ONLINE CLASS

Have you ever tried batik canting painting? With just MYR100, participants learnt this art from Malaysia's famous batik artist, Madam Siwok Harun. The online class was hosted live on 27th July. Those who joined the online batik class were given their painting materials which had been sent to their doorstep before the class commenced. A link to the live, online class with the professional instructor was provided to confirm participations.

The instructor demonstrated the Canting technique using Pen Canting with hot wax, on the fabric. The participants then got their hands dirty by experiencing the Canting and Batik Coloring. The batik canting workshop was a way to promote Malaysian art and craft to the international students.



Figure 3: Farewell Hi-Tea Ceremony with mobility students.



Figure 2: Poster Promoting Batik Canting Workshop

FAREWELL HI-TEA CEREMONY

On 7 August 2020, a farewell hi-tea was organized by i-PUTRA to celebrate the mobility students' completion of their Second Semester 2019/2020 at UPM. The ceremony was officiated by the Director of i-PUTRA, Professor Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib. The ceremony ended with him presenting the certificate of completion to the 9 remaining mobility students (after MCO).

i-PUTRA WEBINAR 1.0

12th August 2020, i-PUTRA hosted its first webinar 1.0 entitled "A New Phase: Mobility Amidst The Pandemic". The webinar was moderated by Ms. Nadia Zawani, Mobility Executive Officer from PUTRA International Centre. Its guest speakers were Prof. Jaewoo Shim from Jeonbuk National University, Republic of Korea; Mr. Tuomas Kauppinen, Asia Exchange Ltd., Finland and Mr. Wahyu Islami, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology, Indonesia.



Figure 4: i-PUTRA webinar poster



Figure 5: Panels sharing their experiences during webinar.

The first speaker was Prof. Jaewoo Shim, a senior professor in the Department of English Education, College of Education, Jeonbuk National University, in Jeonju City, Republic of Korea. He is also the deputy vice-president for Office of International Affairs and supervises student mobility programs. The second speaker, Mr. Tuomas Kaupinnen is the Vice president and co-founder of Asia Exchange Ltd., a company that has been actively mobilizing students from all over the world especially from Europe to pursue their mobility program abroad through their partners in many countries. Thirdly, Mr. Wahyu Islami from CommTECH, is a Mobility manager at the Global Engagement, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology, Indonesia. He is responsible in handling mobility students studying abroad.

The 90 minutes sharing session fully discussed the challenges during Covid-19 and initiatives introduced by the panels involved in the Educational Sector. The webinar was attended by 66 participants from various countries. The recording of this webinar can be accessed via this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCh4jpniYnc&feature=emb_logo

i-PUTRA VISIT TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA FOR EKSA BENCHMARKING

The i-PUTRA team had the opportunity to arrange an EKSA benchmarking visit to the Dental Health Programme office, Ministry of Health Malaysia at Putrajaya. The Senior Director of Dental Health Division KKM, Dr. Noormi Othman, chaired the benchmarking session.

The main objective of this visit was to observe similar procedures (EKSA) with the intention to incorporate best practices into the existing processes at i-PUTRA.



Figure 6: i-PUTRA benchmarking visit.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The International Student Risk Management Workshop was organised by i-PUTRA at Awana Genting, Pahang for 2 days from 21st-22nd August. The workshop was participated by 26 staffs selected from UPM offices such as School of Graduate Studies, Academic Division, Faculties (Modern Language and Communications, Agriculture, Engineering, Human Ecology), Security Unit, Health Centre, Bursar, Counselling Unit, Cosscom, ELS, Islamic Centre, Law Advisor Office and Centre for Quality Assurance.

The objective of the workshop was to determine risks as the basis for crisis management at i-PUTRA. The participants were divided into 4 groups to discuss and improvise the process flow for each of the pertinent issues relevant to i-PUTRA. Some examples of risks include accident, death, mental health, crime and others. The outcome of the workshop will be used as standard reference and guidebook for the international students, partners and staffs of i-PUTRA.



Figure 7: Photo-session after closing remarks

i-PUTRA WEBINAR 2.0

On 25th of August, i-PUTRA had successfully hosted its 2nd series of webinar. Three UPM students were invited as the speakers to share their experiences on “Studying Abroad During the Global Crisis”. The speakers were Eng Kah Yang from Faculty of Forestry and Environment, Amirah Afrina from Modern Language and Communications and Pavitra Paramalingam from the Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences who shared their mobility experiences during the pandemic in France and Japan. The session was moderated by Fatima, Vice President of the UPM Buddies.

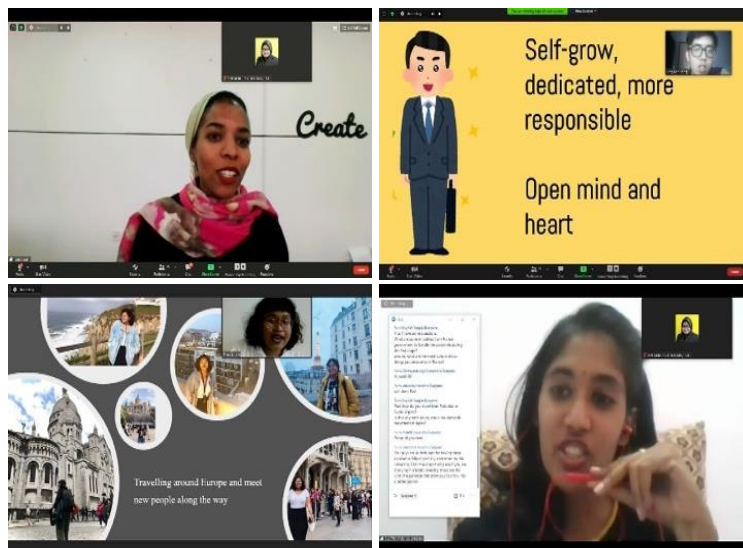


Figure 8: During the sharing session of the speakers

In the one and half hour webinar, the speakers explained their hopes, fears and anxieties throughout the Covid-19 crisis. However, the intercultural and diversified experiences while studying abroad have made them become more independent and resilient. To them, life experience can't be learned from books alone but by taking chances and facing the challenges! We hope the session inspired viewers, instilled aspirations and provided a glimpse on how COVID-19 has impacted mobility experience.



Figure 9: Poster to promote the event

PANELIST ON CROSS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING FOR UNIVERSITY'S INTERNATIONALIZATION

i-PUTRA was invited by Universitas Sebelas Maret Indonesia, to be part of their webinar entitled “The role of Staff and Students on Internationalisation at HEI's” on 1st September 2020. Representing i-PUTRA was Madam Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er, who shared UPM's experience on building an international mindset at home, especially for non-academic staff and students and the challenges that the international office encounter. The sharing session provided a platform for participants to acquire best practices in implementing internationalization.



Figure 10: Poster to Promote the Webinar

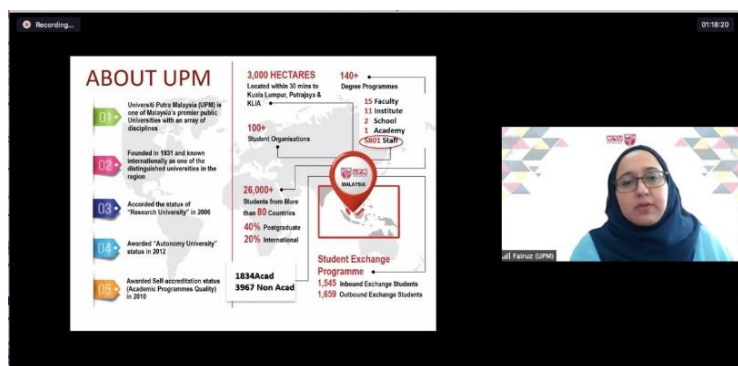


Figure 11: Mdm. Fairuz during her sharing session

FAREWELL & RETIREMENT CEREMONY

On 9th September, a gathering of all i-PUTRA staff was held to commemorate the retirement of i-PUTRA Director, Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib after 21 months in tenure since January 2019. This celebration was attended by i-PUTRA's partners and their representatives, ex i-PUTRA staffs and Prof. Zainal's family.

During his leadership, there were many challenges and improvements made at i-PUTRA in serving UPM's international community holistically. From visas and passes, to mobility support services and global engagements, it was a great experience for those who worked under his vibrant leadership.



Figure 12: Token of appreciation to the Director of i-PUTRA

Thus, we would like to wish Prof. Dr. Zainal a Happy Retirement! And thank you for all your significant contributions!

WELCOME THE NEW DIRECTOR of i-PUTRA

Congratulations and welcome to our new Director of i-PUTRA International Centre (i-PUTRA), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Abdul Rahman. He is currently a lecturer at the School of Business and Economics, UPM and is an active consultant on Halal and Shariah-compliant businesses.



Figure 13: The poster of a new director of i-PUTRA

i-PUTRA STAFF WON FIRST PRIZE AT SEMARAK MERDEKA

On 15th September 2020, the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Cultural Center organized a Semarak Merdeka 2020 Program to celebrate Malaysia's 63rd Independence day. This competition was participated by both UPM staff and students.

Mr Syafiq Hariz bin Mohd Hanafiah, the representative from PUTRA International Center participated in the Negaraku public speaking competition and became the champion in the competition. He won trophies, certificate of participation, and monetary award.

Congratulations and well done to Mr. Syafiq.

i-PUTRA SELF-ACCREDITATION AUDIT

On 22nd September 2020, i-PUTRA was audited by Prof. Dr. Wong Mui Yun and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd. Nizam Osman during self-accreditation of i-PUTRA. Many positive inputs and constructive comments for improvements were shared in the session. The closing remark was delivered by the new Director of i-PUTRA, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Abd. Rahman.



Figure 14: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi during the closing of Self-accreditation Audit

OUTBOUND MOBILITY PROMOTION VIDEO SHOOT

i-PUTRA had the opportunity of working with UPM homegrown talents who have gone for their outbound mobility programme in various countries. i-PUTRA's mobility team managed to complete a video recording project. The objective of the video recording is to promote the outbound mobility programme among UPM students. The video was about sharing experiences of the students to further encourage their colleagues to join the programme.

i-PUTRA would like to convey our thanks to Afrina Umairah, Amirah Afrina, Aqilah Abu Hasan, Jong Chao Yu, Osman Mairghani and Priyashankari for being part of this mini project.

Watch more here:

Part 1: Travel while studying at UPM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyWpc344BMo&t=10s>

Part 2: Planning for outbound mobility at UPM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQzaA0hA6xg>



Figure 15: During photoshoot and video recording

If you are interested to know more about outbound mobility, do browse our e-guidebook at;

https://intl.upm.edu.my/upload/dokumen/20191007155244Outbound_Guidline_2019_september.pdf

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VIRTUAL WELCOMING PROGRAMME (NISvWP) 2020/2021

On 14th October 2020, i-PUTRA had successfully organized a NISvWP session. Due to Covid-19 outbreak, the orientation programme was held virtually for 2 hours from 3-5 pm. It provided the new international students insights on academic and related matters, such as finance, visa and pass, UPM and i-PUTRA in general. The programme was so exciting with an additional activity of Kahoot games. It was participated by around 450 International students from around the world.



Figure 16: Online orientation NISvWP 2020/2021

The welcoming remark by the Director of i-PUTRA, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Abd. Rahman can be viewed at the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvFceqMOzu0&ab_channel=iputraupm

The full programme of NISvWP can be viewed here:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=391297848941232&ref=watch_permalink

This is a snapshot of the secretariat (Figure 17) who made this programme a success. A special thanks to our presenters: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Abd. Rahman, Tn. Hj Rosdi Wah, Mdm. Mazitah Ahmad, Mdm Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er, Mr Razif Abdul Razak and our amazing @buddiesasc_upm for always making our programme fun and interesting.

Well done to all!



Figure 17: Secretariat in NISvWP 2020/2021

VIRTUAL MOBILITY WITH UNAIR INDONESIA

It is with great pleasure to re-connect with our esteemed partner in Indonesia, Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR) Global Engagement team in our recent meeting organised on 18th November 2020.

In the session, meeting members are discussing on UNAIR's online learning specially designed for international student who would like to participate in both exchange program and degree program such as AMERTA and to promote it to UPM's student who is interested to do a virtual mobility despite the current condition.

AMERTA focuses on the current issues happening in Indonesia, amidst the dynamic nature of globalisation and exploring through the perspective of natural, health and social sciences. Natural and health sciences provide a wide array of knowledge about Indonesian biodiversity, the dynamic of tropical medicine development and community empowerment in health sector, especially in Indonesia as a developing country; whereas social sciences offer the dynamics of Indonesian urban culture, creative economy and society as the impact of globalisation.

The fruitful meeting was attended by Dr. Iman Harymawan (Head of Airlangga Global Engagement), Dr. Dina Septiani (the Deputy Head), Ms. Aprilia Putri Pradana (Head Division), Ms. Astria Okta Herdiani (Head Division of International Services) and Ms. Citra Pratiwi (Senior staff for Global Networking and Communication) and to join in the meeting from i-PUTRA was Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi AB Rahman (Director), Mdm Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er (Head), Mdm Ida Suhaila Md Tahir (Head of Global Engagement) and Ms Nadia Zawani Hussin (Executive Officer, Mobility).



Figure 18: Virtual Mobility Meeting with Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia

VIRTUAL DISCUSSION WITH ASIA EXCHANGE

On 18th November 2020, Asia Exchange and UPM had a fruitful virtual meeting on student's mobility programme for 2021. Since the Malaysian government took a drastic measure to implement large-scale social restriction which in turn has affected the teaching-learning process at learning institutions which includes travel restrictions that are still currently been implemented by the government and putting on hold inbound mobility students that wish to do a semester exchange.

The discussion covers important agenda such as student mobility plan for 2021, Master level courses and the development of cooperation between Asia Exchange and UPM. The meeting was attended by our Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and International, YBhg. Prof. Ts. Dr. M.Iqbal Saripan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi AB Rahman (Director of i-PUTRA), Mdm Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er (Head) together with our esteemed active partner from Asia Exchange Ltd., Mr. Tuomas Kauppinen (Director, co-founder), Mr. Harri Souminen (Managing Director and co-founder) and join with Ms Lotta Kappo (International Coordinator) and Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin (i-PUTRA's Executive Officer).

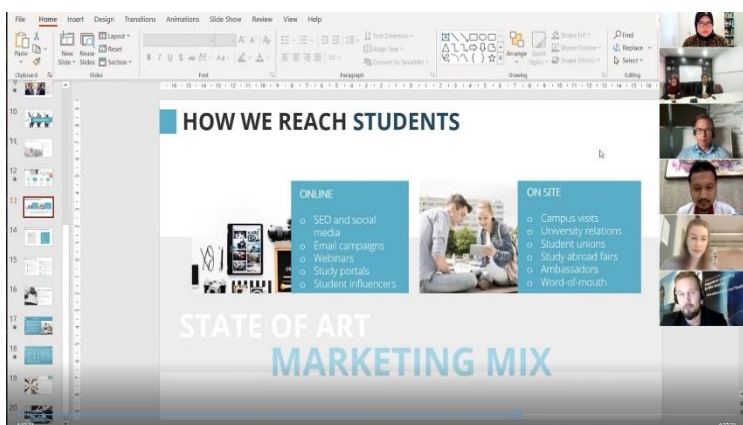


Figure 19: Virtual discussion between UPM (i-PUTRA) and Asia Exchange

AIMS VIRTUAL ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

Today marked the very first SEAMEO RIHED's initiative in organizing 14th Annual Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme via Zoom on 26th November 2020. The meeting was co-organised in close collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the Philippines.

At the 13th Annual Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme held in November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, the meeting was jointly participated by Member Countries and universities as well as students and alumni. The main agenda was to discuss on continuity and awareness of the ongoing global challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the 14th Annual Review Meeting are giving attention to Virtual Mobility as a potential contribution to physical student exchange. In the midst of this difficult time, the AIMS Community has a role to play in exploring ideas and supporting academic mobility in a more equitable way towards the sustainable development of the region.

The 14th Annual Review Meeting has provide a platform not only to learn about important updates of the Programme, but also discuss opportunities that the AIMS Programme can create to increase mutual trust and recognition of online learning within the AIMS network.

The meeting was participated by almost 190 participants from various countries such as Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam with different institutions such as ministry representatives from AIMS Member Countries and AIMS member universities. Represent UPM in this meeting is Madam Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er (Head of PUTRA International Centre) and Miss Nadia Zawani Hussin (Mobility, Executive Officer).

Madam Fairuz has been selected by committee members to become the rapporteur for topic Virtual Course Design. Each members have to discussed matters on current trends, issues and developments in online teaching and learning to be included within the disciplines of the AIMS Programme, to promote regional curriculum development and online collaborative learning within the AIMS Programme and integrate cultural learning into the curriculum.

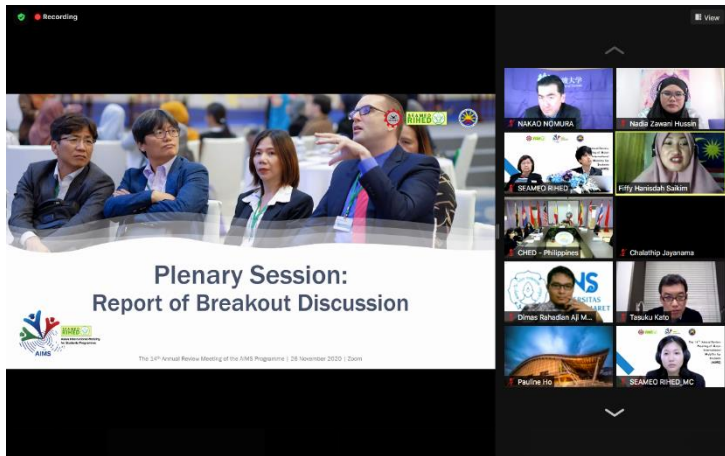


Figure 20: The 14th Virtual Annual Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme

VIRTUAL AUDIT SIRIM QMS 9001:2015

SIRIM's audit of ISO 9001: 2015 has been held virtually at i-PUTRA on 30th November 2020. SIRIM is a premier industrial research and technology organisation in Malaysia, a wholly-owned company of the Malaysian Government under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). Audit by SIRIM at UPM was held between 30th Nov. until 10th Dec. 2020 at selected offices, faculties, and research institutes.

We hope through this session could improve our administration and services at the International Centre.



Figure 21: SIRIM Audit Opening Meeting attended by administrative members of i-PUTRA

A SHARING EXPERIENCE ON ERASMUS+ GRANT 101

On 7th Dec.2020, i-PUTRA had successfully organized the 3rd webinar for 2020 entitled "ERASMUS+ Grant 101: Sharing Experience" held on zoom platform and broadcast to our Facebook account. In the programme, i-PUTRA invited UPM's staff that has successfully received the grant and sharing their best practices throughout the process.

i-PUTRA are delighted to have Prof. Dr. Ir. Ts. Nor Kamariah Noordin, the Dean Faculty of Engineering (as project coordinator for MYSUN), Dato' Zulkiflee Othman, the Bursar of UPM (as project leader for ADVANSE), Prof. Dr. Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam, the Head Department of Natural Resource Industry, Faculty of Forestry and Environment (Project Leader, MAKING 4.0) and finally Dr. Ermira Junita Abdullah, a Senior Lecturer at Faculty of Engineering UPM (Project Leader for SKYBELT) to share their valuable experiences. The 90 minutes webinar was moderated by our Head of PUTRA International Centre, Madam Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er. Almost 160 online zoom and fb live participants joined this event from various countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Thailand and mostly from Malaysia. The attendees comprised academicians, students, researchers of all disciplines, administrators and/or financial officers who had an interest in ERASMUS+ grant. It was an insightful presentations by all the speakers.

The full programme can be viewed here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmIdYRmu7cOs&feature=emb_logo



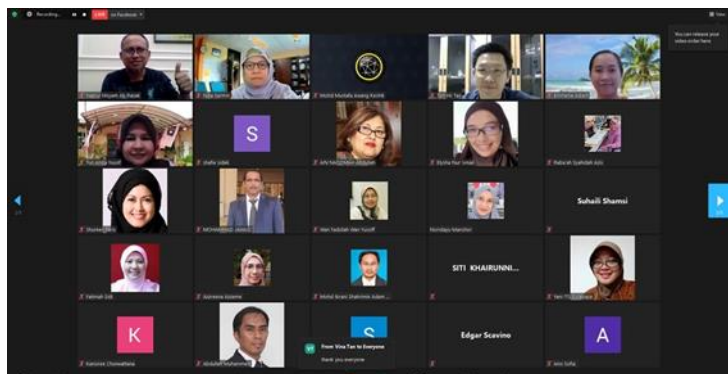


Figure 22: Virtual sharing session on ERASMUS+ grant

FIRST INBOUND VIRTUAL MALAY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAMME IN COLLABORATION WITH CENTRE OF ADVANCEMENT OF LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

On 17th December 2020, i-PUTRA organised our first inbound Virtual Malay Language and Culture Programme in collaboration with Centre of Advancement of Language Competence (CALC), UPM. The programme consists of 8 contact hours fun; and basic learning the Malay Language with greetings, salutations and counting topic. In addition, students also exposed to Malaysian culture through history, fun facts, cuisine, games and dance demonstration by our talented UPM Buddies.

The programme was participated by students from Pakistan, Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Korea, Bangladesh, Turkey, Nigeria and Turkey.

Many thanks to CALC Language Instructors; Mdm Nur Aimie Nabila Fauzi, Mdm Siti Muslihah Isnain and Miss Syaakiratul Hasanah Rossidi (CALC Assistant Registrar), and UPM Buddies Association; Nur Aimi Bahiyah Hamdan, Clerence Lewin Champin and Vikneswaran a/I Jeya Kumaran who have put their creativity in presenting Malaysian culture uniquely.

This programme is a curtain call to challenging 2020 and encouraging multicultural exchanges through virtual inbound initiatives programme such as this.



Figure 23: Demo of traditional Malay game known as Congkak

NEW APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

i-PUTRA is proud to announce the appointment of Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman as the new Vice Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia effective from 1st Sept.2020. i-PUTRA would like to express our gratitude to Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris for her leadership qualities and contributions towards UPM as a former Vice Chancellor.



BEST WISHES FROM EDITORIAL TEAM 2020/2021

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman (Advisor)
 Madam Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er
 Assoc. Prof. Dr Afida Mohamad Ali
 Madam Ida Suhaila Md. Tahir
 Ms Nadia Zawani Hussin
 Ms Siti Afiqah Mastor