

UMP'S JOYOUS '1MALAYSIA' LIGHT FESTIVAL NIGHT

More than 1,000 people including students from institutes of higher learning and local residents in Kuantan flocked Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Sports Complex to celebrate the Light Festival Night organised by the university's Cultural and Arts Club on Oct 18, 2010.

Among those who attended were students from Olympia College, Shahputra College, Kuantan Nursing College, Kuantan Community College and UMP.

The programme's director and a Faculty of Mechanical Engineering student Jagatis s/o Baldiyah said he was very happy with the response showed by the students and public.

He said it was the first time that such an event was held and its objective was to foster closer ties between UMP and local residents as well as for them to know more about Indian culture.

On the 1Malaysia theme, Jagatis said it was to promote better relationship among the country's multi-racial society.

UMP Cultural Officer, Mohd Zaki Ahmad said Student Affairs and Alumni Department (JHEPA) fully supported activities that encouraged participation of those from various races.

By having programmes such as the Light Festival Night, it would help students to develop soft skills that would make them more competitive when graduated, he said.

"The society also needs to be more appreciative and respectful of the ethnicity of every race in Malaysia.

"Students will inherit the future and they need to uphold the customs and identity of their ancestors including traditional dances and attires," he added.

During the Light Festival Night, guests were entertained with colourful and interesting dances such as Allegra, Paalakadu, Banghra, Tanikai and a theater performance by UMP students.

There were also Chinese and Malay traditional dances that captivated the audience.

Some Malay and Chinese guests came dressed in Indian traditional clothing and it made the event more cheery.

According to Faculty of Chemical and Natural Resources Engineering undergraduate Ellie Fazlin, 22, she attended the event because she wanted to know and understand more about the Indian



By having programmes such as the Light Festival Night, it would help students to develop soft skills that would make them more competitive when graduated

culture.

Ellie who came dressed in an Indian traditional dress said she did not feel awkward at all wearing the attire.

In fact, she was proud to do so and able to enjoy the festival together with her friends.

The students, regardless of their races, also took part in making the 'kolam' using colourful rice at the stadium's main entry. A 'kolam' is a sign for Indian community that they will celebrate the auspicious Deepavali.