

# LEARNING MANDARIN THE FUN WAY USING SMART PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME



By: CHONG AH KOW

Thirty Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates and 30 pupils from Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina (SJKC) Gambang took part in a fun-filled one-day programme organised by the Mandarin Language and Culture Centre (MLCC) and Foreign Languages Department of Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS).

The objective of the event - Smart Partnership Programme: Enhancing Mandarin Communication Skills through Supportive Learning Strategies - was to help enhance the participants' communication skill in the language.

It was held on April 28, 2012.

Other than helping to improve the participants' language skills, the programme also aimed to foster better ties between UMP and other educational institutions in the area as well as help to motivate the

pupils to excel in their studies.

These values were instilled and brought about in a favorable setting where participants were able to practice the language.

The participants really enjoyed themselves throughout the day and took part in a variety of activities that involved a lot of using Mandarin to communicate with each other.

The programme was officially opened by MLCC Coordinator Chong Ah Kow, representing CMLHS Dean, Professor Abd Jalil Borham.



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Also present were SJKC Gambang headmaster Lim Jou Chok and four teachers.

Lim commended the programme saying the activities would really inspire the pupils to perform better in their studies and pursue higher education in the university.

Teachers Liang Zhen Zhen and Lin Chun Mei lauded the programme, saying the activities were carried out in a very creative manner and very interesting.

They said it was an eye opener for them as well as they were exposed to other means of teaching the language.

CMLHS Mandarin language teacher Yong Ying Mei, who mooted the idea to hold the programme, said school teachers - Liu Xu, Zhang Cuicui and Yuan Jie, had been helpful in helping to ensure that the activities were run smoothly especially for non-Mandarin speaking participants.

Yong said Mandarin was difficult

to some of these participants but it did not seem to deter them from enjoying themselves while learning the language.

The program started in the morning with an ice-breaking activity, followed by games such as 'Ni Shuo Wo Xie' (I write what you say)', 'Bu Wen Bu Xiang Shi' (To ask to know each other) and 'Ni Hua Wo Cai' (Guess my drawing).

In the afternoon, the participants utilised the CMLHS multimedia laboratory to experience hands-on learning process using computer-assisted learning tools.

Participants Diana Anak Lingging and Aidaiyu Ahmad said they truly liked the activities held together with the pupils.

They also hoped that they would be able to take part in similar events in the future.

The programme was officially closed by CMLHS Head of Foreign Languages, Mohd Iszuani Hassan.