

In the spirit of Deepavali

Varsity's celebration receives good support

KUANTAN: Some 1,000 people took part in Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Lights Festival night held in conjunction with the Deepavali celebrations.

Organised by the university's Culture and Arts Club, the event was attended by undergraduates from Olympia College, Shahputra College, Kuantan Community College, Kuantan Nursing College and UMP.

Organising chairperson B. Jagatis said he was glad that the event received good support from the people and other fellow college students.

He said the programme was mooted for the first time to foster the spirit of unity and togetherness among undergraduates with local residents, in addition to exposing the Indian culture to the people.

"This is in line with the concept of Malaysia propagated by the Government to foster closer understanding among the people of all races," he said.

UMP culture officer Mohd Zaki Ahmad said the university would continue to give their full support for such activities to be held involving all undergraduates from different background.

Mohd Zaki said it could also help to train undergraduates on their organising skills and prepare them for the job market upon graduation.

"The society must respect and appreciate the respective ethnic identities in this multi-racial country.

"Each community must do their part to preserve its arts, culture, religion and traditional practices to inherit it to the next generation," he said.

The crowd was treated to a play and a host of cultural performances including Allegra, Paalakadu, Bangra and Tanikai dances, besides traditional dances of the Malay and Chinese communities.

Ellie Fazlin, 22, who was sported wearing a saree, said her friends and she wanted to understand more on the Indian arts and culture.

"I am elated to be able to help my Indian friends to organise and celebrate this joyous occasion," she said.

Many also took opportunity to take part in making a kolam using colourful rice seeds to decorate the entrance to the sports complex to mark the arrival of the celebration.

- By SIMON KHOO



Unity: Undergraduates of all races participating to make a kolam design to mark the coming of Deepavali celebrations during the Lights Festival night held at UMP's sports complex recently.