



RIONG POETRY NIGHT IGNITED A SYNERGY OF NEW GENERATION

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Some 3,000 undergraduates including those from AMIK Tunas Bangsa, Indonesia turned up to be mesmerized by singers and poets performing a variety of poetic songs and lyrical poems during the Riong Poetry Night organised by Berita Harian and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) at the Sports Complex in Gambang on March 9, 2012.

Last year, the theme was on abuse, abandonment of babies and toddlers and infanticide while this year, the message was on youths.

The night's theme was 'Generate the Mind, Transform the Youth: Aspiration of the New Generation'.

The event was jointly also organised by Malaysia Youth Council (MYC) and UMP Women Association (Matahari) and was held in conjunction with the university's 10th anniversary this year.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, the event was held to show how proud UMP felt in being able to build and sustain relationships with the literary group, youths and locals.

It also reflected the link brought about from a strategic alliance struck between UMP, via Matahari



Association with MYC in implementing youth development programmes especially in Pahang, he added.

Dato' Daing Nasir said the future of the country and its people was strongly related to how far the commitment and efforts were put in to have youths, whom largely included undergraduates, on the right track.

"The efforts that we have taken today will have an impact to the strength and stability to develop the country's future socio-economic and

politics," he added.

Dato' Dr Daing Nasir led the poetry recital with a piece by Wan Helmy Zain titled, 'Wasiat Perjuangan' (The Battle Will).

Others included Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainudin, Berita Harian Education Editor, Muhd Yusof Abu Bakar and Ifhamuddin Mohamed of MYC.

Veteran art activist and comedy actor, Sabri Yunus was the master of ceremony for the night and he also recited a humorous poem called

'Mat 34' which had the guest tickled.

Among the highlights including a recital by 2004 South East Asia (SEA) Write winner Dr. Zurinah Hassan with a poem titled 'Selamatkan Anak-anak Kita' (Save Our Children), 2005 SEA Write winner Abdul Ghafar (Pak Agi) read the 'Gurindam Negara Bijak' (Poem of A Wise Nation) while Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI)'s Malay Literature Head Department, Profesor Madya Datuk Dr Mohd Rosli Saludin delivered 'Teromba Wahai Anak Muda' (Saga of A Young Man).

The monologue performances were interspersed with recitals of Quranic verses by reality programme Imam Muda season two winner, Imam Hassan, who also gave heartfelt advices.

Other performances were by Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Puncak Alam Campus' Performing Arts Faculty Lecturer, Wani Ardy who sang 'Askar dan Belajar' (Soldiers and Learning), rock group Jinbara vocalist Tia (Shamsul Bakhtiar Zakaria) and reality programme Akademi Fantasia season nine winner, Hazama who sang two songs 'Cinta Teragung' (The Greatest Love) and 'Pokok' (Tree).